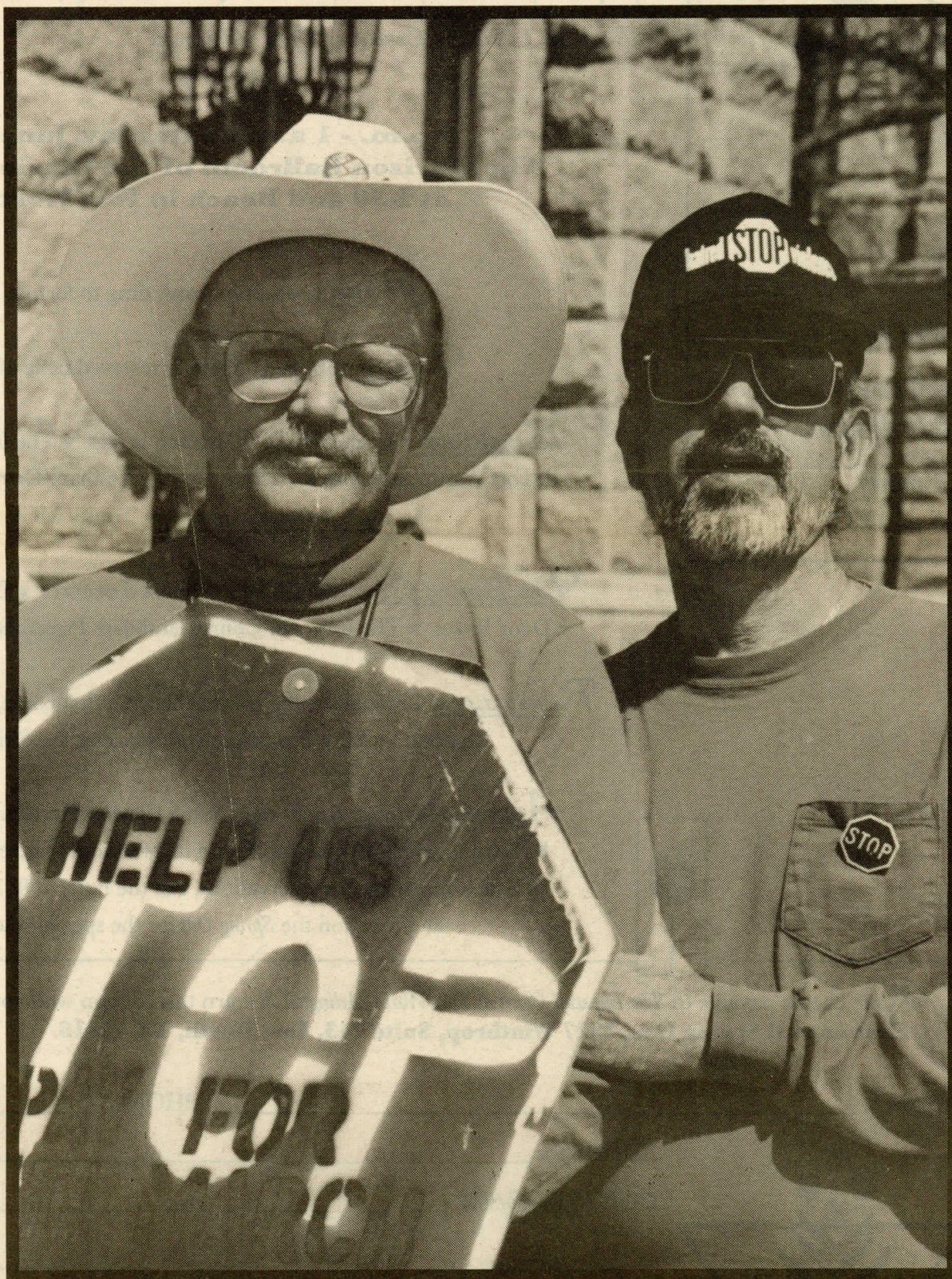


A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

APRIL 1995

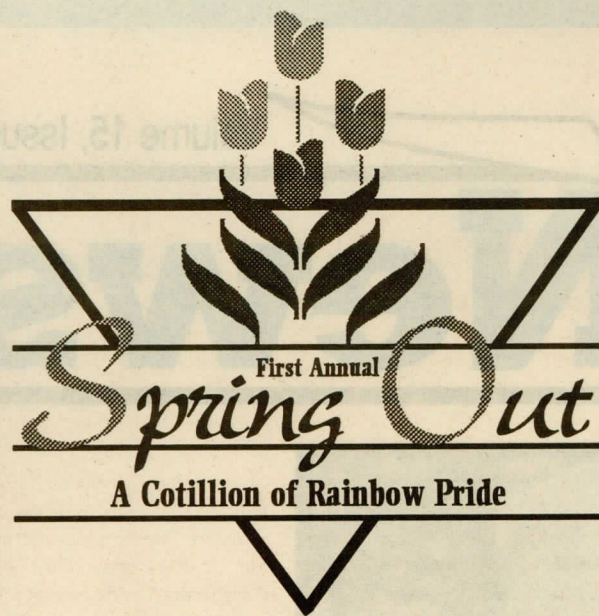
Volume 15, Issue 4

Alliance News



Doug Rich and John Huffman, Lobby Board members and active leaders locally, publicized the March as a capital idea for raising funds to carry on the lobbying work after the visitors have gone.

ON THE SCENE at the Texas March. *Four pages of photos and tales from the trenches, starting on p. 10.*




 Sponsored by
**The Imperial Court
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In celebration of *Pride '95 - Expanding Horizons*, you are cordially invited to the *First Annual Spring Out*, a collaborative project by *The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington* and the *Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance*.



8 p.m. - 1 a.m., Saturday, June 3
The Horizon Ballroom of the Clarion Hotel
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The Spring Out: ▼ Cash Bar ▼ Hors d'oeuvres ▼ DJ and Dancing ▼ Door Prizes ▼ *The Imperial Court Candidate Presentation* at 10 p.m.

Reservations: Limited seating is available on a first come, first served basis. Respond by May 1 to assure your place at the *Spring Out*.

Accommodations: Room rates at the Clarion Hotel are \$59/double, \$64/triple and \$69/quadruple, and include your choice of breakfast the next morning. For reservations, call the hotel at 817/534-4801 and mention the *Spring Out* for the special rates.

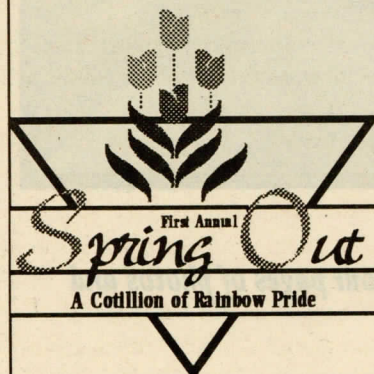


Make checks payable to *The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington*. Return this coupon with your check by May 1 to: **First Annual Spring Out, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243, Fort Worth, TX 76116.**

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A community service of
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THE ALLIANCE NEWS

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

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

OFF TRACK

*Reaganomics derailed the civil rights vision born in the JFK era.
The strength of the masses can resurrect it.*

We must all work together until everyone is free.

By Rev. GEORGE ALLEN

It is with great fondness that I look back on the election of President John F. Kennedy. The United States was finally moving from a society with agrarian ideals to ideals of a more cosmopolitan flavor. The realization had begun to set in that this nation had moved beyond the antiquated ideals of the 1800s and was ready to adopt a set of values that empowered more than the white middle class, more than the "normal."

John Kennedy inspired this country to move toward the ideals of equality, opportunity and community while continuing military action with the mentality typical of the Eisenhower years. Lyndon Johnson, the politician, picked up Kennedy's idealism and promoted the Great Society.

It was also during this time that the Civil Rights march, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reminded this nation that until all are free, none are free, that until all are equal, none are equal. What we failed to recognize as a people was the universality and immutability of this spiritual law. We began to strive for the equality of all people, if they were Americans. Somehow, we failed to see through our wounds and our tears that we, as a people, could never be free as long as the United States of America was involved in the oppression of any people.

It was during this time that this great nation came to believe that feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless and caring for the ill were noble values and goals that, surely, the greatest nation on earth could accomplish. In addition, the United States successfully extracted itself from a war that was perceived as unjust during the Nixon administration.

Jimmy Carter, after the Watergate fiasco, was voted in, in the hope that government could be made more honest. The perceived weakness of the Carter administration, precipitated by the oil shortage, the Iranian Islamic revolution and the holding of American hostages by Iran, ushered in the Reagan years. These years proved to be disastrous to the economy with the savings and loan institutions caught

making bad investments and due to massive, expensive military buildup. With the "successful Reagan years" to lean on, George Bush was elected president and inherited the blame for Reaganomics.

With the national debt skyrocketing, the people began to realize that someone had literally duped them out of billions of dollars. How did this happen? Who was responsible? Who would be the scapegoat? The psychology of the "good mother" syndrome is evident not only in a family setting but also, seemingly, in a national setting.

The fact that influential men of power and wealth were closely involved with the savings and loan rip-off could not possibly reflect on them. The fact that billions had been squandered on defense technology that was only the dream of insecure leaders could not possibly indict them. The fact that billions in generous tax breaks had been given to the wealthy, the powerful, the influential could not possibly point them out as culpable.

These movers and shakers have convinced the nation's people that those really responsible for the national debt could not be greedy and selfish politicians but must have been the children, the physically challenged, the uneducated, the immigrants, the elderly, the women, the blacks, the Hispanics, the gays, the sick, the unemployed and the needy.

In this country's Congress and Senate, men and women of power and

influence are still deciding who, in this nation, will be scapegoats for Reaganism. It will not be those involved in the savings and loan scandal. It will not be defense technologies that already provide enough weaponry to completely annihilate life as we know it from the globe. It will not be the wealthy, the powerful or the influential, who have the legislators virtually in their back pocket. In state houses and in referendums the decisions are being made today that will make the disempowered the scapegoats.

While the peacemakers and statesmen reel in shock from the last election, the fundamentalist revolutionaries prepare for their revolution. Governments change, ideals change, societies change, religions change, liberties change. The changes that people seek are those that provide security, usually at the expense of liberty. In 1776, the greatest security was obtained by revolting against the Crown. In 1863, the greatest security was obtained by reinforcing a strong federal government. In 1944, the greatest security was obtained by entering the worldwide war. Today, the greatest security requires a sound fiscal policy, not a policy of polarization and hatred.

With the national debt absorbing our wealth, the necessity of reducing it immediately is imperative. Who will experience the cuts and by how much could dictate the direction of national policy for years to come.

Reason would dictate that to reduce the debt, it would be wise to cut back the same expenditures that got us into debt in the first place, but reason does not always dictate government policy.

Politicians are after votes and after contributions and respond to public pressure. These are the instruments of our campaign. We, who are marginalized in this society, who still retain any political or financial clout, must mobilize and guard our support and money. We today more than ever before, must be aware of the track records and policies of the corporations and politicians we choose to support. We who are not influential or wealthy can write letters and use our votes to change public and political opinions. We must seek freedom not only for ourselves but for all who are marginalized. We must seek to end discrimination not only on the basis of sexual orientation but also on the basis of gender, race, creed, ethnicity or class.

Now is not the time to sit on our laurels and enjoy the few concessions which years of struggle have built. We must stand not only for lesbian and gay rights but the rights of all people. We must be ready to walk with others of different opinions to preserve the ideals upon which this nation stands - life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all.

Rev. Allen is associate pastor of Agape Metropolitan Community Church in Fort Worth.

READERS WRITE

An open forum for issues, concerns and ideas

CRITICISM OF LOUGANIS MISSES THE MARK

In regard to the recent article in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram regarding Greg Louganis, I have to wonder why some in our community feel the need to further victimize one of our own. I can't understand why we can't band together and show public support and unity as opposed to kicking someone while they are already down.

This is, in part, the reason I chose to discuss my feelings here, in our paper, vs. expressing my displeasure for all the public to see. Now, as a result of the FWST article, there is proof that we are not as united as we should be.

Granted, Greg has made mistakes. So have I, and so have you. The bottom line is that he is going to die, and he's making every effort to make a difference before that unfortunate day arrives.

Further, For Daune' Littlefield to identify herself as president of our organization and to make such remarks, I think she should first make an effort to see if that is the general consensus of those who are involved in this organization. Her comment, "This just feeds the frenzy," is quick, harsh and judgmental. She continues that "Louganis might have had a more favorable effect on the gay community..." Everyone in "our community" that I have spoken with applauds what Greg has done. I not only applaud, I cheer!

-SCOTT FORSGREN, BEDFORD

From the trenches

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM ALLIANCE DIRECTORS

Our community is as strong as the involvement of each one of its members

Consider this invitation to make a difference in all our lives.

By DAUNE LITTLEFIELD

In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality."

—Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

I am always inspired by the words of the Rev. Martin Luther

King where community, that joint sharing, is concerned.

