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LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
Lexington, Kentucky

GLSO NEWS

October 2002

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 17 Number 10

Fenton Johnson

Fenton Johnson will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Republican Meeting House, on Oct. 19 at 7 pm., 3564 Clays Mill Rd. Johnson has previously published *Scissors, Paper, Rock* and *Geography of the Heart*, winner of the American Library Association GLB Book Award for nonfiction.

In his forthcoming book, Keeping Faith: A Skeptic's Journey (Houghton Mifflin, March, 2003) Johnson draws upon six years of research including time spent at American Buddhist and Christian monasteries. Specifically, he compares the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky near where he grew up with the various branches of the San Francisco Zen Center.

He chose these two monasteries because he sees them as the two most prominent institutions of their respective traditions in this country. Within these two traditions, Johnson explores the meaning of what we call faith and how it exists today in an age of skepticism. By comparing two radically different traditions, he hopes to arrive at what they share, perhaps to illuminate the virtue of faith they have in common.

At the Unitarian Church, Johnson will be addressing the role of Eastern thought in influencing the West in general and, specifically, Eastern influence on Unitarianism, which through Emerson and Thoreau has strong connections with Buddhism's first appearances in America. Please join us for what will be a stimulating evening.

Volunteer Awards Banquet

The Eleventh Annual Volunteer Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday October 13th, at the Sheraton Four Points on Newtown Pike at I-75. The cost is \$20 per person and tickets are available through the Pride Center (253-3233) or Terry Mullins (days: 252-2867 or cell 576-5262). This is a joyous occasion, come share it with us.

We will gather at 5 pm for cocktails and dinner will be served at 6 pm. All community organizations are invited to present their volunteer of the year awards to the individual they select. Each group presents an award of their choice; creative awards have included everything from tiaras to car detailing. As a community, we will be honoring the individual (Wasson Award) and the group (Rainbow Award) that through volunteerism has done the most for the GLBT Community in and around the Bluegrass Area in the previous year or years.

...continued on page 2

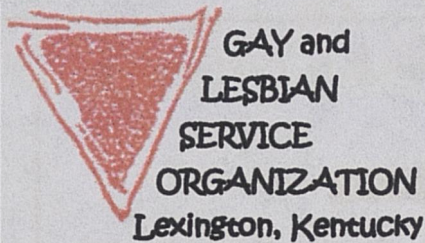
Coming Out Month

Volunteer Awards Banquet

An Event full of Pride

Sunday, October 13

see page 5 for more activities



The GLSO NEWS

Volume 17 Issue 10

**published monthly by
The Lexington Gay
Lesbian
Service Organization
389 Waller Ave.**

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Mary Crone John Ridener

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GLSO Annual Dues & Newsletter.

**Individual - \$15
Couple - \$25**

Opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board. Submissions are welcome and staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject submissions or advertisements.

We moved this banquet from Pride Month to Coming Out Month in hopes that more people would be able to attend. The many volunteers who keep our community vibrant and moving forward do not donate their time in order to receive an award, but it is never³⁴the less important to recognize their contributions. By acknowledging our pride in each other, the banquet becomes a celebration of joy in being who we are.

The nomination for the Wasson and Rainbow Awards should now be in our hands (specifically, Terry Mullin's hands). We will have the nominations at the Pride Center between Oct 1 and Oct 5. Up to three representatives of each community group can vote. Come by the Pride Center between 10 am and 3 pm Tuesday Oct 1 through Saturday, Oct 5. Call to be sure there is someone here. We will also be open for voting on Wed. evening, Oct 2 between 7 and 9 pm.

Gather a group of friends and attend this celebration of community spirit. You will be glad you did.

Pride Gallery Open

The Pride Gallery is currently exhibiting "Paper Quilts" by Frank Leake. This series of works is comprised of over 150 bodies of work that explores mankind's loss of spirituality as we become more technologically advanced. The exhibit is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Ray Fields, 1957-2002 and will run through October 18th. Both originals and prints are available for purchase. Twenty percent of the proceeds will go to the Pride Center.

The Pride Gallery is actively seeking other artists interested in showing their work. If you are interested in having your own exhibit, please contact Thomas Collins at 859 225-0094 or the Pride Center at 859 253-3233. If you don't feel as though you have enough bodies of work for a complete show, but would still like to use the venue to display and sell, we can pair you up with another artist who only wants to display a few pieces and we can do a show together. All artisans welcome.

