

TEXAS

Triangle

October 12, 2001

Vol. X

Issue 1





Turning Ten

*Historical Perspective
Reveals Promising Future
as The Texas Triangle
Begins 10th Year*

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THE TEXAS TRIANGLE, a publication of Angle Media, Inc., is published every Friday. Estimated readership 60,000. Subscription rates are \$39.00 (26 weeks) and \$78 (52 weeks). Advertising deadlines are Friday noon (week before publication) for make-ready ads, Monday noon for classified advertising and calendar items, and Tuesday noon the week of publication for camera-ready ads. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is protected by copyright and may not be reproduced in whole or part except by permission obtained by contacting THE TEXAS TRIANGLE directly. Credit must be given to THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. The views of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE are expressed in editorial only. Views expressed in letters to the editor and other submissions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the owners or management of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted for publication. Unsolicited submissions cannot be returned. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is not responsible for damages due to typographical errors except for the cost of revising and replacing advertisements containing error. Advertisements designed and created by THE TEXAS TRIANGLE for the advertiser remain the property of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. Advertisements and designs can be released for a \$250 licensing fee. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE cannot be responsible for claims made by advertisers, but readers are requested to report any fraudulent or deceptive advertising. The use of the name or likeness of a person or entity in THE TEXAS TRIANGLE in advertising or editorial content does not imply any particular sexual orientation or political affiliation. © 2001 ANGLE MEDIA, INC.

udes Us

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Triangle Stems the Tides of a Decade



During my pre-adult years in Oklahoma, I often heard a local saying that was indicative of someone's intent to make something happen. In an attempt to relate that nothing short of natural disaster would impede your success, in backwoods vernacular one would say, "I'll do it if the Lord is willing and the creek don't rise."

When I was pulling myself out of bed this morning, with the enormity of this anniversary issue weighing heavily on my mind, I was strengthened by the memory of my mother sarcastically using this phrase when a daunting task lie ahead. It seems appropriate today. I now have a foundation on which to build this article. So, with a little divine intervention and very little rain in the forecast, here is my attempt to inform you, the reader, of some *Texas Triangle* history.

ist from the *Boston Globe* and her partner Barbara, a CPA and financial wizard, believed *The Texas Triangle* would inform the community and, if all went according to plan, turn a profit.

Sometimes batting .500 will suffice, but not when it comes to the publishing industry. While the paper's founders were able to produce award-winning journalism, they failed to attract the necessary number of readers and in turn couldn't generate enough advertising revenue to keep *The Triangle* afloat.

Their intentions were honorable, but the motivation was lacking. I say that with due respect but if a business is more of a hobby than it is a sole source of putting food on the table, the tendency can sometimes be to let things slide. It would be, for example, difficult to run a business in Austin while one avoids the Texas summer heat by spending the months of May through October at one's home on Cape Cod.

Between October 1992 and sometime near the end of summer 1996, *The Triangle* made its mark as one of the most well written community publications around. However, by 1996 the paper was running an average of 20 pages per week, most of which were lacking advertising. Print media requires advertising revenue in order to provide information be it well written or not. Without adequate revenue a publication will cease to exist and *The Triangle* was no exception.

In October 1996, an article appeared in the national magazine, *The Advocate*, describing the certain demise of *The Texas Triangle*. The article described how the paper was losing money and how the owners were considering different options to try to save it including everything from asking readers to donate five dollars, to becoming a non-profit entity, to finding an investor.

Beginning in the early 1990s, my company, Angle Media, had provided direct mail fundraising services to community organizations. It was the gay nineties after

By Todd Cunningham

or empower the community with the purchase of *The Triangle* would be inaccurate. Don't misunderstand, I am as gay and proud as they come and am dedicated to the fight for civil rights for anyone affected by discrimination. But purchasing *The Triangle* was a business decision. We thought we could make it work and we have. I also thought I'd be competing with Bill Gates for the top spot on the Forbes list in five years and would be well on my way to retirement. I guess I join the ranks of previous owners with a low batting average.

Publishing a weekly community newspaper has not only provided a disappointment in the area of personal wealth, it has offered disillusionment on many fronts. Having worked in most every area of the field of journalism, I thought I knew what I was doing when we first took the reins at *The Triangle*. But it's not that simple. Not only are we expected to inform and entertain every week, we have to answer to our readers and our advertisers. Those things come with the territory, obviously, but when you add the pressure of running a small business, it can be a little overwhelming. Like most every small business, we face the daily challenges of rent, taxes, payroll, utilities, vendors, cash flow, employment issues, start-up costs and debt reduction. It is all very challenging.

Despite the sleepless nights, the 80-hour work weeks, the lack of vacation and more stress than anyone should be expected to endure, publishing *The Texas Triangle* is one of the greatest honors and privileges a person could have. I am eternally grateful to the readers, advertisers, employees and vendors who make it possible for us to do what we do.

