



# GLSO NEWS

Vol. 13

March 1998

No. 3

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

## *Men's Chorus in Drag*

For eight seasons the Lexington Men's Chorus has maintained a certain sense of dignity and grace. That is about to change! Wednesday, March 11 at 8 p.m., LMC will take the stage at the Bar Complex for a benefit amateur drag show. There may not be enough makeup and wigs in all of Lexington to make these men "pretty," but they are determined the audience will not be disappointed. Admission is \$5 at the door, and a portion of this benefits the Lexington Pride Center. Arrive early because this show is sure to be a sell-out.

Lexington Men's Chorus has been busy this winter. In December the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council notified LMC they would receive matching funds to purchase a rehearsal piano. Since forming eight years ago, the chorus had "relied on the kindness of strangers," and borrowed pianos for rehearsal. Now the Chorus and Pride Center are enjoying the sound of a new, black, upright Yamaha piano. MCC is already using the piano during worship services.

January found LMC singing Brian Throckmorton's arrangement of The Star Spangled Banner at a Thoroughblade's hockey game and performing at the annual "Night for the Arts" at the Opera House.

We are already rehearsing for our April concert at the Singletary Center. "Broadway Bound"--all singing! all dancing!-- with music from *A Chorus Line*, *Les Miz*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Oliver* and *La Cage* is sure to be a crowd

## *SisterSound*

SisterSound--Lexington Women's Chorus invites all GLSO readers to our spring concert Sunday, March 29 at 3 p.m. We will perform in the Recital Hall of the Singletary Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased from chorus members or the Singletary ticket office.

You won't want to miss this concert entitled "Celebration" in honor of Women's History Month. We have planned a wonderful celebration of women-written, produced and themed music including *Big Legged Woman*, *Music in My Mother's House*, *Heroes* and *March of the Women*.

Another selection, *Marie* tells the story of two young women who petitioned the court so they could attend their Junior Prom together. Highlighting this number are two "surprise" guests who accompany the chorus.

SisterSound is also proud to be sharing our stage with Reel World String

Band. This popular local band is well known for their feminist, Appalachian folk music. In addition to performing with the chorus, Reel World will perform one set on their own.

SisterSound, founded in 1996, enjoyed unprecedented growth earlier this year. During our December 1997 concert our performing membership was 27. Twenty women joined us in January, 47 voices will be singing at our March concert.

New members are welcome at the beginning of each performing season in January and September. No auditions are required, only a willingness to sing and enjoy the company of a diverse group of women.

If you don't sing, consider joining our Auxiliary Committee. Members of this group assist with vital, "behind-the-scenes" duties like production, ticket sales and receptions. We hope you will celebrate with us March 29th. If you have any question about SisterSound or are interested in joining our group, please contact Lee Stormbringer at 873-7791.

pleaser. Two performances are scheduled-- Saturday, April 25 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m. Tickets will be available soon at the Singletary Center box office or from any chorus member.

Last but certainly not least, LMC is excited about it's pairing with SisterSound for the Pride show Saturday, June 13 at 8 p.m. at Singletary---more on that concert to come.

Sponsor of the  
Month

**SISTERSOUND**



### The GLSO News

Vol. 11 Issue 3

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## BEAST ON THE MOON

by Mary Crone

Actor's Guild is in the middle of its run of Richard Kalinoski's play *Beast On The Moon*. This powerful drama, showing Thursdays through Sundays until March 15, is well worth your attention. America is a land of immigrants, yet stories about their immigration to this country have too often been lost. Perhaps because of the pressure to become Americanized our various histories go unacknowledged. *Beast on the Moon* helps bridge this gap by sharing a specific history.

*Beast* tells the poignant story of Aram and Seta Thomasian, survivors of the Turkish slaughter of Armenians during the early part of this century. The play opens as Aram is bringing home his new wife, Seta, who has just arrived in America, a fifteen-year-old "picture bride." We watch them over the next twelve years as they struggle to become a family.

Robert Parks Johnson (Aram) and Laurie Genet (Seta) both give outstanding performances that carry their characters through anger, grief, determination and love. Kevin Hardesty plays Vincent, a twelve-year-old trying to survive on the streets of Milwaukee. He comes into their lives and helps bring resolution to their pain. Hardesty also presents Vincent as an old man who is witnessing the story of the Thomasians. He does an excellent job portraying both ages.

