

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

NOVEMBER 1993

Volume 13, Issue 11

Alliance News



BRINGING THE UNIFORM OUT OF THE CLOSET: This couple has declared war against secrecy in the military. *See story p. 16*

ARM YOURSELF.



If you're looking for some stopping power, your best weapon against crime could be an ADT security system. They're simple to use.

They're affordable, too. You can have an ADT system installed in your home for only \$195. Trained ADT professionals do the work. A small monthly fee provides that your home is monitored twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, all year long from an ADT Customer Service Center, helping protect your home and loved ones.

As the world's largest provider of security systems, ADT has over 120 years of experience. We help protect more homes, offices, factories and public buildings than any other company in America. We are the security professionals.

For more information, call 1-800-ADT-4636. Because when your family is armed with an ADT security system, you don't make a very good target.

\$195

Plus Low Montly Monitoring Fee.



Security Systems

1-800-ADT-4636

WE'RE HOME EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT.

4001 Fain, Fort Worth, TX 76117 • 817/831-4566 • © 1992 ADT Security Systems Lic. #B536C

Alliance News

A community service of
TARRANT COUNTY
LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

3327 Winthrop, Suite 243
Fort Worth, TX 76116
(817) 763-5544

EDITOR

Beverly Fletcher

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Cyndi Drolet

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Angela Lansey

GRAPHICS

Affinity Publishing
Specialists

STAFF WRITERS

Beverly Bennett
John Cantwell
Daniele Casilio

CARTOONIST

Todd Camp

CONTRIBUTORS

Rev. Jo Crisco
Mary Ellen Edwards
Sandy Jones
Suzanne Lewis
Daune Littlefield
Chinwe Odeluga
Ron Streff
Robert Webster

TCLGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Steele,
President
Daune Littlefield,
Vice President
Angela Lansey,
Treasurer
Cyndi Drolet,
Secretary
Mary Ellen Edwards
Beverly Fletcher
Angela Lansey
Jim Martin
Mike Martin
Frank Provasek
Earle Smith
Ron Streff

War between the sexes fizzles here:

AREN'T WE ALL EQUALS IN HIGH HEELS?

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

The war between the sexes wages on in the world at large: women are striving for more representation within the system; men want no less representation than to what they are accustomed. Still in its infancy, the universal struggle between the genders is one that will continue throughout our life spans. Reports project that it will be well past the middle of the next millenium before women achieve true equality.

But here in the world of lesbians and gays, perhaps we have a unique edge on that struggle with a highly evolved pact between our men and women. Here in our world, where men can express themselves sensitively and women can guide their lives independently, here where the defining gender characteristics overlap and meld, perhaps we are closer to actualizing the equality of genders.

After all, who can say, really, who wears the pants or the high heels in our collective family?

I've heard some complaints recently about all four of the newly

elected Alliance officers being women. Interestingly, the objections were from two of our straight supporters - one a man and one a woman.

I've not heard any comments, pro or con, from lesbians or gays. Maybe expressing an opinion about this hasn't been a top priority. And maybe it's not a top priority issue for us because it's just no big deal.

After all, we are a community of gender-benders by nature: some of our men party in fancy dresses and glittering jewelry; some of our women walk the macho walk in leather

boots and flannel shirts; some of our men whip out delicate chicken crepes like it's an art form; some of our women have a masterful flair with power tools. And some of us are so androgynously inclined that we take all our meals from fast-food 39-cent menus, and every couple of years or so we encounter a coupon that reminds us to have our oil changed.

In our world, where it is difficult sometimes to separate the men from the women, maybe there's less of a need to do so. In our world, where we are all - men and women - victims of sexism in its rejection of

our gender-role defying relationships, perhaps we have more of a stronghold against sexism among ourselves.

For instance, I feel more comfortable with a man for my leader if I know he's worn a dress, even if once at a Halloween party. I figure struggling with the pain of high heels for an evening places him in a better position to empathize with my status as a woman.

And maybe men in our organization will be comforted to know that Susan Steele, our new president, has successfully installed a garage-door opener, and that she wired the VCR so it operates all the major appliances in our home with a touch of a remote control button. A woman who can do that certainly will consider the male experience in her leadership.

But the criticism suggests that men may feel excluded if all the officers are women, that they may well take their male pride elsewhere to sulk and fume. And while I have not seen such signs of that among my male peers (we've been too distracted by discussions of sauteing tips and how to operate a jigsaw safely), still it would be helpful to address this issue up front by defining the roles of Alliance leadership.

Leadership of the Alliance is given by the board of directors as a body,

SEE *EQUALITY* ON P. 8

I like butch...

IN PRAISE OF PURPLE WOMEN

By BEVERLY BENNETT

I've noticed a nasty trend lately. I call it "butch backlash." I wonder if I'm the only femme left on the face of the earth who is not afraid to say "I want a butch." I keep running into women at parties who say things like: "I'm 'out' now. I can't afford to take a dykey woman home to Mother." "Butch women turn me off. I want a lipstick lesbian." "Butch women are just like men. If I wanted a man, I'd get a real one."

I've been told I'm a lipstick lesbian - you know, that chic darling of the media. For years I thought I was femme. Now I learn I'm the latest trend in lesbianville.

Well, I think it's time to give butches a little affirmation. Our community is quick to forget that the butch women and nellie queens fought our battles at Stonewall. I'm not advocating going back to the restrictive days of the 1950s and '60s stereotypes. But neither do I want to see us throw away our heritage. The butch-femme couple is a long tradition. They are our history - our foremothers. They were our Patiences and Sarahs, our Gertrudes and Alices, our passing women and their "wives."

Most of us who fall into the butch-femme couple category have subtler distinctions today. Today's butch can be found in corporate drag. Our femme women are lawyers and doctors. I've been known to wear a tie, and I doubt anyone would call me "passive." Still, most of us instinctively know who leads on the dance floor.

From the time I was a little girl I've loved androgynous women. Over the years, all my long-term lovers have been butch. They were different shades of butch. Some didn't claim the title, but I knew who they were.

Butch goes a lot deeper than how one dresses. I know a lot of butch women who wear corporate drag to work everyday, but that doesn't make them less butch. Butch is an attitude. It's the way one carries herself. It is an unmistakable air of androgyny any femme lesbian can identify blindfolded at 100 paces! It is an unspoken erotic energy that has to do with power on many levels. Butches are the women you meet in public whom you don't have to ask "are you gay?" You just know.

I've tried dating femme women. I

can't say they haven't turned my head, but neither do they light my fire. They rarely sustain my interest. Jo Ann Loulan, therapist and lesbian sexuality author, says we have our own erotic dance. We know and recognize each other. Her scale of one to nine defines one as extremely femme and nine as extremely butch. She says most women want to be in the middle, but our friends and lovers usually place us elsewhere along the scale. For instance, I see myself as a four who likes sixes and sevens. Loulan says few of us are ones and nines.

I don't know when this anti-butch trend started, but it is alive and well in the personals. Read them and you'll see ads that say "Femme woman seeks the same for romantic evenings and possible relationship. No butches please!" I realize not everyone's taste is the same. Some femme lesbians far prefer each other, but I can't help but wonder how many of these women simply don't want to be seen in public with a butch.

How often have you heard that old line, "If only we could all turn

SEE *BUTCHES* ON P. 8

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.

More programs, opportunities than ever before

VOLUNTEERING BENEFITS SELF, COMMUNITY

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

▼As Carol stuffs a newspaper into an envelope, she shares with the other mailout volunteers that she has just come out after decades of being married. The others praise her for her courage, and offer her their own coming-out stories.

▼Thomas passes his leadership training outline around the table to the committee. It is the culmina-

tion of broad-based input and Thomas' initiative, and Dallas leaders were so impressed by it that they referred to it as a starting point in their own programming.

▼Joan tells her teen-years story to the class of co-eds, about struggling with her identity, feeling isolated and alienated, and about the road since then that has led her to a healthy, proud image of herself.

After the presentation, several students admit that their opinions of lesbians and gays have changed. "I just never knew one before," one says.

▼Bo answers the phone line at the Alliance office. The caller is married, thinks he may be gay, and is feeling confused, upset and scared. Bo listens empathetically, reassures him, and directs him to counseling and support services to help in his coming-out process.

These are volunteers within Alliance programming who are serving the community by helping to educate, advocate and support. It is these people, and scores of others, who take ideas and hopes and turn them into action.

The Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance is an advocacy group of friends and supporters striving to improve the quality of life for lesbians and gays, and addressing discrimination through education.

By the Alliance's mission, any lesbian or gay within Tarrant County is inherently a part of the organization, for its programming results in tangible services and reforms that impact the status of lesbians and gays here at home.

And programming is defined by the community here, in committee meetings by representatives of other county organizations and services, at the Town Hall meeting during Gay Pride Week that drew suggestions from our public, and on an individual, one-on-one basis where

needs are identified and plans formed.

It is the community, too, that propels suggestions into far-reaching, impacting programs, by individual funding, time donated and effort served.

For volunteers like Carol, Thomas, Joan, Bo and others, something about volunteer work keeps them coming back for more. For some, it is the sense of accomplishment in work that is significant. Some find action an empowerment in claiming control over their lives. And some are drawn to service because of the friends and support-

ers they meet in those arenas, and for the affirmation that is a part of social interaction with kindred souls.

Following is a list of Alliance programming that offers a wide range of levels in involvement. If something here interests you, fill out the volunteer form* on this page mail it to the Alliance, and one of our committee chairs will contact you for outreach projects.

If your time is limited, consider contributing to the funding of programs by becoming a sustaining member, or by making a donation designated for one or more of the

SEE PROGRAMS ON P. 26



Volunteer Interests

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

I am interested in serving the programs indicated:

- Community Center Committee
- Educational Outreach
 - Serving on discussion panels
 - Staffing phone lines
- Fairness Coalition
- Leadership Development Committee
- Leadership Luncheon
- Alliance News
 - News coverage
 - Mail-outs
- Public Image Committee
 - Media spokesperson
 - Marketing development
- Social Programming
 - fort worth formal
 - Alliance Productions Management
- Youth Concerns Committee
- Contributions: \$ _____
 - For membership: \$18 single, \$25 household, \$9 full-time student, \$9 senior citizen, \$150 lifetime.
 - For general purpose
 - Dedicated to _____

3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 • Fort Worth, TX 76116
817/763-5544

November TCLGA Meeting:

Surprise Feature

Speaker: To be revealed.

It's an evening
you won't want to miss!

Thursday, Nov. 18
at Luby's Cafeteria
251 University Drive

Dinner at 6 p.m.
Speaker at 6:45 p.m.

If you enjoy the Alliance News and you think it serves a need in the community, help support it and other community projects by joining the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

TCLGA Membership

YES! Count me in. I want to be part of the important work of Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

- \$18 Single
- \$25 Household
- \$9 Full-time Student
- \$9 Senior Citizen
- \$150 Lifetime

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Mail to: TCLGA
3327 Winthrop
Suite 243
Fort Worth, TX
76116

Enclosed are my membership dues of \$ _____ I am also making a contribution of \$ _____ Contact me about being a TCLGA volunteer

TCLGA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Membership list is confidential. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Councilman Jim Lane introduces mystery:

DID CITY LEADERS PASS HIV-TESTING ORDINANCE?

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

According to Fort Worth City Councilman Jim Lane, the issue of mandatory HIV-testing for food handlers and health care workers may have moved out of the realm of theory and into consideration as a city ordinance.

When questioned recently about his support of a proposed testing measure as recorded on a Christian Coalition candidate survey this spring, Lane denied the survey but said he thought the council had voted to enact just such an ordinance.

"I don't know anything about that survey," Lane responded. "I think what you're talking about is that we voted on that issue—it came up during the first meeting of the new council—and we passed it."

But if a newly erected city ordinance for testing does indeed exist, no one affected by it is aware of it. Thomas Bruner, executive director of the AIDS Outreach Center, says he doesn't know of any such vote by the council. Tony Schmitt, an epidemiology specialist at the Public Health Department in Fort Worth, says he would have been informed of "something of that magnitude" in materials at the office, and yet nothing of the sort has been directed to his attention.

And Lane's aide, Renny Rosa, is vague about whether the council voted on the issue or not. "Two to three inches of paperwork come out of each council session," Rosa said. "I could tell you about something that happened in session last week,

but I can't answer on anything that might have happened a month or more ago."

Deferring comment, Rosa directed inquiry to the health department, where Schmitt relayed that he thinks it unfeasible that such an ordinance would pass here in Fort Worth. "It would be a direct violation of the American Disabilities Act," he said, which prohibits discrimination in employment due to health status.

Schmitt said testing would have

to include all—not selected—employees of a facility, and results could not be used as a requisite for employment unless it affected specific job requirements.

In the case of food handlers, job requirements would not be affected because HIV cannot be transmitted by food handling, Schmitt said.

And the case of HIV+ health-care workers poses only a remote, theoretical risk, he said, as in a long-shot incidence of surgeons cutting themselves while operating.

"Basically, if the council passed the measure, it violates federal law," Schmitt said.

Did the council vote on the measure? And if so, what was the outcome of the vote?

"Well, we passed it, but I don't know what happened after that," Lane said. "We got a lot of letters, I think, from doctors and health-care people who were mad about it. I guess it was decided then that we didn't know enough about it to be voting on it."

Moore charged with making lesbian/gay issues her business

CHAMBER BANS P-FLAG LEADER FROM SAYING 'L' AND 'G' WORDS

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

Sandra Moore is the proprietor of Sandra Moore Secretarial Services. Moore is regional director of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). And, according to the Northeast Tarrant Chamber, never the twain shall meet—at least, not within its jurisdiction.

Moore, a new member of the business networking association, apparently unnerved the leadership when she approached three Texas state legislators, after they spoke at the chamber's September luncheon, to comment on (oh my!) 'l' and 'g' issues.

Siegrid Charbonnet, the chamber's president and CEO, hastily posted a letter to Moore reprimanding her for representing an issue-oriented cause at a chamber function.

"Your involvement in (P-FLAG) is an issue which we request you separate from any chamber activities which are available for your participation," Charbonnet wrote. "We encourage you to attend any or all chamber functions as the owner of Sandra Moore Secretarial Services," she closed, with kindest regards.

In a letter to Charbonnet, Moore defended her right to access elected

officials, a right availed by other members at the meeting: "During the course of the luncheon [the legislators] were lobbied by many people on many issues of both business and personal interest. As I waited to thank [Sen. Mike] Moncrief for his support in, among other things, trying to eliminate the sodomy statute from the Texas Penal Code, I heard others speaking about stalking bills, sex education in the schools, and other non-business issues."

Moore withdrew her membership in the organization and requested reimbursement of fees and advertising rates because "it appears you have singled out my personal issue as inappropriate while judging the personal issues of other members as acceptable."

Moore later received a chamber check in the mail for reimbursement, with no letter or response included. "That indicated to me that the entire board knew the story, rather than this being an isolated reaction by Charbonnet," Moore said.

"They must have really wanted me out of the chamber to refund all of my money like that," she grinned.

Comments might be addressed to The Northeast Tarrant Chamber, 5001 Denton Highway, Fort Worth, TX 76117-1439; fax: 817/281-9379; or phone number 817/281-9376.

CATHY L. MCGINNIS, CSW-ACP
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

INDIVIDUAL
FAMILY, MARRIAGE
AND GROUP THERAPY

FIELDER PROF. PARK
721 N. FIELDER ROAD, SUITE A
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

817 461-4063
METRO LINE
ANSWERED 24 HOURS

Two Pearls Bed & Breakfast

A rare find in historic Weatherford.

Holiday Gift Certificates Available

(Open weekends and Dec. 17-Jan. 2)

Brochure (817) 596-9316 Reservations
Janet Davee Proprietors Beth Llewellyn

Early copy deadlines in place for holidays

Deadline for submissions to the *Alliance News* is the 15th of each month. During the holiday months of November and December, submissions are due on the 10th. Send us your calendar items now for seasonal events to assure timely publicity.

SAMARITAN HOUSING OPEN, FULLY OCCUPIED

Volunteers invited for contact services

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

Parting of the Red Sea

The sea of paperwork stalling the opening of Samaritan Housing Inc. has been parted and, according to Executive Director Carol Hendrix, all of the 32 units for people with AIDS are now filled.

Hendrix reported that Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials offered a closer working relationship following coverage in last month's *Alliance News* that pointed to a mass of red tape delaying the opening. "They've been

working hard with us on this," Hendrix commended, "they've been great."

Now, with the facilities open and fully operational, plans for expanding by HUD financing are "looking good," she said, with filing for additional grants well underway.

HUD in Fort Worth has approved a threshold review for additional funding that would expand Samaritan Housing by 17 units. HUD here has sent the application on to Washington, D.C., for the second tier in the approval process.