Our hectic daily schedules can often interfere with our sense of community. We get wrapped up in dealing with our own personal worlds and forget that there are related worlds that need our attention. The busier our lives become, the easier it is to say, "Oh, someone else can do that task."

Our spirit of joint sharing is in need of a B-12 shot! Too few are attempting to do the tasks of so many. Part of this is due to an error on the part of our lesbian/gay community's leadership in the fact that we stopped asking you to get involved. I take responsibility for that error and I am ready to ask for help with the mission of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

The second part of the equation is when we say to ourselves, "Oh, someone else will do it." This is a passive, apathetic belief that lends itself to a false sense of security. We know by studying history that there

has always been more need than solutions when it comes to social change.

With respect to the mission at hand, to enhance the quality of life of lesbians, gays and bisexuals, and to promote a society where diversity is valued, we need active participation from you. A beginning step from my perspective is to find a person willing to be a volunteer coordinator. The TCLGA Board of

Directors has historically been a working board. At present, the organization's goals and tasks are bigger than what the current board members can accomplish. We need your help in achieving these goals.

The first two goals – to decrease prejudice and discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals, and to empower the gay, lesbian, bisexual community – represent the core thinking of the TCLGA. To achieve these goals we need to enhance and encourage active involvement in TCLGA projects. I urgently encourage you to be part of the tasks of our mission and I implore you to volunteer your time and talents.

I have heard though the years that TCLGA is considered to be too political by some individuals. I believe a more constructive view would be that historically the TCLGA has been in the business of advocating for a better quality of life for all gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals. Advocacy is the act of pleading for a cause or, more specifically, supporting causes that de-

crease prejudice/discrimination and empower gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals within our community. From a political standpoint, one component of our goals statement does encourage active involvement of gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals in local, state and federal governances. However, this is but one component amidst a total of 13 others which are equally compelling and important.

So many of you have vast amounts of knowledge and talents you can lend to TCLGA. We are a richly colorful and diverse group of people. It is time for all of us to reevaluate the blessings we have received and to give back to our communities. I thank each and every one of you for what you contribute. I know you will seriously consider what TCLGA means to you and how you can be part of the future growth of this organization. Please call us at 817/763-5544 with your ideas.

Littlefield is president of TCLGA and one of its founding members.



If you're already on our mailing list, please consider that ESCALATING costs of newsprint and recent postage INCREASE mean we can no longer assure that you'll receive every issue of ALLIANCE NEWS MAILED TO YOU each month.

We want you to know what's happening in your neighborhood here, and we think you'll enjoy reading our human interest stories and perspectives that have universal appeal.

Please help our work by subscribing today. To thank you for your support, we'll send you a free TCLGA 15th Anniversary commemorative bandana, a perfect adornment for your next Gay Pride Parade! Please hurry while supplies last...

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April TCLGA Meeting:

Program

AIDS: CHOICES AND CHALLENGES FOR GOOD HEALTH

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Coordinator of the Cowtown Natural Foods Co-op

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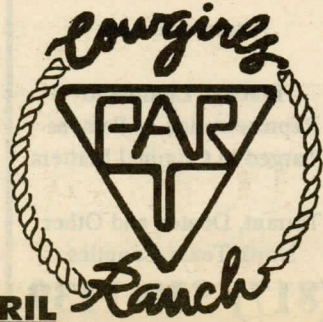
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BENEFITS

Columnists plot full tummies to raise awareness of AIDS issues

To nudge the public's awareness of the impact of AIDS, Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnists Sheila Taylor Wells and Mary Rogers are aiming for the heart through the stomach.

The two will fork over their favorite recipes to the 8.0's Wednesday night Celebrity Chef series, and they've designated AIDS Outreach Center (AOC) and Healing Wings as beneficiaries of the meal.

The evening of wining and dining will draw from an extensive mailing of 1,000—many of whom are on the columnists' own rolodexes—to introduce the unfamiliar to the issues of AIDS.

Rogers hopes this mainstream forum will serve in part to destigmatize a disease that "will touch every single family, like cancer has."

Wells, who several years ago wrote about her lesbian friends' union ceremony in her Life section column, urged her readers recently to support the project and to turn out too for AOC's Life Walk. "HIV-AIDS is an equal opportunity infection that affects us all. And nobody can afford to ignore it," she warned.

The restaurant's chefs will serve up Rogers' and Wells' menu favorites while the women meet and greet. Michael Gott, pianist and singer at The Mansion and Hideaway in Dallas, will perform.

The Benefit: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at the 8.0 Cafe in downtown Fort Worth; come and go, casual dress. **Tickets:** \$35 (\$23 of which is tax deductible) or \$50 for sponsorship (\$38 of which is tax-deductible). **Reservations:** Call 817/927-1599.

Cleaning out closets will help youth programs

It's time for spring cleaning! Clean out those closets of all those things you no longer need—clothing, accessories, furniture, glassware, kitchenware, bric-a-brac, and anything else that might be someone else's treasure and donate them to a garage sale to benefit area youth and young adult organizations.

Beneficiaries of the April garage sale are the University of Texas-Arlington Gay/Lesbian Association (GLA) and Gay/Lesbian Teen Line. The Teen Line is a joint project of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TCLGA) and Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).

GLA's Randy Glenn and Daniel Kerr head the committee to organize

the project. To donate items for the sale, contact Glenn at metro 817/794-0964. Items may be dropped off at a designated location or pick-up can be arranged. Donations can also be made the morning of the sale between 8 and 10 a.m. at a table set up for receiving items. Items not sold that day will be given to a local charity.

Tables and clothing racks are also needed for the sale. Persons interested in volunteering to help with pricing and picking up items for sale, or to work the day of the sale, or who have tables or racks that can be used should also contact Glenn.

The Benefit: The garage sale will be from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at one of the UTA parking lots. Details on the location will be available in next month's *Alliance News* or by contacting the GLA office, 817/794-5140.

Service auction to finance candidate survey, support groups

The Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition-Tarrant County (L/GPC-TC) is calling for donations of services to be auctioned at a spaghetti dinner in May. The event will also benefit Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) and the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance's Teen Line.

Donations of time might include car washing, lawn maintenance, massage therapy, tax accounting and other professional services. Gift certificates for health clubs, restaurants, salons, stores and other businesses are also welcomed.

The L/GPC-TC is a nonprofit organization that screens and endorses political candidates, and advocates for lesbian/gay concerns within political processes. Funds from the auction will help finance mailings to the local lesbian/gay community and support-

ers to announce the group's endorsements for city elections in May.

To donate items or purchase tickets for the event, contact L/GPC Tarrant County, P.O. Box 17437, Fort Worth, TX 76102 or call 817/370-0460. For information through E-mail, contact jphuffman@aol.com or toklas@aol.com.

The Benefit: Spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 13, with auction following at 7; location is at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. **Tickets:** \$3 for dinner; may be purchased at the door.

Court and TCLGA pair for pride dance this spring

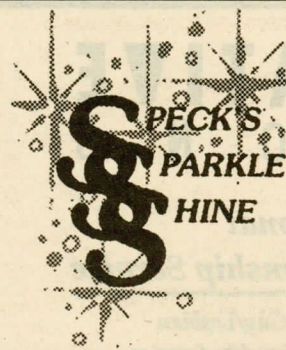
The popularity of Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance's *fort worth formal* has drawn comments from some who want similar events at other times of the year. In response, TCLGA has teamed with The Imperial Court of Fort Worth/Arlington to present a dance to launch Gay Pride Week in June.

The first Spring Out, a Cotillion of Rainbow Pride, will benefit the Alliance and the Imperial Court, as well as Agape MCC, Healing Wings and Trinity MCC.

Like the *formal*, dress is by individual choice, from casual to black tie. Party fare includes light food, cash bar, dancing and door prizes. Imperial Court candidates will be presented at the event.

Seating is limited to 350 so quick response to the invitations mailed in April is encouraged. Tickets may be ordered too with the coupon on page 2 of this *Alliance News*.

The Benefit: 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Horizon Ballroom of the Clarion Hotel, I-30 and Beach in Fort Worth. **Tickets:** \$30 per person or \$300 per reserved table of 10; deadline for ticket sales is May 1.



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OUT ON THE DANCE FLOOR

It was sweet music that sounded when I decided

I would not bury my love in public.

By **MOLLY SUTTON**

To me, there's nothing better than dancing in the arms of my lover on a crowded dance floor. Surrounded by the constant motion of the other dancers and inundated with loud music, our own movements are harmonious. We seem to fit together as if we were made for each other.

However, until about a year ago, we limited our dancing to the confines of gay and lesbian bars. We never felt bold enough to dance together at straight functions. Instead, we sat or stood together, watching the other dancers, longing to dance with each other. We were afraid. Afraid of disapproving stares, afraid of being rejected, afraid of being beaten. Afraid to be ourselves.

All that changed in December. My partner, Sandy, and I attended a lavish Christmas party with our friends Christopher and Daniel. It was a country-club affair with cocktails,

dinner and dancing for hundreds of area country club employees. Everywhere we looked we saw velvet, taffeta and sequins in deep shades of blue, green and black. The lighting was soft, the food was great and the cocktails were flowing.

We were all feeling festive and enjoying ourselves, until the band began to play and the dance floor came alive. This was the part of the party that we had been dreading. We considered our choices: we could sit and stare at each other, or dance with Christopher and Daniel. Although they are our dear friends, we just did not see any reason to dance with them. It would have been like dancing with our brothers.

I felt the ache beginning to build, the same ache that comes when I want to hold Sandy's hand in public, but can't. Then, as the band began to play its rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings," Sandy was asking me to dance.

In her sweet and corny way, she took my hand.

"Could I have this dance?" she asked gravely.

For a moment, I was stunned. She pulled me toward the dance floor, knowing that I would try to back out at any moment.

"I'm scared!" I hissed. "Please let me go! What if something happens?"

"Just look at me," Sandy said. "Don't worry about anything else." Her voice was soothing.

As we danced, I focused on Sandy's face. All else became a blur of festive colors and reflections from the mirrored ball above the dance floor. I

waited for the world to stop. It didn't.

Soon, Christopher and Daniel came dancing by, cheek to cheek and with dramatically exaggerated movements. We grinned at each other and began assessing the other couples' reactions. There were a few horrified looks shot our way but, for the most part, people seemed willing to accept our presence.

We danced for the rest of the evening, thoroughly enjoying ourselves. We left the party feeling exhilarated and ready to face the challenges of fitting into a straight world.

In the first weeks after the Christmas party, I noticed a few people at work shooting angry glances toward me each time I walked past them. But the majority of my coworkers did not

change their demeanor toward me. In fact, I felt increased respect from many of my coworkers. This positive response helped me see that many people are ready to socialize with gays and lesbians.

It's time for more gay and lesbian couples to desegregate the dance floors. Straight couples need to see that we dance the same dances they do. They need to see that there are more similarities than differences between us.

But homosexual couples must be willing to risk the rejection and, possibly, the hostility that might accompany attempts at desegregation. For me, the choice is becoming easier. I would rather take a beating than bury my feelings for the one I love. *is*

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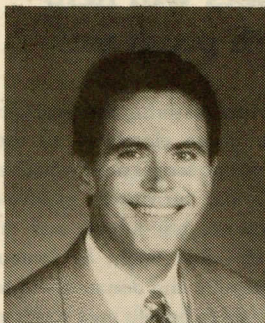
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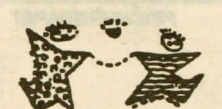
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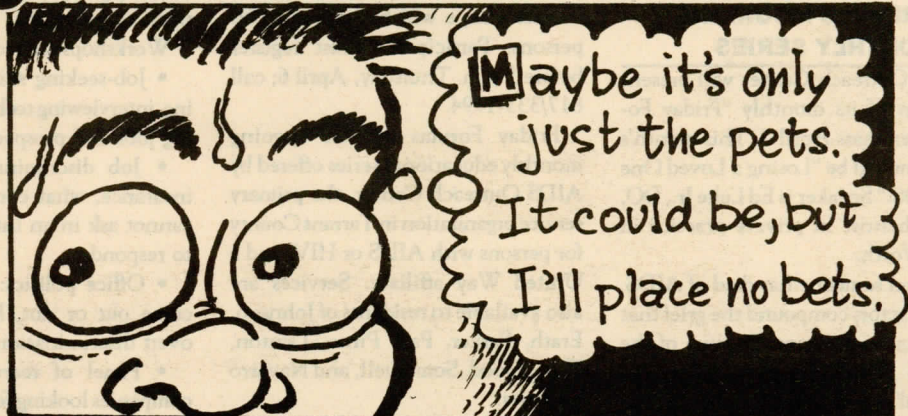
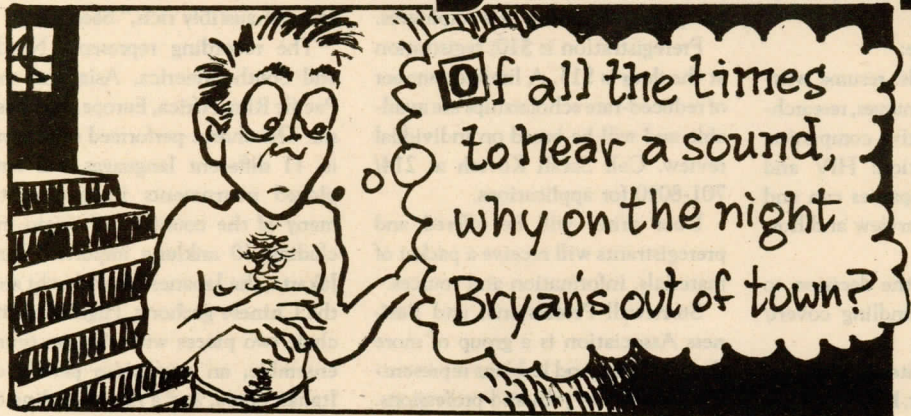


