

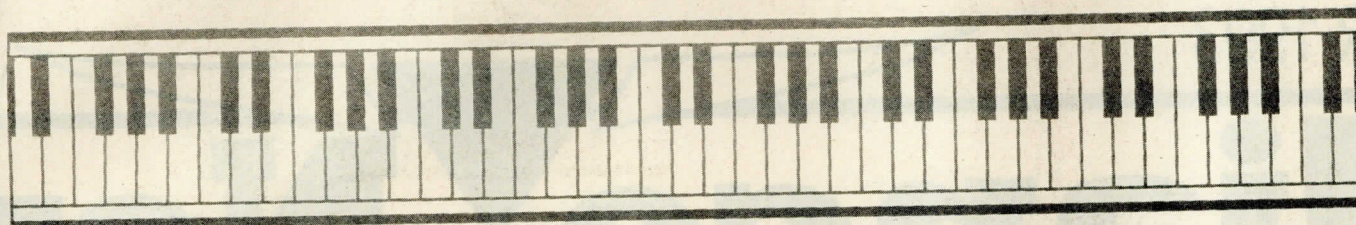
OCTOBER 1993

Volume 13, Issue 10

Alliance News



CLEVE JONES,
Quilt founder:
'Don't lose
hope – they
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died in vain.'
See story p. 12



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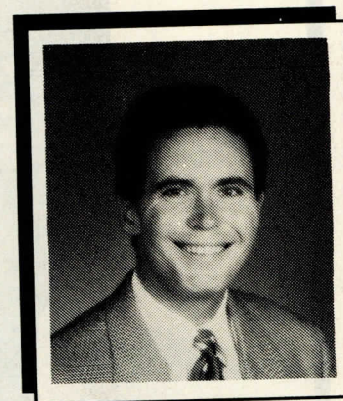
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JUST HOW FAR OUT CAN WE COME?

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

The report in last month's *Alliance News* on the lesbian couple here granted co-parenting status traveled a delicate line between privacy issues, protective issues and the need to inform our community. The need to inform was compelling: if one person among us gains a right, it is only an exception if no others have access to it.

Still, even this limited publicizing of the event endangered future cases. Hollace Weiner of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, alerted by the *Alliance News* account, broke the story in mainstream press. Coverage on the same page of the mother in Virginia who would lose custody of her child because of her lesbian relationship provided a backdrop of the reality we face: the outcome of the Virginia case is a familiar one to us; the outcome of the couple's case here provides a glimmer of hope for us all, but only if those resources remain intact.

When the story broke TCLGA received a flurry of media attention from reporters pressing for access to the couple. Most were sensitive to the reasons behind our "no comments." Still, *The Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Post* and then the AP wire carried the item, citing from Weiner's article, and radio talk shows in the area referred to the case as a contrast to the Virginia court decision.

We were concerned about the coverage because of possible repercussions. In two states laws prohibit adoptions by same-gendered couples.

In Texas, where the legislature takes ludicrous measures to uphold the Sodomy Law and the State Supreme Court still is dumbfounded in its decision, it is simply a matter here that no one has yet thought to prohibit our adoptions. We didn't want to give the opposition room for any such ideas.

And it is paramount that the judge handing down the favorable decision continue to remain in office. In this conservative climate, anonymity is imperative.

The aftermath of the coverage was far less than projected. At press

time, one scathing letter to the editor had appeared in the *Star-Telegram*, calling for the judge's identity. At last reporting, one woman had phoned the *Star-Telegram* asking for the judge's name for reprisal. On the other hand, one lesbian called there for a referral, interested in pursuing the legal procedure herself.

The fears and risks of exposure on this issue carried some intense realizations about the role of our community within the larger society. I had to ask myself some tough questions: Why couldn't we and our allies offset negative commentaries with our own public, loudly vocal show of support for the couple? Instead of waiting nervously for some hideous law to be introduced against us, why can't we take the initiative to introduce protective and enabling laws on our behalf? Why can't we, by our own grassroots organizing, keep an enlightened judge elected to office?

Why do the voices of the opposition carry more weight, wield more power than our own, when we are the ones with everything to lose?

In answering these questions for myself, I realized fully that we are not quite there, not yet organized enough to exert our influence collectively on the institutional processes. In our community the word "political" recoils; some think it

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The Alliance News is published monthly and distributed to community-based organizations and businesses throughout the county. Viewpoints expressed herein are not official views of TCLGA unless explicitly stated. Inclusion of any name or photograph is not a representation of sexual orientation.

We welcome submissions of materials relevant to the lesbian/gay culture, including illustrations, photography, columns, features, short stories, poetry, reviews, etc. We reserve the right to enforce our own judgments regarding the suitability of advertising copy and submitted materials. We cannot return manuscripts unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Alliance News

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Coming Out to be more 'in'

GIVE A GIFT IN SHARING

By SUZANNE LEWIS

About to enjoy the luxury of an indoor hot tub on vacation, I heard Suzanne Sugarbaker bark, "I don't care if she did just come out at her age!"

"No, Suzanne, she doesn't mean coming out in a cotillion; she's a lesbian," a cohort on *Designing Women* patronizingly explains.

Having seen this episode before, I did not rush to the living room where Kathy had fallen asleep. I already knew the story: having discovered that a former beauty pageant contestant is a lesbian, Suzanne cancels their dinner engagement. She is afraid of being propositioned.

In the spirit of half-hour sitcoms all turns out happily for the heterosexuals in the audience. Suzanne and "the token lesbian" have a heart-to-heart talk in a steam room with Suzanne gaily promising to find her friend a "Mr. Right." Stereotypical, trite and, while amusing, doing little to enhance Linda Bloodworth Thompson's claim to being liberal.

My own experience with "coming out" to friends has not been so positive, or so glib.

Ten years ago I developed a simple philosophy: do not tell anyone that

I am gay. Downplay the fact that I share the important parts of my life with the woman I live with (the ones which make it pretty unlikely that "we are just saving expenses"). I had no intentions of "coming out" because experience had taught me that the person I came out to would immediately recast their perception of me. Sadly, for most of my life, other people's perceptions were more important to me than my own.

With this philosophy firmly entrenched, it took me four years of friendship with one particular colleague to muster the courage to tell her I am gay. In those days I did not identify myself as lesbian, but rather as "gay," which seemed a less threatening, more generic term. I do not remember my exact words, but I am certain they were more roundabout, cloaked in self-defacement. I do remember the deafening silence that greeted me when I had finished speaking. Magically the Berlin Wall had dropped between us as we sat on a brown sofa looking out over University Avenue.

I was devastated. But for three years I accepted the new distant relationship defined by her denial of my disclosure. Instead of being an-

gry at her, I was angry with myself for having to test the truth of my philosophy to never disclose or in any way allow myself to be vulnerable to the discovery that I am gay - that my behavior is different from what society teaches us is acceptable and normal. I even gave her an out for her own behavior: she was pregnant at the time.

Sharon and I now have a relationship no longer based on my unacknowledged anger or her rejection. Ironically, I have therapy for an eating disorder to thank. When a group counselor announced that one day we would all be grateful for having acknowledged our problem, I concluded that she was an idiot. Her words, "Recovery will be a key to self-knowledge," however, proved prophetic.

Two months into therapy the group had family night. Everyone was encouraged to bring members of their family or close friends to a group session. I wanted to take someone. I asked Sharon, the woman who had rejected me earlier. Although it is now difficult to explain, she was the person I wanted to take.

CONTINUED ON P. 22

Public Enemy/Public Friend

WE CAN CREATE OUR OWN MAINSTREAM IMAGE

By Cyndl Drolet

Mainstreaming. Outreach. Empowerment.

Today's catchwords ring out strong – clarion calls to action. We march forth under their verbal banner, secure within the safety of our community. We assure ourselves of the progress that we're making, point proudly to the publications – *TWIT*, *The Texas Triangle*, *10 Percent*, *Out*, *The Alliance News*, and others – that herald our successes. We congratulate ourselves for a Gay Pride Parade that delighted, a Picnic that satisfied, a Coronation that drew attention, a Spotlight Show that drew

applause, the Quilt display that drew thousands, and a myriad other fund-raisers and benefits that garnered needed funds for those causes that are dear to us.

And we eagerly anticipate coming events: The International Gay Rodeo this month, *fort worth formal* this New Year's Eve, and *The Stars at Night* next summer.

We have good cause to celebrate. Our accomplishments are notable; they're important – and they're news.

Not gay-soldiers-slain-by-fellow-officers kind of news. Not gay-man-indicted-on-charges-of-indecency

kind of news. And not lesbian-arrested-in-bar-brawl kind of news.

They're feel-good news you can mainstream by. They're news items that can be used to refocus media attention on us and provide a more positive outlook on our community.

We have a choice. We can allow the media to create our "public" image for us, or we can empower ourselves further by helping to create our own mainstream image.

For some, the choice will be an easy one. Others, though, will have to balance the fear of homophobic repercussions with the extended

outreach that only mainstream publications can give. If we confine ourselves exclusively to our community publications, then we'll never reach the many of us who are so closeted that they are never "out" anywhere to pick up the publications that let them know what's going on in the community, that let them know they are not so isolated and alone as they may think.

Whether it's "hard" news or simply information on upcoming events, we need to disseminate it through mainstream channels, as well as through our own covert ones. We need to develop relationships with the media, and to promote images that belie the negative stereotypes

imposed upon us by a largely unfor-giving public.

Best of all, the publicity – when provided – is free.

Any community organization is welcome to contact the Alliance for media lists of gay-oriented and mainstream publications and contacts. There are professionally trained volunteers available who will help you compile and/or edit your first press releases or news articles until you're comfortably established with the process.

Our public image is in our collective hand. We empower ourselves by opening our hand and extending it – to each other, to the community and to the media.

COMMUNITY MAIL BOX

American first, queer second

In response to Ron Streff's article, "Thoughts on my Mind": It may surprise any reader that one can be conservative politically and homosexual at the same time. I am a member of a minority within a minority. I don't mind. I've always enjoyed the battle. In Streff's article, his catalyst boils down to the statement, "I have friends who are Republicans, which is fine, as long as they don't vote for one." I try to find logic in this statement. I do applaud Streff's class in making his issue that the named Republicans are homophobes and not, as I often encounter, that these people are the "lowest scum on the earth and have no moral decency" ... in other words, personal attacks on the individual's character instead of facing the perceived issue(s).

Streff states, "Everyone has to decide for themselves where lesbian/gay issues rank on their priority list." Thank you for that at least. It seems a number of lesbian/gay people feel that there is no priority list; that it is a list of *one* issue. I am surprised at Streff's naivete concerning this statement though. I am very sure that if you sat down with any gay or lesbian, any person no matter their orientation, you will soon get the same top priority ... money, economics, their job, paying rent, medical bills, food, etc. And as much as I have been told not to do so, I

tor Gramm, Representative Geren and Mayor Granger vote "against" us. Unless his head has been in the sand, he should know that (1) we comprise approximately 10 percent of the population, (2) elected officials represent their constituency, and (3) homosexuality is still generally not accepted by society as a whole. It should follow that the named people *may* simply be representing their constituency. I do consider it a cheap shot that Streff calls Senator Gramm hateful. I do not know the Senator personally enough to know whether he has a "hateful" character or not. If Streff does, he does not document such personal relationship.

Streff poses the rhetorical question, "Why would gays and lesbians knowingly vote for a homophobe?" First, whether the named people are homophobes is an opinion in that it is a subjective judgment. In my opinion, as I have stated, these people are simply representing their constituency.

To answer the question though, if everything else was equal I definitely would *not* vote for someone I considered to be a homophobe. However, that is utopia. This country is mired in debt created by an unresponsive, free-wheeling, privileged royalty which calls itself Congress. Politicians spend one-half of their time getting re-elected, one-quarter of their time on taxpayer-

my opinion if these people's actions are not stopped this country in its present constitutional form will not continue. I could continue for pages on the waste, fraud and abuse that Congress has inflicted on the American people for nearly 30 years, but I have made my point. Senator Gramm knows this and stood up for America when he co-wrote *Gramm-Rudman*. Unfortunately he did not foresee Congress changing the rules later on and effectively cancelling his effort. Had Congress not changed the rules for *Gramm-Rudman*, today we would have a balanced budget. I vote on issues important to the country, to the Republic, some

CONTINUED ON P 5

October TCLGA Meeting:

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Residents begging to move in

OCCUPANCY DELAYED INDEFINITELY

By **BEVERLY FLETCHER**

A sea of paperwork has buried Samaritan Housing, Inc., according to Executive Director Carol Hendrix, who is working frantically to satisfy filing requirements of four authorizing agents. Scheduled to open in early September soon after the dedication ceremonies in August, the 32-unit housing facility for people with AIDS still remains empty and Hendrix cannot predict when it will open its doors for occupancy.

"People are living in their cars, begging to come in," an anxious Hendrix related, and the waiting list for residency will fill the facilities to capacity when it is approved to open.

