

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

JUNE 1995

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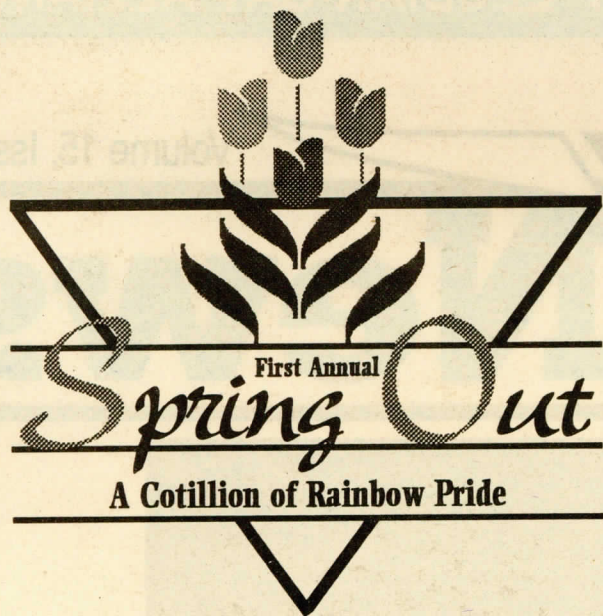
Alliance News



Actress Nancy Lipschultz and Director Dinah Lynch developed a sweet, romantic plot from their work in the theater.

-PHOTO BY BEVERLY FLETCHER

EVERY KISS IS A REVOLUTION: Gay Pride Week events promise to energize our rebellious spirits. *See schedule on p. 10.*



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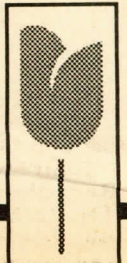
Tarrant County
Lesbian/Gay Alliance

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*.

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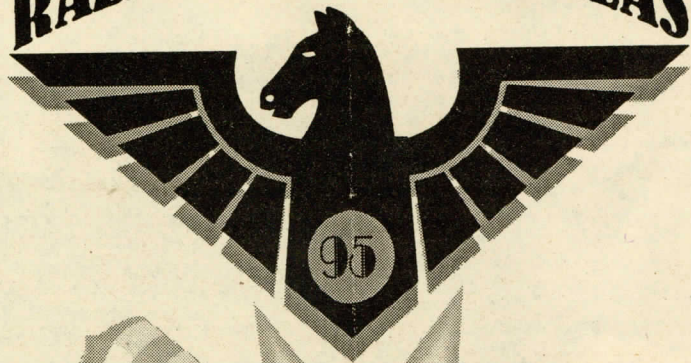


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THE ALLIANCE NEWS

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

THROUGH MY EYES

*The differently-abled face a tough road.
The empathy and sensitivity of others can ease the journey.*

The gay culture's emphasis on perfection distances those among us who are impaired.

By REV. GEORGE ALLEN

Having been reared in West Texas, Amarillo specifically, I absorbed the attitudes and cultural values, good or bad, correct or misguided, that created a particular attitude toward homosexuality, liberalism, vulnerability and, yes, disability.

As a young adult, the struggle with my own sexuality was no different than many other stories of coming to grips with something in your being that was considered perverted, wicked, beyond the pale and completely abnormal.

After a six-year marriage and a great deal of growth, with three children and a ministry in a fundamentalist world, the reality of trying to be non-gay, while every fiber of my being

declared my gayness, dawned, and the task of becoming an adult, American, white, male, gay, spiritual person began. The process involved all the phases of the grieving process: anger, denial, bargaining, depression and, finally, acceptance.

Recently, when the journey seemed to be smoothing out and some semblance of reasonable living was restored, my vision decided to present me with a completely new set of challenges. Dealing with the issue of blindness in the age of AIDS, to most, would seem relatively trivial. I mean, considering the prospect of losing one's eyesight when others around are perishing due to red tape would seem significantly less consequential.

Think again! While the challenge of living with AIDS is, at times, overwhelming, the isolation, the trauma, the expense, the accommodations, the loss of independence, the feelings of inadequacy and questionable ability faced by those with physical challenges can be as overwhelming to them as to those facing catastrophic illness.

Because of the emphasis in our culture on model physical looks, ability and perfection, the challenges of lesbian and gay differently-abled people, I think, are unique.

While severely visually impaired, personally, I am not totally blind, yet. The disease I have is one that causes progressive and irreversible deterioration to the retina. The field of view becomes smaller and narrower over time until one is totally blind.

The cost in career, mobility, expense and confidence is such that one's professional, social and personal life must completely change. No longer can you see to match blue and black socks; no longer can you drive your car; no longer can you do and be that which is familiar and convenient. The need to have someone or something to help you is no longer optional.

But we who are differently-abled do not want your pity; we don't need your sympathy; we don't even need someone to keep an eye on us. What differently-abled people do need is your understanding.

Take a moment to think of your-

self as physically challenged. What would you want other people to do? How would you want them to respond?

If you see someone with a physical challenge, be adult enough to go to them. The insensitivity of people not stopping to say hello to the blind, the deaf, or the mobility impaired would be understandable if there had not been so much information in the movies, the press and the government to raise awareness, but such is not the case.

In social settings your participation and ability to include and empower is nothing short of miraculous. Just by crossing the room and visiting with folks who can't safely cross the room to you, you will be sharing something that no one else can share - yourself.

Wherever you are, in a church, a meeting, a picnic or a bar - wherever you are, stop and say hello. I know I will appreciate it. ☺

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

The hard work behind us is not without fruit - we have made a lasting imprint by our visibility.

By JOHN HUFFMAN

It now appears that the 1995 hate crimes legislation proposal and its supporters have exhausted their options in this legislative session; the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby has declared the efforts ended, though not before extensive "revival" attempts. After the vote Monday, May 22, to table the bill, an effort was made to attach the bill to another, but that failed, apparently for lack of an agreeable sponsor. By the time this is printed, the 74th Texas Legislature will be history.

I believe it constructive to note that of the Tarrant County delegation in the Texas House, only retiring member Doyle Willis and long-

time supporter Glen Lewis supported our cause.

Representatives Brimmer, Carter, Dear, Goodman, Grusendorff, Moffat, Mowery and Park did not.

Once again, the allied Texas Conservative Coalition (which Rep. Warren Chisholm heads and many of the Tarrant delegation belong to), the American Family Association, the Christian Coalition, and the Eagle Forum have succeeded in making an end-run with a clever campaign of disinformation. In the week prior to May 22, they plied the halls of Austin, saying:

"This is an attempt to give special minority status to gays and

lesbians..."

"It will be used to increase penalties for black and Hispanic crimes against whites..."

"It's wrong to penalize thought..."

A snippet of William Wordsworth's poetry from my romantic (?) youth comes to mind; it is shamelessly borrowed and abuses the author's intent:

"...We will grieve not, rather find Strength in what remains behind;..."

There is a feeling of "so-what" in

Hate Crimes Bill SLAUGHTERED

*The House pulled a rare move
to dismiss legislation
that might have stemmed violence
against gays and lesbians.*

some of us; an understandable release from the tensions of our efforts in the march, letter writing, calling, lobbying... But note, we have strengthened our efforts in Tarrant County, some say to the point of being near an "explosion" of lesbian/gay culture. There are new organizations, new voices, new directions, new efforts visible daily. Indeed, we see a growth in awareness and confidence throughout the state that will not be diminished by this.

We might all consider setting an appointment in the local offices of our representatives this summer, after this legislature closes. It helps delay the claim that "none live in my district..." or "I've never met one that cares a hoot about politics..."

Stay out, stay active, stay FREE! ☺

Huffman is on the board of directors for the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, and co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay Political Action Coalition-Tarrant County.

From the trenches

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM ALLIANCE DIRECTORS

Alliance anniversary shows the fruits harvested from the pivotal act of coming out.

We deserve the enrichment of being who we were intended to be.

By **DAUNE LITTLEFIELD**

I came out in 1977. Nothing historical about that except that for me it was the greatest time of my life. I had finally found where I belonged. I had always felt I didn't really belong in the straight world. I just didn't understand why.

At the time, being a junior at Texas Woman's University gave me a whole new definition of gay pride.

Being a lesbian in an all-women's university offered the comfort of being surrounded by women, and lots of beautiful women at that! There, among women, I felt safety amidst the chaos of realizing that I was a lesbian.

I felt liberated for the first time in my life — the liberation that I could be loved in a way that I had never been loved before. A real sense of meaning to my life began to unfold.

I read every book I could get my hands on about being out and proud. I can't describe the excitement I felt in being part of this new world. I came to understand that it didn't really matter

that I was different; I was finally where I was supposed to be.

There were also difficult times: when my lover was murdered, when I was fired for being gay, and the difficulties I had when coming out to my family. None of these discouraged me. It didn't matter to me if society didn't like me. I was a lesbian because I was supposed to be, because God had intended me to be.

I came to realize there were many others just like me. It is not as scary when you begin to realize you are not alone. Being proud, really proud, didn't evolve over night. Total acceptance and gay pride is a process, a journey that led me to believe being a lesbian really meant that I was special.

WILD BUS RIDE

Internalized oppression puts a rough spin on coming-out trip

Doug Rich likens the coming-out process, that time when a person realizes their sexual orientation, to a forceful shove over which the person feels they have no control.

"It's like you have a blindfold on in a busy bus terminal, where you are swept out to gate nine and pushed onto a bus," he described to the May Alliance membership meeting. "You are not allowed to take the blindfold off until after departure. Then you find yourself in a different world where you don't know the language or the culture..."

The trip from then on, he said, is one of discovery, but it can be a ride made bumpy by external forces, by homophobia, homohatred and heterosexism in our society. Those forces can be internalized, Rich, a nurse practitioner, said, causing us to identify with the oppressors — the powerful, straight culture — where we might treat ourselves or others in our community just as cruelly.

Internalized homophobia emerges when we distance ourselves from identifying behaviors. Rich cited, for example, "sweet-heart columns in gay rags that advertise 'straight-acting seeking same.'"

Rich, who did all of his university term papers on "something about being gay," listed other examples of internalized oppression and gave "rules" for helping to break them:

- Dishing, "giving tea," giving grief or belittling a gay peer. Rule: "Attitude is a prison. Break free."
- Not acknowledging sexual orientation to self or to others. Rule: "At least be out at home."
- Devaluing our own lives, sabotaging a relationship or damaging our health by

addictions or neglect. Rule: "Most of us sustain big wounds as a result of our sexual orientation. Heal yourself so you can give to future generations."

Those of us who are well down the road on the journey have an obligation to look out for the newcomers, Rich said, and offered his number one rule: "Always help someone who is coming out."

Do that, he urged, by being a good role model to them, directing them to other good role models, and guide them away from "bad scenes." Steer them toward positive reading materials, positive movies and work on volunteer projects so they can develop positive imagery. Help them practice coming out to their family or others, he said, by the "empty chair" method.

He said it is important that we disclose our orientation according to our comfort level, that sometimes quick ducks into the closet are justified to avoid losing a job or being bashed "in Bubbaland" for holding hands.

Rich related why his particular bus ride has carried him to such an out and open destination: "If you don't know the gay part of me, you don't know me." ☪

With that specialness, I felt, came responsibilities: to become involved in local, state and federal government; to publicly speak at every opportunity about what it means to be out and proud; to challenge the mainstream religious world about its myths and misconceptions surrounding lesbians and gays.

It doesn't matter to me that the battle to change public policies are slow and tedious. What matters to me is that public opinions are changing as many more gays and lesbians are becoming out and visible. With increased visibility we can continue to break through the myths and stereotypes that keep us "closeted."

I understand the climate is not right for every gay and lesbian to come out. However, I do believe there are many, many of us who can come out. During

this 15th anniversary of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, I implore you to take the steps necessary to come out. Come out to your friends, come out at your workplace and come out to your families. There is liberation and freedom when you believe you have the right to be openly gay.

If you are not in a position to come out, then support those who do with your words, gifts and finances. In this, our 15th year, become involved at some level with those organizations that promote equality for gays and lesbians.

We are only limited by our fears and our failure to dream. In the words of Harvey Milk, "Dare to be who you were intended to be." ☪

Littlefield is president of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and director of social services at AIDS Outreach Center.

June TCLGA Meeting:

Program

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*John Huffman
and Doug Rich
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*on June 19.
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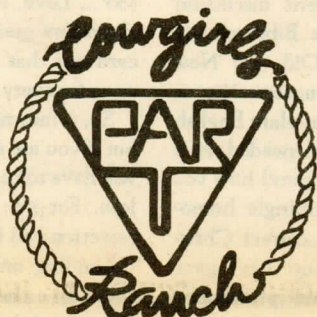
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CITY BEAT

Where the WIND BLOWS

***Damage from the big storm has unseated Trinity MCC,
so shortly on the heels of its Miracle Sunday windfall.
Community response shows that miracles abound.***

By BEVERLY BENNETT

People across the metroplex sat glued to their TV sets Friday night, April 5. As most huddled in halls beneath mattresses, praying the tornadoes and hail would pass them by, Rev. Jo Crisco, senior pastor of Trinity MCC, worried about her church. She'd been following the weather reports closely, and she knew the church was in the eye of the storm.

