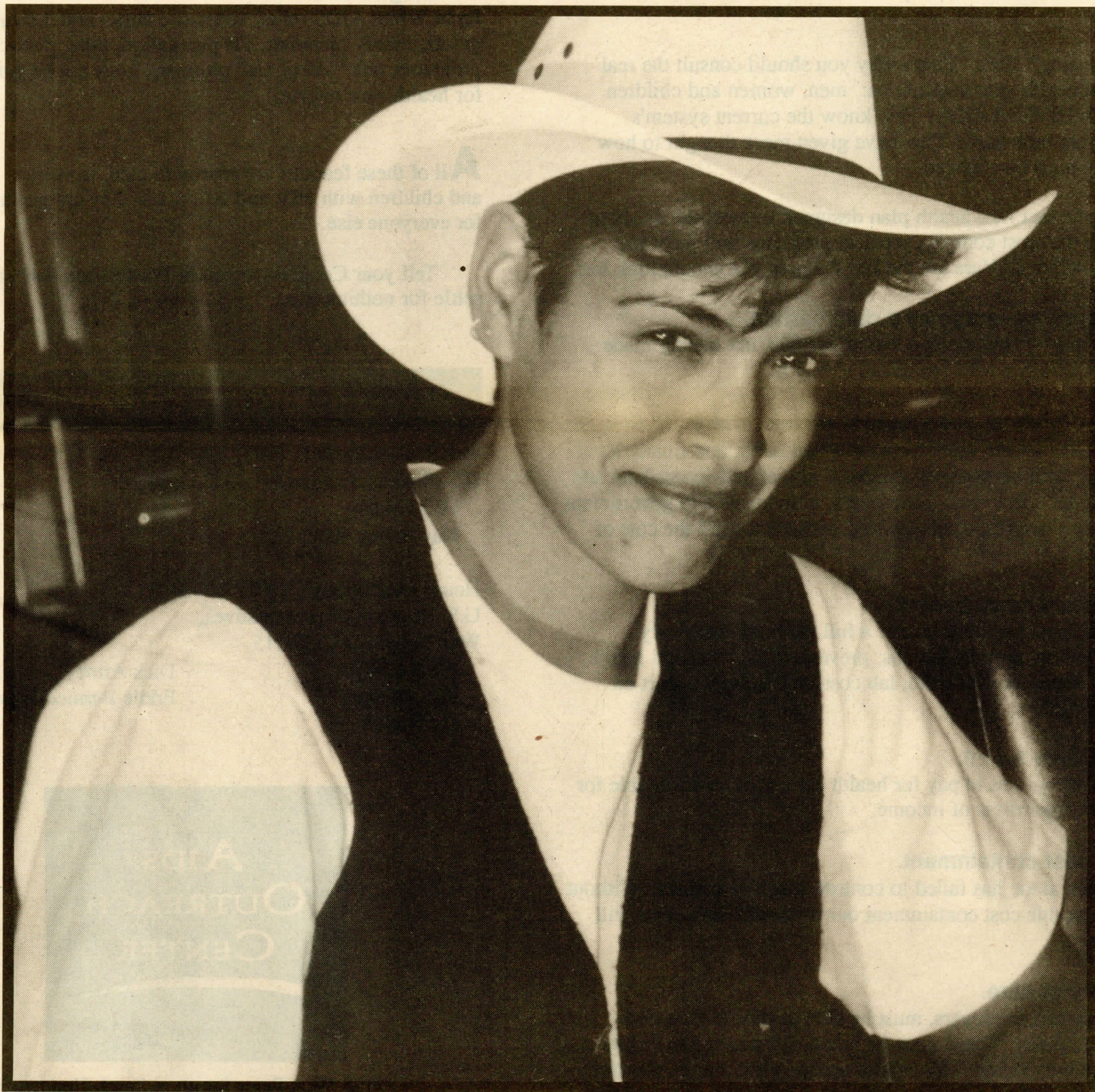


A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

AUGUST 1994

Volume 14, Issue 8

Alliance News



HEAVY MEDAL: Local Powerlifter carries silver away from the Gay Games. See p. 11.

If you think the health care system is working,

If health care reform works for men, women and children with AIDS, it will work for everyone.

The airwaves and headlines are full of so-called experts debating health care reform—lawyers, economists, insurance executives, hospitals.

Confusing? Sure. That's why you should consult the real experts on health care in America: men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS. Few know the current system's failings more intimately. Few have given more thought to how the system must be changed.

And the fact is, a health plan designed to meet the needs of those with the most complex medical problems will meet the needs of everyone. Here are the key features you should look for:

1. Universal coverage by a date certain.

Coverage must be guaranteed and affordable, not merely made accessible for those who can afford to buy it.

2. Everyone must contribute their fair share.

Health care financing must treat everyone fairly, and finally level the playing field between the majority who already contribute and those who get a free ride. Employers, individuals and government collectively share responsibility to contribute toward the cost of health care.

3. Comprehensive benefits.

The benefit package must ensure a full range of necessary services, including prescriptions, preventive care, mental health, substance abuse, home health, lab costs and at least a start on long-term care.

4. Affordable for all.

Family contributions to pay for health care must be affordable for all persons, regardless of income.

5. Real cost containment.

Competition alone has failed to control health care costs. Without real, enforceable cost containment our crisis of rising costs will continue.

6. Quality of care.

Consumers, not employers, must be able to choose their own doctors and plans. There must be broad risk pooling to ensure true community rating. We cannot accept a two-tier health care system that provides a lower quality of care for the poor and the sick.

7. Single-payer option for states.

States that wish to try more comprehensive, universal and cost effective reform must be able to do so without unreasonable barriers. National health reform should set a floor, not a ceiling, on what states can do.

8. Vital AIDS relief and other programs safeguarded.

Ryan White AIDS relief, substance abuse and mental health grants, family planning, TB prevention, other public health programs, and "safety net" programs must not be gutted to pay for health care reform.

All of these features are crucial to men, women and children with HIV and AIDS, but they are just as important for everyone else.

Tell your Congressperson in Washington that you will settle for nothing less.

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ask someone whose immune system isn't.

Alliance News

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Confronting the 'Religious Wrong'

VICTORY BY CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

By SCOTT FORSGREN

Through the many gay and lesbian events, parades and various other outdoor activities, summer gives us many new opportunities. As gay and lesbian people, we have to take each and every opportunity to change tainted perceptions. We also have to keep in mind that these perceptions, although not entirely accurate, are based on what some outsider saw or heard. One step further, that which is spoken seldom leaves the same impression as that which is observed.

Throughout the course of the last month, I paid particular attention to trying to understand people's perceptions about the gay and lesbian lifestyle. A number of programs sponsored by religious establishments have attempted to influence the perceptions of those who have not yet seen the truth about us.

"Love is not lesbian sex" and "God does not love lesbians" were two comments that crossed the airways in recent weeks. As a tax-paying member of society, I was appalled to hear a Senator denounce our "recruitment of homosexuals" as he attempted to

reinstate the sodomy law in Kentucky by reaching out to thousands on a religious program. The thought that our tax dollars are being used to make our lives even more difficult than they already are is outrageous.

We in the gay and lesbian community know that the religious right is more wrong now than ever on our issues. In any debate, it is important to see all relevant perspectives. Why do they believe the way they do? I think it has something to do with filtered realities.

By filtered realities, I mean that they attempt only to see a very

small part of the big picture. They focus on the negative, and selectively overlook the positive aspects of our lives. Of course, there are gay people who lack integrity and values, there are gay people who are sexually promiscuous, and the list goes on.... However, there are also straight people who lack integrity and values, there are straight people who are sexually promiscuous, and the list goes on and on... They fail to realize that we are no worse than their own, nor are we fundamentally any different.

Bottom line is that we have to do everything possible to change

the negative perceptions one by one. For each person the religious right reaches with a negative, we have to reach two with a positive. It won't be easy. They are organizing against us faster than most realize, and they have the channels already in place to reach millions.

Nevertheless, what must realize is that our lives will always be scrutinized by someone looking to find the negatives. It is our job to reveal the positives and to change perceptions one by one. How I live for the day when the religious right realizes that they have been wrong after all.... *fa*

READERS WRITE

An open forum for issues, concerns and ideas

CORONATION'S SUCCESS OWED TO MANY

We want to thank everyone who attended Coronation XVI of Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington. Thanks to the line of succession, members, bars and the many organizations that made it possible for a very enjoyable week.

Very special thanks to the in-state and out-of-state visitors who made our week a very memorable one. To the new monarchs, we wish them the best for next year.

BOB JACKSON, EMPEROR XV
RHONDA MAE, EMPRESS XV,
IMPERIAL COURT DE
FORT WORTH ARLINGTON

GERALD FORD REMEMBERED

Thanks to each of the organizations, staff, volunteers and friends for the donations to the NAMES Project in memory of my son, Gerald Ford.

I am sure you all knew him. Hopefully it was good memories. He could try your patience at

times I'm sure, but he truly loved everyone and had many dreams he would have liked to have had more time to do. But that was not to be.

We miss him so much but we are glad he's at rest and peace now, and after what he went through, we have to be thankful. Thanks and love.

MARY FORD OWENS
AND FAMILY

The Top Ten Reasons for Coming Out

(Are you listening, David Letterman?)

By BETH LLEWELLYN

10. You don't have to worry anymore if you look like one.

9. You can put your dog or your cat's picture on your desk (your lover's, too).

8. You can refer to your friends with the correct pronouns, and pair names with the word "and" when talking to straight people.

7. "Your" room can be made into something useful, like an office or

a game room, rather than someplace you store extra clothes and a bed no one sleeps in.

6. You can say you're not single.

5. You don't have to claim to play tennis because you have a picture of Martina on your wall.

4. You can order clothes and jewelry from places like Shocking Gray and actually wear them in public. ("Love your pink triangle nose ring!")

3. You can tell your co-workers you're going to a Holly Near or Flirtations concert and act amazed that they don't know who they are.

2. You find out who your family and friends really are.

AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON FOR COMING OUT IS:

Everybody already knows anyway.

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.

NIP-AND-TUCK FACELIFT

Commissioner Bagsby heralds a new, improved public health system and county-wide AIDS services

By BEVERLY FLETCHER
Dionne Bagsby filed to run for the County Commissioners Court in 1989 because no women or minorities were represented on that body. Since her election and

subsequent reelection, she has helped to change the face of county government to a more inclusive collaboration between municipalities, moving management away from solely representative to pro-

gressively participatory. Bagsby has brought to her role a passionate vision for health care that has had far-reaching impact on HIV and other health services here. By moving and challenging the lines of bureaucracy, she has accomplished what was said to be impossible.

When Bagsby initially approached John Peter Smith Hospital's Tim Philpot with her health-care vision, he said, "That's your vision, not mine. I have to do what my board wants me to do," Bagsby related.

She solved the dilemma by reappointing the board.

Such determined action follows Bagsby's personal philosophy that long tenure on boards perhaps stales the waters. She has pushed for term limitations and updated criteria to bring fresh ideas and motivation to the region's coordinating bodies, and promises a resolute three-term limit for herself on the County Commission.

When she steps down from her post she will leave in her wake the creation of at least four new clinics across Fort Worth; more efficient and cost-effective operations at existing clinics; and a data architectural plan she initiated to replace the manual system, steering more than 3,000 employees onto the information superhighway.

To more than 50 gathered at the July Alliance meeting, Bagsby offered herself as a conduit for lesbian/gay issues, to pass those on to the governing bodies. "I don't make promises," she warned, "and

if I do, you can take it to the bank."

Indeed, no promises were exchanged that evening. Instead, Bagsby, joined by three representatives from the John Peter Smith (JPS) system, fed off the audience's concerns to decipher the impact of budget statistics on health service areas.

In Bagsby's view, an imperfect system – understaffed and underfunded – is looking hopefully improved.

ON JPS AIDS SERVICES
 "JPS is not all the way I want it to be," Bagsby said, "but it's better than it was." In perspective, she said, "75 percent of the negatives

you hear are untrue, and the other 25 percent we're working on."

The most affecting criticism among the lesbian/gay community is of the lengthy waits for PWA's at the clinic, which often can take all day for a single appointment. Dorothy Debose, JPS's associate administrator of ancillary services, assured improvements already in place and greater effectiveness to come: staff added there recently and a new scheduling system have significantly reduced waiting time.

Their goal, Dubose said, one that is not yet achieved, is for the patient to see a provider within 15-30 minutes of their appointment.

