



# GLSO NEWS

Vol. 13

August 1998

No. 7

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

## Ohio Lesbian Festival Tenth Anniversary

On Saturday, Sept. 12, a few miles east of Columbus, Ohio, a wonderful one day music and comedy festival will be held. Comedians Marga Gomez and Katrina Curtiss will be joined by musicians Lucie Blue Tremblay, Chris Williamson and Tret Fury, Adenkum Drummers, Straight Ahead, and Slammin' Babes (June and Jean Millington). There will also be a show by H.I.S. Kings, some lip synching, some dancing, some carryin' on.

There will be great shopping and workshops during daylight hours, food sales up until 7:30 and child care. The Best program will again be giving free mammograms if you qualify and call ahead for an appointment (1-800-625-2378).

Tickets are \$24 in advance and \$30 at the gate. Tickets are available in Lexington at Alfalfa or by writing to the address below. Some work exchange may be available if you call soon.

This festival is closer to Lexington than any other, a mere four-hour drive. If you have never been to a festival, this is a great one for "festi-virgins."

For more information contact LBA at PO Box 82086; Columbus, Ohio, 43202. Phone (614) 267-3953.

## Pink Pages Premiere

Celebrate the premiere of the 1998 edition of the Pink Pages Thursday, August 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Pride Center. Stop by after work for the gayest happy hour in Lexington.

Enjoy complimentary beer, wine, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres while looking through your copy of the Pink Pages. We'll also be giving away a few door prizes.

The Pink Pages is a fund raiser for the Pride Center. Advertisers are businesses, professionals, and organizations which welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered clientele. They are often, but not necessarily, gay-owned, operated, or staffed. When you call or visit one of our advertisers, please let them know you appreciate their decision to advertise with us.

## The Closet Ball

The Royal Imperial Sovereign Court is proud to announce *The Closet Ball* to be held on Thursday, August 6 at 9 p.m. at the Bar Complex. The \$4 admission benefits Moveable Feast. (See related article on page 5).

This special event is open to individuals of any gender who have

never done drag. Contestants will be asked to introduce themselves and will then be given an hour to dress and make up for their performances.

Local entertainers will perform as we wait for the newcomers to transform themselves.

## Ebony Male Pageant

Ebony Male will hold its second Miss Ebony Male Pageant on Thursday, Aug 20 at the Bar Complex. Doors open at 8 p.m. and with the show beginning at 9. Admission is \$5 with proceeds to benefit Movable Feast.

The elegant Rayna Starr, reigning Miss Ebony Male, and the fabulous Latoya Becall will perform. First place winner will receive \$100 and a crown; first runner-up will receive \$50.

*continued on page 3 community news*

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**The GLSO News**  
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**Editors:**  
**Mary Crone**  
**Peter Taylor**  
**Davina Warner**

**Layout Editor:**  
**Charlie Perkins**

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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 become the property of the GLSO. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject any submissions or advertisements.

## Good Stuff at Video Hits

by Peter Taylor

If you're looking for something to watch while you hide from the latest heat wave or even on longer term until global warming ends, you could do worse than to check out the outstanding collection of lesbigaytrans themed videos at Video Hits in the Landsdown Shopping Center.

My cursory inspection of their "New Releases" the other day yielded a large selection of international independent films by and about lesbians, gays and transsexuals, including some relatively rare films that I haven't seen anywhere else in town..

From England, there's *Boyfriends* by Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger which observes three gay couples negotiating different stages of their relationships with differing degrees of success. I recall many years ago reading that frottage is the orgasm of choice for the English gay man, this movie suggests that they spend a lot of time rubbing each other the WRONG way until they get it right!

There is a copy of *Kiss Me Guido* a slight, gay-themed comedy set in New York City. *Ma Vie in Rose* is also on the shelves, but given it's wide distribution, I imagine it is available at fine video stores everywhere. Those of you who missed this at the Kentucky earlier this year will want to check it out. It is a perceptive film about a transgendered child struggling to be himself in suburbia.

Video Hits' collection of lesbian themed films is even more refreshing, including the critically lauded *Watermelon Woman* by Cheryl Under, a collection of short films by (and about) Australian women. One even stars Xena in her pre-warrior

days. *Butterfly Kiss*, an English movie by Michael Winterbottom, and *Lavender Limelight*, a personal look at several lesbian filmmakers.

There is also a copy of the transsexual comedy, *Different for Girls* by Richard Spencer. In addition to all these fine contemporary works, there are even a few kitchy lesbian and bisexual sexploitation films from the 60's and 70's such as *Therese and Isabelle*, *Score* and *The Lickerish Quartet*. Video Hits can be reached at 266-9218 if you have questions about hours or availability.