The excellent performances are enhanced by the staging, lighting, Armenian music, costume and set design. Acotr's Guild does a great job of bringing all the details together. Don't miss this play about the redeeming power of the human spirit.

Next on their agenda is *Blues for an Alabama Sky* by Pearl Cleage who is also the author of *Flyin' West*, a much appreciated play from last season. Set in 1930, *Blues* tells the story of a free-spirited Cotton Club singer and the flamboyant gay costume designer who takes her under his wing. This play opens April 2 and runs through April 26. For tickets call Actor's Guild at 233-7330.

## Engendering a Multicultural Past

The University of Kentucky's 1998 Bluegrass Symposium announces its sixth conference to be held on March 6th through 8th. This year's focus will concern new interdisciplinary directions in gender studies and the ways in which gender, race, sexuality, and class shape the historical record.

The keynote presentation will be given by Prof. Joanne Meyerowitz. It is entitled "Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: The Case of Christine Jorgenson." For more information call Kat Williams or Caroline Light, Dept. of History, 257-4336. (kdwill0@ukcc.uky.edu.)

## Come Together Kentucky

Out-FRONT, the GLBT/Ally organization of Northern Kentucky University is proud to present Come Together Kentucky 1998, *Pride Power, and Politics: The Results of higher Visibility*. This fourth annual weekend-long conference will be held on March 27-29 and will focus on raising visibility of GLBT organizations, and HIV/AIDS Awareness.

The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Sherrill who was an expert witness in Cincinnati's Issue 3 case. Workshops will be held Saturday afternoon. Out-FRONT's AIDS Benefit Blowout will be held on Saturday night.

The cost is \$10 to \$18, sliding scale which will include hotel accommodations if you act fast. Contact Out-FRONT, c/o Vince LeMaster, NKU, 10 Campbell Dr., Oak 1211, Highland Heights, Ky. 41076. E-mail at [OUTFRONT@NKU>EDU](mailto:OUTFRONT@NKU>EDU) or phone 572-7874.

## Networking Meeting

Tues. March 17th

Pride Center

6:30 pm

387 Waller Ave.

# ♂ COMMUNITY NEWS ♀

## Spring Fling Dance

On Saturday, April 4th at 8 pm GLSO and Interweave are co-sponsoring a spring dance at the Unitarian Church, 3654 Clays Mill Rd. Doors will open at 8 pm. The church has built a new addition including a new kitchen which we will be using. There will now be space for quiet talking as well as the Great Hall for "get down" dancing to a wide range of sounds including disco, rock, and women's music. Cold drinks, beer, and snacks will be sold; please do not bring alcohol. ☪

## Pride Planning

A pride planning meeting has been set for 7 pm, Tuesday, March 10th at the Pride Center, 387 Waller Ave. We have a good start on planning two full weeks (and three weekends) of activities. The dates for Lexington's Pride celebration are June 6th through June 21st. There is still room on the schedule for more events.

The Pride Picnic Planning Committee is looking for individuals or groups, who want to perform at the picnic Sunday, June 14. If you sing, dance, emcee, play an instrument or have another talent that is suited for an outdoor setting, please contact Davina at 271-6174. Local writers, if you are interested in reading at the 2nd annual Gay Pride Working Class Kitchen, call Kelly at 277-6168.

We also need more help organizing the picnic and distributing information. Members of the Pride Committee vote for the Volunteer of the Year Award presented during the Banquet at the end of Pride Month. For more information or to volunteer, call Terry at 255-5469. ☪

## Hiking

Walking is great exercise, reduces stress, and can be an enjoyable social

activity. Ramona is looking for women, who are interested in getting together to hike around Lexington or at Ky. State Parks. Perhaps, we could meet the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Ramona believes March 14th is an ideal time for a hike at Natural Bridge and the surrounding Red River Gorge area. If you're interested, call her at 277-9429 for details. If no one answers, please leave a message.

## Interweave

Our next Interweave luncheon will be Sunday, March 8th following the church service at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship House. Please bring a dish to share. We will discuss plans for our participation in the Spring Fling Dance on April 4th. Davina 271-6174.



