

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

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Alliance News

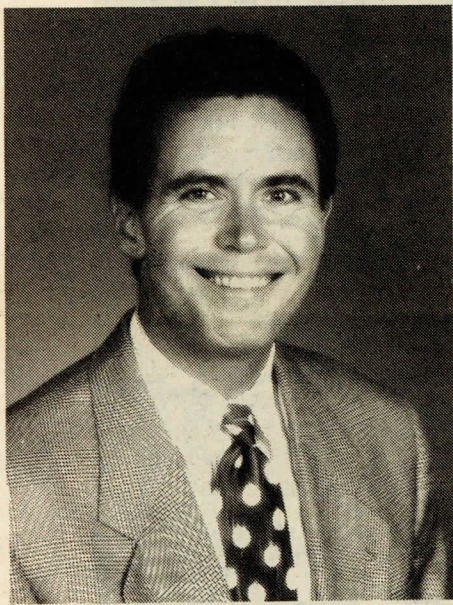


SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT: 1994 certainly was worth a hoot and a holler. People, places and issues revisited in year-end review. *See p. 10.*

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Alliance News

A community service of
TARRANT COUNTY
LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

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THE ALLIANCE NEWS

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

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

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

STORMS AHEAD

United, we can push back the conservative tide against us

By RAYMOND NOWICKI

Suddenly the political climate has shifted and we should prepare ourselves to weather the gale winds which will soon blow across the landscape. That part of the radical right that considers our lifestyle to be an anathema poses serious threats to our individual safety. We need to clearly examine what each of us face.

The recent victories in the congressional and gubernatorial elections posed a serious shift in the focus of public policy. The Republican Party's capture of control in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate will lead to an emphasis on different areas of our society. The 10 components of the Republican's Contract with America represent a commitment to changing our current social structure. Certainly we would all agree that some of the concerns expressed in that document are long overdue for discussion. Other parts of this Republican program could well pose a serious threat to our communities. We need to understand what is contained in the contract and critically analyze the various parts of the Republican agenda.

Government funding of important programs probably will shift under Republican control, which could harm many of our brothers and sisters. All of us should be concerned with the prob-

able decrease in federal funding of AIDS research, not only for direct services but also for such things as drugs and treatments for this disease.

Not too long ago we saw an administration turn its back on this disease. President Ronald Reagan ignored the impact of this illness and focused on military spending. Some AIDS activists and experts have conjectured that such a foolish policy caused more deaths due to lack of funding. Aggressive public health action could well have curtailed the spread of this disease.

Keep that in mind when you see Congress beginning to enact legislation and funding cuts. It is certainly possible that we could see funding slashed to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and particularly its AIDS research funds. Our communities must band together and insist upon full funding of NIH and other institutions working to find a cure for this plague.

A part of the Republican contract that troubles me is the emphasis on their concept of "family values." Most of us know full well that our families are not included in what conservatives consider a normal family environment. My lover and I would not be considered the proper model of a family. In New York City, the furor over school textbooks depicting unconventional families cost the city's school superintendent his job. Our lifestyle is shunned.

The contract represents many dangers to the civil rights work accomplished by many over the years. How successful will gay couples be in adopting children? What will courts decide in protracted custody battles where one of the parents is gay or lesbian? Will we see an increase in state and local initiatives impeding the rights of gays and lesbians? Will we have to retreat back to our closets to protect our jobs? Family values could have wider implications than most of us think.

In the contract, Republicans call for a "Personal Responsibility Act," legislation that would cut welfare spending to promote "individual responsibility." This idea could encompass cutting benefits to people living with AIDS. The courts might interpret the intention of the law to void certain individual rights. AIDS might be labelled an outgrowth of a lifestyle and therefore preventable by altering one's behavior; the government might cut off all services based on defining individual responsibility by behavior. If federal funding is cut, local and state funds will follow.

Five years ago when I was living in Illinois, I saw what can happen under such policies. Many needy individuals were disqualified from Medicaid and public assistance because of changes to eligibility requirements.

One family at a community meeting told of their elderly mother who required the administration of oxygen at her home because of a medical condition. The service had been paid through Medicaid. Under the new rules, her social security income, which covered only food and rent, disqualified her from Medicaid. She had no funds to pay for the life-sustaining oxygen. Such horror stories could well begin appearing in local papers and on television if assistance program funding is cut. AIDS-related care would be a first strike in our homophobic society.

Conservative rhetoric, I caution you, can potentially increase assaults on members of our community. Some feel threatened by our very existence. Some take the law into their own hands to rid the world of us.

Now that I've warned you of a new tide, I will leave you with a ray of hope. We will not crawl back into our closets to hunker down until the storm blows over. We will continue to challenge the bigotry and homophobic thinking that conservatives and the radical right spill out into our society.

The following four-point plan is a response to the challenges we face:

- Sustained efforts by our Dallas and Fort Worth communities to demonstrate on a regular basis for the issues affecting us: housing and employment discrimination, health care reform, and funding of AIDS services and research. The public must be made aware of what we confront in our daily lives if we are to secure our equal rights.

- Community action groups that provide forums for discussing our concerns at the local level. Monthly sessions would enable us to form policies to bring to the forefront. Only by sharing our concerns can we hope to forge a strong community capable of fighting against rising homophobia.

- Challenge the local media: Writing letters to editors and producers is essential. We must call them on stereotypes so often portrayed in the mainstream media.

- Community networks: We need to be able to call on large numbers of us when damaging laws or issues loom. Barrages of mail and phone calls can help our influence and change outcomes.

The challenge is before us - we can change the eventual outcomes. If we sit back and allow someone else to influence the society against us, then our futures will be bleak. Will you act? **fa**

TENDING GARDEN

In friendships we reap what we sow, and what we don't

By SCOTT FORSGREN

Friendship (frend-ship) n. 1. the condition of being friends.

In our community, I have found that friendship is something more than a "condition." I am certain that I would not be as comfortable with who I am if it had not been for those people who became special parts of my life over the past year and a half. Friendship is the key that unlocks the secret garden to all that is meaningful. It makes one feel whole. For some reason, I seem to like this definition much more than "the condition of being friends." What is that anyway? It sounds like a clinical diagnosis.

I've heard it said that even though romance may come and go, friendship lasts a lifetime. This is not to say that romance will not last, but it is to say that it will not last without friendship. I can't yet tell you much about ro-

mance, but I can tell you that friendship is highly underrated. I can also take comfort in the fact that I finally have friends that I am confident have what it takes to weather the test of time.

Like seeds in a garden, the seed of friendship must be carefully planted and nurtured. The more attention one gives to sowing friendship, the more friendship they in turn will reap. If one never makes a deposit, chances are there will be nothing to withdraw when the time comes that friendship is really called upon. True friendship is a support that can always be counted on. Though the stress of life may absorb us and we may not see our friends as often as we would like, just knowing that we have them is comforting.

On the other side of the coin however, there is only a certain amount of oversight that a friendship can withstand. Everyone has "things" that require their attention, and one would not be a friend if they did not understand this. People have to make decisions, and if they decide that a friendship must be temporarily pre-empted, they need to be aware that it may or may not be back next season. Though the seed may have been planted and the friendship may have blossomed into something beautiful, it will eventually wither and die if it is not properly cared for.

As we move into a new year, I hope everyone will look into their gardens and make a resolution to have a prize-winning harvest in the upcoming year. Friendship is truly the breath of life - so breathe. **fa**

SHEDDING LIGHT

The Teen Project is up and running, on call for direly needed outreach to troubled youth.

By **SCOTT FORSGREN**

I remember the loneliness of my younger years. I remember the struggles I faced alone feeling isolated and having no one to talk to. Those were the darker days. Those were the times I'd rather forget. For now, they have very little importance as they are a part of my life that is in the past and will never again be revisited. Nonetheless, the real challenge is to do something to turn those darker days into a bright light which will illuminate the paths of those who now face what so many of us have already survived.

The Teen Project is a collaborative effort of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TCLGA), and Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays-Fort Worth (P-FLAG). Rita Cotterly, PhD, of the Sexuality Education Center in Fort Worth, has worked tirelessly spearheading the effort for nearly a year. The Teen

Talkline is intended for both teens and their parents to call for referrals, resources or just a listening ear.

Just last month, over 700 letters and pamphlets were sent to school counselors, youth-serving agencies, elected officials and other support organizations to inform the public of our effort. The letter, from Dauné Littlefield, TCLGA president, and Jim Surles, P-FLAG president, outlined the need for the service:

"In June 1993, the mother of a gay son expressed to the Tarrant County lesbian/gay community her concern about the isolation and despair experienced by gay and lesbian youth. She spoke of her own struggle and that of her child as he came to terms with his sexual orientation. She spoke of the depression and hopelessness he experienced that prompted him to consider suicide, and she urged us to do something about this recurrent prob-

lem among teenagers.

"Substance abuse and suicide among young people are serious problems in our society and the incidence is higher for gay and lesbian youth. Alienation from family and friends, the isolated struggle with issues of sexual orientation and the unaccepting reaction from society perpetuate feelings of despair and often lead to self-destructive behaviors.

"The phone line is staffed by trained volunteers, many of whom are parents of lesbians and gays, and others who themselves experienced the sense of isolation and alienation teens might feel when discovering their orientation. Our goal with this project is to provide information and support to help keep families together through what might be a difficult transition."

Within days of the mailing, requests for over 300 additional brochures had been received. So far, the

responses have been very positive, and another mailing is planned for the near future.

The Talkline opened to its first call on Jan. 4. Currently, it is staffed Wednesday through Friday, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; and Saturday through Sunday, 1:30 to 4 p.m. We would like to expand those hours when more volunteers get involved.

This project is no trivial task. The ongoing costs of running the program will easily surpass \$200 each month, and this will cover only the phone line, postage, printing, training and other small expenses. Additional costs will also be incurred when the youth support group is started later this year. The success of this effort depends heavily on those willing to answer the phones as well, and as of now, we are in great need of many, many more volunteers.

Monthly meetings for the project will begin on Jan. 16 and will be held the third Monday of each month. Additionally, a training session will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21. The morning session will be for both new and old volunteers to discuss the

types of questions volunteers might be asked and how to best respond to them. The afternoon session will be geared toward those new volunteers who were not in attendance at the training held last summer.

If you are interested in volunteering or contributing to this project, contact the TCLGA office at 817/763-5544. Contributions may be mailed to: TCLGA - Teen Project; 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243; Fort Worth, TX 76116.

Together, we can make a difference. Together we can shed a little light on so many lives. Together we can keep our youth from feeling the darkness....

**The Teen Talkline is
817/763-8382,
and is staffed from
6:30 to 9 p.m.
Wednesdays, Thursdays
and Fridays, and from
1:30 to 4 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays.**

HELPING YOUTH

Support the Teen Project with ideas, with volunteer hours or with funds

The Teen Project Committee will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, at the Sexuality Education Center. The center is at 901 Lake St., Fort Worth, three blocks north of I-30.

Agenda for the meeting is to establish a monthly meeting schedule and to form committees for fund-raising, Talkline scheduling, forming a support group for teens and obtaining endorsements. Dr. Rita Cotterly, project coordinator, invites involvement from throughout the community for what she projects will be a rapidly expanding program for teens.

Telephone training for volunteers will be Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Mental Health Association, 3136 W. 4th St., Fort Worth, off University Street near Luby's Cafeteria.

Training for new and previously trained volunteers will begin at 9 a.m., and includes a review of Austin's OutYouth program manual, instruction on making referrals, and

an outline of responsibilities.

Training for new volunteers only will continue at 1 p.m. with an overview of the project and instruction on sexual orientation and youth issues.

Volunteers for the Talkline must agree to a criminal background check. Persons interested in joining

the Talkline team should call Dr. Cotterly at 817/338-4551. Staff work at least one night a month on the phone line.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Teen Project via the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance at 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243, Fort Worth, TX 76116.

January TCLGA Meeting:

Speakers:

Rev. JO CRISCO and Rev. BRENDA HUNT
of Trinity MCC and Agape MCC

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THROUGH GAY EYES**

**Thursday, Jan. 19
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at 6:30 p.m.**

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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.

APRIL MARCH:

State civil rights event calls for an end to violence, discrimination against us

Thousands from across the state will converge in Austin this spring for a march against the hate, violence and discrimination lesbian and gay Texans face.

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) has announced the "Texas March to Stop the Violence, Stop the Hate," beginning at noon Sunday, April 2, at the State Capitol.

The theme was selected to call attention to the seven gay men brutally killed in Texas this year because they were gay. In 1994, hate crimes against lesbians and gay men rose to 16.2 percent of all hate crimes committed in Texas.

In addition to the violence, lesbian and gay Texans continue to face hatred and discrimination in employment, housing, health care and economic opportunities. The 1995 March is the third statewide march for lesbian and gay civil and equal rights; the last one was in 1991.