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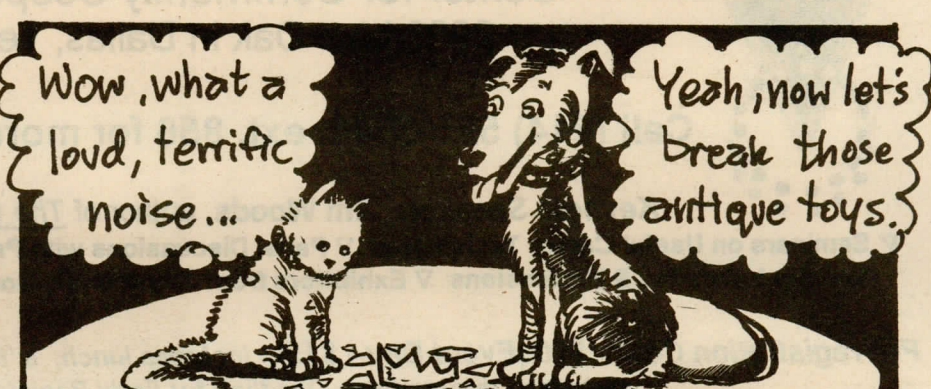
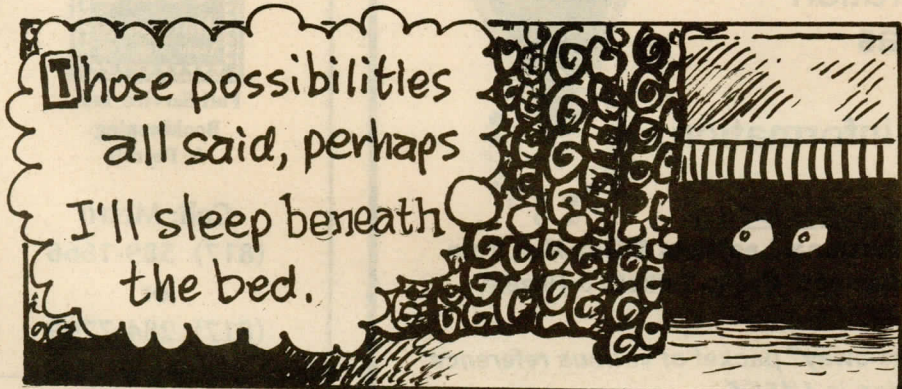
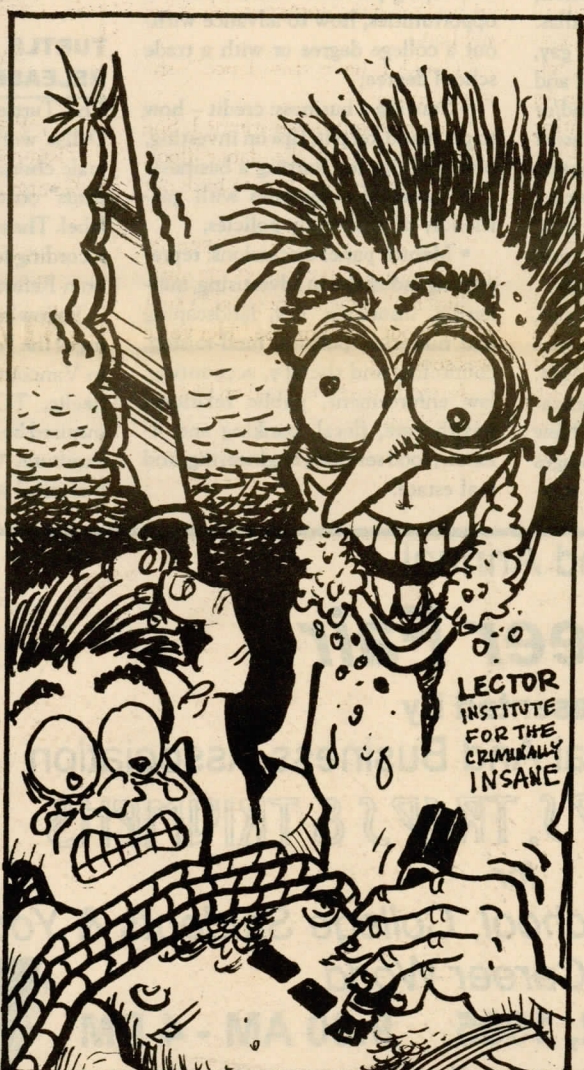
dewey's daydreams By TODD CAMP



Maybe it's a street-smart thug a-hunting for someone to mug.

Or maybe, it's an escaped nut, with my insides in mind to gut.

Or maybe it's a horrid beast, who plans a scared gay boy feast.



COMMUNITY

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER ADDRESSES MOURNING IN MONTHLY SERIES

AIDS Outreach Center will present another of its monthly "Friday Forum" seminars April 7. This month's program will be "Losing a Loved One to AIDS." Speaker is Ed Luke Jr., DO, a psychiatrist in private practice in Fort Worth.

When someone has died of AIDS, many factors compound the grief that survivors experience. Because of the stigma placed on the disease and societal unease with sexuality in general, loved ones may experience isolation and feelings of shame. They may also feel anger at what they perceive as an uncaring society, an apathetic government, or a bureaucratic medical facility or service agency. Gay couples in particular may lack the support systems usually available to heterosexual couples. This forum will discuss the importance of healthy grieving, how AIDS exacerbates grief, and how to establish support systems.

The program is appropriate for social service, health care and mental health professionals; persons living with AIDS or HIV and their loved ones; and volunteers. Continuing education credits will be available for social work, LPC and CADAC.

The session will be held at AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith in Fort Worth. A light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the program will be from noon to 2 p.m.

A \$10 fee is requested of professionals to cover the costs of lunch and

materials. The program is free to volunteers, people living with AIDS/HIV infection, and their caregivers.

Attendance will be limited to 50 persons. Participants must register before 5 p.m. Thursday, April 6; call 817/335-1994.

Friday Forums are an ongoing monthly educational series offered by AIDS Outreach Center, the primary service organization in Tarrant County for persons with AIDS or HIV, and a United Way affiliate. Services are also available to residents of Johnson, Erath, Parker, Palo Pinto, Denton, Wise, Hood, Somervell, and Navarro counties.

CAREER FAIR OFFERS INTRODUCTION TO GAY-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

Stonewall Professional and Business Association will present its second Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22. Registration is at 9:30 a.m.; the fair will be at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak St. at Liberty, Dallas.

The Career Fair will help gay, lesbian and bisexual high school and college students investigate and/or begin their careers, and will assist young adults considering career moves.

The event offers workshop sessions, panel discussions and mentors from many professions and trades representing the gay/lesbian community.

Keynote speaker is Jim Woods, author of *The Corporate Closet*, who will lead a panel discussion. Woods, an assistant professor of communications at the City University of New York, will speak on the advantages and penalties of coming out or stay-

ing in the closet. He is in great demand as a speaker and consultant to many groups and nationally recognized corporations.

Workshops include:

- Job-seeking skills: resume writing, interviewing techniques, researching jobs and prospective companies;

- Job discrimination: HIV and insurance, what companies can and cannot ask in an interview and how to respond;

- Office politics: the decision to come out or not, handling covert/overt discrimination;

- Panel of recruiters: what are companies looking for, how to present yourself, do's and don'ts for the interview process;

- Women's and people of color issues in the workplace: breaking through the glass ceiling, dealing with a double or triple minority status;

- Portable job skills: benefits and drawbacks of temporary work, internships - how to find them and apply, identifying portable skills, volunteer opportunities, how to advance without a college degree or with a trade school degree;

- Starting a business: credit - how to get it and keep it, tips on investing, practical tips for starting a business;

- Panel of companies with gay-friendly or unfriendly policies;

- Mentor panel discussions: representing industries in advertising, marketing, insurance, law, landscaping and nurseries, politics, fund-raising, counseling and therapy, accounting, law enforcement, public relations, health care, floral, banking and finance, food services, engineering, and real estate.

A hall setting will feature exhibiting companies, colleges with gay and lesbian student organizations, and companies recruiting new employees.

Preregistration is \$10; registration at the door is \$15. A limited number of reduced-rate scholarships are available and will be based on individual review. Call Sarah Kovich at 214/701-8090 for applications.

Door prizes will be offered and preregistrants will receive a packet of materials, information and sources.

Stonewall Professional and Business Association is a group of more than 400 gays and lesbians representing a variety of jobs and professions. The group's purpose is to support, develop and improve opportunities in and for the lesbian/gay professional community; to promote the acceptance of and a positive image for the lesbian/gay professional and business communities; and to cooperate with similar business and/or professional organizations for the betterment of the lesbian/gay community.

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE RELEASES NEW RECORDING

The Turtle Creek Chorale (TCC), Dallas' world renowned 225-member male chorus, recently released "Postcards" on the Reference Recordings label. The recording marks the eighth recording for the group and the third on a Reference label.

Following the 1993 annual meeting of the Federation for Choral Music in Vancouver, British Columbia, Dr. Seelig, TCC artistic director, was inspired by the multinational musical exposure. "Our 1993-1994 season was a musical journey featuring music of

different cultures. 'Postcards' is a tribute to the diversity of languages and cultures that make the world's music so inexhaustibly rich," Seelig says.

The recording represents North and South America, Asia and the Pacific Rim, Africa, Europe, and Russia. The chorus performed selections in 11 different languages and employed instruments indigenous to many of the countries of origin including 30 anklung imported from Jakarta, the Japanese shakuhachi and the Chinese guzhong. Highlights include two pieces with African drum ensemble, an uproarious parody of Italian opera, and a rare recording of Toch's "Geographical Fugue."

"Postcards" is available at area record stores for \$16 for CDs and \$11 for cassettes, or by calling the TCC office at 214/526-3214. Other recordings by the TCC are also available at the same locations.

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Keynote Speaker: Jim Woods, author of *The Corporate Closet*

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Pre-registration Cost: \$10 (Event Day - \$15), includes lunch, a 'take-away' packet of various reference materials/information. Deadline for Early Registration is 4/15/95.

I'd like to congratulate the Dallas county commissioners for eliminating the free condoms. The city should start investing in additional funeral plots for all the people they just sentenced to death. Nothing like education without the tools, kinda like jumping out of a plane without a chute. I guess Dallas hasn't lost enough people to AIDS yet. Oh well, at least they are on the right track now. I just hope they reach their goal soon.

Speaking of goals, am I the only person who knew Greg Louganis was gay in '84? All he had to do was speak. Plus, you would think he would have gotten a clue that no endorsements were coming when he did not get any

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

Celebrities can't replace our local heroes who, though weakened, provide timely education.

after '84. I guess in a lot of ways I am probably the only one who wished he would either have kept his mouth shut or spoke up in '88 after winning the medals. He really could have made a difference back in '88; now all he is going to do is make a fortune off

his disclosure. I find it hard to embrace Greg — it is hard to feel sorry for someone with a chest to die for, a butt you could bounce quarters off, and someone so well traveled. Pity him, right! The man has five Olympic medals and more than his allotted 15 minutes of fame.

I do not feel he is helping the HIV community. He gives the uneducated public this horrid view of homosexuality, one of abuse and endless drug addiction. This will not help our cause to gain acceptance. I just wonder about his timing. Had he come out in '88 and told the world, he would have made an impact. Magic Johnson had made his status known prior to the games and it did not hurt him. It only made the Australians look stupid. But to come out now to promote his book and gain from the news blitz seems selfish when I compare him to some of the people I know with AIDS.

I think the real heroes are the people who have to give their kids away due to the illness or who must lose their home to pay for medications. I am not even a good representative of the HIV community because I avoid the anti-virals and have a relationship with someone. I can pay my way; a lot of those infected cannot even

afford a box of Girl Scout cookies.