Hendrix, who just returned from a housing convention that presented

a favorable outlook for such facilities, reported that expansion funding is likely. "There weren't that many applications (competing) so it won't be difficult," she said.

Call for volunteers

Social programming at Samaritan Housing will encourage broad-based community involvement to provide emotional support and to relieve the sense of isolation people struggling with AIDS may feel, according to Hendrix. Volunteers are invited to participate in daily care activities for continuing contact with the residents.

Organizations are being asked to commit to providing an evening meal for residents on a monthly basis. The project entails planning a menu, preparing the food and delivering the meal to the facilities one evening a month.

Additional contributions of fruits and vegetables will help supplement the Meals on Wheels program serving the residents. Nutritional supplements and high-calorie

products are needed as well. Individuals and groups might sponsor transportation of residents to medical appointments, which sometimes can be all-day, taxing affairs for the patients.

And volunteers who organize games or activities for the residents during the day will relieve boredom and lift spirits.

To volunteer, call Samaritan Housing at 817/870-1937.

LOBBYIST NAMED

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas has named its new executive director, activist Dianne Hardy-Garcia of Austin.

Hardy-Garcia is currently the co-chair of the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus and a leader in the successful battle for domestic partnership rights for Austin City Employers.

Laurie Eiserloh, current LGRL executive director, says Hardy-Garcia is "dynamic, intelligent and passionate about lesbian/gay rights,

and she will be an excellent executive director and lobbyist."

The Lobby board decided on the new hire in mid-October after a nationwide search launched when Eiserloh announced her resignation to pursue career options as a lawyer. Eiserloh will have been employed by the Lobby for three years as of Nov. 15. She was preceded by veteran activist Bettie Naylor and State Representative Glen Maxey.

Texas is one of only three states to have a full-time lesbian/gay rights lobby.

FLIER POLLUTING PARKING LOTS

Author plots against gays

A gay-bashing flier distributed on cars at a Bedford shopping area was directed to the attention of Ruth Skidmore, P-FLAG Fort Worth co-president.


The flier called for gays to "stop poisoning the minds of our children." It cited a gay agenda to push books like "Heather has Two Mommies" into public school curriculum. And it promoted that gays were "sick and need to be pushed back into the closet."

The author promised to do all within his power to curb gay visibility. "I'll go to Washington - I'll do whatever it takes. I need money and volunteers."

According to the flier, contributions should be sent to Forest G.

Clark; P.O. Box 14828; Haltom City, TX 76117.

Anyone who has something they wish to contribute to Clark should write him at that address. Sandy Moore, regional P-FLAG director, was unable to locate a listing for Clark in the phone book.



GAY TRAVEL

Corporate or Leisure
1-800-486-8111

SUPPORT THE GAY COMMUNITY

A portion of each ticket purchased benefits the AIDS Outreach Center.

Owned by Tim Hayes of the Apothecary Shops and Hayes Discount Pharmacy.

Free Delivery
Located in the Mid-Cities - Serving the Dallas and Fort Worth Community



Distinctive Dog Grooming

Faith Davis MaryAnne Underwood

Professional Dog Grooming
All Breed

Bath - Brush - Dip
Clipper Groom - Handscissor

By Appointment Only
Evenings available
(817) 246-0970

FREE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(IF YOUR INSURANCE QUALIFIES)

- Same-Day Pickup at our Local Pharmacies or Delivery to Your Home or Office
- UPS or Mail to Out-of-Town Customers
- Includes Emergency Prescriptions
- No Out-of-Pocket Expense
- Discounts on Your Deductible
- Absolute Confidentiality under Penalty of Law
- We Do All Paperwork--No Receipts to Save

OR

GREAT CASH PRICES

ON DIFLUCAN, ZOVIRAX, CYTOVENE, NEBUPENT, PROCIT, ETC.
FOR EXAMPLE... RETROVIR, 100 Mg Per 100--\$132.99

1-800-258-9897

Austin
38th Street Pharmacy
711 38th Street
Austin, TX 78705
1-512-448-3784

Fort Worth
Hayes Discount Pharmacy
426 S. Henderson
Fort Worth, TX 76104
1-817-336-7281

DALLAS

The Apothecary Shop #1
3434 Swiss Avenue
Dallas, TX 75024
214-823-4520

The Apothecary Shop #2
Aston Center-UT Med. Ctr.
5303 Harry Hines
Dallas, TX 75235
214-688-2422

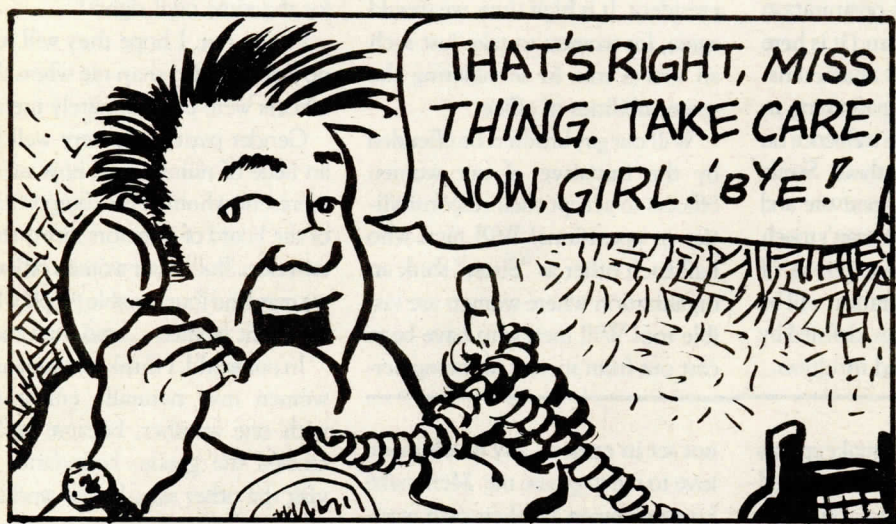
Oak Cliff Pharmacy
222 E. Colorado Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75203
214-946-3200

"A LOVING HEART IS A HELPING HAND."

-TIM HAYES

DEWEY'S DREAMS

By **TODD CAMP**



EQUALITY

continued from p. 3

not by the officers, who are elected from the board. The board of directors decides all actions and policies by vote, with the voice of each director carrying equal weight.

The board is comprised of six women and five men. I've noticed in the directors' meetings that the excess of women by one has not intimidated the men — they are each vocal, assertive, well-opin-

ioned, not at all shy. So far, every vote has been unanimous, or nearly so, because the discussions, which present many viewpoints, consistently guide us to a shared conclusion.

The four officers are actually unpaid employees of the board of directors, enjoined to carry out mundane operating tasks. For instance, Angela Lansey, treasurer, is empowered to balance the checkbook. Cyndi Drolet, secretary, holds authority over the meeting minutes. And President Steele spent one evening

recently sending out reminder notices for an upcoming meeting.

Still, the officers do affect the growth and development of an organization by management style, and it is here that their gender, and characteristics and experiences pertaining to that, will carry a definite influence on the Alliance. The methods Steele offers to help organize, motivate and delegate will have that woman's touch to them, and her perceptions of what affects our organization will be through a woman's eyes, defined by a woman's feelings and intuition.

And this is a *good* thing. In the 13-year history of the Alliance, no woman has, until now, served as its president. It is high time, we should agree, for women to take just such an active role in shouldering the responsibilities of office.

Will our gay brothers be offended by the initiative of our women officers to accept such responsibilities in operations? Will men who hail each other as "Sister" shirk an organization where women are visible too? Will men who have been cast out from society for being per-

ceived as too "feminine" exclude themselves from an organization where women share their struggle for the same civil rights?

I hope not. I hope they will feel no less included than me when the officers were predominately men.

Gender parity may very well be an issue of numbers, of how many represent whom. The composition of the board of directors meets that criterion. But in our women officers we may find four capable *people* who represent women ... and men too.

In our world, I think our men and women may naturally empathize with one another, because we've crossed the gender boundaries to visit the other side. In our world, a man can arrange flowers prettily; a woman can build a nice deck off the patio; and a lesbian and gay man can work together on the issues at hand without higher authority given to the one who stands up or the one who sits down to pee. ♪

BUTCHES

continued from p. 3

purple, the world would see our strength and numbers?" Butch women already are "purple." They don't hide. When a butch woman wears a dress and heels, she still bears that unmistakable air that says "lesbian" all over her person. No matter how much she tries to fool herself and others in her camouflage, deep down she knows that "they know." She knows even if no one talks about it or says the "L" word.

Perhaps this visibility is one of

the things I have long admired. I've often taken a particular delight in being seen in public with butches. They help make my own lesbian identity visible. Together we look like lesbians. By myself, I get lost in the crowd of straight women.

I think it is time to stop "butch bashing." Our androgynous sisters fight battles for us daily just in their very existence. It is not easy living life "purple." It carries an emotional price tag. If our lesbian community does not give each other validation, who will?

I never knew I was going to become a fashion trend. I always thought I dressed this way, wore my

hair this way, wore my makeup this way to please myself, and because I wanted butch women to notice me. I wanted to please them.

I'm tired of hearing the phrase, "If I wanted a man, I'd get a real one." I know very few butch women who want to be men. I know no femmes who want to turn their lovers into men. We are not playing roles. This is my life. I am domestic because I like it. My lovers mowed my yard and fixed my sink because they felt they were contributing to our household. My first lover was a whiz in the kitchen. She taught me how to cook. I was always in charge of the finances. Our household duties were

not set in cement. My lovers made love to me to please me. Men make love to women for their own gratification.

My butch lovers and friends are not pseudo men. They are strong women who live "purple" everyday of their lives while the rest of us pick and choose our visibility. ♪

fort worth formal

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY GEARING UP

This year's *fort worth formal*, the lesbian/gay community's fourth annual New Year's Eve party hosted by the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, will be held Dec. 31 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at 815 Main Street in downtown Fort Worth.

This year's *fort worth formal* benefits: Agape MCC; Allan G. Calkin Human Rights, Education and Research Fund of Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby; Fort Worth/Tarrant County NAMES Project; Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance; and Trinity MCC.

Ticket prices include music, dancing and a catered buffet. This year, drinks from the cash bar will be available at reasonable prices — nothing over \$2. The Radisson is also offering special discounted rooms for attendees. Call for room rates and booking, and mention *fort worth formal* when making your request.

Single ticket prices are \$25. Indi-

vidual sponsorship levels are:

Platinum: \$1,000 (includes free room at the Radisson, free valet parking, free bottle of champagne, two free drink coupons, program listing and option to reserve a table).

Gold: \$500 (includes free room at the Radisson, free valet parking, free bottle of champagne, two free drink coupons, program listing and option to reserve a table).

Silver: \$100 (includes two free drink coupons, program listing and option to reserve table).

Bronze: \$50 (includes two free drink coupons, program listing and

option to reserve a table).

Sponsors may reserve a table for eight. To reserve a table, submit payment for eight people, excluding those who are covered by free sponsorship tickets.

Business Sponsorships for program and invitation listings are: Platinum, \$500; Gold, \$250; Silver, \$100; and Bronze, \$50. Prices do not include free tickets.

The *fort worth formal* is anticipating a sell-out party this year. Invitations will be going out soon, so make your reservations early! Contact TCLGA at 817/763-5544 for more information.

Cheryl Strange, GRI REALTOR

Residential property specialist serving all of Fort Worth, Arlington and surrounding areas

Page: 817/425-8825 Res: 817/732-3294

Realtor, affiliate of Van Zandt, Realtors

Concentrate on Your Business, Not Your Books.

Because you didn't open your company to concentrate on calculating taxes and keeping the books, we did. With 19 years experience, Darwin & Hanus, Inc. helps small firms like yours with a full range of tax, bookkeeping and payroll services. Stop worrying about the books and concentrate on running your company. Find out how easy it is to get back to business.

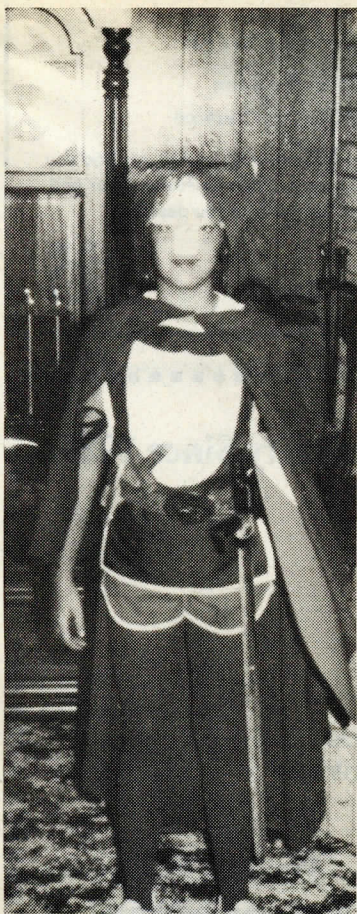


Call: Metro (817) 589-1666
or (817) 284-7799

Roller-Coaster Ride

For 19-year-old Daniele Casilio, discovering her orientation this year has been the ride of her life, filled with bumps and sharp turns and chilling risks. The person who seeks to deride her, however, had best beware: Daniele is sure and proud of the ride, and she would choose no other.

By
**DANIELE
CASILIO**



AS A CHILD, Daniele Casilio felt different from her peers, alienated. She cloaked those differences behind a mask, hidden from others and from herself too.

Looking back upon all of the emotions I have felt these past nine months is a daunting task. The culmination of my coming-out process parallels a roller coaster. This nine-month ride holds both the best and worst moments I can remember. Just like a roller coaster, I experienced periods of dramatic mood swings along with periods of interminable limbo.

After a two-year hiatus in the gradual understanding of my gayness, a period of suppression I suppose, the flood gates of my mind gave way. No longer could I keep my feelings at a safe, theoretical distance. The protection of "this is not me" was false, and I knew it. I had to battle my feelings directly.

I was forced to learn hard lessons. For the first time in my life, I faced the likelihood of rejection from everyone around me, including my family and friends. My journal reminds me of the isolation I felt then. "This knowledge of myself is so hard to deal with. I feel so alone. I have no one. I am afraid to tell my friends; afraid I will lose all I have gained this year." Many nights during this time I sobbed myself to sleep, having no one in the world with whom to talk.

The isolation in which I found myself strengthened my resolve to locate other gay people. Talking to my pillow just didn't cut it because pillows don't talk back. So, after a frantic search through the phone book, I found the Alliance. I stared the phone down for half an hour,

building up the courage to dial all seven numbers. After talking and hanging up the phone, I released some still unknown emotion in a small bout of tears. Nine days later was to be my first time among a group of other gays.

Going to that first meeting of the Alliance was probably the hardest thing I have ever done. I didn't know anyone there. I had no idea what everyone would be like, though common sense told me I wouldn't meet ogres. I think mostly I feared not fitting in. My whole life I had felt apart from the majority group; what if I had no place among other gays? But Susan came over to welcome me, and looking around the room that evening, I thought, "I am home. I don't know anyone yet, but I finally belong somewhere."

Finding the gay community began a new series of lessons. I quickly realized that the term "baby dyke," which I gladly accepted from Beverly as a badge of my initiation, perfectly described how I felt — like a baby just learning to speak. Group conversation brought on the confusion of symbols and terminology. Luckily, the lessons are easy and fun to learn. Conversations continually become much clearer and humorous as I recognize alternate meanings in words such as "family." The joy of fooling straight society comes when they comment on my freedom rings or I see yet another rainbow sticker on the road.

Coming out to others has been and still is a source of great emotion. I have had a few cool, if not cold

receptions which took their toll on my judgments of how wise those particular revelations were. However, most often my fears proved unfounded. I have been blessed with supportive friends and professors who allow me to be myself. Each successful coming out helps to make the next easier. But I know temporary setbacks will continue, especially when I tell my dad.

The future still holds the promise of harrowing tests. Rather than hiding from them, I will embrace any difficulties in life. I view them as tests necessary for my growth as a person. Every fear, doubt and challenge I have worked through has given me a comparable strength, knowledge or confidence.

