

# GLTF Newsletter

Winter

Vol. 1, No. 3

A Publication of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the  
Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association

Fall 1988

ISSN Is Being Requested

## Note from the Chairs

As 1988 quickly draws to a close we'd like to extend our thanks to everyone for all their efforts and support. We have all done quite a bit of work this year and we can sit back and count our accomplishments. The Bylaws were (finally) completed and are in place; we reorganized a few of the Committees which are running even better; and our Newsletter looks as though it is here to stay. Without the dedication and perseverance of the entire membership none of this would be a reality. We still have a way to go before we can quietly sit back and see how things develop on their own—but do we really want to?

In the last issue of the Newsletter we stated that we wanted to focus on education as a theme for the coming year. Keeping in step with that we are finalizing plans for a "Discussion Group" to take place on Monday, January 9, from 2-4 p.m. at the Gay Community Center in Washington. This Group will consist of representatives from some of the national gay and lesbian groups located in D.C. who will talk about their organizations, what services they offer, and how libraries/librarians can contact them for information. Since the librarians are a type of middle-person in the information exchange process, the Group hopes to make life a little easier for them. Facilities will be made available for the groups to display and distribute their informational material. The program is free and we hope to see you there.

It's been a great year for the Task Force and we hope it has been the same for each of you personally. We're still looking for logos for the GLTF; if you have any works of art (or lesser works) please send them on to Roland Hansen (3824 N. Fremont, Chicago, Illinois 60613). Best of times in the future and we hope to see you all in Washington, D.C.

Helen and Vince

## Midwinter Meetings

The 1989 Midwinter schedule for the GLTF have been confirmed. The Task Force will sponsor four meetings and an additional discussion group. The dates, times and locations are as follows:

Friday, January 6

Steering Committee, 4:30 - 5:30  
Embassy Row, Lincoln Room

Saturday, January 7

General Membership Meeting, 2:00 - 5:30  
Ramada Renaissance, New Hampshire Ballroom 3

Sunday, January 8

Business Meeting, 4:30 - 6:00  
Washington Hilton, Map Room

Monday, January 9

Discussion Group, 2:00 - 4:00  
Gay Community Center, 1228 17th N.W.,  
Rm 5

Tuesday, January 10

Steering Committee, 2:00 - 4:00  
Washington Hilton, Bancroft Room

## Are Librarians "Out" at Work?

At the GLTF Program Meeting the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, a survey, developed by GLTF Steering Committee Members was distributed to poll the audience on issues involved in being "out" at work. A brief summary of the survey results follows. Although 114 surveys were returned, all questions were not answered on every survey; in figuring the totals, percentages were based on the number of responses to the individual questions.

Of those who responded to the first question on rating how "out" they are at work, approximately 15% considered themselves to be "completely out" (1 on a continuum) and only 4% described themselves as being "completely closeted" (7 on the continuum). Fifteen per cent placed themselves half-in and half-out of the closet (4 on the continuum), and in the next-highest category (3 on the continuum) were 18%. The majority of the respondents (20%) rated themselves in category number 2 on the continuum. This high number of respondents that considered themselves to be out is perhaps to be expected, though since attendance at GLTF meetings is in itself a somewhat public appearance at an openly gay/lesbian function.

Despite the above figures, 75% of the respondents (53% of the men and 37% of the women) stated they would not list gay/lesbian activities on their vitae/resumes. 61% (52% of the men and 38% of the women) do not mention attendance at GLTF functions when discussing ALA conference events in their work place.

Sixty-six percent stated that their immediate supervisor knew they were lesbian or gay, although 97% reported that they did not feel that the homophobia of a current colleague or supervisor had ever resulted in unequal treatment of them.

Ninety-six percent of the respondents said they would personally try to do something about anti-lesbian/gay discrimination or harassment in their work place. In such cases, 73% would mention their own sexual orientation when trying to

offer assistance.

Ninety-eight percent of the respondents would offer to help select or catalog lesbian/gay material for their libraries and several of those answering mentioned that they already were involved in these activities.

Sixty-nine percent have invited their lovers to work functions open to family members, but only 31% have ever introduced them as a lover, partner, or other accurate term. Several respondents wrote in that they referred to their lover as "friend", feeling that this was an accurate term.