On any given day there are nearly 300 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender publications serving this com-

See **TIDES OF A DECADE** pg. 18

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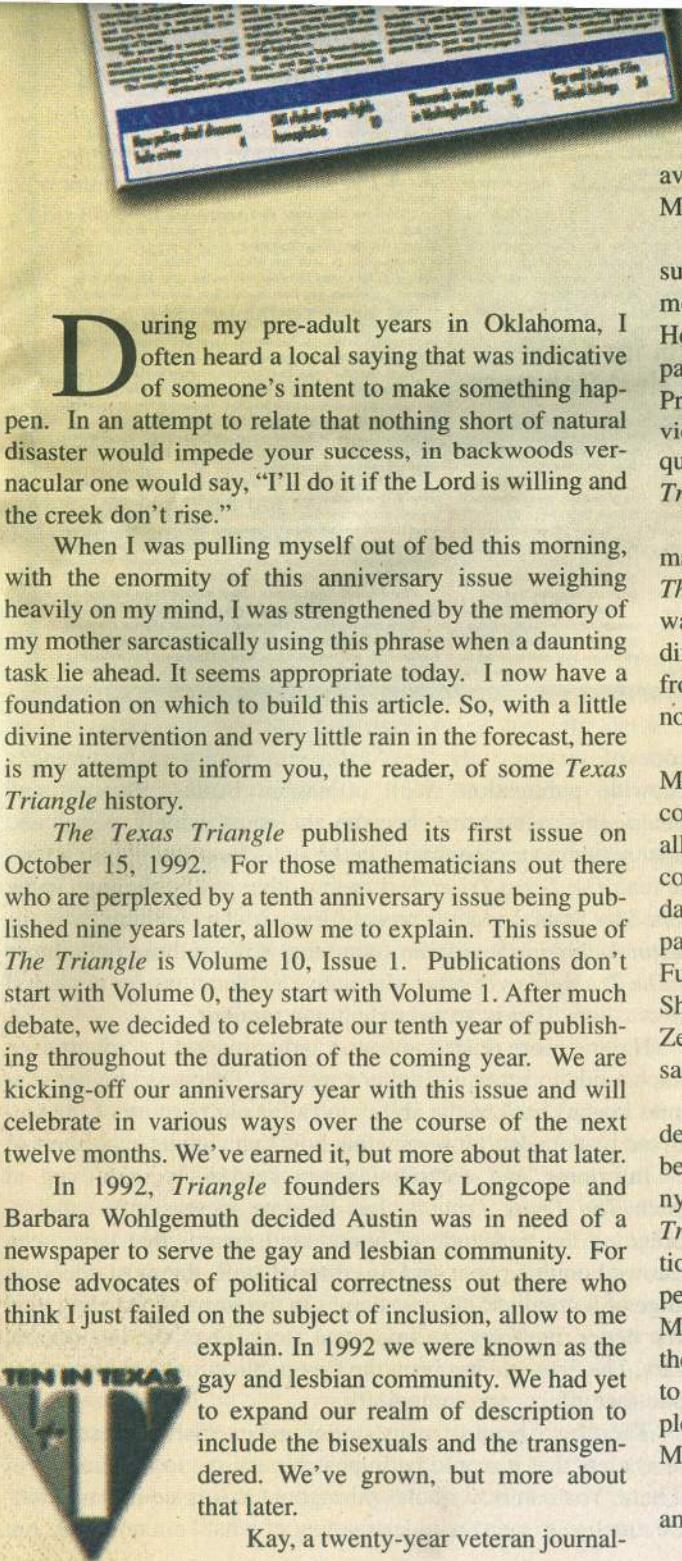
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The Texas Triangle published its first issue on October 15, 1992. For those mathematicians out there who are perplexed by a tenth anniversary issue being published nine years later, allow me to explain. This issue of *The Triangle* is Volume 10, Issue 1. Publications don't start with Volume 0, they start with Volume 1. After much debate, we decided to celebrate our tenth year of publishing throughout the duration of the coming year. We are kicking-off our anniversary year with this issue and will celebrate in various ways over the course of the next twelve months. We've earned it, but more about that later.

In 1992, *Triangle* founders Kay Longcope and Barbara Wohlgemuth decided Austin was in need of a newspaper to serve the gay and lesbian community. For those advocates of political correctness out there who think I just failed on the subject of inclusion, allow me to me explain. In 1992 we were known as the gay and lesbian community. We had yet to expand our realm of description to include the bisexuals and the transgendered. We've grown, but more about that later.

Kay, a twenty-year veteran journal-

tion was lacking. I say that with due respect but if a business is more of a hobby than it is a sole source of putting food on the table, the tendency can sometimes be to let things slide. It would be, for example, difficult to run a business in Austin while one avoids the Texas summer heat by spending the months of May through October at one's home on Cape Cod.

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Beginning in the early 1990s, my company, Angle Media, had provided direct mail fundraising services to community organizations. It was the gay nineties after all and community businesses and organizations were coming out of the woodwork. Angle Media managed databases, brokered printing and mailed fundraising packages nationally for groups like GLAAD, Victory Fund, and SLDN. We also produced and mailed the Shocking Gray catalog and its eventual successor, Zebraz catalog. In addition, we provided a lot of the same services to local organizations.

By 1996, the gay marketing explosion of the decade was beginning to lose its fervor and we began to look for ways to diversify our company's services. When the article about *The Triangle* appeared in *The Advocate*, a conversation with the paper's owners seemed like the perfect opportunity to possibly redefine Angle Media's purpose. So five years ago, almost to the day, negotiations began. It took six months to dot the multitude of I's and cross the plethora of T's but in March 1997 Angle Media purchased *The Texas Triangle*.

