

features magazine for the gay/lesbian community of tarrant county



INTREPID

(in-trep' id) *adj.* Resolutely courageous; fearless; bold; dauntless. [Lat. *intrepidus*.]

Dream Lover
*The search for the
ideal man*

Volume one, issue six April 7, 1993

INTREPID

A FEATURES MAGAZINE FOR THE
GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY OF
TARRANT COUNTY

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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.

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IT REQUIRES COURAGE TO ALLOW YOUR PICTURE TO APPEAR ON THE COVER OF A GAY/LESBIAN PUBLICATION. AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO IS GOING TO SEE IT. A COVER PICTURE IS A DEFINITE COMING OUT STATEMENT BECAUSE AFTER ALL, A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS. THEREFORE, WE APPLAUD AND APPRECIATE THOSE WHO HAVE SO FAR GRACED OUR COVERS AND THOSE WHO WILL IN THE FUTURE.

HOWEVER, WE WANT TO DO MORE THAN ENTERTAIN YOU WITH GOOD COVER PHOTOS. WE HOPE TO INSPIRE YOU TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN THRUST TO THE FOREFRONT OF AMERICAN POLITICS. WE ARE ENGAGED IN CRUCIAL BATTLES WITH RIGHT-WING FANATICS WHO FEVERISHLY DEVOTE THEIR ENERGIES TO THE TASK OF ENSURING THAT GAYS AND LESBIANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE VICTIMS OF HATE CRIMES, OPPRESSION, AND SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS ABUSE.

YOUR VOICE - A SINGLE NOTE - LIFTED IN UNISON WITH THE VOICES OF MILLIONS OF GAYS AND LESBIANS WILL BECOME A UNIVERSAL BATTLE CRY MORE INSPIRING THAN ANYTHING HISTORY HAS RECORDED. THAT STENTORIAN VOICE SAYS, "WE WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE THE TEACHING THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN OR ABNORMAL. WE ARE TAKING BACK THE DIGNITY DENIED TO US OVER THE CENTURIES AND WHICH IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF ALL INDIVIDUALS, AND WE WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT WE WILL FIGHT IN ALL ARENAS, MARCH IN ALL THE STREETS AND DEMONSTRATE IN ALL THE CITIES UNTIL OUR GOALS ARE ACHIEVED. NOTHING LESS THAN THAT IS ACCEPTABLE." BY RAISING YOUR VOICE NOW IN THE BATTLE, YOU CAN BE SURE YOU CAN RAISE IT SOON IN VICTORY.

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They Said What?

"The purpose of our armed forces is not simply to defend a piece of geography, but to protect a set of ideas and ideals. A military that denies those ideals defeats its own most basic purpose."

-Bill Thompson

"Even the most incorrigible maverick has to be born somewhere. He may leave the group that produced him - he may be forced to - but nothing will efface his origins, the marks of which he carries with him everywhere."

-James Baldwin

"They're just going to wait until every straight person gets the disease before they wake up."

-Mandy Patinkin

On the cover

Frank Elam of Euless, a member of TGRA for three years, would certainly be Mr. Right for many men.

Photography is by Janna Brown of J3 Photography in Fort Worth.

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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.

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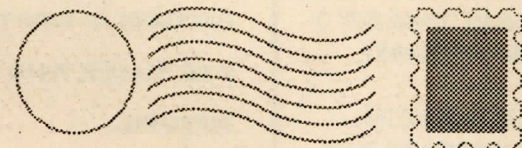
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Oregon Group Seeks Extermination of Gays

I received the following letter forwarded from the regional P-FLAG director in Oregon. This was being handed out at a library in Salem, Oregon. The letter is self-explanatory. We must fight in every way we can.

Sandy Moore
Southern Regional Director
P-FLAG

"Dear Fellow Christian:
"As you know, we members and

supporters of the OCA (Oregon Citizens Alliance) have long been engaged in a Holy War against the "MILITANT HOMOSEXUAL LOBBY" and their pedophilic agenda to legalize sex with our minor children. Many lessons have been learned. We know that fighting the devil and his homosexual disciples within our political system is fruitless. Their perverted lobby, Satanic in nature, is extremely powerful and cannot be overcome or changed through man's laws alone. They can

and will be defeated when all Christians unite. We must observe and implement God's methods to exterminate homosexuals as laid out and proscribed to us in detail by our Heavenly Father as found in His Holy Bible. *Execution - Castration - Imprisonment - God's solutions!!* Plain and Simple. The Bible commands you to raise up the "Sword of Righteousness" and slash the throat of the perverted heathen. Show your compassion for the soul of the tortured homosexual by bleeding him ... to his death. *This is an act of True Mercy.* You have freed this possessed pervert. 'So Commandeth Your Holy Father'.

"We all realize this is a difficult Commandment to adhere to as we are compassionate children of a kind God, but you must remember, *We are the only true children of God* and we have been commanded by God himself through the Bible to seek out

and destroy those who would rape and recruit our male children. Jehovah compels us to protect our children.

"Remember Sodom and Gomorrah.

"Demonstrate your love for Jesus and for your children! The hope for a future without homosexuals is dependent on your faith and willingness to implement our Heavenly Father's plan as laid out in our Holy Bible.

"Join us in our Blessed Crusade to Save the Children of Oregon.

"Support the Oregon Citizens' Alliance.

"A public service message brought to you by the Ecumenical Christian Council and the many supporters of the Oregon Citizens' Alliance.

"For more information please contact your local branch of: The Oregon Citizens' Alliance.

"Should you know the names of

suspected or self admitted homosexuals, please send their names, addresses and phone numbers to the OCA Homosexual Names Collection Division (HNCD) in your area. "In Jesus' name God bless you."

WANTED:

Assertive, outgoing, energetic individual to serve as ad rep for the Intrepid. Contact Metro 817/543-1663.

H O R O S C O P E

ARIES

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(APRIL 20-MAY 20)

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(MAY 21-JUNE 20)

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CANCER

(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Focus is on family and home. Purchase or sale of expensive objects may be in picture.

LEO

(JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Follow your gut feelings. Advice from others may be wrong.

VIRGO

(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Being organized and responsible is important. Funds may become available.

LIBRA

(SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)

Step out of pre-set boundaries. Reach out to a wider audience.