## Networking Meeting

We are now holding Networking meetings monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pride Center. This month's meeting is March 17. We start with a potluck, which lately has made delicious dining, and move on to getting to know one another and the groups we represent. Bring a dish and a friend, and discover the many ways to be involved in our community. Mike 225-1828.



## ACT OUT

Pink Inc., the new theatrical group advertised last month, has changed its name to **Act Out**. Homer Tracy and Bill Chandler are heading up this group which hopes to produce two shows yearly to benefit various organizations in our community. They are waiting to receive a play they would like to do for Pride Month before setting the next meeting date. They know they will need people interested in acting and in helping with

the many "behind the scenes" jobs necessary for production. If you are interested, call Bill at 255-5469.

## MCC Games Night

MCC is hosting regular game nights on the fourth Friday of each month. This month we meet March 27th at 7 p.m. at the Pride Center. We have been having great fun with Taboo, Balderdash and card games like hearts and spades. Everyone is welcome, so come out and play! ☪

## Turn About

The Bar Complex annual Turn-About Will be Wednesday, April 1 in the Cabaret Showroom of the Bar. The money raised this year will go to the AIDS Walk for Life, scheduled for April 19. AVOL will have a table with information about the Walk for Life including sign up sheets. The door will open at 8 p.m. and the show will start at 9:15. Admission is \$5.00, and \$1 will go toward the door prize drawing for a Spring Basket. ☪

## Dragin' For Jesus

Prepare yourself for the return of *Dragin For Jesus*, the MCC fund raiser that was one of the best drag shows of 1997. Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, April 22. Once again, we'll be *dragin'* at the Bar Complex. Even Gertie Mae has agreed to put in an appearance! Look for more information in the next newsletter. ☪

## CUUPS

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) meets once a month after the Sunday service (approximately 12:15 p.m.) at the Unitarian Church. On March 22, we will discuss wildlife. This meeting is open to pagans of any tradition and to people wanting to know more about the pagan path. For more information, call Patrick 268-1640.



**INTERWEAVE AND GLSO**

# *Spring Fling*

**Saturday, April 4th  
8:00 TO 12:00**

**Unitarian Universalist Church  
3564 Clays Mill Rd.**

**Admission \$5**

**Come join us for good music  
and to see our new building**

**Cash Bar: Beer, Soft Drinks, and Snacks**



**NO B.Y.O.B.**

## Our Tribal Gifts

The Reverend Nancy Wilson, the senior pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles, has written an interesting book, *Our Tribe, Queer Folk, God, Jesus, and The Bible*. This book is written with lesbian/gay/trans readers in mind, to stimulate our thinking rather than to explain ourselves to straight people. Rather than review this book, we are printing selections mainly from chapter two: "Boldly Exercising Our Tribal Gifts." Other chapters include "Healing Our Tribal Wounds," and "A queer Theology of Sexuality."

"It is an audacious thing, on the eve of this millennial shift, to claim purpose and meaning for gay and lesbian people on the planet. We are not a deformity, a mistake. We are not a genetic deficiency that needs to be tolerated or eradicated. We are not an annoying group of sex fiends seeking to legitimize perverted sex in the streets or the schoolyard."

"We are a necessary part of creation, biologically, sociologically, spiritually. We, like others, not more or less than others, contributed to the wholeness, the multidimensionality of creation. Neither creation nor the church is complete without us."

"We have tribal gifts to share. (Not) all gay and lesbian people have these gifts in equal measure (and not all) will necessarily choose to exercise them; but we seem to bear them together. First, we offer the gift of coming out. (This) simply means to tell the truth, to disclose the hitherto private, hidden realities of our lives. People come out of the closet about all kinds of things these days, and sexuality is only one of them."

"We gay and lesbian people were told we'd better lie to survive, But to encourage lying as a strategy for handling problems, is to compromise our spiritual health. Lying is soul killing. Jesus did not ask us to lie in order to serve him, or God, or the church. Stop lying to yourself. It is the squandering of one of our

treasured tribal gifts: telling the truth, coming out when it is costly and can make a difference. There aren't different kinds of truth, every truth is connected to and somehow supports every other truth. To follow Christ is to live in the truth, the whole truth. Coming out, telling the truth, is to increase our spiritual health."