But getting to that point is a

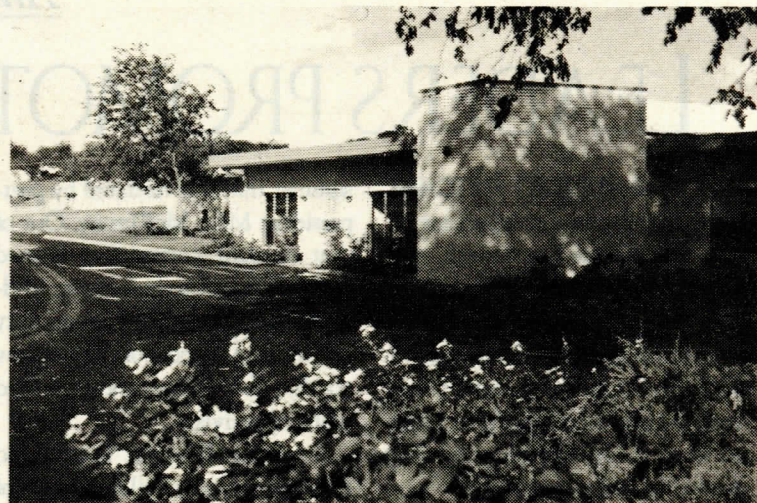
mind-boggling task of melding the differing form and report requirements of HUD, the Public Housing Authority, the mortgaging bank and Tarrant County Housing Partnership, which provide grants and financing. The delays are arising out of the difficulty in addressing paperwork that is incompatible between the agencies.

In comparison, the City of Fort Worth issued a Certificate of Occupancy to Samaritan Housing months ago, Hendrix said.

Impossible paperwork "is the reason people in other communities trying to do this eventually give up, just say, 'I quit,'" Hendrix projected. Especially vexing to her are the HUD requirements regulated by what she refers to as a "Big

Machine" of 13,000 employees. Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros "will never be able to clean this up," she said of his planned reforms, "but everyone should tell him 'right on - keep on trying.'"

In the meantime, Hendrix continues to plug away form by form until all requirements are met. "This isn't going to break our spirit," she promised, and neither will she be daunted in achieving the federal funding available. "The money is out there and due our community," she related, "this is just one of those times when you have to follow the rules instead of make waves."



NO ONE'S HOME: Scheduled to open in early September, the housing unit for people with AIDS still sits empty. According to the Samaritan Housing director, the work required to turn the damaged structure of the abandoned hospital into a homey residence was easy compared to filing the mounds of paperwork required to open its doors.

MAIL BOX

continued from p. 4

thing I know is greater, much more valuable than simply my sexual orientation. I am gay. I am proud. But first, I am an American.

Maybe I should turn the question around and pose, "Which is worse: voting for someone you know is a homophobe, or voting for someone who says they feel your pain then when elected turns their back?"

vote for the candidate you choose." What kind of service is it to the gay and lesbian community when any article belittles any segment of the community it supposedly serves? I contend that real objective editorial focus is needed.

-Charles D. Robertson

The Alliance News welcomes submissions to the Community Mail Box, which shall serve as a forum for the diverse viewpoints within our community. Publishing of submissions will be determined by space available.

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Alliance directors, officers elected

LEADERS PROMOTE INCLUSIVENESS, EFFICIENCY

By **BEVERLY FLETCHER**

With the election of board members and officers last month, the Alliance is realigning to meet challenges arising from the community's growth this past year. According to Susan Steele, recently elected president, the new leadership is focusing on ways to manage programming efficiently and interactively.

The Alliance leadership intends to capitalize on the multifaceted direction identified at the community-wide Town Hall meeting this

summer that was initiated by past-president Mike McKinney. Out of that meeting committees formed under TCLGA to investigate leadership development, a community center, the needs of lesbian/gay youth, public image, and organized political activism.

Steele said her goal "is to add to this beginning by building layers of involvement from all aspects of the community, to broaden the impact and stability of Alliance programs." She sees her role as a facilitator to implement the vision that has preceded her, and refers to the leadership, experience and dedication represented on the board as vital elements to achieving "this dynamic organization's potential."

Daune Littlefield, elected vice president, and new secretary Cyndi Drolet are concentrating on inclusiveness and tolerance within the community. Both see these as important factors in developing a united, more powerful front on social issues.

Littlefield points to the enemy of horizontal hostility - destructive and demeaning actions within the community that result from internalized homophobia and prejudice.

She seeks to encourage support and understanding by emphasizing similarities over differences and creating opportunities for dialogue, constructive feedback and affirmation.

Littlefield says she would like to "continue to improve the knowledge base we have in defining gay/lesbian issues and clarify specific roles the Alliance can play in obtaining these goals."

Drolet plans to contribute to the community's positive public image by celebrating diversity and bridging differences.

Treasurer Angela Lansey, a bonded notary public and accountant of 25 years, is analyzing effi-

ciency in records as a means to an end. "Instituting professional accounting and management procedures now will carry us into 1994's anticipated growth in membership and possible grant dollars," she says.

New board members elected to two-year terms at the September Alliance meeting are Drolet, a public relations professional; Mary Ellen Edwards, a social worker; Littlefield,

AIDS Outreach Center's director of client services; Jim Martin, an assistant professor in social work; Mike Martin, an engineer; and Ron Streff, political activist.

Board members serving the second year of their terms are Beverly Fletcher, marketing specialist; Lansey; Frank Provasek, a business manager; Earle Smith, fine arts performer; and Steele, an occupational therapist.



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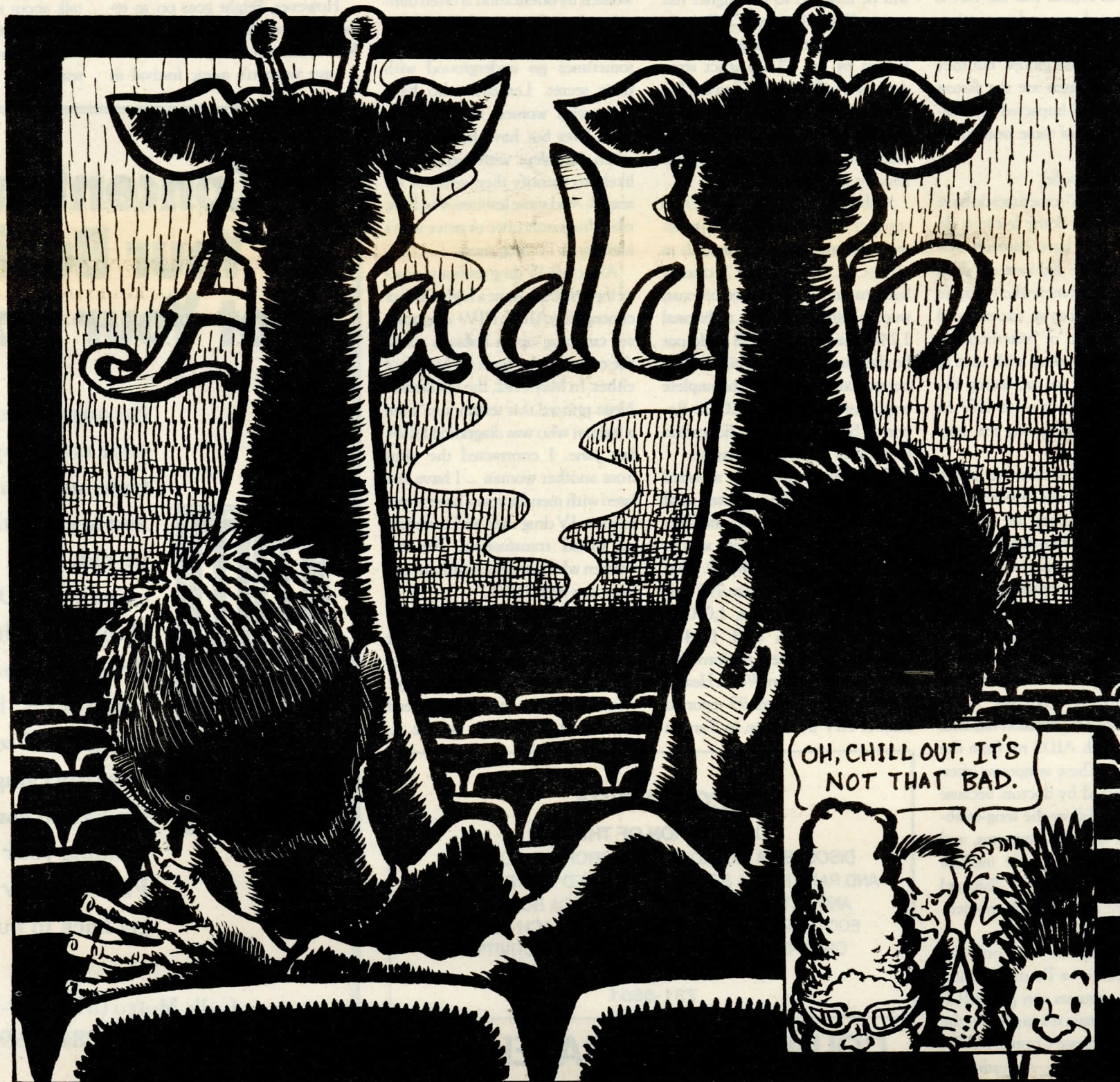
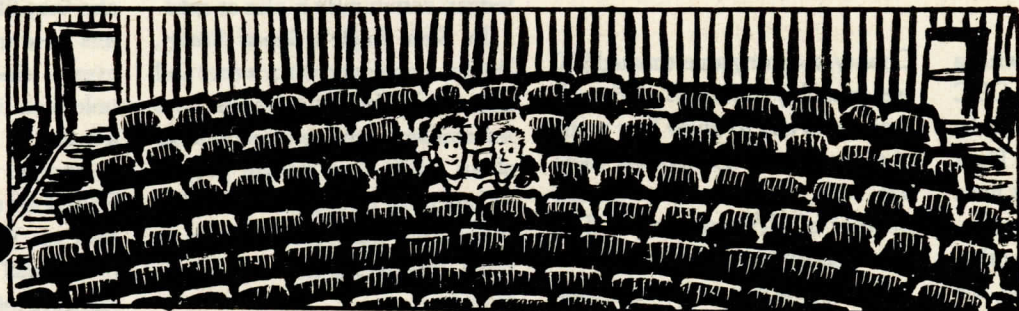
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Fatal Attraction

The love affair lesbians have had with a sense of immunity from HIV is now over. Overlooked on the books, misdiagnosed, lesbians are at risk for AIDS too.

By Beverly Bennett

In August an Austin doctor reported that two lesbians whose only risk behavior was female-to-female sex are HIV positive.

A false sense of security has settled over the lesbian community where AIDS is concerned. Many of us believe that lesbians are somehow immune to AIDS. But the fact is that lesbians have, and are getting, AIDS. Yes, the numbers are smaller than in other risk groups, but they are there. Women are the fastest growing AIDS-impacted population, and some of those women are lesbians.

Forget the myths.

"Real lesbians" sometimes do have sex with men. Some lesbians do shoot drugs or have partners that use. And some lesbians do sleep with bisexual women who—despite the fact that they've experienced the gratification of "sisterhood"—will continue to sleep with men as well. And now we are seeing the first wave of exposure to HIV in women who are having sex only with women.

Furthermore, women are falling through the cracks invisibly because their symptoms are different from men's and often misdiagnosed. Symptoms in women include chronic yeast infection, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and a host of other gynecological problems. Later stages of HIV in women include cervical cancer. In fact, an AIDS educator from the AIDS Equity League in Houston has said, "Women with AIDS rot from the inside out." These symptoms often go undetected by doctors because they do not follow the long-established list of HIV symptoms, and the predominantly male medical establishment tends to disregard the significance of such women-specific symptoms.

The assumption that only bisexual women or IV drug addicts and their partners can pass AIDS female-to-female is a myth that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) helps to perpetuate. According to

unless she has not had sex with a man since before 1977. The CDC does not even list lesbian transmission of HIV as a category. Their excuse is that "lesbians don't have much sex."

If an HIV+ lesbian has any other risk factors, such as IV drug use, she will be assigned to the higher risk group. If she has no CDC-designated risk factors and qualifies as a lesbian by the CDC's strict standards, she will be assigned to the "no identified risk" group. This group contains twice as many women as men; the number who are lesbians remains undisclosed.

Although the CDC has yet to conduct a study on female-to-female transmission, their records as of Sept. 30, 1989, showed 79 cases of lesbians and 103 cases of bisexual women with AIDS. An additional 1,242 women with AIDS could not be classified as lesbians, bisexuals or heterosexuals due to incomplete responses (Jan. 1991 SIECUS Report—Sex Information Education Council of the United States).

Those were only the reported cases. To obtain the estimated total number of HIV+ cases, the Fort Worth Health Department says to multiply reported cases by 10. That means by 1989 there were 790 estimated cases in lesbians, 1,030 in bisexual women and 12,420 uncategorized cases nationwide. According to the Fort Worth Health Department, there are 95 reported cases of HIV in women in Tarrant

County, meaning an estimated 950 are probably infected. Although there is no way to know how many of these women are lesbians, there has been a 394 percent overall increase of HIV+ women in Tarrant County in the last four years.

Identifying risk and categorizing women by orientation is often difficult at best. Because of their stigma in our community, bisexual women sometimes go underground with their secret. Lesbians who have been with women most of their adult lives but have had a period when they slept with men are not likely to identify themselves as bisexual. And some lesbians who have tried drugs only once or twice won't identify as IV drug users.

Although IV drug users and practicing bisexuals have a higher risk of contracting AIDS, HIV+ diagnoses are cropping up in lesbians across the country who have no history of either. In May 1992, the *LN Lesbian News* printed this testimony: "I am a lesbian who was diagnosed HIV+ last June. I contracted the virus from another woman ... I have not been with men for years, have never been an IV drug user, and have had no blood transfusions. All the women who have been with my ex-lover are now HIV+."

