



Lexington

NEWSLETTER

LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION
POST OFFICE BOX 11471
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40511

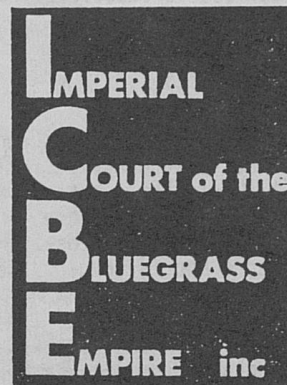
April 1985

WHAT IS THIS

In brief, The Court System is a social community-service organization. When the system originated in San Francisco over 20 years ago, it was strictly "camp" fun, and from that beginning we derived our "camp" titles. . . . i.e. "Emperor and Empress" (those who serve for one year as the presidents of our organization); "Coronation" (a gala function held once yearly at which time we elect our new officers), etc. As the elected officers of our organization, our primary goals are to further relationships with organizations and businesses within our community, to hold functions and fundraisers for charitable organizations, to help those in the community who are in need of our assistance, and to recognize the leaders of our community.

The Imperial Court of the Bluegrass Empire is one of the oldest court systems east of the Mississippi. Most major cities in the western United States and Canada have a court system in their community. In California alone there are approximately 32 courts. So in essence, we are a chapter in an international organization. Our monarchs attend other coronations throughout the country representing and sharing in furthering relations with outside communities. Now one associated with our organization personally receives any monetary gain from any money raised at our functions. The money goes directly back into the community as outlined above.

Throughout the years, the national Court System has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars collectively to channel back into charitable, social, and political causes. When Anita Bryant and Proposition 6 (the Briggs' initiative) surfaced, the Court System raised thousands of dollars to help defeat these anti-gay crusades.



Perhaps the best aspect of our organization is that it is open to anyone and everyone. The Court encompasses the entire gay community, and is composed of both appointed and unappointed members, who share equally the same privileges and responsibilities. There is no discrimination as is evident in that our members represent every aspect of society, both gay and straight. A person's gender, lifestyle, or mode of dress has no bearing whatsoever on acceptance in our group. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

THANKS TO THE BAR

We neglected to thank The Bar in last month's newsletter for hosting our annual Valentine's Day Dance. They did their usual terrific job. Thanks!

BAD BLOOD

from Parade Magazine

Effective immediately, blood donors in Queensland, Australia, will be fined \$10,000.00 or jailed for two years--or both--if they lie about the possible unsuitability of their blood for transfusion. Three babies died in Brisbane recently after receiving blood from a 27-year-old homosexual suspected of having contracted AIDS from a sex partner.

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RATES

Eighth Page \$ 8.00
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 Full Page \$40.00
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NEW DISCOUNTS: (affective immediately)

- 1/4 off for 6 mo.
- 1/3 off for 12 mo.
- 1/2 off for non-profit groups.

The GSO newsletter is published monthly by the Lexington Gay Services Organization Incorporated, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, Kentucky 40575. GSO is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide educational, recreational, social and referral services directly involving or relating to gay/lesbian people.

Views or opinions expressed in stories or letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the GSO board or the newsletter staff. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization or other entity in articles or advertising in the newsletter is in no way indicative of the sexual orientation of such person, organization or entity.

Submissions for the newsletter are welcome. All submissions become the property of the Lexington Gay Services Organization, Inc. All Submissions must indicate the full name and address of the author, although no byline will be published without permission of the author. Non-original material must indicate that that person has given his/her permission for the use of his/her name in the publication. Anonymous submissions cannot be accepted. The editorial staff has the right to alter submissions (including advertisements) to meet publishing requirements.