The march's theme coincides with the Lobby's top legislative priorities for the 74th session, which includes strengthening Texas hate crime laws. "It is our hope that a strong hate crime law will deter these types of crimes and hold people accountable for their actions, and send a clear message that hate-related violence will not be tolerated in Texas," Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of LGRL, said. "LGRL will also attempt

to pass legislation which would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. LGRL will also focus on obtaining HIV and AIDS funding, cancer funding, insurance reform, and civil rights legislation to protect all Texans."

Following the march, LGRL has scheduled a "Lesbian and Gay Lobby Day" for April 3. LGRL invites lesbians and gays from around the state to help lobby their state legislators. Lobby training will be available that morning. "We urge everyone to take Monday, April 3, off from work to talk to our Texas lawmakers about the issues facing lesbian and gay Texans," Hardy-Garcia said.

In addition to the march, the whole weekend of March 31 through April 3 will be packed with activities for queer Texans. The Texas Lesbian Conference is scheduled in Austin for March 31 through April 2. TLC '95 will end the conference by joining the statewide march April 2. For more information on the Texas Lesbian Conference call 512/326-4453.

"The Biggest and Hottest Party in Texas" Saturday night, April 1, will be hosted by LGRL and the Texas Human Rights Foundation.

The march and the party are cosponsored by the Amarillo Lesbian and Gay Alliance, Austin Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus, Corpus Christi Lesbians and Gays, Dallas Gay/Lesbian Alliance, East Texas Gays and Lesbians, Gay/Lesbian Alliance of Central Texas-Waco, Gays/Lesbians of Central Texas-Fort Hood, Houston Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus, LAMBDA Services of El Paso, Lesbian and Gay Political Coalition of Dallas, Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition-Tarrant County, Lesbians and Gays of Bryan/College Station, Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, Lubbock Lesbian and Gay Alliance, Port Aransas Lesbian and Gay Alliance, San Antonio Equal Rights Political Action Committee, Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, the Valley Voice, and the West Texas Lesbian and Gay Alliance. *fa*

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LEFT HOOK

Lobbying initiatives fight off conservative jabs

By CONNIE WINKLE

The first 100 days of the 104th Congress promises to be a nightmare for supporters of gay and lesbian issues since the Republicans' huge victory in November. In response to the latest wave of conservatism, the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) has developed their own 100 days agenda to counteract the Radical Right's discriminatory agenda.

HRCF's three initiatives for the first 100 days of Congress:

- Ask all new members of Congress to join 64 returning Senators and 192 returning Representatives in signing a pledge that they do not discriminate in employment policies in their congressional offices.

- Secure initial cosponsors for and reintroduce the Employment Non-

Discrimination Act (ENDA).

- Put reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides federal funding to communities struggling with AIDS, on the fast track.

NEWT IS 'FAMILY' ONCE REMOVED

HRCF also reports that Newt Gingrich has a lesbian sister. This interesting bit of info was revealed by the new Speaker of the House himself in an interview that was recently published. This could explain his view that the Republican party should be tolerant of gays and lesbians, and neither promote nor condemn homosexuality. HRCF suggests sending the Grinch some mail encouraging him to support legislation protecting the rights of his sister as well as all gays, lesbians

and bisexuals.

His address: The Honorable Newt Gingrich; U. S. House of Representatives; Washington, DC 20515

Or for those with electronic mail access, Gingrich can be reached at: georgia6@hr.house.gov

SHOUT LOUDER, LONGER

Several companies that have been supportive and are reaching out to gays, lesbians and bisexuals have been receiving complaints from the American Family Association. HRCF is encouraging people to call and thank companies that are supportive of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. The following is a list of some of these and their 800 numbers: Proctor & Gamble Company, 1-800-543-7276; Phillip Morris Company, 1-800-343-0975; AT&T, 1-800-222-0300; Nestle USA, 1-800-637-8537; Unilever United States, 1-800-598-1223; Ford Motor Company, 1-800-392-3673.

FAN OUT TO SPREAD THE NEWS

To receive news about HRCF, one can join the Human Rights Campaign Fund Federal Advocacy Network (FAN). By joining, you will receive FANews, the monthly news-

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OUT-COMES

Homophobes can dish up a scalding serving when we come out at the office, at school or in public. But best they beware – sometimes their most scathing strategies to malign us fall back in their laps.

By **SUE SIMS**

An article that came out the first weekend of December in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* made an easy sweep of my coming out.

The feature on gay families, a segment of the year-long focus on family series, was about two dear friends of mine, Doug Rich and John Huffman. My partner and I were privileged to be a part of this article.

In documenting their daily lives, the reporter, Lisa Black, spent a considerable amount of time with Doug and John, including going to church functions at Agape MCC where Doug is a deacon; accompanying John to the board meeting of the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County, of which John is co-chair; taking dance lessons at the 651 where Doug teaches; and attending my wedding to Patricia Powell.

Lisa and photographer Joyce Marshall attended our ceremony in November, officiated by Rev. Belle Armstrong at Trinity MCC. Lisa and I had talked beforehand about whether she could use our names, could they take pictures, interview other guests, etc.

Because of my past experiences with prejudice in our society, I discussed the article with the Human Resource Department at the company where I work before agreeing to anything. Officials there responded that what I did away from the office in my personal life did not affect my job and that the article would not threaten my employment. Pat is lucky to work for people who know and don't judge. (If you are ever downtown, eat at Burger and Shake on 7th Street.) I am grateful that she has not had to experience discrimination in being fired because of who she loves.

Once we established that being identified as lesbians would not affect our employment, Pat and I gladly gave permission for our names to be used, because we felt it was important to educate others on the myths and stereotypes of lesbian/gay identity. I had been told in conversation by an individual that they did not know any gay people, and I felt compelled to correct that. Pat and I felt it was important for us as individuals to be "out," to encourage others to "come out" and not be afraid.

When the article came out, I was ready for the backlash. Or so I thought. That fateful Monday I went to work as usual. The person I work most closely with had known about the article; she had even loaned me an item of clothing to wear at my wedding. To my knowledge, no one other

than her and the Human Resources personnel knew. About 9 a.m., my friend came to my desk and told me she did not want me to think she had told anyone about the article. I told her no big deal, I figured my boss would read it since he is an avid newspaper reader.



PIECE OF CAKE: Brides Pat Powell and Sue Sims take coming out in easy stride.

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Well, a few minutes later, someone in my department approached me and apologized for the maliciousness of a former employee of our department. I didn't know what she was talking about! Then the story unfolded. The ex-employee had called and left voice mail messages for everyone on my floor (and God only knows who else), telling them about the article and my sexual preference.

When this person had worked in the department, she continually harassed me and finally changed jobs when she couldn't get rid of me. I feel sorry for her because she is missing out on the friendship of many people who could really care about her and her lovely family, by her ignorance (she didn't even read the article; someone had called her and told her about it) and prejudice against gay and lesbian people. Others on the floor told me she also had faxed and sent inter-office copies of the article.

My first reaction was beyond anger. The word *livid* comes to mind. I didn't

know what to do. Fear was very evident in my heart. I was afraid of what often happens when our friends and family find out who we are: Rejection.

But my office peers told me that no one seemed to understand why she was "out to get" me. Most said her actions made them think less of her and more of me. One said, "What you do does not hurt anyone else, but what she did was to intentionally hurt you."

All in all, the outcome has been very positive. People have come to realize that the reason I kept to myself was because I did not want to offend anyone. They have shown me that they accept me for who I am. Several have seen the wedding pictures and I now keep a picture of Pat on my desk.

Next time you encounter prejudice say "Thank you!" Had this person not been so prejudiced, I would not be able to be so open at work now. So, thanks for being prejudiced, H.A. – you opened some closet doors for me and it's wonderful out here! ♪

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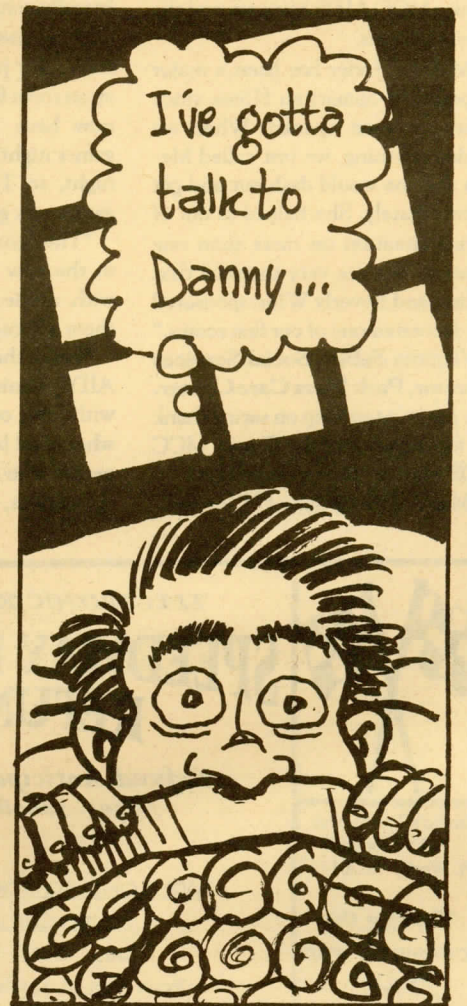
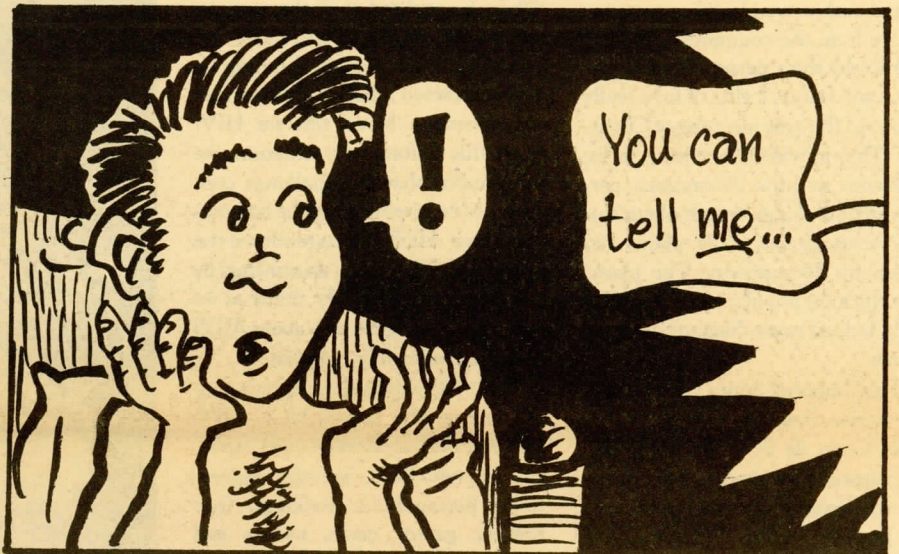
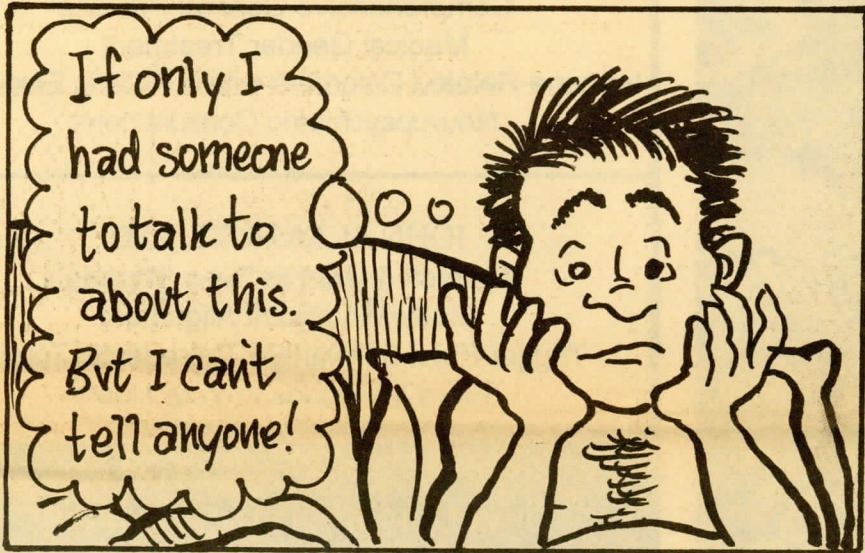
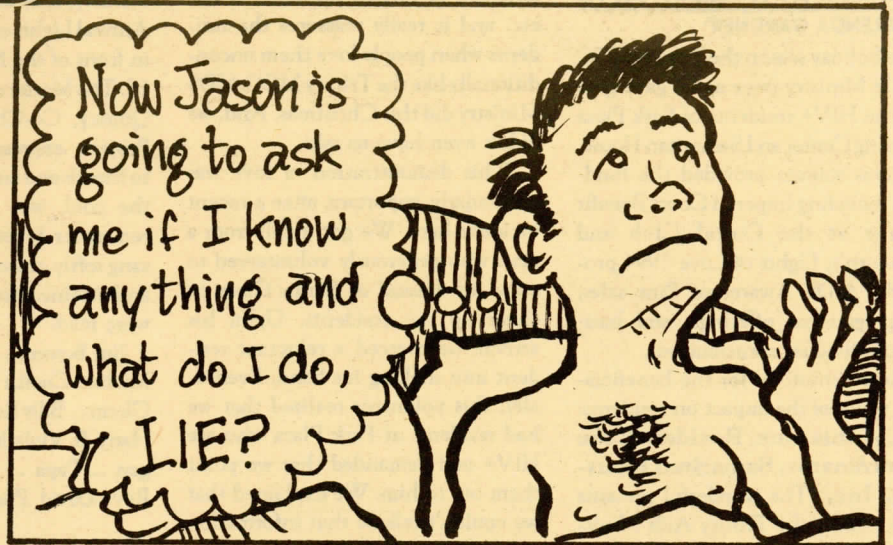
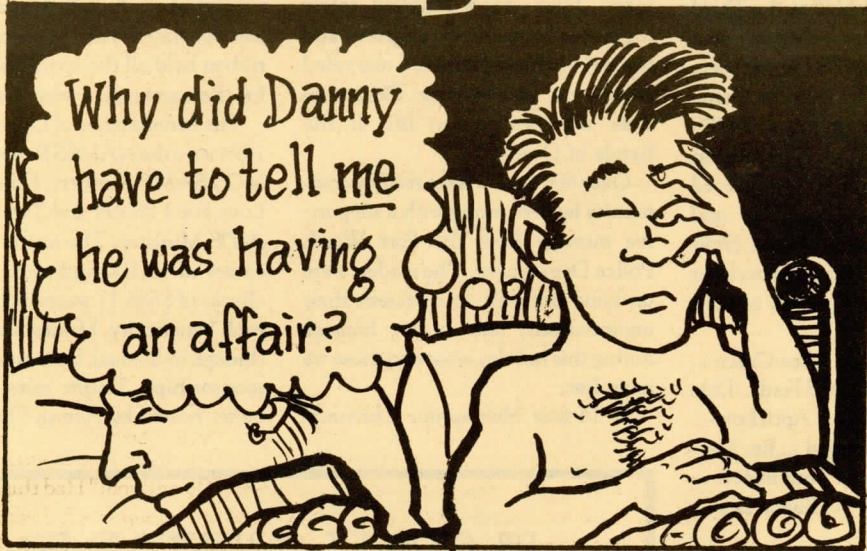
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COMMUNITY