SEE COUNTY HEALTH ON P. 18



JPS's Dorothy Debose, left, and County Commissioner Dionne Bagsby, right, field tough questions at the TCLGA meeting.

LEADERS CALLED

For TCLGA Board

Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TCLGA) will open nominations for its Board of Directors at the August general membership meeting. The meeting begins with dinner and social networking at 6 p.m. Aug. 18 at Luby's Cafeteria, 251 University Drive in Fort Worth. The business meeting follows at 6:30 p.m.


The general membership will vote on a slate of directors for one- and two-year terms at the September meeting. Five positions are open.

According to the TCLGA Book of Policy, the Board of Directors manages and controls TCLGA's affairs, and is comprised of no less than five and no more than 11 members.

Directors are required to attend one board meeting per month. After three inexcused absences, the member may be removed from the board.

The only requirement for nominations is that the nominee must be a dues-paying member of the organization for at least two months prior to the election.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the August meeting. Candidates may nominate themselves.



August TCLGA Meeting:

DECIPHERING THE WRITING ON THE BATHROOM WALL: HEALTH ISSUES BEYOND AIDS

Speakers:

MARY F. JONES, DO, AMA BOARD CERTIFIED FAMILY PRACTICE

SUZANNE MASON, MS, COUNSELOR/HEALTH PROMOTION

Thursday, August 18
at Luby's Cafeteria
251 University Drive

Dinner at 6 p.m.
Program begins
at 6:30 p.m.

TCLGA Membership

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

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

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



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CITY BEAT

HIV/STD MERGE

Health Department takes a new track

By STEVE EAGLE

Following a national trend, the Fort Worth/Tarrant County Health Department will merge Ryan White Services with its Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic. Jane Jensen, HIV / STD program coordinator, in a telephone interview said this merger was simply a way to better serve the public during a time of dwindling public funds.

According to the restructuring plan, all staff members in both clinics will be cross-trained in both HIV and STDs. The goal is to have a highly efficient staff that is proficient in both areas. HIV testing will still be offered, but will probably be on a "confidential" rather than an "anonymous" basis.

This new unit will target those in a high risk for contracting STDs and HIV. The Wedge, an intensive, five-day program at area schools, focuses on HIV awareness and prevention. Other high risk groups being targeted include jails, probationers, and those undergoing drug treatment. Testing and counseling is also performed at all of the county's obstetric and family planning clinics, which see approximately 4,000 women a year.

According to Jensen, the gay and lesbian community is fairly well educated and does not fall into the high-risk category. In an article published March 11, the Centers for Disease Control, comparing 1992 to 1993, reported an

87 percent increase in number of cases attributed to homosexual contacts. This same article reported an increase of 130 percent in heterosexual contact. The article reported an increase of 151 percent in women, 214 percent in the age group 13-19, and a 123 percent increase in the Black population.

Jensen admits that currently, there is not a program that targets the Black community.

Testing will continue on its regular schedule: Mondays, 1-5 p.m.; Tuesdays, 4-8 p.m.; and Thursdays, 1-5 p.m.

Jensen asks that anyone who has any ideas on how to better service the community, to contact her at 871-7364. *fe*

SAMARITAN HOUSING:

New management programs give firmer footing

In recent months, residents, staff and board have examined Tarrant County Samaritan Housing's mission and have instituted several programs to address the care

issues of homeless persons living with AIDS.

Samaritan Housing has initiated weekly on-site, interdisciplinary, case conference meetings for its residents, held in conjunction with care providers from the Visiting Nurses Association, AIDS Outreach Center and Over the Hill Inc.

George Linicomn, newly appointed program director at Samaritan Housing, believes the weekly meetings play an integral role in assuring a clearly focused and on-track care program for residents. At each meeting, he said, service needs are discussed and goals outlined for specific services.

Staff also develops care plans now for each resident, which are

evaluated quarterly from the date of the resident's intake. A computerized tracking system in place assists in reporting accurate numbers to various funding sources and will help Samaritan Housing establish realistic projections regarding future needs, Linicomn said.

Soon Samaritan Housing will apply for a Special Care Facility License from the Texas Department of Health, which would should qualify the facility for more comprehensive services.

Samaritan Housing does not currently have a waiting list and has several openings for new residents. For applications and informational brochure, contact Samaritan Housing at 817/626-8289; or write to P.O. Box 470184, Fort Worth, TX 76147. *fe*

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*Backlash buries the books that would bolster lesbian/gay youth.
Here we've unearthed a few of those rare treasures.*

By ROBERT MEYERS

What is glaring about gay/lesbian literature for juveniles is the lack thereof. Surveying the span of gay literature since Stonewall in 1969, one is prone to exclaim, "Is that all there is for youth?"

All the more shocking is that what does exist is difficult to locate. Many of the books are censored or banned. Many places are not fortunate enough to have a gay/lesbian bookstore or a mainline store that carries gay/lesbian titles.

Some adults fear that gay-positive books are recruitment tools. Many fear that the mere mention of homosexuality speaks of bedroom activities. Censorship is on the rise in communities, schools and libraries across the nation, often serving up a backlash to publishing houses who then become overly cautious. If all the books were removed that offended someone's sensibility, few books would be left to read.

Gay and lesbian people are still marginalized. Homophobia is socially acceptable. Gay and lesbian youth are invisible to society. They fear ostracism and abuse by families and peers. Society is lacking in acceptance. These factors can have disastrous results. Suicide among gay/lesbian youth is three times higher than for straight youth. It has been estimated that at least 30 percent of all gay and lesbian youth attempt suicide at some point in their life.

Adults play a large role in books that relate to young people. Most books are written by adults, published by adults, critiqued by adults and purchased by adults. Many adults want to control and censor what youth read.

Supportive adults must stand up for the voice of youth. Young people should be provided with resources that help them achieve their potential. Gay and lesbian youth need affirmation and positive role models. To gain understanding, society at large needs to see gays and lesbians depicted as the normal people they are.

Children and youth who need resources are often afraid to ask for them or check them out of libraries. Libraries and schools are all too often afraid to stock them.

In recent years, more gay-themed

books have been published by mainstream publishers as well as smaller presses. In juvenile books, an aura of fear surrounds the publishing industry. Publishing gay-themed books carries a risk of reprisal from groups opposed to homosexuality. Although many books now contain gay characters, the characters are often marginal. Few books present gay or lesbian characters as positive role models.

Often gay issues are in tandem with other problems such as AIDS or drugs. Very little is done to reinforce or offer positive support of a gay person's identity. More needs to be written on the basic understanding of being gay and growing up gay. This in part must be done while society deals with homophobia.

Gay and lesbian youth are looking for guidance and support. They need positive role models. They need someone to tell them they are normal no matter who they love. They need to know that they are not alone.

It is difficult at times to find parental or adult support. Gay and lesbian youth need resources to assist in their development. However scant, some book resources do exist.

One of the strongest supporters of books for children and youth is Alyson Publications. Alyson has published both fiction and nonfiction titles for young adults as a series called Alyson Wonderland which includes the following titles.

Daddy's Roommate, by Michael Willhoite (ages 2-5); written for children of gay men. *Heather Has Two Mommies*, by Leslea Newman (ages 3-7); looks at different family structures. *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride*, by Leslea Newman (ages 3-7); gay pride is defined from a young girl's viewpoint. *How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay?*, by Ann Heron (ages 6-12); addresses concerns of children with gay or lesbian parents.

Generous Jefferson Bartleby Jones (ages 6-10); about having two dads. *Belinda's Bouquet* (ages 4-8); deals with the issue of being overweight. *Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans*, by Johnny Valentine (ages 5-10); fairy tales for kids with gay parents. *The Day They Put A Tax On Rainbows*, by Johnny Valentine (ages 5-10); more fairy tales.

Two coloring books: *Families* (ages

3-6) and *A Beach Party With Alexis* (ages 3-6).

Daddy Machine, by Johnny Valentine (ages 6-10). *Uncle What-Is-It is Coming to Visit*, by Willhoite (ages 5-8); breaks down stereotypes. *Two Moms, The Zark, and Me*, by Johnny Valentine (ages 4-8); deals with narrow-minded neighbors.

Alyson Wonderland series is one of the few children's series that includes picture books. One other book, *Losing Uncle Tim* by Jordan, is published by Albert Whitman. It is about AIDS. *Daddy's Roommate* is currently one of the most censored children's books in print.

Other excellent books for children and youth include:

For Children: *Understanding Sexual Identity*, by Janice Rench. *When Someone You Know Is Gay*, by Susan and Daniel Cohen. *Facts About Lesbian and Gay Rights*, by McCauslin.

For Youth: *Positively Gay*, edited by Betty Berzon. *Beyond Acceptance*, by Carolyn Griffin, et. al. *The New Loving Someone Gay*, by Don Clark. *On Being Gay*, by Brian McNaught. *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, by Aaron Fricke. *One Teenager In Ten*, edited by Ann Heron. *The Truth About Alex*, by Anne Snyder. *Young, Gay, & Proud*, edited by Sasha Alyson. *Now That You Know: What Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality*, by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Howard. *Best Little Boy In The World*, by John Reid. *Is It A Choice?*, by Eric Marcus. *Alyson Almanac*, 1994-1995. *Big Gay Book*, by John Preston. *Cat Came Back* is the first attempt by Naiad Press to enter young adult fiction. *Growing Up Gay*, edited by Bennett Singer.

Many welcome the books that are in print and are reluctant to critique quality. Many feel that quality could be better in some areas. More picture books are needed. Most gay leaders welcome what is available.

The voice of youth often goes unheard. The book industry has the opportunity to affect lives. Books can help overcome bigotry, homophobia and stereotypes. They can let young adults and children know they are normal and that family is broader than one concept.

Bookstop, 4801 South Hulen, Fort Worth, stocks or can and will order most of the titles mentioned in this review. Phone 817/346-9055. ☎