Rev. Crisco called a member who lived near Trinity and asked him if he could check on things down at the church when the storm settled down enough to get out of the house. Her parishioner called back a few moments later with devastating news. "He said the roof was gone and water was pouring in," Rev. Crisco said.

By the time the evening news ended, most of Trinity's 104 members had been contacted and asked to bring trucks and boxes to start moving Trinity's contents to dry ground. When Rev. Crisco and her good Samaritans arrived at Trinity, the building and contents were already in ruins.

Still hoping for the best, board members rented two large U-Haul trucks and the congregation started loading Trinity's valuables. Along the way, many Good Samaritans pitched in despite the fact that their own homes were damaged. One much appreciated helper was Rev. Carol West, assistant pastor at Cathedral of Hope MCC, whose own home nearby sat in several inches of water from hail damage.

"The only things we successfully

saved were our robes and altar ware. Those were the things we got out first, and by a miracle, they were not ruined. Everything else is just gone," reported Rev. Crisco. "I felt like I was in a nightmare and couldn't wake up," she said.

To make matters more poignant, only two weeks earlier on Easter Sunday, Trinity MCC had raised \$33,600 for the Miracle Sunday building fund campaign to move toward selling church bonds to build a new church home in North Arlington. That Friday night of the storm, Trinity's members were looking forward to the next night's banquet at the church to celebrate Miracle Sunday.

"This could have been much worse. I feel very grateful to God that the only thing we lost were things. To the best of my knowledge, none of our people were hurt. Had the storm happened during the banquet ... well, it could have been devastating," Rev. Crisco said.

Rev. Crisco said the outpouring of response to this loss has been "one of the most beautiful displays of love and community I've ever seen. Everyone from sister churches in the Metroplex to area clubs have offered to do anything they can to help," she said.

Meanwhile, Rev. Brenda Hunt's congregation in Fort Worth was busy celebrating Agape's 25th anniversary. To commemorate the event, UFMCC Elder Larry Rodriguez had flown in from Los Angeles. Rev. Hunt told the Elder that Trinity

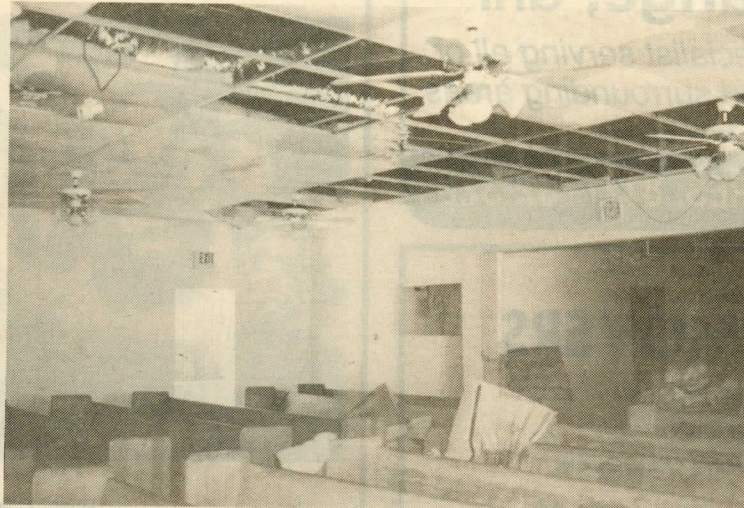
needed his words of encouragement far more than Agape needed him to help celebrate their anniversary; she sent Elder Rodriguez, her assistant pastor, Rev. Lynn Johnson, and a board member to offer words of encouragement that first Sunday after the storm. "All of us at Trinity know the importance of celebrating milestones. I was awed by this unselfish gesture of love," Rev. Crisco said.

Finding a place to meet for church the Sunday after the storm was no easy matter. Although Cathedral of Hope generously offered its facilities, Rev. Crisco felt it was important to keep the location in Arlington. Saturday morning, Assistant Pastor Rev. Jim Norwood began searching for a temporary meeting place. After a long and weary day of visiting seven area hotels that were completely booked, Norwood found space at the La Quinta Inn on 360 by Six Flags, which graciously provided a large conference room at no cost for the church. Even on such short notice, Trinity's congregation showed up in full force that Sunday with a large turnout.

Since then spirits have been high despite the fact that the following week Rev. Crisco reported the sad news that although the church had insurance, it was underinsured and had been in negotiations with the insurance company to upgrade the existing policy just prior to the storm. Fortunately, restoring the building is the landlord's responsibility. However, Trinity's contents are devastated, and they are the church's responsibility. Rev. Crisco said that they were still assessing the damage.

"We're all very tired from trying to salvage and save our things but our spirits are not broken. We'll get through this. We must remember that precious though these items were, they were just things, and our people are safe," she said.

In addition to the damage to the church, Rev. Crisco, suffered two personal losses. Her home was among the most damaged in her entire neighborhood. Also, Rev. Crisco's extensive library of theology/church-related books was severely damaged in the storm at the church. "My favorite books were all destroyed. My books are among my most precious possessions. The community's response to



CROSS TO BEAR: Trinity MCC has a new financial burden. The storm damaged the building's roof, showering insulation and water down on the pews and ruining other church property.

SEE 'STORM' ON P. 14

OUT FROM THE PAST

Coming out to old friends was scary, but I'll gladly trade the ones lost for the ones I regained.

By **SCOTT FORSGREN**

The last year has been one of rapid change. Having been introduced to the gay community in early 1993, it seemed that it was now time to start sharing more of myself with my friends and family.

It took me over a year to feel confident and ready to start this long, evolutionary process. At first, it felt as if my coming out was making only small progress as I peeked out of what was still a relatively dark closet. As the year progressed, I started taking more and more risks. Overall, I have found that each time I take another step, I take more and more pride in who I am and what I stand for. It isn't easy, but it's worth it.

Last summer, I decided it was time to come out to my parents. For me, this was the biggest risk, but it also held the potential for the biggest payoff, and I knew that, although it could be very difficult, they would both love me just as they had in the past. The response was very positive, and a great deal of stress was taken off me knowing I had the support of two of the most important people in my

life. In fact, Mom even bought me a hunky man calendar last Christmas!

At the same time, I had outed myself to a former coworker. I mailed her a letter explaining everything. In the past, I had heard her discuss how loving and open-minded her church was since they had started an outreach for gay and lesbian people (to convert them to being straight, I suppose). I sent the letter last August and I just recently received her reply some eight months later, in April.

It said, "I struggled for weeks on what to say, then I procrastinated and now it's the New Year and still nothing. For this, I apologize." It went on: "My response is simply this. I do not agree with any of the literature (I did read it all). God's word was taken out of context in many ways. The Bible is very clear that homosexuals will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, I Corinthians 6:9,10. I believe what you are doing is a sin, not a lifestyle. I view those who participate as I would an alcoholic, drug addict, child molester, etc. I believe there is forgiveness if there is repentance ... I

still love you as I always have and pray for you as always."

While I disagree with her, I think she has every right to her belief, just as do I. I can understand her position, having grown up with those same messages in private school. The only part that really offended me was the comparison between a gay person and a child molester. The fact is, we all know who does the molesting of America's children, don't we?

Another outing was to my high school English teacher. We were so close for years after high school. Those were back during the days when I still had not accepted that I was gay. I remember one conversation where she said she had only been this close with one other student and he turned out to be gay. She asked me, "Do you know what they do?" At the time I thought,

"No, I don't, but I'd like to." I shied away from that relationship from that point on. After outing myself to her in a Christmas card, I received no reply. The lesson I learned here was that you have to always prepare yourself for the rejection. It will happen, but with time, it becomes easier.

Another outing of interest was probably the most involved and, in fact, the response here was surprisingly positive and negative. Kyle and I had been friends since the sixth grade and still kept in touch over the 10 years since I left California. I knew this would not be an easy one.

We were both brought up with strong Christian teachings. Of course, I believe in God, and I am proud to say I have strong beliefs, but Kyle's faith was a little different than mine. For example, in one case where the car wouldn't start, he and his family laid hands on it and prayed. My take on that whole issue is that God gave us the Auto Club! I really hope (and pray) that God has better things to be worried about than my fuel injection.

Two of Kyle's responses that I challenged in a subsequent discussion with him were, "The Bible clearly states in both the Old and New Testament that homosexuality is wrong and unnatural in plain English with no interpretation needed. It is very difficult to understand how you and others can intermingle homosexual behavior with correct Christian service"; and, "I just don't agree with the lifestyle and philosophy you've chosen."

Anyway, enough said about that experience. To Kyle's credit, however, he still wants us to be friends and also wrote, "Know this, I will never stop being your friend. My love

for you will not stop." Comically, he put the word *agape* in parentheses after the word *love*. Although this outing (after you say *outing* for a while, it sounds as if you're going to a ball game .. or ballet, if you prefer) was not as supportive as I had hoped, it wasn't a bad experience at all.

The last outing I want to mention was one of the best! In college, Regime and I were the best of friends. Although she moved out of state years ago, we still keep in touch. After outing myself to her in a Christmas card, I got a card back that said, "That's What Friends Are For" on the front. I don't need to say much about how great an experience that was except to quote a portion of what she wrote: "I was so touched and flattered to know you think so highly of me that you could confide in me about such a personal subject. Suffice it to say that I am relieved for you. There is nothing to be ashamed of, you are loved, and you have always stood among the highest caliber people I know - most of whom are gay, by the way! My sister and roommate are gay too ... Love, Regime." All I can say about how great I felt when I read her card was that I would take 10 rejections for every card I get like this one!

So, it may not be easy now or ever, but if you are ready to play the game, you have to be prepared to win and to lose. For me, both acceptance and rejection can be positive experiences depending on what you learn from them. In either case, the more I live, the more I feel confident about who I am and where I want my life to go. Take what you can from each experience life deals you, toss back the cards that don't help, and make your life a winning hand. ♣

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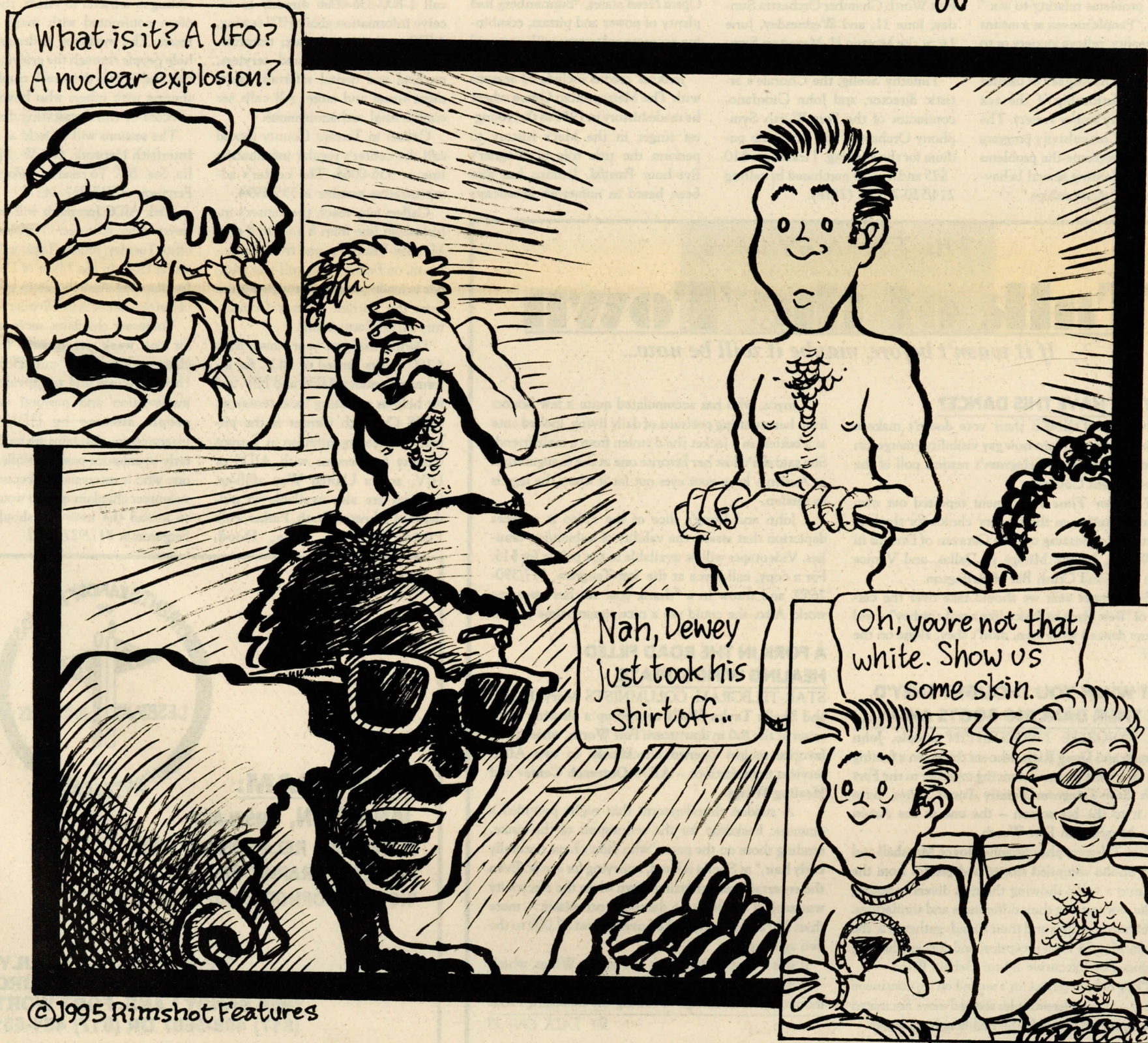
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dewey's daydreams By TODD CAMP



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INTIMACY BEYOND SEX: GROUP THERAPY OFFERED FOR SEXUAL COMPULSION

OAK LAWN COMMUNITY SERVICES' (OLCS) Counseling Department presents the next in a series of sexual compulsivity groups. The next group begins Monday, June 5, at 6 p.m., and continues for 12 weeks. The "Sex Comp" groups are specifically designed for gays and lesbians.

