

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

SEPTEMBER 1995

Volume 15, Issue 9

Alliance News



BLOSSOMS FROM SEED:

The Alliance was an idea forming 15 years ago. It's coming up roses now. Special historical review.

*See perspectives on
pp 11-13.*

WALKING THE AISLE:
TCLGA's first and
current president, Dauné
Littlefield, has led our
community through many a
crossroad.

Alliance News

A community service of
TARRANT COUNTY
LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

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THE ALLIANCE NEWS

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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.

We have our finger on climate control.

By Rev. GEORGE W. ALLEN
Associate Pastor, Agapé MCC

It was back in November, 1994, that my spouse and I decided to approach Rev. Brenda Hunt about the possibility of serving Agapé MCC as an Associate Pastor. It was much cooler then....

Predictably, winter turned into spring and spring turned into summer, which is a lot hotter in Fort Worth, Texas, than I ever remember. Because of the path that my journey has taken me, being around other radically free spirits is something that I have not had a great deal of opportunity to experience. The refreshing texture of a bar patio, with a few bare-chested hubba hubbas sweating profusely from the heat with that familiar musky fragrance has been one of the things that coming to Cowtown, America, has impressed on me. So, I am

a bit older, and very committed. Beauty is where you find it and its expression is creative. Refreshingly, in a larger metropolitan area, one feels more liberated, out, open, proud.

From the time of our arrival, my spouse and I have breathed the sweet air of freedom. Not the freedom that comes from living an openly gay life in the heart of West Texas. In Abilene, America, where I was most recently involved in ministry, if anyone knew you were gay, everyone knew you were gay and they were careful not to "overassociate" with gays. (My Definition: Overassociate - verb, to associate with any group such that you are

identified as a member of, in support of, friendly toward, know anyone who even associates with, that group.) Some gays are even careful not to overassociate with each other. Certainly no one who is really gay would want to overassociate with other gays.

As we began a life in Fort Worth, I have found that not everyone experiences that radical freedom which I have found. In fact, what has surprised me is just how closeted some folks in Fort Worth really are. With hot, sultry, summer months behind and the promise of cooler weather (meteorologically and politically speaking) on the horizon, we who are marginalized,

lesbian/gaytrans folk, can do something that will make the weather meteorologically, not politically, chilling. It is an awesome task, it is fraught with danger on all sides. To those who fear us accomplishing it, visions loom of economic disaster, social chaos, universal anarchy imagined as attending this event. What is it? What can we do as individuals that could cause such a stir in the social system? We could be out, open, proud, honest about who we are. We could tell one "friend," business associate, family member. We could even be so courageous as to attend a really lesbian/gaytrans-positive church, one that loves you because of who you are instead of one who loves you because you haven't been really honest about who you are.

Only when we learn to be proud of who we are, only when we learn that God didn't make a mistake when we were made, only when we learn to treat each other with respect and compassion, only when we deal with our own internalized homophobia can we truly expect change. ♪

SEASONAL WINDS

Coming out is a hot idea with winter approaching

NEW WIND BLOWING

Leaders are the ones who see the storm and inspire us to stand firm in the tempest

By Rev. JO CRISCO
Senior Pastor, Trinity MCC

Our greatest need today is for someone to lead us. We need a fresh wind of dynamic leadership in our churches, in our community organizations, in our local, state, and federal governments. Unfortunately, lead-

ership has fallen on hard times in all areas of North American life. Especially within the last 30 years, we have learned that everyone can be tempted to act out of self-interest and can become self-serving.

Even while hesitating to follow a leader, we are certain of our need. We need leaders ... leaders who will lead

by example, who will take a stand, who will do what they promise us, and who will motivate us to dream and to achieve the fulfillment of those dreams.

We need leaders who not only believe in our worth, but leaders who inspire us to see the innate worth in all people. We need someone to lead

us who believes there are no throw-away people. We need great leaders who not only possess a compelling vision and the courage to pursue it, but leaders who are willing to take personal risks. We need leaders who will risk popularity, financial security and even life if necessary to speak the truth to us... leaders for whom nothing is as important as the vision.

Whoever would be our leaders must be trustworthy people and they must be so consumed by a vision for our community that no amount of discouragement will stop them. They will understand that there is a difference in management and in leadership. Someone has said leadership is seeing to it that the right things are done, while management is concerned about doing things the right way. Good leadership will see to it that proper management occurs by motivating gifted and skilled persons to want to handle the job.

Great leaders do not tell us what we need to do, rather they inspire us to create new ways of solving old problems. Around great leaders, we come to believe in our own abilities and find ourselves willing to challenge the status quo.

In short, it is impossible to be around great leaders without thinking better of yourself, so innate is their ability to bring out the very best in folks.

Yeah, we need leaders. And we need to be able to recognize those already among us. And we need to be willing to risk some more and follow. Why else would we be given leaders if not to follow them? Let's keep on keeping on! ♪

MAD ABOUT DADS

Men are getting a bad rap in portrayals that exclude women

By Charles E. MacNelly

It makes me proud that my grown children contacted me to express their love and respect this Father's Day. But it got me to wondering if the generation now growing up will have much respect for their fathers. Males (and all you fathers are males, aren't you?) are depicted continuously in the media, by politicians and by women's extremist groups in the most negative of terms. Blatantly sexist stereotypes are voiced in the media daily which picture men, in general, as the culprits responsible for all of society's problems.

Men are depicted as less caring and nurturing of their children than women. Men are portrayed as the parent absent from the home, leaving all child care to the mothers. And failure to pay child support is treated solely as a male foible, as if there aren't women who abandon their children, or leave them for grandparents to

raise. And as if there are no mothers who do not provide any support whatsoever for their children. As if women are never the absent parent.

Men are most frequently depicted as drunk drivers. As one illustration, look at the name "Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)". This name is blatantly sexist. It implies that fathers are not against drunk driving, or we lack any particular interest in the subject. It implies that fathers are the drunk drivers mothers are against. Fact is that a lot of drunk drivers are women and mothers also.

Too frequently only men are depicted as the perpetrators of violence in the home. Time and time again I hear the media equating spousal abuse with wife beating. Women are always presented as the victims, when in reality they can be just as abusive. Men are depicted as being child abusers and violent criminals. But what about Susan Smith, the woman who recently rolled her children into the

lake and the Kansas woman who decapitated her 6-year-old son? When are we going to set up a committee to find solutions to the problem of women who abuse their children (and other family members)?

Stalking is another problem spoken about as if it were exclusively a male behavior. Males, exclusively, are depicted as sexual molesters. Finally and most prevalently, men are regularly depicted as sexual molesters. Finally and most prevalently, men are regularly depicted as the oppressors of women, responsible for keeping all women from their loftiest goals.

To summarize, young men and fathers, you are being portrayed regularly as callous and unnurturing to your families, as wife beaters, as child abusers, as rapists, as stalkers, as dead-beats, as drunks and as criminals of the worst sort. Unless men challenge these portrayals, how will today's children be able to respect you as fathers, as brothers and as men? ♪

From the trenches

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM ALLIANCE MEMBERS

My best buddy left me a shining legacy to just do it instead of being swallowed

Our one arrow joins the many, caves the wall.

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

When AIDS picked off my best buddy Larry, my bright, sun-shining world caved and crashed, replaced by the true picture of the darkness engulfing our world that kept our neighbors from seeing and knowing. The pain of losing Larry was wrenching enough but my black pit revealed was from how Larry was treated, shunned, rejected, shut out, because he was gay with a gay disease. The picture of that was so ugly, so foul a stench to it, and that black picture swallowed me.

I would have drowned in it if I didn't start swimming. It would have consumed me if I never did move.

I started flinging my body against the walls of that black pit, ramming it to damage it, hoping to produce a minor crack that might grow and rip and tear and eventually tumble that oppressive wall.

I noticed others were doing that too, all around me, some joining in with me, butting too my piece of the wall. All of us ramming together, we were shaking that wall, kicking and gouging it, threatening it. What might be stupid if done by one person only - butting up against a brick wall -

actually works when the many do it together, their force, their stubborn attention combined. I could see how pieces of that wall were tumbling. I could see how our work was enabling people trapped on the other side to come crawling through the cracks we created, to join us.

Only three years later, I can see now, by the vast numbers of people who have joined us, that the wall is doomed, because we kept on and because we kept on still.

The *Alliance News* was my arrow, my flaming arrow drawn and shot each month into the darkness, to light the night for my brothers and sisters buried in it. It was light intended too for those caught and held by the darkness, their eyes blinded by the darkness, their minds numbed by the darkness, oblivious to how they were creating the darkness by shunning us, rejecting us, as they had been taught to do.

My work on the *Alliance News* was for my salvation because as long as I was moving, doing something against the darkness, I was not drowning in it. That was reason enough but I found too additional healing when I used my voice, when I looked inside me by writing, wrestled with my pain in my writing and beat it soundly when placed in new perspective. My arrows shot into the darkness guided my feet too, by the light emitted.

That healing cannot be done by the one for the many. Each person has to light their way, ultimately. Everyone I met, I encouraged them to write for the *News*, don't worry about the words, just write it out. So very many did just that and the *News*

became a lantern of many different lights combined, shining in the night, healing us who dared to write or read.

I have other arrows now to forge, other walls to ram. This lantern, this *Alliance News* I pass to Melissa Flories for her creation. She is a brave beacon, steady night vision to her, and she will be mighty against this piece of wall I leave her.

There are many holes to fill, much work here for others who would rather move than drown. There is much writing to do, typing and production, layout and paste-up, and distribution throughout the Metroplex to reach the many buried. Many voices, many hands needed here, many arrows to be formed and shot. There's a place here for you if you'd rather move than drown. There's a piece of this wall reserved for you, to fling yourself against it.

There is work here by giving too if you cannot do, by giving money to buy the equipment, the tools that others will need to use to shine this lantern.

Good work this, such fulfillment to it when you see in the spreading light that the wall is tumbling because you dared to move it.

New beginning here. A new office now to centralize the work, organization and efficiency added by volunteer coordinator Len Wainwright, old hands carrying on and new hands invited to build a bigger, more illuminating lantern by our vision.

Add your vision too by moving for a pen, fill out the form here, send it in and, just like that, you are a peaceful warrior too, shooting arrows into the night. Peaceful warriors never do get buried in the night when they're surrounded by the light they carry.

YES, I want to add my work to the Alliance News:

- News coverage Features, columns Advertising sales
 Typesetting Graphic production Layout
 Photography Distribution Mail-out Volunteer
 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: (work) _____

(home) _____

Best time to contact: _____

Please fill out and mail to:
TCGLA COMMUNITY CENTER
1219 6TH AVE.
FORT WORTH, TX 76104

TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

1980-1995
15th
A·N·N·I·V·E·R·S·A·R·Y

Join us for our anniversary celebration

6:30 -9:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 21

- Award Ceremony, 7:30 p.m. •
- Catering by Tray Chic •
- Music by Roger Copeland •

Business/After-Five Attire
 RSVP to 817/877-5544

We've Moved

The Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance has relocated to a 1,200 square foot office building centrally located and easily accessible in Fort Worth's growing lesbian/gay district.

Purchase of the office building allows security and expansion for TCLGA's continuing programs, including the Teen Project Hotline, Alliance News production, fort worth formal and a library of lesbian/gay books and resources on site. Meeting space is available to other groups too by arrangement.

TCLGA Community Center
 1219 6th Ave.
 Fort Worth, TX 76104
 817/877-5544

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
1219 6th Ave.
Fort Worth, TX
76104

No step is perfect, but there's a perfect lesson in each of our steps.

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

There's no bad thing in making mistakes. Mistakes are to help us learn and grow. The only really bad mistake, I reckon, is to ignore the lesson that might be gained from goofing up.

I made some major mistakes in a story I ran in the last *Alliance News*, about the campaign underway to oust the new Oasis Cowgirls Club from the gay district, to oppose the liquor license that would keep the lesbian social club floating.

I insinuated Mayor Granger as a foe to queer gatherings by reporting her letter to the liquor commission in which she referred to the club as a threat to the neighborhood. I aligned Councilman Kenneth Barr there too by quoting what he wrote similarly of the club's negative impact on neighborhood improvement. I reported that the Fairmount Neighborhood Association and the area's Code Blue patrol sup-

THE OASIS MIRAGE

Some opponents to our women's club insist it's not a gay thing. Our supporters know it is.

ported the bar, no problems there.

Wrong, wrong and wrong.

• Actually, Mayor Granger later withdrew her letter in opposition when she realized the bar was of us instead of the unsavory ownership or clientele police reports at the site previously had indicated. She did some more homework, checked out the facts, found it was a new owner, new clientele, peaceful, well-bred clientele, women who surely won't pee in the parking lot as was rumored up to that point.

I can't be sure about this since I haven't checked with her, but it looks to me like she realized what that club means to us, a safe haven for us where we can escape for a few moments from the pushing and shoving we meet outside those doors by people who aren't so thrilled about us being lesbians. And I think that's great that she would with-

draw her letter and offer support instead to allow us our safe haven.

There she was, blasted in our publication for her initial action, then hounded in the mainstream press for changing direction, and still, she held steady, following the course mapped by more information added. I think that's awesome leadership, learning from an error, changing course when better researched. She's got my vote and I hope she has yours too.

• In quoting Kenneth Barr's letter, I didn't make a blunder as much as I made a faux pas. I heard through the grapevine later that he was offended by the association to homophobia implied in this context. He was opposed to any bar there, he relayed, period. And he has not changed his position on opposing our club, not when it is a bar, period.

And I guess what I learned from my

mistake there, of contrasting his written words to what that club means to us, is that not everyone is capable of taking in new information and changing their course by it. For some people, I reckon, it would be more important to call a club a bar, to support their original position, than to rethink it.

And that's a good lesson for me to learn, to nod my head and say "bar" then go on, to search for someone who sees "club."

• Imagine my chagrin over the calls and letters correcting the position of the Neighborhood Association and the Code Blue patrol. They, in fact, are livid over the Oasis planted on their turf, as you will see from the letters below. Like Barr, their opposition is against all bars, period. Representatives there have called out loudly in the news that it's not a gay issue and they resent the presentation of

this struggle as a gay issue.

This was a good lesson for me to learn, that we have still so much work before us to gain understanding of why this is a gay issue. We have much educating to do, about what it's like when you're not welcome anywhere, when you can't spin your sweetie around the dance floor at Billy Bob's or even wear a "Power Lesbian" T-shirt there and remain unharmed. We have to do much more one-on-one introduction as to why we need our safe havens, adding that we wish we didn't need them, that we wish we could join everyone else where they are welcome.

This was a good admonishment for me to better gauge public reception of us and never assume that we might be farther along than we actually are. This was a good reality check for me.

By the time this edition is printed, the entire issue will be resolved. The commission meeting Sept. 6 will either thumbs up or thumbs down on the license application, either help owner Carolyn Miles to float or to sink.