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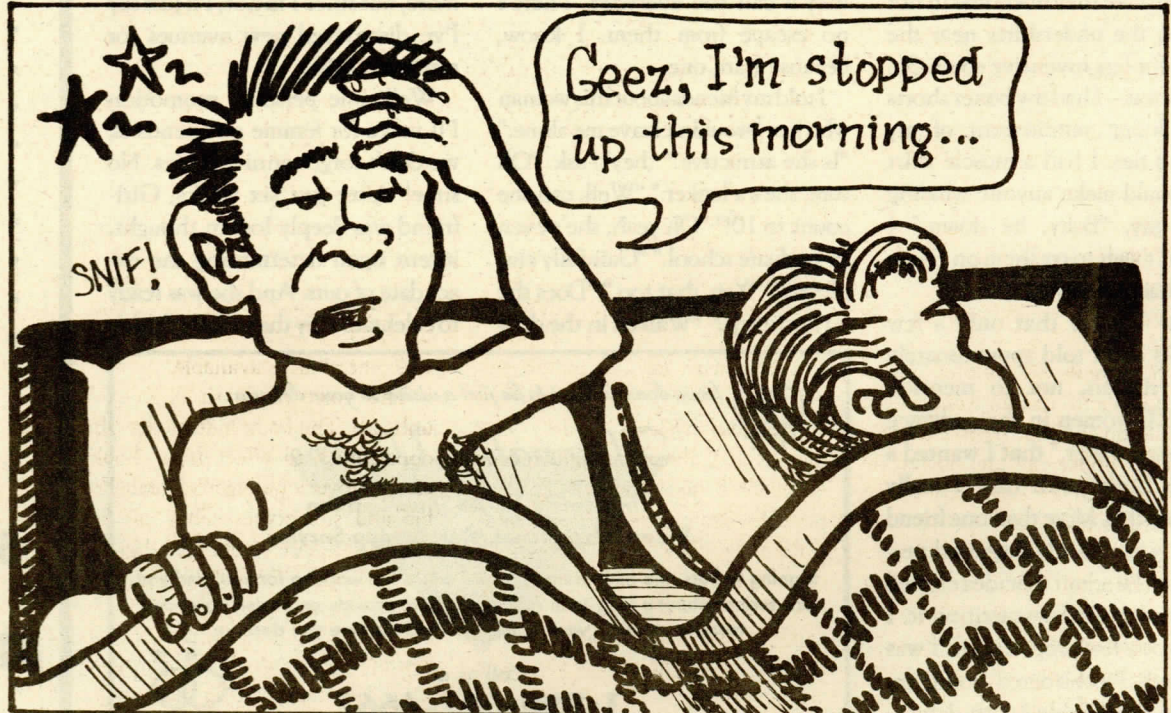
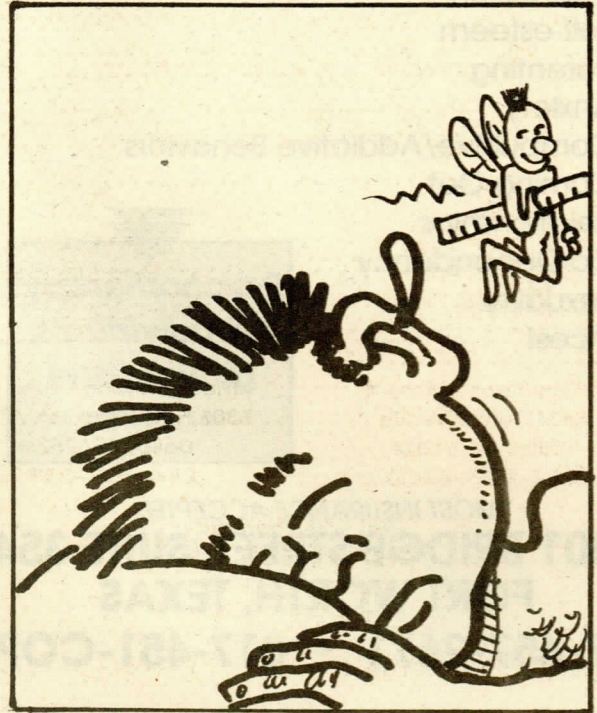
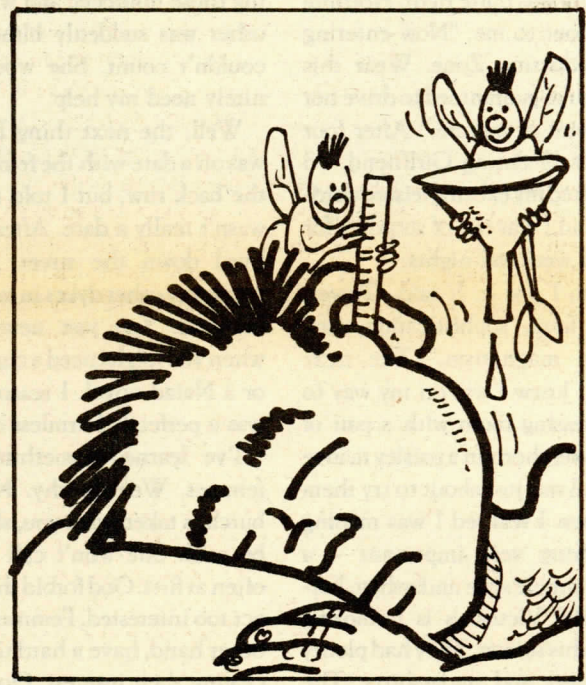
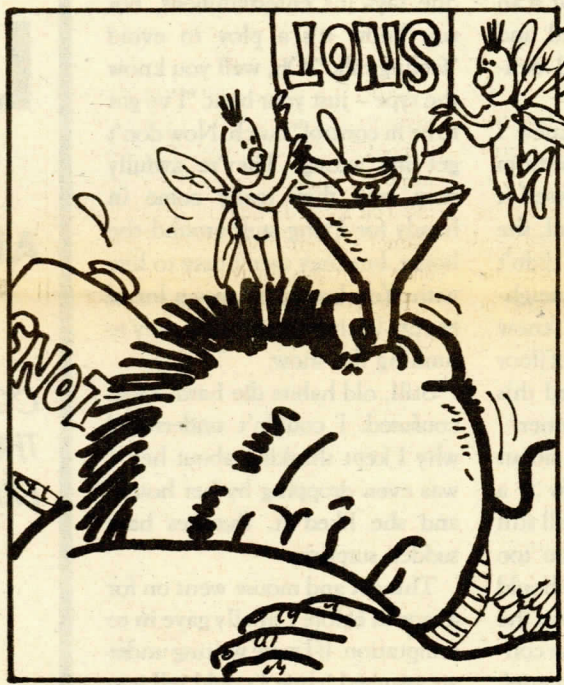
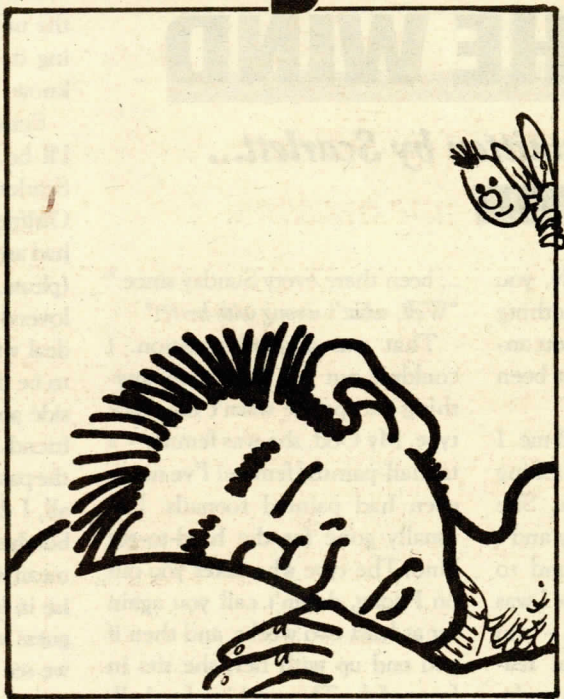
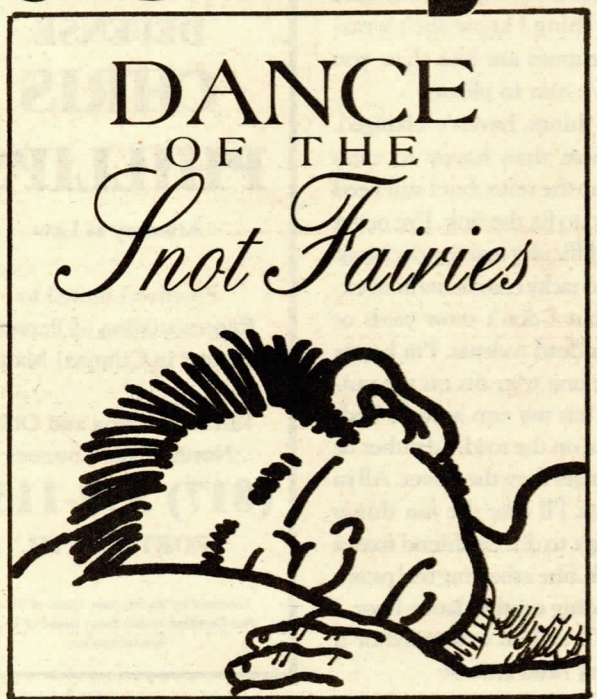
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"A LOVING HEART IS A HELPING HAND."

-TIM HAYES

dewey's daydreams By TODD CAMP



Butch/Femme Roles

GONE WITH THE WIND

While trolling for Rhett, I was smitten by Scarlett...

By **BEVERLY BENNETT**

The painted toe nails drove me to it. I'd never been eyeball to eyeball with painted toenails on anyone who called me "lover". Maybe it was because they were bright pink. You know, I've reasoned that bright pink toenails might bring out the hidden butch in a girl.

Anyway, I was making my regular visit to Victoria's Secret when I spied the perfect ensemble to drive my sweetie wild. I'd looked through every rack in the store. Nothing was quite right. Nothing called out to me, "Now entering the Seduction Zone. Wear this and you're guaranteed to drive her to a state of rapture." After four months of dating Girlfriend, I'd exhausted my existing leisure wardrobe and I was out of surprises for special weekend nights.

Then I saw it. It said, "Power, suave faire, sophistication, raw animal magnetism." The next thing I knew I was on my way to the dressing room with a pair of silk boxer shorts in a paisley mauve fabric. I was just about to try them on when I realized I was missing something very important - a white muscle style undershirt. Fortunately, Victoria's is humoring dykes this season. They had plenty of boxers and undershirts. The only mistake they made was in not putting the undershirts near the shorts for less inventive souls. So, there I was - I had my boxer shorts in a design reminiscent of my father's ties. I had a muscle shirt that could make anyone wearing them say, "Baby, lie down." I couldn't wait to try them on. They even had a real fly...

Now I know that only a few months ago I told approximately 7,000 readers, not to mention over 100 women in the audience at "Sister, Sister," that I wanted a "Rhett Butler with tits." I really believed this. More than one friend said it was a thinly disguised personal ad. I'll admit that idea crossed my mind while I was writing it. I even got a few propositions. I was flattered. I considered going on tour and collecting butch dates -

all for further literary study, you understand. But then something unforeseen happened. Scarlett answered the ad, and I've not been the same since.

Now at first this confused me. I wondered why a femme was asking me out. Okay, I'll confess. She walked into church one day and I couldn't stop turning around to stare. But I rationalized that I was just checking head counts - you know, for purely statistical reasons. Our preacher just loves studying those numbers, and what if an usher was suddenly blinded and couldn't count. She would definitely need my help.

Well, the next thing I knew I was on a date with the femme from the back row, but I told myself it wasn't really a date. After all, she lived down the street. I didn't know any other dykes in my neighborhood. You just never know when you might need a cup of flour or a Naiad novel. I reasoned this was a perfectly harmless dinner.

I've learned something about femmes. We're pushy. Now if a butch is taken with you, she'll still be cool. She won't call you too often at first. God forbid she should act too interested. Femmes, on the other hand, have a hard time concealing their interest. Good grief, they'll call you everyday. There's no escape from them. I know, because I am one.

I told my friends about this woman who just "wouldn't leave me alone." "Is she attractive?" they'd ask. "Oh sure, she's a looker." "Well, can she count to 10?" "Oh yeah, she's even in graduate school." "Gainfully employed?" "Yep, that too." "Does she go to church?" "Walked in the door

... been there every Sunday since." "Well, what's wrong with her!?"

That was a good question. I couldn't put my finger on anything except she wasn't my usual type. My God, she was femme - a toenail-painted femme! I've never even had painted toenails. I've usually gone for the hard-to-get kind. The type who takes you out on Friday, doesn't call you again for at least two weeks, and then if you end up with her, she sits in front of the TV watching football. She says it's entertainment, but you know it's a ploy to avoid "feeling talk." Oh, well you know the type - just your basic "I've got to be in control" butch. Now don't get me wrong. They're awfully sexy, and they really come in handy for fixing stuff around the house, but they aren't easy to live with. You know, it takes a lot of energy letting them think they're running the show.

Still, old habits die hard. I was confused. I couldn't understand why I kept thinking about her. I was even dropping by her house, and she liked it. Butches hate sudden surprises.

This cat and mouse went on for a month before I finally gave in to temptation. If I were writing under an assumed name I could tell you more, but since I'm not, I'll just say I've discovered new avenues for romantic bliss.

Well, one personal promotion I'll make for femme girlfriends is, we don't forget anniversaries. No siree! After just six weeks, Girlfriend was deeply lost in thought, intent upon determining the exact date of ours. And she was ready to celebrate it by the month! I guess

I won't have to put red boxes and hearts on the calendar anymore.

I've also discovered how nice it is to just once hear myself say, "That would be sexy on you," and the next thing I know she's wearing it. Femmes are like that, you know. We aim to please.

Some things haven't changed. I'll be more than happy to carry Scarlett up the stairs, but I still need Girlfriend to fix the sink. I've never had any difficulty making decisions (please, no tacky comments from ex-lovers), but I don't mow yards or deal with dead rodents. I'm happy to be the one who sits on the outside and has my arm around Girlfriend, but on the road, I'd rather be the passenger than the driver. All in all, I think I'll take the fun things butches get to do. Girlfriend fixes a mean sink. She's showing real promise in leading on the dance floor. I guess we'll call an exterminator if we see any dead rats. ♀

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Attorney at Law

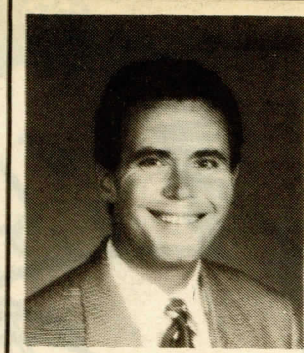
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WHEN THE HORNS BLOW:

Coronation lauds old and new



OUT-OF TOWNERS Jackie O'Dair and Colton Corville, Empress and Emperor II of Austin; Jessica St. John, Empress XVIII of Dallas; Carma Sue Snow, Empress I of Waco.



TRASHY WOMEN: Mikey Santa Fe, Melissa Flories, Glenda Gardner and Doogie during Candidate Presentation.

