

GLSO NEWS

FEBRUARY 1994

KY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As this issue of the *GLSO News* went to press, the 1994 Regular Session of the General Assembly had already seen the introduction of five bills that, if passed, will threaten gay, lesbian, and bisexual Kentuckians.

Four of the bills propose amending the state constitution to add a new section. Here is how that section would read, according to the bills in question:

- "The General Assembly shall have the right to ban sodomy, including between consenting persons." (Senate Bill 18, sponsored by Senator Tim Philpot)
- "Deviate sexual conduct between individuals of the same sex shall be illegal. Deviate sexual conduct includes the following acts when performed for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification: sodomy, flagellation, bestiality, sexual intercourse, excretion, and other deviate sexual acts defined by the General Assembly by law. The General Assembly shall, by law, fix the penalties for such acts." (Senate Bill 35, sponsored by Senator Gex Williams)
- "The General Assembly shall prohibit deviate sexual intercourse between persons of the same sex, regardless of whether or not the other person consented to the act." Upon passage by voters, this amendment would reactivate KRS 510.100, the very law

ruled unconstitutional by the Kentucky Supreme Court in the Wasson decision. (Senate Bill 69, sponsored by Senators Gex Williams, Richard Roeding, and Charlie Borders)

- "The General Assembly shall define the crime of sodomy, and provide punishment for its commission, including between consenting persons." (House Bill 10, sponsored by Representatives James E. Bruce, Lonnie Napier, Ray Mullinix, Danny Ford, Walter Gee, Thomas Todd, Stephen C. Keith, and Woody Allen)

Strangely, Philpot's bill is the most lenient (although still reprehensible). The other two Senate bills specifically target same-sex relations, and homosexual activity would no doubt be the focus of the definition allowed by the House bill.

If any of these constitutional amendments were put on the ballot by the General Assembly and then approved by the voters, there would be little or no possible recourse to the state Supreme Court, which rendered the gay-friendly Wasson decision in 1992.

The fifth troublesome bill before the legislature does not address gay issues directly, but could be just as dangerous for us. Senate Bill 36 (sponsored by Senator Tim Philpot) would allow citizens to petition directly to get proposed laws or amendments on the ballot for approval by voters. Currently, voting on consti-

tutional amendments must be approved in a bill passed by the Legislature, but this bill would provide a bypass. Changes to our state laws could be put up for passage by popular vote if a petition for the change were signed by a group of people equal to 5% (in the case of a law) or 8% (for a constitutional amendment) of the number who voted in the most recent gubernatorial election.

This bypass could conceivably be used by our community statewide to get a gay-friendly amendment on the ballot, but in terms of numbers and organization, it is much more likely that the religious right would be able to mobilize to make same-sex activity illegal through the constitution. Banning gay and lesbian sex would become a core value of our state.

It is difficult to predict how these five bills will fare in the legislature, and action might well have been taken by the time this issue reaches you. But if the bills are still under consideration, WRITE to your senator and representative. Mention the bills by their number, and say that you oppose these proposals. If you are unsure who represents you in Frankfort, your public library reference desk can help you identify their name and address.

Don't waste time, and don't assume everything will turn out okay by itself. You must stand up for what you think is right. Write today.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several months ago, I wrote an article about GLSO's need for community support. The response has been good; we have several new writers for the newsletter; Brian Throckmorton is in the process of becoming the editor. We are looking for an ad manager. Kristin Smith has resigned as typeset editor. We thank her for

her many months of work. Elizabeth Gillium has volunteered to try her hand at this task.

The most difficult problem we are facing is financial. We do not have enough money in the bank to publish another issue of the *GLSO News* in its present form, and if we do not increase our economic support from the community, we will have to cut other services as well. There are emergency measures we can take, but in the long run, we have to have a regular income from subscriptions to continue to put a sixteen page newsletter in your hands monthly.

There have been several factors contributing to this situation over the last few years. The *GLSO News* has been improved and enlarged, and has cost us more to produce and to mail. We have covered some of this expense through advertising. Unfortunately, we have quite a few unpaid ad bills. We are confident that many of these will be paid and we are moving to a pre-pay advertising policy to prevent this problem in the future.

We increased the cost of the newsletter about a year ago from five to ten dollars for a year's subscription. We gave people time to renew at the old rate and many of you did. In retrospect, this was not a smart decision. If we had started receiving the ten dollars per subscription then, we would not be so short now.

