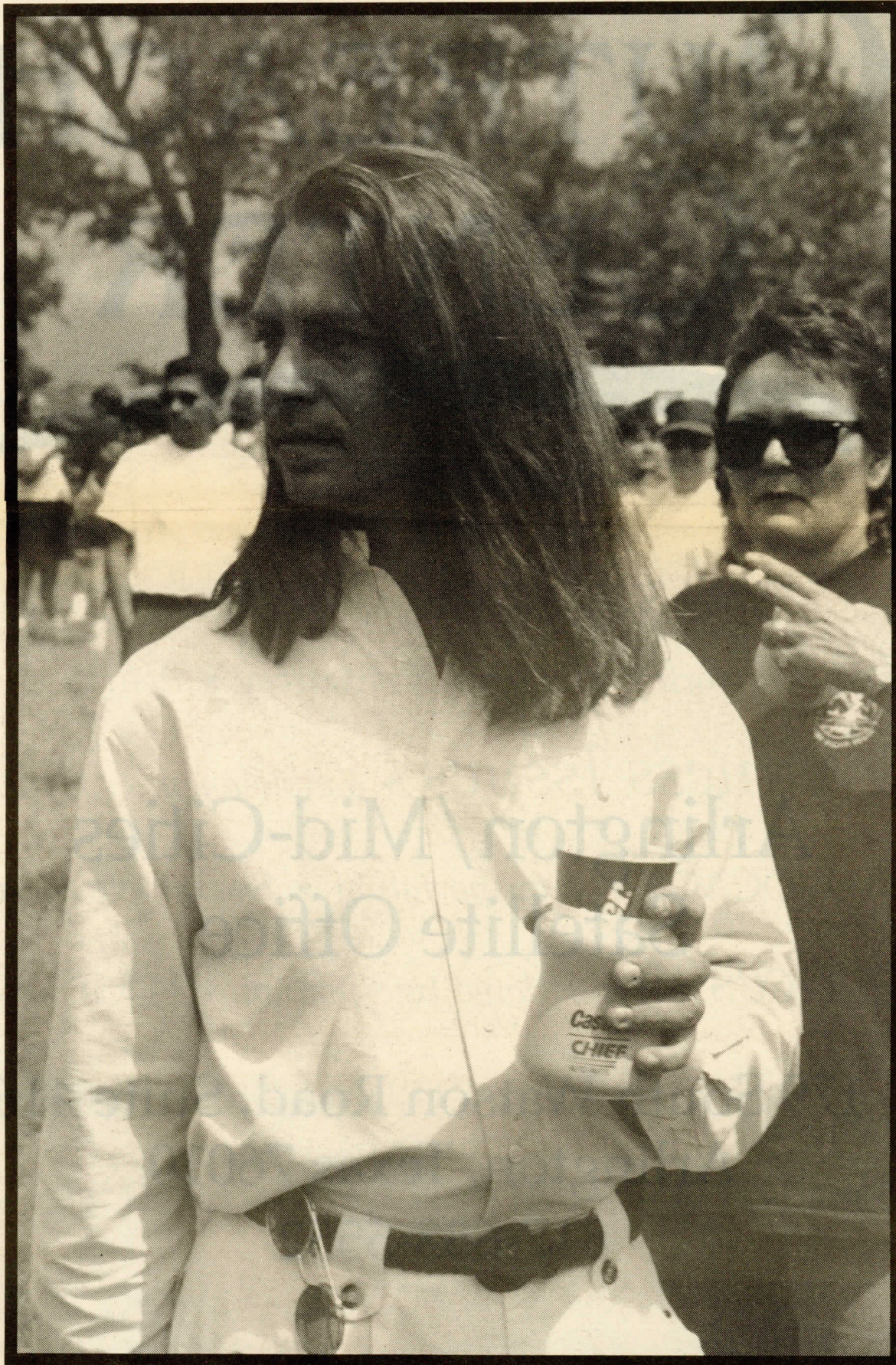


A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

JULY 1995

Volume 15, Issue 7

Alliance News



HAIR APPARENT: Best-tressed Michael Winchester is likely to take Imperial Court emperor this election as the single candidate.

-PHOTO BY
BEVERLY FLETCHER

LOOKING
TO THE
FUTURE
AND THE
PAST:

Imperial Court Coronation this month turns an eye to monarch legacies. *See feature on p. 11.*

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER

Arlington/Mid-Cities
Satellite Office

179 South Watson Road, Suite 416
Arlington, Texas 76010
817-633-5552

Alliance News

A community service of
TARRANT COUNTY
LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

3327 Winthrop, Suite 243
Fort Worth, TX 76116
(817) 763-5544

EDITOR

Beverly Fletcher

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Angela Lansey

GRAPHICS

Affinity Publishing
Specialists

CARTOONIST

Todd Camp

CONTRIBUTORS

Beverly Bennett
Glenda Gardner
Rev. Brenda Hunt
Louis
Dr. Jim Martin
Raymond Nowicki
Doug Rich
Bryan Taylor
Chris Toland
J.L. Wainwright
Robert Webster

TCLGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Daune' Littlefield

Treasurer

Angela Lansey

Secretary

Melissa Flories

• John Bland • Courtney Chatfield • Melissa Flories
• John Huffman • The Rev. Brenda Hunt • Frank Provasek
• David Reed

Program Chair

Tamara Suttle

Public Affairs Coordinator

Beverly Fletcher

Volunteer Coordinator

J.L. Wainwright

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.

PRODUCTION

for this edition of the Alliance News was delayed by • an unexpected trip out of town • car trouble ... on both our cars • an impromptu four-day visit with our parents • my drink, which spilled on a stack of vital photos • several pages crashing when a storm knocked our electricity out • and, generally, just trying to find all the pieces where I thought I had left them. Read this issue carefully, for the gods did not want it published.

PERSPECTIVES

CONTRACT LENSES

A magnifying glass on the Christian Coalition's agenda reveals a startling attack against the American Way: plurality

The Radical Right sets its sights on a new theocracy.

By **RAYMOND NOWICKI**

The Christian Coalition's new legislative agenda, called "The Contract with the American Family," aims to enact laws that would narrowly define areas which have nothing to do with the major problems our nation faces. The contract's purpose is to diffuse any opposition which might form against the religious right influence and thus, it is directed in part against the growing political clout of lesbians and gays.

The Christian Coalition is well organized as a group. With a membership of some million and a half, the group carries a major influence on the American political scene. Political leaders will listen to any group that can muster such numbers. For any organization to recruit this many members is no small feat. This organization has claimed success for the Republican Party's control of both houses in the U.S. Congress. We should study the Christian

Coalition's organizational ability to learn from their gains.

Many of the contract's 10 points will affect us and our community. It is no secret that the Christian Coalition finds us to be an anathema.

The first point deals with amending the federal constitution. Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed wants to see a Religious Equality Amendment incorporated into our guiding document. Why? Our founding fathers placed a marvelous item in the first amendment. This one amendment has served our nation well over the more than 200 years since the founding of our country. The language of this amendment serves two purposes: first, it protects all religions and, second, it precludes the establishment of a state religion. What possible purpose could the Christian Coalition see in adding this amendment about Religious Equality? It seems evident that they are upset with the fact that each and every citizen of this nation does not share their particular theological view. This is why it is necessary for us to strongly protest this obnoxious amendment targeted for our constitution.

Item two deals with local control over education. Education in our coun-

try has been at the purview of state and local authorities. What upsets the Christian Coalition is their not being able to dictate to all students their beliefs, under an agenda that includes expelling lesbians and gays from the teaching force.

School choice may sound enticing but it is full of pitfalls. Should public funds be diverted to support private or religious schools? What would happen to the public school system, which is already underfunded? Since private schools are free to turn away students who do not meet certain criteria, will public schools become warehouses for the undesirable students in America, when funding is diverted?

Probably the one idea which will have the least amount of controversy is the concept of allowing a homemaker to establish an IRA, Individual Retirement Account. This seems reasonable. Housewives do contribute to the welfare of a family. One can understand any person wanting to be able to put aside some funds for future retirement needs. The only problem I see is that my family, my lover, would be excluded from the benefits of this law.

The next proposal deals with pa-

rentors to notify parents and guardians in advance of teaching anything considered controversial (death, morality, sexual matters, etc.). It would eliminate the usage of certain textbooks. I'm sure this would initiate the book-burning frenzy exhibited in the past. Poor Judy Blume will once again find her books on the firing line! How sad that our society will not allow young adults to engage in meaningful discussions.

The purpose of this proposal has to be geared to the controversy surrounding the books used in the New York City public schools. The books which depicted a gay and/or lesbian couple raising children has been a controversial stir across this country. This book series cost the New York City Superintendent of Education his job. Narrow-mindedness and censorship will flourish under the contract's proposal.

The religious community has been upset ever since the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that women have a constitutional right to control their own bodies. These right-wing thinkers are abhorred that abortion is a recognized legal medical procedure and have vilified the surgeon general nominee, Dr. Henry Foster. Now this

SEE 'CONTRACT' ON P. 22

Todd Camp's Gay Pride Picnic keynote speech met "thunderous" applause on such a stormy day. We present it here in its entirety, for it is, indeed, dry.

By **TODD CAMP**

As I was writing this speech last night at Magnolia Station on a bunch of those handy little cards they have with the tiny pencils, it occurred to me that I could give one of those real researchy kinds of speeches with lots of facts and statistics and stuff. I could spend hours in the library, scanning old newspaper clippings, looking for clever and inspirational quotes out of *Bartlett's* and trying my damndest to impress the hell out of everyone here. But I said no!

I wanted to give the kind of speech that sounds not only like it comes directly from my heart, but also completely off the top of my head.

As I look out at everyone's bright,

shiny faces, I realize that you are exactly the type of attentive audience I enjoy speaking to: hung over, hot and zonked out of your minds on free beer and hot dogs.

So without further ado, since this is supposed to be a speech about gay pride, I decided to share with you some of the things I, Todd Camp, am proud of. I hope you agree:

• I'm proud of the fact that out of the hundreds of competent and engaging public speakers in the Tarrant County area, I was only the 75th asked to speak today. I'm just glad the guy who cleans out the bathrooms at the 651 was tied up with TCU's commencement address.

• I'm proud to have fallen in love with a member of the Fort Worth arts community, even though we've been living off bugs, lichen and things we

can dig out of our wealthier neighbors' trash cans.

• I'm proud to work for one of the most liberal newspapers in the state of Texas. The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* is the only newspaper in North Texas to extend domestic partner benefits to its employees and consistently almost manages to cover the gay community on a semi-periodical basis ... occasionally.

• After holding a job for the past six years that has me working predominantly with adolescent and pre-adolescent children, I'm proud that whatever omniscient being lurks in the heavens preordained that it would be impossible for me to breed. And I can tell by the looks on your faces that you're proud I can't breed either.

• I'm proud to announce that while sharing an elevator with an

My little LAUNDRY LIST

*Of what do I have to be proud?
Oh let me count the ways...*

elderly woman who was admiring my freedom rings, I proudly declared that they were not only decorative but were also a symbol of gay pride.

She's not ... living anymore, but I know that even while the paramedics were juicing her up with electric fibulators, she appreciated my honesty.

• I'm proud of the fact that after being with my lover, Doug, for more than two years now, my father has finally learned to use the personal pronoun "they," even if he still refers to Doug as "meathead."

• I'm proud that while Fort Worth gay landmark Across the Street burned to the ground, most queens were so moved they waited at least 15 minutes before breaking out the marshmallows.

• I'm proud to announce that even though this may totally blow my chances at ever becoming surgeon general, I masturbate ... a lot.

• I'm proud that Greg Louganis had the bravery and courage to announce "I'm gay, I have full-blown AIDS and my book is on

SEE 'PROUD' ON P. 22

From the trenches

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM ALLIANCE DIRECTORS

Our own rich histories combine to form the fabric of the Alliance's advocacy role

How we arrived at this point in our lives can give us now great reason for celebration.

By **JIM MARTIN**

I told Beverly I wasn't going to mention my birthday in this column, but I changed my mind. Actually, I had no idea what to write this month and when I sat down at the computer my birthday, which is in July, came up.

I remember when I used to wish that I was older, since I didn't see older people picking on me like my peers did. I remember when I thought 21 was so mature. I wanted to be out of high school, which was so filled with bad memories.

When I reached college I was thrilled. Away from all the people I grew up with. Away from my neighborhood. It was an exciting time, what with the civil rights movement, the anti-Vietnam War movement and the budding gay/lesbian rights movement all swirling around the urban campus of Temple University, in my home-

town of Philadelphia.

I never thought of myself as being adventurous, but other people seem to think I am. I went to political demonstrations. I used to stay up all night at my friend Bob's house smoking and listening to music from Woodstock. Once I threw up all the way home, not doing well on my first attempt at drinking. Oh yes, I experimented with drugs that summer of my 19th birthday. I suppose we're not supposed to mention that in these more puritanical times. I was a teenager trying hard to grow up.

It was not until my 21st birthday, however, when I would take my first real steps toward coming out. My 21st birthday and a summer in Europe, that is. I know, I know, it sounds like such a cliché. Actually on my 21st birthday I was in Madrid with some straight friends from Canada. Having had a pitcher of Sangria for lunch and another for dinner, I couldn't go to sleep that night. I wandered the exotic streets, my head spinning from the wine.

A couple of days later I met a guy from Texas, of all places, who I thought might be gay. He obviously had me pegged as well and we made plans to rendezvous a week later in Florence. That's right, Florence, Italy. And that's how, where and with whom I did it for the first time. No kidding. Actually, it

wasn't that great, but the locale certainly was romantic and I thought I was changed forever, so grown up all of a sudden. I remember how thrilling, and how scary, it was to be 21.

In fact, being out was a little too scary for me. I had transferred to the University of Michigan and the one gay bar in Ann Arbor, The Flame, scared the hell out of me. So did the queen who befriended me. He used to say things like, "I'd crawl across 50 feet of broken glass for him."

It was the early '70s and everyone was heavily into fondue. I retreated to the safety of the closet for several years. That is, except whenever I visited my friend Raymond in Montreal. Until my 26th birthday the only place where I was gay was Montreal and the only person who knew I was gay was Raymond.

We can skip birthdays 22 through 25. We all have low periods. The next few were some of the most wonderful of my life. I finally came out and stayed out, met great friends, had a boyfriend, and threw parties that became legendary in Ann Arbor. I'm not sure why, but in the middle of all of this I decided it was time to move on and shortly before my 28th birthday I moved to Chicago. I moved to Chicago to build a career as a social worker and to learn how to be gay in a big city.

On my 30th birthday my friend Ron took me to Ambria, which was one of the fanciest and most expensive restaurants I'd ever been to. Ron grew up in Chicago and had been gay since the dawn of time. He was also beautiful. He once threw a party and everyone who was there, except for me and one other friend, was a past boyfriend of his.

Gary introduced me to opera, sushi and other essentials of mid-1980s gay life. At parties he would get intoxicated and make immense jewelry out of aluminum foil, referring to himself as Paloma.

A couple of months before my 36th birthday Gary and I flew off to New York to see *Les Miserables*, which had just opened on Broadway. We had midnight dinner at the Russian Tea Room. It was my last blast before reentering poverty, as I was about to leave my job to go back to school. Several months later Ron died of AIDS.

One month before my 40th birthday I received a PhD at the University of Illinois at Chicago graduation ceremony. My parents were there, feeling very proud of me. Gary was unable to come, having died of AIDS. Two weeks after my 42nd birthday I left Chicago, where I had become an adult. I moved to Texas, having accepted a faculty position at UTA. Shortly before leaving I heard that Raymond too had died. All of my mentors were finally gone and so it was my turn to be a mentor.

You're probably thankful that I

skipped several years here and there. But in 44 years a lot of things happen. Now the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance isn't as old as I am. However, in its 15 years it has amassed many stories, many accomplishments, and I'm sure some defeats too. I'm glad that it has lasted this long. After all, if it didn't I wouldn't have gotten the chance to be vice president.

In September we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Alliance. And just as it feels good to remember my own history, because it helps me learn to have more compassion for myself, it is good for all of us to remember the Alliance's history. In remembering and honoring the past we learn to understand the present more fully. In understanding our past we make better decisions that move us into the future.