SCORPIO

(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Consider involvement in new project. Focus on originality.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Sale or purchase of property may be in picture. Stay close to home, family.

CAPRICORN

(DEC. 21-JAN. 19)

Don't be afraid to ask questions and to rock the boat.

AQUARIUS

(JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Individual will come to make emergency repairs. Be thankful.

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(FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

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ROSELAND HOMES

BY CHINWE ODELUGA

*Poverty and drugs prolong
your stay there*

*Once tomorrow's stepping
stone to bright hopes,*

*Staying ghetto-wise with
an in-house malady,*

*Pride no longer means
a job or how you live.*

*Today's slippery cage
full of despair.*

*That an education may cure
or a soothing welfare gigolo.*

TO THOSE I LEAVE BEHIND

BY ROBERT WEBSTER

*To those I leave behind
The brilliance of a blue sky
The peace of a quiet night
Although I have since gone on
Remember me*

*Remember me
When your soul needs a
memory
Remember be*

*When the breeze nuzzles your
cheek
Or when the dew caresses your
garden
Remember me*

*To those I leave behind
All the years of laughter and
joy
All the moments of pain and
sorrow*

*To those I leave behind
The radiance of a gospel choir
The joy of a child at Christmas
Although I have since gone on
Remember me*

*Although I have since gone on
Remember me
When you need me the most
Or when the bed seems too big
Remember me*

*When the sun darkens your
skin
Or when the rain washes your
hair
Remember me*

*Remember me
When the stars don't seem so
bright
Remember me
When the sky's dark and gray
Remember me*

*To those I leave behind
The love of a mature heart
The trust of a higher being
Although I have since gone on*

*When you need your dreams
fulfilled
Remember me*

MAY 17, 1992
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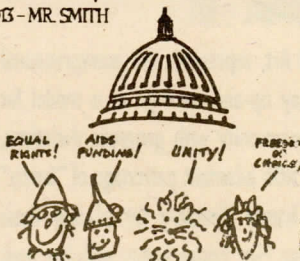
-TIM HAYES

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GROWING PAINS:

First Friday Fort Worth comes of age

By BEVERLY FLETCHER

*F*irst Friday Fort Worth has long been an institution, its monthly social meetings of women serving as markers on the trail of the lesbian experience, ebbing and flowing as our culture breathes. The local civil rights movement was an infant at First Friday's inception and now, like First Friday, it has ripened into young adulthood.

First Friday Fort Worth has stamped the imprint of our girlish laughter at hostessing homes across the city. We have cheered together, oohed and ahed together, and admired together the leaps and bounds of our growth spurts. We have found mates there, formed intimate friendships there, shared there our worst fears and our most promising hopes and dreams. First Friday has been like a collective hug, warming our bodies with its sincere attentions before we must travel back into the night.

Now with some 130 women packing into generous homes each month, First Friday has outgrown its clothes. Founding mothers Janet Davee and Beth Llewellyn, having so tenderly nurtured this precocious baby to its maturity, are turning their mothering to an infant business, their newest, neediest child. This crossroads is a coming of age for First Friday, the gate where it exits to choose its own path, where it must decide how to follow.

The May meeting will be the rite of "leaving-home," where high aspirations tinge with the mellow sadness of an era gone. Longing for the familiarity of our mothers' administrations surely will overshadow enthusiasm in planning for the future. Still, like children grown and ready for the challenges, we will plunge anxiously forward, creating anew.

What was First Friday soon will be a passage in our history. What it will become is a monument to the revolution Beth and Janet sounded.



Angela has set high standards in networking as she works the crowd each month, hooking the needy up with what they need even before they know they need it. Lavonne is a quiet, gracious soul who can hush a teeming room with a whisper.



Betty, owner of Lemon Tree Antiques and Art, represents the entrepreneurial businesswoman who has served First Friday up-and-comings as a model for ingenuity. She invests her money in the community with generous donations, by supporting events and publications, and with adamant patronage of "family" businesses. First Friday provided her a handy directory for placing those investments. Now Betty's adding to the vision First Friday began with her work to help create a women's center.



First Friday has been an empowering center of gravity for women, providing a safe place to play, to muse, to heal, to be, very gently, women. Rayva, Mary, Diane and Betty join others as Women of Vision, who seek to capture that roving haven and anchor it down. They envision a structure, a women's center, to build upon the enlivening foundation First Friday has generated. No matter how long it takes nor how steep the trail, they have pledged, Fort Worth will have its own women's space.



First Friday has been a nomadic social center, bringing together old friends and opening circles to new acquaintances. Within the span of half an hour conversation might skip engagingly from existentialism to coming-out stories, from political analysis to comparisons of cute pet antics. Dee, Nadine, Diana and Rayva capture the spirited camaraderie that is inspired in such rich settings. The bond between women is almost a visible entity, an aura, the signature of First Friday.



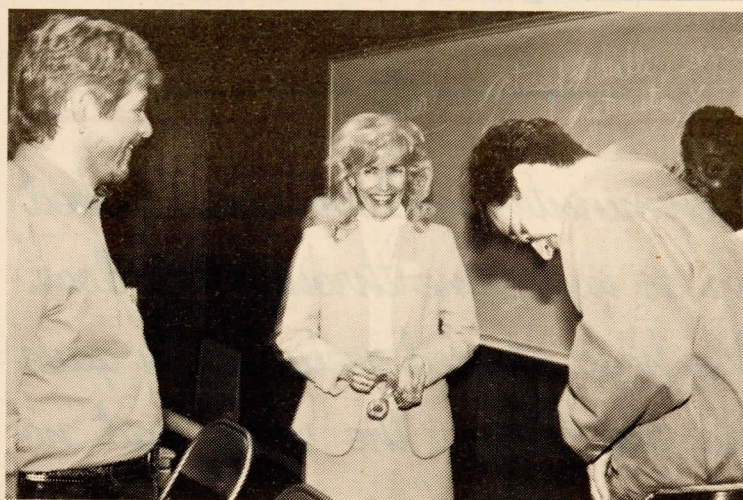
First Friday has been a welcoming arm to newcomers to the area and to those newly coming out. The downtrodden have found bolstering cheers urging them on in their struggles, and a strengthening network of concern from a multitude of allies, of sisters. Heidi De Jesus, right, and her companion, Laura Little, received a thundering ovation during announcements Friday as much-admired soldiers in the war for civil rights. Heidi, an Air Force officer, is fighting in court against the military's discharging disapproval of her loving relationship. The couple is relocating to Fort Worth and, after an encouraging evening at First Friday, Laura says, "I can't wait..."