Community News

Kentucky Fairness Fundraiser

Lexington's Crossings bar will play host to a fun-filled evening of entertainment, socializing and fundraising for the Kentucky Fairness Alliance on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 8 until close. Last year's event brought in \$1500 for the non-profit organization. This year, organizers hope to spill over the \$2000 level.

A special feature will be a silent auction and raffle of items donated by local businesses such as the Letter, Gold's Gym, Target, Best Buy, Pier 1, Clear Channel Radio, Slone's Market, VideoMax, and works by several local artists.

Lead organizer of the event is Scott Perry, Mr. Kentucky Bear 2000 and Mr. International Bear 2001. Those contests, he notes, inspired him to give something back to Lexington and Kentucky. "This was my way of doing it," he says.

Cover is \$5 at the door. Raffle tickets are ten for \$5. All Proceeds to benefit Ky Fairness. To volunteer, or to offer your talents, call Perry at 859 294-5999 or email Kywoof@aol.com. All checks should be made payable to the Kentucky Fairness Alliance. All auction items must be paid for and picked up that evening.

SisterSound

SisterSound, Lexington's women's chorus, has begun its fall rehearsal and continues to practice each Sunday, 6-8:15 pm at the Landsdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Redding Rd. We would love to have new voices join us. No auditions required. If you enjoy singing and the company of women, come check us out.

We'll be rehearsing in preparation for a late January concert of songs about love,

from swing to Motown to disco to show tunes, from mushy to the jaded, surely something for everyone. For further info, email Beth at eznzo@hotmail.com.

Board Members Needed

We have recently expanded the number of members that can serve on the GLSO Board. We have a lot of activities and could use some new energy. We are also open to new projects. If you are interested call the Pride Center office at 253-3233 or Terry at 576-5262 (cell).

ORBIT: Coming Out in Music and Song

Coming Out in Music and Song will be offered at 7pm at the Pride Center, on Friday, October 18th. ORBIT, a band from Louisville, will be playing and singing their own original songs.

Come out and hear this up and coming band. Members include Fran Shupe, Karen Hitchcock, and Ron Viers. No cover and refreshments will be provided. Donations accepted for support of the Pride Center.

Men Of All Colors Together

After several years of dormancy, Men of All Colors Together (MACT) is once again active in Kentucky. A group of supporters in Lexington is spearheading this activity and have scheduled a meeting on Saturday, October 12 at 7:00 pm in the GLSO Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave.

A longer article about this group can be found on page 9. For more info email mac-tky@aol.com, phone Jon at 859 351-4453, or write MACT KY, PO Box 910596, Lexington, Ky. *...continued on page 4*

Imperial Court Events

The Imperial Court of Kentucky invites everyone to attend the Emperor's Turnabout on Wednesday, October 9 at Club 141. Doors open at 8:30, show at 9:30, \$5 donation at the door. Come out and see Emperor Orvis and his male line change roles and see what the "girls" go through. A great time will be had by all while watching some of these first time performances.

The annual Diva of Darkness pageant is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, at Club 141. Doors open at 8:30, pageant begins at 9:30, requesting a donation of \$5 at the door. Contestant applications are available from Empress Nicole Diamond. Join the Imperial Court for some spooktacular talent and entertainment on Halloween Eve. Dress in your favorite costume, prizes for best costume will be awarded.

The Court will also join the Imperial Court of Cincinnati for a Kentucky Show at the Old Street Saloon on October 4 in Monroe, Ohio. Show will start at 11 p.m.

Berea College Ace League

The Berea College Ace League will be sponsoring a week of events in honor of Coming OUT month starting Monday Oct. 7th through Oct 12. The following events are being planned. We will feature various

speakers Monday through Thursday from 8 to 11 pm in Baird Lounge of the Alumni Bldg. On Friday, Oct 11, from 9 pm to 1am, we will have a Coming Out Dance in Commons, Woods-Penn. On Sat. 12th from noon-2pm in Baird Lounge, Alumni Bldg, we will hold a Lobbying workshop.

If there are any questions or if anyone would like to assist us with materials to pass out that week and/or to assist us financially, please contact us at BEREA COLLEGE ACE, CPO 1799, Berea College, Berea, Ky. 40404.

WISHING CHAIR

Wishing Chair will be the featured group at the Open Door Cafe, 2530 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY on Sat, October 19 at 7pm. There will be an \$8 cover at the door. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Call 264-7006 for more information or directions.