To say that I personally held some lofty ambition of advocacy or wanted to resurrect

ly provided a disappointment in the area of personal health, it has offered disillusionment on many fronts. Having worked in most every area of the field of journalism, I thought I knew what I was doing when we first took the reins at *The Triangle*. But it's not that simple. Not only do we expected to inform and entertain every week, we have to answer to our readers and our advertisers. Those things come with the territory, obviously, but when you add the pressure of running a small business, it can be a little overwhelming. Like most every small business, we face the daily challenges of rent, taxes, payroll, utilities, vendors, cash flow, employment issues, start-up costs and debt reduction. It is all very challenging.

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See **TIDES OF A DECADE** pg. 18





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Prime Timers is a social organization for older gay and bisexual men and younger men who prefer the company of mature men. Our members social

Tides of a Decade...

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munity. Of those, probably ten percent are profitable. Yes, only ten percent are truly viable, profitable businesses that have any net worth. The rest are usually fulfilling one of the two aforementioned personal desires – having a hobby or an outlet for advocacy. Those are respectable goals but aren't beneficial to a recipe for success. By success I mean generating enough revenue to allow a publication to fulfill its primary mission of informing and entertaining readers.

Probably because our first priority is to treat *The Triangle* as a business, we have managed to take this publication from the category containing the 90 percent profitless community papers to become a part of the ten percent who are profitable. This is not mentioned in an attempt to flaunt our success, but rather to say we are now on a foundation which will allow us to serve the purpose of informing and entertaining our readers.

In order to be successful at informing readers, a publication obviously needs readers to inform. The greatest measure of *The Triangle*'s growth comes in the increase in the number of readers we serve each week. In 1997, *The Triangle* expanded its

THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

Vol. 4 • No. 57

The State's Gay News Source

October 10, 1996

AT A GLANCE

▼ Editorial

The gay press and the gay community

▼ Community

Queer Notes: Newspapers as community centers

Houston PFLAG's billboard campaign

▼ State & Nation

Gay-bashing '96 campaigns

▼ Life Imitates Art

JORDI OSBORN
COMING HOME TO AMERICA

'Coming Home to America' celebrates gay pride, power.

▼ A&E

Everything Relative' and Sharon Pollack

▼ Arts, Briefly

▼ Profile

Aria Eager: Young Voice, Old Soul

▼ Stage Struck

The Gospel at Colonus

▼ Travel

Publish or Perish? Community Holds Key

By Ray Longcope
TRIANGLE Publisher

Austin attorney Tom Doyle, founder of the defunct *Liberty Books*, recently recalled the time an '89 customer looked around the store's well-stocked shelves, and asked, "What do you do with all the profits?"

"Profits? What profits?" responded Doyle with a laugh. When he decided, after two years, to take a loss and get out, "I was just lucky to find a buyer," he said. Now, after four years and no profits—not salaries for the weekly gay newspaper's two founders and co-owners—*The Texas Triangle* finds itself at the same point of resignation.

Do we close up with this, our projected last issue, as we

announced on Sept. 27 that it would be? Or, in the face of strenuous objections from readers in Austin and Houston, our major markets, and well-wishers throughout the state, do we reassess, try to buy time, and await results of promised fundraising efforts to dig ourselves out of debt?

There is no easy answer, especially in the face of some accusations by a few people that the *Triangle*'s announcement last month is "just a fundraising ploy." That is just as hurtful, just as untrue, as the American Family Association of Texas' claim made in a press release last Friday that its anti-gay campaign against *Triangle* advertisers succeeded in killing the paper.

Do we close up with this, our projected last issue, as we

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Lee Calls for ENDA Passage in Next Congress

By Clarence Bagby
TRIANGLE Staff

Houston—A law banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation likely will pass in the next Congress because "Americans believe that everyone has the right to work anywhere they desire in this country," a local congresswoman told the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce on Monday.

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, repeated her

support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which the U.S. Senate failed by one vote to pass this year.

Lee said no one should face employment discrimination because he or she is gay.

"If their job performance is within the realm of the responsibilities of that business, no questions should be asked about anything else," Lee said.

Lee shared a letter from a constituent telling of discrimination that he experienced in the workplace that eventually led to

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Beto Rroyal (left) and Sue Jarami, during the afternoon party at the *Baile de la Rosa* (Baile de Mexico) in East Austin on Oct. 6. The party was a celebration of the Austin-based Lesbian and Gay Organization's 10th anniversary. The *Baile de la Rosa* event, which also was helped by *Triangle* SIDA, also celebrated the creation of the event too.

Democrats Push for Support at Gay Community Meeting

By Dan Guinn
TRIANGLE Staff

AUSTIN—Gay and lesbians voters must go to the polls in November to preserve their power and influence in the political process, the leader of a national gay and lesbian group told listeners at a community town meeting Saturday in Austin.

"I think not voting is the most disempowering, demoralized state in this society," said Melinda Paras, the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Paras spoke at what was billed as a "Texas Gay Community Meeting" at the Capitol City Playhouse on Saturday. The event was a decidedly partisan, pro-Democratic affair. More than 60 people, including representatives from Dallas, Houston and other Texas cities, heard Paras and various gay and Democratic officials call on gay and lesbian voters to help prevent the election of GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole and other Republicans.

