

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

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Alliance News



PILED HIGH, AIMING HIGHER:

In the leadership do, it's not what you wear, it's how you wear it. *See story on p. 8.*

BIG AIR: Jackie O'Dare, Empress I of the Austin Imperial Court, wowed the crowd with big attitude at the Coronation ceremonies here in July.

-PHOTO BY
BEVERLY FLETCHER



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Alliance News

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THE ALLIANCE NEWS

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

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

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

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

It's in the eyes:
we know just who
and where we are.

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

I am a great fan of queer studies. I search the newspapers daily for reports on what has been discovered about us as if we are such mysteries to be dissected. A fascinating trail is unfolding, leading researchers to a clear, distinct picture of who we are and what we're all about. It will not be long, I can tell, before all of our secrets are out.

The most riveting findings to date came in January via an Associated Press report published in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* that touted, "Feminine boys likely to be gay."

Now they know too much, don't you think?

When researchers start hitting upon our most closely guarded secret – that even real butch guys can be gay – we better start sweating. For now though, I think we're throwing them off the trail. To wit, the article submitted that "boys who persistently play with girls' dolls, dress like girls and display other stereotypically feminine traits will probably grow up to be gay men." See? They've completely overlooked all you boys who led the football team in offensive sacking. Shhhh! Not a peep...

The researcher, J. Michael Bailey at Northwestern University, posed that playing with dolls does not cause homosexuality but it's a possible early sign. Feminine boys, he said, those that

A queer miss

We're the new fad study for academic journals – but are they interviewing us?

prefer playing with girls and taking female roles in games like "house," stand a 75 percent chance of being gay.

Doll sales might have declined dramatically had Bailey not offered that he doubts parents can do anything to change a child's chance of becoming a homosexual adult. Truly, dolls should be least worrisome to a parent. When he was a kid, one guy I know played some mighty strange games with a cat and a can of tuna fish.

The femininity/sexual orientation study was, typically, flawed in its results for women, finding only 10 percent of masculine girls developing into lesbian adults. Our secret here, still safe, is that some lesbians do marry men, especially ones who have a substantial set of power tools.

And the researcher thinks only one percent of women are lesbians, but I guess he's never checked the women's bars when the men go off to war.

As I hate to see research stray so far off track, I offer the following hypotheses for study, culled from my own experiences in a subject that captivates scholars. After all, any one of us

could pass a queer studies test with flying rainbow colors...

The Linkage of Pubescent Socialization Patterns to the Development of Extraordinary Triangular Orientational Aptitude (Sounds scholarly already, eh?)

- The girls in gym class who are shy and awkward while undressing in front of the others probably are lesbians. The girls who traipse through the dressing room unabashedly naked – well, they're straight.

- Guys in gym class who are the first ones in and the last ones out of the communal showers generally turn out to be gay, because they're so pissy-clean.

- In high school, guys who hang out just with girls and girls who hang out just with guys usually are queers in training.

- At slumber parties the only girl who is not belly dancing in her underwear probably is a lesbian hoping no one there notices she has just broken into a cold sweat.

- The odds that a guy named Jason or Biff will be gay are much higher

than for a guy named Moose.

- Tiffanys and Brandies rarely turn out to be lesbian, especially if they dot the i's in their signature with a heart.

- Little boys who regularly ignore the goodies in their Easter basket and instead fashion the cellophane grass into a luxurious wig have a higher chance than most of eventually reigning over the Imperial Court.

- You know those cute, teenaged girls you see walking together out in public who are hanging all over each other, holding hands, fawning and flirting? Usually they're straight.

- Guys who pursue wrestling as a sport in high school or college have a 50 percent chance of being gay. The other 50 percent may be lying about it.

- If a student stalks a favorite, same-gender teacher – driving past their home, probing into their personal life, offering free labor – it is more likely that they are experiencing their first crush than admiring the profession as a whole.

- Students who choose topics of homosexuality for term paper assignments probably will benefit later from a coming-out text.

- Contrary to previous research, not all male ballet dancers are gay. Some are straights just posing as gay so they can get closer to the girls.

- If all the teens who eat lunch alone would just come out to each other, they could band together to do an intervention on the class bully.

- Telling a queerlike teen "It's just a stage you're going through" has a zero percent chance of effecting a heterosexual development. ♣

NUGENT COMMENDED FOR COMMUNITY WORK

I am writing this letter hoping you will help me in correcting an error I made.

At Coronation XVII July 15, my Emperor, Melissa Flories, and I presented the new Hill-Ford Award to Rev. Jo Crisco. During the explanation of the award, I referred to Jerry Jones and Paul Wallace as carrying on our community's traditions established by Billy Ray Hill and Gerald Ford, the namesakes of the award. I failed to mention Danny Nugent, owner of the 651 Arlington and the many contributions he has made to the lesbian/gay community of Tarrant County.

Danny has been active for years, not only through the Court but in many of the other organizations as well. Danny and I have been friends for many years and I just want him and the community to know that I would never do anything deliberately to hurt him. For my failure to mention him during the presentation, I sincerely apologize.

Danny has been as instrumental in bringing about change in our community as anyone else, and we should not hesitate to tell him how

READERS WRITE

An open forum for issues, concerns and ideas

much we appreciate his efforts.

—PAT "COOKIES" WYATT HILL-FORD,
EMPRESS XVI, IMPERIAL COURT DE
FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON

VISITOR IMPRESSED: CORONATION CROWNING GLORY OF LOVING CLAN

(Editor's Note: the following was submitted by Leroy Owens, brother of Gerald Ford who shaped the Tarrant County community by his generosity. Owens was impressed by the Imperial Court's Coronation he attended in July and he added in a note, "I owe so much to the Fort Worth lesbian/gay community ... When I first saw the Quilt the impact on me was incredible. I was outraged and asked Gerald how this can be, why haven't I heard about this before now and what the hell is being done about it. He explained that AIDS was considered a homosexual disease and therefore not considered politically worthwhile. He explained that everyone who visited the display would

go home mad and wanting to help, but they would soon forget. Then he said something I will always remember: It's not what you say but what you do...")

A rambling note from the outside looking in... Let me preface this letter by saying have a wonderful, peaceful, quiet and fun journey into wuzzie land for Pat and Melissa. Congratulations on a banner year. Good luck in the coming year to the new monarchs. You have your work cut out for you.

I appreciate not only the invitation but the comfortable acceptance my wife and I received from everyone. To all the entertainers, thanks for a good show. To, I believe, the Austin delegation, thank you for taking me from a meeting room in a hotel to Bourbon Street. Outrageous. Great. The command to bow now was a surprise. We enjoyed it all, even having my fussy budget conscience keeping me out of trouble.

Thank you St. Lynn. Hopefully I can beg an invitation to next year's corona-

tion. It is a shame after you work so hard for so many all year long that you have to have restraints.

To the community as a whole, I would like to say I admire, respect and envy the strength and genuine love I see every time I visit Fort Worth. Being from a straight environment, I am astounded at the acceptance of not only me but my entire family. During the sickness and loss of Gerald last year, so many people did so much for us, from food to hugs to simply listening, really listening. You helped a frail mother lay her child to rest. God Bless you for caring. Many of you remembered us on the anniversary of our loss. Thank you.

A special thanks to two people: St. Lynn, you bossy, picky, overbearing and completely beautiful man; and the sweet angel who stood beside Gerald's bed and sang to him. There is a lot of love waiting on that shore. May you be 100 years getting there.

Told you I'd ramble. Thank you all from me and my family. I hope to be deserving of the love you have shown.

—LEROY OWENS,
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

From the trenches

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Chances, changes open our eyes to a new world inviting our exploration

If we never try, we never know.

