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A FEATURES MAGAZINE FOR THE
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TARRANT COUNTY

P.O. BOX 162164
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Send letters to the editor to Intrepid. Please include your address and telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published.

ON ONE SIDE OF THE FENCE IS THE USUALLY SYMPATHETIC CHURCH NOW WRESTLING OVER HOW VISIBLY TO DISPLAY THE INTREPID WITH ITS PHOTOS OF DRAG QUEENS ON THE COVER. ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THE BARTENDER WHO LIMITS OUR DROP-OFFS IF HE DOESN'T COUNT ENOUGH SKIN SHOWING IN OUR PAGES. IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR AUDIENCE IS THE GREATER MAJORITY FEELING GUILTY BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE MAGAZINE IS FREE.

WE HOPE THE CHURCH MIGHT PICTURE OUR BARED SKIN AS A BEAUTIFUL CLOAK TAILORED FROM THE RICH FABRIC OF OUR UNIQUE CULTURE. WE HOPE THE BARTENDER MIGHT VIEW OUR MODESTY AS A COME-HITHER, SEDUCTIVE POSE. AND WE HOPE THE REST OF YOU WILL GRAB HANDFULS OF THE INTREPID TO SEND TO YOUR MOM AND YOUR DAD, YOUR CLERGY, THE SEVENTH-GRADE TEACHER YOU HAD A CRUSH ON, AND ANYONE ELSE YOU WANT TO COME OUT TO BECAUSE, AFTER ALL, THESE ARE FREE.

IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE STRIPPED A CALL BOY TO THE VERY BONE FOR YOUR INSPECTION. WE THINK YOU WILL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY WHAT IS REVEALED. WE SHARE WITH YOU HERE WHAT WE HAVE SUSPECTED ALL ALONG: EVEN THE RAWEST, MOST UNADULTERATED SEX HAS VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH SEX. AT THE HEART OF IT IS THAT MOST INNOCENT OF HUMAN NEEDS TO CONNECT, TO BE SOOTHED AND SUSTAINED. IN OUR CULTURE THAT NEED IS MET IN A MYRIAD OF VARYING LEVELS AND EXPRESSIONS. AS WE HONOR OUR DIVERSITY THAT SETS US APART FROM THE MAINSTREAM, WE HONOR THE DIVERSITY AMONG OUR OWN. MAY WE ALL SEE PAST THE LAYERS OF GARMENTS TO SPY THE NAKED TRUTH: WE ARE BEAUTIFUL BOTH CLAD AND UNCLOTHED.

They Said What?

"...The (PERSEREC) report shows that gay men and lesbians are both suitable and reliable for military service. The real question is how long the military can maintain a personnel policy based solely on prejudice."

—Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder

"Heroism, I believe, is a trait that does not know race, color, creed, sex, or sexual orientation."

—U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

"When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before."

—Mae West

On the cover

The collage of ads for male escorts represents a facet of our culture we find fascinating, not disturbing. When we realize and accept that all forms of expression in our culture are valid we will move toward unity and strength.

Points of Distribution

The following is a partial list of distribution sites for the *Intrepid*. Businesses and individuals interested in carrying the *Intrepid* may be added to our distribution list by contacting 817/834-7152.

Fort Worth

AIDS Interfaith Network
AIDS Outreach Center
Hayes Pharmacy
Fort Worth/Tarrant County
NAMES Project
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay
Alliance
Fort Worth Public Health Department, Ryan White Center
Agape MCC
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Tapelenders
Hunky's
Curious Times
Crossroads Market
Off-the-Street
Union Jack
Shade of Gray
JR's
Sue Ellen's
Simple Elegance Florist

Advertising Policies

Advertising in *Intrepid* is based on a weekly circulation of 5,000. *Intrepid* is distributed at clubs, business locations and through organizations in Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas and surrounding areas. To request distribution information, call Intrepid, Inc. at (817) 460-4732.

Intrepid is delivered and distributed on Friday of each week. Advertising must be received by the Monday prior to publication date. Reservations for ad space may be made with camera-ready copy.

Charges will be assessed for art that is not camera-ready or for which production fees would otherwise be incurred. Advertisers will be advised prior to publication if art and/or copy does not meet publication standards and if any additional fees will be incurred.

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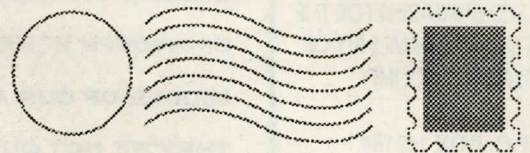
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Intrepid, Inc. is an independent, privately held corporation and is not affiliated with any organization, club, corporation or other publication.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Shopping Cows cream of Jones' humorous art

Imagine my surprise seeing Societal Shopping Cows on the cover of the March 17, 1993, issue of your magazine. The art work was "udderly" Larry Paul Jones. I, too, was a friend of Larry's. I remember his excitement at drawing these two bovine beauties. He told me that his favorite part of the picture was the lacy garment peeking out of the "Hue Heifer" bag. He relished the thought of what people would imagine when trying to think what a bra would look like for a cow.

My thanks to Beverly Fletcher for writing a poignant article on AIDS discrimination by expressing her love for one that was close to her heart, as well as mine. Bev, you've shone some light into my life which has been darkened by Larry's death.

Len Vaughan
Dallas, TX

Verify AIDS information

While this letter is a notification for a correction, I want to say at the outset that I am supportive and excited about Intrepid's presence in Fort Worth.

The correction concerns your second issue, the "Health" column on page 13. The first sentence reads: "After entering the body, the AIDS virus can hide dormant, often for many years, before making its destructive presence known."

According to the Center for Disease Control, the Texas Department of Health and the local health department, there is not a word of truth in that statement: HIV is *never* dormant. From the moment of seroconversion, HIV is replicating. One of the biggest myths in the medical and all communities is this "dormancy" concept. Even my own general practitioner told me this myth.

What that told me (and what your health column has told me) is that after 12 years of the AIDS epidemic, there remains much educating to do. As Intrepid seeks to serve the lesbian/gay community of Fort Worth, you may need to assume responsibility for checking out submitted AIDS information before it is printed

in a health column. For that you will need the help of professionals.

Locally, I would suggest the best resources for this to be AIDS Outreach Center's Information Line, the public health department's Infectious Disease Clinic, and the Texas Department of Health.

I appreciate your work and look forward to your response.

Lee D. Arning Jr.
Fort Worth, TX

Broom de-mythed gays, missed in passing

I'm sending a donation in memory of my friend Andrew Broom. Andrew died March 8. He was a teacher, an activist, and he constantly promoted pride - pride in education, in accomplishment, in his own life and his community. He and his partner Brett marched in Washington and took every opportunity to "de-myth" gay life-styles.

Andrew gave me a button that says "You are loved!" In that spirit,

please accept this donation in his memory.

Laurie Barker
Fort Worth, TX

Editor's note: The Intrepid is using Barker's memorial donation to begin a fund for community outreach. We will disburse contributions to areas we see pertinent to growth, pride and achievement of civil rights.

WANTED:

Assertive, outgoing, energetic individual to serve as ad rep for the Intrepid. Contact 817/460-4732.

H O R O S C O P E

ARIES

(MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

Focus is on family and security. An older person will release you from a commitment.

TAURUS

(APRIL 20-MAY 20)

A negative will turn into a positive. You will celebrate and perhaps plan a trip.

GEMINI

(MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Finances continue to improve. You'll find something you lost.

CANCER

(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

You'll become less rigid in your thinking. A chance meeting is likely.

LEO

(JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Your insecurities will be soothed. A family reunion could provide pleasant results.

VIRGO

(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Your popularity soars, friends are influenced by your charm.

LIBRA

(SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)

You become more authoritative, and others follow your orders easily. Your prestige increases.

SCORPIO

(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Your influence is far-reaching. A friend who once helped you now needs support.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Money comes into picture. Step out of a rut. It will lead you in a productive direction.

CAPRICORN

(DEC. 21-JAN. 19)

Focus is on house. Large purchases will be spotlighted.

AQUARIUS

(JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Diversify and experiment. Let intellectual curiosity run free.

PISCES

(FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

Taurus needs your support. Be helpful, but don't fall for sob story.

Do you ever feel sad, scared, angry, unsure of yourself in your home, work or social environments, and, also, feel like you shouldn't?