The overall results of the survey were positive, indicating a willingness on the part of lesbian and gay librarians to stand up for what they believe in and to assist in working towards furthering the positive progress of gay and lesbian issues in many different aspects of librarianship. While this survey did not ask for information such as the type of library, information about the geographic location, political climate, etc., of the participants' libraries, these factors would be interesting to correlate with librarians' attitudes, etc., towards being out at work. It would also be interesting to conduct a poll on these issues of gay and lesbian librarians who are not able/willing to attend GLTF meetings at ALA.

## **GLTF Clearinghouse Coordinator Conducts A Self-Interview**

**Give us a little background on this Library Information Clearinghouse that the Task Force operates. What's the Clearinghouse for and how did it get started?**

Well, the Task Force has been getting requests for information ever since it was established back in 1970. Some teenager in Peoria might ask for a list of good novels with lesbian characters; a parent of some gay person would ask for a book that might help them better understand his/her gay child; a librarian somewhere would write the Task Force asking for a list of books he/she could order to create a "bare bones" gay and lesbian nonfiction collection in his/her library. The number of these requests for information have increased over the years as more and more people have heard or read about the Task Force. The Clearinghouse was created partly to centralize the handling of these requests to make sure each one was dealt with promptly, and partly to assemble in one place all the scattered material that has been written about gay/lesbian library materials, gay/lesbian librarians, and gay/lesbian library users.

**So the Clearinghouse has been around awhile?**

Not really. The clearinghouse idea was first proposed at a brainstorming session during the 1986 ALA Conference in New York, when the Task Force reorganized its operating structure. Some of us who attended that conference were trying to find ways the Task Force could enhance its *practical* use to librarians—especially to librarians who don't attend ALA conferences. At the Midwinter Conference in January 1987, the

idea was further discussed and that's when I volunteered to serve as the Clearinghouse's first coordinator.

**And how much material have you been able to collect since then?**

By the end of the first year we'd identified and obtained 75 items; there are currently 113 items available through the Clearinghouse.

**What kind of materials are you talking about—and where did they come from?**

We've got all sorts of things, and they come from all over the place. For example, we've collected copies of over two dozen journal articles discussing librarianship as it relates to providing information to gay or lesbian library users. We've obtained almost three dozen bibliographies on a variety of subjects. We've compiled several directories—of publishers specializing in producing gay/lesbian books and of bookstores specializing in selling them, for example. And we've gathered together numerous library school essays, guidelines for collection development, lists of "gay-positive" subject headings, reading lists, study guides, order forms for publications produced by other gay/lesbian organizations, and a host of miscellaneous materials such as a checklist of famous gays, lesbians, and bisexuals that librarians can use for evaluating their collections (especially their biography and fiction collections). Most—though not all—of the items we've collected have been sent to us by Task Force members, and about 10% of them were actually created by Task Force members or by Task Force committees. Many of these, of course, were being distributed by the Task Force before the Clearinghouse was formed.

**How much demand for these things is there?**

All I can tell you is how much we've been asked for since we started the Clearinghouse—since January 1987, in other words. During that time, I've mailed out over 200 separate items that people have asked for specifically. On top of that are the letters and phone calls responding to requests for information other than publications.

**What else has been involved in getting the Clearinghouse off the ground?**

A lot of organizational work on the structure of the Clearinghouse. For example, a filing system for the materials had to be set up so that requests can be processed quickly and so another coordinator could take over fairly smoothly. A way to keep track of the materials. A brochure describing the Clearinghouse and its functions was produced. Press releases were mailed to several library journals. And, in the beginning, several new publications were compiled or created, and that took a lot of time, effort, and coordination.

**What items do you get the most requests for?**

Our "best seller" is the *Gay Bibliography* [OCLC control No. 6800578] that Barbara Gittings edited back in 1980. David Streeter and his committee are revising that, which is good because it's long been the most well-known Task Force publi-

cation. Our various directories are relatively popular also, as is Hugh Wilburn's checklist of famous gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. Also asked for more often than some of the other things is David Streeter's preliminary checklist of gay/lesbian mystery novels.

**Have you been in touch with other organizations operated by gays and lesbians who are also in the business of collecting or distributing information?**

I have. Although I think that quickly processing the individual information requests we get is probably the most important of the Coordinator's duties, networking with other groups is certainly one of the most interesting ones. I checked my Clearinghouse files recently and found that I receive or mail out a letter to some individual or organization on the average of once every other business day. And there are lots of phone calls, too. Fortunately, now there's a little more time to devote to networking (and to following up on leads on new Clearinghouse items) than there was when we were just getting the Clearinghouse set up. The rate of my outgoing correspondence in 1988 (not including the publication orders processed) is already double that of 1987. Improving our contact with other groups helps us avoid duplicating the efforts of other information-producing and information-providing groups and vice versa. And as these contacts have also resulted in the discovery of new items—especially valuable unpublished materials—for our Clearinghouse, the effort involved eventually benefits the librarians and library users who contact the Clearinghouse.