Dress and Gender Alliance

The Lexington Dress and Gender Alliance is a peer social support group for all transgendered people, including cross dressers, transsexuals, androgynous folks, gender queer individuals, allies and friends. We socialize and discuss issues related to how gender expectations have affected our lives. Our next meeting will be Sat. Sept. 7th at 8 pm at the Pride Center.

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Coming Out Month

Volunteer Awards Banquet

An Event full of Pride

Sunday, October 13

5 pm Cocktails 6 pm Dinner



Benefit Show for

Miss Gay Ky At Large

Sundae DeLaRouge

Wed., Oct 2 Club 141 9 pm

Fenton Johnson

UU Church

Clays Mill Rd

Oct 19 7 pm



Imperial Court

Emperor's Turnabout

Wed, Oct 9

Diva of Darkness Pageant

Wed, Oct 30

Both at Club 141 at 9:30

GLSO Discussion Group

Homecoming Potluck

Wed. Oct 23

6:30 to 9 pm

Pride Center



**Gay Straight Alliance
for Youth**

Coming Out Party

call for information

253-3233



ORBIT

Coming Out in Music
and Song

Friday, October
18th

7 pm at the Pride
Center

*The Truth About
Jane*

Lesbian Movie
Night

Fundraiser

Kentucky Fairness

Alliance Crossings 8

pm \$5

Saturday, Oct. 12

Silent Auction

PRIDE CENTER NEWS

389 Waller Ave. 859-253-3233 Mon-Sat 10 - 3

Discussion Group Homecoming Potluck

In celebration of Coming Out Month, the GLSO Discussion/Support Group is having a Homecoming Potluck on Wed, Oct. 23, 6:30-9 pm at the Pride Center. We want to invite anyone who has ever attended the group to come out and join in the fun.

This incarnation of the GLSO Discussion/Support Group has been meeting regularly for over 4 years now and so many great people have come and gone that we wanted to get them all back together. So whether you currently attend the group or were coming way back when Jeremy led the way, whether you have been to a hundred meetings or just one, we hope you'll come back for an evening of laughter, memories and friends.

Bring a dish to share. We'll provide soda, wine, beer and plenty of good conversation.

The Discussion/Support Group meets every Wednesday night from 7- 9 pm at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100. Contact the Pride Center at 253-3233 or Jane at ladyjaneky@ yahoo.com for information.

Games Night

Do you enjoy playing Scrabble or Trivial Pursuit? Bridge or Bid Wist? Come out to the Pride Center and play. Games night is Friday, Oct 25 at 7 pm. Bring your favorite board games, snacks and soft drinks and enjoy an evening of fun and games.

Celebrate Your True Love

Are you looking for a way to immortalize your current love? Or maybe you just want to have a visual record of all those past hotties? Then, scrapbooking may just be the hobby you've been looking for. Beginning at 7:00 pm on Monday, October 14, Davina will be teaching a class in True Love Pages. During this class, you will make four fabulous scrapbook pages of your true love. Cost is \$10.00 for supplies. You are asked to bring a pair of scissors. Please contact Davina at 859 338-5402 of Scrapnchick2022yahoo.com as soon as possible. Spaces are limited.

LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT

Everyone (gay, straight, etc.) is invited to join us for lesbian video night in October in honor of Coming Out month. We're coming out Friday, October 11 at 7 pm. Join us for another film about a lesbian teenager - this time it's Jane - who struggles with coming out in high school.

The Truth About Jane is a Lifetime Television Network original film, so it was designed for non-gay audiences. Ellen Muth (Delores Claiborne) plays Jane with

..continued on page 10

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October 20th
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November 10th
November 17th
December 8th

Tournament: Saturday, December 14th, 9AM—5PM

All Practices and the Tournament will be held at the Dunbar Center, 545 North Upper Street

For More Information Contact:

John Bentley, AVOL	224-6752
Larry Collins, AVOL	222-1918
Mark Johnson, AVOL	222-8835
Keith Lyons, AVOL	222-1920

Religious Groups Integrity

Integrity, a support group for Episcopalians and friends, will continue to meet at St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 2025 Bellefonte. In October we will be meeting on Sunday the 13th at 4 pm. We will be discussing "Is it safe to return to church?" We are pleased to announce that Bishop Stacy Sauls, of the Lexington Diocese, will join us for this discussion. Call Rev. David Boyd or Rev. Sandy Stone at 277-7511 or JBIntegrity@aol.com. for more information

Wiccan/Pagan

I am looking for like-minded people to start a Wiccan/Pagan Study Group. I am a solitary practitioner with a need to share and grow with other. I am of the Celtic Tradition with interest in all other pagan paths. If you might be interested in dis-

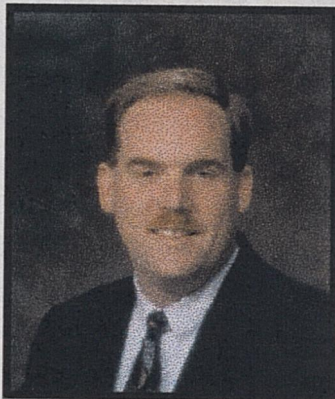
cussing your spiritual beliefs with other pagans, learning and growing together, please call Iggy at 859-492-9904. Let us share the love of the Goddess and God. Blessed Be!