In the very airing of this controversy though, even with my mistakes thrown in, maybe we've all moved ahead a little bit in our understanding. Maybe we're just a tad bit closer to a welcome mat extended to us beyond the framework of our one little club.

But I could be wrong about that. ☺

In Their Own Words

Dear Ms. Fletcher:

After reading your recent article in the *Alliance News* titled "Mayor blasts new women's club," I felt compelled to write and advise you of the true facts.

Fact #1: Ms. Miles' application for a Mixed Beverage License for the Cowgirls' Oasis was protested based on the location abutting a residential area and the public nuisance created by excessive traffic and noise in the evening hours. Also because previous problems created by the sell of alcohol at the same address have warranted denial of licenses.

Fact #2: Mayor Granger did not "blast" the club. In her letter to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, she stated "this is not an appropriate place for a bar. The bar was a constant problem because of its close proximity to residences and it had a serious adverse impact on the neighborhood." Since these are true facts, how does this merit your statement that "Mayor blasts new women's club"?

Fact #3: Councilman Kenneth Barr said in his letter to TABC "the bar has a history of being a problem location." This is true and the reason for denial of an application for a Wine & Beer Permit in June of 1994.

Fact #4: Councilman Barr also stated in his letter that "reestablishing it as a place to sell alcoholic beverages will conflict with the efforts now underway to improve the

neighborhood." This also is true and the Fairmount Association agreed previously to protest any new applications for the sell of alcoholic beverages in the Fairmount Neighborhood.

Fact #5: Your article also states "the Fairmount Neighborhood Association there fully supports Miles '100 percent' according to one source." This is the *opposite* of the truth! In a Board Meeting held on July 3rd the Fairmount Board voted *unanimously* to oppose this application. The Board believes that the problems created by *any* bar in, or near, *any* residential area warrant the refusal of a license based on the general welfare and peace of nearby residents.

Fact #6: Your article states that the Code Blue patrol for the area also supports Ms. Miles. The *truth* is that members of the neighborhood Code Blue program serve on the Fairmount Neighborhood Association Board and voted to *protest* this application.

Fact #7: The *Alliance News*, a community service of Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, appears to believe that this is a lesbian/gay issue. It is not. Licenses for the sale of alcohol at this location as well as other locations on the southside have previously been protested by the Fairmount Association as well as other southside neighborhood associations.

I believe that you owe your readers the *truth*; I hope you have the integrity to print this in your next issue.

Sincerely,
Patsy Powell

Dear Ms. Fletcher

I am writing in response to your recent article in the *Alliance News* entitled "Mayor Blasts New Women's Club." My first concern about the article is that it is not accurate. As 7th Vice-President in charge of Neighborhood Issues, Patsy Powell filed a protest with the TABC against issuing a liquor license to Carolyn Miles and the Cowgirl's Oasis. Mrs. Powell files a protest on behalf of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association when any establishment applies for a liquor license within the perimeters of our neighborhood. There has been a general agreement of the board members to oppose all further proliferation of bars in the Fairmount Historic District to protect the image of our neighborhood and the well-being of the residents. The decision to post \$150 bond to oppose Cowgirl's Oasis Club on Magnolia was unanimous among the board members present, including Billy Rudd, 8th Vice-President in charge of Crime Prevention.

This is not a personal campaign, nor is it directed at this particular establishment. Since the neighborhood association has taken this stand against all bars within our perimeters, crime and violence are down and our neighborhood has become a safer and more pleasant place to live and raise our families.

As a teacher, I appreciated special interest news publications; however, I expect accuracy and truthfulness in any publication. The blatant disregard of the facts was a personal attack

on Patsy Powell and the Fairmount Neighborhood Association. I feel that you and the *Alliance News* owe a public apology to the Fairmount Neighborhood Association and particularly to Patsy Powell.

Sincerely,
Melissa Wallis, President
Fairmount Neighborhood Association

To Whom it may concern:

As president of the Fairmount Southside Garden Club, I would like to state our opposition to the Cowgirls Oasis bar on Magnolia Avenue.

One of the purposes of the Texas Garden Clubs and National Council of State Garden Clubs is "the preservation of historical places and related garden arts." Bars on Magnolia detract from the historical nature of Magnolia and the surrounding Fairmount neighborhood. We support the Fairmount neighborhood's position to oppose all bars within the neighborhood boundaries.

Sincerely,
Mary Elvira Cantu-Crouch
Fairmount Southside Garden Club

Councilman Kenneth Barr
1000 Macon St.
Fort Worth, Texas 76104
Dear Kenneth,

I so enjoyed having lunch with you the other day. Thank you for sharing your vision of Fort Worth with me. I appreciate your concern about the problems surrounding neighborhood taverns. I agree that some of the taverns

bordering the Fairmount area are very troublesome and cause real problems for the residents. I personally support the philosophy that neighborhood taverns and residents should co-exist peacefully. I have lived in parts of the United States where this was a reality.

I must apologize to you, however, for the way your concerns were interpreted in the *Alliance News*. You were unfairly accused of opposing the Cowgirl Oasis liquor license because of the type of tavern it was. I understand your concerns to be about taverns in general and not about sexual orientation issues. The article's spirit for challenging social consciousness with respect to lesbian awareness is admirable. Historically the policy of the *Alliance News* has been to allow writers to voice their opinions and speak for their causes in any fashion. I believe, personally, this is one situation that went a little too far. Specifically from the standpoint that you were quoted without being interviewed by the author of the article.

I appreciate your involvement in our local governmental issues and feel that members of TCLGA should get more involved as well. I believe our vision for Fort Worth and Tarrant County encompasses the welfare of all its citizens, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation. I believe if we continue to join forces and work together we will keep our neighborhoods from crumbling.

Best regards,
Daune' Littlefield, Ph.D.
TCLGA President

ABOUT FACE

The grin you wear can say more about you than the words you bare, and certainly sugarcoats them

Smile, Darn You, Smile –
It's a song that might ease those tension headaches.

By LOUIS

The following appeared in Ann Landers' column not long ago: "Often the simple things in life can make the most difference. For example, when someone asked Mother Teresa how people without money or power can make the world a better place, she replied, "They should smile more."

It is probably safe to say Mother Teresa has never seen the inside of a gay/lesbian bar or attended any social, organizational or religious meetings in the gay community, but she nevertheless hit the nail squarely on the head as to one thing all of us can work on to improve the Tarrant County scene.

If one is to stroll into a local bar, church or meeting, he/she is almost certain to be struck with the number of men and women there who either have no facial expression at all, or who seem to be almost continuously scowling. In most cases, the individuals involved probably haven't a clue as to their appearance, and how possibly off-putting it may be. (Of course it is recognized in some circles it is considered de rigeur to stomp about looking as fierce as possible. We have no intention of attacking that preference.)

In general, the world (both gay and straight) responds very positively to a pleasant, warm smile. We are not talking here about the magazine cover models' toothy displays. These are probably as false and meaningless as they appear. Rather, we would like to explore developing the kind of smile that says to everyone in sight: "I'm a nice person. You would like me."

Why do many in the gay community smile so little, so infrequently? There are probably as many reasons as there are individuals to be counted. For example, they may feel stressed for one reason or another: job pressures, family or relationship problems, uncertainty over their sexuality, etc. Some may feel their teeth are too uneven, discolored or ugly to allow a smile. Not to

worry. First, they could be wrong about their appearance, and second, simply stunning smiles can be shown with the lips closed or only partially open.

In any case, a good portion of the community probably has no idea how to go about building a "drop dead" gorgeous smile. It isn't all that difficult, we will find, but it isn't exactly easy, either. After all, as the saying goes, if it could be purchased in a bottle or a box, we'd all be lovely beyond compare and have physiques that wouldn't quit.

First, we have to recognize there is more to a great smile than just parting the lips and letting the teeth show. Almost the entire facial muscle system should be involved. This means eyes, eyebrows and, in some cases, foreheads. The aforementioned models seldom smile with their eyes because, heaven forbid!, they might develop wrinkles. A critic once wrote the late actress, Marlene Dietrich, never had a single expression on her face during her entire career. Whether or not that is true, the eyes are an important element in the perfect smile.

Photographers even in the very early days of portraiture recognized this, although they didn't know how to correctly get the idea across to subjects who probably had little cause for smiling in their often harsh lives. To melt those granite visages into an acceptable image, the photographer

would suddenly shout: "Look pretty, please!" The unexpectedness or the absurdity (perhaps both) almost never failed to work.

The story is told that during the filming of a certain movie, the director wished for a particularly menacing expression on the face of an actor. Working together, they had the actor smile with only his lips - the rest of his face remained frozen. The effect was chilling beyond belief.

How do we go about evaluating our own smile? Probably the easiest way is simply to spend some time (as much as is necessary) in front of a mirror. First, flash what presently passes for a smile. Then try different methods of improving the look. In as much as all of us are different, there is no way to give explicit directions here. Try the lips parted at different distances; the teeth together or the mouth partially open - whatever feels and looks good to you.

At the same time, watch the rest of the face. Are the eyes playing a part in the smile? If not, make efforts to bring the muscles around the eyes into action to give a pleasing "twinkle". This may involve nothing more complex than consciously relaxing the muscles of the lower lids.

Once you have determined how you look your best, you are in for a lot of practice. Spend as much time as you can in front of a mirror exercising your new look until you can feel when it is right without looking - in other

words, you can turn it on at will and know exactly how you look. This may take quite a long time. Don't hurry, and don't give up. The rewards are worth the effort.

It should be pointed out there is more involved here than simply grinning your head off. We are told it takes fewer muscles, therefore it is less work, to smile than to frown or scowl. As was suggested earlier, a glower or scowl may be an unconscious response to matters causing tension in one's life. While developing a wonderful smile may do nothing toward resolving these problems, it can't help but make you feel better. The facial muscles, including those around the eyes, relax, easing tenseness. This, in turn, could go a long way toward preventing tension headaches.

And, the Lord knows there are plenty of causes for tension in our lives. This writer once worked with a female administrator who secretly felt inadequate for her position (she was right). She compensated by being as authoritarian as possible. As a result, she came off not a little like the old RKO movie logo with its revolving radio tower. Like the tower, she broadcast waves of anxiety in all directions everywhere she went, resulting in distress to those under her supervision.

Perhaps it was she - plus a few other dillies I worked with - who had a long term effect on this writer. Years

later, when taking voice lessons, my instructor would suddenly stop an exercise and firmly say: "Smile, darn you, smile!" (The title of an old song.) She finally wound up making me face a mirror and study my expression as the lesson proceeded. "For," she never tired of saying, "the audience doesn't want to hear you unless you have an interesting face."

So now you are about ready to dazzle the world with your new smile. Great! Remember, though, there must be the element of sincerity, or the effect will be less than hoped. When you smile at someone, mean it! Otherwise, you may look as plastic and vapid as a Miss America contestant.

Of course, there will be those who may make snide remarks about your new smile. That always happens whatever you do. Pay no heed, after all, it is your face that is benefiting - who cares what they think? (This writer was once called "Smiley" by a rather up-tight New York delicatessen employee - and he didn't mean it in a flattering way. I didn't let it bother me - why should I alter my behavior because of his problems?)

The comedian Jimmy Durante had a routine wherein he would sing in a wonderfully graveled voice: "Now ya gotta start off each day with a song, Even when things go wrong. You'll feel better, You'll even look better...."

Substitute the word smile for "song," and you have the message of this article. Try it. Good luck! ♣

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dewey's daydreams

By **TODD CAMP**

BRYAN! WAKE UP! WHAT'S ~U~P~ THAT NOISE?

JUST ROACHES IN THE KITCHEN. GO BACK TO SLEEP.

COME CHECK IT OUT WITH ME ~ PLEASE ~???

DEWEY, I'M NOT GETTING OUT OF BED TO LOOK AT A BUG IN OUR TRASH!

OKAY ~ I'LL GO ALONE. LET'S SEE ~ WHERE'S THAT DAMN' FLASHLIGHT?

RUSTLERUSTLERUSTLESCRITCHSKRATCHSKITTERSKATTER

CLICK!

WHAT WAS IT ~??

A ROACH, IN THE KITCHEN. I'M GONNA SLEEP UNDER THE BED.

AIDS DOCUMENTARY ON TURTLE CREEK CHORALE NOMINATED FOR AWARD

"AFTER GOODBYE: An AIDS Story" has received a much coveted nomination for Informational or Cultural Program" from The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The hour-long special was produced by Ginny Martin and features the Turtle Creek Chorale, Dallas' world-renowned 200-member male chorus. The awards presentation will be Tuesday, Sept. 12, in New York City.

The documentary, produced by local PBS affiliate KERA-TV/Channel 13, focuses on the chorus and the grief recovery it has experienced through music in the loss of more than 80 of its members to AIDS. The program has received nine national awards including the prestigious New York Festival's Human Relations Gold Medal.

"I could not imagine a more fitting tribute to our brothers and fellow singers who are no longer with us than for this program to continue to receive such incredible response from the public and those in the industry. The fact that their lives continue to move and change peoples' hearts is testimony to the wonderful legacy they have left behind," says Dr. Timothy Seelig, TCC Artistic Director.

NAMES PROJECT BEGINS WORK ON 1996 DISPLAY IN WASHINGTON D.C.

THIRTY VOLUNTEERS of four NAMES Project chapters in the Southwest Region met in Fort Worth July 29 with two representatives of The NAMES Project Foundation to begin planning preparation for the October 1996 display of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C. An estimated 40,000 to 45,000 Quilt panels will create a mile-long display in the nation's capitol, said Mike Smith, director of the Oct. 11-13, display and cofounder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Smith described the numerous challenges volunteers and attendees will encounter with a display of this magnitude.

Smith estimated 10,000 to 12,000 volunteers will be needed to execute the actual display in Washington, which will cost approximately \$900,000 to implement. He added that the display is expected to help focus the national political agenda on the issues of AIDS/HIV.

Smith and Karen Rouse, foundation associate director of Chapter Relations, led meetings on planning and fundraising with the representatives of the Dallas, Fort Worth/Tarrant County, Houston and Tulsa chapters.

Additionally, during the regional meeting, Interim Regional Coordinator Keith Crawford of the Houston chapter chaired the election of Amy Watts, volunteer for the Fort Worth/Tarrant County chapter, as the new Southwest Regional Coordinator of

the NAMES Project.

The regional meeting was held at the Broadway Baptist Church and hosted by the Fort Worth/Tarrant County Chapter, which also hosted a luncheon prior to the meeting at the chapter workshop at 665 S. Jennings and hosted in the evening a reception

popular Texan folk and country performers in a celebration of music, food, fun and crafts.