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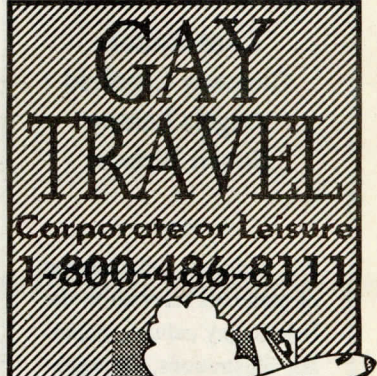
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Colorado governor speaks of gay relative

GRAND JUNCTION — Gov. Roy Romer, under threat of a recall because of his public opposition to Amendment 2, says the issue has been especially painful for him because he has a relative who is gay. During a recent speech to Club 20, a group of Western Slope business and community leaders, Romer strayed from his prepared address to talk about his personal relationship to Amendment 2, the anti-gay rights initiative approved by voters Nov. 3.

"It's not an easy thing to talk about," Romer told the audience. "I was raised in the Methodist

Church in Holly. It's my duty to defend Amendment 2, but discrimination is very painful to me."

Members of Club 20 said Romer's comments helped bring some understanding and humanity to a divisive issue.

"I think it really personalized it, brought it close to home," said Doug Lockhart, the out-going chairman of Club 20.

Club 20 President Greg Walcher said Romer's comments were not part of a carefully crafted political speech, but "had more of a tone of a heart-to-heart conversation you'd have with old friends."

Amendment 2, blocked by a Denver judge's temporary order, would erase various city laws and government policies that protect gays from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

The state government, through the attorney general's staff, now is defending Amendment 2 and trying to get it implemented as law.

"It's my duty to defend it (Amendment 2) in court, and I am doing my duty," Romer said.

While discussing the issue and the recall, Romer touched on his personal experience.

He said after his mother died, his father remarried. "That gave me an extended family. There is a person in my extended family who is a homosexual, and

that's no embarrassment to me.

"I do not believe we should give special status or quotas (to gays). I do not believe we should discriminate."

Club 20 Chairman Bill Needham of Granby said he appreciated Romer's candor.

"This is a tough issue, and it shouldn't be an issue. We ought to just live and let live," he said.

Christians say sex ed 'recruiting'

The Dallas/Fort Worth Heritage, a Christian news publication for the metroplex, recently published a column written by Kerby Anderson encouraging readers to protest the distribution of educational materials in public schools.

Anderson is chief executive officer of Probe Ministries, a Christian think-tank, and host of "News Talk" radio show. In his column titled *Gay Recruiting in Your School*, Anderson calls homosexual behavior "incredibly disgusting human acts."

Claiming that homosexual activists have been using AIDS education material to promote their causes and win public acceptance for their "lifestyle," he instructs followers to voice their opposition to any form of instruction in public schools which addresses sexual issues.

"By presenting various sexual activities in an amoral manner, these programs are promoting immorality," Anderson says. "Sex outside of marriage is wrong. These programs do not say that. If anything they promote just the opposite."

The Dallas/Fort Worth Heritage is published monthly and claims its mission is to preserve and sustain America's Christian heritage and pass it on to the nation's children.

First round ours in Justice Department Appeal

The U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco last week upheld a January court order that found the military ban on gays unconstitutional. The Department of Justice had appealed the January ruling, which also reinstated Petty Officer Keith Meinhold and prohibited the military from discharging other personnel based on gay status alone.

In an emergency motion, the appeals court ruled that the Justice Department would not be harmed by the January decision from Dis-

trict Court Judge Terry Hatter. The Justice Department said that Hatter's ruling jeopardized the compromise reached for developing a plan to lift the gay ban by July 15.

The Department of Justice is still preparing to appeal the Meinhold ruling, pending the July policy change.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force have called on Clinton to stop the Department of Justice from appealing Hatter's decision.

Newspapers nix comic

'Gay stuff's gone too far'

The Las Vegas Review Journal and a half dozen other newspapers have refused to run a *For Better or Worse* comic strip because it addresses the agony a teenager experiences when telling his parents he is gay.

Critics of the series claim it went too far for a comic and that the subject wasn't appropriate for the comics page. In the series, a 17-year-old is kicked out of the house by his parents after telling them he's gay.

They then ask him to return and say they'll try to accept his homosexuality.

Lynn Johnston, the comic strip's author, said she was surprised to learn a Las Vegas newspaper wouldn't use the series.

"I figured it was a very open-minded city and a show business oriented city with many people who would be interested in it," she said.

Victory Party or Protest March?

The Texas Supreme Court decision on the Sodomy Law, section 21.06 of the penal code, is expected at any time now, probably to be announced on a Wednesday.

A public rally the day after the decision is announced will gather our community en masse to protest or rejoice as determined by the court. Join gays, lesbians, friends and supporters the next evening following the announcement, at 7 p.m. in downtown Fort Worth at the Tarrant County Courthouse, 100 Weatherford Street.

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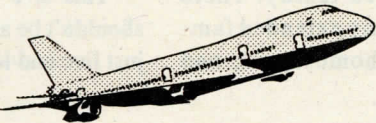
-TIM HAYES

THIS MARCH ON WASHINGTON IN APRIL PROMISES TO BE THE REJUVENATING SPIRIT THAT WILL SEE US THROUGH OUR CRITICAL BATTLES. THERE'S ONLY ONE PROBLEM. THE ENEMY KNOWS THIS TOO...

PUTTING A LITTLE KICK IN OUR STEP

USA MARCHING INTO NEW ERA

The March on Austin two years ago, not yet recorded



in the annals of public history but no doubt a likely candidate when all this fighting's done, changed the course of the personal histories of all those who laid their eyes on that magnificent scene, including mine.

From the middle of that proud pack, 28,000 kindred spirits surrounding me (only 24,000 if you listened to the media), gays and lesbians filling the streets, stretching as far forward and as distantly to the rear as the eye could see, I gained a salving perspective on the sheer numbers of us.

At work with just a few allies recognized, within my family where I was treated as an odd aberration, in public settings that held me to a cowering, diminutive position, I had moved quietly, fearfully, transfixed by the myth that I was by far outnumbered and thereby direly vulnerable. Marching down Congress Avenue in Austin with a teeming, joyful horde shouting forcefully, "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, get used to it," that myth was shattered. Like a sponge I soaked up the power and energy emanating from that crowd and these have remained with me ever since.

For the first time in what was then our nine-year relationship, Susan and I walked hand in hand down a public street, fully spied by onlookers, some who cringed but even still would not dare to bash us in that setting. For the first time ever we walked without fear, without caution, restraint thrown to the wind. We held our interlocked hands up proudly in a coupled wave to the spectators, a gesture that served more as a greeting to our buried selves. The march for us was a birthing process, releasing the seed of self-affirmation.

At the steps of the capitol we

encountered the enemy that had served to terrorize us and thereby held us silenced and compliant. The gathering of the Coalition for Family Values there symbolized the unforbearing Public Voice whose punishment, we had projected, would be unbearable, best averted. And here is where our perceptions of ourselves truly rearranged. This opposing body was a pitiful pebble in comparison to the mountain we presented that day. Those 50 faces fell as they counted up the miles we stretched. Those 50 voices hushed as our resounding cheers echoed. Those 100 eyes saw that day that the myth was irrevocably shattered and we were freed. The tables turned: our enemy fell into the cowering, diminutive positions to which they had relegated us, to which they had hoped to banish us that day. On that sunny day in Austin the enemy spied the empowering lessons we were gleaning, and they've been shoving scared ever since.

My life changed that day, guided by the nurturing work of inspiring speakers calling out my worth and value, directing me toward a new mission. After that march Susan and I found the advocacy and social groups in our city that had eluded our attention previously. We replaced our heterosexist associations with a wide circle of

"family." Our calendar filled rapidly with an invigorating slate of meetings, events and grassroots organizing. We met the enemy again and again in other arenas, bolstered by the image of that moving scene in Austin where the roles were reversed, where the mighty cowered lamb-like and the downtrodden roared like lions.

It was from that day onward that Susan and I started pinching the pen-

nies to save up for a pilgrimage to the March on Washington. Having been so dramatically touched by the kinship of 28,000 enlivened souls, we could scarcely ignore the promise of the national march, of a crowd one million strong in which to nestle. And here we are now on the brink of that promise, counting off the slowly passing days.