Please join the Alliance in September to look back on the past and to look forward to the future ... and to celebrate. Now if you will excuse me I have to go plan my birthday. ☘

Martin has served this year as TCLGA's vice president; he is an assistant professor of social work at University of Texas at Arlington.

July TCLGA Meeting:

Program

'FAMILY'-HOME MOVIES

Special viewings of two of the latest, local productions that spotlight our family ties: The Star-Telegram's Family Focus series featuring local couple John Huffman and Doug Rich, and DGLA's 'In Our Own Words: Dispelling the Stereotypes.'

Comments by the producers, photographer Joyce Marshall and Dallas activist John Wimberley

Thursday, July 20
at Luby's Cafeteria
251 University Drive

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

'PARTY' POLITICS

Fund-raising gala pays off for local advocacy groups

The Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TCLGA) and the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County (LGPC) each received checks for \$448 for their work in support of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

The proceeds were shared revenues from the Lobby's fund-raising event during its Texas March to Stop the Hate, Stop the Violence. Both of the local groups helped to sell tickets to a Texas-style dance held that weekend at a gay club in Austin.

Doug Rich, who represents the Alliance on the Lobby's Board of Directors and who is active as well in the LGPC, presented the checks in June at the groups' monthly meetings.

Texas is one of only a few states that have a paid lobbyist for lesbian/gay/bisexual issues, with offices located in Austin. The march was launched by the Lobby to call attention to violence against gays and lesbians in Texas, in support of a Hate Crimes Bill that later was tabled in the House.

Tarrant County's premiere party, the Fort Worth Formal, was established as a joint effort by members of TCLGA and the Lobby.

TCLGA Membership

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

- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Household
- \$10 Limited Income
- \$20 Limited Income Household
- Sponsor: \$50 Level I
- \$75 Level II
- \$500 Lifetime

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____ Race: _____

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

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

Mail to:
TCLGA
3327 Winthrop
Suite 243
Fort Worth, TX
76116

SHERRY BREWER,

LMSW-ACSW, LMFT, LCDC

3724 Benbrook Hwy.
Fort Worth, TX 76116
(817) 560-2390

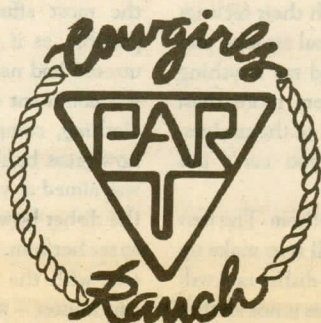
6702 W. Poly Webb
Arlington, TX 76016
(817) 478-0095

Law Office of Ellen J. Pesserillo

ELLEN J. PEPPERILLO
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1600 CENTRAL DRIVE, SUITE 171
BEDFORD, TEXAS 76022

817-283-6693
FAX 817-571-1637



Call the hotline for a detailed
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
FOR JULY**

**Fun outings and events for women
to socialize and network.**

**COWGIRL'S HOTLINE
817-355-4817**

Two Pearls Bed & Breakfast

*Eclectic charm, privacy and comfort.
1898 home in Weatherford*

For BROCHURE and RESERVATIONS, Call
METRO (817) 596-9316

CITY BEAT

A Home OF OUR OWN

The mainstream communities have claimed a far greater investment in Samaritan Housing than our community has. The new director says its time for a change...

By CHRIS TOLAND

Samaritan House in Fort Worth provides valuable services to persons with symptomatic HIV in Tarrant County. Despite a difficult start, Samaritan House continues to move forward. Part of this moving forward is the addition of Ray Wofford, LMSW, LPC, to the staff as executive director.

Wofford comes to Samaritan Housing from Lambda Community Outreach and Counseling Center where he worked for the last three years. He was attracted to the Samaritan House leadership role for the position's challenge and because of his interest in the community. He hopes to become more involved in the lesbian and gay community in Tarrant County.

He also looks to the community to become more involved with Samaritan House.

Wofford has high praise for both the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington and the Cowtown Leathermen for their involvement with Samaritan House. The Imperial Court has a Buddy Program in which court members pair off with the facility's residents to provide support and recreational activities. The Cowtown Leathermen took the time and effort to build a patio deck at Samaritan House for residents to enjoy.

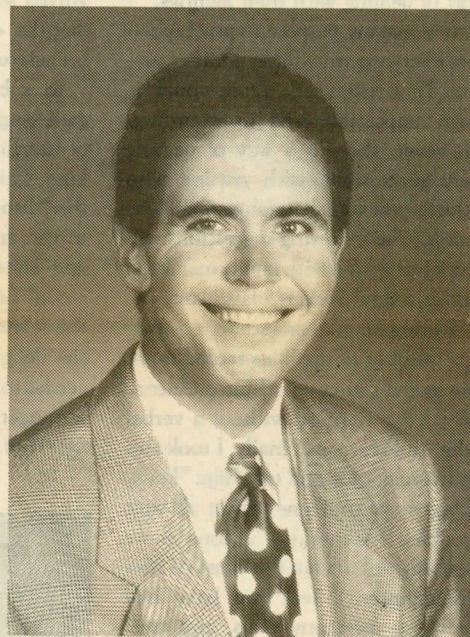
Wofford also looks to the community for more financial involvement. Currently 98 percent of revenue for the home comes from outside the

community. A current fund-raising effort is a raffle with tickets at \$25 each, not so expensive considering the prizes offered, including a Caribbean cruise and a new car.

In the future, Wofford sees expansion of services provided in Tarrant County to people living with HIV/AIDS. He would like to see a greater "continuum of care," from the more

available if needed.

With Wofford's experience and involvement and greater involvement to come from the community, Samaritan House is set on an even course to continue providing desperately needed services in our area, with an even greater agenda to fill its plate in the future. ☛



DR. RAY WOFFORD has joined the helm of Samaritan Housing, Inc., where he looks for greater investment by the lesbian/gay community to provide more services to the AIDS/HIV impacted.

care-intensive programs like Samaritan House to progressive care and independent living with minimal assistance. He sees the need for an apartment style of care center where clients could live independently but have home medical care, cleaning services and an on-site meal program

Finding out how
you could make
money
won't cost you
a cent.

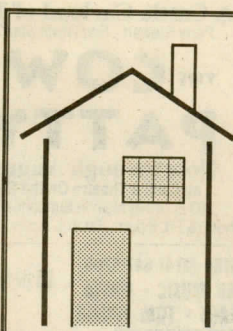
I don't believe finding out about investing should take an investment itself—in time or money! That's why I want to give you a complete set of brochures that cover these important investment ideas: tax-free plans; equities; U.S. Government Securities; cash management accounts; mutual funds and IRA's.

And they're absolutely free. Just drop by to pick up yours. Or call, and I'll put them in the mail. I'll even pay for the stamp.

**COURTNEY
CHATFIELD**
INVESTMENT
REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. BOX 1651
HURST, TX 76053
Beeper (817) 667-5887
Res. (817) 589-0010

**Edward
D. Jones & Co.**
Member New York Stock Exchange, Inc.
Member Investor Protection Corporation



Realtor, affiliate of
Van Zandt, Realtors

BUYING / SELLING

**Cheryl Strange, GRI
REALTOR®**

Residential property specialist serving all of
Fort Worth, Arlington & surrounding areas

PAGE: 817/425-8825
RES: 817/732-3294

RETORT REFORM

It may seem harmless, even funny, but 'dishing' is verbal abuse and no one should have to submit to it.

At last, a secret weapon to serve up to the disher ... a dose of niceness.

BY LOUIS

At a monthly Alliance meeting, the discussion drifted to the hurt caused by "dishing" – attacking another person with harsh, critical, hurtful words. Although many in the room had, at one time or another, been on the receiving end of such an onslaught, not one suggestion was put forth for dealing with the "disher." This may reflect the gay community's resigned acceptance of the practice, and the concomitant feeling nothing can be done about it anyway. After all, dishing has been a part of the gay scene probably since Adam and Steve.

Although some in the community may find the action amusing (especially if they are not the target), as the TCLGA chitchat revealed, basically dishing is hurtful and is meant to be. Perhaps it would be revealing to examine who often takes a lead in an attack, and why.

It is probably safe to say most of those who resort to tearing down another person with scathing verbiage are themselves insecure, with feelings of inferiority or worthlessness. Frequently individuals with such problems feel if they can "put down" another person – one whom they feel may be superior in some way – they magically assume greater stature or importance. Hence, an attack on an-

other individual's appearance, clothing, companion, etc. may bring a temporary gratification, even elation. He/she has succeeded in belittling and hurting. But, as the action is based on a false premise – the disher is not really any better off than before – the glow of victory soon fades, and there must be another attack. Basically, these are bitter, unhappy individuals who haven't a clue as to a more effective way of dealing with their feelings.

It is not my purpose to psychoanalyze everyone who dishes another person. To attempt such a task would be both impossible and unrewarding. However, there is a way of dealing very successfully with anyone who attacks you with hateful or malicious words. The following suggestions will work just as well with family members, bosses, fellow workers, classmates, etc.

During his graduate study, a certain gay member of the class zeroed in on me as the source of all his problems. Not a day went by without a verbal "dig" of some sort. Finally, I took this individual aside and told him: "Look, if you want to blame me for all your troubles that's okay – as long as we both know I am not the cause of your unhappiness. I feel you have had problems for many years, and until just a few months ago, you didn't know I existed. Therefore, I cannot be

responsible for your feelings." Our relationship improved dramatically after that. He had received the attention he was apparently craving, and my response had been in a manner that improved his ability to deal with unsatisfactory facets of his life.

I do not suggest that everyone try to handle all dishers in this manner. This circumstance called for an unusual response. Since the individual involved was a classmate, we had many months of close association ahead because of our studies.

In a bar, or at a party or social gathering, the all too typical manner of handling the disher is to reply in kind. This is usually unsatisfactory, as the "dishee" may not be as practiced in the art of slinging verbal arrows, and almost certainly will come off second best. Further, by responding in this manner, the target has revealed to the delighted disher he/she has succeeded in hurting feelings and/or arousing anger. The disher (as is usually the case) has picked his target well, know-

ing satisfaction would be forthcoming from the discomfort – including public embarrassment – of her/his prey.

And how does the target feel? Perhaps there is anger, a seething rage, emotional pain to the point of tears. It may be that an evening or a social event has been ruined for the target, all because of another's problems.

How should one respond to the disher, or anyone else who abuses others in this manner? First, what not to do. Don't come down to the level of the disher. To do so only guarantees you will lose in the confrontation. And, don't allow yourself to give way to extreme anger, even hate. It is said the ancient Chinese had a circular symbol for hatred. It consisted of a serpent devouring its own tail. The more hate present, the more the snake self-destructed. This is just as true today. The individual who wallows in hatred for another succeeds in harming only her/his self, while the object of this dreadful feeling is unscathed.

A more successful handling of the disher begins with the understanding you will never beat them at their own game. They may have many years of practice in dealing with their feelings of discomfort with verbal attacks, and it is unlikely you could say anything which would hurt them more than their own low opinion of themselves. So, accept the fact you can't out "bitch" the disher.

But you can out nice them. The first act in learning this skill is to make up your mind nothing the disher says will ever hurt you again. This is not all that difficult, if you keep foremost in mind the fact the disher is trying desperately to bring you down to her/his level. Recognizing this, and not allowing it

to happen will set the stage for your victory. What the disher calls you or says about you is of no relevance because it is contrived and usually flagrantly false.

A clever example of this appears in the television drama "The Homecoming" which graces our screens around Christmas. (Yes, Gertrude, this was the program which gave birth to "The Waltons.") There is a scene in which the older daughter of the family – who is trembling on the edge of puberty, with all its hormonal flares, physical surges and emotional outbursts – in a spat calls her little sister a piss-ant. The little sister is, typically, initially upset. Patricia Neal, as mother Walton, says: "You aren't a piss-ant are you?" The little girl (in a manner only small children can carry off) deadpans: "I don't feel like a piss-ant." And the matter is ended.

So, by denying the disher any satisfaction from the attack, you have allowed her/him to expend their ammunition without effect. This opens them for a "nice" counterattack which just may leave the disher reeling. Greet or respond to the individual in the most effusive, kindest manner possible, as if the hurtful words just uttered had never been said. If there was comment on your appearance or clothing, compliment the disher on how great he/she looks. If the attack was aimed at your companion, assure the disher how very glad you both are to see her/him. Basically, answer negative with the strongest positive you can muster – and mean it!

This is no time for insincerity. The disher will sense it, and come back all the stronger if he/she senses you are

SEE 'DISHING' ON P. 22

ALLIANCE NEWS ▾ JULY 1995

HAWAII!

Non-stop from D/FW,
Round-trip air from \$469
(Sunday departures,
June 11- Aug. 13

6-night air and hotel
packages:
Hawaiian Monarch \$599

Hawaiian
Waikiki
Beach Hotel, \$669

Country
Day TRAVEL Inc.

(817) 731-8551

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CHRIS PHILLIPS

Attorney at Law

Practice Limited to
Representation of Persons
Charged in Criminal Matters

Tarrant, Denton and Other
North Texas Counties

(817) 339-1139

FORT WORTH

Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas
Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal
Specializations



casa mañana

FORT WORTH SUMMER MUSICALS



Forever PLAID

THE HEAVENLY MUSICAL HIT!

ORIGINAL NEW YORK CAST!

Listen to the smooth tones of the Plaids as they croon such hits as "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," "Heart and Soul" and "Three Coins in the Fountain."

JULY 11 - 23

Casa Mañana Theatre, 3101 W. Lancaster, Fort Worth
Tue. - Sat.: 8 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m.

Casa Mañana and the cast of *Forever Plaid* will be welcoming audience donations to the Tarrant County Community AIDS Partnership Following each performance!

Sponsored by **Miller Brewing**

"A Cattle Carload of Talent..."
Perry Stewart - Fort Worth Star-Telegram

THE COW PATTYS

Now through August 27
at Casa's Theatre On the Square
109 E. 3rd at Main in Sundance Square
Thurs. & Fri. 8 p.m.; Sat. 5 & 9 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.