As the trumpets blew "Ruffles and Flourishes," tuxedo-clad gentlemen festooned with sashes and medallions escorted ladies who were outfitted in sequins and feathers and bedecked in tall crowns and tiaras.

A gathering for Charles and Di! Not quite.

This was the celebration of a year's hard work by the Royal Family of Fort Worth - Emperor XV Bob Jackson and Empress XV Rhonda Mae along with the members of the Imperial Court de

Fort Worth/Arlington.

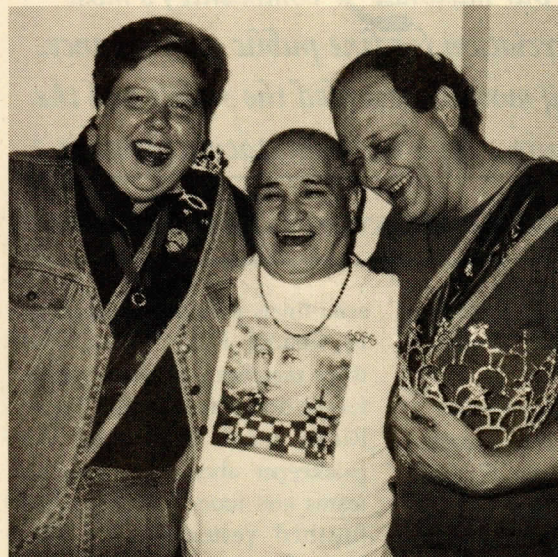
Visiting dignitaries and honored guests included monarchs and court members from as far away as Canada and as close as Waco. In between, we saw representatives from other states such as Kentucky, Colorado, New Mexico, California; and other Texas cities including Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

Fort Worth was extremely honored to have among its visiting royalty Jose I who in 1965 stood up in the "Winterland" and proclaimed herself

the Empress of San Francisco. Thus, the International Court System was born and soon spread throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The ballroom of the Clarion Hotel was decorated with the theme "Fort Worth, Where the West Begins". Colorful floral arrangements decorated the tables.

After an evening of festive presentations and productions by the visiting guests, the night was culminated with the announcement of the new monarchs: Emperor XVI, Melissa Flories; and Empress XVI, Pat "Cookies" Wyatt.



Story by JACK GUTHRIE
Photos by BEVERLY BENNETT

REGAL RIBBING: Newly elected monarchs Melissa Flories, emperor, left, and Pat "Cookies" Wyatt, empress, right, with founding empress Jose of San Francisco.



OATH OF OFFICE administered to new royalty by past college of monarchs.

Imperial Court serves fund-raising mission with pomp and glory

In brief, the Imperial Court system is a national, social-community service organization. When the system originated in San Francisco over 28 years ago, it was strictly "camp"; from those beginnings are derived the "camp" titles such as Emperor and Empress.

The Emperor and Empress are elected by the community to lead the organization for a year. Coronation is the annual gala function where the old leaders step down and new monarchs are crowned.

The primary goals of the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington are to:

- Sponsor events as fund-raisers for the various charities within the community;
- Further relationships between the various organizations within the community;
- Provide help for those in need;
- And advance the causes of the community.

The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington has, over the past 15 years, been very successful in its efforts at reaching its goals. The Court, for example, has raised funds for the AIDS Outreach Center, Healing Wings, community churches and the Samaritan

House to name a few, and has provided Halloween candy for the Fort Worth State School and Easter baskets for Fort Worth/Cooks Children's Hospital.

With the onslaught of the AIDS epidemic, the Court has had to redouble its efforts and must continue to assist the members of the community who desperately need help.

The Imperial Court was founded January 1979 and is the oldest Court in the state of Texas.

The local Court is but one of many in an international system.

Reigning monarchs and their repre-

sentatives attend Coronations throughout the nation, thereby fostering better relations outside the local community.

No one in the Court System receives any monetary gain from their active involvement. All benefit funds go to the designated charity; but individual rewards are appreciated in the experience of being there when help is needed.

The Court is open to any and all persons within the community. This inclusiveness, in itself, is fundamental to the continued growth and success of the Court, for new ideas and fresh approaches keep the Court vibrant and positive. *ia*

1994 Michial Award Winners

Bar Back of the Year: Mike Ervin of the Corral Club. **Country Entertainer of the Year:** Foxy Roxy. **DJ of the Year:** Jimmie Polley.

Camp Entertainer of the Year: Ima Tu Luce. **Behind the Scenes Award:** Beverly Winn. **Woman of the '90s Spirit Award:** Melissa Flories. **Disco Entertainer of the Year:** Foxy Roxy.

Day Bartender of the Year: Cowboy of the 651 Club. **Night Bartender of the Year:** Scott Jones of the 651 Club. **New Face Entertainer of the Year:** Erica Chatalain. **Bar Manager of the Year:** Bill Caram of the Corral Club. **Bar Owner of the Year:** Jerry Jones of the Corral Club.

Live Entertainer of the Year: Jimmie Polley. **Event of the Year:** Lights of Love. **Organization of the Year:** Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington. **Community Service Award:** Melissa Flories. **All Around Entertainer of the Year:** Ima Tu Luce. **Bar of the Year:** Corral Club, Jerry Jones, owner.

Naming of the Imperial Court

Investitures for the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington will begin at 9 p.m. Aug. 13 at Ashburns, 3012 E. Rosedale, Fort Worth.

At this meeting the line of succession forming the court royalty will be named and installed.

The New York Diary

Kris and Linda's summertime jaunt to our national community's most historic celebration captured their appreciation for fine public performance. The two Pleiades Productions founding mothers recorded the sights and the wonders of the many facets of our culture ... in a most spectacular setting.

A JOURNAL OF THE GAY GAMES AND STONEWALL CELEBRATION, BY KRIS AND LINDA

Thursday

With great anxiety and our stress level high, we drove toward our home base RV trailer park in a suburb just north of Newark, New Jersey. (We chose this park because of its great bus service to the City.) What we found were four-to-eight-lane expressways with not much traffic until the final turn onto a four-lane road no worse than Dallas' Central Expressway at rush hour (yet only noon here). We set up our home and took the next bus to the City and the subway to Greenwich Village.

We figured the Village would be the place to pick up the "activity guide" for the week. We found a variety of guides at Judith's Room, a women's bookstore. We headed out for a cafe to watch the world go by and digest/dissect the guides, plan out our days if possible. First to find a cafe - easy, there on every corner - but to find the one that is gay-owned or friendly, just look for the rainbow flag and that was a five-block hike (by Saturday afternoon all the stores had the flag up - I guess they saw the economic impact/potential of the weekend!).

It took about an hour to go through the guides - our immediate feeling was that there were too many choices for activities, not enough specifics as to times, cost, who's involved, etc. (too many activities we heard about but couldn't find in the guides). We were exhausted already!

We had dinner at the Cowgirl Hall of Fame Bar and Grill - typical Texas menu, good talk with our waitress about the Hall moving to Fort Worth and we need a restaurant like this one. We watched lots of people cruising the

area, many stopping and looking at their maps, just like us! "Where are we now, honey?"

We took the subway uptown to Town Hall on 43rd Street to see a concert benefiting the National Chapter of Lesbian and Gay Parents. Comedian Karen Williams was great - lots of jokes about being a lesbian mom, raising three male children - "Was the Goddess out to get her?!" Next came the Flirtations - just dynamite even as only a foursome. The crowd cheered and cheered as they left the stage, after singing all those great shoe-doo-be harmonies, and they came back with three encore numbers. (The hall was only half full, about

350 people; we talked with John Bucchino, Holly Near's pianist, after the show who told us about their concert the next day with the Gay Games Chorus at a park by Lincoln Center - nowhere had we seen that listed. He also said their concert the night before had been advertised as sold-out but really wasn't, just like this concert. Too many choices!)

Friday

We wanted to attend activities/sport competitions of the Gay Games, but which ones? Basketball at Lehmann College was finals, starting at 9 a.m., but by bus/subway we would be there when it ended. Drats! Softball and track and field were on Randolls Island which no one, not even a native New Yorker, could get us on to, or point us to where to go if we did get there! We settled for volleyball

semi-finals at Hunter College, up by Central Park. We watched three matches - all men, except for the one woman on the Puerto Rican team. We asked the gatekeeper about the women's teams and found that they had finished yesterday! We also learned that men can play on women's teams but women can't play on men's teams! We decided to go down to the basement to watch racquetball, but it didn't start for another hour. We ran into the "Cheer Dallas" volleyball team - they had just lost out

and learned that there was another gym with two more courts where we could have been cheering for Dallas instead of watching the "Laguna Splash" get drowned by the Puerto Ricans! (Oh well - lack of specifics in the printed guides.)

Next we subwayed downtown to the NYC Public Library. They have an incredible archives of lesbian/gay history since the 1920s and had put together this wonderful display - life before Stonewall and after: pictures, letters, books, buttons, posters, music. A huge banner was hung at the front of the library with the biggest pink triangle I've ever seen! "We" were everywhere in and around the library. We invited two lesbians to share our outside table for lunch - we knew they looked familiar and found out we had been on the Olivia Alaska cruise in 1992 together! We had a good discussion on the oppressive atmosphere in Atlanta, Ga.,

and what could they, as psychologists, do to help their lesbian/gay teachers.

We took the subway uptown to the Lincoln Center to hear the Unity '94 Chorus with guest Holly Near. The chorus is composed of anyone who wants to sing, mostly members of other lesbian/gay choruses around the world. The sopranos were in yellow T-shirts, altos in red, tenors in blue, basses in green, which made a colorful image in the outdoor band shell. And could they sing! They had practiced for only four days, two hours each morning. They sang selections from gay/lesbian composers such as Aaron Copeland, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim. They provided backup on Holly's "Change of Heart," "Love Don't Need a Reason" and the audience joined in on "We are Singing for Our Lives." The overcast sky and threat of rain had not kept people away - about 500+ were in the audience. (We had a brief visit with Holly before the show and she hopes the October date in Fort Worth will work out for us all!)

Next we subwayed back downtown to the Hotel Pennsylvania, the Gay Games headquarters. There were people (us!) everywhere - on the streets, in the stores, the hotel lobby was packed; folks visiting, nelling around, sprawled on the floor looking exhausted. The ballroom had an arts and craft area, but most vendors were sold out of everything. We headed for the ticket window to buy Closing Ceremonies tickets. Rumor had it that the tickets were half price - Wrong! So we sucked it in and bought what was left, \$75 a seat - up went the Mastercard bill!

We subwayed further downtown to the Village - the place was now filling with gays and lesbians. Christopher was blocked off to cross traffic because the sidewalks wouldn't hold us all. There were three to four NYPD at each corner, looking bored because there was no violence or criminal activity - just people celebrating!

To characterize the men we saw on our walk: shirtless first off, very tan, very pecked out or muscular, waxed - no hair on chest, no facial hair - businessman's haircuts - short with no sideburns, blue jean shorts or gym shorts (but no soccer shorts, for they're too long!), crew socks, white of course, with Doc Marten hightops. These men were everywhere! There wasn't a pot belly or converse tennis shoe in sight!

As for the women, that stereotypical dyke in blue jeans, flannel shirt and berkenstocks was not to be seen. I guess it was the women's nonconformity that made the men's conformity stand out. There was no right or only hairdo, short, skirt or shoes. A few women were in leather - I wondered how they could survive in the heat and humidity. The women just looked comfortable, dressing for themselves and not some image. That was good to see.

Our stroll took us back to Judith's Room for a reading/talk by Katherine Forrest, and Naiad publisher Barbara Grier. In the audience was novelist Penny Hayes, best known for *The Long Trail* (one of our favorite books), and Jennifer Levine, author of *Water Dancer*. Katherine first talked about the movie that is being made out of her Kate Delafield mystery novel, *Murder at the Nightwood Bar*, screenplay by Mary Roberson and producer Tim Hunter. Casting so far includes Mary Louise Parker as Kate and Tom Arnold as Kate's policeman friend. Filming will begin this fall with release by summer of '95. Barbara G. talked about a Canadian film that is completed and to be released in February '95, "Devotion." The plot involves a lesbian couple in a long-term relationship and a lesbian from the past who becomes the negative in a very positive setting. Katherine spoke about her new novel, *Flashpoint*, which took three years to write. To her a flashpoint is a turning point like the '92 presidential election was a flashpoint for gays and lesbians. In the novel the flashpoint is a California law being passed about sex and how seven gay/lesbian friends coming together for a weekend deal with this event. She wouldn't reveal any more of the plot, so buy the book - okay, we did!