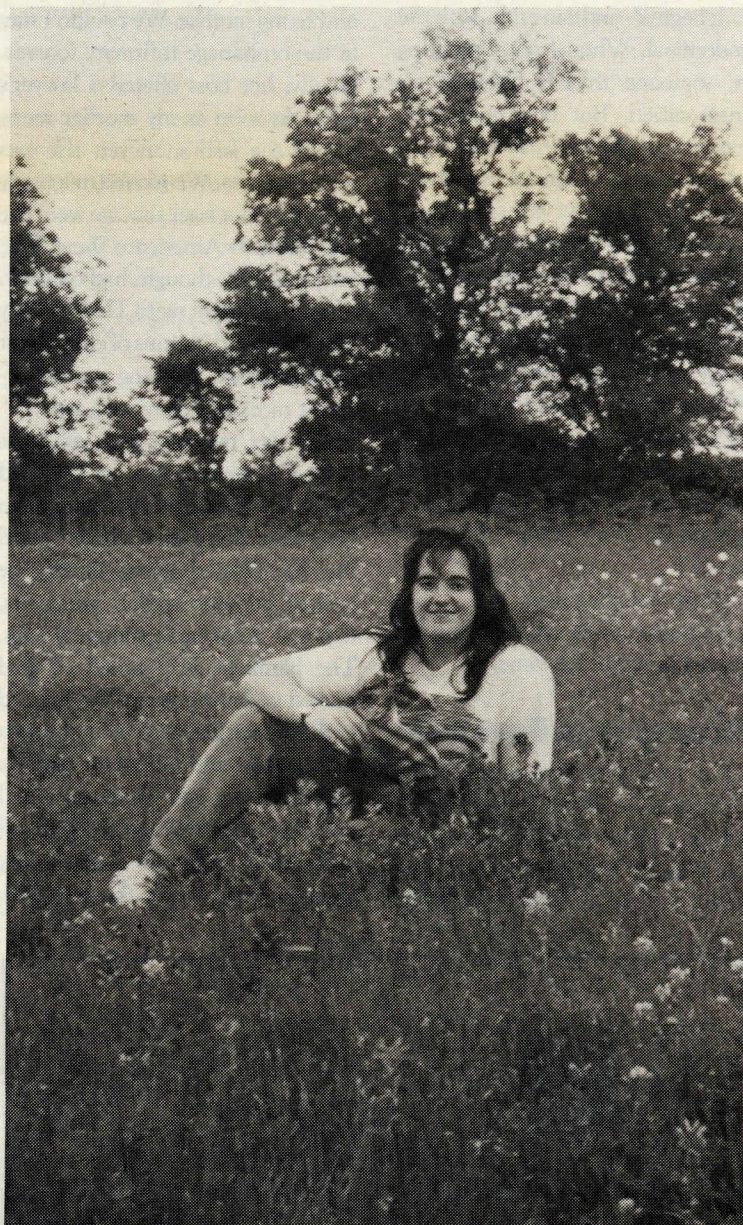
Accepting my orientation allowed me to feel good about my whole self. It also gave me insights on my childhood. I know now why I didn't understand the way girls acted. In play they all yearned for domination by some guy. Instead, I chose to play the hero who saved

the girls or the amazon who had her own muscles and brains.

My loneliness has not lasted either. In the past five months since I entered the community, I have made many new friends. I still tend to be quiet when I first meet people; however, I am becoming much more outgoing. More comfortable with myself, I find initial conversation a smaller hurdle than ever before.

Finally, my involvement within the community brings the greatest rewards. I enjoy helping out in various committees and volunteer efforts. I feel that I am making a difference in more than just my small corner of Tarrant County — doing my part to forge our brave new world.

Many people say no one would choose to be gay. While I did not choose this aspect of my life, I know, if I have the opportunity to do so, I will never choose not to be gay. I have become a much stronger person, more sure of myself for my gayness, and I would not give that up for the world. ♣



THIS SUMMER, Daniele discarded the mask and revealed, to her delight, who she is. The college freshman says 'I'm a lesbian ... and I'm proud!'

Children knew the scars and wounds of discrimination

Long Before RODNEY KING

By Chinwe Odeluga

As an adult I know the legacy of racism well. Each time our bodies stiffen or our voices change in the presence of another race, our children absorb that. Racism paints the worst picture of any different race – television and myths portray African-Americans as poor, dumb, over-sexed, sub-human criminals. Money can keep the racists away from the “undesirables,” which can be any people of color. Situational prejudice only continues: each group knowing nothing about each other but hearsay. Racism in America has created a fertile breeding ground for such attitudes as are birthed in the policemen who call African-American families “gorillas.”

It begins – and can end – with the individual. When I say something to someone that is negative it's internalized. But one unpleasant experience with an African-American doesn't account for the entire race. Two positive events can be cited for every negative occurrence. A person can make an effort to separate fact from fiction. The anti-African-American programming of the United States can be discarded. Self-examination and confrontation of racism must be made a daily part of life. Unenforced civil rights only continue the legacy of racism. A person can cease doing “business as usual.”

Now is a good time.

A repeat of the past means the legacy remains the same.

Rodney King Revisited

I remember what it was like in 1963. The area we lived in was mainly white. Mother didn't have anyone to actually baby-sit me and my sister, but Miss Grant and Miss

Pearson used to keep an eye on us. Miss Grant lived in the apartment below us. Miss Pearson looked out the window all day, leaning on a pillow. If we were wild outside or at home we would hear about it later. Miss Pearson was African-American and Miss Grant was white. My playmate Veronica was also white. We were the only ones with divorced parents it seemed. We all lived together – African-American, white, old, young, single-parent and married.

I was 11 when our apartment building burned. My mother worked at an orphanage, so we lived there while she looked for a place nearby. We were homeless, but no one would rent to my mother. We couldn't stay in the orphanage infirmary forever. Finally, her boss offered a lawyer's help. As soon as my mother mentioned she had a lawyer, she was rented a place. We moved in a hurry and found out later that we were the only African-Americans there. The public school, though, had children of many different races. I had already met the united nations of children at the orphanage, so being around different races was okay with me.

One day, my sister Tina, who was 8, and I went down to Orchard Beach by ourselves. We took two buses there and played all day. When the sun started going down, we packed our one wallet, swimsuits, toys and leftovers in shopping bags. The blankets were rolled up and tucked under our arms. We hurried to the bus station, paid, went through the turnstile and waited for the bus. Somehow we got separated and I ended up on the wrong bus. I got off right away, only to discover my shopping bag wasn't the one with

the wallet. I didn't have money to get on the right bus for home!

A subway was nearby, as were two policemen parked in a patrol car. Adults had taught me to look for an officer when I was in trouble. I thought they would help me. I explained to them what had happened and that I had no money. I asked to be put on a train. I didn't want to break the law by jumping the turnstile. They told me to keep walking, that I was headed in the right direction.

Long before Rodney King I learned cops don't help African-Americans. They don't even help lost African-American kids.

I asked white homeowners who were watering their lawns for help. They had big beautiful houses but couldn't give me 15 cents busfare. It was getting darker. I was cold and tired. I made myself keep walking. I didn't want to be outside when it got pitch black. I was scared that I might have to sleep in the streets. I walked for about two hours before reaching my cousins' house. They drove me home.

Mother had always said, “It's nice to be nice” and “If you don't have anything good to say about someone, don't say it.” Those white people weren't nice and I didn't

have anything good to say. Mother also said, “People are people and race doesn't matter.” None of it was true! In other neighborhoods it did matter that I was African-American. None of the adults helped me as they did in my old neighborhood. I just knew I was treated differently because of my color.

Long before Rodney King I knew cops didn't help African-Americans.

And After Rodney King

It's about time police begin helping African-Americans. We are taxpayers too. It's been 30 years since 1963, and daily indignities and alienation continue, just on a different level. I inherited the belief that injustice could be fought constructively. I support African-

American organizations, professionals and the community efforts to “save the children.” I haven't accepted America's message that African-Americans are less than equal. I have pursued my personal goals and aspirations in spite of racism.

Today I don't call policemen “pigs.” Hostility breeds hostility. Each individual is responsible for her or his actions – not their ethnic group or occupation.

I was taught to recognize and accept the complexity in others. Other people may make my race a problem. I continue trying to improve the society we live in.

I move toward inclusion while the system moves toward exclusion. I hope we all learn from Rodney King. ☛



Love doesn't have to be just a vision in your dreams

Alternative Visions

The State's 1st All Gay/Lesbian
Video Introduction/Relationship Service

If going to bars and answering personal ads is not working for you, and you are serious about a long-term relationship, we provide an easier, safer and more economical way to help you find the love you deserve.

Call us at

1-800-607-4667



Proudly Serving the Gay and Lesbian Community Since 1989.



5240 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
(817) 731-3399
Telephone Answered 24 Hours

PROFESSIONAL
ALL BREED STYLIST

Pet Food & Supplies
Pickup & Delivery Available
in Select Areas by Appointment

We honor all
local competitors
coupons

This Ad is Worth \$5 Off Any Complete Grooming.

EXPIRES 11-30-93



Courtney L. Chatfield
American Express Financial Planner

Personal Financial Planning

American Express Service Corporation
401 Texas Commerce Bank Building
860 Airport Freeway West, Hurst, TX 76054
(817) 428-9898 Metro (817) 498-1833 Fax (817) 428-9677

Scott, Susan and I were lounging in the living room discussing the "good ole days." For me that meant Austin and the University of Texas. "Let's go. Now! To Austin," Scott chimed in after one of my long-winded stories. In less than 30 minutes we were magically transported out the door, into Susan's burgundy red car, and down the road. Scott was like that.

We drove the long way from Fort Worth to Austin, stopping at Dairy Queens for vodka set-ups, greasy fries and burgers. By the time we rode down South Congress looking for "the cheap motel near the Black Hawk Restaurant" that I remembered, we were all pretty far gone. Cheap in 10 years had become tawdry and dirty, but we didn't mind. Scott and Susan hid in the back seat and I went in to register for a single. That was what we got: a single bed, no chair.

Undaunted, for there was no problem too big or consequential we couldn't handle, we debated our next move. Scott called the police station. "I'm wondering," he nonchalantly asks, "where are the local gay bars?" Even though this was a walk down memory lane, we all knew that gay bars often have a short life span. "They hung up on me."

We found a sex-toy/pornography bookstore on 5th Street (long before it had become a popular coded mecca). Scott had the door opened before Susan had stopped the car, and he flew toward the entrance leaving the car door ajar. After a few minutes I followed, while Susan waited in the car. It was not the first such store I had been in, but it was the first time

Scott's soul was loving, joyful, mad-cap, undaunted. I still look for his reflection in the eyes of strangers, in panels of fabric, and in the heft of a well-worn ball and mitt.

By SUZANNE LEWIS

that I was honestly looking for someone else who had disappeared. I felt pretty stupid telling the man behind the counter I was "looking for a friend." He kind of jerked his head in the direction of another door, and I decided not to follow. Finally Scott emerged all smiles. Back at the car, Susan assumed a maternal role and chastised us both for leaving her alone on a dark street.

We spent the remainder of the weekend "making the bar scene" with Susan and me mostly playing chaperone to Scott's mad adventure. We laughed, made jokes, drank in the decadence of the night as though there would be no tomorrow. We laughed, innocent of the fact that the following year Scott would become sick with a new disease, AIDS.

In 1981 Scott was the first person I knew who became sick with AIDS. It was called the homosexual disease, and the aura

of mystery, the code of silence and ignorance surrounding it, made everything seem unreal. But the slow painful way in which Scott died was real. So, too, was the atmosphere of rejection and isolation that surrounded him. I don't think that either Susan or I believed that Scott would die: it could not be happening to someone we knew.

When Kathy and I went to the Will Rogers showing of the AIDS Panel, I thought about Scott, as well as the other people I have known who have since died of AIDS. The atmosphere at Will Rogers is generally festive and commercial. Not this time. In silence, with the reverence and awe accorded great cathedrals, Kathy and I walked to one corner of the great panel. We each hugged a friend dressed in white, the red ribbon of AIDS awareness pinned to her T-shirt, and didn't speak. We shared the knowledge and the pain. I had not planned to look for a panel dedicated to Scott, but as I read each message and looked into the eyes of so many young men, I began to look for him, as

though Scott would be somewhere in that great hall.

There is a Zen teaching about enlightenment and the ability to see the moon in a dewdrop. I take it to mean that the power, mystery and vitality of the moon is contained even in something as small, and apparently insignificant, as a dewdrop.

That is the power of the quilted panels. But they must be seen and experienced, not read about. Unfolded before me and the others who went to Will Rogers were hundreds of dewdrops signaling the beauty of lives lost to a horrible disease, many in disgrace, rejected by a homophobic society that too long ignored the power of AIDS, believing it to be a punishment from God visited on bathhouse queers.

After an hour I walked back to the front to inspect what appeared to be an information table. I was surprised by my anxiety and fear as I leaned over to ask one of the individuals staffing the table if there was a way I could locate a specific panel. He pointed toward the national master list and ex-



WORLD AIDS DAY
DECEMBER 1, 1993

plained how I could determine whether or not a specific panel was on display at Amon Carter. I looked for Scott's name and did not find it. In disbelief I kept looking. Confused, angry and sad, I pleaded with the man helping me, "Why can't I find my friend's name." In a soft, pleasant, but deafening voice, he responded, "Apparently, there are none." "Why not," I wondered, but I had the sense not to ask a total stranger a question for which there probably is no answer.

I walked away feeling guilty. I hadn't know Scott for a long time. He had been a friend of Susan's before I met her. I felt confused and overwhelmed by the details of personal and societal tragedy all around me.

I returned numbly to the panels, composing a panel for Scott in my mind. There would be a baseball. The night he told me he had never thrown a baseball, I went to the closet, took out my old mitt and ball, and showed him how to throw by moonlight, starlight and porchlight. We laughed and joked that night while Scott told me about his art work and his plans. He was working at J.C. Penny's in Dallas as a graphic artist, but he hoped one day to go to New York, where he had been a few times, to be a "full-fledged artist."

He'd laugh at the ball and mitt - he was not athletic. But the dewdrop of Scott's soul, the love and joy of life that he communicated to those who know him cannot be conveyed on a panel, or in words, or in whatever ways each of us chooses to celebrate the lives of those lost to AIDS.

Tonight I'll play catch in the moonlight and look at the dew on the lawn and hear Scott giggle that HE, not me, "throws like a girl."

printing, etc.

James Allen/David Espep, Owners

Free pick-up and delivery
throughout the metroplex

Best prices
plus 10% of your total invoice goes to your
favorite non-profit organization.

407 Jefferson
Whitney, TX 76692

THANKSGIVING CRUISE

JOIN FELLOW SISTERS WITH OLIVIA, SAILING ABOARD THE CUNARD CROWN DYNASTY FOR THANKSGIVING. PORTS INCLUDE ST. THOMAS, ST. JOHN, PUERTA PLATA, SAN JUAN AND NASSAU. ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES MUSICIANS AND COMEDIENNES FROM OLIVIA RECORDS prices from \$995 per person

CALL BETTE SHE HAS SAILED THIS SHIP

731-8551

COUNTRY DAY TRAVEL INC.

4255 BRYANT IRVIN RD. OPEN M-F 9-6

Bows & Ribbons

These gift items are thoughtful expressions in their own right, but there's a common link here that makes them even more special. Proceeds from sales benefit local organizations and AIDS services. These are gifts that give ... twice.

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

'Put a condom on your Charlie' T-shirt sales benefit AIDS service centers

Earlier this year Dally, a Fort Worth-based marketing firm, won a national Gold ADDY award, one of the most prestigious in the advertising industry, for its pro-bono advertising campaign to "Put a condom on your Charlie."

This Christmas season you can put an eye-catching T-shirt on your chum in support of AIDS awareness. Proceeds from sales will go to Fort Worth's AIDS Outreach Center (AOC) or Dallas' AIDS Resource Center (ARC).

The big, bold design has been featured in advertising displays for AOC in the *Alliance News* as a series of well-protected Charlies, Dicks and Willies.

The Charlie T-shirts sell for \$15 at the Bazaar at Sundance Square and the AOC at 1125 W. Peter Smith in Fort Worth; and at Off the Street on Cedar Springs and the ARC at 2701 Reagan St. in Dallas.

For purchasing information call AOC in Fort Worth at 817/335-1994, or ARC in Dallas 214/521-5124.

Basket case over shopping?

Give the gift that says 'we care'

Some people on your Christmas list might have everything they need and more, which makes for some tough decisions at the cologne counter. Avoid the angst and give a gift instead that says "I care ... and I know you care too."

This year make a donation to the AIDS Outreach Center's gift basket program in honor of, or in memorial to, a loved one. Each basket going to PWLAs is funded by \$30, far less

than the cost of designer perfume and carrying a far more lasting impression.

Baskets contain a turkey, sparkling non-alcoholic champagne, gift items and other assorted holiday sundries, and are distributed to the center's clients and family. Last year the center donated 150 baskets as well to the Denton service area.

Businesses and individuals might consider underwriting a product or food item to stock the projected 500 baskets.

In any case, here is an opportunity to pay someone else to do your Christmas shopping for you, and you'll end up smelling like a rose.

Call Lee Arning, head of AOC's Nutrition Center, at 817/335-1994, or mail your check to Christmas Baskets, AOC Nutrition Center, 1118 Pennsylvania, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

New 'Gay-OK' jewelry line

P-FLAG leader

creates

supportive symbol

This Christmas season, lesbians and gays might give the gift that gives right back, by enabling their families and friends to make a quiet statement against intolerance.