By **SCOTT FORSGREN**

Suddenly, I had given up the control over my life that I always held dear. In days past, everything had its place. Every morning, I arrived at work just minutes past seven, an hour later I had my oatmeal, and then the day began. I worked diligently until four, and then I started the almost hour drive home. I had control over nearly every aspect of my day. My life and future seemed to be clear. I was "settled."

Then, a new beginning was looking me in the eyes. I took a new job from a smaller firm in northern California. The plan was that I'd work from Dallas, but I'd start by working there for a month. Well, I'm in the midst of that month as a write, and I am now teetering on the fence. It

could be almost anything that pulls me to one side or the other. A pull one direction means that I'd stay here in Fort Worth; the other, a move of a major proportion.

I've always been so afraid of not being able to control things, but suddenly, I realize that I'm no longer guiding the ship. It's time to take my hands off the wheel and see what else life has to offer. I keep telling myself that this is all part of a personal growth experience. Whether I go or stay is yet to be seen, but I've already started growing. Someone told me today that it is better to try and fail than not to try and succeed. I realize now that I hadn't seen it all before.

The nicest part about the whole San Francisco experience is the openness and the liberation and freedom you feel while you're there. The first day I was in town, they actually had live television coverage of the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade which lasted for three hours. Then, as if that wasn't enough, they played it again that night! I watched in my hotel

room thinking how incredible it was that I was able to tune in and watch "Dykes on Bikes" followed by their motorcycle-less counterparts, "Dykes on Real Bikes".

On the last weekend in June, I ventured into the city of San Francisco where I stayed with a friend that I'd met a couple of years ago in Fort Worth. Same-sex couples walk the streets arm in arm. The grocery store is the hottest place in town if you're single. Connie and I went to the Castro district and, suddenly, I felt like Mr. Conservative.

The first shop we went into had earrings and body piercing paraphernalia like I had never seen. I wasn't much interested in the piercing bit, but these earrings weren't the only studs in the shop. I guess it was a requirement that all employees had to show off their wares, and I can only say that they knew how to work it.

I blushed as I walked into one store which carried various leather goods and other "items." I'll leave that one to your imagination but I remember

asking, "What in the world would anyone do with that?," for which the reply was "You'd be surprised."

Then, there are those that beg for money at every corner. "Any change?" "Any change?" When we refused one rather large man, he turned and said "Come on baby, the girl costs money!"

Every other store carries either skin care products, fresh produce or vitamins of some sort. (Comically, I saw one store called "EEL SKIN PRODUCTS." I assumed this was a place that carried cosmetics. Not! They sold wallets and purses made of eel skin. Oh well.) My, was I in heaven. Health drinks abound. The one I tried tastes so bad that if you could actually get it down, you deserve good health long into the future - but at least it was good for you!

Probably the funniest thing I saw will take a little bit of picture painting. Close your eyes (well, imagine that you're closing your eyes. If you really do it, you can't keep reading!). A lady stands on the street corner with a long flower-patterned dress. She holds a guitar in her arms and sings (attempts to) songs from the

Woodstock era. On her head, she wears a large steel bucket with Viking wings protruding from each side as if she has plans to fly away. Finally, to top it off, in the center of the steel pot she dons is a red flashing light. As I approached her with a dollar, laughing hysterically, I heard, "I think she's a serious performer." I'm sorry, but as long as she gets her dollar, I suspect she doesn't care, but how many "serious" performers have you seen who wore Viking wings and a red flashing light?

It's been an exciting two weeks out here so far. Who knows what tomorrow might bring? I hope it brings me someone special to share this life with (suddenly I find myself wanting to go grocery shopping everyday), but it hasn't been half bad so far. Tomorrow will only get better! Live and learn, learn and grow, grow and you become better than what you are today. ♪

Forsgren is a long-standing volunteer of TCLGA programming, including Alliance News distribution and Lesbian/Gay Teen Project hotline, and he is an organizer of S Cubed, social networking group for gays.

There will come a day... When hate abates

By **ANNETTE CAMPBELL, RN**

My partner, Val Carson, and I read John Huffman's article in the June 1995 edition of the *Alliance News* with great interest. Needless to say, we were dismayed at the failure of the 74th legislature to pass the Hate Crimes Bill. I was so disappointed and disheartened that I have written our eight state representatives who declined to pass the bill.

I am not politically active anymore; not that I was ever that much of an activist anyway. But because I feel so strongly about the Hate Crimes Bill, amongst other things, I have also written Governor Bush; State Attorney General Dan Morales; U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno; President Clinton; and Hollis Weiner at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

It is my hope that perhaps someone else will be able to pursue another avenue or the same avenue as myself and possibly waken and alert our politicians to the fact that we are out here. Some of us raise families, we pay taxes and we vote! Every time someone takes some little action, no matter how little, I feel it is bound to

make a little difference for the better.

Eventually there will come a time when we will not be so subjected to violence, discrimination, threats or fear for our safety just because we are gay or lesbian. One day we will be more visible, whether it is obvious or not. I hope I live to see that day. We just cannot stop trying to make the world a better place. Some of the most compassionate, caring individuals I know are gay or lesbian. Perhaps it's because of what we have had to go through and what we still have to

endure. But there will come a day when this will all be behind us. Our children or the generation behind us, I hope and believe, will be more tolerant.

We have an eight-year-old daughter and we teach her the way I feel all children should be taught. It is only through teaching and enlightening others to be tolerant that there is hope for a better future for all of us.

Campbell and her partner have been Alliance members for several years; Campbell is a former board member.

August TCLGA Meeting:

Program

LESBIAN/GAY TEEN PROJECT OUTREACH PROGRAM: LIFELINE TO OUR YOUTH

DR. RITA COTTERLY,
Director of the Sexuality Education Center

Thursday, August 17
at Luby's Cafeteria
251 University Drive

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

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

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

IN FOCUS

Have you ever sat back and really looked at what an incredible community we are fortunate to be part of, or at the rainbow of organizations we have the opportunity to participate in? I imagine if you are anything like me, you know about the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, Pleiades Productions or PFLAG ... but do you know about Lambda Mermaids, TCU Triangles or Women in Business Network?

I have a wonderful opportunity to spend the next few months painting portraits of all these unique organizations and their members. I hope to show you the very souls of the people who make it possible for all of us to feel safe, healthy, entertained, respected, cared for and, most of all, loved. I hope to show you that we would not survive as a community without each and every one of them and just how important your participation is to their very existence.

This being my first article, I am pretty nervous. After all, what will I be able to write that will interest you enough to continue reading - or, better yet, what might I say that will inspire you to go out and take an active role in this community?

I have an incredibly wise friend who taught me (to be completely

honest, she is trying to teach me) that you can go out day after day and participate in life without having any results to show for your time except time spent. To gain that feeling of belonging you must allow yourself to become real, to allow connections to other people, real connections, on an emotional level.

This concept, for a numbers person like me, was a difficult pill to swallow. In opening one's self on an emotional level, opening that door and stepping out, that same door remains open for reality to step in. With that reality can come some uncomfortable feelings (I said the "F" word). The possibility of those uncomfortable feelings is, I think, what keeps people from becoming involved - feelings such as fear of rejection, or the possibility of being embarrassed, intimidated or feeling that you do not match up to

expectations, or just the plain feeling that you have nothing of value to offer.

When I expressed these same concerns about my own life, my intuitive friend reminded me of the wonderful feeling of validation and sense of purpose that can be gained with this same reality. We all need a little of her wisdom to carry in our pockets as we step into the community and become active participants.

Deciding which organization to paint for my first Portrait was a difficult one. I chose a moment where I personally had the pleasure of witnessing someone "step out" and take a chance. I was fortunate to find not just one moment but an evening of moments where numerous people took that chance. Sit back and see if you have the same pride in their accomplishments as I did.