I know people are flocking to his side with support but, excuse me for saying this, where the hell were you, Greg, when school system after school system fought to keep infected people out of their halls? Where were you when Bush avoided important AIDS funding issues? Where the hell were you when my mother lay on the bed for hours before we could find an undertaker to remove her body? Had you really cared about motivating the HIV community, you would have stood up long before now. Maybe Magic will give you a ride to your next doctor visit, after your lunch with Ms. Streisand.

There is nothing wrong with celebrities coming forward with their HIV infection, but style and timing are important. Greg is no hero in my eyes. He hurt the cause and those of us who work in the field know this to be true. A group of high school kids would eat him for a light snack. Stand up for yourself, Greg. There is no risk from blood in the pool. Either stop whining about how badly you feel about the doctor with no gloves or at least have some cheese with your big old glass of wine. To tell people that you won medals while high on cocaine and smoking cigarettes will not help curb HIV infection. It just tells people you need to be high, drunk, sexually abused, and from a rich family to win Olympic medals.

I am sure that his plight will help educate some people, but the real heroes are those people infected with

HIV who get out of the hospital one day and sit in front of a school the next day to tell their story. Those AIDS survivors who risk daily infections to prevent further spread of this disease are the true heroes. The sad part is many have and will die without medals around their necks or Oprah tapings under their belts.

And one more point, Greg, get a real doctor. Even my dog knows that no one stays on AZT for more than 18 months. At least know something about your illness before you start telling people about your treatment. Get a clue or at least some more intelligent friends who can read and are HIV aware.

It is really hard to be nice to someone who continues to ask for all the bad shit he gets. I realize that I am being a bit tough on this man, but if you go public, either speak knowledgeably or shut the hell up. Do not make our world more difficult than it already is and either help or get out of the way. You knew about HIV in the gay community and chose to ignore the risks and now you want to make a mint off your mistake — how rude and selfish.

HIV infection is a disease, not a choice. Greg painted a horrid picture of gay life and smeared those AIDS patients who died alone because society shunned them. At least donate your profits or stay out of my path. Greg has been in the HIV world as long as I have, but he should know as well as I do that strength comes from within and without it, HIV will destroy everything. Take your book and your money and have lunch with Newt, because from where I am sitting, neither of you live in the same world I do. Not that I am perfect — my own sister told me the nicest thing about me was that I had a terminal illness. Maybe so, but at least I live in reality.

Until next month, burn a few books, think positive, act positive and find the passion to live each day to the fullest. *rw*

Cheryl Strange,
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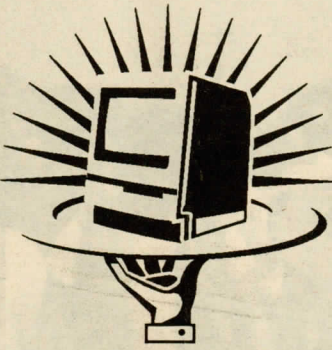
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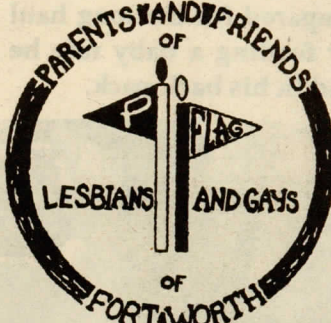


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The weekend of the Texas March to Stop the Violence, Stop the Hate was an intermeshing of our worlds, resoundingly affirming all that we are as a community.

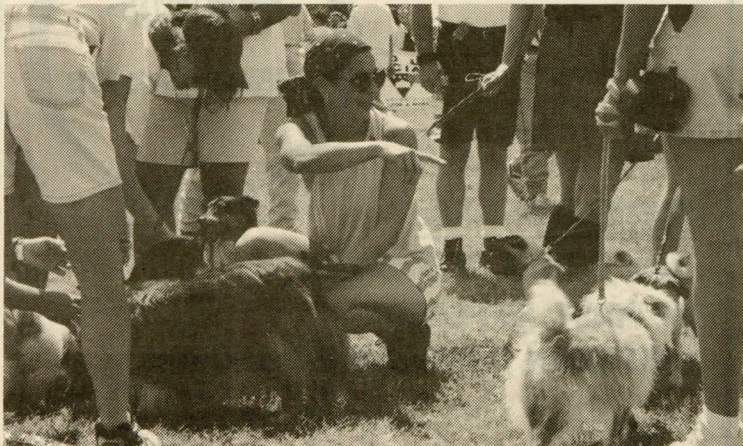
That universal picture of us forms naturally when so many of us gather at one time for one cause, and contribute to it our own perspective. All weekend long I met familiar, enthusiastic faces, and basked in the enthusiasm on faces unfamiliar, from alien reaches of our state and from distant aspects of our culture.

A community is formed on that premise – that each one of us within it is unique and precious within our differences, and that there is at least one commonality that binds us. Sexual orientation is the binding factor for our diverse community. The March, April 2, provided another binding theme: our vulnerability to a hostile climate here in Texas that looms threatening and pervasive, the burden of it shared by us all.

The March was compiled by the



RODENTS FOR RIGHTS: While marchers congregated, this blue-haired dude prepared for the long haul by feeding a baby rate he had in his back pack.



PET PROJECT: The Hate Crimes Bill gained strong support from a contingent of dogs for owners' rights. Their director here works hard to line the pack up for the march.

The LONG Haul

The Texas March carried us far, and it carries us still.

A Diary of Dissidence

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY BEVERLY FLETCHER

very many of us, representing the many more of us, who are staunchly committed to doing all that we can to improve that climate.

The March was an entity of our entire community, offering up the image of us as a vocal force of survivors. Those steady steps up Congress Avenue to the Capitol echoed throughout the state, assuring our own and warning those who object to us that we will not stand mutely to be annihilated – that we *will* march in full force, loudly, forward.

March Eve

With my spouse gone, most regrettably, on a business trip, two of our friends, Marilyn Morris and Cheri Henderson, accompanied me to Austin for a women's-weekend out.

That Saturday night we roamed aimlessly through the entertainment district, gawk-eyed and giggly, stopping here and there to sample the local culture. Our trek led us to a women's bar, Nexus, where we pondered what a hair product has to do with lesbians.

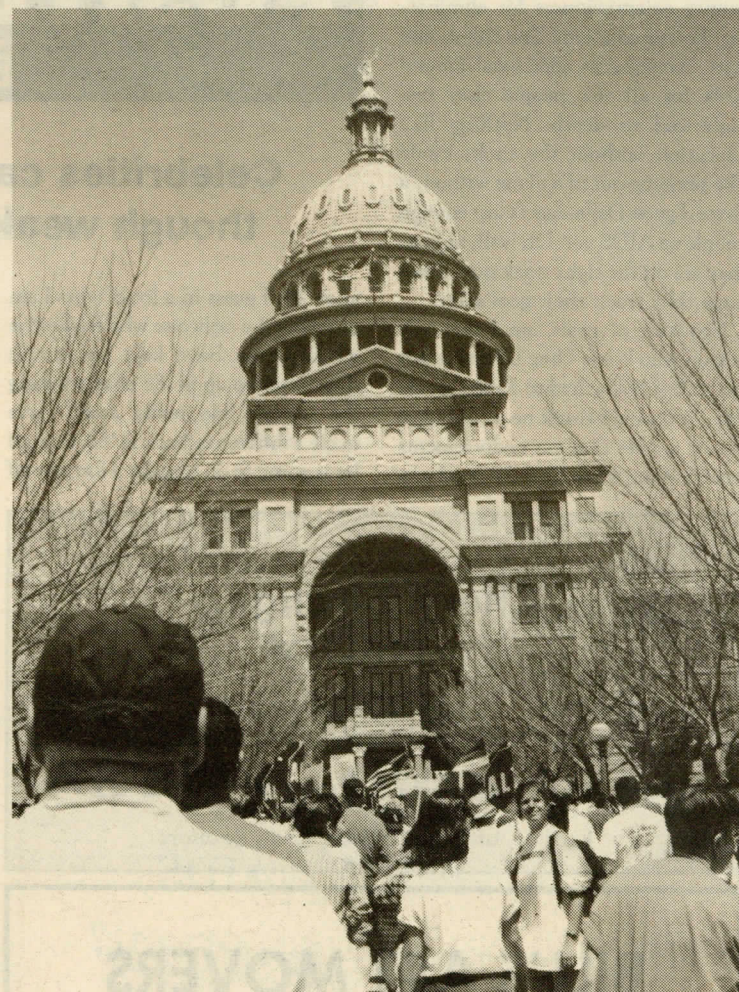
We did see some pretty tall hair, though.

Here my single chums introduced me to what is decidedly more their turf than mine – an old married gal like me is more prone to watching Roseanne at home than to stepping out.

It was, indeed, a festive world, a rhythmic one, with undulating waves of women ebbing and flowing to and from the dance floor, mingling in between. Lots of Fort Worth fillies there that night – the several Janes and their companions, Dee Dee scouting out the latest dance trends.

Marilyn and Cheri cut a rug together, shuffled and twirled, danced in a line like they were part of a rehearsed mega-backup group. When the music was right, no country twang to it, I joined them in a spirited menage a dance that segued into Cotton-Eye Joe.

The aura of the place, the womanly



THE LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS LOBBY OF TEXAS enjoyed capital success with a march that exceeded expectations for attendance and that made a profit, benefitting organizations across the state. Most importantly, the March was quite successful in its goal to build a platform of visibility, to help move the Hate Crimes bills through the legislature.

spirit that permeated it, the kinship shared and strangers so graciously hailed, reminded me of how hardy we are as survivors. Two women near us

on the dance floor wrapped around each other, swayed their hips together, in a timeless, intimate dance that refuses to be quelled.



FUTURE PRESENCE: The Future Fort Worth/Arlington crew turned out in force, each planning the future by what they can do now.



LEADING EDGE: Thousands of people marched behind the TCLGA banner ... although they might not have been entirely aware of it.



TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: More than 6,400 were counted officially; many more missed being counted. The column of marchers filled the street for blocks for a solemn purpose: to protest the rising surge of hate crimes that are assaulting our people, and to demand that legislators do something about it.

I take my activism all too seriously. I forget sometimes to stop and smell the bar's perfume. Marilyn and Cherri distracted my attention from the heavy topics of gays murdered, lesbians raped and politicians who think we deserve it. They presented to me a less complicated moment of simple celebration, of pure joy in being and feeling.

I shared their dance that night. The sweat on our brows was sweet, refreshing. The next day, they would share in my dance, and bathe in the sweat of so much work to do.

The March

Ever the seasoned marcher, I decked Cherri and Marilyn in appropriate attire culled from my private collection - politically correct radical T-shirts, pink and black triangle necklace for Marilyn, lots of rainbow coloring for Cherri.

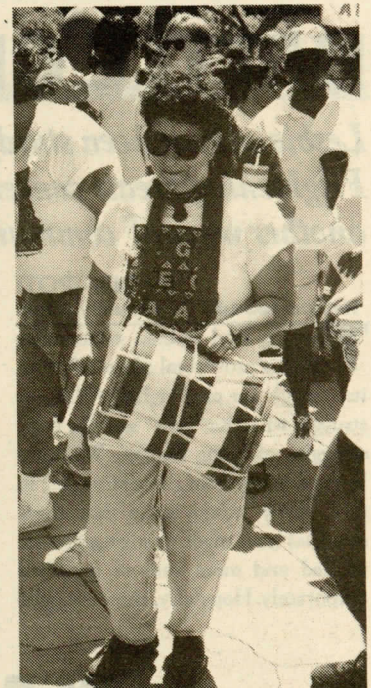
We gulped down some burgers in a parking lot, running behind, hoping the march would start on queer-time, fashionably late. And it did.

The first glance of the congregation gathering lulled me into believing we could easily hook up with Daune' Littlefield and Melissa Flories, and other Alliance members we'd promised to meet. Once upon it though, our

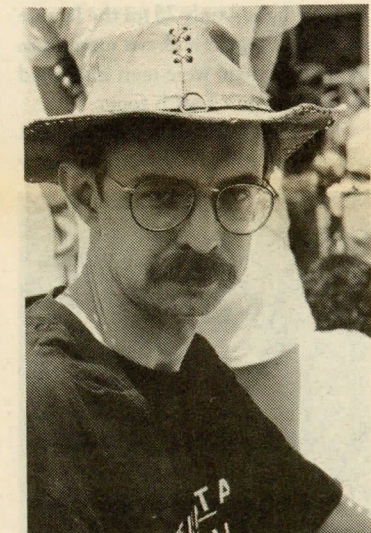
arrangements seemed hopeless. The throng was a pulsing, living mass, its edges constantly rearranging. Any slight distraction lost me momentarily from Cherri and Marilyn. I pictured us each swallowed up in the crowd and never burped out again.

