

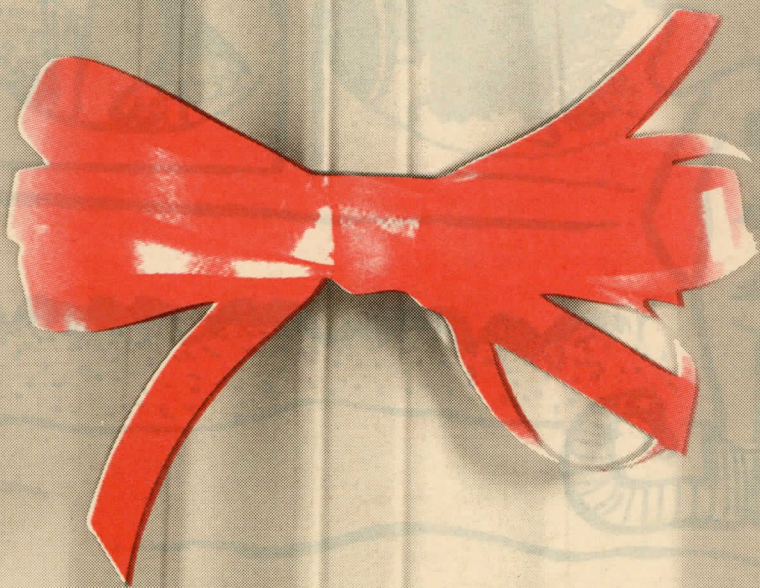
DECEMBER 1994

Volume 14, Issue 12

Alliance News



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THE ALLIANCE NEWS

is published monthly and distributed to community-based organizations and businesses throughout the county.

Viewpoints expressed herein are not official views of TCLGA unless explicitly stated. Inclusion of any name or photograph is not a representation of sexual orientation.

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

Copy and advertising deadlines are the 15th of each month for the next month's issue.

READERS WRITE

An open forum for issues, concerns and ideas

FUNDAMENTALIST RHETORIC FAIR GAME NOW FOR DEBATE

It is appalling that many gay publications remain unwilling to confront the bigotry flowing out of the ultra-conservative fundamentalist churches in America. The timid and cowardly retreat from such institutions can be self-defeating. A strong and direct analogy would be if the Jews in Nazi Germany had maintained silence while thousands marched to their deaths because it might make some factions in society uncomfortable. Nobody should ignore any such travesty.

In order to deal with narrow-minded bigots who inhabit this nation one needs to define the way in which to frame the discussion. It is a duty to criticize their philosophy when they now air their views on the public air waves. When they kept their opinions within the walls of their churches, they were, in a way, immune from public criticism. No more! When their vituperous and vile venom fills radio and television then they are open to public scrutiny and reaction. Their own words should be used against them.

First, discount their frequent out-of-context references from the Old Testament. Jesus clearly states that he came into this world to replace the old law with a new covenant. Therefore, each and every time they use the Old Testament, one can respond that Jesus replaced that archaic way of thinking with a new vision. Jesus went beyond the 10 commandments with two precise and specific directives: "Love your God with your whole heart and mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself". This should be the starting point of the discussion.

Next, it is important to challenge the fundamentalists with a very precise question. How will God judge us? They may begin by railing against our lifestyle and they need to be stopped in their tracks. Go to the New Testament and ask what happened to the sheep and goats in Matthew 25. Listen to their response. If one is not familiar with this particular story, I suggest that it be read. This passage is of great interest and relevance. Jesus never mentioned anything about church attendance, tithing, differences in sects or lifestyles. No mention is made of the 10 commandments. No, it describes people being condemned to Hell for not caring about their fellow human beings. In this story it is even revealing to note the reaction of those condemned to Hell. They were shocked to learn they were being banished for a reason that never occurred to them.

It is extremely important for us to defend what our community has done in the face of an epidemic. When have ministers directed money to build

a place for persons afflicted with AIDS? Where are they when food is needed by the AIDS Resource Center? Where are they when hands are needed to care for the children in Bryan House? I don't see them calling on Christians to help in these matters. God was clear in his message and yet I find them ignoring such a powerful directive.

We cannot allow the bigots and narrow-minded to define what is right and wrong.

I'm well aware that the gay lifestyle may never be accepted as the norm in our culture. That's fine with me. I'm not asking adversaries to understand who and what I am. I just don't feel they have the right to cause harm because they don't agree with me. People are being assaulted just for being gay. There are cases of men and women being killed because of the pronouncements by the fundamentalists.

Anyone can take the Bible and twist the words and passages to suit any purpose. That is not the point. It is high time that gay people stop being so timid and silent when it comes to this faction of society. It took a riot in New York City at Stonewall to wake us up to the fact that we exist. Maybe it takes a murder and physical harassment in East Texas to alert us to the dangers which confront us today.

Silence is not golden. It is downright deadly.

RAYMOND NOWICKI,
DALLAS

GAY ANTIABORTIONISTS SELLING OUT WOMEN

In your October issue, you published a letter from one Michael Dubson-Sage, of the so-called Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians, a letter which was a nauseating list of distortions, sexist stereotypes and unsupported posturings.

I have some news flashes for Mr. Dubson-Sage and his crew:

•Nobody is pro-abortion. Nobody thinks abortion is desirable. Nobody looks upon abortion as anything other than a personal tragedy. Desperate women have always resorted to abortion, and will always do so. The only question about abortion is whether women's own lives carry enough value for society to permit abortion under safe medical conditions.

•Contraceptives fail. Women, including lesbians, suffer heterosexual abuse and rape. To attribute abortions in general to irresponsibility is insensitive to the point of cruelty, and reveals much about Mr. Dubson-Sage's attitude toward women, lesbian and straight, as competent human beings.

•The women's movement, to its

credit, has long held gay rights and reproductive freedom to be defended equally vehemently, as inextricably linked; both issues spring from each person's fundamental right to control his or her own body and sexuality. Mr. Dubson-Sage's misrepresentation of feminist thinking on abortion rights obviously springs from an ignorance which is equalled only by his arrogance.

•America's antiabortionists carry an unparalleled record of opposition to social services for the already born, including public health care and AIDS funding. For any lesbian or gay man to encourage this powerful collection of bigots is to repeat the hopeless strategy of the Jewish Police in Nazi-occupied Europe: to hand over victims in the vain expectation of concessions from the enemy. Make no mistake: The Helmses and the Dannemeyers will love Mr. Dubson-Sage and his misguided cohorts no better just because they sell out the women.

MARY O'GRADY,
AUSTIN

PARTNERSHIP REGISTRY INSPIRES DEDICATION TO CONTINUING BATTLE

I picked up an issue of your newspaper (*Alliance News*, November 1994) for the first time yesterday and felt the need to write and thank you for such an upbeat and informative article. This was the first time I had the chance to read your fine newspaper and was greatly impressed. I wish it was distributed to the Dallas area. I think it is a shame to have information not being shared between our two communities, which is ultimately one.

The article, "With This Ring I Thee Domesticate," really hit home with me. Being a man I didn't have the friends carrying around *Modern Bride* or lusting over bridal ensembles, well maybe I did have a few, but I too wanted someday to have that license. The article and especially the Declaration and Oath section was very informative and thought provoking.

As a modern-thinking person I like to think that a piece of paper is not supposed to be that important, but somehow it is. The act of publicly expressing your love, devotion and commitment always seemed to me to be one of the high points in two peoples' lives. I am presently in the beginnings of a new relationship, and while we are not at the point yet of taking this type of commitment, it is really nice to think that it is available.

As you mentioned this is a long and hard battle won, for the time being, and I am dedicating myself to be more diligent in the battle to

protect this right. Thank you for opening my eyes to an area that I didn't even realize how important it was. While I may not have *Modern Bride* to thumb through, I now have the first page of my "Marriage Planning Book" in your article.

I wish for you and your domestic partner much happiness in your continuing marriage.

MARK WHITE,
DALLAS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Alliance News* is distributed in Dallas at businesses along Cedar Springs and at the DGLA Community Center. In appreciation for your compliments, we have added you to our mailing list.

OFFICIALS RESPOND

A letter-writing campaign coordinated by the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and the Lesbian/Gay Political Action Coalition-Tarrant County forwarded several hundred letters to local and federal officials.

More than 100 letters were mailed to the area's congressional representatives and senators urging their support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would protect the jobs of lesbians and gays.

At least that many were mailed to the Fort Worth Public Library director to protest the censorship of *Daddy's Roommate*, a children's picture book by Michael Wilhoite that depicts gay parenting. The book was pulled from the children's section shelves when several conservative patrons objected to its public display. The book may be checked out now by request for a small processing fee.

In last month's issue of the *Alliance News* we printed Congressman Pete Geren's unfavorable response to the ENDA legislation. This month we have heard from Senator Phil Gramm, and from Linda Allmand, the library director, on the status of *Daddy's Roommate*.

SENATOR PHIL GRAMM:

"Thank you for contacting me supporting S. 2238, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1994. I appreciate having the benefit of your views and comments on this issue.

"S. 2238 was introduced on June 23, 1994, to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of one's sexual orientation. As of now, job discrimination is prohibited on the basis of one's skin color, gender, religious preference, national origin, age, or disability, but not sexual orienta-

SEE 'RESPONSES' ON P. 9

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

*Gays have arrived in arts circles.
Lesbians are still thumbing a ride.*

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

There's good news and bad news on lesbian/gay presence in the visual arts.

THE GOOD NEWS: Gays have arrived. Historians and scholars now widely acknowledge gay presence among artists, with credit given, if somewhat grudgingly, to the impact of sexual orientation on their work.

Milan Hughston, librarian of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, painted a rosy picture of his field for the Alliance membership at its November meeting: "We are seeing a Renaissance of growing awareness of sexuality issues in visual arts."

Hughston tracks the emergence of that Renaissance since 1980, traceable by the explosion of literature on homosexuality in the arts. Searching Internet databases, he unearthed so few titles published before 1980 — only two printed between 1951 and 1970. The '80s decade saw a sharp,

upward swing to 38, a number already matched over the last five years.

A peek at the Art Index found no listings regarding homosexuality until 1972, he said. Since 1984, however, 176 citations have been added, 125 of those within the past four years. "More and more people are paying attention to this issue," Hughston reported.

More important than the numbers of resources available is how widely the material has opened closets previously ignored. Until the surge, sexual orientation of master artists like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci was excused as having no bearing on their art. In the mid-'80s author Emmanuel Cooper introduced that sexual orientation was *central* to their art. Scholar Jonathan Weinberg added his premise that homosexual themes in some American works were deliberate, "tied to the artist's need to reveal an essential aspect of his life."

Today, gay identity has permeated throughout scholarly considerations. Hughston said almost every issue of the journal *After Image* contains an article from a lesbian/gay angle.

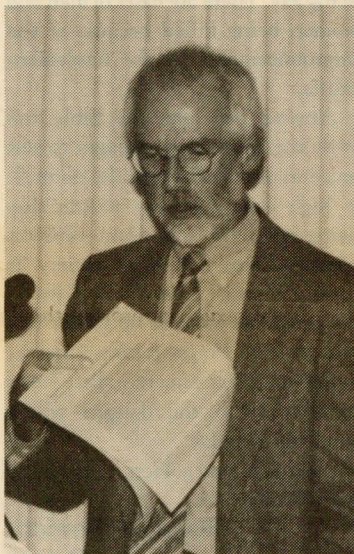
THE BAD NEWS: Whereas gays have arrived, lesbians have barely embarked on the trip, noticeably overlooked in the annals documenting artistic contributions.

Among 16 books on homosexuality in art released to local bookstores this year — including biographies of Tom Bianci and Tom of Finland — only one is an obviously lesbian title.

The deterrent to lesbian visibility, Hughston said, is an ongoing debate on what defines lesbian relationships.

Attention has gone to feminist identity — achieving independence in a male-dominated world — at the expense of women artists' interpersonal issues of sexuality.

Assistant librarian Sherman Clark pointed to the irony in the sparse documentation of lesbian works: gay artists owe their visibility in part to



ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN Sherman Clark says there's an open-minded attitude at the Amon Carter Museum that enables them to research lesbian/gay issues. Dossents there, however, generally won't go out on a limb on that subject. "People in Texas have trouble talking about sex, period," he explains.

an attitude among librarians and scholars that is much more open-minded than for the general public; that attitude, Clark said, is the result of that field's preponderance of women, who are more sensitive and who have a vested interest in freedom of expression.

The temperament of the womanly dominated field gave rise to male voices trumpeting gay contributions; lesbians in art, however, are still just a whisper.

THE GOOD NEWS: The force of lesbian/gay art historians and librarians is hard at work unclinking queer impact on the arts, calling attention to lesbian issues too.

In 1995, the College Art Association conference, for instance, will feature at its San Antonio meeting at least 11 sessions of lesbian/gay programming, including Clark's on gay/lesbian art books.

The association's Gay/Lesbian Caucus has compiled a bibliography of more than 1,200 annotated items. The challenge, Hughston said, has shifted from *finding* materials to *keep-*

ing up with all that is available.

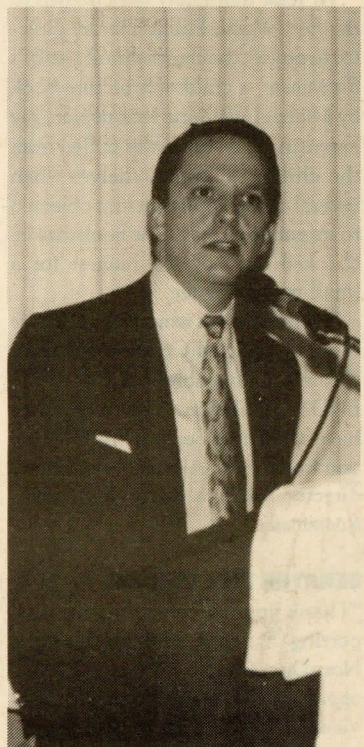
Clark enlisted the Alliance gathering for help in that work, in support of lesbian/gay archives across the nation that are collecting the materials. "Send money to them," he urged.

The archives are vitally important, he said, to increase visibility of lesbian/gay people. Clark explained the need for such visibility and for coming out in an archival presence: "An abstract image of homosexuality is an easy target for demagogues."

He offered that the University of Texas at Arlington's Special Collections department might serve as a resource locally to create a Tarrant County lesbian/gay community archives, with interns available to catalog and help set up the framework.

Locating a collection on campus would give public access and assure security, he promoted, and he thinks the library director would welcome the project.

That's good news indeed for Tarrant County, where several individuals have carried the load and expense of preserving local cultural memorabilia in their private collections. ♪



LIBRARIAN Milan Hughston says cinema is overwhelmingly the choice medium for today's lesbian/gay artists, probably because it is more accessible, less expensive and requires less studio training to produce.

December TCLGA Meeting:

The December Alliance meeting is suspended for community-wide participation in the **LIGHTS OF LOVE** memorial event,
6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15,
at the NAMES Project chapter house,
665 S. Jennings, Fort Worth.

*Join us then for a Christmas-tree lighting to honor our loved ones gone.
The program includes performances by local choirs and featured speakers.*

TCLGA Membership

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HOMOPHOBIA

TV NETWORKING

According to the Radical Right, the Gay Agenda is more successful than what we ever knew about.

An alert reader sent us solicitation materials he received from the American Family Association (AFA), a national radical-right group that has a chapter organizing in Tarrant County. The action alert is a plea by national president Donald E. Wildmon to help stop network TV's promotion of homosexuality.

The material is so charming, paints us in such glowing terms and provides such informative TV-show reviews that we cannot help but share it with our readers. Wildmon writes:

"This fall network TV executives will continue to try to promote homosexuality as a normal and acceptable lifestyle. ... I want to warn you that the push to make homosexuality 'morally acceptable' is a VERY REAL THREAT to you, your family, your children and our entire society!"

"The homosexual community has awesome power in Hollywood! Make no mistake, the homosexuals all but control Hollywood. They are powerful, militant, well-connected and well-financed. And the facts prove it:

"Fact: The networks regularly consult with homosexuals on projects they are considering. ABC executives admit this publicly.

"Fact: Network executives say homosexuals are the most effective and well-organized pressure group lobbying TV.

"Fact: The networks solicit input from the Gay Media Task Force and pay them for their input.

"Fact: 80% of Hollywood creators, writers and producers believe that homosexuality is NOT wrong.

"Fact: Most of the Hollywood TV elite believe they have a role to play in reshaping American society; which in this case means making homosexuality acceptable.

"Fact: Hollywood fund-raisers for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force sell out and are attended by a 'Who's Who' of network TV.

"Because homosexuals cannot 'reproduce' themselves, they are forced to recruit new members. And the targets of their recruitment drives are OUR CHILDREN!"

"And a major weapon in all these

recruitment efforts is their distortion of the truth. This distortion states that homosexuals are. ... *Healthy!* Why then their fear of AIDS? ... *Happy!* Why then are they so bitter and angry? ... *Normal!* Why then can't they reproduce like every other species on earth?"