Wearing pink triangle jewelry and freedom rings in public helps gays and lesbians to identify one another for a friendly nod and a thumbs-up in support. And the symbols serve as a visible demonstration of pride, a wordless manner of coming out to those in the know.

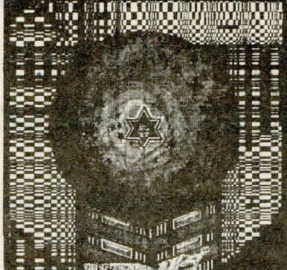
Maggie Greene of P-FLAG Fort Worth saw a need for supporters of lesbians and gays to be identified similarly. She wanted a symbol of her own to announce that she rejects intolerance. She wanted a symbol that would introduce her to the lesbians and gays she encounters in public as a friend, to encour-

age them to come out to her.

With the assistance of local artist Jeannie Berry, Greene has designed a line of jewelry sporting a proud new symbol that reflects her sentiments, a symbol she hopes will be appropriated by friends and family everywhere.

The design is of delicate, gold-filled wire that forms the inverted triangle with a scripted message of acceptance: OK. The symbol is available on pins, rings and necklaces and can be purchased at P-FLAG or TCLGA meetings or by calling P-FLAG at 817/498-4855.

Greene, who is P-FLAG's vice president of membership, is donating all profits to the organization. Her project is a personal expression of support for a family member who is gay, and a promotion of civil rights extended to lesbians and gays. *fa*

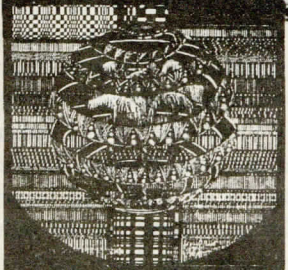


A. JULES MASSICOT
ARTIST

2000

ANNO
DOMINI

2841 TRAVIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH • TEXAS
76110 TELE (817) 926-0682



CARLOS D. NORTHAM
BUSINESS MANAGER

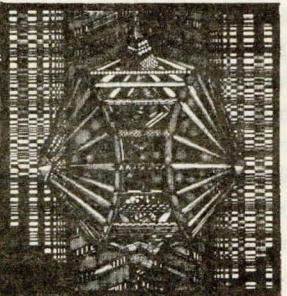
PRESENT

CARDS OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CARDS

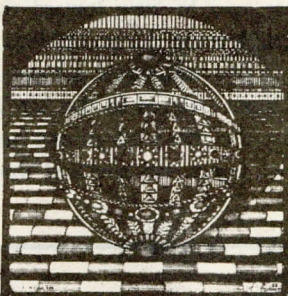
EACH PACKAGE CONSISTS OF SEVEN CARDS, HANDSOMELY WRAPPED IN A TAUPE COLORED CHINESE PAPER. EACH SERIES OF 7 CARDS IS DISTINCT AND UNIQUE. THE IMAGES ARE TAKEN FROM THE EXQUISITE ORIGINAL PEN AND INK DRAWINGS OF ARTIST, A. JULES MASSICOT.

THESE CHRISTMAS CARDS AS WELL AS A LARGER COLLECTION OF NOTE CARDS BY THE ARTIST MAY BE PURCHASED AT:



STRINGS

3425 WEST 7TH STREET
FORT WORTH - TEXAS



A DONATION OF \$1.00 FOR EACH PACKAGE ORDERED THROUGH THE MAIL WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ALLIANCE.

QUANTITY (NO. OF PACKAGES)	PRICE EACH	PRICE TOTAL
x	\$10.00	\$
	SUBTOTAL	\$
	SALES TAX 7.75 % (+)	
	SHIPPING (+)	1.75
	*GRAND TOTAL	\$




CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED (NO C.O.D. PLEASE). ALLOW 2 EXTRA WEEKS FOR DELIVERY ON CHECK ORDERS.

* MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO 2000 ANNO DOMINI

(A) YOUR MAILING ADDRESS: _____ (B) SHIPPING ADDRESS (if different than (A)): _____

A daytime phone number: (____) _____

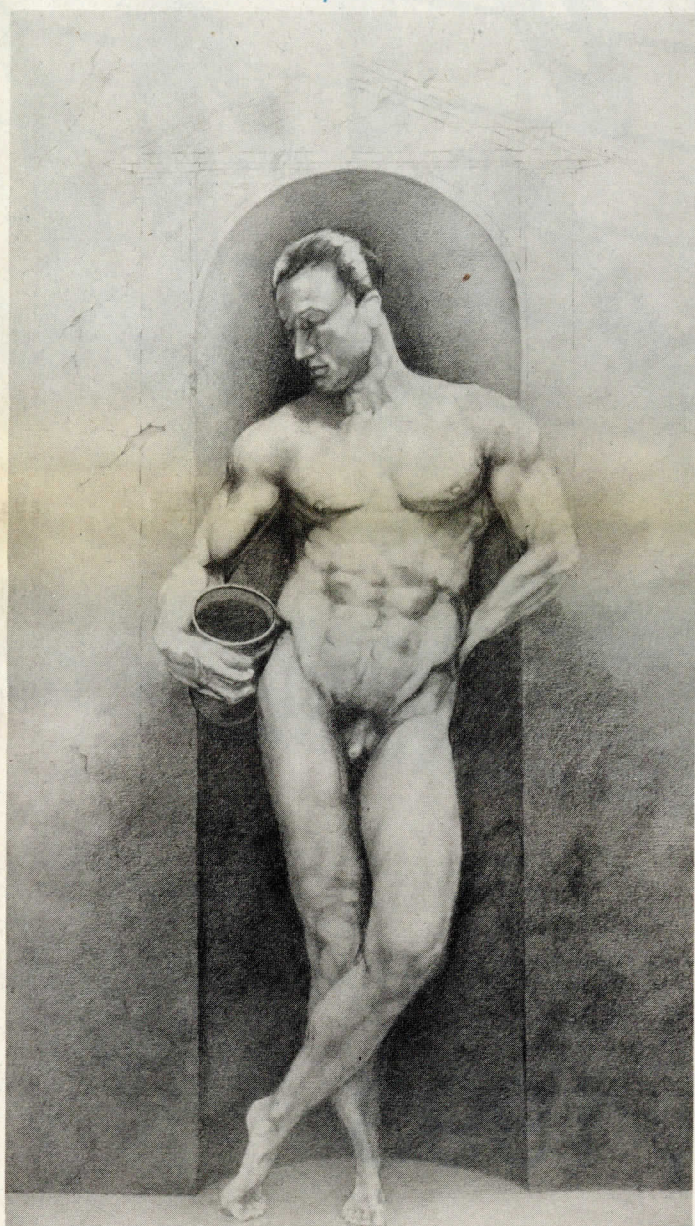
We request this number only in the event we have a question regarding your order

Artist Unveiled

JOEDY GRANT HAS SIFTED THROUGH CULTURAL BOUNDARIES TO FIND WHAT IS REAL EXPRESSION. BY THROWING OFF LAYERS OF SOCIETAL PROGRAMMING, HE NOW REVEALS THE INNER BEAUTY AND IDYLIC GLORY OF SUBJECTS LONG REJECTED.

By **RON STREFF**



GRANT'S ILLUSTRATION is so finely detailed that the negative he submitted for his ad appeared to be a photograph of a statue. The staff declined his ad on the basis that nudity in advertising implies selling sexuality. Grant's moving appeal convinced us of his innocent intent: he seeks to decriminalize the male nude, to revere the human body, and these are honorable characteristics traditional to fine art.

Because of my limited hands-on experience and knowledge of art, the trepidation with which I approached this interview was great. I couldn't imagine any description or critique of artist Joedy Grant's work in my words being adequate. Despite my limited knowledge and fear, the concepts that Grant expressed made sense to me.

Frightening thought: Artists aren't supposed to make sense to an Iowa farm boy turned queer activist in Foat Wuth.

The most striking piece in Grant's TCU studio is a 10' x 15' canvas in progress, accompanied by a small drawing showing the changes that he plans to make. He has halted work on the canvas, though, because he is dissatisfied with the direction it was taking. This dissatisfaction is a result of what Grant perceives as a lack of power in the piece.

Each figure has its own space, separated by "12 inches of daylight." The final work on the canvas is to be of a dozen men, some involved in a ceremony in the background. Front and center, a blind man holds a scale (a balance) over a man bent in supplication. The scale is out of balance, indicating that he is being judged. To the right is a man pointing at the one being judged and looking up (to God?). To the left, a man shouts at the man on the right. In front of them is a man pointing to the viewer and a man looking at the viewer while holding a gun. These characters are posed to involve the viewer in the painting's subject matter.

What is missing from the painting is, Grant thinks, his own power. Case in point: Grant's diary, which he produced for my review, relates his own feelings of inadequacies. He had always felt that he was never appropriate, always wrong, always second-rate in relation to people he

SEE GRANT ON P. 19

Artist meets fine line separating selling vs. promoting sexuality

IN THIS CASE, PROMOTING

An artist specializing in the male figure in oils and drawings, Joedy Grant found himself before TCLGA's Board of Directors in October, defending an ad he wished to place in the *Alliance News*. In question was the rendering of a line-art illustration of a male nude, an integral piece of the advertisement, which clashed with a publication policy: no nudity in any advertising.

An edited version of Grant's argument — which promoted spirited discussion among board members — about the editorial and advertising policies of the newspaper, as well as the nature of censorship in general — appears here:

"As evidenced in the electronic and print mass media — and even in your own publication — the reproduction of images of nude women is considered good draw while the suggestion of equivalent male nudity is met with embarrassment and dismay. As Jack Valente — conservative, former head of the motion picture academy and now Washington lobbyist — said last year when confronted with this obvious sexism, 'We cater to a heterosexual audience.' In other words, showing the image of a nude woman is just good fun and therefore good business. A nude man, however, is virtually endorsing criminal perversion. Roughly translated, this type of thinking says women are still objects to be inspected, and men are either too sacred or too perverse to be seen.

"My work is, in part, about taking back the nude from the province of pornographers and paranoid puritans. It is not dirty, demeaning, suggestive or inappropriate. It is art about beauty and ideals. It is not about how 'hot' this figure looks. It is frankly about how 'hot' my drawing skill is..."

As a result of Grant's articulate defense, the board revised its advertising policy to allow ads to be reviewed on an individual basis and to be accepted or rejected at the discretion of the advertising/editorial directors.

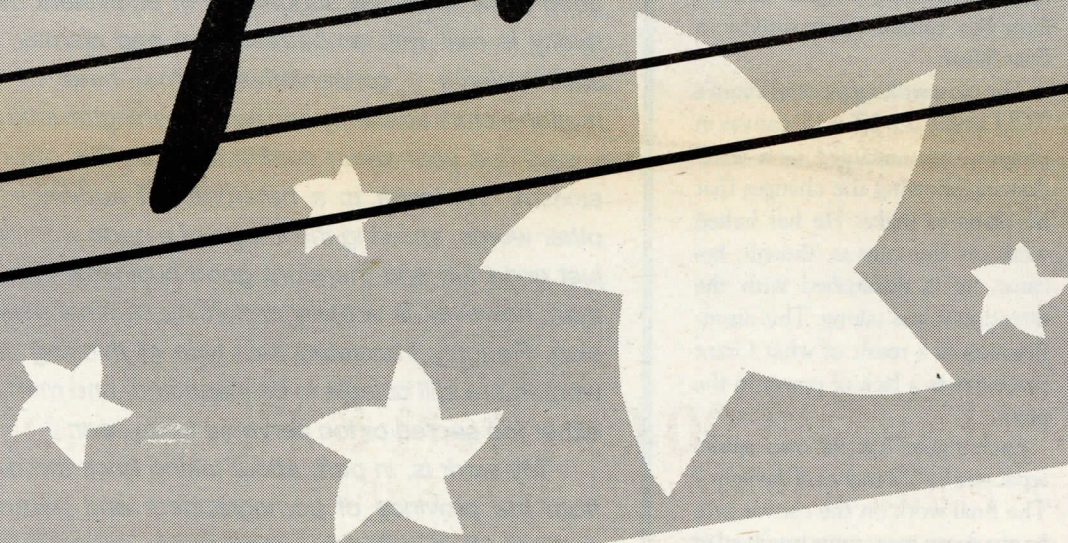
Ads which are blatantly erotic, that serve to exploit men or women, or which are otherwise inappropriate in nature will continue to be rejected. Each ad, however, will now be judged not merely by its content — either written or illustrative — but also by its intent.

The policy change came too late to consider Grant's ad which had been positioned for the October issue to capitalize on the Christmas trade.

But for those who are interested, Grant's artistic talents are available for hire by calling him at 817/926-3635.

FORT WORTH

Menácho



November 28, 1993

8:00 pm

**Texas Wesleyan University
Law Sone Center for the Arts
Fort Worth, Texas**



Premiere Concert

TICKETS: \$10.00 Concert - \$20.00 Concert & Reception
(SEATING IS LIMITED - PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS EARLY!)

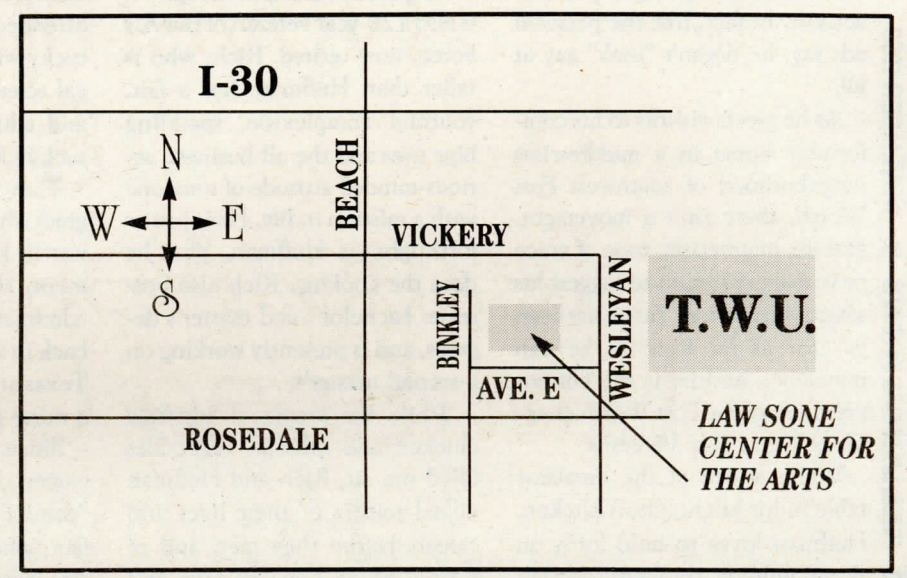
Tickets available at the following Metroplex locations:

Ft. Worth:
STRINGS:
 3425 West 7th Street
HUTTON HOUSE:
 4500 Bellaire Drive South
FT. WORTH/TARRANT CO. NAMES PROJECT:
 665 South Jennings

Dallas:
EVANS-HARRIS REALTORS:
 4710 Lemmon Avenue

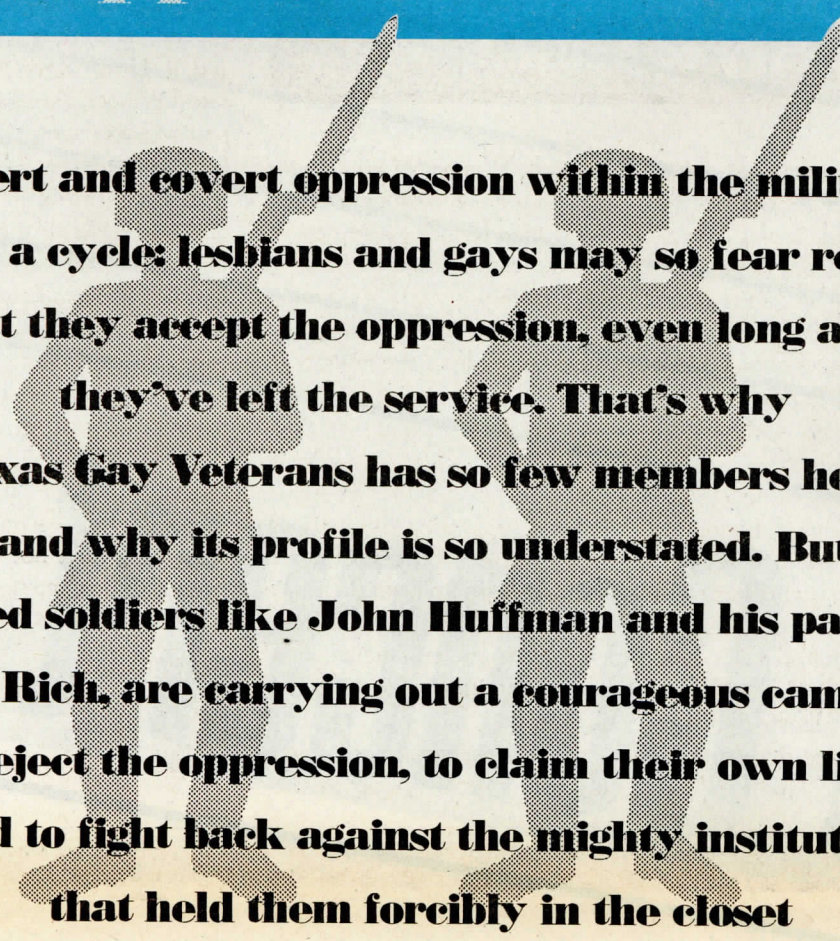
Or contact one of the following individuals:

Michael Toole: 817-731-0122
 Allan Gould: 817-732-4325
 Tony Browning: 817-233-4230
 Darwin Bragg: 817-536-0460



Military Strategy:

Oppression feeds oppression



Overt and covert oppression within the military forms a cycle: lesbians and gays may so fear reprisal that they accept the oppression, even long after they've left the service. That's why Texas Gay Veterans has so few members here, and why its profile is so understated. But retired soldiers like John Huffman and his partner, Doug Rich, are carrying out a courageous campaign to reject the oppression, to claim their own lives, and to fight back against the mighty institution that held them forcibly in the closet during their military careers.