The park was a fascinating marketplace of T-shirts for sale, red wristbands offered for the count, national organizations hawking membership, and local groups dispersing flyers (one fellow had just about drained the battery of his wheelchair working the crowd). Leather guys in the back rehearsed their routine with rainbow streamers. Several precocious dogs broke from their owners to bound over and greet us with wet, sloppy kisses.

We almost lost Cherri to a sink hole that swallowed her foot, and then the bathroom line stole her from us. We all hooked up again just as the March prepared to launch and, miraculously, spotted our people, Daune' and Melissa, just ahead of Tony Coronado and his Future Fort Worth/Arlington gang. We held David Reed in tow, temporarily, and passed our good buddy Todd Camp, who was chaperoning the TCU bunch. Scads of Dallas allies hailed us. Many a familiar face was there to walk the walk. Several of our friends would rise later to the podium



SWEET MUSIC: A high-spirited band with tribal instruments pounded a marching beat on the Capitol steps.



SERIOUS FUN: TCLGA board member David Reed was all business for the March, but he relaxed a bit the night before at the official March party benefitting organizations across the state. The club was packed, he said, with lines to get in holding strong until 4 in the morning.

to talk the talk.

The column of activists erupted from the starting lineup and filled the street, packed densely, moving at a quick clip. Everyone around us was an instant friend, well met, giddy, steeped in jovial conviviality. The mass surrounding us chanted, shouted to on-lookers at the side of the road, cheered

SEE MARCH ON P. 18

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BATTLE CRY

Lesbians have been sturdy allies in the AIDS war. Frightening breast cancer statistics sound the alarm for another wave of community-wide support to face this latest challenge.

By DEB TROTT

Nelson-Tebedo Community Clinic

The gay and lesbian community has its proverbial plate full with its struggle for civil rights, AIDS, its struggle with the "isms" and the basic struggles of being human. We have learned much from these struggles; in fact, many would argue that these struggles have made us stronger, more unified and more sure of ourselves corporately. Hopefully, these struggles

have also taught us the need to be proactive in the face of potential adversity.

We are experiencing the beginning of another health care crisis in our community. This time we know much more about the disease, its detection, treatment and prognosis. This knowledge does us little good unless we take what we have learned from our current struggles, modify and adapt those lessons and apply them in our ever increasing health care struggle

with breast cancer.

The best-case scenario is that one in every eight lesbians will struggle with breast cancer in her lifetime! This year alone nearly 50,000 women will die from breast cancer. If we assume one in 10 are gay then we will lose 5,000 lesbians to breast cancer before the year's end. Remember this is the best-case scenario.

Recently, Dr. Suzanne Haynes, chief of health education for cancer control

at the National Cancer Institute, did a prospective study around the issue of lesbians and breast cancer. According to her projections as many as one in three lesbians will fight the in her lifetime! *One in three!*

Why are lesbians at such a potentially higher risk for breast cancer? The factors are many and are as diverse as the lesbian community. Some of the most common risk factors include, but are not limited to: No full-term pregnancy before age 30; high-fat diet; increased body fat; alcohol consumption; age; heredity.

No matter what the risk factors, the necessity of regular screenings and early detection is the key.

The value of monthly breast self-examinations cannot be overstated. The majority of lumps are found by the woman herself. Regular visits for gynecologic care, coupled with mammograms as directed by a health-care professional, increase the probability of early detection. Early detection improves the survival rate of breast cancer. As with AIDS, education and support are of paramount importance.

In keeping with a philosophy of empowerment, education and support, the Young/Elder Women's Health Program of the Nelson-Tebedo Community Clinic has teamed up with the American Cancer Society to offer its "I Can Cope" series. This series is a time-limited educational and support group and will be the first step in the Debbie Thomas Breast Cancer Program for lesbians.

Currently, facilitators are being trained for this series and we plan on offering the first lesbian-targeted "I Can Cope" by late spring. We are in need of additional volunteers for this and subsequent programs targeted for lesbians around the issue of breast cancer.

To meet the challenge breast cancer will provide, it will take all of the community working together. We must make taking care of ourselves the norm in our community. We must care enough to ensure that all lesbians have access to affordable, lesbian-sensitive gynecologic care as well as mammograms. We must be as comfortable asking a lesbian whether she has regular gynecologic exams and performs monthly breast self-exams as we are of reminding our gay male friends to "play safe". The challenge is here. Are we going to rise to the occasion?

For more information about lesbians and breast cancer, breast self-examinations or to volunteer for the Debbie Thomas Breast Cancer Program, call Debbie Barrett, RN, 214/528-2336. *ia*

DEAFENING SILENCE

Alliance speaker confirms: it's a health crisis that dares not speak its name

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

Attendance at the March Alliance meeting was all too noticeably light - only 25 for the lecture series that regularly draws more than 60; half of them were men interested in the women's health topic.

The reason for the slight turnout was embarrassingly obvious to many

there: the topic was breast cancer, a subject much avoided within lesbian circles.

"Women don't like to talk about breast cancer because talk makes it real," offered speaker Paula Graves, who has presented the unpopular subject to as few as two people at conferences and seminars.

That pervasive state of denial does nothing to alter lesbian vulnerability to the disease. More than 182,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, Graves said; 46,000 of them will die. A disproportionate number of those will be lesbians.

The greater risk factors among lesbians are both biological and sociological. Lesbians are less likely to bear children by the age of 30; they are less likely to pursue regular medical care that might detect lumps early.

Lesbians with breast cancer have too few resources to draw upon, where they can feel comfortable. Mainstream support organizations don't widely acknowledge sexual orientation issues in providing their services, Graves said, but they're trying to get there.

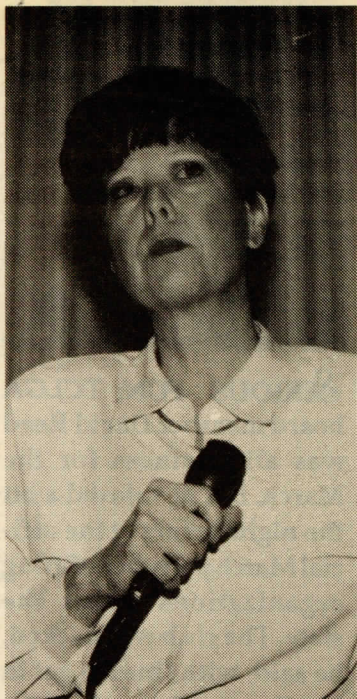
Graves developed a support group for lesbians out of the Nelson-Tebedo Community Clinic in Dallas, naming the group in honor of her partner, Debbie Thomas, whom she lost to breast cancer.

Graves offered the clinic's services to anyone who could not afford a

mammogram. "Come to us and we'll do whatever it takes to get you one," she promised a low-income student at the meeting. The clinic can be reached at 214/528-2336.

Graves impressed the gravity of the health crisis by her personal account of her partner's ordeal - misdiagnosis, the roller coaster of hope rising and falling, and Thomas' devastation over her physical decline.

During a pause in the moving presentation, Melissa Flories leaned over to me. "This is the best speaker the Alliance has ever had," she whispered. "It's a shame there's so few here to hear it." *ia*



PAULA GRAVES

Founder of the Debbie Thomas Breast Cancer Support Program

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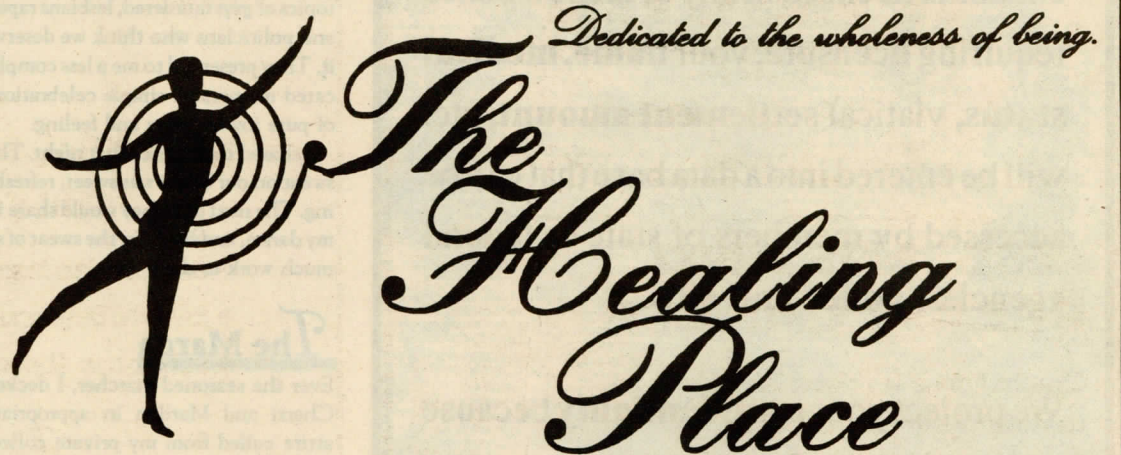
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A AGAPE's **pple a Day** Healthy advice from the heart by **Doug Rich, RN, MSN,** Family Nurse Practitioner and Agape MCC Deacon

We at Agape MCC have "DREAMS" for everyone's health. The realization of a healthy gay community 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!

This month the column focuses on breast cancer. I encourage everyone to read it - even men (although breast

cancer is almost unheard of in males, it does occur; most importantly, each of us men have mothers, sisters and female friends who may benefit from our knowledge gained through this article). One of every 11 women in the United States will develop breast cancer (some sources say that lesbians are at even greater risk - one in eight).

Discharge is the second most frequent sign of breast cancer. The

most frequent sign is a *lump* in the breast. Other signs that you and your health-care provider should be aware of are dimpling of the breast, retraction of the nipple, changes in the skin's color or texture, and swollen nodes in the armpit. In many cases the partner is the first to notice the lumps or changes in the breast.

Risk factors for developing breast cancer include first-line relatives (mother, grandmother, sisters) with breast cancer, early menarche and late menopause (menstruation spanning more than 40 years), never having had children, previous breast cancer, having other breast disease, and radiation exposure. Studies link an increased risk of breast cancer to high fat diets, lack of exercise, smoking and excessive alcohol use.

Examinations by your health-care provider are the best way to detect breast cancer. Every woman between 18 and ancient would do her health a great service by having a PAP smear and a thorough breast exam at regularly scheduled intervals (usually every year). Breast self-examination (BSE) is valuable, too. One of the nation's leading breast surgeons (and our community's most famous lesbian physician), Dr. Susan Love, said on national television that

BSE is not nearly as important as a yearly exam by a professional.

Almost 90 percent of lumps are accounted for by two different kinds of noncancerous breast disease. Fibroadenoma is common in young women (let's be gentle with each other on this - you can feel young if you want but if you remember when disco was cool, you ain't young!). Fibroadenoma is usually painless and does not change in size with the menstrual cycle. Fibrocystic disease occurs more frequently with increasing age and peaks at about the time of menopause. Fibrocystic disease is accompanied by pain and tenderness which increases at the time of the period. Fibrocystic disease symptoms can often be relieved by reducing the amount of coffee, tea, cola and other sources of caffeine. It's a sad thing to have to tell you, but chocolate is a major source of caffeine.

Mammograms have been shown to be effective in detecting breast cancer. A baseline mammogram is recommended for every woman between the age of 35 and 39. Mammograms should be performed at least every two years between the ages of 40 and 49 - some authorities recommend yearly mammograms in this age range but only a well-in-

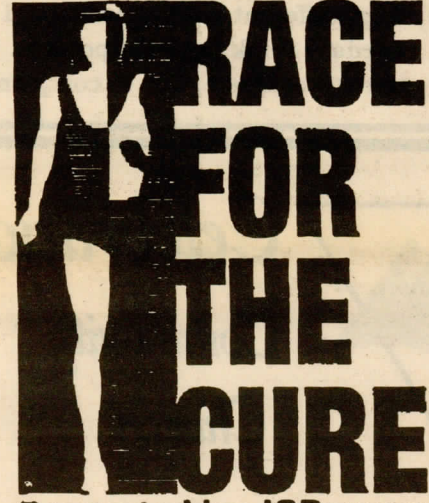
formed woman and her health-care provider can make the actual decision for the frequency based on her personal risk factors. All authorities agree that mammograms should be done yearly once women celebrate the 11th anniversary of their 39th year.

Spiritual health is vital for women facing the battle of their lives once breast cancer is detected. Many studies and individual "miracle cases" show that women's sheer spiritual strength, courage and determination to "beat the odds" are important to recovery. If you know someone with breast cancer, offer her your support, encourage her to remain strong, and help in whatever meaningful way you can. If that someone is you, don't be afraid to ask your friends for help and, remember, God is your friend too.