The rest of the letter is all "please send money ... pray ... boycott ... God bless you" etc. But enclosed is a free TV program review letting us know all the best shows to watch:

THE BAND PLAYED ON, ABC. The movie carried an "adult subject matter" advisory as it championed homosexual propaganda and took careful aim at the Reagan administration for lack of AIDS funding. The movie also took potshots at those who addressed homosexuality from a moral perspective.

BEVERLY HILLS 90210, Fox. Steve discovers that his fraternity president is homosexual. At first, the homophobic Steve feels it his duty to tell his frat brothers, but by story's end, he had led the campaign for homosexual advocacy and all involved understand that homosexuality is normal.

BIRDLAND, ABC. Hector, an orderly in the psychiatric facility, is featured as the resident homosexual character. In the Jan. 26 episode, Hector shares advice with a doctor on how he first expressed his love for Henry, his homosexual partner. On the April 21 show, he talks with a Catholic priest about problems he has with his mother because of his live-in lover, Henry.

COLUMBO: BUTTERFLY IN SHADES OF GRAY, ABC. Aired Jan. 10. Homosexual advocacy appears in scenes such as when Lou remarks to his friend Jerry, "I was sorry to hear about Murray. I know you guys were together a long time. Anybody new?" "Yeah, there's Ted..." replies Jerry.

THE COMMISH, ABC. Jan. 22 episode: When four thugs are routinely ambushing and beating homosexuals, it creates problems for Hank, a homosexual cop. After witnessing such an incident while at a homo-

sexual bar, Hank has to come out of the closet. Predictably, he is initially harassed by fellow officers and his partner demands a new partner. Conflicts, however, are resolved, "homophobia" is "cured," and Hank and his partner are reconciled.

MARTIN, Fox. Feb. 20 episode: Martin and his live-in lover Gina attend a couples retreat before marrying. Martin doesn't like the retreat until he meets two friends from the gym where he works out - until he learns they are homosexual. The minister takes great pride in introducing the retreat's first homosexual couple.

MELROSE PLACE, Fox. Homosexual character Matt, a regular in the ensemble case, was prominent in the Jan. 6 episode, seen encouraging a paraplegic in his physical therapy session. In the Jan. 20 show, Matt helps Katya, a Russian immigrant, get a patient a bed at the hospital where he is employed. By Jan. 26 he begins dating Jeffrey whom he met in a cafe. Jeffrey, in the Feb. 2 show, angers Matt by misleading him about being in the closet, to protect his military career. In the March 9 episode, Matt struggles with how to tell a woman coming on to him that he is homosexual. March 30, Katya offers Matt \$1,000 and a weekly payment to marry her to avoid deportation. April 13, he accepts the proposal. The May 4 story lines "continue to overflow with sexual shenanigans and self-centered chicaneries. Except for Matt, who appears to be perhaps the series' most sane, sensitive and sagacious of all the characters who appear in this episode."

SEE TV ON P. 23

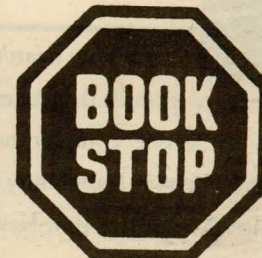
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In a far away kingdom called Gilmer in the land of East Texas lived the good baby dyke, Lezzirella. A wicked stepmother held Lezzirella captive. She forced Lezzirella into pink dresses with bows, makeup and five-inch heels. To make matters worse, the wicked stepmother sent Lezzirella each week to the John Birch Society for deprogramming, and forced poor, innocent Lezzirella to make pilgrimages every four years to the Republican National Convention with her mean stepsisters, Anita and Phyllis, who, like their famous namesakes, believed a woman's place was in the home.

Despite this cruel and unusual punishment, 20-year-old Lezzirella's spunk and dyke attitude glowed underneath the pink dresses and bows. She kept these carefully hidden lest the wicked stepmother beat her and make good on a threat to send Lezzirella off to the Jerry Falwell School of the Radical Right for Wayward Girls. Lezzirella knew that someday soon her Guardian Fairy would rescue her from this plight of injustice.

Lezzirella landed a lucky break at Christmas when her Aunt Femme-Fou came to visit. Aunt Femme-Fou was as queer as a two-dollar bill, but the less-than-bright wicked-stepmother never recognized this due to her sister's stylish designer dresses with color-coordinated matching pumps and accessories. Aunt Femme-Fou quickly assessed the situation and vowed to save dear Lezzirella from a life with the local farmer, Bubba Bigboy.

During a rousing hymn at the First Church of the Pure, Righteous and Heterosexual of Gilmer, Aunt Femme-Fou passed Lezzirella a note: "I know that you know that I know that you know. I can help you get out of here. Meet me tonight behind the barn after your stepmother goes to her Women of the KKK meeting. Tear this note up and burn it. Love, Auntie."

Aunt Femme-Fou's roommate, Aunt Bertha, came with her each Christmas. Lezzirella wanted to be just like Aunt Bertha. In Gilmer,

To meet your heart's desire or to rekindle the flames with the old one, consider the Tarrant County community's *fort worth formal* for your New Year's Eve celebration.

To receive an invitation and order form, call the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance at 817/763-5544, and leave your name and address for mailing.

A Fairy's Tale

LEZZIRELLA FREES HERSELF FROM THE SHACKLES OF AN EVIL PATRIARCHY BY FINDING HER MAGIC PRINCESS AT THE FORT WORTH FORMAL...

By Beverly Bennett

Aunt Bertha wore drag disguise — librarian skirts and SAS oxfords. Her sturdy aunt might fool the wicked Step-Mother in this costume, but Lezzirella instinctively knew that this auntie's wardrobe back home in Fort Worth was entirely different. Lezzirella imagined her in 501's, Bass Weguns and buttoned-down shirts.

Lezzirella spent the rest of the day filled with anticipation. The appointed hour came. Lezzirella waited behind the barn. She hoped her aunts would soon rescue her from this wretched life in Gilmer. Aunt Femme-Fou and Aunt Bertha met Lezzirella behind the barn. "We know you'd rather be anywhere but Gilmer this New Year's Eve. We know that you know that we know that you know. We're going to get you out of here," whispered Aunt Femme-Fou. She handed Lezzirella a beautifully engraved card. "This is an invitation to the *fort worth formal*. We'll be there that night with about 800 of our gayest friends. On New Year's Eve at 8 p.m., I want you to hold the card and make a wish for your heart's desire. Your Guardian Fairy will do the rest."

"But Aunt Femme-Fou, how will I get there? Wicked Stepmother is dragging me to the annual Gilmer Ball for Straight People Who Wear Polyester! From there Bubba is taking me to the JP. At midnight I'm suppose to become Mrs. Bubba Bigboy. I've already packed my bags. I'm running away to San Francisco with five dollars in my pocket," cried a distraught Lezzirella.

"Forget San Francisco. You'll find everything you need at the *fort worth formal*. Now go back to the house and bake Bubba a cake before my twisted sister gets home and becomes suspicious," Aunt Femme-Fou instructed.

New Year's Eve finally came. Lezzirella wondered how on earth she'd get to the *fort worth formal* and more than that, what would she wear? Wicked Stepmother was getting her multicolored polyester prom dress of 1972 out of mothballs for Lezzirella to wear to the Gilmer Ball. Lezzirella felt ridiculous in this monstrosity. "I can't make my queer debut in this horrible thing. Oh Guardian Fairy, where are you? Auntie said you'd take care of everything."

"Well, Gurrl, I've been waiting for you to call," said a six-foot-tall Guardian Fairy with a decidedly deep voice.

"I was beginning to give up on you. Oh, my! Look at that wretched thing Femme-Fou's demented sister has squeezed you into. No matter, I'll fix it," assured Guardian Fairy. With one stroke of a diamond-studded wand Guardian Fairy transformed Lezzirella into a stylish dyke. The polyester dress was gone. Lezzirella looked in the mirror and, much to her surprise, she saw her own reflection looking back at her in black velvet tuxedo pants with an oversized white Renaissance blouse and a black silk beaded vest. Guardian Fairy even remembered a boutonniere! She looked down at her feet and the five-inch heels disappeared before her eyes. In their place, she wore sensible but stylish black patent leather flats. "Wow, this is incredible. How did you do that?"

"All in a day's work child. Now close your eyes; hold onto my tiara, and wish upon your heart's desire," said Guardian Fairy.

Lezzirella closed her eyes and imagined a beautiful woman sitting beside the fireplace stroking Lezzirella's neck and whispering sweet nothings into her ear. Lezzirella opened her eyes and, much to her surprise, she was no

longer in her room in Gilmer. "Guardian Fairy, where am I?" Lezzirella beheld the most beautiful hotel she'd ever seen, but Guardian Fairy was nowhere in sight. A voice in the distance echoed, "Go inside and find your heart's desire. Your ticket is in your pocket. You must find her by midnight or the magic wears off, and you'll be back in Gilmer with Bubba."

Lezzirella went inside the hotel to find the *fort worth formal* and her heart's desire. Inside a dyke named Angela with an accent from a land much farther away than Gilmer took her ticket and ushered Lezzirella into the party. Lezzirella walked into an elegant ballroom. A band was playing, couples were dancing and everywhere she looked well-dressed men and women filled the room. The place was... festive. That's a word she'd learned from Aunt Femme-Fou. She didn't know exactly what it meant until she spied this opulent room full of queer elegance. "No wonder Wicked Stepmother washed my mouth out with soap when I said I wanted to be festive," thought Lezzirella.

"Where is Guardian Fairy and my

aunties? I don't know anyone here," she worried. Lezzirella was about to get cold feet and spend the rest of the evening in the ladies' room when a motherly sort named Jo took her under her wing. Jo turned out to be a preacher. Rev. Jo told Lezzirella that if she'd visit her church, she'd get a spiritual renewal and regular potlucks. "Imagine that! A woman preacher. Just think what the folks in Gilmer would say!" Lezzirella thought to herself. Before she had time to ponder this thought, the wise Reverend sized up this wet-behind-the-ears baby dyke's situation and delivered her into the capable hands of Glenda, Guardian Fairy's assistant.

"Are you related to Guardian Fairy?" Lezzirella asked.

"More or less. Let's say we hang with the same crowd." Glenda was just about to help Lezzirella find Aunt Femme-Fou and Aunt Bertha when a big butch named Melissa handed Lezzirella a calling card. Glenda said Melissa was really an emperor. The card said, "Induction into the sacred order of the Butch Buddy Club the first Monday of each month. Learn how to be cool and arrogant by the following Friday. Call 1-800-BUTCH for more information."

Melissa showed Lezzirella the lay of the land at the *fort worth formal*. "That's the Golden Circle over there. Society types shelled out \$1,000 a table to get waited on hand and foot." Lezzirella looked over at the Golden Circle where an elegant crowd of beautifully dressed gay and lesbian couples sat. "My gosh, that's Mrs. Diamond-Glow. Everyone said she

SEE 'FAIRY TALE' ON P. 22

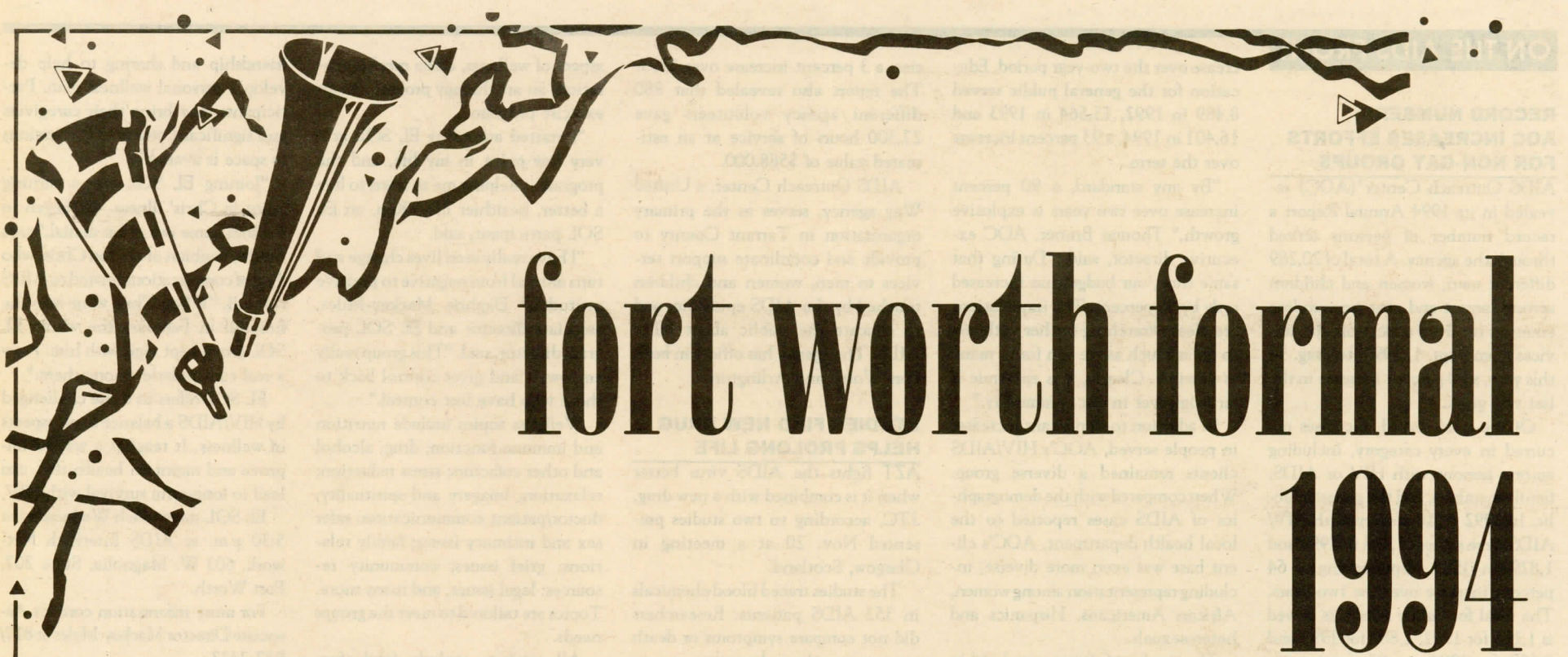
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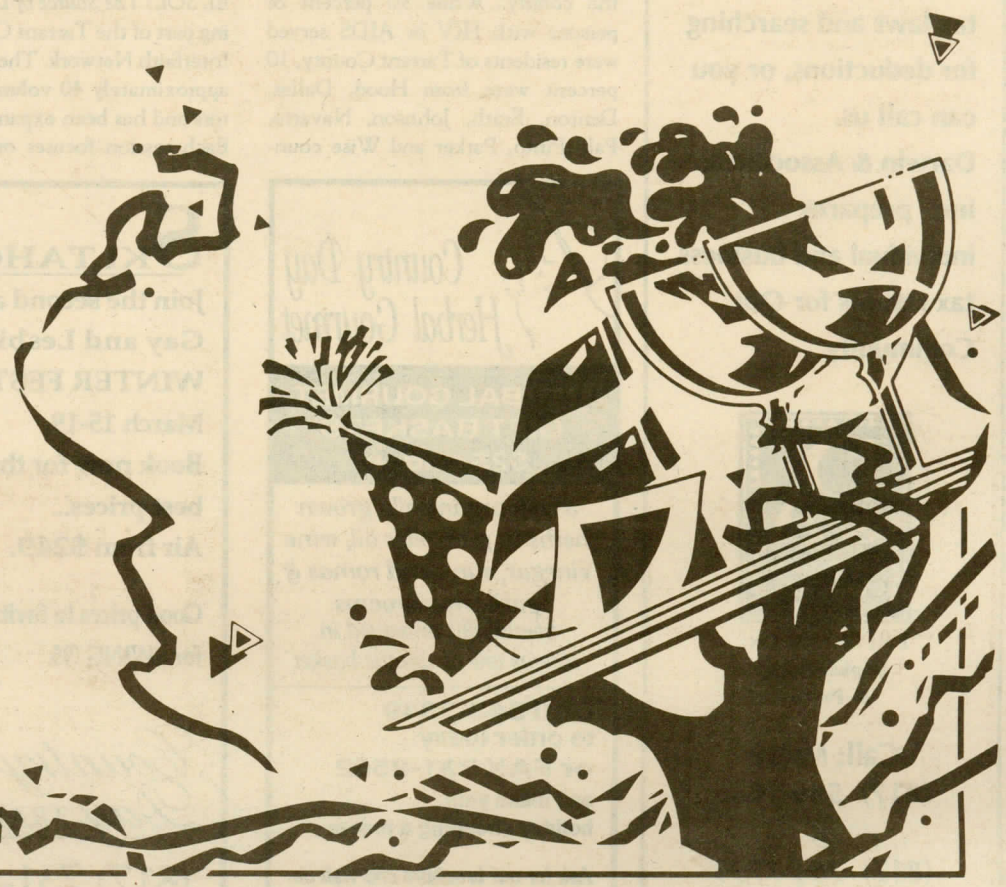
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ON THE AIDS FRONT

RECORD NUMBERS: AOC INCREASES EFFORTS FOR NON-GAY GROUPS

AIDS Outreach Center (AOC) revealed in its 1994 Annual Report a record number of persons served through the agency. A total of 20,289 different men, women and children across Tarrant and nine surrounding counties received education and services from Sept. 1, 1993, to Aug. 31 this year, a 90 percent increase in the last two years.