"Another tribal gift is humor. I can think of no other protest or civil rights movement that has been accompanied by so much self-reflective humor. One of the worst slanders about gays and lesbians is that there is something inherently sad, lonely, and pitiful about our lifestyle. I've known thousands of gay and lesbian and bisexual people. The sad and lonely stuff is about oppression, not about our sexuality."

"Mark Thompson writes about our humor and compares it to the traditional role of the fool in countless cultures and times in history: "The role of the fool, the trickster, the contrary one capable of turning a situation inside out, is one of the most enduring of all archetypes. Often cross-dressed, or adorned with both masculine and feminine symbols, these merry pranksters chase through history holding up a looking glass to human folly."

"Holding up a looking glass to human folly. I can never forget the chant that would inevitably start at AIDS demonstrations when stone-faced police officers would arrive with their prophylactic yellow gloves allegedly to keep themselves from catching AIDS while dragging us away to jail: "Your gloves don't match your shoes! Your gloves don't match your shoes!" These chanters saw something funny in the fanciful, ignorant projections of their persecutors and made fun of them. That humorous way of turning tables, of laughing in the face of insults, is simultaneously disarming and empowering."

"We are in a good position to hold up the mirror of reflection to the church especially. We are, after all, the "in-between" folks. We've been both very much on the inside of the church (as its organists, choir

directors, pastors, board members, deacons, bishops) and on the outside. Church ought to be a place where people are loved, comforted, and uplifted, but also where we are shocked, shaken, and turned around. Also, a place where we can laugh.

"There are other gifts, some more explicitly spiritual. We contribute to a fuller image of God. Now, its one thing to claim that God might actually tolerate or accept gay and lesbian people, it's quite another to claim that people might be able to see God in and through us sometimes. We are not less like God than a rock, a tree, or a heterosexual person. When I try to communicate this, I often hit a brick wall--a brick wall called internalized homophobia. When we are affirming about being made in the image of God, we simply scare ourselves to death. We have been so deeply traumatized by church doctrine and by "religious" people."

"Sexuality is still a great mystery in many ways. Where else in human experience do the issues of genetics, biology, politics, psychology, ethics, poetry, and even metaphysics intersect? What does it mean for a man or woman to be straight or gay or bisexual? (or Transgendered?) Whenever anyone challenges our deeply held assumptions about gender and sexuality, they drag us into that enigmatic border, and this terrifies us. People who do so are often ostracized, punished, or banished."

"The same is true for spirituality. Spirituality is the enigmatic border between the worlds-between heaven and earth. Mature theology needs to include sexuality. Sexuality is at its most basic a life force, the urge to connect, to give birth, to create, to change, to grow, to affect, and to be affected. Our existence within the church is a challenge to theology to include the capacity to celebrate and embrace sexuality. It is not easy for the church, it is not easy for us. But coming to a fuller conception of God, and a fuller conception of the human race, is worth the struggle"

# family Movies

## LOSING CHASE

by Davina Warner

If you haven't seen *Losing Chase* (released on video last year), you're missing an extraordinary film. In his directoral debut, Kevin Bacon (you may remember him from *Footloose* and *Tremors*) brings viewers a film that examines the complex emotions of a family in crisis.

Helen Mirren stars as Chase, a woman who has recently joined her husband Richard (Beau Bridges) and two sons at their summer home on Martha's Vineyard after being discharged from a mental hospital. To ease his wife's transition back into her life, Richard hires a college graduate, Elizabeth (Kyra Sedgwick) to help care for the children and the household. Elizabeth, who has confronted mental illness in her own family, immediately bonds with the boys and gradually develops a friendship with Chase.

Bacon explores the growing trust and friendship between the two women beautifully. Outstanding acting by Mirren and Sedgwick brings the complex layers of Chase and Elizabeth to life. Their relationship is open, honest, feeling and intimate. Bacon isn't afraid to show the deep intimacy and sexual feelings that can develop in female friendships. The relationship profoundly affects both women, especially Chase who finally finds the courage to accept herself for who she is.

I found it refreshing that characters in this film were allowed to explore and display the complexity and depth of their emotions. In contrast, when Chase and Elizabeth interact with the larger community of Martha's Vineyard, we get to see a pretentious world I am certain Chase could not bring herself to live in anymore.