Paras and other speakers acknowledged anger in the gay and lesbian community over some of President Clinton's actions during his first term. These actions included Clinton's support for the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," which the president signed into law last month, and Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy that in theory allows gay men and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they do not reveal their sexual orientation.

Paras chose to focus on the importance of who will choose what some observers believe may be as many as three U.S. Supreme Court justices over the next four years. Paras pointed to the recent Supreme Court decision overturning a Colorado provision that banned any laws protecting gay men and lesbians from discrimination. Two Clinton appointees joined four other justices on the nine-member Supreme Court in voting to throw out the Colorado law.

The Supreme Court started talking about lesbians and gays as people and what rights lesbians and gay people have," Paras said.

Paras warned that a Dole presidency would give the Christian Coalition an opportunity to press for right-wing justices who would be hostile to gay and lesbian rights. With a Clinton win and a Supreme Court decision in page 11

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scope of serving only the Austin community to becoming a statewide publication. With offices in Dallas, Houston and Austin, this publication became the most widely distributed paper serving our community in the state. Every week more people read *The Texas Triangle* than any other gay publication in the Lone Star State. In fact, a recent survey of the community by the *Austin American-Statesman* found that 80% of those polled turn to *The Triangle* over other alternative publications for news and information. That is an overwhelming number.

Having more readers means a larger market for advertisers, which tends to result in higher revenues. Of course higher revenues lead us back to the ability to fulfill our purpose of informing our readers. Isn't it fascinating how that vicious cycle works?

Informing and entertaining our readers is something at which *The Texas Triangle* has become increasingly capable. Foregoing the multitude of honors and awards that have been bestowed on this paper and its editorial staff, the most adequate gauge of journalistic success comes in the form of reporting, and even better, breaking, an important story. Over the last several years, *The Triangle* has been the first publication to report major news that affects our community.

There have been so many stories and exclusives presented to our readers that it would be impossible for me to mention them all here. You can read quotes throughout this issue in our extensive timeline to gain an understanding of what I am referring to, but

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timeline

Compiled by David Greenfield

Take a trek through time with The Triangle as we turn the pages back to our beginning and pluck quotes from every issue published. Some are prophetic, some are political, but each provides a candid look back at the issues and people that have brought us to where we are today.

Our timeline starts here with October 1992 and flows to the back of the paper, ending with a snip from last week's edition. Bon voyage!

Oct. 1992

"We are embarking on a lifelong journey together, not promoting a lifestyle."

Sara Strandman who, along with her newly wed wife Karen Umminger, caused a controversy by publishing a public announcement in the *Austin American Statesman*.

Nov. 1992

"Ann's in the Capitol, Bill's in the White House, and Glen Maxey's back in District 51. Things are looking very good."

Suzy Wagers, Director of development for Texas Human Rights Foundation.

"We know there have always been gays in the military. The issue is whether they can be in the military without lying about it."

President-elect Bill Clinton

Dec. 1992

"We've looked around a lot, but we haven't found the perfect spot for socializing. I think it would be wonderful if there were something to draw the lesbian and gay community together because, from what I can tell, there is a wonderful lesbian and gay community here."

Recent Austin transplant from Wash. DC
Suzanne Bryant, 40.

"I won't be satisfied until we change the world. I just want people to feel some hope and to know there is a difference. I will fight to see the end of oppression. I'm not going to let it go undone." Rev. Michael Piazza of cathedral of hope in Dallas, TX.



Suzy Wagers

energy and visibility the gay and lesbian community is enjoying these days."

Kerry O'Quinn, host of Splash Day Howdy Party in Austin

May 1993

"Lesbians should be involved at every level, on the inside and on the outside. If more lesbians run for office and get involved in mainstream politics; if we are working on the inside and on

the outside, it's between his (state) day job and the drag show he does for Christopher House at San Fran Cisco's from 9pm-2am.

Aug. 1993

"We in the gay and lesbian civil rights movement are working toward a social revolution. We're breaking down political barriers, but we're also changing the way people think about us. It's wonderful to inspire people by showing them that they are part of something bigger; a national movement."

Torie Osborne, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce at the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus' annual fundraising dinner in Houston.

"I think 3 years is pretty much the upper limit on executive director positions for lesbian/gay and AIDS actions groups. I have decided to leave for reasons that I do not mind sharing."

Laurie Eiserloh, resigning from her post with the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

Sept. 1993

"It is an ambitious newspaper, particularly give the territory it covers and the news it pro-



"Of course, who knows what's being said about us when we're not there to hear it? And who cares? We try to keep the focus on what's important and not get drawn into the trap of having to do things. We try to 'be here now' as much as possible, to always be conscious of living in the present moment."

-Sara Strandman, her partner.

Nov. 1993

"The Clinton administration has sold us down the river for political expediency, and we are going to have to do whatever it takes to win our rights in America."



Keith Meinholt

discrimination against gays and lesbians serving in the military.

Dec. 1993

"I would say to the adult community: become more involved with gay youth because they need your positive attitude and you as role

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Recent Austin transplant from Wash. DC
Suzanne Bryant, 40.