HIV-IMPACTED RESIDENTS WARMED BY HOLIDAY GIFTS
By GLENDA GARDNER

This holiday season the Trinity MCC AIDS Ministry once again gave gifts for the HIV+ residents of Park Plaza Nursing Center and Samaritan House. Various sources provided the funding, including Imperial Court Benefit Shows at the Corral Club and Ashburn's, Lights of Love 1994 proceeds, AIDS Awareness Pins sales, congregational offerings, and business/individual contributions.

Representatives for the beneficiaries wrote of the impact on residents:

Cynthia Cox, Resident Care Coordinator, Samaritan Housing, Inc. "The wonderful presents provided by the Trinity Aids Ministry were joyously received. It demonstrated such a wonderful outpouring of love from the community and the staff loved their personalized stockings, too! Trinity's gifts of love really expressed the 'true meaning of Christmas.' They provided sweat suits, socks, necklaces, wreaths, decorations, personalized stockings, fruit baskets, toiletry items, games, cards, plants and pecans for 28 residents. The plants were the most popular items and they really helped make Samaritan 'more homey.'

"The 'Imperial Santa Claus,' Melissa Flories, Emperor XVI of the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington, surprised, excited and delighted the residents when she distributed the presents at the Christmas Eve Party which was sponsored jointly by Trinity MCC AIDS Ministry and the Imperial Court.

"Melissa Flories has been a major supporter of Samaritan House since before we even opened. When we needed anything, we just called Melissa and she would dash out and get it immediately. She helped us out of a crisis situation on more than one occasion. We are very thankful that Melissa and Beverly Winn sponsored and decorated one of our first rooms."

Virginia Sabin, Social Services Director, Park Plaza Care Center. "We just want to keep on saying thank you for the work of the Trinity MCC AIDS Ministry here at Park Plaza.

"Many of this group of HIV+ indi-

viduals come to us indigent and either don't have families or they're not supportive. Many family members are ashamed of AIDS, life-style, drugs, etc. and it really reassures the residents when people love them unconditionally like the Trinity MCC AIDS Ministry did this Christmas. And, we didn't even have to ask!

"This demonstration of love was particularly important after a recent incident here. We got a call from a man who generously volunteered to come in dressed as Santa Claus to cheer up the residents. Upon his arrival, he coerced a reluctant resident into shaking his hand. Eventually, this volunteer realized that we had residents at Park Plaza who are HIV+ and demanded that we point them out to him. We explained that we couldn't release that information because of patient confidentiality. When he realized that the man he had forced to shake his hand was HIV+, he went berserk thinking he had contracted AIDS and demanded an immediate blood test for HIV! From this unfortunate situation, we must realize that our challenge continues to be in educating the community about AIDS and to reinforce the point that AIDS is not transmitted by just touching somebody. Sadly as we enter 1995, the ignorance about AIDS is still unbelievably rampant.

"This Christmas season, representatives from the Trinity MCC AIDS Ministry delivered sweat suits, socks, crucifix necklaces, wreaths, decorations, personalized stockings, fruit baskets, games, cards, pecans and pictures to 13 residents. The residents literally refuse to take off the crucifixes as they give them a sense of hope. We just opened a new recreation room for the 'FTroop' where we now have group therapy sessions, games night, movie night and family night, so Trinity's generous gift of games was greatly appreciated.

"The donated pictures will be given to the new people coming in along with needed clothing to help give them a sense of belonging.

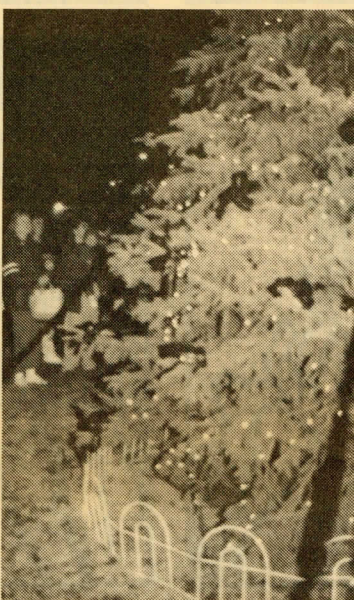
"Final thoughts to Trinity MCC AIDS Ministry: You fill our hearts with love, our spirits with hope, and when God looks down at all of those people who gave donations and/or of themselves, he must smile."

LIGHTS OF LOVE MEMORIAL LIT UP THE DARKNESS

By GLENDA GARDNER

Silently, they assembled at the Third Annual Lights of Love ceremony held in front of the NAMES Project Dec. 15. The Master of Ceremonies, Genie Quincy, Co-Chair of the NAMES Project, expressed her appreciation to friends and families who had braved the cold, wet night to honor and remember loved ones. As the choir sang softly, the crowd pressed in closer and strained to hear names as they were read.

Jim Bowers ... Mary Alice Crisco ... Michael Cuellar ... Gerald Ford ... Dale Glenn ... Billy Ray Hill ... April Love ... Harry & Viola McDougal ... Jim Morgan ... Papa ... David Pennington ... Rev. David Presley ... Raina Lea ...



LIGHTS OF LOVE

Sunny Terry, Emperor I ... "Chevy" Zuniga....

Nervous coughs, sniffles, and then tears. They stood huddled safely together to remember, to grieve and to heal broken hearts and marveled when our community Christmas Tree was brought to life at the hands of Quincy.

Over 600 names were read by community leaders along with a supportive message from the Fort Worth Police Department. The readers were on hand not only to represent their organizations, but to pay homage during this holiday season to those we have lost.

A 16-foot blue spruce Christmas

tree was the prop that held more than 1,200 lights for all the names that were sponsored by various community members. A card measuring 12x8 feet decorated with an enormous red ribbon held all the sponsorship cards for the names that were read.

The beneficiaries of Lights of Love 1994 were the NAMES Project, Agape MCCSAM'S Ministry, Fellowship of Love Food Pantry and Trinity MCC AIDS Ministry. The event raised in excess of \$3,100 and after expenses checks of \$686.17 were distributed to each beneficiary. Monies were raised through individual, business and name sponsorships, T-shirt sales, and the buffet hosted by Across The Street.

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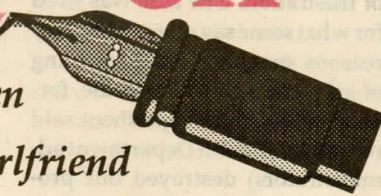
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"Serving the community with PRIDE"

Poised Pen

Letters that appear to be written
by a UTA professor out his ex-girlfriend
to her family and employer.
His academic specialty is ethics...



Lora Schmid-Dolan, a graduate student of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), says that a professor of the university, Dr. Keith Burgess-Jackson, has been harassing her since she left him to pursue a relationship with a woman.

Dr. Burgess-Jackson is an assistant professor of philosophy at UTA, but never had Ms. Schmid-Dolan as a student. Burgess-Jackson teaches courses on ethics, contemporary moral problems and feminism, as well as other topics. The relationship between Schmid-Dolan and Burgess-Jackson began when they met at an animal rights rally. Schmid-Dolan, 29, lived with Burgess-Jackson, 37, from May 1991 to July 1994, during which time they bought a house together, filed joint income tax returns and considered themselves to be common-law married.

Schmid-Dolan decided to end their relationship and told Burgess-Jackson that she "wanted to be able to pursue this relationship (with a woman) and I knew this was going to be a difficult choice for him." In August, she revealed, the phone calls, letters and visits began.

Schmid-Dolan has copies of letters which were typed on stationary inscribed with Burgess-Jackson's address and that appear to be signed by him. The letters, sent to friends, family and employers of Schmid-Dolan, disclose her sexual orientation as being bisexual, reveal personal information, contain malicious statements and depict explicit sexual acts. Schmid-Dolan says that some of the information is distorted and some of it is untrue.

In a letter to the administrator of the Women's Haven of Tarrant County, Schmid-Dolan's former employer, Burgess-Jackson wrote of Schmid-Dolan, "She left me a month ago to become romantically involved with a woman ... As you know, homosexual sodomy is illegal in Texas, and I have reason to believe that Lora is engaging in it." The letter also accused her of smoking marijuana which the author of the letter also reminds "is illegal in Texas." The author admits, "Yes, I am angry at Lora for leaving me, and I write to you partly to hurt her."

Another letter was addressed to Schmid-Dolan's mother, who lives out of state. The six-page letter also disclosed Schmid-Dolan's sexual orientation, suggested that she despises her parents and charged that she owed him money. In the letter, Burgess-Jackson writes, "I begged her to stay with me through the end of the year so I could prepare for the finan-

cial shock and finish my two books, which are important for earning tenure this year and hence keeping my job as a philosopher." The letter refers to Schmid-Dolan as being "untrustworthy, unreliable, and disloyal." The letter also claims that Burgess-Jackson was "the victim of a political decision. . . in effect, she threw me away because I have a penis." The letter goes on to label the woman that Schmid-Dolan is accused of having an affair with as her "guinea pig."

Schmid-Dolan reports that her parents know that she is bisexual and that "it is not an issue for them. It doesn't change who I am. They have been real supportive." She adds that she does not like labels, such as "bisexual," and prefers to be referred to as a "gender transcender" if she has to be labeled at all.

Schmid-Dolan also presented a letter that she maintains Burgess-Jackson wrote to the woman for whom she left him. The letter is divided into numbered sections, each addressing what the author calls a "particular character or personality trait." The four topics include "sexuality, athleticism, discipline/industriousness/ambition, and trustworthy/reliability." The letter heavily criticizes Schmid-Dolan on each point, labeling her as "confused," "flabby," "lazy" and "not to be trusted." The letter cautions, "Lora is dangerous right now. She's experimenting, playing, exploring, and who knows how long she'll be in that stage. She's confused and groping. If you get into a relationship with her, be forewarned!" Having only a phone number and a first name, Burgess-Jackson tracked down the address of her friend and paid a harassing visit, Schmid-Dolan said. The local police were called and they investigated the problem, but no charges were filed.