## Elegies for Angels, Punks, and Raging Queens

The July edition of the GLSO News had to be completed early which prevented us from reviewing the excellent production of *Elegies for Angels, Punks, and Raging Queens*. This play by Bill Russell with music by Janet Hood was directed by Homer Tracey and produced by Act Out during Pride Month.

Tracey did a wonderful job of pulling together twenty seven, mostly amateur, actors and singers to create an experience of great warmth and beauty. All the people who worked to bring this play to us are to be commended and thanked.

Act Out is considering producing this play again in Louisville near the end of November and in Lexington for World AIDS Day on December 1. The response to the play has been so enthusiastic that we hope Act Out will arrange to show it several more times in Lexington. If you missed it the first time, look for announcements of future performances.



# Community News

This contest is open to all you beautiful ladies; ebony is not just a color, it is an attitude! If you have the attitude, come strut your stuff. Anyone interested in participating can call Mark at 389-7081.

## Ice-Cream Social

Cool off this month at the GLSO's Ice Cream Social Sunday, August 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. in Woodland Park. (Come early if you like your ice cream firm.)

Bring your kids or a date to the park for an afternoon of fun. A variety of ice cream flavors with toppings will be available for you to make your own sundaes. We'll also have games like volleyball and horseshoes for you to play. And if that's too strenuous, bring a blanket or a lawn chair and relax under a tree.

We are asking a donation of \$1 each to cover costs, so it's easy for you to enjoy a day of "family" fun in the sun. (Then again, if you like your ice cream as soup, come late.)



## DIGNITY

Dignity of Lexington invites everyone to an informal question and answer forum about our local group, National Dignity, the Catholic Church, or other related topics. Dignity is Lexington's Catholic /Christian gay support group and faith community.

Meet with us Sunday, August 23 at 6:00p.m. at MCC, 387 Waller Ave.

Bring your questions and we will bring the refreshments. For more information call Don at (606) 299-4458.

## Interweave

Our next monthly luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, August 16. Once again, we'll travel to a local restaurant after the church service for lunch. For more information about Interweave and about the Unitarian Universalist Church call Davina at 271-6174.

## Gospel Concert

The Robert H. Williams Cultural Center will hold its annual gospel concert Sunday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church.

This concert raises funds for several programs at the center, including the Minority AIDS Program. For more information, call the center at 255-5066.

## GAY DAY AT SIX FLAGS

Saturday, September 5 is the first unofficial Gay Day at Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom in Louisville. The park will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. that day.

Wear your favorite pride shirt, button or jewelry to show others you're here, you're queer, you're fabulous. Remember, this is not a park recognized or sponsored event. For more information, contact [www.gay-louisville.com](http://www.gay-louisville.com)

## Rodeo

A few people are wanting to restart the Kentucky Rodeo Association or what was once the TSGRA. This organization raised a lot of money for charities in the area and provide entertainment for many people. If you are interested in the western lifestyle, culture, dance, horses riding and/or rodeo call Ty at 266-3784.

## Rape Crisis Center

The Lexington Rape Crisis Center of Central Kentucky NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! The 1998 Fall Training will be starting on Friday, Sept. 18th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm and continuing the next day, Saturday, Sept. 19th and the following two Saturdays (Sept. 26th and Oct 3rd) from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Upon successful completion of ALL training sessions, volunteers will: answer the 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline, provide support and information for victims and their loved ones, meet victims at local hospitals and courts, and provide referrals for follow-up services. Volunteers answer the Hotline in their own homes and shift choice is flexible. A six month commitment is required and volunteers must be at least 21 (TWENTY-ONE) years old. The Training Program is free of charge. To apply for training, call Stephanie at 253-2615 by September 11.

The Center thanks you for your help and appreciates your continued support.



## MATURE PEOPLE MAKE THE BEST PARTNERS

Seventh in a series by Kelly O'Ferrell

*"I think mature people make the best partners...[among] several mature attitudes: they are happy being together or by themselves..."*

from Living With Sobriety

My partner, Tammy, and I had made plans to eat out and just piddle around together one Friday evening and I noticed something wonderful and fun as I worked that day - I was excited about seeing her. It was so much fun working and then suddenly remembering I'd be with her in just a few hours.

When I came home that evening, I heard her whistling at me from the porch. She and three cats were sitting out there waiting on me.

I don't always feel like that - excited to see Tam. I don't always *feel* the love I know I have for her. I'd be lying if I said I did.

We stayed in Chattanooga for our honeymoon and went to the aquarium. We'd been told how nice it was and that it had taken six hours to see everything. Well, about two hours after we started, we were leaving (and we'd probably spent a half an hour in the gift shop). We were laughing because we are so much alike - neither one of us is into reading a lot of plaques. We don't take many guided tours.