Another woman writes, "When I went to get tested for HIV, I never dreamed I would be positive. Something however, made me go get tested, and when the counselor read my results, I couldn't believe it.

Everything I'd read and heard—everything we've been told—is that lesbians were at the lowest risk. Granted, I had not practiced safer sex, but in the last 10 years I had only been with women ... The lesbian community is under the impression that we are immune. We are not immune ... Get tested."

How many of these poignant stories will we have to hear? How many lesbians' funerals will we have to attend before we believe that the lesbian community is also at risk?

In *Susie Bright's Sexual Reality*, Bright, a popular erotica writer and dedicated safer sex advocate, says lesbians are even more xenophobic about AIDS than straight people. "There is the message in the lesbian community that AIDS belongs to them [gay men], not us," Bright writes.

However, Bright goes on to reveal some startling statistics. A 1987 Kinsey Institute study conducted at a large women's music festival in

the Midwest found that after eliminating straight and bisexual women, 46 percent of the lesbians who responded to the survey had had sexual contact with men since 1980; one-third of their male partners were bisexual or gay. Seventy percent of the women used no condoms. Why?

Maybe because, unlike straight women who are becoming used to keeping condoms on hand, lesbians are less likely to think about it. It is also very likely that these encounters were unplanned, spontaneous events since it would be very unlesbian-like to plan to sleep with a man.

Another risk problem is that lesbians don't talk about sex, much less safer sex. Want to clear a room full of lesbians? Just mention the techniques of safer sex. Sure, it's okay to talk about it in abstract terms, but mention how to cut a condom open for safer oral sex and watch the reaction.

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about sex. Many safer sex educators believe that the first step lesbians must take is to start talking among ourselves about what we like, what we do and how we might do those things more safely. The message of "nice girls don't talk about sex" so firmly ingrained in too many of our minds must be abandoned, for how can a safer-sex agenda be developed for lesbians if we are too embarrassed to talk about sex?

What can we do to better protect ourselves? Start by talking about risk with both friends and lovers. Keep safer sex products within easy reach. Consider a variety of creative safer-sex practices you can incorporate into your intimacy.

It is also our responsibility to pressure the CDC to conduct a study on female-to-female risks. Lesbians are a double minority in the medical field. Women's health gets neglected by most of the nation's health systems, and lesbian health care is almost nonexistent.

At first, safer sex may seem em-

romantic. It is up to us to make it romantic, convenient and erotic. Some lesbians say they get giddy just hearing the snap of a latex glove. Of all people, we who have sat so close to AIDS should realize the need to be cautious. How many times have you sat through a male friend's funeral, thought back to your own playful youth, and said, "But there for the grace of God go I"?

Resources

For more information about lesbians and AIDS, testing, and safer sex supplies:

- AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth; 817/335-1994.

- Nelson-Tebedo Community Clinic for AIDS Research, 4012 Cedar Springs, Dallas; 214/528-2336.

- Gay Men's Health Crisis (oldest and largest not-for-profit AIDS

0000.

Books:

- *Lesbians Talk (Safer Sex)* by Sue O'Sullivan & Pratibha Parmer, Scarlet Press (London), 1992.

- *Susie Bright's Sexual Reality: A Virtual Sex World Reader*, Cleis Press (San Francisco), 1992.

Safer sex supplies and toys:

- Good Vibrations, 938 Howard Street, Ste. 101, San Francisco, CA 94103; 415/974-8990.

Copies of a survey on female-to-female practices and risks are at the Alliance office. Lesbians and bisexual women are encouraged to fill out and mail in this anonymous survey being conducted by the AIDS Equity League Lesbian AIDS Project. Their goal is to pressure the CDC into finally doing a study on HIV risks in lesbians.

Hot and Healthy

Safer sex tips for women serve up erotic adventure

1. Talk to your prospective partner about risks and each other's history. Ask her if she has been tested for HIV in the last six months. Ask how much time had passed between her last sexual encounter and the test. Consider going to the Health Department, the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, TCMERF or a health fair together to get tested and retested.

In the meantime, practice safer sex with her and continue to do so until you have passed the six-month window from your last sexual encounters. Then get retested. If you are not absolutely certain you will both be monogamous, continue to practice safer sex.

2. One aspect of safer sex means wearing surgical gloves for digital sex. This is especially true for fisting and having sex during one's period. Safer sex educators now theorize that one way lesbians have been infected is by exposure of their fingers – which may have tiny, unnoticed cuts on them – to tiny tears in their partner's vaginal walls during vigorous sex. And who on earth can gauge the difference between vigorous and non-vigorous sex? So be careful and wear the gloves. A box of 50 can be purchased at medical supply houses for about \$10. If you happen to be sensitive to the talc on some gloves, rinse them off with clear water just prior to sex, or order the kind without talc.

3. Unless you feel comfortable with each other's status, avoid direct genital-to-genital contact (rubbing). This is a gray area that researchers know little about, but the CDC says to avoid the exchange of vaginal secretions. To be safer, both partners should wear underwear when practicing rubbing. One way to make this more fun is to buy each other sexy underwear. Just remember to buy underwear that adequately covers the vaginal area or you've defeated your purpose. Underwear is not latex, but it will help reduce the likelihood of passing vaginal fluids. Or, to avoid direct genital-to-genital contact, stay on her leg or other body parts that do not have mucous membranes or open cuts. Unbroken skin is an excellent barrier to AIDS. And remember not to let those vaginal secretions come in contact with your mouth later on.

4. For oral sex, dental dams have been the most preached recommendation. But dams are expensive, hard to find and not much fun to use. And no study has ever been done on their safety in regard to HIV.

An easy alternative is to take an unlubricated condom (still unrolled) and slit it once from tip to rolled lip. Then unroll the condom and stretch it across your partner's vaginal area. For added safety and ease, put a non-oxynol-9 water-based lube on the vaginal area first and then apply the condom. Always use a water-based lubrication since petroleum products can break down condoms.

Plastic wrap – such as Handi-Wrap – also has its merits, although Hepatitis B can penetrate the plastic. If you choose plastic wrap, use the nonmicrowaveable kind – it's less porous – and double ply it. Plastic wrap is inexpensive and easy to obtain, and it is far better to use something than nothing at all. Unless you are very sure of each other's status, it is best to avoid oral sex altogether during one's period.

5. Topical yeast infection medications such as Monistat have petroleum in them, which will break down a condom. HIV-infected women have been found to have higher concentrations of HIV in their vaginal fluids during yeast infections.

6. Always clean shared sex toys with bleach or alcohol followed by soap and water before passing the toys between partners. (The lather is to prevent discomfort from the bleach/alcohol.) Always put a fresh condom on dildos. If using a harness, wear underwear to avoid direct contact with vaginal fluids. If financially feasible, each woman should have her own set of toys (including harness).

7. Although there is not enough HIV in saliva to be passed through kissing, the Health Department recommends using care when practicing deep kissing, especially if one of you has cuts or sores in the mouth. Also be aware that brushing your teeth or flossing can cause bleeding gums. It is the possible presence of blood in the mouth to avoid, not saliva.

Keep in mind that the CDC has no documented cases of HIV infection through kissing, so this is a theoretical risk. It is highly unlikely that two people could exchange enough saliva to cause an infection.

8. If a woman is lactating (has breast fluids as a result of pregnancy), do not suck her breasts unless you are certain of her HIV status. Cases of mothers and babies passing the virus from one to the other have been documented.

9. If you sleep with men, insist on using non-oxynol-9 lubricated condoms. Being a lesbian will not wave magic fairy dust over your head if you occasionally sleep with men. There isn't any magic fairy dust for lesbian IV drug users either, so don't share needles or works, or at the very least soak them in bleach and water for 10 minutes first, and throw away the solution after each use.

While all of this may sound overwhelming, most safer sex educators believe that having unprotected sex during one's period and exchanging sex toys are the two most probable risks in female-to-female encounters. Deciding which, if any, safer sex practices you need to incorporate into your own life is a personal decision.

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COMING OUT OF THE VIOLENT CLOSET

BY MARY ELLEN EDWARDS, MSSW, CSW

The Cycle of Violence – Part II:

When the honeymoon ends

"You hit me, call me names, blame me, discard my feelings and then call me mean and cruel when I say I have a hard time believing you when you say you're sorry!"

Last month's article on gay/lesbian domestic violence talked about the "cycle of violence," or the repeating pattern of tension-building, violence and the "honeymoon" phases. It is most often in this honeymoon phase that the victim of an abusive person hears the "I love you's" and the "please forgive me's." It is most often in the "honeymoon" phase that the pattern of abuse is reinforced, ensuring that violence from the abuser will occur again.

The "honeymoon" phase usually begins immediately after the vio-

lence has ended, when the batterer attempts to console, soothe, comfort or seek forgiveness from the victim of his/her violence. This pattern does not occur in all relationships with an abusive partner but is very common, most especially in the earlier stages of the relationship, and contributes to the perpetuation of the violence. This time is a very confusing turn-around for the victim, and for those outside looking in. But understanding the honeymoon phase is the most important step in understanding the cycle of violence.

In providing services to victims of abuse I've often heard the victim describe the abuser as a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality. One minute the abuser is the sensitive, caring person the victim fell in love with; the next, a "different person" – angry, uncontrollable and violent. In fact, it's the sensitive, caring side of the abuser that others usually see. That's why

they often deny that the abuser is violent, or believe that the victim is making it up. Or they believe the victim must be the violent one. And they are the ones who will blame the victim for not leaving.

When abusers choose to lash out violently – and often unexpectedly – they are experiencing a release – an inappropriate and temporary release, but a release just the same. It's the build-up and the violent release that spurs the "Hyde" comparison. As after any release, however, there is a return to calmness, and it is then that the abuser often begins to fear the partner will turn away emotionally or else physically leave.

Most often it is the fear and not a true empathic response that prompts the abuser's apologies. It is not uncommon to hear the sobs or the "I don't know why I do this; you have to help me not hurt you"

entreaties such as those related last month in the story of Patrick and Stephen, when Stephen (the abuser) insisted on washing Patrick's battered face.

What is actually happening when the abuser offers apologies, comfort and "flowers" (another term used for the honeymoon phase is the "hearts and flowers" phase) is that the abuser is actually seeking comfort, solace and reassurance that the partner will not leave: seeking through giving.

And the seeking can be, and most always is, relentless until the victim "gives in" – which can take anywhere from a few moments to several years. Staying with or returning to an abusive partner is mostly the result of this "honeymoon" behavior; of the victim's unwillingness to experience the physical and emotional preparedness and energy

needed to leave; of the shock, numbness and feelings of guilt, worthlessness and shame the victim feels after the abuse; and of the danger involved in leaving.

Gay and lesbian couples receive little in the way of community support to begin with. Victims in abusive relationships receive even less support, often because they let go of friends and back away from community involvement, sometimes at the direct insistence of their abusers and sometimes as a result of their abusers' paranoia and jealousy. Consequently, the abuser becomes the source of comfort, and in many cases the sole source of comfort, for the victim, particularly after an abusive episode.

Too, it is not uncommon for the abusive partner to insist on having

CONTINUED ON P. 23

AIDS EDUCATION ISN'T WORKING

Need chapters on self-worth, self-respect

By LAURIE BARKER
Public Health Department

I have been an HIV/AIDS educator for six years now. Just when I think I've "seen it all" someone or something comes along to make me realize that I haven't even come close. A few weeks ago I tested a friend who lived with an HIV-positive partner for several years. My friend is very educated about this disease and how to prevent it, yet he was SCARED. He's tested negative several times, but apparently there was a "potential exposure" (that's what we call unprotected sex here in the Health Department) and he had been experiencing symptoms that might have been HIV-related.

Fortunately he is negative. Hopefully he will stay negative. When I made my usual speech about protecting yourself and taking charge of your life because there's no cure for HIV, he said, "There is a cure – education."

Education. I wish that it was a cure. It seems so simple. Back in 1988, I really believed that if ev-

we could stop the spread of this disease.

Education by itself, though, is not enough. Just before I gave my friend his negative results, I had to tell a 22-year-old that he was infected. When this young man came in to test, I remember being impressed by the wealth of his knowledge about HIV. He wanted to complete his medical education and work in obstetrics, to help bring life into the world. He had a negative test last year, he told me, and thought this one would be negative as well.

What he didn't tell me, until we got into the partner notification talk that accompanies positive HIV tests, was this: a month after he tested negative he went to a bathhouse somewhere in California. Multiple partners, anonymous sex. You know the rest.

Is education enough? What makes an "educated" person take a chance on becoming infected with this virus? Upon reflection I see that this is nothing new. People take all sorts of chances with their health. Smoking causes cancer – people

have to die of something – I might as well enjoy myself" seems to excuse all kinds of risky behavior.

I can prevent AIDS, but ultimately only in myself. Education is not a cure. Taking responsibility for your own health is the only thing that will protect you from a disease which is almost completely preventable. Because of the vagaries of human nature people will continue to take health risks. Because not everyone looks at themselves and says, "I can prevent AIDS," there will be more people nervously waiting for results. There will be more grief, more "How will I tell my lover? my mother? my friends?"

My friend was relieved beyond belief that he came back HIV-negative. He has stated that he will NEVER, under any circumstances, do anything to put himself at risk EVER AGAIN.

Education is part of the solution. The HIV-positive man was surprised beyond belief, and angry and scared. He just didn't think it would happen to him.