Of the total served, increases occurred in every category, including among persons with HIV or AIDS, family members, and the general public. In 1992 1,118 persons with HIV/AIDS were served, 1,463 in 1993 and 1,829 in 1994, representing a 64 percent increase over the two years. The total for family members served is 1,128 for 1992, 1,880 for 1993 and 2,059 for 1994, an 83 percent in-

crease over the two-year period. Education for the general public served 8,489 in 1992, 15,564 in 1993 and 16,401 in 1994, a 93 percent increase over the term.

"By any standard, a 90 percent increase over two years is explosive growth," Thomas Bruner, AOC executive director, said. "During that same time, our budget has increased only by 55 percent. The implications are clear: stretching farther with less to do as much as we can for as many as possible. Clearly, this epidemic is far from over in our community."

In addition to significant increases in people served, AOC's HIV/AIDS clients remained a diverse group. When compared with the demographics of AIDS cases reported to the local health department, AOC's client base was even more diverse, including representation among women, African Americans, Hispanics and heterosexuals.

The number of clients served within the diverse groups was greater than the percentage of that group among the total number of AIDS cases in Tarrant County. The AOC client base was 17 percent women; women are 10 percent of the total Tarrant County cases. The client base was 28 percent African Americans, who make up 24 percent of county cases. Nine percent of clients was Hispanic, accounting for 7 percent of total county cases. Heterosexuals, who are 35 percent of the total AIDS cases in the county, represented 43 percent of the AOC client base.

The agency's Arlington/Mid-Cities satellite office, open only since 1992, accounted for 25 percent of all HIV/AIDS clients served. AOC also served more families living outside of the county. While 90 percent of persons with HIV or AIDS served were residents of Tarrant County, 10 percent were from Hood, Dallas, Denton, Erath, Johnson, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker and Wise coun-

ties, a 3 percent increase over 1993. The report also revealed that 880 different agency volunteers gave 27,300 hours of service at an estimated value of \$588,000.

AIDS Outreach Center, a United Way agency, serves as the primary organization in Tarrant County to provide and coordinate support services to men, women and children touched by the AIDS epidemic, and to educate the public about HIV/AIDS. The agency has offices in both Fort Worth and Arlington.

STUDIES FIND NEW DRUG HELPS PROLONG LIFE

AZT fights the AIDS virus better when it is combined with a new drug, 3TC, according to two studies presented Nov. 20 at a meeting in Glasgow, Scotland.

The studies traced blood chemicals in 352 AIDS patients. Researchers did not compare symptoms or death rates among the volunteers.

Dr. Francesco Bellini, president and chief executive officer of Biochem Pharma, the Montreal-based biotech company that designed 3TC, said the study results indicate longer life when 3TC is combined with AZT. No evidence yet, he said, indicates that 3TC alone prolongs life.

French investigators in one of the studies randomly assigned 129 AIDS patients 3TC with AZT, or AZT alone. After 24 weeks, viral levels, an estimate of the amount of HIV in the blood, dropped by 99 percent among those on combination therapy, compared with 11 percent among those taking only AZT.

AIDS INTERFAITH EXPANDS WELLNESS PROGRAM

EL SOL: *The Source of Life* is a growing part of the Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network. The program has approximately 40 volunteer facilitators and has been expanding rapidly. Each session focuses on a different

aspect of wellness, offers meal preparation, an art therapy project and an exercise program.

"I started attending EL SOL at a very low point in my life, and the program is helping me to learn to live a better, healthier life," Ken, an EL SOL participant, said.

"I have really seen lives change and turn around from negative to positive attitudes," Daphne Mackey-Miles, associate director and EL SOL program director, said. "This group really empowers and gives control back to those who have lost control."

Wellness topics include nutrition and immune function; drug, alcohol and other cofactors; stress reduction; relaxation, imagery and spirituality; doctor/patient communication; safer sex and intimacy issues; family relations; grief issues; community resources; legal issues, and many more. Topics are tailored to meet the groups needs.

All sessions include food, fun,

friendship and sharing to help develop a personal wellness plan. Participants may bring their caregivers and significant others to the sessions as space is available.

"Joining EL SOL was a turning point in Chris' illness. We began to see him come out of his denial," says Shirley Faubion of her son Chris, who died of complications related to AIDS this fall. "When Chris went into the hospital in February the whole EL SOL group kept vigil with him. I saw a real camaraderie among them."

EL SOL offers to those challenged by HIV/AIDS a balance to all aspects of wellness. It teaches a way to improve and maintain health that can lead to long-term survival with HIV.

EL SOL meets each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at AIDS Interfaith Network, 603 W. Magnolia, Suite 207, Fort Worth.

For more information contact Associate Director Mackey-Myles at 817/927-2437.

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-TIM HAYES

RESPONSES

continued from p. 3

tion. This legislation would not allow preferential treatment, including quotas, and would not provide benefits for domestic partners. In addition, the measure would not apply to any members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"As you may know, the 103rd Congress is currently in recess, and it is unlikely that any legislation other than the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be considered when this Congress reconvenes for a special two-day, lame-duck session scheduled in November. When Congress adjourns, all those bills introduced during the last two years that were not signed into law will no longer be pending and must be reintroduced during the next Congress, which convenes in January of 1995.

"I appreciate having the opportunity to represent you in the United States Senate. Thank you for taking the time to contact me."

LIBRARY DIRECTOR LINDA ALLMAND:

"Thank you for sharing your opinions regarding the book, 'Daddy's Roommate.'

"This book has not been removed from the Children's Collection at the Central Library. The title remains listed in the on-line catalog for anyone to request its usage. It has circulated frequently and has had numerous reserves on the waiting list.

"The Fort Worth Public Library

does subscribe to the American Library Association's 'Library Bill of Rights' and 'The Freedom to Read' statement. As such this Library does provide in its collections materials from all points of view. Materials are not excluded from the collection because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation, nor are they proscribed or removed because of any partisan or doctrinal approval.

"Definitions according to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* further clarify the interpretation of these policies:

"Proscribe - to denounce or condemn; to prohibit or forbid.

"Censure - an expression of blame or disapproval; to express severe (sic) criticism or disapproval.

"Censorship - the act or process of censoring; a program or policy of censoring.

"Censor - to examine and expurgate; an authorized examiner of literature, plays or other material, who may prohibit what he considers morally or otherwise objectionable.

"Expurgate - to amend (a published work) by removing obscene, objectionable, or erroneous passages from the text; to cleanse or purge.

"Therefore, based on the definitions and the actual text of the 'Library Bill of Rights' and 'The Freedom to Read' statement, the act of placing materials in a more limited access with a listing in the catalog stating 'Ask Librarian' does not constitute censorship.

"Accordingly the Fort Worth Public Library has several thousand items plus two entire unit collections which

have limited access by the public. Periodicals/Documents, Genealogy/Local History and Business/Science/Technology each has a sizeable portion of their collection which require assistance to access.

"The Fort Worth Public Library also requires the presentation of a form of identification for the use of some limited access materials.

"It is the opinion of the Fort Worth Public Library that the present practice of limited access does not constitute censorship. It does prevent (sic) anyone regardless of age, sex, economic or social background from utilizing the materials in our collections.

"The Fort Worth Public Library has not, nor will it, withdraw from its collections materials deemed by special interest groups as objectionable

or unsuitable.

"The Fort Worth Public Library also will continue its present practice of limited access to certain materials and collections. This practice is deemed to be in the best interest of the City and its citizens.

"Again, thank you for your time and sharing your opinion with us."

THE ALLIANCE challenged Allmand's semantics denying censorship: The book was recalled from each of the branches when a group of patrons provided an "expression of blame or disapproval." The library's action corroborated that censure.

Contrary to Allmand's argument, the "Library Bill of Rights" and "The Freedom to Read" statements she mentions do not allow for limited access to

controversial materials. The "Free Access to Libraries for Minors" statement, an official interpretation, poses that "all limitations on minors' access to library materials and services violate" Article 5 of the Library Bill of Rights. It states, "The American Library Association opposes libraries restricting access to library materials and services for minors and holds that it is the parents - and only parents - who may restrict their children - and only their children - from access to library materials and services."

Assisted access in this case does restrict some patrons from reviewing the book if they are uncomfortable asking a librarian for it.

The Alliance is continuing its campaign to reinstate the book to open access. *fa*

THE ADVOCATE

My mother's more eager than me to come out

By SCOTT FORSGREN

Recently, I wrote about my experiences with coming out to my parents. Although both of my parents have always been very supportive, and I knew they would still love me even after they knew the truth, there was still that nagging hesitation. The "what if" syndrome had paralyzed me for far too long. In fact, looking back, I think that Mom was more ready to "come out" than I ever was.

Just days after she got the letter and we had discussed it over the phone, she asked, "Who else can we tell?" It was as if we were part of a team, and

she was ready to stand up proudly and tell the score. I wasn't exactly sure that "we" needed to tell anyone else, but I was energized by this new camaraderie, and I was uplifted to know that I was no longer my own one-man team.

I almost felt sorry for the two Jehovah's witnesses who came to my parents' home a few weeks back. They were the nicest couple, probably in their retirement years. They talked for quite some time about good and evil in the world, and then they lit the fuse. They said something which implied that homosexuals were part of the "evil" in the world. Oooops. That was a big mistake.

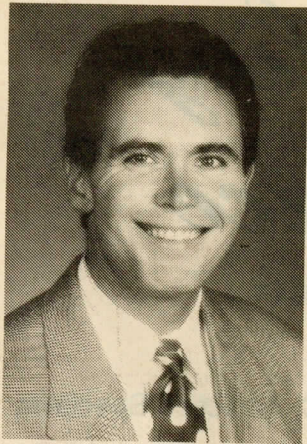
Mom told them that her son was gay and that she knew it was acceptable in the eyes of God. How did she

know? She had read Mel White's book *Stranger at the Gate*. In fact, if Simon and Schuster really wanted someone who could sell books, mom was exactly who they needed.

The first time I saw Mom after coming out to her, we didn't have much time to really talk but we had a great time together. I was so proud when she asked about my gay friends by name and wanted to know how they were doing. I've heard it said, "Regardless of one's sexual orientation, true love is the greatest fantasy." How I wait for the day when I can share my greatest fantasy with the ones I love.

There doesn't seem to be much that Mom can't do. From volunteering to save the whales at the Humane Society to being nothing less than the best parent anyone could ask for, this momma knows how to work it! *fa*

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Altered States

By JIM MARTIN

The Task Force's Creating Change Conference set the course for the nation's lesbian/gay activism in the coming year. More importantly, it changed the way we feel inside.

I have been a gay activist since 1977, which was the second time I came out. The first time I had no clear idea of what it meant to be gay other than going to The Flame - Ann Arbor, Michigan's gay bar and a real dive - and going home with men I wasn't interested in. The whole prospect ended up being just too frightening and I went back into the closet for a couple of years.

The second time I started hanging around other activist gay and lesbian students at the University of Michigan, where I was getting my master's in social work. These were bright and earnest people with whom I could at once discover myself and broaden my sights beyond my own personal concerns.

I have lost touch with most of them, and some have no doubt died. But how could I forget the antics of drag queen Beneatha Sheets, or the sight of David on Halloween, dressed as a fallen nun, his black dress unzipping all by itself whenever he danced? Or Michael, who in drag looked like Eleanor Roosevelt? How could I forget the gay/lesbian identity conference we put on, or the youth group that Jim and I ran? Or endless hours discussing gay politics with Daniel and others? I could never forget the Free Me from My Freedom Party or the She Has Risen Party. These are sweet memories.

Like many of us, I periodically focus my energies inward. I moved to Chicago to be immersed in urban gay/lesbian life. As the years passed I became less involved with the politics of the gay/lesbian movement. I had inward struggles to face, obstacles to overcome. I became a psychotherapist and shunned the public spotlight for fear of damaging the professional relationships I maintained with my clients. These were years of professional and personal growth, years when I exorcised many of my demons. Years full with friendships ended by AIDS.

And so when I helped to run the Creating Change Conference here in November, I was going back to the well of my earlier activism. I have learned, and it is a good lesson, that we must focus our energies both inward and outward. That we have to be concerned with our own little place in the world and also with the world.

I joined the local host committee a year ago, and at times through the months of meetings and of stops and starts I wished I could quit. Not another drive to Dallas. Not another meeting. The conference itself could not have come at a worse time, square in the middle of the busiest time of the year for me. A time when one more request or demand was sure to push me right over the edge. And then, remarkably, the conference came and went.

It was extraordinary. As did all eight members of the host committee, I worked like a dog to put on this puppy. But I met lesbian women and gay men from all over this country. Activists from New York City and from Mississippi. Creating Change virgins and veterans. At one minute Urvashi Vaid was chatting on the couch, Tim McFeely and Torie Osborn talking just to my left. AIDS activists from Boston and from San Francisco. The press was calling to talk to Peri Jude Radecic. At the registration desk I checked in attorneys from Lambda Legal Defense Network, gay veterans from the Colorado Color Guard, students from California and Michigan.

To be immersed in the lesbian and gay movement for one week, right down the road in Dallas, was extraordinary. For one week I was reminded that there is more to life than Arlington, than Tarrant County, than Texas. That I am part of a great movement that defies borders. And this gives me energy.

Unfortunately, putting on the conference left little time to attend many


of the over 70 workshops and special events offered. However, the few I was able to attend nurtured my gay soul and stimulated my gay mind. The readings by members of the Kitchen Table, discussions of AIDS prevention strategies and campus activism, Veterans' Day ceremonies.

I will get plenty of mileage out of the closing session, a Sunday brunch under a huge white tent. Phill Wilson's speech, the closing plenary, reminded us that the struggles of gays and lesbians are linked with those of African-Americans. We both face the same evil that nearly wiped out the Jews during the Nazi Holocaust. We must go out and fight, and we must have a place to come home to. We listened, we clapped, we sang. On Sunday the center of the lesbian and gay movement was in Dallas.

I am now at my office in Arlington. There is a lot of work to do here at home, where we have our own joys and struggles. Being involved in the conference gave me the opportunity to talk to many Tarrant County lesbians and gays that I would not have otherwise met. This work forged new opportunities for cooperation between Tarrant and Dallas gays and lesbians.

In my own small way perhaps I helped open up the Tarrant County community to the larger world.

In any case I have grown inside by reaching outside. Going back to the well of activism has replenished my gay soul. ♪



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It's a Wonderful LIFE



VIDEO GUIDE FOR A GAY HOLIDAY SEASON

By **BEVERLY BOB FLETCHER**

The holidays can get real tense if your folks still aren't cool on you being queer. No matter how many times you've wrassled with them over the year, they'll pull a blank at Christmas and address your accompanying partner as your "roommate" or "friend." There's a chemical in turkey that makes the brain shut down like that.

If you insist on correcting them, you'll get so dizzy over their game of "Spin the Subject" that you'll have to lay down for a spell, and then your partner will get really mad at you for leaving him/her alone with the pack. It's better to stay in the arena than to face New Year's Eve under the silent treatment.

But your brain too will have shifted into turkey-induced automatic pilot, so you won't have the energy nor inclination to stay in-your-face with your kin. An entire industry, though, has taken care of that for you.

The long-touted "Gay Agenda" — you've heard it promoted by Robertson and Falwell — has finally taken over the moving picture industry. You've seen the recent rush of movies lately that are all-queer, but did you know that queer subplots have been interjected into tons of otherwise straight-seeming movies? In the video store you can't pick these out by the jacket illustrations or promo-copy. To find them, you have to watch each and every new video released, which we've done, being depressed as we were over the recent elections.

Take a few of these videos along with you on your visit with the folks. When the silence about your orientation grows deafening, rev up the VCR, sit back, relax — they'll never see it coming. Soon your family will be jabbering away, posing thoughtful questions like "Jeremy Irons, Glen Close, Elizabeth McGovern... are they *that way* too?"

Or, you can just stay at home this year, pop some popcorn, cuddle up close to that special someone, and search for yourself through all the releases that dare to speak of the love that dares not speak its name.

"BITTER MOON," new releases section. Roman Polanski's typical hetero-fantasy romp through leather, domination and animal role-playing.

Peter Coyote picks Hugh Grant out from all the passengers on a cruise ship to tell his sordid tale of romance gone to whips and chains. Hugh listens for days because (a) he feels sorry for Peter who has to use handicapped parking after his wife got even for the whips and chains, (b) his own wife is busy anyway praying to the porcelain god, and (c) Peter promises Hugh he can have his wife after the story's done, even though Peter's wheelchair should be a clue that the arrangement might not work out so well unless Hugh really likes handicapped parking.