"A good number of gays and lesbians," says Marty Perry, an OLCS counselor and leader of the Sex Comp groups, "can only express themselves through their sexuality. They haven't learned positive ways of communicating with others of the same sex outside of the sexual arena. Sometimes people come from dysfunctional families, have been abused or have had other problems relating to sex." Perry adds, "People use sex as a means to escape reality, relieve anxiety or to cope. Others feel guilt, remorse or depression after having sex or cannot continue a relationship if the sex loses its intensity and/or variety. The OLCS Sexual Compulsivity program helps people overcome the problems they have concerning sexual behavior and healthy relationships."

John Barry, co-presenter, noted, "This series includes presentations addressing cross addictions, spirituality, homophobia, recovery, intimacy, shame, sex education and family of origin. We offer individual therapy for those involved with the group if needed or for anyone who is seeking to deal with any issues relating to sex."

Oak Lawn Community Services is a nonprofit, community-based organization providing mental health services specializing in wellness for gays and lesbians, and comprehensive programs for any persons who are impacted by AIDS or HIV.

CHORALE TEAMS WITH FORT WORTH ORCHESTRA FOR SEASON FINALE

THE TURTLE CREEK CHORALE, the world renowned 200-member, all-male chorus, will perform with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra Sunday, June 11, and Wednesday, June 14, at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center at 8 p.m.

Timothy Seelig, the Chorale's artistic director, and John Giordano, conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, will share the podium for the evening. Tickets are \$10 - \$25 and may be purchased by calling 214/520-ARTS (2878).

The concerts mark the final performances of the TCC's 15th season in an all-German repertoire. Featured masterpieces for male chorus include Brahms' "Alto Rhapsody," Mendelssohn's "Festgasang an die Kunstler," Strauss' "Die Tageszeiten" and Bruckner's "Agendzauber." Guest soloists for the concerts are Mezzo-Soprano Melanie Sonnenberg of the New York City Opera and Metropolitan Opera Wagnerian Tenor Timothy Jenkins.

Opera Monthly states, "...Kudos go to Melanie Sonnenberg, a nascent Marilyn Horne." When Sonnenberg stepped in for Cecilia Bartoli in Dallas Opera's *Cinderella* this season, *The American Record Guide* said she "created a gentle, suavely sung Cinderella ... a particularly impressive feat for Ms. Sonnenberg because she had a single walk-through by way of preparation." About the same production, *Opera News* states, "Sonnenberg had plenty of power and pizzazz, combining accurate coloratura with personal beauty and fine acting."

Jenkins' credits include 11 seasons with The Metropolitan Opera where he made history in 1983 as the youngest singer in the Met's history to perform the title role of Wagner's five-hour *Parsifal*. Jenkins has also been heard in numerous broadcasts

and telecasts from the Met, and appeared in concert at the White House for PBS' *In Performance at the White House*, accompanied on piano by James Levine.

Seelig says, "This concert is without question the musical culmination of our 15 years. The German repertoire stands as the pinnacle of all music composed for male chorus. To have the opportunity to perform it with such magnificent guest artists and then record it for Reference Recordings is a dream for any conductor."

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER GOING THE DISTANCE: HIV INFORMATION JUST A DIAL TONE AWAY

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER offers a toll-free, separate telephone line specifically for informational calls. Callers in North Central Texas may call 1-800-836-0066 directly to receive information about HIV testing, AIDS statistics, safer sex, transmission, local resources and services, medical and dental referrals, treatment issues and more. All calls are confidential and anonymous.

Callers in Tarrant County should call the center's regular information line at 336-0066. The center's administrative number is 335-1994.

Callers may reach the center's information line from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Fridays. The toll-free number is made possible through a grant from the Tarrant County Community AIDS Partnership.

During the past year, more than 4,100 callers turned to AOC for information about AIDS and HIV and for help in accessing local resources. AIDS Outreach Center is 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.

AIDS INTERFAITH OFFERS GRIEF RECOVERY AND CHAPLAIN TRAINING

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK's six-week grief recovery workshop for those who have lost a loved one to AIDS will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 8.

Rev. Mike Tucker of Seventh Day Adventist Church in Arlington will facilitate the sessions. Tucker has an extensive background in grief recovery, having served as chaplain at Huguley Memorial Medical Center.

The workshop is open to everyone who has lost a loved one to HIV disease. "Anyone who has lost a loved one is struggling with the grieving process," said Angela Ferguson, director of spiritual services. "But when someone loses a child, a partner, a sibling or a friend to AIDS, they are often confronted with many other issues. The workshop is designed to help people through the grieving process and to help them seek comfort in sharing with others who have been affected by this devastating disease."

The sessions will be held at AIDS Interfaith Network, 603 W. Magnolia, Ste. 207. To reserve a place, call Ferguson at 817/927-2437.

Also, AIDS Interfaith will hold its inservice for volunteer chaplains at its office Tuesday, June 6. Topic is "Facilitating Hope in the Midst of Despair," facilitated by Andrew Lester, professor of pastoral care at Brite Divinity School.

Volunteer chaplains serve on call for one week per quarter to visit clients at John Peter Smith Hospital's Healing Wings and to provide crisis intervention and pastoral care to people affected by HIV/AIDS. Inservices for chaplains are held quarterly to enhance pastoral skills. Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer chaplain or who would like to attend the inservice should call Ferguson at 817/927-2437.

Ms. Beverly Fletcher's

Talk of the Town

If it wasn't before, maybe it will be now...

MAY WE HAVE THIS DANCE?

IF ANYONE THINKS their vote doesn't make a difference, then explain how gay visibility emerged in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram's* readers poll of the best of Tarrant County.

The *Star Time* supplement reported our own *Magnolia Station* as the readers' choice for the best place to disco, beating out the Caravan of Dreams in Fort Worth, Iguana Mirage in Dallas, and Venice Beach Club and Crush Bar of Arlington.

Surely next year we should take over the category of "Best place to dance like a real cowboy" - real cowboys danced with men, didn't they, alone on the range?

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THEY'D PUT THEIR DANCING BOOTS AWAY...

OUR FAVORITE TWO-STEPPIN' couple, John Huffman and Doug Rich, who set this town a fuming when they were pictured dancing together in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Family Focus series, have made it to the big screen - the one at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth.

Star-Telegram photographer Joyce Marshall and Harry Shultz compiled stories and photos from the series into a video showing the rich diversity among families, contrasting their differences and similarities. The featured families and their friends gathered at the museum May 24 for a reception and special showing introduced by Executive Editor Debbie Price.

Doug did not reflect for a second on his continued stardom - at the reception he seemed more fascinated by the new "butch truck" he had bought that day.

Joyce, who has accumulated quite a few honors from her stunning portraits of daily living, looked cute as a button in a jacket she'd stolen from a male friend. She said she'd lost her favorite one at the inauguration in Austin - keep your eyes out for it when the lege is in session.

John and Doug's slice of the video is a sweet depiction that asserts the validity of lesbian/gay families. Videotapes will be available to the public for \$15. For a copy, call Joyce at the *Star-Telegram*, 817/390-7650, and throw in a "thank you" for her awesome work. Also, she could use a nice summertime jacket.

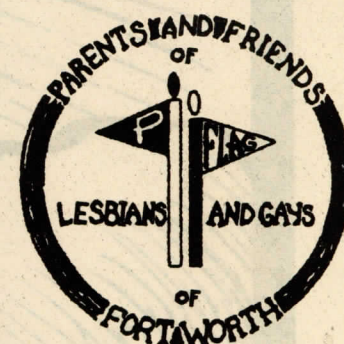
A FORK IN THE ROAD FILLED HEALING WINGS' PLATE.

STAR-TELEGRAM COLUMNISTS Mary Rogers and Sheila Taylor Wells cooked up a pleasing fundraiser at the 8.0 in downtown Fort Worth, where their favorite recipes opened checkbooks to two AIDS services organizations - AIDS Outreach Center and Healing Wings.

A sudden thunderstorm that night provided a dramatic backdrop for the seriousness of the cause, sending those on the patio "who didn't have naturally curly hair," as Sheila related, scurrying for cover. Even the entertainment shutting down when the electricity was zapped did little to dampen enthusiasm - more than 200 diners there forked over almost \$7,000 to the two agencies.

It was a nice, capping gift to Healing Wings, which - you can let out your breath now - met that monumental challenge of raising the matching funds

SEE TALK ON P. 18



PROGRAM:

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REVIEWS

Young and old might muse on recounting of prom dream date

FRICKE, AARON. REFLECTIONS OF A ROCK LOBSTER: A STORY ABOUT GROWING UP GAY

By DAVID REED

I DON'T KNOW, but I think I would have liked to take a boyfriend to my senior prom. I don't know. I didn't have a good time in high school. Neither did Aaron Fricke, but he took his boyfriend to his senior prom. He had to sue the principal to do it, but go to the prom he did with Paul in tow. Then he wrote a book about it and about his life leading up to it.

Aaron Fricke's *Reflections of a Rock Lobster: A Story about Growing Up Gay* is an engrossing memoir of a 19-year-old written for other teenagers. The story of growing up gay is very familiar to those of us who did it, but listening to that same story from other people is endlessly fascinating. Did they know other gay people? I didn't. Did other kids pick on them? Did they fight back? What did their parents think? Fricke answers all these questions and more in his memoir.

His book is short, direct, young-adult narrative. I read it in one sitting. For us

older folks, there are no new insights here to slow us down. It merely reminds us of our younger days and maybe what we missed out on.

For younger readers, *Reflections* might well be a profound and liberating book. If I had had this book to read when I was 16, I would have been able to make more sense out of my own experience. I wouldn't have been quite so afraid of my desires. I think my life would have been better.

So now I'm 36. Am I too old to enjoy *Reflections*? No! I can sit down and read it in a couple of hours and enjoy Fricke's transparent honesty, sensuality, shyness and pride.

So why does he call himself a rock lobster? Well, a rock lobster has a hard protective shell but no claws. Fricke has chosen a fine symbol for himself. The image is perfect.

Reed is a former president and current board member of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

Survivor's tale deserves military salute

PECK, SCOTT. ALL AMERICAN BOY.

By CHRIS TOLAND

SCOTT PECK, the author of *All American Boy*, is not to be confused with M. Scott Peck, the author of *The Road Less Traveled*. It is a common mistake, but their stories are very different.

Peck was in Fort Worth Sunday, May 7, at Bookstop on South Hulen for a book signing. Dressed casually and very friendly, this man showed no apparent sign of what he had been through. Some people who had come to see him were not familiar with his story. I have to admit that before this month I had only a passing knowledge of who he is.

His public life started when his father, Marine Colonel Fred Peck, testified that his son is gay during Senate hearings on the proposal to rescind the ban on gays in the military. Colonel Peck testified that because his son was gay he would not want him to be in the military, that he would fear for his safety and the cohesiveness of military units, despite his respect for his son. The colonel was giving the party line and using his son as an example. At the time, Scott Peck was still coming to terms with his sexuality and his life. His father publicly outed him in a big way. The publicity quickly turned to Scott. Out of this experience, he decided to write a memoir.