Dream of the month: This month we dream not only of finding a cure for breast cancer but of also finding a way to totally prevent that first cancerous cell from forming so that someday, someday soon, breast cancer will be completely eradicated from the face of the planet. 🌱

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.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation



Presented by JCPenney

NATIONAL SPONSORS:



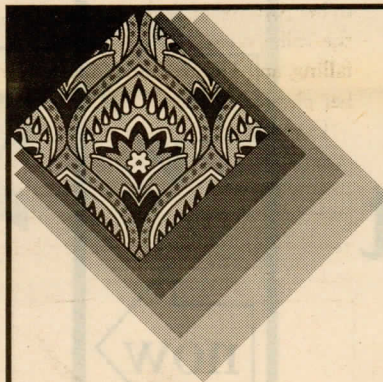
LESBIANS AND BREAST CANCER

One in three lesbians is likely to develop breast cancer.

Beat the odds by joining the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure.

8 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at the corner of 4th and Houston in Downtown Fort Worth. Entry fee is \$15. Each participant will receive a Race for the Cure T-shirt, cap and gift bag.

For more information on the TCLGA team, call Angie at the Alliance office, 817/763-5544.



Jan Wynn, LMSW-ACP AND ASSOCIATES



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OUT OF THE MOTHER'S NEST

The geographical tone to White Rock West's name was appropriate enough during the church's infancy, to distinguish it from the mother church in Dallas. Now a more descriptive name identifies the church's character within Tarrant County, with its christening as **CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH.**

The suburb of White Rock is in Dallas. So is the White Rock Community Church. Makes sense. But White Rock Church West is in Fort Worth. And it has caused some confusion. Now the church has decided to help end the confusion by changing the name of the congregation.

Two years ago, White Rock Community Church (in Dallas) started a congregation in Fort Worth. Several Fort Worth residents had been attending the Dallas congregation and it was seen as an opportunity to make it easier for these members. Jerry Cook, the Dallas church's senior pastor, would drive to Tarrant County to conduct the 5 p.m. service and then quickly return to Dallas for a 7 p.m. service there.

The founders of the new church wanted to maintain the integrity and mission of the Dallas organization. It had proven to be highly successful, bringing a substantial growth over the past few years. When the new congregation began, it was referred to as *White Rock West* to distinguish it from the Dallas church. No one intended the name to stick, but it did.

In November of last year, White Rock

West called its first pastor, Rev. Bill Prickett. One of his first goals was to lead the Fort Worth congregation in developing an individual identity, one that was tied to the city of Fort Worth and *not* to the Dallas church.

The process is complete and the new name has been chosen: Celebration Community Church.

"I like the new name," Pastor Prickett said. "It communicates a strong message. We are about celebrating. We celebrate all that God has done in Christ. We celebrate God's acceptance. And we celebrate who we are, as God's gay and lesbian children."

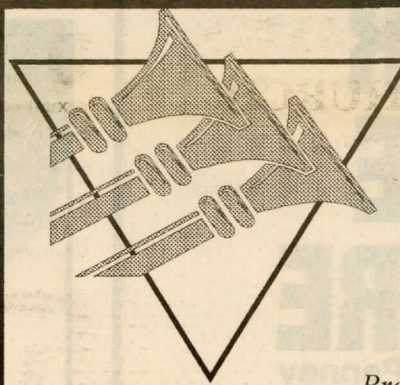
"It was a tedious process finding a name. We had many people working hard on the transition. Most everyone in the church wanted a new name. Jerry [the pastor in Dallas] wanted us to have a new name. It was just a matter of finding one that fit."

"I celebrate all the Tarrant County churches who reach out to our community. We all have the same basic message, but we present it in distinctive formats. There's something for different people from different backgrounds and different needs. I think that's important. We're not here to compete, but to complement."

~~White Rock Church West~~

is

now



**Celebration
Community
Church**

*Proclaiming God's Acceptance;
Celebrating God's Love*

**Sunday Services
5:00 PM***

* 6:30 PM Beginning
EASTER Sunday
April 16th

*Bill
Prickett,
Pastor*



Some things didn't change:

- * Friendly people
- * A Warm welcome
- * Our Message of God's love
- * Commitment to gay & lesbian community

Call 275-0443 for more information

**Meeting at:
1959 Sandy Lane**

Playing by the rules among lawlessness is just

A MATTER OF FAITH

By Rev. BRENDA HUNT, AGAPE MCC

Sometimes playing by the rules seems to make for a setback or disadvantage. At best it has sometimes been incredibly frustrating.

It used to happen regularly to me in school when term-paper or project deadlines were declared absolute by the instructor — and I would work diligently and faithfully to complete the assignment on time, only to discover that someone else, usually the same someone else from year to year, managed to get the deadline extended or changed. I used to wonder if they ever turned in papers at all. I do not remember ever seeing evidence of any consequences of their tardiness ... just my frustration.

The same feelings and experiences have translated into adult experiences. We diligently work at being polite or caring or understanding only to be disregarded or discounted or, worse yet, attacked for exactly what we were not doing or being. It is always a startling thing for me to discover that not every adult plays by the same rule book.

Robert Fulghum does such a wonderfully innocent presentation of those rules. In his first book, *All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, the rules are defined in such a way as to challenge the fabric and core of those who play sideways or underhanded, hidden, those who expect a certain level of compassion or

competence from everyone else but maintain very little consistency of their own.

One of the phrases that I have learned from the Simpson trial is "the credibility of the witness." It is very, very tempting to me to get lost in evaluating other people's credibility. And ever-so-rewarding when I manage to not fall into that sort of thing and instead go back to the reason I think "the rules" mean so much to me.

One of the main spring rituals of our community ought to be reviewing

the simple rules, the ones that put us into right-relationship and help us rise above the petty and problematic, unfair world we live in.

In case you have somehow managed to live this long without your own copy of Fulghum's book, here is the condensed version of his rules, rules that would serve us well. Rules that could, as we apply them, begin to prepare us for the coming of Pridetide and all that means for us.

"Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that are not yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt someone. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and milk are good for you. Live a balanced life — learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

"When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together."

Again, Fulghum does a great job of laying it all out there. It's the central message I heard in a Baptist church basement Sunday School cubicle years ago; it's the central message of any catechism intent; it is at the heart of every lesson for Jewish children preparing for stages of their life. It brings together the Golden Rule and the Hallelujah Chorus, sort of. And it becomes a simple matter of our faith to let these words guide us. Faith, that love always is stronger than hate, that hope always will win over doubt. A simple matter of faith. In you and in me. ♪

'Miracle Sunday': Fund-raising project seeks wide support for church's services

By Rev. JO CRISCO

Over the past 10 years I have watched Tarrant County's gay/lesbian/bisexual community grow from a seedling to the thriving, growing community we proudly claim today.

Like the rest of Tarrant County, Trinity MCC also has grown rapidly. Two years ago when we moved into

our leased facility on Aaron Avenue, it seemed so big. Never in our wildest dreams did we anticipate outgrowing this building so quickly. In one year, Trinity doubled in membership and average attendance. This past year, we nearly doubled our space by adding Trinity Hall.

During 1994, we ministered to 5,200 people during worship services and I made or answered approximately 2,000 calls or visits in the community. Our AIDS ministry provided care to all the residents of Samaritan House and Park Plaza Nursing Home. We are one of three or four churches in Tarrant County who continue to sup-

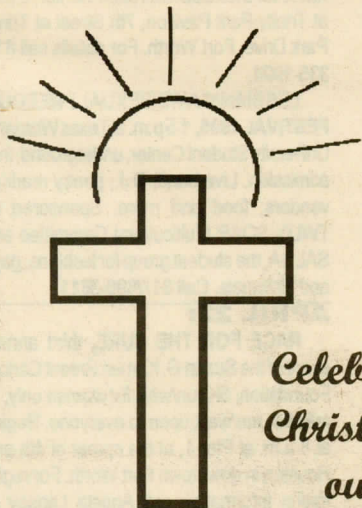
port AIDS Outreach Center's Nutrition Center.

I have served as a charter member of Leadership Lambda, Arlington AIDS Coalition and Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network. I serve on the Arlington Ministerial Association, the Coordinating and Advisory Committee of Tarrant County HIV Consortium, and I have been a guest lecturer and educator for the Arlington Police Academy. Our church hosted the Annual Monarch Appreciation Dinner and Stonewall Revisited in 1994.

This work represents an outreach
SEE 'TRINITY' ON P. 19

TRINITY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

331 Aaron Ave. #125 (at 2117 W. Division)
Arlington, TX 76012 (Metro) 817-265-5454



*Celebrating the Risen
Christ this Easter with
our Community*

- Palm Sunday Service** — April 9; 10:45 a.m.
- Good Friday Mass** — April 14; 7 p.m.
- Live the Easter story** — Weds. with small group drama; 7 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Service/musical: "The Greatest Love Story"** — April 16; 10:45 a.m.

Please remember your special donation to "Miracle Sunday" this Easter. Help us make the dream of serving you in bigger and better ways a reality.

1970-1995

AGAPÉ



METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

JOIN US FOR
GOOD FRIDAY &
EASTER SERVICES!

Sunday Services:
9 & 11am

(Children's Sunday School at 11am)

(See Community Calendar
For Programmed Events)

Phone:

(817) 535-5002

Office Hours:

M-Th / 11am-6pm

Agape' Means Love

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CHURCH/RELIGION

SUNDAYS:

AGAPE MCC services, 9 and 11 a.m., 4615 SE 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.; Kid's Church at 11 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**, 10:45 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.

WHITEROCKCHURCHWEST 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:

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH Heart Group, Home Bible study, Bedford. Call Sandy at metro 817/267-8644.

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

TRINITY MCC Easter Story drama, 7 p.m. at the church. Weekly interactive/small group portrayals developing the Easter story, playing to fellow classmates.

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

THURSDAYS:

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

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH Heart Group, Home Bible study, Fort Worth. Call Ric at metro 817/429-2140.

FRIDAYS:

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

BETHEL BINAH Shabbat services, sec-

ond and fourth Fridays, 8:15 p.m., Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.

APRIL 9:

AGAPE MCC'S Kids' Day Out, 12:30 p.m. Outings for school-age children, held the second Sunday of each month. Call 817/535-5002.

HARVEST MCC Palm Sunday Celebration, 10:30 a.m. at the church. Special music by the Harvest Choir.

TRINITY MCC Palm Sunday service, 10:45 a.m. at the church. Distribution of palm leaves.

APRIL 12:

HARVEST MCC Feminist Liturgy, 7 p.m. at the church. In celebration of Holy Week.

APRIL 13:

HARVEST MCC Christian Seder, 7 p.m. at the church. Covered-dish supper and service for Passover.

AGAPE MCC Seder Meal and Service, 6:30 p.m. at the church. A Seder Haggadah commemorating the Passover Meal, telling of personal and collective stories to celebrate the past of the Jewish Passover and the present in our stories as gays and lesbians. Meal served with service; seating limited; sign-up required.

APRIL 13, 27:

TRINITY MCC'S Home Study Series, "Homosexuality, Not a Sin. Not a Sickness." Small, intimate groups meet in individual homes to study and dialog on UFMCC-produced material. Call the church at 817/265-5454 for more information.

APRIL 14:

AGAPE MCC Good Friday Service, 7:30 p.m. at the church. Good Friday service includes the premier of the major work "Missa Solemis," composed and conducted by Choir Director Michael Ekblad.

HARVEST MCC Good Friday Service, 7 p.m. at the church. "AIDS as a Reflection of the Crucifixion."

TRINITY MCC Good Friday service, 7 p.m. at the church. Traditional mass.

APRIL 16:

AGAPE MCC Easter Services, 9 and 11 a.m. at the church. Special music by the combined Agape choirs highlight this year's services.

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC Monthly Jubilee Service, 6:30 p.m. at the church. Service in the African-American tradition.

HARVEST MCC Easter Sunday Celebration, 10:30 a.m. at the church. Special music by the Harvest Choir; presenting the Jim Plumlee Memorial Chime Choir; Easter Egg hunt for children after the service.

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

TRINITY MCC Easter Sunday service and musical, 10:45 a.m. at the church. Musical presentation of "The Greatest Love Story" portrays Jesus' love and his ultimate sacrifice. Miracle Sunday donation campaign during the service.

APRIL 18:

TRINITY MCC Men's Fellowship. Call the church for more information.

APRIL 22:

AGAPE MCC Leadership Breakfast, 9 a.m. at the church. Leadership training for

church staff and those interested in learning more about church leadership. Breakfast served; cost, \$3.

AGAPE MCC'S Diner's Club, 6:30 p.m. Held the fourth Saturday of each month at a different restaurant. Call 817/535-5002.

HARVEST MCC Variety Show, 7:30 p.m. at The Denton Visual Arts Center on Bell Avenue, Denton.

INTEGRITY advocacy group for Episcopalians, monthly meeting. All welcome. Call Bryan Taylor, 817/738-2902.

APRIL 23:

AGAPE MCC Sunday School Inservice, 6-8 p.m. at the church. Training for those interested in teaching Sunday School.

HARVEST MCC Earth Day Celebration, 10:30 a.m. at the church.