Hugh thinks Peter's wife is all hot and bothered for him too but turns out she digs Hugh's wife. You'll probably swoon over the great surprise lesbo-passion dance that isn't a surprise now that I've told you about it; makes the "Clair of the Moon" body-bump scene look like a playground game.

After the slow-grind, turn the movie off because it gets real messy after that and you'll want to make up your own ending.

Lots of weird hetero stuff that makes you feel sorry for breeders. Good as a motivational film for Co-dependency Recovery groups. People of leather may want to issue press statement saying "No — we don't do that." People of wheelchairs may become faint over the abandoned-in-bathtub scene. People of anal retentiveness may get upset over messy New Year's

Eve party trash-out.

I was disappointed that Gopher and Isaac never did show up — they would have made a nice couples side plot.

"THE HANDMAID'S TALE," drama section. Story by lesbian author Margaret Atwood. Horror peek into the future: men take back power over a nation so they can wear cute berets and still look manly.

The wives drank nuclear-flavored water and fried their ovaries, so they select fertile handmaids to lay on top of them and have sex with their husbands. The point is to make babies but Faye Dunaway seems quite moved underneath her handmaid who grosses out because she has to do the deed with Robert Duvall who only buys her one vodka tonic.

Lots of yucky Radical-Right shi-shi about God cleaning house when it was really just the men wanting their houses cleaned. Heavy morality stuff about personal freedoms, individuality, and how often a car should be washed. Good explosions, lots of hangings, buckets of blood, a screaming gang of holy women rip a man's head off.

Good lesbo side plot: Elizabeth McGovern is arrested for "gender betrayal" for liking women. The thought of having all that sex with men as a handmaid so totally yucks her out that she offers to "handmaid" two guards in exchange for escape.

Her plot fails. "I guess they were gay," she sighs to the main character while they're stripping the woman warden they've captured.

"THE HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS," new releases section. Generational saga showing how a family's love for one another can lead to a national civil war.

Jeremy Irons is attracted to his dead fiancé's sister (Meryl Streep)

because (a) she doesn't speak, (b) she looks like she'll make a good breeder, and (c) she moves flower vases telepathically. His proposal to her jump starts her vocal cords. He finds out that her special powers (her name is Clair — Clair "Voyant") means that he can't keep any manly secret from her, but his affairs are pretty apparent anyway when his illegitimate son walks right in the house and plops himself down.

Meryl is so sweet and angel-like that Jeremy's sister, Glen Close, who wishes she was born a man, falls head over heels for her. Glen teases a priest with her steamy confession of ... watching Meryl sleep. Jeremy, who is not clairvoyant, nonetheless senses his sister's affection for his wife, especially when he catches them in bed together.

He banishes his sister from the house and effectively ends the lesbo part of the movie, except for the great dead-spirit kiss that interrupts the family's dinner.

The rest of the movie is about their daughter, Winona Ryder, hunkering down with Antonio Banderas, and Jeremy trying to kill him as a form of birth control. Lesbians and gays can relate to this crazy chronicle of a father going ape-shit over his daughter's choice of mate.

Sensational morality war between liberals and conservatives. Nekkid prostitute actresses are totally convincing. Nekkid-Winona scene needs a close-up. Tender lesbo-love from afar could use some action. Some blood but generally everyone dies when they go to sleep, and then they go hovering around as ghosts. Your parents will probably miss the lesbo stuff, and you'll have to explain why Glen gets her eviction notice.

"M. BUTTERFLY," new releases section. Historical type spy and intrigue flick about how the love of a good woman(?) can make you fink

out your country.

Jeremy Irons, while stationed in China, falls for an opera diva who could make a compelling spokesmodel for a jockey-strap company (hits those high notes with no visible sign of support). The diva wrangles military secrets out of Jeremy while she's distracting him from noticing that she has a johnson, which she accomplishes nicely by birthing Jeremy's child, whereupon he gladly gives her military secrets deluxe so she'll show him the kid again.

Back in England, Jeremy gets busted, probably because the diva, who has joined him, runs up outrageous Nair bills. Jeremy takes up drag in prison and becomes Empress of the Court system there because you can't tell he's lip-synching.

Great drag moments: the diva defending her glamour magazines to the butch-dyke "we-don't-do-that-capitalist-crap" party comrade; the diva pulling off intimate moments without her johnson getting in the way; the diva's strip-down "nanner, nanner, nanner" for Jeremy in the paddy wagon; Jeremy's Maybelline make-over in the end.

"SIRENS," new releases section. Morality tale where repression takes a fall.

A minister (Hugh Grant again) and his wife visit an Australian artist to persuade him to stop painting so many nekkid ladies. The minister's wife is so impressed by all the nekkid lady models running around that she starts running around nekkid. The minister pretends that he doesn't see everyone running around nekkid.

Horror shots of nuclear-engorged biting spiders and mosquitoes, but not one nekkid body gets bug-bit. Gratuitous muscled-hulk of a handy man who is blind can't see the nekkid women at play, so they want him. Major flirting between all the nekkid women, especially when they get around water. Huge snake slithers through all the scenes for some Freudian reason. Tons of breasts; flimsy lingerie that won't stay up; enough full frontal to be a foreign film. Minister's wife has lesbo-trimmed fingernails and hairy pits. Arousing Ethyl-Merman-lesbo-water-dance for the finale.

You know it's a real women's movie because the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Michael Price rated it mediocre, and he didn't groove on "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," either. ♪

I care about my life...'

DOYLE FINE

Fine is a charter member of the Lesbian/Gay Political Action Coalition-Tarrant County. He volunteered for the Ann Richards campaign and at the Democratic Party headquarters in the recent elections, and he was elected once as a precinct chair.

I'm not political. I don't know much about all that political stuff."

Mention a current event that impacts our community or, God forbid, the subject of voting and more often these days that is the response you will hear.

Regardless of whether we are willing to acknowledge it, the political process affects every one of us:

The quality of the air we breathe. The safety of the water we drink or the food we eat. The curriculum of the schools we attend and the educational opportunities we are afforded. The quality of the health care we receive or the lack thereof. The system of justice we encounter whether as a litigant or victim of a crime. The roads we drive and the cars we drive. The jobs we work or those denied to us. Where we choose to live or the housing we are denied. In Texas, even whom you choose to co-habitat or sleep with (the Sodomy Law).

Hardly an area of our lives is not influenced by public policy decision makers, from the local school board and city council to the U.S. Congress and the Office of the President, from the books available in the public library to the National Endowment to the Arts and Humanities. Public entities regulate, facilitate or restrict most every aspect of our daily lives.

Looking ahead to 1995 in the aftermath of the '94 election, great challenges confront gay and lesbian people in Texas and across America.

The Texas governor elect, George W. Bush, whose primary authority is to make appointments to state boards and agencies, has said he has no problem appointing a gay or lesbian as long as they stay in the closet.

TALLYING THE VOTE

THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION THAT DISPLACED INCUMBENT DEMOCRATS CUT A WIDE SWATH THROUGH LESBIAN/GAY CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIONS. KEY PLAYERS ARE GONE, REPLACED BY CONSERVATIVES WHO THINK TALK RADIO IS THE PEOPLE'S VOICE. THERE'S GOOD NEWS TOO, THOUGH. GAY STATE REPRESENTATIVE GLEN MAXEY WON REELECTION IN HIS DISTRICT. GAY U.S. REPRESENTATIVES BARNEY FRANK, GERRY STUDDS AND WISCONSIN'S STEVE GUNDERSON WERE REELECTED. IN ALL 24 OPENLY GAY AND LESBIAN CANDIDATES WERE SEATED IN OFFICE THROUGHOUT THE NATION. OREGON AND IDAHO, THE TWO STATES VOTING ON ANTI-GAY LEGISLATION, DEFEATED THE PROPOSITIONS. THE ELECTION WILL IMPACT LESBIAN/GAY LIVES IN INNUMERABLE WAYS, GOOD AND BAD. HERE WE OFFER A SMALL SAMPLING OF VOICES COUNTING THE WAYS.



The newly elected Republican majority on the Texas State Board of Education (which influences textbooks and school curriculum) is now dominated by members whose agenda is to force their own narrow, religious, homophobic doctrine upon Texas public-school children.

With the new Republican majority and the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, who equated homosexuality with alcoholism, it will be a hard battle to win passage of a civil rights bill before Congress to include sexual orientation in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Not all Democratic members of Congress have supported gay civil rights and hopefully not all Republican Congress members will oppose civil rights protections for gays and lesbians.

Our own local Democratic Congressman Pete Geren, who seems to spend most of his time promoting U.S. arms sales around the world, calls homosexuality an abomination and morally wrong.

In 1994 over \$100 million was spent in a public relations campaign to misrepresent and scare the American public concerning health care reform, by corporate interests and insurance companies who profited from maintaining the status quo in the health care industry.

The Republican minority with the help of conservative

Democratic congressmen managed to block the passage of health care reform in 1994. If, like me, you are one of the 40 million Americans without health care coverage, don't get your hopes up for any meaningful or comprehensive health care reform in 1995 - now the Republicans control both houses of Congress.

In the upcoming spring, members of the Fort Worth City Council will be up for reelection. Presently the council members do not think it is their concern if gay and lesbian people are discriminated against when renting a home or applying for a job in Fort Worth.

If the gay and lesbian community of Fort Worth does not raise the issue to potential city council candidates, nothing will change here.

The next time a political issue is raised in conversation or you are encouraging a friend to go vote and they say, "Oh, I'm not political," just tell them, "I'm not either. Life gave me a brain that makes me aware of the world I live in, and I care about my life and yours..."

I's a life-and-death thing...'

BEVERLY FLETCHER

In her role with the Alliance, Fletcher has worked with elected officials and the general public to

educate on lesbian/gay issues. She is a charter member of the Lesbian/Gay Political Action Coalition-Tarrant County, and has volunteered locally with the Democratic Party.

That formidable gouge into Democratic strongholds Nov. 8 was not a complete surprise. The media forewarned us. Still, my partner, Susan, and I were not prepared for such bleak news that Tuesday night when an entire box of cookies and a fistful of tissues carried us through the returns and the concession speeches.

We had acted on that warning, calling in our chits. The night before, Susan phoned everyone in our rolodex, a considerable assortment, to urge support at the polls.

She was getting nowhere with my brother so she relayed the phone to me. I took a firm, yet empathetic approach: "Look, Bubba (and it is a most appropriate nickname for him), I know you have your reasons for backing Bush, but whatever those are, a postponement of several years isn't going to affect your life a great deal. On the other hand, if Ann isn't re-elected, Susan and I will be impacted every day of our lives."

I told him that repealing the sodomy law would be introduced again at the next state legislative session, that Ann supported repeal, that Bush supported the sodomy law and he would veto any legislation

passed to undo it.

"That law is used only to discriminate against lesbians and gays," I said. "Susan can be fired because of that law. This is really very important to us, Bubba. Can we count on you?"

He didn't hesitate: "Nahhh. I just can't do it..."

I conceded graciously: "No matter who you vote for, it's just important that you get out there and vote. I want you to be the first in line when the polls open Wednesday morning..."

My scheme failed. Tuesday morning, bright and early, he exercised his civic duty, boldly marking the box that would sentence his sister to at least four more years of criminal status for loving a woman.

Susan and I fumed over his disregard. "The thing is," I spluttered, "I could sit him down and say, 'If elected, Bush is going to issue an order to execute all homosexuals, so please vote for Ann,' and he'd just ask me if he was mentioned in my will."

And even though the scenario seems a far stretch, it's not so distant from reality. The Sodomy Law says it's okay to oust lesbians and gays from their jobs, from their homes, from public spaces, and from their parental ties. The Sodomy Law encourages Texans to despise and to punish lesbians and gays. The boundaries of hate and punishment are not easily contained: at least three of my gay friends were assaulted on Cedar Springs recently by carloads of teens out on a gay-bashing jaunt; at least six men across Texas this year were punished to death by assailants egged on by the Sodomy Law.

The sick feeling in my stomach Election night was the vertigo of facing an inevitable plummet off a precarious cliff. The domination of conservatives in the political arena is a life-and-death issue for us. When conservatives say gays don't belong in the military, the Alan Schindlers among the ranks are discharged in body bags. When congressman like Pete Geren say they'll fight against "misguided legislation" that would protect lesbians and gays from job discrimination, some male teen somewhere takes it as a point of approval for decking such refuse. When

Jesse Helms and Pat Robertson say gays are the penultimate enemy, twisted minds among their followers hear a sanction to exterminate.

The elections, for me, were not just a matter of my party winning or losing. Over these next several years I will mourn this election's destiny for every gay martyr felled by hateful violence, every gay brother claimed by AIDS while conservatives funnel sparse funds away from them.

The majority of Americans voted for conservative economics not fully realizing, I think, how that narrow platform can push the odds against survival among disenfranchised minorities.

My brother fell in step, voting for the conservative tongues who create a dangerous climate for my people. It's not my

brother's fault he voted that way; it is my failing. I did not manage to convey to him the critical link between the hate-mongers and the executioners.

I am hopeful now for I have several years before me to work on Bubba, and the other Bubbas in my rolodex. I have several years to join my hands to the grassroots network of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and the Democratic Party headquarters here, and to support the work of Log Cabin Republicans pushing to educate that party.

I trust you'll join me.

'Organize...'

SUE HYDE

Hyde served as director of the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force

Creating Change Conference in Dallas in November.

We will not agonize. We will organize.

'Don't give up—the stakes are high...'

REP. GLEN MAXEY

Maxey is the first openly gay man elected to the state legislature; he was reelected to his office in November. Excerpts here are taken from his plenary speech given at the Task Force's Creating Change Conference.

This was an election of angry, white, straight men. For a number of years now talk show hosts, fundamentalists and Republican leaders have been yapping like a puppy chasing after a car. Now they've bit the tire. The wheel is rolling very fast – it just may flip them over, and over, and over... They will have to turn loose or end up road kill.

Across the country, 24 openly gay and lesbian candidates were elected in November. Where we are not at the table, we are at least in the room. And in the rural areas, we are at least pressing the doorbell.

Don't give up – the stakes are too high and the victories too sweet.

'It's time for our voice in the Republican Party.'

P.D. STERLING

Sterling is a leader in the

Metroplex Republicans, a chartered chapter of the Log Cabin Federation. He has been active in Republican Party conventions and at lobbying elected officials.

One-party domination of the gay and lesbian community is impeding the cause of equal rights for gay and lesbian people. Foremost is the way in which So-Called Bi-Partisan Organizations (SCBPOs) ignore chances for equal rights to be advanced in conservative areas of the state by refusing to find and support moderate Republicans in primaries. They give only weakest support to Republican candidates in either primary or general elections.

In fact, many SCBPOs are not bi-partisan, at a time when dialogue with conservative middle America is imperative. They tolerate one or two Republicans in leadership roles, and speak kindly, if in a cacky-handed tone, of one or two Republican candidates. However, this writer quit a local SCBPO as a result of unequal status, and it now has no Republican officers and few Republican members. In truth, they are an unofficial arm of the big taxes/big government Democratic Party, but promote a bi-partisan image to extract money from gay and lesbian Republicans, who have been deluded by misrepresentation.

Certainly we get little in return for those contributions. The reason why only a few token Republican office-seekers get endorsements is because selection criteria include issues which are not equal rights issues, but are tailored to favor liberal Democrats. Under these criteria, with an endorsement committee which is not equally balanced, pro-"equal rights" Republicans get rejected if they take "wrong" stances on issues which are extraneous to equal rights for gay and lesbian people, and therefore are not

politically correct enough to satisfy a left-wing bias.

Not surprisingly, liberal Democrats pick up most of the endorsements, and also pick up an overwhelming percentage of money contributed by Republican donors. A truly bi-partisan organization, which is genuinely interested in equal rights for gay and lesbian people, would establish a board equally balanced in numbers between the two major parties. Such an organization would seek out Republicans in conservative areas who favor equal rights for gay and lesbian people, regardless of their stand on extraneous issues, then support their battles with troglodyte Republicans.

Fact is, who is going to educate someone like Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison if we refuse to? I stood right next to her when she made her initial announcement here at Love Field, and I have been lobbying her and her husband relentlessly, ever since. Yet some wonderful, politically correct Democrats have no qualms about threatening me *physically* for being seen with the Senator!

Do they think they can freeze her out? Ignore her until she comes, waif-like, to beg forgiveness and then they can slap her around a little before magnanimously offering to consider forgiving, if she grovels just the right way? As they say on the strip, Get real!

The lesson to gay conservatives is that they should not contribute money to merely be seen at a garden party or an annual dinner until the organization experiences radical change, including equal representation on the board and in its leadership. There are decent, socially moderate Republican candidates and political action committees. Gay and lesbian conservatives, Republican and otherwise, and their parents and friends, can and should contribute directly to those candidates and committees.