In addition, we simply need more than 225 Kentuckians willing to subscribe to the newsletter. If you have been picking up a free issue or have let your subscription run out, please use the form in this issue to start or renew your subscription. In addition, please consider sending us the extra five dollars to become a member and/or include a donation. We need this money not just to cover the expenses of the newsletter, but to pay for the gayline, to place ads in programs of either lesbigay events, and to support our community's growth in other ways. For example, in the last six months, we

have made donations towards rent for a youth group and for a banner for P-FLAG, placed ads in TSGRA and Men's Chorus programs, and started sending out Welcome Pacs.

The GLSO Board is considering other ways of raising funds or cutting expenses. One idea is to accept 1-900 ads. You will find two differing points of view expressed later in this issue of *GLSO News*. If you have an opinion, please let us hear from you. We are also considering the possibility of sharing phone expenses with the Community Center which several of our board members are working to make a reality. We are also planning a social fund raising event. If you have any fund raising experience or ideas you would be willing to share, please give us a call.

Following is a summary of our monthly expenses and income based on averages over the last six months. The expense list does not include the donations or ad income that is overdue and that we are working to bring in this month. It also does not include the occasional larger donations we receive a couple of times a year. Pegasus Travel Agency, for example, sends us a donation of 1% of all tickets sold to people who say to credit GLSO. (Pegasus has asked us to remind everyone doing business with them to mention GLSO.) Also this year, we were one of the beneficiaries of the Imperial Court of the Bluegrass (now "of Kentucky"). We appreciate these donations.

Monthly Expenses		Monthly Income	
GTE	\$ 87.00	Newsletter	\$ 145.00
Phoenix (phone line)	45.00	Advertising subscriptions	73.00
Copy Company	240.00	Memberships & Donations	42.00
Bulk Mail	30.00		
Total	\$ 470.00	Total	\$ 260.00

If we could increase our subscribers to 400, giving us about \$333.00 a month, and our ad-

vertising income to \$200.00 a month, we would be in good shape. I believe the lesbian community in Lexington and surrounding areas is large enough to do more than that minimum. With more subscriptions and more volunteer energy, our community has great potential. Let us hear from you soon.

Mary Sojourner Crone

Gee! I'm very impressed with your need for me to subscribe. Sign me up for ...

GLSO NEWS Subscription

GLSO Membership (which includes not only the GLSO NEWS but also a membership card and the right to vote on matters that affect our organization).

A Tax-Deductible Gift to the GLSO

Change my address

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ZIP _____

I DO NOT want my name on the mailing list for anything other than the GLSO and it's direct subsidiaries.

Mail this ad to with your payment to:

NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 11471
Lexington KY 40575

WINTER SOLSTICE

The winter concert by the Lexington Men's Chorus was again a huge success. Nancy Ward, the musical director, noted that two years ago the Christmas concert was in the director's (Michael B.'s) house. Last year we were at the Unitarian Universalist Church. This year, we performed in the Recital Hall at the Singletary Center for the Arts on the University of Kentucky campus. Is that mainstream, or what! Many people, including the Herald-Leader Arts editor, were scrambling to get tickets--the concert had been sold out 2 weeks before! The stage was set with red poinsettias, but the highlight was the chorus--38 men in black tuxedos, with red AIDS pins and red carnations. Nancy wore a new sweater with gold embroidered stitching--she looked great.

The music for the concert was memorized (all 18 pieces!) which really adds to the overall quality of the performance. According to the director, the music was more challenging with many pieces on a semi-professional level of difficulty, yet all were performed exceptionally well. The music's diversity again showed the broad range the chorus has. From the touching "Who Are the Brave?" to the new-age "Winter Solstice" featuring an oboe solo and the chorus doing interpretive signing, the concert was full of surprises. "Christmas is Delicious", a song with over a thousand words and no repeats, featured a bass player. "Deck the Halls" was a jazz piece arranged for the Windy City Men's Chorus, and featured four scantily-clad women dancers from the E.K.U. Theater Department. Several typical Christmas pieces were done, with an overwhelming audience response singing the counter melody of "Peace, Peace" which is "Silent Night". The Quartet, an ensemble group of the chorus, did several numbers, but

the one that took everyone's heart in the audience was Bill Loggins singing of the Flirtations (a well-known gay group) song, "Everything Possible". The olde English carol, "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day", featured a soprano soloist and a fantastic harpist, along with the E.K.U. Theatre Dance Ensemble dressed in Victorian costumes. The highlight of the program was "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen", a long piece arranged by the gay composer Mark Riese. The accompanist, Jan Martin, really worked on this one, which was written more in the Philharmonic style.. Several directors in the Lexington choral community told Nancy that this was the best concert during the entire Christmas season.

As a group, we strive to sing to every single person in every single seat, and our audience is very diverse: children, grandparents, fathers and mothers, ex-wives, friends, lovers. Our broad base of support is also shown in the program for the concert -- it had over 78 paid advertisements and was 44 pages long!