By **JOHN CANTWELL**

official coming-out party. He used the occasion to announce to the world that he is gay.

Although the two men have so much in common, they are also different. For example, Rich loves horses and owns one which he boards at a nearby stable. Also, he makes it clear that the gay veterans organization is Huffman's project, not his.

Huffman's interest in Texas Gay Veterans began in 1991 after his return from Saudi Arabia. Tarrant County's original gay veterans organization, which was started by Ron Rasmussen back in the 1980s, was running out of steam. After Rasmussen moved out of state, Huffman decided to re-activate the club in 1992. He wanted to stimulate political dialog and political activity on the part of gay

veterans during a presidential election year. He believed this was particularly important in light of Bill Clinton's promise to end discrimination against gays in the military.

During the political campaigns of the fall of 1992, Huffman received quite a bit of local media attention himself because he was willing to speak out on the candidates' positions and address issues affecting gay veterans. Yet the Fort Worth chapter of Texas Gay Veterans has remained painfully small.

Huffman discovered that getting local gay ex-service men and women to respond and join his group was a real problem. Particularly former Air Force personnel. The notorious witch hunts for gay airmen at Carswell which pre-

On first meeting Major John Huffman, US Air Force Ret., you wouldn't take him for a political activist. He doesn't look the part. Wearing a baseball cap, sweat shirt and jeans, this small-framed, balding, middle-aged man of 50 with a mellow voice and easy manner appears anything but a political activist, let alone a gay political activist. In fact, like the personal ads say, he doesn't "look" gay at all.

As he greets visitors to his comfortable home in a middle-class neighborhood of southwest Fort Worth, there isn't a movement, gesture, mannerism, tone of voice or verbal expression to suggest his sexual orientation. Yet he has been gay for as far back as he can remember, and he is the current president of the Fort Worth chapter of Texas Gay Veterans.

When seated at the breakfast table in his bright, clean kitchen, Huffman loves to hold forth on things military, things gay and life in general. If he pontificates just a

bit, he has earned the right to do so by virtue of his bachelor's and master's degrees, his 20-year career in the Air Force where he piloted C130's, and his four years spent in Saudi Arabia with Lockheed/Arabia. This wealth of experiences gives Huffman a unique perspective on life which he is eager to share.

His partner, Doug Rich, age 44, is also a 20-year veteran of the Air Force, now retired. Rich, who is taller than Huffman, has a fair, youthful complexion, sparkling blue eyes and the all-business, serious-minded attitude of someone with a mission in life. He is just as forthright as Huffman, plus he does the cooking. Rich also possesses bachelor's and master's degrees, and is presently working on a second master's.

While the aroma of stir-fried chicken and oriental vegetables filled the air, Rich and Huffman talked jointly of their lives and careers before they met, and of how a strong bond of love and respect gradually formed between

them. When one finished a sentence, the other picked up the thought, and back and forth the conversation flowed, like talking to one mind with two heads.

Both men are from Kentucky, but they had never met until getting introduced one afternoon a year and a half ago at the 651 Club. Huffman is from Harlen while Rich is from Providence. Huffman attended the University of Kentucky where he majored in political science. Rich studied nursing and education at Western Kentucky University.

They both earned master's degrees while in the Air Force. Rich's was in human resources development. Huffman's was in business administration. Rich is presently back in school at the University of Texas at Arlington, studying to be a nurse practitioner.

Since leaving their Air Force careers behind, both men have "come out" to all and sundry. In fact, when Rich retired from the Air Force in August of this year, his retirement party was also his



**Uncle Sam
wants YOU**

**to forget about your rights
as a lesbian or gay man
in the military.**

Join Texas Lesbian/Gay Veterans the third Monday of each month at the TCLGA offices, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243. Next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening, Nov. 15. Call Huffman at 817/263-9006.

ceded the base's closing left many of those who survived in psychological shock. They retreated deeper into their closets, according to Huffman. And when they retired or left the service, the last thing they wanted to do was join an organization of "gay" veterans.

Fear of losing benefits, such as access to BX's and V.A. hospitals, and the inevitable breaking up of old friendships, if they were found out, has kept many gay and lesbian vets from openly acknowledging their sexual orientation.

Old habits die hard and, to Huffman, the "mind-set" of closeted male veterans, especially those in their early 40s who have spent all of their adult lives hiding their orientation, is the biggest obstacle to getting them to join his or-

ganization. They are too comfortable with the way things are, he says.

However, they are also terribly at risk, Huffman points out, because being in the closet may lead to seeking sexual contact in unsafe circumstances (public rest rooms, parks, etc.) with high-risk partners. There's always the danger of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, not to mention the possibility of being arrested.

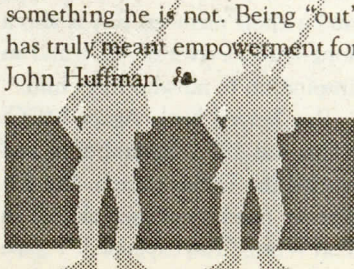
"I do not feel strapped to my military past," Huffman says, "And I have told my friends who remain in service how I feel about it. I have burned my own closet. Being out, for me, is truly empowerment!" Huffman preaches this gospel at every opportunity, especially when asked to speak on veterans issues by such orga-

nizations as the TCLGA.

Predictably, Huffman was disappointed with President Clinton's compromise on gays in the military. He is particularly annoyed

continually urges gays and lesbians everywhere to keep up the pressure on the White House and Congress to end the ban. One way to do this, he believes, is to keep

come to realize that they have nothing to fear and can gain much by getting organized. He is encouraged by the actions of gay members of the American Legion who formed the Alexander Hamilton Post for Gay Legionnaires in San Francisco, Ca. They are anxious to expand, according to Huffman, and if 15 or more veterans get together here, the San Francisco post will sponsor a gay American Legion Post in the Metroplex.

Always the gracious host, Huffman walks visitors to the curb in front of his house. The neighborhood of manicured lawns is quiet in the late-afternoon autumn sunlight. Huffman says his neighbors know that he and Doug Rich are gay, and apparently they could not care less. The greatest relief in his life, he says, is no longer having to pretend to be something he is not. Being "out" has truly meant empowerment for John Huffman. 

'The light of publicity causes the military to pause.'

with conservatives who argue that the armed forces should not be used for so-called "social experiments." This was the same argument put forward when President Truman ordered the racial integration of the armed services back in the late 1940s. According to Huffman, what conservatives don't want to face is the reality that thousands of gay men and lesbians are presently serving honorably throughout the United States military. "It's not a matter of letting us in; we're already there. We're already serving," Huffman says, "and have for the last 200 years."

Ultimately he believes the courts will have to decide the issue, but in the meantime Huffman con-

tinually urges gays and lesbians everywhere to keep up the pressure on the White House and Congress to end the ban. One way to do this, he believes, is to keep the media informed of witch hunts and other harsh treatment of gay and lesbian service personnel.

"Every effort has to be made to publicize military acts of discrimination," Huffman says. "The light of publicity causes the military to pause."

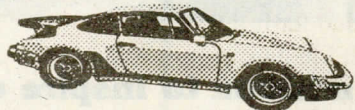
Currently there are less than half a dozen active members in Fort Worth's Texas Gay Veterans. Dallas does a little better with 18 to 20 active members. Houston and San Antonio have their own local TGV chapters, while state-level activities are handled out of the organization's Austin headquarters.

Huffman believes more veterans will join his group as they

'I have burned my own closet. Being out, for me, is truly empowerment!'

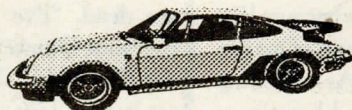
F.A.S.S.

STATE INSPECTIONS



WE DO
WINDOW TINTING
Call for an appointment

OPEN RAIN OR SHINE
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sundays: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



New owners: Kathy Jo and Ginny



2536 S. Cooper
Arlington, TX 76015
(817) 277-2792

SURVIVAL INSTINCT

It holds true that it's not how long you live your life that counts, but how you live it. This HIV+ deacon, by focusing on quality, is living happily, more healthily, maybe longer.

By BEVERLY BENNETT

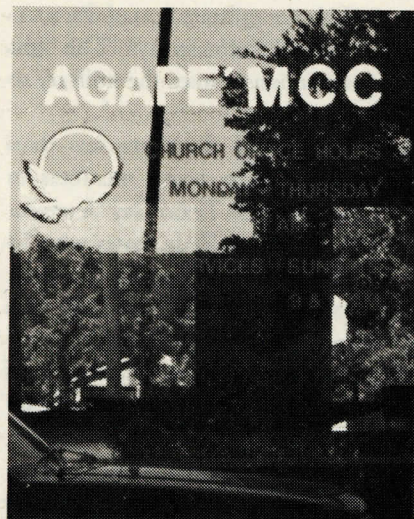
Ray Busbee has served Agape in active ministry the past 21 years. Some might say he's Agape's spiritual father. At 42 he's practically grown up in the church. Today Ray is a deacon, the leader of SAMS (Spiritual AIDS Ministry), and a choir member. Ray is also a long-term survivor of AIDS and an inspiration to all who meet him.

Ray helped birth Agape MCC. "This was 1972. Several of us had visited the Dallas church. We felt like we needed our own church in Fort Worth," Ray explained. "Agape started with 10 friends meeting at home. In those early days, we needed to feel the reaffirmation that it was okay to be who we were. Getting together to form Agape was a way for us to say to ourselves, 'We're not what society says we are.'"

Although Ray has spent most of the last 21 years in Texas at Agape, he had a sojourn to California in the early 1970s. "I left in 1973 for L.A. I went to our Mother church. That is where I really began my coming-out process. I marched in my first gay pride parade that year. It was the most gay people I'd ever seen. I marched with a gay businessmen's association. Here we were marching down the streets at a gay pride parade in three-piece suits carrying briefcases!" Ray said with a chuckle.

Ray said his return to Texas was a culture shock. "It was like going from heaven to hell."

Ray's years of service at Agape have covered both rough and exciting roads in the church's growth. Ray remembers Agape's move to the Hemphill location in 1978 as a turning point. "We had dwindled down to just a few people. Rev. Jim Norwood was sent in to wrap things up. Evidently the Fellowship didn't have much hope for Agape's survival. Rev. Norwood turned Agape around. We went from a handful of members to around 200 members in a few short years," Ray related. "Jim Norwood just had a way about him. He knows how to go into a strug-



Ray Busbee has a personal mission to inspire others, to educate and to comfort. It is this work, this divine purpose, he thinks, that has kept him alive, relatively healthy despite HIV, and more highly appreciative of life.

gling church and build it up. It didn't take long for us to outgrow our Hemphill address."

Ray recalls Agape moved to the present location off 820 at Anglin Drive in 1983. One of Ray's fondest memories from this recent era has been seeing Agape become a visible out-of-the-closet force in Fort Worth's gay/lesbian community. "In the mid 1980s many of us started being more visible — more 'out.' Most of the people who started the early AIDS work in Fort Worth came from Agape," Ray said.

Being a long-term survivor makes Ray Busbee an inspiration to the

many people he touches each week in his ministry at Agape. "Why am I still alive? I think it's because I've devoted the last 10 years of my life to working with PWAs and doing AIDS education. God has a purpose for me, and until that purpose is filled, I believe I'm going to be here," Ray said.

"This May 15th will mark my 10th year as an HIV+ person. I've had ARC the last eight years. My doctors are amazed I'm still here. I've had minor symptoms, but so far I haven't had any of the major ones," he said.

Being a long-term survivor of

AIDS takes its toll. Ray said most of his friends from the past decade are dead. "I've watched almost everyone I knew from 10 years ago die. Out of 150-200 people, there are maybe four of us left. Sometimes I feel guilty. I wonder why am I still alive when so many of my friends are dead? We call that 'survivor complex,'" Ray said. "This is putting a big dent in, if not wiping out, my generation of gay men. If I could give the younger generation any advice, it would be to be careful — take every precaution you can. Get to know the person before you hit the sack.

We're not talking about a case of V.D. that just needs a shot. Once you've got AIDS you've got it. There is no cure."

Ray feels gratitude to both the lesbian community and the many straight women who have shared the burden in caring for PWAs. "I don't think the men could be pulling through this crisis without the support of our sisters. Most of the work that was done in Fort Worth in the beginning was done by lesbians. A lot of straight women have been pillars of strength for us too in the AIDS movement. You couldn't give me enough money for them. They've given us love, support and understanding," Ray said.

Ray believes the best way to become a survivor is to have a positive attitude. "I think the secret is knowing the quality of life over the quantity of life. If you live 70 years and are miserable, your life isn't worth living. If you live nine months and put quality people in your day and do quality things, your life is going to be worth so much more," Ray reflected.

"I just want everyone to remember we are a community. That makes us a family. When you find out somebody has AIDS, give them all the support you can. Help them learn about the quality of life."

Ray said Agape has been a big part of his survival status. "For me, going back into God's arms and feeling God's presence has been a big part of my survival. God never left my heart, but I got too busy to notice he was still there."

"I literally grew up in this denomination. I think MCC has been the most important place for people dealing with coming out. You find out it's okay to be who you are. You can be who you are as a gay/lesbian person with anyone in our church and feel safe. I think MCC helps reaffirm for people that God loves you. God does not look at your sexual orientation. He looks at your heart." ☛

HOT, HORNY & HEALTHY

3-hour, in-home party that eroticises safer sex. Led by Dr. Rita Cotterly and Robert Webster, epidemiology specialist. Held in private homes – limited to 16 people.

For information on scheduling call 817/871-8920.

GRANT

continued from p. 13

judged to be good and right. By writing in his diary, he started looking at reality, at what is. He's not saying judgement is incorrect. Looking at his own judgement empowered him to say, "This is what the truth is," and to leave off the blaming: The blaming of his parents for his not being straight, for not having genes that would make him prettier, etc. He recognized he was losing power by blaming and he attributes that loss of power as a

disconcerting characteristic of his painting in progress.

Earlier in his career, Grant learned to ask for what he needed. For example, he had to assert himself in treatment for a fungal infection he contracted in damp studio at the time. With limited financial resources, he had to exercise initiative to get his doctor to order samples of the medications he needed from drug companies. Getting past pride – doing it in a way that showed pride – helped him grow in his career. He became willing to do this in his paintings, willing to do them in the way that he wants to do them,

not willing to deny what he wants to paint.

Grant explained that modernist, abstract art makes him uncomfortable, and that he used to judge his work as inferior because of this discomfort. Taking a second look, he stopped listening to the self-judgement and learned to recognize the beauty in other styles without judging his own work by them.

With Grant's work, the abstraction happens within the viewer. It is the emotional reaction, the questions the viewer asks of oneself. Describing his paintings as narrative, he explained that the tale takes place in the mind of the viewer by independent decisions regarding what is being represented.

When asked how sexual orientation has affected his artistic progression, he said, "It's right there so that it's not an issue."

He feels we are in the new dark age, and that sexuality is the only issue in America: "Are you man enough?" "Are you woman enough?"

Letting go of such judgements of himself has enabled him to realize that the best thing he can do is to be as normal as he wished society would let him be.