We went to see *Phantom of the Opera* in Louisville one afternoon last year. The theater was packed and the play enjoyable (though I did hear a snore from Tam periodically). During the intermission, we both confessed we were tired and had seen enough, so we headed to the car. We felt kind of guilty. I mean, who

leaves a play like *Phantom of the Opera* in the middle? We do!

Naturally, one of the things that attracted us to one another was the very thing that irritated us later. Tam liked how out going I was and I liked how available she was (homebody). Eventually, she was asking me to be home more often and I was asking her to get out more.

We've both found some balance in this area. I started saying no to a few events and making plans with Tam. That wasn't, and still isn't, as easy as it sounds.

We still have conversations that sound like this: Tam, I'm going to be busy all day Sunday. \* We never spend a whole weekend together. \* Yes we do. But not every weekend. We've planned whole weekends together. \* We don't spend enough time together. \* But why can't you count now as time together? And add to it tomorrow morning and all day Wednesday and Friday night. It feels like no matter how much we're together, it's not enough unless it's a whole weekend or a whole week. \* That's always your response to my wanting to spend more time with you. \* That's because it's never enough ... And thus begins the always/never volley.

After some time apart one day (and a conversation similar to the one above), Tam said, "I'm going to try and be more understanding of your work schedule" (I don't work M-F/8-5). I said thanks. We spend all day Wednesday together with several hours at the pool. As we were bobbing in the pool, she said, "I'm aware that we're together today and really appreciate this time at the pool."

"Me, too."

We're trying.

As a single woman, I was used

to having the place to myself when I came home from work, so I asked Tam to make plans to be out of the house by 4:30 (not just leaving when I arrived home, but completely gone) so that I could come home to an empty house and be by myself.

Being by myself is definitely learned. I began to learn how to entertain myself during a break up (that lasted a year). Moving to Lexington without knowing a soul, no job and no place to live helped me find ways to learn what was available in a city and how to meet people.

There's lots to do in any city, I just have to stop waiting for someone to tell me what and where and find it myself. And then realize that I won't like everything I do. (I also believe that if I can't find what I want, then start it. I did that in my first few months in Lexington when I started Les'Bian at The Women's Center.)

Tammy has found some balance in being away from home by consciously making plans with friends, exercising and periodically going camping with a friend.

We firmly believe that our histories shape much of our lives together today. We try to be aware of when our parents have proverbially moved in and then talk about options that work for us - not them.

Tammy and I come from very different backgrounds. My history with time went from spending practically every evening at home as a teenager with my parents watching TV, to living with a husband, to waiting around for a boyfriend to come home to waiting on a girlfriend to make up her mind. When I finally learned how to get a life and how many things there were to do and go and see and people to meet, well, let's just say

*continued on the next page*



balance for me has always been found between two peaks.

Meanwhile, Tammy was partying from age 14 to her early 20's. As far as she was concerned, she'd seen and done enough for one lifetime.

Here it is again, another Friday evening and I'm sitting on the porch, drinking a beer, reading about the pros and cons of monogamy in *The Advocate*, waiting on Tam to get home from racquet ball. She's going to cook hamburgers, fries and baked beans for us tonight and we're going to watch the WNBA. I can't wait to see her drive up in the car, whistle at her from the porch and hear all about her day. I'm excited all over again!

Thank goodness, maturity is about progress, not perfection.

### Moveable Feast

by Charlie Perkins

This Autumn (which is upon us)

will bring to the Lexington community a wonderful and much needed new service to those living with AIDS.

**Moveable Feast** has a simple mission statement: "... To prepare and deliver freshly cooked meals seven days per week (365 days a year) to those people with AIDS or HIV related illnesses and disabilities who need them...without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation, or national origin." As you might well imagine, though the Mission Statement is simple enough, the work involved is a mighty task. That's where YOU come in.

Over \$10,000 has been raised by the group to completely remodel the kitchen at St. Augustine's Chapel on the campus of the University of Kentucky. There are many volunteer opportunities available, including Kitchen, Meal Delivery, Office, Development, Data Entry, FUND

RAISING, and Special Events. Several events are planned for August that will be donating funds to this effort. (See page 1)

Those interested in helping in the kitchen will need to go to 333 Waller Ave, 4th Floor, to obtain a Food Handler's Permit. The cost for the permit is \$7.00 and it's good for three years. All volunteers ( You wont make a dime) are asked to participate in a brief orientation with a Moveable Feast staff member or specially trained volunteer.

There will be no charge to the meal recipients. This is a mission of love. At this time it is anticipated that approximately fifty meals per day will be provided in the Lexington area.