The March on Washington is a celebration of what our movement has achieved; it is a joyous chronicle of where we are now; it is the delimiting punctuation to how we collectively perceive ourselves. Of greater impact than these affirming roles is the march's destiny: what transpires in Washington, DC on April 25 will generate the path our movement will travel from this point. The gay/lesbian/bi/transgender agenda will be etched by the footsteps pounding the pavements of our capitol city, and the entire nation will follow that course.

Out of the last March on Washington in 1987 emerged the foundation of networks and civil rights battles pervasive today. That same energy that transformed Susan and me worked its magic similarly at the last national march, pushing those touched to achieve better and bigger monuments that would sweep through the nation.

The NAMES Project had its start at the '87 march. ACT UP went national after its introduction to that admiring audience. Fledgling organizations formed in cities where none had existed; new interest groups emerged to join the weave of existing networks. A renewed spirit of defiance inflamed a movement of civil disobedience to monitor the system and hold it accountable. Po-

litical clout carried into the far reaches of the nation, tapping city councils, state legislators and our federal politicians on the shoulders and gaining their unprecedented attention. President Bill Clinton courted our vote for practical reasons, because of the groundwork laid at the march.

The 1986 Supreme Court decision on sodomy laws and the politically ignored status of AIDS galvanized our community at the 1987 march by accumulating the anger and terror in a massive collection that wielded formidable power. Our citizenry were furious and it showed. Our citizenry declared pride in an overriding turn that mightily shoved

aside the shame heaped on us, and we gained serious consideration. Our marchers, by demanding fair treatment, began a battle cry that spread like sound waves through the entire body of us. That last march was a capping highlight of every bit of our history that had preceded but, even greater than that, it defined the history that would follow in its wake.

This march on Washington falls at just such critical timing. Repeal of the military ban is the make-or-break factor in how successful we will be at achieving our due civil rights. AIDS funding still is our constant, taxing battle. The Religious Right is well along on its strategies to enact discriminatory legislation against us in each major city and in every state. The march in April has the potential to decide these issues firmly, by influencing through its lobbying focus and by inspiring more organized defenses at the local levels.

The primary demands of the march platform constitute an ambitious but reasonable slate: passage of the fed-

eral gay and lesbian civil rights bill and "an end to discrimination by state and federal governments, including the military"; repeal of all sodomy laws; recognition for gay and lesbian families; a massive increase in AIDS funding; and the inclusion of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenderists in public-school curricula and in multicultural studies.

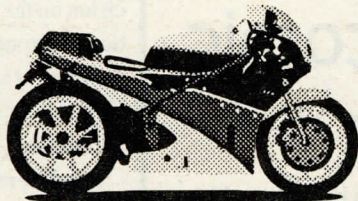
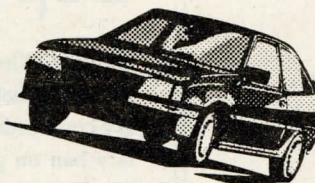
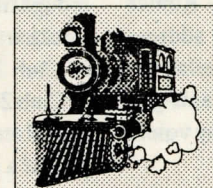
With just a few baby steps forward, one million of them timed in unison, we might well achieve these. Eric Rofes, on the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task

Force and a key national organizer of the 1979 March on Washington, promotes this march as a visible association to the civil rights movement. "If we do our part to build this event and position it powerfully before the eyes of the world," Rofes instructs, "we will succeed in transforming the public's perception of Gay Liberation from an isolated cultural quirk into its rightful position as part of a powerful and credible movement for freedom and justice."

In Rofes' opinion, this march just might be the impetus that catapults our movement forward in mainstream America.

Our lives have changed during this Gay '90s decade, by a movement that created fertile ground for self-reflection and broadened awareness. In recognizing the lines of our oppression we sketched a revealing picture of action required and steps to take. Now in our movement it is time to take those lessons to the streets, to instruct the public on what we have viewed so clearly as of late. On April 25, one million of us will direct the public eye to the big picture while those at home add their brush strokes to this magnificent artwork, by the steps taken at the home battlefronts and the power claimed through self-actualization.

Should we meet the enemy in Washington, DC, as we did in Austin, perhaps they will at last cease their resistance finally in the face of our persistent, firm message: We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous ... and we're still waiting for them to get used to it.



BY
**BEVERLY
FLETCHER**

Something for everyone

Register now for MOW events

Gay and Lesbian Parent Coalition International banquet and reception, Friday, April 23. Contact Jim Fagelson at 301/762-4828.

People of Color Conference, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 23. Call 202/628-0493 for registration.

Lesbian and Gay Bands of America concert, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24. Tickets \$15, \$20, \$25, available at all Ticketmaster outlets. For group sales call 713/522-4282.

Texas 2-Step Party, sponsored by Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, Texas Human Rights Foundation and March on Washington. 6-10 p.m. Saturday, April 24. Tickets \$25, Visa or Mastercharge, call 512/479-8473.

National Gay/Lesbian Task Force Fund-Raiser presenting Romanovski and Phillips, Margie Adam, and Karen Williams, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 24. Tickets \$18 general admission. Call Jeanette Paroly at 202/244-2163.

The Wedding - Interfaith Ceremony of Commitment, 11 a.m. Saturday, April 24, IRS Building, reception to follow. \$10 registration for certificate of union. Contact Rev. Troy Perry at 213/464-5100.

MOW Black-Tie Gala, Saturday evening, April 24. Call 202/628-0493.

Drag Show Extravaganza nightly, call 202/628-0493.

Fight the Right Town Meeting sponsored by National Gay/Lesbian Task Force, 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24. Call Michelle Crone, 202/332-6483.

Taps Ceremony - GLB Veterans

of America, Saturday, April 24. Contact Gene Barfield, 802/479-7934.

Women's Dance sponsored by NOW, Saturday, April 24, 202/331-0066.

Women's Dance sponsored by Bon Vivant, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday, April 24. Contact Katherine Windrex, 301/840-8402.

Celebration of Family - benefit hosted by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, April 24. Tickets \$35 and include P-FLAG sash to wear for march. For credit card purchase contact Laura Bodenschatz at 202/638-4200.

NAMES Project Quilt Display, Sunday, April 25. Contact Debra Resnik, 415/863-1966.

Direct Action/Civil Disobedience, Monday, April 26. Call Rebecca Hensler at 415/930-0616.

Collections underway for MIA support panel project

A canvas billboard for the Missing in Action will be displayed all day Sunday, April 25, to represent persons in support of the march but who are unable to attend.

Names, locations and messages inscribed on 1 1/2" x 4" swatches of material will comprise the massive display board that will be color-coded by time zone regions. The display will become a traveling marker for future historical exhibits.

Some two million names are expected to be displayed on the panel.

Local march committees are collecting donations to support the display and to provide scholarships for individuals to attend the march.

A "Here in Spirit" Party at 8 p.m. April 14 at the Round-up in Dallas will gather swatches to be delivered to the march.

Material will be provided at the party to construct panels. Donations received will go toward the approximately \$750,000 needed to fund the national event. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

Those who cannot attend the party may drop off their message and donation at the Round-up prior to April 14.

FORT WORTH MARCHERS

To march with the Fort Worth contingent in Washington, DC, call the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, 817/763-5544.

LOBBYING

MOW's National Lobby Days, April 21-23, 26 and 27, will call for an end to anti-gay attacks on state and local civil rights protections, for increased AIDS funding and for passage of the federal Civil Rights Bill.

To participate in the lobbying or to provide letters to representatives and senators to be delivered by lobbyists, call the national office at 202/628-0493 or 202/628-0471. The fax number is 202/628-0472.

RALLY HERE FIRST

If you're going to Washington or wish you were going to Washington, add your cheer to the Pre-March Rally at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at Lee Park in Dallas.

LOCAL HOTLINE

A 24-hour local March on Washington Hotline provides a pre-recorded message of up-to-date information:

214/521-5862.

Callers may leave their name and telephone number if they need further information.



COUNTING ON WRISTBANDS

Order Official Count 1993 March on Washington Rainbow Wristbands by sending \$6 each to March on Washington, P.O. Box 34607, Washington, DC 20043. Make checks payable to March on Washington.

If all marchers participate, the embroidered wristbands will provide an accurate count of attendance to assure that statistics are not downplayed by the United States Park Service or the media.