This concept led to a discussion

of what is right and wrong. He said that the reality of life is that there is room for everything. Without ultimate evil there is not ultimate good. Everything in between is gray, he said, all shades of good and evil. We place our own judgements on what we see as right and wrong. We start living our judgements; we start living in the wrongness. We become the reaction to wrongness. He explained that his work is a place where everything has a place, it's okay, and it fits.

Grant plans to build a home with a bathhouse, greenhouse and studio on property he has purchased in northeast New Mexico. The almost 100 acres of land are covered with lots of trees that he plans to use as construction material. As part of the down payment, the seller offered to take three of Grant's future paintings. The deal negotiated placed the value of the three paintings equivalent to the purchasing price of 20 acres.

After finishing his home, he plans to build smaller cabins to create a retreat for artists to recover or grow, where they can sit and think or do off-the-wall work. They will be able to experiment without critics around to publicize the work. ☛

The Lemon Tree

Buy • Sell • Trade Appraisals



Antiques and Art

Glass, Furniture, etc. Used and Rare Books

BETTY KELLY

PHONE 332-5519

804 Pennsylvania Fort Worth, Texas 76104

WOMEN WANTED

to form

FORT WORTH WOMEN'S CHORUS

Call Dauné or Kathy at 817/263-4255.

Also needing musicians and choral director.

ADVANCED COUNSELING CENTER

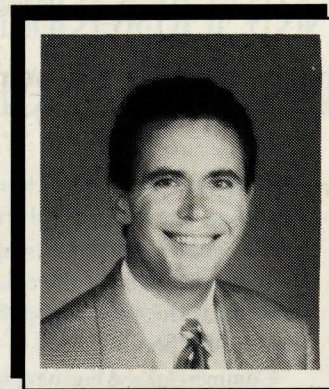
COUNSELING WITH THE HEART OF EXPERIENCE

Psychotherapy for individuals, groups, and couples

- Depression
- Self-esteem
- Parenting
- Anxiety
- Compulsive/Addictive Behaviors
- Coming Out
- Relationships
- Co-Dependency
- Sexuality
- Incest



MARGE PREFONTAINE, PHD, LPC



RAY WOFFORD, MSSW, CSW

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED
5601 BRIDGE STREET, SUITE 329
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
817-451-2505

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

Acemannan treatment shows potential

One of the benefits of my job is that every now and then the opportunity arises to get inside information about new drug therapies and current "hot" treatments. I was able to meet directly with Dr. McDaniel, one of the two researchers involved in the acemannan study.

The combination therapy of acemannan and DNCB, a photographic solution used for black-and-white film, works simply. DNCB is used on the arms and legs to produce a poison ivy type of response. This forces the body to stimulate the production of CD8 cells. CD8 cell production is a more accurate than T-cell counts for measuring how your immune system is doing. The acemannan produces a stimuli in your immune system to create new T4 cells. Researchers believe that acemannan turns the HIV virus into mules - living creatures unable to reproduce. It does this by carving holes in at least seven of the 24 envelopes needed to produce the GP160 protein.

Dr. McDaniel got involved in this study in 1985. Another researcher, B.H. Macanalley, had been studying acemannan since 1979. In the latter part of 1985,

they had produced a pill form of the aloe enzyme. Prior to this period, the only way to get this amount of acemannan was to drink four ounces of aloe vera juice. The juice cannot be any older than a week or the BI-4 manhole polymer beta chain will have deteriorated. The pill form of this aloe product is still on hold from the FDA; since we are able to get acemannan from the liquid form, they see no reason to allow the pill form to be passed. Of course, anyone who has drunk aloe knows that the taste is beyond gross. It tastes like tar and cowshit mixed together, with lemon juice added for flavor and color. Some people can actually drink aloe with no problems, but the majority of us cannot tolerate the taste.

Certain factors contribute to the success of patients under this study: increased protein intake and basic proper nutrition. To determine if you are a likely candidate, consider that your T4 cell count should be greater than 150 and your P24 antigen count should be less than 300. If so, odds are you will show a favorable response. If your T4 cell count is below 150 and your P24 antigen is above 300, odds are you will show a poor

response. If your two numbers are mixed, you will have a 50 - 50 chance.

Most of the information on this process comes from a study done several years ago on 16 people. Of these 16, only five are still living, with one of the five losing contact because he moved out of state. So the bulk of this information comes from four people, with only one of the four actually consistently using the two products. While the research on humans is sketchy, the product has been tested on several types of animals, mostly chickens. One billion chickens were treated with no side effects. The combination therapy enhanced vaccines

and prevented tumor growth in the treated chickens.

The current study is on hold with the FDA and researchers are still debating protocol. It is possible to get acemannan over the counter in a product called Caroloe beverage. Call 214-518-1300 for more information. Dr. McDaniel states that 20 ounces a day of Caroloe equals five capsules of acemannan. Depending on who you listen to, some people prefer just acemannan while most people prefer the combination treatment with DNCB. Keep in mind that DNCB will cause a severe allergic reaction once placed on skin. And it is important to use the proper recommended dosages. If you cannot wait for the study to begin, all of these products are available over the counter.

While this study shows some promise, remember that aloe products were once touted as the cure for cancer. While aloe does have some benefits, it has yet to cure any known virus or cancer.

Other studies show promise in controlling AIDS. Two studies currently underway involve using T4 cells from an uninfected twin and placing them in the infected twin. Some researchers are also using a process similar to genetic tissue matching to place uninfected T4 cells into the HIV-infected individual.

Of course, this genetic matching process has some risks. The HIV-infected person could reject the T4 cells and start a fatal process called Graft vs host disease. A drug to prevent this process is called Passive Hyperimmune therapy. This blood product contains plasma and antibodies that fight against HIV, the same antibodies your body produces once infected. So far, these two studies show the most promise, but researchers remain cautious.

I hope this answered most of your questions regarding new therapies. Until next month, think positive, act positive and live your life with passion. *fw*

HIV Positive Personals

NEWSLETTER LINKS SUBSCRIBERS FOR SOCIALIZING, ROMANCE

Positive Personals out of Dallas, operating under the auspices of the AIDS Resource Center, provides romance/socializing advertising for HIV positive people.

For the reasonable fee of only \$5, personal ads run two consecutive months in the Positive+ Personals newsletter. This non-profit organization caters exclusively to people who have tested positive for HIV, whether gay, lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual.

This project of Dwayne Barnett and Bill Murdoch, both HIV positive, is expected to gain a state-wide following and already has a

strong base in Dallas and Houston. To their knowledge, only three other similar services are in operation in other parts of the country, and this is the only such publication in the Southwest.

Commercial and business ad displays are also available on a suggested-donation basis. Subject matter should relate to HIV/AIDS issues.

To subscribe to the newsletter, send \$1 for the first month's issue to P.O. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219-0712. If you're interested in placing an ad, call metro 214/256-3564.

JAN WYNN, LMSW-ACP, LCDC

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY ISSUES
INDIVIDUAL, RELATIONSHIP, GROUP THERAPY

**Free Consultation -
Call**

817/331-1881

817/461-5454

Most insurance accepted

Serving the gay and lesbian community



With
Atique Khan, MD
Board Certified General Psychiatry



COMING OUT OF THE VIOLENT CLOSET

BY MARY ELLEN EDWARDS, MSSW, CSW

Barriers in breaking free from abuse

When words of love, apologies and gifts don't work in bringing a victim of abuse back, the abuser may use threats, terror, stalking and attacks to scare the victim into reconciliation. The telephone may become a weapon: there may be calls to supervisors about the victim's sexual orientation; there may be persistent calls and pleading; there may be calls and hang-ups; and there may be calls of silence.

Those who leave may find they can no longer go to frequent haunts, or they may have to change their routes of travel. Perhaps the abuser will appear standing near the victim's car at work or at the door when the victim returns home. "Friends" may call the victim on the abuser's behalf, pleading for a second chance.

Breaking free from an abusive partner is not the only way for a victim to stop being abused. The abuser can stop the violence—physically and emotionally. Unfortunately, this is usually unlikely. Steps for getting help for the abuser and the victim will be the subject of a later article. It is important here, however, to mention that in "getting help," the abusive person must

be able to talk about specific abusive behaviors and *must* take full responsibility for them. These are non-negotiable points.

If the victim doesn't break free or if the abuser doesn't seek help, the abuse will continue. The causes of abuse *are not in the relationship*; abuse is an expression of power and control. There may be periods of non-abuse as mentioned in previous articles, but these periods become shorter and shorter with emotional abuse either returning quickly or never absent at all.

It is very difficult, but by no means impossible, to break away from an abusive relationship.

Roles and responsibilities often become rigid and inflexible, with the abuser either consciously or unconsciously being both the main definer and the enforcer of these. For instance, some victims of abuse talk about how their partner insisted they wear a beeper. Once the beeper was in place, failure to respond or to respond quickly often was met with arguments and violence. Refusal then to wear the beeper similarly was met with arguments, verbal/emotional abuses and put-downs, and violence.

Abuse triggered by certain situations over time becomes triggered

by many situations until anything at all becomes the "trigger." The strength of force, language and manipulations used increases.

The victim of abuse will employ various coping and appeasement strategies including, according to authors David Island and Patrick Letellier (*Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them*, 1991), "apology, denial, placating, new agreements and submission."

Thus the cycle of victimization is reinforced on three levels: through the abuser's experience of release after the violence; through the pattern of the abuser getting what he or she wanted by various forms of compliance on the victim's part; and through the successful resolution of the abuser's "honeymoon phase." But there are other reinforcers of victims either staying in or returning to an abusive relationship:

Emotional/Psychological

- Confusion in seeing the alternating sides of "Jeckel and Hyde" (or loving versus angry and abusive behaviors).

- Feelings of guilt ("maybe I did cause the abuse" or "how can I leave now when he/she is so broken?").

- Memories of the good times.

- Rationalization: "There were times when I was mean to him/her" or "I've been just as guilty when I've

hit him/her" (Hitting back or hitting first may be either a way of prompting what is coming so as to get it over, protecting oneself, or a provocation by the abuser to develop that "see, you hit me" syndrome).

- Belief that the victim can help the abuser change.

- Violence experienced after attempts at leaving failed in the past.
- Experiencing the stalking, the calls, harassment and violence.

Lack of Resources

- Lack of money, transportation, place to stay.



NOWHERE TO RUN: Leaving the abuse is not easy. If the victim successfully squares off on the inner insecurity and low self-esteem, then there is the abuser to fend against, someone who predictably, traditionally, will not easily let go.

- Fear of not being believed or of not getting help; of being blamed.

- Specifically for gays and lesbians: fear and experiences of being called a "sissy" or told "she's a butch, what do you expect?"; fears of the abuser "outing" the victim to family and at work; fear of shattering the image that gay and lesbian relationships *can* work and are not sick and unhealthy.

- Being tired, run down, in shock and/or numb — particularly after abuse has occurred. The longer the abuse continues, the more the person's sense of self and abilities is torn down.

- The need for comfort and solace, especially after an abusive incident; and the isolation and lack of support from peers or family.

- Damaged or low self-esteem that buys into the verbal put-downs and negations of worth and abilities.

Threats and Acts of Violence

- Threats of what will happen if the victim leaves; threats of hurting others, including hurting pets and property.

- The need in some cases to quit the current job; the change in routine or circumstances.

- Often the loss of clothes, important papers and belongings.

- Lack of family and friends to provide assistance, support and a safe place to stay; those friends that remain are often also friends with the abuser.

Community

- Police and courts still are often barriers to helping heterosexual victims leaving abuse, and even more so in the case of gay, lesbian and bisexual victims.

- No legal protection of property; little or no ability to get protective or restraining orders.

- Difficulty getting social service help; shelters that accept and appropriately work with gay and lesbian victims are very few.

- Societal views and belief systems that hold the victim responsible or refuse to believe abuse occurs.

- Societal barriers exacerbated in the case of male gay couples because of fewer resources and more stigmatization.

TRAIL'S END KENNEL

"LOVING CARE — COUNTRY AIR"

PICK UP AND DELIVERY
BOARDING & GROOMING

Vacation Time!!

Give your pets a holiday away from you!

10% OFF

Long-term boarding or grooming!

(Min. 7 days, must have coupon, exp. 12/1/93)

OPEN 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.; CALL FOR DIRECTIONS

295-8681

MARY
FRANCES

RT. 5, BOX 372; BURLESON

ANN

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CHRIS PHILLIPS

Attorney at Law

Practice Limited to
Representation of Persons
Charged in Criminal Matters

Tarrant, Denton and Other
North Texas Counties

(817) 339-1139

FORT WORTH

Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas
Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal
Specializations

If it's tough, it's got to be good...

Thanksgiving reflections

By Rev. JO CRISCO

Trinity MCC

This is the time of the year that we pause to be thankful for the good things we all enjoy. We seem to be reminded constantly that as a community we need unity and strength and we need to be more loving. But for today, let's just be thankful.



Rev. Jo Crisco

Ralph Waldo Emerson, whom many of us believe was a kindred spirit, wrote:

*"For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends."*

He just about said it all. However, I would add that I am also thankful that we do not always take the easy way out.

For example:

- It's easier to be angry at the Fort Worth city council for not addressing this issue of adding

"sexual orientation" to its antidiscrimination ordinances than it is to be amazed that a hated and oppressed people were able to stand together against impossible odds.

- It's easier to complain about decisions made and actions taken by our leadership than to roll up our sleeves and offer assistance.

- It's easier to feel sold-down-the-river by politicians than it is to take responsibility ourselves for reform and equality.

- It's easier to return hate for hate than it is to love those who mistreat us.

I'm thankful that we do not always take the easy way out...

- It's easier to reinforce stereotypical ideas about us than it is to become a more civilized, gentle, loving people.

- It's easier to focus on the

differences between us than it is to remember that we are all a part of each other.

- It's easier to stay hidden in isolation than it is to risk exposure.

- It's easier not to care for people than it is to become vulnerable in loving.

I'm thankful that we do not always take the easy way...

Additionally, I'm thankful that it is in facing our challenges, those difficult ones, that we become strong. I'm also thankful that it is in loving that we become lovable. Moreover, I'm thankful that it is

in walking tall that we learn to stand together.

Finally, beloved, I'm thankful for you ... for what and who you are in our wonderfully diverse community. And I'm SO thankful that we do not ALWAYS take the easy way! *fa*

Trinity Fall Festival/Craft Show

GROUPS UNITE TO RAISE FUNDS

Trinity MCC's first Fall Festival/Craft Show will feature crafts, garage sale items and baked goods all for sale at affordable prices. The festival will be held at the church's future site at Truman and Sanford in Arlington, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20. All gay/lesbian community organizations are invited to join in the fund-raising venture with booths of their own.

"We are so thankful to have this

land, we want to start sharing good things from the land with our community. If you would like to make our Fall Festival a fund-raiser for your organization, please notify us by Nov. 12. Also, please keep track of your own set-up, tear-down and money," Rev. Crisco said. "Because our new land is in a residential/family neighborhood, please keep your sales items and conduct in good taste. Having a fund-raiser in

a residential neighborhood is a great opportunity for all of us. We can draw from both our community and the community at large."

Rev. Crisco also encourages groups to bring tents and other display items for their booth. In the event of rain, the Fall Festival will be held Nov. 28.

To register your organization for the Fall Festival/Craft Show, please call the church office at 265-5454.

AGAPE PRAYER MIDWEEK

Agape MCC is borrowing from the Catholic tradition of a brief midweek noon mass to give the community an opportunity to worship and fellowship together during the lunch hour. The lunch-time worship service includes prayer time, a sharing of the Eucharist (communion), and music.

Wednesday breaks are each week from 12:15- 1 p.m. and are open to the entire community. Bring a brown bag lunch to eat and visit either

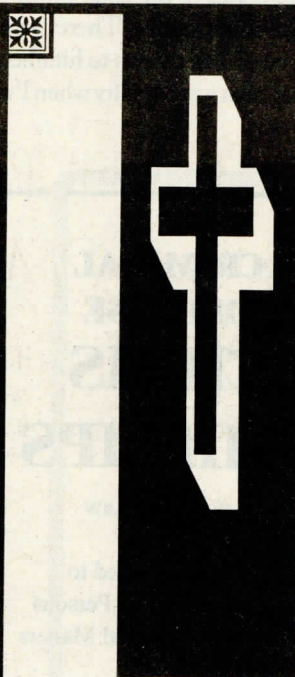
before or after the service.

"We have noticed a large number of former Catholics at Agape. We wanted to give them this midweek mass many of them have missed sharing. Also, Wednesday breaks will be a time of meditation and a chance to focus on something other than one's work week. Whatever their faith background, we encourage the community's participation in our noontime services," said Michael Ekbladh, Agape MCC director of Fine Arts.

Do you want
MORE?

We do ... especially you!
Come check us out - see what we
have to offer.