To truly appreciate what you are about to read, you must think back to those private moments of yours when you sang into your hairbrush while performing solo before a mirror, or sang into your hand as if it held a microphone. Be honest - you have pictured in your mind performing on stage, the bright lights, heard the music and felt the applause. Come on, we all have.

It's 10:30 p.m., a typical hour for this organization to be out working in the community, this evening raising money for the Women's Haven. This group, The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington, spends countless nights performing in clubs throughout the metroplex collecting donations \$1 at a time.

Tonight, for some, this is not just a normal Court event. It's their first time to "step out" and go it alone. My friend Kathy invited me - actually, allowed me the privilege of sharing this moment with her. The time seemed to crawl by for her. As she

looked around at the faces of the people who do this night after night, I'm sure she began to question the sanity of her desire. It seemed to take forever to get started but the moment finally came and the show began. I think she was the fifth or sixth person to perform and as I looked across the room I could see her dressed in her tux, pacing back and forth. Her first performance was to be a duet and as she stepped on stage I could see her take a deep breath.

As always, this community did not let me down. They not only whistled and clapped for her but she had a fistful of dollars that made this an unbelievably validating experience. Kathy was not the only one to perform. Numerous others entertained this evening and with the same never-ending enthusiasm as always. (And by the way - I am telling you, they can dance in pumps!)

You see, these unique entertainers spend countless hours choosing music, picking out costumes and rehearsing, not just for the applause but to have the opportunity to "Be There" when we need them. For those few minutes, Kathy set her own insecurities aside, got real with all of us and did her part to "Be There" for the Women's Haven. INCREDIBLE.

The Imperial Court began some 28 years ago in San Francisco; the Tarrant County chapter has been around since 1979, for 16 years of dedicated service to our community. They not only raise dollars, they make sure the children at the Fort Worth State School have Halloween candies each year as well as giving the children at Cookes Children's Hospital the opportunity of waking up to an Easter Basket on Easter Sunday.

I could list the every goal of this organization one at a time, but I'm sure it's pretty easy to figure out the most important ones: to "Be There"

for anyone in need, to strengthen the relationships within our community and to have a good time getting it all done. They accomplish all of the above while making it appear effortless to anyone watching. To date they have raised over \$28,000 for various charities. Pretty impressive wouldn't you say? Even more incredible, we are the beneficiaries of all their hard work.

In a time when our community and its members are under the microscope every day and criticized for not knowing the meaning of "Family Values," isn't it comforting to know that this organization, The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington, values our family enough to "Be There" when we need them.

I personally want to thank every member of this organization for what they do, and I encourage anyone interested in becoming involved to call 817/292-1750. ☘

PORTRAITS

Sketches of the faces and the places of our community

Being There with the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington

BY SHAWN MOORE

Law Office of Ellen J. Pesserillo

ELLEN J. PEPPERILLO
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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THE ALYSON ALMANAC

PRESENTS
in gay and lesbian history

August 29, 1867: While speaking to a conference of jurists in Munich, Karl Heinrich Ulrichs becomes the first known person in modern times to publicly declare himself a homosexual, and to speak out in favor of gay rights. He was forced to flee to Italy because of his outspokenness.

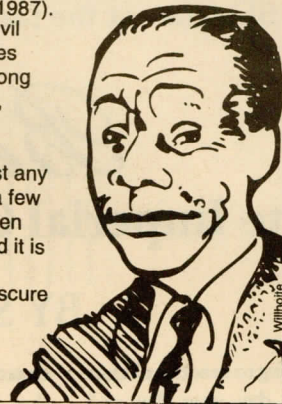
Studying Us

Ulrichs devoted much of his life to championing homosexual rights. In 1864 he made the earliest known estimate of the incidence of homosexuality.

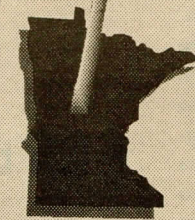
His estimate: One German in 500. Critics said that was absurdly high.

Happy Birthday to James Baldwin

(Aug. 2, 1924-Dec. 1, 1987). A leader in the black civil rights movement, James Baldwin was also a strong supporter of gay rights, though he never really identified with the gay movement. "I don't trust any term," he said. "I love a few people; some are women and some are men; and it is all much, much more complex than those obscure definitions allow."



Bird Sanctuary



Sodomy laws often prohibit sex between humans and animals. Minnesota, always watching for the elusive loophole, is the only state to also explicitly outlaw sex between humans and birds.

Sources: *Ulrichs*, by Hubert Kennedy; and *The Alyson Almanac*.

COMMUNITY

TARRANT GROUPS TEAM TO OFFER NEW BENEFIT: COWTOWN HOE-DOWN

GIT YER BOOTS and git ready to dance — there's gonna be a hoe-down! The Cowtown Hoe-down will be from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the old King Candy Company building in downtown Fort Worth.

The Hoe-down will feature dancing, a DJ and live entertainment, food, drinks and prizes. First prize in the raffle drawing is a Rodeo Weekend Package that includes two tickets for the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) rodeo events in November in Fort Worth, and a weekend at the Ramada Hotel downtown.

The event will benefit several local groups, including the Women's Haven of Tarrant County, the TGRA, the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition-Tarrant County (L/GPC) and the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL).

Other groups are also being given an opportunity to benefit from the event by selling tickets for the Hoe-down and receiving a portion of the ticket price for their group. Any organization interested in participating in ticket sales, or for more information

about the event, contact the L/GPC at 817/370-0460 or TGRA at 817/731-2143.

PLEIADES PRODUCTIONS' NEXT CONCERT GOES OVER THE TOPP WITH TWINS WHO HARMONIZE

THE NEXT STARS TO SHINE in Pleiades Productions concert schedule are the Topp Twins, Jools and Lynda, a contemporary-acoustics duo who are capturing attention internationally with their comedic brand of country-western performances, fully flavored with their harmonic yodeling.

The Pleiades concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, is the last stop on the Topp's North American tour before they head back to their homeland, New Zealand, to begin taping their own television show.

The identical Topp twins have been left-of-center cultural icons in New Zealand for more than a decade and now they are giving sellout performances in the United States, Canada, Britain and Australia. In New Zealand they have been honored as Entertainers of the Year and for Best Original Music.

The songwriters' material ranges from country, blues, soft rock, urban folk, political ballads to lyrical love songs. Their rural roots are unmistakable and they offer "the finest yodeling you'll hear anywhere."

The concert here will be at Agape MCC Auditorium, 4615 SE Loop 820 in Fort Worth, at I-20 and Anglin Drive exit. Cheryl Anderson will open for the Topps.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. Tickets are available in Fort Worth at Connections Bookstore and Agape MCC; in Dallas at Crossroads Market for an additional

service fee. For concert information call 817/924-3264.

DGLA OFFERS SPECIAL SHOWING OF STAR-PACKED GAY LOVE STORY

THE EAGERLY ANTICIPATED local premiere of the star-studded movie *Jeffrey* will be hosted by the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the AIDS Resource Center in honor of its 10th year of service to the community.

The special showing will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at the United Artists Cine theater. A reception will be held at Star Canyon restaurant immediately following the screening.

Orion Pictures' film version of *Jeffrey*, Paul Rudnick's award-winning off-Broadway play, is an uproariously funny and often touching exploration of love in the AIDS crisis. The central character is Jeffrey (Steven Weber), a young gay actor who, having decided to become celibate when the risk of AIDS has taken all the joy out of sex, finally meets "Mr. Right" (Michael T. Weiss as Steve) and struggles with the issues of dating, love and commitment. Patrick Stewart is Jeffrey's best friend, Sterling, an acerbic interior designer whose boyfriend is an adorable but dim *Cats*

chorus boy. The all-star cast features Sigourney Weaver, Olympia Dukakis, Kathy Najimy, Robert Klein, Christine Baranski and Nathan Lane.