The festival will be from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at Texas Lil's Dude Ranch in Justin. Admission is \$10; call 817/891-4040 for information. Tickets may be purchased in

Native American culture and folklore. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Riding Unlimited, a nonprofit organization providing therapeutic horsemanship for the disabled; also benefiting will be Citizens Opposed to the Northlake/Justin Trash Refuse or Landfill, (CONTROL).

award ceremony Saturday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Union Station, located in the Dallas Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The Texas Human Rights Foundation will honor Dr. Elders for her commitment to truth and honesty in the war on AIDS and for her reasoned discourse on comprehensive health education. Dr. Elders continues to passionately advocate for dealing candidly with the spread of HIV and for gay and lesbian concerns.

For tickets or more information, contact the Texas Human Rights Foundation at 800/828-6417. THRF is Texas' oldest organization whose mission is to end discrimination based on sexual orientation or HIV status through litigation, education and direct legal services.



THE NAMES PROJECT chapter here hosted regional planning sessions for the biggest ever Memorial Quilt display next year in Washington, D.C.

BIKE TOUR FOR MS TRAVELS SCENIC TEXAS COUNTRY

THE THIRD ANNUAL MS 150 "Bike to the Brazos" Tour is set for Sept. 23-24. The two-day bike tour will start at 8 a.m. from Harris Methodist Southwest Hospital and take cyclists through some of Texas' most beautiful countryside.

The route includes Lake Benbrook, Cresson, Granbury, Dinosaur Valley and on to Glen Lakes Methodist Camp in Glen Rose to camp out under the Texas sky or stay in a cabin/motel if preferred. The second day will take an equally scenic route back along the Brazos, past Lake Pat Cleburne and ending back at Harris Methodist Southwest Hospital for a finish-line celebration.

Registration fee is \$25 with a minimum of \$150 in pledges to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. For registration information call 817/263-8200.

TRINITY OFFERS NEW HIV SUPPORT SERVICES

TRINITY MCC announces a new ministry to HIV-impacted individuals through an HIV support group start-

in the home of J. Lynn Penny and Horace Griffith. Persons interested in volunteering should call The NAMES Project Fort Worth/Tarrant County at 817/33NAMES (336-2637).

NEW FESTIVAL CELEBRATES TEXAS CULTURE

THE FIRST NORTH TEXAS Folk Festival and Hootenanny will feature

advance at any Ticketmaster location or at the festival.

Featured performers include Austin Lounge Lizards, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Josh Alan, Mary Cutrufello, Blarney Brothers, Lost Tribe and more. Bring blankets and lawn chairs for the outdoor setting.

The festival includes dramatizations of the Old West and experiences in

FORMER SURGEON GENERAL ELDERS IN DALLAS

FOR TRUTH/HONESTY AWARD

THE TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION will award former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders its first National Humanitarian Award. Join honorary host Dallas mayor Ron Kirk and emcee Karen Denard, the voice of Dallas, at the

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PROGRAM:

JAN WYNN

PRIVATE PRACTICE THERAPIST, ON COUNSELING TO HELP PARENTS ON ISSUES AFFECTING THEIR LESBIAN/GAY CHILDREN

7 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
AT FIRST JEFFERSON CHURCH
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ing in September. Rebirth, Affirmative, Insightful Network Building Options To Wholeness (RAINBOW) begins and meets at Trinity MCC for eight weeks in September.

This HIV support group is for both HIV positive individuals and the HIV impacted individual whose family member or life partner is HIV positive. RAINBOW will help both the

HIV positive person and his/her loved one cope with living with AIDS. It should be noted that this is not a bereavement group.

The group will run from eight weeks beginning the third week in September. Maximum capacity for the group is 15 members. To inquire about joining RAINBOW, call and leave a message for Rhonda at 817/483-6674.

Rhonda, the group facilitator, has a social services background and is nearing the completion of a master's of social work degree.

There is no fee for participation in the group. Donations are appreciated and will be used strictly for supplies for RAINBOW. After the eight-week sessions end, a new RAINBOW support group begins after the holidays.

HOEDOWN TURNED DOWN

Women's Haven distanced itself from queer fund-raising but other mainstream organizations competed for the beneficiary spot

Cowtown Hoedown proceeds pledged to the Women's Haven of Tarrant County have been designated for another beneficiary after the Women's Haven executive board withdrew its association to the fund-

raising dance sponsored by lesbian/gay organizations.

As reported in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Michael Heiskell, president of the Women's Haven board of directors, objected to publicity that

linked the haven to the lesbian/gay groups. He said the haven has an image to uphold.

Sponsors of the dance are the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association. The Anne Simon Reeves home replaces the Women's Haven as beneficiary.

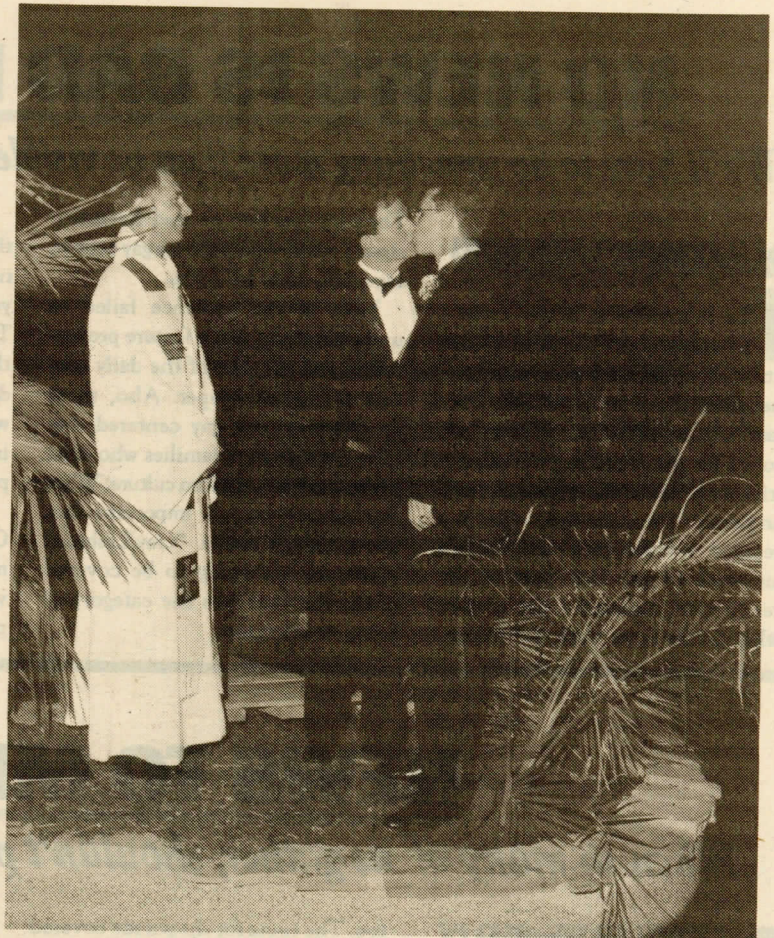
Doug Rich, chair of the Hoedown, said he viewed the board's decision to reject funds as "its inability to accept that which is different." However, Rich praised the haven's work for gay and lesbian people who are battered and hoped it would "recuperate quickly from any damage it has done to itself by rejecting funds from us."

He said the Cowtown Hoedown committee agreed that pursuing a joint endeavor with the haven would "cause them and us embarrassment," and thus a replacement charity was selected.

The Hoedown is the first offering of what the committee plans as a traditional fall fund-raising celebration to raise consciousness of lesbian/gay concerns.

The dance is from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at 813 E. 9th Street in downtown Fort Worth.

The event offers a DJ and live entertainment, food, drinks and a raffle. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the door. For advanced tickets call 817/263-9006.



Steve Eagle and Robert Webster were joined together in a Holy Union at their home on July 22, 1995. Guests included Steve's mother and cousin. Robert's family was represented by his father and sister. Robert's best friend, Jim Zolinski, gave the toast that brought the party to a riotous climax. Friends from all over the nation were present and all guests were asked to make donations to AIDS Interfaith Network. The Rev. Roger Wedell, the director of AIDS Interfaith, conducted the service poolside to the audience of 114. Catering was provided by Le Chic.



THE THERAPY SISTERS, Maurine McLean and Lisa Rogers, return to the Fort Worth area from their native Austin soil to appear at the Jefferson Freedom Cafe at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. The Freedom Cafe is a regular entertainment offering of First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist at 1959 Sandy Lane in Fort Worth. The Therapy Sisters extend a healing dose of good sense in the face of angst with song lyrics that touch on what ails us. They have appeared at Pleiades Productions concerts and at clubs throughout the Metroplex, with national and international tours as well under the belts.

Without Your Voice

IMPROVEMENT IS DIFFICULT.

An HIV Needs Assessment of Region 3 is being conducted.

We want to hear your needs and opinions.

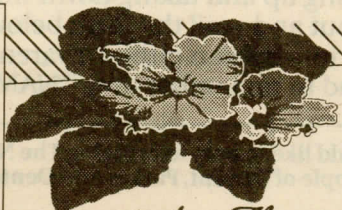
Please plan to participate in an anonymous interview which takes about 45 minutes.

Contact your agency or call 921-3729 for an appointment or more information.

THE ALYSON ALMANAC

PRESENTS
SEPTEMBER
in gay and lesbian history

Sept. 21, 1955: The Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian membership organization in the U.S., is formed in San Francisco. Originally a social club, D.O.B. grew into a national organization with educational and political goals as well. Co-founders Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon wrote the popular book *Lesbian Woman*, and remain active four decades later.

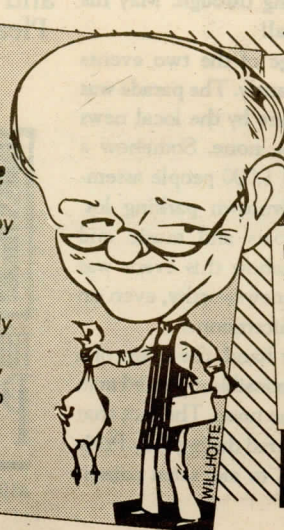


The Violet Menace

The Captive, a highly publicized play about a lesbian, opened in France, then in New York City in Sept. 1926. Playwright Edouard Bourdet used a bouquet of violets to symbolize lesbian love, and theater historian Kaier Curtin writes that following *The Captive's* success, "French florists experienced a devastating drop in the violet market."

Happy Birthday to Craig Claiborne

(born Sept. 4, 1920) This boy from a poor Southern family made his name as a cookbook writer and food critic. His memoirs are equally fascinating. In *A Feast Made for Laughter*, he writes openly of his homosexuality, and also of his incestuous relationship with his doomed, unhappy father.



Kentucky's sodomy law was struck down by the state supreme court in September 1992. At the same time, the judges administered a firm slap to the U.S. Supreme Court for its 1986 *Hardwick* ruling in support of sodomy laws. "Equal justice under the law is more than a mere aspiration" in Kentucky, declared justice Charles Leibson.

Sources: *We Can Always Call Them Bulgarians*, by Kaier Curtin; *A Feast Made for Laughter*, by Craig Claiborne; *Members of the Tribe*, by Michael Willhoite; and *The Alyson Almanac*.

NO NEWS IS BAD NEWS

We'll have to do something more than be visible to make it in print.

By **RAYMOND NOWICKI**

The July meeting of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance was extremely enlightening. A photographer from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* was involved in a year-long project for the paper in presenting a series of articles on the modern American family. The same individual had prepared a video tape and showed this work to us. One part of the presentation depicted a gay couple. Other family types were also shown.

The attendees were excited that mainstream media would show a gay couple, especially here in Texas.

Most of the audience failed to understand this was a feature presentation and not part of the daily routine of the newspaper. Also, these articles were not gay centered, but rather, a myriad of families who exist in the current American culture. What was missed was an important fact about today's media. "Gay/Lesbian" issues are not going to be covered unless they fall into the category of being newsworthy.

One audience member inquired of this photographer why the paper did not replace the reporter who had for years covered the "gay/lesbian" scene. This photographer couldn't answer this question. What we have to understand is what was considered newsworthy five or 10 years ago may not fit into that category. Much has happened during this interval of time.

Media for several years covered the Gay Pride parades. This was true in most cities in the nation. America was curious. They had not seen such people in their daily lives (or were

not prepared to admit they knew such people). This was newsworthy. Media rushed to show the drag queens, leather men, lesbians, floats filled with scantily clothed men, and whatever else was in the parade. Lesbians/gays were something which attracted an audience. Most of the country denied such behavior existed in America.

Sure, Denmark and Sweden were different. Perverse behavior was rampant in such permissive societies. America was different. We were a Christian nation. Such deviant behavior was an anathema to our way of thinking. So, when we came screaming out of the closet and confronted America with our presence, this was newsworthy. Media was even setting up staffs to cover the "gay scene". Now it is different.

Gay is not in. The slant on news is more conservative and focuses on different issues. Gay Pride parades are a non-event. A photographer might come out to take a few pictures which will be buried in some insignificant part of the paper, if they are even printed.

The Gay Pride Parade is no longer a newsworthy lesbian/gay event. Its purpose now is to instill pride in our community. Nothing wrong with this changing aspect of the parade. Our community could use some uplifting in the face of today's threats to all of us. It isn't just AIDS but bigotry. This is the one day of the year when some of us feel free enough to say, act and be who we really are. That's great! It's just we have to understand that the publicity we used to receive from marching down the street is no longer there. The rest of the world doesn't

care.

Now, if our purpose is to broaden our scope and influence, then we need to do something which is truly newsworthy. News and the resulting publicity only occur if something is an event or happening which is rare or unusual. We can see this principle employed in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. America was not aware (outside of the African-American community) of the problems faced by persons residing in the South. Few of us who were not African-Americans even had contact with members outside of our own race. By utilizing the power of television, the leaders showed how cruel law enforcement officials could be to other human beings because of their race. People were appalled by what was being shown on the television. Efforts of these leaders paid off. Laws were passed which altered the American landscape. We still have some battles to fight, but certainly things have changed.

Only through acts of courage and creative approaches will the lesbian/gay community show how the world is unfair to all of us. Without us being shown, the public will not care. Funding for vital programs will continue to decline. Persons who have AIDS will receive less money for their treatment and the world will continue to vilify these individuals for their behavior and not sympathy for their pain and suffering. Our community needs to look at what actions are required to place us in the forefront.

One suggestion is a march upon the halls of government. I'm not talking about just any march, but one

SEE 'NEWS COVERAGE' ON P. 21

NEWS TO ME

When so many of us gather, shouldn't pride be reported?

By **CHARLES MacNELLY**

How is it that gay rights is something of a national topic but the local media did not provide any coverage of the local Gay Pride Parade held June 4? Here there were over 1,000 people gathered on the parking lot at Hemphill and Rosedale, most with balloons and festive costumes. There were floats and parade officials and groups from neighboring cities with banners proclaiming affiliations with churches, community service organizations and support groups such as Parents of Gay Children. On a day when the news was particularly slow anyway, one wonders how none of the local news organizations found the event newsworthy. One wonders what reins were used and by whom.