Schmid-Dolan has messages that she says were taped from her answering machine and also from the answering machines of friends. The caller identifies himself as "Keith." (A student from the university who had taken a course under Burgess-Jackson, and who had no prior knowledge of these incidences, identified the man's voice on the tape as that of Burgess-Jackson.) An excerpt from the tape to Schmid-Dolan exclaims, "Look, Lora, I haven't even begun the things that I'm gonna do or that

I could do. The worst possible thing you can do, let me tell ya, the worst possible thing you can do is fuck me up with the money. . . I'm going to do everything within the law that I can to hurt you financially and so on. I know the law and I know what's permissible. . . You are in violation of the law regularly - the sodomy law and the marijuana possession and use law and I'm gonna notify the Fort Worth Police so that they can watch out for you. And if (name of employer withheld) doesn't fire you, I will notify the Fort Worth School Board and have her fired because I don't think they'll allow a lesbian to teach in their schools. (Name of gay male friend) is in trouble. If I see him helping you in any way or cooperating with you in any way, I can report his illegal activity. . . I haven't done one-tenth or one-twentieth of what I have in mind, and the only thing keeping me from it was that you bring that money to me today or tomorrow like you said you would, the whole \$514. . . I'm still debating on whether to hire an attorney and file divorce papers, that would get all your friends involved as witnesses in the trial and cost us all a lot of money, but at this point I don't care what it costs me and how it hurts me, my goal is to make you suffer for all the things you've done to me, uh, and just for the utter lack of concern for anything else but getting your pussy licked. I mean it just blows my mind you were not interested in sex for all this time but somehow the prospect of getting your pussy licked by (name withheld) is

absolute defense, all I would have to show is that I saw these things and that you said these things to me. If you say anything false and defamatory about me, I will sue you at the drop of a hat. . . and that ought to keep you from getting any paycheck for a while. . . if you can say something true that hurts me or embarrasses me, more power to you - go for it. Hit me with your best shot."

Another excerpt from the tape continues to insult Schmid-Dolan, "Lora, you know I never had any respect for your intelligence, I mean, I always was embarrassed to take you out in public. . ."

In addition to the harassing phone calls to Schmid-Dolan, another of the taped messages was to one of her gay male friends. The person speaking again identifies himself as "Keith" and goes on to divulge that he had "helped (name withheld) get you fired and I'm very happy with that. . . Also I will tell your sister about you and I will out you in as many ways to as many people as I can."

Another message to the same friend warned, "I hope you came out today, because I'm going to drag you out kicking and screaming, you will not know what hit you. And I was just wondering today, if you haven't come out, how you can live your life in a closet. . . how inauthentic can you be? And if you are that, if you feel that, if you believe that, how could you live closeted like that? I mean, how cowardly, how inauthentic, how timid can you be? You should confront the world, you should take responsibility for who you are and what you believe in and what you feel, uh, you should take it head on. In fact you're living your life hiding out, moving through the shadows, the underworld, uh, talk about respect, how can anybody have any respect for you living the way you do? You're living a lie and you seem to have no shame or embarrassment at that. And that's really low and despicable, I mean I just have no respect for that and I don't think Lora does either."

Another taped message was from another of Schmid-Dolan's friends

who reported being harassed by Burgess-Jackson. The woman's voice explained, "He's called here about three times. We've hung up on him. He's trying to tell us something that he said you said about us before. He's just, you know, trying to stir the pot again. . . we just picked up the line and said 'you have no phone privileges here' and hung up. . . I'm hoping that that will be the end of it."

These are but a few excerpts from the letters and calls that give evidence to Schmid-Dolan's allegations



I want him to stop harassing me, my friends, my employers. . ."

just the most important thing in the world to you. . . I hope you have an interesting few weeks."

The next call on the tape warns, "Oh, one more thing, Lora. Do you know what defamation is? By definition you defame someone when you say something false that lowers someone's reputation in the relevant community and it causes damage, for example lost job prospects and things like that. Everything I said and have wrote in those letters about you is true and if you file the defamation lawsuit against me I would have an

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1994 ONCE MORE

• Tortilla chips that packed a punch • Graduation from AIDS education • A church that slammed its doors shut • A fairy tale night at the prom • A police raid on invalids • Probing queer studies that tell us we're... different • Nasty anti-porn crusaders
And we end the year on a high note: forgive and move on...

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

The year was chock full of issues, events, people and places that filled *Alliance News* pages each month. Each story touched us in different ways – piquing our curiosity, affirming our sense of who we are, touching our spirit of kinship, inspiring us to dig deeper, do better or to take simple action.

Recently, I revisited the people and ideas I'd recorded this year, to see where they are now and what's happened during their journeys.

Maybe, like me, you'll be surprised by how far they've travelled, and by what awaits yet on the horizons.

AT LEAST HE DIDN'T CHIP A TOOTH.

Last year Robert Webster, in his *Positively Positive* column, related an incident where he was attacked at a convenience store parking lot for wearing a T-shirt showing two men kissing. Webster decked the assailant with a bag of Doritos he had just purchased.

The fellow with a chip on his shoulder pressed charges against Webster. As the homophobe gave his deposition, the court stenographer started to giggle and then "everyone there broke out laughing," Webster said.

"His lawyer was furious because

he hadn't told him everything," Webster recalled, "especially about the bag of chips."

The charge against Webster was dropped.

WE'RE NO LONGER AT RISK FOR HIV?

In January we reported an administrative move at the Fort Worth/Tarrant County Public Health Department to merge its HIV/AIDS unit with the Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) unit. AIDS educators in the department said then that with the additional duties, staffing for outreach programs would be reduced to half, which could result in losing grant funding for goals not met.

The threat of pending civil action by HIV-unit staff, State Sen. Mike Moncrief's objection to the proposal and a subsequent public hearing before county commissioners persuaded Director Nick Curry to reconsider the restructuring plan.

But by August the HIV and STD units officially combined. According to program coordinator Jane Jenson, educational efforts were to shift away from the lesbian/gay community, which she said was fairly well educated on HIV and therefore outside of the high-risk categories. HIV testing was to move from an anonymous basis to merely confidential.

Since then, all but two of the seven HIV specialists have left out of frustration. One aide was fired for what some say were retaliatory reasons stemming from his filing of grievances. Memie Hardie, formerly an epidemiologist there, said recently, "(Health Department administrators) destroyed our program and replaced it with something far inferior."

All educational programming to the lesbian and gay community – including park outreach, bar outreach, and spaghetti and sex parties – have been felled. Monthly HIV testing at the NAMES Project house was cancelled because, according to Jenson, that location was "too dangerous" for staff.

The Health Department's educational outreach is focused now almost entirely on prison populations, probably, Hardie says, because it is a "captive audience" that cannot complain about the quality of presentations. In the process of training new staff on STDs, "precious little training is given in speaking on HIV," Hardie assessed.

The addition of STD training for staff has detracted from the amount and quality of overall HIV training, she said. Consequently, three cases of breaching client confidentiality are alleged against staff who lacked sufficient instruction on the sensitivity of HIV status. One case was under state investigation and settled out of court.

Jacky Banks, executive director of Over the Hill, Inc., an HIV services agency providing street outreach, says she no longer refers clients to the Health Department because of the declining quality in its services. John Peter Smith Hospital, after improvements in case management and staffing, is a better resource, she says.

Of Health Department officials, Banks says egos and office politics have sacrificed quality care. "They're forgetting why we're all doing this, putting in sometimes 14 hours a day seven days a week, to help people who can't help themselves, who are really ill," she said.

WHEN THERE'S NO ROOM AT THE INN, YOU MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IN AT THE HILTON.

Morris Meador of Lutherans Concerned-Fort Worth/Arlington reported in January on an ill-fated effort within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to set a progressive tone for acceptance of homosexuals.

An ELCA social statement on

sexuality stalled when its first draft leaked to the Associated Press and set off a public furor. Among other items on human sexuality, the statement called for support of lesbian and gay relationships.

The statement reviewed biblical references to homosexuality and concluded that those should not be used out of context to oppose homosexuality. Instead, the church should affirm and encourage loving, committed relationships between lesbians or gays, the statement posed.

Mainstream media coverage of the draft produced an immediate backlash of 22,000 calls to the ELCA national headquarters. Officials there enlisted additional security because of threats of violence.

Since our report, the ELCA council appointed a panel of three conservatives to revise the statement, which was released in October. Morris says the new release is conservatively theological, lacking the contemporary, secular language of the first.

The new statement's position on homosexuality is much abbreviated: "The church rejects the idea that it must at this time make a definite, legislative decision concerning its teachings on and practice with lesbian/gay persons."

With that action, Morris and his partner, Keith Miller, burned out, they say, from the struggle, left the Lutheran church and withdrew from Lutherans Concerned to seek an affirming congregation. They are settling in now at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist in Fort Worth, whose national body strikes an active agenda fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation, as well as for other social causes.

"We lost hope in progress for the Lutheran church," Morris laments.

MAYBE SHE'LL CONSIDER A COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR UNDER THE GI BILL.

Ruby Bongala's inspiring story of teen-aged struggles and victories introduced the Teen Project hot line in April. Bongala had rendered her high school classmates speechless when she showed up at the prom in tuxedo, escorting a lovely girl decked out in feminine frills.

Tongues unfroze by the next school day and Bongala met a stern wall of objections and bigotry. Campuswide discussion, however, drew out the allies she would not have known otherwise.

Other kids can take the dates that they want and be more of

themselves now that she's set a precedent, Bongala said then.

After graduating, Bongala characteristically set her eye on a far bigger challenge: she planned to join the military. I coached her on that: "Now remember – they won't ask, don't you tell."

"Yeah, yeah, right," she said.

Her Christmas card to me announced a new track: staying here in Fort Worth for college to major in psychology.

Was taking on the military too daunting? Not at all. It seems a new girlfriend holds more fascination. Bongala wrote in her card, "Couldn't stand to leave the woman – ya know how it goes!! (grin)"

In any case, she still plans to sign up for the Reserves.

THEY'VE ERECTED A BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS, BUT ONE OF THE CARPENTERS IS GONE.

Samaritan Housing, Inc., Tarrant County's nonprofit housing complex for homeless people with AIDS, got a miraculous, community-wide jump-start into place by the end of last year, but in March the house of cards appeared to have tumbled.

That's when its board announced that underfunding and the overwhelming level of resident needs threatened to close the facility. Within days of the announcement, havoc reigned when police, called in by then-executive director Carol Hendrix, arrested half of the residents on outstanding warrants for minor offenses.

Care attendant Ben Holland was fired when he refused police orders to leave ailing residents who were held five hours in the facility lobby during processing of warrants. Several days later Holland was arrested for trespassing when he returned to visit a resident.

Since then, Holland has been reinstated under new management.

In the aftermath of community outrage over the police raid, Hendrix and the program manager resigned. AIDS Services of Dallas stepped in with management assistance to put the facility back on track. In June, George Lincorn, named program director, launched a campaign to steady the course in the wake of a fatal stabbing of one of the residents by another.

During Lincorn's term, the complex has achieved almost full capacity of 27 residents, and it gained a \$34,000 grant this fall from the Tarrant County Community AIDS Partnership. By the end of

December, the project had achieved a Special Care License that allows more services for residents and more training for staff. Residents are contented, officials say, with more involvement in policies and operations through an active Residents' Council.

But Linicomn was fired Dec. 28 because the board wants a more assertive direction toward financing. "We have to have a manager that makes best use of resources for fund-raising," Dorothy St. John, board president, said. "George is not that person."

Jacky Banks of Over the Hill, Inc., an AIDS services agency that refers clients to Samaritan House, said Linicomn had to focus his attention on solving problems he'd inherited from the turbulent beginnings. She thinks he wasn't given the chance to tackle fund-raising now that the facility is on an even keel.

The Rev. Betty Youngman, appointed interim director, is a

Cumberland Presbyterian minister and founder of Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network. St. John expects to complete the search for a permanent director within two or three months.

St. John said the board's goal is to "access larger federal grants to secure the future" of Samaritan House and, under the Special Care License, to branch out to more services as funding is available.

"We are no longer 'the troubled Samaritan House,'" she declared, referring to the catch phrase in media reports on the facility throughout the year.

THERE'S A GENETIC REASON WHY WE LEAN TO THE LEFT.

An adrenal-gland specialist's study released in June supported earlier National Institute of Cancer findings that queers are born queer.

Dr. Robert Blizzard found a link in women that suggested excessive male hormone production increases the likelihood of lesbianism. In experiments with rodents, he discovered he could alter sexual preference by injecting androgens, a male hormone.

His hypothesis generated a disturbing thought: could hormonal injections turn queers straight? Was the search for a cause so the public can accept us instead giving ground to a "cure"?

Since then, two studies have reassured that while biological factors are identifying markers for homosexuality, no single factor appears to cause it.

Researcher Sandra Witelson reported in November that a key passageway between two parts of the brain may be bigger in gay men than in heterosexual men. She suggested that sexual orientation may be part of a larger package of brain characteristics: gay men as a group may have a different pattern of mental skills than heterosexual men.

Two Canadian researchers found a link between the number of fingerprint ridges and male homosexuality, adding to the theory of sexual orientation predetermined before birth.

The study, released just after Christmas, recorded 30 percent of gays showing more ridges on their left hands than their right, compared to 14 percent of heterosexual men showing that pattern.

The fingerprint patterns, according to researchers, are not distinctive to gay men as most show the typical pattern of more ridges on the right hand. It is, rather, a statistically significant difference between straight and gay groups, suggesting a biological component to sexuality.

The researchers also found a higher incidence of left-handedness among gays and lesbians than in the general public.