The group espouses no religious or political agenda. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance, both for the volunteers and recipients. For complete information call 252-2867.



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## Unitarian Views: How the Military Created an Activist

by Davina Warner

*This is a selection with some variation from the church service I gave at the Unitarian Church Sunday, July 5.*

From the time I was a little girl, I wanted to be a sailor. I had been born at the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego when my Dad was in the Navy, and my family joked that the doctors had given me a shot of sea water. Whatever the reason, I had always been fascinated with the Navy.

I played dress up in my Dad's old uniforms. I loved movies about the Navy like *Anchors Aweigh*, *PT-109*, *The Fighting Sullivans*, and *An Officer and a Gentleman*. I even investigated going to college at the Naval Academy, but as soon as I graduated high school, I joined the regular Navy. My chosen training program, journalism, did not begin for several months, so I did not leave for boot camp until two days after Christmas in 1981.

I was an innocent, naive 18-year-old girl when I left Kentucky for Orlando, Florida. Most of my youth had been focused on pleasing my parents and teachers and gaining their approval. I did what I was told -- a perfect skill for the military -- and avoided trouble. I hadn't spent too much time questioning the world around me. Religiously, I was a fundamentalist. Politically, I was a conservative. I believed in my government and had a strong desire to serve what I considered the greatest country in the world.

Perhaps my most radical belief was equal rights for women, but I did not fully understand what that meant.

In fact, I was entering a service which did not treat women equally -- women could not serve in combat units, and this condition of their military service often prohibited them from advancement to higher ranks.

So, how was this naive country girl transformed into a social activist? Since becoming an activist, I have often asked myself this question. I believe my activist roots were cultivated during my military service.

First of all, there's nothing like losing your rights to make you appreciate them. While on active duty, I was not allowed to publicly protest or oppose our government. In my position as a Navy journalist, I could not cover controversial stories, and the stories I did report always had a positive Navy slant. My job was not to report the news, but to build the morale of the sailors and their families. Consequently, most of the stories I reported were propaganda or fluff. I don't think I fully realized this until my last two years of service. That's when I had gained enough rank to develop my own stories and become frustrated by my Navy-positive limitation.

My individual rights were also threatened, when I began to explore my sexuality. I really had no idea I was a lesbian when I joined the Navy -- I was probably in denial. But while stationed in Japan, I became attracted to a woman. We often went out bar hopping or dancing. After we were seen kissing in a bar one night, I was threatened with an investigation, a possible prison sentence, and a probable dishonorable discharge if I didn't get my act together.

Being the dutiful sailor I was, I started dating guys and eventually fell in love with and married one of

them. Of course, that relationship ended in disaster, and years later when I finally accepted my sexuality, I refused to hide it ever again. I know this is one of the primary reasons I am such an outspoken lesbian activist today.

I also believe the diverse people I met while in the Navy tore down the walls of ignorance and prejudice I had been exposed to as a child. Like most branches of the military, the Navy includes men and women from all over the United States as well as individuals from the Philippines and Guam.

And while the people I served with came from different ethnic, cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds, we all shared two things. We were in the Navy, and we were far away from our families and friends. This isolation from those we loved and the teamwork emphasis of our training caused us to turn toward one another for support.

We shared rituals like daily meals, holidays and religious services. We spent our off-duty time together going to movies, playing games and partying. By spending so much time with this diverse group of people, I could no longer ignore the fact that although we were different in many ways, we shared many of the same struggles. We missed our families. We didn't like our new supervisor, and we all got our hearts broken by somebody.

It was our common experiences that allowed me to open my mind and heart to another's differences. This young, picky eater began to enjoy a variety of foods -- I still crave Jake's seafood gumbo, Anita's lumpia and adobo and Janet's potato  
continued on next page



pancakes. In time, I discussed religious beliefs with my shipmates and Japanese friends. I began to see the common myths that ran through our different beliefs and learned to value our various styles of worship. I'm certain this is when I started to become a Unitarian Universalist, although I didn't know it at the time.

Finally, it was during my military service that my blind trust in my government was shattered. While stationed in Japan, I visited Nagasaki with the Japanese minister of the Seventh Day Adventist Church I attended. He took me and his daughter who was about my age to see many of the popular tourist sites, including the A-bomb museum where photographs and relics associated with the bombing were displayed. I remember entering the museum doors with this know-it-all feeling. There was nothing I could see that would convince me the Japanese did not get what they deserved during World War II. They were our enemy after all -- they had bombed Pearl Harbor and sunk the battleship Arizona.