I marched in the Gay Pride Parade for the first time this year, so, as my first time, I was reasonably nervous. But, after the parade was over I didn't feel like part of a particularly proud group. To me Gay Pride seemed like a non-event. Now, I don't want to put down those who participated or those who planned things. They deserve our applause for their efforts.

But, when I decided to march this year, I felt like I had decided to "come out". It was a big decision because it represented so many other changes I've had concerning being homosexual and proud. I was ready to be recognized on national television and, therefore, surveillance television, as a dissident to public policies concerning homosexuals. I was ready to stand up and be counted with all my braver allies who have fought for change far longer than me.

But the parade was a non-event,

too. The route for the parade covered only a few blocks around the gay bar area. And it seemed that no newspeople had been lined up for news coverage. There was no political statement being made. Even the Gay Pride T-shirts displayed an "in group" symbol that would not be recognized on the streets as being a homosexual statement. Nowhere did the words gay or lesbian or homosexual appear on the shirts. When I discovered this fact, I opted to buy one of the Corral shirts, which did.

To me the statement made by Fort Worth was, "We're proud, but not very. There's no need to make ourselves visible to the community. Let's just be proud among ourselves and show it by attending more bar events than usual."

The parade and festival that followed were the main events I attended. The next most significant Gay Pride Week event for me was the news of the arrest of Ty Herndon for exposing his genitalia to an undercover police officer. My heart goes out to this guy for the mental anguish he must be going through. May his fans remain loyal!

Press coverage of the two events differed significantly. The parade was given no exposure by the local news media - that is, none. Somehow a crowd of nearly 1,000 people assembling on a downtown parking lot, with festive floats and music and balloons - somehow this event was not considered newsworthy, even on a dull Sunday afternoon.

On the other hand, the arrest of a respectable, responsible, talented man became headline news. The fact that this arrest occurred during Gay Pride Week does not, to me, seem coinci-

dental. The fact that the arrest occurred at all indicates how our local city government continues to harass homosexual men and to make rumors of their sexual orientation public.

Gay pride week illustrated the attitudes of both the local government and the local homosexual community, both gays and lesbians. The homos were appropriately inhibited and the same old one-two keeps going on in spite of gay/lesbian pride.

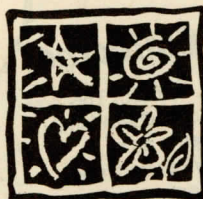
Community Support Needed for 1995 World AIDS Day Displays

In observance of World AIDS Day; December 1, 1995, The NAMES Project Fort Worth/Tarrant County plans to take The AIDS Memorial Quilt out into the community.

In past years this annual world-wide observance in Tarrant County has been to have a small display in a central location. This year, November 26 through December 3, the Quilt will be displayed in 12 x 12 ft. sections at numerous businesses, schools, faith communities and public buildings throughout Tarrant, Parker and Denton Counties. As such, we will be able to bring the Quilt to a larger audience - to those who might not otherwise experience the power of The AIDS Memorial Quilt.

One Hundred community volunteers will be needed to make this a reality. No amount of time is too small.

The 1995 World AIDS Day theme is "Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities". Your commitment of time is needed. Volunteer opportunities range from one hour to all day and consist of delivering, setting up and taking down the 12 x 12 ft. Quilt Display Panels. Please take a moment to fill out and mail the form below. Please join us as we share the responsibility to heighten public awareness of AIDS/HIV and to remember their "NAMES"!



THE NAMES
PROJECT

AIDS Memorial Quilt

Yes, I would like to help in bringing The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to the people of Tarrant, Parker and Denton Counties.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Telephone: _____ Evening Telephone: _____

Mail To: The NAMES Project Fort Worth/Tarrant County
P. O. Box 121041
Arlington, Texas 76012

TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

1980-1995

15th ANNIVERSARY

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
By GLENDA GARDNER

Rev. Jim Norwood was incensed by the abuse of our community's basic human rights. He fought back by calling a meeting to order, a meeting of fighting spirits who would form the Alliance.

15 years
of
service & education
to the
gay & lesbian community
of Tarrant County

We
CELEBRATE
the
Tarrant County
Lesbian/Gay Alliance

Thanks!

Your leadership is appreciated.



Celebration
Community Church

*(formerly White Rock Church, West)

Celebrating God's Love!

Call (817) 275-0443
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MEETING AT:
1959 Sandy Lane
Fort Worth

For the past 20 years, Reverend Jim Norwood has devoted his time, energy and talents to improving the quality of life for thousands of gays and lesbians in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. He has openly fought hatred and bigotry through God's love and grace while inspiring many of our greatest leaders to band together creating the united force that is this community today.

Born an only child and raised in Dallas, Reverend Jim received his Bachelor of Science degree from Hardin Simmons University, his Bachelor's and Master's of Divinity degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and his Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Burton College and Seminary in Colorado for his celebrated accomplishments in the real estate industry.

Rev. Jim's phenomenal negotiation skills have been instrumental in the evolution of the Dallas MCC into its fabulous facilities today. "My first time into the Dallas MCC was to determine the needs of the church for an upcoming project. And I just stayed, I never missed another meeting because I truly felt God's presence there. I proudly served God's people in Dallas for nine years."

**PASTOR 1978-1985:
Agape Metropolitan Church**

"In November of 1978, I was sent by the coordinator of the UFMCC South Central District to close the church in Fort Worth because there were only seven members left. Church members were often subjected to harassment from police officers who routinely patrolled and recorded au-

tomobile license numbers during services. Many also had to contend with militant protestors who felt compelled to stand outside the Church and shout insults and derogatory names when anyone was on the premises. It was so bad, that we only put the church sign outside 10 minutes before services were scheduled and brought it back in immediately after beginning. But, we endured this persecution and membership slowly began to increase."

Slowly, Fort Worth's Agape MCC located in a tiny store front on the corner of Hemphill at Page began to outgrow its facilities. Under Rev. Jim's leadership and utilizing his real estate expertise, the church moved to the current Forest Hill location.

Agape MCC went from a member-

ship of seven in 1978 to 252 in 1985 under Rev. Jim's guidance. He was instrumental in initiating a bar-bus ministry and hosting Tarrant County Gay Pride Week opening services as well as many other community outreach programs. "We were the first church in the fellowship to have a bus and our primary driver was Frank Keese. I was very proud to be the first minister to officiate at an Imperial Court function in Fort Worth. Gary Taylor (aka Raina Lea), Empress V & VII, stands out in my mind as a strong community leader who would always do anything to help the church. Others who showed great respect were Wayne Reid (Aunt Bea) and Billy Ray Hill who donated a great deal of money whenever needed. Billie

SEE 'FOUNDER' ON P. 21



TCLGA
Secretary
Melissa
Flories with
Rev. Jim
Norwood.

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK

*congratulates the
Tarrant County
Lesbian/Gay Alliance*

*on
15 years
of outstanding service
to the community*

603 W. Magnolia, Ste 207 • Fort Worth, TX 76104 • 817/927-2437
AIDS Interfaith is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

1980-1995 15th ANNIVERSARY

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By GLENDA GARDNER

Dauné Littlefield was the founding president 15 years ago. She's leading the advocacy/education agency now. In between, she's been forming and building, nurturing the seeds of our community into full bloom.

Tough, "no nonsense" and "all business" are some of the terms associated with the public persona which is Dr. Dauné Littlefield. But to the very privileged few who have been allowed to catch a glimpse of her private persona, a rare and delightful experience awaits.

While I've been associated with Dauné on an organizational level for the last 15 years, it's only been within the past few months that I've been allowed within her private "inner sanctum". Away from public scrutiny and the weight of tremendous responsibilities, a softer, more gentle Dauné evolves.

I've been privy to her compassionate interaction with community members in times of personal crisis. I've seen her cradle "many a lost soul" in her arms until they were strong enough to stand alone again. I've heard her words of hope and encouragement as she witnesses to God's love and mercy in her own life. I've seen her stand steadfast in unwavering devotion when her spouse faced some of the most difficult challenges of life. I've seen the tears in her eyes when she speaks of the community she loves and has worked so unselfishly for during the past 16 years!

Being "tough", "no nonsense" and "all business" helped her accomplish her business and organizational goals, but dedication and God's love gave her the "faith" to never give up the fight!

I consider this article "a labor of love" to a woman who justly deserves our community's praise and appreciation.

Dauné's work experience has ranged from Substance Abuse Counselor to Probation Officer to Psychiatric Hospital Management to her current position of Director of Client

Services at the AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth.

In December of 1993, Dauné completed her Ph.D. at TWU in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her doctoral dissertation is titled *Common Threads and Themes Involved In Long-Term Lesbian Relationships*.

Her volunteer service to this community has spanned the past 16 years and her contributions are immeasurable. She has been one of the pioneering spirits who brought many gays and lesbians in the Metroplex "out of the closet" forever!

1980-Founder of Lambda AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

"Lot's of gays and lesbians came to me saying they wanted to be clean

and sober but they just weren't comfortable going to straight AA meetings. What they really desired was a gay sensitive 12-step program so I founded the group that met originally at Agape MCC. My lover at the time, Jeanne Hassell, was an alcoholic and I knew I couldn't 'fix her'. Although painful to recall, I know that because of Lambda AA, she died sober in 1981. Eventually, the group moved and became its own unique, separate group. I'm very honored to go back to the group each year and speak to them at their anniversary celebration."

1979-1992 Board of Directors, Agape MCC; 1993-1995 Trinity MCC

"I've always been dedicated to the church, it comes first."

1980-1981 First President of Tarrant County Gay Political Caucus - Renamed as Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

"The first organizational meeting was held at Agape MCC on Hemphill Street in Fort Worth. There were 50-100 people in attendance who had been called together by the founder of this movement, Rev. Jim Norwood. Rev. Jim challenged the group to band together and fight the blatant police harassment and discrimination that was occurring in Tarrant County at that time. It had been common practice for the police to record license numbers of automobiles parked outside gay establishments or churches and to harass drivers upon leaving if they were suspected of being gay. The group was formed but when it came time to elect officers, people hesitated out of fear and possible police retaliation. With Rev. Jim's support and encouragement, I was nominated and then



TCLGA President Dauné Littlefield face to face with Glenda Gardner.

Congratulations!

Fifteen years of faithful community service! It is with deep pride, unbounded admiration, and sincere gratitude that the entire membership and steering committee of the NAMES Project Fort Worth/Tarrant County offers its congratulations to the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance on the occasion of your crystal anniversary.

We as an organization of volunteers are ever mindful of the consistent support that TCLGA has provided us since our inception in late 1991. At that time, the *Alliance News* publicized our founding and helped us to establish our initial volunteer base. Two years later, the *News* provided invaluable coverage of our first major display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at Will Rogers Exhibits Hall, an event which led to our being recognized nationally as the 1993 NAMES Project Chapter of the Year.

And we are grateful also to be a beneficiary of the annual *fort worth formal*, which provides a significant percentage of our operating budget each year. During the past 12 months alone, we displayed portions of the Quilt to 13,448 persons in Tarrant, Parker, and Denton Counties, and donated \$3,000 back to direct AIDS Service Providers in Fort Worth.

TCLGA and *fort worth formal* helped us make that happen.

Fifteen years of consistently excellent community service is a remarkable record for any organization. We at the NAMES Project applaud your past efforts to raise the quality of life for lesbians and gays in Tarrant County and look forward to your inevitable continued success.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Click, Genie Quincy
Chapter Co-chairs

Dear Friends at TCLGA,

Congratulations on fifteen years of service to our community. As I think of the things you have accomplished I can not help but wonder where we would be today if not for you.

Time and time again, you have stood on that line between oppression and justice for our people. You represent for all of us the importance of commitment for the long haul. You not only have done and are doing a fine job... you are a fine people.

God bless you. Let us know if there is ever any way we can assist you or encourage you in your work.

Together in Service,
Rev. Jo Crisco
Trinity MCC

elected as the first President. One of the efforts we concentrated on was the creation of the Legal Defense Fund which helped people fight against 'lifestyle' discrimination issues."

1993-1995 Current President of the TCLGA

"We've come so far since those early beginnings! This year TCLGA will be forming an Advisory Council of business and community leaders in Tarrant County that are willing to lend us their name, who will help us plan and strategize for the future.

"TCLGA has also accomplished another first! We are now the first non-church lesbian and gay group to purchase our own building. It is located at 1219 6th Avenue at Magnolia in Fort Worth and can be utilized for many things including community meetings and will be the future site of educational seminars.

"I think over the past 15 years the Alliance has proven its belief in the gay and lesbian community by increasing its services and programs due to the efforts of the many volunteers who have worked so hard to make our dreams a reality."

1982 First Gay Pride Picnic

"I was security at the very first gay pride picnic in Fort Worth that was founded by Gary Taylor (aka Raina Lea). I've been supportive throughout the years and am very proud of how far

GPW has come! We now have many activities, a picnic and a parade to celebrate our pride."

1984 The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington (court member)

"My first court involvement began when Gary Taylor (aka Raina Lea) was Empress V and VI. Gary and I spent a lot of time talking about "community vision" and the need for building healthy gay self-esteem. Our dream was that our people would be proud of themselves as gay individuals and make contributions of their time, talent and money to their own community.

"I will always love a good show. I see it as entertainment, a true part of our culture. The Imperial Court has raised an enormous amount of money for charity using an art form that is sometimes ridiculed, female impersonation. But the Court should be commended for keeping this art form alive for the 17 years of service to the community."

Founder: Fort Worth
Counseling Center,
September 1985
(Predecessor of Community
Outreach Center/AIDS
Outreach Center)

"When the going gets tough, when all the pressures and problems mount up, I can think back to that day in

church when God told me to start the Fort Worth Counseling Center and I did. I look how far we've come - 30 plus staff and all the services now available. I'm extremely proud of how far this agency has come and it makes it all worthwhile.

"For people not familiar with charismatic experiences, this story may be hard to understand. But there I sat in the choir loft at church, when a call came that someone was there who needed guidance or healing. Although I had never responded to this type of call, I left my seat and went down to the altar. Before she could physically touch me, I was on the ground, paralyzed, unable to move. God's voice was loud and strong saying, 'Go do as I command. The time is now, don't put off any longer. You've always wanted a place of healing for my people. Go open that place of healing.'

"I had thought for three or four years that gays needed a place for counseling. Some of the agencies available were not being just and fair

to our people, they were just too homophobic.

"I knew I had to get up and do as God commanded. So, the next day, I went to see Billy Ray Hill and Buddy Jones requesting space for the Center and they graciously donated part of the building located at 659 South Jennings.

"The doors of the counseling center opened just two weeks after that church service!"