Tickets to the screening begin at \$10 for general seating. Sponsorship levels of \$50, \$75 and \$150 are available, and include admission to the post-screening reception at Star Canyon, *Jeffrey* memorabilia and membership in DGLA. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, and due to the nature of the event no tickets will be available for sale at the door.

For ticket information, call the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance office at 214/528-4233. UA Cine is located at 5540 Yale Boulevard at Central Expressway; Star Canyon is at 3102 Oak Lawn Ave. at Cedar Springs Road in Dallas.

NEW COUNSELING THERAPY ADDRESSES COFACTORS AFFECTING HIV PROGRESS

IATREIA, the Institute for the Healing Arts is offering with the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work a cofactors counseling group for persons who are HIV positive.

The program starting in late summer will offer information on the immune system, factors influencing the illness'

progression and how to maximize wellness while living with HIV.

Cofactors are those that affect the expression and progression of an illness, including social, behavioral, psychological and spiritual. In the counseling sessions, strategies will be developed for each individual to improve negative cofactors and for maintaining and improving health enhancing patterns.

The group will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 601 Matlock Centre Circle, Arlington. Cost for the eight weeks is \$360 with insurance co-payments available if applicable and a sliding fee schedule offered. Group size will be limited. Call metro 817/654-9600 to enroll.

TEENS FINDING SUPPORT THROUGH OUTREACH

LESBIAN/GAY TEENS are now meeting twice monthly for support under the Teen Project outreach services. Teens who are interested in meeting with the group should call the Hotline at 817/763-8382.

The Teen Project is sponsored by the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TCLGA) and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).

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THE GAY AGENDA

In the most recent development in *Baehr v. Lewin*, the Hawaii same-sex marriage case, the Hawaii Supreme Court on July 13 granted the state's request for a delay in making a defense of its "compelling interest" in denying marriage rights to same-sex couples.

In May 1993 the Hawaii Supreme Court shocked the nation by ruling that Hawaii's denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples violated the state constitution. The court sent the case back to the trial court with a mandate for Hawaii to prove "a compelling state interest" to justify continued discrimination. The attorney general of Hawaii sought a postponement of a hearing scheduled for Sept. 25 this year where they would attempt to prove the state's interest. The Hawaii

Going to the Chapel of Love

Wedding bells for lesbians and gays are delayed one more year. At the end of a long trek down the aisle before us, we'll have our 'I do's.'

By BRYAN TAYLOR

Supreme Court granted the state's request for a delay. The hearing has now been scheduled for July 15, 1996.

The Hawaii Supreme Court, in its ruling on July 13, denied the attorney general's request to allow a lower burden of proof for the state. The court will still require Hawaii to prove "compelling state interest" before accepting that the current state policy is constitutional. "Compelling state interest" is a very difficult standard to meet, so advocates for same-sex marriage expect to win in Hawaii once the litigation is finally resolved, though it will likely take several more years to reach that point.

If same-sex marriage, identical in every respect to opposite-sex marriage, becomes legal in Hawaii, gay and lesbian couples in the rest of the United States will have a legal basis for establishing same-sex marriage for the entire country. Legal experts compare *Baehr v. Lewin* to the litigation which ended miscegenation laws in the South - laws prohibiting interracial marriages. In a 1967 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court declared no state can withhold legal recognition of a marriage performed and recognized by another state. Prior to that ruling, an interracial couple legally married somewhere else became "unmarried" if they moved to a state that outlawed such

marriages. If gay marriages become legal in Hawaii, couples married there would be able to use the 1967 precedent to force recognition of their marriage by a different state, essentially equalizing marriage rights for same-sex couples anywhere in the United States.

That goal is years away, and lots can happen in the meantime. Several state legislatures have already taken steps to prevent similar litigation to *Baehr v. Lewin* in their states. In Hawaii, a constitutional amendment could undo the hoped-for favorable ruling of the State Supreme Court. The Mormon Church has sought to intervene in the case on the side of the State. Although denied standing by the trial court, church lawyers have appealed to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Even though they are unlikely to be allowed into the case, on obvious First Amendment grounds, their involvement has created an additional financial drain. The Hawaii Equal Marriage Rights Project, the local sponsor of the case, has issued an appeal for financial support from interested citizens outside Hawaii. Checks payable to GLCC/HEMRP are fully tax deductible, and can be sent to HEMRP, 1820 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822.

In the continental United States, the gay rights organization Lambda

Legal Defense and Education Fund is promoting education and organizing efforts, and urges all organizations to adopt their "Marriage Resolution," which reads, "Because marriage is a fundamental right under our Constitution, and because the Constitution guarantees equal protection of the law, Resolved, the state should permit gay and lesbian couples to marry and share fully and equally in the rights and responsibilities of marriage."

Also, a new organization devoted exclusively to the issue of same-sex marriage was formed in Boston last spring. FORM (The Forum on the Right to Marriage) has a second chapter forming in San Francisco, and is seeking contacts in every state to organize chapters across the country. Resource materials the group has developed are

available to America Online subscribers, or can be requested by e-mail (FORMBOSTON@AOL.COM) or "snail mail," (FORM, 227 Chelsea St., East Boston, MA 02128; phone 617/569-9733.)

Evan Wolfson, co-counsel for *Baehr et al* and a senior staff attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said recently that he has no time for some in the lesbian/gay community who say the current political climate is wrong for litigating a case on gay marriage. "Whether or not it's the wrong time, it's the time we are in, and the case is going forward ... better not to obsess about things we can't control, and work on things we can. Besides, it often seems like there is never a 'right' time. Martin Luther King Jr., addressed his letter from a Birmingham jail not to racist bigots, but to his fellow clergy who were telling him that 'now is not the right time.' He wrote, 'The time is always ripe to do right.'"

Wolfson, HEMRP and FORM are concerned that many people, even in the gay community, seem not to understand why domestic partnership is not as good as marriage. Legal spouses have many rights and benefits available to no other class of people, and has the advantages of clear and commonly understood privileges and responsibilities. "We want people to have a choice for themselves, not have the choice denied because of discrimination based on who they are or whom they love." ♣

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Neighbors may be warming to lesbian/gay loving couples

LANSING, MICH. (AP) - A third of the nation's voters believe that two people of the same sex should be able to get married if they love each other, a new poll showed.

The poll found 33 percent believed same-sex marriages should be allowed, while 63 percent disagreed, EPIC-MRA-Mitchell Research said. Four percent were undecided.

Robin Kane, a spokeswoman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, found the 33 percent figure encouraging, even though

gay marriages are banned in every state.

However, Glenn Clark, executive director of the Michigan Christian Coalition, said allowing the marriages would be "just another step toward eroding the moral fiber of our nation."

EPIC-MRA founder Ed Sarpolus said he expected the question on same-sex marriages would get only single digit support because voters are becoming more conservative.

Younger voters, those with higher incomes and those with

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Ready-to-Wear

There's a telling fable about the emperor's invisible clothes. Our monarchs here wear a shining suit that might teach well those of us who dare to study it.

By **BEVERLY FLETCHER**

Leadership is one of the most confounding suits to wear. It can be hard enough deciding just for yourself what shirt to put on when you're up out of bed in the morning. When in a leadership role, the shirt you choose must fit the very many, please them with its colors and wear as well-tailored on them as what you envision for yourself.

No matter what you choose to wear while you lead, while you follow your vision, the very many will scream about the fit and command a new suit.