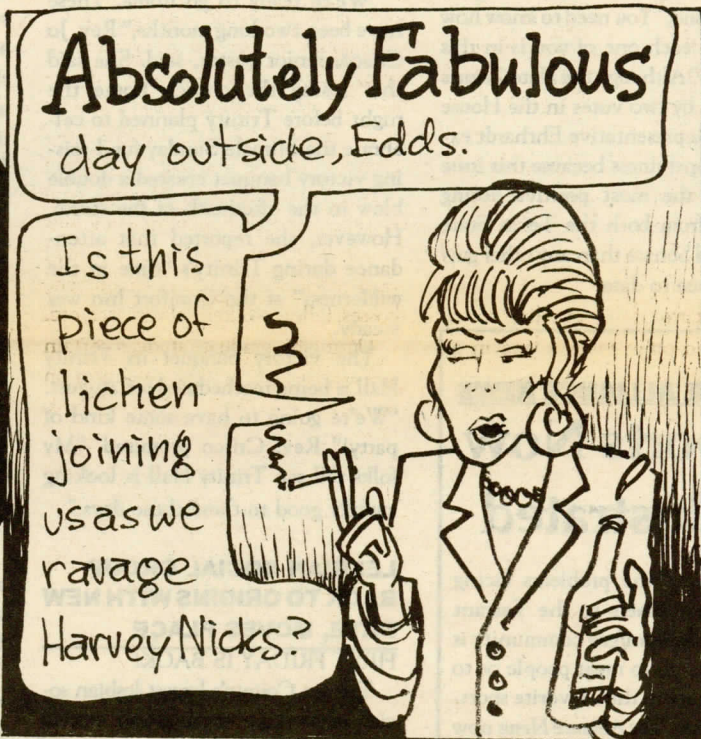
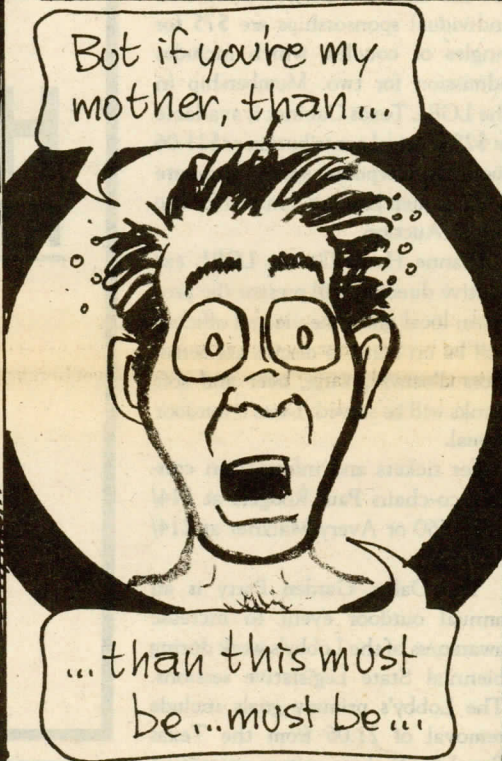
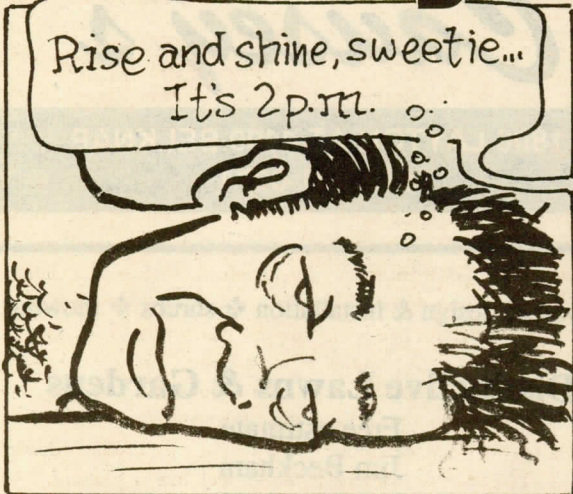
METRO (214) 647-5700
BLOCKBUSTER MUSIC - FIESTA
FOLEY'S - SEARS - TOM THUMB

The Texas News Channel Fort Worth Star-Telegram AA American Airlines WORTHINGTON

Season Hotline (817) 332-CASA Casa Mañana Theatre is a nonprofit organization.



dewey's daydreams By TODD CAMP



**STATE REP SAYS
HATE CRIMES BILL
IMPACTED LEGISLATURE**

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE Harryette Ehrhardt (D) gave the annual gay pride address to Trinity MCC during Gay Pride Week. Openly gay State Representative Glenn Maxey was scheduled to speak, but sent his colleague Representative Ehrhardt in his place so that he and other gay/lesbian public officials could meet with President Bill Clinton about gay/lesbian concerns.

Representative Ehrhardt brings more than "words" to the gay/lesbian community. She has consistently voted positively on gay/lesbian concerns and recently defended the pressing need for a hate crimes bill to protect gay/lesbians and other minorities from verbal and physical violence.

In her address to Trinity MCC, she stressed how important it is for each member of the gay/lesbian community to get involved in the political process. She said, "You need to know how important each one of you is in this operation." Although the Hate Crimes Bill failed by two votes in the House (70/68), Representative Ehrhardt expressed hopefulness because this issue provoked the most positive voting response from both the Texas State House and Senate than any other gay/lesbian issue to date.

Representative Ehrhardt stressed how critical protection from hate crimes is, not only for the gay/lesbian community but for all minority communities. "In 1994, 16 percent of the remaining hate crimes was based upon ethnic identities and religion," Representative Ehrhardt said.

**TRINITY MCC BACK HOME
AFTER STORM DAMAGE**

TRINITY MCC is now back in its facility at 331 Aaron Ave, #125, off Division Street in Arlington, recovered now from damage to the building.

As reported last month in the *Alliance News*, the church home was flooded when parts of the ceiling caved in during the storm that ripped through Tarrant County in early May. Since then, services were held Sunday mornings at the Comfort Inn in Arlington. Now, though, the church building is repaired and services are resuming there after this two-month interruption.

"We're ready to go home. These have been two long months," Rev. Jo Crisco, senior pastor, said. She said that losing the church home the night before Trinity planned to celebrate the Miracle Sunday fund-raising victory banquet created a double blow in the aftermath of the storm. However, she reported that attendance during Trinity's "time in the wilderness" at the Comfort Inn was steady.

The victory banquet in Trinity Hall is being rescheduled for August. "We're going to have some kind of party!" Rev. Crisco promised. "My folks tell me Trinity Hall is looking awfully good to them these days."

**LESBIAN SOCIAL GROUP
BACK TO ORIGINS WITH NEW
DATE, MOVES PLACE**

FIRST FRIDAY IS BACK!

Tarrant County's largest lesbian social networking organization started out as First Friday Fort Worth, moved to Second Tuesday, then First Thursday.

Now it's First Friday again, moving as well to a new, permanent location at a local women's club soon to open.

Businesswoman Carolyn Miles of Cowgirls Par-T Ranch, which offers monthly social activities and events for women, will house First Friday Fort Worth at her new club set to open in July, Cowgirls Oasis on Mag-

nolia in Fort Worth.

Beginning in August, First Friday hopes to reclaim its traditional 6-9 p.m. slot on the first Friday of each month. The July gathering is suspended while the club gears up for opening.

To confirm the time and location of the August gathering, call the Cowgirls Par-T Ranch Hotline at 817/355-4817 for a recording announcing the opening.

**GARDEN PARTY
TO BENEFIT LOBBY**

THE LESBIAN/GAY Political Coalition of Dallas and the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance will host the sixth annual Dallas Garden Party to benefit the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL).

The fund-raising party will be from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at 2910 Maple Springs Boulevard, Dallas.

General admission tickets, which include annual LGRL membership, are \$25 until July 22, \$30 thereafter. Individual sponsorships are \$75 for singles or couples, which includes admission for two. Membership in the LGRL Texas Cabinet is available at \$250 annual contribution or \$21.06 monthly. Corporate sponsorships are \$100 or merchandise donated for the Silent Auction.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, LGRL executive director, will present the program; local and state elected officials will be on hand to discuss concerns. Hors d'oeuvre, wine, beer and soft drinks will be served. Dress is outdoor casual.

For tickets and information contact co-chairs Paul Rodgers at 214/357-1660 or Avery Maixner at 214/526-6223.

The Dallas Garden Party is an annual outdoor event to increase awareness of the Lobby's work during biennial State Legislative sessions. The Lobby's primary goals include removal of 21.06 from the Texas Penal Code, hate crimes protection and health care funding.

The Legislative Matching Program informs members of current events or will suggest direct communication with legislators. The Lobby has sponsored the 1995 March on Austin, the 1994 Hate Crimes Rallies in Tyler and Midland, the annual Texas Lesbian Conference, statewide meetings of local community organizations, and the Organization of Elected and Appointed Officials.

PRIVATE SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES ACCESSIBLE
7 DAYS A WEEK • NO GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Causey's

1806 LAYTON AT 4400 BELKNAP
817-831-0074

flowerbed design & installation ❖ shrubs ❖ mowing

Distinctive Lawns & Gardens

Free estimate
Jim Beckham
817-731-8837

edging ❖ trimming ❖ four-season maintenance

**HOPE
REALTORS®**

**HOPE is Helping Other People.
We want to help you find a home.**

- First-time Buyer Specialist
- Buyer Representation
- Transferee Specialist
- Government Foreclosures
- No Credit-Check Assumables
- Residential Sales

817/572-5455

IN THE ALLIANCE NEWS

**Sports Now
Illustrated**

One of the problems facing newcomers to the Tarrant County lesbian/gay community is where to go to meet people or to participate in their favorite sporting events. *The Alliance News* now offers a beat reporter to cover the wide world of queer athletics, to link our readers to their favorite sporting events locally and to recognize the athletes in our midst.

Journalist Diane Percer was an outdoor correspondent for the *Herald and News* of Klamath Falls, Oregon. She is three times published in *Texas Game and Fish* magazine for outdoor humor. She was sports editor and photographer for *The Edge*, a college newspaper.

She needs your help to cover our local sports scene. Help us publicize your events or feed us your tips, on softball, volleyball, pool, darts, hiking, camping, equestrian playdays, any sport that catches your interest.

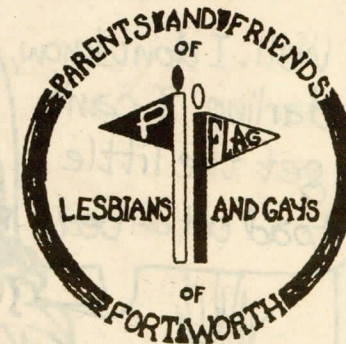
Send information to the Alliance News, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243, Fort Worth, TX 76116; or call Percer at 817/731-2891.

BILL'S A#1 MOVERS

Full Service, Friendly Staff
Local and Long Distance
Serving the Community a Decade

1-800-584-5096

(214) 521-6825 Metro: (817) 588-0908



PROGRAM:

DAVID REED

ACTIVIST, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
THE TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE,
ON "THE SCRIPTURES AND HOMOSEXUALITY"

7 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
AT FIRST JEFFERSON CHURCH
1959 SANDY LANE, FORT WORTH
(817) 498-5607 OR (817) 451-5318

REVIEWS

Cow Pattys pile on hilarity at Casa on the Square revue

THE COW PATTYS, CASA MANANA'S THEATRE ON THE SQUARE, THROUGH AUGUST.

By CHRIS TOLAND

THE COW PATTYS are performing at Casa Manana's Theatre on the Square. If you have never seen them, now is your chance. They are absolutely hysterical.

The Cow Pattys are four Austin actresses: Adrienne Braswell as Patty Andy, CK McFarland as Patty Cakes, Joy Cunningham as Crash Patty and Donna Stevens as Patty Lorraine. The four Pattys are characters that parody stereotypically Texan women. You know the ones I'm talking about - remember "kiss my grits" Flo from the old TV show "Alice"? Well, imagine four slightly different versions of her that sing and you might be able to imagine what the Cow Pattys are like.

They "spontaneously harmonize" to their original music, such as "Shero" and "If Jesus was a Cowboy," and to parodies of more famous songs including "Bobbi McGee" and a version of "Stand by Your Man" that is not to be missed. They also tell of the journeys of the four Pattys in their Patty Wagon - don't miss it parked out in front of the theatre - how the Pattys got together and their uniquely

Texas kind of family. The show is a lively, funny, musical look at Texas, cowgirls, cowboys and small-town life.

If you have not had a chance to visit Casa Manana's Theatre on the Square it is one of the most comfortable and relaxed theatres to enjoy a show in. The theatre is small and very intimate. Trust me, every seat there is close to the stage. It made the Cow Pattys that much more enjoyable. The Cow Pattys will be in town through August. For more information and tickets call 817/332-CASA.

First book is always the most memorable

MY FIRST TIME: GAY MEN DESCRIBE THEIR FIRST SAME-SEX EXPERIENCE, EDITED BY JACK HART.

By J.L. WAINWRIGHT

Take a moment to remember your First Time - I bet you can. That moment of awakening. I remember that morning, a freshman in a college dorm room, waking up and realizing the opportunity presented by ...

This latest book came from an unexpected discovery Editor Jack Hart made while compiling his earlier book, My Biggest O. In that book Hart asked men to describe the best sex they ever had. Surprisingly, for Hart, many men chose to describe their first time with another man. Hart and his publishers saw the potential for the subject and pursued contributions specifically defined as My First Time.

Hart defines First Time as "the

experience with which you came to think of yourself as gay, or different, or at least when you realized male sex has an emotional component."

In the introduction, Hart characterizes the responses he compiled: "Sometimes the first-timer is seduced, other times he takes the initiative; most carry a sense of delight, a few convey pain. Many are sexy, or exciting, or romantic."

Hart chose to organize the book by grouping stories which shared common times and themes and levels of national awareness: Before Kinsey, 1930-1948; Wonder Bread Years, 1949-1959; Countdown to Stonewall, 1960-1969; Post Stonewall, 1970-1977; We Are Everywhere, 1978-1985; Progress and Pain, 1986-1994.

The stories range from a five-year-old with his 13-year-old cousin (in the Wonder Bread section) to a 36-year-old man who is only attracted to pre-op transsexuals (found in the Progress and Pain section). Goings on between cousins are a common theme. Strip poker for adolescents and coming of age birthdays provide many situational settings. The variety is entertaining. The stories are amusing, enlightening and most of all ... poignant.

I think I was most impressed with the fondness with which most everyone recalls and retells these primary life experiences. The farther in the past, the greater degree of nostalgia for most, while those from just yesterday ring with the brutally honest realization that the experience being described, and I am sure relived as it is retold, has defined Life as a Gay Man in America in the last half of the 20th century.

I highly recommend My First Time, regardless of whether it's been 40 years or 40 minutes or not yet for you. Share this experience common to all gay men.

My First Time is the latest edition to the Alliance Library, one of the services available to TCLGA members. The Alliance Library is located at the Alliance business offices, which are staffed by volunteers weekly. Please phone ahead before coming to the office. To volunteer, please phone the office at 817/763-5544 and leave a message.

Wainwright is volunteer coordinator and a board member of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

Video uses our own words to dispel myths

"IN OUR OWN WORDS: DISPELLING THE STEREOTYPES," VIDEO BY JOHN WIMBERLEY

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN Alliance (DGLA), in a direct challenge to the rhetoric of "The Gay Agenda" and "Gay Rights/Special Rights," has produced a video titled "In Our Own Words: Dispelling the Stereotypes." Featuring more than two dozen gay and lesbian individuals, this video refutes the stereotypes being promoted by the far right. It provides an accurate, positive and hopeful message of better understanding.

John E. Wimberley, chair of DGLA's Police Project and member of its Board of Directors, organized the production of this video after recognizing the need for a training video for the Dallas Police Department. After much effort by Wimberley and Susan Gore, a diversity training specialist, the department agreed to include it in their training programs for all current personnel and new recruits.

"While the catalyst to produce this video was the need at the Dallas Police Department, the video was made with a broader audience in mind," Wimberley said. "It can be very useful in any sensitivity or diversity training program, because it presents a far more accurate image of who we really are, in all our diversity, rather than the negative stereotypes the far right continues to promote."

DGLA is marketing this video to corporations, human resource per-

sonnel, government agencies, churches and all other groups interested in promoting better understanding by providing truthful information about gay and lesbian people.

"This video should be a powerful tool in helping those who see it to better understand how diverse the gay and lesbian community really is," said Dallas City Council member Craig McDaniel.

This eight-minute video features 28 different gay and lesbian individuals, ranging in age from their teens to their seventies, who represent a broad spectrum of races, religions and ethnic groups. Also included are a deaf woman speaking in sign, a gay man in a wheelchair and a lesbian mother with her daughter. They address a number of issues, including teen suicide, hate crimes, family values and AIDS.

"In Our Own Words: Dispelling the Stereotypes" is available by sending \$13 per video (includes shipping and handling) to: Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, P.O. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219, or by contacting DGLA at 214/528-4233 or at e-mail address dgl@aol.com.

Wimberley will present a viewing of the new video at the next Alliance monthly meeting, 6 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at Luby's Cafeteria on University Street. Also showing will be the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Family Focus slide show, featuring local gay couple John Huffman and Doug Rich. Joyce Marshall, photographer and producer of the video, will provide comments.

CLASSIFIED ADS

IT'S OKAY TO BE YOU!

Send \$1 & SASE to: KRCC; P.O. Box 6440, Fort Worth, TX 76115

HELP WANTED

Experienced women bartenders for new women's club in Fort Worth. Call Carolyn Miles, 817/457-6085.

HOME BUSINESS

This could save you hundreds! Send \$1 & SASE to KCJ Enterprises, P.O. Box 6440, Fort Worth, TX 76115

OFFICE SPACE TO RENT

Looking for a psychotherapist or wholistic health practitioner to rent office space in The Healing Place. Great location, people, terms. Call Shelley Sullivan at 817/336-8044.