As I passed the photographs of women, children and babies suffering through the aftermath of the nuclear bombing, my attitudes began to change. I no longer saw the evil Japanese I had grown up hearing about, but instead I saw people like me.

When I entered the final room of the museum, I was greeted by millions of colorful origami birds hanging in bundles along the walls and from the ceiling. They had been made by Japanese children. Attached to each bundle was a message. Not messages of hatred toward those who had dropped the bomb, but messages of peace with pleas to future

generations that this pain and suffering never happen to anyone on earth.

We then traveled to the nearby Peace Park, which marked the epicenter of the bombing. Monuments to those who died were erected throughout the park. I soon learned that not only Japanese died in the bombing. Many of our allies did too, because the bomb landed on a prisoner of war camp. At one end of the park was a huge fountain, a symbol for the victims who begged for water to soothe their burning bodies

As I stared at the fountain, I felt a mixture of emotions -- sadness, anger, but most of all betrayal -- betrayal by the government I had come here to serve. Why weren't any of the photographs I had seen in the museum in my high school history books? Why did the text fail to mention that the bomb landed on a POW camp killing our allies? Why are Japanese remembrances of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and protests of nuclear weapons still portrayed as animosity toward Americans instead of the hopes for peace they really are?

My exposure to the other side's view of the Nagasaki bombing damaged my trust in my government. I no longer accepted what my government told me as fact. And my work in Navy journalism proved to me that the media could manipulate the truth as well. I realized it was up to me to consult a variety of sources before making my own conclusions. I finally learned that I don't always have to do what I am told. It is okay for me to question. This is perhaps the most important lesson my growing activist needed to learn.

Like the young Marines in Billy

Joel's song *Goodnight Saigon*, I believe "I left my childhood on every acre" of my tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. I know we all lose the innocence of childhood as we grow older, but for those of us who serve in the military, both in times of peace and war, that loss is abrupt.

Most of us are just kids when we get off the bus and enter the gates of a military base for the first time. We are there for lots of reasons -- to get money for college, to travel the world, to avoid jail time, to get a steady paycheck and benefits. We have barely begun to form our own beliefs. How can we understand what it means to truly serve our country? Sure, we are told we are protecting the world for liberty and justice for all, but we are there to do what our commander and chief tells us.

And while I do not regret my naval service -- I know that it was a valuable experience that made me the woman I am today -- I also know I did not truly fight for liberty and justice for all until I became a social activist. Now, I stand up for what I truly believe in -- I marched in Washington D.C. for a woman's right to choose; everyday I live as an out lesbian in a less than accepting society; and recently I lost a job because I supported co-workers who were being racially discriminated against.

I admit living the life of an activist is difficult. Standing up for my values and beliefs in the face of opposition can be frightening. But denying my beliefs and ignoring injustice is terrifying. In being true to myself, I have discovered an inner peace that I never knew was possible, and for me that serenity is truly freedom.



# AUGUST 1998

## GLSO CALENDAR USE DIRECTORY ON LAST PAGE TO CONFIRM

						<b>1 SATURDAY</b> 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
<b>2 SUNDAY</b> 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC	<b>3 MONDAY</b> 8:00 pm AA Step Study	<b>4 TUESDAY</b> 7:30 pm MCC Board Mtg	<b>5 WEDNESDAY</b> 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	<b>6 THURSDAY</b> 5 to 7 pm Pink Pages Premier (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Closet Ball (The Bar Complex)	<b>7 FRIDAY</b> 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
<b>9</b> 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm GLSO Board Mtg (Pride Center) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
<b>16</b> 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 12:15 pm Interweave Luncheon	<b>17</b> 8:00 pm AA Step Study  GLSO NEWS DEADLINE SUBMIT ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS FOR NEXT CALENDAR 273-9649	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b> 8:00 pm Ebony Male Pagaent (The Bar Complex)	<b>21</b> 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
<b>23</b> 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 2 to 5 pm GLSO Ice Cream Social (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm Dignity (Pride Center)	<b>24</b> 8:00 pm AA Step Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 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	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
<b>30</b> 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC	<b>31</b> 8:00 pm AA Step Study					

# ALFALFA



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## Playing the Family 'Phase' Game

by *Renate F. Jones*

The 'Phase' game is an adjustment period created by parents and family members of individuals who are attracted to the same sex. The game is sometimes referred to as denial and it all starts the instant you come out or the instant the family finds out. Rule #1, you will never know the time duration of the 'Phase'. One day your relatives will start acting stranger than usual and you will be told that it is time for you to come to your senses. I will use my 'Phase' as an example of how the game is played. The facts are absolutely true. No names will be used in order to protect the inordinate ones.

