

No More No Less

NEWS FROM THE FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN August 2005

It's a Lucky 13 for the Fair!

If it's hot and steamy and you smell fudge and corn dogs, you must be at the Kentucky State Fair working your shift at the Fairness booth! Since 1992 (lucky 13), the Fairness Campaign and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA) have created and staffed an informative and fun booth at the Kentucky State Fair. This traditional positive and confident presence is critical as the Fairness Campaign defends the local Fairness ordinance and works with KFA to keep heinous legislation from destroying our lesbigaytrans families.

There is still time to sign up for a shift and do your part to talk about who we are and what's at stake to a diverse group of State Fair visitors! Call today and sign-up, 893-0788.

Here are the details: The Fair runs Thursday, Aug. 18 through Sunday, Aug. 28. Fairness will staff three, four-hour volunteer shifts each day of the Fair starting at 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. At least four volunteers will be at every shift. (Do the math, we'll need over 130 volunteers!) Parking and admission passes will be mailed to each volunteer along with a set of instructions about the work to do at the State Fair booth.

Volunteers can have lots of fun, meet interesting people and be public educators for Fairness. As in the past, Fairness T-shirts, progressive buttons and freethinking bumper stickers will be for sale at the booth. Educational materials from Fairness, KFA, PFLAG, LYG and others will be available.

For the last three years efforts to register and survey Fairness friendly voters was very successful so we will continue that practice again this year. Please come to a scheduled orientation and training on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Fairness office. It will be fun, you'll see who you are working with and get to practice talking and reaching out to people combining your story with our rap.

Volunteering at the Kentucky State Fair is a chance for you to give just four hours to your community to keep Fairness strong. Please consider putting together a team of your friends to help out this year.

Don't let this opportunity to engage and educate an amazing cross section of people about who we are pass you by. Call the Fairness office today, 893-0788 to volunteer during this year's Kentucky State Fair. Thanks for your support!

Let's Start Now to Stop Anti-Gay Bills

So have you seen that commercial where a person pulls a credit card out of his or her wallet and a bunch of Viking-like warriors start to storm in? The menacing, sloven, drooling thugs are on the attack. That is how preparing for the 2006 Kentucky General Assembly is starting to feel. There are some scary and outrageous legislative agendas that are driving some of Kentucky's elected officials storming for us. And what are they after? Our civil rights protections.

In outrageous literature being mailed and distributed around town, three right-wing groups have come together to call for *Marriage Harmony Companion Acts* to be passed in the General Assembly. This is a 3-part travesty that will outlaw local civil rights laws, bolster passage of the Federal marriage amendment and re-institute sodomy laws.

But we don't have to read right-wing pamphlets to be sickened by words urging laws to demean our lives and destroy our families. A bill filed in the 2004 legislature strikes fear into GLBT parents and other unmarried couples reads, "An Act relating to child welfare... declare a public policy preference for adoptive homes with married parents, create a rebuttable presumption that it is not in the best interest of the child to be placed in a home where two

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PLAN TO ATTEND

- ★ **Kentucky Fairness Alliance's Statewide Dinner** – Aug. 5, 7 p.m., Brown Hotel, featured speaker Mandy Carter with SONG, tickets \$50.
- ★ **Kentuckiana Pride Festival's Community Conversations** – Aug. 14, 2 p.m. at MCC; Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m. at Inn at Jewish Hospital; Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairness Campaign office.
- ★ **Uncovered: the Whole Truth about the Iraq War** – Aug. 25, 7 p.m., Kentucky Alliance's Reel Revolution film series at the Kentucky Theatre.
- ★ **WorldFest on the Belvedere** – Sept. 2-3, celebration of international music, food and craft in honor of Louisville's rich ethnic diversity.
- ★ **African American & Hispanic Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS** – Sept. 23-24, Louisville Convention Center, see www.kyaalc.com for details
- ★ **13th annual Louisville AIDS Walk and Bridge of Hope 5K Run**, Sunday, Sept. 25, walk steps off at 3 p.m. from the Belvedere, 5th & Main Street. More info at www.louisvilleaidswalk.org.
- ★ **Jobs with Justice National Annual Meeting** – "Build Power...Fight Back...Win!" Sept. 23-25, St. Louis, more at www.kyjwj.org.

you can
make a
difference



September 25, 2005

Stop Anti-Gay Bills

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unmarried persons cohabit or are otherwise engaging in sexual relations; prohibit the cabinet from placing children for adoption in homes where the petitioner or other person acting as a parent in the home is homosexual, bisexual, or transgendered.”