**You have two other goals this year?**

Also important this year is finding some volunteers to revise at least a few more of the often-requested but badly out-of-date bibliographies available in the Clearinghouse.

**Such as?**

Such as our list of books recommended for parents of gays and lesbians; our list of gay/lesbian books for religious study; our short list for lesbian reading; and our resource list for gay teachers. There are many others. People ask for these things and sometimes what they receive is information that's badly out-dated. That's not as helpful as we could be if we could just get some of these things revised.

**Are there any new materials you'd like to see created for the Clearinghouse to distribute?**

Absolutely! We need an annotated filmography/videography of gay/lesbian-themed works. We need a listing of sources for pamphlets on issues of concerns to gays and lesbians. We need something called "Best Sex Ed Books from a Gay/Lesbian Perspective." We don't even have an annotated list of the winners of our Gay & Lesbian Book Award! Anything that could help a librarian or a library user identify helpful information, we need!

**You said you had *three* main goals for the coming year?**

The last one is the most important of all, of course: continu-

ing to respond to every request for information the Clearinghouse receives, and doing that as promptly and as effectively as possible given the time, money, and energy restraints we're operating under. And not to lose sight of why we set up the Clearinghouse in the first place: to help librarians find whatever gay- and lesbian-related information they need to do their collection-building, reference and cataloging jobs more efficiently, and to help get gay- and lesbian-related library materials into the hands of those people who need them.

**So how can somebody who's interested in the work of the Clearinghouse help out?**

Well, first of all, every librarian or library user in the country could help simply by letting me know about items that should be added to Clearinghouse inventory. Either send me a copy of the item or a complete citation to it. Beyond that, if anyone's interested in updating something we already have or is interested in creating a new useful publication—or is interested in helping out with some of the networking tasks—by all means, that person should get in touch with me. People can call me at the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, (404)688-4636, ext. 254, during the day, or at my answering machine at home, (404)577-4600. Or they can write me at 491 Seminole Ave., #14, Atlanta, GA 30307.

**Anything else?**

Well, we're going to be needing a new Clearinghouse Coordinator beginning next summer, so people who might be interested in the job should let me or one of the Co-Chairs know about that within the next few months. And of course I'd like to thank everyone for all the things they've called my attention to so far. Keep those cards and letters (actually, those articles and bibliographies) coming!

---

## Police Stonewall Efforts of Stonewall Researcher

*[Editor's Note: The first issue of the Newsletter ran an article concerning Michael Scherker's efforts to write about the Stonewall Riots. The following article appeared in the October 28, 1988, issue of The Washington Blade [OCLC control No: 5005189], the gay and lesbian weekly newspaper of Washington, D.C.]*

Michael Scherker, a researcher doing a book on the Stonewall rebellion, filed a lawsuit September 28 seeking the release of the New York City Police Department's files on the 1969 riots.

The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), a law firm which supports civil rights, filed the lawsuit on behalf of Scherker. Stonewall Inn, a now-defunct Gay bar in New York, was the site of riots triggered by police harassment of patrons in June 1969. The riots are believed by many to have inspired

the modern Gay rights movement.

In March, Scherker requested access to all police documents relating to the incident, as well as the files the department kept on various Gay organizations through 1973. The police denied the request in May, saying that the release of the files would constitute invasion of privacy of individuals involved and violate prohibitions against disclosing inter-agency documents.

The CRR attorneys charged the police department's denial of Scherker's request violates the Freedom of Information Act and represents "yet another attempt by the New York Police Department to hide its history of police brutality and misconduct."

---

## Considerations for Artificial Insemination

I was trying to think of an interesting topic that would satisfy both the personal and professional reading interests of gay and lesbian ALA members, but more importantly, that it be one of interest to me since I'm the one writing about it. An idea came to me — not only is it a topic that is becoming ever prevalent in our community — but it is something I am looking into for myself — artificial insemination. Researching the topic was very interesting and I discovered that there are several options involved.

In this article I will be outlining some information for those of you (or should I say us) thinking about it.