Jubilee Fellowship

Jubilee Fellowship is meeting at the Pride Center on most Thursday nights at 7pm. The second Thursday of each month is booked, so on that night we will meet at the Pride Center but then go elsewhere. If you have any questions call 264-7006 or cwbm121893@aol.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes visitors any time. There are now two services every Sunday, at 9:30 and 11:15. There will be a first Sunday brunch in between the services starting in October. Women's Spirituality Group will be meeting on Oct. 18. see page 10.



Scott Ackerman

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Men of All Colors Together

The Kentucky chapter of Men of all Colors Together (MACT) has been a chapter of the National Association of Black and White Men Together since 1984. Both are gay multiracial organizations which foster supportive environments where friendships of all types can be celebrated free of racial and cultural barriers.

In the words of both of their statements of purpose: "We engage in educational, political, cultural, and social activities as a means of dealing with the racism, sexism, homophobia, and other inequalities in our communities and in our lives." The national group has affiliated chapters around the country which provides a built-in family of friends when members travel to one of the chapter cities.

There will be a meeting at the Pride Center on Sat. Oct 12 at 7 pm which will feature a program depicting the events

during the NABWMT national convention in Miami this past August. Goals and aspirations of the organization will be discussed and planning for activities during the coming months will also occur at this meeting.

In the past, the group has sponsored potluck dinners, game nights, movie nights, bar nights, and trips to functions sponsored by their brother chapters. Educational activities have included HIV prevention projects and workshops concerning racism and political awareness.

Those with like interests are encouraged to attend the meeting and help us plan for the future. For more information consult the web page at mactky.com, email the group at mactky@aol.com, telephone at 859 351-4453 Jon, or write at MACT KY, PO Box 910596, Lexington, Ky. 40591-0596.

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Pride Center Library Highlights: Coming Out

By Jane Minder

October in the Bluegrass is Coming Out Month and along with all the special activities and celebrations, has the Pride Center Library got something for you. Let's face it the one thing all GLBT persons seem to have in common are our personal "coming out stories." Whether you are just starting to "come out to yourself" or you've been out "as long as you can remember" you will find something of interest at the library. Here's a selection:

Coming Out Right: A Handbook for the Gay Male, Wes Muchmore & William Hanson (HQ 76.2.U5 M942)

Coming Out Spiritually: The Next Step, Christian de la Huerta (BL 65.H64 D45)

Coming Out to Parents: A Two-Way Survival Guide for Lesbians and Gay Men and Their Parents, Mary V. Borhek. (HQ 75.5 B68)

The Family Heart: A Memoir of When Out Son Came Out, Robb Foreman Dew (HQ 76.2.U5 F198 D515)

In and Out [Videocassette] VIDEO InAn

The Original Coming Out Stories, Expanded ed., Julia Penelope & Susan J. Wolfe, eds. (HQ 75.3.C65)

Outing Yourself: How to Come Out as Lesbian or Gay to Your Family, Friends, and Coworkers, Michelangelo Signorile (HQ 76.3.U5 S54 O94)

Revelations: A Collection of Gay Male Coming Out Stories, Wayne Curtis, ed. (HQ 76.2.U5 R449 C981)

Testimonies: Lesbian Coming-Out Stories, Karen Barber & Sarah Holmes, eds. (HQ 75.5.T49)

There's Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You, Lorelee MacPike, ed. (HQ 76.3.U5 T47)

These and many other books and videos can be check out from the Pride Center Library. The Pride Center at 389 Waller Avenue is open Monday-Saturday, 10-3. Come out and visit us today.

cont. from page 6

sincerity and depth. Stockard Channing (West Wing) is excellent as Jane's mother, who believes she is liberal and accepting until she discovers her daughter is a lesbian. Ru Paul also makes an appearance as a friend of the family.