The book is timeless, literally. It starts with the events of his early childhood and continues with a string of experiences, without reference to chronological time, to early adulthood. It is not, necessarily, a "gay story." According to Peck, "It is a survivor's story, but all gays in America are all survivors of intolerance and more." His memoir deals with physi-

cal abuse, religious intolerance, separation, internalized homophobia and coming to terms with his sexuality.

Peck's parents separated shortly after his birth. He was raised during his early childhood by his mother and an abusive stepfather. His mother eventually left his stepfather and took Scott and his stepsister, Lisa, with her.

To further complicate his life, both his maternal grandparents and his

mother were deeply religious. Peck became involved with Charismatic Christians and, during his teenage years, wanted to become a preacher. This was to become a problem as his sexuality emerged. He felt extreme guilt over his feelings for other men.

During this time, Peck still did not truly know his biological father, Fred Peck. His father was still somewhat of a mythical figure in his life. It was not until after the death of his mother that he was to come to know his natural father, and to come to know himself. He eventually left the church, not over his sexuality, but over the intolerance of a Buddhist college roommate.

Peck is uncomfortable with the title of his own book. He does not seem to consider himself an "All-American Boy." In many ways he is exactly that. He is easy going, intelligent, with boy-next-door good looks. He seems to not consider himself a spokesman for any cause, merely a survivor of a difficult life.

His story is similar to the tale of Greg Louganis' life in *Breaking the Surface*. They share the same feelings of guilt as children and similar family problems. For many years and in many people's minds, Greg Louganis was and still is the image of an All-American Boy. Though their lives have been different, these two share, in my mind, a lot in common - their difficult childhoods, losing a parent, coping with being gay and being a public figure.

Publicly, Marine Colonel Fred Peck is still opposed to gays in the military; he is still in the military and giving the party line. Today Scott Peck and his father are on good terms. His father accepts him and even calls Scott's husband, Bobby, his son-in-law.

This is the story of many of us, both gay and straight, coping with adversity in our lives. What could be more all-American?

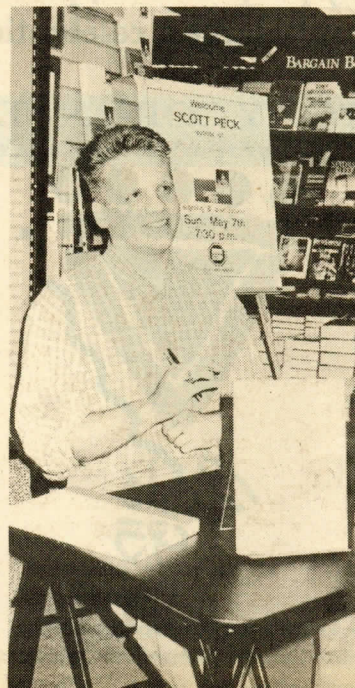
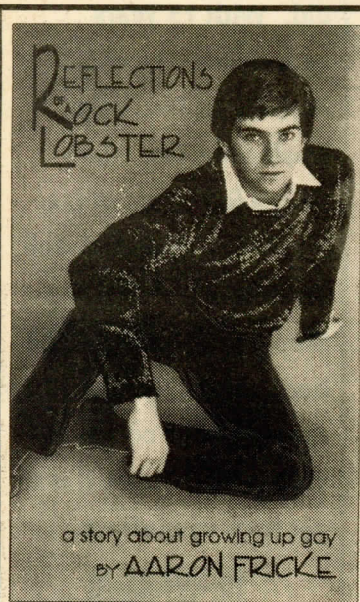


PHOTO BY STEVE GARRETT

SCOTT PECK



REFLECTIONS OF A ROCK LOBSTER by Aaron Fricke

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- New York Native

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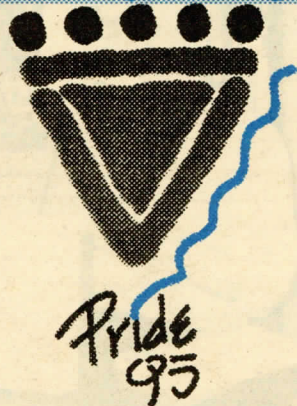
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GAY PRIDE WEEK

Schedule of Events

So many people to see, places to go, in this, Tarrant's largest celebration to date.

By **TONY CORONADO**,
Future Fort Worth/Arlington Steering Committee



The official Gay Pride Week celebration is Sunday, June 4, through Saturday, June 10, but there is definitely more to the week than that - all of the events designed with fun in mind.

To start, the **MR., MISS, MS. AND MISS/MR. PAGEANT** will be Friday, June 2, with time and location to be announced. Erika Chatelaine (Raymond Gill), Miss Gay Pride '94-'95, and Joyce Raines, Miss Gay Pride '94-'95, chair the event. With a bevy of titleholders for entertainment and the community's new interest in the pageant, this competition will prove to be of the highest caliber.

SPRING OUT - how appropriate

- a cotillion in collaboration of Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington, is a first-time offering, starting an annual tradition of opening the week on the Saturday before the parade.

This year's gala will be from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Clarion Hotel's Horizon Ballroom. Dress is leather to jeans, drag to formal. Proceeds benefit five local churches and organizations. Amenities include cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, a DJ and dancing, door prizes, and the Imperial Court candidate presentation at 10 p.m. Come join in the fun of the party!

Fun, fun and more fun - Sunday, June 4, is definitely jam-packed with activities, food, entertainment and pride. As usual, the kickoff on the agenda for the day is the **GAY PRIDE PARADE** at 2 p.m. Assembly and lineup for the route is at 1 p.m. on the corner of South Jennings and Rosedale. The route has been expanded from Jennings to Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania to Hemphill, Hemphill to Cannon, and ends at Cannon and Grainger.

This year's parade is filled with entries of individuals, organizations and churches from in and out of town. Costumes, floats, decorations, automobiles, trucks, rollerskaters and bicyclists are going to make this year's parade something to see. Trophies for top honors in five categories will be awarded two hours after the parade ends at the TGRA-sponsored carnival in the 651 Club-Fort Worth parking lot.

THE TGRA CARNIVAL will begin immediately following the parade. Participation in this year's carnival is higher than ever. Many organizations are providing games, food and entertainment. The entertainment stage show will begin with Lady Rae and will include other performers such as Chris Haydel from Texarkana and our very own Letty Cruz.

Organizational-sponsored games at the carnival will include Longhorn Bowling's dunking booth, a jail provided by TGRA-Dallas, a basketball toss by the fort worth formal committee, Future Fort Worth/Arlington's Wheel of Fortune, a dart throw by Trinity MCC, and many more. Food and beverages include beer and margaritas by TGRA, burgers by P-FLAG and hot dogs by Over the Hill.

Retail booths include tie dyes by Hunter Peale and gay pride jewelry by Michael Price. Come **CARNIVALE!**

Our new parade route encompasses Fort Worth's first **GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL** at the Corral Club, which will include food, game and merchandise booths, a jail house by the Cowtown Leathermen, plus entertainment. In addition, the Corral's patio has been expanded. Three bars will be available, inside, on the patio and at the festival. Plenty of picnic tables and amenities are offered. Come join the festival for a fun-filled day after the parade. If you miss the parade awards, look for the announcement on stage at 5:30 p.m.

The week will be filled with cook-outs, drag shows, male dancers, a paint-the-dancer night, karaoke, dart tournament, boxer night, pool tournament, blackjack table, beverage specials and more, all provided by our local taverns. All dates and times are listed in this year's **GAY PRIDE WEEK BOOKLET** available at the bars and local organizations' offices.

On that note, the booklet this year was chaired by Christopher Toland with the help of graphic designer Darwin Bragg - it is one to hold on to. Congratulations, Chris, on such a fantastic job your first time out.

Two highlights during the week are the annual **STARLITE AIDS BENEFIT** hosted by the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington, at 9 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at Magnolia Station. Special guests include Miss Gay Texas, Celeste Martinez; Miss Gay Arlington, Melissa Monroe; former Miss Gay Fort Worth, Kristina Kross; and a host of other performers.

Then, the **MR. NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS PAGEANT** will begin at 10 p.m. Friday, June 9, at the 651 Arlington. Produced by Porter Pierce, the winner will advance to Mr. Gay All-American to be held June 17-18 at the Astrodome Annex in Houston. Categories in the Mrs.

North Central Texas competition include formal wear, on-stage question and answer, talent, and swimsuit. Interested contestants may call 817/265-4649 for information on registering.

The annual **GAY PRIDE PICNIC** will be from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Greenway Park, 183 and I35E in Fort Worth. Included in this outing are a list of new and exciting activities: free hot dogs, soft drinks and beer (while supplies last); entertainment area sponsored by Leadership Forum; children's area sponsored by local churches; organizational booth area; and baseball field.

Activities include an opening ceremony at noon; a volleyball tournament at 1 p.m.; field events starting at 1:30 p.m., including three-legged race, sack race, balloon toss, tug of war and drag race; a dance contest at 2 p.m.,

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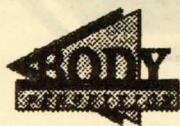
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including country and western, disco and '50s jitterbugging; the Raina Lea Service Award will be presented at 2:30 p.m.; and live entertainment is set for 3-5 p.m.

A highlight of the field events will be a relay run sponsored by the fort worth formal committee. The "Great Champagne Run" will consist of filling a champagne glass with water from a bucket, running down the course to fill up a champagne bottle,

and repeating in relays. Come one, come all to one of the greatest outdoor adventures of all.

Our hats are off to Neal Lindsey, acting president/vice president; Darla Roland, treasurer; Jerry Glazner, secretary; and all the coordinators of the parade, picnic, pageant and booklet for such dedication to our community. And to the community, without whom there would not be such a success. ♪

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No one is an Island

When we are bridged by our sameness
with respect for our differences, we share pride

By MARY ELLEN EDWARDS, LMSW

Gay Pride Week carries many different meanings, depending upon your focus. For some, Gay Pride Week heralds the start of summer and outdoor picnics and pool parties. For others it is the remembrance of the Stonewall riots and a public statement that gay is okay. For still others, it is the culmination of long days to pull together a successful community celebration. For many, Gay Pride Week is more than pride in being gay, lesbian or bisexual. It is a celebration of our individual and collective selves.

Each one of us is a part of this celebration, whether you are out and active in social or political activities or whether your involvement is reading this article in the *Alliance News*. Community is a sense of belonging, a sense of connection to something greater than the "I" or the "me".

Community is our heritage and our future and it is who we are individually in relation to each other today. And it is this human connection that brings the laughter and the tears and the meaning to our lives.

From the bar owners to the drag queens to the Imperial Court to the ministers, writers, organizers, fund-raisers, bar patrons, P-FLAG members, business entrepreneurs, all of us, you and I, we are awesome! We are a resourceful, independent and creative people – just take a walk down Cedar Springs or to the local Imperial Court benefit show to see what I mean. Our talents are amazingly boundless as well as our imaginations.

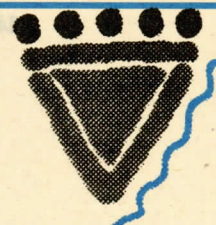
Gay Pride Week celebrates our diversity and our sameness.

It is ideas and dreams and who we are with each other that we celebrate. As a group, gays, lesbians and bisexuals are a people who tend to be disempowered through societal and legal constraints and restraints. But individually and collectively we have made strides and are taking back our power and forging new coalitions.

And as a group, gays, lesbians and bisexuals tend to be a people separated from our genetic past when families and loved ones have turned away from us because of who we are. We embrace the history of our struggle for freedom. The question is, though, do we fully embrace our diversity, our uniqueness, or do we admonish those who are different within this sameness? Do we sometimes turn away from each other because of who we are? There are still many who do not feel a sense of community in our area.

Interestingly enough, it is around the time of Gay Pride Week that I hear most often the comments about "pulling" our community together – men and women. But it is then shortly after the Gay Pride pictures have been passed around and the cardboard floats taken apart or stored away that so often is the talk of "our community" stored away.

Recently a Caucasian acquaintance of mine commented how she felt perhaps a bit shunned by her friends for dating a black woman. Whether a feeling or a perception, the acknowledgment is that this may not be acceptable to some. We are a microcosm of the society which has made us and we as a group might likewise tend



to segregate ourselves and reject differentness.

At the same time, our common history of victimization also tends to create an incredible sense of tolerance for difference. Men and women who are gay and lesbian tend to be more open thinkers and able to stretch traditional definitions to create new ones.

"Family" is such a concept as gays, lesbians and bisexuals have unwittingly pioneered more liberal definitions of family and family life. It is for a sense of protection, identity and companionship that we flock together. But it is out of our fear of being rejected ourselves, the fear that somehow we are less or will have less, that causes us to flee from genuine experiences with each other.