We also performed this concert again at the Connection Complex in Louisville and at the Lafayette Retirement Center. Even though our group is a volunteer group we all put in a lot of time, it is a labor of love!

For those of you who missed this concert, or have never heard this group, there is hope! On Monday, February 7, we will be part of the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council Arts Showcase at the Opera House. The spring concert is on Friday, April 29, in connection with the second annual AIDS Walk for Life. This concert will also be at the Singletary Center. Buy your tickets EARLY! Thanks also to everyone who helped make this concert such a success, and especially to our audience for their fantastic support.

Steve Ross

LESBIANS AT LARGE

BY LINDA WEST

PUBLIC IGNORANCE OF OUR HISTORY CRIPPLES CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

After last year's election, I attended a Fairness meeting at which various Urban-County Council members' civil rights views were summarized. When the woman giving the summary came to Council at Large representative David Stevens, she stated that Stevens has said he is willing to consider the need for civil rights protections for Lesbians and Gays if we show him that we are discriminated against.

Hearing this, virtually everyone at the meeting groaned. We groaned, of course, because we know we live with discrimination every day, and yet to most straight people, that discrimination is invisible.

A primary source of this invisibility is the closet. Because most of us succeed in passing for straight, it's only the occasional member of our community who is fired, denied employment, refused an apartment, or denied a public accommodation. By making ourselves invisible, we make discrimination against us invisible.

But there's also another reason for the straight demand that we "prove" we are discriminated against, and that is straight people's ignorance of our history. This puts us at a disadvantage which other minorities do not face. Consider the cases of African-Americans and Jews. Both of these groups have a "known" history which includes singularly momentous experiences: slavery and segregation, and the Holocaust. Common knowledge of this history enables straight white gentiles to understand that if there are no laws to prohibit discrimination against these two groups, history shows that they will be discriminated against. However, when it comes to Lesbians and Gays,

straight people have no similar historical frame of reference.

If they did have such a frame of reference, here are some of the things they would know:

1. That in World War II, no effort was made to purge Gay and Lesbian military personnel until the war ended, at which time, once we were no longer needed, thousands of us were given undesirable discharges so that we could be denied all veterans benefits.

2. That in the '50's, the federal government mounted a campaign of purging homosexuals from its employment and fired literally thousands of people. That state governments and private employers around the country followed this federal lead and adopted explicitly discriminatory policies.

3. That throughout the '50's and '60's it was universally illegal to operate a place of business which attracted homosexuals. That under these laws gay bars were subjected to raids at which bar patrons would be hauled away to jail, their names printed in the paper, and their employers notified that they were employing a "known homosexual." That in Philadelphia alone, for example, such arrests averaged 100 per month throughout the '50's. That many, even most, people arrested lost their jobs and experienced prolonged unemployment as a result of this poverty machine.

4. That until the '70's it was illegal in many cities to serve alcohol to homosexuals. That, as a result of such laws, bars and restaurants in New York, whether or not they owned liquor licenses commonly posted signs that said, "if you're gay, stay away."

5. That although we have not been denied hotel or restaurant service so long as we pass for straight, we have been denied public accommodations on a massive scale in the form of printing companies which refuse to print anything with the words "Gay" or "Lesbian"; newspapers which refuse to print notices of our

commitment ceremonies; airlines, buses, and trains, which refuse to charter to Gay and Lesbian groups; television and radio stations which refuse to air community ads; and more.

6. That until recent years, students who were discovered to be Gay or Lesbian were routinely expelled from public universities. That until very recently, universities and colleges routinely refused to recognize Gay student organizations.

7. That Gays and Lesbians could be and were involuntarily committed to mental institutions by the thousands from the end of the nineteenth century until 1973. That the "treatments" we were given differed tellingly from those given genuine patients in that we were subjected to extreme electroshock, lobotomy, drug overdose, castration, hysterectomy, and clitoridectomy. That involuntarily committed Gay men were used as guinea pigs for the testing of new drugs. That our incarceration in mental hospitals was not unlike the mental hospital imprisonment of Soviet dissidents.

8. That we are not now, nor have we ever been, allowed to marry. That this means that a friend of mine who recently became unemployed cannot obtain health insurance under his spouse's employer-provided policy. That this means that an American Lesbian I know who entered Canada under a temporary work visa, and who had the misfortune to form a committed relationship with a Canadian woman, can only stay with her spouse by remaining in Canada illegally and risk of someday being deported alone. That this means we can be denied custody of a disabled spouse who cannot express their wishes, that we can be barred from visiting that spouse by third parties, and that we can finally be excluded from their funeral because we have no recognized relationship with them.