This film also offers a healthy dose of education - you'll see PFLAG parents and hear statistics about suicide among gay teenagers. In addition to educating and entertaining, I'm hoping this film sparks some interesting discussion at the Pride Center this month. For information call Davina at 859 338-5402.

Pampered Chef Party

Will and Mike's Pampered Chef is hosting a benefit party for the Pride Center on Sat, Oct 19 from 1 until 2:30 at the Pride Center. Catalogs are available at the Center for advanced ordering or by calling 255-7753 or email chefs2@aol.com.

Pampered Chef products make great Christmas and Wedding gifts. A new fall product line is being introduced. The Pride Center will receive 10 to 15% of the total sales at the party and the hosts will also donate 25% of their commission to the Center. The 25% rate will also apply to parties booked through this event through December.

Note: We have not heard from Richard about Men's Night Out. For info email him at mcc40502@msn.com

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October

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 pm Sistahs in the Life Pride Center Voting for Wasson & Rainbow Community Service Award	2 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes 9 pm Miss GAY Ky (Club 141) Pride Center open til 9 pm for voting for awards	3 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center	4 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	5 Pride Center Open 10-3 8 pm LDGA Pride Center VJoting ends for Wasson and Rainbow Awards
6 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church Worship Service 5:30 Men's Chorus Rehearsal, St Michaels 6 pm Sistersound (Call for location) 7 pm Dignity - Pride Center	7 7 pm P-FLAG Berea Public Library-Berea 7 pm GSA (Call for location) 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place) Berea College Coming Out Week	8	9 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes 9 pm Emperors Turnabout (Club 141)	10 7 pm Men's Night Out Pride Center	11 7 pm Lesbian Movie Night 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	12 Pride Center Open 10-3 7 pm Men of All Colors Together (Pride Center) 8 pm KY Fairness Fundraiser (Crossings) 9 pm Berea College Dance
13 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church 5:30 Men's Chorus Rehearsal, St Michaels 5 pm Volunteer of the Year Banquet (Sheraton Four Points 6 pm Imperial Court-Pride Center 6 pm Sister Sound (Call for location)	14 7 pm Scrapbooking Pride Center 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	15 7 pm GSA (Call for place)	16 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	17 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center	18 6:30 pm Women's Spirituality (Mary's House) 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7 pm Coming Out in Music and song concert Pride Center	19 Pride Center Open 10-3 1-2:30 Pampered Chef 7 pm Fenton Johnson (UU)
20 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church Worship Service 5:30 Men's Chorus Rehearsal, St Michaels 6 pm Sistersound (Call for location) 7 pm Dignity (Call for location)	21 7 pm GLSO Board Meeting Pride Center 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	22 7 pm Fairness Steering Committee Pride Center	23 6:30 pm Discussion Group Homecoming Pot-Luck Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	24 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center	25 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7 pm Games Night Pride Center	26 Pride Center Open 10-3
27 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church Worship Service 5:30 Men's Chorus Rehearsal, St Michaels 6 pm Imperial Court 6 pm Sistersound (Call for location)	28 7 pm GSA (Call for location) 8 pm AA Step Study	29	30 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes 9:30 Diva of Darkness Pagent (Club 141)	31 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center		

The Soul Beneath the Skin: The Unseen Hearts and Habits of Gay Men,

By David Nimmons; St. Martin's, 255 pages, \$23.95

David Nimmons' new book, "The Soul Beneath the Skin," is perhaps the first gay-studies book that is not uncomfortable or afraid to take on all of the gay male experience, including the wide and often elaborate forms of sexual expression. The goal, Nimmons says, is "to tell the whole truth we know in our lives, and what we may feel in our gut. That is, to widen the analytic lens to view more of ourselves and our practices."

What are these practices? Besides sex, Nimmons has written in-depth chapters on a number of cultural aspects rarely discussed: the low rate of violent crime when gays congregate socially; the high level of philanthropic giving, volunteerism and public service; and novel forms of caretaking. It gives any reader pause to consider the level of safety one feels inside a gay bar as opposed to that of a singles bar: In gay bars, they still serve drinks in glass glasses.