BE PREPARED

March organizers suggest that you bring colored chalk to color the streets and sidewalks of DC.

HOTEL

For hotel arrangements contact Washington D.C. Accommodations, 800/554-2220; or Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, 214/528-4233.

TRAVEL

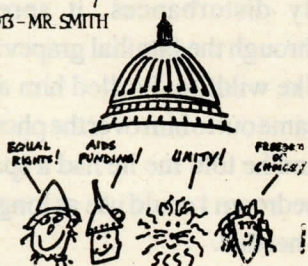
For travel arrangements contact Destination Tours in Dallas, 214/559-6133; Capital Travel, Albany, NY, 800-800-9009; or Confident Travel, Burlingame, CA, 800-872-7252.

MARCH T-SHIRTS

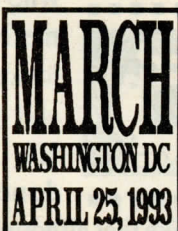


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April 25, 1993

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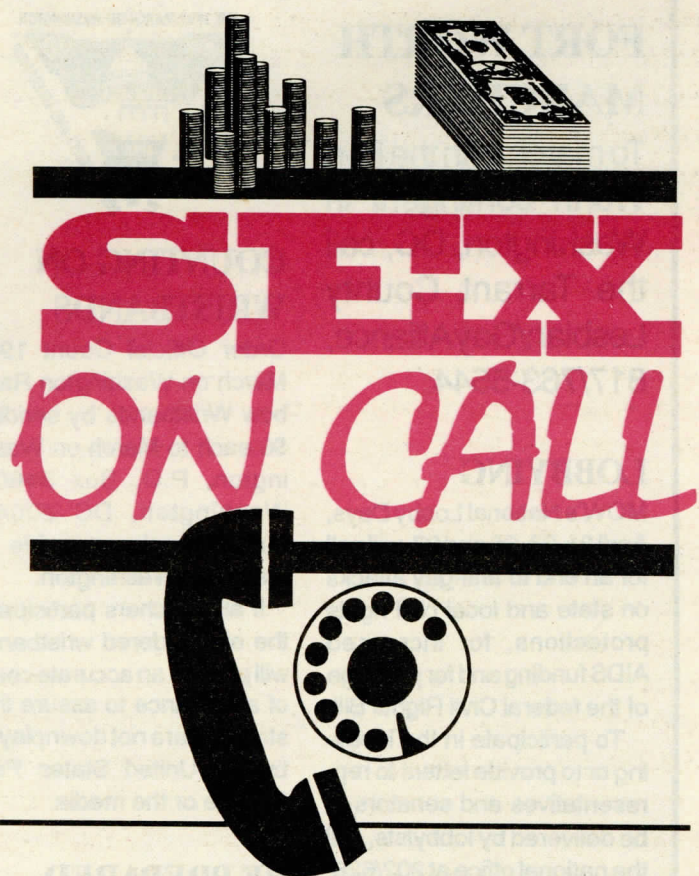
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SEX ON CALL

I called six men in an attempt to secure information for this article. Four of them did not want to talk to me, and one of them wanted me to pay him for the conversation. I got lucky with the sixth one. He was articulate and funny, expressing his thoughts in an understandable style. We talked for almost three hours, and I have rarely encountered a man so at ease with what is usually considered to be a demeaning occupation. He is in control of his sexual side; it doesn't control him. Perhaps that's the secret. By approaching sex without shame or qualms, he uses it to explore his humanness. He offers his discoveries to others so they may understand what liberation is.

This male escort, prostitute, companion — whatever you want to label him — broke the stereotype. But then I would never have known he existed had I not chosen to explore this side of our culture and attempt to understand why these men do it. Some men do it for money. Others, like Wade, do it because they are grown-ups and because they can.

You wouldn't pick me out of a crowd as a male escort. I'm enrolled in a graduate program at The University of Dallas, and I work part-time as a physical therapist. Some of my clients don't believe I'm a graduate student. They think that anyone who would do this would have to be a dim-wit, and maybe some of the escorts are, but then so are a lot of other people working at more socially acceptable jobs. I choose to do this, not because I'm too stupid to do anything else, but because I'm secure enough to realize I can make these decisions without needing approval from anyone. My choice is a healthy one. Maybe other escorts can't say that, but I don't have the time to analyze their reasonings.

A few years ago, I never would have considered doing this as a means of supporting myself. Even though the idea fascinated me, I didn't have the emotional maturity to understand the dynamics involved. Other guys I know do it because it's easy money. They dance at some of the bars, and they know their good looks can generate some cash. But they're amateurs, and most of them don't like doing it. They look down on the men who respond to their ads, and they go through the whole act with the same amount of emotion the mailman has when he delivers the mail. Why bother with it if you feel that way?

I was a junior in college the first time someone offered to pay me for sex. A guy called me in my dorm room and told me he would pay anything I asked if I would let him do certain things. I was so shocked, and I didn't know what to say, but I didn't want to hang up, either. At that time,

the only sex I had experienced was with women, but I had given a lot of thought to gay sex. I wanted to do it, but I didn't know where to find it.

This guy called me about four or five times before I agreed to his offer. He came over to my room, and I was surprised that he was cute. He said he had been in my chemistry lecture class during my freshman year and that he had watched me ever since. It didn't frighten me because I could sense his gentleness and shyness. He said he was always too embarrassed to talk to me, afraid I would be able to tell he was attracted to me. He didn't think I would consider doing anything with a man, but as time passed and his fantasies became stronger, he thought maybe I would do it for money. Maybe I should have been insulted, but I wasn't.

The first time with him was incredible. He was so in awe of my body, and all he wanted to do was touch me all over. I just laid back and enjoyed it. The idea of being appreciated and admired that much was exciting. I worked out heavily then, and still do, and I have to be honest and say that I want this kind of body because of the attention it gets me. Sounds shallow, doesn't it? Well, maybe my candor makes up for it.

Even though I didn't think of myself as an escort at that time, he was my first regular client, even though he was my only client. We met once a week for the rest of the year, and I knew then I would never again be a good candidate for the mainstream. I was careful to maintain the boundaries of the relationship. Several times, he would try to steer it into

something more romantic, but I wasn't interested in that. We were providing each other something important: I fulfilled his fantasies, and in doing so I received a rush knowing I could have that effect on someone. It may sound strange, but I really believe our sessions were good therapy for him. He became more assertive, more confident. When he graduated and moved away, he said I had helped him to become relaxed and unrepresed. Although I didn't realize I had been doing it, his statement made me aware of how someone in my position could use this service to help other men as well as myself.

When I graduated the following year, I decided to go to graduate school in Texas. I grew up in Florida, but my parents are from Texas, so I have lots of family here. One of my cousins is gay, and I knew he was dancing in a Dallas bar because it was the source of a big family scandal. An angry ex-lover took pictures of him dancing and sent them to his parents, and like most family disturbances, it spread through the familial grapevine like wildfire. I called him and came out to him over the phone, and he told me he had a spare bedroom I could use as long as I needed.

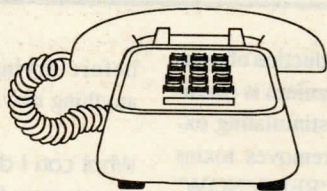
When I moved out here, I told my cousin about the guy



who had paid me for sex. He looked at me and grinned. He hadn't

done anything like that although he had been approached many times while dancing at the club. He grilled me, asking how I felt about doing it. Did it make me feel like a prostitute? Did I worry about AIDS? His questions didn't bother me because they were issues I had already

resolved. Many people call me a prostitute, but I don't worry about labels. As for AIDS, the sex I had with the guy was safe. Most of the time he just wanted me to lie naked on the bed while he ran his hands slowly over me.



After about a month, I presented my cousin with an idea. I wanted to get a job as a dancer, but I wanted to work as a team with him. It would be a different approach, and it could be erotic. He told me there was more to dancing than just getting up on the stage and shaking your ass, but I told him I could do it. He gave me a skimpy outfit to put on and told me to prove it.

Having lost all inhibitions, I went all the way out to show him what one man could do for another without even touching him. After about five minutes, he started dancing with me. It was sensual, but we didn't have sex. At least not physically. My complete abandonment excited him, and it persuaded him that we would be a popular feature. His manager hired me, and we went to work together the next week.

We danced two nights a week, and that suited me. Graduate school is demanding, and I don't have much time to work as a physical therapist and dance as well.