Trinity MCC in Arlington



Join us for a
**Thanksgiving
Dinner at 2 p.m.
Nov. 21, with
services following.**

White Rock Church West

**849 Oak Crest Ct.
East Fort Worth
(817) 834-WRCW**

*"Fellowship, Bible Study & Prayer,
with Outreach to the Community"*

**Sunday afternoon services
weekly at 5 p.m.**

**Jerry Cook, Pastor
Danny Casey, Associate Pastor**

*Come join us this Sunday to experience
the excitement of Sharing Christ's Love
in OUR Community.*

...an outreach of White Rock Community, Dallas

Agape deacons take the church to the people

'YES, WE DELIVER'

As the first Christian Church to openly serve the needs of the gay and lesbian community in Fort Worth, Agape MCC has a long and proud history. One of its most comprehensive and ongoing services to the community has been its Deacon's program. Through personal spiritual development and training, deacons take pastoral care out of the church and into the community.

By LYNN JOHNSON

The office of Deacon has its roots in the early Christian Church where deacons served to meet the growing demands for pastoral care. Since its inception, differing definitions have been ascribed to the office of Deacon but the universal definition remains: "to relieve human need."

Deacons are to serve humanity as Christ did: to listen, to console and to care for the needy, distressed and poor.

Thanksgiving memorials AGAPE MCC TO CELEBRATE LIVES TOUCHED, THOSE LOST

Thanksgiving services at Agape MCC will offer reflection on those who have died during the year.

Participants in the Candle and Prayer Vigil at 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, may share stories and memories of those who have died. Thanksgiving prayers will be offered for the lives that have touched and impacted the community.

And at the 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday services Nov. 21, memorial banners will be added to a collection in the sanctuary during the processional, and names will be read.

"As you reflect on people close to you who have died this past year, we offer you one place to celebrate that, share the memory, and affirm their impact on your life," the Rev. Brenda Hunt said.

Services will be at the church at 4615 California Parkway at Anglin and I-20. Call 817/535-5002 to schedule participation in the ceremonies.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches recognizes deacons as special ministers in the role of co-workers with pastors. They are an extension of the pastoral ministry. Being lay persons, deacons have the advantage of not being stereotyped as pastors sometimes are (for example, the belief that pastors come into homes to administer aid only because it is part of their job). Lay, however, does not mean untrained; deacons at Agape complete one year of training which enables them to minister to the needs of the congregation and community.

Reverend Brenda Hunt initiated the current Deacon's program at Agape in 1988. The program includes time for the testing of a person's individual calling and practical training before he or she goes out into the community. Deacons usually spend six to 10 hours per week in ministry or training. The ones who complete the training are those who have an honest knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses and who are able to become intimately involved in another's life - to share their pain and sorrows as well as their joys.

Deacons listen with understanding and respect others' opinions. They are enthusiastic about ministry and committed to those they serve. They reach out to others in and out of the Church regardless of gender, race, age or social status.

Becoming a deacon also requires a commitment of self. Serving as a deacon renews inner strength by enriching the lives of others. Most of all, the person holding the office of deacon makes a spiritual commitment to follow Christ through prayer, study and action, going wherever a need exists to relieve human suffering.

Deacons are also expected to be ongoing students of the Bible and

to know how to articulate the message of God through Scripture. Training consists of study in the history of UFMCC, skill development in listening, serving in worship services, and special training in ministering to people living with HIV/AIDS.

During their year of training, deacons develop an ability to explore their own spiritual journeys and become confident in sharing their personal experiences. They learn about their own limitations and develop an understanding of the effects of oppression in our society such as racism, chemical and physical abuse and sexism.

The training at Agape is comprehensive and empowering. It is a process of spirituality enabling those who are "sent out" to minis-

ter in a caring way. When their training is complete, deacons are consecrated at a special service. In answering the call, deacons move into the Church and community in a variety of ways.

Deacons serve the Church by participating in worship services, leading prayer, serving Holy Communion, conducting Baptisms and Holy Unions and, sometimes, keeping office hours. They are "on call" to answer needs at times when the Church office is not open. And, in Agape, the deacons are also responsible for the food pantry for needy persons.

The community as a whole is served through the deacons' participation in community organizations such as the support group at John Peter Smith for PWAs and

their family members, Spiritual AIDS Ministry (SAM), the AIDS Outreach Center, The Names Project and Samaritan Housing, Inc.

Deacons also plan and conduct Christmas and Thanksgiving parties for the AIDS floor at John Peter Smith. They regularly visit the sick, and they are available when emergencies arise. Their annual fund-raiser - a breakfast at AGAPE - allows them to purchase robes for those deacons who cannot afford them.

Deacons touch people's lives in diverse ways. It is a ministry of the heart. A deacon's work can be summed up as:

"Be God's person. In God's place. Doing God's work. In God's way." ☩

New outreach programs

MCC CHURCHES OFFER YOUNG ADULTS WHOLESOME SETTING FOR COMING OUT

The gay/lesbian community of the '90s is a well-established political, social and economic community. It may come as a surprise that more often than not, gay youth still feel isolated. Even in 1993, a gay/lesbian youth can feel like "the only one" when coming out. Both Agape MCC in Fort Worth and Trinity MCC in Arlington recognize the need to minister to gay/lesbian young adults. Each church recently established young adult groups for the community's 18- to 30-year-olds.

Nite Life (Agape) and Awakenings (Trinity) are off and running. Both groups plan to meet regularly. The two groups are filling their calendars with events like cook-outs, discussion groups, movie

nights, games, bowling and general good times.

Nite Life (Agape) meets every Friday night. Awakenings (Trinity) will meet at the church Saturday, Nov. 6, to caravan to a picnic in a local park from 4-6 p.m.

"We plan to create a safe space for gay youth to join in Christian Fellowship and deal with issues pertaining to us," said Michael Ekbladh, Agape MCC Fine Arts Director and Nite Life leader. "We're going to have fun doing the things young people do. The bar is the worst place to come out. We want to give young people a healthier place to develop their gay/lesbian identities."

"When I saw that the suicide

rate for our youth is 2-3 times greater than that of heterosexual youth, it touched my heart. Through Awakenings, I hope to make life easier than we had it," said Rev. Jo Crisco, Trinity MCC Senior Pastor. "They are the future. If we fail to involve young adults in ministry, our churches will flounder. As pastor, I want this to be a fun time for these young adults to network and grow. I want to give our young adults a viable role in ministry at Trinity."

To learn more about Awakenings and Nite Life, call the church offices. To reach Awakenings (Trinity), call 817/265-5454. To reach Nite Life (Agape), call 817/535-5002.

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 and 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.
 ▼ **Wednesdays:** Trinity MCC's *Theological Express Class (TEC)*, 7:30 p.m., 331 Aaron Ave., Suite 125, Arlington. Led by Rev. Belle Armstrong, the Bible relevant to modern-day living. Different topic each week.
 ▼ **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:** Nite Life, Agape MCC's weekly social/support meetings for lesbian/gay young adults, Agape MCC, 4615 SW Loop 820. Call 817/535-5002.
 ▼ **Fridays:** Shabbat services, Beth El Binah, second and fourth Fridays, 8:15 p.m., Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.
 ▼ **Nov. 1 and 15:** 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.
 ▼ **Nov. 6:** Trinity MCC's *Awakenings* program for young adults will meet at 4 p.m. at the church to caravan to a picnic in the park. Call 817/265-5454.
 ▼ **Nov. 14:** Agape MCC's *monthly concert series*, "Celebrating Faith in Ourselves," featuring Dallas MCC Choir performing "God with Us," 7:30 p.m. Agape MCC, 4615 SW Loop 820.
 ▼ **Nov. 20:** Trinity MCC's *Fall Festival*, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Truman and Sanford, site of the church's future home. Garagesale, crafts,

bake sale. Other community groups are invited to set up booths for fund-raising; deadline for registration is Nov. 12. Call 817/265-5454.
 ▼ **Nov. 21:** Agape MCC's *Thanksgiving for Life* service, 11 a.m. Agape MCC, 4615 SW Loop 820. Panels memorializing lost loved ones will be added to wall banners and dedicated.
 ▼ **Nov. 21:** Trinity MCC's *Thanksgiving Dinner*, following 11 a.m. service. Ninth annual event, traditional turkey dinner.
 ▼ **Nov. 21:** White Rock Church West's *Thanksgiving Dinner*, 2 p.m., 849 Oak Crest Court, East Fort Worth. Service follows. In lieu of 5 p.m. service.
 ▼ **Nov. 21:** 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.

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.
 ▼ **Nov. 2, 16 and 30:** University of Texas at Arlington Gay and Lesbian Association meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 408 of the Fine Arts Building, UTA campus.
 ▼ **Nov. 2:** TCLGA Board of Directors meeting, 8:30 p.m., TCLGA office.
 ▼ **Nov. 4:** 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.
 ▼ **Nov. 5:** 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.
 ▼ **Nov. 8:** NAMES Project General Meeting, 7 p.m., 665 S. Jennings.
 ▼ **Nov. 10:** Alliance Productions Management planning meeting for "Stars at Night," 7:30 p.m., 2436 Shirley Ave., Fort Worth.

▼ **Nov. 13:** Leadership Forum Luncheon, 12:30 p.m. at Dos Gringos.
 ▼ **Nov. 13:** Second Saturday Social monthly meeting, a networking group for men, 7-10 p.m. Call Will Simpson at 817/654-4808 for directions.
 ▼ **Nov. 13:** Tarrant County Democratic Women's Club monthly meeting, lunch at 11 a.m., speaker at noon, Luby's Cafeteria, 251 University Drive.
 ▼ **Nov. 14:** 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.
 ▼ **Nov. 14:** Imperial Court meeting, 3 p.m. at Across the Street on Jennings.
 ▼ **Nov. 14:** 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.
 ▼ **Nov. 15:** Texas Gay/Lesbian Veterans meeting, 6:30 p.m., TCLGA office, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243. For information call John Huffman, 817/263-9006.
 ▼ **Nov. 19:** Women of Vision meeting, 7 p.m. Meets the third Friday of each month. Call 817/292-6308 for information.
 ▼ **Nov. 19:** TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m., Luby's Cafeteria on University.
 ▼ **Nov. 20:** Tarrant County Democrats Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Colonial Cafeteria, 2600 W. Berry.
 ▼ **Dec. 17:** Lambda Mermaids for scuba divers. Meets the third Friday of every other month. Call 214/669-5SEA.

EDUCATION

▼ **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.
 ▼ **Dec. 3:** AOC Friday Forum: "Women and AIDS: Risk and Diagnosis," Dr. Patti Wetzel, medical consultant, Caremark. 11:30 a.m., Arlington Human Service Center, 401 W. Sanford, Room 110. 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.

▼ **Dec. 11:** Texas Family Planning Association conference, "Preserving Freedom: Combating the Radical Religious Right." Call TFPA in Austin at 512/448-4857.

ENTERTAINMENT

▼ **Sundays:** KNON Radio: *Lambda Weekly*, 89.3 FM, 2-4 p.m.
 ▼ **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.
 ▼ **Dec. 11:** Jefferson Freedom Cafe presents *Sara Hickman and Jennifer Martin*, 7-10 p.m., 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth.

EVENTS

▼ **Nov. 6:** Tarrant Democratic Party's Fall Harvest Festival, 5-9 p.m., UAW Local 18, 100 W. Hurst Blvd., (Hwy. 10).
 ▼ **Nov. 12:** Women of Vision Thanksgiving Party, 8 p.m., 5316 Wooten Dr., Fort Worth. \$3/person donation requested. Raffle for women's books, CD. Tie-dye sales. Monies raised will help WOV in their project of a lesbian resource center and other related goals for the lesbian community.
 ▼ **Nov. 28:** Fort Worth Men's Choir Premiere Concert, 8 p.m., Texas Wesleyan University, Law Sone Center for the ARTs, Fort Worth. Tickets \$10 for the concert; \$20 for concert and reception. Call 817/731-0122.
 ▼ **Dec. 1:** World AIDS Day.
 ▼ **Dec. 10:** Fort Worth Men's Chorus Benefit for Botanical Research Institute, 8 p.m., the Conservatory at the Botanical Gardens.

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.
 ▼ **Nov. 20:** 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TCJC STUDENT GROUP FORMING

Tarrant County Junior College Northeast campus is in the process of forming a gay/lesbian/bisexual student group. They have had their first meeting, but are still organizing. Your ideas are greatly welcomed. If you are a student at TCJC NE and would like to learn more about the group, call Kimberly at (817)498-8405.

BOOK OF NAMES UNDERWAY

The Episcopal Diocese of Los An-

geles is compiling a Book of Remembrance honoring those who have died from AIDS, to "preserve and honor their names for succeeding generations."

The book will be hand-crafted and artistically rendered.

There is no cost to submit names for the memorial. To do so, write to St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, Attn. Memorial Book, 7501 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045-2813.

SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR RECOVERY BOOK

Submissions are being accepted for an anthology on substance

abuse, *The Next Step*, a follow-up to *Out from Under: Sober Dykes and our Friends* published 10 years ago.

Submissions may be in any style: journals, letters, fiction, autobiography, poetry, interviews, dialogues, theory, non-fiction, narratives, tapes, songs, speeches, graphics, paintings or photography.

Subject matter might include recovery programs, struggling with addiction, the effect on relationships, abuse issues, or any other topic conducive to healing.

Send submissions to 2404 California Street #27, San Francisco, CA 94115.

Pleiades presents...

CRIS WILLIAMSON, TRET FURE IN CONCERT

Combining the best of folk music with a beat that's pure rock and roll, Cris Williamson and Tret Fure promise to have Orchestra Hall rocking Saturday, Nov. 20, at 8 p.m.

Over the past 20 years, Williamson - a versatile lyricist and vocalist - has performed in virtually every major concert hall in the U.S., including two sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall. And she's sold nearly one million albums and CDs featuring music that soothes the soul and feeds the spirit.

Fure, the hard-rocking guitarist/

vocalist of the duo, provides a distinct contrast to Williamson's easier going style. Yet when the two come together, it's their differences which complement one another in a collaborative effort that will restore your heart and give you hope for the future.

Williamson and Fure's newest album, *Postcards from Paradise*, is out now on the Olivia label.

Tickets for the Nov. 20 concert are \$17 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information, call Pleiades Productions at 817/923-4625.