Nimmons has been able to get a fresh look at the gay male subculture by first making it look as if we've never encountered it before, often from a sociologist's point of view, surveying an alien civilization. He also uses new and odd (and perhaps too unorthodox) statistical data. For instance, he gathers numbers of violent crimes by talking to police officers with gay-neighborhood beats. He revisits old findings and draws new conclusions. (He found that in a 1997 study of domestic violence, lesbians and gays had been lumped together as one statistic; when he split the

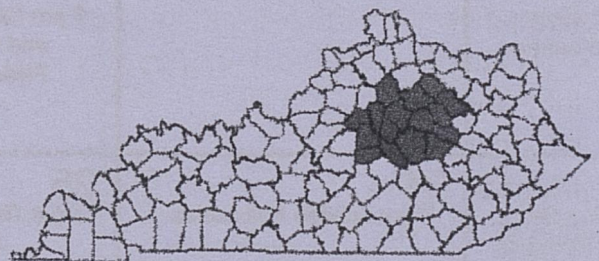
two groups, the percentage of crimes committed by gay men was 10 percent lower than that of crimes committed by heterosexual men - or lesbians).

It would be enough for most social studies to present this fresh new information, but the real substance of the book comes in the large middle section, in which Nimmons unflinchingly parses every possible aspect of gay male sexuality, from circuit parties to nonmonogamy to unprotected sex to bathhouse orgies. Again, he looks with two lenses: those of outsider (Jane Goodall-style anthropologist) and insider (funny queen, making Tallulah Bankhead jokes).

Mostly, the schizophrenia works. One wonders whether homophobic citizens would be so scared if the gay subculture were something unearthed from an ancient civilization in which the citizens built intimate relationships in both couples

Continued on page 15

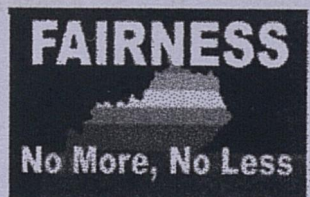
Kentucky Bluegrass Fairness Bluegrass Chapter



Fairness works with legislators and other decision-makers to ensure equal treatment of LGBT people in the Bluegrass and around the state. Contact us to help in the fight and to stay informed on important issues.

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The BLUEGRASS
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40522-2032



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and webs, created elaborate tribal sexual rituals and crafted new ways of being men with women.

It doesn't seem beside the point to add that Nimmons writes with a warm, chatty - Dare we say it? - queer voice. While covering the question of whether gay men are genetically different, he writes, "One can find a study suggesting that gay men's fingerprints show a different pattern of fingerprint ridges from straight guys' (I think it's all about moisturizer, myself)."

Even when he must give dry data or lists of information, he infuses it with this voice. Referring to a study of gay men's career choices, he writes that they "don't fix photocopiers, lay bricks, sort grain, fix cars, fit pipes . . . or ever sign up as boring machine operators (no, really, that is the job title, #708, you can check)."

If there is anything about the book that gives pause, it is Nimmons' relentlessly rah-rah attitude. He risks proclaiming one social group better than any other, specifically when he embraces the belief, expressed in Plato's dialogue "The Symposium," in the superiority of gay men ("[These are the best of boys because they are naturally bravest.]" "But if Plato was right, and we are the best of boys," Nimmons says, "we remain largely unaware of it."

This is the purpose of the book: to make gay men aware of a superiority one is hard-pressed to let any single social group claim (that kind of thinking seems to end, occasionally, with genocide). But despite low violent-crime rates, gay men are men, and men have dominated Western civilization since Plato's time, more from force than bravery.

But one can understand the bra-burning zeal of Nimmons' text. He is tired of misread data and sensational headlines; he is weary of bigotry and hate crimes; but

most of all, he is fed up with the low self-image he believes too many gay men have.

"Where do we speak of how we might imagine an old age we'd actually relish? Or what kinds of touch friends might best give each other?" Nimmons asks, with no available satisfying answers. "So we discuss Ecstasy, but not ecstasy; body fascism, not affectionate touch."

Ultimately, what's wrong with gay men is what's wrong with all men, at least in this country: an emotional illiteracy that is wrongly equated with weakness.

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Pre-filled Bill: Ky Legislature

A bill of interest to our community has been pre-filed for the next Ky legislative session. BR 64, filled by Representative Kathy Stein and Representative Mary Lou Marzian, seeks to amend KRS Chapter 344.010 to define "gender identity" and "sexual orientation". These changes will prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Thanks Kathy and Mary Lou!

Kentucky GLBT History

Henry Faulkner

By Jeff Jones

Area artists may well want to avoid the corner of Broadway and Third Street. In 1938 modernist artist Edward Fisk was hit here by a taxi cab as he stood at the corner. Fisk was only injured, but forty-three years later this same intersection was the site of another, fatal combination of a car and a pedestrian. In 1981 Lexington and the international art scene lost Henry Faulkner, a gay Kentucky artist variously described as "mad", "outrageous", "temperamental", and "elfin".