The Fort Worth Counseling Center began offering services for individual gay and lesbian therapy. Daune' Littlefield was the founder and Executive Director from 1985-1987. She recalls, "we recruited community leaders and workers to be on the FWCC Board of Directors. Some of them were Sharon Huber, the first President, Buddy Jones, Billy Ray Hill, Delphine Gomez, Rosie Vines, Sidney Blue, Charlene Hart, Billie Moon and Glenda Gardner. I remember Dave Jordon, Charlene Hart, Frank Keese and Glenda Gardner's dedica-

tion to our crisis/telephone lines. I remember how hard J.J. Sparks, Emily Tripp, Charlene Hart and Sidney Blue worked to open and maintain our original food pantry in 1986. Michael Click was instrumental in the success of the Support Group. Mary Ellen Edwards and staff pro-

duced and distributed an outstanding newsletter call the *Community Gazette*. In 1987, the CDC certified volunteers (under the auspice of the Public Health Department) conducting free HIV testing screening and counseling at the Center. Hundreds of volunteers donated their time to

make FWCC a success, including many counselors and therapists.

"During the first two to three years of operations, the FWCC was supported solely through private donations, most of which came from entertainers and female impersonators

SEE 'LITTLEFIELD' ON P. 17

STUBBORN DEFENSE

Fort Worth has had its own Stonewalls along the way, obstacles battered until the walls tumbled.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By SUE HARRIS

On a business trip to New York City, I walked one crisp fall evening past the place where a group of drag queens took their stand for gay rights and emblazoned the name Stonewall on the country's consciousness as a symbol of the emerging voice of our minority.

The visit touched a pride in me for the gay struggle and for how far the national gay movement has come, since that gay political cry was heard almost three decades ago. Being at that historical place also made me think of the gay struggle in Fort Worth, my home. We also have come a long way, but not in the same way.

In New York City, it was not unusual to see same-sex couples walking down the street holding hands with little notice from those they passed. You still don't see that here in Cowtown, where right-wing zealots continue to outnumber the liberal or even moderate minds. In the Big Apple, you also can go into restaurants and see same-sex couples gazing longingly into each others eyes and no one tries to quote Bible scriptures to them. I can't imagine that happening with any real acceptance from onlookers at Le Chardonnay, Cattlemen's Steak House or even a McDonald's here.

But I remember when Fort Worth gays were trapped in a homophobic vise much more powerful and destructive than even the one that exists today. My lover and I moved here in the early 1970s from West Texas, where I truly thought for some years that I was the only woman with a liking for the ladies. As usually happens, however, I found one and two and three just like me in West Texas and then moved to a metropolitan area, Fort Worth and Dallas, to get more involved in a larger gay community.

At first, my lover and I lived in Fort Worth, but used Dallas as the main outlet for any social and political activities for gays. It was there we went to our first gay bars, met other

lesbian couples and joined a radical lesbian group (radical at least for those days) called the Daughters of Bilitis. The daughters met in a high-rise Dallas office building and most of the members signed into the meetings with pseudonyms because of the atmosphere of fear that surrounded any gay activities. My lover and I, who still had wheat behind our ears, signed our real names in all our naivet and feared later we had started an FBI file on us. I probably already had one, since I had been an anti-Vietnam War activist in those paranoid days lorded over by the biggest closet case of them all, J. Edgar Hoover.

With a little gay experience under our belts, my lover and I finally brought our energies back to Fort Worth. We were included in a vagabond group of dykes and queens that helped form the forerunner of what is now the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance one weekend in a ranch house west of Fort Worth. We were a spunky group of outcasts. We were walking on the edge of a Cowtown culture that had traditionally kept its gay residents hidden and afraid and silent. But we had started embracing our dignity and finding our voice.

We started a newspaper for which my lover and I wrote a column called "Not For Lesbians Only." We helped raise money for any of our brothers and sisters who found themselves at odds with the judicial system because of this or that law that we considered prejudicial against gays.

The biggest uproar from Fort Worth's gay community in the 1970s came after a picnic we held at a public park. The picnic was an exhilarating experience for people accustomed to only socializing behind closed doors at individual homes or at a gay bar here and there. But the Fort Worth police recorded the license numbers on our cars, a move that resulted in an agonizing debate about harassment between gays and straights, as well as a lawsuit being filed. Looking back, I think that event was our Stonewall,

that was the time when Fort Worth queers let the community as a whole know we were tired of just existing as benign citizens with a hateful shame rotting in our guts.

I find it interesting that the Fort Worth Police Department today has gay sensitivity sessions for its officers and our gay pride picnic is pulled off each year without any of the shock waves that ran through the straight community because of that first picnic.

Since my initiation into the gay lifestyle back then, I also have learned that not all my pain and the pain felt by my friends was the result of living a lifestyle that included many pressures from the outside world. I know today that the deep river of alcohol and drugs that ran then and runs still through our culture was at the root of most of my problems. It wasn't until 1981, when I entered Alcoholics Anonymous, that I gained some insight into how my disease often set me up for failure, which I then blamed on homophobia. We all know homophobia is very real. But, I've discovered that living a gay lifestyle is much happier, if I'm not using alcohol and drugs as a social, sexual, and professional lubricant.

Since 1981, I've put most of my energies into giving back to alcoholics generally and gay alcoholics, specifically, the support and love that had been so freely given for me to get clean and sober. I still go to the bars occasionally, but I go with a group of sober gays who just want to dance and have fun. I still feel a fervor in my soul for the advancement of gay rights, but I have a more realistic view of how goals can be met. I don't feel like a victim anymore because I've found my niche and my purpose among a bunch of gay drunks and druggies in recovery. Their journey and my journey continues to be internal.

I'm proud of the gays in Fort Worth. We have, indeed, come a long way. And I believe we will continue to accomplish much.



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CLOSETS ARE FOR CLOTHES

In 1964 I was four years old, and although another 13 years would pass before I actually came out, by that year, I was clearly plugged in with the oppressed. In the age-old favorite game of "Cowboys and Indians," I always played the Indian. No girlie stuff for me! I insisted on being the "Chief," and under no circumstances was I playing any squaw. Mother and I made regular trips to the library where we checked out everything the children's section had about Indians. I hated those mean ole' cowboys who pillaged the Indians' teepees. I really liked throwing my rubber Tomahawk at Cowboys' heads while rescuing Indian maidens. Unfortunately, there wasn't a real Pocahontas in sight for me to gallantly kiss. I was the only girl in the neighborhood.

About this same time I decided I hated having long brown locks. I wanted a short haircut like my brother, but Mother said, "No." Being an enterprising tyke, I took matters into my own tiny hands. I decided that if Mother wouldn't take me to the beauty parlor for that pixie, I'd bring the beauty parlor to the nursery. I waited for an opportune moment.

While Mother was eating a peanut butter and mayonnaise sandwich with her favorite characters from "As the World Turns," I crept into my parents' bedroom looking for scissors. Daddy's toenail scissors were just the right size for tiny hands. I stood in front of the bathroom mirror with toenail scissors in hand and didn't stop cutting until I had a proper boy haircut.

My grandmother recorded in my scrapbook, "Hair completely gone. This is Beverly Elizabeth Bennett's hair she cut off on July 20, 1964 at 4 years, two months with Daddy's nail scissors. Mommie thought she was fast asleep till she appeared in the doorway of the den and said, 'I'm real proud of myself.' No spanking." (I later remember my mother saying she didn't know whether to laugh, cry or spank me).

I also started writing as soon as I discovered crayons. Thanks to Mother and Grandmother, every scrap of "literature" I wrote through high school was carefully saved. A sociologist could have a field day in these stories and diaries, because my baby dyke identity was

bursting at the seams. Later, I kept secret high school era diaries carefully hidden from Mother. My whole coming-out process unfolds in these mid-'70s circa, Fort Worth diaries.

I was a child of the '60s and teenager of the 1970s era of drugs, sex and rock'n' roll. I like to remind Mother that she got off easily. Of the three mantras of the '70s, I only took up sex. Below are excerpts from a "lesbian in process."

"The Off-Colored Frog"
(an excerpt, fifth grade, 1971, my first recorded "liberation treatise")

"Hi! I'm the King of Crokesville. I'm a frog. . . There was once a frog named Blackie. Nobody liked blackie. Here is my story."

"Ha! Ha!, look at Blackie. Why are you black? Frogs are green," laughed the other frogs. "Ha! Ha! look at Blackie the misfit," they all laughed as they went away.

"Oh, woe is me," said Blackie. "No one likes me, because I'm different. Boo Hoo. Boo. Hoo. . ."



Blackie fell asleep, and when he awoke, there was a strange woman standing beside him. "Who are you?" asked Blackie. "I'm you're fairy Godmother," she said. "I think you deserve one wish. Would you like to be green like the other frogs?" said the

The Pink Shoe

Diaries

Coming out was a step by step process for me. For your amusement, I present what I captured on paper . . .

BY BEVERLY BENNETT

Fairy Godmother.

"No, I'm proud to be a black frog. I'm glad I'm me and not some rude green frog," said Blackie. "Then what is your wish?" said the Fairy Godmother.

"I wish to be the richest frog in town," announced Blackie. "Very well, here is one billion dollars in gold," said the fairy as she disappeared.

Soon the other frogs found out how rich Blackie was and asked him for a loan. All of a sudden they became real nice. But Blackie didn't loan one single cent to any frog except Smilie who had been nice to him before the Fairy Godmother granted the wish...

Don't we have problems similar to that today? Just because someone looks different from you there's nothing wrong with that. So be proud of your own heritage. There's nothing wrong with you, but there's something wrong with them for thinking they're so high above everybody else."

Diary, Nov. 10, 1975

(high school, freshman):

"I want to be a writer more than anything else in the world. I don't want any children. Although if I meet the right person (note the vague gender reference), I would like to get married, but my career stays no matter what."

Diary, Dec. 5, 1975

(I wrote pages about my English teacher Mrs. M. - my first big crush).

I want to explain how wonderful Mrs. M is. She's different from any other teacher I've ever had. I just adore her! I really respect her, and I look forward to her class everyday. (I went on to write about two pages on Mrs. M's virtues and each time she noticed my mere existence).

Dec. 12, 1975

I decided to get Mrs. M. a Christmas present. I got her a bottle of perfume from Neimans. I hope she likes it.... This is the first time I've given a teacher a present since the 5th grade. I wanted to get Mrs M. something, because she's very special to me. There's no other teacher like her.... I'm going to write: "To my favorite teacher" on the card. (A few

weeks later I received a thank you note. I dutifully recorded every word of Mrs. M.'s card in my diary).

Jan 11, 1975

"I had the strangest dream last night. I dreamed Kathleen (best friend) and I were in the Revolutionary War. We were staying in a hotel and had to be disguised as men. I think we were spies. Anyway, the time came for us to go to the bathroom, and we had to decide which one to use. We finally decided to go to the ladies room. The only thing that's foggy in my mind is whether we were men or women. I can't remember if we were women disguised as men or men disguised as women. I think we were the first."

March 5, 1975

"I wrote Mrs M. a note telling her how much I thought of her and how much I enjoyed being in her class. It went something like this: 'This past year in your class has been an experience I'll always appreciate and remember fondly... Your class never seemed like work, and I loved every minute of it... I certainly am going to miss you next year. It's too bad every subject doesn't have a Mrs. M. If they did, the school system would be perfect, because you know, you really are the best.'

"I put it in her box the day before the final so she'd get it on the last day. She thanked me for my 'sweet note' and said that she appreciated it more than she could say. I could tell she really did... I felt like crying. It's impossible for me to realize that was the last day I'd ever be in her English class. Hopefully, next year I'll be able to be her teacher's aide, and in the eleventh grade I'll take Creative writing from her. . ." (Once again I wrote pages about Mrs M. , and I plotted how to stay in her life).

April 18, 1976

(Even a year later Mrs. M was on my mind, and I'd go to great lengths just to catch a glimpse of her).

Kathleen and I went to church today with Mother. I've decided to start going again. My original excuse was that Mrs. M. goes to our church, and I might get to see her, but actually that wasn't the only reason. I just felt

like going again. Unfortunately, we didn't run into Mrs. M. I feel sure that I spotted her in the sanctuary. But I didn't see her come out. Kathleen and I stood around waiting, but she never came. Mother laughed and said I was acting like she was some kind of celebrity.

Sept. 14, 1976

(I was still going to dances with the boys, but it doesn't take much insight to see my eyes were on the girls).

There's a girl from Nice, France at school. She's very pretty and really SEXY. The boys must be going crazy over her. She wears tight, tight blue jeans (on her perfect figure) and low-cut shirts. I really like her alot. I took her to the museum of Western Art today and out to dinner..."

By 1976 (10th grade)

I decided to take drama classes at Casa. I think I had a vague awareness that perhaps I might meet gay kids there. I don't think I knew why I was so interested in meeting them. I reasoned that I wouldn't do well on a softball team (the obvious place to find lesbians), and I wasn't sure if I really wanted to meet any lesbians, cause after all I was not gay. Oh, no of course not. I was just curious and open minded. So, my teenage logic reasoned that the next best place would be to join the theater and look for queens. I became friends with two gay guys about my age, and through them this introvert suddenly had a booming social life. I was well on my way to becoming a teenage fag hag.

March 9, 1977

If Mother realized all the things Billy and Mark (names changed) and I talk about she'd probably flip. We can talk about anything, and I do mean anything. Just today Billy was talking about some problems he has being gay. It didn't shock me or anything. I really love Billy. Not in a romantic sense, but like a sister.

April 27, 1977

(Meanwhile, I had my first "serious" boyfriend. Looking back on it, I am convinced he was a budding queer himself. Anyway, I was clearly the butch in this relationship).

"D" is different. Thank God he likes aggressiveness. I love to grab him, pin him down, and slowly start kissing him at the top of his forehead and work my way down to his stomach. . . We always do something on Fridays. Usually we go on a picnic in the more secluded parts of Forest Park. It's very romantic there. Last week I wore a halter, and I let it casually fall off. . . (OK, so maybe I was just a bit of a tease. I had a don't-lose-your-underwear rule.)"

I didn't waste much time writing about our breakup. A few months later, I noted that we had "broken

SEE 'DIARY' ON P. 22

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PORTRAITS

Sketches of the faces and the places of our community

Work and Play combined at the Women's Business Network

BY SHAWN MOORE

I don't know about you, but the older I get the more I seem to have the urge to stand on the hood of my car and tell the world I am a member of the Lesbian Community - not to throw it into anyone's face, but because I am excited and proud to be part of this unique group. This community is of women who have ideas about how things could and should be ... women who don't just have dreams and visions, but who possess the ability to make them become reality. They do this, not just for themselves, but for all of us.

In 1993, Kay Christian, publisher of the Lambda Pages directory, had a vision, a vision of an organization where professional women of the community would come together to network, encourage, inspire and socialize. Kay was and continues to be the inspiration behind the Women's Business Network, now 105 members strong. They meet every second Thursday of the month at the Southland Center Harvey Hotel, 400 N. Olive St., in Dallas at 6:30 p.m. Cost for members is \$6, \$10 for visitors. It may seem like a long drive from Fort Worth but, trust me, a drive well worth it. (Tarrant County's own Sara Darwin was instrumental in this organization's conception and continues to be a dominant force in its growth within the community.)