9. That our children have been taken from us by the thousands in this country because in virtually every state, until the last five years,

Lesbian and Gay parents were regarded as unfit *per se*. That our children have been taken from us not just by individuals, but by the state and handed over to foster homes. That sometimes those children have themselves been Gay or Lesbian and have experienced the denial to them of their parents as their first punishment for being who they are.

10. That until 1990, the immigration laws of this country denied visas to homosexuals, so that, for instance, Gay Holocaust survivors, whom German Records showed to be Gay, were denied entrance.

11. That police brutality against us has been the norm. That in New Orleans in 1976, when an arsonist's fire at a Gay bar killed 32 people, the police refused to investigate it. That in San Francisco in 1961, three young Gays were beaten to death by police. That in Houston in the '60's the police killed Gay men and dumped their bodies on roadsides. That after the 1979 riots sparked by the verdict in the Harvey Milk murder trial, the police conducted a pogrom against the San Francisco Gay ghetto, smashing windows and beating people while shouting such epithets as "dirty cocksuckers".

12. That the vast majority of straight people are ignorant of any of this because they have effectively banned any teaching of our history in public schools. That what is listed here only scratches the surface.

We were never told in school that we have a history, and so, perhaps most tragically of all, most Gay people know no more about our past than do straight people. This needs to change. Not just because our past is worth preserving, but because until that past becomes visible, even well-meaning straight people will demand "proof" that we are targets of discrimination.

Sources for the preceding article are: Kate, *Gay American History*, Meridian, 1976; Doberman, *Hidden from History*, New American Library, 1989; Doberman; Doberman, *Stonewall*, Button, 1993; and Burette, *Coming Out Under Fire*, Plume, 1991.)

I.C.B.E. NOW I.C.K.!

For the past 11 1/2 years, the Imperial Court of the Bluegrass Empire, Inc. has operated as a fundraising organization. During this period, thousands of dollars have been raised and donated to local charities such as A.V.O.L., God's Pantry, Save the Children, and a variety of other charities. During the first year of Community Health Trust in Louisville, the court made a large donation toward its establishment.

For several years, the court has considered changing its name to more clearly reflect where we are located. As part of an International organization, name recognition is important. Our original plan was to reincorporate under our new name and preserve the old corporate name to prevent any public confusion.

During the last renewal period for the corporation, due to a clerical error by the Board of Directors, the corporation known as the Imperial Court of the Bluegrass Empire, Inc. was administratively dissolved by Kentucky's Secretary of State.

Prior to the Board of Directors being aware of this situation, some local individuals formed a new corporation using our old name. The past monarchs, current monarchs, and Board of Directors of the old I.C.B.E. want everyone in the community to know that the new corporation known as the I.C.B.E. has no connection with the old corporation.

The old I.C.B.E., Inc. that you have known for the past 11 1/2 years has incorporated under the new name of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of All Kentucky. We will do business as the Imperial Court of Kentucky. We are still a not-for-profit corporation and are currently in the process of filing for non-profit status (501-C3) with the I.R.S. Please feel free to contact Thom at 255-2299, Terry at 266-8715, or Mark at 255-0675. Thank you for your cooperation.



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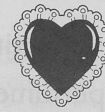
557 South Limestone 253-0014





February 1994

GLSO Wishes Everyone a Happy Valentines



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:00pm WS FilmFest: Just Another Girl on the IRT 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	2 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 6:30pm MCC-L'ville 7:00pm GLOBAL-U of L. 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	3 7:30pm Men's Chorus 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm "The Lisbon Traviata"-Actors Guild 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp.	4 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00pm "The Lisbon Traviata"-Actors Guild	5 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp. 11:00am GL Svcs. Network 8:00pm "The Lisbon Traviata"-Actors Guild
6 2:00pm "The Lisbon Traviata"-Actors Guild 3:00pm MCC Bible Study 6:00pm MCC/Lex.-Greenleaf Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	7 7:15pm GLSO Board @Peter's	8 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	9 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 6:30pm MCC-L'ville 7:00pm GLOBAL-U of L. 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	10 7:30pm Men's Chorus 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp.	11 7:00pm Dignity 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA Bluegrass Classic Bowling XI-Lex.	12 Lincoln's Birthday 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp.
13 3:00pm MCC Bible Study 6:00pm Imperial Ct-Club U 6:00pm MCC/Lex.-Greenleaf Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA Bluegrass Classic ...	14 St. Valentine's Day 7:15pm GLSO Support Grp.	15 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	16 Ash Wednesday 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 6:30pm MCC-L'ville 7:00pm GLOBAL-U of L. 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	17 7:30pm Men's Chorus 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp.	18 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	19 Iris Events: The Cupid Cafe 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp. 10:00am Men's Network
20 2:00pm Lesbian Potluck 3:00pm MCC Bible Study 6:00pm MCC/Lex.-Greenleaf Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	21 President's Day 7:15pm GLSO Support Grp.	22 Washington's Birthday 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	23 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 6:30pm MCC-L'ville 7:00pm GLOBAL-U of L. 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	24 7:30pm Men's Chorus 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp. 9:00pm COLTS Mtg.	25 7:00pm Dignity Mass 7:00pm Dignity 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	26 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sptt.Grp.
27 4:00pm Diversity Business Coal. 6:00pm Imperial Ct-Club U. 6:00pm AVOL Mtg. 6:00pm MCC/Lex.-Greenleaf Motel 6:30pm GLSO News Folding 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	28 7:15pm GLSO Support Grp.					