MAY 2:

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. Program: "City of Dallas Election on May 6th," by Paul Rodgers, treasurer of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

MAY 6:

AGAPE MCC Miniature Golf Invitational. First annual event to celebrate Agape MCC's 25th anniversary. Miniature golf, picnic. Call the church for details at 817/535-5002.

MAY 7:

AGAPE MCC 25th Anniversary Service, 9 and 11 a.m. at the church. UFMCC Elder Larry Rodriguez is special guest speaker during services celebrating Agape MCC's 25th anniversary.

ORGANIZATIONS

SUNDAYS:

TCU TRIANGLE MEETINGS, weekly meetings of Texas Christian University student group, advocates for lesbians and gays, 5 p.m. Call Dr. Priscilla Tate, faculty adviser, 817/921-7160.

MONDAYS:

TWU'S SALGA, Student Advocates for Lesbian/Gay Affirmation, meets every other Monday 6:30-8 p.m. at the TWU 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.

APRIL 8:

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.

SECONDSATURDAY 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.

APRIL 9:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ ARLINGTON business meeting, 3 p.m. at 651 Club, 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.

APRIL 10:

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.

APRIL 12:

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

APRIL 14:

WOMEN'S SINGLES meeting, social group for lesbians, an off-shoot of First Thursday Lesbian Social. 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.

APRIL 16:

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.

APRIL 17:

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

TEEN PROJECT monthly meeting for volunteers, 7 p.m. at the Sexuality Education Center, 901 Lake St., Fort Worth. Planning and work session for the Lesbian/Gay Teen Talkline.

APRIL 18:

LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL COALITION - TARRANT COUNTY, 7:30 p.m., First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For information write to L/GPC, P.O. Box 17437, Fort Worth, TX 76102, or call 817/370-0460.

APRIL 20:

TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria on University in Fort Worth. Program: Eliot Wood, coordinator of the Cowtown Natural Foods Co-op, on "AIDS: Choices and Challenges for Good Health." Meets the third Thursday of every month.

APRIL 21:

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.

MAY 4:

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

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

EDUCATION

APRIL 7:

AOC FRIDAY FORUM: "Losing a Loved One to AIDS," Ed Luke Jr., DO, psychiatrist, Fort Worth Family Institute, 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.

APRIL 9, 23:

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.

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.

THRU MAY 6:

STAGE WEST "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller, at Stage West Theatre, 3055 S. University Dr., Fort Worth. Set in 1692, the play chronicles the madness that consumes the Puritan town of Salem when a group of girls accuses an ever-widening circle of townspeople of conspiring with Satan. Co-production with TCU Theatre Department. Contact metro 817/784-9378.

APRIL 27-MAY 20:

FORT WORTH THEATRE'S "Smoke and Mirrors," by Will Osborne and Anthony Herrera, at Casa on the Square, 110 E. 3rd St., Fort Worth. A Hollywood director plots to get rid of the macho film star during a rehearsal. Call 817/738-6509.

EVENTS

APRIL 9

ALL WALKS OF LIFE, annual fundraiser for the AIDS Outreach Center, 2 p.m. at Trinity Park Pavilion, 7th Street at Trinity Park Drive, Fort Worth. For details call 817/335-1994.

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL FREEDOM FESTIVAL 1995, 1-5 p.m. at Texas Woman's University Student Center, underground, free admission. Live band, D.J., poetry reading, vendors, food and more. Sponsored by TWU's SOAP Multicultural Committee and SALGA, the student group for lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Call 817/898-3611.

APRIL 22:

RACE FOR THE CURE, third annual event of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 5K run/walk for women only; 1-mile fun run/walk open to everyone. Begins at 8 a.m. at Pier 1, at the corner of 4th and Houston in downtown Fort Worth. For registration information call Angela Lansey at 817/763-5544.

APRIL 23:

AFTERNOON OF ENLIGHTENMENT, honoring the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the Dallas/Fort Worth Black Tie Dinner, 2-6 p.m. at William Campbell Contemporary Art Gallery, 4935 Byers Ave., Fort Worth. Casual dress for an evening of art, jazz and wine; suggested donation, \$10. RSVP to Michael Toole or Allan Gould, co-chairs, at 817/731-0122.

APRIL 30:

MISS GAY TWIN CITIES PAGEANT, 10 p.m. at the Copa Cobana Bar, 1002 S. Main, Fort Worth. Third annual event. For details call Ken Rolland, 817/496-6162.

HEALTH & FITNESS

WEEKDAYS:

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

COMMUNITY GUIDE

MONDAYS:

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

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS:

OAK LAWN SOCCER CLUB PRACTICE, 10 a.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m. Sundays. For location and information, call Michael, 214/942-9537.

APRIL 8:

AGAPE MCC CYCLING CLUB, 9 a.m. Must wear helmets and bring water supply. Call the church at 817/535-5002 for meeting location.

SUPPORT GROUPS

DAILY:

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

MONDAYS:

***POSITIVE HEALING** (diagnosed HIV/AIDS), 6-7:30 p.m. AOC Arlington/Mid-Cities.

LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS, Arlington/Mid-Cities AOC office, 6-7:30 p.m.

HARVEST MCC'S HIV SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP, 6:30 p.m. at the church. For persons with HIV, their spouses and/or caregivers.

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 Fort Worth, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

***SUPPORT ARLINGTON**, Arlington/Mid-Cities AOC office, 6-7:30 p.m.

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

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

WEDNESDAYS:

***POSITIVE HEALING** (diagnosed HIV/AIDS), 1-2:30 p.m. AOC Fort Worth office.

***POSITIVE WOMEN**, 6-7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, Room 359, 300 South Center, Arlington.

EL SOL: THE SOURCE OF LIFE, HIV Wellness program, AIDS Interfaith Network, 5:30 p.m., 603 W. Magnolia, Suite 207. Call 817/927-2437.

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 Fort Worth, 6:30-8 p.m.

***AOC BEREAVEMENT GROUP**, 7-8:30 p.m., meets at the Family Service Central Office, 1424 Hemphill, Fort Worth.

FRIDAYS:

EL SOL: THE SOURCE OF LIFE, HIV Wellness program, Samaritan House, 1 p.m. Call 817/927-2437.

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

BARS/CLUBS

Across the Street, 700 S. Jennings, Fort Worth, (817) 332-0192

Ashburn's, 3012 E. Rosedale, Fort Worth, (817) 534-6630

Corral Club, 621 Hemphill, Fort Worth, (817) 335-0196

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

Magnolia Station, 600 Magnolia, Fort Worth, (817) 332-0415

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

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

BUSINESSES, SERVICES

Alpha and Omega Printers, (817) 921-3670

Alternative Visions Video Dating Service, (214) 747-2033

Bill's A#1 Movers, metro (817) 588-0908

Book Stop, 4801 S. Hulen, Fort Worth, (817) 346-9055

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

Country Day Travel, (817) 731-8551

Cowgirls ParT Ranch hotline, (817) 355-4817

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

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

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

Integrity Fort Worth, (Episcopalian lesbians and gays), P.O. Box 470986, Fort Worth, 76147; (817) 738-2902

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

DAL BBS, (817) 261-2933

Gay Matchmaker Computer BBS, (817) 355-6600

HEALTH, AIDS, COUNSELING

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, TX 76203, (817) 381-1501

Sherry Brewer, lmsw-acsw, lmft, lcpc, (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, lcpc, therapist, (817) 331-1881

Atique 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

Association of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Educators, (214) 6229

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

Future Fort Worth/Arlington, 5736 Pershing, Fort Worth, 76107 (817) 294-0649

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) 370-0480

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, (512) 474-5475

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; E-Mail address: 72127.1057@COMPUSERVE.COM

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

Women's Community Association, (214) 319-6696 or (214) 31WOMYN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFRICAN-AMERICANS INVITED TO HOST LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

UJIMA: The African-American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Coalition will host the 1996 African-American Gay/Lesbian Leadership Forum in Dallas. Organizers invite African-American gay/lesbian groups in the area to help with the planning.

Call Nadine Rawls, 214/326-7960.

DALLAS FILM FESTIVAL PROMISES GREATEST SHOWING YET

The fourth Dallas Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival will open April 27 at the Inwood Theatre, then move April 28-29 to the Kalita Humphreys Theatre at the Dallas Theater Center.

The film festival was started four years ago with a bequeath from Rick Stuffs, a former director of the Dallas Gay Political Caucus and an avid film buff, to showcase films of and about gays and lesbians and the diversity of their lives.

Documentaries, comedies and dramas exhibited during the last festivals have shown the many facets of lesbian/gay culture - the effect of the AIDS crisis, varied

religious beliefs, diverse cultural backgrounds and a rich sense of humor.

The festival has grown in its fourth year to include its first juried video showcase, a forum through which gay and lesbian video artists can exhibit their talent. The festival will once again exhibit over 30 independent features and shorts from a variety of artists.

Movies to be screened this year include Robert Lee King's "The Disco Years," "Two-Spirit People," Deborah Hoffmann's "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter," and Bruce LaBruce's latest, "Super 8 1/2."

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR CARNIVAL BOOTHS

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association Fort Worth (TGRA) is accepting applications for game, activity or food booths for the Gay Pride Carnival following the Gay Pride Parade June 4.

Fee is \$15 per booth. A limited number of canopies will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Each organization will supply any set-ups they need, such as table and chairs.

The Carnival will be at the 651 Fort Worth parking lot.

For booth reservations, call Philip at 817/295-6347.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR PLEIADES CONCERT

Pleiades Productions will present songwriter and guitarist Ann Reed in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 6. To accommodate the larger crowd expected for the popular performer, the concert will be at Orchestra Hall, 4401 Trail Lake Dr. in Fort Worth.

Opening act will be local talent Letty Cruz, who regularly performs at fund-raising functions throughout the Metroplex.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door, and are available in Fort Worth at Connections Bookstore on Forest Park and Agape MCC; and at Crossroads Market on Cedar Springs in Dallas for a service fee.

For more information call 817/924-3264.



HIGH SIGN: TCLGA President Dauné Littlefield and Imperial Court Emperor Melissa Flories waved hate crimes away with signs that also served to halt traffic in the marchers' path. Littlefield took the podium later with other organizational leaders across the state to urge legislators to be part of the solution, not the problem.



THE NEXT GENERATION: Members of UTA's Gay/Lesbian Association slept 10 to a room to stretch student budgets, eager to be part of the foundation that's creating a new Texas.

MARCH

continued from p. 11

and applauded their warm responses. A lesbian surveyed us from curbside and shouted back, "You folks do me proud!"

The column stretched as far forward and as far backward as we could see, banners raised, flags flying, hand-held stop signs declaring "Stop the



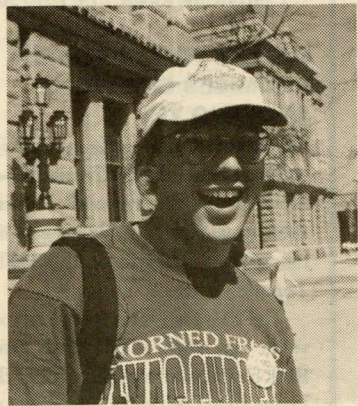
'WE'RE HATED TOO': At the last statewide march in 1991, a radical right group gathered at the Capitol steps to protest the oncoming wall of lesbians and gays. This year that group was replaced by some within our own community, the transgendered, who objected to being excluded from the Hate Crimes Bill. March organizers invited the group's leader to the podium, who asked that we all work together.

Hate" waving above our heads. The Capitol building loomed ever more imposing with each step.

Cherri said later it was one of the most liberating of her experiences, to walk so freely and unchallenged as a lesbian, the lot of us claiming an entire street. This was no virginal encounter for Marilyn, who had whetted her appetite on the Stonewall parade in New York. This one ingrained in her a single challenge, to go home and do the simple things that make a difference.

Daune' found the march "a powerful thing," and considered its impact on Texas legislators who would have to admit "we're not going away." Melissa said, "This is *too* neat," and she vowed to recruit others to partake of such invigorating experiences.

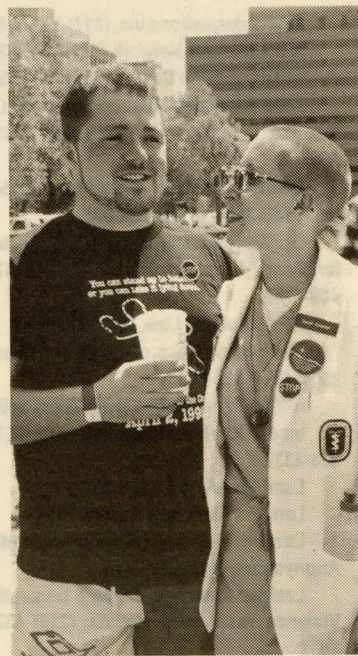
When nestled securely in the bosom of a march, time speeds ahead. What would under other circumstances seem a tedious stroll past the many city blocks passes in what seems like a second. We were all too soon climbing the Capitol steps, crowding in to hear the speeches.