While taking dance lessons recently, I met a young man during what was such a fleeting encounter that I never really caught his name. He told me he is trying to realize there are certain things in life he is not good at, like singing. I asked him who said he was not a good singer and he answered, his family. He then told me he was going to try out for a singing part in a local theatrical production. I tried to make sense of what I had just heard. I realized, then, that despite the negative messages this young man received in life, he was going to risk rejection to experience being true to himself by following his dreams.

In *Necessary Losses*, author Judith Viorst writes, "Being a separate self is a most glorious, most lonely proposition. Loving oneself is nice but ... incomplete. Separateness is sweet but connection with someone outside oneself is truly sweeter. Our daily existence requires both closeness and distance, the wholeness of self, the wholeness of intimacy. We reconcile oneness and separateness through ordinary earthbound human love." It is truly amazing that a simple touch can bring down walls faster than many, many words.

Each one of us are – in relation – with each other; you can't get around it unless you live on an island. That relationship may be momentary or cursory but it is never insignificant. For from that point of intersection, I have changed, changed something – my place in time, my bank balance or my thoughts. People come and go and from those who go in my life, I am forever a different person than I was before.

It is the individual contributions to the whole and the synergy this interaction creates that has built this community up. The collaborative mind and soul and body has built the sense of community that brings meaning to how we live and work and socialize. Against those in society who still victimize, stigmatize and kill, we need to keep collaborating and forging forward.

We are our past and our future but most importantly, we are our present. We honor the legacies of those who have gone on by honoring each one of us today. As we remember those who have gone on from AIDS, from anti-gay murders, drugs and suicide, and victims of crime; for all those who have moved away, either physically or emotionally; and for those who are still here, with us and a part of us – let's have pride in each other and honor and cherish our uniqueness and diversity as well as the common thread that brings us together during Gay Pride Week, and all year long. ♪

Miss Margarida held us as a captive audience – literally. I know she would have tackled any one of us who tried to leave. Her spell cast on us, though, was so complete, so magnificently controlling, that not a one of us would even entertain the thought of such rebellion by an exit.

The school bell rang and all the imprinting of our public school days kicked in. Our backs popped into a rigid position; we stared straight ahead, politely, attentively. The setting of the stage, a single desk and “green” board, slipped the audience into its appointed role of eighth-grade mentality.

And then Miss Margarida had her way with us.

From the very first of her introduction, Miss M asserted herself as the single, omnipotent power of authority governing our lives. She held that role by a continuous string of manipulations – plying us with mass intimidation, crucifying the leaders who emerged among us, stealing our innocence with her sexualized feeding frenzy, and – the hook – smothering us with motherly benediction.

She captured us completely with that reinforced message: that she would treat us so harshly, brutally at times, only because she loved us, was truly concerned for us, and wanted us to reach our best potential.

It was a message all too familiar to the all-lesbian/gay audience that claimed the University of Texas at Arlington theater May 20. We’d been bashed about plenty by Radical Right assaults to interfere in our lives, with their rationalizing chants of “hate the sin but love the sinner” ringing in our ears. Within our own families we’d been singled out, punished, under the guise of love, for being what we were not expected to be.

The imposing of Miss Margarida’s Way on us, at the expense of our well-being, was an easy one for us to spot. We’d been here before. It felt so familiar.

Our rigid backs at the start of the play soon relaxed, progressing over the course, for some, into a cavalier, slouching posture. One woman propped her feet up on the chair in front of her. Unrelenting authority would not so easily keep us contained.

Miss Margarida’s shocking display transformed the audience’s character, from a quiet, respectful, passive role at first to a rowdy, raucous pack at the end that thumbed its nose at control.

The chalk Miss M passed out to the class came hurling back at her, as did a stream of paper wads (one well-aimed at her crotch) and paper airplanes. At recess, intermission, several of the brave rebels among us scrawled nasty epithets upon the green board: “Miss Margarida is a BITCH!”

I was always one to master institutions, to work within the system quietly while rebelling against it. I

HAVING OUR WAY

Lesbians and gays might move in rebellious ways through a world intent on restricting us.

When we took over the theater for ‘Miss Margarida’s Way,’ a UTA production, we were absolutely revolting...

By **BEVERLY FLETCHER**



PHOTO BY DINAH LYNCH

Miss Margarida’s Way had a vulnerable underbelly.

was teacher’s pet in school and the class demon when she stepped out of the room.

I revelled vicariously through that handful of students among us who pelted Miss M with their chalk. I used my piece instead to draw graffiti on the floor, at my feet: a heart and arrow, revolutionary words, “Beverly loves Susan – HOT!”

It would be a lasting act of quiet desperation, to be discovered by the uninitiated at other staged performances and, perhaps, to shock them with this challenge to their stronghold on public domain.

Miss M would never trace that

heart to me, though, after I was gone. As far as her eyes saw, I was the perfect, attentive student in the back, completely submissive to her rule. I escaped her punishment that way.

Dinah Lynch, the play’s director and an assistant professor of drama at UTA, says every audience responds differently to Miss Margarida’s dictatorship. The audience emerges as a distinct character in the production because that “fourth wall” that typically separates them from the actors is completely demolished here, with Miss M right up in their faces ... and on their laps.

Most mainstream audiences generally are somewhat disturbed by the control-freak manipulation that sucks them in. Some women cry, Lynch said; others respond at a very emotional, gut-instinct level, interacting fluidly to Miss M’s attention.

Men in the audience might feel threatened by this woman brandishing her power. They tend to remain passive, removed, visibly uncomfortable when Miss M calls upon her authoritative prerogative to flirt with them, whereas women respond more appealingly in those same situations, Lynch noted.

The play is a tragicomedy, an allegory for totalitarianism, governmental dictatorship. It is interesting that when mainstream audiences bump against what lesbians and gays face every day – an institution using force, coercion and intimidation to press them into a single, constrictive, acquiescing role – some feel so uncomfortable, so desolate, they want to leave.

For the May 20 performance, sponsored as a fund-raiser by the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, the audience entirely lesbian or gay, Nancy Lipschultz, a lesbian, had genuine fun with her role as Miss Margarida.

Jim Martin, an Alliance board member and UTA assistant professor who had seen the show before, said this performance was “really over the top.” Lipschultz seemed more decadent, more daring, he said.

In person, Lipschultz is gentle, consummately warm. She reminds me of that womanly quality in my grandmother, who would stand throughout our meals to wait on others and never touch her own plate.

On stage, the Miss M role unleashes in Lipschultz what the program notes refer to as “latent hostilities.” She celebrates Miss M, in a lesbian/feminist way, for her unmitigated use of power that women are typically denied. In that role, she says, she feels powerful herself when she reveals her breasts on stage or appears to masturbate behind the desk, such brazen acts that her modesty, her imprinting, preclude outside that realm.

Tasting power from that side of the institutional fence must be a heady trip for a woman, a lesbian, who in reality is oppressed by it. Lipschultz is such a fine, convincing actress but still, she could not completely hide in her performance her delight that our class struggled stubbornly against the dictates of her Miss M.

Director Lynch, Lipschultz’s loving partner for a year, produced the play as a response to public reaction against her last season’s offering, Larry Kramer’s *The Destiny of Me*.

Conservative groups attacked that gay story in the media. The American Family Association in Tarrant County unsuccessfully pressured campus and Arlington police to shut down the production for its male nudity.

In one scene, a father assaults his son for being gay and strips him.

“I was astounded that the complaints were about the nudity, and not about the domestic violence, which was most disturbing,” Lynch said.

SEE ‘WAY’ ON P. 18

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POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

Taboo subject hits close to home: sometimes AIDS sufferers self-prescribe suicide

This will probably be one of the hardest columns I have ever written. People involved with HIV and those of us infected seldom discuss this particular issue, even though we all think about it at least once a month. But like unsafe sex, this issue is a reality.

It started on April 23. I had breakfast with Steve and his family and had decided to tell them that I no longer believe in a God. It was a simple decision. Somewhere between the Oklahoma bombing and Selena's murder I lost all my faith. My life was beyond bizarre up to this point anyway — my mother and me both having HIV and Steve's stepfather having been diagnosed full-blown AIDS by yours truly. Oprah didn't believe my life and sometimes even I had problems with it.

John, Steve's stepfather, did not handle his disease well and my religious discussion was an attempt to get a response from him. He never believed me. It was ironic, because he is the reason I ultimately regained my faith. I learned a lesson from telling Steve and his mother about not believing in God: Southerners BELIEVE! I quickly learned that and defended my stance with little hope for understanding. HIV has shaped a lot of my decisions and it had some heavy influence here as well.

I found it difficult to believe in an entity who supposedly sacrificed his son for our sins when so many people suffer so much in this world we live in today. People end relationships and people die for no other reason than

ignorance. All and all, I found God and belief in him rather inane.

Until April 25. Steve's Mom paged me to tell me that her husband had shot himself. I thought he shot his leg for attention. It was not until I got to her house and walked into the closet where he lay that I realized he had killed himself. Blood was everywhere. I called 911 and convinced the operator that no pulse reading was necessary. Suicide is a rough event, no matter who is involved, but when it hits home, it becomes hell.

Trying to keep focused and dealing with the law officials was rough. I wanted everyone to know that HIV was in the room and to protect themselves. It took forever for the paperwork to get finished and for the body to be removed. While the pastor talked to the family, I quietly went into the closet to clean up the mess. I felt like I should attempt to clean up as much as I could so others would not run the risk of infection. I pulled out some old towels and set about my task.

Millions of thoughts ran through my mind, the first being that I could never end my life like this. I would

not be caught dead in my underwear. That would never happen. Second, and most oddly, was that I could not believe that someone like John who believed so much in God and heaven could kill himself. I realized that I believed in hell. How could I believe in hell and not in heaven? It did not add up or make much sense.

As I tried to hold back the vomit, I realized that we are gifts to one another. Some may not have been my choice, but gifts nonetheless. Every person who has entered my life has made some impact and left me a bit richer for the experience.

Suicide is not about the person who dies, it is about the people left behind. Feelings of failure and doubts about love race through our thoughts. While I believe one should be allowed to end their life when they can no longer bear the pain, this was selfish. Killing yourself is a personal choice, like abortion. Killing yourself so others get hurt is selfish. I would rent a room if I were to take my life. I respect Steve too much to do it in

our home. It would be easier for him to get over the event if he were not forced to look at the spot everyday.

To be involved with someone who is HIV infected is a rollercoaster ride. But those of us infected must never lose sight of those in our lives who sit silently by and wish they could trade places with us. Those we are lucky enough to be surrounded by love us and suffer with us daily.

As I knelt there sopping up the huge puddle of blood, I felt anger. I thought about my mother and others who died from AIDS. I thought suicide was a cop out. I gained strength though their death experience and here I felt a void. I will never know why he took his own life. CMV was taking his eyesight and his freedom and maybe pulling the trigger gave him strength. Maybe it gave him the freedom that the IV's had destroyed. Those of us left behind will never know and we will spend years trying to discover the answer.

Maybe suicide and AIDS have a lot more in common than we like to admit.

Fear being the center. I am not afraid to die, I am just not in any hurry. AIDS is about loss, like suicide. Loss of freedom, loss of strength. Loss of money. Loss of sex. Loss of love. It is also loneliness. Having AIDS is a ride we take alone. It affects us separately and uniquely. It may even force us to challenge our beliefs about suicide and it may ultimately convince us to take our own life.

Right now, I do not know the loneliness that drives someone to suicide, but I am afraid one day I will and that bothers me. All the love and friends in the world will not restore eyesight lost or mobility taken away. Maybe the ride ahead is like a bus and getting off now is no different than waiting for 12 more stops. It is all the same place once we step down to it and yet many of us ride onward.

AIDS is not a joy ride and the things I have learned since becoming infected I would rather have learned from a book, but I like the bus for now. I may yet win the lottery and really irritate someone. I find it hard to end it all when I can go to Fossil Rim and pet a zebra or go for a walk in the yard with Sally.

I guess the old saying is true, God never gives you more than you can bear. Sometimes we try to carry the load alone when a friend is right next to us with a pair of strong hands.

Until next month, hug someone you haven't talked to in months and live each second with PASSION! ♣

CATHY L. MCGINNIS, LMSW-ACP
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

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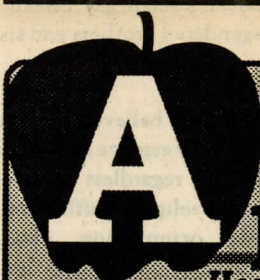
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AGAPE'S
Apple a Day
Healthy advice from the heart
by Doug Rich, RN, MSN,
Family Nurse Practitioner and Agape MCC Deacon

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!