*Losing Chase* is a well-acted film with interesting and likeable characters. I like the characters of Chase and Elizabeth so much,

I find it difficult to say goodbye to them at the end of the film (perhaps that's why I've watched this video several times). Ultimately, I see *Losing Chase* as the story of one woman's journey to herself. It is not an easy journey, and under Bacon's caring direction I am able to empathize with Chase's complex array of emotions. And while the ending is not "happily ever after" it is satisfying and real.

So, if you're looking for a well-acted film with intelligent, complex and real characters, I highly recommend *Losing Chase*.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

by Peter Taylor

Many years ago, I remember reading in *Omni* about a provocative experiment that contrasted the cerebral development of a group of rats in a cage with a highly enriched environment (that is, lots of toys) with the brains of a group of rats in another cage who had a lot less to play with, but were able to WATCH those lucky rats with all the toys. Unsurprisingly, the rats with all the toys had much bigger, more wrinkled (complex) brains.

This information led me to question, for the first time, my life-long addiction to media. It wasn't much of a stretch for me to conclude that in our culture, the movie industry is that cage with all the toys and we, the audience are in the cage... well you know.

After that, I made more of an effort to have a real life instead of just watching someone else's, but with movie production costs now typically running a million dollars a minute, I've realized that I'm just not very competitive here in my meager cage. Gee, my whole life has yet to cost a million dollars, and I've lived over 23 million minutes so far! I'm sure glad I can't see how scrawny and undeveloped my brain must be looking by now!

Well, I may not be keeping up with the lucky rats, but thanks to the Kentucky Theater, I still have a stunning, panoramic view of the them in their cage with all the toys. So in the spirit of capitulation to the inevitable, here's a brief run-down of all the gay-themed movies that we can anticipate at the Kentucky next month (not counting some with gay subtexts).

First and possibly least is *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* which will be shown on the first weekend in March. Eastwood has furnished a major disappointment to some of his fans (like me) with his ill-conceived rendering of John Berendt's charming book. It's particularly galling that the gay love story which provides the centerpiece for the book is marginalized into background color so the movie can focus on a completely bogus relationship between characters who add up to about "zero" thematically. It resembles one of those presumptuous movies about racial intolerance that are only interested in the white folks reaction to the persecution of some despised minority that are only given roles as minor characters.

I thought Eastwood was more sophisticated and I can't imagine why he chickened out so badly. The high point of the movie is *The Lady Chablis*, but even she could have used a facial for God's sake. You've got to be *continued on page 7*

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extra careful about your pores if you're face is going to be forty feet tall in every town with a cineplex. The director's evident willingness to let her compete with all the Hollywood types on a less-than equal footing suggests exploitation more than respect.

Next is *Ma Vie En Rose (My Life in Pink)* which has received almost uniformly rave reviews throughout the country, and which will be playing for at least two weeks in the middle of the month. This "sensitive and funny" tale about gender identification has won numerous awards all over the world, and is easily a prime contender for the Academy Award for best foreign film. One reviewer reported that the star, 11-year-old Georges Du Fesne "captures the spirit of Catherine Deneuve." If that's an accurate observation, I hope he has a good attorney, she's been know to sue for such appropriations!

An alleged "gay love story" *Happy Together* will have its Lexington Premier the second weekend of March. Reviews were widely mixed, a few critics loved it, some found it an ordeal but all agreed the "look" of the film was superior. I will say this, if you expect a "love" story beware, the title is just irony! The protagonists are depicted in

dysfunctional, existential misery. Whether this constitutes cinematic art is, of course up to you. Personally I don't see the challenge of showing people who don't belong together fail to work things out and besides I'm already depressed enough as it is, thank you very much!

*100 Proof* returns the last weekend of the month, in case you might have missed the premiere. I know this doesn't have an explicitly gay theme, but the characters depicted were "suggested" by an infamous local lesbian couple. The critical reception for this, was well... promising, and often noting the extreme competence with which all the unpleasantness is depicted. For some reason, angst is one of the easiest tones to render when you're still learning the ropes. But heck - it's the director's first film and he's a "local" for gosh sakes. Maybe if we all support his attempts at self-expression, he'll make it really big and give us a part his next movie - which will hopefully NOT be about psychotic crack-whores.