NEC DATA DISPLAY PAGER SPORT II

Offer expires 7-31-95

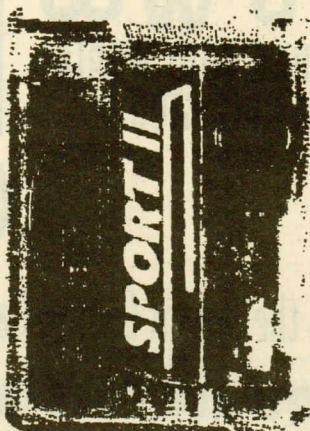
NEC SPORT II

With Clock Only

\$44.95 + TAX

AVAILABLE IN CLEAR OR SMOKE GREY

MONTHLY AIRTIME \$6.99/MO. ACTIVATION AND 1ST MONTH REQUIRED



FT. WORTH PAGING AND ANSWERING SERVICE

CHARLES STINSON

817-534-4492

hot food

7th street cafe

3500 W. 7th St. • 870-1672

live music four nights a week

kitchen open 'til 11 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

cool music

NEW VISION

A new group in town proves, in its first year, that much is in store when looking to the future.

When anyone says you can't do it, just prove them wrong...

By **CHRIS TOLAND**

Many people expected that this day would never come but it is nearly here: Future Fort Worth/Arlington will celebrate its first year anniversary July 31.

When FFWA formed as a grassroots effort to network and promote all organizations in the Tarrant County lesbian/gay community, some onlookers thought the organizers were just going to fall on their faces, or not accomplish much, and eventually go away.

A year later the FFWA bunch is still going strong and still looking to the future.

FFWA was the brain child of a group of 10 people who formed the steering committee: Darwin Bragg, Marena Carr, Tony Coronado, Buddy Dean, Allan Gould, Julian Harris, Branch Kneiff, Neal Lindsey, Robert Robbins and Darla

Roland. Randy Owen later was added to the committee. These pioneers' vision and initiative defined the organization and its goal to "support and promote all organizations in Tarrant County through a network of contacts, both public and private, within the lesbian and gay community and to foster a close working relationship between existing and future organizations."

The founders believed that without officers, the group could better emphasize its grassroots nature. Working groups of several members with similar talents or interests formed, to work on a single area or with a single organization. For instance, Lindsey, Bragg and Gould handled media and advertising; Roland represented FFWA to the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington.

One of the FFWA's first activities was Bragg's flyer campaign to promote the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association election of officers last August. Steering committee member Coronado organized a fashion show at 7th Street Cafe to promote the Fort Worth Formal. For the community-wide Lights of Love event in Decem-

ber, Gould designed a logo and FFWA chaired decorations for the NAMES Project house and the Christmas tree.

In addition to providing physical assistance, FFWA offers "people power" to other organizations. Its members give support by their presence at other organizations' events. FFWA members frequently attend Imperial Court shows, Gay Pride Week Association meetings, and sit on Fort Worth Formal and Spring Out committees.

FFWA is still a small grassroots organization in Tarrant County. It has grown over the last year to about 30 members. FFWA produces a weekly calendar of nonprofit events in the county, including listings of general meetings, shows, charity events, etc.

FFWA is also currently in the process of producing an information notebook on all organizations in Tarrant County. This notebook will contain promotional and resource information provided by each organization. The notebook will serve as a guide to newcomers to the area or to people who want to get involved but aren't familiar with what organizations are out there.

FFWA continues to evolve. James Tillotson and I replaced Kneiff and Robbins on the steering committee. Within the next year, FFWA hopes to file for nonprofit corporation status

with the state and to eventually obtain tax exempt status from the IRS. This is a difficult decision for the group - the more formal organizational structure required for incorporation requires officers. Several in the organization feel this would undermine the egalitarian nature of the group.

In an effort to encourage the community's involvement in FFWA, several changes have been made. General meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month. A new monthly social event joins the group's agenda - FFWA Nite Out is a chance to get together and have a good time while networking contacts away from the bars. Nite Out will be on the fourth Tuesday of each month at varying locations.

For more information about general meetings or Nite Out locations, call 817/294-0649.

In honor of its first anniversary, FFWA will sponsor a party at the 651 Club Aug. 6. The club will offer drink specials and FFWA will provide a free buffet. Live entertainment will be on hand, including Bill Miller, Mr. Gay Pride '95-'97, and Chris Haydel from Texarkana.

FFWA members are looking forward to their second year in Tarrant County - looking forward to promoting community cooperation, publishing its notebook and calendar, sponsoring Nite Out. To continue working toward the future, FFWA needs more members. If you are interested in getting involved in Tarrant County, FFWA is a great place to start. *ft*

CROSS, RIZZO & SCHAAF ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

Carole Q. Cross
James Sadler

Michael L. Rizzo
Matthew C. Schaaf, RN

- Criminal Law •Family Law •Child Support
- Divorce •DUI •Personal Injury •Felonies
- Medical Malpractice •Misdemeanors
- Landlord/Tenant •Consumer Rights
- Wills •Power of Attorney

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

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



FUTURE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON Steering Committee, left to right: top row: Marena Carr, Allan Gould, Julian Harris; second row: Darwin Bragg, Neal Lindsey, Darla Roland, Tony Coronado, Buddy Dean; third row: Roger Robbins, Branch Kneiff.

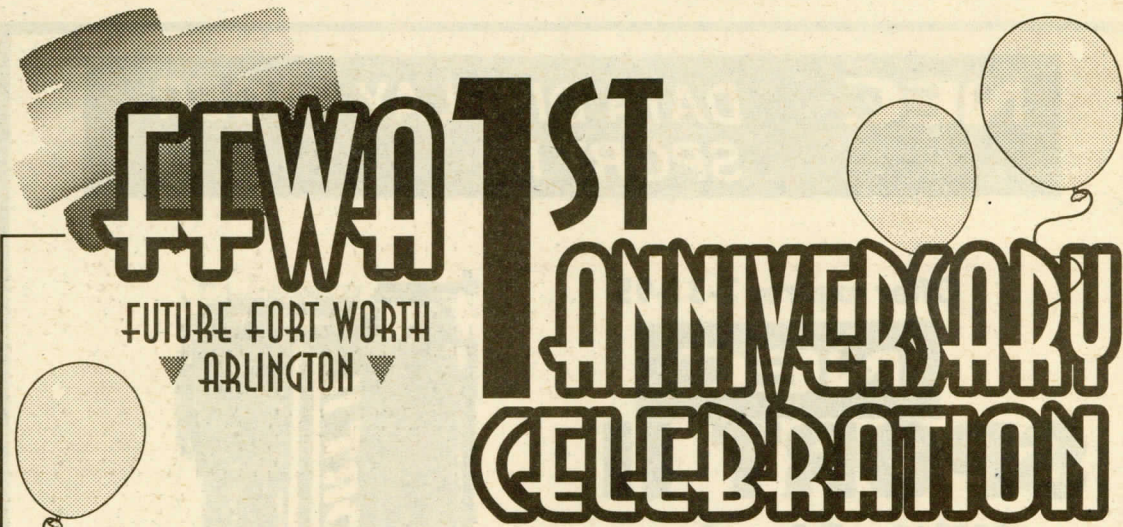
S&S Minor Home Repairs

HUD Approved

Tired of Being Robbed?

Free Estimates

Ph: (817) 294-8548



To the Tarrant County Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community
**You are cordially invited to join us
in the celebration of our community.**

Sunday, August 6, 1995 - 651 Club Fort Worth - 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Free Buffet - 8:00 p.m. Variety Show Hosted by: Bill Miller Mr. Gay Pride '95-'96
with Special Guest Entertainer Ms. Chris Haydell and a host of others.

All proceeds to benefit FFWA's general fund

"Summertime and the livin' is easy, the fish is frying and the cotton is high. Your daddy's rich and your mammy's good lookin' so hush little baby, don't you cry..."

The crowd fell silent, spellbound by Lady Carlotta's rendition of the classic "Summer Time" at the Broadway Review benefiting Trinity MCC. "Absolute radiance" describes her performance; "love" explains her impassioned plea for support, and "gratitude" expresses her request that God bless each of its givers. It is difficult to imagine that 10 years have passed since our wonderful Carlotta served us as Empress VII.

It will be the Imperial Court's privilege to honor Carlotta's many accomplishments at Coronation XVII July 15 at the Green Oaks Inn in Fort Worth.

Carlotta's beautiful, sultry voice has represented our community across this entire nation. This incredible talent has been acknowledged in various ways ranging from being the first command performer at San Diego's Coronation as Empress IV; being the recipient of the "Golden Throat Award" in Lexington, Kentucky as Empress VII; singing "The Star Spangled Banner" to open numerous events.

Lady Carlotta is a multifaceted, compassionate person who never ceases to amaze. While her philosophy of life appears simple, her style shall forever be grand.

Born the youngest of five children, Charles Holland (aka Lady Carlotta) is a lifelong resident of Fort Worth. He was raised under the watchful eyes of his strict, yet devoted, mother and grandmother. He loved Vacation Bible School, attended the National Baptist Congress for five years, and gave voice recitals at church. "I loved to sing for the Lord. The first song I sang was 'Jesus Wants Me To Be A Sunbeam.' We used to travel to different churches and perform.

Healing Sunbeam

The Imperial Court Coronation honors this year a past monarch who shines in the darkness and showers abused children with his warmth.

By **GLENDIA GARDNER**

"I got my self-confidence from my mother and grandmother." They taught him to treat people well, do what he was told and "put back for a rainy day," which Charles admits he's not very good at because, as everyone knows, he loves to spend money!

Charles' eclectic background is evident in his approach to life. He firmly believes that "the family that prays together stays together."

"I came out when I was 14 and there were whispers at church but I didn't care because I didn't go to please the people! Most of them didn't give me too hard of a time."

Charles did his first "drag show" at Aub's (DJ's) in 1975. But before that he was "dressing the part." At 16, his favorite ensemble was a black micro mini dress, gold earrings and spiked heels!

Lady Carlotta's involvement began with the court in 1979 during Reign I when he was given the camp title of "Adviser to the Empress." He was privileged to be part of the first presentation of the Yellow Rose Court at the San Diego Coronation. Past Empress Voodoo graciously welcomed Emperor I Sonny Terry and Empress I Barbie Doll plus six court members who walked to "It's A Small World After All."

The coronation theme was "Disco Fantasy."

During the next several years, Carlotta continued to work hard and eventually became Fort Worth's first elected Grand Duchess. When crowned Empress IV, Carlotta became the first elected black Empress in all of Texas.

What significant events do you remember from Reign IV?

"One very significant event was getting the opportunity to meet Jose I, founder of the Court System, who gave me sound words of advice on how to be a Monarch. He told me that it was okay for an Empress to be pushy, but that it must always be tempered with justice. He advised me to meet people, go places and do things, which I did as often as possible!"

Another important event was meeting Empress Nicole in San Diego. At Nicole's request, Carlotta sang and became the very first command performer ever honored at a California Coronation. "It was truly a great honor to sing 'Summertime' for their entertainment."

What was the most memorable in-town event during Reign VII?

"It was at our stepping-down show when I was presented a 'live black sheep' by Gerald Ford and the members of TGRA on stage! It was quite an experience, to say the least. It was one of the most original presents that any Monarch ever received and I'll never forget it."

What accomplishments of Reign VII were you proudest of?

"That the Court Members contributed greatly to the support, working and success of the Fort Worth Counseling Center (predecessor of the AIDS Outreach Center). For the first

two years all of the services were funded by the donated tips of entertainers! Drag Queens (and other entertainers, male and female) never



LADY CARLOTTA aka CHARLES HOLLAND

got the proper credit for their contributions to multiple fund-raising events. They have proudly worked to support organizations, bars and the community throughout the years. It is such a shame that the entertainers (primarily drag queens) still must struggle with prejudice not only from the straight world but from within our own community, as well."

Why do some people call you "The Grand Diva" or "Grand Dame?"

"I've been told that I'm called that because I was one of the first gay black persons who ventured out and gained recognition and respect. I have been told that I am a role model and inspiration to the black community. I appreciate the compliments, but I don't really know if I'm truly worthy of that kind of praise."

Do you have any regrets?

"None whatsoever! I would like to see more blacks involved in the Court

and other organizations. I believe involvement is limited because some people still feel scorned and unwanted, even though the organizations would welcome all new members."

What advice would you give to anyone who is interested in being an empress?

"Being Empress IV showed me that I could do well the first time but being Empress VII gave me an opportunity to do it even better! Being an Empress requires work, preparation and money. Empress aspirants need to 'pay their dues' in the court system and be properly 'groomed' to assume the awesome responsibilities associated with the position. It's not just glitz and glamour, it's extremely hard work!"

What are your current career ambitions?

"Currently, I am employed as a cook with Saint Teresa's Home. It is a residential therapeutic center for children. Many have been removed from homes where they were victims of neglect and/or abuse. Others were placed because of economic issues that must temporarily separate the family. Understandably, many come full of anger at their predicament. They desperately need positive role models in their lives. I am proud to say that after a while, they begin to trust again and start reaching out for love from our staff members.

"I know my spirituality guides my interaction with the children. I believe that my coming to Saint Teresa's was God's 'sending.' I give the children unconditional love and they

SEE CARLOTTA ONP. 23

Imperial Court Coronation passes the sceptre in festive style

The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington presents Coronation XVII, New Orleans Nights, a Mardi Gras party, Saturday, July 15. Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Green Oaks Inn in Fort Worth; the Coronation ceremony begins at 7 p.m.

Mardi Gras costumes are encouraged. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Tickets are available at the door for \$25 each.

The gala will benefit AIDS Interfaith Network, Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and Healing Wings Client Services Fund.

Rooms at the hotel are still available for \$69. Mention the Imperial Court when making reservations for a discount.



OMEGA
PROPERTIES, INC.

Professional Real Estate Services

RENE DEATON
Broker/Owner
817.354.7201 office
817.988.9299 voice mail
817.355.1364 fax

GREG HUTSON
Sales Associate
817.354.7201 office
817.630.7773 voice mail
817.355.6024 residence

Omega Properties, Inc. is dedicated to professionally serving the needs of our community. Our multiple listing service computer system allows us to access homes for sale throughout Fort Worth, Arlington, Mid-Cities and Irving. We can show you any listed home in any price range. Let us produce a list for you of the homes that meet your specifications (i.e. price range, area, size, bedrooms, pool, non-qualifying assumptions, HUD/VA, etc.). We will also list and sell your current home. Give us a call today and work with a real estate company and real estate agents who are friendly and most of all committed to our community and excellent service.

My Brave Soldier

Ruby lobbed a missile at homophobia when she took a girl to the prom. She's been gunning at it through her work on the Alliance's Teen Line. Now she's taking on the Air Force, reaching higher, being all that she can be.

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

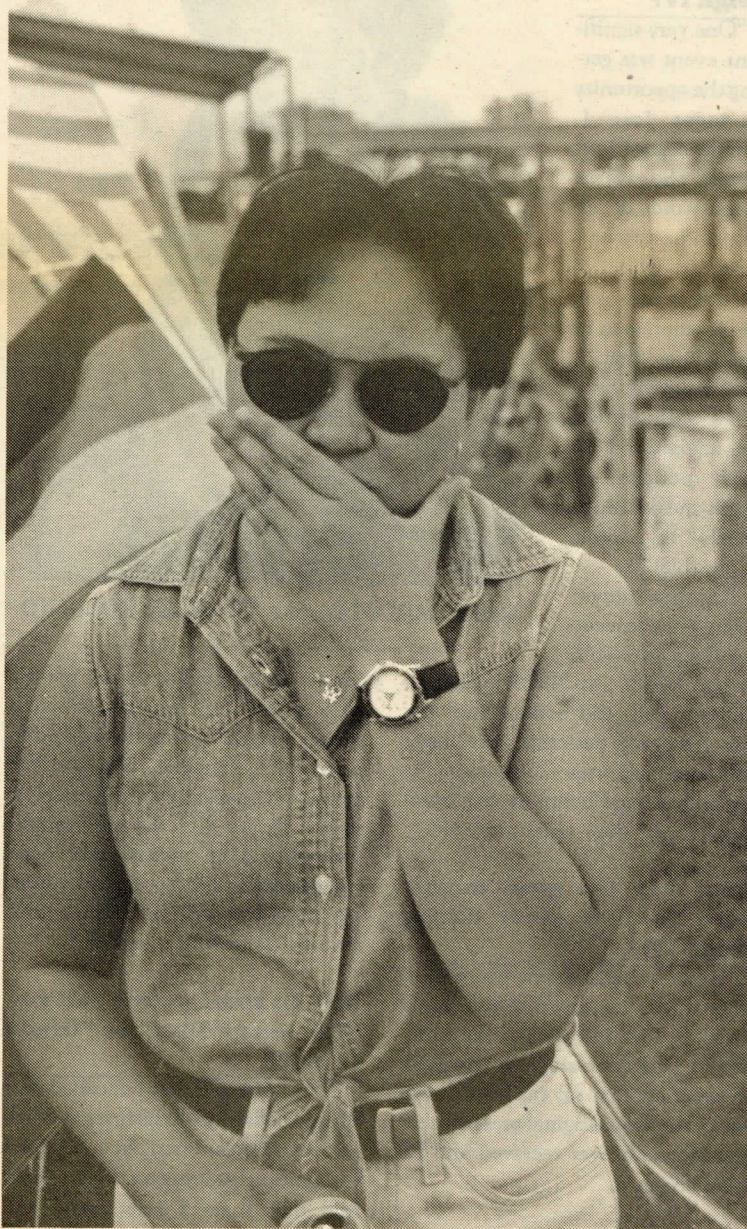
Minutes pass too slowly when you're sitting at a desk, staring at a phone, waiting anxiously for it to ring ... and it doesn't ring. The volunteers staffing the Lesbian/Gay Teen Project hotline have felt many a heavy moment dragging the hands of a clock between those calls where we connect to youth, give them an ear, bolster them a little with supportive words. Sometimes an entire shift passes without a call, when our teens are out establishing their lifelines up close and personal.