January

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OPINIONS ABOUT 1-900 ADS

PRO

As you know by now from reading this issue of the *GLSO News*, we are in real financial trouble. The GLSO board members have been struggling for some time with ways to deal with the situation. I have been informed that we have received a substantial donation which should allow us to put out the newsletter another month, but this is not enough in the larger scheme of things. We need money coming in on a more consistent basis than we presently experience or the *GLSO News* may cease to exist.

One way in which we can keep publishing the newsletter is to increase our advertising income. As you read in the article by the President, one way we can do this is by accepting ads for 1-900 lines. The board is divided over this issue. As a board member, I have taken the responsibility of giving you one point of view in the debate.

I have a very strong opinion regarding this controversy. It is no less than a Constitutional issue. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are the main focus of the issue. I support the publication of the ads regardless of the potential windfall they could bring to GLSO. I firmly believe that the proprietors of these businesses have a right to operate and to have their advertisement accepted by a press that publishes to the clientele they wish to reach.

As a community, we have taken strong exception to Sen. Philpot and his campaign against certain businesses in the area. I have heard no one defending his actions. Therefore, how can we in all good conscience censure advertising in our own newsletter? Does this not make us just as bigoted as he and the Christian right who want to take *Catcher in the Rye* off library shelves? As a community, it is time we

stop living by double standards. Censorship is wrong no matter who is doing the censoring.

Lastly, consider the financial issue. The majority of our subscribers are womyn. This is the group that the board is primarily afraid of alienating. Since womyn are our most loyal readers, surely we want to see the newsletter continue and to provide the quality information we expect. By accepting 1-900 ads, we not only receive the revenue from the ads, but we have a good chance of picking up new subscribers who are interested in receiving such information. Consequently, if we can pick up a substantial new group of readers, we can provide a better newsletter.

True, many 1-900 lines have sexually explicit content when called. This does not mean, however, that the ads in our *GLSO News* would be explicit. We are putting out a newspaper for adults and, as adults, we all know that sex is a very real part of life. Who are we to say that this is not an appropriate way for someone to express her/his sexuality? After all, in the age of AIDS, there is no safer way for this expression.

As the Declaration of Independence says, we have a right to Life, LIBERTY, and the Pursuit of Happiness. The business should be free to publish and our readers be open-minded enough to accept divergent views of sexual expression.

CON I

Unfortunately, throughout our society, negative stereotypes have plagued the homosexual community. These stereotypes hurt us as individuals and as a whole by perpetuating fear and hatred. The fear felt by some gays and lesbians of being alienated from family and friend is due to the stereotypes we represent.

There are the negative stereotypes used by those who vehemently oppose the notion of

homosexuality and use those stereotypes to influence voters to enact sodomy laws.

If we lived in an ideal society, each of us would be permitted to live without prejudice. We don't live in a perfect world. The *GLSO News* offers gays and lesbians as well as heterosexuals the opportunity to see the diversity of our community. There are other resources available if someone wants to call a 1-900 number. Permitting 1-900's to advertise in the *GLSO News* would reflect a financial business decision. Solutions to the financial dilemma of the *GLSO News* can be solved in other ways. I feel 1-900's perpetuate the negative stereotypes the gay community is trying to change.

CON 2

I do not see the choice of publishing 1-900 numbers as a freedom of speech/censorship issue. Anyone how has tried to get a book or other piece of writing published knows that freedom of speech does not include acceptance for publication. Publishing a newsletter does not mean we are required to print every article or advertisement that is sent to us. For example, we would certainly not feel obliged to publish a religious right account of how homosexuality can and should be cured or an advertisement for such a process... well, perhaps if it was really funny!

I personally find 1-900 numbers unappealing because I feel them a financial rip off and an encouragement for people to stay closeted. They are easy to find in many gay publications so I do not believe they would attract new subscribers.