First, if you will be dealing with a Commercial Sperm Banks, there are certain things that must be considered. So far there are no strict guidelines or regulations regarding how the sperm banks screen or select the donors or how the sperm itself is tested. There is an organization that does provide guidelines and regulations for sperm banks, the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB), but only six states require membership. To ensure that both the health and safety of the mother and fetus are not compromised, it would seem wise that the sperm bank that you choose be a member of this association. The Donor Screening Standards established by the Reproductive Council of AATB are:

- independent screening by two physicians to check fertility, health, intelligence and insure the absence of infectious disease.
- each donor is required to have a physical examination; a medical and genetic history is taken of the donor for 3 generations.
- educational level and occupation are noted.
- donors are questioned thoroughly about their lifestyles (most banks refuse semen from gay or bisexual men).

Specific medical tests performed are:

- STD's: HIV(AIDS), CMV(cytomegalovirus), RPR (syphilis), herpes, chlamydia, myctoplamsa, ureaplamsa, gonorrhea.
- candida (yeast), hepatitis type B, and trichomonas.

- Urine drug screening.
- Blood chemistry Profile; CBC (complete blood count)

The AATB also has strict standards that the sperm has to meet once the donor is accepted. I'll spare you those details.

In regard to the possibility of the donor being infected with the AIDS virus the AATB, in December 1985, recommended the use of frozen semen as the optimal and safest means of testing for AIDS. Frozen semen permits a quarantine period (at least 3 months was advised) for storage to retest donor blood before the semen is released. This permits detection of the specific antibodies that may not have been high enough in concentration to be detected at the time of donation.

It is very important to ensure that the bank you chose is screening donors thoroughly. The major disadvantage of commercial sperm banks is that the donors are poorly screened. Aside from the AATB guidelines, there are no regulations in the US at present issued for sperm banks.

If you are getting your sperm from a doctor, there are a few things you should be aware of. The doctor plays the role of "middle man." He deals with a sperm broker. He has no control over the selection, screening, and the process of sperm preservation. There is a high risk of confusion and error when dealing with the sperm bank in regards to the route (i.e. mail) that the sperm gets to the doctor.

I discovered some interesting information provided about two of the more reputable sperm banks. The first, the Repository for Germinal Choice (RGC), Escondido, California, markets the sperm directly to the consumer — there is no "middle man." The only donors are those considered "exceptional" in their field. This bank is considered the most thorough in its screening of the donors for medical and personal history. The application form is 20 pages long and the personal history record is 18 pages in length. The bank keeps detailed records on the donors and these records are retained permanently. The bank is not set up for profit and the sperm is free, but the applicants are required to pay an application fee. Since the sperm is shipped, the user pays a "rental" fee on the container the sperm is shipped in. This bank is also different from the commercial sperm banks in that the commercial sperm banks chose donors on the number and mobility of the sperm while the RGC choses donors on the basis of their genes.

The second, The Sperm Bank of Northern California, in Oakland, California, was started by the Feminist Women's Health Center. Donor insemination is open for all women regardless of race, marital status, or sexual orientation. Lesbians, single straight women, and women with infertile partners are encouraged to participate. Charges are on a sliding scale according to what you can afford, ranging from \$65 - \$250. Records are kept although current philosophy advises anonymity and confidentiality. The bank provides orientation meetings to discuss the clinic's philosophy, services, and donor-screening criteria, and to provide legal information. Since the start of the sperm bank, of the 188 donors screened, 25% have been approved. The bank doesn't accept the sperm of gay or bisexual men.

With proper research, a reputable and safe sperm bank can provide all that is necessary. Still, some women prefer self-

insemination. If this is the route chosen and the donor is known, it is highly recommended that a contract for custody, financial considerations, etc. be laid out prior to conception. This protects all parties concerned.

As far as technique is concerned, here are a few pointers. The semen must be put into a glass container, absolutely no metal. The semen must be used within two hours. It's important that only a small amount of semen be used (1/4 ml. or less). A syringe, straw in an applicator, test tube can be used to "get the ball rolling." Beware: it seems the biggest complaint by lesbians is the smell of the semen, so prepare those nasal tissues.

During my research, I found one book to be very informative: *Having Your Baby by Donor Insemination: A Complete Resource Guide* by Elizabeth Noble (Houghton Mifflin, 1987) [OCLC control no. 15860426]. While there are several other books on the market concerning this topic, this book provides thorough information from A-Z.