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A challenge in resources:

TGRA'S hosting of IGRA Rodeo this month calls for Fort Worth ingenuity, volunteers

By **JOHN CANTWELL**

At a recent Sunday afternoon meeting of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, president

Bill Peace for nearly two hours reviewed with his members all the problems and opportunities of the up-coming International Gay Rodeo Finals scheduled for Will Rogers Coliseum Oct. 22-24.

The group was gathered around a table in a corner at the Across The Street club, the site of their regular monthly meetings. Bartender Terry Abshire had turned on brilliant halogen lamps, making the normally dark club interior bright as day.

As the host organization, Fort Worth's TGRA chapter must coordinate all arrangements with Will Rogers Memorial Center, Ramada Hotel Downtown, Fort Worth Police Department, livestock suppliers, other local gay organizations, TGRA chapters across the state, plus the International Rodeo organization.

Peace appeared relaxed in the face of so much responsibility and,

fortunately, not everything has to be done by the Fort Worth chapter. Ticket sales for the three-day event are being handled by the Dallas TGRA chapter. Program advertising and exhibitor-vendor arrangements are being channeled through the San Antonio chapter, while the Houston chapter is handling buckle sponsorships.

Security for the event, however, does fall to the host city. Security personnel must be provided around the clock not only for the numerous entrances and exits at the Will Rogers Coliseum and cattle barns, but for the headquarters hotel as well.

At the Will Rogers cattle barns, security people must be on hand from noon Friday to noon the following Monday—a tall order for an organization with only a dozen or so members. However, protection of the livestock is Peace's primary concern, and he talked at length about

augmenting reliable volunteers with off-duty police officers just to be on the safe side. An appeal for volunteers will be going out to local gay organizations as well as other TGRA chapters.

According to a representative of the Dallas TGRA organization, rodeo ticket sales through Fort Worth's Central Ticket Office have been sluggish but are expected to pick up as the actual performance dates get closer. However, ticket demand by TGRA members statewide has been strong.

Peace related how the IGRA selected Fort Worth to be the site of its annual rodeo finals. "It was very simple, really," Peace said, "We bid on it and won." But putting together a winning proposal involved a lot of cooperation from the City of Fort Worth and the Ramada Hotel.

"The city went all-out for us, especially since our TGRA rodeo

here in the new equestrian center in 1989 had been such a success," Peace said. "We showed them how to use the Justin Arena for rodeo performances, and now they have rodeos there on a regular basis."

As the meeting drew to a close questions filled the air. Had meeting rooms at the hotel been assigned for contestants, vendors and grand entry participants? What about conference rooms? What sort of set-up was required in the ballroom? For bars and bartenders? Early food service? Late food service? And who is going to sing the national anthem at the rodeo performances? The Fort Worth Men's Choir?

Finally, after the last question, Peace closed a giant three-ring binder and slipped it into a cardboard carton of three-ring binders which constitutes his traveling organizational files. He heaved a great sigh and lit up a cigarette. Another meeting was over. ☘

IGRA Finals Schedule of Events

Friday, October 22

9 a.m.: Mr., Ms., & Miss IGRA Personality Judging

6-10 p.m.: Contestant Registration, Ramada Hotel Downtown

7 p.m.: Mr., Ms., & Miss Western Fashion Judging, Miss IGRA Talent Contest & Judging

8 p.m.: IGRA Rodeo Kick off Dance, Ramada Hotel Downtown

Saturday, October 23

10 a.m.: Contestant Meeting, Box Office Opens

Noon: Grand Parade

12:30 p.m.: Grand Entry

1 p.m.: Rodeo Performance, Will Rogers Coliseum

8 p.m.: Dance, Ramada Hotel Downtown

Sunday, October 24

10 a.m.: Box Office Opens

Noon: Grand Parade

12:30 p.m.: Grand Entry

1 p.m.: Rodeo Performance, Will Rogers Coliseum

8 p.m.: Awards Ceremony & Dance, Ramada Hotel Downtown

(Times Subject to Change)

1,500 expected IGRA visitors may include some animal-rights activists, BBC-TV crew

By **JOHN CANTWELL**

Continuing coverage in the gay press of the struggle between lesbian/gay animal-rights activists and gay rodeo enthusiasts has made Fort Worth's TGRA Chapter concerned, but not worried, about what will happen when over 1,500 gay rodeo visitors come to town for this month's IGRA Finals. Their preparations for security clearly reflect an underlying awareness that not everybody in the gay community approves of their choice of recreational activity.

Fort Worth's strong pro-rodeo reputation may very well have influenced the city's selection as the site for the finals by the IGRA organization, not to mention the town's well known hospitality. "There's just not going to be much

sympathy amongst local straights or gays for folk's protesting rodeos," remarked Bill Peace, president of Fort Worth's TGRA Chapter.

Nevertheless, according to Liz Galst, writing in a recent issue of *The Advocate*, "...gay and lesbian antirodeo protesters, believing that rodeo is cruel and dangerous to animals, have demonstrated at approximately 15 of the IGRA's rodeos in the past two years..."

So there's a very real possibility that protesters will show up at the IGRA Finals, especially since they're being held on the site of the granddaddy of all rodeos, Fort Worth's famous annual Southwestern Exposition Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Animal rights picketers were "no problem" at TGRA events held earlier this year in Houston and Dallas, according to Bill Peace. "The

Austin rodeo had some picketers, but that's because Texas' most adamant animal rights activist lives in Austin," Peace said.

In recent years, gay rodeo events have been changed or modified to meet animal rights activists' complaints. For instance, breakaway calf roping has now been substituted for tie-down calf roping. For breakaway, the contestant's lasso is loosely tied to his saddlehorn by a string which "breaks away" when the calf stretches the rope. Also, old fashioned bulldogging has given way to "chute" dogging in which the contestant starts off standing beside the steer at the chute and proceeds to wrestle it to the ground, if he can.

Peace had to laugh at complaints about one event called "goat dressing" in which the contestant chases a goat down and

puts a dress on it. "The animal rights folks said this was humiliating to the animal," Peace related, "As though a goat would have such an emotion."

Visitors for the IGRA Finals will come from all across the United States as well as from Canada and Mexico. There may even be visitors from Great Britain; however, they will not be here to rodeo. The British Broadcasting Corporation is considering sending a camera crew to cover the IGRA Finals as part of a BBC series on the gay sub-culture in America.

Like all IGRA rodeos, the Finals will raise funds for charity. The Texas Gay Rodeo Association has distributed over \$1 million to AIDS-related charities since its founding nearly 10 years ago, according to Peace. ☘

CASTING A SPELL:

AIDS Memorial Quilt display wraps community in memories, emotions

BY JOHN CANTWELL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

With music by the Trinity Episcopal Church Folk Ensemble and the Fort Worth Men's Choir, the Opening Ceremony had all the dignity and solemnity of a church service. The crowd of over 1,100 stood close together around the perimeter of the Quilt display area in the Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibit Hall. They listened intently as State Senator Mike Moncrief and his wife Rosie detailed the terrible pain and suffering AIDS has brought to our city, our state, our nation and our world. The Moncriefs were honorary chairpersons of the Quilt's host committee. They spoke from a narrow stage set up along the west wall.

Moncrief said there were Quilt panels in the hall for babies, teens, adult women and men, the elderly, blacks, whites, Hispanics, and American Indians. He cited statis-

tics on the growing world-wide threat of AIDS and commended the NAMES Project for bringing attention to this global health crisis through the Quilt display.

As brightly colored Quilt panels suspended overhead swayed gently in the cool currents of air circulating in the hall, the crowd waited patiently for the formal unfolding of the 1,000 or so panels to be laid out on the floor. A round of sustained applause greeted the presentation of a proclamation from the Texas Senate to local NAMES Project co-chair Genie Quincy. The Senate Proclamation commended the Fort Worth/Tarrant County NAMES Project for "its activities on behalf of AIDS victims and their families."

Then Senator Mike introduced Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Quilt, to begin the formal Reading of the Names. This was a somber moment indeed as everyone present turned toward the center of the hall to watch the Quilt volunteers,

dressed all in white, carefully unfold each pyramid-shaped stack of 32 folded Quilt panels while the Reading proceeded.

The volunteers were in their stockinged feet to perform this ritual which took the better part of an hour. But no one seemed impatient. Everyone waited and watched in reverent silence. Even the children were quiet.

Cleve Jones turned over reading of the Names to Rosie Moncrief. Then Rosie passed the list to another reader. Before the evening was over dozens of readers would step to the rostrum microphone to call out Names. Readers included Duane Bidwell, Chris Crego, Mary Fulbright, Rev. Gayland Poole, Katie Sherrod, Mary Ann Smith, Eloise Snodgrass, Michael Toole. Among the names Michael Click read was his own partner, "the love of my life."

So many Names. They poured out over the public address system like a roll call from some far off heaven where the angels were being summoned. As they leapt from the speakers mouths in voices sometimes booming, sometimes quaking, the Names took on life for an electronic instant. And when the Name called was recognized, people turned to one another with surprised expressions and aching hearts. So many Names. So many lives lost to AIDS.

Once the last panel was spread out on the floor and squared away, Gerald Ford, NAMES Project co-chair, declared the AIDS Memorial Quilt display open for viewing.

WALKING AMONGST THE PANELS:

When the crowd at last surged into the display, conversations picked up and the noise level advanced appreciably. They strolled down aisles covered with black fabric, being careful not to step off the



NEW QUILT PANELS ARE PRESENTED TO CLEVE JONES AT THE CLOSING CEREMONIES.

bursts of laughter, then tears, then embracing. A neatly dressed woman overcome with emotion bent down to tug a tissue from one of the Kleenex boxes thoughtfully provided along the way. And, as hundreds of family members and friends settled down to walking amongst the panels commemorating their loved ones, the Reading of the Names continued from the speakers rostrum.

THE QUILT CASTS A SPELL: PERSONAL MEMORIES

I spent a lot of time looking for particular panels honoring friends and acquaintances. But the Quilt casts a spell. It pulls you in. Soon you forget about looking for just one panel and start looking at all the panels. And all at once you're standing before a panel naming someone you haven't seen in a while, and now you know why. Then you bump into an old friend and struggle to hold back the lump in your throat when asked if you've seen the panel of someone you both knew.

Even encounters with old enemies are softened by the Quilt's spell. Somehow former animosities seem foolish in the presence of so much love and goodwill. Your shared emotions at the Quilt give you something in common after all.

A designer friend in a chic frock chatted away about the ingenuity and creativity apparent in so many of the

handsome man in his 30s kneeling at a panel and patting it with his hand as though re-assuring the honoree of his continued devotion.

CLOSING CEREMONY:

By Sunday afternoon, nearly 10,000 visitors had come to see the Quilt since the Friday opening. During the day, more panels had been added to those already on display, swelling the panel count to over 2,000.

At 4 p.m., following a musical



CHRIS CREGO WALKS WITH JIM STRONG, HEADS BOWED, FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF HER SON'S



SENATOR MIKE AND ROSIE MONCRIEF, HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS OF THE

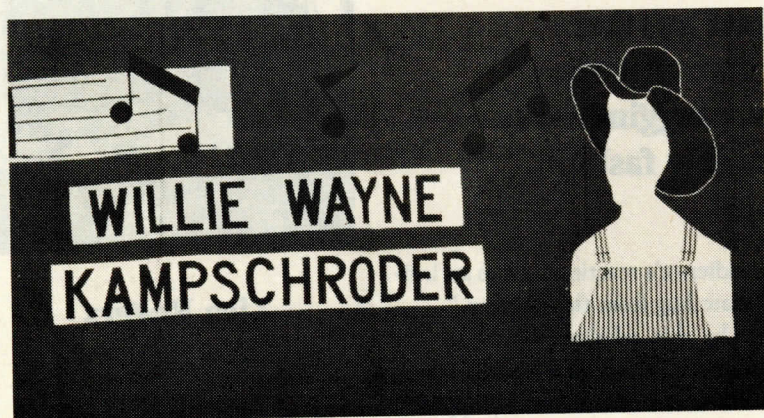
offering by the Agape MCC choir, new panels were presented to Cleve Jones, founder of the quilt, in an emotion-filled ceremony. Jones stood in the center of the hall and as the new Names were called out, each neatly folded commemorative panel was handed over to him by friends and family members.

They formed a line down the aisle in front of Jones and as he received the panels, he presented each panelmaker with a long-stemmed white carnation. Tears flowed as aching hearts surrendered to the world the fabric representation of their loved ones. The pain on their faces as they walked away from Jones

was almost unbearable. The sobs grew more audible as panelmakers gathered at one side of the display. A distraught woman murmured softly that giving up her son's panel was like having him die all over again.

But loving arms reached out to those in pain. Strangers embraced strangers with compassion and understanding. The spell of the Quilt once more calmed and comforted the very ones who helped create it.

In his closing remarks, Jones addressed the crowd with strong voice in an extemporaneous appeal for continued pressure on the government and the medical community to bring an end to the AIDS epidemic. He said that our nation possesses all the money, power and intellect to find a cure for AIDS, but what is lacking is the will to do it. He urged those present not to lose hope, to believe that those who have died of AIDS have not died in vain, and to continue spreading the word to all who will listen that AIDS must be conquered and soon. *fb*



PANEL FOR WILLIE WAYNE KAMPSCHRODER, WHO FOR MANY YEARS WAS A POPULAR D/J AT METROPLEX CLUBS.



MEMBERS OF COWTOWN LEATHERMEN PRESENT NEW PANELS HONORING FELLOW LEATHERMEN TO CLEVE JONES FOR INCLUSION IN THE QUILT.