Jan. 1993

"It's more acceptable to be a lesbian than a gay man in the good 'ol boy system. If they'd just look around at all the heterosexuals they work with everyday, they'd see what homosexuals are really also like. You just can't put people in categories. The John Wayne age of law enforcement is over. Being a police officer is hard enough without having to fight the stereotypes and prejudices of being a gay officer."

Sgt. Robert Hall Havican, Travis County, recently made Captain of AISD police dept. Then 28. Now: 36.

Feb. 1993

"Being oneself, as God created you to be in the world, true to yourself, is the Christian way. For me, living as an open lesbian, fighting for our civil rights and those of others is being a Christian."

Metropolitan Community Church Rev. Wendy Foxworth.



Suzy Wagers

Mar. 1993

"I also wanted to let the younger generation of gays and lesbians know that they don't have to flee the cities. It's okay to live in your hometown if you are gay. We can't let society tell us how or where to live our lives."

Apr. 1993

"I want to make everybody feel like kids again, I want to celebrate the new sense of pride, energy and visibility the gay and lesbian community is enjoying these days."

Kerry O'Quinn, host of Splash Day Howdy Party in Austin

May 1993

"Lesbians should be involved at every level, on the inside and on the outside. If more lesbians run for office and get involved in mainline politics, if we are working on the inside and on the outside, we have more of a chance."

Del Martin, lesbian pioneer on visibility of lesbians in the gay rights movement:



Suzanne Bryant

"What am I supposed to do? I'm queer in the Texas legislature."

Glen Maxey, after he (along with other women and minorities) was voted 1 out of 10 worst Texas legislators by TXMO editor Paul Burk and Patricia Kilday-Hart.

Jul. 1993

"There's not even time to eat dinner. I'll be stripping off my clothes the minute I walk in the door and then start right in painting my face."

Scarlet Leig (Jody Lanclos) on how hectic

they are working toward a social revolution. We're breaking down political barriers, but we're also changing the way people think about us. It's wonderful to inspire people by showing them that they are part of something bigger; a national movement."

Torie Osborne, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce at the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus' annual fundraising dinner in Houston.

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Keith Meinhold

Nov. 1993

"The Clinton administration has sold us down the river for political expediency, and we are going to have to do whatever it takes to win our rights in America."

Navy petty officer **Keith Meinhold**, reacting to news that the US Supreme Court lifted an injunction of the 9th US Circuit Court prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians serving in the military.

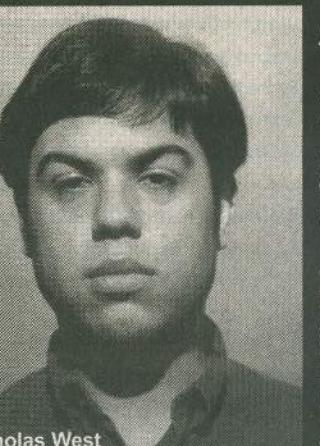
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-Sara Strandman, her partner.

Dec. 1993

"I would say to the adult community: become more involved with gay youth because they need your positive attitude and you as role models. If we have you to back us up, we feel more comfortable about our sexual orientation and we feel more comfortable about coming out."

Jason Mercado, 22 year old college student about the generation gap in the gay community



Nicholas West

Jan. 1994

"We came to end the violence, to prevent further murder and beatings of gay people. When this kind of crime happens, we are a statewide community."

Diane Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, at a rally in Tyler for Nicholas Ray West, a 23-year-old man killed in a hate crime. People from all over the state attended the rally, whose crowd more than tripled the number of participants for a KKK rally several months before in the same town.

purple

What a World, What a World...

The First Fifteen Years

By Nancy Ford

Fifteen years ago, the space shuttle Challenger exploded after lift-off. Nintendo introduced its first electronic games. Iran/ContraGate emerged.

In another part of the world, *Desert Hearts* - the first feature film produced by lesbians about lesbians - premiered in New York City. Playwright Larry Kramer founded ACT-UP. About 3,500 athletes gather in San Francisco to compete second Gay Games.

And What a World, What a World... first appeared in the gay press.

Fifteen years later, writer/comedian Nancy Ford finds she has commented and quipped at least once a month chronicling her take on The Texas Gay Experience in prose and in punch-line, first in a tiny monthly lesbian publication called *Dimensions*, and ultimately, here in the pages of *The Texas Triangle*.

That's a lot of fag jokes.

Herewith are excerpts from some of her favorite columns.

The Eighties

1986 hasn't been a good year for space shuttles or nuclear power plants starting with Ch-, as in Challenger and Chernobyl. It was, however, a great year for Halley's, as in Comet and Mills.

In its first appearance since the early 1900s, Halley's Comet went streaking across the sky, the world did not come to an end, and stargazers everywhere now have something to look forward to in another 90 years.

As if that weren't enough, Hailey (close) Mills returned to Walt Disney Studios to begin filming a sequel to *The Parent Trap*, reminding those of us who were young lesbians in the early 60s why we lived for those Saturday afternoon movie matinees.

[Regarding a new rap group, The Beastie Boys]: If I wanted to spend an evening having obscenities hurled at me and beer spat upon me while being asked to expose my breasts, I would have stayed married.

America's attention has been grabbed by not one but two Jessicas. Both will be forever remembered for their God given ability to contort their bodies yet maintain while trapped in very uncomfortable positions for an extended period of time.