I rather doubt if subsequent showings can match the verite quality of the premier, which I hear was disrupted by angry and intoxicated relatives of the woman the main

character was based on. Roman a def could get a little hazardous around here... we're not all sophisticated enough to handle it.

The midnight movies include the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex*. Everybody already knows more than enough about Rocky Horror because it's been being over hyped, overpraised and overrated for well over a decade now. If you do go, all the energy is in the first hour.

EYAWTKAS is another matter, it's old enough that a lot of college-aged people could have actually missed it. Released at the acme of the "sexual revolution" the movie has several "classic" skits, with a very rich cast of cameos. If some of it seems like old-hat now, it's because its been widely imitated on more recent comedy TV shows (such as SNL and MAD TV). At the time is was quite a rip, because this stuff was too daring for TV and not common in such well cast, mainstream movies in 1972. I particularly liked the transvestite sketch with Lou Jacobi as the most unlikely transvestite in the world. It's like that bad dream you have where you came to work in your underwear.

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# MARCH 1998

USE DIRECTORY ON LAST PAGE TO CONFIRM

1 SUNDAY	2 MONDAY	3 TUESDAY	4 WEDNESDAY	5 THURSDAY	6 FRIDAY	7 SATURDAY
10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Ch. 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (Park Methodist Church) 6:00 p.m. Ebony Male Meeting (Park Plaza) 7:00 p.m. Dignity (Lexington MCC)	7:30 p.m. MCC Board Meeting 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	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 8:00 pm 2 Step & Swing Dancing (Club 141)	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center)	7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA
8 10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Ch. 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 12:15 p.m. Interweave Pot Luck (U.U. Church) 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (Park Methodist Church)	9 7:00 p.m. GLSO Board Meeting (Pride Center) 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	10 7:00 p.m. Pride Planning Comm. (Pride Center) 7:30 p.m. PFLAC (Chapel Hill Presby. Ch.) 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	11 6:00 pm Frontrunners 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support 6:00 pm Dept. of Justice Pride (Shoneys) 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Fairness (Pride Ch) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Ballroom Dancing (Club 141) 8 pm Lex. Men's Chorus Men in Tights (Bar Complex)	12 6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center) 8:00 p.m. Bluesgrass Colts members 9:00 p.m. Colts non-members	13 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	14 9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA
15 10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Ch. 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (Park Methodist Church) 7:00 p.m. Dignity (Lexington MCC)	16 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study  GLSO NEWS DEADLINE ALSO SUBMIT ADDITIONS, UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER 273-9649	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 6:30 p.m. Networking Forum and Pot Luck 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	18 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Fairness Meeting (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Line & Partner Dancing (Club 141)	19 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center)	20 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	21 9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA  DEADLINE FOR PINK PAGES EARLYBIRD SPECIAL AD RATES
22/29 10:45 a.m. UU Church 1:30 a.m. IMCC 12:15 pm (Feb 22 only) CUJPS (UU Pagans) Topic: Wildlife (UU Ch) 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (PMCh)	23/30 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	24/31 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League  February 24 is the applications deadline for people affected with HIV/AIDS (Herbs Plus)	25 6:00 pm Frontrunners (WPI) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Open Dancing (Club 141)	26 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center)	27 7:00 p.m. MCC Games Night 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA  LesbiGay Conference Northern Ky Univ.	28 9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA LesbiGay Conf. Northern Ky Univ.

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**MATURE PEOPLE  
MAKE THE BEST PARTNERS**

*second in a series by Kelly O'Ferrell*

*"I think mature people make the best partners. [Among] several mature attitudes...They have a willingness and grace to offer each other courtesy, kindness and acceptance..." From Living with Sobriety*

I came home one afternoon in an irritable mood. Tammy (my partner) couldn't "fry the right egg" - which eventually got on her last nerve. It seemed like everything we tried talking about ended up in an argument. So, there we were, in 450 square feet of living space, irritated at each other.