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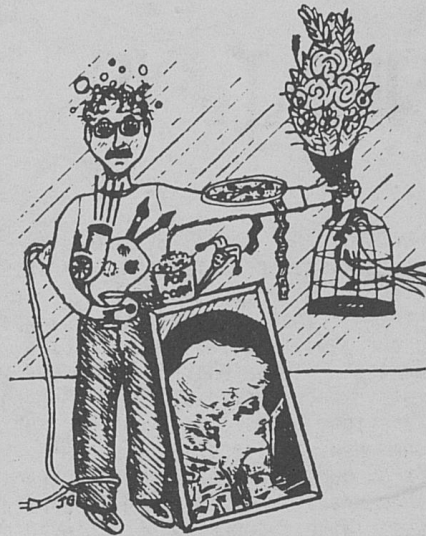
Membership To become a GSO member, include the membership fee of \$10.00 or \$5.00 for students.

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GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES 3/4/85

Minutes and treasurer's report were read and accepted. The treasury stands at \$1,186.45. A special account was set up for our grant money.

The Speakers' Bureau reported on speaking at 2 consultations for the Division of Children's Services and has other upcoming dates at EKU and with new police recruits. Also confirmed that the AIDS Update is scheduled for March 6.

The President announced the following:

The mailing list is still at approximately 200 addresses.

The Valentine's Day dance made \$218.00.

The office space on South Broadway is still on hold.

Dignity's 1st anniversary celebration will be on March 10 at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

There was a request for volunteers for this year's Special Olympics. Volunteers may get more information by writing to GSO.

Edwin announced that Jester's has 1985 calendar's to donate to GSO. Also that the Central Kentucky Blood Center approached him concerning setting up an alternative location for blood testing. Doug volunteered to act as liason.

The board members of GSO made a weekend retreat recently to plan goals for the coming year. The eight-hour long session on Saturday boiled down to a list of 12 goals which GSO hopes to accomplish in 1985. The goals were then ranked in order of importance by each board member, and the compiled results, (in order of importance), are as follows:

- Increase Community Participation in GSO
- Improve Awareness of GSO
- Obtain Office Space
- Improve Relations With Other Groups
- Increase Phoneline Volunteers
- Enlarge Speakers' Bureau
- Obtain Financial Stability
- Provide More Forums and Speakers
- Organize a Large Lesbian and Gay pride Celebration
- AIDS Education
- Fill Empty Board Position
- Fill Social Director Position

Activities for the coming year were also discussed at the retreat. Read about them in this and upcoming newsletters.

Please help us to achieve these goals. Participate in GSO!

Thanks,

Jim
President



Here are the results for week 21 of the GSO Rainbow Bowling League:

POS.	TEAM NAME	WON	LOST	TOTAL PINFALL	PERCENT
1	Fire and Ice	25.0	18.0	18907	59
2	Dipper Dan	26.0	18.0	18657	59
3	Butch	26.0	18.0	18371	59
4	Spare Parts	24.0	20.0	18834	54
5	Bananas	23.5	20.5	18794	53
6	Wizard of Oz	22.0	22.0	18935	50
7	M O S Glory	22.0	22.0	17848	50
8	Chevy Three	21.5	22.5	18502	48
9	Perkin Sea Paint	15.5	28.5	18131	35
10	Three D S	13.5	30.5	17939	30



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ASK AUNT MARY

We are happy to announce that Aunt Mary has recovered almost completely from her recent health problems and is resuming her column this month. From GSD and all of your readers, welcome back Aunt Mary!

Dear Aunt Mary:

Last summer I fell in love with a guy 11 years younger than myself. We saw each other for three months and broke up because I couldn't take his unfaithfulness which he insisted on telling me even though I'd ask him not to. Then at his desire and hopefully new look at us we decided to give it another go, as the English say. This disaster lasted 5 days with him finally coming up with the phrase to explain himself, "I don't want to be responsible for anyone else's happiness."

Now the big problem. I'm still very strongly attached to this guy. He is basically everything I could ever want in a guy. I even feel he still feels strongly for me but is scared of me because I said "Stay the F--- out of my life." The reason for the statement, of course, was anger. I did calm down and apologized twice, twenty-four hours apart. However at the time, this didn't seem to make any difference at all.