Having a new source of advertising income would provide some financial support. I would prefer to get support from local advertisers and subscribers. If you would also like the *GLSO NEWS* to avoid such ads, one way to vote is by subscribing or running an ad. If we have plenty of local advertising, we will not have

room or need to consider these ads. I see the *GLSO NEWS* as a local newsletter, meant to inform and encourage discussion within our diverse community. The goals, as I see them, are greater understanding and acceptance among ourselves, a decrease of internalized homophobia, and an increase in community strength. I do not believe accepting 1-900 numbers will further these goals.

If you have an opinion on this, please give a board member a call or drop us a note. We want to have a clearer idea of community opinions.

ANNOUNCING

There will be an AIDS Benefit on March 26th at the Connection Show Room. Featured performers will be jetting in from Cincinnati, Toronto, Lexington, Atlanta and all points in-between. For more information call Mike Blevins at 255-9881.

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 :DO TUDA UNUSUAL MAGAZINES AND BOOKS. ART, UFOS, MUSIC, PHOTOGRAPHY, THE ENVIRONMENT,
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 URBOOTY ALMOST ANY OTHER TOPIC YOU COULD IMAGINE. THE EYE ALSO CARRIES SELECTED
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NEXT TO NEW MORNING COFFEE HOUSE

REMEMBER

Any subscriber to the GLSO NEWS who does not wish their name to be turned over to the Community Mailing List, please call Mary at 266-5904 or write to us at PO Box 11471.

LESBIGAY LEXINGTON

(a continuing series by Jeff Jones)

THE BARS

After a two month delay, I will continue with this series on the history of the local lesbian community of Lexington. This series was originally inspired by a required paper on urban form and a curiosity about how The Bar located on Lexington's Main Street. The November 1993 issue of the *GLSO News* discusses the early settlement of Lexington and the historic migration of the sex industry down Main Street and out Winchester Road. This month I want to discuss gay bars.

So, why are three gay bars located on or near Main Street: The Bar, Crossings and Joe's? An apparently widespread myth among local people is that a gay bar has existed on the site of The Bar as far back as the turn of the century. This is, however, just a myth. At the turn of the century, that area of Main Street contained a number of lumber yards and warehouses serving the rail freight terminal that was along Water St. behind Wolf Wiles. With the introduction of the car, entrepreneurs found these old lumber yards to be ideal for the large spaces needed for garages and auto repair shops. By the 1920's, the current buildings (there are actually two buildings that are connected) containing The Bar had been built. Look sometime at the front door on Main Street to The Bar. It sits in a large square that was once a garage door to the former auto repair shop on the site. Greg Lee's March 1984 *GLSO*

News piece on The Bar has a good photo from that time.

In the 1930s and 1940s, this block of Main Street was extremely busy and crowded with people. Two theaters, the Kentucky and the State, were open (but only for whites). The passenger rail terminal, bus station and several trolley stops all converged on the area. Small restaurants added to the hotels that existed in the area to serve travelers.

By 1967, The Gilded Cage has opened on the site of The Bar as a restaurant/lounge with apparently a clientele of older, blue-haired strait women. Gay people began to frequent the restaurant in the later evenings as the strait people began to leave. By the 1972, the Gilded Cage was widely known in the gay community as a "gay bar." Names changed from the Gilded Cage to The Living Room to Cafe Montparnasse to Johnny Angel's and then finally, The Bar. The Cafe was expanded in the late 70s into the adjoining building, and the dance floor upstairs was expanded into the Johnny Angels disco. The disco's dance floor opened with a gala covered by the Herald-Leader and was considered to rival the discos in New York at the time. A few years later, "Johnny Angel" was retired with a festive Halloween funeral and the name changed simply to The Bar.

Joe's Bar is largely a continuation of The Bungalow Restaurant (now the Rosebud). Legend has it that when it would snow in Lexington in the 1980s, gay men would gather at The Bungalow to toast the snow with champagne. Although very small, the Bungalow is remembered fondly in the city. When the owners' retired, another couple opened Joe's with the same recipes and same staff.

I do not have much information on Crossings... yet. Lexington, however, is unusual in having a levi/leather bar for a city of its size. The differentiation of gay bars into primarily lesbian, levi/leather, drag, dance or other spe-

cialized establishments is usually only found according to sociologists in city's with larger populations. This differentiation may be a sign to back up a longstanding myth in Lexington: that the city has an unusually large percentage of lesbigay residents.

In answer to why there are three bars along Main Street, the answer in part lies in larger changes in the city. Suburbanization, desegregation, "white flight," and the resulting move of downtown retailing to Nicholasville/Richmond/New Circle Roads to be closer to white, middle/upper-class consumers, increasingly left downtown a series of vacant shops. Shoppers, city government and businesspeople that might have objected previously to a gay bar found and continue to find the influx of lesbigay money into downtown bars, restaurants and cinema a welcome sight...if a somewhat bittersweet one to more conservative types. The withdrawal of the white elite residences and retailing to the south side of Lexington has left a space for otherwise marginalized minority groups such as African-Americans, gay people, and grunge kids to build different cultural institutions.