Serving as the organization's chairperson is Rebecca Covell, an attorney in Dallas. Serving with her as chair-elect is Tamara Suttle, MEd, LPC, of Southlake. A rainbow of women from a diverse range of businesses attends this organization's monthly meetings, from attorneys to students, counselors to those women still deciding on what profession to pursue. This is the perfect place to meet with peers, become unbelievably inspired, listen to incredible speakers, gather new business, find that one service provider you haven't been able to locate and, as

Chairperson Covell so properly stated, have some unbelievable parties (that's not exactly what she said, but it's close enough). I have been to one major social event, at Christmas, and they do throw a mean party.

I asked Rebecca Covell exactly what she would like prospective members to know. Her response was, "At WBN, we strive to be inclusive and offer a safe, friendly environment for members to connect. Most of us know what it feels like to be discriminated against, to be a social outcast ... and by virtue of being in this community we are already bonded. The WBN offers a place to strengthen those bonds, to revel in our joined energy and a place to keep our business in the community. Business interests or needs may be our introductory bond, but it's the friendships that develop which enrich all of us."

My first personal experience with this group was October of 1994. I reluctantly dragged myself to one of the meetings and I have been attending ever since. I have met the most extraordinary women and the sense of awe I have for the talents they possess grows by leaps and bounds with each meeting I attend. I did not, however, expect that I would enjoy attending ... after all the name, Women's Business Network, gave me the impression that in order to fit in with this group one must have some pretty impressive initials behind their name. It proved to be just the opposite. This organization seems to be excited to have women from every aspect of the community and business world represented ... and they do. This organization has learned, very young in its existence, that every woman is a necessary piece of the puzzle needed to make this group complete. Mark my words, this group, The Women's Business Network, is going to become an unbelievable force in this community ... not just with women's issues but with all gay and lesbian issues.

So, if you are a new professional, a

student making the decision on your future, an unfortunate victim of corporate downsizing looking for new opportunities, a veteran of Corporate America, or just interested in being involved with some incredibly talented women, the Women's Business Network is perfect for you. Remember meetings are the second Thursday of the month or feel free to call their voice mail at 214/712-8976. *fa*

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There are no available single women out there. That's what all my available single friends say. They say there's not a single woman left in the field, and they must be right, my single friends, because there's a whole lot of them saying this.

At one point I thumped my head – duh! – and figured out that I should introduce all my single friends to each other since they apparently can't find each other out in that wide open field.

So I started throwing them together, two at a time. And I thought they'd be real happy to discover that yes, there was another one just like them out there, another available single woman. I thought they'd be so excited they'd name their first kid after me, even though that would get so confusing after a while when so very many little Beverlys were running around.

Then someone kindly pointed out to me what I was doing wrong – I was hooking femmes up with femmes and butches to butches. My failure was in figuring the two women had so much in common they'd click right away.

How was I supposed to know? Someone asked me what I was, butch or femme, and I said yeah, both of those.

I guess it's a good thing I hooked up so early with a gal who wanted someone who was both of those. If I was out in the field now and I had to

Love Potion

A couple of hints to get closer faster

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

decide which one to be, I'm afraid I'd wind up having to lead a double life. And that would be doubly hard to accomplish since there's apparently no available single women out there.

I conceded pretty early that I am not the best candidate for hooking people together. I'd been hanging by my straps to that one principle, that if I liked each one of them then surely they would like each other. I forgot that it's easy for us to like each other when we're not trying to figure out if we should spend the rest of our lives together, if our furniture will compliment together, and what should I do about my allergy to cats.

So I gave up on my matchmaking experimentation. Some young thing almost dragged me back to it though when she caught on to how very many available single friends I have. "Well, you should have a party," she suggested, and I could actually see the light bulb gleaming over her head. "You should have a party at your house and invite only us available single women so we can meet each other."

I thought about that for a minute and I weighed it carefully: Roseanne

reruns or a houseful of available single women all talking to me instead of talking to each other. I almost went with the party until I thumped my head – duh! – and remembered that there was no lack of such parties. There are plenty of these monthly – First Friday, the offshoot Women's Singles Club, the Cowgirls ParT Ranch Singles Potluck, any of the bars on a Saturday night. And I can go to those any time and chat up plenty of available single women and I don't have to clean up my house to do it.

I had to think pretty hard about this dilemma for my available single friends and then I thumped my head – duh! The problem is not in the geographics of meeting others because there's plenty of opportunity there. The problem must be in the psychology of it, that the process of meeting other available single women must be innately intimidating. I mean, maybe there's that underlying fear that if you're an available single woman and you say "hi" to another available single woman, you're really saying, "I have cats. A lot of them. Can you live with that?" And that maybe she can't.

And that's a lot of pressure to carry for one single "hi!"

That's when I noticed how relieved my available single friends seemed when they were saying "hi" to me instead of to another available single woman. That's when I figured out why I was so popular in that crowd and why I had so many lovely women chatting me up. Because "hi" means "hi" between us, and then we can go to the next level, where when they tell me what they do for a living we're not both figuring out if we should have separate or joint checking accounts.

This was a great connection I made and a fortuitous one for all my available single friends, because it has provided me the solution.

Y'all need to pass yourselves off as a couple, happily married down, no threat here. It's easy to do that – you just grab one of those blue name tags at First Friday that signifies you're a couple, and if someone presses you on it you just reach for the nearest available single woman and whisper to her, "Play along with this, will you?"

Then as a couple you can just say "hi" to the others without all that pressure attached. You can move on easily to each next level – where do you work, where are you from, do you have a lot of cats – when you're not stopped in your tracks by that loaded first "hi!"

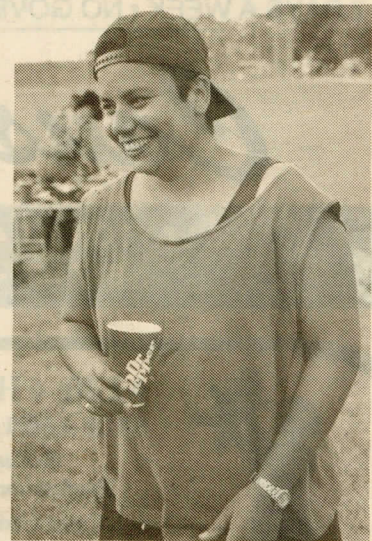
Y'all can discover each other in this safe arena, where you can learn about the person without having to fend off or to plan a smooth move. The butches would naturally drift to the femmes and the boths would have a wide open field without having to take on an alias and disguise.

When you click, one of you could simply say – "You know, I just broke up with my woman and I really need a friend." It could be a secret code phrase, "broke up." If interested, the other one could respond, "Yeah, I broke up with mine too – really messy. We'll not be getting back together, no sirree!"

And there you have it – two available single women who start out as friends, and who gain a friend if it doesn't work out, if they don't click.

So y'all try this and if it works, just thank me by naming your first child after me. But you can call them all by cute nicknames so it doesn't get so confusing.

And while y'all are out there passing as coupled, don't forget about your unavailable married friend over here – because I sure like chatting with you. ☺

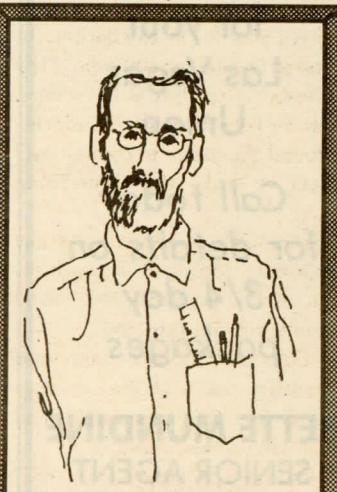


DENISE was an available single woman until I put her working on the Alliance News. Now she'll have that mysterious no-time-for-it air that will bring women to her in droves.

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SUE AND INA are a couple. **Marlene** is an available single woman. See what I mean?

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One of the nicest things about having HIV, oh yeah, and an opinion, is that I get the luxury of being a spectator a lot more often than you might think. This has been the case over the last few months in regards to two friends.

Having this disease really drains your ability to dream, but I know how different my life would be without HIV. I guess that is why this month I want to talk about relationships and all the hype.

In order to protect myself from any mail bombs, I have changed the names to protect the two friends. But to be even more remote, lets refer to them as Bob and Bill's lovers. We will discuss Bob's lover first.

They had a great relationship. Bob had only wanted a basically good man and he found that in his lover. Bob's lover is still HIV negative and they were the couple. Very attentive to each other and they could force me to gag with their sincerity. It was sickening in a nice way.

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

HV teaches that life is too short to settle for anything less than cupid's best shot, and how to mourn when lost.

After Bob died, I thought we were going to lose his lover. He was on the edge of sanity for weeks there and he still spends his Sundays at the grave with Bob's parents. They had a love that I believe has never died. Plus Bob's lover is going through the grief stages and not rushing his grief. I find it so romantic. To love someone so much you spend every Sunday at the grave since they died over four months ago. Sappy yes, but I want Steve to mourn for at least five years after I go, of course with all these vultures hovering over, I have my doubts.

It is hard to be in the gay community and not be able to talk about the survivor. Our silence on this issue and several others speaks volumes to the truth of these unique problems. We are so tired of being judged that we ignore basic human conditions in order not to pass judgment.

Some of my friends think Bob's lover should let go and get on with his life, but the reality of the situation is Bob's lover is doing just that. He is allowing his next partner to be someone not trapped in Bob's shadow. Bob's lover understands how important a second chance is at love and he is willing to invest the time in himself in order to ensure some future happiness. He is not willing to settle for anything less than the relationship quality he shared with Bob.

Now Bill's lover is a bit different. Bill's lover wailed over Bill's death. Told anyone who would listen that

Bill was the *love* of his life and allowed then to experience freedom they never believed possible. But visits to the grave and tears stopped flowing rather quickly. You see, Bill left his lover well taken care of and now a few friends wonder if Bill's lover loved him or was there for the money. It could be the grief overwhelmed him, but I think the \$3 million dollars overwhelmed him more. It could be that after two years of no sex, the first time after Bill blinded him to the real world. But I will wonder. Bill's lover tends to latch on to a person because he cannot be alone. I wonder if Bill was healthy, would the relationship have lasted as long as it did. But knowing Bill's lover's fear, it would be going strong today. Some people are willing to sacrifice the dream for security. Kinda puts a whole new dimension on prostitution. Bill's lover told me once

that we all have a price. I guess his was right around \$3 million. It is sad too. Bill's lover could have any man he desired, even without the money, but fear and loneliness are big directors in his life and he has latched onto the first man he saw naked. Bill and Bob died within a week of each other, so that gives you a time frame reference.

I cannot imagine what it is like to be HIV negative. But I do know that I would not settle for anything less than a healthy relationship. I would rather die alone than justify and settle for something less than the dream. I find it infuriating to see people who have 50 more years left throwing away their happiness out of fear. Bob's lover is investing time in himself in order to have a future. Bill's lover is pissing into the wind. Bill's lover may have more money than God, but I doubt his happiness is any more real than Bob Dole's sincerity about AIDS.

I guess it is just sad that people do not appreciate their lives more. I wish I had 30 years to simply piss away, but I do not. I guess HIV has taught me not to settle for anything less than the dream.

Until next month, think positive, act positive and live your life with Passion! *fw*


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LITTLEFIELD

continued from p. 13

within our community. Glenda Gardner produced many of these benefits which often featured Raina Lea, Tiger Lil, Lynn Christopher, Bette Sheba, Lady Carlotta and many more who each donated their time, talent and money to keep the center open and operational. The bar owners and managers enthusiastically supported the Center's work and were very generous, providing whatever was needed at the time. Billy Ray Hill, Buddy Jones, Gordon Mason, Josie Gallegos, Darlene Smith, Danny Nugent, James Allen, Chevy Zuniga and Dan Addison were major financial supporters of Center services including the first residential housing for PWA'S (persons living with AIDS).

"Kevin Karl wrote a state grant for funding to hire an Executive Director and it was approved. After much deliberation, the Board of Directors decided to hire Thomas Bruner as the first paid employee of the Counseling Center.

"My purpose had always been to establish the agency and get it staffed. With this accomplished, I left FWCC to devote my energy to finishing my Ph.D."

The name of the Fort Worth Counseling Center changed to the Community Outreach Center and then to the AIDS Outreach Center. A plaque is on display at the AOC honoring the early founding volunteers of the FWCC. The focus of services evolved to primarily HIV related services and needs in 1989.

"I returned to the AOC in May of 1993. In this position, I get to be an advocate promoting AIDS awareness and gay issues. I've always thought of Thomas Bruner as my mentor and confidante. He is an absolute genius on fund-raising and fiscal management.

"If I could have one dream fulfilled, that dream would be that there would not be any HIV/AIDS issues any more.

"But if that dream can't become a reality and money was no object, I would love to see several AOC offices servicing a nine county area around Fort Worth, There would be new and

improved ways to teach and expand information and education programs to include a superb safer sex prevention program. I would also like to be more on the forefront of how services are delivered to HIV/AIDS clients and family."

1993 - Ph.D., TWU, Marriage and Family Therapy

"My doctoral dissertation is titled *Common Threads and Themes Involved In Long-Term Lesbian Relationships*. This work was actually a long discovery process for me personally. Writing it gave me hope and encouragement to keep striving for a long term relationship. I learned that we must give ourselves permission to continue to fail and strive and to get it right. I felt a sense of unity with other women who have been through the process and found the desire to commit and connect to make the relationship work.

"We must dispel the myths that gay relationships don't last. Through research and experience, I've found why some relationships fail:

1) Gays and lesbians jump into relationships too fast (before they know if they are compatible and should be in a relationship).

2) Gays and lesbians stay in "bad" relationships because they don't want to live up to the myth instead of realizing they both would be better off ending the relationship.

3) We can't be afraid to keep trying at relationships if we've learned from past relationships.

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Building plans, celebration service mark Fellowship's anniversary

Fellowship of Love Outreach first met in a home in the Meadowbrook area of Fort Worth on Sunday, Sept. 13, 1986. This year the church is observing its ninth anniversary and homecoming celebration beginning with a bonfire and cookout on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m. in the country, just south of Fort Worth.

The Sunday homecoming festivities will begin with the 10:30 a.m. worship service with Rev. Carl Tell of Houston ministry. Following morning worship the congregation will share a barbecue luncheon together with the proceeds benefiting the building fund. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children.

The day of celebration will culminate with "The Sunlights" in concert in the 6 p.m. service. "The Sunlights" are a five-generation family specializing in contemporary black-gospel music. They are members of a "straight," mainline church but are pro-gay and much supportive of our community. A reception will follow the evening service.