Will a similar bill be filed in 2006? Will it have support to pass and become law or an even more damaging Constitutional Amendment? Some legislators say it is highly likely, others say it's not going to happen.

But make no mistake about this, we have the power in our hearts and with our words and actions to be a force to be reckoned with right now. Let's use the passion we have for our lives and families and move it to action. If legislators see and hear our strength now, we will have a fighting chance. If we all sit on our hands, stymied by fear or apathy or that I-don't-fit-in-feeling, we won't have any chance.

To connect the work being done in Jefferson County, open legislative dialogues are happening at the Fairness Campaign every Tuesday, 5 - 7 p.m. Come to listen and speak out; come to plan and act. Come for the whole two hours or just the last half hour. Your voice is so needed to defend our protections and move Fairness for everyone forward. Call the office for more information, 893-0788.

Fairness welcomes anyone and everyone to lend a helping hand. Check out our website to find something that interests you, then call us up and we'll help you get involved.

Transsistahs

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“We're pleased to have the Fairness Campaign and SONG on board as sponsors for TSTB.” stated Dawn Wilson, the Operations Manager for the conference. “We're tired of the negative connotations that being African-American and transgendered has in the community. We're going to remind people that we are human beings who are proud of our heritage and we are intelligent, hardworking people who have much to offer to society.”

For further information on the Transsistahs and Transbrothas Conference you may contact Dawn Wilson at (502) 899-9139 or e-mail her at dwilson2@chartercom.com

**Find out more @
www.fairness.org**

Why is Dismantling Racism Linked to Dismantling Homophobia and Heterosexism?

by Charlotte Albrecht and Sara Todd

This is the second in a series of articles on white privilege, following the participation of two Fairness Campaign activists in the 6th annual White Privilege Conference. As we are two white identified queer women writing on this topic, this article in particular is addressed specifically to those who benefit from white privilege in some or all parts of their life – transgender, bisexual, same gender loving, gay, lesbian, queer, genderqueer and straight allies alike.

Within the struggle for liberation, there are those of us who identify as white that believe resisting our white privilege is integral to the success of our movement. Some of us may not be so concerned about racism in the liberation work we enable. Regardless, we challenge white identified people struggling for sexual and gender liberation to ask the following question and explore its numerous answers: Why is dismantling racism inextricably linked to dismantling homophobia and heterosexism?

As beneficiaries of white skin privilege, we are witness to countless moments in which we create spaces of QTBLG community that are simultaneously welcoming to whites and racist toward people of color. We experienced this very situation at the White Privilege Conference when an LGBTQ caucus was spontaneously formed. In this predominantly white space (all except one person) we both felt a shift in the consciousness of our privilege. It was as if this space of majority white queers allowed us to turn off the lights and cease any analysis of the privilege in our words, actions, thoughts, and process so that we could access the comfort of a (white) queer space. The silence of others in the room, the lack of challenge from almost all of us in the room toward the white privilege that was there lead us to believe that we were not the only ones in our white queer family to have checked our consciousness at the door.

If it happened so easily during a conference on resisting white privilege, then we must ask ourselves, where else is this happening? How often do white QBGLT's create spaces of belonging at the expense of people of color, especially those identified as QBGLT? When we think of any “gay” spaces in our communities (bars, cafes, bookstores, organizations, etc) are we not also implying that they are predominantly white spaces without examining the white privilege that exists there? Do we as white identified people think that the “gay” spaces we frequent are the only ones that exist? Are we surprised when we learn of “gay” spaces that are primarily for people of color, as if it were a secret up until the moment that we knew about them as well?