Spring is here — time to get out the grill, picnic basket and the volleyball equipment. While you are out there enjoying the warming weather and sunshine, take these "apples" with you.

Drinking and driving don't mix on land or sea (or even Joe Pool Lake). Appoint a designated driver and get your entire gang home from the picnic safely.

Repellents containing DEET used on your clothing are effective in preventing insect bites — it is the bite

of a tiny little tick that can put you at risk for getting Lyme disease (a complicated illness which can lead to joint pain, vision disturbances and nerve damage). Keep your shirttail tucked and tuck your pants into your boots (I know you'll look like an Okie but the fashion police are not usually "into" hiking).

Earaches are common after swimming. If these are a problem for you, you can help prevent them by whipping up this little recipe in your kitchen. Mix together equal parts of peroxide, rubbing alcohol and vinegar, and place a few drops in your ears after each dip.

Allergic reactions to poison ivy and poison oak are severe and affect more than 50 percent of the nation's population. The best medicine is to avoid the plants — there is

a little rhyme to help you remember: "Leaflets three, let it be". If you happen to not recognize the leaflets three soon enough and you get a dose, you can do several things to make yourself more comfortable. Calamine lotion is tried and true. Benadryl or Chlor-Trimeton are both good anti-histamines and can relieve the itch.

Meals taken on picnics are great sources of food poisoning. Take special care when preparing your food so that you do not contaminate it. Wash your hands frequently while preparing the food at home (especially when handling meats and sandwich spreads). Keep your cold foods cold (return them to the ice chest after serving instead of leaving them out on the picnic table). Serve chicken and hamburgers well done — because of the way these meats are processed, it is dangerous to serve them underdone.

Storms rumbling with thunder and flashes of lightening that illuminate the night sky and then give way to dawn's gentle breaking, and the glorious display of Texas wildflowers are frequent reminders to me of the presence of God in all things. Enjoy these daily miracles for yourself. Better yet, share them with someone! ♣

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.

ONE OF OUR OWN

African-Americans have felt out of place in gay-bashing mainstream churches, and in gay/lesbian congregations that can't fully reflect ethnic spirituality.

Now there's a new chapel in town...

By the Rev. NaDINE RAWLS

One of our own? What could that possibly be? In this case, it is a church of our own making, to meet our unique, spiritual needs.

Some nine months ago a few of us were discussing our African-American spiritual heritage and how much we missed going to our mainstream churches. Little did we know that this conversation was happening in small African-American gay and lesbian organizations throughout the Metroplex.

Word came to us, through a New Yorker who had moved recently to the Metroplex, about a Fellowship that had started in Los Angeles in 1985 by two women and a man. Karen Sebastian told us about this Fellowship and the excitement of numerous African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Christians worshipping together every Sunday. That sounded just exactly like what we were longing for.

In October of 1994, I took a trip to Brooklyn, New York, the location of a Unity Fellowship Church. I lived the dream and felt the great Spirit that dwells in the members of Unity. I thought to myself and knew

beyond the shadow of a doubt that we could do this in Dallas/Fort Worth. This is what the lesbian/gay African-American community is asking for and seeking. Before leaving New York that weekend I knew Unity would soon land in North Texas. How soon, I was not sure.

The Unity Fellowship Church Movement was started in Los Angeles, Calif., by the now Bishop Carl Bean, pastor of the church there; Vera Owens, the Voice of Unity choir director; and Christine Tripp, the church's director of ushers. The inspiration of vision to establish Unity Fellowship Church was given to its founder, Rev. Bean. After many years of study and seeking spiritual truth it was revealed to Rev. Bean that the spiritual path is eternal and travelled by *all*.

Well, what about Unity in North Texas? In February of this year while attending the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in Los Angeles, a group of us had an opportunity to meet with the Unity Fellowship Church Movement founders and we expressed our interest and desire to organize a Unity

here in Dallas/Fort Worth. We discussed the need and desire for our people to reclaim their spiritual heritage and worship in the ways of our people. We discussed the spiritual feedings that we were missing. We discussed the feelings of loss of freedom to worship in ways to which we were accustomed. We wanted to come home.

After our lengthy conversation with Unity Fellowship's founders, on Feb. 19, Unity Fellowship of North Texas was officially born. Although the formation had been alive in our hearts and souls, Unity was now a reality. We had been given the blessings and the charge by the founders of Unity, and a pastor, all at once. Little did we imagine that all of these events would happen so quickly. God moves in mysterious ways and sometimes very quickly.

Unity Fellowship Church of North Texas is the eighth congregation in the 10-year life of the Fellowship.

Unity Fellowship Church of North Texas held its first service April 2, an event that was filled with excitement and joy.

The services are every Sunday at 1 p.m. Although the attendance has been small, we are expecting God to do great things with us. We are an excited group and welcome each Sunday to worship with our African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered brothers and sisters.

At Unity, we believe that "we are the very essence of Love as is all creation, regardless of race, creed, color, religious affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, class, whether animal, fish, plant life, galaxies known or unknown. There is no place in creation where love is not present."

Unity Fellowship's goal is to present this Love and to show the African-American lesbian, gay, bi-

sexual, transgendered and transsexual community that our sexuality is not a prerequisite to the Love of God; and that the regaining of our spiritual connections and our spiritual heritage is vital to our everyday lives and relationships, whether these relationships are with family, friends or lovers.

It is time that we reclaim the black pride we grew up with. It is time that we reclaim our African-American spiritual heritage and, most importantly, our spiritual connection with God.

Unity Fellowship Movement is now in nine states: the mother church in Los Angeles; Full Truth Unity Fellowship Church in Detroit, Mich.; Unity Fellowship Church of New York in Brooklyn; Inner Light Unity Fellowship Church in Washington, D.C.; Sojourner Truth Unity Fellowship in Seattle, Wash.; Unity Fellowship in Newark, New Jersey; and, just recently, Unity Fellowship in Atlanta, Georgia.

The movement is on the rise. The desire of African-American

lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and transsexual persons to become connected with their spiritual selves is on the increase.

I, with other founders of Unity Fellowship Church of North Texas - Jacki Gray, Ronald Jefferson, Karen Sebastian - proudly invite all of our brothers and sisters who are seeking a place to worship freely and openly, to reclaim their African-American spiritual heritage and reconnect with the God who loves us for who we are. We no longer have to continue to attend mainstream churches where gay-bashing takes place from the pulpit. Nor do we have to continue to attend churches where our spirituality is not understood nor appreciated by everyone there.

We look forward to greeting you at the Unity door. Peace. ✠

For more information on becoming involved in Unity Fellowship Church of North Texas, call 214/521-5342, extension 226, or contact Rev. NaDine Rawls at 214/326-7960.

The storm got our Building But NOT our Church.

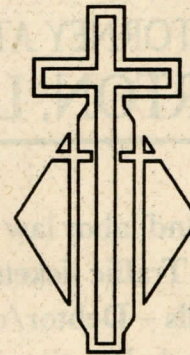
Trinity MCC is Alive and Well!

Temporarily meeting at:

Comfort Inn, Explorer Room
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Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m.

For more info call 817/265-5454.



*Come see
how we're
drying out!*

Gay Pride Service, June 11: Meet Texas' first openly gay State Representative, Glenn Maxey.

TRINITY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Jo Crisco, Senior Pastor/Rev. Jim Norwood, Assistant Pastor

STORM

continued from p. 5

this personal loss has been overwhelming to me. Clubs like Tom Boys and the 651 in Arlington had fund-raisers for my library. My own congregation took up a collection for me toward the books. This was especially touching, because I know many of my members suffered damage to their own homes, and they have their own lives and things to put back together," she said.

Finally, it should be noted that Miracle Sunday is not the answer to the storm damage. Rev. Crisco reminded everyone that the Miracle Sunday money was specifically raised to help build the new church home in North Arlington and could not be

used to replace any loss of contents. "When I tell people we're raising money to get to the land, that's what we're doing. I can't come back and say, 'Folks, we need to buy chairs with this instead,' nor would I want to. I believe God is directing our path toward a new church home. That is God's money, and I'm not going to use it for anything except helping us get to the land," Rev. Crisco said.

Rev. Crisco said that in addition to her own congregation and the metroplex gay/lesbian community, she also wanted to thank Key Board Exchange for loaning the church a free organ, piano and sound system while they meet temporarily at the Comfort Inn at 1601 W. Division.

"I'm starting to get cards and letters from all over the denomination and the community. Our sister church in

Los Angeles sent us a generous check. I just opened a gift of \$10 from a deacon in Austin. It made me feel so grateful. It might as well have been \$10 million," Rev. Crisco said. "I'd like to thank everyone who has helped us. In the coming weeks, as we get back on our feet, know that you're letters of encouragement and thoughtful gifts are helping us get through this," she said.

Anyone wanting to help Trinity MCC in the storm relief may call 817/265-5454 and leave a message for Rev. Crisco. Trinity MCC continues to hold all of its regularly scheduled worship and events. Sunday morning worship is temporarily at the Comfort Inn at 1601 Division in Arlington. Services begin at 10:45 a.m.

The sign on Trinity's door says it all: "The storm got our building, but not our church." ✠

RELIGION

Investing emotionally in our community is just

A MATTER OF FAITH

By Rev. BRENDA HUNT, AGAPE MCC

'Pride is a sin when, instead of leading you to share yourself with others ... it leads you to keep yourself in perpetual safe deposit...' -Frederick Buechner, Listening to your Life.

More than once as the season of "Pridetide" approaches, various parishioners say to me, "Why do we call it pride - isn't that a sin?" And so I start early each year reading the classics, Pedagogy of the Oppressed and such. I am always amazed at the

spiritual insights of people who call themselves agnostic or atheists. Sometimes they seem so much closer to what I understand Biblical teachings to be than those who claim otherwise...

A friend handed me a sheet of paper as I went into the sanctuary yesterday, a proposal for a new column she is sending to the Alliance office. Portrait: an inside look at the variety of organizations and opportunities in our community here in Tar-

rant County ... people need to know what is out there, she says that over and over. I take great pride in knowing people like her, people who will share themselves rather than remain hidden or withdrawn.

I think I have figured out that closet means a lot of things in our community. It is one thing to be closeted because of work and closeted because you're in an unlit parking lot with skinheads watching you. It is quite another thing entirely to be a

closeted, caring person who never ventures a hand out to others because we don't want anyone to take advantage of us or know about us...

I know folks who just will not make an effort to be a part of the community for a variety of reasons, all of which sound good. But in the end there just is not a reasonable excuse for staying uninvolved with others.

Neighborhoods deteriorate because people don't stay involved with one

another. Inner cities decay into slums because people lose something more than just pride when they keep to themselves. Churches become principalities when they are not agent of investment and change. Organizations literally eat themselves up when they focus inward.

The lessons are all around us, the reasons more and more dramatic every day. We have every reason to take pride in our community and the work being done by those involved. And there is every reason for all of us to look for places to join in, reach out and invest ourselves.

It is a great matter of faith, investments. Whatever reason you need, whatever road you take to invest in others, it always comes back threefold, fourfold ... much more than you started out with. Standing together and walking together makes all of us safer and healthier. It's a simple matter ... of faith. ♣

Bishop responds to accusations of heresy: Ordaining gay man was in accordance with Episcopal church canons, he says.

By BRYAN TAYLOR

As reported in the May issue of the Alliance News, retired bishop Walter Righter of the Episcopal church is the subject of an accusa-

tion, or "presentment," filed by 10 of the Episcopal Church's radically conservative bishops. Righter is charged with heresy for his ordination in 1990

of Barry Stopfel, a gay man living openly in a relationship with his lover. Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop Jack Iker is one of the signatories to the presentment.

Righter's formal response to the charges was received by Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning on May 10, and forwarded to all the Church's 297 bishops. Seventy-five of the Church's bishops must consent for the presentment to move forward to an ecclesiastical tribunal. Most Episcopalians in the mainstream Church are highly skeptical the matter will be allowed to proceed any further.

In his answer to the charges, Righter denied that he is "holding and teach-

ing publicly or privately ... any doctrine contrary to that held by this church" in violation of its canon laws or that he has "violated his ordination vows" by ordaining a non-celibate gay person. Righter maintains that the Stopfel ordination "was in accordance with the requirements of the Book of Common Prayer and the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church." Righter's response was supported by the legal representatives of the diocese of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, whose bishops are also likely targets of the extreme right wing for ordaining non-celibate gay men or lesbians.

Righter's response pointed out that "the moral and social teaching of the [Episcopal] church, unlike its fundamental doctrine, is open to modification, development and even repudiation, in light of changing perceptions and understandings of the human condition [and] is continuously under review..." The brief gave well-known examples of issues on which the church changed its mind, such as the accept-

ability of slavery, the permissibility of remarriage after divorce, and the eligibility of women to hold any ordained office in the church equally with men.