Mutual Friends of ours tell me he is not over me either, but that is an impression he leaves, not actual words of his. I know he was afraid to speak to me when we happened to meet at a local bar one night. My query is this: 1) Should I be willing to try again or not? 2) If yes, then should I make the move or wait for him to make the move, if there is ever to be one. 3) If no, then how do I ever finally get over this one.

Aunt Mary, Sweetums, I'll appreciate any and all advice. I'll let you know one way or the other in the near future.

Love ya,
Three times a charm

Dear Charmer:

Sweetums?! Really! And didn't your mother teach you better than to use four letter words in front of an old lady? Well, I suppose I can overlook these things in light of your emotional turmoil just this once. Perhaps I'm a little over sensitive to obscenities due to my recent ordeal. On to advice.

I have heard the expression 'the thirds times a charm', but in this case 'three times a loser' would probably be more appropriate. If a man who is unfaithful to you and tells you about even knowing that you would rather not know is 'basically everything I could ever want in a guy', I think you better take a close look at just what you want in a relationship before you get involved in another one. IF, after four months, you are still hung up over a man you were involved with for only three months, I think it is time for you to get busy putting the past (and him) behind you.

Obviously, the best way to forget about past lovers is to find a new one, although I suggest that you be very selective this time. To meet new people, of course, you will have to get out and around. Why not try a different bar than you usually go to, where you might meet a new group of people and be less likely to run into you know who. This might also be a good time to pursue a hobby or interest you haven't taken the time to get involved in yet, but always wanted to. Wouldn't it be pleasant to take a night class and find a man who shares your passion for the ancient Inca Civilization (or whatever)?

At any rate, the point is to stay busy enough that you don't have time to worry about whether your ex is available or not, and whether he is interested or not. Its time to move on to better things!

Aunt Mary

To my many readers who sent cards and letters while I was in the hospital (not to mention the lovely flowers!), thank you so much. I will attempt to answer each, but it may take a while, as I still tire very easily. Thank you all for your concern.

Love,
Aunt Mary

If you would like to write to AUNT MARY, send your letter to: Aunt Mary, ZGSD, Post Office Box 11471, Lexington, Kentucky 40575. All names are kept strictly confidential. If you wish a personal reply, please include a stamped self addressed envelope.



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J. P. Weiss '54

NEWS FROM GALUS

The Gay and Lesbian Union of Students was recognized as a registered student organization by the University of Kentucky during the Fall semester of 1982. Its stated purpose is to oppose legislation against equal rights for gay and lesbian people and to provide a source of information for the students of the University. Ten years earlier, the Gay Liberation Front attempted to organize at UK as a social group and, as such, was denied permission under Kentucky's sodomy statute. However, as a political organization, our right to organize is guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. We believe that the key to civil rights for gays and lesbians is education and, believe it or not, the University is an excellent vehicle for that education.

Despite the quite vocal conservative groups on campus, GALUS has managed to make several advances for area gays and lesbians. The group has worked well with University officials to resolve homosexually-related problems on campus, such as bomb threats to the Student Center and harassment in the dorms. The film "Pink Triangles," illustrating various ways in which gays and lesbians are discriminated against in this society, was one of GALUS' first projects. About 175 people attended the film, most of whom were not affiliated with GALUS or GSO. The next year, they brought Jerry Weller (then acting executive director of the Gay Rights National Lobby) to speak on AIDS and gay rights at a forum that raised money for AIDS research. Over the past couple of years, we have sponsored discussion groups on topics ranging from "coming out" to reconciling homosexuality with religion. This year, GALUS has joined with four other student organizations (Socially Concerned Students, Young Democrats, Emergence, and the National Organization for Women) to lobby for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the list of irrelevant criteria in admissions, financial aid, and grading. The Student Government Association voted to endorse the proposed amendments and, as of February 18, the University Senate and the Board of Trustees approved the amendments in all three areas. In view of the quite active opposition by fundamentalist religious groups on campus and our geographic location, we feel this is a major victory for the gay community.