White privilege and white supremacy exist within the LGBTQ community. We will never simultaneously end homophobia and heterosexism without also ending racism simply because, in a society built of interconnected institutions, communities, cultures, religions, and lifestyles, all systems of domination and repression depend on each other for existence and survival. We are working to create a society that does not allow *any* ideology to exist which gives inherent superiority to one group over another, which justifies armed, legislative, political, ideological, linguistic, and psychological repression of a group of people.

We as white GLBTQ people and allies must identify the internalized white privilege within our communities and ourselves and understand how it ultimately makes ineffective our own struggle for liberation. We must be resisters of all systems of oppression and not foolishly divide our struggles as disconnected and our personal survival as independent of one another.

Join Us at the Lawn Party - September 4

You're invited to relax with good friends and make new ones, to share good food and conversation, and maybe even dance a bit under the stars. Soon it will be time for the annual Lawn Party, hosted under the big trees at the home of Carla Wallace on Sunday, September 4 from 5 'til 9 p.m. Proceeds from the event benefit the Fairness Campaign and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, longtime allies in the struggle to build a community where ALL people are treated with dignity and equal rights.

The fabulous Wiltshire Pantry will once again cater a delicious dinner. Suggested donations are sliding scale from \$15 to \$500. Everyone is cordially invited, and your RSVP is requested. Detailed announcements will go out in mid August. If you don't receive the printed invite, call the Fairness Campaign at 893-0788 and we'll rush one to you. We don't want anyone to miss this luscious evening in celebration of the work for justice and equality.

Join the Sizzling Summer at Fairness...

Tranz*Action Gets Going Again

After a hiatus, Tranz*Action is revving up again at the Fairness Campaign. With plans for programming and events in the works, Tranz*Action will use education, advocacy, and collaboration with other organizations and agencies to promote transgender inclusion and visibility in our community.

Several key challenges we will keep in mind as we do our work include: the ways in which trans/gender identity impacts and is impacted by other aspects of identity; the tensions within trans communities due to the differences and similarities between people who are transitioning and those who aren't; and the ways in which access to resources and information about transgender identity and experience vary widely based on where we live and whether or not we have access to the internet.

Tranz*Action is planning a series of presentations about transgender identity and experience, beginning with "Transgender 101" on August 31.

A Transgender Round Table Discussion & Town Hall Meeting is also tentatively planned for mid to late September. A panel of transpeople will provide multiple perspectives on transgender identity and experience, and will be followed by an open discussion with attendees about transgender issues in the Louisville area. The time, date, and location of this event will be announced later.

Tranz*Action is also planning presentations about: the diversity of transpeople in the Louisville Metro area; accessing supportive healthcare; employment issues; options for transitioning; family and intimate relationships; and more.

Participation in Tranz*Action is open to anyone interested in working on these issues, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. For more information, please contact the Fairness office at (502) 893-0788 or by email at fairness@fairness.org.

"Transgender 101"

Tranz*Action, a project of the Fairness Community Building Committee, will present *Transgender 101: Basic Information about Transgender Identity and Experience* on Wednesday, August 31 at 7 p.m. at the Fairness Campaign office. This program will offer a look at transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, and intersex identity and experience from an informational perspective. Topics to be covered include the differences between sex, gender, sexual orientation, and sexual identity; basic language and common concepts used within trans-communities; and strategies for being an effective trans-ally. This event is free and open to everyone. Kids are welcome and the space is wheelchair accessible.

The Religious Right is WRONG: the REAL Truth about Sodom and Gomorrah

Join the Fairness Campaign and Bible scholar/author, Pamela Ogilvie, for a special presentation and conversation that will equip social justice advocates in answering back to the religious propaganda of right-wing Christians, especially with the upcoming legislative battles in the upcoming Kentucky General Assembly. Ogilvie will uncover the truth and dispel the lies about Sodom and Gomorrah that have been spoken over the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community for far too long. Please join the Fairness Campaign for this special presentation on Wednesday, August 24, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Fairness Campaign office.