If ever there was a time for the gay and lesbian community to have voice in the Republican party, this is it. Only gay and lesbian Republicans can deal effectively with Republican legislators. In giving only weakest support to Republican candidates (gay or not), the SCBPOs have failed the gay and lesbian community at every level. ☺

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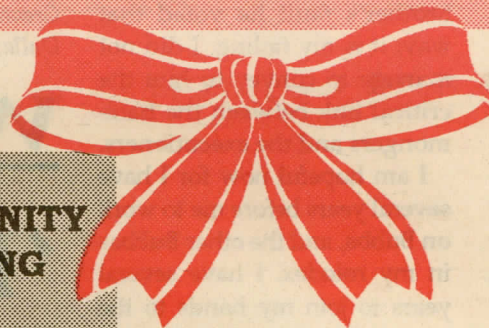
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All in the Family

A COMMUNITY SHOPPING GUIDE



AIDS BENEFIT CALENDAR:

Photographer Jeff Palmer's work features 14 black and white male nudes, including erotic, non-sexual images of male couples. Proceeds from five previous calendars have contributed more than \$200,000 to AIDS/HIV agencies.

\$12 plus \$2.25 shipping. Send check or money order to: AIDS Benefit Calendar, P.O. Box 34012, San Diego, CA 92163.

PC STATIONERY: Environmentally sound soy ink printed on 100 percent treeless paper made from the kenaf plant. Print up your own design for friend or 'family.' 500 8 1/2 x 11" sheets and 500 #10 envelopes.

On kenaf paper: \$110; on recycled Concept Fiber paper: \$95. Call Alpha and Omega gay-friendly printing at 817/921-3670.

ALL GAY AND LESBIAN CALENDAR: 1995 calendar with full-color nature photo "Dreamscapes,"



1995 AIDS BENEFIT CALENDAR
JEFF PALMER • PHOTOGRAPHER

inspirational quotations and gay historical dates.

\$11.95 plus \$3 shipping. Send check or money order to Atlanticus Productions, P.O. Box 940476, Maitland, FL 32794.

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WRIST WATCH

Also available is an assortment of exotic Christmas gifts, sterling silver jewelry, holy-union rings and Christmas cards. Browse Babylon at 4008-D Cedar Springs in Dallas, 214/522-5887.

FRIENDSHIP CHRONICLES:

Book by Chris Hassett and Tom Owen-Towle, one gay and one straight, a collection of their letters to each other that chronicles their friendship.

\$12.95 plus \$2 shipping. Send check or money order to Bald Eagle Mountain Press, P.O. Box 4314, San Diego, CA 92164; phone 619/546-3825 or fax 619/546-0844.

A REAL WORKOUT:

Give a gift certificate to Dallas' only gay-owned and operated gym: cardiovascular equipment, extensive free weights for men and women. Daily memberships also available.

Crossroads Gym, 4001 Cedar Springs in Dallas. Call 214/522-9376 for prices.

'OUT IN AMERICA': Latest best-selling book of Michael Goff, publisher of Out magazine. Make it a collector's item: Goff will be at the store Dec. 14 for signings.

At Crossroads Market and Bookstore, 3930 Cedar Springs in Dallas, 214/521-8919.

TEMPORARY TATTOOS: Skin scenes featuring pink triangles, rainbows, gay tribal, eagles, snakes, dragons and more.

For a free sample sheet of tattoos and color brochures of over 30 designs, phone 1-800-247-6817; or write to Don Ling's Removable Tattoos, P.O. Box 309, Butterfield, MN 56120.

'BRAVE BOYS': Romanovsky and Phillips latest recording. Some new and classic tunes.

\$15 per CD or \$10 per cassette, plus \$3 shipping. Special holiday offering of four previous Romanovsky and Phillips CDs for \$50 plus \$6 shipping. Orders of \$50 or more receive a free gift. Call toll free 1-800-473-7848, or send check or money order to Fresh Fruit Records, 369 Montezuma #209, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

GAY CANDY BARS: Triangle shaped chocolate bar from lesbian-owned chocolate company. Percentage of profits donated to lesbian/gay causes. Comes in milk or dark chocolate, available sugar-free.



UNION RINGS

\$2.95 each includes shipping; minimum order of six. Call Gay Goodies, 1-800-862-5814.

GOURMET COFFEE PACKS:

Three blends of coffee shipped with homemade dipping cookies. Request the GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), IGLHRC (International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission) or LAMBDA (Lambda Legal Defense Fund) pack and \$2 will be donated to that organization.

\$29 plus shipping. Call Gay Java

at 1-800-GAY-JAVA.

KENNY ANGEL TREE ORNAMENT:

Ken in angel drag - satin gown, lace wings and lovely pearls - to top your favorite tree. Cowboy Kenny Angel also available.

\$29.95 plus \$4.50 shipping. Call 1-800-833-9691, or mail order to Kenny Angel, P.O. Box 880363, San Diego, CA 92168-0363.



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Two-band design \$299; three-band design \$399. Call Rainbo Collection at 1-800-PRIDE-95 for a free brochure.

A FAVORITE VIDEO: Weird cult films or campy classics. Throw in a clever gay-pride T-shirt or some in-your-face jewelry.

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\$25, \$50 or \$100. Send check or money order to Teen Project, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243, Fort Worth, TX 76116.

'A ROAMIN' HOLIDAY: Seventh recording of the Turtle Creek Chorale. Made live during four sold-out holiday concerts in 1993 performed at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Spanish, French, German, African and American favorites.

\$16 for CD, \$11 for cassette at area music stores, or call the Turtle Creek Chorale office at 214/536-3214 or 1-800-746-4412.

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Rainbow, triangle and AIDS ribbon designs in men's and women's sizes. Quartz movement with conventional hands; genuine leather bands.

\$39 each plus \$2.50 shipping. Call Wear with Pride Apparel Company, 1-800-786-PRIDE.



GAY CANDY BARS

TARRANT COUNTY SAMARITAN HOUSING, INC.

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Dear Friends:

Samaritan House has been actively serving residents for over a year now, and we have much to report. Although there have been many challenges in this startup year, we are realizing the community's dream of supportive housing for Persons Living With AIDS. We are making a significant difference in the lives and deaths of those we serve.

At the beginning of our second year of operation, the Board of Directors adopted a revised mission statement:

The mission of Tarrant County Samaritan Housing, Inc. is to provide housing and services for persons living with symptomatic HIV disease or AIDS in a mutually supportive community of care.

This reflects our awareness of the intensity of care which must be present to adequately serve Persons Living With AIDS. We expect to receive our Special Care Facility license from the Texas Department of Health in November. This will allow the expansion of professional and volunteer efforts at the House and more support services.

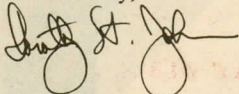
As the gay community well knows, the diagnosis of HIV or AIDS is only the beginning of many losses for people with this devastating virus - jobs, family, housing, and social acceptance among them. All who live at Samaritan House were homeless or in imminent danger of losing their housing prior to admission. The isolation engendered by fear of this epidemic added another layer of homelessness to their lives. At Samaritan House there is both a home and a community. There is personal space and shared space. And always someone to care.

On this date we provide homes to 24 people and expect to reach our capacity of 32 residents in early 1995. The Residents' Council is active in daily operations of the House and in accepting new residents into their home. Our full-time staff of five and two part-time Personal Care Attendants provide 24-hour care. A part-time cook prepares meals to meet the high nutritional needs of PLWA's. A mutually supportive community of care grows daily, bolstered by the compassionate volunteering of individuals, groups, Buddies, churches, supper clubs, and more.

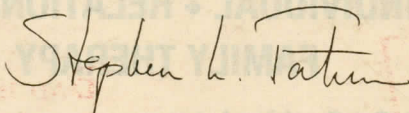
We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to all of you who have given so generously of your time and skills and resources to make Samaritan House a home and a community. We ask your continued support in 1995.

If you have not been a part of Samaritan House in the past, please consider this letter a call to join us in this important mission. If you have friends who value the Samaritan concept, please share our letter with them.

Sincerely,



Dorothy St. John
President



Steve Tatum
Past President

P.O. Box 470184 Fort Worth, Texas 76147 (817) 626-9398 Voice FAX (817) 626-8289

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Return to: P.O. Box 470184, Fort Worth, TX 76147.

POET'S CORNER

TIME WAS

By SANDRA HOUSE

The geese went south today.
As they flew, the sound of
their voices
Blew over me.
I almost felt their wings
brush my face.
Time was I would have
run into the house
To tell you.
Time was...
That time has passed.
I enjoy the sound alone
now,
Expanding my own soul
with their honking.
Time was it was better to
share the experience
Of living.
Time was...
Last night the moon was
full.
So big and so white it almost
filled the sky.
The glow filled my heart
with such warmth.
Time was I would have
run into the house
To tell you.
Time was...
That time has passed.
I enjoy the whiteness alone
now,
Expanding my own soul
with its glory.
Time was it was better to
share the experience
Of living.
Time was...

savored them like your
very own bechamel
sauce
as fundamental to you as
your name
Now I dissect your
thoughts
Red glare from the candles
concealing intentions
Prodding clumsily with my
fork
Rearranging simplest
meanings on my plate
trying to project
my impact on your life
trying to imagine
coping with your eclectic
friends
becoming more than a
mere convolution
Today I must have
invented a thousand reasons
to call you on the phone
Played a million charades
But now that we are sitting
here
it's a wonder you don't feel
the earth beneath us
shaking
and me grasping the table
to prevent being swallowed
up whole

TOMORROW

By TRISHA K. THOMAS

silence echoes...
trembling hearts
sweetness and suffering...
light's flash
tears burn
sliding down red cheeked
ass...
nails bitten
polished paint
almost picture perfect...
morning sees mourning
two lost souls searching
the skies...
purple and pale
orange roses - blue weeds
today and tomorrow.

THE MEAL

By MARLENE KING

Over dinner I have masti-
cated your words
turned them over finely
on my tongue
delicately examined your
dreams

I want to do something different this trip. I really like the way Texans do a year-end letter and send it with the Christmas cards. I want to take it one step further. Call this my Christmas wish list and thank-you card.

Sometimes in the midst of everyday stresses, those of us living with HIV forget how important each day is. I do not want to find myself waiting for the bus to hell and still wishing I had said something. I figured this out the other day when I was moving. Here I am, fulfilling another dream and I cannot share this with Mom. I would love her to see the place – the green dining room would drive her nuts. But I cannot call her. Most of my other friends are either dead, living miles away or sick. I realize that life is a series of growth experiences, but sometimes it would be nice to be able to stop and enjoy the moment. I guess that as time goes by and we move farther away from those who have died, I find myself in a horrid position: I wish I would have said "I love you" more, but I never realized this until it was too late.

This became more relevant over the past month. Two more friends passed away and I found myself at a loss. We had always meant to call and reschedule, and many times we did, only to cancel again. Now, both parties are gone and we missed the chance to laugh and bitch about life. The worst part is, this is life, not TV, so there will be no next season and no chance to say the things that were left unsaid. I hope all of us use this holiday season to tell the ones we love exactly how we feel. With that said...

Dad: It has been a wild year. You saw a lot and learned to believe that I speak the truth. Sometimes I do that and hurt your feelings, but I do tend to speak off the cuff a bit too much. I am grateful that we have invested the time and made a real relationship out of the mess we used to call a

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

Christmas season brings a wish for friends and family: Enjoy today, appreciate your life.

father/son relationship. We have come a long way and I can actually say that I like you and have grown to appreciate all we have shared. It is one thing to say "I love you" because one has to, but for me it is easy to say it to you, Dad, because I mean it.

The Siblings: I now see the value in being an only child. While I love their kids, my relationship with my brother and sister is probably beyond salvation. I will never forgive my brother for the crap he put Mom through and my sister has the balls God gave Godzilla, but the heart of a gnat. I wish you both well, but save your money and take me off your phone list.

The In-Laws: What a circus you both live. I think God gave you the extra heart he forgot to give my sister. Sometimes, I think you let your heart lead you when logic would scream control. But the road to hell is paved with good intentions and you both mean well, but I think you miss the point of enjoying each other and all you have built together. Worry less about the Joneses and enjoy today. You both are such loving people and have welcomed me into your life, but I want more for you. I wish you would stop trying to make the world happy and simply enjoy the life and family that surrounds you both. I am not being negative, just observing. I see Steve and me in you two – we both run full speed ahead and miss the rare orchids that dot the fields next to us. I never would have believed that I would enjoy my mother-in-law's com-

pany, but I do. While I would rather not share my birthday at all, at least sharing it with the step-father-in-law is not too bad. I actually like the guy and get pretty good gifts for a change. Of course, his sense of humor is a bit dry from my perspective, but at least he takes my humor with a grain of salt.

The Co-workers: we have all gone through a lot of change over the past year and while we are all busy going separate ways, you will always be a part of my life and I have enjoyed our quest for perfection and our battles. Sometimes the wounds healed badly, but we never lost sight of the importance of the war.

The Friends: What a variety of the community you guys represent. Male, female, gay and straight. We are a unique bunch. While several members have left us, their souls will always be a part of us. If living with

this virus has taught us anything, it has shown us all the value of friendships. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by such a group.

Steve: Last but not least. What can I say to the person who has the horrible misfortune of living with me? You entered my life long after I came to terms with the virus and accepted me as I was and still accept me with my many faults. Together we have accomplished more than I could have ever achieved alone. I feel that sometimes I forget to tell you just how important you are to me. I am not much for expression or demonstration, but you are the other half of my soul. One of the things I enjoy about our relationship is the fact that we can fight like two wild lesbians on PMS, and we always seem to find the middle ground just before any serious damage is done. I still find it amazing that I am in this relationship with

such a handsome man. Well, no one is handsome in the morning, but you do clean up well. We have seen so much and shared so much that I find it hard to imagine my life without you. I do like to watch you when you are not looking, like when you are asleep or potting plants. I love to watch the lines on your face and love to watch you cook. I hate the food after you cook it, but I love to watch your serious approach to the culinary arts. I like the part that you overreact to my every little running nose and Hep A outbreak. But overall, you treat me like the inbred white trash that I am and ignore the virus part of me. I get tired of the nausea and the doctors' visits, but that becomes a small part of my life once I get home. I love our home that we have decided to start together and how the fact that AIDS as a part of our life did not stop us from fulfilling our dreams. I guess that if I have to grow old and fat with someone, I am lucky that someone is you. And yes, I do Love you.

Well, time is out and I have gotten too mushy even for me. But do not wait to tell someone how you feel. This thing called AIDS has shown us how short life really can be and usually is. So this holiday season, think positive, love someone positive, and live this day and every new day with passion. ♪

Jan Wynn, LMSW-ACP AND ASSOCIATES



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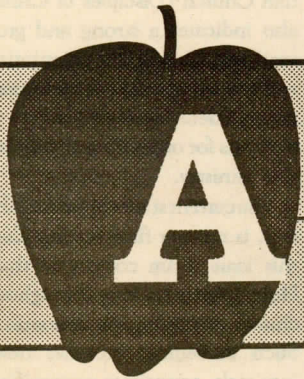


PROGRAM:

ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

ITEMS FROM ELIZABETH TAYLOR AND BETTE MIDLER ARE AMONG THOSE TO BE AUCTIONED. BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE.

7 P.M. THURSDAY, DEC. 1
AT FIRST JEFFERSON CHURCH
1959 SANDY LANE, FORT WORTH
(817) 498-5607 OR (817) 451-5318



AGAPE's Apple a Day

Healthy advice from the heart by
Doug Rich, RN, MA, an Agape MCC Deacon

We at Agape MCC have "DREAMS" for everyone's health. The realization of this dream will take more than "an apple a day". We offer health tips using the letters of the word DREAMS to give you a half dozen "apples" – use

them in good health all through the Christmas season!

Discipline coupled with well thought-out plans of action will help you achieve your dreams. The Three Wise Men didn't just follow their star

– they trekked hundreds of miles across a desert (on smelly, foul-tempered camels), and brought gifts, no less! What are your plans and dreams for the future? A fit, healthy body? Successful relationships at home and work?

Respect – you get what you give and perhaps you give others what you give yourself. It seems that people who have very little respect for themselves are the ones most often abusing and misusing others.

Exercise two to three times a week. Keep it fun and try to work out until you sweat – you may prefer to glisten. Whichever you choose, you'll have to use the big muscles (legs and arms – not tongue and cheek) for 15 to 30 minutes to get any benefit.

Anger is such negative energy – let it go! This is the season for goodwill and peace – do your part.

Moderation in all things is a

good rule. Be filled with Christmas cheer but keep moderation in mind when you are "pouring your cheer."

Spirituality: Contemplate the spiritual enormity of this thought: "God's faith in humans was such that a young girl named Mary and her husband were trusted with the life and nurturing of the infant Jesus, the Son of God." We are all entrusted with the Spirit of God – our mission is to nurture it so it brings us and all around us true joy.

Dream of the month: Peace on earth and goodwill to all.