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

LEAKING THE WORD ON THE FRONT LINES

Like spies we sneak into the classroom at Texas Christian University, burying ourselves unobtrusively among the chattering students. Our mission is a critical one: to serve up positive imagery of gays and lesbians that will dispel the myths. As is so often the case in life, we find our role as teachers usurped and become, instead, the students. As our latest excursion unearths, perhaps we are studying for our greatest test yet to come.

BY BEVERLY FLETCHER



Dr. Betty Bennison shares a chuckle in common with panelists. During the discussion-format presentations, Dr. Bennison uses a light finger to point the class' attention to the fulcrum point of acceptance: the coupling issues of gays and lesbians are not so very different from the ones heterosexuals face.

The TCU students of Dr. Betty Bennison's human sexuality class at first don't know why we stand before them as a panel. Our topic is a mystery, given no introduction. Their curiosity naturally is inflamed by the guarded approach of their teacher: "Here's Debra Julian, she's been here before as a counselor, she's here today representing ... herself. She's here to talk about ... life."

Julian prolongs the mystery with an evasive discourse given to the vagaries of self-identity. "What are the words we use to describe ourselves," she presses, commanding an adjective or noun from each member of the class. The students, rightfully expecting some scintillating point to all this for, after all, it is a

course on sexuality, register their impatience at waiting for the meaty stuff. "What am I?" one student ponders: "... confused."

The confusion lifts after Julian has made her point with a checklist showing that each of us on the panel share common ground with them, that we are indeed of their club, allies in interests and familial relationships, sharing the same emotions and struggles.

When the bond is erected, Julian quite abruptly breaks it by revealing why we have appeared before the class. "All of us on the panel have in common one thing that when I write it on the board you may forget everything else that we are," Julian predicts. She scrawls "homosexual" in bold letters beside the list and the

silence hangs thickly, almost visibly. A few of these young faces register "I-thought-so" dismay. A few faces brighten with the hues of embarrassment. And a few heads nod appreciatively.

Julian has been providing panel presentations to organizations since the mid-'70s and for the past five years has been pulling college students either kicking and screaming or enthusiastically enjoined into a candid view inside our culture. "Here you have a rare opportunity to ask gays and lesbians anything you've ever wanted to know about them," she invites. A covey of hands shoots up immediately. Apparently, much thought has been given previously to our topic.

In the earlier years, Julian's presentations to students drew a line of questioning that reflected the morbid curiosity given to our sexual activities and the myths about us pervasive in mainstream. How did we decide who was "man" and who was "woman"? What did we "do" with each other? Audiences then, perhaps anticipating steamy accounts of our sexual forays, probably were bored by the disengaging answers provided: we are two men or two women, simply loving each other.

The college population may accurately mirror the movements made in mainstream, serving as a likely barometer of the perceptions held by the public-at-large. Media focus on our issues of late obviously has played a major role in developing a more realistic picture of who we are because the students hold that information up front, seeking only clari-

fication or confirmation of what they have heard expressed about us publicly.

The content of the questions posed in these classes over the past year has signalled a growing awareness of the gay/lesbian position within social and civil rights contexts. No longer are we interrogated about what we "do" or how we do it. Gradually, the social issues have been inducted: how did our families react to us when we came out? how have we been impacted by AIDS? how are we limited legally and by discrimination at home, work and play?

The questioning now has moved away from a curiously interested reception and benign commentary toward more confrontational planes. The students have already been processing information about us long before we step into their classroom, they have developed opinions about us and they're eager to present us with their viewpoints.

Those who have actualized their tolerance and acceptance proudly display their affiliations with announcements of "some of my best friends are gay..." Those who are struggling to understand challenge us to defend our position: the issue intercedes subtly - are we born this way or do we choose it? Couldn't we really choose to be "normal" if we tried?

Julian's biannual panel presentation at TCU last week unearthed the vestiges of heterosexism that have, until this point, remained generally unspoken yet deeply rooted. We are just now starting to hear what people have been thinking privately all along. Greg Story, a panelist pointed out as a handsome, young man who might easily miss detection as being gay, elicited a sigh of regret from a pack of admiring women in the back of the room who viewed his affections for men as depriving them of

Continued on page 10



Debra Julian, center, and her life mate, Carmen, left, visit with students afterward, relating on common ground. The couple present a humanizing picture of the lesbian experience with accounts of coming out to parents, raising a child together, and dealing with bigoted responses the two loving women encounter.

LOOKING FOR *Mr. Right:*

By Steve Ramos

You've gotta know the rules and the tricks — and it helps to have a tight pair of jeans.

"Ten minutes ago I saw you. I looked up as you came through the door. My head started reeling, you gave me the feeling the room had no ceiling or floor."

I've been looking for Mr. Right since I could crawl. In fact, it's the reason I learned to crawl, and as I mastered the complexities of walking and then running, my pursuit of the ideal dream man has been nothing short of feverish. I admit it. I've been known to cross snow-covered mountains a plow couldn't get through just because I heard a rumor there was an available man on the other side. And not just a man, mind you, but a *MAN*. Heck, I could raise the Titanic if I thought there was someone in there who would marry me.

My zeal, however, pales in comparison to the dedication some of my friends attach to their hunts. I'm honest about what I'm doing, but they prefer to disguise their searches so that their attempts to rope a husband appear to be innocent

and virginal. They host dinner parties, professing it's just a little get together to introduce a new-comer to the community, but they cleverly arrange the invitations so that they and the prey are the only ones without dates. Not me. I let them know right up front. "Look," I say. "You need me. Besides, there's bars on the windows, and the doors are three feet thick. My attack dogs are patrolling the back yard, and the front yard is mined, so don't even think about it." After their eyes return to normal size and they quit shaking, we usually have a nice evening.