Roger Gorski, a UCLA neurobiologist who studies sexual differentiation, notes that sexual orientation is a multifaceted behavior. "It's unlikely that one gene, that one hormone, that one environment experience - or that one fingerprint - is going to be the explanation for everything," he said.

THE ANTI-SMUT GROUP REDDENED OUR EARS WITH THEIR BLUE LANGUAGE.

The Tarrant County American Family Association (AFA), a Radical Right group that purports to "campaign against pornography," arched its back this year over a gay-positive book in the public library and cruising in parks.

SEE 1994 ONP. 19

NEIGHBORS REVISITED

An update on features throughout the year

By **BEVERLY BENNETT**

HAPPY TRAILERS TO THEM.

Last February I introduced Foye and Alicia, the senior couple whose story about romance discovered in the golden years of life inspired many hearts. Both women were well into their 60s when Foye swept Alicia off her feet, and as they approach their fifth year together, Alicia reports that "romance is still in bloom."

"We're doing great. We bought a bigger motor home for traveling, and we made a lot of trips this past year. In September we traveled 2,600 miles round trip through the Southwest. We both hook up and unhook; Foye does most of the driving. She handles that big (30 foot) motor home really well," Alicia said.

Alicia also reported that Foye's breast cancer is still in remission. They enjoy their families together, and April 3, this young at heart couple celebrates their fifth anniversary.

ORDER IN THE COURT.

Melissa Flories, Emperor XVI of the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington, cautiously reported that thus far two individuals have applied for membership into the "Butch Buddy Club." As usual, getting this information out of Melissa was like pulling teeth. This club is clearly a "sacred order." The most Flories was willing to divulge is that she is reviewing applications.

According to Flories, this reign of the local Imperial Court has raised over \$12,500 since Sept. 1. Casino Night in October was a new venture for the Court. They took their fund-raising activities out of the bars and brought a little bit of Vegas to Cowtown. Casino Night

netted over \$700 for Healing Wings, the HIV unit at John Peter Smith Hospital. Flories was reluctant to brag about her reign's accomplishments, but a little birdie told me if they continue at this pace, reign XVI will raise a record amount in the history of the Tarrant County Court.

As for Flories and her empress, Pat "Cookies" Wyatt, their stars are surely rising toward success in whatever activities they pursue.

RHETT HAD HIS FEMME SIDE TOO.

As soon as I told everyone within reading and shouting space that my heart's desire was a "Rhett Butler with tits," I was swept off my feet by a voluptuous toenail-painted Scarlett. Actually, if I had known life with a fellow femme could be this good, I would have switched years ago. Sometimes it's more exciting to be Rhett. Now I just need to find a staircase...

My amour has me well pegged. This is best illustrated by describing the contents of two packages she left under the tree: a man's silk floral tie and two slinky satin negligees.

Even my mother has picked up on a little queer femme androgyny. She gave me two pairs of plaid bikini undies and one pair of plaid flannel boxers. This is a big year for women in boxers. Mother ordered them from the women's section of a Christmas catalog. In fact, it was all on the same page.

I'll always have a fond spot in my heart for butches. Since I'm feeling my oats in this new tie, I think I'll ask Melissa to enroll me in the "Butch Buddy Club." Melissa, none of us "veteran femmes" need any lessons. We know all the moves and all the lines! I'll be looking for my membership card in the mail. ♪

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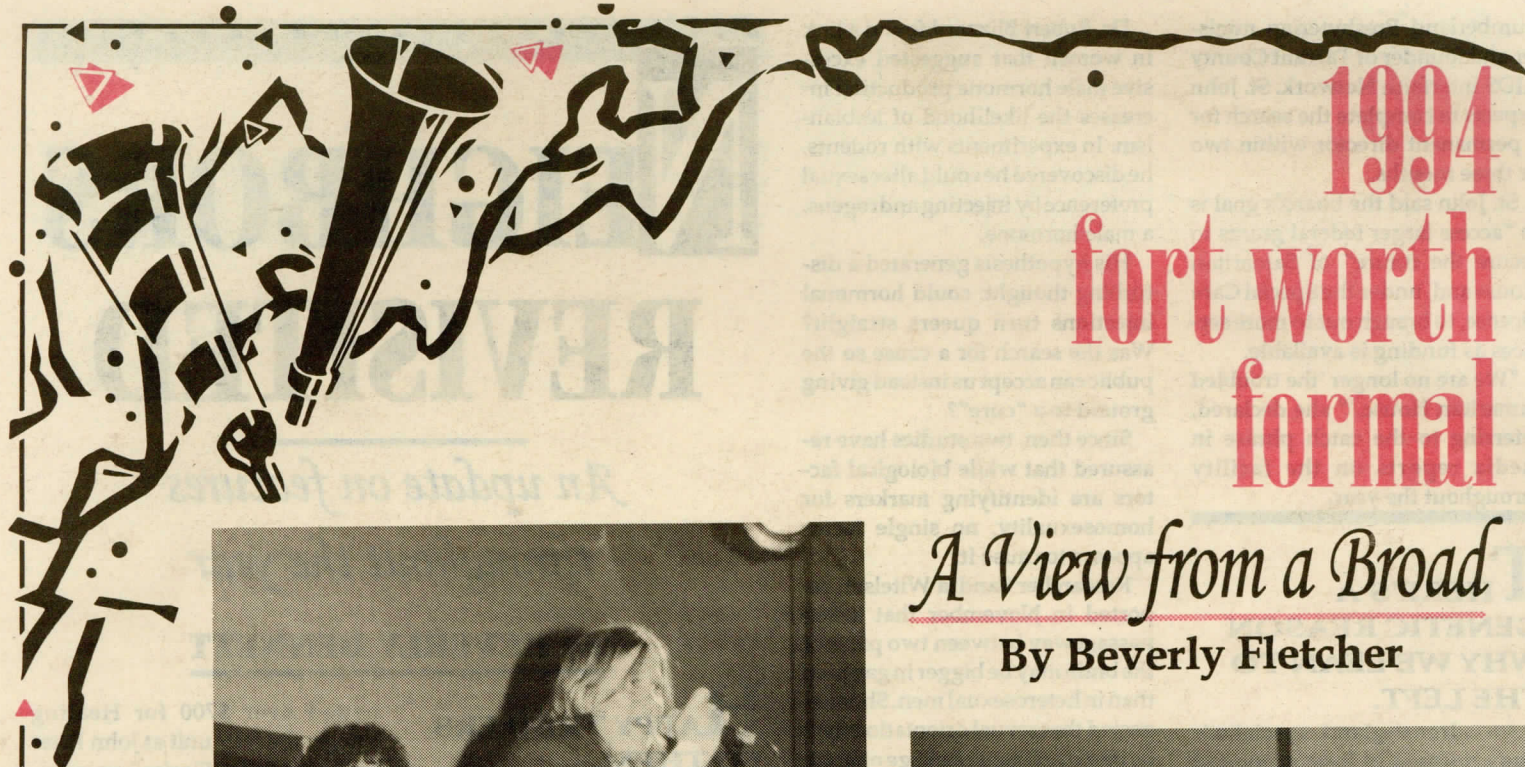
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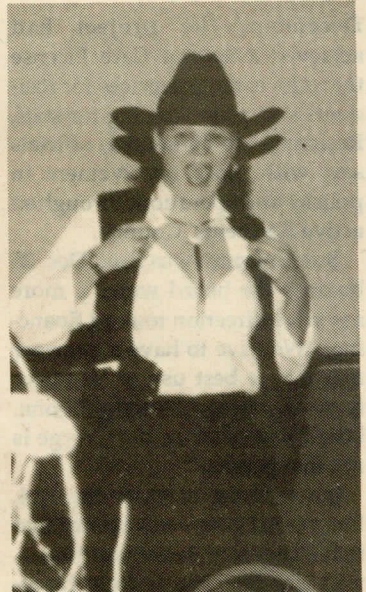
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1994 fort worth formal



Dance tunes by the DJ were so invigorating that some two-stepers had to air out afterward.

A View from a Broad

By Beverly Fletcher



MARY REYNOLDS – and that's *Miss Brown to You* – crooned romantic dance classics and country with a blues twist. On several occasions it seemed as if Patsy Cline had joined us.



THE FORT WORTH MEN'S CHORUS opened the program in elegant, lilting song. The mood shifted with their finale, when they attacked each other with exploding streamers. No charges were pressed...



THE DANCE FLOOR was so packed it seemed a living, breathing entity, but Imperial Court Emperor Melissa Flories made room for a dip and a twirl with her "other wife," Empress Pat "Cookles" Wyatt.



HOW LOW DID WE GO? Chiropractors in attendance rejoiced when a game of limbo materialized.

True Romance

• One woman opened a greeting card from her partner at the formal that said "Will you marry me?" and contained a diamond ring.

• We know of one lesbian couple who met at the formal last year and who celebrated their first anniversary together at this year's ball.

• Harland told me, "Ohh my, I'm in love!" I said, "Harland, you can't fall in love just like that..." (and then I spied the young man who captured his attention) ... "Well, okay, I think you'll be very happy together."

Rave Reviews

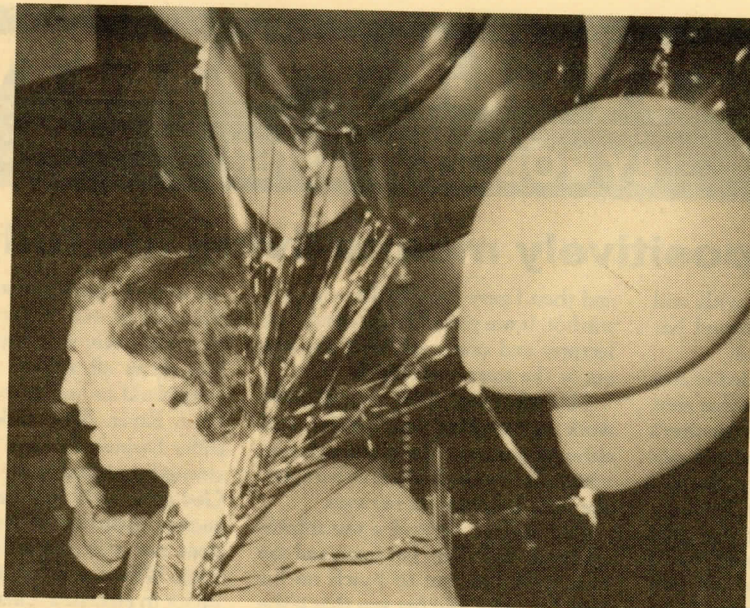
"The formal this year was a major success. It's wonderful when the many groups within our community can put aside their differences to celebrate unity amongst diversity." -*Dauné Littlefield, TCLGA President*

"The Men's Chorus was snappy and bright ... great food that we scarfed down. We'll have the final tally next month, but it looks like we tripled the profit from last year's \$6,000." -*Angela Lansey, TCLGA Treasurer*

"It was a great success with incredible community support from the very generous platinum sponsors, from the increased number of other sponsorships, and from everyone who gave their time and talents to pull this off. The widespread involvement says a lot for the need for this event - there's nothing else like it." -*Chris Kalish, fort worth formal Co-Chair*

"Market this in Dallas - I think tons of people would come over for this. We don't have anything like this for New Year's!" -*Louise Young of Dallas who, with partner Vivian Armstrong, rode in the Family Float at Clinton's inauguration.*

"I can't believe it's over already!" -*Someone I met while waiting for the bathroom.*

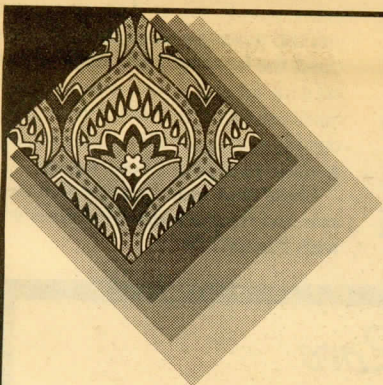


SOME TWO DOZEN HETEROS from a party downstairs tried to crash when they saw we were having more fun. Straight couples whined at the door, "But y'all have a live band? All we have is a horn." After the formal had ended, we did let this straight guy in since he brought a balloon offering.

Tickets for the formal sold out at 900 several days before New Year's Eve. One last-minute couple who had to change their plans to a mainstream venue told me, "Think of us at midnight when you're kissing your partner - because we won't be able to..." That topping-out problem may be solved next year if the Radisson completes its expansion of ballrooms as planned. But just to make sure of your spot at the county's largest, queerest gathering, maybe you'd better buy your tickets now...



CO-CHAIRS MICHAEL TOOLE AND CHRIS KALISH missed most of the party while attending to the details that made it run smoothly. Both have agreed already to head the event next year.



Jan Wynn, LMSW-ACP AND ASSOCIATES



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OUR APOLOGIES: Last month we ran a fictionalized account of the fort worth formal that introduced Lezzirella. The opinions and viewpoints expressed by Lezzirella and any of the other fictional characters presented in the story do not reflect the opinions or viewpoints of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, the Alliance News staff, the fort worth formal committee or the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington.