"This attempt to use the Church's judicial process to resolve an issue on which there is no agreement must fail," Righter concluded, and asked the bishops to reject further prosecution of him.

The bishops of four of the six Episcopal jurisdictions in Texas are parties to the presentment. In addition to local Fort Worth Bishop Iker, the others are Stanton of Dallas, Benitez of Texas (Houston and Austin areas, recently retired), and Kelshaw of Rio Grande (New Mexico and Texas west of the Pecos River). Of these, Iker is himself a likely target of legal action for his refusal to allow ordained women's ministries in his jurisdiction, in violation of clear canon law on that issue. ♣

Taylor is co-founder of Integrity-Fort Worth, a group within the Episcopal Church that affirms lesbians and gays. He compiled this report from an article by James Solheim, Episcopal News Service.

Celebration Community Church to honor gay fathers with Men's Chorus performance

Celebration Community Church will offer a special Father's Day Service at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 18. In addition to a Father's Day/men's message by Pastor Bill Prickett, the Fort Worth Men's Chorus will perform during the worship service.

"We often forget," Pastor Prickett says, "that many men in our community - like myself - are fathers, some by former marriage or currently, others in nontraditional families. It's important to recognize the significant role and responsibility of these men, as we did for the women and mothers on Mother's Day, and cel-

ebate their contributions. We want them to know of our support and encouragement ... especially at this time of the year."

The Celebration Choir will host a reception in the fellowship hall following the service, where the Fort Worth Men's Chorus will be featured.

Celebration Community Church meets at the First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist church building at 1959 Sandy Lane, in east Fort Worth. The Sunday Celebration worship service times are 6:30 p.m. There is also a Wednesday Bible Study, as well as group activities for singles and couples.

For directions to the church, more information about the Father's Day service or about the church, call the church office at 817/275-0443.

1970-1995 AGAPÉ METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE Join Us in Celebrating Pride Month With These Events: June 19 - 23 Vacation Bible School (ages 4-12) June 24 Miniature Golf Tournament 11am - 3pm Hidden Valley Miniature Golf (See Community Calendar For Detail of These And Other Programmed Events) Sunday Services: 9 & 11am (Children's Sunday School at 11am) 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.

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH services, 6:30 p.m., 1959 Sandy Lane in East Fort Worth, located between Meadowbrook Drive and Brentwood Stair Road. For more information call Rev. Bill Prickett at 817/275-0443.

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. Temporarily meeting at Comfort Inn, 1601 Division, Arlington.

TUESDAYS

TRINITY MCC, Sanctuary Choir practice, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS:

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH Life Study, 7 p.m., 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Weekly series on Biblical perspectives for real-life situations; currently, "The Bible and Homosexuality," positive scriptural truths that apply to areas such as self-esteem/self-acceptance, relationships, commitment, sexual integrity, etc. Celebration Choir practice follows at 8 p.m. Call 817/275-0443.

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).

THURSDAYS:

AGAPE MCC 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.

TRINITY MCC Open House series, small intimate groups meet in individual homes to study and dialog with UFMCC-produced material; meets the second and fourth Thursdays. This month: "Celebrating our Lives Together: Building a Community of Faith." Call the church office, 817/265-5454.

FRIDAYS:

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

ter, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.

JUNE 3:

AGAPE MCC'S Membership Orientation, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. Information about the church and membership; lunch served.

JUNE 6, 20:

AGAPE MCC'S Seekers and Believers, 7 p.m. at the church. A new group for those new to Christianity or interested in learning more.

JUNE 8:

TRINITY MCC Men's Fellowship, night out at a local eatery and the opening performance of "A Few Good Men" at the Arlington Theater. Reduced price for theater tickets is \$3 per person. Call the church by June 3, 817/265-5454, for reservations.

JUNE 9:

AGAPE MCC'S Fabulous 50s Plus, 6:30 p.m. Social gathering for those 50 or over. This month is Games and Ice Cream night. Call 817/535-5002 for location.

JUNE 10:

AGAPE MCC'S Progressive Dinner, 5:30 p.m. at the church. Fund-raiser for church delegates' expenses. Each course - appetizers, entre and dessert - served at a different home. Cost: \$15 per person. Call 817/535-5002 for tickets.

JUNE 11:

AGAPE MCC'S Kid's Day Out, 2-4 p.m. Visit to Terri and Nancy's home for a pool party; parents must attend. Maps available at the church.

TRINITY MCC Gay Pride Service, 10:45 a.m. at the Comfort Inn in Arlington. Out State Representative Glen Maxey is keynote speaker.

JUNE 16:

AGAPE MCC'S Men's Potluck, 7:30 p.m. Men of Agape and friends are invited to share a meal at the church.

JUNE 17:

MCC LEADERSHIP MEETING, 9 a.m. Quarterly meeting of leadership of Agape, Harvest and Trinity MCCs. This month to meet at Harvest MCC in Denton.

JUNE 18:

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

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.

INTEGRITY advocacy group for Episcopalians, monthly meeting, 4 p.m. All welcome. Call Bryan Taylor for location, 817/738-2902.

JUNE 19-23:

AGAPE MCC'S Vacation Bible School, 1-5 p.m. Annual offering for children ages 4-12. Call 817/535-5002 for more information. May aid in transportation needs.

JUNE 24:

AGAPE MCC'S Diner's Club, 6 p.m. Held the fourth Saturday of each month at a different restaurant. Advance reservation (\$5 deposit) must be made when signing up, to be returned at the restaurant. No refunds unless cancellation made with the church office by Wednesday preceding Diner's Club. Call 817/535-5002.

AGAPE MCC'S Annual Miniature Golf

Tournament, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hidden Valley Miniature Golf on Jacksboro Highway. Celebrating Agape's 25th anniversary; prizes for low/high scores. Picnic grills and tables available. Entry fee is \$25 for teams of four. Call 817/535-5002 to register.

JULY 4:

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.

ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAYS:

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

JUNE 8:

WOMEN'S BUSINESS NETWORK monthly meeting, 6:30-8 p.m. at Southland Center/Harvey Hotel, 400 N. Olive in downtown Dallas. Meets the second Thursday each month. Members \$6; non-members \$10. Free underground parking. Call 214/712-8976.

JUNE 9:

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.

JUNE 10:

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

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

JUNE 11:

BLACK-TIE DINNER Fort Worth Table Captain Dinner Party, at the home of Michael Toole, 4312 Locke Ave., Fort Worth. Call 817/731-0122.

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.

JUNE 12:

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

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

JUNE 15:

TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria on University in Fort Worth. Program: Emperor Melissa Flories and Empress Pat "Cookies" Wyatt, on "Imperial Court 101: An introductory course in fund-raising." Meets the third Thursday of every month.

JUNE 16:

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

JUNE 19:

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.

JUNE 20:

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.

JULY 6:

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: Jan Wynn, private practice therapist, on "How Homophobia Hurts Everyone." For more information call 817/498-5607 or 817/498-4855.

EDUCATION

JUNE 1:

AOC FRIDAY FORUM: at 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.

JUNE 11, 25:

AGAPE MCC Dance Lessons, 4-6 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.

JUNE 1-4, 8-10:

FORT WORTH THEATRE'S "The Philadelphia Story" at Scott Theatre, 3505 W. Lancaster at Montgomery, Fort Worth. A romantic comedy hit on Broadway; spoiled divorced socialite's engagement goes haywire when a young reporter arrives to cover the wedding preparations. Call 817/738-6509.

THRU JUNE 24:

STAGE WEST "Lost in Yonkers" by Neil Simon, at Stage West Theatre, 3055 S. University Dr., Fort Worth. Tony and Pulitzer prize-winning play, drawing the humorous yet poignant portrait of the Kurnitz family during World War II as seen through the eyes of two adolescent wisecracking brothers. Contact metro 817/784-9378.

JUNE 2-JULY 29:

APPLAUSE DINNER THEATER "Pal Joey," 7:15 p.m. at 481 Harwood, Hurst. Cabaret-style revue of Rodgers and Hart's classic, classy Broadway musical, featuring over 20 songs and musical numbers from the original 1940 stage version and the better known 1957 film. Tickets are \$21

and \$30 and include the performance and buffet dinner. Reservations required; call 817/354-4736.

JUNE 25:

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS Season Finale Concert, 8 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas. Salute to women composers and arrangers, and to women as subjects of musical works, ancient and modern, classical and popular. Guests: Flutes Unlimited, a 17-member flute ensemble from the Texas Wind Symphony; and Soprano Cheryl Parrish. Tickets: \$10, \$15, \$20 plus a nonrefundable \$1.50 convenience fee. Call ARTTIX at 214/520-ARTS.

EVENTS

JUNE 4-11:

TARRANT COUNTY'S GAY PRIDE WEEK, See schedule of events on pp 10-11.

JUNE 19:

BOOKSTOP'S Safer Sex Panel, 7 p.m. at the store, 4801 S. Hulen St., Fort Worth. Featuring Kitty Caley, author of *Ultimate Love: A Life of Soul and Searching*. Her book examines her courageous struggle and the loss of her only child to AIDS.

JUNE 22:

BOOKSTOP'S Poetry Reading, "The Poetry of Merrill and Monette," a posthumous tribute to James Merrill and Paul Monette as experienced through their poetry and essays. Read by David Reed, Trisha Thomas and Steve Garrett. 7 p.m. at the store, 4801 S. Hulen St., Fort Worth.

JUNE 23:

BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKSELLERS "Christianity and Homosexuality", a free seminar, 7:30 p.m. at the store, 8525 Airport Freeway, North Richland Hills. Featuring TCLGA board member David Reed on the relationship between gay/lesbian people and their churches. Make reservation by calling 817/281-7042 or 214/445-5257.

JUNE 24:

BOOKSTOP'S Peggy J. Herring Book Signing, 1 p.m. at the store, 4801 S. Hulen St., Fort Worth. Herring will discuss and sign her "utterly engaging, everyday lesbian world" title, *Once More with Feeling*.

JULY 9:

IMPERIAL COURT ELECTIONS. Poll-watching party at the Corral Club, featuring various organizations and fun activities. In interested in offering a booth, call 817/870-1555. A "Battle of the Sexes" show will provide entertainment at 6:30 p.m. at the Corral.

HEALTH & FITNESS

WEEKDAYS:

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

MONDAYS:

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

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS:

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

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:

MANTALK, 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.

LAMBDAALANON, 6p.m., 817/737-7861.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

BAR/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

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

Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 8525 Airport Frwy., North Richland Hills, (817) 281-7042

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

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

Causey's, coins (817) 831-0074

Country Day Travel, (817) 731-8551

Cowgirls ParT Ranch hotline, (817) 355-4817

Cross, Rizzo and Schaaf, attorneys, (817) 877-0388, fax (817) 877-0380

Darwin and Associates, bookkeeping, (817) 589-1666

Distinctive Lawns and Gardens, (817) 731-8837

An Elegant Touch Limousine Service, (214) 218-6404

Hayes Pharmacy, (800) 258-9897

Hawke Torris Associates, office services, metro (817) 261-9691

Hope Realtors, 6101 Ken Ave., Arlington (817) 572-5455

Houts Private Investigation, (817) 265-1354, Fax (817) 860-7379

Brett Hunter, personal fitness trainer, Metro (214) 988-6835

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

Plelades Productions, (817) 923-4625

Primerica Financial Services, Robert J. Palmer, (817) 265-1442

S&S Minor Home Repairs, (817) 294-8548

7th Street Cafe, (817) 870-1672

Speck's Sparkle and Shine, cleaning services (817) 530-0300

Cheryl Strange, Realtor, (817) 732-3294

Two Pearls Bed and Breakfast, (817) 596-9316

Vertu, gifts, (214) 520-7817

firm is located at Grove Manor, 500 E. Belknap, Fort Worth.

GOLF CLASSIC TO TEE OFF

Oak Lawn Community Services (OLCS) Candy Marcum Institute for Women's Studies (CMI) is hosting its second CMI Golf Classic Sunday, June 4, at the Twin Wells Golf Course in Irving. Check-in is from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. before the 1 p.m. Shotgun Start.

A Caddy Auction will be held during the Calcutta from 7-9 p.m. Friday, June 2, at the Desert Moon. Player fees are \$60 per person. Call Jeanie Parent, OLCS events manager, at 214/520-8108.

Monica's Aca y Alla will host an after-tournament party for participants from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with free food and a cash bar. Awards will be given during the party.

Proceeds benefit the OLCS programs, including the Candy Marcum Institute.

CMI creates a stimulating environment that empowers women on their journey toward wholeness, advancing women's issues and enhancing the quality of life.

ible, creative and a demonstrated team player. Some evening and weekend hours required.