Sometimes my friends and I hunt in packs. It's called the bar scene, and we have perfected this strategy to a military science. We stand around, laughing and exchanging witty comebacks, looking like Designing

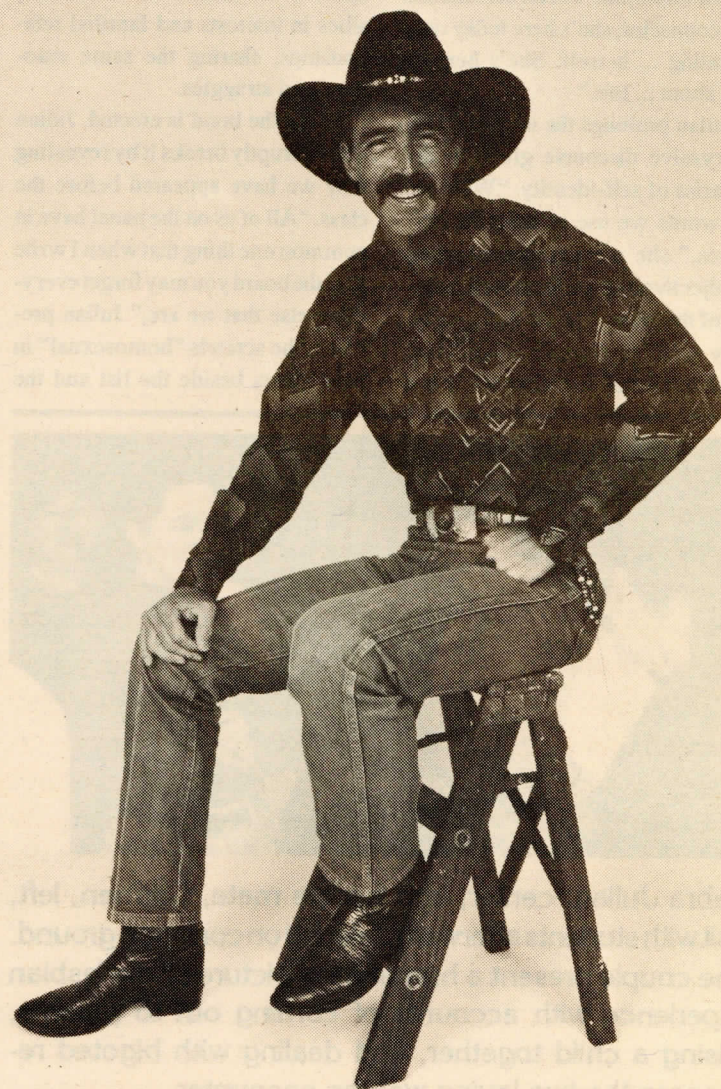
Women in cowboy drag. Everything is planned. Our Wranglers, starched to a state somewhere between petrified and concrete, are our tightest and most flattering. We should know. It took us five hours to decide which pair to wear, and our posing would do Clint Eastwood proud — thumbs hooked in pockets, stomachs sucked in, a seductive come-hither look in our eyes. It's all very soap-operaish, and after many years of training we can do it without laughing at each other. Well, at least not in front of each other.

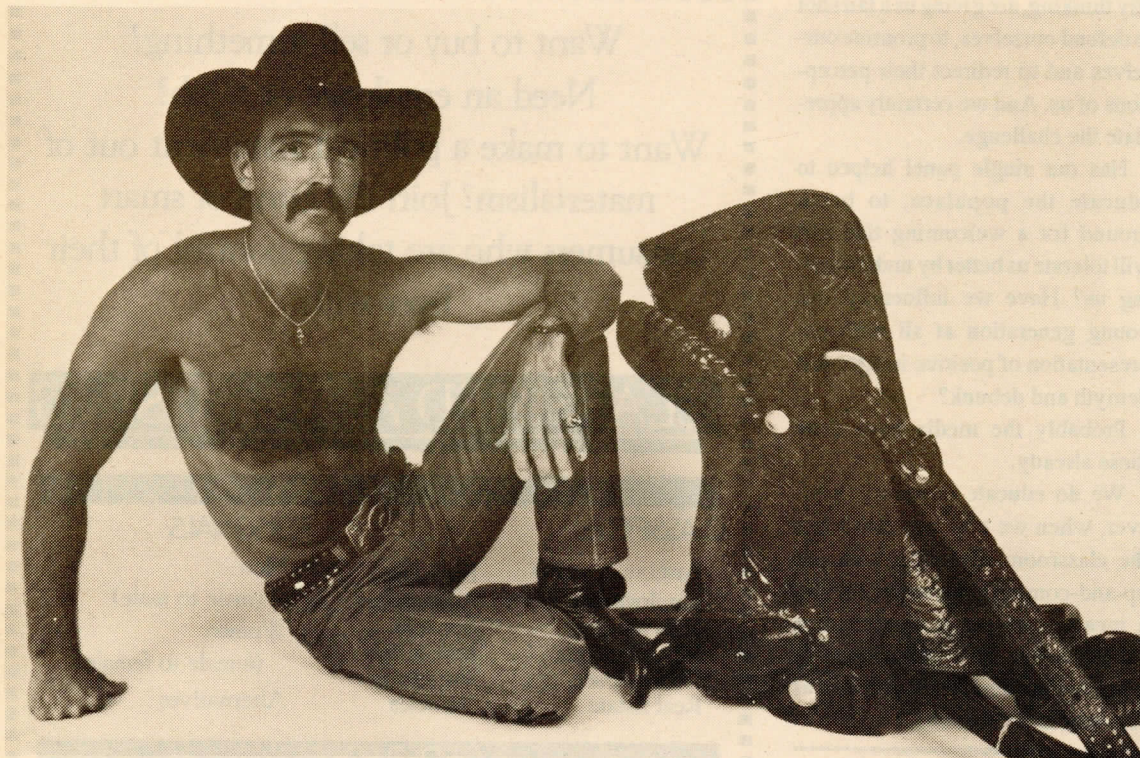
We are aware of every movement in the room. We know who is in the restroom and how long. We know who is at the bar, what they ordered and what size of bill they paid with, and we know who is talking to whom and does their lover know? But most importantly, we know who walks in the door. We act as if we don't know and that we could care less, but even if our backs are to the door and ten thousand people are blocking the view, we still know. Don't ask me how. Maybe it's the starch.