(Next month: Sodomy Laws and You!)

KUDOZ AND STUFF...

A very Happy Birthday to Heith Ratliff from Jeff, Laura, Mitzi, Jim, Matt, Lee and the many who so cherish that maniacal laugh!

GLSO welcomes Liz, Anne, Greg and Brian to our community!

Frank, From CA to SD to Lex., I'm your man! I love you. Matt

Oh and BTW, Thank You Kristin for all your creativity and hard work on the *NEWS*.

And finally, Happy Valentines to all those who hate this day with equal relish as myself. "CUPID"

MISSILES OF LOVE OR HATE?

Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church is holding a Bible Study in February emphasizing those passages most often used as weapons against the Les-Bi-Gay community. "Bible Bullets: Missiles of Love or Hate?" is intended to arm those so assaulted with the only defense possible: knowledge and understanding. The course is free and will be presented each Sunday in February at 3:00 PM. The Bible Study will be presented at the church's regular meeting place, The Glenhaven Room of the Greenleaf Inn, 2280 Nicholasville Road.

The Reverend Rex Van Alstine commented "Once we shed the prejudicial heterosexual viewpoints that society has given us, we discover God does love us and the scriptures speak in a positive manner to us and our relationships."

The following schedule will permit those attending to read ahead if they desire:

- Feb. 4 Genesis 19:4-11 (Sodom & Gomorrah)
- Feb. 13 Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13-14
- Feb. 20 Positive Old Testament Examples
- Feb. 27 I Corinthians 6:9 & I Timothy 1:10
plus positive New Testament messages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lambda presents a LesBiGay Singles Event! "Dessert Affair" on Sunday, February 6 from 5pm until 9pm at 25 Hampton Court, Apartment 5. Bring a dessert, coffee or wine. Call Julien at 272-7232 for more information.

Front Runners (running group) meets every Saturday morning at 9:00 AM at the University of Kentucky Arboretum. Then it's on to the Manhattan Bagel Company. Front Runners has great T-shirts for sale. Come check us out. For more information, call Keith (254-6850).

ROUNDHOUSE

By Brian Throckmorton

One of my goals as the new editor of the *GLSO News* is to encourage more contributions from readers. If you are interested in reporting for us on news areas of interest, by all means give me a call at 278-0795. We would also like to see more creative writing (poetry, very short essays). But since many people don't think of themselves as writers, or are still coming out gradually and don't want their name to appear in the newsletter, we have come up with a way for more people to share their thoughts.

It's called the *Roundhouse*, after the round buildings where train engines are stored and repaired, because your ideas will (we hope) be coming in from all directions and going out through the newsletter in other directions. Here's how it works: we'll publish a list of questions (see below) and any of you who want can send us your brief answers, or your suggestions for future questions. You don't have to be a "real" writer. From time to time, we'll print a selection of responses. This way we can all support each other and share our accumulated wisdom. The first couple of questions are:

- What do you do if someone on the street calls you a "faggot/dyke"?
- What's the best response to someone who claims that gays/lesbians are sinners who will go to hell?
- Tell us about something somebody said or did that helped you come out.

Send in your answers to *GLSO Round-house*, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575. If you really want your comment attributed to yourself, include your name (and a phone number-- for verification only). Otherwise, include initials, or we'll print them with no name. Please try to contribute.

COMING OUT SUPPORT GROUP

A new series of groups for people in any stage of coming out is starting in February. We will discuss a variety of topics such as religion, coming out to family members, becoming part of the lesbian community, and so forth. We also plan to have a film night. Give Mary (266-5904) or Mike (225-1828) a call for details.

P-FLAG UNDERWAY

Lexington's chapter of P-Flag, Parents, friends, and families of Lesbians and Gays, is building membership and meeting regularly. The February meeting will be on Thursday, the 17th at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church on the corner of Tates Creek and Armstrong Mill Road. For more information, call Ruth Fiscella at 276-1777. The Herald-Leader printed an article about Ruth and P-Flag in December and Ruth has received many calls. P-Flag does wonderful work in helping parents come to terms with their children's sexual orientation.

CHRIS AND TRET

Chris Williamson and Tret Fure are coming to Lexington! They'll perform Thursday, March 29 at Memorial Hall. Tickets will go on sale soon. For information, call Linda at 266-9748.