First you come out to the family or a neighbor outs you. Next they tell you that you are not THAT because they only make people like that in other states. You will be warned about awful diseases that make certain parts of your body sag to the floor for the rest of your life. You get a three second crash course in all the weird things that THOSE people like to do in the dark. The crash course is exactly 2 1/2 seconds longer than the home sex education course you got 20 years ago because everyone does not look the same down there. Down there constitutes any thing between the shoulders and the knees that jiggles, wiggles, or wobbles.

Once you have the facts, crying is an acceptable reaction. But whatever you do, do not laugh because your relatives are serious about these whispered beliefs. They know all about these things being true because they know somebody who

knows somebody who had it happen to their third cousin. It's the never before seen cousin that no one talks about.

The family always knew that you were different, I was told I was too manly. What that really meant was that I did not accept Mr. Right's 3 piece set of Vision Corning Ware as a marriage proposal. He got the dishes for free with a book full of those yellow stamps you get from the grocery store. The dishes were a birthday/proposal gift combination. He planned to get the other 12 pieces of Corning Ware on the three year installment plan, after we married.

Of course once we were married I would have to quit playing basketball and washing the car and tilling the yard for my garden. The neighbors were already talking about how I had ruined myself doing men's work and making that good man look bad. Now there was not going to be any more brown babies in my house. Certain family members thought he would have made the perfect husband even if the marriage would have been barren. Having a child 20 years ago had not cured my manly ways, but having a husband would surely do the trick.

It was of little significance that Mr. Right had not been around for a few years. Someone had to hurry and find him so that I would stop telling the whole dang town that I was in love with a woman from one of them other states. Not only was she a woman, she was the wrong color. It was feared that at any minute my parts would start dragging the ground. My love had come down on me and my parts were sure to follow

At this point in the game it's best you get a firm grip on your decision to

stay out. Move away from the closet and wait. This is the cooling period. the family will mention nothing for a while, they need time to get used to the change. Everyone will appear to be accepting, but keep a tight grip. They are really bidding their time for a sign. My sign came when a certain sibling's new cake recipe caught fire in an oven 2000 miles away in one of them other states.

If that was a sign then I have no idea what you would have called that rabbit raisin honey soufflé she convinced us to try one Christmas. I do not remember seeing any meat in the dish. To be honest, I do not remember seeing much of anything after the family meal. I am sure the sign was on the wall we all propped ourselves against while waiting in line to get into the bathroom. Be aware that a sign can be anything at anytime, minutes, days, years, decades after you are out.

When the sign comes your family will let you know that the Phase Game is over and PUFF! you must return to what they deem to be normal. Stand tall, scoop up your dragging parts and keep being who you are. Once the initial game ends anything can happen. This can be a devastating time for you and your family, a professional can help. Seek a professional who is not a relative of yours or mine, especially if she bakes soufflés! Intercultural Lesbians!





# Gertie Mae Noe

*Dear Gertie Mae,*

I am gay and have been out to my friends for several years. I decided to tell my mother that I was gay last year when I thought that I had met Mr. Right. I don't like to go and visit her and sit on pins and needles fearing that she will ask me about getting married or meeting someone's daughter.

My mother is very religious and I was afraid how she would take the news. When I told her she seemed to be taking it well and I asked her to please let me know if she needed to have questions answered or had concerns. I talk to my mother often via phone and letters and she has never mentioned my lifestyle.

About six months ago I told my Uncle about coming out to my mother and he got pretty upset. He is 67 and has never been married and keeps his personal life very private, even from me. He told me that I was being selfish in telling my mother that I am gay because it made me feel better but now she will be burdened. He said that such news is personal information and it is better left that way. Basically he was saying "don't ask, don't tell".

My mother has not said anything since I broke the news to her but according to my Uncle she is very distraught and disappointed. I can't say anything to her without saying that my uncle told me that she is having a hard time with my gayness. Should I just leave the matter alone until my mother approaches me with concerns or should I follow my uncle's advice and never bring this matter up again?

Thanks Gertie Mae I trust your wisdom,

*Dear Corbin*

It is my firm belief, and yes I am ready to take some flack from the radical faction, but your uncle had a point when he said that it was your personal information. Now hold on, I'm not saying you should not have come out to your mother. What I am saying is that being gay is your personal information and therefore your call as to whom you chose to tell or not tell and at what point in your relationship.

I am not one of the people that say you should tell everyone and especially your family. Don't get me wrong, I believe there is truth behind the belief that the more people that know someone who is gay the more tolerant our society will become. However, religion and culture also have a lot to do with each person's tolerance.

Two quick examples to prove my point. Religious mothers 1 & 2 have been told all their life that gay people are going to hell. Their son (or daughter) comes out to them. Number 1 says "I know you to be a good person and if you are gay then I must re-examine what I have been taught." Number 2 says "I love you and I always will but I will go to my grave praying for your salvation, for unless you turn from your wicked ways you will burn in HELL for all eternity."