Our projects for the future include a gay film series at UK, creation of a NEXUS tape (containing information about GALUS that will be available to play over the phone to anyone desiring it), participation in the Stonewall Union Gay Pride Parade in Columbus, manning an information table at the Student Fair during the Summer Advising Conferences for incoming freshmen, and the production of informational brochures to be given to all freshmen next year. As students are notoriously poor, very little of this would have been possible without the generous offers of assistance by GSO and the Imperial Court of the Bluegrass Empire.

We are currently affiliated with the Gay Rights National Lobby, the National Gay Task Force, and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Anyone wishing any information on the activities of these groups, or GALUS, are invited to visit us at our office at the Student Organization Center (Office 2, Old Student Center Rm. 106). We usually meet every Thursday evening at 5:00 p.m. at the University's Student Center and our meetings are open to the public. We welcome anyone who would like to participate in the group in any way. If you wish to find out if we're having a meeting, call 257-1287 and ask someone to get the posted information from Office 2 or call the GSO Gayline when it is manned. (See calendar on back page for times.)

NEWS FROM GLD

Gay and Lesbian Democrats of Kentucky is having a spring meeting on Sunday, April 7 at 6:00pm. The meeting will be held at 113 Jefferson Street, #1. Anyone interested in more information may call Rick Lee at 255-4865.

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BISEXUAL'S APPEAL REFUSED HEARING BY HIGH COURT

The Supreme Court refused without explanation to hear an appeal by a public high school guidance counselor who lost her job as a result of revealing to her co-workers that she is bisexual.

Only two justices voted to hear to appeal (William J. Brennan, Jr. and Thurgood Marshall). In a pointed 11 page opinion, they argued that the question of homosexual rights "raises serious and unsettled constitutional questions" that "cannot any longer be ignored."

The guidance counselor, Marjorie H. Rowland, sued the Mad River School District in Ohio and was awarded \$56,000.00 in damages by a Federal District Court jury. They found that Ms. Rowland was dismissed as a direct result of speech--discussion of her sexual attitude--that was entitled to constitutional protection.

Last March the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the jury finding, ruling that neither Ms. Rowland's freedom of speech nor her equal-protection rights had been violated. The appeals court said Ms. Rowland's firing was not proved to be unjustified because she "failed to prove that she was performing her job properly."

In his dissenting opinion Brennan discounted that reasoning. "The court of appeals necessarily held that adverse state action taken against a public employee based solely on his or her expressed sexual preference is constitutional," Brennan said. "Nothing in our precedents requires that result; indeed, we have never addressed the topic. This record plainly demonstrates that (Ms. Rowland) did not proselytize regarding her bisexuality but rather it became known simply in the course of her normal workday conversations."

"Homosexuals have historically been the object of pernicious and sustained hostility...State action taken against members of such groups based simply on their status as members of the group traditionally has been subjected to strict, or at least heightened, scrutiny by this court."

GAYS FIND CLIMATE OF ACCEPTANCE TAKING A SHARP TURN FOR WORSE from the New York Daily News

NEW YORK--Richard Dunne said he noticed the changed climate most dramatically after he saw "The Times of Harvey Milk," a documentary about the gay San Francisco city supervisor who was shot dead by a former supervisor who had also been a policeman.

Dunne, a board member of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, said he was deeply moved by a scene in the film that showed a massive candlelight vigil for Milk. That outpouring of sympathy occurred in 1978, but, for Dunne, it was a lifetime ago.

"It's an era that has come and gone--and it's not going to come back," Dunne said. "It was a time when we were all full of hope."

Seven years ago, the gay rights movement was making steady progress in its quest for civil rights.

But that progress has stalled and many gay leaders believe that, in the past few years, their movement has hit a snag. There is even talk of a backlash.

Leaders of the movement attribute the backlash to a different climate in the city and the nation.