We silently examine each man who walks in as if we were selecting oranges at the Winn-Dixie, all the while appearing to be indifferent and

uninterested. Our mindless repartee never misses a beat unless, UNLESS, a potential Mr. Right walks in. Then it's as if a four-star general just walked into the barracks. Wrists which were becoming a little limp suddenly stiffen. Our vocabu-

laries shift gears, and words like "Girrrrr!" disappear. The hunt is on, and we are mobilized. Sometimes, though, the whole business wears me out, and I have to leave the front lines for some R&R. I go to the back bar or step outside to





breathe smokeless air. In the most extreme cases, I just go home. But I said that's in an extreme case.

One long ago evening at the Round-Up in Dallas, I met a candidate for Mr. Right when I had retreated to a corner, leaving my friends to go about their stalking. He was standing behind me, and when he started to talk to me, I turned around and met the most captivating pair of pectorals in the Western hemisphere. He introduced himself, and I said something moronic, but he didn't seem to mind. That moved him up the scale. He was from Hawaii he said, and it was his first trip to Texas. It was late in the evening, the bar was almost closing, and he told me he had trouble finding Cedar Springs, and for awhile he was afraid he would have to leave Dallas without seeing any real cowboys.

They probably heard me cackle in the next state. "Real cowboys!" I chortled. "Real cowboys? Look, just because these guys are wearing hats and boots doesn't mean they're cowboys. The closest most of them have been to a horse is

when Mr. Ed is on." I shouldn't have said it. Disappointment swept across his drop-dead-gorgeous face as my words registered. Luckily, my southern hospitality training automatically kicked in when I saw how devastated this hunk was to learn there wasn't nary a cowboy in sight. Naturally I felt sorry for him, what with him coming all the way across the Pacific Ocean just to see a cowboy or two.

"Well, look," I said sympathetically in my best Texas accent. "There are a couple of us here who really are cowboys. Actually, there may be three of us, but I can't say for sure." His eyes lit up, and he moved his pecs closer to me.

"You mean, you're a cowboy?" he asked in awe.

I kicked the floor in that "aw shucks" kinda way, and I moved in for the kill. "Well," I drawled, pushing the brim of my hat up with a practiced careless touch. "I'm trying to get out of the business, but I still run a few head out south of town. Nothing big you know. If I can just sell two thousand this month, I'll be happy. At least I'll breakeven."

His pecs touched me, and I was happy. Minutes later, we were headed for the door. I purposely walked in front of my friends, acting as if I didn't notice them or their salivating expressions.

It turned out that he wasn't Mr. Right, though. Well, actually, he determined I wasn't Mr. Right. He could have decided that before the two trips to Hawaii and the three hundred dollar a month phone bills. Didn't he hear me when I said I was trying to breakeven that month? If you want to be Mr. Right you have to listen to what I say.

Sometimes, you must play the part of the hunted in the search for Mr. Right. It's my favorite role, and I've given some performances worthy of an Oscar. I usually act as if I don't know what's going on, allowing a friend to clue me in. "Girrrl," he whispers. "That man's cruising you."

I snort. "Can't I come to the bar just once without someone trying to pick me up? Am I wearing a sign that says 'Available'?" Of course, inside I'm thinking, "Oh my god. I knew I should have worn those other

jeans. What was I thinking? And this shirt. I look like an idiot in this shirt. Well, maybe he likes it. He's wearing one just like it."

We exchange numerous glances, and my friends and I giggle like seventh grade girls. When one of my other friends returns from the restroom, he asks what the fuss is about. Someone points out my admirer. "Oh, him," my friend says. "Girrrls, we went out last night, and let me tell you, honey, he ain't all there. Someone kept about five inches." We scream like women only wish they could. That does it. He's finished, dismissed, forgotten like yesterday's news.

I don't know why we are always searching, but what really annoys me are those men who declare they aren't looking and wouldn't have anyone on a platter. Please. I've used the line myself when I've gone through a whole evening without a nibble — with my best jeans on. We say it because we think it gives us a sophisticated edge. The trouble is queens watch way too many movies, and they think they're Garbos.

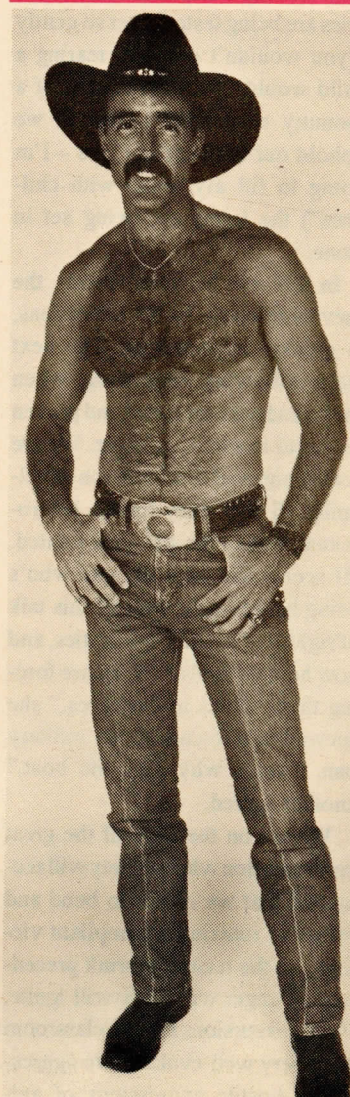
You don't want anyone? What's wrong with you? You can't help wanting someone. It's in our genes, in our blood. We can't stop looking for a mate anymore than we can stop the sun from rising in the east. The quicker you realize that and drop that Bette Davis act the quicker you'll have someone bringing you breakfast in bed. Hey, it's our duty to want someone.

Unfortunately the whole business is a full-time job, and I have only, say, twelve hours a day to devote to it. More on weekends. Everything I do is directed toward attracting someone. I work out for that

reason. I dress for that reason. Who am I kidding? So, I ask, when is it going to work? Where is Mr. Right? I want him to meet me while I still have some hair left and have one chin.

So, how do you know when you've met Mr. Right? Believe me, you'll know. Bells will ring, your knees become jelly. I thought it happened to me the other day, but it turned out that someone rang the doorbell while I was doing squats. Still, it was exciting for a few seconds.