We do know that Lezzirella intended to acknowledge the platinum sponsorship circle as "a group of civic-minded philanthropists whose generous donation of \$1,000 per table assists vital programming of and for the community."

We can only surmise, on behalf of Lezzirella, that having been so long deprived of our community she was a bit rough around the edges when exposed to it for the first time.

The Alliance News staff deeply regrets any offense taken by our readers. We have disciplined Lezzirella by giving her a "time out." We dare say she will not do it again.

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Well, another year down the drain and so much to look forward to in 1995. I find it amazingly embarrassing to go home for the holidays and remember all the stupid things I did as a child and how each new year I tried to create resolutions that would prevent me from being a bigger fool the next year. I have only managed to keep one new year's resolution and now seat belt usage is the law. Not doing too well on modifying the old bad behaviors. Surprise, surprise, surprise.

As time marches forward and the demands of relationships and HIV take their toll, I feel every day is the start of a new year. Every day is a chance to pick ourselves up off the floor and march forward, not dwelling on the past, but savoring the possibilities of tomorrow.

I got the opportunity to make that point to the old matriarch of my dad's family. She was diagnosed with cancer and it was primarily on her face.

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

Living positively means living life fully.

She wasn't pretty to start with and the cancer medication screwed her face up worse than God did.

Needless to say, she decided to stay home and wait to die. Now this aunt had been the one at my mother's funeral to tell me that she did not approve of my lifestyle, but hoped I would come back and visit. Bitch.

When I found out that the great one whom God had blessed was a recluse, I drove my happy old butt over there to give her a lecture. I love small towns - the doors are always unlocked. The conversation was not pretty. She told me I had no idea what it was like to have a terminal illness

and then I gave her a reality check. I was hot. It was probably one of my best lectures and one week later she was out at the store and church.

She takes the Bible literally: No work or anything on Sunday and tithe 10 percent. She is a rough one when it comes to Biblical debate, but she does keep me on my toes.

Dad said he noticed a remarkable change in her after I left town and she even took him out to lunch on his birthday. All I told her was that if she truly believed in the Bible, then she was sinning by giving up on life. God gave her a beautiful new day to live every day, and she chose to waste it in

the dark. If she was not going to use the talents and opportunities God gave her every new day, then, I told her, do us all a favor and take her cynical old ass and drive it off into the Ohio River. Why make the family suffer because she lost the faith and strength to stand up to the challenge God gave her? I told her that at least society approves of her illness and does not talk hatefully behind her back. What I may lack in tact, I make up for in precision. I may not approve of my aunt's lifestyle, but she is still family.

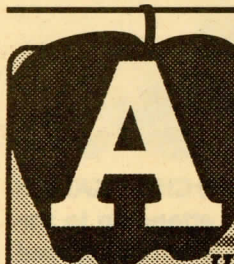
That brings the new year's resolutions to mind. My aunt was the main

reason I chose one resolution: to take every opportunity to enjoy life. Ignore the headaches and nausea and go outside and walk the dogs. Tell everyone I know to dump the antivirals down the drain and eat a big old greasy pizza. We waste so much time going back and forth to the doctors with no hope of a cure or relief, so let's try something new. How about simply trusting our instincts and improving the old lifestyle. Exercise, eat semi-normally and keep the vitamins in use. Question every drug the doctor prescribes and learn how it will interact with the rest of the pile of medicine at home. If there is a God, and she gave us this chance to improve ourselves, then we need to follow that hunch and live.

I have friends with no T-Cells working 50-plus hours a week and others with 400-plus cells who whine. Give me a break. I lost one friend because he told me I was too positive and did not dwell enough on the negative aspects of having AIDS. Pity. You cannot make someone want to live and I really am the last person one should come to for sympathy for AIDS. I know what it is like and I keep my ears open to what is going on in the medical field. That information keeps me alive and willing to fight.

Each day is a new chance to get out of the bed and live. No excuses. Just live. Screw up, get pissed off, scare an old lady, but live. Feed a kitten to a big old snake, but find something worth doing and do it. I have watched too many people throw days away, and you can never get them back. I do not mind the fact that I piss some people off with my will to live, maybe it will motivate someone else out there to get outside and egg my house. Hey, as long as they are trying, I keep typing.

Until next month, savor this new year and live each day God gives you with Passion! ☘



AGAPE'S
Apple a Day
Healthy advice from the heart
by **Doug Rich, RN, MSN,**
Family Nurse Practitioner and Agape MCC Deacon

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

Determination comes to mind in this season of resolutions. Most likely, every resolution you made, if kept, will lead you toward a healthier and more whole life. Hang in there!

Resiliency is a word that has two applications for your health and wellness. The first is its physical meaning - to be able to stretch. To keep your body supple: stretching exercises such as touching your toes are a good start; Tai-Chi and Yoga are more advanced exercises. The second meaning relates to your ability to overcome the problems that life deals you. Develop your skills at problem solving, build a support system of wise and

supportive friends to help, and you will increase your emotional resiliency.

Exercise is a word that has more than one meaning, too. We've beat physical exercise to death in this column so I'll spare you the details - just get off "de-tail" and work it! Another meaning for exercise is "to use" and the best thing I can think of for you to exercise is your judgment. Like your New Year's resolutions, the proper exercise of your judgment will, doubtless, reap rewards in many aspects of your wellness and health. Just think of the impact on the AIDS crisis if we all exercised good judgment every time we fell in love/lust.

Aids is a 100 percent preventable disease. Do you know why Nonoxonyl-9 is no longer recommended for everyone? That is only one of the recent changes to safer-sex lectures. If you haven't had an AIDS

101 update in the last year, make it a point to attend one this year. After you learn all the latest information on prevention, share it with your friends, family and coworkers. The AIDS Outreach Center, TCMERF, Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network and the NAMES Project are among the many organizations that offer education as part of their free service to the community.

Money. It's simple, you can never have too much! Problem is, there is rarely enough, especially for retirement. Make it part of your list of New Year's resolutions to begin your estate planning. There are several organizations and individuals in our community that can advise you. Call the

Alliance office for referrals.

Spirituality is a way of sharing our world and our appreciation of life with one another - a way of "being in the moment" with another human. We are lucky here in the Metroplex to have so many gay and gay-friendly religious organizations. If you are currently attending one of these churches, take full advantage of all it has to offer. If you aren't, visit some of them and select one that fits your personal style.

Dream of the month: A healthy and prosperous New Year and life.

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

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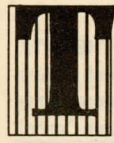
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RELIGION



In his past fall Rev. Elder Don Eastman conducted a weekend long revival at Trinity MCC in Arlington. He pastored Dallas' Cathedral of Hope MCC from 1978 to 1986. By the time he left Dallas to become a full-time elder in UFMCC, the Dallas church was the largest in the Fellowship.

Today, he is second Vice Moderator and treasurer of UFMCC. Rev. Elder Eastman spends a great deal of time traveling to various churches across the Fellowship. While at Trinity, he discussed UFMCC's overall growth and growth struggles for individual UFMCC churches.

UFMCC elder shares vision: new growth on horizons

By BEVERLY BENNETT

EASTMAN SHARED THE FOLLOWING UFMCC TRENDS: On the average, UFMCC is growing 6 percent per year. Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and Moderator, has challenged churches to double this growth.

There is a great need for UFMCC clergy. Nineteen percent of UFMCC's churches are pastored by lay leadership.

The median size of the typical MCC congregation is 42 people.

With over 100 members, Trinity is in the top 20 percent of all UFMCC churches.

The new generation of UFMCC

clergy is more likely to be seminary educated than the first generation. Of UFMCC clergy, 38 percent have a Master of Divinity degree. In addition, UFMCC's seminary, Samaritan College, recently entered into a formal agreement with Chicago Theological Seminary to accept Samaritan students into Chicago Theological's graduate seminary program.

The Fellowship currently stands at 34,000 members.

REV. ELDER EASTMAN ALSO DISCUSSED UFMCC'S FOCUS FOR ITS NEXT 25 YEARS: "To look forward, we must look backward. We need to remember the power of the founding vision that brought us into being. The power of that founding vision was that gay/lesbian Christians could live out their faith. This caught on quickly and is still happening around the world. For instance in 1978, there were nine MCC churches in the South Central District (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana). The Dallas church had 176 members and the Fort Worth church had four members. Today there are 32 churches in this district. The four churches in the metroplex total 2,000 members."

Eastman also noted that as a result of UFMCC, mainline churches have been forced to bring gay/lesbian issues out of the closet. "A story from the *Los Angeles Times* said, 'MCC is the reason mainline denominations have been forced to dialog about homosexuality.'"

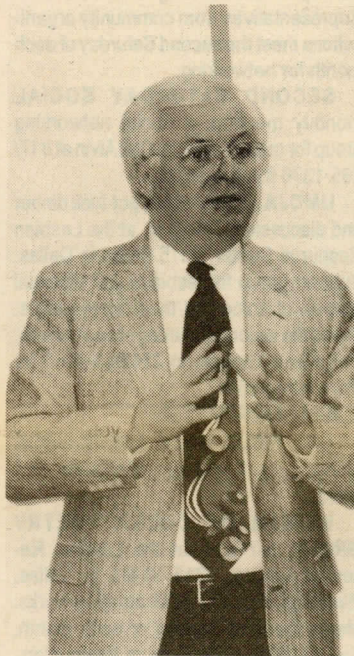
Eastman also predicted that the next 25 years would see the emergence of more mega-churches (like Cathedral of Hope) and more international growth. "A lot more people are going to be transformed by this experience (of coming into fellow-

ship with other gay/lesbian Christians). UFMCC will be an example of a new paradigm in the community of faith."

ON GROWTH IN LOCAL CHURCHES (referring to the work of church growth consultant, nationally acclaimed Lyle Schaller): "When a church reaches 100 members, this is a vulnerable point. A lot of churches plateau here. The problem is that 100 people see themselves as a community in a one-to-one relationship with the pastor, but at 200-300 members, the pastor is not as accessible. When the pastor is not accessible, this is the biggest complaint in churches. As a church grows, an assistant pastor may be added, but this is not a long-term pattern for growth. At 200-300 members, the function of the pastor is to train (the lay leadership). The key to growth is to keep the momentum."

ON FIGHTING THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT: "The most powerful thing MCC is doing is being MCC. By saying that we are gay/lesbian Christians, we challenge the religious right's stereotypes and propaganda." Eastman believes that things may get worse before they get better. He said that with the vast resources at the religious right's disposal, it is amazing that this small number of gays/lesbians so threaten the religious right. "It's a David and Goliath kind of thing," Eastman said.

He went on to say, "We live in an information age. We have access to information I couldn't find as a youngster. As the scripture says, 'The truth shall set you free.' Hatred and bigotry can't kill the free flow of information... The day I walked into MCC was the best day of my life. If that happened to me, another individual is out there who wants the same experience." ■



REV. ELDER DON EASTMAN

THE PEOPLE OF

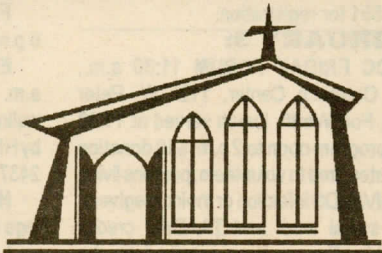
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Tickets and details available January 8th

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

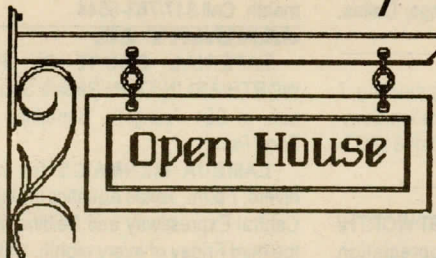
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 11 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS:

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

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

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

WHITE ROCK CHURCH WEST Bible Study, 7 p.m., 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. New weekly series by Rev. Bill Prickett, Life Studies: "The Bible and Homosexuality." Begins Jan. 18. Call 817/275-0443.

THURSDAYS:

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

FRIDAYS:

AGAPE MCC's Nite Life, weekly social/support meetings for lesbian/gay young adults, Agape MCC, 4615 SW Loop

820. Call 817/535-5002.

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

JANUARY 15:

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

JANUARY 28:

AGAPE MCC DINERS' CLUB, 6:30 p.m. Monthly social gathering the fourth Saturday of each month at a different restaurant. This month meet at the Trail Dust Steakhouse in Arlington. Cost: \$10-15 per person.

FEBRUARY 7:

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST GAY, LESBIAN AND AFFIRMING DISCIPLES (GLAD) monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Midway Hills Christian Church, 11001 Midway Rd., Dallas. Meets first Tuesday monthly. Speaker: Rev. Bob Stewart, North Texas Area Minister, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), on Long-Range Planning for Regional Conventions.