After about a month, I was shocked by the number of times men had offered to pay us for sex. My cousin always refused without asking me, and I didn't say anything. I knew we could make more money in less time as escorts, but he seemed to be against the idea.

One night, I presented him with another plan. We could stop dancing and work as a

team in the escort business. He didn't want to do it be-

cause he said it would be too awkward for him to be involved in a sex act with a cousin, but I used our dance act as an example of how successful we could be. People would love it. Still, his Sunday School teachings tugged at him, but after a couple of weeks, I persuaded him to give it a try.

We went to the Village Station and picked up a guy we both thought was good-looking. I asked him if he would be interested in a three-way with us, and he thought it was too good to be true. When we got to our house, and we were undressing, the guy asked if my cousin and I were lovers. I told him no and told him what our relationship was. He became even more aroused.

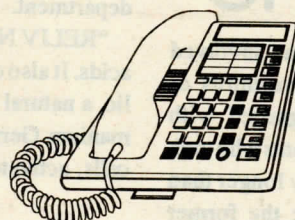
My cousin was a little shy at first, but my "unreserved attitude" was catching, and he was soon turned-on by the idea of having sex with me and another man. After that night, we were in business. We quit our dancing jobs, advertised in a local gay publication and were soon making pretty good money. We never had sex alone, only with a client, but I still didn't think it was wrong. If anything it was empowering. To be able to make those decisions based solely on what I think is best for me and not on what society and the church taught me is liberating.

I grew up in a strict Baptist home, and my parents are sick about what I do. They can't understand how someone who is as goal-oriented as me could do something like this. We don't even talk about it anymore because they will never

understand my reasons. It's more than sex.

After about seven months, my cousin stopped working as an escort, but I decided to continue to do it alone. It's a whole other world, and I like what I learn from it. Friends back home who don't know what I do say I've changed. Of course I have. I've discarded those chains of what is moral and what isn't. I believe I have the right and the responsibility to choose what is moral for me, and that may not be what is appropriate for someone else. My cousin began to feel guilty about what he was doing, but he feels guilty about being gay. I don't.

Exploring my sexuality is as exciting for me as discovering a new planet is to an astronomer. We've been taught that sex is bad and dirty, but it's a lie. Sex is empowering, and it helps us to get to know ourselves. I don't believe in using sex as a substitute for



showing emotions, but I see it as a way of showing some emotions. We still need to learn to be nurturing and caring, but we need to learn to say it's okay we're horny. That's a valid need.

Sometimes, it's difficult being an escort. Some of the men get too attached to me. They don't understand the boundaries. I provide a service, much as doctors or lawyers do. When the session is over, we go our separate ways. Some of my clients have to have that explained to them. My job is to tell them it's okay to be sexual, to live out a fantasy—as long as it's safe.

Some of the men just want to talk or to be held. One man wanted me to get naked and

put clothespins on his nipples. He masturbated while I stood in front of him. He never touched me, and he didn't want me to touch him. I figure that's okay even though I believe he probably has some issues he needs to resolve. I'm not there to tell him his desires would be considered strange to some people. He probably already knows that. That's why he has to pay me to act them out. His wife or lover is too inhibited or too wrapped up in sexual taboos to give him what he wants.

I hear long tales of loneliness, shot through with guilt about their sexuality. Some of my clients are college men who are too afraid to go to the bars. Some are married men, and some are men who because of their physical appearances find it difficult to get sex any other way. I treat each one differ-

ently, tailoring the sessions to give them what they pay for. A hundred dollars is a lot of money for one hour. They deserve my attention and talents.

There was one guy I developed strong feelings for. He was in his late twenties, married and gorgeous. I laugh because he had to remind me of the boundaries. I looked forward to our twice-monthly sessions, but he made it clear that he was going to stay married. I saw him for about eight months,

and then he was transferred to Colorado. It's the only time I disobeyed my own rules, but it has helped me to understand when some of my clients want to get too close. It's a human response. We like someone so we move closer.

I know there are a lot of people who think I'm a sleeze to do this. I feel sorry for them. Being judgmental and critical is a disease of the spirit. They're wrapped up in their cloaks of virtue and righteousness, afraid someone might see a crack in the thin veneer. Underneath, they have the same desires I have, the desire to be freed from the pressure to conform to what others think I should do, and the desire to construct a philosophy that is suited to me. I'm happier than they are, and in many ways I think I'm a nicer person. I don't condemn others because they are doing something that may not be right for me. I understand it's appropriate for them, and as long as it's not harming anyone, I think we should leave them alone.

I like intercourse, whether it be verbal or sexual. Both are equally important. Counselors and therapists provide verbal intercourse. I'm more skilled in the latter. History proves that humans need intimacy, so why are we so afraid of it? Why have we degraded it? Maybe we should ask those professionals who provide the verbal intercourse. After all, they're the experts." ▼



AS TOLD TO
STEVE RAMOS
BY WADE

Health Sense

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANSWERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What type of vitamins would boost my immune system?

Once you have been diagnosed as HIV positive, no one vitamin will help repair the damage HIV causes to your immune system. But you can shore up your natural defenses with a variety of vitamins, herbs, amino acids, trace elements and other similar nutrients.

What is a safe, holistic approach to healing my immune system?

One of the best ways to curtail the spread of HIV is to start at the cellular level. Most of the local health food stores sell many cell-impacting items that I will cover in future columns. Make sure you take the time to read the labels and ensure you get high quality for your investment.

Most of my information comes from one of the better books written

ROBERT WEBSTER IS AN EPIDEMIOLOGIST SPECIALIST AT THE TARRANT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE HIV IMPACTED. WEBSTER, WHO HAS BEEN HIV POSITIVE FOR SIX YEARS, IS AN ENERGETIC ACTIVIST AND EDUCATOR.

on holistic healing, *A Holistic Protocol for the Immune System* by Scott J. Gregory, OMD (4th edition). This book gives a wealth of treatments for weakened immune systems.

What books would best assist someone who is unsure of what treatment routes to pursue?

I always recommend one book above all others. The privilege of meeting Louise Hay last August reaffirmed my belief in her methods of self-healing. Two of her books are high on my list: *The Power is within You* and *You Can Heal Your Life*.

Another great book is *The Guide to Living with HIV Infection* by John

G. Bartlett, MD, and Ann K. Finkbeiner. This book and its concepts were developed at the Johns Hopkins AIDS Clinic.

You can usually find these books at the half-priced bookstores located throughout the metroplex.

What is available in a one-step natural treatment for my HIV condition?

One of the first things my doctor recommended to me six years ago when I tested positive was to try a new product called "RELIVNOW." This comes in a powder form and can be mixed with any liquid. The can lasts about two weeks and costs close to \$20. I double the dosage because of my busy schedule and always have enough energy to get through the worst days at the health department.

"RELIVNOW" has all 22 amino acids. It also contains herbs like garlic, a natural source of organic germanium. Germanium oxygenates the cells, activates the immune system

and enhances the production of natural interferon. Germanium is classified as an immuno-stimulating oxide that traps and removes toxins harmful to the body. "RELIVNOW" gets its protein from whey, a natural source of protein that aids in supplying energy to the body. A person loses tremendous amounts of energy during the detoxification process. "RELIVNOW" puts that back into your system.

There are other varieties of this product, one solely for vegetarians and one that helps you lose weight in a healthy manner. Several local doctors prescribe these products for their immune-suppressed patients. The state of Texas covers the cost of this treatment under its employee insurance policy. The product is also patented based on the balance of nutrients that it contains.

So far, it has worked for me for six years. But before you switch any form of treatment, ask your doctor and do your homework to ensure it will work for you. Some of the natural ingredients in these products thin your blood and you may have a reaction based upon the other medications you may be taking. Always check with your health care provider

before trying anything new.

What can I do on my own to stay healthy?

The U.S. Surgeon General's office has concluded that, except for smoking and excessive alcohol usage, what we eat influences our long-term health prospects more than any other factor. Medically and scientifically, it's well established that proper nutrition is a key to better health. This seems like common sense advice, and what your mother knew best.

DDC stands alone

It's a breakthrough for AIDS patients who cannot tolerate AZT. A major study has for the first time shown that for these patients, the antiviral drug DDC is at least as effective as DDI when used alone. So far, the FDA has approved use of DDC only in conjunction with AZT.