If you're uncertain if someone is Mr. Right or not, remember this rule. If he's slept with more than three of your friends, throw him back. There's nothing worse than telling your friends about your sex life and they all chime, "Does he still do that?" ▼



CLASSIFIED

continued from page 7

fair game. Did he like women at all, they posed to him. "My two best friends are heterosexual women," he explained. "I find women beautiful. Men can be real jerks sometimes - at least the ones I've dated," he joked. Then why didn't he just mate down with a woman, the class challenged.

The students continue to uphold heterosexuality as the superior state of being, and they nudge us a bit, testing for the possibility of our conversion. Ironically, we are called upon to deny the myth that we "recruit" ("the lesbians in the athletic department get a hold of the younger girls," one femme girl-jock fumed) at the same time we are besieged by a campaign to win us over to heterosexuality ("did you *try* sleeping with the opposite sex?").

These college students, as society's front-running agents, are exhibiting most visibly the stages inherent in wrestling with an inner struggle. In this venue we see the resistance, the attempts at bargaining to cajole us away from what is so hard for some of these students to accept - that we are different from them and rightfully so. Our boundaries are being tested, ever so gently ("you wouldn't consider rearing a child would you, depriving it of a mommy or daddy?"), and as we uphold our boundaries ("yes - I'm going to fill my home with children") the terms are being set in stone.

In this war between worlds, the inevitable clash, by all indications, is quickly approaching. The next stage following bargaining, when the boundaries are tested and proven too solid to move, is anger. We are seeing signs of this backlash developing. "I feel sorry for the heterosexual male," the girl-jock pouted. "It seems like he's the one who's being bashed now with all this talk of rights for women, minorities, and now homosexuals." "Y'all are forcing these issues in our faces," she spewed in reference to the military ban. "Yeah, why rock the boat," another agreed.

We are on the edge of the great confrontation when society will recognize that we refuse to bend and refuse to remain its compliant victims, on the teetering brink preceding the anger we surely will ignite. Future excursions into the classroom may very well evoke more aggressively hostile expressions of ani-

mosity. We may find ourselves in the middle of a basically ordained stand-off with both sides holding firm: "Why won't you be like me" pitted against "why won't you accept me?"

Is this a frightening prediction? No - not when the big picture is in sight. In the hierarchy of stages, anger precedes acceptance. Anger is the final stronghold defending old-world order. When it passes, the new world is ushered in. Acceptance replaces resistance, and that's what we're shooting for.

Sparring with the students is a welcomed development, a long-awaited turn pointing to success. Only out of this confrontational interaction will our movement make gains. Polite nods hide feelings. Silence promotes the myths. The students, by voicing what they are re-

ally thinking, are giving us a fair shot to defend ourselves, to promote ourselves and to redirect their perceptions of us. And we certainly appreciate the challenge.

Has our single panel helped to educate the populace, to break ground for a welcoming tide that will tolerate us better by understanding us? Have we influenced this young generation at all with our presentation of positive images that demyth and debunk?

Probably the media have done these already.

We do educate ourselves, however, when we take our cause into the classroom. Debating with our up-and-coming generation provides a measure of public sentiment; it solidifies our own perceptions of where we are now; and it prepares us for what is yet to come.



Sometimes our photographer takes off her top while shooting pictures. Sandy Farris and Mary Ellen Edwards at 651.

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I S S U E S

American Family Association censorship campaign:

Waldenbooks hit for Gay 'Porn'

A vociferous religious right advocate has launched a crusade against gay literature in a nationwide bookstore chain.

Rev. Don Wildmon, head of the American Family Association, wants to stop Connecticut-based Waldenbooks from selling gay magazines, including *Frontiers*, *Genre*, *The Advocate* and *Out*.

Calling Waldenbooks "the largest pornographer in the country," the AFA is massing a large letter-writing and phone campaign to reverse the company's recent decision to carry such publications.

"We have received a lot of negative calls, but almost none in support of our decision," said Bruce Fryer, director of magazine sales for the chain of 800 stores.

In a March 8 letter to Charlie Cumello, President and CEO of Waldenbooks, *Frontiers* publisher Robert F. Craig commended the company's policy, adding, "It is

frightening to see small bands of people shroud themselves behind religious rhetoric and try to dictate to others what they can or cannot purchase."

Readers are encouraged to express their views to Bruce Fryer or Charlie Cumello at P.O. Box 10218, Stamford, CT 06904; phone 203-352-2000.

Washington considers 'malicious harassment' bill

Malicious harassment of gays and lesbians would be illegal under a measure that cleared a House panel in the state of Washington. The bill, HB 1569, passed 14-3 on Feb. 24.

Inclusion of gays as a class protected under the state's malicious harassment law is necessary, given the rise of hate crimes against gay

men and women, said Rep. Cal Anderson, D-Seattle, a prime backer of the bill. The Judiciary Committee and the full House have passed similar legislation in past years only to see them die in the then-Republican Senate. That chamber this year has a Democratic majority and the bill is rated as having at least a fair chance of passage.

Austin to follow

Seattle ends boycott of Concord for anti-gay rights measure

Concord, Calif. — Concord officials were pleased to learn that Seattle has dropped its boycott of their city and that Austin, Texas, also may end its travel ban. Both cities last year barred municipal employees from traveling to Concord in a symbolic move to protest an anti-gay rights measure passed by city voters in 1991.

But Seattle decided to end its boycott after learning that a judge had voided the never-enforced Measure

M, Concord officials said. Concord's Measure M removed gays, lesbians and bisexuals from the town's human-relations ordinance. But the initiative was never enforced, and a Contra Costa County judge declared it void last fall.

Last November, Concord lost \$12,600 in occupancy taxes when a group called Women in Psychology cancelled a convention in Concord because of Measure M.

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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.

HIV-positive man sues McDonald's

LOS ANGELES — A man who tested positive for HIV has sued McDonald's restaurants, alleging that a sandwich he ate made him sick and hastened the onset of AIDS.

In his suit filed March 3, Arvin Peterson, 48, claims he was HIV positive for seven years but free of symptoms until after an attack of dysentery that followed his meal at a Huntington Park outlet of McDonald's on March 9, 1992.

Peterson's attorney, Natasha Roit, said McDonald's had not yet been

served with the lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Last year, Peterson ate a McRib sandwich, fries and ice cream for lunch but consumed nothing else that day, the lawsuit said.