We settled down on the couch after a while, Tammy lying on one end reading the paper and me sitting on the other, eating while watching TV. Her feet were touching my leg. She lowered the paper and looked at me and smiled. Still feeling the ripples of irritation, I looked at her and said "I could just snap your head off," to which she replied, "and I could just shoot you dead!" She raised the paper and went back to reading. I laid my hand on her feet.

The winds had shifted by the time I left the house and we kissed goodbye and said "I love you." I would think of the words we recited to one another on the couch as I drove to work that night and later in the evening and laugh to myself. We laughed together at ourselves later that night when she called to tell me that a friend had called to ask if she could interview us for an intimacy course she was taking.

I have always enjoyed laughing with Tam, especially at ourselves in retrospect.

That's one thing that attracted me to her in the beginning - we laugh easily together. We've loved being together since the day we met. Knowing that neither of us is leaving this relationship has given us enormous freedom to become our true selves.

I remember one day early in our relationship, Tam and I were arguing about money. At one point in the argument, I decided to leave the house and reason things out with a friend, who reminded me that I didn't have to create a crisis or prevent a crisis from occurring.

When I returned home, Tam said something to me about leaving the relationship. I remembered the words of my friend and told her that she was welcome to do whatever she felt she needed to do. I don't want to be in a relationship where I'm fighting to keep it together - it distracts from more important growth opportunities. Fortunately, she didn't leave and we've both had the wonderful awareness that money is about trust and honesty - not money. (And leaving has never been used as a red herring since).

Our experiences together offer us countless opportunities to be courteous, kind and accepting of one another. Other than laughing together and not threatening to leave, Tam and I choose not to go to sleep angry with one another. I have no desire to stay up all night arguing, so I've had to learn how to know when it's time to stop discussing something until I've had time to talk with someone else to gain some perspective. I have a tendency to forget that my way isn't the only way when I'm in the middle of trying to prove my point.

We also offer one another "courtesy, kindness, and acceptance" by not trying to be in this relationship using only the tools we came in with. We "have a willingness and grace" to seek the experience, strength and hope of other couples who are also committed to growing together.

"Grace" also exists through the absence of jealousy in our relationship. Fortunately, my parents never gave me the burden of jealousy because I never saw them exhibit that trait. My mother always trusted my father, and my father always trusted my mother. There isn't anyone or anything that I

don't trust Tammy with and she feels the same way about me.

There was a night early in our marriage, when Tam found herself feeling jealous because I had been out with a friend until 1:00 in the morning. After looking at my part in the situation, I apologized for not calling her when I had said that I would. I told her the rest was hers to feel and handle as she chose. Before I fell off to sleep that night, I felt her feet touching mine and she talked about her fears. I'd rather talk about our fears than try and convince someone that I really do love them. Attractions to other people are a natural part of life. How we handle those attractions is the part we trust in one another.

Tammy and I have started a new tradition. Before we go to sleep at night, we tell one another something we're grateful for that the other said or did that day. We might have been grateful one night a while back for the willingness and grace to express our anger and then laughed again as we remembered that moment on the couch. Then, I would have thrown my leg across her legs, rested my hand on her shoulder, laid my face in her soft hair, and fallen asleep another night with the woman of my dreams. (Thank goodness, maturity is about progress not perfection).

**Spring Fling**  
**Sat, April 4th**  
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**\$5.00**

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# the PINK Pages

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The PINK Pages is a resource directory very much like the Yellow Pages in the phone book...with a MAJOR difference! It is filled with ads from gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses ... It will provide valuable information about the various GAY community organizations AND ... it will provide extensive health and wellness resources for everyone.

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# GERTIE MAE NOE

Dear Gertie Mae,

I would like your opinion about something that I have observed. I have had the occasion to attend both houses of worship in our city where gays and lesbians are fully accepted (MCC and the ULI). Something at both places made me uncomfortable. That was the open display of affection between the couples at these places. They were hanging all over each other during the service.

Am I just being a prude or shouldn't a house of worship be just that? I feel we should be respectful and keep our hands to ourselves. What do you think?

Prudence

Dear Prudence,

Well, I must admit I have not had the occasion to observe what goes on at the ULI, but I have from time to time attended MCC. I'm sorry but I have seen nothing that I would consider inappropriate. Actually sugar, I believe that group to be very reserved considering they have lived their lives with so few places to show any affection at all. Especially in front of God and everybody (And I do mean that literally). My sources at ULI tell me the same holds true for that church. Hand holding and a peck on the lips are appropriate there for gay or straight

couples.