Saturday

We bused/subwayed back to the Village and walked the 10 blocks to the Pier where the Heritage of Pride Festival was to take place for two days. We arrived early, around 11, and walked the entire area, about three NYC blocks or five Fort Worth blocks. It was organized into

Good talk...
Great guitar licks...
Lots of laughs.

'We'
were
every-
where
!!!

three main streets with booths lining each side, like Fort Worth Main Street Arts Fest, but better, for it was our people with their arts and crafts. There were T-shirts, of course, jewelry, politics, leather, food, beer and fresh squeezed lemonade by the cutest queens. At the far end was the stage. As we ate our take-out Chinese food and drank our lemonade, we listened to/saw: (1) David Drake of "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me", who told a wonderful story and MC'd; (2) Planet Q, a comedy troupe; (3) Yer Girlfriend, a band from Kentucky, quite good; (4) Big Sister, an all-girl rock-n-roll band, great guitar licks; (5) Sara Cytron, female NYC comedian, got lots of laughs; (6) the House of Ninja (remember the movie "Paris is Burning"?) who put together a unity dance group with members from their house, the House of Freedom and the House of Revlon. Ten Black, Hispanic men/women doing solo or partner numbers. What a showstopper! It was incredible.

After listening to the "Texas Gal," a woman who ended each C&W song with yee-haw, we decided to shop the arts one more time. While we had been seated, a couple of thousand people had walked across the street to shop also - it was street-to-water bodies and oh, so hot. So we decided to head off to our next "activity" which was the International Dyke March down 5th Avenue, put on by the Lesbian Avengers, an activist group promoting lesbian visibility and rights. Two distinct groups were waiting to march: the over-30 lesbians in shorts, Tees and Reeboks with shaved legs/pits and combed hair and the under-30 lesbian in shorts with or without Tees, the all-natural body hair look, plus nose rings, lip rings, naval rings and I can imagine where the other rings were, some bald and others with various hair colors - purple seemed to be the favorite. (While waiting, I watched that famous National Debt digital counter go up and up and up. Then the Family of Four's share was \$67,455.) At 5:30, that's dyke time for a 5:00 march time, we headed down 5th Avenue, cheering, yelling, clapping, blowing whistles, all in step to the drum corps that led us. After reading the New York Times the next day, we learned our group was about 5,000 - did they underestimate again? And we learned why we stopped at every cross street - we didn't have a parade permit! The Avengers, fearing a rejection

SEE DIARY ON P. 18

La Petite POWERHOUSE

One lithe lesbian who took up lifting on a lark has a nice, silver souvenir from the Gay Games.

BY PENNY HIEB

This year's fabulous Gay Games may be well over and done with as we creep into the final months of summer, but the Metroplex still has bragging rights to local medal-winning powerlifter Mary Caldera. For Caldera, a novice powerlifter, it was the determination to master the sport which culminated in a silver medal performance at the Gay Games.

Caldera said her interest in powerlifting occurred quite accidentally. Last October, while working out at the Texas Woman's University Wellness Center, she happened upon a bulletin placed by someone who needed a powerlifting partner. She contacted that person who, because she had already selected a training partner, paired Caldera up with another beginning powerlifter. After receiving some lessons in the sport, she and her new training partner, Amy Hinman, began a rigorous powerlifting regimen.

Caldera and Hinman worked out three days a week, concentrating on building strength in one part of the body each day. Most of the training consisted of lifting free weights. Each week they would increase the amount of weight they lifted by five to 10 pounds until they reached their maxes.

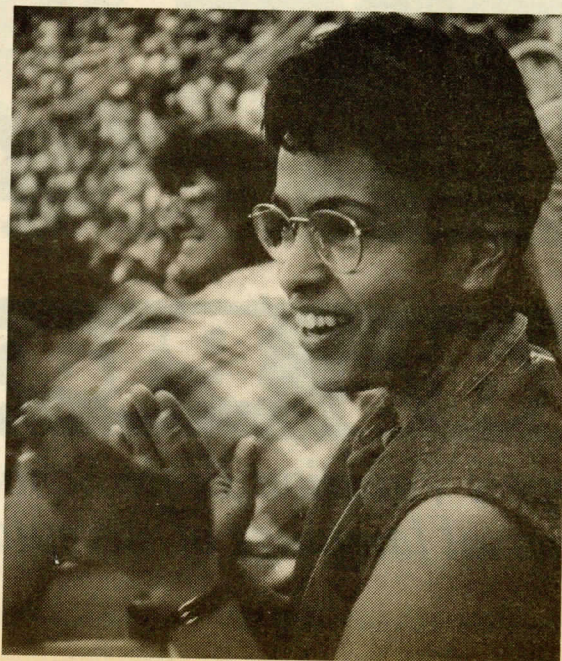
"Training was very intense physically. My shoulders popped, my body creaked," Caldera said.

Caldera explained that powerlifting consists of three essential elements: the dead lift, the bench press, and the squat. The essence of the sport is to gain the strength to lift the maximum number of

pounds in each of these events. Unlike body building, powerlifting does not emphasize physique. This misconception about the sport has caused some disbelief among those who learn of the petite 5'1" Caldera's athletic pastime.

"People are surprised when they find out I'm a powerlifter. First, they're so surprised because I'm small and then they are even more surprised when they find out that I work in a library. Somehow it just doesn't fit the image," she explained.

Though she had been training in the sport for less than a year, she decided on a whim to join the members of Team



Powerlifter Mary Caldera gave a powerful hand at the Gay Games.

Dallas and compete in the Gay Games. She was one of only four powerlifters on the Dallas team. She said she was drawn to the challenge of competition and the excitement of seeing New York City.

"New York was interesting. It was my first time there. It was a little intimidating at first, everything was so new to me. It was all so big and crowded, so much was going on," she said.

Caldera and her partner, Marguerite Ruppenicker, were able to attend the gay rights march, tour Stonewall and partake in some of the other gay events held in Manhattan.

Though she may have found New York a bit intimidating, she did not sense such an atmosphere apparent at the Games. Instead, she found a very nurturing community spirit and a warm reception from the other athletes.

"We got a lot of encouragement from the other athletes. You got the sense that it wasn't a cut-throat competition. Everyone wanted everyone to do well. I never felt any negative feelings. Everyone was so supportive," Caldera said.

Caldera's event was held on the first day of the Games. The athletes were divided into different classes according to weight. Caldera competed in the second smallest weight class at 114 pounds.

The competitors were given three attempts at each of the different lifts. Each lift was reviewed by a panel of three judges who were officials from the sport of powerlifting. Stringent criteria based on nationally set standards had to be met in order for lifts to be qualified favorably. The judges then took the highest of each of the three weights, added them, and determined the athlete's final score.

In addition to the pressures of competing for the first time, Caldera also had to quickly assimilate the strict rules of powerlifting competition.

"It was real different for me because I hadn't competed before. I had to pay attention to the rules and I wasn't used to that," she explained.

Caldera, who is capable of lifting 230 pounds, was advised prior to the games not to expect to be able to repeat some of her best workout performances in competition.

Despite all of the obstacles of first-time competition, Caldera's performance was superb. She took second place in her weight class, and received a silver medal.

Caldera said she had not expected to win while at the Games and was pleasantly surprised by her own performance.

"When I was competing, I wasn't even aware of the judges or the audience. Somehow I was able to block all of that out. It was just me and the weights," she said.

Caldera said that winning the medal was made even more special by the fact that her partner was able to be there in support.

"I'm really proud of Mary and what she did because it took a lot of discipline on her part. It is a big challenge to push yourself and see what you are capable of," Ruppenicker said.

Caldera isn't certain whether she will compete again but does intend to continue to pursue her silver-medal sport. ☺



Partner Marguerite Ruppenicker celebrates Caldera's victory.



Child's Play

The kids at Agape's Vacation Bible School are learning a universal language of acceptance.

By BEVERLY BENNETT
"How are your nerves?" "Challenged," Rev. Brenda Hunt answered after a week with 12 children. No, Rev. Hunt hasn't embarked upon sudden motherhood or decided to resurrect "Cheaper by the Dozen" as a personal lifestyle. This was just a typical week at Agape's fourth annual Vacation Bible School.

For a week every July, Agape MCC in Fort Worth has the only vacation Bible school in its denomination, Rev. Hunt said. The kids are a mix of church members' children, kids from the neighbor-

hood, and one child whose HIV positive mother was referred to Agape by a social agency. This year's crew also included a mentally handicapped adult who attends services at the church.

The 1994 theme, "Kids Around the World," was carried out by introducing the children to multicultural religious traditions. "Our youngest group's (4-7 year olds) study material focuses on Native American traditions. They read *Annie and the Old One*, named themselves the Coyotes (Native American word for 'God's dog'), and joined the older kids in mak-

ing miniature Navajo rugs," Rev. Hunt said.

The older children (8-11) named themselves the Angels. Their study book focused upon "How to Keep Your Life Clean". Rev. Hunt said the Angels were introduced to topics like how to pray, how to make decisions and how to recover from embarrassment.

"The entire program has five components. Each day we open with worship, study a main lesson, do arts and crafts, meet with the pastor, and have a closing ceremony. One day during the meeting with the pastor we talked about Baptism. Another day my associate pastor, Rev. Lynn Johnson, explained Native American rituals... The kids make an affirmation book. One of the affirmation themes is 'We are very important to each other'... The children learn about communion... At the end of each day, everyone gets in a circle and shares prayer requests."

The adults at Agape's vacation Bible school may feel pleased about teaching the kids big concepts like baptism, affirmations and communion, but the kids unanimously agreed their favorite activity was arts and crafts. The children eagerly displayed their creations - tiny Navajo rugs, prayer beads and cut-outs.



TOP PHOTO: Rev. Brenda Hunt buries herself in the hard work of conveying love and acceptance to the Vacation Bible School kids. **BOTTOM PHOTO:** Willy Meyers gets 'hands-on' training in self-esteem and self-value.

Managing a dozen children takes team work, supplied liberally in this case by several moms, two associate pastors, church members and Rev. Hunt. The work starts long before the kids arrive. "It's hard work. We have to start from scratch on most of the material. I'm not willing to use children's material developed by the Evangelical right. I spent over 100 hours creating the study material. It's labor intensive," Rev. Hunt said. She said that at this point the only way to find non-sexist, non-racist, non-homophobic Bible study material for children is to create it yourself.

"I do this every year, because I really believe the biggest part of being a believer is passing on something better than I got. It helps prepare children to change the world. These kids are from differ-

ent kinds of families," said Rev. Hunt. She said that since some of the kids are from lesbian/gay households, some from straight households, and one from an HIV-impacted household, they have the opportunity to meet kids whose families are different than their own. Rev. Hunt hopes that this helps them mature into more open-minded adults. Noting that most children of lesbians and gays grow up to be straight, Rev. Hunt said she believes that when these children from Agape reach adulthood, they'll have a prime opportunity to create positive impressions about lesbians and gays in straight society.

"I'd like this to be a way we can service the community. I'd like more and more lesbian and gay families to make use of it each summer," Rev. Hunt concluded.

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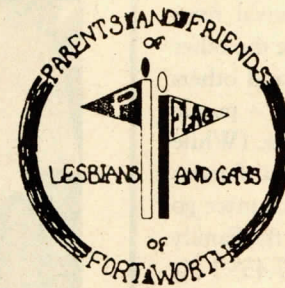
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 "STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART"

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 AT FIRST JEFFERSON CHURCH
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I already know that this one may ruffle more feathers than the positive/negative column I wrote about two months ago. I am in one of those moods again. I feel like it is time to stir the pot a bit.

I recently decided that I wanted to explore this religion thing again. I had not thought about it since Mom died. The bullshit that the local churches dished out about how my mother got HIV was enough to make a sane person go crazy. But in the daily routine of HIV education, I was bound to visit and educate some churches. I was doing a program with AIDS Interfaith Network and one of the questions asked caught me off

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

Pain led my feet away from church and then guided me back to it.

guard. In all the years that I have been in the trenches telling my story, no one has ever asked if I left the church because of the homosexual issues or because of how my family was treated. It caught me off guard, but also prompted me to think.

When I was growing up, Sunday church was *the* thing. We were raised Charismatic and I loved going to church if only for the workout. But as I grew, I switched to Methodist and wrecked a few nerves at a conservative church. After the Navy and a few years living overseas, I became disillusioned with our national churches. Our country seemed to me to have such a blind view of reality – all the trouble over Mom and my orientation caused me to lose the faith I grew up trusting. I found myself hating the church for its lack of vision and its hateful judgments.