And that's when you know you're doing a good job in your leading, when you hear the groans, the criticism, temper tantrums even, from those around you who would stitch their own signature on what you have fashioned. If you have drummed up enough interest as that in how you wear your leading suit, then you have moved your peers to invest themselves in the mission of your work. They groan because they want to own a part of your work.

The good leader hears the groans and smiles, then continues on steadfast in their vision, defining the work by their own clear insight as to how they stitch best, what wears well for them.

The good leader knows that the ones who groan will next realize that they might choose a suit for themselves, stitch their own vision, add their unique craft to the pool. Or they will lose interest and turn their attention to groan at some other's suit.

If the leader pleases all by their work, they have not done a good job — they have given away too much of their direction to the groans, they have silenced their own instinct and clouded their vision that should guide them.

The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/

Arlington was very well led this past year. Scattered moans and groans that followed the footsteps of its leaders were the telling signs of having inspired personal investment by the eyewitnesses who would order their signature on the work.

Under that stubborn leadership, never before has so many in an organization realized the next step, that their signature is made by the suit they choose for themselves and by their vision, their work added to the pool.

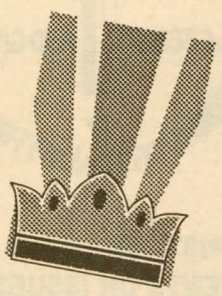
Emperor XVI Melissa Flories and Empress XVI Pat "Cookies" Wyatt yearlong wore the most dazzling ensembles from their seasoned wardrobe, steadily pressing on even when others would balk at their selections.

Under such diligent leadership, so very many members chose their own best fashions to sport, dazzled with their creations added and, by their fund-raising focus, dressed an unprecedented number of those who had no clothes to wear.

It was a very good year, a high-styling year, for the Court.

New monarchs Michael Winchester, Emperor XVII, and Angela Aarons, Empress XVII, both have an impressive designer collection to show off this next year. Wear thee well, good friends, with confidence in your refined tastes.

Here for appreciative eyes is displayed the parade of unique, self-directed ensembles modelled in salute at the Court's Coronation July 15. Me, nestled in the festive crowd in my one suit that fits me best, I adored and applauded each glitzy fashion strutted, as did the good company I kept.

What a precious world this, thriving in our community, where what we choose to wear is as unlimited as our imaginations... 



DRESSED TO THRILL: Jennifer Snow, Empress II of Waco; Laura Lee Love, Empress I and II of Houston; Pat "Cookies" Wyatt, Empress XVI of Tarrant County.



KRISTINA KROSS, former Miss Gay Fort Worth, wore a lion's roar.



THE AUSTIN COURT married humor to religion for a loose fitting suit.



NEW EMPRESS Angela Aarons wore her heart on her sleeve.



WEARING GRANDEUR WELL, Billie T., Empress II of Austin, carried on a cart.



WEARING LAURELS OF DISTINCTION: Newly crowned emperor Michael Winchester and empress Angela Aarons, center, greet their reign with gracious smiles. In the crowning line around the couple are Raymond Gill, Barbie Doll, Melissa Flories and Pat "Cookies" Wyatt, all former Tarrant County monarchs.



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EMPEROR XVI Melissa Flories wore dignity wreathed in a good smoke.



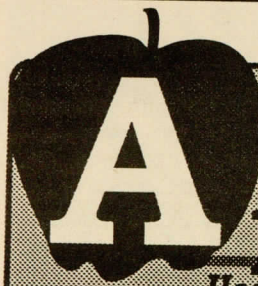
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AGAPE'S Apple a Day

Healthy advice from the heart
by Doug Rich, RN, MSN,
Family Nurse Practitioner and Agape MCC Deacon

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

Drink more for good health. De-

hydration and heat stroke killed hundreds of Americans in July. The comforts of air conditioning have lulled us into complacency about the danger of heat. An old saying is that "Mad Dogs ... go out in the noonday sun." If your work requires you to be outdoors or you are just crazy enough to want to jog at high noon in North Texas, keep yourself well hydrated. You may need

a quart or more per hour on some of these blistering days - no booze please. Water and other nonalcoholic non-caffeinated beverages are best.

Reflux (heartburn) is a common ailment and there are several things you can do to reduce your symptoms if you have it. Pay attention to which foods bother you most and avoid them. Prop the head of your bed up on a couple of bricks or sleep on a large wedge that raises you from the waist up (just raising your head on pillows will not work). Do not eat for about two hours before you go to bed. Antacids can help relieve your suffering but beware of taking too many (more than two or three) doses a day. See your health professional if your problem is severe.

Eyes are the windows of the soul. Every once in a while those

windows need come cleaning up. Thank goodness eyes are easier to care for than windows. Minor infections and irritations of the eyelid can appear as little bumps or drainage from the eyes - a warm compress to your eye two or three times daily may clear up these problems. Matter can be cleansed from the eyelid with a tearless baby shampoo. Persistent problems should be evaluated by a health professional.

Arthritis is a relentless enemy. Part of the strategy of treatment is the proper amount of rest and exercise. Rest helps to take the pressure off weight-bearing joints. Exercise helps to keep muscles in shape so you don't lose strength and motility. Recent research published in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that aspirin is just as good as the most popular prescription.

Metabolism is the rate at which your body burns fuel. The higher your metabolic rate the more calories you need to maintain your body weight. The more muscle mass you have the

higher your metabolic rate is likely to be. Raising your metabolism is as simple as scheduling yourself a walk after your meals. The exercise should last for at least five minutes and involve major muscle groups (the legs and arms). You'll burn more calories and you just might learn to like it.

Spiritual strength is an awesome phenomenon. Recently I sat in the presence of an elderly woman who having reared her own children long ago, now finds herself mothering seven of her 10 grandchildren. She shared with me her wisdom in the art and challenge of parenting in such a poignant way that I was moved to tears. Find yourself a wise person and really listen just for a few minutes. You will be blessed.

Dream of the month: That all the elements of our wonderfully diverse community join together in harmony and 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.

RELIGION

THE GRADUATE

A Trinity MCC student clergy has her own flock to tend now in Corpus Christi

By **BEVERLY BENNETT**

Rev. Sandy O'Steen, former student clergy at Trinity MCC, will be consecrated and installed as pastor of MCC of Corpus Christi August 13 during the Sunday morning worship service at the Corpus Christi church. Six months ago, while still a student clergy, Rev. O'Steen began pastoring a congregation of 22 people. Today the church's attendance stands in the high 80s.

Rev. O'Steen is modest about the four-fold growth any seasoned pastor might envy. "God has done this. I expected the church to grow, but I never dreamed we would grow this fast. Also, the people have really made this church grow. They're the ones who are out spreading the Good News," Rev. O'Steen said. "This church and I were a perfect fit. This is a laid-back beach town, and I believe I have a laid-back style. I'm from Florida so living on the coast

feels like home to me," she explained. Rev. O'Steen said that Corpus Christi MCC needed a pastor with strong pastoral care skills, and she believes her educational background and secular experience working in social services allowed her to bring the congregation much needed pastoral care skills.

"I believe God has always had a call on my life, but for years I thought I was too shy and too quiet to be a pastor," said Rev. O'Steen. "Finally, I asked God for a specific sign. I said that I would answer this call when someone invited me to conduct their funeral. This seemed very unlikely since I was not even a student clergy at the time. Within two weeks, I was asked to conduct a friend's future funeral. From that point on, I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt there was no going back. I immediately contacted Samaritan (MCC's seminary)

and soon afterward, I became a student clergy at Trinity MCC," O'Steen explained.