During one of those empty shifts, Ruby started a notepad to connect the volunteers together by writing messages, something of a group bulletin board. She got the idea, she wrote, from her work at another youth hotline where they communicated to each other through a spiral notebook.

Our legal pad has evolved into quite a journal in which volunteers have recorded riveting slices of their lives, their hopes and concerns. It is an archive, this pad of yellow pages, containing so many individual stories that add up together to form a universal novel. Ruby's story, which unfolds on the first page and concludes just several pages shy of the end of the pad, is particularly affecting.

Ruby's first entry sets the stage by introducing the kind of person she is. Most of us volunteers are content to pass the slow moments by catching up on our reading or by visiting with the other volunteer on our shift. But Ruby is never so complacent. If the landscape is completely cloud free, she'll venture out farther and farther until she encounters a challenge into which she can sink her teeth. I see this explorer's streak in her because I have one too.

Ruby had ventured out just so



*Ruby promised me she wouldn't tell.
But I made her practice.*

during her shift. She called the Bridge Youth Shelter teen line and, in her youthful voice, announced that she was a lesbian to see how the staff handled that issue.

Ruby wrote to us of the results: "The lady, Shelly, told me I could change. I have a phone appointment tomorrow with a counselor from there. She's gonna 'fix' me. Oh geez! If I come back here 'straight,' you know who to blame. Scary, scary thought! Can you imagine me in heels - Yikes!!!"

Her call to the shelter reminded her of the hope our service represents to lesbian/gay/bisexual teens. "I'm glad to know that we will make a difference in some teenager's life," she wrote.

I met Ruby several years ago when she was just out of high school, when I wrote about her gutsy experience of taking a girl to her prom. Tiny Ruby struck a maternal chord in me then that has tracked her progress ever since. I hold a mother's pride in this bold rebel. It is really for kids like her that I do much of my work, to lay a smoother path for them where their unfettered curiosity will be less likely to meet retaliation. I want them to search, though, and explore, just as I have, just a little more safely.

My frantic maternal instinct kicked in a while back when Ruby chewed on the idea of joining the military. I wouldn't have worried so for someone a little more timid, who would adapt to the system without challenging it like I sensed Ruby would. Ruby seems awfully small, too vulnerable when stacked against that huge military machine, one that would try to crush her if it finds out who she is.

This mother was greatly relieved then when a new love interest derailed Ruby's plans to sign on. Later in the notebook, though, she announced the breakup to us: "When will I get this 'relationship stuff' right? Does anyone have a 'hint' book of some kind on how to make things last?"

I heard shortly thereafter, through what I call the "Angievine," that dear Ruby was looking again toward the military. The reason why is there in the book - working full time, going to school full time, moving back in with her parents to keep it all floating. The military is sometimes the one opportunity for the Rubys of our nation to support their dreams, to achieve their higher education that would otherwise remain elusive. Our lesbian/gay kids should have equal access to the military benefits that can make such a difference in their lives.

Still, I was desperate to save her from those "don't-ask, don't-tell"

stockades. I addressed her in the paper forum she had started, offering the solution that had spared her previously: "And so Ruby - it seems we must find you a new woman, a good woman, a fine and true woman if we are to keep you safely among us for your good company. I invite all of you Teen Liners to this challenge: Find Ruby a jewel."

And I gave, facetiously, those relationship tips for which she had asked, that might keep her here safely with us always: "There is a simple formula for forging a lasting, long-term relationship - you just don't let them break up with you. You just pretend they never said anything about it. You smile real sweetly and ask, 'And by the way - what do you want for dinner tonight?'"

My strategy was to no avail. Just

▲▲▲
**Concentrate
On Your
Business,
Not Your
Books.**

Because you didn't open your company to concentrate on calculating taxes and keeping the books, we did. With 15 years experience, Darwin & Associates, Inc. helps small firms like yours with a full range of tax, bookkeeping and payroll services.

Stop worrying about the books and concentrate on running your company. Find out how easy it is to get back to business.



Full Service Tax,
Bookkeeping
& Payroll

Call: Metro
(817) 589-1666
or
(817) 284-7799



several weeks later, her friend Tammy announced in our notebook that Ruby had found a new girlfriend and she had signed on to the Air Force.

Ruby left her last mark at the end of the pad, in a goodbye letter. "I will miss this gay/lesbian/bi community VERY much! It's gonna be sooo hard going back into the closet. It will get VERY claustrophobic! I'm gonna come back and visit. I have to in order to not lose myself and what I believe in."

Ruby apparently had struck that protective maternal instinct in Angie too who must have pressured that young thing to reconsider, because Ruby addressed her: "Angievine, you said I couldn't leave, but I am. Sorry toots! Sometimes ya gotta do what ya gotta do! I know how hard and tough it's gonna be, but you've watched me grow. You know I can do it and handle anything they throw at me. So don't

worry, ok! They are not gonna beat me at this game! I will win. I've got my friends backing me up - How could I lose!"

It was a good thing no teens called while I read that because there I was bawling. I can just imagine such a call: "I'm scared because I think I might be gay..." (Hears wracking sobs in the background.) Click.

My weeping must have struck Susan's maternal instinct because she put her arms around me and comforted, "Don't worry, Bev - Ruby's going to be okay..."

And I cried, "I know. She's going to do great. I'm not worried about her. It's just so sad that it has to be like this for her, that it has to be such a difficult decision instead of what it should be, a wonderful opportunity."

The Rubys of our nation shouldn't have to sacrifice what is so treasured by them just to access that op-

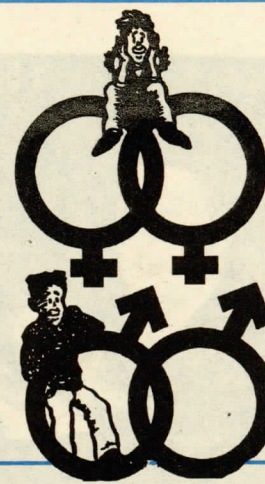
portunity. They shouldn't have to dig into deeper reserves just to survive that opportunity. And they shouldn't have that opportunity dangled so precariously in front of them, where one slip of the tongue will send it scurrying away.

It is hard enough for a mother to hand her children over to a military that might whisk them away to war. But it's even harder for us knowing that our lesbian/gay kids enter a battle zone the minute they step into boot camp - and that they are marked as the enemy.

Ruby will do fine under those terms. She's my little scrapper, my fighting heart, my brave survivor. This proud mother knows that the military has quite the battle on its hands, now that she's signed on to the service.

I know when to let go of her, to let her span out to find her own battles and to discover her best means of conquering. I know how to welcome her home between the battles, where she can find comfort and support in this mother's embrace. I can't give her the world she deserves, one where her just opportunity doesn't come with such a consuming price tag, but then Ruby would find such a world as that quite boring.

The Rubys among us will always move out of our safe, protected zone to search, explore, test the waters for new challenges. And we, all of us, are singularly enriched by these intrepid spirits. With such examples before us, we can do what Ruby bade us to do in the closing of her last letter: to "Always AIM HIGH!!" ... and to "keep it precious." ♡



THE TEEN PROJECT

is committed to providing accurate information and positive support to gay, lesbian and bisexual teenagers and those questioning their sexuality. The Teen Project is a cooperative effort of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TCLGA) and the Fort Worth Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).

TALK LINE FOR TEENS

Staffed by trained volunteers, this phone line is available for teens interested in receiving accurate information about being gay, lesbian or bisexual. Call the Teen Talkline to volunteer for training to staff the lines, and refer the number to teens you know who might benefit from the support offered.

SOCIAL/SUPPORT GROUP

The Teen Project offers a support group for teens that meets from 3-5 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month.

Gay/Lesbian Teen Talkline:
817/763-8382

If you are HIV+/AIDS, is confidentiality important?

You bet it is! You should also know that if you are thinking of selling your life insurance policy via a viatical settlement, and the viatical company you choose is licensed in any of the few states requiring licensure, your **name, medical status, viatical settlement amount, etc.** will be entered into a data base that can be accessed by members of state or federal agencies, **police and IRS.**

We protect your **confidentiality** because we are not licensed. We adhere to the Code of Ethics and Standard Business Practices required by the National Viatical Association... confidentiality is **assured.**

Viatical Assistance Corporation
Jerry or Pat Fadal
800-892-1282 or 817-772-3888

Fort Worth formal '95

BLACK TIE TO BLUE JEANS
Now accepting applications for
Qualified Beneficiaries for the
1995 New Years Eve Gala Benefit.

Any organization requesting beneficiary status must submit an application which details the organizations mission statement and how any monies raised will be used by the organization. Each application must be submitted by a qualified officer or official representative of the organization seeking beneficiary status.

NOTE: Organizations must meet or be willing to meet the following requirements of Beneficiary Status.

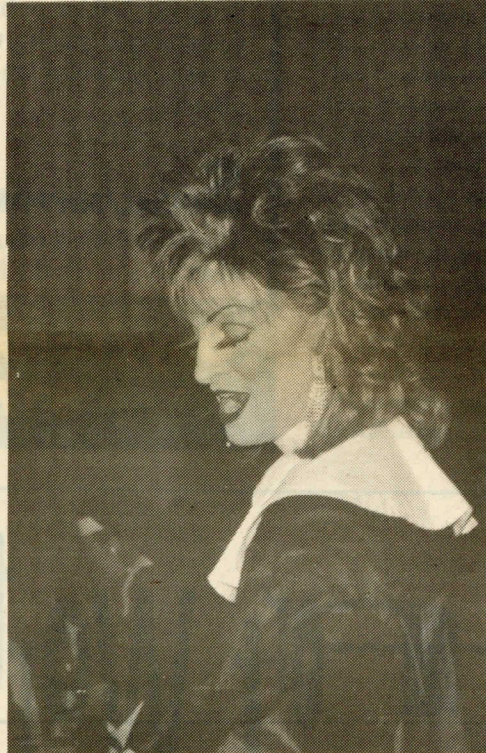
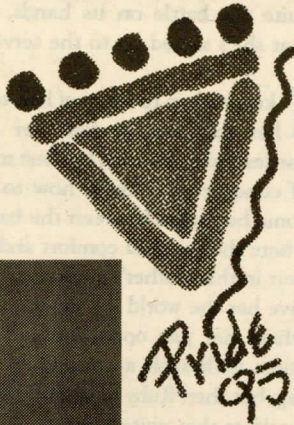
- 501c3 Organization
- Gay or Gay Friendly Organization
- Sell 100 Raffle Tickets
- Place at least a 1/4 page ad in the Benefit Program
- Purchase 32 Tickets to this years Benefit (4 Tables)
- Appoint an official representative to work with the fort worth formal committee on producing this years benefit.

Deadline for submitting applications is July 28, 1995 and must be postmarked as such!
Mail to fort worth formal - 4825 Calmont Avenue, Ft. Worth, TX 76107
Call 817/731-0122 for additional information
fort worth formal is a committee of TCLGA

Beverly Fletcher's

GAY PRIDE WEEK in review

CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT. (1) Sue's son is a straight guy, but he didn't mind twirling Michael Winchester around the dance floor at Spring Out. (2) Court Emperor Melissa Flories and Empress Pat "Cookies" Wyatt had a tearful moment at Spring Out presentations, but then they got real happy again. (3) Gay Pride Title Holders: Bill Miller, Mr. Gay Pride; Beverly Winn, Ms. Gay Pride; Country Tate, Miss/Mr. Gay Pride. Foxy Roxy, Miss Gay Pride, was off partying somewhere. (4) Clockwise from left: Tony Coronado, parade coordinator; Neal Lindsey, acting president, Gay Pride Week Association; Raymond Gill, parade coordinator, Miss Gay Pride 1994-95; Darla Roland, GPWA treasurer and picnic coordinator; Glenda Gardner and Keith Barbee, winners of the Raina Lea Spirit Award. (5) Shanda Livingston and Dana Deason were the only women who won one of the picnic dance contests, in disco. (6) These guys jittered off so quickly after they won the jitterbug contest, I didn't get their names. But they were real good! (7) Rhonda Mae and Stella Wellfelt from Across the Sreet took the parade entry trophy in the business category for their stunning ashes and burnt timbers motif. (8) Center photo: Angela Aarons slipped into some old bad habits, performing again at the Spring Out.

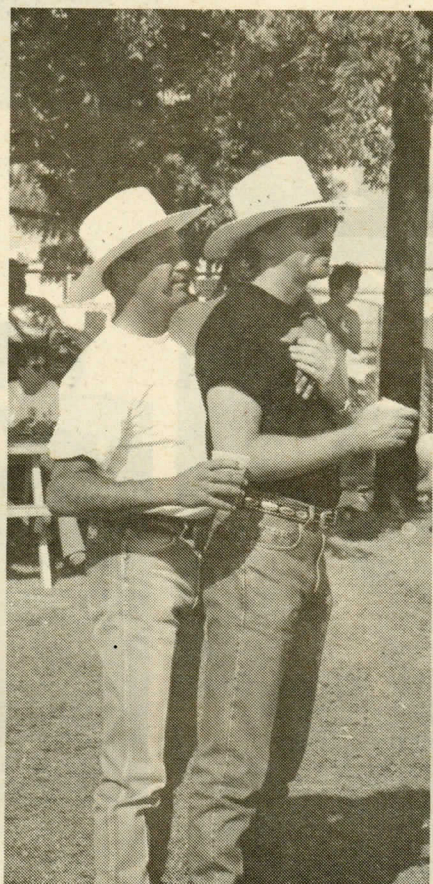
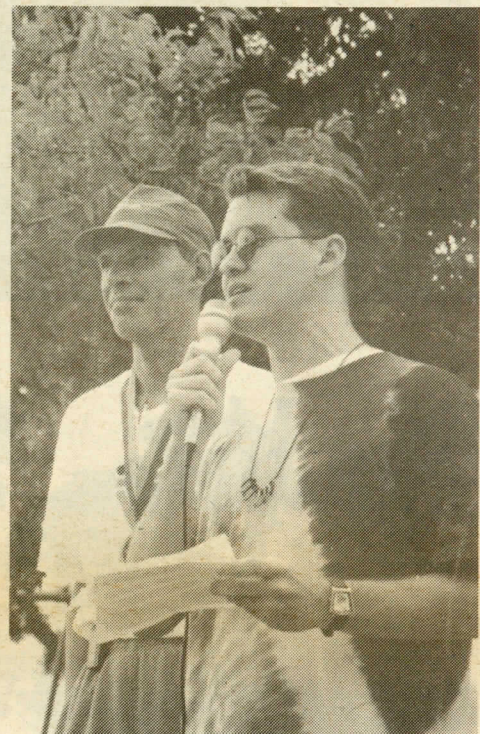


PHOTOS BY BEVERLY FLETCHER



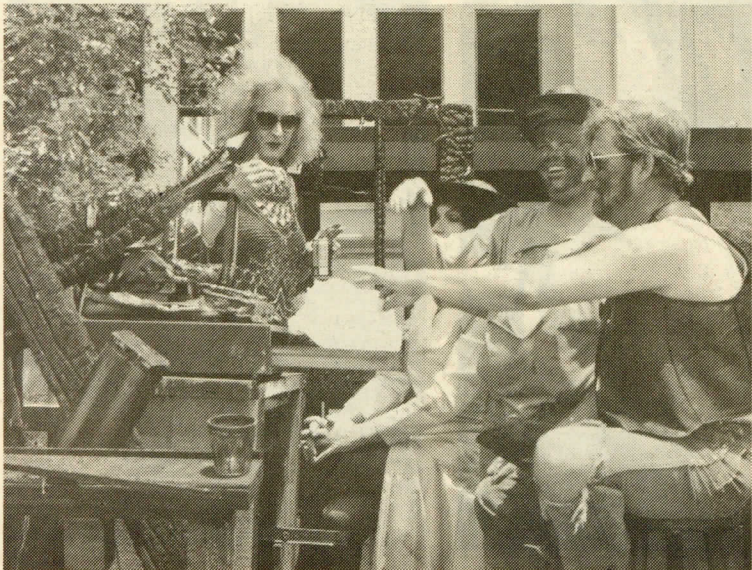
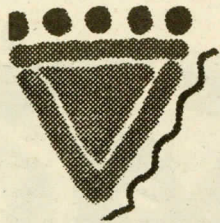


CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT. (1) Pat, Glenda and the rest of the Imperial Court crew were plumb tuckered after blowing up the balloons, but not one of them fainted. (2) My friend Troy Hardie, at right, gave a victory hug to the two tots who won a picnic dance contest. They liked his collar but were perplexed by his pierced nipple. (3) Todd Camp's picnic pride speech was interrupted by a downpour, but I gave him a thunderous ovation. (4) Doug Rich got into so much trouble shown dancing with his partner, John Huffman, in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, he decided to try it with girls at the picnic. (5) Lady Rae was sweet music to our ears at the 651 Carnival. (6) A tender cowboy moment at the Corral carnival. (7) Mary Ellen bought a chihuahua pup at the picnic just so she could win the Pet Walk contest, but then she got a little too close to the ferret. It wasn't pretty. (8) Center picture: A permanent wave for big-haired Cari Nations, Tiffany Rene (Miss North Central Texas) and Didi Deviant, front.





CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT. (1) I thought a rumble was going down at the picnic, between gangs of lesbians, until someone pointed out the football and explained it was a sport. (2) Beverly Bennett says she's the butch one in her couple but at the carnival they both looked pretty froo-froo to me. (3) This kid had the best view at the picnic awards, peeking over the shoulder of presenters on stage. (4) Matt Gieck and Connie Winkle of the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition said it was a sponge-throw booth but I paid a \$1 for the wet T-shirts. (5) At the parade and carnival, all the guys cheered the Cheer Dallas guys, I think because of their awesome routines. (6) Some of the picnickers had a little punch instead of beer. (7) The Across the Street float was all business as usual. (8) TCLGA pres Dauné Littlefield put her breast face forward to Allan Gould.



I must admit it was fun this month meeting the many readers of this column at the pride festivities. The best part was that no one shot me! But as I watched the ever changing flow of people, a recent book and its contents weighed upon my mind.

The focus of this month's tirade is responsibility. I was talking to one man who told me he never practiced safer sex because he did not believe he could get HIV. It was like a page out of the book *HIV-Negative: How the Uninfected are Affected by AIDS*, by William Johnston. This book retells the stories of HIV-negative men from a Boston support group for negative men.

I must agree based upon what I have seen at the Health Department that this book is right on the mark. We have a problem in our community. I should not be seeing 19-year-olds turning up HIV infected after 14 negative tests.

As a community we are missing the boat here. We are failing to meet the needs of those gays who have survived the wrath of HIV and now feel left out. I can wear a shirt that tells people I am positive and wear it with pride. Have you ever seen someone brag about being negative?

We see the divisional lines in the personal ads asking that new partners be negative. I can respect someone who knows their status and wants to try and protect it. But how stupid are we to believe that our new partner is truly negative? The roses have a strange odor, folks.

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

The survivors feel the crunch of the sweeping pandemic. Keeping negatives negative is a community-wide effort.

There is *nothing* wrong in being negative and proud of it. The problem occurs when we start to separate ourselves from each other because of the status differences. HIV positive is permanent, HIV negative can change at any time and to isolate yourself may not prove to be 100 percent effective in preventing infection.

We all need each other, whether infected or not. What hurts is watching people who are negative acting holier than thou around someone who is positive. We have enough problems without adding to them by committing acts of violence against each other.

The responsibility is upon each of us. The negatives need to embrace their status and protect it, just do not close the door on the possibilities of a relationship with someone infected. A lot of great people have HIV and to eliminate them from the dating pool only hurts yourself.

Steve and I have managed to be responsible for five years and Steve remains negative and we have sex. Not as often as Steve would like, but we know the risks and we narrow ours

down to acceptable limits. Since I do not have a "life expectancy," I have to ensure that Steve keeps his. I realize I could be less stressed with an HIV-positive partner, no risk of new infection, but I do not have that option. My partner is negative and I share responsibility for keeping him that way. Steve and I are more comfortable because we *know* each other's status and there is no fear of the unknown. My life changed because of the crisis of HIV; Steve and I chose not to live our lives in a crisis.

What really pisses me off is men who tell Steve to leave me before I get too sick and hook up with them because they are negative. Life is too precious to play games like that and I

feel sorry for the vulture who is patiently waiting for me to die. Do not hold your breath, because this old queen is in for the long haul.

Instead of fighting for leftovers, we should focus on why gay men continue to practice unsafe sex. Bring this topic up in a crowd and watch everyone clam up. We need to find a balance between risk and sexual pleasure. Gay men have sex in feast and famine phases and it is during the feasts that safer sex leaves the bedroom or bushes. Admitting the fact that people slip up and have unsafe sex is difficult, but until we admit it, no one will ever be truly HIV negative.

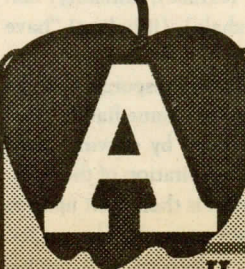
Gay men have designed new ways to show love and experience pleasure

because we do not fit into society's nice little man/woman roles. If we can manage to maintain our love through all the shit society throws at us, we should be able to protect our bodies from HIV. Remember, the straight world could care less if we all die off. We need survivors to scream our tales. Maybe I am more like Larry Kramer that I like to admit.

I would like to start a group for HIV negative men. I will not be the facilitator since some people are uncomfortable talking with pride of their negative status in front of a positive man. But I believe strongly in this project and believe the community has a need. If any gay man is interested in being a part of this group for the support it can bring, please write to me at the Alliance.

By the way, Steve and I are having a Holy Union July 22. I got him pregnant the one time I was a top. Oh well, at least I will not get any fatter or bitchier than I already am. Some comfort there for Steve.

Until next month, act responsibly and live your life with *passion!*



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!

Dental care is a clinch pin to health. When your mouth is in sad shape, your chances of a high level of wellness are less than optimal. Take care of those pearly whites and they will take care of you. When teeth and gums are not "groomed" regularly, their owner gets cavities, gum disease, infections (even pneumonia in some cases) and suffers tooth loss. To find a dentist look in "The Yellow Pages" (always look in the *Lambda Pages* first).

Recovery from addictions is a slow and continuous process. No doubt each and everyone reading this column knows someone who is addicted to something (alcohol, drugs, gambling, relationships, sex, food, etc.). Recovery is similar for each type of addiction. We must first come to realize that we are, indeed, addicted. Then we must take steps to loosen the

control the addictions have over us. It is important for us (people in recovery and friends of people in recovery) to realize that the goal of recovery is progress - not perfection. Many good programs are available to assist in recovery - some are on a fee-for-service basis like hospitals and counseling centers; others are free, like Alcoholics-, Narcotics-, Gamblers-, Codependents-, Overeaters- and Sex-Addicts Anonymous. If you know someone who has a problem with addictions, try to get him or her into a recovery program. If you know someone in recovery, you are lucky because recovering people are some of the best folk in the world!

Exercise sure is hard to get "into" for a lot of us. This year I made a New Year's resolution to be exercising three times a week by now - I'm way behind. In fact, I haven't exercised three times so far this whole year. I'm just too busy! A colleague of mine offered a tip; perhaps it will help some of you (I think I'm hopeless). The tip is from a physician who has developed a practice based on the promotion of wellness. She gets big bucks for helping people lose weight, stop smoking and get in shape. You get

this gem of a tip free while others have to pay: "When you're too busy to exercise, make a date with yourself to exercise. Busy people tend to be run by their calendars so, just pencil in the times of the week when you are going to exercise." Well, at least I picked up a pencil! Better luck to you.

Aids is killing far too many people around the world. I could go on and on about it - but I won't. Ten years ago a San Francisco AIDS service organization distributed a flyer that contained a simple, five-word message which remains the answer to this epidemic: "AIDS, DON'T FUCK WITH IT!" If you aren't HIV infected, why gamble your life with risky sex or sharing needles? If you are HIV infected, why jeopardize other people's health and further jeopardize your own by continuing risky behaviors? If you don't know your HIV status or fully understand what risky behavior is, learn immediately! The Health Department, TCMERF, Planned Parenthood and Over-the-Hill provide low cost (or free) testing and counseling. Those organizations and The NAMES Project, Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network and the AIDS Outreach Center offer educational programs aimed at prevention.

Motion sickness and summer seem to go hand in hand. We take our hard earned vacations then and this often entails travel. If motion sickness is a problem for you, try this natural remedy - take a pinch of powdered ginger before you start out. This common cooking ingredient has been shown to be more effective than the most commonly used motion-sickness drug.

SEE 'APPLE' ON P. 23

CATHY L. MCGINNIS, LMSW-ACP
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

INDIVIDUAL
FAMILY, MARRIAGE
AND GROUP THERAPY

FIELDER PROF. PARK
721 N. FIELDER ROAD, SUITE A
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

817/461-4063
METRO LINE
ANSWERED 24 HOURS

JAMES J. NEEL - ATTORNEY AT LAW
NEEL & HORTON, LLP

- Employment and labor law
- Criminal • Family • Traffic tickets and municipal offenses • Wills - Debtor/creditor
- Deceptive Trade Practice
- Commercial litigation • Personal injury

400 E. Weatherford St., Ste. 203
Fort Worth, Tx 76102
(817) 338-1187 • Fax: (817) 338-1880

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

HOLD THAT THOUGHT

**Meditation is a healing dose
for what ails the soul.
No New Age prescription this – it has
its very roots in prayer.**

By **BRYAN TAYLOR**

We're hearing a lot these days about meditation, relaxation, visualization, affirmations and other techniques promoted by all sorts of teachers, practitioners and gurus. But as the Preacher says in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, "there is nothing new under the sun."

Many modern-day meditation techniques owe their origin to the religious and philosophical systems of India, China and Japan. Not many American Christians know that their own heritage includes a number of techniques of what is called "contemplative prayer," based on the same universal principles about how human minds work.

For example, all the world's religions make use of repetitive sounds in prayer. In some cases, the repetitive sounds are words, as with the Jesus Prayer and the prayers of the Rosary. In others, the sounds are not a set of words, but only a single word, or even a single syllable with no meaning as a word in and of itself.

The popular meditation technique best known in the United States, Transcendental Meditation (TM), uses the last technique. The syllable, or mantra, is an arbitrarily chosen sound assigned to the initiate for use in meditation. It has no independent meaning as a word, but its individual and secret quality (one is never supposed to disclose the mantra to anyone other than a teacher) clearly places it in the religious and spiritual realm of life, even though there is no theological content or belief involved in the practice of TM.

TM works, and its analogues in other religious traditions work, because the technique of verbal repetition, whether aloud or silent, induces a meditative state in human beings. In other words, the technique is universal and not dependent upon content for its working. This is especially good news for anyone who has some type of personal belief in God, even perhaps in Jesus, but now is totally

alienated from official, "organized" Christianity.

Many Christians are highly skeptical of the idea of repetitive prayer and, outside the liturgical traditions (Episcopalians, Lutherans, etc.), of written-down prayers generally. And yet, Christians of almost every persuasion memorize and often recite what is known universally as "The Lord's Prayer." There are, in fact, a great number of such prayers, and scriptures used as prayers, which can and do work in methods similar to that of TM and all the other meditation techniques, New Age and otherwise. People often recite such things as the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23 or the 12-step Serenity Prayer in times of intense stress and crisis and find them soothing, quieting, even when they no longer perhaps retain any of the faith with which they were originally associated. They "work" in such situations because they are embedded in the memory and the subconscious as a result of their repetition, and the ability of repetition to have a calming effect on the mind and body.

One ancient prayer technique practiced extensively in Eastern Christendom, and by modern contemplatives of all varieties, is known as the Jesus Prayer. This prayer consists of just eight simple words: "Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy." These words are easily modified and easily memorized. Once memorized, they are available for any time, in any place, but are especially

powerful when one doesn't know how to get started praying, or what to pray for. "Mercy" fits almost any need, for oneself or for others. It is hard to imagine any human need that could not be prayed for with these words.

But how can a tiny, memorized prayer be meaningful, especially repeated over and over again? Well, it works on the same principle as TM. The repetition of a simple phrase or words induces a meditative state, a state of internal quiet which is rare indeed in our life in this world. We really know terribly little of what is lightly called "peace of mind."

Here's how to try this simple but effective contemplative technique. Choose a quiet place which will be free of interruptions. A truly silent place isn't necessary, but unplug the telephone and turn down the answering machine. Find a comfortable position, so that physical discomfort does not become a distraction of its own. Sitting is probably best – kneeling or standing won't last very long. Then say the words slowly and softly (or silently) in harmony with your breathing, like this: (inhaling) "Lord Jesus Christ" (exhale), (inhaling) "son of God," (exhale), (inhaling) "have mercy."

The relaxation response will be triggered almost immediately, and will be evidenced by slowing down the pulse and respiration of the body. That relaxation is then built upon as one continues repeating the prayer. As meditation deepens, it is normal for the words to blur a bit – remember, it is the *process* that makes this work as much as the content of the words. Frequently people will eventually drop all the words except perhaps for the word "Jesus" or the word "mercy."

What about intrusive thoughts and other distractions? What if you can't seem to "concentrate" on anything? Concentration is not what makes this technique work! The technique is essentially neurological, and one benefits from it almost passively – no "protestant work ethic" here, and no need for performance anxiety! You don't even have to "believe in it" for it to be effective. Nor does one need to feel frustrated when other thoughts come into consciousness: this is perfectly natural. A TM instructor would say, "Never grumble against the thought," that is, the verbal wanderings of the mind that pop up. Do not be worried or concerned or fearful of failure: simply call your attention

back to your "mantra," the words of the prayer, gently.

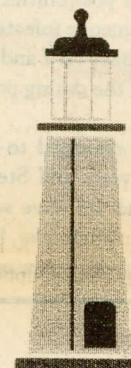
Of course, for Christians with even the feeblest spark of faith, the words do add a dimension that makes the Jesus Prayer something more than a mantra. We're often overwhelmed and confused, and don't know how to begin to put our thoughts and needs into words. Or we don't know what to ask God for, even though we may have a keen and desperate awareness of our need for God's help. In such times we need to ask God what it is we should be asking for. Paul the Apostle wrote that the Spirit acts as our interpreter before God, communicating our deepest needs and desires in spite of our inability to articulate them for ourselves. It is not unlike a mother discerning by some mysterious intuition what a crying baby needs – to everyone else it is just crying, but the mother understands. And so does God.

Much of the prayer one makes privately, and sometimes what's heard

in church, devolves into telling God what is good for us, when in fact we may not be in a very good position to know. With contemplative prayers like the Jesus Prayer, we can create the internal silence which can make it possible for God's "still, small voice" to be heard. Getting ourselves out of the way by focusing on the words of the Jesus Prayer can be tremendously opening, healing and effective prayer – one which can be a real anchor of the soul at all times, but most especially in the times of greatest need, grief and anguish. ✠

Taylor is co-founder of the Fort Worth chapter of Integrity, a national lesbian/gay-affirming and support group for Episcopalians and their friends.