Politically, the country has taken a sharp turn to the right--and gay rights has been a victim. In Houston in January, a referendum that would have prohibited discrimination against gays in city employment was rejected by 82% of those who voted. A similar measure lost last spring in New Orleans and, in New York City--allegedly a much more liberal place--it is rare for the annual gay rights bill to even get out of committee at the City Council.

"I think the backlash has been going on since Anita Bryant and Jerry Falwell and other religious fundamentalists got involved in mainstream politics," said Joyce Hunter, a member of the city's Human Rights Commission and program director for the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth.

The different climate, gays say, is affecting the way they live, how they feel about themselves and how openly they can live their lives.

Said one: "It's never been a cakewalk, but the climate now is certainly more difficult. AIDS has created problems and this exchange with (New York Archbishop John J.) O'Connor hasn't helped." O'Connor has been in conflict with the city over

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the mayor's executive order barring those seeking city contracts from discriminating against gays.

AIDS--a virus that chiefly affects homosexual males, intravenous drug users and haitians--became part of everyone's vocabulary around 1981. Since then, homosexuals claim that they have increasingly become targets of discrimination at home and at work.

"AIDS has made it tougher because it has prompted discrimination," said Mark Chataway, spokesman for Gay Men's Health Crisis. "Every day we deal with people who have been thrown out of homes or thrown out of work."

Forty percent of the AIDS cases nationwide are in the New York metropolitan area. Even though the disease is spread only by intimate contact, gays in the health care field say that ignorance about what causes the virus is rampant.

At a recent public hearing held by the New York State Task Force on Gay Issues, set up to investigate discrimination against gays, opponents of gay rights showed up wearing masks and refused to speak into a microphone that had been used by gay speakers, said Peter Drago, Gov. Mario Cuomo's liaison with the gay community.

Rebecca Porper, director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Hotline, said that the fear spread by AIDS "has made people's homophobias come out and has given some sick people all the reason they need to bash gays."

Porper and others in the field say that violence against homosexuals is rising. Attacks, she said, are also more widespread than ever before.

"The whole thing that is going on now has touched off paranoia in the gay community. There is paranoia about losing one's job, being attacked, about the possibility that being gay will be declared against the law."

For all the complaints about discrimination and adversity, there are those in the gay community who see these current hard times as a way to bring the gay community together.

"Any time there is a confrontation like this, there is an opportunity to build a coalition and come together," said Tim Sweeney of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund.

Virginia Apuzzo, a former nun who is now executive director of the Nation Gay Task Force, said: "While the post--AIDS period is much tougher for everyone, it is out of this adversity that we've come closer together. We're learning to are for one another. We build these institutions by ourselves; we don't get millions from corporations."

Dunne said he believes the crisis facing gay New York has aroused the community from a false sense of security: "It's pulled people out of the closet and made private concerns public. The gay Yuppies lost their sense of security that others were going to fight all their battles for them. Before, it was easier to let someone else march and fight. Now they realize they have to do it themselves."

AN APOLOGY FROM EDDIE

Comedian Eddie Murphy apologized for anti-gay remarks in an HBO special, and also apologized to Lucille Ball and other comedians for his obscene language. In a recent Parade Magazine interview, he said, "I wanna apologize to the gay people--I've never really apologized. And to anyone who's been offended by any kind of thing I've done. To Lucy, to homosexuals, to Red Skelton, Jackie Gleason--to anyone who doesn't agree: Sorry. A big wet kiss. I'm just trying to get a laugh."

"I'm not a hateful person. I get on stage because I like to see people laugh. I don't have to go on tour; I could just do movies. But I like to see people smile. I don't want to hurt them."

SPRING FLING!!

The Spring Fling is what we are calling the first Volleyball/Potluck of the year. It will be April 26th, 6:30pm until dark, at Jacobson Park, Shelter #5. Come join us for the start of this years "Fun in the Park".

DOES IT MATTER from Dignity NM

My father asked me if I was Gay.
I said, "Does it matter?"
He said, "No, not really."
I told him, "Yes."
He said, "Get out of my life!"
I guess it mattered.