The staff and congregation have seen the necessity of finding a larger

and more accessible church facility. They have opportunity to secure a church building that would seat approximately 300 people, provide an educational wing, chair room, offices and fellowship hall as well as adjoining property that is available for purchase. They say God has impressed them it is time they make the step of faith and acquire the property.

On homecoming Sunday, September 10, a special building purchase offering will be received for the property. Anyone desiring to make a donation may send it to the church address: 711 West Gambrell Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76115

Year after year, Fellowship of Love Outreach has continually been challenged to meet the need in our community in greater dimensions. Pastor Ric Huett says, "we are grateful for your past and continuing support and cordially extend an invitation to our anniversary and homecoming celebrations.

For further information about Fellowship of Love Outreach, you may call (817)921-LOVE or call metro (817)429-2140.

AIDS Interfaith plans memorial worship dates, support services

AIDS Interfaith Network's Spiritual Services are growing rap-

idly. In addition to the ongoing services, other opportunities are being made available to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

On Sunday, Sept. 10, the fall AIDS Interfaith worship service will be held at Harvest Metropolitan Community Church in Denton County. The service, *Together We Can Make a Difference*, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Harvest MCC is located at 5900 S. Stemmons Freeway in Corinth.

"The Interfaith worship services are an opportunity for everyone affected by HIV/AIDS to come together as a community," said Angela Ferguson, coordinator of spiritual services. "We are pleased to hold this fall service in Denton County where the people whose lives have been affected by this devastating disease are often left to bear this heavy burden in silence. Our theme, *Together We Can Make a Difference*, persuades us to fight this disease together as a community. We are excited to be working with a community leader like Harvest MCC to bring this worship service to Denton County."

Plans are also underway for the World AIDS Day interfaith worship service, which will begin at 8 p.m. on Dec. 1. Congregation Ahavath Sholom in Fort Worth will host the service. The World Health Organization has selected *Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities* as this year's World AIDS Day theme. The worship planning committee will be developing this theme for the worship service.

The second Remembering grief recovery group will begin Thursday,

Sept. 14. The six-week workshop is to help people who have lost a loved one to AIDS.

"The group gives those who have lost someone to the AIDS pandemic an opportunity to process their grief and be nurtured through that process," Ferguson said. The group is open to anyone who has experienced an AIDS-related loss. The group will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at AIN offices, 603 W. Magnolia Ave., Suite 207, and will run for six consecutive Thursday evenings. To reserve a place, please call 817/927-2437.

A spiritual retreat for people living with HIV/AIDS has been scheduled for Sept. 27-28. The retreat is designed to make people aware of ways to express spirituality and help them experiment with those ways.

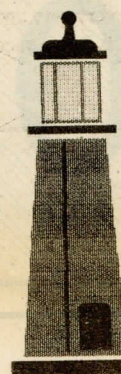
"Spirituality is a vital part of wellness," Ferguson said. "It is as important for us to develop our spiritual selves as it is to develop our physical and mental selves."

Nancy Van Boskirk, a Bereave-

ment Counselor for VITAS Hospice, will facilitate the retreat. Sessions will include "Who Needs God?," a workshop exploring the ways spirituality can impact the disease; and "Grief and Spirituality," a session to assist in ways to process grief through spirituality; as well as separate sessions for men and women to help address special needs.

"Participants can expect to be nurtured and challenged," Ferguson said. The retreat will be held at Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Glen Rose, Texas. Space is limited and a \$5 registration fee is required. To register call 817/927-2437.

Additional spiritual services continue to be available. Pastoral counseling is available by Ferguson. Spiritual support and crisis intervention are provided by a team of volunteer chaplains to people affected by HIV/AIDS at John Peter Smith Hospital and to others as needed. Ongoing spiritual support continues to be offered to residents of Samaritan Housing.



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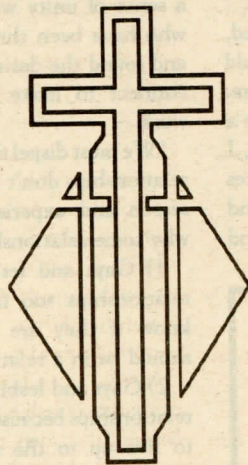
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MATTER OF FAITH

By Rev. BRENDA HUNT, AGAPE MCC

There's a new book on the shelf. I had it on my desk before the *Advocate* review was published! The book is *Amazon Spirit* by Eleanor Nealy. (It is a companion piece to *Lavender Light*. One is for lesbians in recovery, the other for gay men in recovery.)

For years I bypassed those "self-help" books for people in recovery thinking there must be something about addictions of alcohol or drugs that made for different requirements in reading material. But then, that was also in the period of my life when I thought you had to drink in order to act like an alcoholic.

Back to this new book on my shelf: a great find and wonderful collection of bits and pieces of great insight, wisdom...

One of the notations Eleanor makes is around a statement made by Alice Walker: "No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow..."

Among the least favorite parts of my childhood are the times and places some adult told me not to use my imagination or advised me I had gone too far in imagining things ... or told me how inappropriate it was to notice things.

Generally people who are overweight are very aware of that ... it comes as no surprise to them that they are, we are. People of color are all too aware of their color ... it is no surprise to them. And men who are bald are almost always very very aware of their baldness ... it is not a secret,

not a surprise. But who of us has not heard an adult say to a child, "Shush, it's not polite to notice...?"

And as for those things adults sometimes have told us are really just our imagination ... well, we knew better then and we maybe are able to reinstate that ability today. Maybe.

Imagination is a matter of faith. It is a simple process ... as faith always is simple. Image-making is simple.

Webster says that imagination is the act or power of forming a mental image of something that is not exactly present.

That surely goes along with the experiences we know and trust ... that

most people think if they ignore something or pretend it is not so, it will not be so ... then we come along with our imagination and bring reality back into focus.

People have been telling us just the opposite. I grew up thinking I was the one not living in reality ... it was them all along! Imagination and honesty may be twin siblings!

It takes a leap of faith sometimes to speak something into existence ... like our community. Tarrant County is full of prophetic people who speak us into existence every day ... and it is equally full of those who wish we would just go away.

Real friends and real believers are those who encourage us to speak, stretch and see, live, grow, change ... image-make. Speaking and growing must either occur or we decay and die.

A part of the maiming of our culture has come in the guise of faith and religion and polite society. They have more often been static, unbending, unyielding, unaffirming dogmas that have little to do with faith or spirit or respect or relationship or...

Maybe one of the reasons homophobia is so enthusiastic is that we challenge all of that almost all of the time. And we do it literally across cultural, economic and class lines. Drag may well represent the ultimate challenge to misogyny. Maybe. For sure we do know that laughing is the opposite of fear, hugging is the answer to isolation, and listening is the path into respect.

Silence precludes that. Speaking embodies that. It is a simple matter of faith ... our imaging. And to quote a good friend: Good for Us! ♪

GAY PRIESTS ON TRIAL

Heresy charge goes to the courts in deciding Episcopal ordinations

By BRYAN TAYLOR

Edmond Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church U.S.A., announced on Aug. 18 that 25 percent of the denomination's 297 active and retired bishops had voted to try one of their number, the Right Rev'd

Walter Righter, on charges of heresy for his 1990 ordination of a man living openly in a gay relationship.

According to the Episcopal News Service, Righter will be tried by the "Court for the Trial of a Bishop," composed of nine Bishops previously elected by the Church's House of Bishops. A trial date and venue had not been announced at press time. If either party is unhappy with the decision of the trial court, an appeal may be made to Court of Review. Any sentence would have to be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all the Church's bishops.

Observers from progressive organizations within the Episcopal Church were surprised at the vote for a trial, apparently passed by a one-vote margin. The votes of all the bishops are supposed to be made public, but had not been released at the time of this writing. However, sources close to the national church offices in New York City say that the majority of the 76 bishops voting in favor of a trial are retired bishops. Observers say that reflects a consensus among younger, active bishops, in favor of allowing diocesan procedures and local bishops to ordain openly lesbian or gay candidates they feel are qualified. A majority of the nine bishops who will hear the case are considered pro-gay on the issue, based on their voting records on related issues affecting the lesbian and gay membership of the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Jack Iker of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth was one of the 10 bishops who signed the presentment, or charges, against Righter. He

has said he voted for the trial to proceed. It is not known whether retired Fort Worth bishop Clarence Pope voted on the matter. Pope, who left the Episcopal Church upon retirement Jan. 1, recently withdrew his resignation and announced he would not stay in the Roman Catholic Church after being told he would have to be re-ordained. It is not known whether he voted on the Righter Presentment, but he has said he would attend the House of Bishops meeting in Portland, Oregon, this coming September.

Bishop Righter has been supported by a number of Episcopal dioceses and organizations, and a defense fund has been established by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington to help pay his legal expenses. Checks payable to "Diocese of Washington" and designated "Bishop Righter Defense" may be sent to Paul El Cooney, Chancellor, Episcopal Diocese of Washington; Mount St. Albin; Washington, D.C. 20016. Righter's defense has already cost in excess of \$6,000. Some have estimated that the combined cost to all parties involved, of pursuing the presentment through an appeal, could be as high as \$1 million.

Integrity, the Episcopal Church organization of lesbian and gay Episcopalians and their friends, has urged members and local chapters to pray for Bishop Righter and his defense team. Discussions are underway for a nationwide day of prayer at the start of the trial, but since the trial has not yet been scheduled, the exact date and nature of the observance will be announced later. ♪

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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 (135E 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 (135E at exit 460, just south of Denton).

TRINITY MCC Wednesday Night Prayer and Praise, 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.

SEPTEMBER 9:

TRINITY MCC'S Trinity Teens and Men's fellowship meetings. Call the church at 817/265-5454 for more information.

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH ninth Anniversary bonfire and cookout, 6 p.m. in the country.

SEPTEMBER 10:

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH ninth Anniversary Homecoming Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m. Barbecue luncheon following. Tickets \$8 for adults and \$3 for children. The Sunlights in concert at the 6 p.m. service.

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK fall worship service, *Together We Can Make a Difference*, 6:30 p.m., Harvest MCC in Denton County, 5900 S. Stemmons Freeway in Corinth.

SEPTEMBER 11:

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.

SEPTEMBER 12:

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

SEPTEMBER 15:

AGAPE MCC'S Men's Potluck, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

SEPTEMBER 17:

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, 3 p.m. All welcome. Call Bryan Taylor for location, 817/738-2902.

SEPTEMBER 23:

AGAPE MCC'S Diner's Club, at Uncle Julio's. Advanced registration required. Call Sandi at 817/535-5002.

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.

SEPTEMBER 1:

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.

SEPTEMBER 7:

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

SEPTEMBER 8:

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.

SEPTEMBER 9:

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.

SEPTEMBER 10:

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.

SEPTEMBER 11:

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.

SEPTEMBER 14:

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.

SEPTEMBER 15:

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.

SEPTEMBER 17:

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

SEPTEMBER 18:

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.

SEPTEMBER 19:

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.

SEPTEMBER 21:

TCLGA membership meeting, special celebration of 15th anniversary, reception and presentations, 6 p.m. Botanic Gardens meeting rooms.

SEPTEMBER 26:

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

EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 1:

AOC FRIDAY FORUM: 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.

SEPTEMBER 10, 24:

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.

SEPTEMBER 1-16:

CIRCLE THEATER IN SUNDANCE SQUARE, "Better Half Dead." Showings: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 and 8:30 p.m. Call 817/877-3040 for ticket information.

SEPTEMBER 1-23:

STAGE WEST "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?" Showings: Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m., \$12; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., \$15; Saturdays at 3 p.m., \$12; Sundays at 7 p.m., \$12. Call 817/924-9454 for ticket information.

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 Anne Simon Reeves Home, Texas Gay Rodeo Association, Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas 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:

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.

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.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

NEWS COVERAGE

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with specific newsworthy action. First, it needs to be a solemn event. We need to remember all those who have died from AIDS. Their untimely deaths must be the focal point of the rally. By us standing in front of City Hall and reading aloud all of the names, and doing it on a Sunday, attention could be brought to the plight of AIDS. All of the participants should wear black arm bands with pink triangles. The march would have small coffins and would walk from some place in town to the downtown area. The march also needs to reach out to include people other than those who are just gay. AIDS affects more than just gay America.

Dallas needs help from surrounding communities because of actions taken by the County Commissioners. A majority of the commissioners would be best described as narrowminded. Their actions are downright dangerous. Such actions need strong responses and must generate publicity to show the public that such thinking is wrong. Protests and demonstrations are called for. It may be necessary to march in front of their homes, businesses or the churches they attend. Nothing can be done which could not be helpful.

I visited a friend of mine who is dying from AIDS. He had to be readmitted to Parkland Hospital. For many years I worked in government employment which required me to visit hospitals and nursing homes. The funding cuts were obvious. The nursing staff seemed smaller and all of the staff seemed frazzled. Funding cuts are not only hurting AIDS patients, but all the poor and needy who receive their care at public hospitals. This would include the elderly. A concerted effort by our community to bring this fact to the public's attention would be a good effort.

The above battle could unite us with other groups in the community. Such coalition building is essential to any future actions.

All of us need to find new ways and methods of making the country understand that lesbians/gays are just their neighbors, co-workers and relatives. New ways and actions are required. The media will no longer merely focus on us because we are lesbians or gays. This is no longer enough. New and different approaches are required. Fresh ideas need to be put into the hopper.

Let this article be the catalyst for such new ideas. ☺

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
- Linda Bower Printing Business Hotline, (817) 246-5942
- 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) 246-0910
- 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,

FOUNDER

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Moon's dedication was always tireless and unselfish. There were so many who helped make that period such a great success and to each I will be eternally grateful."

From 1985 to 1993, Reverend Jim was called in God's service to the Dallas MCC for six years and to Mid-Cities MCC for two years. He returned to Trinity MCC in Arlington (formerly MID-Cities) as the Assistant Pastor under Rev. Jo Crisco, Senior Pastor, in 1993. Currently, they minister to a congregation of 110 members.

Rev. Jim also functions in the capacity of Director for Development where his strong sales background and 25 years of experience as a commercial realtor have proven invaluable as plans progress toward Trinity's new church building. Rev. Jim's en-

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

ergy and talent will certainly bring Trinity MCC one step closer to realizing its dreams.

TCIGA: named life-time member; founder of the political caucus that would become the Alliance

"Consistently, the 'basic human rights' of our gay community were being denied and it could no longer be ignored. I called a meeting of concerned community members who I knew were determined to stop this abuse once and for all. With the guidance of the President of the Dallas Caucus, I made a formal motion to form the Fort Worth Caucus in September of 1980. Our stated purpose was to fight discrimination based on 'lifestyle issues' and promote community unity. That night we elected officers and Daune' Littlefield courageously became our first President."