The local Integrity meets monthly at 4 p.m. July 16 and Aug. 20. Call Taylor at 817/738-2902 for location, to be added to the mailing list, or for more information on the group.



Safe Harbor

**Come Out...
into the Light!**

Struggling with "Coming Out"?

Wrestling with issues of faith and sexuality?

Worked through the pain/questions and have a story to share?

Looking for Answers? Need some SUPPORT? Someone to talk to?

Consider **Safe Harbor**, a "Coming Out" Support Group encouraging the full integration of sexuality and spirituality by providing a platform to voice concerns, express doubts, confront guilt and share helpful resources and insights.

The **FIRST MEETING**
will be held Thursday July 13th at 7:30 PM
at the First Jefferson Unitarian Church
1959 Sandy Lane in East Fort Worth

Call **(817) 275-0443**
for details, location and/or directions

Safe Harbor
is a ministry of

Proclaiming God's Acceptance.



**Celebration
Community Church ***

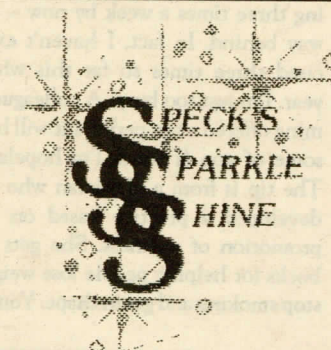
MEETING AT:
1959 Sandy Lane
Fort Worth

Celebrating God's Love!

Sunday Services
6:30 PM

Church Phone
(817) 275-0443

* (formerly White Rock Church, West)



O. WAYNE SPECK
Metro 817/530-0300

Cleaning:
Residential
Commercial
Specialty

Investing emotionally in our relationships is just

A MATTER OF FAITH

By Rev. BRENDA HUNT, AGAPE MCC

It's summer and my sister, brother-in-law and niece came to visit. Among the endless list of things to do and see we made it to the Fort Worth Zoo. The tiger there has eyes almost exactly the same color as Leigh's eyes.

While I patiently sat as my brother-in-law took pictures of the bears, I had time to watch and listen to the words parents were saying to younger children as they almost literally dragged them along from area to area. Three- and four-year-olds who do recognize some animals were so eager to see the ones they knew, the bears, the elephants, the tigers, the giraffes. Time after time I watched a parent briskly hurry the little ones up, say "see, there are the bears..." then move to hurry them off, as the children raised half-serious objections, "But I want to see the bears..." "You just did and there are more for you to see, come on now, we want to see everything..."

It occurs to me from this air-conditioned office that the image comes very close to how we live our lives ... moving along fast enough to cover everything ... able then to enjoy or really see very little.

I have no idea how much a four-year-old could actually see while on

the move, behind a fence, with numerous adults between them and the animal they would recognize if only the adult pulling them along would slow down. I do know I could see very little from the benches, with people moving between me and the bears.

Most of us experienced this same sort of hurry and pull from the churches we were a part of as children...hurry up, learn this catechism, this verse, the books of the Bible, the song, whatever ... and maybe no one ever said this is supposed

to feel good, make sense and be fun.

I just heard a few people express some hesitation because there is a comparative study of world religions getting ready to start. Somewhere along the line someone got the notion that studying something is dangerous, that taking some time to look at something other than what our background gave us may pollute our thinking or seeing.

The worst thing I remember about being in a class on comparative religions was discovering that almost ev-

ery single world-religion held about the same things sacred and of value. What it meant to me was that almost all of us have forfeited away our ability to live what we speak and treat each other as we say our God would order.

It is possible in my mind anyway that looking at what Islam or Judaism or Buddhism have to say about the value of life and the sacredness of the individual may well serve as a trail for Westerners (who call themselves Christian) to rediscover some tradi-

tional faith values. And, more importantly, how to put faith values into daily and relational living.

When religion is more about rules than relationship, the spirit surely moves on. When small children do not get to see the animals promised at the zoo, who wants to go back?

In an age when very little seems to point to relationships and opportunity to strengthen relationships, it becomes a very serious matter of faith to be able to move through the week and see what we are walking past ... to move through the day and really relate to who we see and pass.

I say it is a serious matter of faith because it starts, I think, with looking at what we hold to be most important. Once we identify what is most important we can go searching, looking and experiencing. And take the time to understand what we see, what we feel, what we know...that is all a matter of faith. *fh*

Coming Out Support Group forming to integrate sexuality, spirituality

To some people, the journey "out" is a difficult one. It's lonely and scary, with the possibility of rejection by family and friends. To many, especially those raised in conservative Christian environments, it means a struggle with years of negative teaching about the "sinfulness" of being a homosexual.

To help deal with the process, Celebration Community Church is beginning a "Coming Out" Support Group. "It's tragic," says Bill Prickett, pastor of Celebration. "Because of the strict, hateful and misguided teachings of many churches, Christians

who discover they are gay or lesbian often feel they must abandon their faith in order to accept and express their sexuality. It's so unnecessary! We have many people who have successfully reconciled the reality of their sexual orientation with their Christian faith. We want to and can assist others in the process."

The Support Group, which will be called Safe Harbor, is designed to encourage a full integration of sexuality and spirituality. Pastor Prickett said, "We envision it as a 'safe place' where anyone who is struggling with these vital issues can come to vocalize the struggle with others who are also 'in process.' It will be a place of accep-

ance and affirmation ... a sanctuary. We can pray together, support one another and share helpful resources."

According to Pastor Prickett, the Safe Harbor Support Group is open to anyone just beginning the process of coming out, as well as those still struggling with reconciling the practicals of being both homosexual and Christian. "In addition," he added, "we invite those who have been out for a while, who have worked through some of these issues and can offer personal insights about the process."

The first meeting of Safe Harbor will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night, July 13, in the Fellowship Hall of the First Jefferson Unitarian Church at 1959 Sandy Lane. At that initial meeting, the group will determine objectives, future direction, meetings, etc. Call the church at 817/275-0443 for more details, information and/or directions to the first meeting.

The church meets at the First Jefferson Unitarian Church on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. In addition, a Bible Study is taught on Wednesdays, dealing with practical applications for the gay or lesbian Christian.

Celebration pastor's message integrates 12-step precepts for daily problem-solving

What is it about 12-step programs that make them so successful? That's the question Pastor Bill Prickett of Celebration Community Church asked

himself several years ago. He began to study the programs, the literature, the structure to find some answers.

"I knew they worked," Pastor Prickett acknowledged. "That was obvious from years of statistics as well as watching friends who entered programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Overeaters Anonymous. They have such a high success rate and I wanted to see if I could tap into their 'secrets.' I wanted to find out what it is about these 12-step programs that seems to create an environment to resolve these deep-seated problems. And I wanted to distill what I learned into principles that we could use in all aspects of our lives."

What the minister learned has been compiled into a series of messages which he will deliver to the congregation of Celebration Community Church beginning July 9. "I call it 'Twelve Problem-solving Truths,'" Pastor Prickett says. "I learned that the practices and precepts of most 12-step programs are very compatible with Scripture. They are eternal/universal truths. Hopefully, it will be beneficial in dealing with everyday conflicts. And maybe it will encourage those with serious, ingrained problems to investigate one of the 12-step programs in our community."

Celebration Community Church meets at the First Jefferson Unitarian Church at 1959 Sandy Lane in East Fort Worth. The Sunday Services are at 6:30 p.m. For more information and/or directions, call 817/275-0443.

1970-1995

AGAPÉ



METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sunday Services:

9 & 11am

(Children's Sunday School at 11am)

(See Community Calendar
For Programmed Events)

Phone:

(817) 535-5002

Office Hours:

M-Th / 11am-6pm

Agapé Means Love

Life can offer you

MORE!

Find out about it at

Trinity MCC

331 Aaron Ave. #125 in Arlington

11 a.m. Sunday; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

CHURCH HOME
NOW RESTORED

Storm damage is
repaired; Trinity has
returned to its home at
Aaron Avenue!

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. Pizazza, 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).

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH worship service, 11 a.m. at 4402 Roseland, Dallas.

TRINITY MCC: Children's Sunday School, 10:45-11:30 a.m.; *Church services*, 10:45 a.m. Back at home after storm damage at 331 Aaron Ave., #125, Arlington.

TUESDAYS

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

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).

TRINITY MCC Intercessory Prayer Group, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

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. 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 Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.

SATURDAYS:

TRINITY MCC'S Men's Fellowship, meets the second Saturday of each month. Call the church for details, 817/265-5454.

JULY 9:

AGAPE MCC'S Kids' Day Out, 12:30 p.m. Bring a snack lunch for a picnic after church, then help make a birdhouse for the church yard. Parents are invited but not required to participate. Contact 817/535-5002.

AGAPE MCC General Conference Forum, 4-8 p.m. Conference delegates will discuss topics and issues for the upcoming UFMCC General Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

JULY 10:

AFFIRMATION monthly meeting, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Advocacy and support group, safe environment apart from the church. Meeting open to all regardless of religious or organizational affiliation. Call 817/656-8056 for location..

JULY 11:

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST GAY, LESBIAN AND AFFIRMING DISCIPLES (GLAD) monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Midway Hills Christian Church, 11001 Midway Rd., Dallas.

JULY 15:

AGAPE MCC'S Fabulous 50s Plus, 6:30 p.m. Social gathering for those 50 or over. Call 817/535-5002 for location.

JULY 16:

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

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

TRINITY MCC'S Guest Pastor Service, 10:45 a.m. at the church. Rev. Elder Freda Smith, first woman clergy person in UFMCC and first woman Elder, will preach this special Sunday morning service. She was instrumental in putting UFMCC on the cutting edge of inclusive language in worship in the 1970s. She has pastored in Sacramento for the past 20 years.

JULY 22:

AGAPE MCC'S Leadership Breakfast, 9 a.m. Leadership training for church staff and those interested in learning more about church leadership. Breakfast served, \$3.

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

AUGUST 13:

AGAPE MCC'S Concert and Ice Cream Social, 6 p.m. Special musical concert by guests Jan and David, followed by ice cream social at 7:30 p.m.

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.

731-0122.

JULY 8:

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

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

JULY 9:

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.

JULY 10:

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

JULY 11:

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

JULY 13:

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.

JULY 14:

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

JULY 16:

NAMES PROJECT Quilting Bee, 2-5 p.m. at 665 S. Jennings. Meets third Sunday of every month.

JULY 17:

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

JULY 18:

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

JULY 20:

TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria on University in Fort Worth. Program: "Family-Home Movies" - Viewings of two of the latest local productions that spotlight our family ties: the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Family Focus series featuring gay couple John Huffman and Doug Rich; and the Dallas Gay/Lesbian Alliance's "In Our Own Words: Dispelling the Stereotypes." Meets the third Thursday of every month.

JULY 21:

LAMBDA MERMAIDS for scuba divers, 7 p.m., Texas Aquatics in Dallas at Central Expressway and Beltline. Meets the third Friday of every month. Call 214/669-55EA.

AUGUST 3:

P-FLAG/FORT WORTH meeting, 7 p.m., at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Program: David Reed, TCLGA board member, will speak on "The Scripture and Homosexuality." For more information call 817/498-5607 or 817/498-4855.

AUGUST 4:

FIRST FRIDAY LESBIAN SOCIAL meets 6-9 p.m. at new location, Cowgirls Oasis on Magnolia Street, Fort Worth. Call the Cowgirls Par-T Ranch Hotline at 817/355-4817 to confirm opening of the new club for the August gathering.

EDUCATION

JULY 7:

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.

JULY 9, 23:

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:

APPLAUSE DINNER THEATER Murder Mystery Champagne Brunch, 1-3 p.m. at 481 Harwood, Hurst. Participate in a whodunit while enjoying Sunday Brunch with complimentary champagne. Tickets are \$21 and \$30, children half price. Reservations required; call 817/282-5040.

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.

JULY 14-AUG. 5:

STAGE WEST "Nite Club Confidential" by Dennis Deal, at Stage West Theatre, 3055 S. University Dr., Fort Worth. A satirical pastiche of the music of the '50s provides the backdrop for this zingy detective style musical that parodies "Sunset Boulevard" and "All About Eve," among others. Contact metro 817/784-9378.

THRU 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 817/282-5040.

EVENTS

JULY 9:

IMPERIAL COURT ELECTIONS. Voting for community awards, as well. Poll-watching party at the Corral Club, featuring various organizations and fun activities. If 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.

JULY 12:

MOTHER MICHAEL AWARDS, 8 p.m. at the 651 Club on Jennings, Fort Worth.

Annual community awards presentation.

JULY 15:

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON CORONATION, at Green Oaks Inn, doors open at 6 p.m., ceremonies start at 7 p.m. New Orleans Nights Mardi Gras party for changing of the monarchs. Tickets available at the door, \$25. Mardi Gras costumes encouraged. Benefits AIDS Interfaith Network, Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and Healing Wings Client Services Fund.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL POET TO SHARE VERSES OF LESBIAN IDENTITY AT READING

Cheryl D. Anderson, poet and member of Trinity MCC, will read from her book of poems, "Purple Verses," at 7:30 p.m. July 10 at Barnes and Noble Bookstore, 8525 Airport Freeway at the Bedford-Eules Road exit.

RAFFLE AWARDS FREE FORMAL TICKETS

Paul Cobb of the AIDS Outreach Center won the raffle during Gay Pride Week for two free tickets to the Fort Worth Formal at New Year's Eve.

The Fort Worth Formal is an annual event of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance that benefits local organizations and the Texas Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby. Last year's event was sold out.

PLEAIDES CONCERTS BRING NOTED PERFORMERS TO AREA

Pleades Productions announces its Fall concert schedule: The Top Twins, an Australian C&W and comedic team, will perform Sept. 9 at Agape MCC; Holly Near will perform Oct. 20 at Orchestra Hall in Fort Worth.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

BARS/CLUBS

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
Hope Realtors, 6101 Ken Ave., Arling-

ton (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
Pleiades 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

CHURCHES/RELIGIOUS

Affirmation/Tarrant County (Methodist), (817) 656-8056
Agape MCC, 4615 SE Loop 820, Fort Worth, (817) 535-5002
Cathedral of Hope MCC-Dallas, 5910 Cedar Springs (Behind Ruth Chris' Steak House), Dallas (214) 351-1901
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
Holy Trinity Community Church, 4402 Roseland, Dallas, (214) 827-5088
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

COMPUTER BBS'S

Bare Facts Computer BBS, (817) 429-2667
DAL BBS, (817) 261-2933
First Time BBS, (chat/42 lines), Metro (214) 697-3565
Gay Matchmaker Computer BBS, (817) 355-6600

HEALTH, AIDS, COUNSELING

AIDS Information Line, (817) 336-0066
AIDS Interfaith Network, (817) 927-2437
AIDS Outreach Center, (817) 335-1994
AIDS Services of Denton County, P.O. Box 13427, Denton, TX 76203, (817) 381-1501
Sherry Brewer, lmsw-acsw, lmft, lcdc, (817) 560-2390, (817) 478-0095
Dr. George T. Carpenter III, DO, Center for Change, Development and Support, (817) 429-4769
Crisis/Suicide Line, (817) 927-5544
The Healing Place, counseling and massage, (817) 336-8044
HIV Anonymous Group, (817) 292-9494
Incest Survivors Support Group, (817) 335-4330
Lambda AA, (817) 921-2871
Lambda Alanon, (817) 737-7861
Lambda Group Co-Dependents Anonymous, (817) 370-7473
Lesbian Resource Center's Domestic Violence Task Force Hotline, (214) 432-2683
Cathy McGinnis, psychotherapist, metro (817) 461-4063
John McNutt, licensed massage therapist, (817) 429-4769
Over The Hill, HIV testing, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., no appointment necessary. 2001 S. Freeway, Fort Worth, (817) 922-9955.
Planned Parenthood, free anonymous HIV testing, (817) 882-1155
Samaritan Housing Center for HIV+ homeless, (817) 626-9398
Sexuality Education Center, (817) 338-4551
Spiritual AIDS Ministry (SAM), (817) 535-5002
Tarrant County Public Health Depart-

ment, 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

Ace Social Group of Mineral Wells, 1404 S.E. 13 St., Mineral Wells, TX 76067, (817) 325-0325 or 328-1799
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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER SEEKS STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Tarrant County's premiere AIDS organization has an immediate opening for the full-time position of administrative assistant. Staff will provide ongoing administrative support to the executive director, assisting with a wide array of special projects, and occasional back-up for reception/front office operations.