When I returned from living overseas, I wanted to believe in a higher being. I had seen so much

pain and suffering that I needed to believe there was a God. With all the hate and prejudice around, if there is not a God, why do we bother? It is hard to believe in God, though, when so much death and destruction is occurring all around you. But I had to believe that there was some higher power; if not, all the nice shit I have done would have been for nothing. Hey, it is easy for me to keep track of all the nice things I have done, I am all the way up to two.

Along the way, I had forgotten that every church is different because of the people who make it up. I blamed my God for the people who gave my family the most trouble about AIDS. I lost my faith and belief in all people with any religious ties. Basically, if you went to church, you were a dick. I believed that every church member was Satan in a suit or a cheap dress. I developed the belief that if one went to church, one was a narrow-minded, hateful bigot.

But this church where I was asked the before-mentioned question seemed to be different. They invited Steve and me both to their service. They invited us to join their church and did not bat an eye when I joked that Steve and I like to take communion in drag. They are a very small congregation with a disparity of ages. The

major thing I noticed was every woman who could be was pregnant. I kept my legs crossed. They even invited me to join their softball team. It was not what I expected. Steve and I were viewed as a couple and expected to join as a family unit. I found it amazing that a main line "straight" church would open its hearts to a gay couple. I think this might be a Noah's ark type of church. They only have two black members. We sit with these women so we can talk about everybody else. Hey, I gotta be me.

While I realize there are several excellent "Gay" churches out there, none seemed right for me. I want to educate as well as worship. We will never advance until we dispel myths. This whole AIDS thing has worn us down and we have spent our entire adult life in some phase of grief. Celebrating a belief in Christ and the afterlife eases the grief and makes me believe that all the crap we experience here will be made up for in the hereafter.


After going to this church, I found an excellent book called "Immune Power" by Kaiser. He believes the way I do about healing and he believes that religion has a part. This is probably the best book I have found that combines medicine and reality to assist the HIV-infected individual live longer. It reads easy and gives practical advice. I also recommend buying everything by Kathy Mattea. She placed her career on the line for the AIDS community and survived. We need more like her, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Reba.

Until next month, think positive, act positive, and live your life with passion! *fw*

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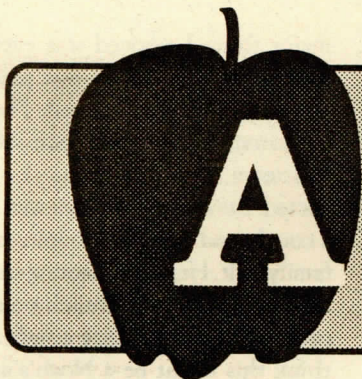
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AGAPE's Apple a Day

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

The sounds of the struggle in my bedroom this morning were heart-rending – sobs, breathless pleas for help, cries for mercy. Oh! it was horrible and I thought it would never stop. No, my dear friends, my spouse was not abusing me. I was just trying to get these “not quite ready for string bikini” hips into a pair of slim-fit jeans! Can any of you relate?

I will not insult your intelligence by telling you what you should weigh or how small or large you need to be to fit into someone else's mold. For most gay men and lesbians, fitting into a mold is not what we do best. If your weight is not causing you emotional or physical problems, then you are probably at a good weight for you.

Please take a serious look at your overall health when considering this. Can you tolerate the physical exertion required for mild exercise? (If the wind blows a \$10 bill from your hand, can you chase it around for a few minutes?) Do you have any medical problems associated with obesity? (High blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease.) Does your physical size present a hazard to your safety?

(Can you reach your car's gas and brake pedals comfortably without the steering wheel pressing into your belly?) Is your weight causing physical damage to your body? (Are your joints healthy and pain free, or are arthritic conditions being made worse by too much pressure?)

Most of you know by now that diets do not work. You all have watched Oprah over the years—her battle with weight is a lesson in weight management from which we all should learn. She was fat, she lost weight, she got fatter, she lost weight—she got even fatter!! I think she has finally done it and here's why. She has realized the key of successful weight control is long-term lifestyle changes. She has hired a cook (an attractive one at that) who has practically eliminated all traces of fat from her diet. She has also contracted for the services of a personal trainer (also an attractive person) to help her build muscle mass so her metabolism rate is increased.

Not many of us are as wealthy as Oprah and only my lover thinks my looks are worth a million, so her program is a little out of our league. We can, however, take charge of our weight situations if we choose. If you decide you need to take control of your health in the area of weight control, there are probably hundreds of self-help or for-profit programs that can help you.

Keep the following questions in mind when selecting a program for yourself: 1) Will the program provide a balanced approach to nutritional education, behavior modification, stress management

and exercise? 2) Will the program offer individualized attention to your needs? 3) Does the program offer sensible advice about diet and exercise for a person of your size or is it designed for the fashion model/muscle stud who has just picked up an extra pound or two?

Years ago, when I was in my senior year of college (leisure suits, platform shoes, “love beads” were in style then), I was beginning to look a little like Rush Limbaugh (honest). My spouse and I began following the Weight Watcher's program. At that time the Weight Watcher Corporation was not marketing anything except a menu plan book and offering meetings. The woman who started the program had adapted the “free” advice and menu plans that her county health department might offer to diabetics and heart attack victims.

There are many commercial programs available now but the advice and the basic menu plans are still very similar to what you can get for free from the county health department. Eat small portions of low fat meats that have been baked, boiled or broiled. Avoid adding fat (margarine, butter, cooking oils) to your foods during preparation or at the table (use fat free dressings if you must), avoid sugar (use a substitute), and eat more raw fruits and vegetables. If you combine a sensible diet with just a little exercise, you can take control of your health.

One program is available at very low cost and is easily accessible to most of our readers, offering the extra benefit of group

support. Overeaters Anonymous has several meeting locations in both Fort Worth and Arlington. Call 817/788-0411 for more information. Overeaters Anonymous is a “12-Step Program” which means confidentiality and acceptance are key factors in the meetings. There is even a Lambda Group which had its first meeting in mid-July. The Lambda meetings are at the First Jefferson Uni-

tarian Universalist Church – call Joan at 817/232-5261 or D'Anna at metro 817/461-6418 for information on this new group.

This column is a recurring feature of the Alliance News. There are many health concerns affecting lesbians and gays that deserve our attention. What do you see as the most important health care issue facing us today? Address your questions to the Deacons of Agape MCC, 4615 SE Loop 820, Ft Worth, TX 76119, or call (817) 535-5002 and leave a message for the Deacons. ☺

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Breaking the chains that bind us is just

A MATTER OF FAITH

By Rev. BRENDA HUNT, AGAPE MCC

One of the first people I met in Fort Worth died this summer. She was one of those people whose face and name went "together," and you just didn't forget either one. Her snow-white hair and raspy laugh made her stand out in any crowd.

She reminded me of my grandmother a great deal. In my mind and in my heart, she is one of the pioneers I think of when I consider the hundreds of people who literally made it okay for me to be, and okay for me to be here.

Soon after our meeting, I officiated at a funeral for a member of the church. The obituary in the *Star-Telegram* listed me and our church by name. She was outraged. So much so that she made a point to speak to me directly about it. She also started withdrawing from the more visible aspects of the church.

She was from another generation and used another set of rules and regulations. She was adamant and

she was consistent. By her rules you simply did not "come out," and you did not "out" someone else. The names in the paper went too far, implied too much.

We met off and on. I had the distinct honor of taking her grocery shopping and to lunch on a number of occasions. In those few hours she "made up" for the great divide in our opinions and lifestyles. It was a deliberate thing, to make up. I still do not believe that listing my name or our churches' names is a significant step towards "outing," but I do understand her position.

I cannot conceive that she ever stood idly by and let anyone be attacked or condemned. I do believe that she held to a set of standards and principles that represented the best of her intents.

Obituary paragraphs, even when written by people who know us, say so very little. Her obituary piece simply recalled some pertinent data... where she was born, when she gradu-

ated... employed by. The paragraph did not mention an old scraggly cat she called Tom or the care she extended to him and to any other stray that happened along. It didn't mention the fact that she renamed Lake Worth for the woman that occupied her heart for a very, very long time, or that she rebuilt a lake house so that the light-of-her-heart could be surrounded by her favorite place while she lay dying. The obituary did not mention the time she told me I was a great preacher, but that I really ought to let a priest deal with the rest of this stuff. I was too tender-hearted and would take too much too personally.

I stood just under a very young oak tree, on the hillside where her grave was covered with that big piece of green astro-turf that hides the mound of dirt that the back-hoe will dump in as soon as we leave. I tried to concentrate on the river of sweat trickling down both sides of my face. I could hear it drip on the brocade of the one "girl-looking" vest I wore for

her. I tried to just pay attention to how hot it was and that surely she would rather her friends had gathered in an air-conditioned sanctuary than this grave-side service... I tried to concentrate on all sorts of things so that I could stop feeling so awful.

I felt awful because less than 50 people stood around that site, and she had touched the lives of hundreds and thousands.

I felt awful because the woman she renamed Lake Worth for was called her good friend, not her lover, not her heartbeat, not her significant other... her good friend. I felt awful because she would have and maybe indeed did dictate exactly those words and those phrases.

I felt awful because even in death, the ultimate winning against bigotry, prejudice, false witness, pain and shame, even in death, nothing was exactly said.

And I am very clear. The pain and discomfort is mine; it would not have been hers.

But in 1994, I want to thank her, acknowledge her, and because I love her and understood her point, I cannot speak her name. She was honest in telling me why. I struggle to be honest saying I will.

But in memory of her hundreds of words will be spoken, lives touched and strays rescued. Walking away from the grave site, I grieved and remembered and cried some... all to the humming tune of "Bread and Roses". The song was written by a woman whose name I never learned, sung by hundreds of women I never met. It was a protest song from the early part of this century USA... "As we come marching, marching, unnumbered women dead Go crying through our singing, their ancient song of bread. Small art and love and beauty, their drudging spirits knew. Yes it is bread that we fight for, but we fight for roses too... Bread and roses, bread and roses."

Once home, I went through every book I have looking, searching, and found this. Tomorrow morning I'm going back to the hillside. I'm going to sit underneath the young oak and read it to her, or rather in memory of her.

"My voice rings down through thousands of years to coil around your body and give you strength, you who have wept in direct sunlight, who have hungered in invisible chains, tremble to the cadence of this legacy, an army of lovers shall not fail..." [Rita Mae Brown] ♪

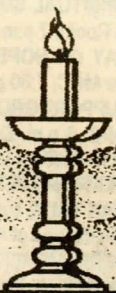
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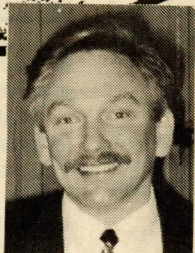
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AUGUST EVENTS:

Aug 07 Rev. Elder Don Eastman (9 & 11 am)
Aug 09 Reception for South African Churches
Aug 14 Second Sunday Celebration (7 pm)
Wednesdays: "Sexuality and the Bible"
Aug 3, 10, 17, 24 at 7 pm

SUNDAY SERVICES:

9 and 11 am (Children's Sunday School each service)

WEDNESDAYS:

12:15 pm Communion Service

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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 both services.

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 11 a.m. service. 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. 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 Jerry Cook, pastor, at 214/320-0043 in Dallas, or, in Fort Worth, 817/451-7880.

WEDNESDAYS:

AGAPE MCC Wednesday Break, 12:15 p.m. at the church. Communion service.

AGAPE MCC Study Series: Sexuality and the Bible, 7 p.m. at the church; meets every Wednesday in August. \$8 for cost of books.

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC-DALLAS, Dinner, 5:30 p.m., \$5. Rev. Shelley Hamilton's six-week series of talks on "Evil" at 6:30 p.m. See community guide for address.

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH Heart Group, Home Bible Study, 7 p.m., Bedford. Call metro 817/267-8644.

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 worship service, 7 p.m.; Theological Express Class (TEC), 7 p.m., 331 Aaron Ave., Suite 125, Arlington. Led by Rev. Belle Armstrong, the Bible relevant to modern-day living. Different topic each week.

WHITE ROCK CHURCH WEST Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Call 817/451-7880.

THURSDAYS:

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

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH Heart Group, Home Bible Study, 7 p.m., East Fort Worth. Call metro 817/429-2140.

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.

AUGUST 7:

AGAPE MCC special services, 9 and 11 a.m., 4615 SW Loop 820. Guest speaker

Rev. Don Eastman, UFMCC Board of Elders Treasurer.