He began suffering fever, chills and severe diarrhea and was hospitalized for six days, Ms. Roit said. Tests showed he contracted dysentery from Shigella bacteria, which is associated with food poisoning, she said.

Following the attack, Peterson's T-cell count dropped dramatically,

and he was diagnosed with AIDS, Ms. Roit said. Since then he has been unable to work at his clerical job, she said.

Alerted by Peterson's illness, county health inspectors went to the McDonald's restaurant and found that the sandwiches were kept at 130 degrees Fahrenheit instead of 140 degrees.

McDonald's threw away two pounds of sandwiches at the inspector's request, Ms. Roit said.

Peterson is seeking an undisclosed amount of money in damages and

compensation for lost wages.

"He'd rather have his health back, but he can't get that back," Ms. Roit said.

Ramen: Innocent mistake

Those innocent-looking ramen noodles that make such tasty, quick lunches or snacks are really guilty of some serious dietary sins, says the University of California, Berkeley, Wellness Letter.

For one thing, though they look like they're low in fat, the noodles have been deep-fried beforehand, leaving them with a residue that's about 18 percent oil by weight. What's more, those handy seasoning packets can be loaded with sodium.

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Fort Worth Health Department

ROBERT WEBSTER ON HIV LOCAL TREATMENT CLINIC CARES

I recently tested HIV positive. Is there anywhere to go in Tarrant County to get treatment and T-cell counts? Tarrant County has one of the better Preventive Medicine Clinics. Fees are based on a sliding scale; no one is turned away; and nothing shows up on your insurance unless you, the patient, request it. Maximum cost for the clinic is \$60. Maximum charge for a normal follow-up is \$20.

The clinic is staffed by intelligent and sensitive people. The main point of contact is Joyce Thomas. She is a woman with a truly wonderful soul who always has a moment of time to assist the patient and to ensure the patient's concerns are addressed by the certified physician assistants.

Blood is drawn for cell counts Monday through Thursday; usually results are back in about three days. The number for this clinic, which is funded by Ryan White Funds, is 817/871-7357.

What is a certified physician assistant?

A PA-C, certified physician assistant, is a trained medical professional who is certified by a national board of physicians. Every two years they must complete 100 hours of medical education and every seven years they must pass a day-long test of general medical knowledge to keep their certification. Many states, including Texas, require certification to practice within the state.

They work under the supervision

of a licensed physician who is always available for consultation should the patient request the doctor's presence. These medical professionals are trained along side doctors and expected to do everything the medical student is expected to do. The use of PA's allows the physician more time to concentrate on difficult cases.

In the Preventive Medicine Clinic, the PA's will spend a lot of time working with you to teach more about living with HIV and in developing a good "wellness" program to assist you in maintaining your health.

What happens when I come in for an appointment?

During clinic visits each patient is evaluated with a comprehensive physical examination, appropriate laboratory studies, immunization and a routine chest X-ray. A thorough medical history, family history, sexual history and risk assessment are completed and reviewed periodically.

If indicated, medication for treatment and prophylaxis of infections will be prescribed. Routine follow-up exams and lab studies will be scheduled on a three to six month basis, depending upon the patient's condition. If complications arise, appointments will be scheduled as needed.

Who can use the preventive medicine clinic?

Early intervention services are pro-

vided for HIV-positive individuals and their partners who reside in Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant or Wise counties.

What are the hours of operation of the clinic?

The clinic, located at 1800 University in the Public Health Department, Suite 131, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Each Tuesday the clinic is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For appointments call 817/871-7357 or 7592.

There is also a satellite clinic located in Denton at the Denton Public Health Department. For appointments in Denton, call 817/565-8642 and ask to speak with Kathleen Moore.

How do I know that my identity will be kept confidential?

Maintaining the patient's confidentiality is of the utmost importance to all staff members. No information will be released to anyone without the patient's written consent and a signed request for release of information on file.

Robert Webster is an epidemiologist specialist at the Tarrant County Health Department, providing services to the HIV-impacted. He has been HIV positive for six years.

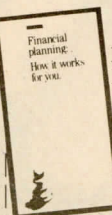
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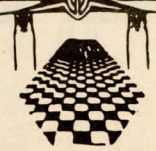
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P-FLAG audience disagrees

Civil rights lawyer says Clinton botched ban lift

Attorney Robert Wightman, speaking Thursday before the monthly gathering of the Tarrant County Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, angered his audience by pointed criticism of President Bill Clinton's handling of the military ban, to the extent that one father stormed out of the room in protest.

Wightman is furious with Clinton for the order he signed in January that, according to Wightman, legitimizes homophobia. Wightman is representing Heidi De Jesus, an officer who was stationed at Goodfellow Air Force Base, in other-than-honorable discharge

proceedings for her lesbianism.

"Clinton is actually homophobic," Wightman accused. "In fact, he made a statement saying he was against (same-gender) marriages in a pre-campaign tape."

Wightman, a gay Republican, promoted former President George Bush as having done a lot for gay/lesbian civil rights within the military, especially with numerous studies during his administration that proved no difference in their job performances.

Wightman's beef with Clinton is

in how he approached lifting the military ban. "He took the classic liberal position of 'do it because I say so,'" a big mistake in this case, according to Wightman. Wightman said Clinton from the start should have listened to Senator Sam Nunn's and Colin Powell's concerns and addressed them.

The audience's emotions displayed visibly during Wightman's speech, especially during his criticism of the senate hearings underway on the military issue. If not through the hearings, then "how are we going to change minds," Sandy Moore challenged Wightman, a question he did not resolve.

"I'm not bad-mouthing Clinton," Wightman defended, "He just doesn't understand this situation and he's going about it all wrong. We can educate him ... currently he

is rethinking his strategy."

Wightman also reported status of his legal campaign to challenge the Texas marriage code to recognize same-gender unions. Wightman believes the state constitution supports that right already, and that a civil suit easily would set an historical precedent.

If approached as a religious freedom, Wightman says, the right of gay/lesbian couples to marry could be upheld in the courts. As outlined in its constitution, the state would have to support same-gender unions performed by Metropolitan Community churches, Unitarian/Universalist churches and other denominations so inclined as a practice of the religion.