PHOTOS BY BOB

THE QUILT'S LESSONS: *Some embrace; others deny*

BY BEVERLY FLETCHER

The Names Project Memorial Quilt display of some 1,600 panels here opened the same day the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported Hurst-Euless-Bedford school district turning down a \$10,000 grant for AIDS funding.

The grant, offered by Tarrant County Community AIDS Partnership, was to provide UT-Arlington social workers to train the district's teachers on its new AIDS curriculum. The school district rejected the grant because of its own "local mores which would be foreign to the UTA staff members."

The *Star-Telegram* article noted that Mary Fulbright, associate director of UTA's Community Services Development Center in the School of Social Work, was offended by the school district's statement. And well she should be because Fulbright, in particular, is no foreigner to public mores. Sister Fulbright is a nun. She serves on the AIDS Outreach Center Board of Directors, performing what she surely thinks of as God's chosen work for her.

The H-E-B curriculum approved in June emphasizes sexual abstinence in AIDS prevention. Teachers are not allowed to demonstrate the use of condoms nor to hand

them out. Instead, condom use is classified as a risky behavior that does not guarantee against exposure to HIV.

The H-E-B area has been a nightmarish zone for AIDS educators the past several years. Parents there have bordered on abusive during presentations by the Texas Department of Public Health Ryan White Center and other AIDS-services agencies. One panelist speaking of his personal experiences as HIV positive was forced to leave a venue there because of harassment from the audience.

I spoke with Fulbright at the Quilt's opening ceremonies after she'd read names of numerous sons and daughters lost. We stood together in the center of the hall, surrounded by the overwhelming number of cloth tombstones. Fulbright said she wasn't surprised H-E-B turned down the grant, given the climate there. "I wish they would come here and see this," she said sharply, her eyes sweeping the field of colorful memorials. She thought the impact would have a sobering effect on the so-called "mores" of H-E-B.

Fulbright's eyes flashed with indignation: "It's the children who will suffer for their parents' atti-

tudes. These people represented here, their ages when they died indicate they probably were exposed to HIV in their teens, early adulthood. I can't help but think how many of them would have been saved by education."

"And I can't understand how parents would risk their kids' lives by keeping that education from them," she said sadly.

Students from other Fort Worth districts, however, were learning life-saving lessons at the Quilt display. Many of the participants ceremoniously rolling out the panels at the opening were school-aged children and young adults who left the floor weeping, touched by the tragedy embodied in fabric. And school groups exclusively had visited the exhibit that day, adding a searing chapter to their AIDS education — the chapter that explains why, the one that shows faces and humanizes the issue, the one that bares the danger up-close and personally.

At the opening Beth Llewellyn, a Southwest High School French teacher, spoke of her students' reactions to the quilt. She had chaperoned some 60 teenagers to the exhibit earlier that day and was impressed by their responsiveness to it.

"Usually it's hard to affect teens — they're caught up in acting cool," she said. But this group was obviously touched emotionally, hugging one another, consoling one another, sharing tears. "It was all that they talked about all day long," Llewellyn said.

The Quilt provides instruction in human compassion; it teaches the worth and value of every life; and it sensitizes deeply by unveiling the similarities floating just under our

differences. Students from schools like Southwest High School aren't just learning about AIDS, they're learning about life, about how to better relate to others, and about their own inherent value.

Students in schools like in the H-E-B district instead learn to fear, to reject and to deny because their parents and educators model those. These are crucially dangerous lessons — each day the quilt grows larger still. *fb*



WITH THE PANELS ALL UNFOLDED, THE VOLUNTEERS IN WHITE SIGN THEIR NAMES TO A 12 BY 12' CANVAS SQUARE DEDICATED TO THE FORT WORTH/TARRANT COUNTY NAMES PROJECT.

By
Beverly Fletcher

My first introduction to a Therapy Sisters "session" was in a most unlikely concert arena: the Quaker House in Dallas, where a few walls had been knocked out of the residential building for roomier accommodations and children's drawings were the high end of the interior design.

Attending that less-than-formal concert was like visiting the trio in their own living room. Their rapport with the audience matched the intimacy of that setting. Their original songs were like a chat by the fireside, each chorus revealing new layers, different facets of their very individualized characters. By the end of that show they weren't just some eccentric, nouveau, psycho-analytic band, they were old friends, and they had done all the work to establish that relationship. And I really liked that about them.

Since then I have followed them into a variety of arenas when they've played the Metroplex – the coffee house atmosphere of the Lesbian Resource Center, the Pleiades concert hall stage where they opened for Diane Davidson and, this summer, the charged restaurant fare of Cafe Brazil in Dallas. And I've noticed that no matter the setting – how large or how small, formal stage or not – the Therapy Sisters maintain that same intimate connection with their audience, and that the audience returns that investment. I've seen lone co-eds staring transfixed, nodding their heads in agreement to the lyrics, and I've seen gaggles of giggling, raucous women joining in the group's playful repar-

Maurine:

We're considered a novelty band because we're females. That's irritating. Maybe we are a novelty band because we sing these weird songs. I don't want to be considered a novelty band just because we're three females.

DSM-III Prognosis on

The Therapy Sisters

The uninitiated might think they're just another nouveau-urban-psycho-swing-folk band from Austin. But to me, they're 'family,' kindred spirits, plugging away at excruciating goals in determined, womanly fashion. To me, they're Sisters...

tee, flirting outrageously on a buoyant high.

At first inspection I thought the audiences' responsiveness hinged on the content of the songs, that folks could relate to the sarcastic approach to social issues, relationship intricacies and search for self-identity.

But when the band toured Berlin this spring, where they played to audiences including Russians who did not understand a word of English, the merry sisters still hit their mark, so visually enchanting that they've been invited back this fall, so warmly captivating that one fan in broken English sang the first verse of "Please Release Me" to them, and another greeted them after their show with "You are my girlfriend."

So as much as I admire their talent, it's not the clever lyrics to their songs nor accomplished musicianship that have cast the spell. It's not their tony billing as therapeutic purveyors of mental health that's done the trick.

The key is in the name of the band – not in "Therapy" which has been more highly emphasized by the critics. Rather, it's the more understated "Sisters" in the moniker that tells the tale.

The Sisters create a family from their audience. In their sharing they establish a permanent bond with their fans that fills each venue with familiar faces. Their concerts are like a holiday meal at the homestead where the ribbing comes easily and good-naturedly, and all human foibles are fair game, yet precious.

This lesbian knows about chosen family, and appreciates the artistry involved in creating them. This lesbian knows a Sister when she meets one. I met up with them this summer at Cafe Brazil where we had



Maurine McLean
'Lyrical Analyst'

When your love affair is with music, you never get the names mixed up

The three women juggle their day careers with practice sessions nightly, booking-arrangements on demand, and weekend gigs that carry them into the far corners of the state, into Oklahoma and what they hope soon will be East and West Coast tours and festivals across the nation.

I asked facetiously, "So, do you have a life?"

Maurine replied matter of factly, "This is our life," no regrets offered, no whining or kvetching. And that's a good sign.

Maurine is completely entwined in the process of being a band. By her intensity and focus I gleaned that this work is an entity, a complex relationship for her, not just action and detail.

This "person" to whom she is partnered holds a multitude of challenging facets: coordinating bookings is flirting with the "person,"

audience's reactions is like an intimate hug from that "person."

In this relationship she is not given to codependency patterns – she does not unhealthily appease, nor compromise her own needs to gain approval. She explained: "There's a balance every artist has to strike between what the artist wants to play and what the people want to hear. We want both. You have to please the person who's hiring you but if you're not pleasing yourself, why are you doing this?"

And really, why do this? For the stress, for the panic? To work twice as hard as a man with the same aspirations would give to succeed?

For Maurine, the rewards are in the process of doing rather than how the end product is received. It's in the therapeutic revelations of her own inner self. "Writing a song is a purging. I'm not thinking of the audience and what I can do to

Maurine:

Marilyn goes to the shrink. He says,

"Tell me everything."

She does, and now he's doing her act...

please them, I'm thinking 'what is going on in my life and how can I get it out?'"

But it is the audience's reaction in the end that helps connect her to herself when others connect to the feelings she conveys. "Like in the 'Sugar Ants in the Kitchen' song – I can feel that others in the audience have sugar ants in their kitchen too. They make me feel a little less



Lisa Rogers
'Spiritual Nutritionist'

When the going gets tough, crack a tough joke

Lisa is the quintessential inner child performing adult work with an ingenuous flair. Her signature song about turning 40 and realizing responsibilities ignored is visually caricatured by her mismatched sneakers, fluorescent leggings and a comical beanie topping her crown.

She is the child's view into societal quirks of habit, commenting with brilliant simplicity on grody adult self-inflation in her "Guys in Ties," and just as handily portraying pubescent angst in the obnoxious "Teenager." It's not just that she's been there – she continually revisits youthful impressions.

Her connection to the vulnerably young is her day job as well. As director of Austin's Out-Youth program that supports lesbian and gay teens, Lisa overlays her precociousness with adultlike concern for her charges. She says she's in the business of saving their lives. In educational forays she has to "go out there and say 'no, we're not recruiting or perverting or teaching how to have sex – we're trying to keep them alive.'" That's a very serious mission for such a playful person, and maybe that's why she's so playful.

Here is a woman whose activism has been so far-reaching that national response to the Out-Youth 800-number hotline has gone beyond the organization's ability to pay the phone bill. And yet, when we regaled each other with our tales from the March on Washington, she didn't speak of the lobbying, the petition drives nor the informative

was your favorite chair, she quizzed instead with a sparkling grin. Hers were "We're here, we're queer, we have disposable income," and "Lesbians ... united. We'll always be excited!"

At her day job and in her nightly dedication to the band, Lisa's work is her play and vice versa. With that rigorous schedule it doesn't escape notice that Lisa is all work, playfully.



Marilyn Rucker
"Sax Therapist"

*Her straight path
curves quite a bit*

I met Marilyn long before she joined the band, just after she'd graduated from college before entering law school. She was running around ditzily at a friend's party performing what I thought was a very odd lamp post ceremony. Who knew then that she was destined for musical counseling?

cauter than at our first introduction. And her attire is no less eccentric than that curious rite she concocted. Marilyn is the dramatically expressive clown of the group whose body language serves up delicious one-liners.

She hails from a musical family who attend the performances when possible, doling out praises and criticism afterward. When I asked her if she feels extra pressure under the scrutiny she negated "no, not at all - it really doesn't bother me," but her smile was so tellingly strained and, after all, she did write those several dysfunctional-family songs.

On the band's lesbian-venues and women's-festival circuit, Marilyn, who is straight, is exposed to a private, women-supportive world to which few straights are privy. And she's appreciative of that view: "It's great to see women supporting and loving women. I really like to see that," she smiled warmly. The exposure has heightened her awareness of the invisibility imposed against lesbians and gays and the

sexual unless proven otherwise.

"I always thought lesbians were real exotic. I thought I'd never met any," she recounted. "Now I know I've probably met hundreds who had never let me know."

In those women's havens, lesbian-identified songs performed by the other two sisters lead the audience to assume Marilyn is lesbian by association. Maurine and Lisa kidded her about the fawning attention I told her she gains from lesbian fans.

"Yo, breeder," Lisa hailed Marilyn in guttural tone. Maurine created a scenario of Marilyn "coming out" as straight: "Lesbians just break down in tears over her - 'Oh, but I have such a crush (dramatic sobbing). What a waste ... what a waste.'" Marilyn deflected, "I haven't had that happen. It would be very flattering if it did."

*Physicians, heal
thyselfes?*

I turned to Marilyn. "What do you

gesturing to Maurine and Lisa.

Marilyn didn't hesitate. "Well, they're really weird. They need therapy."

Lisa rolled her eyes indignantly. "We are in therapy, Marilyn."

"You haven't done therapy, Marilyn?" I mocked.

Marilyn recouped: "Not with them. It might be kind of interesting though to psychoanalyze the dynamics of the group. You know - family therapy."

The doctor is in: the family is doing just fine; it's members all seem well adjusted. ♪

Marilyn:

**We are a delicate bud
about to bloom,
are we not, sisters?**

Lisa:

How Georgia O'Keefish.

COMING OUT

continued from p. 3

dirty. As we gleaned from our voter registration drives, some among our community think even voting is too political. Some among our community are offended by our increasing visibility, thinking it just draws trouble.

At the heart of these aversions is a debilitating core of fear. Our experiences have taught us to fear: as a body we've lost our jobs and our homes for being queer; we've had our children yanked away from us physically and emotionally; we've been bashed, harassed and murdered for being queer. With these realities it is a natural reaction to lay low, avoid attention, and to feel as if we are completely powerless over our circumstances - so powerless that it is useless to vote, futile to write our own letters to the editor, a waste of time to canvas blocks promoting gay-supportive candidates or to contribute financially to their campaigns.

Historically it has taken one person deciding that they wanted more control over their life - enough to wade through the risks - to open the door to basic human rights for others. Historically it has been far easier, less disruptive to the routine, to just do nothing, to accept limitations and inadequacies in the social system. But all of the civil rights

laws enforced today began with one person declaring "I've had quite enough of this crap," followed by a stream of similarly motivated individuals echoing, "Yes, we have too."

Empowering ourselves as a community is a process, through which we are rapidly moving. More and more of us are deciding it's okay to vote and to use our voices, to show our faces, to say no to oppression and to press for our rights. Gradually we are recognizing the realm of possibilities for taking control over our lives and the ways in which we might interject our own influence.