The nationwide study, which lasted nearly two years, was sponsored by the federal government's National Institute of Allergy and

Infectious Diseases and involved 467 patients, about two-thirds of whom had been diagnosed with full-blown AIDS. Patients who took DDC survived slightly longer than those who took DDI; the former group had 87 deaths; the latter 100. FDA Commissioner David A. Kessler said the FDA would consider sanctioning the use of DDC alone as well as urging insurance companies to reimburse patients for "single-agent use."

Testosterone patch developed

First there was the sea-sickness-remedy patch for weekend sailors, then the nicotine patch for would-be-ex-smokers. Now, two companies are trying out testosterone patches for men with abnormally low levels of the hormone. AZLA Corp. of Palo Alto, California, has asked the FDA for approval to market its Testoderm Patch, and Theratech Inc. of Salt Lake City expects to request FDA approval next year. Because the patches release testosterone gradually, maintaining consistent levels in the blood, they're superior to the injections and pills now available. Patches are designed to be worn for 24 hours, then replaced.

The patches were originally designed for men with low hormone levels stemming from testicular surgery, pituitary gland tumors or other medical conditions. In this country, 200,000 to 400,000 younger men fall into this category.

However, they may eventually be routinely prescribed to older men to combat the fatigue and diminished sex drive, bone density and muscular strength that often accompany aging. Much more study will be needed before approval is granted for this use.

A moveable gas chamber

Car could be more polluted than air outside

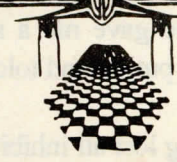
Next time you drive by a jogger or bicyclist and mutter that the dummy is doing himself more harm than good by inhaling all that car exhaust, consider this: The air inside your car may be even more polluted than the nasty stuff outside.

According to the environmental organization Greenpeace, dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and benzene can easily build up inside your vehicle. In one study, levels of benzene, a known carcinogen were 18

times higher inside cars than they were 50 yards from the edge of the road. Rolling up the windows and using the air conditioning in heavy, slow traffic makes the problem worse, not better.

What can you do? Since up to one-third of cartrips are under one mile long, use alternate, and healthier, forms of transportation whenever possible—like your legs or a bicycle. You should also shut off your engine in traffic jams and avoid driving during peak traffic hours.

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Fort Worth
Health Department

WILD WEST DILEMMA:

Served with a gay twist, a little Love Boat romance might have softened TV's violent edge

BY
STEVE
RAMOS

Whenever I must endure some form of wearisome inconvenience—like having to take the stairs when the escalator is out—I think of what it was like in the old days. Remembering what those poor people had to put up with

helps me to bear my burden a little more willingly.

Take Little Joe for example. You remember him. He lived on the Ponderosa with his pa and two brothers. Just last week, Little Joe went blind once, was shot three

times, got mistaken for a killer wanted dead or alive—the angry mob almost killed him before Hoss and Adam could intervene, but Little Joe forgave everybody and bought them drinks—and on Friday, he fell down a mineshaft and had to be rescued by an old blind woman who hated all human beings. I guess someone forgot her birthday, and she never got over it. Anyway, life wasn't easy on the Ponderosa. The week before that, it was Adam's turn, but he was shot only once. It took him the whole episode to remember who he was.

Things weren't much better over on The Big Valley, either. While the Cartwrights were trying to keep Little Joe alive, Victoria Barkley and her daughter, Audra, were in a neighboring town on a dress-shopping trip. A bad-mannered cowboy took a shine to Audra, and she, of course, ignored his advances. He didn't appreciate that, so he kidnapped her and whisked her off to a line shack somewhere in the next county. Victoria was fighting mad when she found out, so she wired Heath and told him to hold supper; she had to rescue Audra.

When she was through with the cowboy, he looked like a junkyard dog had dragged him under the porch. Victoria bounced him off all four walls of the line shack, kicked him outside, and then told him that no one, but no one, ever treated a Barkley with anything less than regal respect. Audra fell into her mother's arms, weeping and saying that all she wanted was to buy a new frock for next Sunday's dance. It was going to be a benefit for Little Joe.

During the same week, Miss Kitty over in Dodge made Victoria's squabble look like a petty cat-and-dog fight. A man who had a grudge against Matt Dillon rode into town to settle an old score with him. When he was told Matt was over in Hayes delivering a prisoner, the man got sore and decided to get drunk at the Longbranch Saloon. After he had finished his second bottle, someone told him Miss Kitty

was the Marshall's woman. Well, the villain looked at Kitty through squinty eyes, and his smile spread out like a snake warming up by a fire. If he couldn't settle the grudge with Matt, he'd give Kitty what for. Little did he know that she had already been through pretty much the same thing last week, and she could smell trouble coming when it was still around the corner.

Kitty slapped him off his feet, dragged him around by his hair and then made him pay for everybody's drinks. When she was finished, not one red curl on her head had come loose. She put her hands on her hips and said, "Now. Let Vicky Barkley top that!" Obviously, Miss Kitty's patience was wearing thin that night. Maybe the Coors man was late with the beer delivery.

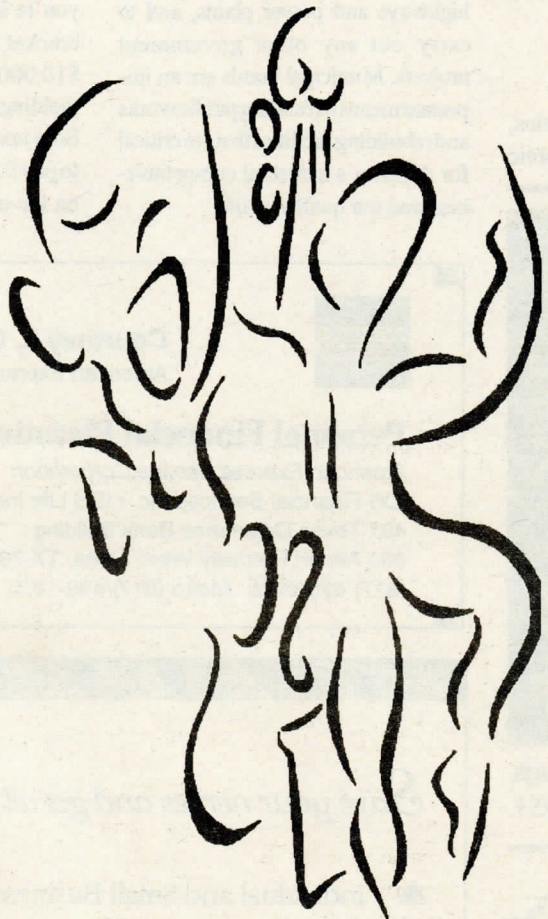
Frankly, I think all this hostility is the result of plain old sexual frustration. Just think about it. Those Cartwright boys never could get anyone to marry them, and the Barkleys didn't do any better. Makes me wonder.

Now if I had been the producer, I would have paired Little Joe with Heath Barkley, Hoss with Nick Barkley, and Adam with Jarod Barkley. Adam and Jarod were the intellectuals of both families, and they could have talked about their books and other silly stuff. Little Joe and Heath would be dancers at the Longbranch, gyrating on top of the bar while Festus stuffed their chaps with paper money. Hoss and Nick would have been leather men.

Kitty would turn out to be a drag queen—who else would wear those clothes?—and Matt would fall in love with one of his prisoners, the one he took to Hayes. Kitty never wanted him anyway.

So what about Victoria Barkley? Well, after Audra gets kidnapped by Annie Oakley and REFUSES to return, her mother realizes that beating up that cowboy at the line shack was a real turn-on. She gets involved in a master/slave relationship, screaming at her partner, "Nobody, but nobody treats a Barkley with anything less than regal respect."

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FORT WORTH FAVORITE RUTA LEE WILL EMCEE THE EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT. CLEVE JONES, FOUNDER OF THE NAMES PROJECT AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT, IS HONORARY CHAIR. DRS. PATTI WETZEL AND SIROUS PARTOV, AIDS AWARENESS ADVOCATES, ARE GALA HONORARY CHAIRS.

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Have there been any significant changes in the tax laws this year? Federal income tax codes didn't change significantly in 1993, with one important exception. If you leave your job after January 1, 1993 - due to retirement, company downsizing or a job change - and a payout is expected, your employer will withhold 20 percent of that payout unless the entire amount is directly rolled into another qualified retirement plan. This means a new or existing IRA account must be in place to receive the payout.

