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## UA12/2/74 Triangular Times, Volume 5

Lambda Society

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# riangular Times

*Archives*

WKU. Lambda Society - Volume 5 - March 1993

A Political, Social, and Educational Organization

## Audre Lorde dies, leaves message

On November 17, 1992, after a 14-year battle against cancer, Audre Lorde died. To the end, she remained more than the sum of her parts-in her own words, "a Black, Lesbian, Feminist, Warrior Poet, fighting the good fight in spite of it all." This poem-one of the last she wrote-will appear in her posthumous collection, "The marvelous Arithmetics of Distance," forthcoming in August

### *What's Happening.....*

λ March is womyn's herstory month

λ March 26-- Potluck at Melinda's

λ March 27--WKU Forum

λ March 30-- Skate-A-Thon

λ April 25--March on Washington

λ Lambda every Thursday

λ USA meets every Sunday 6pm

*Archives*

## Woman to Woman

since the first black woman  
was brought to this land  
we have been intimately  
familiar  
with our sisters  
we have been exposed to every  
detail  
of your existence  
we have washed your drawers  
cooked your food  
nursed you & your family  
when you were sick  
nursed your babies when you  
were too weak & delicate  
to feed them yourselves  
nursed them from our own  
black breasts  
that your brother, father, or  
husband later  
laid his whip across  
we have seen you in your  
underwear  
& we have watched your  
creamy white skin  
shrivel up in the sun  
we have seen your men treat  
you like  
porcelain dolls  
& then come to us to

demonstrate  
how they *really* feel  
about women  
we have lost our men to your  
totemic "beauty"  
& and we have tried to make  
ourselves look like you  
to get them back  
  
& after all of this  
you do not even have a clue  
you have no idea who we are  
or who you are  
yourselves  
you are lost  
as we all are  
until we  
ourselves  
find  
our sisterselves  
within our common  
ancestral  
womb  
& together  
give birth  
the the new  
whorl'd  
g. *dismukes*

WOMYN'S HERSTORY MONTH

## Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA): a Statewide Civil Rights Organization Forms

On September 24, 1992 the Kentucky Supreme Court in the case of the Commonwealth v. Wasson declared that the Criminal statute prohibiting sodomy between two consenting adults of the same sex, unconstitutional. Not quite drowned out by the euphoria of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community was the hate filled rumblings of the religious right and other reactionaries, and all of the political opportunists and their lackeys.

With the knowledge of the political backlash against gains made by civil rights activists in Oregon and Colorado, some of the people who had worked on the Wasson case, along with people in the fairness campaign in Louisville, KY, their sister organization in Lexington, PFLAG members statewide, GLOBAL, and others of a similar mind, began to hold meetings beginning in October of 1992. Their aim was to preserve what we had won in Wasson and to expand that base into other areas significant to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community.

Out of those meetings the Kentucky Fairness Alliance was created. The Alliance adopted as its goal the creation of a statewide non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting equality for all people regardless of sexual orientation, and advocating that the laws of this state, and of the localities therein, guarantee the privacy rights and the equal protection of their lesbian, gay and bisexual citizens.

We have now had five general meetings of the Alliance in Frankfort, Richmond and

Elizabethtown. A steering committee to act between general meetings has been elected with representatives from Northern Kentucky, Bowling Green, Lawrenceburg, Paducah, Louisville and Lexington. The Alliance believes that it is fundamental to our goals to have a full time lobbyist in Frankfort during the meeting of the next legislature in order to derail efforts to recriminalize intimate behavior between persons of the same sex. Already, several state legislators have filed a bill in the General Assembly to amend the Kentucky Constitution to authorize the passage of a new same sex sodomy law.

The members of the Alliance know that a single individual, no matter how persuasive, will not be enough to fight off all of the bigots and hate mongers. A state wide grass roots efforts will also be needed. Organizing can not be limited solely to Louisville and Lexington, we must go into rural areas as well. For this reason, the Alliance seeks a full time organizer. At the present, it is envisioned that the organizer and lobbyist be the same person, doing lobbying activity while Legislator is in session, and organizing the rest of the time.

In order for our work to be accomplished, the Alliance needs your help. We need money to open an office in Frankfort, hire the lobbyist/organizer, and

*continued pg 7*

## Welcome new members

Dear Readers,

Greetings and salutations my dear Lambdanites. I would first like to welcome you to another issue of Triangular Times, good times, political activity, and education. We have come together to remind our heterosexual cousins that we are here and we are QUEER.