AUGUST 9:

AGAPE MCC Reception for South African Churches, 7 p.m., 4615 SW Loop 820. Welcoming leaders of South African gay/lesbian church communities from Pretoria, Capetown and Soweto.

AUGUST 14:

AGAPE MCC Second Sunday Celebration, 7 p.m., 4615 SW Loop 820. Monthly offering of varying worship experiences.

AUGUST 16:

AGAPE MCC Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m., 4615 SW Loop 820.

AUGUST 20:

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC-DALLAS, Women's Time, 6:30 p.m., at the church. A monthly gathering of women in celebration of heritage. Bring something to grill; potatoes, salad and drinks supplied. See community guide for address.

TRINITY MCC Homemade Ice Cream and toppings contest, 7 p.m., in the new Fellowship Hall at the church. \$1 per entry; all the ice cream and fixings you can eat.

AUGUST 21:

LUTHERANS CONCERNED, HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND AFFIRMATION monthly meeting, 3-4:30 p.m., St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5709 Granbury Road at Welch, Fort Worth. Meeting open to all regardless of religious or organizational affiliation.

AUGUST 23:

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC-DALLAS, Women's Worship Service led by women, open to everyone. 6:30 p.m. at the church. See community guide for address.

SEPTEMBER 6:

AGAPE MCC Colors of Love, 6 p.m., 4615 SW Loop 820. Support and networking for people of color; meets the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Lynn Person, 817/468-5117 or 817/457-1000.

SEPTEMBER 9:

AGAPE MCC Colors of Love Barbecue "Pig-out," \$5. Call 817/535-5002 for time and place; make reservations by Aug. 15.

SEPTEMBER 18:

TRINITY MCC fund-raiser: Designer Images will take individual and couple portraits at the church; reasonable prices.

ORGANIZATIONS

MONDAYS:

FORT WORTH WOMEN'S CHORUS practice, 7:30-9 p.m. at Meadowbrook United Methodist Church, 3900 Meadowbrook. Call 817/498-5733 or 817/731-9851.

WEDNESDAYS:

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

AUGUST 4

P-FLAG FORT WORTH meeting, 7 p.m., at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Program: Dee Mosbacher's video, "Straight from the Heart". Meets the first Thursday of each month. For more information call 817/498-5607 or 817/498-4855.

TCLGA'S FORT WORTH FORMAL planning meeting, 7 p.m. at the TCLGA office. Call 817/763-5544.

AUGUST 8

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.

AUGUST 9

SECOND TUESDAY FORT WORTH

(formerly First Friday) social meeting for women, 6-9 p.m. at Mad Hatter's Cafe. \$1 donation. Call 817/485-0134 for directions.

AUGUST 10

FORT WORTH MEN'S CHORUS AUDITIONS, 7:30 p.m. at Law Sone Center for the Arts at Texas Wesleyan. Call 817/731-0122.

AUGUST 12

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.

AUGUST 13

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL COALITION steering committee meets 3-5 p.m. at the DGLA Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.

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.

AUGUST 15:

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

AUGUST 16:

LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL COALITION - TARRANT COUNTY, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Camellia Room, Botanical Gardens off University Blvd.

AUGUST 18:

TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m., Luby's Cafeteria on University. Speakers: Mary F. Jones, DO, and Suzanne Mason, MS.; "Deciphering the Writing on the Bathroom Wall: Health Issues for Lesbians and Gays." Meets the third Thursday of every month. Call 817/763-5544.

AUGUST 19:

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.

LINK 2 women's couples social group, meets 7-9:30 p.m. at the Desert Moon, 5039 Willis St., Dallas.

AUGUST 21:

GAY PRIDE WEEK ASSOCIATION election of officers, 3 p.m. at Across the Street in Fort Worth.

NAMES PROJECT Quilting Bee, 2-5:30 p.m. at the Project Workshop, 665 S. Jennings, Fort Worth. Meets every third Sunday.

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.

AUGUST 22:

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.

AUGUST 26:

LINK 1 women's singles social group, meets 7-9:30 p.m. at the Desert Moon, 5039 Willis St., Dallas.

AUGUST 27:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL COALITION general meeting, 3-5 p.m. at the DGLA Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.

SEPTEMBER 1

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.

SEPTEMBER 12:

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

EDUCATION

AUGUST 5

AOC FRIDAY FORUM: "AIDS and Dentistry," Carole Ann Boyd, DDS, dentist in private practice specializing in the treatment of HIV patients. 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.

AUGUST 24

CANDY MARCUM INSTITUTE FORUM: "Career Mapping," 7 p.m. at Oak Lawn Community Services, Room 200A, 4300 MacArthur, Dallas. Call 214/520-8108.

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAYS:

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

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.

AUGUST 8

FORT WORTH THEATRE auditions for "For Marrieds Only," 7 p.m. at Scott Theatre, 3505 W. Lancaster at Montgomery, Fort Worth. An older couple looks back at themselves in flashbacks to their courtship and honeymoon. Performances at Casa's Theatre on the Square Sept. 27, 28, and Oct. 4, 5. For script availability contact 817/738-7491.

AUGUST 10

FORT WORTH THEATRE auditions for "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little," 7 p.m. at Scott Theatre, 3505 W. Lancaster at Montgomery, Fort Worth. Black comedy about the relationships and problems between three sisters. Performances at Casa's Theatre on the Square Sept. 27, 28, and Oct. 4, 5. For script availability contact 817/738-7491.

AUGUST 13

COUNTESS AND COMPANY Benefit Show for AOC Food Pantry, 10 p.m. at King's Cross, 2701 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. Male strippers and female impersonators.

EVENTS

AUGUST 13

DALLAS GARDEN PARTY, benefit for Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, 7-10 p.m. at 2910 Maple Springs Blvd., Dallas. Guests: Dianne Hardy-Garcia, LGRL executive director; candidates for offices in the November election. \$25; dress casual. Call 214/357-1660 or 214/528-4233.

HEALTH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM, gay-friendly offering of the American Cancer Society, 7-8:30 p.m. at Agape MCC in Fort Worth. Four sessions: Sept. 18, 20, 25 and 27. \$10 donation to the American Cancer Society suggested but not required. For registration, call the church at 817/535-5002.

MONDAYS-THURSDAYS:

HIV TESTING, Ryan White Clinic (Health Dept.), 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesdays; 1-8 p.m. Thursdays.

AUGUST 20:

FORT WORTH HEALTH DEPARTMENT provides free and anonymous HIV testing, 8 p.m. - 12 a.m., NAMES Project house, 665 S. Jennings, Fort Worth. No appointment necessary. Monthly offering every third Saturday. Blood drawn first visit; results provided second visit.

SUPPORT GROUPS

DAILY:

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

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:

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/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:

MAN TALK, 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 OVEREATERS 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.

OPPORTUNITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST TASK FORCE CONFERENCE LOCALLY

The local host committee for a National Gay and Lesbian Task Force conference this fall in Dallas is searching for at least 200 volunteers to provide ancillary services. Volunteers will receive discounts on registration for the conference based on number of hours worked.

The seventh annual Creating Change Conference is Nov. 9-13 at the Southland Center Hotel, Dallas.

Pre-conference institutes Nov. 9 and 10 offer a People of Color Organizing Institute; Diversity Training Institute; and Race, Class and Gender Institute.

The conference, Nov. 11-13, is comprised of skills-building workshops, organizing intensives, post-election Town Hall meeting, Fight the Right strategies, Digital Queers Computer training, and network sessions. Plenary speakers are Letitia Gomez, executive director of LLEGO; and Dr. Mel White, Dean, Cathedral of Hope.

Volunteers are needed to help with registration, hospitality, child care and sessions monitoring. Persons interested in volunteering may call the conference's central voice mail at 214/521-5342, ext. 266.

The committee also seeks persons who can provide community housing to supplement hotel accommodations, by hosting conference guests in their homes. For an application to provide accommodations, leave a message for Tamra Thompson or Phil Matthews, Housing Subcommittee Coordinators, at the phone number above. Local organizations also have applications available.

Deadline for scholarship applications is Sept. 14 and Sept. 30 for students. Registration deadlines are Sept. 1 for early-bird discounts; Oct. 15 for regular rates. On-site registrations will be accepted for an additional fee.

Reserve hotel accommodations by calling Southland Center at 214/922-8000.

For conference brochure, registration material or scholarship application, send a self-addressed stamped envelop to National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 1734 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

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
 KING'S CROSS, 2701 E. Lancaster, (817) 531-3986
 MAGNOLIA STATION, 600 Magnolia, Fort Worth, (817) 332-0415
 ROPER'S FOOD AND SPIRITS, 2023 S. Cooper, Arlington, (817) 265-5574
 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
 BUFFY'S HOME PET CARE PLUS, (817) 545-2464
 BOOK STOP, 4801 S. Hulen, Fort Worth, (817) 346-9055
 CASA MANANA THEATRE, (817) 332-CASA
 CHUCK CAMPBELL, lawn and home maintenance, (817) 572-3517
 COURTNEY CHATFIELD, financial planner, (817) 498-1833
 B.C. CORNISH, attorney, (817) 870-9159
 COUNTRY DAY TRAVEL, (817) 731-8551
 DARWIN AND ASSOCIATES, bookkeeping, (817) 589-1666
 FLOWERS FANTASTIC, fresh or silk flower arrangements, (817) 534-3570
 HAYES PHARMACY, (800) 258-9897
 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
 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 SCHAAF, attorneys, (817) 877-0388, fax (817) 877-0380
 CHERYL STRANGE, Realtor, (817) 732-3294
 TWO PEARLS BED AND BREAKFAST, (817) 596-9316

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) 946-2184
 HARVEST MCC, Denton, (817) 321-2332
 HONESTY (Baptist), (817) 923-8487
 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) 451-7880

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
 HIV ANONYMOUS GROUP, (817) 292-9494
 INCEST SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP, (817) 335-4330

NEW GROUPS

MEN'S CHORUS

Auditions for the Fort Worth Men's Chorus are at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Law Sone Center for the Arts at Texas Wesleyan. Call 817/731-0122.

WOMEN'S CHORUS

The Fort Worth Women's Chorus rehearses every Monday evening from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Persons who enjoy singing may join the group at the Meadowbrook United Methodist Church, 3900 Meadowbrook, Fort Worth. No auditions are required for acceptance into the group; ability to read music is not necessary. Contact Michael

- 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
 OMNIHEALTH, (817) 926-4555
 OVER THE HILL, HIV testing, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., no appointment necessary. 2001 S. Freeway, Fort Worth, (817) 922-9955.
 SAMARTAN HOUSING CENTER for HIV+ homeless, (817) 626-9398
 SEXUALITY EDUCATION CENTER, (817) 338-4551
 TRICIA SEYMOUR, MA, LPC, LMFT, (817) 282-2999, Metro (817) 268-4221
 SUZETTE SHELTON, MS, RN, LCDC, CCGC, CADAC, (817) 732-1159
 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
 RAY WOFFORD, LMSW, LPC, (817) 457-2673
 JAN WYNN, LMSW-ACP, LCDC, therapist, (817) 331-1881
 ATIQUE KHAN, MD, psychiatrist, (817) 461-5454

ORGANIZATIONS

- 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
 FIRST FRIDAY FORT WORTH, (See Sec-

- ond Tuesday)
 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) 261-3558
 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) 528-2426
 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) 821-5979
 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
 TARRANT COUNTY GAY PARENTS, (817) 656-8056
 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

POLITICAL COALITION

Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition met for the first time July 11 to organize for political action in the county. A proposed outline of by-laws was presented and will be voted on at the next meeting. Several topics were discussed as to what the mission of such an organization in the community can accomplish.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, at the Botanical Gardens Camellia Room. Meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month. A permanent location will be decided upon at this meeting.

For information on the group call John Huffman at 817/263-9006.

COUNTY HEALTH

continued from p. 4

ment, and to be completed within one or one and one-half hours of arrival. Currently the wait for scheduling an appointment is one week.

The addition of two full-time physicians and two nurse practitioners to the AIDS-services area comes at a time when other units are experiencing staff cutbacks due to a budgetary shortfall. Force reductions are targeted for units,

like obstetrics, that have dropped in volume, while funding is siphoned to meet the needs of units like outpatient AIDS services, which continues to see an increasing number of cases.

ON THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

When questioned about health department realignments making headlines this year, Bagsby chastised, "I can't believe you believe what the *Star-Telegram* says..."