Address comments and questions to the Deacons of Agape MCC, 4615 SE Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76119; or call 817/535-5002 and leave a message for the Deacons. ☺

HEALTH KNEAD: *Massage stimulates immune system, promotes wellness*

By **JOHN McNUTT**
MASSAGE THERAPIST

Massage has been a tool for relaxation for thousands of years. Chinese and eastern cultures continue to use forms of massage hand-in-hand with herbal remedies, acupuncture and other modalities as their chief forms of medicine. As a massage therapist, I join Dr. George Carpenter II, general practitioner and HIV

specialist, in offering to the Tarrant County community an integration of eastern and western treatment methods as a way to not just treat illness, but to promote wellness.

For our community, entering into an alignment of the body, mind and spirit is a valuable tool for dealing with day-to-day efforts of presenting ourselves to the world with pride and self-confidence. Allowing the growth of each of these three elements

complements and reinforces our entire structure. Deep relaxation frees the mind and body from chronic holding patterns and negative thought processes which allows us to find the center of our place in the universe. With this alignment in motion, health and ease instead of "dis-ease" can occur.

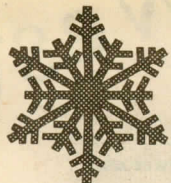
In regard to the HIV community, the benefits of this type of alignment are immense. The concurrent use of

alternative therapies and lifestyle changes can enhance the immune system. In the past few years more coherent clinical research has emerged to support this.

Massage techniques such as manual lymphatic drainage, trigger point therapy and myofascial release can be helpful to an overall sense of well-being, increasing energy level and enhancing the body's ability to fight off opportunistic infections.

One of the most important factors in anyone's healing process, whether or not impacted by HIV, is the value of human touch. The flow of love and energy from one being to another serves as a crucial healing link between the patient and the practitioner. To this end, Dr. Carpenter and I value the practice of osteopathic and holistic modalities since it allows for contact. In many cases the person

SEE 'MASSAGE' ON P. 23



AGAPE' Metropolitan Community Church

Join Us This Advent Season For The Following Events:

- Dec 01 World AIDS DAY Service (7:30 pm)
- Dec 03 "Bethlehem Marketplace (Crafts Fair: 10am-4pm)
- Dec 04 "Lessons & Carols" (7 pm)
- Dec 18 Agape' Choir Christmas Cantata (7 pm)
- Dec 21 Annual Church Office Open House (5-8 pm)
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion (11 pm)
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service (11 am only)
- Dec 26 Kwanzaa Service (7 pm)
- Dec 31 (see you at the FW Formal!)

4615 SE Loop 820 (Take the Anglin Exit) * Office Hours: M-Th / 11am-6pm * (817) 535-5002

"Agape' Means Love"

Like other journeys, this one has times of progress and times of regress, times when goals are clearly defined and times when they are not, and times when the journey seems to be worthwhile and times when it doesn't.

Two years ago, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest embarked on a journey. It joined other Christian denominations at various levels of bureaucracy who have been and continue to be on the same journey: the continuing quest for understanding of human sexuality and, more specifically, the role of sexual orientation in determining criteria for ordination of persons to representative ministry.

When I spoke about being gay and Christian with members of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance last April, several in the audience voiced interest and even concern about my denomination's struggle with sexuality and ordination. In my remarks, I spoke about our Regional Assembly which was scheduled for this past October, and the probability of some action being taken. I can now report on that action.

First, a word about how Disciples of Christ conduct business at assemblies. Except when making policy decisions, our assemblies speak only for themselves. Even when making policy decisions, those are binding only on the church's organizations related to that particular assembly. This means that the General Assembly (United States and Canada) sets policy for those offices; Regional Assemblies (like the Southwest - Texas and new Mexico) set policy only for regional offices; and

KWANZAA

Agape to celebrate African culture

Agape MCC in Fort Worth will observe the seven-day celebration of Kwanzaa Dec. 26-Jan. 1. Each of the seven days represent basic principles upon which Kwanzaa is based.

The Kwanzaa service at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 26 will open reflection on the cultural heritage of African Americans. The church is at 4615 California Pkwy, Fort Worth.

A reception following the service will feature a sampling of African and African-American foods.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES:

Christian Church muddled on gay-ordination issue

By REV. ROGER WEDELL, PhD

so forth. Because we jealously guard the autonomy of each local congregation (property ownership, hiring/firing of personnel, including clergy, budgets, etc.), we have been cautious about giving much authority to assemblies.

Three resolutions and one report came to the October Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in the Southwest. The report was from a Task Force formed following the Regional Assembly in 1992, when "the issue" was first raised. That report noted the division within the Task Force, affirmed the process of ordination already in place (including congregational autonomy and regional recognition) and called on congregations to become more active in nurturing candidates for ordination and for the region to recognize congregational authority.

The first resolution was the original one from the 1992 assembly. It would prohibit ordination of and recognition of anyone already ordained who was a "self-avowed, practicing" homosexual. The second resolution would not prevent a homosexual from being ordained or recognized because of sexual orientation. Additionally, it says that a person's stance on any single issue or response to any single question would not be the only determination, either by congregation or region, in establishing candidacy for ordination or recognizing anyone already ordained.

The process at the assembly involved receiving the report, brief presentations on each resolution, a time of sharing viewpoints and discussion in small groups, and a vote. The assembly voted on all three resolutions and that joint action is the "sense of the Assembly". Resolution 1 was adopted by a vote of 323 to 231. Resolution 2 was defeated by a vote of 350 to 183. Resolution 3 was also adopted, by a vote of 296 to 243.

So, what is the "sense of the Assembly"? Muddled at best; bigoted at worst. While the issue cannot come back to Regional Assembly until the year 2000, area and regional Committees on Ministry must now interpret the vote and apply that interpretation. To my knowledge, there are no openly lesbian or gay candidates seeking candidacy for ordination in the Disciples of Christ, thus relieving committees from establishing policy on candidacy until such a person presents her/himself. However, since standing (recognizing the ordination of someone already ordained) is evaluated annually in this region, anyone who is openly lesbian or gay, already ordained with standing or seeking standing, should be prepared to be challenged. To my knowledge, there is only

one such person in this region - me.

The journey continues. We are temporarily at a rest stop. As with all journeys, when the travelers come to a junction, choices must be made. Each junction brings different choices, and each choice determines, in part, the next junction. The vote in October reflects the diversity of opinion regarding ordination and sexual orientation among members of the Chris-

tian Church (Disciples of Christ). It also indicates a strong and growing sentiment that sexual orientation, in and of itself, should not be a consideration in determining a person's qualifications for ordination to representative ministry.

The current stance, confused though it is, is not our final resting place on this issue. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is moving throughout the church, including my denomination. Such movement breathes new life into stale, sometimes mummified, institutions. Even Lazarus couldn't stay dead when God decided otherwise! While I am not naive, nor even expectant, I am hopeful. Hopeful that God's love for all creation will eventually overcome ignorance and hate; that persons who have experienced that healing love will change the hearts and lives of others; that someday, the church will spend its time and money on really important issues rather than squandering precious resources on attempts to institutionalize human pettiness. ☪

THE PEOPLE OF

White Rock Church West

Serving God's People in the Heart of Tarrant County

1959 Sandy Lane
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East of Loop 820 and South of I-30



Come and celebrate the Birth of Christ with us as Rev. Bill Prickett, our new pastor brings us the Christmas message Dec. 18th, 5:00 p.m. "The Soul Felt It's Worth."

Special Events

For December

Dec. 11-Installation of New Pastor

Dec. 18-Christmas Party

(Everyone is invited)

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Sunday Worship: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.

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RELIGION

Giving the best of what we have to offer is just

A MATTER OF FAITH

By Rev. BRENDA HUNT, AGAPE MCC

We generally approach the holiday season with the idea that the very best of human possibility and the very best of the human spirit will emerge. By early October this year the signs of a community preparing to be generous and kind were evident.

There are always the exceptions and always those things that happen unintended, uninvited ... unexpected. They are the "frogs" that come along now and then, when we were expecting the proverbial princess or prince. Frogs.

When I was 11 years old my father decided we were moving to southern

California where we would get rich and live happily ever after. It was late October when we moved and by the time we settled into the neighborhood and school, the holiday season was approaching. All was going along well until my father took ill and was hospitalized at the VA hospital.

Work for a newly arrived woman with seven children, five in school, two at home ... well, it was almost nonexistent. Ironing and washing and cleaning people's houses was about it for my mother. And those things barely covered rent, utilities ... food would have been a problem except for

a women's auxiliary at the VA. The group sort of adopted us as far as weekly groceries went. And as Christmas approached, they also decided to cover presents. After all, children, even children living in very poor neighborhoods, should not be disappointed on Christmas.

Christmas is where the frogs come in. I was acutely aware of our poverty. It was embarrassing and I still feel a sense of shame. Poor people do. No matter what folks from other economic stations say, poor people do feel a sense of shame.

And besides that pervasive sense of shame, I do have a couple of phobias. Frogs constitute one of the phobias. Big frogs, little frogs, real ones, cartoon frogs, it doesn't matter. I have a phobia about frogs.

Christmas was approaching in southern California. Most of the streets in Hawaiian Gardens where we lived were decorated; houses took on a different look. It looked particularly different to me. Citrus trees were loaded with yellow lemons and orange oranges, the palm trees added to the balminess of the weather. I was used to snow, or at least sleet and bitter cold.

On Friday afternoon before Christmas the women's auxiliary delivered our presents. They were all brightly wrapped and tied together in tapering

stacks. Seven bright stacks of presents. Large box on bottom, probably (yes, it was) clothes ... then toy-looking boxes, a book ... on top of each stack acting as guardians of sorts, were stuffed animals. Two bears. They were for the twins. A lamb, a lion, an elephant, a dog and a frog. A big green and yellow frog.

My heart sank. I knew without seeing the name tag who the frog belonged to.

Beggars cannot be choosers. That's the adage. That's the collected wisdom from the ages. It would have been "horrifically" ungrateful to not want the stack of presents. My mother must have seen the look of sheer horror and disbelief on my face because she put her finger to her lips as if to remind me to be quiet if I couldn't be thankful.

As an adult I understand what may well have gone in the hearts and minds of those women who wanted to make our Christmas a good one in very difficult times. But I was a little girl that Christmas. Old enough to know what was expected of me ... and young enough to be very, very disappointed and hurt ... and confused.

My first Christmas here we adopted a family with five children. And before any presents were purchased, one wise woman suggested we get size and favorite color, general information about what the individual children

liked and, very specifically, the one thing they most wanted.

When those presents were delivered (it took a truck, two car trunks and station wagon) there was not a single frog in the load.

The best of human possibility means passing along better than what we got ... the best of the human spirit means protecting the dignity and integrity of the individuals we genuinely want to help, touch and affirm.

Holidays, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa are all about celebrating light and hope and worth and value. Happy holidays to you. And no frogs. ♪

NEW PASTOR

White Rock West welcomes special guests for installment

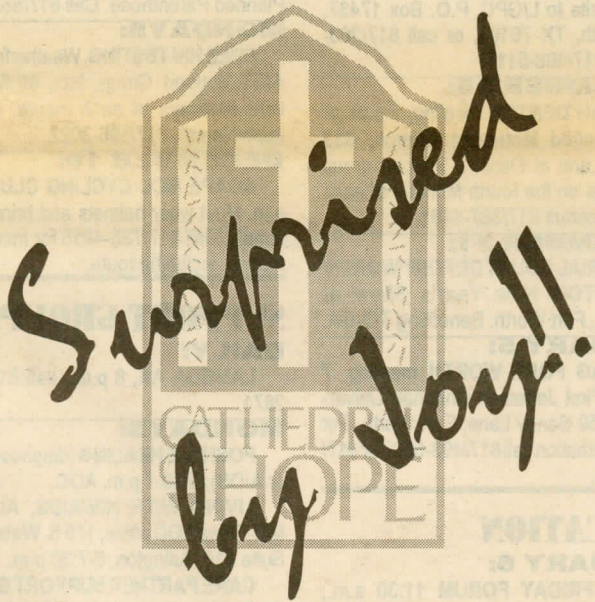
White Rock Church West will install Rev. William "Bill" P. Prickett as their new pastor Sunday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. The service will be at the First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist church at 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth.

Rev. Prickett was selected after Jerry Cook was named pastor emeritus earlier this year.

Several out-of-town guests expected include Dr. Nick Warner, an ordained minister and psychologist and the gold medal winner of the "Best Body" body building event at the New York Gay Games this year. Dr. Warner will be bringing the special message.

Other special guests will be office holders of Evangelical Concerns-Western division, and family members of Pastor Prickett.

The community is invited to attend the event and to stay for a reception following the service.



Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 1994

6:30 p.m. with Communion
The Cathedral of Hope
5910 Cedar Springs Road - Dallas, Texas

10:30 p.m.
The Morton H. Meyerson
Symphony Center
2301 Flora Street - Dallas, Texas

For more information call 214.351.1901

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Arlington, TX 76012 -- (Metro) 817-265-5454



*Celebrating the Holidays
with our Community!*

Lights of Love - Dec. 15th; 6:00 pm

Christmas Dinner - Dec. 18th at Trinity; 1:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service - Dec. 24th; 11:00 pm

Fort Worth Formal - Dec. 31st; 8:00 pm

Sunday Morning Service -10:45 a.m. Wednesday Night -7:00 p.m.

Rev. Jo Crisco
Senior Pastor

A part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CHURCH/RELIGION

SUNDAYS:

AGAPE MCC services, 9 and 11 a.m., 4615 SW Loop 820 (at Anglin exit), Fort Worth; 817/535-5002. Children's Sunday School at 11 a.m.

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC-DALLAS services, 9 and 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. (available on video). Rev. Michael S. Piazza, senior pastor. Nursery and children's Sunday school at 9 and 11 a.m. services. See guide for address.

DIGNITY DALLAS, 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Inwood at Mockingbird, Dallas. Support and advocacy group for Catholics.

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH services: Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Night Live! evening service at 6 p.m., 711 W. Gambrell St., Fort Worth. 817/921-LOVE.

FIRST JEFFERSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST services, 11 a.m. at 1959 Sandy Lane in East Fort Worth.

HARVEST MCC worship service, 10:30 a.m. at 5900 S. Stemmons (I35E at exit 460, just south of Denton).

TRINITY MCC: Children's Sunday School, 10:45-11:30 a.m.; *Church services*, 11 a.m. *Evening services* at 7 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month, focus on praise and healing. 331 Aaron Ave., Suite 125, Arlington.

WHITE ROCK CHURCH WEST services, 5 p.m., 1959 Sandy Lane in East Fort Worth, located between Meadowbrook Drive and Brentwood Stair Road. For more information call Wm. "Bill" Prickett, pastor, at 817/275-0443.

MONDAYS

TRINITY MCC, Gospel Choir practice, 7 p.m. at the church. Multicultural choir sings from a predominantly African-American perspective.

TUESDAYS

TRINITY MCC, Sanctuary Choir practice, 7 p.m. at the church.

WEDNESDAYS:

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC-DALLAS, Dinner buffet, 5:30 p.m., \$5. Therapeutic Bible Study with Rev. Michael Piazza and service featuring the Wednesday Evening Music Team, 6:30 p.m.; and Bible 101 Class with Rev. Irene Travis, 6:30 p.m. See community guide for address.

HARVEST MCC Community Prayer, 6:30 p.m.; Bible Study, 7 p.m.; at 5900 S. Stemmons (I35E at exit 460, just south of Denton).

TRINITY MCC focus on the study and practice of prayer at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

WHITE ROCK CHURCH WEST Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Call 817/275-0443.

THURSDAYS:

AGAPE MCC choirs: Carillon Bells and Children's choir, 6 p.m., Sanctuary Choir, 7 p.m., 4615 SW Loop 820.

FRIDAYS:

AGAPE MCC's Nite Life, weekly social/support meetings for lesbian/gay young adults, Agape MCC, 4615 SW Loop 820. Call 817/535-5002.

BETH EL BINAH Shabbat services, second and fourth Fridays, 8:15 p.m., Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.

DECEMBER 3:

AGAPE MCC Bethlehem Marketplace, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. Crafts fair featuring original art and handmade Christmas items.

DECEMBER 4:

AGAPE MCC Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m. at the church. Special Advent service with Christmas stories and carol singing.

DECEMBER 6:

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST GAY, LESBIAN AND AFFIRMING DISCIPLES (GLAD) monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Midway Hills Christian Church, 11001 Midway Rd., Dallas. Meets first Tuesday monthly. Speaker: Theresa M. Moyed, executive director, Dallas Legal Hospice, on free legal services for those with life-threatening illnesses.

DECEMBER 10:

AGAPE MCC Membership Class, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. Information about the church and membership. Lunch served.

DECEMBER 11:

AGAPE MCC Special Children's Service, 7:30 p.m. at the church. Christmas season service planned by children in the congregation.

WHITE ROCK CHURCH WEST Installation of new pastor, 5 p.m. at First Jefferson Universalist Unitarian.