October 11 is National Coming Out Day. This year, instead of confiding in a close friend or an extended family member, confide in yourself. Write a letter to yourself, make a phone call to yourself or tap yourself on your shoulder and request a minute of your time.

Within your conversation, boldly reveal to yourself all the troubles and the risks you have braved by your orientation. Talk honestly about how it has affected family and peer relationships, your job security, your physical safety and your self-esteem.

And then, as the best, most empathetic listener you might ever hope to encounter, give back to yourself the strongest of support and affirmation. Offer to yourself that being gay or lesbian is, in your opinion, one of the most beautiful aspects of you, one that makes you

special and unique, a true enrichment to your life.

Point out to yourself proudly how successfully you have gained in a struggle that was not of your making. Look candidly at your growth and emotional awareness that are gifts from the struggle. And wherever you are on your path of development, look ahead eagerly to the more that will come.

Finally, make a list of all the rights you think you deserve, those that currently are denied you. Then give yourself permission to pursue them, because you are a worthy individual.

When you are done with your conversation, turn to all others in our community who will have had the same conversation leading to a list very similar to yours. When enough of us unite to achieve that list together, we will, by our numbers, walk more safely on the streets, spare our jobs in the workplace, keep our children and our homes, elect enlightened candidates to office, and pass the laws of social parity that will reflect a change in prevailing attitudes.

When we achieve those together there no longer will be any such need for a "Coming Out" Day, when risks outside of the closet no longer exist.

Until then, enjoy this Coming Out Day as a celebration of all that has passed, and a promise of what is yet to come. ♪

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STATE LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS YOUR LIFE

By **RON STREFF**
and **LAURIE EISERLOH**
of the Texas Lesbian/Gay
Rights Lobby

This year in the Texas legislature six important votes affected our community.

(1) In the House, a heterosexual

sodomy amendment was offered after homosexual sodomy was added to the penal code revision. This amendment is significant to our community because its consideration demonstrates who will potentially support and potentially oppose the repeal of statute 21.06, often called the homosexual sod-

omy law. The heterosexual sodomy amendment was eventually removed in conference committee.

(2) Under previous law, men who raped their wives were, in most cases, exempt from prosecution under the Texas penal code. The law has since changed, but effort was made this session in the House to restore it. The amendment was defeated 106 to 14, with 29 absences. Consideration by legislators of this issue helps us to determine the more conservative members of the legislature regarding issues of bodily integrity.

(3) Intentional transmission of HIV was a crime under the previous penal code. The revised code sought to remove this statute because those who intentionally transmit HIV may also be prosecuted under the homicide statute. While no vote was taken on the amendment itself, there was a vote on the motion to table, which is a potential indicator of how members would vote on the amendment itself. Although the motion to table failed, the amendment was removed in conference committee.

(4) In the final days of the session there was a surprise amendment to reinstate some elements of the abortion law. It failed by a narrow margin with 68 voting in favor of this restrictive amendment and 71 voting against, with 10 absences. Because abortion and lesbian/gay rights are argued as privacy issues, and are both issues of bodily integrity, they are often linked. However, this session led to some surprising conclusions when it was found that among Catholic-Hispanic legislators those who vote anti-choice may also vote pro-lesbian/gay. This was an interesting phenomenon and has changed the way the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL) argues lesbian/gay rights to some legislators.

(5) In the Senate, the hate-crime legislation passed unanimously, but dealt with issues other than lesbian/gay rights.

(6) The Senate vote on the anti-homosexual conduct statute was a much harder fight, ending in a close vote. This is the first time any issue dealing solely with lesbian/gay rights has ever passed the Senate and only the second time in history that a lesbian/gay rights issue has been brought to the Senate floor. After a year and a half of lobbying, the revised Texas penal code still did not contain an anti-homosexual conduct statute. Some legislators did not acknowledge the omission until the month before the end of the legislative session. Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) sought to place the anti-homosexual conduct statute back into the revised penal code on the Senate floor. Sixteen people voted for and 12 voted against, with one absence and two excused absences recorded. Absences are important here be-

cause these Senators were convinced to walk rather than vote against the statute.

The accompanying chart was compiled by the LGRL to show how local legislators voted on these issues. Check to see how your legislative representatives voted.

LGRL had built a working relationship with many of our state's legislators. Rep. Glen Maxie and LGRL executive director Laurie Eiserloh have put in many long hours working toward equal rights for lesbians and gays. LGRL can't work alone, though; your assistance is needed to help fund this important work. Do your part - clip out the coupon below and send in your check today.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 73rd REGULAR SESSION
compiled by the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

House of Representatives

Representative	District	Party	Hetero-Sodomy			
			Amendment	Wife Rape	HIV Table	Abortion
Bernard Erickson	58-Cleburne	REP	X	✓	X	E
Ric Williamson	61-Weatherford	DEM	X	✓	X	X
Jim Horn	64-Denton	REP	X	X	X	X
Ben Campbell	65-Carrollton	REP	X	✓	X	X
Brian McCall	66-Plano	REP	O	✓	X	X
Jerry Madden	67-Richardson	REP	X	✓	X	X
Homer Dear	88-Fort Worth	DEM	E	E	E	E
Doyle Willis	90-Fort Worth	DEM	X	✓	X	✓
Bill Carter	91-Fort Worth	REP	X	✓	X	✓
Carolyn Park	92-Bedford	REP	X	✓	X	X
Toby Goodman	93-Arlington	REP	✓	✓	X	X
Kent Grusendorf	94-Arlington	REP	X	✓	X	X
Garfield Thompson	95-Fort Worth	DEM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kim Brimer	96-Fort Worth	REP	X	✓	X	X
Anna Mowery	97-Fort Worth	REP	O	✓	X	X
Nancy Moffat	98-Southlake	REP	O	O	O	X
Ken Marchant	99-Coppell	REP	X	X	X	X
Sam Hudson	100-Dallas	DEM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bill Blackwood	101-Mesquite	REP	E	E	E	O
Tony Goolsby	102-Dallas	REP	X	✓	X	X
Steve Wolens	103-Dallas	DEM	O	O	O	✓
Roberto Alonzo	104-Dallas	DEM	✓	O	✓	✓
Al Granoff	105-Dallas	DEM	O	O	O	E
Ray Allen	106-Grand Prairie	REP	X	✓	X	X
David Cain	107-Dallas	DEM	O	O	O	✓
John Carona	108-Dallas	REP	E	E	E	X
Helen Giddings	109-Dallas	DEM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jesse Jones	110-Dallas	DEM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yvonne Davis	111-Dallas	DEM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fred Hill	112-Richardson	REP	X	O	X	X
Joe Driver	113-Garland	REP	X	✓	X	X
Will Hartnett	114-Dallas	REP	O	O	X	X

Senate

Senator	District	Party	Homosexual Conduct
Chris Harris	Arlington	REP	X
Ike Harris	Dallas	REP	X
John Leedom	Dallas	REP	X
Mike Moncrief	Fort Worth	DEM	✓
Jane Nelson	Flower Mound	REP	X
Florence Shapiro	Plano	REP	X
Royce West	Dallas	DEM	✓

E=excused absence ✓=correct vote X=incorrect vote O=unexcused absence

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS:

Agape programs focus on lesbian health issues

Prevention strategies and detection is the focus of October's National Breast Cancer Awareness month with several programs in place to instruct in low-fat diets, self-exams and mammography.

It's an important emphasis for our community as one in three lesbians develops breast cancer.

Agape Metropolitan Community Church will distribute breast cancer information following church services Oct. 3.

Karen K. King, D.O., of Lancaster will give a health issues update and answer questions at the church's Women's Pot-luck at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 30.

Free Insurance Card

The Alliance is distributing durable instruction cards for breast self-exams. Don't leave home without it. For your free card, call the Alliance office at 817/763-5544 to be added to the mailing list.

JAN WYNN,
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Every once in a while we all need to get away from work and family and go on vacation. This was the main event for me this month, along with the premiere of *And the Band Played On*. Both events touched my life uniquely.

I was lucky enough to be able to drive on vacation. I went to over 15 states, and Sally, my dog, and I bonded even more. She is the perfect travelling companion: never complains about my driving too fast or singing too loud with the radio. Plus she never gets car sick anymore.

One of our stops while on vacation was to go to Indiana for a family reunion. Steve flew up for the weekend to meet the "family." As usual

it took only about two seconds to realize why I moved thousands of miles away. Steve is lucky that I have any table manners considering the stock I evolved from.

My family is upset that Steve and I plan to marry. They believe I will go straight to hell seconds after saying "I do." At least I will know a lot of people once I get there. If only they realized that hell is relevant. One aunt sent me religious propaganda to save my soul. If only she understood that AIDS has allowed me to get in touch with my spiritual self and to actually become more "Christ-like."

I will never understand why religious leaders continue to say AIDS is "God's punishment" while it is the so-called "Christians" who ignore the work and love necessary to assist AIDS patients. People are so weird.

My aunt even sent me a pamphlet from her church that tells her congregation what the homosexual agenda is all about. I was glad to get this information since I was unaware we had an agenda. Thank God we have the Religious Right to tell us what we want and how we intend to get it. It is amazing that gays and lesbians alone are responsible for all the problems this country suffers from, including the debt, homelessness, democrats and terrorism. We are a busy lot, aren't we?

It is amazing how blind some people are and always will be. The Bible is not a book to judge people but a guideline on self-improvement. Yet that book has caused more grief than love and more separation than unity.

The premiere of Randy Shilts' *And The Band Played On*, which allows the general public to see the AIDS epidemic from the start, also made an impact on me. One would think it would motivate the public to become more active. Somehow I think that the band will always play on, at least in my lifetime. The band plays on while agencies fight among themselves for the scarce funds, glory and name recognition. Agency leaders fight for press while their employees suffer from burnout, all while the band plays on. The band will play on while politicians wrestle with moral issues that have no place in the AIDS war. Each new break-

through or failure goes through miles of bullshit before the public or even the educators find out, and the music drowns out the voices of the concerned. Religious leaders will conduct the band from their pulpits, chanting that God is punishing the sinners, while they rape and pillage their own congregations.

How many children will die never realizing that the band played on while their parents turned deaf ears? How many in our community will continue to switch stations and ignore the band? The younger gays and lesbians seem unaware of the loss our community has suffered through, and history is about to repeat itself unless someone makes the band stop playing.

I wonder if the band ever tires of all the suffering and grief that is as much a part of HIV/AIDS as it is a part of my life.

Sometimes the silence between performances of the band is as deafening as the music itself. More than 12 years into this epidemic we are still miles away from any decent treatment or cure. Americans still see this as a gay disease, like a virus can tell if a person is gay or straight. I guess Matthew Modine's line from the drama is right on target: "How many lives will it cost before we all work together and conquer AIDS?" Right now that number is hovering around 316,000 AIDS cases – and the band plays on.

In the history of this illness, I wonder if we have learned anything. The view from here is not that glamorous. How many more people have to become infected before our leaders really see AIDS as the nation's number-one health priority? We have almost half of all the world's cases of AIDS right here in America and we are still debating like it was 1987.

I guess I should be grateful that we are even talking about AIDS, but I would prefer some action. With our history with this epidemic, odds are the action will be inaction. It's not the global warming or greenhouse effect that is changing our climate, it is all the hot air from our elected leaders that is really burning our butts.

Until next month, think positive, act positive and live your life with passion.

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

When the band stops playing ...

Truly Dedicated:

Trinity MCC celebrates growth, honors friends

By **BEVERLY BENNETT**

Trinity MCC and a community of friends worshipped, sang, shared fellowship and consumed mountains of beautifully prepared food on a lavender decked sidewalk cafe as the last rays of summer passed Aug. 28-29. Trinity celebrated two milestones – the dedication of its new interim church home on Aaron Avenue in Arlington and Rev. Jo Crisco's ninth anniversary as Trinity's pastor.

The weekend began with a Saturday morning brunch and workshop. Festivities were well underway by Saturday night's concert. Trinity's special guest, gospel singer Nancy Bogdanowicz, was Saturday night's featured artist. Trinity's choir music was never better than under the care of choir director Mary Frederick

Saturday evening. The choir, along with most of the congregation, dressed in shades of lavender to complement the weekend's purple color theme.

Noted guests from around the metroplex and MCC's South Central District spoke after Saturday night's concert honoring Rev. Crisco's nine years of service to Trinity. Clarke Friesen, MCC's South Central district coordinator, praised Rev. Jo's long-standing ministry and helped officiate the dedication Sunday morning.

The weekend was full of happy tears for Rev. Crisco. Sunday morning Trinity member Steve Ehlinger presented her with a dedication certificate and a "key" to the building. This gift and the devoted congregation he presented her moved

her to tears and heartfelt emotions.

Sunday's dedication services concluded with a Thanksgiving feast worthy of any holiday occasion. Over 113 people attended Sunday's dedication service. Trinity has come a long way from the small group who started it in 1984. Here Rev. Crisco is surrounded by Naomi, Pat, Norma and Elizabeth, members from the original 1984 group.

Photos by
BEVERLY BENNETT



GOSPEL SINGER
Nancy Bogdanowicz



FOUNDING MOTHERS: Looking back on nine years.



JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD: The Trinity Choir



REV. JO CRISCO: 'Talk amongst yourselves...'

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Matter of Faith

By Rev. Brenda Hunt
Agape MCC

Michael Walzer remembers a sermon he heard in late 1960 in a small Baptist church in Alabama. The preacher acted out the story of Exodus: he cringed under a lash, challenged Pharaoh, hesitated in fear at the edge of the sea and accepted the Law. And Walzer remembers how surprised he was that Exodus could be so contemporary.