My boss asked me if I was gay.
I said, "Does it matter?"
He said, "No, not really."
I told him, "Yes."
He said, "You're fired, faggot!"
I guess it mattered.

My Friend asked me if I was Gay.
I said, "Does it matter?"
He said, "No, not really."
I told him, "Yes."
He said, "Don't call me your friend!"
I guess it mattered.

My love asked me if I was gay.
I said, "Does it matter?"
He said, "Yes."
I told him, "I love you."
He said, "Let me hold you in my arms."
For the first time in my life something mattered.

My God asked,
"Do you love yourself?"
I said, "Does it matter?"
He said, "Yes."
I asked, "How can I love myself? I am gay!"
God said, "This is the way I made you."
Nothing again will ever matter.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: From our favorite Bungalow bartender; "The best way to clear the lawyers out of this place after happy hour is to hire an ambulance to drive up the street and let them chase it."

AT THE MOVIES...

Coming to the Kentucky Theater for its Lexington premier March 28-April 1 is "The Times of Harvey Milk." Unanimously acclaimed as one of the finest films of the year, this documentary about slain activist Harvey Milk (the first self-proclaimed gay civil servant elected to San Francisco public office) was one of the few true hits of the recent New York Film Festival. By combing archival film footage, poignant testimonials and expert documentary technique, director Epstein audaciously charts not only the political career of Milk (who, along with San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, was assassinated in 1978), but the career of Milk's killer (and colleague) City Supervisor Dan White as well. This moving, yet surprisingly unbiased film, is important to gay and straight audiences alike for its unflinching portrait of a tragic footnote in U.S. political history. This picture was an Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary. Check your Kentucky Movie Theater calander for show times or call 254-6010.



CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, den, formal living room, dining room and kitchen. Large balcony. \$57,900. 273-1674.

Attractive 26 year old, 5'9", 135#, br/br, likes rock music, reading, movies, swimming and working out. Wish to hear from guys 20 to 30 with similar interests. Especially those from Ironton, Ohio, Ashland, Kentucky or Huntington, West Virginia. If interested, please write with photo and SASE to: Post Office Box 768, Ironton, Ohio 45638

Roommate wanted to share new East Side home. Non smoker preferred. Please call Bob at 273-6953 after 7:00pm for details.

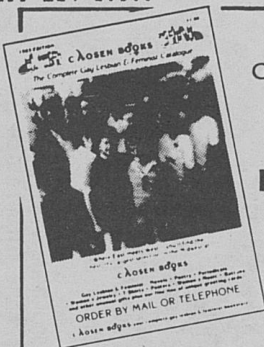
RECIPE CORNER

Chicken Sour Cream
 4 chicken breasts
 1 can (3 oz) sliced mushrooms, drained
 1 can (10 1/2 oz) cream of mushroom soup
 1/2 soup can dry sherry
 1 cup dairy sour cream
 paprika

Arrange chicken in shallow baking dish and cover with mushrooms. Combine soup, sherry, and sour cream. Pour mixture over chicken and dust with paprika. Bake 1 1/2 hours at 350 degrees. Serve over rice or noodles.

Cheese Grits
 4 cups boiling water
 1 tsp salt
 1 cup instant grits
 2/3 cup milk (or half and half)
 1 stick margarine
 1 roll garlic cheese
 3 eggs

Bring salted water to rolling boil and slowly stir in grits, cook 3 minutes. Add margarine, cheese, and then eggs well-beaten. Add milk. Bake in greased casserole (8x8x2) at 300 degrees for one hour.