REQUIRED: Proficiency in Word Perfect and Lotus 1-2-3; some database skills; excellent organizational skills; type 50-60 wpm; expertise with standard office equipment and multi-line phone system; excellent written and verbal communication skills; strong interpersonal skills; ability to handle delicate situations discreetly/diplomatically; ability to work independently.

COMPENSATION: \$17,000-\$19,000 based on experience; health, dental and disability insurance; generous vacation policy.

SEND RESUME, cover letter by July 17 to Administration, AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

COUNSELOR: Tarrant County's premiere AIDS organization has an immediate opening for a part-time (average of 20 hours/week) counselor to provide individual, family and group counseling to men and women with HIV/AIDS and their family members.

REQUIRED: Master's degree in counseling, psychology or social work; licensure and certification; working knowledge of HIV/AIDS and grief and loss issues; experience in working with gay/bisexual men; individual, relationship, family and group counseling experience. Some evenings required.

COMPENSATION: \$14.50-\$16 per hour based on experience.

SEND RESUME, cover letter by July 17 to Counseling, AIDS Outreach Center, 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

PROGRAM SERVICES ASSISTANT: Tarrant County's premiere AIDS organization has an immedi-

ate opening for program services assistant in the Arlington/Mid-Cities office. Staff will provide basic HIV information and referral services to callers, walk-ins and clients. Staff is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the office, to include coordinating volunteers, providing clerical support, and scheduling community education programs; provides administrative support for program staff.

REQUIRED: Working knowledge of HIV/AIDS; proficiency in Word Perfect and Lotus 1-2-3; some database skills; excellent organizational skills; type 50-60 wpm; expertise with standard office equipment and multi-line phone system; excellent written and verbal communication skills; strong interpersonal skills; ability to handle delicate situations discreetly/diplomatically; ability to work independently.

COMPENSATION: \$15,000-\$17,000 based on experience; health, dental and disability insurance; generous vacation policy.

SEND RESUME, cover letter by July 17 to Arlington/Mid-Cities Office, AIDS Outreach Center, 179 S. Watson Drive, #416, Arlington, TX 76010.

CONTRACT

continued from p. 3

same group is preparing to assault the rights women have over their reproductive system. Their starting point in the contract seems innocently understated. They first only want to control late-term abortions (which accounts for only about two percent of all abortions). Certainly one has to question their pushing so hard for so little. This cannot possibly be the end of their work. Knowing how passionately this group feels about abortion, one senses that their ultimate goal is the passage of a Right to Life Amendment to the U.S. constitution.

Pornography has always been a buzz word for the religious right of this

nation. The Supreme Court has ruled on many occasions on the broad forms protected by the first amendment. Look at the one area of literature. D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterly's Lover* contains some very graphic language and was banned in many parts of our country. The Supreme Court ruled that such art could not be censored. Religious groups have found such rulings to be despicable. They would like to see such literature banned.

The Christian Coalition wants to place more emphasis on private charity. Their plan calls for legislation to give additional tax benefits to individuals giving money to private charities. I find this a puzzling part of their agenda. Jesus Christ taught that one gives for the sake of giving and not for recognition or financial gain. Apparently, the Christian Coalition has adopted a position which is not very Christ-like.

One can hear Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich praising such an idea that might lead to the emergence of those orphanages of which he is so fond. We could well see a dismantling of all the social programs constructed since the New Deal era. How soon we forget history. One of the reasons for the prolonged and deep depression of the 1930s was the lack of federal response to the growing crisis. Private charities were overwhelmed. Local governments could not provide the necessary resources. Both of these groups saw that their capacity to respond to such a situation fell far short of the needed goal. Only a federally financed and operated system can protect all members of a society. Many experts have surmised that we have not had another deep depression because the federal social programs have provided a needed safety net. Do we really want America to resemble the

English society of the 19th century depicted in Dickens' novels? Unless we speak out strongly and forcefully about how important the federal government's role is in the social programs of America, then we could see a collapse similar to that experienced in the 1930s. Remember, funding already has been cut back on AIDS research, housing assistance (especially to those individuals afflicted with AIDS), food stamps, and other vital social and medical programs. We cannot allow a few to exercise a selfish approach to social needs.

Lastly is the attack on our idea of culture. Jesse Helms' voice can be heard echoing this position. Once again the religious right is attacking the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Public Broadcasting Corporation. They attack these groups for various reasons – once it was

because of the Mapplethorpe exhibit; another time it is because of a play or art piece they find offensive. Culture is a broad and ever changing item in any society. We must encourage art and artists.

Also, some of these grants go to groups which return a great deal to the community. School children learn about art, music, theater, ballet and opera through these grants. How sad if we do not widen the horizons of children because a few have a narrow view of life.

The Christian Coalition's contract represents a real threat to this nation's future. We cannot remain silent and allow these zealots to dictate the direction of our society. We must stand up and add our voices to how our nation is defined. Otherwise, the religious right will have a clear path to create what must never happen – a theocracy. ☛

PROUD

continued from p. 3

sale for \$24.95 at a Bookstore near you."

• I'm proud that the jack-booted thugs in the federal government were so offended by comments of the National Rifle Association they made it

possible for them to carry concealed handguns. You get the feeling there's not a lot of communication going on in the Bush household?

• I'm proud that I've never been asked to appear as a guest on the *Jenny Jones Show*.

• I'm proud that Phil Gramm is running for president. Believe me, it's the best thing that could ever happen to Bill Clinton.

• I'm proud that while congressman Barney Frank's last name is accidentally and often mispronounced "Fag," at least his name's not "Dick."

• I'm proud that Newt Gingrich is, well, Newt Gingrich.

• I'm proud that the Christian Coalition has finally come off as so completely ridiculous that even the Republicans don't want to be seen with them.

• I'm proud that network television is finally paying attention to the gay community with memorable gay characters like Frazier's boss, Ross' ex-wife and her lover on "Friends," and that guy who walks by in the background on "Melrose Place."

• I'm proud of the fact that this year's Gay Pride Parade lasted almost as long as an episode of "Cybill," and by next year we could go as long as an "X-Files."

• I'm proud that despite the unbelievable temptation, the overwhelming peer pressure and the conscious desire to belong, I've still not given into the pleasures of surfing the net.

• On a serious note, I'm proud of all the people in our community living – and I stress the word *living* – with HIV.

• I'm proud of the folks who are working toward making this a better world for our gay and lesbian youth.

• And I'm proud that I have more people to love and care about today than I've ever had in my entire life.

• And finally, I think the thing I'm the most proud of – and I think you'll agree with me on this one – I'm proud that I was able to keep this speech under 15 minutes.

Thank you for listening. ☛

Camp is a cartoonist for the Alliance News and the Texas Triangle, and he serves on the board of the Texas chapter of National Lesbian/Gay Journalists Association. He is graphics editor for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Class Acts magazine.

DISHING

continued from p. 6

coming down to the dishing level with phoniness. This will not do! And it will not help you win the battle.

After your nice response, if possible, move on, allowing the disher time to mull over what just happened. At the next confrontation, repeat the above steps. Never again allow the disher to get the better of you, or cause you to respond in a less positive way.

This manner of handling the disher or other abuser does not come easily at first. You will make mistakes and possibly meet defeat. But, with studied repetition, it becomes smoother, and you may develop a self-assurance that is evident to those around you. Almost certainly the disher will cease to see you as "target for tonight" (to borrow a World War II bombardier's term).

In keeping with a law of science – for every action there is a reaction – your "nice" attack on the disher could bring about unexpected results. He/she may learn a better way of handling their problems. Sometimes the disher is acting in such an unattractive manner because he/she has never learned more successful methods of coping.

This writer, as part of class requirement, was once called upon to observe pre-kindergarten youngsters in a very upscale school in New York City. The staff was having trouble with one little boy. When he saw a toy he wanted, he would walk over to the child playing

with it, give her/him a resounding slap and take the toy. This, of course, would result in the teachers sternly telling the offender not to do that. But, day after day the behavior continued exactly the same.

Finally, one of the teachers asked what could be done? I pointed out they had told the boy what *not* to do, but they hadn't told him what *to* do. The very next time the little boy whapped another child and grabbed a toy (we didn't have to wait long), one of the teachers sat down on a low stool and drew the boy to her. He anticipated a thrashing, and began to cry. The teacher quieted him, then said: "You know, I don't think Billy likes it when you hit him. Next time you want a toy, would you say, 'Billy, when you are through with that toy, may I have it, please?'" The little boy looked at the teacher as if she were raving mad. But, only a few minutes later we heard him repeating those same words to another child! He had learned a positive means of working with others.

As stated earlier, it is not the responsibility of you or me to analyze others. This article seeks only to prepare individuals to handle the disher in a manner which is less destructive to one's self-perception and relationships. From the observation of more years than I would care to admit, it has become my belief nothing – short of physical violence – the so-called "straight" world does or says even approaches the hurt members of the gay community can (and all too frequently do) heap on one another. It would seem just the oppo-

site should be true: we should make every effort to always be very kind to, and very thoughtful of, each other. One step in that direction has been described herein. You all now have in your possession a "secret weapon" which can be of incalculable power and benefit. Use it wisely. ☛



Dedicated to the wholeness of being.

The Healing Place

- Shelley Sullivan, M.S., L.P.C., L.M.F.T., Director/Therapist
- Jo Albertson, M.S., R.M.T., Body/Mind Specialist
- Suzette Shelton, R.N., M.S., LCDC., CCGC., CADAC, Psychotherapist
- Alisabeth McCurley, Office Manager

**Individual, Relationship, Family and Group Counseling
Massage Therapy**

(817) 336-8044

616 Arch Adams • Fort Worth, TX 76107

CARLOTTA

continued from p. 11

know that I truly love and accept them just as they are. I really get attached to them and it hurts when they leave.

"Although it may not be a very Christian attitude, sometimes I wish that the abusers would have to suffer the same injustices that they have forced on these poor children so they would know how it feels!

"In conjunction with my job, I also

cook for the Anne Simon Reeves Center. Last month, The Reeves Center provided day care for 31 children who are impacted by AIDS. These children come from all races and socioeconomic backgrounds. Unfortunately, most do not have many of the advantages in life.

"I love to go laugh and play with the children. When I look at the children it makes me sad to realize that there is very little future in store for them. It can take up to 18 months to determine an infant's HIV status (infected or affected). New diagnos-

tic measures are being tested in Tarrant County that offer hope of much earlier detection of HIV in infants. The 'limbo' waiting period is very hard on the parents and loved ones.

"One of the things I don't understand is how cruel the media and so-called 'ministers' can be to these children. These babies should not be labeled. They came into this world innocent but must pay the price for their parent's mistakes. They didn't ask to be infected with this disease.

"I believe that everyone has worth in this world. Everyone comes for a pur-

pose. Life is beautiful but death is sure.

"Donations of clothing, large diapers, juices and nutritious snack foods are always welcomed. A large-screen TV would be a godsend to these children."

What are your personal goals/dreams?

"My dream would be to be financially independent. I would love to win the lottery. If I did, the first thing I would do would be to take all of my precious children to Disney World for a fabulous vacation. Then, I'd run for Empress again! I'd call Bob Mackie and say 'make me..., make me..., make me...'

"My personal goal is to continue providing good, wholesome and nutritious meals for my 80-year-old mother, the children, and to just be able to make everyone happy!"

REIGN VII FACTS:

• The Court of the Golden Butterfly • Emperor Rich Golden was also known as the Butterfly Emperor • Empress VII Carlotta was also known as the Black Sheep Empress • Song: "The Greatest Love of All" • Flower: White Rose.

HONORS RECEIVED - CARLOTTA

1st elected Grand Duchess in Fort Worth • 1st elected black Empress in Texas • 1st Miss Gay Universe of Fort Worth • Founder, Miss Gay Fort Worth pageant • 1st runner-up of Miss Gay Fort Worth • Miss Chubby of Fort Worth • 1st Recipient of the Golden Throat Award from Lexington, Kentucky • MC Emeritus for Life, Lexington, Kentucky.

REIGN IV FACTS:

• Emperor IV Jack Guthrie was also known as the Golden Unicorn Emperor of all Leather and Cock Rings. • Empress IV Carlotta was also known as the Golden Unicorn Empress of all Leather and Satin. • Song: "Ebony and Ivory" • Motto: "Let's live in harmony" • Colors: "Black and White" • Some of the Court Members were: Grand Duke Betty Jo Nelson, Grand Duchess Martha Culwell, King Father Dale Glen, Queen Mother Pat Wyatt.

LIFETIME TITLE HOLDERS OF REIGN IV

• Michael Yarborough - Count • Joe Whitlock - Grand Duke for Life • Glenda Gardner - Dowager Queen Mother for Life.



EMPEROR VII RICH GOLDEN and CHARLES HOLLAND, aka LADY CARLOTTA, EMPRESS IV and VII

Carlotta's most admired female role models:

"I admire, respect and love Rev. Jo Crisco. Jo is always Jo, no airs about her. I believe Jo is one of the most positive influences this community has ever had.

"Other women I have admired are Vicki Zeblin (Regent Emperor) Martha Stow, Glenda Gardner (who's always there), and Charlene Young (Empress I of the Sovereign Court of Denver)."

Carlotta's most admired male role models:

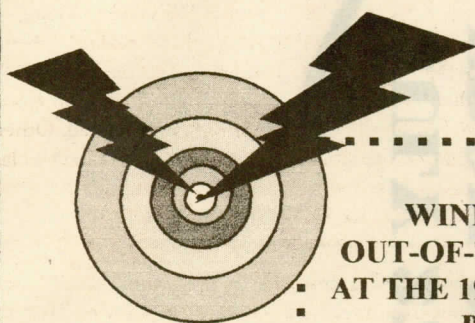
"Keith Barbie (Barbie Doll, Empress I) taught me dignity in the face of adversity; Gerald Ford; Mother Micheal Robinson; Jack Guthrie; Jerry Jones; Chuck Bruner (Lexington, Ky.); L.C. Bethely (Los Angeles, Calif.)."

APPLE

continued from p. 17

Spirituality: The next time you are in a bookstore or library, pick up *The Velveteen Rabbit* and read a few pages. The Skin Horse is certainly very wise and holds a message for all of us when it says, "Being loved makes you real ... by the time you have been loved enough to be real your joints are loose, your eyes have fallen out and your fur has been loved off ... but the people who love you won't notice." In your relationships, try to love each other so much you don't notice the inconsequential. - God's peace. ☘

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.



WINNERS OF THE BEST OUT-OF-TOWN PRESENTATION AT THE 1995 TARRANT COUNTY PRIDE PARADE
(Remember the Consciousness Measuring Scale dart board?)

Empower Yourself!

THE EXPERIENCE Workshop

July 14, 15 & 16
Dallas, Texas

Originally created in 1978 as a workshop to empower members of the gay community, **The Experience** has grown and developed over the years to include not only lesbians and gays but anyone seeking to enhance the human experience, regardless of their sexual orientation.



For more information call:
214/350-2890 or
800/966-3896

The Experience, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational corporation.

Alliance News

Inside this issue:



Sisters through and through, Mary Beth Williams and Beverly Wynn entertained family style at the Gay Pride Week Spring Out gala.

Photo by Beverly Fletcher

SECOND TO NUN: Amen to Tarrant County's Gay Pride Week, the best ever. Three pages of photos capture the beat of our different drummer. See p. 14.

And:

- **AIMING HIGH:** Our little Ruby is standing tall against the military challenge.
- **HOT DISH:** Tidy tips on cooling off when served tea.
- **FUTURE PRESENTS:** A far-sighted group, predicted to fail, celebrates its first birthday.
- **PERSPECTIVES ON:** slowing down, meditating and stopping to look at the past.

**JULY 27th
FROM 9-12**

DENA KAYE

**SINGING
LIVE
AT THE**



FORT WORTH