FEBRUARY 10:

WHITEROCKCHURCHWEST Sweetheart Dance and Benefit Performances for Sight and Sound Ministry, 8 p.m. to midnight at Bananas. Tickets available Jan. 8.

ORGANIZATIONS

MONDAYS:

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

TUESDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

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

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

JANUARY 7:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Benefit Show, 11 p.m. at Across the Street. Benefiting Samaritan House.

JANUARY 8:

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

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

JANUARY 9:

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.

JANUARY 10:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Volunteer Appreciation

Party, 7:30 p.m. at Magnolia Station.

JANUARY 13:

WOMEN'S SINGLES meeting, social group for lesbians, an off-shoot of Second Tuesday/First Thursday. 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.

JANUARY 14:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Benefit Show, 11 p.m. at D.J.'s Club. Benefiting Anne Simon Reeves.

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

SECOND SATURDAY SOCIAL monthly meeting, a social 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.

JANUARY 15:

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

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

JANUARY 16:

TEEN PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Sexuality Education Center, 901 Lake St., Fort Worth. Agenda: to establish meetings and form committees.

JANUARY 17:

LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL COALITION - TARRANT COUNTY, 7 p.m., First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Program: J.D. Angle, executive director of the Tarrant County Democratic Party Headquarters with an update on political trends. Also, election of officers for the year and goal setting. For information write to L/GPC, P.O. Box 17437, Fort Worth, TX 76102, or call 817/370-0460.

JANUARY 19:

TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria on University in Fort Worth. Program: Rev. Jo Crisco of Trinity MCC and Rev. Brenda Hunt of Agape MCC on "Taking a fresh look through gay eyes." Meets the third Thursday of every month. Call 817/763-5544.

JANUARY 20:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Benefit Show, 11 p.m. at 651 Arlington. Benefiting AOC Food Pantry.

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.

JANUARY 23:

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

FEBRUARY 1:

TCLGA BOARD meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the TCLGA office.

FEBRUARY 2:

FIRST THURSDAY LESBIAN SOCIAL, formerly Second Tuesday, formerly First Friday, meets 6-9 p.m. at Downtown Java at 6th Street and Houston Street on Sundance Square, downtown Fort Worth. Monthly social networking group for lesbians. Admission: \$1. Food, coffee and beverages available. BOYB if desired.

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.

FEBRUARY 4:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Mardi Gras, 9 p.m. at the Corral Club, Fort Worth. Benefits Healing Wings.

FEBRUARY 11:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Red and White Ball, 11 p.m. at Across the Street, Fort Worth.

EDUCATION

JANUARY 8, 22:

AGAPE MCC DANCE LESSONS, 2-4 p.m. at the 651 Club on South Jennings, Fort Worth. Learn the basics of CW dancing, polish your skills or learn new steps. Wear boots and bring quarters for the juke box.

JANUARY 21:

TEEN PROJECT TELEPHONE TRAINING, starts at 9 a.m. at the Mental Health Association, 3136 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Morning session for both new and trained volunteers for procedures on staffing phone lines. Afternoon session is orientation for new volunteers only. Call 817/338-4551 for registration.

FEBRUARY 3:

AOC FRIDAY FORUM 11:30 a.m., AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.; program noon to 2 p.m. \$10 donation requested; free to volunteers, persons living with HIV/AIDS infection or their caregivers. LPC, social work and TAADAC credits available. Reservations required by the preceding Thursday: 817/335-1994.

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAYS:

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

MONDAYS

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

SATURDAYS:

KGBS RADIO: Out Spoken, radio programming for lesbians and gays. 1190 AM, 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Discussions of issues and events from the lesbian/gay perspective.

JAN. 27-FEB. 18:

STAGE WEST William Shakespeare's "As You Like It" at Stage West Theatre, 3055 S. University Dr., Fort Worth. A Robin Hood-like tale of romantic escapades and comedic intrigue. Contact metro 817/784-9378.

FEBRUARY 11:

PLEAIDES PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: Suzanne Westenhofer, 8 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 4401 Trail Lake Dr., Fort

Worth. Tickets: \$15 in advance.

EVENTS

APRIL 2

TEXAS MARCH TO STOP THE HATE, STOP THE VIOLENCE, a march on Austin for lesbian/gay/bi/transgendered equal rights. Begins at noon at the State Capitol.

HEALTH & FITNESS

WEEKDAYS:

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

MONDAYS:

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

JANUARY 14:

AGAPE MCC CYCLING CLUB, 9 a.m. planning meeting at the church to discuss routes for the year. Call 817/735-4915 for more information.

SUPPORT GROUPS

DAILY:

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

MONDAYS:

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

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

CARE PARTNER SUPPORT GROUP, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 1 p.m.

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

TUESDAYS:

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

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

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

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

EL SOL WOMEN'S GROUP, 11:30 a.m. Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith's wellness support for women challenged by HIV. For more information call 817/927-2437.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP, 7 p.m., College of Osteopathic Medicine, Room 540.

LAMBDA GROUP CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS, 8 p.m., 5316 Wooten.

WEDNESDAYS:

CARING FOR PERSONS WITH HIV/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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST THURSDAY: LESBIAN SOCIAL MOVES DOWNTOWN

Tarrant County's lesbian social networking group, First Thursday, formerly Second Tuesday and First Friday before that, is moving again - but not on the calendar.

The group remains First Thursday, that is, meeting the first Thursday of each month. But the location is changing from the site reported in last month's *Alliance News*, a bowling alley that preferred not to be mentioned in a gay publication.

The next gathering, Feb. 2, will meet 6-9 p.m. at Downtown Java, a cafe located at Sundance Square, 600 Houston St. at 6th Street, Fort Worth.

The site offers lighted, free parking nearby and a dinner-time menu of sandwiches, quiches, soups, pastas and salads. "You can stuff yourself for under \$6," the owner reports.

As the diner's name suggests, a wide selection of coffees and beverages is also available. Those who wish to do so may bring their own alcohol to the function.

Cost to attend the First Thursday gatherings will be \$1 at the door to maintain mailings. For more information or to be added to the mailing list, phone 817/485-0134.

STARS CAN BE BORN AT LOCAL THEATRE AUDITIONS

Fort Worth Theatre will open auditions at 7 p.m. Jan. 9 for its production of "Anything Goes."

The play is a story of mistaken identities and shipboard romances set to the music of Cole Porter. Performance dates are Feb. 23 through March 4.

Auditions will be at the Scott Theatre, 3505 W. Lancaster at Montgomery, Fort Worth. For more information call 817/738-7491.

PRIDE LOGO CONTEST

Jan. 15 is the deadline for the annual pride logo and theme contest for the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association.

The winner will receive \$50 and a T-shirt. Designs are limited to four colors and should contain no nudity, no profanity and no reference to sexual orientation. Entries must be delivered to the Gay Pride Week meeting Jan. at 3 p.m. Jan. 15 at Across the Street.

Call Neal Lindsey at 817/731-8847 for more information.

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

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

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

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

BUSINESSES, SERVICES

ALPHA AND OMEGA PRINTERS, (817) 921-3670

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

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

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

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

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

COUNTRY DAY HERBAL GOURMET, (817) 543-3349

COUNTRY DAY TRAVEL, (817) 731-8551

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

DRAKE'S TAX SERVICE, (817) 535-5658

HAYES PHARMACY, (800) 258-9897

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

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

HUTTON HOUSE HAIRDRESSERS, (817) 731-6801

J3 PHOTOGRAPHICS, (817) 923-4625

LAMBDA PAGES, (214) 880-7577

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

MAJESTIC LAUNDRY AND LINEN, (817) 740-0946

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

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

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

CHRIS PHILLIPS, attorney, (817) 339-1139

PLEIADES PRODUCTIONS, (817) 923-4625

PRIMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICES, Robert J. Palmer, (817) 265-1442

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

7TH STREET CAFE, (817) 870-1672

CHERYL STRANGE, Realtor, (817) 732-3294

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

VERTU, gifts, (214) 520-7817

CHURCHES/RELIGIOUS

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

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

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC-DALLAS, 5910 Cedar Springs (Behind Ruth Chris' Steak

House), Dallas (214) 351-1901

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

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

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

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

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

HARVEST MCC, Denton, (817) 321-2332

HONESTY (Baptist), (817) 923-8487

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

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

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

COMPUTER BBS'S

BARE FACTS Computer BBS, (817) 429-2667

GAY MATCHMAKER Computer BBS, (817) 355-6600

OTHER SIDE Computer BBS, (817) 280-0775

HEALTH, AIDS, COUNSELING

AIDS COORDINATING COUNCIL, (817) 870-1937

AIDS INFORMATION LINE, (817) 336-0066

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK, (817) 927-2437

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER, (817) 335-1994

AIDS SERVICES OF DENTON COUNTY, P.O. Box 13427, Denton, %X 76203, (817) 381-1501

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

DR. GEORGE T. CARPENTER III, DO, Center for Change, Development and Support, (817) 429-4769

CRISIS/SUICIDE LINE, (817) 927-5544

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

HIV ANONYMOUS GROUP, (817) 292-9494

INCEST SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP, (817) 335-4330

LAMBDA AA, (817) 921-2871

LAMBDA ALANON, (817) 737-7861

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

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

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

JOHN McNUTT, licensed massage therapist, (817) 429-4769

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

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

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

SEXUALITY EDUCATION CENTER, (817) 338-4551

SPIRITUAL AIDS MINISTRY (SAM), (817) 535-5002

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, Preventive Medicine Clinic, (817) 871-7357; Testing and Counseling, (817) 871-8920; AIDS helpline, (817) 871-7346

TCMERF AIDS AWARENESS CLINIC, (817) 534-CARE or (817) 534-2273

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

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

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

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

ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

FEDERAL GLOBE, lesbian/gay advocacy group of government and school district employees, P.O. Box 50961, Dallas, TX 75250, (214) 264-2800

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

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

GAY AND LESBIAN GARDENERS, (214) 339-0787

GAY/LESBIAN YOUTH, (817) 338-4551

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON, (817) 870-1555; hotline: (817) 292-1750

LEADERSHIP FORUM LUNCHEON, (817) 763-5544

LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL COALITION OF TARRANT COUNTY, (817) 370-0460

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TEXAS GAY VETERANS, (817) 763-5544

TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION, (512) 479-8473

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

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

FESTIVALS

FILM FESTIVAL SET FOR FEBRUARY

The fourth annual Dallas Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival will open Feb. 16-18 at the Dallas Theater Center on Turtle Creek. A special opening night screening will be at the Inwood Theater in Dallas.

Last year's festival showcased the Academy-Award winning "Chicks in White Satin," a documentary chronicling the marriage of two lesbians, "Rock Hudson's Home Movies" and "Thank God I'm a Lesbian," plus many other films representing the diversity of our community.

If interested in volunteering for the festival contact Deb Ryburn at the festival office, 214/257-4443. For more information on the festival contact Tres Smith at that number.

LESBIAN GATHERING CELEBRATES AGE

Lesbian women from all over the United States, many from Canada, and some from other countries will converge this spring in New England to celebrate their lesbianism and their age, whatever it is.

TON, (817) 870-1555; hotline: (817) 292-1750

LEADERSHIP FORUM LUNCHEON, (817) 763-5544

LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL COALITION OF TARRANT COUNTY, (817) 370-0460

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

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

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

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

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

The ninth annual Golden Threads Celebration is June 23-25 at the Provincetown Inn in Provincetown, Mass.

Golden Threads is a worldwide social network of lesbian women over 50 and women of any age who are interested in older women. Members receive a contact publication published four times a year that offers self-descriptions of lesbian women, resources, book reviews and other topics addressing the interests and concerns of midlife and old lesbians.

Entertainment at the conference will feature Alix Dobkin, who also will lead a two-hour workshop on "Why We Need Women-Only Space."

Lesbian author Leslea Newman will read from her fiction at the event.

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, the only organization raising consciousness about ageism against women, will lead a workshop.

Golden Threads is not an inclusionist network. It is specifically for lesbians born female; male-to-female transsexuals are excluded.

For conference registration information, write to Christine Burton, Golden Threads, P.O. Box 60475, Northampton, MA 01060-0475.

OBITUARY

Billy Ray Hill, Nightclub owner

The Tarrant County lesbian/gay community lost a giant when Billy Ray Hill, longtime community leader and benefactor, died at his home Dec. 3 of cancer.

Hill was an investor since the early 1980s in nightclubs in Dallas, Arlington and Fort Worth, including the 651 Club, Across the Street and Magnolia Station.

He organized the Club and Tavern Operators Association in Fort Worth that successfully fought a 1990 bar zoning ordinance. Representing the tavern group at the monthly Leadership Forum for lesbian/gay organizations, Hill regularly brought chuckles to lead-

ers gathered with his succinct, amiable reports.