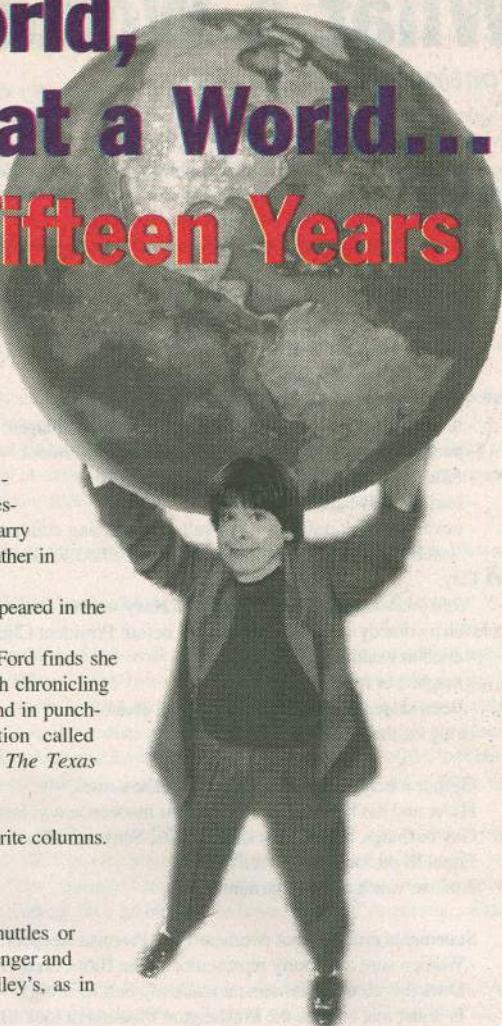
One Jessica was trapped in an abandoned Texas well. The other Jessica was trapped by Jim Bakker in The PTL Club.

The fact that either Jessica lived to tell her tale remains a miracle to this day.

The Nineties

Guess what? My mother and Cher have something in common. They both have daughters who are gay.

It's true. Chastity's gay. It was in *The Star*, so you know it's true. The headline read "Cher Shattered as daughter Chastity Announces: I'm Gay!"



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" said Umminger, "so I might
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there's no gay neighborhood

We were in the Triangle not
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It's true. Chastity's gay. It was in *The Star*, so you know it's true. The headline read "Cher Shattered as daughter Chastity Announces: I'm Gay!"

But, "shattered"? Cher, please. Now you and Chas can start doing all those rockstar mother/gay daughter camaraderie things, like carpooling to the tattoo parlor.

Now, best girlfriends in junior high have an alternative to a Disney production. Granted, they may have to sneak from Screening Room A into Screening Room B in the suburban mall theatre complex after the features have started. But sneak they will, I promise you.

Go Fish gives young lesbians all over America who have a curiosity – if not a compulsion – the opportunity to learn more about who they are and where they're going. In addition to being an entertaining piece of cinema, *Go Fish* also strengthens the freshwater mainstreaming of gays and lesbians in the media. If for no other reason, it should be lauded for that.

*So if you should find a scratch on your snatch,
Jump out of the bed, do the fifty yard dash
To the kitchen cupboard, throw open the latch,
Pull out some Saran – a big, see-through patch,
And cover that scratch on the snatch with the patch.*

*When you don't have a dam in a pinch, it's a
snatch!*

Here are some humorous, albeit completely impractical, ways to come out of your family this Thanksgiving.

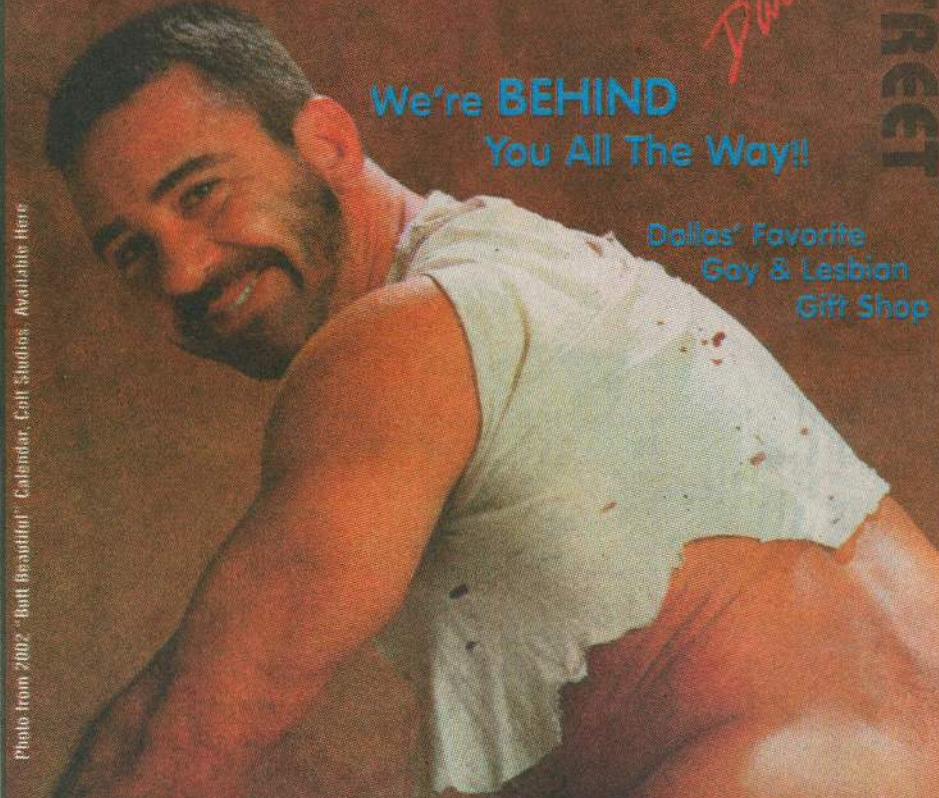
- If the dinner napkins at the Thanksgiving table

Continued on next page



RED, WHITE, AND BLUE HALLOWEEN

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What a World...