DECEMBER 14:

AGAPE MCC Advanced Christian Training for Service, 7-9 p.m. at the church. Study series topic: spiritual gifts development and pastoral care.

DECEMBER 18:

AGAPE MCC Choir Christmas Cantata, 7 p.m. at the church. Combined choirs present special evening of Christmas music with the cantata "The Glory of Christmas."

LUTHERANS CONCERNED, HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND AFFIRMATION monthly meeting, 3-4:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation Building on the TCU campus, Fort Worth. Meeting open to all regardless of religious or organizational affiliation.

TRINITY MCC Christmas Dinner, 1 p.m. at the church.

WHITE ROCK CHURCH WEST Christmas Party, following the service at 5 p.m. featuring new pastor Rev. Bill Prickett with a Christmas message: "The Soul Felt Its Worth."

DECEMBER 21:

AGAPE MCC Open House Christmas Party, 5-8 p.m. at the church. Second annual event sponsored by church staff. Refreshments served.

DECEMBER 24:

AGAPE MCC Christmas Eve Communion Service, 11 p.m. at the church. Annual candlelight service celebrating the birth of Christ.

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE Christmas Eve Services: Communion at 6:30 p.m. at the church; 10:30 p.m. at Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St., Dallas. Call 214/351-1901.

TRINITY MCC Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, 11 p.m. at the church.

DECEMBER 25:

AGAPE MCC Christmas Day Service, 11 a.m. only at the church.

DECEMBER 26:

AGAPE MCC Kwanzaa Service, 7 p.m. at the church. Special service celebrating the African-American Kwanzaa traditions

and symbols.

ORGANIZATIONS

MONDAYS:

FORT WORTH WOMEN'S CHORUS rehearsal, 7 p.m. at Meadowbrook United Methodist Church, 3900 Meadowbrook, Fort Worth. Snacks and singing; no auditions required. Call 817/263-4255.

TUESDAYS:

TWU'S SALGA, Student Advocates for Lesbian/Gay Affirmation, weekly meetings, 6 p.m. at the Student Center, Room 110.

WEDNESDAYS:

FORT WORTH MEN'S CHORUS practice, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Texas Wesleyan University Fine Arts Building. Call 817/731-0122.

UTA GAY/LESBIAN ASSOCIATION student meeting, noon, Room 115, Social Work Complex on campus.

DECEMBER 1:

P-FLAG FORT WORTH meeting, 7 p.m., at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Program: Pot-luck Dinner and Silent Auction. Bring a covered dish to share. Meets the first Thursday of each month. For more information call 817/498-5607 or 817/498-4855.

TCLGA Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m., TCLGA office.

DECEMBER 5:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. at Ashburn's, Fort Worth.

DECEMBER 8:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Show, 11 p.m. at Magnolia Station. Benefiting Healing Wings.

DECEMBER 9:

WOMEN'S SINGLES meeting, social group for lesbians, an off-shoot of Second Tuesday. Meets at 7 p.m. the second Friday of each month at varying locations. Bring your own food and drinks. For more information call Dana at 817/249-1622.

DECEMBER 10:

LEADERSHIP FORUM LUNCHEON, 12:15 p.m. at Dos Gringos. Representatives from community organizations meet the second Saturday of each month for networking.

SECOND SATURDAY SOCIAL monthly meeting, a networking group for men, 7-10 p.m. Call Alvin at 817/795-1376 for directions.

UMOJA HERMANAS, pot-luck dinner and discussion, 7-10 p.m. at the Lesbian Resource Center, 1315 Skiles in Dallas. Support group for lesbians and bisexual women of color and their female allies. Meets the second Saturday of each month. Call Alpha Thomas at 214/943-8750 for more information.

DECEMBER 11:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON business meeting, 3 p.m. at Across the Street, Fort Worth.

UJIMA: AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL COALITION general meeting, 3-5 p.m. at the Cathedral of Hope MCC, 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas. Topic is racism in our community. Call 214/521-5342, ext. 828.

DECEMBER 12:

NAMES PROJECT monthly meeting,

7 p.m. at 665 S. Jennings. Education Committee meeting at 6:15 p.m. Call 817/33-NAMES for information.

DECEMBER 15:

TCLGA membership meeting cancelled for community-wide Lights of Love observance, 6:30 p.m. at the NAMES Project House on Jennings, Fort Worth.

DECEMBER 16:

LAMBDA MERMAIDS for scuba divers, 7 p.m., Texas Aquatics in Dallas at Central Expressway and Beltline. Meets the third Friday of every month. Call 214/669-5SEA.

DECEMBER 17:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON '50s Show, 10 p.m. at Corral Club. Benefiting Simon Reeves Center.

DECEMBER 18:

GAY PRIDE WEEK ASSOCIATION Meeting, 3 p.m. at Across the Street, Fort Worth.

WOMEN OF COLOR POETRY GROUP, 5-7 p.m. at the Lesbian Resource Centre, 1315 Skiles in Dallas. Readings of published or amateur works. Meets the third Sunday of each month. Call 214/821-3999 for more information.

DECEMBER 19:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Spotlight Show, 10 p.m. at Ashburn's, Fort Worth. An evening of glamour for the NAMES Project.

DECEMBER 20:

LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL COALITION - TARRANT COUNTY, 7 p.m., First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Program: Videos of Task Force Creating Change Conference plenary speakers. For information write to L/GPC, P.O. Box 17437, Fort Worth, TX 76102, or call 817/263-9006 or 817/468-5117.

DECEMBER 26:

P-FLAG DENTON meeting, 7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 633 Hobson Lane at Denton. Support group that meets on the fourth Monday of each month. Contact 817/387-1491.

DECEMBER 31:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON New Year's Show at Ashburn's, Fort Worth. Benefiting TCLGA.

JANUARY 5:

P-FLAG FORT WORTH meeting, 7 p.m., at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information call 817/498-5607 or 817/498-4855.

EDUCATION

JANUARY 6:

AOC FRIDAY FORUM 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. \$10 donation requested; free to volunteers, persons living with HIV/AIDS infection or their caregivers. LPC, social work and TAADAC credits available. Reservations required by the preceding Thursday: 817/335-1994.

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAYS:

KNON RADIO: Lambda Weekly, radio programming for lesbians and gays. 89.3 FM, 2-4 p.m.

MONDAYS

7TH STREET CAFE MONDAY NIGHT MIXERS, for the lesbian/gay community. 6:30-8 p.m.; food and drink specials.

THURSDAYS:

LADIES ONLY NIGHT AT BANANAS, a private club at Don Carter Bowling Center, I-30 at Beach Street, from 7 p.m. until midnight each Thursday. Country/Western music, drink specials, dance lessons.

SATURDAYS:

KGBS RADIO: Out Spoken, radio programming for lesbians and gays. 1190 AM,

11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Discussions of issues and events from the lesbian/gay perspective.

DECEMBER 22, 23:

CHARLES DICKENS' "A CHRISTMAS CAROL", a Shakespeare in the Park presentation of the National Touring Company production, at the Ed Landreth Auditorium at Texas Christian University. For reservations call 817/923-1204.

THRU JANUARY 7:

STAGE WEST "Don't Dress for Dinner" by Marc Camoletti, at Stage West Theatre, 3055 S. University Dr., Fort Worth. Farce about double adultery and gourmet cooking that ran for two years in Paris and is now in its fourth year in London. Contact metro 817/784-9378.

EVENTS

IN DECEMBER

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE HOLIDAY REVIEW, 8 p.m. Dec. 4, 7, 11, 12 at Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas. Tickets \$10-\$25; call Art Tix at 520-ARTS (2787).

DECEMBER 15:

LIGHTS OF LOVE MEMORIAL SERVICE, community-wide holiday service, 6:30 p.m. at the NAMES Project chapter house, 665 S. Jennings, Fort Worth. Benefiting AIDS Ministries at Agape MCC, Trinity MCC, Fellowship of Love Outreach and the NAMES Project.

HEALTH & FITNESS

WEEKDAYS:

FREE, ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING, Planned Parenthood. Call 817/882-1155.

MONDAYS:

FREE HIV TESTING, Weatherford HIV-AIDS Support Group, Inc., on first and third Mondays of each month. Call for appointment, 817/596-3022.

DECEMBER 10:

AGAPE MCC CYCLING CLUB, 8:30 a.m. Must wear helmets and bring water supply. Call 817/735-4915 for more information, including route.

SUPPORT GROUPS

DAILY:

LAMBDA AA, 8 p.m., call 817/921-2871.

MONDAYS:

POSITIVE HEALING (diagnosed ARC or AIDS), 5:30-7 p.m. AOC.

LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS, Arlington/Mid-Cities AOC office, 179 S. Watson Rd., Suite 416, Arlington, 6-7:30 p.m.

CARE PARTNER SUPPORT GROUP, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 1 p.m.
SUPPORT GROUP FOR INCEST SURVIVORS, 6 p.m. Call Kathy or Crickett at 817/335-4330 for location.

TUESDAYS:

WEATHERFORD HIV-AIDS PEER SUPPORT GROUP, meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 7 p.m. at 904 S. Main St., Weatherford. Call 817/596-3022.

POSITIVE WOMEN, AOC, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

SUPPORT ARLINGTON, Arlington AOC office, 179 S. Watson Rs., Suite 416, Arlington, 6-7:30 p.m.

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES, 6:45-8 p.m., AOC.

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.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP, 7 p.m., College of Osteopathic Medicine, Room 540.
LAMBDA GROUP CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS, 8 p.m., 5316 Wooten.

WEDNESDAYS:

CARING FOR PERSONS WITH HIV/

COMMUNITY GUIDE

AIDS, Arlington/Mid-Cities AOC office, 179 S. Watson Rd., Suite 416, Arlington, 6-7:30 p.m.

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP, JPS Hope Room, 7 p.m.

RAY OF HOPE SUPPORT GROUP, Agape MCC, 7:30 p.m.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR INCEST SURVIVORS, 6 p.m. Call Kathy or Crickett at 817/335-4330 for location.

THURSDAYS:

MANTALK, support and fellowship for gays in the age of AIDS, AOC, 6:30-8 p.m.
BEREAVEMENT GROUP, 7-8:30 p.m., meets at the Family Service Central Office, 1424 Hemphill, Fort Worth.

LAMBDA TARRANT COUNTY OVER-EATERS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Call Joan, 817/232-5261; or D'Anna, metro 817/461-6418.

FRIDAYS:

LAMBDA ALANON, 6 p.m., 817/737-7861.

BARS/CLUBS

ACROSS THE STREET, 700 S. Jennings, Fort Worth, (817) 332-0192

ASHBURN'S, 3012 E. Rosedale, Fort Worth, (817) 534-6630

CORRAL CLUB, 621 Hemphill, Fort Worth, (817) 335-0196

D.J.'s, 1308 St. Louis, Fort Worth, (817) 927-7321

MAGNOLIA STATION, 600 Magnolia, Fort Worth, (817) 332-0415

651 ARLINGTON, 1851 W. Division, Arlington, (817) 275-9651

651 CLUB, 651 S. Jennings, Fort Worth, (817) 332-0745

BUSINESSES, SERVICES

ADT SECURITY SYSTEMS, 1-800-ADT-4636

ALPHA AND OMEGA PRINTERS, (817) 921-3670

ALTERNATIVE VISIONS VIDEO DATING SERVICE, (214) 521-3024

BILL'S A#1 MOVERS, metro (817) 588-0908

BOOK STOP, 4801 S. Hulen, Fort Worth, (817) 346-9055

COURTNEY CHATFIELD, financial planner, (817) 498-1833

B.C. CORNISH, attorney, (817) 870-9159

COUNTRY DAY HERBAL GOURMET, (817) 543-3349

COUNTRY DAY TRAVEL, (817) 731-8551

DARWIN AND ASSOCIATES, bookkeeping, (817) 589-1666

HAYES PHARMACY, (800) 258-9897

HAWKE TORRIS ASSOCIATES, office services, metro (817) 261-9691

HOUTS PRIVATE INVESTIGATION, (817) 265-1354, Fax (817) 860-7379

HUTTON HOUSE HAIRDRESSERS, (817) 731-6801

J3 PHOTOGRAPHICS, (817) 923-4625

LAMBDA PAGES, (214) 880-7577

THE LEMON TREE ANTIQUES AND ART, (817) 332-5519

MAJESTIC LAUNDRY AND LINEN, (817) 740-0946

M-ONE insurance services, (817) 498-4308

OMEGA PROPERTIES, real estate services, (817) 354-7201

ELLEN J. PESSERILLO, attorney, (817) 283-6693

CHRIS PHILLIPS, attorney, (817) 339-1139

PLEIADES PRODUCTIONS, (817) 923-4625

RIZZO AND SCHAFF, attorneys, (817) 877-0388, fax (817) 877-0380

7TH STREET CAFE, (817) 870-1672

CHERYL STRANGE, Realtor, (817) 732-3294

TWO PEARLS BED AND BREAKFAST, (817) 596-9316

VERTU, gifts, (214) 520-7817

CHURCHES/RELIGIOUS

AFFIRMATION/TARRANT COUNTY (Methodist), (817) 656-8056

AGAPE MCC, 4615 SE Loop 820, Fort Worth, (817) 535-5002

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC-DALLAS, 5910 Cedar Springs (Behind Ruth Chris' Steak House), Dallas (214) 351-1901

CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH (Jewish), P.O. Box 191188, Dallas, TX 75219, (214) 497-1591

E.C./CHRISTIAN GAYS IN FELLOWSHIP, (817) 446-1555

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH, 711 W. Gambrell, Fort Worth (817) 921-LOVE

FIRST JEFFERSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 1959 Sandy Ln., Fort Worth, (817) 451-1505

GLAD (Disciples of Christ gays/lesbians), (214) 357-1660

HARVEST MCC, Denton, (817) 321-2332

HONESTY (Baptist), (817) 923-8487

JUBILEE, (African-American) meets at Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas (214) 351-1901 ext. 299

LUTHERANS CONCERNED, (817) 924-3966

TRINITY MCC, 331 Aaron Ave., Suite 125, Arlington, (817) 265-5454

WHITE ROCK CHURCH WEST, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, (817) 275-0443

COMPUTER BBS'S

BARE FACTS Computer BBS, (817) 429-2667

GAY MATCHMAKER Computer BBS, (817) 355-6600

OTHER SIDE Computer BBS, (817) 280-0775

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

SHERRY BREWER, LMSW-ACSW, LMFT, LCDC, (817) 783-2400, (817) 478-0095

CRISIS/SUICIDE LINE, (817) 927-5544

THE HEALING PLACE, counseling and massage, (817) 336-8044

HIV ANONYMOUS GROUP, (817) 292-9494

INCEST SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP, (817) 335-4330

LAMBDA AA, (817) 921-2871

LAMBDA ALANON, (817) 737-7861

LAMBDA GROUP CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS, (817) 370-7473

LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER'S Domestic Violence Task Force Hotline, (214) 432-2683

CATHY MCGINNIS, psychotherapist, metro (817) 461-4063

OVER THE HILL, HIV testing, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., no appointment necessary. 2001 S. Freeway, Fort Worth, (817) 922-9955.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD, free anonymous HIV testing, (817) 882-1155

SAMARITAN HOUSING CENTER for HIV+ homeless, (817) 626-9398

SEXUALITY EDUCATION CENTER, (817) 338-4551

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

WEATHERFORD HIV-AIDS SUPPORT GROUP, INC., (817) 596-3022

RAY WOFFORD, LMSW, LPC, (817) 457-2673

JAN WYNN, LMSW-ACP, LCDC, therapist, (817) 331-1881

ATIQUA KHAN, MD, psychiatrist, (817) 461-5454

ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICAN AMERICAN LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL COALITION (UJIMA) P.O. Box 190712, Dallas 75219, (214) 521-5342 ext. 828

DFW WOMEN IN BUSINESS GROUP, (214) 880-7577

FEDERAL CLUB OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH, (214) 699-5889

FEDERAL GLOBE, lesbian/gay advocacy

group of government and school district employees, P.O. Box 50961, Dallas, TX 75250, (214) 264-2800

FORT WORTH MEN'S CHORUS, (817) 731-0122

GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION (GLAAD), (214) 521-5342, ext. 816

GAY AND LESBIAN GARDENERS, (214) 339-0787

GAY/LESBIAN YOUTH, (817) 338-4551

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON, (817) 870-1555

LEADERSHIP FORUM LUNCHEON, (817) 763-5544

LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL COALITION OF TARRANT COUNTY, (817) 263-9006

LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS LOBBY OF TEXAS, (512) 474-5475

LESBIAN INFO. LINE/LESBIAN VISIONARIES, Dallas, (214) 521-5342

LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER, Dallas, (214) 821-3999

METROPLEX REPUBLICANS/LOG CABIN, (214) 520-6655

NAMES PROJECT, 665 S. Jennings, (817) 33-NAMES

PARENTS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS/DENTON COUNTY, (817) 387-1491

PARENTS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS/FORT WORTH, (817) 498-5607

RICE GAY AND LESBIAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, DFW chapter, (214) 942-9537

SECOND TUESDAY FORT WORTH (Lesbian), (817) 485-0134

WOMEN'S SINGLES, lesbian socializing, (817) 249-1622

SECOND SATURDAY SOCIAL for men, (817) 795-1376

TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE, (817) 763-5544

TEXAS GAY VETERANS, (817) 763-5544

TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION, (512) 479-8473

UMOJA HERMANAS, (support group for lesbian, bisexual women of color, (214) 943-8750

U.T. ARLINGTON GAY/LESBIAN ASSOC., (817) 794-5140

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND TUESDAY MOVES DATE/SITE

Tarrant County's lesbian social networking group, Second Tuesday, formerly First Friday, is now First Thursday.