We have embarked on another bold quest to wake this "lovely" campus and its lovely inhabitants to our needs as human beings. These will not be easy tasks and will be more than a small strain on the nerves, but together I am certain that we can overcome the forces that restrain us from living as freely as we wish.

This semester, we are planning various events from the educational forum coming up on the 27th of this month to serious political lobbying. Within these two realms, I hope that everyone can find some comfort.

Please remember that we can not do anything without your support and input. If you have ideas or suggestions run, don't walk, to the nearest Lambda officer.

Thank You,

*Jerry Brown, President*

LOVE  
PEACE  
HAPPINESS

# Audre Lorde Speaks in Life and Death

## *Today Could Be The Day*

*I can't just sit here  
staring death in her face  
blinking and asking for a new name  
by which to greet her*

*I am not afraid to say  
unembellished  
I am dying  
but I do not want to do it  
looking the other way.*

Today is not the day.  
It could be  
but it is not.  
Today is today  
in the early moving morning  
my sun shining down upon  
the farmhouse in my belly  
lighting the wellswept alleys  
of the town growing in my liver  
intricate vessels swelling with the heat

of one goddess or another  
Mother Mawu's gift  
or her mischievous daughter  
Afrekete my beloved  
feel the sun of my days surround you  
joining our pathways our labor  
we have water to carry  
honey to harvest  
bright seed to plant for the next fair  
sweet oil to exchange as we linger  
over each other's long ashy legs  
the evening light  
a crest on your cheekbones.

By this rising  
a piece of our labor is half-done  
a taste of loving  
doing a bit of work

Beth dangles her stethoscope over the rearview mirror

working through another equation  
youth taut as an arrow and stretched to her borders  
the arm sinks so far  
it vanishes from the surface.  
I dare not tremble for her  
only pray laughter comes often enough  
to soften the edge.

And Gloria Gloria  
whose difference I learn  
with the love of a sister you you  
in my eyes bright appetite light  
playing along your muscle  
as you swing.

This could be the day.  
I could slip anchor and wander  
to the end of the jetty  
uncoiling into the waters  
vessel of sun moonglade  
ride the freshets to sundown  
and when I am gone

another stranger will find you  
coiled on the warm sand  
beach treasure and love you  
for the different stories  
your seas tell  
and the half-finished blossoms  
growing out of my season  
will trail behind  
with a comforting hum.

But today  
is not  
the day.  
Today.

--April 22, 1992

## On The Pulse of Morning

A Rock, A River, A Tree  
Hosts to species long since departed,  
Marked the mastodon.  
The dinosaur, who left dry tokens  
Of their sojourn here  
On our planet floor,  
Any broad alarm of their hastening  
doom  
Is lost in the gloom of dust and ages.  
But today, the Rock cries out to us,  
clearly, forcefully,  
Come, you may stand upon my  
Back and face your distant destiny,  
But seek no haven in my shadow.  
I will give you no hiding place  
down here.  
You, created only a little lower than  
The angels, have crouched too long in  
The bruising darkness,  
Have lain too long  
Face down in ignorance.  
Your mouth spilling words  
Armed for slaughter.  
The Rock cries out to us today, you  
May stand upon me,  
But do not hide your face.  
Across the wall of the world,  
A River sings a beautiful song,  
It says, come, rest here by my side  
Each of you a bordered country,  
Delicate and strangely made, proud,  
Yet thrusting perpetually under siege.  
Your armed struggles for profit  
Have left collars of waste upon  
My shore, currents of debris upon  
My breast.  
Yet, today I call you to my riverside,  
If you will study war no more. Come,  
Clad in peace and I will sing the songs  
The Creator gave to me when I and the  
Tree and the stone were one.  
Before cynicism was a bloody sear  
across your  
Brow and when you yet knew you still  
Knew nothing  
The River sings and sings on.  
There is a true yearning to respond to  
The singing River and the wise Rock.  
So say the Asian, the Hispanic, the Jew  
The African and Native American, the  
Sioux,  
The Catholic, the Muslim, the French,  
the Greek  
The Irish, the Rabbi, the Priest, the  
Sheikh,  
The Gay, the Straight, the Preacher,  
The Privileged, the homeless, the  
Teacher.  
They hear. They all hear  
The speaking of the Tree.  
Today, the first and last of every Tree