Thank you, Rev. Jim, for loving this community and helping us to realize that truly in "God, all things are possible!" ☺

- 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

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) 877-5544
- Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County, (817) 370-0460
- Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, (512) 474-5475
- Lesbian/Gay Teen Hotline, (817) 332-8382
- 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, 1219 6th Ave. at Magnolia, Fort Worth, TX 76104 (817) 877-5544; 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

DIARY

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up." It wasn't important enough for a whole paragraph. I was too busy discovering gay life and who I was.

I'll never forget my first trip to the clubs. It was 1977, and I was 17. That summer Anita Bryant's campaign against us was in full bloom. Actually, I must thank her someday. There was so much in *Newsweek* and *Time* about Anita's mission against gay rights that it helped give me clues about where to find "the troops."

One June day in 1977 we were sitting outside Casa's stage door. We were all stage struck and just knew Broadway was in our futures. "A Chorus Line" was the biggest show in New York, and we used to sing every "Tits and Ass" until we'd drop. Most of the kids working at Casa were straight, but we stayed away from them (except of course the budding baby fag hags). They weren't "cool" like us. I knew the boys were planning a trip to the Old Plantation in Dallas (the hot gay disco), and I wanted to go. I wasn't ready to claim the "L" word, but neither did I want my reputation forever ruined as a fag hag. So, I talked them into getting me a "date." It wasn't a real date, because they didn't know any lesbians, but at least they found another girl to go with me.

Being a clothes horse, the number one thought on my mind was what to wear. I wanted to fit in with the other women. I casually asked, "What's the latest in lesbian wear?" Unfortunately, the guys didn't have a clue about "lesbian wear," nor did they know it! However, they were well informed on the latest in gay men's fashions and unbeknownst to me, I left Ridgemar Mall as a stylish disco queen! I walked

into the Old Plantation that weekend wearing red satin boxer shorts trimmed in royal blue with a matching top and blue laceup Espadrilles (remember those sandals that laced up the leg?). Just to accent my ensemble, I had a florist make a hair corsage of baby red roses. I regret there is no picture. I do still have the shorts, and if I take a deep breath, I can almost fit into them.

I didn't meet any women, but I had a wonderful time. It catalyzed my feelings. It was months later before I was brave enough to write about this event in my diary, and even then I said very little. I remember the evening driving home from the bar like it was yesterday. Driving home alone in Dad's old 1970 Pontiac Le Mans I'd recently acquired, I announced "I'm bisexual" just as I approached the park on University Drive. I wasn't yet brave enough to claim that big "L" word, but I proclaimed this bisexuality over and over.

September 1977

"I feel a lot better now that I'm not running away from these feelings. I'm not flamboyantly gay or bi like the guys. . . I wish I could meet a good looking girl and develop a long and lasting relationship with her. That's what I long for."

September 1977

"Thursday I'm going to a NOW meeting. I'm hoping that I'll meet someone special there. I don't want just any girl, but right now I'm not real picky. I just want someone who'll want to love and be loved. Why can't the world accept us? I'm not asking them to become gay. I just want to be able to live my life — loving how I want to love without having to hide it. Is it such a sin to want to love

another human being?

Sometimes when I say I'm bisexual, I think I'm just afraid to admit that I'm really 100% lesbian. Sure I've been attracted to guys before, and I'm sure I'll be attracted to them in the future, but if given the choice between a male and female, I know if I were honest with myself, I'd take the female.

Looking back on things, the puzzle fits together. I never did go through that "boy crazy" stage. . . I can't remember when I started having dreams about making love to women. I know it was at least a few years ago — maybe earlier than that. . . I'm reaching the point that I don't feel guilty. I am what I am. There's nothing I can say about that. I can't say I regret being gay. I don't think I'm going to hell for being a lesbian. How can a person go to hell just for wanting to love another human being?"

Sept 16, 1977

(By now I had acquired a dyke disco ensemble. I had dingo boots, jeans, and a black cloth bomber style jacket covered in gold glitter. I was eager to test my wings. I also added plenty of makeup and once again roses for my hair. In those days you were either a "butch" or a "femme." Based upon my wardrobe preferences and the law of availability, I decided being femme had its advantages.)

"Tonight I'm going to do something I've never done before (or at least not without the guys). I'm going to go to a gay bar. The only one I'll take is the Bailey Street Warehouse. It's the best one in town. Besides it's in a nice reasonably safe part of town. Actually it's only five minutes from

my house. I'm going to borrow someone's ID because I think they card you there. I'm not sure what I'll do if I can't get an ID. I guess I'll try to get in anyway (*Thanks to Raina, now long dead, I always got in*).

I figure it'll be fairly safe. The guys sure won't bother me. I feel like I can handle things with the girls. I know more or less what I want. If someone I'm not interested in asks me to dance, I'll say I'm waiting for my girlfriend who'll be on the way any second. I have to do this. I just can't wait any longer. I want a lover. I'm about to go crazy. I can't think about anything else. Even my old boyfriend, "D" didn't occupy my mind as much as this great need I have to meet a girl. I know there'll be some nice looking dykes there. I'll just have to be patient.

Billy and I have a pact to have a "lover" and lose our "gay virginity" by the end of October. Well, I can't wait that long. Everything worth having

has its risks, and I'm ready and willing to take this one."

Sept 17, 1977

"I was right about no one bothering me at the Bailey. Too right! It was a total flop. I kept thinking what's wrong with me? Aren't I attractive? . . .

I haven't given up. Tomorrow I'm going to an MCC. Mother's thrilled I'm going to church. If she only knew it's a gay church she'd die! I feel like if I go to MCC every week, after a while I'm bound to meet someone. At any rate, it's a step in the right direction. (*I had no idea what prophetic words I'd written. I had to fall into the "cookie jar of life" for a while, but seven years later in 1984 at 24 years old, I joined Mid-Cities MCC (now called Trinity MCC). Although over the years I've participated in many areas of the lesbian social and political scene, every relationship in my life since 1984, including my spouse today, came from church*).

LITTLEFIELD

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The keys to long term relationships are:

- 1) communication - good, honest and open.
- 2) desire to make that commitment to the relationship."

Daune's Dream For The Future

"My number one dream would be Unity, but if given a magic wand and unlimited money, I would love to see one central building for all organiza-

tions to hold monthly meetings to disseminate information to both the gay and straight communities. I would love to see more gay friendly businesses.

"My ideas were always ahead of their times. It's been frustrating because gays won't come out of the closet. Lesbians and gays probably make up 10 percent of the population while outed gays represent a small group in our community. I would love to see the term 'gay and lesbian' become as common as 'salt and pepper.'

"We need more young gays and lesbians to become involved who will learn from our accomplishments and mistakes so they can carry on the work of this community." ☛

Supporters of Hawaii's same-sex marriage movement have taken the public to a new level of debate by asserting that the state's sagging economy could enjoy a cash infusion of \$4 billion if the state becomes the first in the USA to allow same-sex marriages.

A study by Jennifer G. Brown published in the May 1995 University of Southern California Law Review claims that increased tourism — same-sex couples coming to Hawaii to marry and honeymoon — could wipe out the state's current budget deficit without raising taxes on Hawaii's citizens. The increased tourism would mean an increase in jobs, sales and hotel tax revenues, and Hawaiian incomes without requiring additional government expenditures for infrastructure.

Brown based her conclusions on the following conservative estimates:

- That 1 percent to 3 percent of the general U.S. population is gay/lesbian.
- That same-sex couples would choose to marry, if they could, at one-third the rate of heterosexual couples.
- And that each marriage of an

Same-sex marriage would aid Hawaii's economy

By BRYAN TAYLOR

out-of-state lesbian or gay couple would generate \$6,000 of spending in the state of Hawaii.

Brown adjusted her figures for potential loss of revenue from tourists who might boycott Hawaii to protest legalization of same-sex marriages. In a state as small as Hawaii, \$4 billion dollars would translate into \$6,700 per household. In her study, Brown estimated that if only 1 percent of the general population is gay or lesbian, and only 15 percent of them would marry in Hawaii, tourist revenues would still be more than \$1.1 billion. If the 3 percent figure is used as the baseline and 45 percent of them married, revenues could exceed \$10.2 billion. Brown also allowed for a "backlog" of same-sex marriages with an initially higher level of tourism to satisfy pent-up demand, followed by a gradual decline over a 20-year period.

Dan Foley, an attorney for the lesbian and gay couples in the Baehr v.

Lewin court case, wrote in the August 10th issue of "The Honolulu Advertiser" (the major daily newspaper):

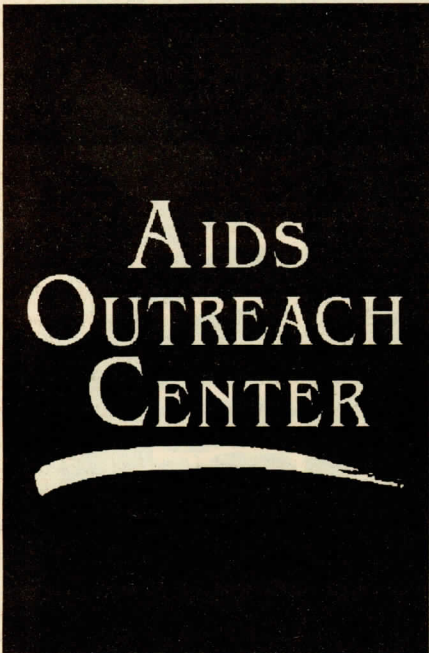
"Hawaii's situation is critical. The economy is in a downward spiral, and we have yet to fully absorb the impact of future state and federal cutbacks. However, we do not need to lay off governmental workers, valuable city and state services do not have to be reduced or eliminated and we do not have to tolerate the erosion of our educational institutions. We could look forward to a future of prosperity. All that would be needed is for Hawaii to extend equal rights to all of its citizens, including gay and lesbian couples."

Like other states with budget problems, Hawaii has been considering legalizing gambling to bring in additional revenues. As a result of Brown's study, lawmakers opposed to legalizing same-sex marriage have

stepped up efforts to legalize gambling. But Curt Sanburn, writing in the August 9th issue of Honolulu Weekly, argues that gambling would not be that big a draw for tourism, since gambling is now legal in so many mainland states. Legalization of gambling would probably not even make the news in the continental U.S., but legalizing same-sex marriage would likely put Hawaii at the top of the international as well as national news, amounting to millions in free advertising for Hawaii's tourism industry.

Part of Brown's study also deals with the windfall gained by what are called "first mover" states — states first to adopt some new approach reap the largest benefits of increased business coming into the state. States like Nevada (for gambling), Delaware (innovative corporate tax laws), and South Dakota (banking) enjoyed huge increases

in state revenue and continue to enjoy a higher share of those industries' spending, despite their small size. Hawaii already has a reputation for liberal social policies and programs, and tolerates the most ethnically and religiously diverse population of any state. While some conservatives certainly would stop coming to Hawaii, Brown estimates that the loss would be more than compensated for by the influx of tourists. Internationally, the move would more likely be perceived as bold and innovative (little Hawaii thumbing its nose at the Christian Coalition, etc). Sanburn says, "Correspondents from the *New York Times*, *The Times of London*, *Tokyo's Asahi Shinbun*, and *Frankfurt's Frankfurter Allgemeine* will trip over themselves to describe Hawaii's perfection as a romantic honeymoon destination for any couple, its historic and culturally Polynesian lack of homophobia, its political liberalism and its social benevolence all ingredients that make Hawaii a true human paradise."



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Tarrant County's primary HIV/AIDS service agency salutes

Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance

for 15 years of leadership in the struggle for equality and fairness for all.

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179 South Watson Road
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(817) 633-5552

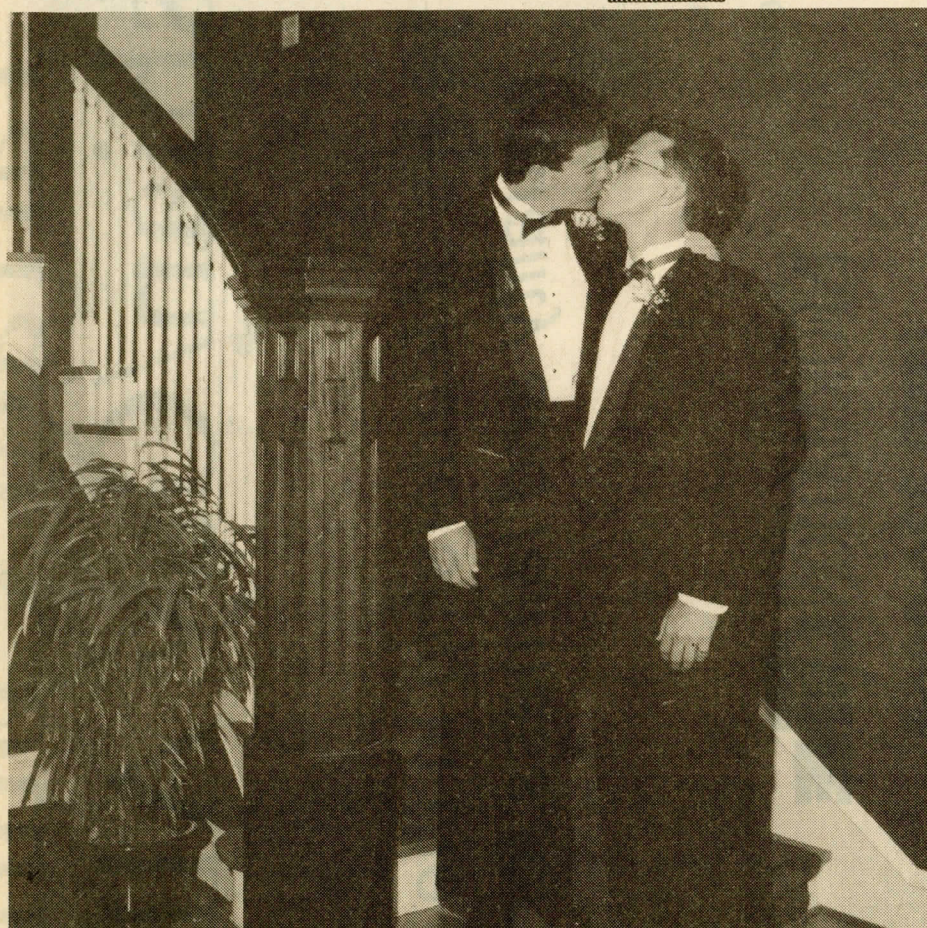
Alliance News

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CELEBRATE!

The Alliance has been climbing those steps for 15 years. This special edition looks at where we've been.

Alliance News columnist Robert Webster tied the knot this summer with Steve Eagle.

And:

- **NO HOLDS BARRED:** Mayor Granger recovers a fumble – touchdown!
- **SMOOTH MOVES:** The Alliance has a new office, new projects underway, new captain for the Alliance News...
- **INQUIRING MINDS:** Inside peek at a budding lesbian's private diary.
- **PERSPECTIVES ON:** offering a visible presence, using our vivid imaginations, following our leaders' vision.