PFLAG Picnic at Bernheim

Everyone's invited to join with PFLAG for a family & friends picnic at the MacGruder picnic area in Bernheim Forest on Saturday, August 27. PFLAG has reserved the picnic area from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and plans are to fire up the grills between 4 and 5 p.m. PFLAG is asking that everyone bring food and drink to share. There is a \$5 per carload admission into Bernheim

It's sure to be a wonderful opportunity for the LGBTQ community to come together with PFLAG and have a fun day. Please come out and invite some friends.

People of Color Gatherings at Fairness

People of Color are coming together for Fairness every 2nd and 4th Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. to share hearts about what would be great to develop inside the heart of Fairness around people of color working with and inside the Campaign and to address the growing, persistent needs of People of Color activists and citizens.

Upcoming People of Color events and meetings include:

- Aug. 22 – "Makes Me Wanna Holla: Keepin' It Real About Being LGBT People of Color"
- Sept. 9 – "You Don't Know My Name: Naming Ourselves"
- Sept. 14-18 – TransSistahs and TransBrothas Conference
- Sept. 23 – "Hot and Bothered: Ways To Cool Off"
- Sept. 23-24 – African American and Hispanic Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS
- Sept. 25 – Louisville AIDS Walk

For more information, please contact Aletha Fields at Fairness, 893-0788 or email fairness@fairness.org.

Last Friday Trolley Hop Stop at Fairness

July 29 was our first LGBT social gathering during the Trolley Hop held on Frankfort Avenue the last Friday of every month. (If you were there, it must have been successful!)

On Aug. 26, 6-9 p.m., the last Friday event will include our annual **Yard Sale**, snacks and hors d'oeuvres and maybe even a little music. Drop off items to sell starting Wednesday, Aug. 24, 5-10 p.m., or Thursday, Aug. 25, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. or on Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. The sale will start Friday evening and continue on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

We have a planning meeting on Wednesdays, Aug. 10, 17 and 24. We need volunteers to make food for Friday night, Aug. 26; help price and sort merchandise on Aug. 24-25; and work the sale on Friday and Saturday.

So plan to bring in some outrageous junk and art objects to wow the trolley hoppin', art watchin' people and let's make some fun and some money for Fairness! Call Fairness, 893-0788 to find out more!

And save the date now for the last Friday, Sept. 30, and help us plan something marvelous to keep the community coming back for more!



P.O. Box 3431
Louisville, Kentucky 40201

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Volunteer for Fairness at the Fair! August 18 - 28



Fairness Forever!

Please make a financial contribution to the work for equality & justice!

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Please make your check payable to
**Fairness Campaign, P.O. Box 3431,
Louisville, KY 40201.**

I prefer my gift remain anonymous.

Transsistahs and Transbrothas Conference

On September 14-18, 2005 Louisville's Galt House Hotel will play host to the first Transsistahs and Transbrothas (TSTB) Conference. This historic event will tackle many of the issues that African-American transpeople face.

This conference, with its theme of 'Defying Gravity', will bring a nationwide gathering of African-American transpeople and their supporters to Louisville for four days of seminars, networking and community forums. It will also include a praise service with Rev. Aletha Fields, and for the first time at any transgender convention an education and job fair.

"It's symbolic that Louisville was chosen as the site for the convention," commented TSTB organizing committee member Monica Roberts. "We're having it at a hotel on the banks of the Ohio River, which to our ancestors represented freedom from the oppression of slavery. Today their transgendered descendants face oppression in terms of people hostile to our existence inside and outside of the African-American community, underemployment and unemployment, and alarming increases in HIV/AIDS infection rates."

The conference came about as a result of discussions on the 400 member Transsistahs Yahoo list Monica founded on New Year's Day 2004. Several members were recounting stories about their experiences at the transgender community's premier event, the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta.

Laments about the lack of a similar event geared toward African-American transpeople and a support infrastructure similar to the one the white transgender community has built over two decades galvanized the group to begin planning TSTB in November 2004.

Estimates by the Convention and Visitors Bureau of TSTB's economic impact for the Louisville area range from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million, and the competition was fierce among several area hotels to land the conference.

The convention organizers have committed themselves to utilizing local African-American owned and operated businesses for their services. All who wish to support this historic event will be welcomed with open arms and several local businesses have expressed interest in supporting the TSTB Conference

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