"...thirty years after their historic March on Washington, civil rights activists say there is still much wrong with American life - unemployment, injustice, poverty - the United States is drowning in a sea of malevolence toward those who are black, brown, yellow, poor or other-

wise different..." - Sonya Ross AP, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, August 29, 1993.

Paralleling the historic events which marked the beginning of a rights and awareness movement for African-Americans is the founding of the Metropolitan Community Churches which celebrates its 25th anniversary on October 6th. MCCs in the U.S. and around the globe have been the one place the "otherwise different" - gay men and lesbian women, along with our friends and families - are all safe to worship, to grow and to share.

It was a matter of faith to say out loud in 1968 that it is indeed pos-

sible to be different and also feel affirmed and loved by God, that it is indeed possible to not fit any culturally defined pigeonhole and yet experience God's love and presence.

It is always a matter of faith to trust what we feel when what we feel goes against the dominant culture. It is a matter of faith to challenge oppression, disrespect and disregard. Always a matter of faith.

The preacher in Walzer's memory was acting out a long tradition of his people, one that reached past the slavery into the hope and the celebration. The point of the Exodus story is in its ending: Shout the glad

tidings - Jehovah has triumphed, God's people are free...

In the Alabama of the 1960s, neither the preacher nor his people were free. Nor are they today. Nor are we. For until all of us are free, no one of us is free.

The Exodus story did not just happen once and for all time. The "exodus" happens over and over, and each time "exodus" happens it is because faith has won out over doubt and tradition. Exodus belongs to a genre of religious and legal texts that ought to be read and re-read over and over again, in private and in public. It describes deliverance and liberation that is at once political and religious and spiritual and social.

Israel was not carried off into the promised land. Civil rights activists 30 years ago were not transported into a promised land, any more than believers first responding to Troy Perry's invitation to church were transported into respectability and orthodoxy. We, and they, along with Israel, are having to move ourselves from one place to another, always walking toward the promise, the hope, the faith.

We each one must confront the

Pharaohs in our own lives, march off sometimes into the wilderness and accept as a matter of faith that the journey itself can be our home.

We are oppressed peoples. But instead of collectively working to throw off the oppression, we try to decide who is the most oppressed or who has been oppressed for the longest time...and so we meander away from faith and drop off into speculation. And we will wake up once again in Egypt.

After years of struggle we all face the similar array of choices: Continue or return. Resign or renew. And perhaps it is always good when we can skip to the end of the book.

People - your people, my people, our people - are still straining under the lash, disregarded, disrespected, discounted. But there are places now for them, for us. Tarrant County, Texas, is a much different place today than it was even 15 years ago. And there is much more that should and could change to make this a better place to live, to grow, to hope.

It is a matter of faith to say that together we make a difference, and that together we have every reason to hope. ☪

MEMORIAL
SERVICES
ASSOCIATES

Trinity Metropolitan Community Church
and
Memorial Services Associates

Offers to the community a public service workshop to be held at Trinity MCC

331 Aaron Ave Suite 125
Arlington, TX 76012
October 23rd 1993
10:00am - 1:00pm

The workshop will be presented in two parts:

- 10:00 - 11:15 - "Living with Grief," Angela Bennett MS, CSW
- 11:15 - 11:30 - Break (Refreshments)
- 11:30 - 1:00 - "Rest in Peace: Issues in Advance Memorial Planning" Terry Bennett and Dan Vinet

The cost of the workshop is \$3.00, in advance or at the door. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Please call Trinity MCC at (817) 265-5454

Pre-planning workshop

FORESIGHT GIVES FUNERALS BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By BEVERLY BENNETT

Too often a gay/lesbian person dies leaving grief-stricken friends and often a spouse to wrestle with a long-absent family's sudden control over funeral arrangements. Without previously written instructions by the deceased, the family comes in and takes over the arrangements. A funeral that in all rights should be held at Agape or Trinity all too often happens in a straight church the deceased had not visited since childhood. Spouse and friends are left having to be satisfied with a memorial service and no control over the burial, funeral and last remains.

Terry Bennett of Memorial Services Association wants to put the power back in the hands of the individual. Memorial Services Association provides education, resources and workshops for pre-need planning. Members carry an emergency record card that directs medical personnel and loved ones to call a 1-800 number that lists the deceased's last wishes regarding ser-

vices and burial.

Bennett believes Texas' new law allowing residents to designate the person in charge of their funeral needs will help his program, but he anticipates there will still be conflicts of interest between the family, funeral home, and friends. "We can help smooth that path and act as an advocate for the deceased," Bennett said.

Putting power regarding one's last wishes back into the hands of her people has also long been a dream of Rev. Jo Crisco, Trinity MCC senior pastor. Trinity will host Memorial Services Association's workshop on grief and pre-planning funeral/memorial needs Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10a.m.- 1 p.m. The workshop will be taught by Bennett's wife, Angela Bennett, a social worker and AIDS counselor. Admission to the workshop is \$3 and includes an emergency card. The association can also help HIV persons and others obtain an interest-free preplanning burial package with extended payments.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CHURCH/RELIGION

- **Sundays:** First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist services, 11 a.m.
- **Sundays:** Fellowship of Love Outreach services, 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
- **Sundays:** Agape MCC services, 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
- **Sundays:** Trinity MCC services, 11 a.m.
- **Sundays:** White Rock Church West services, 5 p.m., 849 Oak Crest Ct., East Fort Worth. "Fellowship, Bible Study and Prayer, Outreach,"
- **Tuesdays:** Liturgical dance and drama troupes, 7:30 p.m., Agape MCC, 4615 SE Loop 820.
- **Wednesdays:** Fellowship of Love Outreach, prayer service, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** Trinity MCC service, 7 p.m., 331 Aaron Ave., Suite 125, Arlington.
- **Thursdays:** Agape MCC choirs: Carillon Bells 6 p.m., Sanctuary Choir 7 p.m., Beginner Bell Choir 7:30 p.m., Sounds of Praise 8 or 8:30 p.m. 4615 SW Loop 820.
- **Fridays:** Shabbat services, Beth El Binah, second and fourth Fridays, 8:15 p.m., Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.
- **Oct. 3:** Agape MCC's monthly concert series, "Celebrating Faith in Ourselves," featuring artist Rachel Perkins, 7:30 p.m. Agape MCC, 4615 SW Loop 820.
- **Oct. 4 and 18:** Prayer Pipe Group, 7 p.m., Agape MCC, 4615 SW Loop 820. Smudging ceremony led by Rev. Lynn Johnson to bless and cleanse, prayer through peace pipe, and sharing by talking stick.
- **Oct. 17:** Lutherans Concerned, Dignity/Fort Worth, Honesty, Integrity and Affirmation monthly meeting, 3-4:30 p.m., St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5709 Granbury Road at Welch. Meeting open to all regardless of religious or organizational affiliation.
- **Oct. 17:** AIDS Interfaith Worship Service, 7 p.m., All Saints Episcopal Church.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- **Wednesdays:** Fort Worth Men's Chorus practice, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Texas Wesleyan University Fine Arts Building. Accepting auditions through Sept. 8. Call 817/731-0122.
- **Wednesdays:** University of Texas at Arlington Gay and Lesbian Association meeting, noon, Room 408 of the Fine Arts Building on the UTA campus.
- **Oct. 1:** First Friday Fort Worth social meeting for women, 7-10 p.m. at Lake Worth Sailing Club. \$3 donation. Call 817/485-0134 for directions.
- **Oct. 5:** TCLGA Board of Directors meeting, 8:30 p.m., TCLGA office.
- **Oct. 5 and 19:** University of Texas at Arlington Gay and Lesbian Association meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 408 of the Fine Arts Building, UTA campus.
- **Oct. 6:** Fairness Coalition organizing meeting, 6:30 p.m., AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith. An allied effort by groups and individuals to promote extension of civil

strategy. Groups are encouraged to send representatives.

- **Oct. 7:** P-FLAG, 7 p.m., at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information call 817/498-5607 or 817/498-4855.
- **Oct. 8:** First Friday Singlessocial group for lesbians, 7 p.m., meets in a different location each month. Bring your own food and drinks. Call Joan at 817/232-5261 for location.
- **Oct. 9:** Leadership Forum Luncheon, 12:30 p.m. at Dos Gringos.
- **Oct. 9:** Second Saturday Social monthly meeting, a networking group for men, 7-10 p.m. Call Will Simpson at 817/654-4808 for directions.
- **Oct. 10:** African-American Lesbian Gay Bisexual Coalition meets at the DGLA Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas. Steering Committee, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; General Meeting, 3:30-5 p.m.
- **Oct. 10:** Imperial Court meeting, 3 p.m. at Across the Street on Jennings.
- **Oct. 10:** Parents Group meeting, 3 p.m. Meets at varying locations the second Sunday of each month. Call 817/926-8601 for directions. Support group for lesbian, gay and bisexual parents with children.
- **Oct. 11:** NAMES Project General Meeting, 7 p.m., 665 S. Jennings.
- **Oct. 13:** Fort Worth formal organizational/planning meeting, 6:30 p.m., TCLGA Office, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243.
- **Oct. 15:** Lambda Mermaids for scuba divers. Meets the third Friday of every other month. Call 214/669-55EA.
- **Oct. 17:** Tarrant County Parents' Group monthly meeting, 3 p.m., TCLGA Conference Room, 2nd floor, 3327 Winthrop St. Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual parents and friends; local chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI). For information call 817/656-8056.
- **Oct. 17:** Women of Vision meeting, 7 p.m., 5316 Wooten, Fort Worth. Meets the third Friday of each month. Call 817/292-6308 for information.
- **Oct. 18:** Texas Gay/Lesbian Veterans meeting, 6:30 p.m., TCLGA office, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243. For information call John Huffman, 817/263-9006.
- **Oct. 20:** AIDS Interfaith Network annual meeting, noon at Broadway Baptist Church. RSVP to 817/927-2437.
- **Oct. 20:** Alliance Productions Management planning meeting for "Starts at Night," 7:30 p.m. 2436 Shirley Ave.
- **Oct. 21:** TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m., Luby's Cafeteria on University. Speaker: TGRA representative Bob Jackson on the IGRA Rodeo, and Wendy Phoenix of Alternative Visions on lesbian/gay video dating services.
- **Oct. 25:** Youth Concerns Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., 6632 Normandy. Call the Alliance office at 763-5544 for information.

EDUCATION

- **Thursdays in October:** "In Touch with the Sacred and Erotic: A New Vision

shop from 7-9 p.m. at Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., by Rita Cotterly, PhD, of the Sexuality Education Center.

- **Oct. 1:** AOC Friday Forum: "Working with Gay Clients in the Age of AIDS," Thomas Bruner, MA, LPC, and Rita Cotterly, PhD, Human Sexuality Center. 11:30 a.m., AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.; program noon to 2 p.m. \$5 donation requested; free to volunteers, persons living with HIV/AIDS infection or their caregivers. LPC, social work and TAADAC credits available. Reservations required: 817/335-1994.
- **Nov. 5:** AOC Friday Forum: "Confidentiality Issues and HIV," Anne Worley, J.D., St. Joseph Hospital. 11:30 a.m., AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.; program noon to 2 p.m. \$5 donation requested; free to volunteers, persons living with HIV/AIDS infection or their caregivers. LPC, social work and TAADAC credits available. Reservations required: 817/335-1994.

ENTERTAINMENT

- **Sundays:** KNON Radio: Lambda Weekly, 89.3 FM, 2-4 p.m.
- **Oct. 8:** Stage West's "And the World Goes Round," at the corner of University Drive and Berry Street. Musically packed theatrical event featuring Kander and Ebb songs from "Cabaret," "Chicago," "Funny Lady," "Kiss of the Spiderwoman" and others. Call 817/784-9378 for ticket information.
- **Oct. 9:** Pleiades Productions presents The Therapy Sisters in concert, 8 p.m., Agape MCC Auditorium. \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Fun music with a mental health issues bent.
- **Nov. 20:** Pleiades Productions presents Cris Williamson and Tret Fure in concert to benefit Agape MCC's balloon note fund drive, 8 p.m., Orchestra Hall on Trail Lake. \$17 in advance; \$20 at the door. Williamson is the founder of the women's music movement.

EVENTS

- **Oct. 1-3:** Lone Star Women's Music Festival, fourth annual women's retreat featuring music, theater, comedy, workshops and camping on the Guadalupe River in Texas hill country. Tickets and info available at Curious Times in Dallas and Athena's Attic in Denton. Call 512/929-0002 for more information.
- **Oct. 1-14:** Austin's 6th annual Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival at the Dobie Theatre at 21st and Guadalupe Streets, Austin. Call 512/472-3240 for ticket information.
- **Oct. 8-10:** Living in Leather VII, National Leather Association convention, Sheraton Astrodome Hotel, Houston. More than 50 workshops on leather/SM/fetish lifestyle. Call 800/325-3535 for room reservations. Register for the conference by Sept. 24. For more information and registration form call NLA International at

Cultural Festival. In preparation for the Gay Games II, sporting, social and cultural events including performances by Turtle Creek Chorale and Standing Room Only jazz ensemble of the Women's Chorus of Dallas. Special performances of Moonstruck Theatre's musical comedy "Lovers" Oct. 8-9 at 11:30 p.m. Call 214/521-5342 for schedule.