CLASSIFIED

Gay White Male wishes to meet Gay White Male, 20-30 yrs. old, in the Berea or Richmond area for fun and friendship. Please respond to the following address: Michael, P.O. Box 610, McKee, KY 40447

GLSO DIRECTORY

GLSO GAYLINE staffed 8 to 11 PM Wed., Thur., Fri. & Sun....231-0334
 VOICEMAIL available when not staffed

GLSO

GLSO Board (Mary).....	266-5904
GLSO DISC Project (Jeff).....	276-5383
GLSO News (Brian).....	278-0795
Ads (Mary).....	266-5904
Calendar (Jeff).....	276-5383
Folding (Lee).....	277-9365
GLSO Gayline Vols. (Peter).....	273-5845
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Bill).....	266-9175
GLSO Support Group	
(Mary).....	266-5904
(Mike).....	225-1828

STUDENT GROUPS

ACE League, Berea College	
(Russell).....	986-9876
AGLF, NKU (Pat).....	572-5604
Alt. Voice, Murray State	
(Jeff).....	(502) 574-5792
B-GLAD, Centre (Mykol).....	238-5332
GLOBAL, UL (Ken).....	(502) 852-3436
GUESS, EKU (Matt).....	622-5821
LAMBDA UK (Andrea).....	253-0955
LAMBDA WKU(Larry).....	(502)-796-9114
PHI OMEGA EPSILON,	
Murray State, (David).....	(502).783-4729

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

DIGNITY, Catholic (Don).....	299-4458
G.LAD, Disciples of Christ	
(Jeff).....	255-4958
HONESTY, Southern Baptist	
(Eddie).....	(502) 637-7609
(Dorothy).....	(502) 458-5392
INTERWEAVE, Unitarian	
(Craig).....	269-8215
MCC, Lexington (Rex).....	271-1407
MCC, Louisville.....	(502) 775-6636
PAGAN FORUM (Pat).....	268-1640
QUAKER FLGC (Connie).....	231-2554
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIV	
MINISTRY (John).....	231-9955

COMMUNITY

Asians & Friends Ohio.....	(614) 341-7349
Bluegrass COLTS (Mark).....	233-7266
Diversity Business Coalition.....	281-8444
Esmereld's Parlour (Laura).....	266-1318
Fairness of Lex. Hotline.....	275-7812
(Tomi).....	266-1318
Front Runners (Keith).....	254-6850
GBL Veterans, Columbus	
(Mike).....	(614) 299-7764
G/LAA (Dave).....	293-6822
G/L Al-Anon (Robert).....	293-0516
G/L Defense Fund.....	(502) 589-2986
G/L Services Net. (Ann).....	266-6568
ICK (Ken/Ashley).....	255-9881
KY ACLU (Keith).....	266-3934
KY FAIRNESS (Keith).....	266-3934
KY LEGISLATURE	
Bill Status Line.....	(800) 382-2455
Meeting Info Line.....	(800) 633-9650
Message Line.....	(800) 372-7181
LESBIAN POTLUCK	
(Esmerelda).....	231-0335
LEXINGTON MEN'S	
CHORUS (Shelby).....	231-0090
LOUISVILLE	
FAIRNESS.....	(502) 893-0788
LOUISVILLE	
YOUTH GROUP.....	(502) 635-1302
NAMES PROJECT	
LEXINGTON (Katie).....	272-2588
P-FLAG (Ruth).....	276-1777
RAINBOW BOWLING	
LEAGUE (Teri).....	268-8563
TRI-STATE RODEO	
(TERRY).....	255-5469
(CATHY).....	269-5966
WOMYNWEAVE (Kathy).....	271-3484

AIDS INFO/SERVICES

AIDS Hotline (Lex.).....	231-7545
AIDS Vol. of Lex. (AVOL).....	254-2865
HIV/AIDS Legal Project.....	(502) 584-1254
HIV+ YOUTH	
SUPPORT GROUP.....	254-2865
KY AIDS HOTLINE.....	(502) 564-6539
PARTNERS OF HIV+	
SUPPORT GROUP (Greg).....	288-2437
THURSDAY HIV+/AIDS	
SUPPORT GROUP	
KIPWAC (Edwin).....	281-2100
SATURDAY HIV+/AIDS	
SUPPORT GROUP	
(AVOL).....	254-2865

ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

JESSAMINE CO.....	885-4149
LEXINGTON/FAYETTE CO.....	288-2437
MADISON CO.....	623-7312
WOODFORD CO.....	873-4541

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you feel that you have been discriminated against because of being HIV+, you may contact these Federal agencies.

EMPLOYMENT (EEOC).....	(202) 663-4900
MEDICAL CARE, DAY CARE,	
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION	
(Dept. of Justice).....	(202) 541-0301
HOUSING (Housing and	
Urban Development).....	(800) 669-9777