The group is moving its monthly meeting from Madhatters at Magnolia Street, which can no longer accommodate the meetings. Now the group will meet on the first Thursday of each month at Bananas at Don Carter's Bowling Lanes, at I-30 and Beach in Fort Worth. Bananas also hosts popular lesbian social gatherings every Thursday.

Cost to attend the First Thursday gatherings will be \$1 at the door to maintain mailings.

The meeting is suspended for the holiday month of December and will resume in January.

LESBIANS INVITED TO TAKE A DIVE

Lambda Mermaids, a scuba diving and travel club, is seeking new members as it plans for its next excursion to the Phillipines for divers and non-divers.

Members have travelled to such destinations as Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Dominica and Honduras. Local dive trips are planned throughout the summer.

The group is surveying interest among women who would like to be certified for diving or take a refresher course so that it might offer a women's-only class in the spring, in time for the summer trips.

Annual membership dues are \$10 to cover newsletter and operational costs.

For information on joining, call 214/521-5342, ext. 872, or write to Lambda Mermaids, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas, TX 75219.

EYES AND EARS

BOOK STORE SETS HOLIDAY SIGNINGS

Book Stop, at 4801 S. Hulen, Fort Worth, has booked a host of authors for book-signings this month:

Beverly Oliver, author of *Nightmare in Dallas*, on Dec 4. She was a friend of Jack Ruby's and a key eyewitness to the Kennedy assassination.

Richard Kimberly, author of the who-done-it *Play It by Ear*, at 8 p.m. Dec. 9.

June Naylor Rodriguez with her travel book *Off the Beaten Path in Texas*, at 2 p.m. Dec. 10.

Mystery writer Samuel Pabtonsky, author of *Rose Hill*, at 4 p.m. Dec. 10.

Mehdi Alavi, author of *O God!*, an interpersonal journey told in fiction, at 2 p.m. Dec. 11.

Kevin McCarthy, author of *Go-*

rilla Warfare about childhood misconceptions, at 2 p.m. Dec. 17.

Book Stop offers "Storytellers Training Camp" with the Fort Worth Area Guild of Professional Storytellers every Friday night in December at 7:30.

AMON CARTER MUSEUM OFFERS FILMS, EXHIBITS

A continuing series of film profiles on photographers and their subjects runs through mid-December at the Amon Carter Museum on Camp Bowie, Fort Worth.

The series spotlights Ansel Adams, John Marin and Laura Gilpin Dec. 7 and 10; and Paul Strand Dec. 14 and 17. Films begin at noon; free tickets are available at the Information Desk on the day of each program.

Gallery exhibits include sculptor Charles M. Russell through March 5, and a portrait photography collection, "Face Value," through Feb. 26. For \$2 visitors to the photography exhibit may

add their own portraits to the gallery wall via an automated photo booth on site.

TALK SHOW GEARED FOR QUEER AUDIENCE

Dallas radio KGBS 1190 AM now offers "OutSpoken," a new weekly show providing programming for a lesbian/gay audience. The talk show format provides open and timely discussion about issues facing the Metroplex's gay/lesbian/bisexual community. Air time is from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. each Saturday.

Host for the show is John Eagan. Topics discussed include the gay perspective on workforce diversity, teen-age runaways, gay pride events such as National Coming Out Day and the Alan Ross Freedom Parade, P-FLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and political and religious issues.

TV

continued from p. 5

MURPHY BROWN, CBS. Jan. 24 episode: Series regular Jim buys a piano bar as an investment. When he discovers it is a homosexual bar, he decides to sell it, but after an evening of playing piano while all the homosexuals gather 'round for a down-home sing-along, it is implied that Frank has changed his mind. Another character recites a lengthy list of famous men of history who were purportedly homosexual.

NORTHERN EXPOSURE, CBS. In the Jan. 10 episode, Maurice delivers concert tickets to Ron and Eric, a homosexual couple, who offer him a ride to Anchorage. Maurice declines because it might imply that he validates their lifestyle. After another character explains that all sexual be-

havior is normal, Maurice apologizes to the homosexuals for his "homophobic" behavior. Ron and Eric marry in the May 2 episode. Except for the arch-conservative Maurice, everyone in the little Alaskan town is excited about the wedding. Of course, even he comes around before the big day arrives and attends the wedding.

ROC, Fox. April 5 episode: Andrew's homosexual brother Russell comes to announce that he and his sex partner Chris are moving to Paris because they find Europe so much more accepting of homosexuality.

ROOMMATES, NBC. Aired May 30. The story follows the friendship of Jim Riley, a straight ex-con who contracted AIDS as a result of his promiscuity, and Bill Thomas, a homosexual Harvard grad with AIDS. The story rightfully builds compassion for both victims. However, only once is homosexuality questioned as a moral issue (by a snooty, uncaring woman in a group Bill addresses on

AIDS).

ROSEANNE, ABC. Leon, a recurring homosexual character, is part owner of Roseanne's diner. Nancy, a lesbian, and Leon appear in part of a story line in the April 5 episode on child abuse.

SISTERS, NBC. Norma, the lesbian boss of one of the sisters, appears as a "normal" person in the Jan. 29 episode. In the May 7 show, Alexandra creates problems by inviting Norma's parents, who don't know Norma's a lesbian, for a surprise visit. Norma tries to maintain the charade that she's married, then confesses to her parents. At first they are distraught, but before they leave for home, Norma's father has come around to understand that Norma is "normal."

The brochure cites the Lichter/Rothman Report, "the most in-depth study of TV's elite ever made," which showed only 5% of those responsible for TV programs strongly felt that homosexuality was wrong; 80% felt

homosexuality was not wrong. Two-thirds of the elite felt that "TV entertainment should be a major force for social reform."

According to the AFA, "Listed in this report are the companies which agree that homosexuality should be promoted, and are willing to provide advertising dollars to accomplish that goal. Advertisers pre-screen programs and pull their support when the content of the program is not acceptable. Advertisers listed found the promotion of the homosexual lifestyle on the programs they helped sponsor acceptable.

"The most striking finding in this monitoring report is that there was not a single episode in which homosexuality was depicted in a negative manner. One can only assume that the advertisers, networks and producers have agreed that the traditional negative view of homosexuality must be censored in order to change the attitude of the public."

Advertisers supporting the shows are listed as:

• AT&T, Chair Robert E. Allen, 32 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10013, phone 212/387-5400.

• Ford Motor Co., Chair Alexander J. Trotman, P.O. Box 1899, Dearborn, MI 48121, phone 313/322-3000.

• General Motors Corp., Chair John G. Smale, 3044 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202, phone 313/556-5000.

• McDonald's Corp., Chair Michael R. Quinlan, 1 Kroc Dr., Oak Brook, IL 60521, phone 708/575-3000.

• Nestle USA, Inc., Chair Tim Crull, 800 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91203, phone 818/549-6000.

• PepsiCo, Chair D. Wayne Calloway, 700 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase, NY 10577, phone 914/253-2000.

• Philip Morris Companies, Inc., Chair Michael A. Miles, 120 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017, phone 212/880-5000.

• The Procter & Gamble Co., Chair Edwin L. Artzt, P.O. Box 599, Cincinnati, OH 45201, phone 513-983-1100.

• Unilever United States Inc., President Richard A. Goldstein, 390 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022, phone 212/888-1260.

• Walt Disney Co., Chair Michael Eisner, 500 S. Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521, phone 818/560-1000.

AFA: we thank you for the information. ♪

FAIRY TALE

continued from p. 6

left her husband, the president of the First Bank of Republican Money in Gilmer, for another man!"

"Nope. She was swept off her feet by a rich lady oil baroness," the Emperor explained.

Lezzirella thought she'd seen it all until over across the room she saw Handsome Hunk, Bubba Bigboy's twin brother. Handsome Hunk was dancing with a rugged young man in fancy cowboy boots, black jeans and a gold lame bowtie.

By 11:30 Lezzirella had met lots of people. She'd even met an editor named Fletcher who promised to make Lezzirella's story of escape from bond-

age in Gilmer the feature story in a publication called the *Alliance News*. But alas, she'd not met her heart's desire. Guardian Fairy said she'd have to find her heart's desire by midnight or be zapped back into the arms of Bubba in Gilmer.

As the clock struck closer to midnight, everyone began the countdown to the new year. Lezzirella grew despondent. By 11:59, she could feel her body starting to leave this wonderful place for its dreaded return to Gilmer, when a beautiful, buxom princess kissed the back of her neck. The princess wore a short slinky green velvet dress with a plunging neckline. Her wisps of strawberry blonde hair loosely cascaded down onto soft bare shoulders. A startled Lezzirella turned around to see her long-awaited heart's desire just as the

clock struck midnight and everyone shouted "Happy New Year!"

"Shall we dance?" asked a coy princess. Lezzirella spent the next few minutes in the arms of her true love dancing to Auld Lang Syne. The beautiful princess invited her to share a private breakfast in her hotel room upstairs. Lezzirella took the princess' hand and followed her to a marbled elevator. She'd waited her whole life

for this moment. Somehow Lezzirella knew the folks in Gilmer wouldn't be seeing her again. A princess was waiting. Lezzirella sensed the house with a fireplace was just down the road, and that dreams really did come true. From a distance, Guardian Fairy, Auntie Femme-Fou and Aunt Bertha toasted to a job well done. It all happened at the *fort worth formal*. ♪

MASSAGE

continued from p. 17

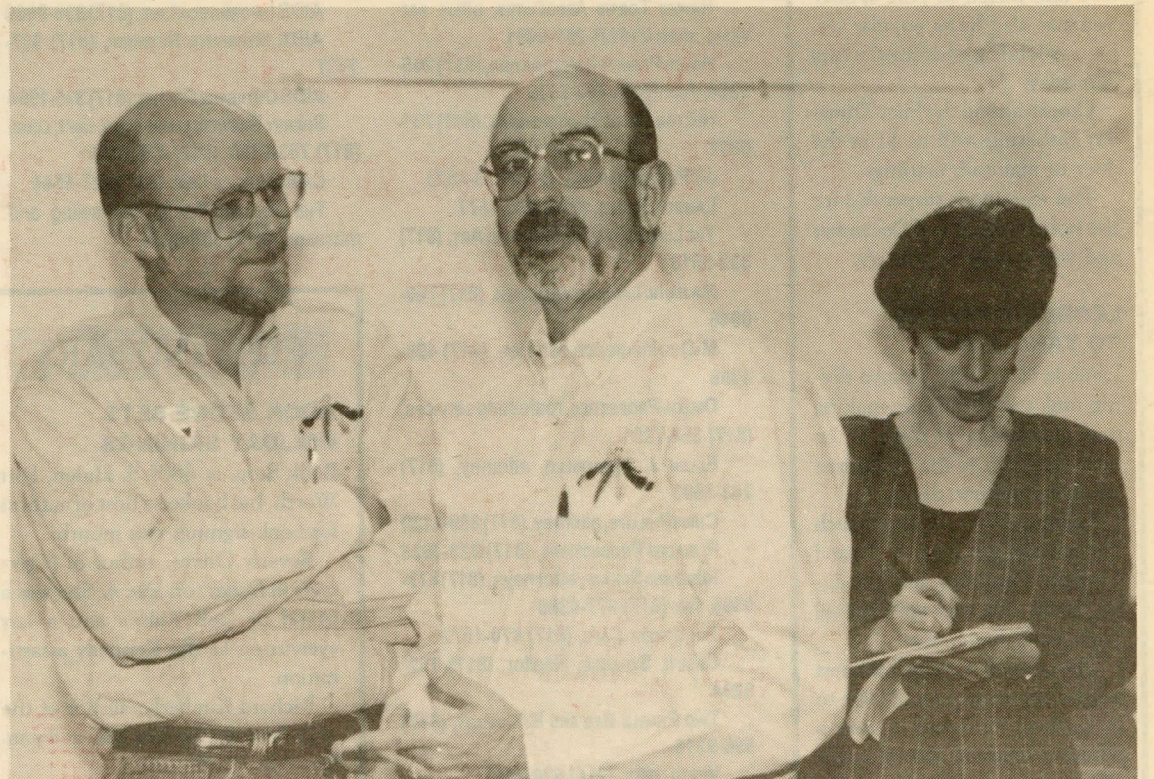
with HIV infection does not have access to family or close friends who would normally provide emotional safety and nurturing. Skilled touch can serve as the missing family link between the person with HIV and their caregivers.

HIV patients can benefit physically from massage as well. The relaxation process enables the muscles and nerves to release the toxins of stress and fatigue. Lymphatic drainage massage techniques facilitate the lymphatic system's processing of toxic debris. The thymus gland and the immune system can be stimulated by many of the massage techniques.

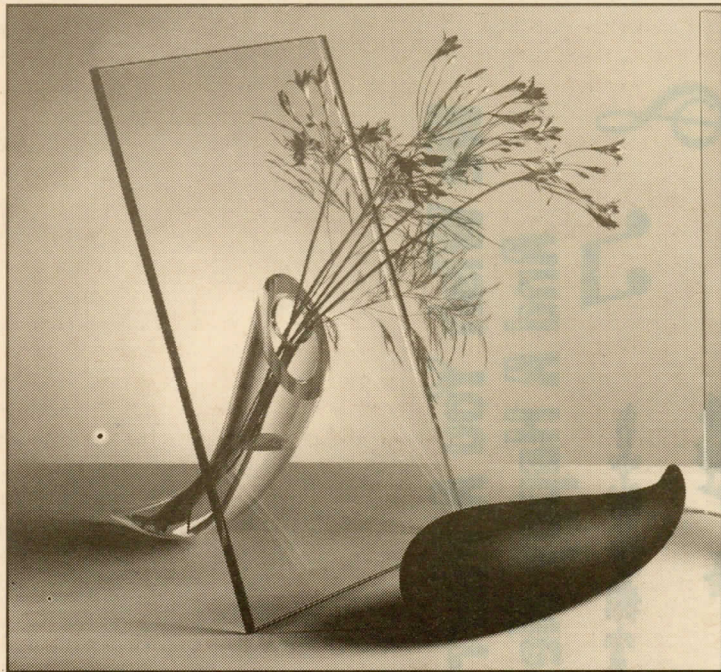
I have a solid educational and personal foundation for working with the lesbian/gay and HIV community. I passed state exams after study at Wellness School, Inc., where I was employed after graduation as an assistant teacher. From there I accumulated another 150-200 hours of study in advanced, specific massage techniques. My personal experiences and growth have further developed the intuitive sides to massage.

I was honored recently by receiving a seat on the Texas State Massage Board as a skills examiner. In this capacity I am able to nurture and help monitor the quality of massage practitioners in the state.

For more information regarding massage or holistic treatments, call the Center for Change, Development and Support in Fort Worth, 817/429-4769. ♪



PAPER CHASE: Doug Rich, left, and his partner, John Huffman, center, kept *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reporter Lisa Black, right, dashing from meetings to events while she documented their daily living for the newspaper's *Focus on the Family* series, an in-depth view of diverse family systems. Black escorted the gay activist couple to Leadership Forum meeting, church events and the holy union ceremony of a local lesbian couple. The feature was scheduled to print shortly after our press time.



Winter falls, holidays approach. You search the city for one perfect gift. A gift that will speak of harmony, of a world in balance. You arrive at VERTU, an intimate store known for its beautiful design and attention to detail, where the world unfolds in unique objects for the home. Where you may find a pewter corkscrew with wings taking flight. Or an artist-made teapot with a serpent handle captured in porcelain. Objects from artists around the world transforming the mundane, through the alchemy of design... into gifts of astounding beauty.

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Alliance News

Inside this issue:

And:

• **SPIN CYCLE:** Lesbian/gay angle to the November election results

• *Holiday Shopping Guide:* unique ideas for the PC and proud

• *Lezzirella does the fort worth formal*

• *We've taken over the art world:* historians are opening some old closet doors

• *We've taken over TV programming:* Radical Right reviews shows that prove it

• *We've taken over the movie industry:* Video reviews to brighten your holidays

• **Perspectives on living for today, the journey ahead, and on changing tomorrow**

• **AND MUCH MORE!**



OLD FLAMES:

Lights of Love will honor those gone: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the NAMES Project house in Fort Worth



Across the Street



We Wish You A Merry Christmas
And A Happy New Year!