'Til next time  
Terri J.

---

---

## Book Published on Support Services for Gay Youth

The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, recently announced the publication of a new book, *Bridges of Respect*, about creating support services for gay youth.

With a concern about the circles of homophobia and bigotry, and how they start and continue, the Committee wanted to "deepen the expression of Quaker points of view on discrimination."

*Bridges of Respect* is a resource guide designed to help social service workers understand Gay youth. The book includes a list of organizations and projects that can help youth workers.

The book can be purchased for \$7.50 through AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, P.A. 19102

---

---

## Recent Book Benefits AIDS Support Services

*Strip AIDS U.S.A.* [OCLC control No. 18887046], a 140-page collection of cartoons about AIDS, by concerned cartoonists (including some of the top names in the industry), was recently published by Last Gasp Publishers. Proceeds from the nonprofit effort will benefit the Shanti Project, a group providing support services to people with AIDS.

The book is edited by Trina Robbins and Robert Triptow in

California and Bill Sienkiewicz in New York. Some of the cartoonists include Sergio Aragones, Howard Cruse, Bill Griffith, Nicole-Hollander, Frank Miller, and Garry Trudeau, among a host of others.

*Strip AIDS USA* runs the gamut of commentary in its pages from satire to seriousness. "Many of the contributions deal with people's reactions to the AIDS tragedy," remarked Triptow. "AIDS isn't an easy subject to draw funny cartoons about, and it's amazing how well our contributors did with lampooning society's reaction to the disease."

Sienkiewicz derided attitudes that comics are for children and that such a book might trivialize the subject, calling such an attitude "sheer breakfast-cereal mentality."

Shanti Project, a San Francisco based organization, has earmarked *Strip AIDS USA* profits to help train other AIDS support facilities across the country. Many such "provider" groups have taken their initial training at Shanti, which has provided over 300 training videotapes and assistance to locations such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Miami, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Ireland, and England.

For further information contact Ron Turner at Last Gasp of San Francisco, 2180 Bryant St., San Francisco, Ca., 94110, telephone (415)824-6636.

---

---

## Foundation for AIDS Research Announces Recent Publications

The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) announced in September that it has released an updated edition of the *AIDS/HIV Experimental Treatment Directory* [OCLC Control No. 17829742], a guide to studies of drugs being investigated as possible treatments for AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses.

The new AmFAR guide, which updates the results of trials of almost 100 promising experimental drugs, had been redesigned to help people with AIDS and their physicians locate drug trials in their area they might want to participate in.

The *AIDS/HIV Experimental Treatment Directory* is published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$30 per year or \$10 for single issues. It can be ordered by calling 1-800-992-2873.

AmFAR also announced in September the release of *AIDS Education: A Business Guide*. The 44-page booklet provides information for companies of all sizes on how to set up an employee AIDS education program. It includes sources of videotapes and other educational materials.

Complimentary single copies of *AIDS Education: A Business Guide* can be ordered by writing to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, 1515 Broadway, Suite 3601, New York, N.Y. 10036. Additional copies are \$5 each.

## Do You Know About NetGALA?

NetGALA: Network of Gay & Lesbian Alumni/ae Associations (NetGALA) is an organization of associations linking gay and lesbian alumni/ae from coast to coast. NetGALA provides leadership and support to these gay and lesbian alumni/ae associations (GALAs), serves as a clearinghouse for information and idea exchange, and publishes a quarterly newsletter. The address is: NetGALA, P.O. Box 15141, Washington, D.C. 20003.

---

## Et Tu Brute?

*Ed. Note: The following has been extracted from the 1986 ALA publication The Library Disaster Preparedness Handbook [OCLC Control No. 13126167], from the section called "Problem Patrons." Comments on this are requested.*

### Homosexual Loiterers

A problem that is perhaps exclusive to urban public and academic libraries is their popularity with homosexuals as a place of assignation and opportunity. This activity, if not aggressively controlled, can result in a takeover of public toilets and secluded spots in the building for solicitation and sexual encounters. It is disconcerting for legitimate patrons to find a rest room haunted by one or more of these loiterers.

One student of the problem has suggested several methods for reducing this abuse and reclaiming the toilets:

Practice preventive harassment, and require identification from any loiterers (in a university library, warn non-students that they can be prosecuted as trespassers).

Provide frequent tours of toilet rooms by uniformed security officers.

Knock frequently on toilet doors.