If I am self employed can I deduct health insurance costs? The benefit allowing self-employed persons to deduct up to 25 percent of their health insurance costs for themselves, spouses and dependents from their gross income was phased out on June 30, 1992.

Can employees deduct medical and dental expenses? These expenses can be itemized and deducted on a Schedule A, only if health care expenses are above the required threshold of 7 1/2 percent of your adjusted gross income. Try bunching big-ticket items like children's braces or elective surgery in the same year. Also include travel costs of going to and from the doctor's office and hospital.

What are the new standard deduc-

COURTNEY CHATFIELD, A FINANCIAL PLANNER AT AMERICAN EXPRESS IN HURST, HELPS GAY/LESBIAN COUPLES ATTAIN FINANCIAL GOALS.

tion and personal exemption amounts for the 1993 tax year? Personal exemption is \$2,350. Standard deduction is \$6,200 if married, filing jointly, and \$3,700 for a single return.

What is an IRA?

An IRA, or Individual Retirement Account, is a tax-favored retirement plan that can be established by any individuals who have earned income. An income tax deduction of up to \$2,000 is allowed each year for contributions to this type of plan if: a) the retirement plan for any part of the plan year ending with or within the individual's taxable year or b) even if an individual (or spouse) is covered by an employer-maintained retirement plan if that individual (or married couple) has adjusted gross income under a certain level. Non-deductible contributions may continue to be made on a tax-deferred basis. Contributions up to a combined total of \$2,250 can be made by an individual if his/her spouse has no compensation, or has income of less than \$250 but elects to be treated for the taxable year as having no compensation (spousal IRA).

What is tax-exempt?

Certain kinds of income not subject to income tax. Income from certain

municipal bonds is often called tax-exempt.

What are tax-exempt bonds?

The securities of states, cities and other public authorities specified under federal law, the interest on which is either wholly or partly exempt from federal income taxes. Municipal bonds are often called tax-exempt.

What are municipal bonds?

The obligations of states, cities, towns, school districts and public



Wayland is known for his hugs, smiles and great dancing at 651.

authorities are known as municipal bonds. Like all bonds, municipals are a form of debt. When you buy a municipal bond, you're lending money to a government, which in turn agrees to pay you interest and to repay your principal at a specific date, the bond's maturity.

What do these states, cities, towns, etc. do with the money?

The money you invest is used to build or improve schools, bridges, airports, highways and power plants, and to carry out any other government projects. Municipal bonds are an important means of funding public works and rebuilding facilities that are critical for America's industrial competitiveness and our quality of life.

What effect does a tax-exempt investment have on my rate of return?

If you invest \$10,000 in a municipal bond fund yielding 7 percent, the entire \$700 is yours to keep. But if you're in the 28 percent federal tax bracket and you invest the same \$10,000 in a taxable investment yielding 7 percent, you only net \$504. So, a taxable investment would have to pay 9.7 percent to match the return on the municipal bond.



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First Facts

The first city to be founded in honor of a gay lover: Antinoopolis, founded in Egypt by the Roman emperor Hadrian (ca. 111-130) in the second century, after his lover Antinous drowned.

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in Dallas at Curious Times, Crossroads Market,

AIDS activist takes mission to the letter

Public response turns funding cuts to increase

By Beverly Fletcher

While most community leaders were busily trying to spread the word on a proposed cut of our state AIDS funding that would have decimated services, Robert Webster was paying it real lip service — by licking the envelopes of the letters that helped convince legislators not just to maintain the appropriation, but to increase it.

Webster, an epidemiologist specialist at the Tarrant County Department of Public Health, accounts for at least 890 letters mailed to eight members of the Senate Finance Committee and 27 members of the House

Appropriations Committee.

With the help of modern technology and mail-merge programs, Webster, himself HIV positive, tackled a crisis that hit close to home. Beyond the personal implications of the proposed 98 percent cut, Webster's mission to educate and serve the HIV-impacted population through the health department stood seriously threatened.

Instead of just urging the community to send the critically timed letters opposing the cut, Webster did the leg work to assure public opinion was registered. He compiled a letter demanding that the state legislature reconsider the devastating budget cut. He collected the names, addresses and occupations of 33 others who were concerned about the funding. And then he produced an impressive bundle of 35 personalized letters for each person, complete with addressed envelopes, ready for them to sign, seal and deliver.

Combined with the efforts of other AIDS-services organizations in Tarrant County to encourage a mail campaign, dissenting opinion caught the attention of the state senate and house. It was the letters that turned the situation into a wind-fall.

"The house was literally bombarded by mail," Webster said, as confirmed in his telephone conversation with the secretary who opened them. "She joked, 'You get a bunch of homosexuals riled up and that's what happens...'" Webster related proudly.

The letters worked. Because of the overwhelming response in the mail, the house reinstated the original \$32 million and proposed an increase. Before the dust settles on the budget negotiations between house and senate, at least an additional \$18 million and perhaps as much as \$47 million more will be added, according to senators re-

sponding to the letters.

Webster's a happy guy now, for the moment, exuberant that our state leaders honored the public outcry by doing the right thing. The services he provides in AIDS-outreach are secure for this year; for now, he retains access to the existing network of services for his own health needs — due in no small part to his initiative, to his philosophy of action over pondering.

But already he's gearing up for his next battle: a fight for Senator Mike Moncrief's proposed sex education bill. He sees proper education as the foundation for curbing the HIV epidemic, and he's ready to back it with

words — lots of them. He's compiling his letter to the 15-member committee considering the bill, and he's looking for more people who feel as strongly, who want to add their names to the mail-merged correspondence.

"This will take a lot of work because the right wingers are organized on this one," Webster admits. And he's willing to match their efforts.

Candidates for the mail bank may contact Webster at the health department, 871-7346. The *Intrepid* has donated five boxes of envelopes to help in the campaign, and encourages others involved to contribute toward expenses.

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Beth El Binah requests reservations for Seder

Congregation Beth El Binah of Dallas will conduct their annual Passover Seder on Tuesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan at Brown. The cost for the seder is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The Seder is always well-attended so early reservations are recommended. The seder meal will be kosher for Passover. Reservation information is available on the congregation information line, (214) 497-1591.

Beth El Binah's Seder is a religious observance that is open to all who want to participate. As Jews have for generations, the congregation gathers to recount the Exodus and give thanks for freedom. The food served represents the bitterness of slavery and the sweetness of freedom. The Hebrew used in the service is traditional but the English is inclusive and non-discriminatory.

Beth El Binah began as a havurah in 1984 by a group of lesbians and gays, looking for others with common interests and backgrounds. In

1989, the group became a congregation and was admitted into the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1992. Shabbat and holiday services are held regularly and the group supports such organizations as Golden Acres Home for the Aged, The Vogel Alcove and the AIDS Food Pantry.

This year, the Passover Seder takes on particular meaning for the group. As they celebrate freedom from slavery as described in Exodus, many members are preparing to attend the 1993 March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. Over one million people are expected for the march which will make it the largest demonstration in American history. The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations is a sponsor of the march and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations is expected to have a presence. The Seder, which celebrates the freedom we have in this country, also teaches us to never allow hatred, bigotry and discrimination to survive.



Bartenders like Brent Arnold contribute to Magnolia Station's success.

**Texas Lesbian Conference
promotes women's power**

BY ANGELA LANSEY

This year's Texas Lesbian Conference in Houston May 21-23 will explore the issue of women's power. The theme, "Many Kinds of Power," was taken from the late poet Audre Lorde's speech on "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power." The conference is dedicated to this essayist, teacher, political activist and proud African-American lesbian who died in November, whose courageous and honest voice continues to guide women.

Opening the conference will be keynote speaker Akasha Hall, a good friend of Lorde's. Susie Bright will talk on "Sexual States of the Union" after lunch.

The conference will be held at the Hotel Stouffer Presidential. Special conference room rates are \$79 per night for up to four in a room if reservations are made before May 7.

Registration fees postmarked by May 1 are \$50 (\$35 for the economically disadvantaged); and, after May 1, \$65/\$45.