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APRIL						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- MARCH 28 - APRIL 1
"The Times of Harvey Milk". See the KENTUCKY Theatre calendar for times.
- MARCH 30
9:00pm Mr. Gay Kentucky Contest, The Bar, \$5.00 admission, a portion of the door will go to AIDS Research. Sponsored by ICBE.
- MARCH 31
8:00pm "Year of Appreciation" Show, Circus Disco, \$3.00 donation, Door Prizes (including a 19" RCA Color TV.) all night. Sponsored by ICBE.
- APRIL 1
8:00pm GSD General Business Meeting, Comprehensive Care Center, 201 Mechanic St.
- APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
9:00pm GSD Rainbow Bowling League
- APRIL 3, 17, 24
7-11pm GSD Phoneline (Gayline), 231-0335.
8:00pm Dignity Board Meeting, Newman Center, UK
8:00pm Gay AA, St. Joseph Hospital, Room 186.
- APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25
7-11pm GSD Phoneline (Gayline), 231-0335.
- APRIL 5, 12, 19
8:00pm Gay AA, Comprehensive Care Center.
- APRIL 7
6:00pm Gay Al-Anon, St. Joseph Hospital, Room 186.
- APRIL 10
7-11pm GSD Phoneline (Gayline), 231-0335.
7:30pm Dignity Meeting, Liturgy, UK Newman Center.
8:00pm Gay AA, St. Joseph Hospital, Room 186.
- APRIL 13
8:00pm Pre-Coronation Out-of-Town Guest Show and Second Annual Imperial Roast, Cafe' LMNOP, Roast 8:00pm, Show 10pm. \$3.00 admission includes both Roast and Show. Sponsored by ICBE.
8:00pm Casino Night, an Amber Moon benefit, Arts Place, 161 N. Mill St., for more information call 252-3110.
- APRIL 14
1:30pm GSD Potluck, at Tim, Jim and Chuck's, for more information call 223-4598.

- APRIL 14
6:00pm Gay and Lesbian Democrats of Kentucky (GLD), Spring Meeting, 113 Jefferson St. Apt.#1. For more information call Rick Lee, 255-4865.
6:00pm Gay Al-Anon, St. Joseph Hospital, Room 186.
7:00pm CORONATION IV "Sunset in the Tropics" (a fantasy in fuchsia), Sheraton-Inn Grand Ballroom, entrances begin at 7:30 sharp!, \$10 donation in advance for reserved seating, \$5 in advance or at door for general seating, proceeds for AIDS Research. Sponsored by ICBE.
- APRIL 18-21
8:00pm Miss Gay Kentucky Contest, "The Downtowner", Louisville.
- APRIL 20
8:00pm Bluegrass Tournament Polynesian Dinner and Monti Carlo, IGBO fund raiser, \$3.50, Community Center, 1311 South Preston St. Louisville, Ky.
- APRIL 21
2:00pm GSD Phoneline Meeting, Comprehensive Care Center.
6:00pm Gay Al-Anon, St. Joseph Hospital, Room 186.
- APRIL 25
7:30pm Dignity Program, Newman Center, UK
- APRIL 26
6:30pm Spring Fling, 1st GSD Volleyball/Potluck of the year! Jacobson Park, Shelter #5.
8:00pm Gay AA, Comprehensive Care Center.
8:00pm Mr. Gay Kentucky Contest, The Loft, Louisville, Ky.
- APRIL 28
8:00pm Mr. Gay Kentucky Contest, The Loft, Louisville, Ky.
- APRIL 28
6:00pm Gay Al-Anon, St. Joseph Hospital, Room 186.
- APRIL 29
8:15pm GSD Board Meeting.

MAJOR UPCOMING GSD EVENTS

- MAY 5 Derby Brunch
- JUNE 22 Lesbian and Gay Pride Picnic
- JULY River Cruise
- AUGUST Show Auction
- OCTOBER Cornucopia
- DECEMBER Christmas Dance

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON
HTLV-III/LAV ANTIBODY TEST
JANUARY 11, 1985

With the expected licensing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration of the test for antibodies to HTLV-III/LAV, the virus considered to be associated with AIDS, it is important to state what we believe this test does and does not do, what its potential misuses are, and what risks members of the gay community face if they take this test.