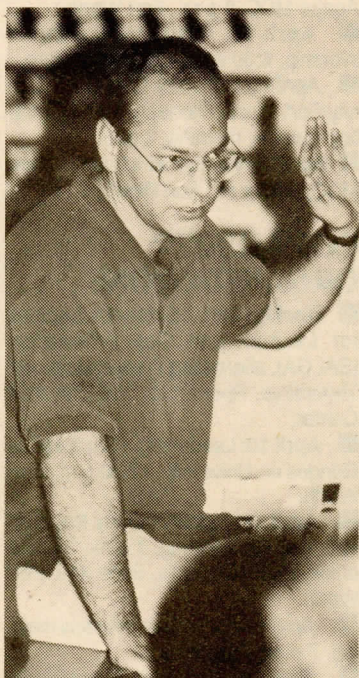
Wightman is surprised no one has yet challenged the marriage code through the court system. "Every

civil rights case about marriage has been won," he said, "except for polygamy in the 1800s."

Wightman, in his own strategy to take the case to court, had positioned his client De Jesus, already in the public eye for the military discharge proceedings against her, to be named as a plaintiff in the civil suit. The plan was contingent on De Jesus marrying her partner, former Airman 1st Class Laura Little, and then filing to legalize the ceremony.

"The military got wind of it and hinted at retaliation through court martial," Wightman related. "The couple is afraid to get married now because the military is harassing them every day."

Wightman is relocating his practice to New York City to be near his family.



Attorney Robert Webster challenged the loyalties of his P-FLAG audience Thursday.

'Wild Hearts' touted for arresting talent

Pleiades concert promises New Acoustic edge

Pleiades Productions, Inc., will present The Wild Hearts, a trio of contemporary musicians with a humorous, sociopolitical flair, in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Fort Worth's Orchestra Hall.

The Wild Hearts - Robin Flower, Libby McLaren and Nancy Vogl - perform original songs influenced by country, Cajun, bluegrass, Irish and folk, proficiently maneuvering

six instruments between them and combining three-part vocal harmonies.

The band, which debuted in 1991 to a sell-out crowd, is a collaboration of experienced tone-setters in the women's cultural movement.

Flower earned the attention of *The Washington Post*, *The Village Voice* and *Billboard Magazine*, who hailed

her as "a strong, stirring foray into New Acoustic Music." She was recognized with *Fret Magazine's* Best New Talent award, honored by NAIRD for Best String Band Jazz Album and received a California Arts Council touring grant.

McLaren, previously of the acclaimed Roches, has appeared on the Tonight Show, the Dick Cavett Show and the Late Show. *The Village Voice* has extolled her rock 'n' roll piano playing for "bringing the house down."

Vogl, one of the first women guitarists in the alternative cultural circuit of the 1970s, gained acclaim at the first International Women's Rock Festival in Berlin in 1981. The Washington Post has suggested that she "should be ranked with America's most progressive acoustic musicians."

In their careers, Flower, McLaren and Vogl have appeared at every major global folk and feminist event, and appeared at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

Tickets in advance are \$15 at Connections Bookstore on Forest Park in Fort Worth; Curious Times and Crossroads Market on Cedar Springs in Dallas; and Athena's Attic on Austin in Denton. Tickets at the door are \$17.

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First Facts
The first recorded use of the word homophobia was in a 1967 book, *Homosexual Behavior among Males*, by Wainwright Churchill.

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- 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
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- Trinity Metropolitan Community Church 265-5454
- White Rock Church West 831-6664

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- 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
- Lambda Group Co-Dependents Anonymous 370-7473
- Live and Let Live AA Group 292-6308
- 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
- Metroplex Republicans/Log Cabin 214/520-6655
- 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
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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 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.
- **April 24:** Womyn's Pot Luck, Agape MCC, 6:30 p.m., Fort Worth.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- **Weekly:** TWU's Student Advocates for Lesbian and Gay Affirmation (SALGA), alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays, Room 110, TWU Student Center.
- **April 10:** Leadership Forum at Dos Gringos on 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.
- **April 19:** Metroplex Republicans, JoJo's Restaurant, 1415 Motor St. at Stemmons, Dallas. Cash bar at 5:45 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Ten city council candidates will speak. Phone reservation: 214/520-6655.

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.
- **April 24:** "My Mind's Made Up" Gospel Concert, Nadine and Friends, 7 p.m. at Harvest MCC, Denton. Call 817/321-2332.

EVENTS

- **April 17:** GLAAD Media Award Dinner, (214) 526-4523.
- **April 17:** NAMES Project garage sale, 665 S. Jennings, Fort Worth.

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.

- **April 24:** Fort Worth Health Department provides free and anonymous HIV testing, 8-11 p.m., NAMES Project house, 665 S. Jennings, Fort Worth. No appointment necessary. Monthly offering every third Saturday except in April. Blood drawn first visit; results provided second visit.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Daily:** Lambda AA, 8 p.m., call 817/921-2871.
- **Sundays, Mondays, Fridays:** Live and Let Live AA Group; 7:30 p.m. S, M; 6 p.m. F; Agape MCC, 4615 SE Loop 820.
- **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. Randal Mill Rd. in Arlington, Suite 110, 817/461-5454; 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays at 1340 S. Main St. in Grapevine, 817/481-0012.
- **Tuesdays:** Lambda Group Co-Dependents Anonymous, 8 p.m., 5316 Wooten.
- **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.

PERFORMING ARTISTS

SPOTLIGHT SHOW

7:30 P.M. MAY 22

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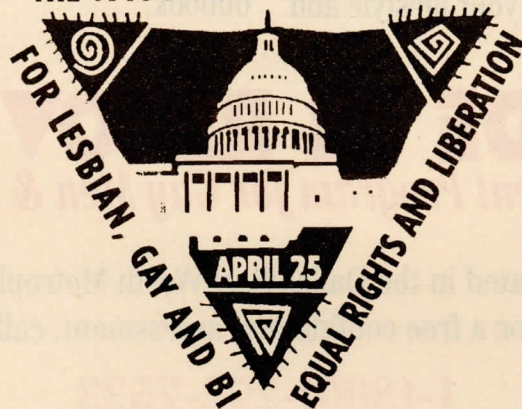


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