- **Oct. 11:** Coming Out Day Forum, 7:30 p.m. Cathedral of Hope MCC, 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. Keynote speaker: Dr. Rob Eichberg, author of Coming Out: An Act of Love. Special Guest: Heidi De Jesus. Performances by Turtle Creek Chorale Encore and the Oak Lawn Band. Free, but donation requested.
- **Oct. 22-24:** International Gay Rodeo Association Finals Rodeo hosted by TGRA, Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum, Fort Worth. Call 713/270-TGRA for more information.
- **Oct. 23-24:** Samaritan Housing Thrifty Treasure Sale. Accepting donations of goods except clothes and perishables every Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon at the Will Rogers complex. Call 817/496-3812 for more information.
- **Nov. 5-7:** 10th annual TGRA Rodeo, Freeman Coliseum, San Antonio. Call 713/270-TGRA for more information.

HEALTH SERVICES

- **Mondays - Thursdays:** HIV Testing, Ryan White Clinic (Health Dept.), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesdays; 1-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- **Oct. 18:** Fort Worth Health Department provides free and anonymous HIV testing, 8-11 p.m., NAMES Project house, 665 S. Jennings, Fort Worth. No appointment necessary. Monthly offering every third Saturday. Blood drawn first visit; results provided second visit.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Daily:** Lambda AA, 8 p.m., call 817/921-2871.
- **Daily:** Group Work - process,

psychoeducational treatment focusing on gay/lesbian issues, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Charter Hospital of Grapevine. Out-patient evening treatment exploring issues such as homophobia, networking, spirituality, etc. Call 817/481-1900 for information.

- **Mondays:** Positive Healing (diagnosed ARC or AIDS), 5:30-7 p.m. AOC.
- **Mondays:** Positive Support (newly diagnosed HIV+), 5:30-7 p.m. AOC.
- **Mondays:** Living with HIV/AIDS, Arlington/Mid-Cities AOC office, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Mondays:** Care partner support group, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 1 p.m.
- **Mondays, Thursdays:** Support Group for Incest Survivors, 6 p.m. Call Kathy or Crickett at 817/335-4330 for location.
- **Tuesdays:** Families Helping Families, 6:30 p.m., AOC.
- **Tuesdays:** Support Arlington, Arlington AOC office, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesdays:** EL SOL Women's Group, 11:30 a.m. Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith's wellness support for women challenged by HIV. For more information call 817/927-2437.
- **Tuesdays:** HIV support group, 7 p.m., College of Osteopathic Medicine, Room 540.
- **Tuesdays:** Support group for people who care about someone who is HIV+, Charter Counseling Center, 7-8:30 p.m., 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1007 W. Randol Mill Rd. in Arlington, Suite 110, 817/461-5454; 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays at 1340 S. Main St. in Grapevine, 817/481-0012.
- **Tuesdays:** Lambda Group Co-Dependents Anonymous, 8 p.m., 5316 Wooten.
- **Wednesdays:** Positive Women, AOC, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** Spiritual Support Group, JPS Hope Room, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** Ray of Hope support group, Agape MCC, 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursdays:** The Men's Hour, AOC, 6:30-8 p.m.

First Friday's on First Friday again!

Rine or shine join First Friday Fort Worth for the next three months on the first Friday of the month from 7-10 p.m. at Lake Worth Sailing Club.

\$3 admission. Bring your own: snacks to share, beverages, ice, lawn chairs, blankets, etc.

Call 817/763-5544 for directions or to receive mailings.

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NO CALLS

COMMUNITY GUIDE

BARS/CLUBS

Across the Street, 700 S. Jennings	332-0192
Ashburn's, 3012 E. Rosedale	534-6630
Corral Club, 621 Hemphill	335-0196
D.J.'s, 1308 St. Louis	927-7321
Magnolia Station, 600 Magnolia	332-0415
Roper's Food and Spirits, 2023 S. Cooper, Arlington	265-5574
651 Arlington, 1851 W. Division	275-9651
651 Club, 651 S. Jennings	332-0745

BUSINESSES, SERVICES

Affinity Publishing Specialists	834-7152
Alliance Productions Management	763-8382
Alpha and Omega Printers	921-3670
Alternative Visions Video Dating Service	214/521-3024
An Automatic Answer answering service	817/332-4700
athena's attic bookstore (Denton)	817/565-9755
Blades and Bulbs Landscaping	292-6308
Casa Manana Theatre	332-CASA
Country Bend Apartments	817/731-9191
Courtney Chatfield, financial planner	498-1833
B.C. Cornish, attorney	870-9159
Country Day Travel	731-8551
Crossroads Market gift boutique	214/521-8919
Curious Times bookstore	214/522-5887
Darwin and Hanus, bookkeeping	589-1666
Distinctive Dog Grooming	246-0970
FASS State Inspections	817/277-2792
Gay Travel	800/486-8111
Robbie Harvey, hairstylist	284-6840
Hayes Pharmacy	800/258-9897
Hutton House Hairdressers	731-6801
J3 Photographics	923-4625
Jan Kennedy, insurance	534-6345
Atique Khan, MD, psychiatrist	461-5454
Lambda Pages	214/880-7577
Cathy McGinnis, psychotherapist	metro 817/461-4063
Sandra Moore, secretarial services	metro 498-4855
Pleiades Productions	923-4625
Sexuality Education Center	338-4551
Cheryl Strange, Realtor	732-3294
Strings Design Center	735-4434
Trail's End Kennel	295-8681
Two Pearls Bed and Breakfast	817/596-9316
Westcliff Travel Cruises Plus	926-1771
The Woman's Touch, home cleaning	817/923-0160
Jan Wynn, CSW-ACP, therapist	331-1881

CHURCHES/RELIGIOUS

Affirmation/Tarrant County (Methodist)	656-8056
Agape MCC, 4615 SE Loop 820	535-5002
Congregation Beth El Binah (Jewish), Dallas	214-497-1591
Dignity (Catholic) 4503 Bridge St.	283-8588
Evangelicals Concerned	472-9008
Fellowship of Love Outreach, 711 W. Gambrell	921-LOVE
First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Ln.	451-1505
GLAD (Disciples of Christ gays/lesbians)	214-946-2184
Harvest Metropolitan Comm. Church, Denton	817-497-4020
Honesty (Baptist)	923-8487
Lutherans Concerned	924-3966

Trinity MCC, 331 Aaron Ave., Suite 125	265-5454
White Rock Church West, 849 Oak Crest Ct.	834-WRCW

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD SERVICES

Bare-Facts Computer BBS	429-2667
Club Changes Computer BBS	469-9002
Crystal Palace Computer BBS	370-9559
Gay Matchmaker Computer BBS	861-4488
Other Side Computer BBS	280-0775
Rodeo Dudes BBS	metro 214/256-3547

HEALTH, AIDS, COUNSELING

AIDS Coordinating Council	870-1937
AIDS Information Line	336-0066
AIDS Interfaith Network	927-2437
AIDS Outreach Center	335-1994
Advanced Counseling Center	451-2505
CAREMARK	924-1177
Charter Hospital	481-1999
Crisis/Suicide Line	927-5544
HIV Anonymous Group	292-9494
Incest Survivors Support Group	335-4330
Lambda AA	921-2871
Lambda Group Co-Dependents Anonymous	370-7473
Lesbian Resource Center's Domestic Violence Task Force Hotline	214/432-2683
OMNIHEALTH	926-4555
Positive Action Coalition, free legal help in cases of discrimination	921-6054
Samaritan Housing Center for HIV+ homeless	870-1937
Spiritual AIDS Ministry (SAM)	535-5002
TCMERF AIDS Awareness Clinic	534-CARE or 534-2273
TGRA AIDS/HIV Information Line	800-468-AIDS

ORGANIZATIONS

First Friday Fort Worth (Lesbian)	485-0134
Fort Worth Men's Chorus	731-0122
Gay/Lesbian Youth	338-4551
GLAAD/Dallas, anti-defamation	214/526-GLAD
Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington	261-3558
Leadership Forum Luncheon	763-5544
Lesbian Info. Line/Lesbian Visionaries	214/528-2426
Lesbian Resource Center, Dallas	214/821-3999
Lone Star Bowling League	695-4849
Longhorn Bowling Association	624-2151
Metroplex Republicans/Log Cabin	214/520-6655
NAMES Project, 665 S. Jennings	33-NAMES
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays	595-6568
Second Saturday Social for men	654-4808
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance	763-5544
Tarrant County Gay Parents	656-8056
Texas Doubles Bowling	477-1832
Texas Gay Rodeo Association Hotline	496-1333
Texas Gay Veterans	763-5544
Texas Human Rights Foundation	512/479-8473
U.T. Arlington Gay/Lesbian Assoc.	794-5140
Women of Vision	370-7473

LEWIS

continued from p. 2

It was something I was doing for myself, not an "in-your-face" gesture of coming out. She could have said no, but she didn't.


After that night I stopped protecting Sharon's feelings or apologizing for my sexuality. When the reason arises, I talk about Kathy in the same way that Sharon discusses her husband John. If she cannot handle my openness, then I let her worry about it, not me.

A friend from Houston periodically calls to tell me about the most recent person she has come out to. Our conversations always begin with her jaunty words, "I came out to so-and-so." "Well, good," I reply. "How'd it go?" "They'd already guessed," she sighs. I wonder if she is a little disappointed in the lackluster effect of her announcement. I hang up imagining "coming out" for some people as systematically knocking

over the small, colored, metal ducks which circled endlessly around an oval track at the arcades and amusement parks of my childhood. I am not trying to make light of an issue filled with pain and anguish, but unless we are famous or take ads out in daily papers it is probably difficult for most people to make a single sweeping "coming out."

Kathy says I've solved that problem by writing for *The Alliance News*. Perhaps.

For me, "coming out" means much more than saying to someone, "I am gay," or "I am a lesbian." My sexuality is one part of who I am, but not the only part. The fact that I have an eating disorder is also one part. The fact that my father sexually abused me is another. The fact that I love my horse, Luke, is still another. And the fact that I like baseball, hiking and so on are others. "Coming out" is saying to the people that I care about, "This is who I am," and not worrying about what they think or how they will react.

What did I hope to gain when I told my friend Sharon or other friends on earlier occasions of my sexuality? I sought greater acceptance, and the removal of what I perceived to be a barrier in our relationships. Perhaps the barrier had also existed within me. I saw homosexuality where they saw me. To what degree does sexuality define the person? Do I want to be "out" when I "come out"? More likely I want to be more "in," more accepted. Sometimes I think that one measure of our success in the movement of gays and lesbians seeking equality in American society will be the disappearance of the phrase "coming out." At least in its particular reference to sexuality. 

VIOLENT CLOSET

continued from p. 10

sex as a way of "making up." Contrary to the term "honeymoon phase," however, this is very rarely a mutually loving experience. In fact, victims have reported not even wanting to be touched by the person who just violated them physically and emotionally. Often, sex after abuse is forced and/or an outright act of rape, particularly in relationships where the abuse has gone on for a long time. The apologies are fewer and fewer if at all, and leaving is difficult at best and often

dangerous.

Next month, we'll focus on the concept of danger and the difficulty in leaving an abuser.

In the meantime, if anyone has a personal experience with abuse — whether it be as a victim, an abuser, a family member or a friend — please write to me, anonymously, in care of the Alliance, to help others understand that abuse can happen to anyone. Also, I'll soon be soliciting your help in collecting statistics on the prevalence of abuse in our gay and lesbian community. I urge you to participate, anonymously, in this important research.

LEAVE OUT U

BY WILLIAM JACKSON OF BEDFORD

Sukiyaki.

No, *s'kiyaki*.

He said they did not like the sound of the letter U.

Seibu, with a very short U.

Raku, with a similar, short U.

He taught me to hold chopsticks the right way, and not to cross them at the table; a sign of death.

Which beers were good; which not.

He guided me to not pour the soy over my rice at the end of the meal

because only poor people do that.

Ryokan, the Country-style hotel, *futons* on floor.

Crawl space enough for *gaijin* to crawl into my bed.

A kiss on my surprised mouth in the morning. Heat. Love.

His tea ceremony for me.

Our fan holding back the sea of time.

Bunraku.

No, *Bunraku* with a very short U.

Kabuki.

Yeah, OK. That's right (really no other way to say it).

Courtesan. Money. Loss of love; loss of heart.

Buddhist temples where sins of the night before were purged with incense.

He washes his hands and walks on. He does not look back.

Now: silence from the East.

No silken banners bearing tokens of peace, no friendship.

Each day a new *zen* way: move on and forget.

He taught me to leave out U.



THE Odd Couple

written by

Neil Simon

September 16-December 19

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the

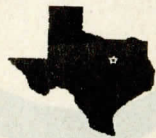
PUT A CONDOM ON YOUR DICK.

Or your Jimmy, Mike or Bill. If you're having sex, insist he wear a Latex condom, and uses a water-based lubricant. It's the only defense against AIDS for sexually active people. Call the AIDS Outreach Center information line in Fort Worth or Arlington, 817/336-0066.

AIDS
OUTREACH
CENTER

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OCTOBER 1993

Volume 13,

Alliance New

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BLANKET APPEAL:

Quilt display draws thousands
touched by AIDS - p. 12.

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- AIDS toll includes lesbians
- Hot, safer-sex tips for women
- AIDS housing mired in red tape
- Coming Out Day inspires reflection
- Faith and dedication: MCCs growing physically, spiritually
- Rising stars band with 'family ties'
- How state legislators impacted your life during session
- New Alliance leaders address individual investment, diversity
- **AND MUCH MORE!**