COMPENSATION: \$19,000-\$22,000 to begin, based on education, experience and expertise; health/dental insurance; generous vacation policy.

SEND RESUME, cover letter and salary requirements by June 9 to AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

LOCAL LAW FIRM ADDS ASSOCIATE

Carole Q. Cross has joined the practice of Michael L. Rizzo and Matthew C. Schaaf, attorneys and counselors at law.

Cross is experienced in areas of criminal and civil law, and has relocated to the Metroplex from Lubbock. She is a member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, Tarrant County Trial Lawyers Association, past chair of the Lubbock Texas Abortion Rights Action League, and former board member of the Lubbock chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Cross, Rizzo and Schaaf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER SEEKS STAFF

Tarrant County's premiere HIV services organization has an immediate opening for the full-time position of Information Line Coordinator. Staff provides information, education and referral services for callers to the agency's 1-800 Information Line, and in person with agency clients, family members and caregivers. Staff also assists the Education Coordinator with in-house training seminars and community education programs, and in efforts to market the Information Line.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree, strong knowledge of HIV/AIDS and local community resources; word processing and data base skills; excellent verbal communication skills; strong people skills; nonjudgmental attitude toward diverse groups of people; ability to comfortably discuss sensitive issues with callers and visitors, including sexual behavior and gay/lesbian issues. Ideal applicant will be very flex-

Cedar Springs (Behind Ruth Chris' Steak House), Dallas (214) 351-1901

Celebration Community Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, (817) 275-0443

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

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

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, (817) 329-3415

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

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., Western Regional Office, 6030 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90036-3617, (213) 937-2728

Leadership Forum Luncheon, (817) 763-5544

Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County, (817) 370-0460

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

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

31 Womyn, Women's Communities Association, P.O. Box 180777, Dallas, TX 75218 (214) 319-6696

Umoja Hermanas, (support group for lesbian, bisexual women of color, (214) 943-8750

U.T. Arlington Gay/Lesbian Assoc., (817) 794-5140

Women's Business Network, (214) 443-0300

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

WAY

continued from p. 12

The university fully supported Lynch's project, countering conservative pressure with its policy of freedom of artistic expression. The entire run of *Destiny* was sold out.

It was the conservative backlash, that attempt to impose their will on what others should think or do, that inspired Lynch to present the lessons behind *Miss Margarida's Way*.

Lynch, who moved here last summer from a teaching position in Detroit, uses the play as her own quiet act of civil disobedience. "Miss Margarida was my response to the cultural shock, to the oppression I felt when I came here," she said. She has been bolstered in that act by the university's unwavering support, and by the audiences' overwhelming reception to her work.

There have been no complaints from the Radical Right aimed at Miss Margarida, as yet. Probably, they wouldn't get it, wouldn't make those associations to their persecution of what strays from their morality.

If they did squeak up, though, I'm sure Miss Margarida, in her inimitable way, would clean their clocks.

The last series of performances in May raised three-quarters of the funds needed for Lynch and Lipschultz to take their production to Scotland in



ROMANCE BEHIND THE CURTAIN: Nancy Lipschultz, left, and Dinah Lynch, right, embrace the chance to work together on *Miss Margarida*. The couple began a courtship by phone a year ago, when Lipschultz, who had stepped into Lynch's former teaching position at Wayne State in Detroit, called her for advice. Huge phone bills since then persuaded Lipschultz to relocate here. "We started out as friends," Lynch says, a factor they both think will make their relationship last.

August, where they will join more than 1,000 productions at the Edinburgh Festival.

To make tax-deductible contributions to the tour, make checks payable to MZM Productions and send to Marion Murphy, MZM Productions, 400 W. 43rd St., Suite 27c, New York, NY 10036.

THE IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON'S Red Ribbon Variety Show May 17 at the 651 Club Fort Worth raised \$1,472 for JPS Hospital's Healing Wings Unit. More than 30 entertainers performed with special production numbers by Twisted Sisters "Sister Act," pictured below, and the Imperial Court's "Mame."

Red Ribbon coordinators Bob Slentz, King Father, and Jacki Jorj, Queen Mother, are pictured at right.



PHOTOS BY night crew productions

TALK

continued from p. 8

for a \$330,000 Kresge Foundation grant that hanged precariously. The final tally of \$1.4 million raised will launch construction of the 20-bed inpatient AIDS unit in July, with completion expected next February.

With such a huge hurdle behind them, our friends at Healing Wings have another before them, according to Sheila: many of the diners at her fund-raiser were not familiar with Healing Wings; some thought it was the organization that grants wishes to dying children.

Thanks to Sheila and Mary, they now stand corrected...

MAYBE NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE A 'BID AND BREAKFAST'.

THE SUCCESS OF the Lesbian/Gay Political Action Coalition's services auction and dinner may have been due in part to the fact that attendees were sauced.

Spaghetti sauced, that is. But it did have wine in it.

Bidding went fast and furiously, matching auctioneer and P-FLAGer James Skidmore's tempo. At the end, Steve Eagle tallied the bills of his exuberantly bidding spouse, *Alliance News* columnist Robert Webster, and decided they would have a Positively long discussion on finances that night.

More than \$1,000 will be divided between the hosting orgs, including P-FLAG and TCLGA's Teen Project. Better still, they look forward to more

proceeds next year as bidders, still flying on the buzz when they were leaving, begged for a return engagement.

IT WAS A HOT NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN.

ACROSS THE STREET, a landmark fixture on Fort Worth's clubbing scene, is now empty landscape following a sudden fire May 20 that gutted the building.

After more than a decade as a cornerstone of Tarrant's lesbian/gay community, the bar "is history," Jim Bounds, a 651 Club bartender, said, with nothing left after the blaze but a shell.

The remaining structure was scheduled to be razed Tuesday, May 30.

Power blew in the building that Saturday night as a benefit show prepared to open. Everyone had evacuated and moved across the street to the 651 Club when the fire erupted shortly after 11 p.m. The all-wood structure "went up in flames in 30 minutes," Jim said.

Jim feels the loss in the context of his personal history: It was the first gay bar he entered, some 10 years ago, back when it was the Lumber Company. "It was a hopping place," he remembered fondly.

The 651 Club is "taking up the slack" left by the bar's demise, extending its hours from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and from noon to 2 a.m. Sundays.

And the club has assimilated the staff of Across the Street, putting them to work on the extended shifts. Apparently, no one was "fired."

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OBITUARY

Founding volunteer helped to form AIDS community

David Givens Turner, 51, one of the founding volunteers of the organization that evolved into the AIDS Outreach Center (AOC), died May 1 of a heart attack.

David was born in Dallas and reared in Fort Worth. He graduated from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre and design. From 1960 to 1982, he was a professional actor and director, working in stage, film and television.

Although he was not HIV-infected,

David felt compelled to devote much of his time and energy to those affected by the disease, first as a volunteer, and ultimately as a staff member. In the early 1980s, as more of his friends were stricken, David began his involvement in caring for people with AIDS. He sought to establish services at a time when few wanted to acknowledge that a problem even existed.

In 1986, he and a group of other volunteers founded Fort Worth Counseling Center, a counseling agency devoted to gay and lesbian issues, and the forerunner of AOC. He was heavily involved in volunteer recruitment and training and started the

agency's buddy program. "In those early years, David was Tarrant County's AIDS project, for all practical purposes," Thomas Bruner, AOC's executive director, said. "All of us in this field are indebted to him for his vision, tenacity and compassion."

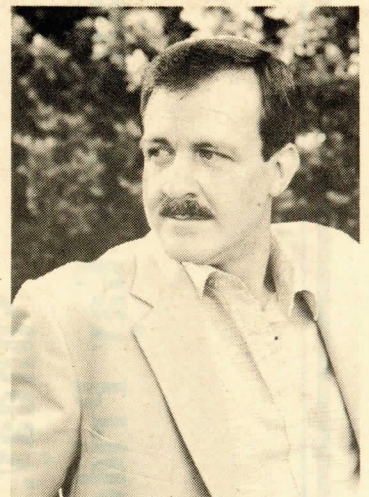
David also devoted much volunteer time to community education, but the buddy program remained his first commitment. In the buddy program's early stages, when there were only a handful of volunteers, David often took on responsibility for a number of clients. He was at the bedside of many, at home or in the hospital, when there were no family members or friends. He once esti-

mated that he had lost more than 100 friends to AIDS.

From 1977 to 1986, David was an associate funeral director at Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home. In 1992, David was employed by AOC as Information Line coordinator, and he remained in that position until his death.

His funeral was May 3 at All Saints Episcopal Church. His family requests that memorials be made to a charity of choice.

David is survived by his companion, Derek Minor; his mother, Mary Catherine Givens Turner; a brother, Jack Turner Jr.; a niece and nephew; and a wealth of friends.



DAVID TURNER
AIDS Outreach Center's
Information Line Coordinator

We're PROUD!

At Celebration Community Church, we salute all the brave women & men who have worked so hard to advance the cause of lesbian/gay civil rights, both nationally and locally...in the past and now. We're **PROUD** of our heritage and **PROUD** to be a part of the future.

We're CONCERNED!

The struggle has been long and the conflicts are hard. Regretfully, we recognize that all too often, the primary opposition has come from within the Christian community. For the abusive sins of those misguided "Shepherds," we offer a heart-felt apology and regularly pray for enlightenment, compassion and acceptance. It's our hope that one day, the Church as a whole will "repent" of such hatred and will openly recognize and welcome our sisters and brothers as vital, essential, productive members of the Family of God.

We're INVOLVED!



We are here to support those "displaced" from their own *Community of Faith* by the bigotry, affirm those wounded by the hateful words and encourage those struggling with the personal dimensions of the conflict. In addition, we are working to educate the Christian Community, endeavoring to bring about the "JUSTICE" that God desires for all people. **THAT is our part of the struggle!**

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Father's Day Service
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Call (817) 275-0443 for more details

Grumpy prince masked a noble heart

Personal reflections on David Turner

By **CAROLYN GOODSPEED**

AOC's Information and Education Coordinator

I first met David Turner in 1991 as a fellow volunteer, shortly before I went to work at AOC. In September 1992, I hired David as my assistant - or lackey, as I preferred to call him, since it irritated him. David was also my friend.

For most of his tenure at AOC, David and I shared a cramped office downstairs. (Prior to that, we shared an even more cramped office upstairs.) Although we constantly bickered, as one volunteer put it, "like a couple of old maid sisters," the squabbling was more affectionate than rancorous. Still we were amused when new staff came on board and didn't know what to make of the banter. One person commented, "I'd hate to be down here when you're both in a bad mood." New coworkers sometimes offered sympathy to one or the other of us about having to share such close quarters when we didn't get along.

Au contraire - the princess and the queen got along splendidly. Our work styles would clash and I frequently wanted to wring his neck, but he and I shared the same goals and ideals, particularly about client services and raising community awareness. We also shared a tendency to find humor in every imaginable situation, and I have memories of his marvelous quips, most of them not fit for print. David's humor was very dry and sometimes misconstrued by others, but during the past few weeks, most of those who have spoken to me have recalled that sense of humor with much fondness. I will miss the scathing wit and insults that masked a heart of gold. A volunteer once told him, "You must be a real sweet guy." Taken aback, David asked why she thought that. "Because no one could possibly be as mean as you pretend to be," she answered.

David was indeed one of the most caring individuals I have ever met. Since his death, it has been very moving to me to learn how many lives he touched and how many people looked to him for support. For me, he was an inspiration and model of giving and caring for others.

Shortly after David came to work at AOC, I learned that he had played Hamlet on the stage as an undergraduate at TCU and had later directed productions of the play. This former English teacher happens to consider *Hamlet* to be probably the finest work in the English language, and David and I would often quote lines to each other. And from here on, I will always think of David with the words spoken by Horatio at the death of Hamlet: "Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!"

Alliance News

Inside this issue:

And:

MASS DESTRUCTION: Trinity MCC crumbles, Across the Street tumbles – we'll build anew.

BAIL-OUT EN MASSE: The lege found a way to duck out of our Hate Crimes Bill – but an impact is made.

MASS REBELLION: A lesbian couple provides a REVOLUTIONARY look AT BUCKING THE SYSTEM IN THEIR TOURING play production.

MASS APPEAL: Gay authors turn tasty tales about going to the prom and surviving a militaristic father.

PERSPECTIVES ON: coming out from the ghosts in our pasts, coming out from what we've internalized in the present, and coming out to our more vigorous futures.



FORT WORTH

Join us for the

GAY PRIDE CARNIVAL

in the 651 Parking Lot

Sunday, June 4,

after the Gay Pride Parade at 2 p.m.



GAY PRIDE DESIGN BY KEVIN REICHENSTIEN

SPECIAL GAY PRIDE ISSUE:

All the scoop on where to go, what to do, what's been done and how we feel about it.