Aggressively harass loiterers to reduce the popularity of the site as an "erotic oasis."

Use the occasion of detecting persons in overt homosexual activity to spread the word about the library's hostility to this abuse of the facility. This is done through humiliating interrogation and browbeating in a formal setting, like a security office. The interrogation is traumatic, purposefully, but tempered with kindness. No arrest is made. The process is intended to get the word out to the homosexual community that the library is determined to deny them the use and abuse of the building for assignations and casual homosexual liaisons.

In addition to pursuing a benign harassment campaign, a library staff can do some simple things along the following lines:

Provide strong, even-lighting in toilets and in other places that are secluded or deep in shadow.

Remove unnecessary toilet doors, and arrange the rest

room's entrance door to provide a view on the entire room as the door opens.

Remove graffiti hourly, if necessary, to interfere with clues and messages posted by consenting adults and cruising homosexuals.

Above all, regularly patrol the facilities.

---

## Gay Religious Newspaper Is Published

Self-described as "an ecumenical Christian newspaper for gay men and women, *The Second Stone* rolled off the presses this month after nearly a year of planning. Editor Jim Bailey said the purpose of the newspaper is to be a resource for Gay Christians who are having difficulty resolving the seeming contradictions many feel.

The first issue had Bailey himself absorbing the \$3,000 cost for the first 2,000 copies to be distributed. The first issue included news stories about three Lutheran pastoral candidates who were denied ordination because of their homosexuality, changes in the hierarchy of the Episcopal Church, and a feature on the mayor of Roanoke, Virginia. There were also several reviews and columns.

The name of the newspaper, Bailey said, is a reference to the New Testament where Jesus tells the people stoning the prostitute that those without sin should "cast the first stone." For information about subscriptions, write to *The Second Stone*, P.O. Box 8340, New Orleans, La. 70182.

---

## GLTF Newsletter Information

### Submitting Materials

Materials for publication should be submitted to the Editor, GLTF Newsletter, P.O. Box 15115, Washington, D.C. 20003-0115. Please submit them on MS-DOS formatted diskettes (5.25- or 3.5-inch) as ASCII text, WordPerfect, or Microsoft Word files. Please do not hesitate to contact the Editor for additional information. The information published in the newsletter is obtained from a variety of sources. The newsletter must rely on those sources for accuracy. Names and telephone numbers will be published if submitted. Those not wishing their names, addresses and phone numbers to be printed should indicate this when submitting materials.

### How to Subscribe

A subscription is \$5 for SRRT members and \$10 for all others. Checks should be made payable to GLTF and forwarded to P.O. Box 15115, Washington, D.C. 20003-0115.

A national survey of lesbian and gay couples is being undertaken by *PARTNERS: The Newsletter For Gay & Lesbian Couples*. The research will help determine the nature and needs of this often invisible segment of the gay community. The last major survey of gay and lesbian couples was conducted almost ten years ago.

#### PARTNERS SURVEY FOR LESBIAN & GAY MALE COUPLES

The nation needs data on our community, hence this survey! Feel free to add comments, but keep the survey anonymous by not signing your name. Please complete one survey form per person & post to PARTNERS, Box 9685, Seattle, Washington 98109. To receive survey results, which are expected by January 1989, please send request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

We have been together:

- one year or less
- for \_\_\_ years

I have had \_\_\_ (#) previous major lesbian/gay relationships(s), lasting a total of \_\_\_ years. I've been heterosexually married \_\_\_ (#) time(s).

We met through (choose one):

- work
- friends
- bar
- social event
- religious event
- classified ad
- political event

We are:  female  male

I am: My partner is:

- gay/lesbian
- bisexual
- 
- 

I am: My partner is:

- Black
- White
- Latino/Latina
- Asian/Pacific
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- 

I was raised: My partner:

- working class
- middle class
- moneyed class
- 
- 

I have completed \_\_\_ (#) years of formal education. My partner has completed \_\_\_ (#) years.