FREE

LESBIAN MAIL ORDER BOOK CATALOG

- Over 1000 books, videos, CTs, CDs
- Fast, personal and discreet service
- Toll-free ordering with Visa or Mastercard
- Lesbian-owned and operated

*Call For Your Free
Catalog Today*

WOMANKIND BOOKS
1-800-648-5333

COMMUNITY GUIDE

BARS/CLUBS

- ▼ **Across the Street**, 700 S. Jennings, (817) 332-0192
- ▼ **Ashburn's**, 3012 E. Rosedale, (817) 534-6630
- ▼ **Corral Club**, 621 Hemphill, (817) 335-0196
- ▼ **D.J.'s**, 1308 St. Louis, (817) 927-7321
- ▼ **Magnolia Station**, 600 Magnolia, (817) 332-0415
- ▼ **Roper's Food and Spirits**, 2023 S. Cooper, Arlington, (817) 265-5574
- ▼ **651 Arlington**, 1851 W. Division, (817) 275-9651
- ▼ **651 Club**, 651 S. Jennings, (817) 332-0745

BUSINESSES, SERVICES

- ▼ **Affinity Publishing Specialists**, (817) 834-7152

- ▼ **Alpha and Omega Printers**, (817) 921-3670
- ▼ **Alternative Visions Video Dating Service**, (214) 521-3024
- ▼ **Alvaredo Flowers and Gifts**, (817) 790-5664
- ▼ **An Automatic Answer** answering service, (817) 332-4700
- ▼ **athena's attic bookstore** (Denton), (817) 565-9755
- ▼ **Blades and Bulbs Landscaping**, (817) 292-6308
- ▼ **Casa Manana Theatre**, (817) 332-CASA
- ▼ **Country Bend Apartments**, (817) 731-9191
- ▼ **Courtney Chatfield**, financial planner, (817) 498-1833
- ▼ **B.C. Cornish**, attorney, (817) 870-9159
- ▼ **Country Day Travel**, (817) 731-8551
- ▼ **Crossroads Market** gift boutique, (214) 521-8919
- ▼ **Curious Times bookstore**, (214) 522-5887
- ▼ **Darwin and Hanus**, bookkeeping, (817) 589-1666
- ▼ **Distinctive Dog Grooming**, (817) 246-0970
- ▼ **FASS State Inspections**, (817) 277-2792
- ▼ **Gay Travel**, (800) 486-8111
- ▼ **Robbie Harvey**, hairstylist, (817) 284-6840
- ▼ **Hayes Pharmacy**, (800) 258-9897
- ▼ **Hutton House Hairdressers**, (817) 731-6801
- ▼ **J3 Photographics**, (817) 923-4625
- ▼ **Jan Kennedy**, insurance, (817) 534-6345
- ▼ **Atique Khan, MD**, psychiatrist, (817) 461-5454
- ▼ **Lambda Pages**, (214) 880-7577
- ▼ **Cathy McGinnis**, psychotherapist, metro (817) 461-4063
- ▼ **Sandra Moore**, secretarial services, metro (817) 498-4855
- ▼ **Pleiades Productions**, (817) 923-4625
- ▼ **Sexuality Education Center**, (817) 338-4551
- ▼ **Cheryl Strange**, Realtor, (817) 732-3294
- ▼ **Strings Design Center**, (817) 735-4434
- ▼ **Trail's End Kennel**, (817) 295-8681
- ▼ **Two Pearls Bed and Breakfast**, (817) 596-9316

- ▼ **Westcliff Travel Cruises Plus**, (817) 926-1771
- ▼ **The Woman's Touch**, home cleaning, (817) 923-0160
- ▼ **Jan Wynn, CSW-ACP**, therapist, (817) 331-1881

CHURCHES/ RELIGIOUS

- ▼ **Affirmation/Tarrant County** (Methodist), (817) 656-8056
- ▼ **Agape MCC**, 4615 SE Loop 820, (817) 535-5002
- ▼ **Congregation Beth El Binah** (Jewish), Dallas, (214) 497-1591
- ▼ **Dignity** (Catholic), 4503 Bridge St., (817) 283-8588
- ▼ **Evangelicals Concerned**, (817) 472-9008
- ▼ **Fellowship of Love Outreach**, 711 W. Gambrell, (817) 921-LOVE
- ▼ **First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church**, 1959 Sandy Ln., (817) 451-1505
- ▼ **GLAD** (Disciples of Christ gays/lesbians), (214) 946-2184
- ▼ **Harvest Metropolitan Comm. Church**, Denton, (817) 497-4020
- ▼ **Honesty** (Baptist), (817) 923-8487
- ▼ **Lutherans Concerned**, (817) 924-3966
- ▼ **Trinity MCC**, 331 Aaron Ave., Suite 125, (817) 265-5454
- ▼ **White Rock Church West**, 849 Oak Crest Ct., (817) 834-WRCW

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

- ▼ **Bare Facts Computer BBS**, (817) 429-2667
- ▼ **Club Changes Computer BBS**, (817) 469-9002
- ▼ **Crystal Palace Computer BBS**, (817) 370-9559
- ▼ **Gay Matchmaker Computer BBS**, (817) 861-4488
- ▼ **Other Side Computer BBS**, (817) 280-0775
- ▼ **Rodeo Dudes BBS**, metro (214) 256-3547

HEALTH, AIDS, COUNSELING

- ▼ **AIDS Coordinating Council**, (817) 870-1937
- ▼ **AIDS Information Line**, (817) 336-0066
- ▼ **AIDS Interfaith Network**, (817) 927-2437
- ▼ **AIDS Outreach Center**, (817) 335-1994
- ▼ **Advanced Counseling Center**, (817) 451-2505
- ▼ **CAREMARK**, (817) 924-1177
- ▼ **Charter Hospital**, (817) 481-1999
- ▼ **Crisis/Suicide Line**, (817) 927-5544
- ▼ **HIV Anonymous Group**, (817) 292-9494
- ▼ **Incest Survivors Support Group**, (817) 335-4330
- ▼ **Lambda AA**, (817) 921-2871
- ▼ **Lambda Group Co-Dependents**

- ▼ **Anonymous**, (817) 370-7473
- ▼ **Lesbian Resource Center's Domestic Violence Task Force Hotline**, (214) 432-2683
- ▼ **OMNIHEALTH**, (817) 926-4555
- ▼ **Positive Action Coalition**, free legal help in cases of discrimination, (817) 921-6054
- ▼ **Samaritan Housing Center** for HIV+ homeless, (817) 870-1937
- ▼ **Spiritual AIDS Ministry (SAM)**, (817) 535-5002
- ▼ **Tarrant County Public Health Department, Preventive Medicine Clinic**, (817) 871-7357; Testing and Counseling, (817) 871-8920; AIDS helpline, (817) 871-7346
- ▼ **TCMERF AIDS Awareness Clinic**, (817) 534-CARE or (817) 534-2273
- ▼ **TGRA AIDS/HIV Information Line**, (800) 468-AIDS

ORGANIZATIONS

- ▼ **Alliance Productions Management**, (817) 763-8382
- ▼ **First Friday Fort Worth** (Lesbian), (817) 485-0134
- ▼ **FFFW Singles**, lesbian socializing, (817) 232-5261
- ▼ **Fort Worth Men's Chorus**, (817) 731-0122
- ▼ **Gay/Lesbian Youth**, (817) 338-4551
- ▼ **GLAAD/Dallas**, anti-defamation, (214) 526-GLAD
- ▼ **Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington**, (817) 261-3558
- ▼ **Leadership Forum Luncheon**, (817) 763-5544
- ▼ **Lesbian Info. Line/Lesbian Visionaries**, (214) 528-2426
- ▼ **Lesbian Resource Center, Dallas**, (214) 821-3999
- ▼ **Lone Star Bowling League**, (817) 695-4849
- ▼ **Longhorn Bowling Association**, (817) 624-2151
- ▼ **Metroplex Republicans/Log Cabin**, (214) 520-6655
- ▼ **NAMES Project**, 665 S. Jennings, (817) 33-NAMES
- ▼ **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays**, (817) 595-6568
- ▼ **Rice Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association**, DFW chapter, (214) 821-5979
- ▼ **Second Saturday Social for men**, (817) 654-4808
- ▼ **Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance**, (817) 763-5544
- ▼ **Tarrant County Gay Parents**, (817) 656-8056
- ▼ **Texas Doubles Bowling**, (817) 477-1832
- ▼ **Texas Gay Rodeo Association Hotline**, (817) 496-1333
- ▼ **Texas Gay Veterans**, (817) 763-5544
- ▼ **Texas Human Rights Foundation**, (512) 479-8473
- ▼ **Texas Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas**, (512) 474-5475
- ▼ **U.T. Arlington Gay/Lesbian Assoc.**, (817) 794-5140
- ▼ **Women of Vision**, (817) 370-7473

Alvarado Flowers and Gifts

*"Serving our Community in Tarrant and
Johnson Counties with Pride."*

We specialize in Union/Commitment Ceremonies
Catering • Consultation • Wire Services (AFS, Teleflora)

Free Consultation



Cynthia Smith and Genie Seibert, Owners
216 E. College • Alvarado, Texas
Metro 817/790-5664

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. M-F; 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays

FAX INFO LINE

Any person or organization with a dedicated Fax line can receive Action Alerts on Lesbian/Gay/AIDS issues by contacting FACE THE FACTS, P.O. Box 66791, Houston, TX 77266-6791, or call and leave your fax number at 713/522-0100.

PROGRAMS

continued from p. 4

Alliance committees. Your funding is a gift to the entire community by enabling important projects that will touch the lives of us all.

Take a few minutes now to read through the programming opportunities, and decide how you might join Carol, Thomas, Joan and Bo to enhance our shared community.

Community Programming Guide

Community Center Committee

Fort Worth has so few physical sites by which gays and lesbians can locate and access our large but virtually hidden community. The committee is addressing this need by investigating the support and resources available to found a central activities site. A community center would provide meeting and office space for the wide gamut of lesbian/gay-related organizations, a handy location for social and special-interest events, and possibly

support services and a resource base. *Resources needed: survey responses from all aspects of the community, physical facilities and funding.*

Educational Outreach Programs

Gaining civil rights relies on educating the general public to humanize our issues and deflate stereotypes. TCLGA offers panels of "experts" by request to colleges, service agencies and TV/radio programming to discuss life experiences and perspectives. Also, the TCLGA phone line serves as an outreach to the lesbian/gay population as a point of contact for referrals. Quite often the TCLGA number is the first called by someone newly coming out because it is the only gay listing in the phone book. *Resources needed: panelists, phone line staffing, donations of video recordings of TV programming specific to lesbian/gay issues.*

Fairness Coalition

To forward fairness and equality in the lives of Tarrant County lesbians and gays, this broad-based coalition will promote political awareness through education, specifically by targeting city boards, commissions and councils. The coalition is organizing as a steering committee that

will encourage mainstream involvement. *Resources needed: Individuals to develop dialog with city/county/state and national representatives; continued contributions to our mailing list and memberships to show broad-based support; at least two representatives from each community organization to serve on the steering committee.*

Leadership Development Committee

This committee is creating a program to nurture leadership skills. The extended series of workshops this spring will prepare leaders for efficient and effective management. *Resources needed: individuals and organization representatives to promote and implement the program; registration and participation in the workshops; and funding and/or organization-sponsored scholarships to underwrite costs.*

Leadership Forum

This monthly meeting of Tarrant County leaders provides a unifying setting for disseminating information and discussing issues. Dallas does not have such a program and has recognized the value to it. The meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, 12:15 p.m. at Dos Gringos on University Drive. *Resources needed: at least one repre-*

sentative from each community-based organization.

Community Outreach

Monthly meetings offer guest speakers who provide an informative focus on issues and concerns relative to lesbians and gays. Topics include relationship development, finances and legal concerns specific to the lesbian/gay couple, and health issues and safer-sex practices, to name a few. And TCLGA's *Alliance News* is a vehicle to promote the activities of all groups and organizations within the community and to relay news affecting us. It also offers an introduction to neighbors and to concepts that are helpful in the lesbian/gay experience. *Resources needed: advertisers, writing and photography submissions, assistance in mail-out and distribution, suggestions for guest speakers for the monthly meetings.*

Public Image Committee

In effect, our issues and concerns require extensive marketing to mainstream media and within our own community. This committee develops working relationships with newspaper reporters and TV/radio programming staff to increase positive coverage and to serve as a contact

for referrals to qualified sources. The committee also is a resource for organizations in developing press releases and media kits to promote events and activities. *Resources needed: individuals who will be accessible to media as a spokesperson; representatives to develop a marketing plan for their organization; referrals to media contacts.*

Social Programming

TCLGA's social events provide encouraging and entertaining settings to raise funds for a variety of lesbian/gay and AIDS-related organizations. The *fort worth formal* is a community-wide New Year's Eve party that drew 450 last year. *Alliance Productions Management* mounts a yearly benefit show featuring a variety of performers. *Resources needed: attendance at the events; assistance in preparations, promotions and mailings.*

Youth Concerns Committee

This committee addresses the turbulent struggle of lesbian/gay teens in their coming-out process by developing programs for support and educational outreach. *Resources needed: individual and organization representatives; phone line staffing.*

Key to self-value is not in what you own, but in how you view what's hidden inside

By SANDY JONES

We are all spiritual beings and yet some of us have lost this identity under all the layers of social and cultural infiltration. Usually when someone wants to explore your identity the first question they ask is "what do you do for a living." Our status in society is directly related to our occupation. Immediately we are put into a classification of values, economic success, intelligence and belief systems.

Many of you are finding your identity being stripped away through layoffs, financial difficulties and other forces. When this happens you feel lost and the programming of our society may even make you feel worthless. You are not worthless. You are having to change your perception of who you really are. Remember that you create what you perceive.

Peel away all of your titles: manager, mother, father, lover. Remove

all material items to which you attach your identity: house, car, clothes, jewelry. Now see who is there at the depths within. Acknowledge this person that has been patiently waiting for you to open the door. Accept yourself for who you really are. Shed the burden of all judgement and criticism and make a loving path for yourself to explore this new-found child within. When you judge, you cut off the process of understanding your true self.

Many fears will arise through this process - acknowledge them and work with them. Fears come from our anxiety of separateness when we feel that we are all alone in this process. This separation occurs when we have remove ourself from the concept of oneness, a collective consciousness. You are not alone. Relinquish the desire and need for approval from others. You are the

only judge of your worth; you are in the process of finding infinite worth within yourself; and this is a beautiful exploration.

You are a spiritual being in human form.

You are abundant with everything you need,

There is plenty to go around for everyone.

You encompass all that is good, kind, compassionate joyful, and loving.

You create what you perceive and you have the power to change your perception so that you no longer view experiences as negative.

You are aware that all of your thoughts and feelings are positive and specific.

You are blessed and you bless your fellow beings and Mother Earth.

You are willing to be fully self-realized by removing all of the cultural dressings.

You are love. &.

JOE SEARS JASTON WILLIAMS

The Christmas Phantom is back for one week only!

A
TUNA
Christmas



NOVEMBER 16 - 21
Will Rogers Auditorium in Fort Worth

ONLY METROPLEX ENGAGEMENT!

TICKETMASTER

metro 214/647-5700

(Sears, Sound Warehouse, Foley's)
or come Casa Mañana, 3101 W Lancaster, Ft Worth 76107

sponsored by



season sponsors
The Texas News Channel Fort Worth Star-Telegram AA American Airlines



You have questions?

- Where can I go to get tested for HIV?
- What are symptoms of AIDS?
- My brother has AIDS. Are there any support groups I could join?
- How can I find a doctor with experience treating HIV?
- My boss found out I'm HIV+ and I'm going to lose my job. Can I get legal help?
- How many cases of AIDS have been reported in Tarrant County?
- I've just learned my ex had an affair while we were married. Am I at risk for HIV infection?
- How can I talk to my kids about AIDS?
- Do condoms really protect you from HIV infection?

We have answers!

INFORMATION  LINE
(817) 336-0066

A service of AIDS Outreach Center who offer the following additional services:

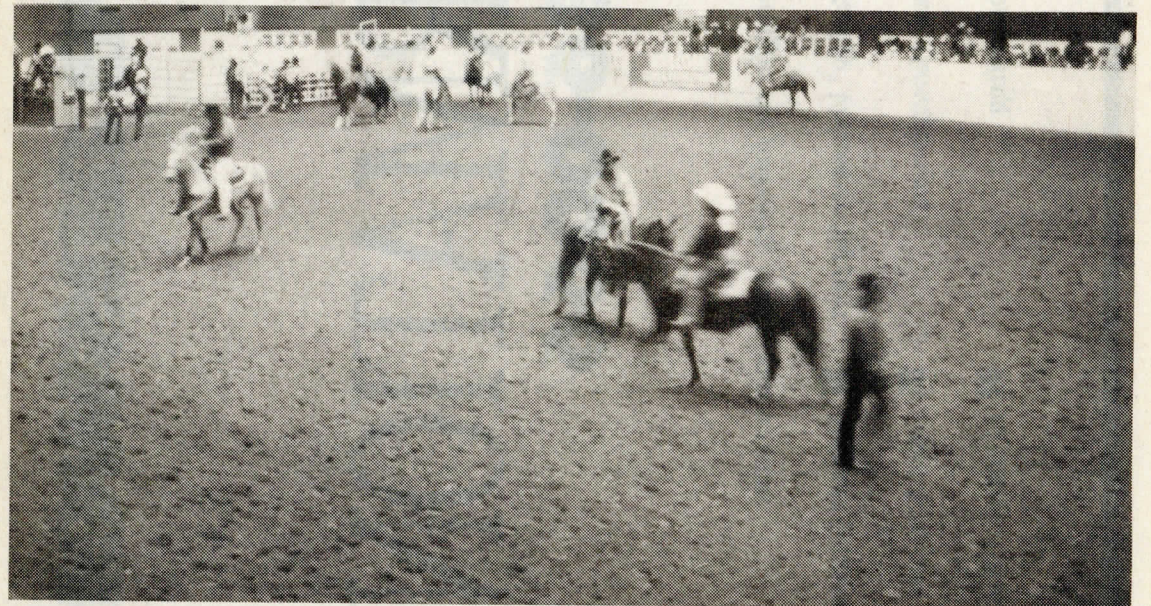
- Education and Training
- "Buddy" Volunteer Support
- Support Groups
- Nutritional Support
- Case Management
- Legal Services
- Transportation
- Counseling
- Housing Assistance

A SERVICE OF

AIDS
OUTREACH
CENTER

Alliance News

Inside this issue:





HORSING AROUND: IGRA Finals

And:

- CITY PASSED HIV-TESTING MEASURE ... or maybe they didn't
- **Chamber cringes at 'L' and 'G' issues**
- Retired major combatting prejudice in military
- LOCAL ARTIST ADDRESSES SEXISM ... AGAINST MEN
- *Personal viewpoints on coming out, butch dykes, visibility of women, and racism*
- *One brother mourned, another embraces each morning*
- Samaritan House open, looking to future
- **AND MUCH MORE!**

**Happy
Thanksgiving
Day**


Magnolia
STATION


FORT WORTH

**Across
the
Street**