Besides bringing a background in social services to Corpus Christi MCC, for a number of years Rev. O'Steen also helped manage a multimillion dollar corporation in East Texas. As a result of this administrative background, she brings business skills to the ministry most pastors must learn by the "school of hard knocks." While she was a student clergy at Trinity MCC, Rev. O'Steen worked at the AOC in Fort Worth as a case manager.

To attend Rev. O'Steen's installation service, call her at the church office at 512/882-8255.

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Society's laws are no match for our own self-respecting

CODE OF CONDUCT

By Rev. JO CRISCO, TRINITY MCC

To thine own self be true... is more than the watchword of a self-focused person. Rather, it is good solid wisdom to help us live in personal peace and happiness.

To wit, it is difficult for oppressed peoples to sort out the "oughts" and "shoulds" of life. It is counter productive to transpose the values of the straight majority of society on ourselves. It just doesn't work and there is no valid reason I know of for us to copy what appears to not work even for them. Yet, there are precious few

guidelines or role models available to us apart from those flowing from the majority.

Therefore, it is common for us to struggle with the "rebel" inside all of us who does as she or he pleases and the sincere desire to fit in or just "go with the flow." We sometimes appear to be saying to the world in general, "We are just like you - stop treating us differently socially, legally and politically." Then in the next breath say, "I don't have to adhere to your rules. Things are different for me and mine."

Anyone confused yet?

Let me be quick to say that I do not want to impose my "rules" of life conduct on you or vice versa. I think this is more than an issue of anyone determining anything for anyone. For me, it is an issue of respect ... self-respect.

I choose to be kind. I choose to be honest. I choose to be fair-minded. I

choose to repeat good things about folks rather than the spicy stories. I choose to honor my words of commitment. I choose to engage in the struggle for justice. I choose to pay my debts. I choose the behavior that will make my friends, church and community glad to have me hanging around them. And on and on. Not because anyone can *make* me do these things

but because I have judged for myself that these are the kind of things that allow me to respect me more.

When everything has been said and done, this is the ultimate goal for me. I must be satisfied, pleased, proud, happy, contented with my living ... myself. Living this way means I have very, very, very few regrets in my life. It also means that if no one else in the world even likes me, I like myself.

This also means I am free to the degree that no statutes or laws enacted by society can really take the good life from me. Why? Because self-respect is not dependent on external factors. Of course, life would be better with full citizenship, but my self-respect is borne of my own initiative and nurtured by my own efforts. *✶*

MAKING HERSTORY

The elder who introduced the women's point of view to the national fellowship of MCCs made a pitstop at Trinity

By BEVERLY BENNETT

In 1972, Rev. Elder Freda Smith blazed a new trail in the history of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches when she became the first ordained female clergy person in the denomination. The following year in 1973, she became the first woman Elder in UFMCC, the highest position of leadership in the denomination.

Rev. Elder Smith preached at Trinity MCC on her way to the 1995 UFMCC General Conference. After services, she shed light on the record of women and inclusive language in UFMCC's history. Rev. Elder Smith spoke out for inclusive language and the value of women in ministry at an early denominational clergy confer-

ence in 1973. At the time, there were few women clergy persons in the Fellowship. "In those days, many of our clergy were from traditions that did not even license women. On the conference floor, I told them, this is the way it is now, but this is not the way it's suppose to be. God has brought forth this ministry for everyone," Rev. Elder Smith related.

She noted that those were the early days of feminism and she was an outspoken feminist of the day. "The men elected me Elder knowing full well who I was and what I was all about. They knew I'd challenge them, and still they elected me," she said. At the historic clergy conference where Rev. Elder Freda Smith challenged the denomination in line-by-line objections to "masculine only" language describing the people of God, the leadership of UFMCC nominated her to the position of Elder from the conference floor.

"I believe it was a moving of the Holy Spirit. Other denominations are following us. We were the first to use inclusive language," Rev. Elder Smith said. She noted that the need for inclusive language was then introduced in 1974 by UFMCC's Women's Commission. It was finally officially adopted as UFMCC policy in 1981.

"People need to know this (inclusive language) is God's will. God's image is both male and female. I am made in God's image as much as any man," she

said. Rev. Elder Smith explained that Galatians 3.28 says, "Neither Hebrew or Greek, neither male or female, we are all one in Christ Jesus." She said, "I don't worship inclusive language. I worship God."

Rev. Elder Smith and her partner defy the stereotype that lesbian/gay relationships don't last. She and her spouse, Kathleen Meadows, are celebrating 21 years together. Rev. Elder Smith believes that "good communication" is at the heart of a healthy relationship. "Work on communication. When two people are willing to work on communication, both on their individual selves and on their relationship, they can work out any problems," she said.

For the last 20 years, Rev. Elder Smith has served as senior pastor of River City Metropolitan Community Church in Sacramento, Calif. "Rev. Elder Freda Smith is a role model for all women in ministry, because she challenged the possibilities of what women could do. She walked where no female ever walked. She did a tremendous job, and all of us who came later are walking behind her, carrying on the tradition she began," said Rev. Jo Crisco, senior pastor of Trinity MCC in Arlington.

Rev. Crisco said she was delighted and honored Rev. Elder Smith worshipped and preached at MCC on the way to General Conference. "Rev. Elder Smith has a way of affirming every individual and every church. She had a choice of where she'd worship Sunday, and she chose to preach to a gathering of 85 people to encourage us and to express her love and support," Rev. Crisco said. *✶*



PHOTO BY GERRI CRAIN

REV. ELDER FREDA SMITH

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CHURCH/RELIGION

SUNDAYS:

AGAPE MCC services, 9 and 11 a.m., 4615 SE Loop 820 (at Anglin exit), Fort Worth; 817/535-5002. Children's Sunday School at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH services: Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.; Kid's Church at 11 a.m.; Sunday Night Live! evening service at 6 p.m., 711 W. Gambrell St., Fort Worth. 817/921-LOVE.

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

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

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/Praise 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; a place to find friends, fellowship and faith. 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.

AUGUST 4:

TRINITY MCC'S Miracle Sunday Victory Banquet and Coming Home Celebration, 8 p.m. at Trinity Hall. Tickets \$3, limited availability; call the church at 817/265-5454.

AUGUST 8:

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

AUGUST 12:

AGAPE MCC'S Membership Orientation, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the church. Information about the church, denomination and membership. Lunch served.

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.

AUGUST 14:

AFFIRMATION (METHODIST)/TARRANT COUNTY 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.

AUGUST 19:

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.

DENA KAYE CONCERT to benefit Agape and Trinity MCC, 8 p.m. at Trinity MCC. Popular country-western entertainer has released two music videos and 19 albums. Tickets \$5, available at Agape and Trinity MCC.

AUGUST 20:

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.

AUGUST 29:

AGAPE MCC'S Fabulous 50s Plus, 2 p.m. Social gathering for those 50 or over. This month see Phantom of the Opera at Casa Manana, followed by dinner. Call Sandi at 817/536-4050.

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.

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.

AUGUST 10:

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.

AUGUST 11:

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.

AUGUST 12:

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.

AUGUST 13:

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.

AUGUST 14:

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

AUGUST 15:

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.

AUGUST 17:

TCLGA membership meeting, 6 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria on University in Fort Worth. Program: "Lesbian/Gay Teen Project Outreach Program," by Dr. Rita Cotterly, director of the Sexuality Education Center. Meets the third Thursday of every month.

AUGUST 18:

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 20:

NAMES PROJECT Quilting Bee, 2-5

p.m. at 665 S. Jennings. Meets third Sunday of every month.

AUGUST 21:

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.

AUGUST 22:

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

EDUCATION

AUGUST 4:

AOC FRIDAY FORUM: "Update on the Americans with Disabilities Act: How it affects people with HIV," by Jacqueline Bradley, JD, district director, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Dallas District Office. The monthly workshop is 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.