Like his onetime housemate James "Sweet Evening Breeze" Herndon, Faulkner is one of a special class of gay Southern men whose eccentricities memorialized them as "characters" right out of Southern gothic novels. Also like Sweets, young Faulkner was separated from his family as a boy. Faulkner's family's poverty and the death of his mother when he was two, led to his placement with the Kentucky Children's Home in Louisville. Moved among foster homes, young Henry finally ended up a foster child with a poor family of tobacco farmers in their three room home in Falling Timbers. This tiny town near Lebanon is where Faulkner grew up. Because he played with dolls and liked to draw, he faced harassment from neighborhood kids and repeatedly attempted to run away.

Although he was eventually returned to the orphanage, Faulkner pointed to his time in Falling Timbers as the inspiration for his later Primitive style art. With few decorations other than ads from Sears catalogs, Faulkner believed that rural people turned to their own inner inspiration and unschooled, unconventional art styles.

At age 18 Faulkner left the orphanage and roamed the United States. He supported himself through various odd jobs, drag shows, hustling, and con jobs. Slim, intense, and handsome, he made his way to California where he studied art. In 1955 when Faulkner was about 31, he returned to Lexington wearing his then signature suit made of green velvet.

Faulkner's first home in Lexington was with Sweet Evening Breeze who had a history of taking in homeless waifs and opened his Prall Street home to Faulkner. The two became fast friends in spite of their very different personalities. Sweets was most often laid back and non-threatening, whereas Faulkner was fiery and temperamental, according to his biographer Charles House.

In 1964 a local showing of Faulkner's artwork made him an instant celebrity. By the early 1970s Faulkner's art sales allowed him to buy a large home at 462 West Third Street and rent a Key West house on Peacon Lane owned by artist Bertolt Brecht's son. Faulkner divided his time between Lexington and Key West when he was not traveling the world among America's elite artists and writers.

Faulkner's friends included poet Ezra Pound and James Herlihy, author of *Midnight Cowboy*. Faulkner met Pound when both were institutionalized for a period in an insane asylum. Tennessee Williams was also a friend and reportedly an occasional lover. Williams' final play, *The Lingerin Hour*, was about Faulkner and referred to him as "the ultimate artist". Faulkner also developed a strong friendship with Daphne Phelps, a beautiful American whose adventures while living in a Sicilian villa are now described in her book *A House in Sicily*.

Faulkner considered living itself an art form and never ..continued on next page

shied away from being unconventional. He kept pet chickens at his Third Street mansion and could be seen driving around town with a car full of cats and dogs. Faulkner reputedly has no less than 27 pet Siamese cats at one time and was often accompanied to movies, parties, and the occasional UK football game by Alice, his bourbon-drinking goat.

Whether going to bar openings in a crushed velvet dress on the arms of two muscle men, having a female French prostitute entertain at one of his Second Street parties, or pestering local gay young men to get in his car for a blowjob, Faulkner's ways fascinated some but marked him as strange or even predatory for others.

On December 5, 1981, Faulkner was killed when hit by a car while walking downtown at the age of 57. The LFUCG honored him with a resolution, and he left behind his legend and a legacy in his artwork and influence on students such as Bob Morgan, Julia Speed, and Jan McKenzie Keene.

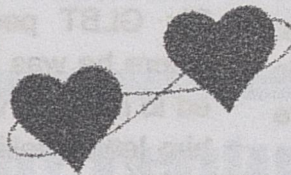
Domestic Partnership

Julie Fain has been working with Lexmark for approval of domestic partner benefits and has been successful! Lexmark will be offering same sex Domestic Partner Benefits in 2003!!

Employees will receive notification in the mail and will be able to sign up in October. There will be no official announcement. So, chalk one more up to grass roots activism! Thanks Julie.

Lexington Men's Chorus

The Men's Chorus is rehearsing on Sundays from 5:30 to 7:45 at St. Michaels Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr. The chorus is open to all who love to sing, no auditions required. If you have questions, email Kenneth@lmcky.org.



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Serving our Community

Soulforce in Action

by Jamie McDaniel

One of the Soulforce vows is "I believe that my adversary is not my enemy, but a victim of misinformation as I have been." To be sure, this is a difficult statement to say aloud - let alone try to live by. Probably every person who has studied nonviolence and has considered the vow has, at one time or another, wondered about his or her own naivete.