What one needs to decide is if their mother is of the no. 2 variety is it worth telling her. It sounds like yours is may be of the this ilk. Again I am not saying you were wrong even if your mom is a "2". It was your call and you made it and according to the fates it was the right one. Now get your mother some books on the subject and some P-FLAG information, ignore what your uncle said and get on with being who you are.

*Coming out in Corbin*

*Love & Kisses,*

*Gertie Mae*

<b>Name</b> _____
<b>Address</b> _____
<b>City, St, zip</b> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$15 membership and newsletter</b>
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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>I would like the newsletter at this reduced rate</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>I am donating \$3 or more, please add my/our name(s) to the Out and Proud sponsorship page in October. Mail to GLSO News, PO Box 11471, Lex., Ky., 40575</b>



## Social Events Survey

After my recent election to the GLSO board, I volunteered to chair the Social Committee. Since GLSO is here to serve you, I'd like your input. Please take a few moments to complete the following survey and mail it to: GLSO News; PO Box 11471; Lexington, KY 40575. (And while you're at it, why not subscribe or renew your subscription to GLSO. Use the form on the other side of this page.)

Thanks! Davina

How often would you attend LBGt social events (Select One)?

- Once a week
- Once a month
- Once every three months
- Once a year
- Never

How much would you be willing to pay to attend LBGt social events (Select One)?

- Less than \$5.00
- \$5.00 to \$10.00
- More than \$10.00

Do you prefer events with

- Sliding scale
- Set price

Where do you prefer to attend events (Select All that Apply)?

- Gay Bar/Club
- Pride Center (Waller Ave.)
- Private Residence
- Public Place (i.e., City Park, Movie Theater, Restaurant)
- U.U Church (Clays Mill Rd.)
- Other (Please Specify)

Do you prefer to attend events for (Select One from Each Group).

- Men Only
- Women Only
- Men and Women

- Adults Only
- Couples
- Families (including children)
- Singles
- Everyone

Which of the following social events have you attended in the past year?(Select All that Apply)?

- Act Out's Production of *Elegies*
- Dances at the Unitarian Universalist Church
- Drag Shows
- E-Male Fund Raisers
- Frontrunners
- Interweave Luncheon
- Men's Chorus Concerts
- MCC Games Night
- Networking Night at the Pride Center
- Pride Picnic
- Rainbow Bowling Night
- RSIC Fund Raisers
- Sister Sound Concerts

Which type of social events listed below would you be most likely to attend in the future (Select Five)?

- Art Shows
- Arts and Crafts
- Concerts
- Dances
- Discussion Groups
- Drag Shows
- Game Nights
- Hiking or Camping
- Movies/Videos
- Plays
- Poetry Readings

- Potlucks
- Retreats
- Sports (Participating)
- Sports (Viewing)

I don't attend LBGt social events because (Select All that Apply).

- I'm afraid to be seen at LBGt events
- I never hear/read about them
- I don't have enough money
- I live too far away
- Child care isn't available
- Other (Please Specify)

How do you usually learn about LBGt events (Select All that Apply)?

- Church Newsletter/Bulletin
- Flyers/Posters at Gay Bars
- Friend
- GLSO News
- Lambdanet
- Other (Please Specify)

Comments (Please use the space below to elaborate ON your answers or list your comments/suggestions for upcoming events)

If you would be willing to help with a LBGt Social Event, please write your name and phone number below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## Celebrate A Life Well Lived

by Jane Minder

Eric Richardson died on July 4th after living with AIDS for nearly ten years. He lived every minute of his life, facing even the hardships with enthusiasm, passion, and joy.

Eric came to Lexington in 1997 and quickly made his presence felt in the Lesbian, Gay, and AIDS communities. An ardent advocate of alternative therapies, Eric listened to his body rather than experts. He used food, meditation, tuning, herbs and whatever else seemed effective while avoiding western medicine. Eric never stopped lobbying to have alternatives covered by public funding sources, and he never stopped seeking a spiritual community that nurtured the healing of body, mind, and soul.

In the short time he was part of our community he organized a free workshop on alternative therapies, spoke to groups on the commonalities he saw between serious disease and addiction, wrote articles for this newsletter with hard to find information on alternatives, and connected with hundreds of us one to one.

Eric was not an easy person to know. Many in this community rejected him and his ideas. Eric never failed to question the status quo. He challenged deeply rooted belief systems. In the process many became uncomfortable, angry, and fearful. But Eric's legacy will not be the discomfort that others felt when faced with his questions and challenges. His legacy will be the changes that will inevitably come to this community, as it becomes more open and accepting in the face of differences of every kind.