AUGUST 13, 27

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.

AUGUST 3-27:

STAGE WEST "On the Way Home" featuring Stephen Wade, at TCU Theatre, W. Cantey Street and University Drive, Fort Worth. Presented in conjunction with Texas Christian University Theatre Department. Features Wade, a musically gifted and engaging storyteller, in his one-man show. Contact metro 817/784-9378.

SEPTEMBER 9

PLEIADES PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS The Topp Twins in concert, 8 p.m. Agape MCC Auditorium, 4615 S.E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. Identical twins who are contemporary acoustic musicians with a comedy-theatre flavor. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Call 817/924-3264.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9:

COWTOWN HOE-DOWN, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., to benefit Women's Haven of Tarrant County, Texas Gay Rodeo Association and

the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition-Tarrant County. Tickets \$15; call 817/370-0460.

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:

MAN TALK, support and fellowship for gays in the age of AIDS, AOC Fort Worth, 6:30-8 p.m.

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

FRIDAYS:

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

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

SATURDAYS:

LESBIAN/GAY TEEN PROJECT, support group for lesbian/gay/bisexual teens. Meets first and third Saturdays 3-5 p.m. Call 817/338-4551 for location.

EVENTS

COUNTRY-WESTERN CONCERT TO BENEFIT LOCAL MCC CHURCHES

Popular country-western entertainer Dena Kaye will perform at 8 p.m. Aug. 19 at Trinity MCC, 331 Aaron Ave., #125, off Division in Arlington. The concert will benefit the church and Agape MCC of Fort Worth with \$5 donations requested. Tickets are available at both churches.

Kaye is a Texas-based entertainer who has released two music videos and 19 albums. Her latest video, *Pen, Paper and Words*, was first viewed worldwide on CNN.

MUSICAL EVANGELISTS WARM UP FOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT LOCAL CHURCH

Jane and David, musical evangelists, will appear at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at Agape MCC in Fort Worth.

Jane Syftestad and David Heid have appeared at UFMCC General and District Conferences and have ministered at Spiritual Renewals with many leading UFMCC pastors. Their music has been broadcast internationally on the BBC and Irish National TV. They were also featured artists during the International Stonewall 25 Celebrations in New York City. Their second album, *In Our Own Words*, was released in July 1995.

The concert, which begins at 6 p.m., will be followed by an Ice Cream Social at 7:30 p.m. The concert is open to the public; admission is free.

CASA'S COW PATTYS TO PERFORM FINAL SHOW FOR COMMUNITY AUDIENCE

Carolyn Miles, owner of Cowgirls Oasis, has purchased the floor for the last performance of Casa Manana's *Cow Pattys* performance at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27. Miles is offering tickets to the lesbian/gay community for a base cost of \$8 each. Call her at 817/924-0224 for reservations.

The *Cow Pattys* performance is a musical parody of all things stereotypically Texan, which received rave reviews by the Alliance News' Chris Toland in last month's issue.

Miles' new club, Cowgirls Oasis at 1263 W. Magnolia Street in Fort Worth, is an activities and networking center for lesbians. For a schedule of other activities planned for the month, call the Cowgirls Par-T Ranch Hotline, metro 817/355-4817.

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., Arlington (817) 572-5455

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

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

Hutton House Hairdressers, (817) 731-6801

J3 Photographics, (817) 923-4625

Lambda Pages, (214) 880-7577

The Lemon Tree Antiques and Art, (817) 332-5519

Omega Properties, real estate services, (817) 354-7201

Ellen J. Pesserillo, attorney, (817) 283-6693

Chris Phillips, attorney, (817) 339-1139

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, lcdd, (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 Department, Preventive Medicine Clinic, (817) 871-7357; Testing and Counseling, (817) 871-8920; AIDS helpline, (817) 871-7346

TCMERF AIDS Awareness Clinic, (817) 534-CARE or (817) 534-2273

Weatherford HIV-AIDS Support Group, Inc., (817) 596-3022

ORGANIZATIONS

NEW BINGO NIGHTS WEEKLY TO BENEFIT SAMARITAN HOUSE

Tarrant County Samaritan Housing has been granted a license to conduct charity bingo at All Star Bingo, 340 E. Pipeline at Brown Trail, Hurst. All proceeds from 5:30-7 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday evening will benefit Samaritan House, a residential center providing supportive services for persons living with AIDS.

For more information contact Marjorie Schanche at 817/496-3812.

NEW GROUP PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR LOCAL TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY

Delta Omega is a group of transgendered men and women ranging from cross-dressers to transsexuals, and their significant others. The group numbers some 100

dues-paying members in the metroplex. Monthly gatherings are at hotel meeting sites in Fort Worth and Dallas.

Delta Omega offers support to those who cross-dress and find themselves at odds with most of society. Inquiries as to membership may be directed to the hotline, 214/264-7103, which is answered on Wednesday nights from 7-10 p.m.

STUDENTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, OUTREACH AT TCU ON LESBIAN/GAY RESOURCES IN AREA

The Texas Christian University lesbian/gay student advocacy group, the TCU Triangles, will sponsor a booth during the university's Howdy Week to provide information to incoming freshman on this and other gay/lesbian/bisexual organizations in the county and state.

The group meets every Sunday at 5 p.m. during the school year. Contact Associate Dean Priscilla Tate, faculty adviser, at 817/921-7160.

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

Delta Omega/Metroplex Cross Dressers Club, P.O. Box 141924, Irving, TX 75014, (214) 264-7103.

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

TCU Triangle, education, social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual students at TCU, (817) 921-7160

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

One of the things I really hate about being in a relationship is probably the one thing most people desire: Nothing is mine. Nothing is totally private and sometimes I want to keep some aspects of my life private. It is not that I do not love Steve, but sometimes I would like to be *alone*.

I love the people in my life. Some of them thrive on tragedy and milk it for all it is worth. My own pastor was going through a bad illness and was feeling sorry for himself and decided to get over his pity before he told me about it. He knows I would have given his two-week bought of diarrhea a run for his money. I can run up three flights of stairs and keep it all inside while holding an open can of Diet Pepsi. I am truly Olympic bound.

It all came to the surface while planning our union ceremony. I have always wanted to get hitched and I have waited my entire life for the right man to marry. Steve is that man. Some of my friends think I am crazy to go through the ceremony and my poor father has no clue about the event.

I wish people could understand the dreams I have hidden in my soul.

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

Numbers hold a power over my life now that I've never known before: T-cells drop and fear climbs

Some of them mean more than life itself and those dreams are why I wish some parts of my illness were mine. It may all come down to a responsibility thing. Wanting to protect Steve and also wanting to avoid the lime-light of self-pity. But I guess like all people with a terminal illness, one day or another we must accept the fact that we are terminal. I just never had to deal with that fact, until now that is...

Having to quit work again was a pain. I enjoyed the pace of the job and I love being in front of an audience talking about sex. Put me in front of a group of 500 college kids with a few condoms and I am in my element. I should fine tune my act and become a comedian. But it all comes down to secrets. I am a good

educator because I keep my feelings inside hidden and few if any people see that part of me. Except for Sally, I do not believe anyone has seen me cry. I keep that hidden, thanks Dad. But some things are even too much for me to handle on my own and the reason I quit work is one of those tremendous things that weighs heavily on my soul.

I was never one for the numbers involved with HIV. T cells, B cells, it was all a game. I loved to see how low I could go and still hang in the game all fat and bitchy. But every now and then, some of the numbers bothered me. But I never let on. All the people in my life are so fragile and wrapped up in their own problems that I chose to keep my problems from them. I never told my pastor or Steve or

Steve's mother. I kept it all inside.