Continued from pg. 29

happen to be pink, consider this a favorable sign from God. Proceed in your coming out process by folding them into inverted triangles.

- Carve the Pflag hotline number into the turkey.
- Make a Jell-O mold in the shape of a wiggly, jiggly Rainbow Flag. The flavor order, from top to bottom, is cherry, orange, lemon, lime, blueberry, then grape. Bon appetit!

In the past 40 years I have –

- made a mountain out of a molehill.
- seldom left well enough alone.
- bitten off more than I could chew.
- turned the other cheek when I could have filed charges.
- been a lesbian poster child in the pages of *Newsweek*.
- fallen in love at first sight.
- buried twelve comedy partners.
- never once felt unfilled as a result of not having children.
- watched fireworks explode over a queer-filled Yankee Stadium for the closing of Gay Games IV in New York City.
- told jokes to more than 400 enlisted Navy women stationed in Norfolk, Virginia who weren't afraid to come to a lesbian comedy show in a lesbian bar before President Clinton enacted his Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.
- cried at weddings.
- laughed at funerals.
- Been scared to death and lived to tell about it.

Bring on the next 40.

Gym teachers, gay games, true love, fake names,
 Hitler and the Holocaust, the day your innocence was lost,
 Gay bashings, homophobes, black lists, Senate probes -
 Equal Rights are what we're for,
 And we won't take it anymore!

Statements probably not overheard at a Promise Keepers' rally:

- Women sure are poorly represented in the Bible, aren't they?
- Does this cloak of atonement make my butt look big?
- Is it just me, or does the Washington Monument look like a giant penis?
- I miss Designing Women.
- After this prayer, I'm going back to my hotel room. RuPaul's on cable!

Do you ever watch that show *Ellen*, that ABC situation comedy on ABC, starring that cute Ellen DeGeneres? Of course, you watch *Ellen*. You have to. You're homosexual. It's the law.

By now you've heard it's been announced that Ellen's character will come out on her show April 30 in a one-hour special. Evidently they want her to take her time.

I've said it before, I'll say it again: What a world, what a world. I knew that this day would come, and I hoped it would be in my lifetime.

After enduring decades in front of the boob tube (and I call it that with great affection, being a breast woman, myself) I have longed and fantasized for the prime time show that portrayed Gay Life as what it really is—just like Straight Life, but with a lot more style, taste, and fun.

This could be the



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This could be the smoothest psycho/sociological move in TV history since *Roseanne's* Double-BeckySwitch. It will be very interesting to see how more homophobic viewers will react when they find out that America's Sweetheart is really America's Big Ol' Dyke. How can they stop liking her?

That's just it — they can't. That's why it's such a smart move. They can stop watching, but they can't stop liking someone they already like just because she's gay.

Similarly, I just found out that one of my closest friends is Republican. I don't understand it, but I can't stop



— timeline —

Mar. 1994

"I feel on a basic level that things are shifting in our direction and will continue to, the more people find out about all this."

Mainstream Austin Coalition's Marc Ysunaga, reacting to news of zealot Stephen Hotze's plans to take away domestic partner benefits for city employees of Austin.

Apr. 1994

"When we see a couple of little old ladies walking, we always say 'that's you and me about 20 years from now,'" Norma Piecznski, 52, of Houston

"I see hope, but I don't see any great breakthrough on the horizon."

Jo Kovach, 52, of Houston, about gay marriages.

liking him because of something he obviously has no control over. I don't understand it, it worries me for his health, and I'll pray for him. But he'll always be my friend.

I've long suspected that others in TV-land may not have been as attracted to the opposite sex as they would like us to believe. What about—

- Mary and Rhoda? They didn't live together, but Rhoda lived right on top of Mary. Hmmm.

- LaVerne and Shirley? These two didn't fool me for a moment. Sure, they slept in twin beds. So did Rob and Laura. And who were their closest male companions? Lenny and Squiggy and Carmine, all of whom, I believe, slept together in the same bed, a la *The Three Stooges*.

- The Three Stooges? All three slept in the same bed a la themselves, and were members of The Womenerhater's Club. Ah, subtlety.

- Wilma and Betty? Stone Age Dykes. Who knows what happened when Fred and Barney paddled the car off to the quarry.

- Felix and Oscar? Without question, there's a lost episode in which The (not-so) Odd Couple marches in New York's annual Gay Pride Parade.

- Ginger and Mary Ann? These two castaways weren't really lesbians — just bored. Notice neither ever seemed overly eager to be rescued.