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Mid-Pointe, 1900 W. Division	792-3980
Office Lounge, 3837 Hwy 377 South	737-0503
Partners, 1912 Hemphill	926-5176
Ropers & Riders, 3031 S. Cooper	476-5628
651 Arlington, 1851 W. Division	275-9651
651 Club, 651 S. Jennings	332-0745

CHURCHES/RELIGIOUS

Affirmation/Tarrant County (Methodist)	656-8056
Agape Metropolitan Community Church	535-5002
Congregation Beth El Binah (Jewish)	214-497-1591
Dignity (Catholic)	282-8588
Evangelicals Concerned	472-9008
Fellowship of Love Outreach	921-LOVE
First Jefferson Unitarian/Universalist Church	451-1505
GLAD (Disciples of Christ gays/lesbians)	214-946-2184
Harvest Metropolitan Comm. Church, Denton	817-497-4020
Honesty (Baptist)	923-8487
Lutherans Concerned	924-3966
Trinity Metropolitan Community Church	265-5454
White Rock Church West	831-6664

HEALTH/AIDS/COUNSELING

AIDS Coordinating Council	870-1937
AIDS Interfaith Network	927-2437
AIDS Outreach Center	335-1994
Advanced Counseling Center	451-2505
CAREMARK	924-1177
Charter Hospital	481-1999
Crisis/Suicide Line	927-5544
HIV Anonymous Group	292-9494
Lambda AA	921-2871
The Source	924-1177
Spiritual AIDS Ministry (SAM)	924-1177
TGRA AIDS/HIV Information Line	800-468-AIDS

ORGANIZATIONS

First Friday Fort Worth (Lesbian)	596-9316
Gay/Lesbian Youth	338-4551
Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington	261-3558
Lesbian Info. Line/Lesbian Visionaries	214-528-2426
Lone Star Bowling League	695-4849
Longhorn Bowling Association	624-2151
NAMES Project	33-NAMES
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays	595-6568
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance	763-5544
Tarrant County Gay Parents	656-8056
Texas Doubles Bowling	477-1832
TGRA Hotline	496-1333
Texas Gay Veterans	763-5544
U.T. Arlington Gay/Lesbian Assoc.	794-5140

Got something

going on?

Started a new

group?

Want to share

the news?

Tell us about it

and we'll list you

in this section.

(8 1 7)

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CHURCH/RELIGION

- **Sundays:** First Jefferson Unitarian/Universalist services, 11 a.m.
- **Sundays:** Fellowship of Love Outreach services, 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
- **Sundays:** Agape MCC services, 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
- **Sundays:** Trinity MCC services, 11 a.m.
- **Tuesdays:** Bible Study, "Fellowship, Bible Study and Prayer, Outreach," White Rock Church West, 7:30 p.m., 849 Oak Crest Ct., East Fort Worth.
- **Wednesdays:** Fellowship of Love Outreach, prayer service, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** Trinity MCC service, 7 p.m.
- **Fridays:** Shabbat services, Beth El Binah, second and fourth Fridays, 8:15 p.m., Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan, Dallas.
- **April 3:** Men's Pot Luck, Agape MCC, 6:30 p.m.
- **April 4:** Lenten Bible Study led by Rev. Kaye Lee and Bob Palmer, student clergy, Agape MCC, 6:30 p.m. Supper preceding at 5:30 p.m., \$3 donation.
- **April 6:** Passover Seder, Beth El Binah, 7:30 p.m., Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Kosher meal.
- **April 7:** Dignity/Fort Worth meeting, 7 p.m., Renewal Center.
- **April 9:** Good Friday Service, Agape MCC, 8 p.m., Fort Worth.
- **April 11:** Agape MCC Sunrise Worship, 6:30 a.m., Grapevine Dam.
- **April 18:** Lutherans Concerned, Dignity/Fort Worth, Honesty and Affirmation monthly meeting, 3 p.m.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- **Weekly:** TWU's Student Advocates for Lesbian and Gay Affirmation (SALGA), alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays, Room 110, TWU Student Center.
- **April 1:** P-FLAG, 7 p.m., First Jefferson Church. Attorney Robert Wightman to speak on gay/lesbian legal issues.
- **April 2:** First Friday Fort Worth, 7-10 p.m.
- **April 3:** TGRA Meeting, 4 p.m., Corral.
- **April 6:** Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance meeting, 7:30 p.m., Midway Hills Christian Church, 11001 Midway Rd., Dallas. Dallas City Council incumbent Paul Fielding on politics.
- **April 10:** Leadership Forum at Dos Gringos University, 12:30 p.m., Fort Worth.
- **April 12:** Tarrant County Gay Parents monthly meeting, 7 p.m., TCLGA office, 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243, Fort Worth.
- **April 12:** Texas Gay Veterans meeting, 7 p.m., Agape MCC.

ENTERTAINMENT

- **Sundays:** KNON Radio: Lambda Weekly, 89.3 FM, 2-4 p.m.
- **April 17:** Pleiades Concert, Wild Hearts, 8 p.m. Orchestra Hall.
- **April 21:** Benefit play for P-FLAG, "The Sum of Us," Moonstruck Theater Company, \$10. Call 595-6568 for tickets.

EVENTS

- **April 3:** Charity Cut-a-thon benefiting AOC, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Michael's Salon, 6431 Southwest Blvd. Haircuts and nails; no appointment. 737-9350.
- **April 3:** Mr. Gay Pride Contest, Corral.
- **April 17:** GLAAD Media Award Dinner, (214) 526-4523.

HEALTH SERVICES

- **Mondays - Thursdays:** HIV Testing, Ryan White Clinic (Health Dept.), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Tuesdays; 1-8 p.m. Thursdays.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

- **April 1:** AIDS Mastery Workshop, Northern Lights Alternatives, 7 p.m., Room 108, Oak Lawn Community Services Center in Dallas, 3434 Fairmount. 3-day empowering workshop. \$300, sliding scale, scholarships and payment schedules available. No one turned away. 214/526-LIFE.
- **April 2:** AIDS Outreach Center forum, "Substance Abusers and AIDS," 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., 1125 W. Peter Smith, Fort Worth.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Daily:** Lambda AA, 8 p.m., call 817/921-2871.
- **Mondays:** HIV+ Healing (diagnosed ARC or AIDS), 5:30 p.m. AOC
- **Mondays:** Positive Support (newly diagnosed HIV+), 5:30 p.m. AOC
- **Mondays:** Living with HIV/AIDS, Arlington AOC office, 6 p.m.
- **Mondays:** Care partner support group, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 1 p.m.
- **Tuesdays:** Families Helping Families, 6 p.m.
- **Tuesdays:** EISIDA y su Vida, Hispanic HIV/AIDS support group, AOC, 6 p.m.
- **Tuesdays:** Support Arlington, Arlington AOC office, 6 p.m.
- **Tuesdays:** HIV support group, 7 p.m., College of Osteopathic Medicine, Room 540.
- **Tuesdays:** Support group for people who care about someone who is HIV+, Charter Counseling Center, 7-8:30 p.m., 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1007 W. Randol Mill Rd. in Arlington, Suite 110, 817/461-5454; 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays at 1340 S. Main St. in Grapevine, 817/481-0012.
- **Wednesdays:** Positive Women, AOC, 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** Grief Group, AOC, 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** Spiritual Support Group, JPS Hope Room, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** Ray of Hope support group, Agape MCC, 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursdays:** Caregivers Support Group, AIDS Interfaith, 5:30 p.m., 603 Magnolia, Suite 300, Fort Worth.
- **Thursdays:** Teens Challenged by HIV Support Group, AIDS Interfaith, 5:30 p.m., 603 Magnolia, Suite 300, Fort Worth.
- **Thursdays:** The Men's Hour, AOC, 6 p.m.
- **Saturdays:** Families Helping Families, AOC, 11 a.m.

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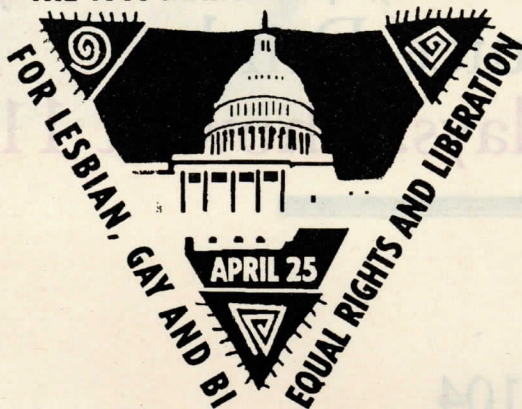


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