The funny and painful thing is that no one thought to ask me how I was or why I kept wanting to go home. I guess I am finally tired of crying alone. The stress and responsibility of my life has pushed me to a new point. I want to do the unexpected. I want to scream that fear is a part of my life too and that I am tired of the headaches and the allergic reactions to medications. I am tired of handling everything and ignoring the voice inside that is afraid.

Just think, seven used to be my favorite number. Now it is all that stands between me and no T cells. Seven - hell, I cannot even think of seven names. I dropped a 178 T cells and still managed to gain five pounds. Just great - I am fat and have no immune system. What else could go wrong?

It is not that I suddenly want to be the center of attention, I hate pity. I just want people to realize that other people hurt and are alone in many ways. Few people have traveled my path and fewer still know the secrets of my heart. Secrets that HIV has eaten away and left covered in dust.

Like everyone else I am tired of the waiting. Wondering what illness will finally hospitalize me. Tired of X-rays and good-intended advice of healthy

people who have no clue about AIDS. Tired of comforting people and no one noticing that I need comfort. Not that I would want much or any, I despise hugging; in high school I loved hugging, but closeness is something sacred now.

The hardest part about talking about HIV is that deep in my heart I know that my life and those of my friends infected is limited. There will never be a cure nor will the millions who have died make my pain any less.

Few people know pain. Not the kind that comes with the headaches that make you cross-eyed, the kind of pain that comes with the realization that no matter how many vitamins I take or laps I swim, I will still die before my time. It is like sitting on death row and viewing the electric chair through my bars.

Steve always asks what I am feeling when I say I have found a new funeral song. The funny thing about it is that I feel absolutely nothing. Too many walls I guess. But deep down I feel alone and afraid.

I know this will shock a lot of folks, but the reality of the situation is that I am human after all. I will never win a Nobel Peace Prize or go bowling with Whoopie Goldberg. I will probably die with a million tubes in my body and messed up hair. God, reality sucks. I spent the last 10 years deciding what I did not want and I forgot to figure out what I did want. That is where I stand now. The crossroads. This should be interesting.

Until next month, think positive, pray for a pick-seven lottery game and live each unexpected day with passion! *fw*

MARRIAGE

continued from p. 7

more education were more likely to say such marriages should be allowed, he said. Only 21 percent of those with a high school diploma or less agreed, compared to 44 percent of those with college degrees.

Of those earning \$25,000 or less a year, only 24 percent agreed with same-sex marriages, while 38 percent of those making \$60,000 to \$75,000 agreed with the idea, as did 48 percent of those making more than \$75,000.

In age groups, 56 percent of the 18- to 24-year-olds said "yes," and that gradually declined over various age groups to only 18 percent for those 65 and older.

Jeffrey Montgomery, president of the Detroit Triangle Foundation, said the higher percentages for younger people showed a cultural shift, due in part to the media.

"Younger people are seeing more and more popular entertainers who are willing to come out and have done so and seeing other entertainers who aren't gay or lesbian who are giving the strong message that it doesn't make any difference," he said.

The telephone survey of 1,000 voters nationwide was conducted June

21-26. It has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

About a dozen or so cities, including New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis and Madison, Wis., allow same-sex couples to register in a domestic partnership.

Marriages, however, are regulated by the state and allow couples to file joint tax returns, cover each other on their medical insurance and other benefits.

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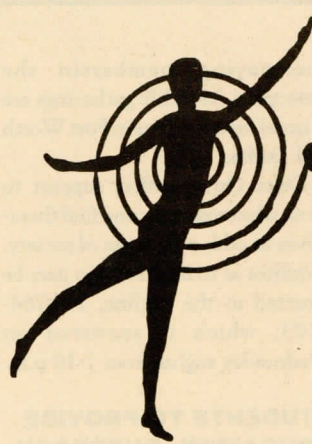
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ACTION ALERT

Mayor blasts new women's club

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

When Carolyn Miles relocated to the Tarrant County area, greeted old friends in reunion and hailed the very many new ones, she formed a vision for our community of linking the many separate souls of us

to a networking agenda of activities and gatherings. She enacted her vision immediately through her Cowgirls Par-T Ranch Hotline, to advertise outings she planned - potlucks, trips to the race track, golfing and such.

She broadened her sight to envi-

sion a gathering center for women in a different setting than what Tarrant County has yet known, one that would facilitate visiting, chatting and bonding together.

Miles lost no time in working up a sweat to produce a new club where the music would be soft, the environment smoke-free and the emphasis on recreational activities to get out and about in the warm company of women. The club, she envisioned, would be a hub, a planning center, for such activities.

Now the club, Cowgirls Oasis on Magnolia Street in Fort Worth, has opened its doors wide and is hugging the lesbian community in its nurturing offerings that facilitate and enable women bonding together. In fact, First Friday Fort Worth, the single bastion of women gathering here that has spanned more than a decade, has gone to Miles' coordination, the gatherings now located monthly at the Oasis.

Miles works still to add the liquor license so necessary for the club's economic survival. But she's run into quite an obstacle, mounted by Mayor Kay Granger and the city councilman over the district where the club is located.

Mayor Granger, in a letter to Gail Gordon of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), objected strongly to granting Miles the liquor license because the place and manner in which such business would be conducted would adversely impact "the general welfare, health, peace, safety, morals and sense of decency" of the neighbors residing there.

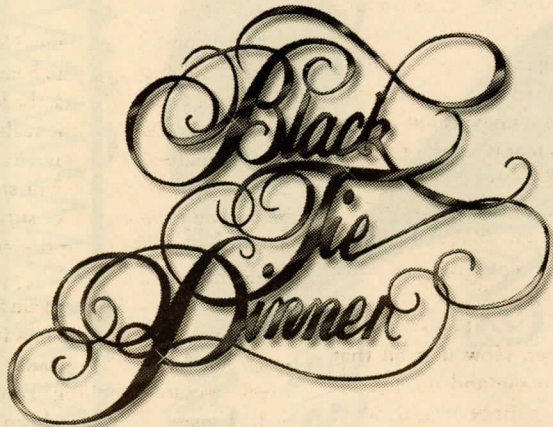
Women gathering quietly to discuss softball games and world peace poses a threat to the morals of that good neighborhood?

Councilman Kenneth Barr thinks so. He offered in his letter to the commission that the club will "conflict with the efforts now underway to improve the neighborhood."

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association there fully supports Miles, "100 percent" according to one source, as does the Code Blue patrol for the area. Only one resident, Patsy Powell, has made a personal campaign to oust the women's club, and apparently she's bitten the Mayor's ear.

A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 15 before the TABC, to decide the license application. Write in support to Gail Gordon, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, P.O. Box 13127, Austin, TX 78711-3127.

And stop by the Oasis, to say hi, to talk about world peace and such, then look outside to see if the neighborhood crumbled. *fb*



NOVEMBER 4, 1995
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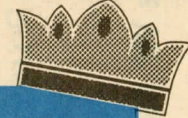
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Alliance News



Inside this issue:

And:

•**DROPPING THE BALL:** Mayor Granger makes an offensive right tackle.

•**WITH THIS RING:** Lambda lawyers are making a call to support our marriage campaign.

•**IMAGES OF US:** NEW FEATURE SERIES PAINTS PORTRAITS OF OUR MANY FACES AND COLLECTIVE SWEAT.

•**PERSPECTIVES ON:** Speaking out where we stand, squeaking forward through new doors and peeking at what shines within us.

•**AND MUCH MORE!**



GRIN AND BARE IT: New studies are probing into who we are and what we do.

See story p. 3

A WEEK! WEEK! WEEK!

DAYS DAYS DAYS

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MONDAY: THE ARETHA SHOW
TUESDAY: DRINK SPECIALS

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