Speaks to humankind. Come to me,  
here beside the River.  
Plant yourself beside me, here beside  
the River.  
Each of you, descendant of some  
passed  
On traveller, has been paid for.  
You, who gave me my first name, you  
Pawnee, Apache and Seneca, you  
Cherokee Nation, who rested with me,  
then  
Forced on bloody feet, left me to the  
employment of  
Other seekers-desperate for gain,  
Starving for gold.  
You the Turk, the Swedes, the German,  
the Scot...  
You the Ashanti, the Yoruba, the Kru,  
bought  
Sold, stolen, arriving on a nightmare  
Praying for a dream.  
Here, root yourselves beside me.  
I am the Tree planted by the River,  
Which will not be moved.  
I, the Rock, I the River, I the Tree  
I am yours-your Passages have been  
paid.  
Lift up your faces, you have a piercing  
need  
For this bright morning dawning for  
you.  
History, despite its wrenching pain,  
Cannot be un-lived, and if faced  
With courage, need not be lived again.

Lift up your eyes upon  
The day breaking for you.  
Give birth again  
To the dream.

Women, children, men,  
Take it into the palms of your hands.  
Mold it into the shape of your most  
Private need. Sculpt it into  
The image of your most public self.  
Lift up your hearts  
Each new hour holds new chances  
For new beginnings.  
Do not be wedded forever  
To fear, yoked eternally  
To brutishness.

The horizon leans forward,  
Offering you space to place new steps  
of change.  
Here, on the pulse of this fine day  
You may have the courage  
To look up and out upon me, the  
Rock, the River, the Tree, your country.  
No less to Midas than the mendicant.  
No less to you now than the mastodon  
then.

Here on the pulse of this new day  
You may have the grace to look up and  
out  
And into your sister's eyes, into

Here on the pulse of this new day  
You may have the grace to look up and  
out  
Your brothers face, your country  
And say simply  
Very simply  
With hope  
Good morning.

-NOTE: This poem was presented by Maya Angelou to the nation on January 20, at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore. We replicate it here for you so that we may all benefit from her words and the hope of the country.

## Why Black History ?

The question of why African Americans should be noted is much easier to answer than it is to ask. As an African American the answer is always prepared in my mind. I will say, " Look around you!" Most things in our lives, at one point or another have been correlated with African or African American history. The correlations that I am speaking of are not solely from the arts or athletics. For instance, Daniel Hale Williams was the first successful heart surgeon and Mary Church Terrell was a strong activist for Women's Rights. Contributions by Africans and African Americans are countless.

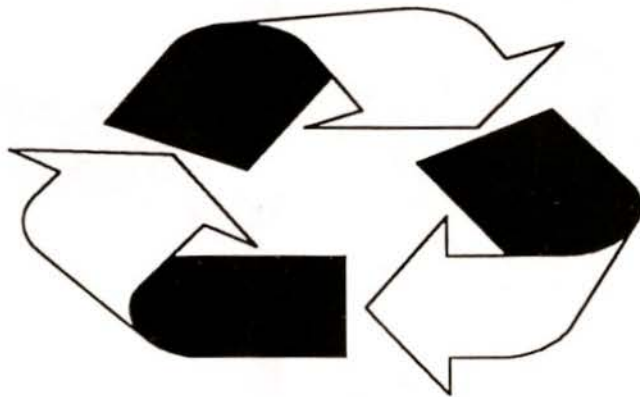
Within the realms of history in general Black history has been left out--forgotten. For one month out of the year (sometimes through force) we are spoon-fed a dose of Black History. And if you have been afforded the same experience as I have, you had been shown the same faces year after year--Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Marcus Garvey, and maybe a little Harriet Tubman.

Now as adults, many of you have settled for that same knowledge year after year. This year and every year reach for something more. Look for the truth in history and herstory. You will understand the importance of Black history.