'TOO COOL:' Joel Plagg of the TCU Triangles, a student group, was bowled over by the marching experience and one of the last to leave the rally site.

The families of gay men killed in Texas last year provided a powerful reinforcement for why we marched that day. A mother who knew the unparalleled pain of losing a son, brothers who would spare others of all that they lost – each wept as they pledged that their loved ones will not have died in vain.

Edward Tubb, who survived his brother Randy when they were attacked in Lufkin, showed the shotgun-blasted scar on his chest that he carried for being gay. "George Dubya Bush..." he shouted, "if you want family values, let's try 'thou shalt not kill!'"



GOING THE DISTANCE: Matt Gieck, left, secretary of the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition-Tarrant County, was up all night with the UTA group, celebrating at the Texas March party until 6 in the morning. "I'm getting too old for this," he grinned.

The sketches of our eight men felled last year hushed the crowd and moistened thousands of eyes. Other speakers stepped to the podium to advise us on what to do with our anger. Representative Glen Maxey, activist Letitia Gomez, something Sissy Farenthaul, Dr. Mel White, Log Cabin Republican leader Rich Tafel and others emphasized the same course: do not surrender; demand better; make a difference at home by coming out; and hound our legislators, never let up.

On the walk back to our hotel, Cherri mused on situations she'd encountered at work, of meeting there the type of bigotry that lays fertile ground for assaults against gays and lesbians. Her responses, she felt, had sent a deterring message, but she worried that she hadn't done enough. "This march was great," she said, "but I want to go home and do more."

Marilyn posed that it is how openly we live our lives that seems to make the biggest difference in attitudes among the public. She was the first one out in her department at the University of North Texas, with others following in her wake, and she's

noticed the resulting progress of acceptance from her peers.

The march added another layer to the coming-out process – to come out to the politicians who will decide our fate differently if they don't know us.

The next day, reunited with my spouse, Susan Steele, I would pass through the Capitol halls, stopping at each office on my list for a quick coming-out.

Lobby Day

Marches, parades, rallies – those are for us. Those are to bolster our strength, rejuvenate us and to renew us on our course.

This march was designed for that, but it capitalized too on the numbers gathered to make a sound impression on legislators. The more than 6,400 marchers who registered for the red wristbands, tokens of the official count, signed a petition in the process in support of the Hate Crimes Bill, which would be presented to legislators.

The March Sunday was, largely, for us; Monday, Lobby Day, was for the legislators, to introduce them to faces



REST STOP: Sunburned and sweaty from the march, Cherri, Marilyn and I shared a quick bonding moment to cap our active weekend. We each pledged together, "We're going to do more..."



ONE ON ONE: Dianne Hardy-Garcia, the Lobby's executive director, preps volunteers to meet head to head with state legislators April 3. More than 100 lobbyists-for-a-day distributed videotapes, triangle cookies and P-FLAG erasers to representatives and senators, and discussed key legislation affecting lesbians and gays.

behind the issues.

Lobby Day was even more impactful on me than the March. Capturing a street by army, as we did in the March, is indeed invigorating, but infiltrating a representative's or senator's fortress is by far the most intoxicating of campaigns.

Susan and I visited the offices of legislators we thought we could most influence by our ties to their districts, in the Metroplex area and from our East Texas origins.

My opening line to the East Texas folks was demurely pointed: "Why, surely you know my father, who is editor of a town newspaper down there?"

My introduction made great headway initially with Rep. Ted Kamel of Tyler, whose friendly greeting turned distant and cold when we pressed to

the issue of hate crimes protection.

Susan chiselled away at him with personal stories of growing up in East Texas, where the effeminate boys were beaten daily on the playgrounds.

Rep. Kamel wavered not a bit. Susan, overcome by her emotions, wept as she pleaded, "We are scared everyday by what can happen to us. Please, please leave sexual orientation in the Hate Crimes Bill."

He is too hard of a man if he was not moved. Susan was embarrassed by her show of emotions but I congratulated her afterward for the nice touch. I couldn't get her to do it again though. It didn't matter because everyone else we met that day was warmly responsive or, at the least, courteous.

Our most intriguing encounter was with our own rep, Doyle Willis Sr.,

who surprised us with his candor and his uncensored thoughts.

Willis is old-school, crusty, hardened. He interrupted our presentation on behalf of the bill, pointed at me and said, "Now wait - are you a lezbin?" "Why sure," I said. He pointed at Susan, "And you're a lezbin too?" She nodded vigorously. "And y'all live together?" he queried. "Yes," we confirmed in unison. And I added, "Just down the street from your son."

He laughed. "Wellll," he drawled, "Y'all can do that twiddly-twaddly if you want - it don't bother me none."

Will he support the Hate Crimes Bill? "I don't agree with that lifestyle," he admonished, "but I don't think you people should be hurt because of it. I'll vote for that thing."

His eyes bulged suddenly with a new thought: "You know - I'm thinking about doing away with that Sodomy Law, too. The damned thing's unconstitutional." Such a surprising remark from one who had voted last session to include heterosexual sodomy in the law, to more firmly entrench it as "constitutional."

Willis, still defending to us his publicized remarks about "Japs," remains far distant from the realm of multicultural understanding. When the Hate Crimes Bill comes up for his vote, though, he'll remember the two "lezbins" he met in his office, who mow their yard together and wave at his grandkids when they pass.

Perhaps then he'll follow up on his promise to us that he "won't do anything to hurt" us.

That was what our march that day through the Capitol halls was all about - stopping the hurt. In each office we visited we fairly begged. "These are our plain faces. These are our plain lives in your hands. Please don't hurt us."

Marching On

The march down the streets of Austin and through the Capitol corridors never ended. Each one of us, good citizens of Texas, continue to march.

We march when we come out to our neighbor. We march when we chastise coworkers for their fag jokes. We march when we comfort our sisters and brothers who have been victimized. We march when we encourage one another.

TRINITY

continued from p. 3

not only in our community, but also to mainstream Tarrant County as well. We have a vision to do so much more, but we need help.

We dream of being able to offer our organizations multiple meeting spaces, a kitchen that can facilitate banquets, a place to have dances, and office space for community organizations and businesses.

Another dream is to provide an

We must march to our phones, every one of us, to call our legislators. We must march into their awareness of who we are and why we are so vulnerable.

We must march into letters to the

editor; we must march to our political parties, and map out a space for us.

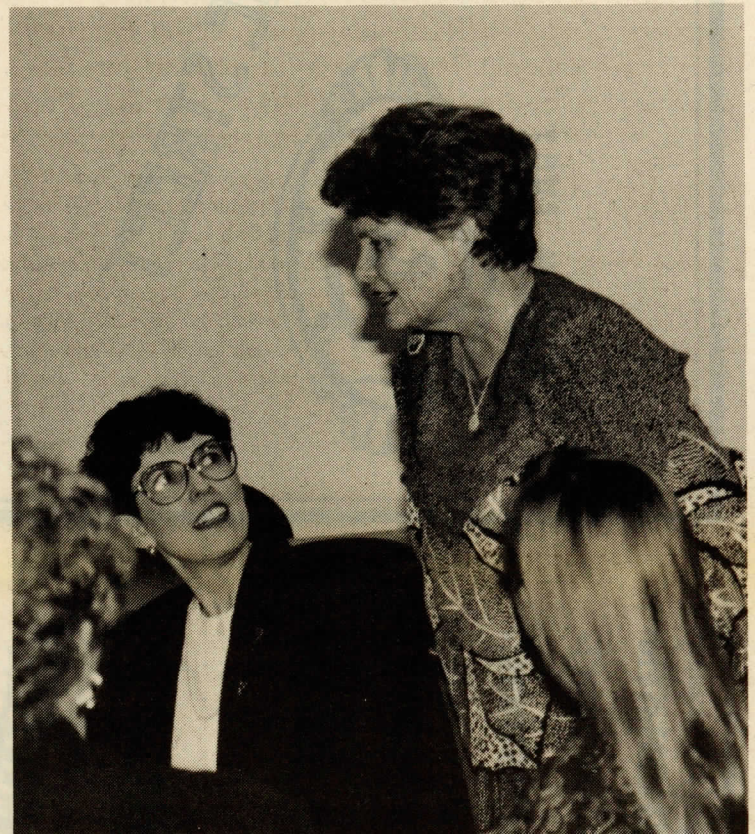
We must keep on marching, every one of us, for we have so very far to travel before the hurting stops. *to*

Call or write

Write to all state representatives at P.O. Box 2910; Austin, TX 78768. Write to all state senators at P.O. Box 12068; Austin, TX 78711.

Call the following representatives on the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and ask them to pass the Hate Crimes Bill, HB 365, to the House.

Allen Place, chair, Gatesville, 512/463-0628; Robert Talton, vice chair, Pasadena, 512/463-0460; Jessica Farrar, Houston, 512/463-0620; Sherri Greenberg, Austin, 512/463-0700; Sam Hudson, Dallas, 512/463-0586; Joe Nixon, Houston, 512/463-0514; Joe Pickett, El Paso, 512/463-0596; Jim Pitts, Waxahachie, 512/463-0516; Jim Solis, Harlingen, 512/463-0606.



LOBBYING THE LOBBYISTS: Representative Harryette Ehrhardt of Dallas greeted and congratulated the lobbying contingent while they lunched at the Capitol. One of the sponsors of the Hate Crimes Bill in the House, this strongly urged lobbyists to give their all when they visited legislators that day. The Senate bill had passed 5-0 in committee and was expected to sail through a Senate vote. Rep. Ehrhardt worried about the prognosis in the House, where she was afraid it would be buried in committee.

RIZZO & SCHAAF

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

Michael L. Rizzo Matthew C. Schaaf, RN

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- DUI •Domestic Partnership Agreements
- Living Wills •Misdemeanors
- Child Support •Guardianship •Felonies
- Divorce •Wills

Grove Manor
500 E. Belknap Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 877-0388 FAX: (817) 877-0380

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

adult day-care center for our elderly and for our critically ill people. Many of our people don't need long-term care - they need daytime assistance and company.

We will be able to offer these and other services once we are in our new building, which will be financed with bonds.

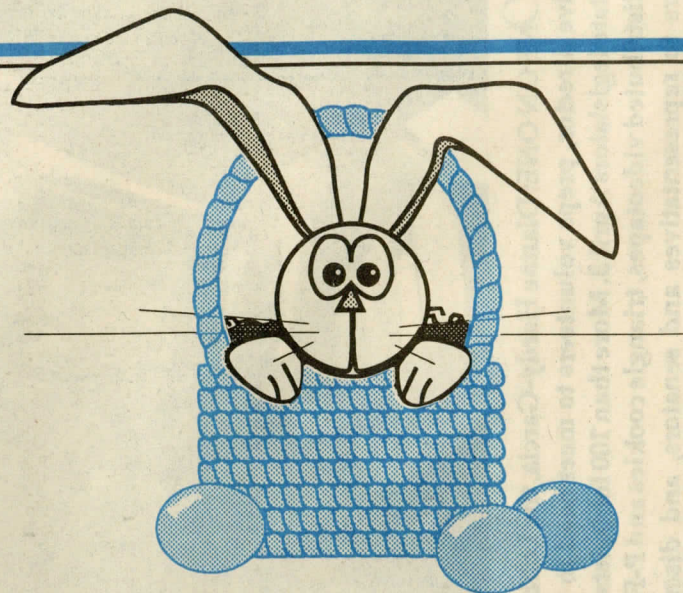
Bond campaigns include a pay-back schedule that starts soon after the bonds are sold; therefore, our Board of Directors and I have set a \$24,000 goal to reach by Easter Sunday.

This money deposited in the building fund will almost cover Aaron

Avenue lease and expenses for a year while we are building.

I am asking for an additional \$100 beyond each individual's usual church tithe for "Miracle Sunday" on Easter. The Miracle Sunday fund-raising project is designed to raise the \$24,000 we need to launch the bond sales campaign for a new church home.

Many times I have been amazed at the tremendous contributions the community has raised for Trinity. Today, I ask for help again to enhance both the quantity and quality of services we can provide, to live out our dreams for the Tarrant County community. *to*



**Don't keep all
your eggs in
one basket**



ACROSS THE STREET



FORT WORTH

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

APRIL 1995

Volume 15, Issue 4

Alliance News

Inside this issue:



Fort Worth's Janice Odom and Joyce Raines, aka "the Church Lady," couldn't navigate the parade route on foot but they helped Texas take a giant step forward by marching with their voices.

REFLECTIONS OF THE MARCH: Blow by blow of the skirmishes in Austin. See p. 10

And:

- **TAKING OUR LUMPS:** Lesbians are dangerously speechless on the breast cancer epidemic
- **NEARSIGHTED:** Civil rights vision blurred in new era
- *Closets are for clothes: a trip around the dance floor opens a creaky door*
- **PERSPECTIVES ON:** Breaking Louganis, giving Louganis a break, and putting the brakes on judging others