Perhaps it would help to consider this, would you be equally appalled at similar behavior exhibited by a straight couple? For example, I would be uncomfortable if any couple at a church gathering were seriously necking or had any hands inside their partner's clothing. I believe that type of sexual behavior is best reserved for a private setting. But, if someone needs to exhibit that type of behavior in public, I hope they have the sense to limit it to dance floors and bars.

Honey maybe the real problem is that you are not comfortable seeing affection because you have had to hide it all your life. To some, and maybe you're one, the only appropriate demonstration of homosexual affection is exhibited behind closed doors. If that's so dear I'm sorry but you need to loosen up. The hand holding and occasional light kiss (I've never seen any tongues used) is nothing to be uncomfortable about.

Oh, and while we're on the subject of church, the 2nd annual Draggin' for Jesus show has been scheduled for April 22, and the lovely Angel has asked yours truly to make an appearance, and I have agreed. Please be kind.

Love and Kisses,  
Gertie Mae

P.S. You might want to read the article on page five for some comments on sacred sexuality.



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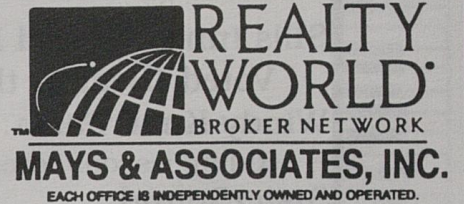
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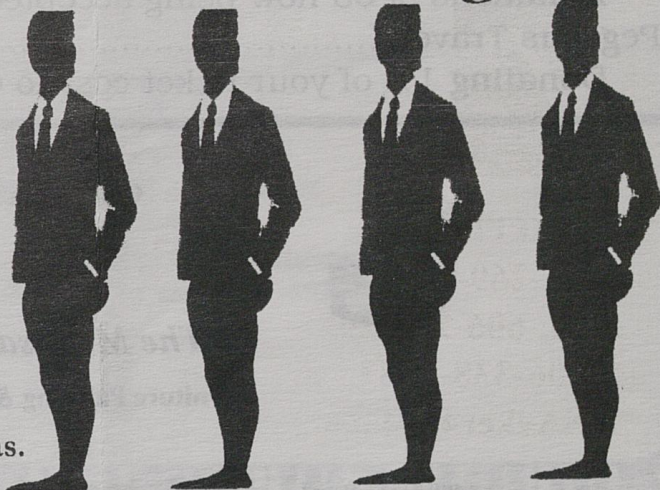
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GLSO: News Calendar (Peter).....	273-9649
Advertisements (Terry) .....	255-5469
Layout (Charlie).....	389-9352
Community News (Mary) .....	266-5904
GLSO Networking Committee (Mike) .....	225-1828
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary).....	266-5904
GLSO Support Group (Mary) .....	266-5904
PRIDE CENTER Pink Pages (Charlie) .....	389-9352

## 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
Lexington Youth Support Group (Kenneth) .....	222-1919
Morehead State (Angela).....	783-2950
Transylvania University (Bill).....	233-8490
UK Lambda (pager).....	244-3344

## ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

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Lexington-Fayette County.....	288-2437
Madison County .....	723-7312
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## AIDS INFO/SERVICES

AIDS HOTLINE .....	(800) 840-2865
AIDS Volunteers, Inc.....	278-7494
AVOL Legal Advocacy Program .....	278-7494
Health Department 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
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Kentucky Legislator Message Line .....	(800) 372-7181
Bill Status Line .....	(800) 382-2455
Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance(Roger)	
.....	roger@hyperaction.net
The Lesbian & Gay Parenting Group (Laura).....	276-2685
Lexington Men's Chorus (Bill).....	266-9175
Louisville Youth Group .....	(502)894-9787
Names Project, Lexington (Katie) .....	272-2588
Pride CenterB (voice mail) .....	255-4016
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MCC-Lexington (voice mail).....	255-4016
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.....(multi-traditional) (Chris).....	268-1640
Pagan Forum (Rev. Pat) .....	268-1640
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