It is our recommendation that, except in rare circumstances, this test should be used ONLY in the context of screening blood donations and as part of research programs that guarantee strict confidentiality. Individuals should be aware that this test will NOT provide answers to such questions as: am I healthy? do I have AIDS? am I a carrier of AIDS? have I been exposed to AIDS? can I give AIDS to someone else?

The HTLV-III antibody test does NOT diagnose AIDS. It simply measures the development of antibodies to the HTLV-III/LAV virus. It could mean there has been no prior exposure or infection by the virus, that the individual is still in an incubation period before development of the antibody, that there may have been a prior infection and the antibody is no longer detectable, that the test was performed incorrectly, or that the test itself was inaccurate.

Irrespective of test results, we underscore the importance of all members of high-risk groups continuing to follow prevention guidelines that have been put forward by AIDS service organizations, including the adoption of safe sex practices. The declining rates of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men in many cities show the success of these efforts. Whether one has tested positive or negative, whether one has been exposed to the HTLV-III virus or not, safe sex practices may help to prevent either new or further exposure to the virus or the transmission of the virus to another party.

While the blood test will be used to screen donations at blood banks, the test will not eliminate all donations that have been exposed to the HTLV-III virus and are therefore potentially infectious. There is evidence that individuals who test negative can, in some cases, be carrying the HTLV-III virus. Therefore, this test is simply an added measure to screen donors and is NOT a substitute for the donor deferral guidelines that recommend that those persons falling into at-risk groups should refrain from donating blood at this time. This includes all males who have had sex with more than one male since 1979, and males whose male partner has had sex with more than one male since 1979.

Though we advise against individuals being tested, those who desire a test should NOT use the blood banking system as a means for getting the HTLV-III antibody test. Since the test is not 100 percent accurate and does not always detect infectivity, some blood that should not be transfused might pass through the system if the donor deferral guidelines are not followed in addition to the blood test.

Individuals should be aware of the fact that their test results may be requested and obtained by third parties. Before requesting a blood test under any circumstances, we urge all individuals, particularly those in the gay community, to consider the following risks:

- If a positive antibody test becomes part of your medical record, it could become justification for denial of life or health insurance in the future. (We are already aware of cases where individuals considered at risk to AIDS have been denied insurance.)

- A positive antibody test could also become a reason for denying employment. While lacking in medical justification, we are deeply concerned that this test will become a mechanism for screening out individuals who are at-risk to AIDS from jobs in such fields as health care, food handling, or child care. There is no evidence that AIDS is transmitted except through exchange of vital bodily fluids. This has not stopped some from already discriminating against those somehow associated with AIDS or the groups considered to be at risk to AIDS. Given the high level of exposure to the virus--and initial studies that show a high positive test rate--among gay men, we are also concerned that potential employers may use the test as an indicator for homosexuality.

- The psychological pressures of knowing that one has tested positive to antibodies is one of deep concern to our community. While a positive test result does not necessarily mean one is going to develop AIDS, there has been sufficient inaccurate publicity suggesting that this is indeed a test for AIDS. Until that link is broken, the mental health impact of receiving a positive test result could be devastating. The misconceptions and general level of hysteria among the general public about AIDS increases the likelihood of a panicked response to a positive test result.

We continue to encourage members of our community to participate in research studies that might help find the answers to the AIDS riddle, including studies using this HTLV-III antibody test in the hope that a clearer meaning to positive and negative results might be developed. However, we continue to urge--particularly in light of the risks outlined above--that confidentiality for all research subject participants, including the commitment that identifiers will not be shared with third parties.

This document was prepared and distributed by the following organizations:

National Gay Task Force AID Atlanta
AIDS/KS Foundation (Houston)
American Association of Physicians for Human Rights
Baltimore Health Education Resources Organization
FARO AIDS Action Council
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Gay Rights National Lobby
Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund
National Coalition of Black Gays
National Coalition of Gay Sexually Transmitted
Disease Services
National Gay Rights Advocates
National Lesbian & Gay Health Foundation
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Whitman Walker Clinic (Washington D.C.)

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