It is there, you just have to look. *Peace*  
Out - λ NMG

LAMBDA FORUM  
 DOWNING UNIVERSITY CENTER, WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
 SATURDAY MARCH 27, 1993

- 8:00 AM Information tables open  
 Third floor lobby
- 9:00-10:15 SEMINAR A--CHOOSE ONE  
 Homosexuality and the Church--305  
 How to Lobby--341  
 Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gay(PFLAG)-309  
 Minority Issues within the Gay Community--349
- 10:30-11:45 SEMINAR B--CHOOSE ONE  
 Psychology of Homosexuality--308  
 HIV/AIDS 101--349  
 Coming Out--309  
 Through the Years; Making Relationships Last--305  
 Lesbianism/Feminism--341
- 9:00-11:45 SEMINAR A/B  
 Homophobia/Heterosexism
- 11:45-2:00 LUNCHEON BUFFET AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
 MARQUIS CLUB--Second Floor  
 KEN PLOTNIK, ATTORNEY AT LAW  
 KENTUCKY FAIRNESS ALLIANCE
- 2:15-3:30 SEMINAR C-- CHOOSE ONE  
 Teenage Lesbigan Issues--308  
 Lesbigan Readings--311  
 Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays--309  
 Homosexuality and the Church--305  
 Lesbigan History/Herstory--349
- 3:45-5:00 SEMINAR D--CHOOSE ONE  
 Living with HIV--341  
 Gays in the Military--308  
 Bisexuality--341  
 Campus Networking and Discussion--311
- 5:00-7:00 KENTUCKY FAIRNESS ALLIANCE/COALITION MEETING
- 7:00-9:00 LEISURE/DINNER BREAK
- 9:00-??? DANCE



**RECYCLE  
 LIFE**

**FORUM TIME**

The second annual Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual forum will be on Saturday, March 27. This will be an exciting time for all of us, if for no other reason it will be over with.

When the forum was conceived we did not expect for it to become big. We were wrong. We have gone from an evening of lesbigan discussion to a day long info blast. Last year we were a subtle little conference on the third floor of DUC. This year we will own DUC for the day.

To all of us ,  
**CONGRATULATIONS.** It will not be easy. The nerves will fray and tensions rise. Just as a reminder there is an agenda enclosed in the newsletter. Remember, we need all of the help we can get (sitting at tables, panel members, and taking tallies of those attending). Every little bit helps.

Please go to a workshop. This will be one of the best opportunities to find out about the great subculture associated with gays, lesbians and bisexuals. This is a chance to celebrate diversity.

**GOOD LUCK!!!!!!**

**The Because Manifesto**

It has come to my attention that there are some of you out there that don't know what it means to be part of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual civil rights movement. Well let me help explain:

Because we are discriminated against in housing and employment

Because many of my friends and family members are gay  
 Because how we act is more important than who we are  
 Because if we are harassed it is our problem

Because if we get attacked we provoked it  
 Because if we raise our voices we're flaunting ourselves  
 Because if we enjoy sex we're perverts  
 Because if we get AIDS it is our fault

Because homophobia is sanctioned by our government  
 Because lesbigan history is virtually absent from literature  
 Because if we stand up for our rights we're overstepping our boundaries

Because we are forced to constantly question our worth  
 Because if we march with pride we are recruiting children  
 Because if we want to be parents we are declared unfit  
 Because if we don't have a relationship with someone of the opposite sex, we haven't tried  
 Because if we have a same gender relationship it isn't recognized

Because we are told our love is not "real"  
 Because we are not allowed the basic right to marry the person we are born to love  
**FOR LOVE AND LIFE..**

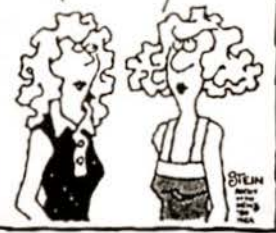
I HEARD THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WILL DESTROY THE FAMILY!

AND WOMEN WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE HOME TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES, AND ABORTIONS WILL QUADRUPLE!



YOU'RE KIDDING! SAY... HAVE YOU EVER... UH... READ THE ERA?

AN AWFUL THING LIKE THAT? YOU MEAN... IT'S... WRITTEN DOWN?



HERE'S A COPY OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

THAT'S ALL IT SAYS

WELL...



THAT'S IT?

I'M ESPECIALLY DISTURBED BY THE PARTS ABOUT UNI-SEX BATHROOMS AND LOSS OF FEMININITY!



"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

THAT'S ALL THE ERA SAYS?

YOU HAVE TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES.



OKAY, WHERE'S THE PASSAGE ABOUT DISASSEMBLING THE FAMILY UNIT?

RIGHT HERE AFTER THE SENTENCE ON ENFORCED LESBIANISM. IT HELPS IF YOU SQUINT.