I'm politically: My partner:

- very liberal
- liberal
- moderate
- conservative
- very conservative
- 
- 

My faith is: My partner is:

- Protestant
- Jewish
- Catholic
- Atheist/  
Agnostic
- 
-

\_\_\_\_\_

In our relationship, I make

- most decisions
- about half of the decisions
- few decisions

I spend the most leisure time with:

- myself alone
- my partner
- my partner & others together
- people other than my partner

I want:

- more time together
- less time together
- neither more nor less

My partner has asked for:

- 
- 
- 

My yearly income is:

- \$8,000 or below
- \$8,001 - 15,000
- \$15,001 - 25,000
- \$25,001 - 40,000
- \$40,001 - 65,000
- above \$65,000

My partner's income is:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Our income is:

- entirely shared
- partly shared
- not shared

My employer offers my partner:

- health coverage
- other benefits

My partner's employer offers me:

- 
- 

We have experienced discrimination against same-sex couples in:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> employment          | <input type="checkbox"/> taxes     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employment benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> housing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> foster care         | <input type="checkbox"/> adoption  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> membership          | <input type="checkbox"/> insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> credit/banking      | <input type="checkbox"/> hotels    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hospital visitation | <input type="checkbox"/> None      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____               |                                    |

I live in:

- an urban gay neighborhood
- an urban area
- a suburban area
- a rural area

My partner is:

- 
- 
- 
-

In the past year, we lived together:  
 always    sometimes    never

If living together, our residence is:  
 jointly owned  
 owned by one of us  
 rented or leased in one name  
 rented or leased in both names

We care for \_\_\_ (#) children from:  
 previous marriage  
 adoption  
 foster parent program  
 alternative insemination  
 \_\_\_\_\_

We are:  
 planning to have (more) children  
 considering (more) children  
 not planning (more) children

We are sexually:  
 monogamous  
 non-monogamous  
 monogamous w/agreed exceptions

If agreed to mono-	My partner admits to
gamy, I have broken	breaking it:
the agreement:	
<input type="checkbox"/> often	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> sometimes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> rarely	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> never	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the last year, I have had sex with my partner \_\_\_ (#) times a month:

Our sexual interaction is:  
 excellent    good  
 satisfactory    unsatisfactory

I have sex with people other than my partner \_\_\_ (#) times a month.

The role AIDS played in my decision to form my present relationship was:  
 major    minor    none

Regarding AIDS, I am:	My partner is:
<input type="checkbox"/> not at risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> at risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV-positive	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> a person with ARC/AIDS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Within our relationship this past year, we practiced sex that is primarily:  
 safe    possibly safe  
 unsafe    we didn't have sex  
 we're HIV-negative & monogamous

This past year  
outside the relation-  
ship, I have practiced:

- safe sex
- possibly safe sex
- no sex

My partner has  
practiced:

- 
- 
- 
- don't know

The two greatest challenges in our relationship have to do with:

- communication     sex
- money             relatives
- co-workers       health
- neighbors        career
- \_\_\_\_\_

Our relationship has suffered from:

- verbal abuse by partner
- physical abuse by partner
- substance abuse by partner
- verbal abuse by me
- physical abuse by me
- substance abuse by me

We have \_\_\_ (#) big arguments and \_\_\_ (#) small arguments a month

I/we have sought re- Were they  
lationship help from: helpful?

- counselors     yes    no
- clergy         yes    no
- friends       yes    no
- relatives     yes    no

I most often identify    My partner  
my partner as:        calls me:

- spouse
- partner/life partner
- lover
- mate/life mate
- \_\_\_\_\_

We have executed:    We plan to execute:

- wills
- powers of attorney
- partnership or living
- together agreement
- \_\_\_\_\_

We are committed to be together:

- for life                   for a long time
- for a while               briefly

We have ritualized our relationship:

- with a ceremony
- by wearing rings/other symbols
- \_\_\_\_\_

I would rate the quality of our relationship, from 1 (highest) to 7 (lowest), as: \_\_\_\_

Here's how I would rate the support these people give our relationship, from 1 (strong support) to 7 (hostility). (Use "N" if they don't know about the relationship.)

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ____ gay friends               | ____ other friends    |
| ____ church                    | ____ gay church       |
| ____ mother                    | ____ gay siblings     |
| ____ father                    | ____ other relatives  |
| ____ boss                      | ____ other co-workers |
| ____ lesbian/gay couples group |                       |
| ____ other gay organizations   |                       |
| ____                           |                       |

First 3 numbers of my zip code: \_\_\_\_

My partner  is  is not submitting a completed copy of this survey.

Please write here:

- a) books or resources that have best supported your relationship;
- b) hints you would offer to others for making a successful relationship;
- c) political or social victories you have experienced as a gay couple



**GLTF Newsletter**  
**P.O. Box 15115**  
**Washington, D.C. 20003-0115**

**To:**

**FIRST CLASS**