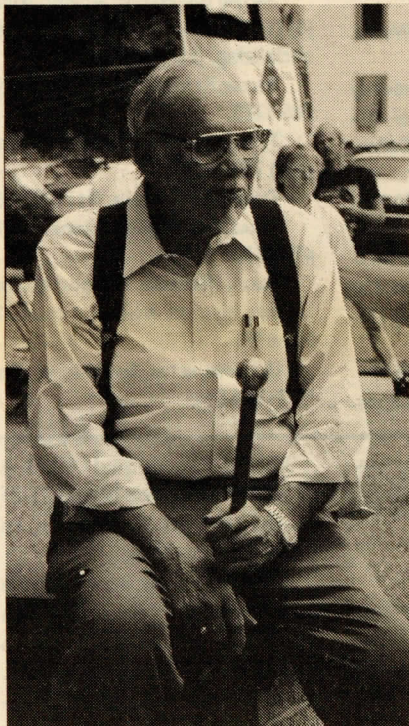
His contributions impacted community growth and development here. The AIDS Outreach Center is an outgrowth of his donated office space to its forerunner, the Fort Worth Counseling Center. Two years ago he funded housing, rent and utilities to launch the Tarrant County NAMES Project, and helped finance many of their projects. For many years he helped to fund the Tarrant County Gay Pride Picnic with behind-the-scenes underwriting.

Before moving to Fort Worth, Hill was a prominent real estate broker and businessman in Gainesville. He served as president of the Gainesville Board of Realtors; director of Arlington National Bank; president and board chairman of First Savings and Loan of Bowie; and Cooke County Democratic Party chair for three terms until 1978.

He served 18 years in the Texas Army National Guard as a captain and four years on active duty.

His memorial service Dec. 8 drew some 70 mourners at Trinity MCC, where friends and representatives of community organizations remembered a kind, loving and stubborn man. He was interred at the Lakeview Cemetery in Marietta, Okla.

Survivors include Don Thomasson, longtime companion; wife, Maggie Hill of Gainesville; daughter, Margaret Willoughby of North Richland Hills; two sons, Jesse Hill of Philadelphia and Sgt. Roger Hill of Killeen; stepdaughter, Billie Fennell of Gainesville; and six grandchildren. ♠



CHEERING US ON

Benefactor's touch on community everlasting

A eulogy of Billy Ray Hill by Rev. Jo Crisco

It seems to be a common goal of all humanity to be happy, to escape problems and difficulties. We would all like to find this utopia of existence wherein we would suffer no pain — and where we would never die.

We all conclude that this just isn't the way life is. While we may attain a level of happiness here and while we may have the blessings of God in abundance, we still discover that life will deal us some heartaches and pain.

In Revelations, John writes about the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. This is a city without tears, sorrow or death. This is a city wherein there is no pain.

John saw the new Jerusalem as a place where God will dwell with us, where we shall be God's people and God be our God. In this city, God shall wipe away every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death, nor sorrow nor crying, and no more pain.

Beloved, in the presence of our grief and loss of Billy Ray Hill, we can be assured that he is now in this city. This dear, wonderful man who did everything in life he ever wanted to do except be a preacher, has now exchanged his mantel of sadness and pain for one of joy. He now understands the great mysteries of this life.

This great man who was both strong and gentle, this great man who let us know we were loved and worth loving, is now forever with the gentle shepherd of all souls ... is with the one who is not just the source of love but is love itself.

Billy Ray has joined in that great cloud of witnesses in heaven who watch over us, who cheer us on, whose presence lives within us daily. Someone has suggested that being the leader he is and displaying his inclination to tackle any problem to make things better ... someone has suggested that he is most likely right

now encouraging all of our entertainers in heaven to do a benefit to provide air conditioning for those poor souls suffering the heat in the regions below!

We jest of course, we laugh to ease our pain, but Billy Ray just might do it.

Our lives will forever have a vacancy in them because he has passed from us. But Beloved, he is not dead ... he has not passed out of existence. How could anyone like Billy Ray just cease? Oh, no, he is living still and he is healed and whole and wiry as ever!

And he expects us to keep on keeping on in our struggle for dignity. He expects us to find a way to accept ourselves. He expects us to love and care for each other. He expects us to live life to the fullest. And he expects

us one and all to be in that first service when he gets to preach in heaven!

Billy Ray, thank you for the touch you have had on our lives. We shall never forget you, nor shall we ever be the same for knowing you. Wait for us, just inside the Eastern Gate, Billy Ray. Some folks may doubt that we will make it, but we, your people, are coming to join you by the throngs. Gather all our friends there with you, and watch for us.

For this is our hope: "And the Spirit and the Church say 'come!' and let those who hear say 'come' and let those who thirst come and who ever desires, let them take the water of life freely."

We love you Billy Ray Hill. ♠

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Grove Manor

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(817) 877-0388 FAX: (817) 877-0380

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

If you benefit from reading the *Alliance News*, help to support it by joining the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance. Send in your dues and the membership form on page 4 of this issue.

Organizational & Office Services for the
Entrepreneur and Small Business Owner

HAWKE TORRIS Associates

Frank C. Dalton, Jr
1515 W. Sanford, Arlington, TX 76012-4627
metro 817-261-9691



ALTERNATIVE
VISIONS

"Communication"

Wednesday,
January 11
7:00 p.m.

Facilitator:

Jan Wynn, LMSW-ACP

Everyone welcome!
\$10 for Non-Members.

747-2033
1-800-807-4667

1994

continued from p. 11

The group's proposal to the Fort Worth City Council to publish the names of public lewdness offenders was so graphic in detail that Mayor Kay Granger issued several ultimatums during AFA director David Miller's presentation. "Are you aware there are children in the room?" she chided.

In the weeks following the council meeting, several AFA members called the Alliance office thinly disguised as lesbians or gays, asking for referrals to "cruise areas." One woman wanted to know if she could "pick up other lesbians" at a Benbrook park.

The callers were handled routinely: they were warned of the dangers of public sex and encouraged to seek social activities instead.

The City Council shuffled the AFA proposal aside. The Alliance still is pressuring library officials to reinstate

"Daddy's Roommate," the gay-positive book under AFA attack.

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES.

In September we unfolded a rare love story of Luther, who had died from AIDS complications, and his partner, Doyle, who had set Luther's spirit free.

Doyle broke into the home of "Dennis," a mutual friend who had kept

Luther's remains. Doyle stole the ashes from Dennis to fulfill Luther's last wish to be scattered at the Botanical Gardens. He visited there every day thereafter to grieve and heal, and to be close to Luther.

Dennis pressed charges of breaking and entering, and theft. Doyle's lawyer urged him to accept a plea bargain but he declined. He intended to use his time before the bench to define the value - and the legal struggles - of gay relationships, and to eulogize Luther. And then, he expected, he

would be jailed for the crime to which he fully admitted.

Just days before the hearing was scheduled, Dennis approached Doyle at a local bar and offered to drop the charges. They hugged. "It's done, behind us now," Doyle says. Forgiving each other has "brought a little peace to the situation."

The mended friendship is an outgrowth of the love shared between Luther and Doyle. Doyle philosophized, "The most important legacy to Luther is how we all treat each other...." ♪

PROFESSOR

continued from p. 9

against Burgess-Jackson. In addition to the letters and calls, she has copies of electronic mail messages sent to one of her out-of-state friends. She claims Burgess-Jackson used the university electronic mail system to send malicious comments about her to the friend.

A male colleague of Schmid-Dolan, who is a licensed professional counselor, reflects that he has "been supportive of her and helped her through the process" of her dealing with the harassment imposed by Burgess-Jackson. He confirms that she has suffered much emotional abuse in the situation. He sees Burgess-Jackson as fitting the role of "perpetrator" and Schmid-Dolan as being in the role of "victim." The counselor regarded

Burgess-Jackson as using his knowledge of women's and feminist issues against Schmid-Dolan mentally and emotionally. The counselor acknowledged that he is "afraid for her safety." He went on to speak of how Burgess-Jackson's philosophy class curriculum encourages diversity and is concerned that a gay, lesbian or bisexual student might see the professor as a safe person at the university to come out to. "If this guy is supposed to be

representing all students through his work at the university," he asserted, "can you imagine the damage that he could do to a student who might come out to him?" He says that Burgess-Jackson claims to be a feminist, but is a "wolf in sheep's clothing."

Schmid-Dolan describes Burgess-Jackson as "emotionally unstable." She spoke of the difficulty of trying to handle the load of graduate school

while dealing with the harassment by Burgess-Jackson, saying it was "so draining, so distracting. Emotionally I've had it. I'm exhausted ... I just want him to be held accountable for his behavior and actions, and for him to stop harassing me, my friends, my employers."

Though she contacted Michael Baggott of the Fort Worth Police Department, they are not pursuing the incidents. ♪

HRCF

continued from p. 5

letter. HRCF is America's largest gay and lesbian political organization. Write to them at: HRCF, P. O. Box 1396, Washington, DC 20013; or call them at 202/628-4160.

'POLITICAL' IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

But what can I do on a local level to combat the Radical Right, you ask? Join the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County. The group meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of

every month at the First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. They can be reached at 817/370-0460, or write to: L/GPC-TC, P. O. Box 17437, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER...

What else can you do? By all means, write your Congressperson. Don't know who he/she is? Call the Tarrant County Voter Registration office at 817/884-1115 and ask. They will give you the name of your representative. You can write him/her at: The Honorable (name of representative), U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

The two U. S. Senators for Texas

can be reached by writing: The Honorable Phil Gramm, U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

or The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Ask them to support the above-mentioned three HRCF initiatives or

any other issue that you feel strongly about. Don't like to write? Let your fingers do the walking instead! Give 'em a call! The following are a few of the local representatives' phone numbers:

Congressman Joe Barton (District 6), 817/543-1000

Congressman Pete Geren (District 12), 817/338-0909

Congressman Martin Frost (District 24), 817/293-9321

Let your representatives and senators know where you stand on the issues. We can't afford to be silent when the Radical Right is being so loud. ♪

THE BEST MEDICINE

Acclaimed lesbian comic promises a healthy dose to brighten the Valentine's Day weekend

In 1990 Suzanne Westenhoefer entered a contest at Kelly's Piano Bar in New York, never having appeared as a comedian, did her three-minute routine, and won! Each moment of her career since has been filled with rave reviews and incredible opportunities, including the taping of her first half-hour comedy special for HBO, which aired July 14 and July 19. Westenhoefer also was featured at the prestigious international comedy festival, *Just for Laughs*, in Montreal in July.

Over the last three years Westenhoefer has played in major clubs and venues throughout the country, performing for every type of audience with the same results - they're crazy about her. As an out lesbian on stage, she challenges all stereotypes and breaks down barriers. Audiences can only laugh and be part of the conspiracy: to change this world into a more tolerant place. She's a lesbian comedian who plays straight clubs; she's a comic whose timing and personality have made her one of the most exciting new faces on the scene today; she is a standout - a natural.

Besides her own HBO special, Westenhoefer has had major television exposure on ABC's *Day One*,

Evening at the Improv, VH-1's *Buster's Comedy Hour*, *Caroline's Comedy Hour*, *Out There* on Comedy Central, and a host of other appearances.

Recently she won New York City's Outstanding Achievement Award for Comedy, and her new show "Nothing In my Closet But My Clothes" has

received rave reviews throughout the country. She's a regular headliner at Caroline's Comedy Club, performs at Punchlines, Improvs and Comedy Connections across the country, as well as in major venues. Articles in *The New York Times*, *Village Voice*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Newsweek*, all say the same thing - she's fresh, a stand-out, and "disarmingly funny."

Pleiades Productions, Inc. will host an evening of Westenhoefer's delightful wit beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at Orchestra Hall, 4401 Trail Lake Dr. in Fort Worth, off I-20.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door with all seating reserved. Tickets are available in Fort Worth at Connections Bookstore at 2416 Forest Park Blvd., Agape MCC at 4615 S.E. California Pkwy. off I-20; and in Dallas at Crossroads Market at 3920 Cedar Springs.

Call 503/281-3874 or 817/924-3264 for concert information.



Flowers
are a great way to say 'I love you'
... but then they wilt.

Don't ditch the flowers, but add a permanent declaration of your love this year in the *Alliance News*. Next month we'll print messages to sweethearts for \$10 per entry. But hurry - submissions must be postmarked by Jan. 17. Enclose check or money order.

YOUR MESSAGE

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to Alliance News Sweethearts, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243, Fort Worth, TX 76116; for info call 817/763-5544.

Alliance News

Inside this issue:



TUXES DELUXE: fort worth formal trotted out in its finest refinery. See p. 12

And:

- **ETHICS OF OUTING:** letters from UTA professor show campaign of harassment.
- **NEW OUTREACH:** Teen Project answers the call to help youth.
- **THE GAY AGENDA:** Activists to march on against conservative tide.
- **IT'S A SNAP:** Lesbian wedding that went public turns out picture-perfect.
- Perspectives on community action, attention to friendships and growth in MCC churches.

LET'S PARTY

ADD SOME CHEER
TO THE NEW
YEAR!


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STATION


FORT WORTH

**Across
the Street**