Eric is survived by a daughter, Julia Richardson of Florida, other family, and many friends. For us he was a friend and teacher. He will be missed, but his presence in our lives is a blessing that will be with us always.

### GLSO Deadlines

Please e-mail any newsletter articles or announcements to Mary Crone or Peter Taylor by Aug. 18. E-mail addresses are on the back page. If you use our PO Box, get it there by the 15th. Direct advertising questions to Terry Mullins. Thanks



**Scott Ackerman**

Office: 606-269-7331

Voice mail: 606-294-2055

Mobile: 606-338-8483

E-Mail: Sacker4224@aol.com

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<b>Out and Proud Members of the LBGT Community</b>	
Donations of 3\$ or more now being gayfully accepted	

### **Queer As A Three Dollar Bill**

Contribute three dollars or more to GLSO. We will print your name along with other supporters in the October GLSO News as an **Out and Proud** member of our community.



## Dave Morrison

Sign Language Interpreter  
Certified: NAD/RID

Voice: 606-879-9409  
Pager: 606-352-3349  
E-mail: Terpbear@aol.com



GLSO Sponsor of the Month

**Sue Strong, Ph.D.**

**Licensed Psychologist**

**277-3119**



# GLSO Directory

## The GLSO

GLSO Board (Terry)	255-5469
GLSO Discrimination Project (Jeff)	296-4170
GLSO: News Calendar (Peter)	273-9649
Advertisements (Terry)	255-5469
Community News (Mary)	266-5904
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)	266-5904
GLSO Support Group (Mary)	266-5904

## STUDENT GROUPS

ACE League: Berea (Ed)	623-7312
AGLF: NKU (Pat)	572-5604
B-GLAD: Centre College (Mykol)	238-5332
Pride Alliance EKU (Josh)	622-5297
(Tina)	622-5321
Lex. Youth Support Group (Kenneth)	222-1919
Morehead State University (Angela)	783-2950
Transylvania University (Bill)	233-8490
UK Lambda (Pager)	244-3344

## ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

Jessamine County	885-4149
Lexington-Fayette County	288-2437
Madison County	723-7312
Woodford County	873-4541

## AIDS INFO / SERVICES

<b>AIDS HOTLINE</b>	<b>(800) 840-2865</b>
AIDS Volunteers Inc.	278-7494
AVOL Legal Advocacy Program	278-7494
Health Dept. HIV Support Programs	
(Patty)	288-2377
(Amanda)	288-2374
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	(502) 584-1254
HIV Education YOUTH GROUP	278-7494
HIV Support (Somerset)	679-7578 or 678-5814
<b>Kentucky AIDS HOTLINE</b>	<b>(800) 840-2865</b>
Thursday HIV+ / AIDS Support Group	
Hospice of the Bluegrass	276-5344

### IYG LESBIGAY YOUTH HOTLINE

800-347-TEEN 7pm-12pm Thrus. & Fri.

## COMMUNITY

Ask Us, Inc.	255-2374
Bluegrass Belles (Marjorie)	278-2608
(Dawn)..dwilsoo@ukcc.uky.edu(Ann)	(502)672-8673
Bluegrass COLTS (Mark)	233-7266
DOJ Pride(Robin)	231-8526
E-MALE (Bill)	2549812
Fairness of Lexington HOTLINE	275-7812
Fairness of Louisville	(502) 893-0788
Front Runners (Keith)	254-6850
G/L AA (Charlie)	224-4067
G/L Defense Fund	(502) 589-2896
IGBO (Steve)	276-3058
Ky. Legislator Message Line	(800) 372-7181
Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance(Roger)	(606) 561-9898
roger@hyperaction.net	
Lesbian & Gay Parenting Group (Laura)	276-2685
Lexington Men's Chorus (Bill)	266-9175
Louisville Youth Group	(502) 894-9787
Names Project, Lex. (Katie)	272-2588
Pride Center (voice mail)	255-4016
P-FLAG (PERRY)	(502) 226-5478
Pegasus Travel	253-1644
Rainbow Bowling League (Shawn)	255-7379
RSIC of KY. (John)	389-7081
(Chance)	269-9465
SisterSound (Lee)	873-7791

## RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Dignity [Catholic](Don)	299-4458
Interweave [Unitarian](Davina)	271-6174
MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy)	(800)484-8498
MCC-Lexington (voice mail)	255-4016
(Rev. Rex)	imccbrv@juno.com
MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)	(502)775-6636
MCC-Paducah (Rev. Donna)	(502)441-2307
Path of the Personal Divine	
[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