"Ninety-nine percent of what you hear is not true," she said, and invited her constituents to "make

a list of your concerns, send them to me, and I'll get you answers."

Several AIDS educators in the audience pressed for reasons behind a shift in the health department's Ryan White Center for AIDS services that requires payment now and does away with anonymous testing.

Robert Webster, an epidemiologist at the center, cited an incident there where a receptionist was fired for not routinely asking clients to pay. "Why this sudden push for profit that is driving clients away?" Webster asked Bagsby.

Jacky Banks, executive director of Over the Hill Inc., added that her client base for AIDS services was low- or no-income, and they couldn't afford the newly enforced fees. Consequently, her clients are missing out on the personal attention they appreciated at the health department.

Debose stepped in for Bagsby to explain the fees nebulously as "eligibility requirements." Trudy Sanders, JPS's director of medicine, added that free, anonymous testing still is available from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday at JPS's main campus.

The public health system is not a clean system, according to Bagsby - it's a territorial hybrid that works because of the caliber of professionals staffing it, she said. Work is ongoing to move grants from city to county and to realign for efficiency, to restructure what has been a city-intensive system by increasing county provisions. *fb*

DIARY

continued from p. 11

request from the City, just didn't apply. We did have a police escort, in front and in rear and all along our sides - we were surrounded. I guess they didn't want us to jaywalk!

Because the Gay Games Closing Ceremonies began at 7 p.m., we marched/waited until 6 and then ran to the nearest subway. Wall-to-wall bodies on each car. If you were standing you didn't need to hold on, you were held in position by all those around.

Our not-so-cheap seats were not-so-close to the field, but the only thing we couldn't see was the video display - huge stagelight scaffolding in the way. It was a night that will never be forgotten - the incredible time and talent to put it together, not the artist on stage but those who worked four years to make those five hours magic! The Gay/Lesbian Band played first. Next was "Cheer Dallas" - where have we been not to know about this group? Fifty-three dance, flag corps and cheerleaders (just like those college ones!) doing "positive actions in an often times negative world." They did back-up dance moves at other times during the evening.

Next came the Gay Game athletes, 7,000 competitors. The MCs, Judy Gold, "Pat" of Saturday Night Live and Harvey Fierstein, kept us cheering for the athletes. Those in the nosebleed seats started the wave and the second time around everyone in the stands was involved. And the third, fourth... Roberta Achtenberg, Assistant Secretary to Housing and Urban Development, gave the welcome. Lesbian comedians Suzanne Westenhoefer (on HBO July 14)

and Marga Gomez had a set each to tell jokes - both have great delivery. Armistead Maupin gave a moving tribute to those who are no longer with us and won't be in 1998. Sir Ian McKellen urged everyone to come out for in numbers we have strength. Then there was a great fireworks display followed by a laser light show and musical entertainment by Dianne Reeves, Desmond Childs, Crystal Waters, Cyndi Lauper. Due to our bus schedule restrictions we couldn't stay for the final few acts but we heard the next day that Patti LaBelle put on a great show and promised to be there when we needed her.

The *New York Times* said there were only 40,000 in attendance at Yankee Stadium but from our perch, by the time the athletes took their seats the place was full!

Sunday

It was a quick six hours of rest before we got back on the bus/subway to go take our place in the Stonewall March. At the March on Washington in '93 we chose to watch the parade; this time we wanted to march. We lined up with the "Women's Groups" which included NOW, Lesbian Farmers, the Avengers, a Lesbian Martial Arts School, Breast Cancer Survivors. We decided to march with Olivia Records and Cruises and carried one of their banners. Before our group began to move, I ran around the block to shoot pictures of the mile-long rainbow flag. Impossible to see much because of the crowds - it was almost more claustrophobic than the subway! Our group began to move at 11:45 and it took an hour to go two blocks which took us past the UN Building.

We must confess, at 1:45, five blocks from the end, we bailed out - too hot, too thirst, too hungry.

And the police on 59th St. were stopping the parade so traffic could move up and down the island. We bought those vendor-sold hot dogs, wolfed them down and headed for a deli for water and salty potato chips! Then it was on to Central Park and the Rally. We just flowed with the crowd, hoping that the ones in the lead knew where they were going. And then in the distance we finally spotted the \$40,000 spent on Porta-Potties and got in those lines which moved just like the parade: step and wait, step and wait. From the south, there are only two sidewalks leading to the "Great Lawn," so you can imagine the crush of people trying to get there and then some have been to the Great Lawn and want to go back into the Park... what a squeeze! We claimed a small area of shade under the second tree (no joke) and just collapsed. We started on 42nd Street and were now on 82nd and our enthusiasm was beginning to wane. We were too far from the rally stage to hear it and too tired to move closer. We just sat and watched people stream in and stream out. It didn't look like anyone was staying up by the stage, and then we were surrounded by the Socialist Workers World group. Right in front, beside and behind us, they set up their tables and began to sell newspapers and send people out with sign-up sheets. Interestingly enough all in the area, including us, gave up our spot and our shade. We talked of moving up to the stage area but instead we shuffled over to a policeman and asked directions to the nearest subway stop. As we stumbled toward that sidewalk we were quickly surrounded by other tired, weary bodies and we just became another massive stream of people, but this time pouring out of the park. We know we missed Liza Minnelli and Gregory Hines but one can only do

so much.

We did have tickets for the "All Girl Stonewall Ball" at the Copacabana Club that night, but I'm no longer sorry that we lost them.

Back at our RV park in New Jersey, around 11:30 p.m., we first heard and then saw some of the fireworks shot off by the USS Intrepid during the All-Boys Stonewall Dance.

We hate to admit it, but it must be age. We were/are exhausted. We slept for 11 hours.

Is there another word for incredible? I seem to write it over and over. Would we do it again? Yes, in a minute.

We want to be like the group behind us in the March - SAGE, Seniors Active in the Gay Environment. There were probably 50 senior citizens walking and another 50 on a double decker bus, all waving pompons and cheering down the route. At the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall we want to be on one of the many such double decker buses. *fb*



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NEW CHAPLAIN SERVES AIDS INTERFAITH

Dan Baker has joined the Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network staff as director of spiritual services. He has served as pastor of churches in Hamilton, Texas, and Tonkawa, Okla., and has served as a Navy chaplain.

Baker believes that chaplains offer their best care through a "ministry of presence" — that is, by just being there: "By giving practical assistance to those with a variety of needs, we present the 'human face' of a loving God to those we serve."

In his new role, Baker supervises the volunteer chaplaincy program of AIDS Interfaith. Volunteer chaplains serve on a weekly rotation basis, visiting clients at the Healing Wings unit of John Peter Smith Hospital. Chaplains also serve on-call for crisis intervention and pastoral counseling. In addition, Baker meets with the Healing Wings staff once a week to provide spiritual support as needed.

Baker also makes daily visits to Samaritan Housing. He is available to provide pastoral counseling to residents and attends the weekly residents meetings. "After discussion with the residents and conducting a needs survey, we developed a plan for providing spiritual support to the Samaritan House residents," Baker said. He facilitates a spiritual development support group and leads a weekly Bible study for the residents.

Spiritual support is provided to

people living with AIDS at the county jail as well. Baker makes weekly visits to clients referred by AIDS service providers. Short-term or crisis counseling is also available by appointment at the AIDS Interfaith office.

Quarterly worship services will continue to be a regular part of spiritual services offered by AIDS Interfaith. The Prayer, Hope and Healing service will be Sunday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. at Polytechnic United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. A World AIDS Day worship service is being planned for Thursday, Dec. 1.

Baker is continually seeking new volunteer chaplains. An in-service for new and continuing volunteers is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 26. Beginning this fall, AIDS Interfaith will offer opportunities for clergy and laity to be educated on HIV/AIDS issues.

If interested in becoming an AIDS Interfaith volunteer chaplain or in need of spiritual support, call Baker at 817/927-2437.

HEALING WINGS GET GRANT EXTENSION

To date, the Healing Wings campaign has raised \$1,155,758 for renovation of the HIV/AIDS inpatient unit at John Peter Smith Hospital. Approximately \$242,000 remains to be raised to meet the Kresge Foundation challenge.

The Kresge Foundation, impressed by Tarrant County's efforts, extended the original June deadline to

May 1, 1995, to raise the balance and receive the \$330,000 matching Kresge funds. In addition, several other foundations' commitments hinge on raising the balance.

The Healing Wings Executive Committee will pursue the additional funding through a variety of methods such as continued grant proposals, special events, a direct mailing and continued coordination with groups that have supported the project to date.

For information on donating to the completion of the inpatient unit, call Healing Wings at 817/927-1599.

ROAST TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF REV. JO'S ENTHUSIASM

The Rev. Jo Crisco joins a select group of MCC pastors this month as she reaches her 10th anniversary as senior pastor at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church in Arlington. Just over a dozen pastors across the Fellowship can claim that honor.

The church will celebrate Rev. Crisco's anniversary Aug. 27-28. Rev. Sandy Robinson, president of Samaritan College (MCC's seminary), will preach the anniversary service Sunday, Aug. 28. A semi-formal catered dinner is planned for 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, in the church's new fellowship hall. Guest speakers and entertainment include a roasting of Rev. Crisco. Call the church office at 817/265-5454 for tickets. A \$5 donation is requested.

Everyone in the community is invited to both events. The dinner requires an RSVP.

A scrapbook is being assembled for Rev. Crisco. If you have photos of special memories to contribute, call the church office and leave a message for Beverly Bennett, media coordinator.

"I'm real thankful that I've had an opportunity to serve this church and this community so many years. I feel very fortunate that I'm still enthusiastic, and I still have a real positive outlook about ministering in Tarrant County. I want to thank

everyone who has been so loving and supportive over the years, especially my Board of Directors, staff and congregation," Rev. Crisco said.

When asked what it takes to stay in the same pastorate 10 years, she said, "I think it takes a clear sense of my personal identity as a pastor and an unchanging belief in the vision that God has given me for my church and community... I've learned that regardless of current circumstances, if I can keep my mind set on the greater vision I can withstand the low points."

OBITUARY

Jules Massicot, local artist

A Jules Massicot, artist, died at his home in Fort Worth June 21 of complications of AIDS. His companion, former TCLGA president Carlos Northam, was at his side. Funeral services were held June 24 in Massicot's hometown, Bunkie, La.

Massicot's unique pen and ink drawings, amazing in their intricacy, symbolically depict religious and spiritual themes. His work was displayed on Gallery Night 1993 at the Evelyn Siegel Gallery, where it was for sale until the artist decided not to sell his originals. Greeting card reproductions of his art are sold at Strings in Fort Worth and by mail through 2000 Anno Domini.

Last year Massicot cre-

ated a line of Christmas cards which he sold through the *Alliance News*. A portion of the profits was donated to the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance. In February Broadway Baptist Church sponsored a show of Massicot's work, including not only his pen and ink drawings, but also elaborately decorated boxes inspired by the ancient sarcophagus and fanciful, life-like St. Nicholas and Wise Men figures, with hand-sewn and beaded clothing.

Massicot's creative expression was driven by his illness. He drew, built, designed, sewed, decorated, rearranged, gardened, imagined and dreamed

every waking hour. Nearly all his work was created in the past two years. Much of it was given away or sold to friends. His talent, his drive and his exuberance is his legacy to those who knew him, and the art he left us is his legacy to share with others.



Pleiades Productions presents

KAREN WILLIAMS

The Diva of Comedy brings a conversational wry twist to her experiences as a lesbian mom raising three sons. She is rated the #1 comedian of *Olivia Cruises*, billed on 12 of the 14 excursions. You read about her in this issue's "The New York Diary," now experience her for yourself:

Friday, Sept. 23 – 8 p.m.
Agape MCC Auditorium, Fort Worth
 (I-20 and Anglin Dr. exit)

Tickets – \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door

Available by Aug. 10 in Fort Worth at Connections Bookstore, Collections Antique Gallery and Agape MCC; in Dallas, at Crossroads Market.

Call 817/923-4625 for more information.

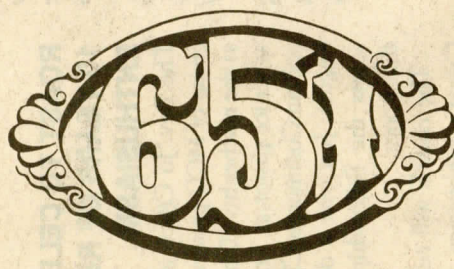
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- *Perspectives on the religious right, coming out, going to church and losing weight*
- **AIDS service agencies meeting the challenge**
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