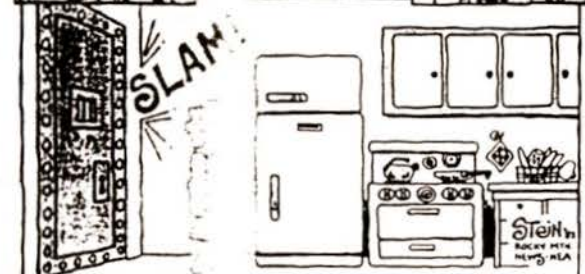


SORRY, MA'AM. IT'S TIME.



Deadline is for the ERA. Legislature isn't called.

This is it. Be brave.



SLAM!

Ed Stein. Courtesy of the Rocky Mountain News.



THE WELFARE MOTHER, A PARASITE ON THE ECONOMY.



SHE CAUSED THE S&L COLLAPSE, YOU KNOW.



WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FRAUD SCANDAL THAT KILLED BILLIONS... REMEMBER THOSE INVESTORS? SHE HEADED THAT DEPARTMENT.



IT WAS HER OVERINVESTMENT THAT CAUSED THE REAL ESTATE BUST



AND THAT WHOLE DECADE OF JUNK BONDS AND LEVERAGED BUYOUTS THAT SHOT OUR ECONOMY ALL TO HELL — SHE HAD HER FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER THAT ONE.

YOU'D PROBABLY HAVE YOUR JOB IF IT WASN'T FOR HER.



DON'T IT FEEL BETTER NOW, BLAMING WHOM TO BLAME?

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COMIX

# DEFENDING OUR LIVES

Once again we will devote some of our newsletter to the issue of homosexuality and religion. It is an ever present issue in and around our lives in one way or another. In the past weeks the fervor to save the homosexuals seems to have been greater in the Daily News. The article that sparked the latest letter to the editor campaign was Homosexuality, not Christianity, being preached.

This article which appeared on March 22 had several troubling comments. "The homosexual community has launched a political and social war against morality.", "These people are out to change the way America thinks..", "Every child will be affected by these tactics..."

There was a response to this letter written by a friend of Lambda that

spoke to the issues. This person commented: if homosexuality is a sin.. "if we denied all sinners these rights, our economy would collapse and unemployment line would stretch from coast to coast", "Had Jesus, instead of sharing God's love, been more concerned with exercising his freedom 'to judge the expressions of others,' I', afraid the Gospel of Matthew may never have been written; Mary Magdalene would never have raised the courage and self-esteem it took to deny her self degrading lifestyle; and Zacheus would have learned very little from up in that tree."

She ended with urging Christians to remember that it was "Jesus who said, 'Judge not, that ye be not judged;' 'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone,' and he admonished us to not try to remove the

splinter from our brother;s eye until we have extracted the moat from our own.

It seems significant that, while Jesus found the issue of judging one's brother to be important enough to preach about over and over, he never once thought the issue of homosexuality important enough to even mention. Perhaps it is time that we, as christians, stop acting like the overly pious Pharisees—who gave Jesus so much trouble—and start acting more like Jesus Himself. After all, isn't that what Christianity is all about?"

Needless to say this letter had a response. The response was mailed to the house. The response urged to stop the over-consumption of liberal doctrine and open your blinded eyes.

As the article printed last month read, be aware and respond. Our lives depend on it....

## Editorial Policy

*Triangular Times* is published to express ideas that reflect the purpose of WKU Lambda Society. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are strictly those of the individual author. The editorial staff does not attempt to influence or censor the opinions of the writers.. Submissions are welcomed and needed (300 words or less). Copies will be edited ONLY for brevity and clarity. Manuscripts will not be returned. Please speak with any officer if you have questions, comments, etc..

*continued from pg.2*

otherwise fund our continued organizing efforts. At present, we estimate a first year budget of \$78,000. Already about \$10,000 has been raised in seed money, but more is needed. Contributions can be sent to:

Kentucky Fairness Alliance  
P.O. BOX 1523  
Frankfort, KY 40602  
The Alliance also needs you to do mailing and contact your Legislator to tell them that you insist on being treated fairly.

λ Ken Plotnik



CONGRATULATIONS JERRY

ON YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE PLAY YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD WOMAN DOWN. WE HOPE THAT YOU REMEMBER THE LITTLE PEOPLE!!!!!!!



Place  
Stamp  
Here

WKU. P.O. Box 83335  
Bowling Green, KY 40102

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**MARCH**  
**IS**  
**WOMEN'S**  
**HISTORY**  
**MONTH**