Once, while standing across the street from Fred Phelps and his gang in New Orleans and watching a little girl fidget with her brightly colored "God Hates Fags" sign as her mother stood nearby waving an equally spiritually violent sign, I wondered about the terms "adversary" and "enemy." Fred a victim? The only victims I could clearly see were GLBT people and this little girl and her older brother. I have come to believe, however, that the answer is yes. The people who spread anti-gay rhetoric are victims of misinformation... as I have been.

For me, the part "as I have been" has real significance. It is to my shame that I admit racism by laughing at "black" jokes and homophobia by telling gay jokes during my high school years. There is probably a list of reasons for my past behavior, not the least of which is insecurity. However, the idea of being a victim of misinformation is powerfully true. I was misinformed about God's radical love. I was misinformed about the human family. I was misinformed about such concepts as justice, peace, and equality.

So now, when I see people who spread false teachings concerning GLBT people, I see them as an adversary to justice, a victim of misinformation - but not an enemy. Untruth is my real enemy. It is untruth that holds my adversary in bondage.

Soulforce is gearing up for the national action in Lynchburg, Virginia. As many of us know, Rev. Jerry Falwell is a primary source of misinformation about homosexual people and homosexuality. He and the people of Thomas Road Baptist Church are carrying the yoke of untruth concerning GLBT people. We will bring them truth in love - and we will do it relentlessly.

Already Mel White and Gary Nixon, co-founders of Soulforce and partners for more than 20 years, have done something daring and creative. They have left California and moved into a house directly across the street from Jerry's church! They plan to live in the community for one year and attend Jerry's church as an out gay couple.

Falwell was in Kentucky on September 16th. Members of Soulforce Lexington and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance joined together to confront the anti-gay rhetoric. Six GLBT people attended the church where he was speaking and then attempted to meet up with him afterwards and give him letters telling our stories and how his anti-gay teachings have caused suffering. Because of tight security, the meeting did not happen. However the press covered the story and it made the front page of the Paducah Sun. The following day we overnighted the letters to Falwell along with a copy of the wonderful book, "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth: a resource for congregations in dialogue on sexual orientation."

Consider going with us to Lynchburg on October 25-27. Already more than 150 people across the nation are signed up. It will be a powerful stand for justice that will transform you and hopefully help to change the hearts and minds of others.

For Soulforce meeting times contact Jamie at 273-2746 or check out our web site at www.SoulforceInKentucky.org.

Young Pride: A Space for our youth

The Gay Straight Alliance is meeting weekly and we are planning a coming out party for later in the month of Oct. For information call the office at 253-3233 or Mary Crone at 266-5904 (after Oct 11).

Members of our youth group have come from all of our public schools, several private schools, and LCC. Some members are finished with High School and are working.

GSA members are involved in many activities. One young man is acting in Dunbar's fall production of "The Laramie Project." This great play opens on Wed. October 9 and will run until the following Sunday, Oct 13. Show times are at 8 pm on all nights and at 2:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets can be bought at the door and cost \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. Please come out and support us.

Women's Spirituality Group

The Woman's Spirituality Group of the Unitarian Universalist Church has its first meeting of the fall on Friday, Oct 18 at the home of Mary Crone. We meet at 6:30 for pot luck and at 7:15 for a program. Come at either time. (Pot luck is low key, bring sometime from Krogers if you are busy.) This evening we will be playing a cooperative game, *Go Goddess*. We also hope to have a bonfire, weather permitting. Call for directions or more information 266-5904. (after Oct 11)

The Woman's Spirituality group is a social support group in which we learn about and celebrate the sacred female energy in the universe. Our second meeting will be on Friday, Nov. 1. We will have a Samheim ritual in honor of our female ancestors. Bring a picture or an item belonging to an ancestor for the alter. We pain a bonfire for this evening also.

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Graphic Design

Jackie is volunteering to do Graphic Design work at the Pride Center. We are asking for a donation of \$8 an hour or \$15 per design. All proceeds will go to the Pride Center. In the future she will be able to do printing jobs as well. We hope that this service will help support purchasing our own community center. She can do the following design work:

Business Cards Brochures
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Call or come by to see if we have the service you need. Let us help each other and our community. Call 253-3233 between 10am and 3pm or 971-3315 after 5.

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GLSO needs your support to continue operating the Pride Center which provides space for many GLBT groups to meet and houses our library, to publish this newsletter, to support the Gay Straight Alliance for Youth, and to reach out to GLBT individuals who are still struggling to be themselves. Please subscribe and become a voting member of GLSO. If for any reason you need a reduced rate please use this form to indicate what you can pay. We want our newsletter to reach as many people as possible.

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