- Aunt Bea and Clara Edwards? It starts with an afternoon tonic and sitting on the piano bench together singing "Chinatown, My Chinatown." We all know where it ends.

Let ABC-TV know that you highly approve of Ellen's coming out of the closet. You know those folks we refer to collectively as The Religious Right are busy at their word processors — typing and praying, typing and praying — as we speak. Drop a card to ABC Television, attention: Thanks for Announcing That Ellen's a Lesbian.

And while you're at it, tell them you'd like them to stop turning up the volume during commercials. It's very annoying.

Congratulations and thanks for your courage, Ellen. You're risking being made history to make history.

According to The Associated Press, in a study published last week in the journal *Nature* revealed that nature is now leading nurture - if only by a knuckle - in the What Causes Homosexuality? race. It turns out the fingers of lesbians consistently resembled typical male digits - with index fingers being shorter - than the fingers of other women. This discovery points to higher levels of male sex hormones in early life for lesbians, the researchers said.

Gay men and lesbians now have a new recognizable physical trait with which to identify each other. Evidently freedom rings, lambda pins, rainbow bumper stickers, pink triangles, and our highly-evolved senses of style and humor aren't enough.

I couldn't help but notice when this story broke, the *Houston Chronicle* chronicled the tale on same page upon which they also printed a sizable Home Depot ad. Coincidence, or a stroke of marketing brilliance? - you decide. I can hear it echoing from the suburbs now: "Hey, Brenda! Come here and look at this article in the newspaper about lesbian fingers. And when you're done reading, let's go buy a new lawn mower; I've got this sudden craving for yard and garden supplies."

My mother and I were in the kitchen, most likely making something with white bread and mayonnaise. With a face as straight as I'm not, my mother said "Do you ever watch that new talk show with Rosie O'Donahue? She's so funny."

Granted, an occasional malapropism dropped by our elders is cute; too many is a red flag that we're entering The Reagan Zone. But then my mother went on to say, "You know, Nancy, there's something about that Rosie O'Donahue that reminds me of you."

Fill in your own soft butch joke here.

It was at that moment I learned that gaydar is not necessarily restricted to the gay. But just one thing? I can think of at least three things Rosie and I have in common without even going into the whole Madonna thing.

How many times have we WNBA/Houston Comets fans wondered to ourselves and to each other, Look at all the family — I wonder how many of us are here?

You don't have to be a statistician, a psychic, or a genius to know that a good half of the 16,000+ seats in Houston's Compaq Center are occupied by gay women - single, coupled, with children, without children, in flocks, on dates, in the expensive seats, in the nosebleed section.

If you doubt the strength of our numbers, take a quick trip down to the arena's smoking section at half time. Slap a few Bud Light neon signs up on the walls, stick a rainbow flag in the corner, and - Voila! - you've got a replica of any given dyke bar on any given Saturday night.

Here's yet another reason I'm proud to be an American. This week.

Turning our attention slightly eastward, there's a brouhaha a-brewing in Istanbul (not Constantinople), Turkey. Reuters reports that oil wrestlers there - big, strapping, hairy men who cover themselves in olive oil and grapple with each other wearing nothing but leather trousers (sounds like just another night at the Bear Bar, doesn't it?) - are getting into a bit of a tussle over who gets to be the top dog in the ring.

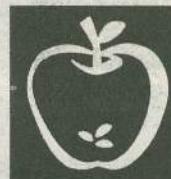
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Not
Satisfied?



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But wait, it gets better.

A group calling itself Bears of Turkey began web advertising for a tour to watch the 639th Kirkpinar oil wrestling championships to be held this summer.

"It's immoral," responded Traditional Sports Federation Chairman Alper Yazoglu, according to the Anatolian news agency. "We shall pass this matter on to the interior, foreign and other ministries to ask for this disgusting business to be stopped."

Disgusting? Nonsense! Big, strapping, hairy men lubing up and wrestling is an ancient tradition! The sport of oil wrestling dates back to the Turks' untimely exit from Central Asia in the Middle Ages, the Anatolian report claims.

The beary wrestlers, "their muscles rippling in olive oil under the hot sun," as Anatolian chronicles in

Continued on next page

"That's nonsense, and they are bearing false witness against homosexuals."

NY psychologist Ralph Blair who counsels gay Christians to accept their orientation, reacting to groups such as the Exodus Foundation.

"Not one single person of the hundreds counseled has ever lost their homosexual desires."

Michael Brusbee, a founding member/patient of Exodus International who, after years of counseling, divorced his wife and moved in with his lover.

May 1994

"I feel that gay and lesbian rights will not be won by a revolution in which we get everything



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uring that cute Ellen DeGeneres?
ut on her show April 30 in a one-
his day would come, and I hoped



low can they stop liking her?
watching, but they can't stop lik-
ing it, understand it, but I can't stop

see a couple of little old ladies
ays say 'that's you and me about
low.' Norma Piecznski, 52, of

, but I don't see any great break-
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52, of Houston, about gay mar-

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What a World...

Continued from pg. 31

Honcho-like style, try to pin each other to the ground.

But the "rippling under the hot sun" part isn't the problem, apparently. The common tactic of opponents putting a hand down each other's trousers to get a better grip, is. Though this is not one particular athletic maneuver I would stand in line to witness, there is at least one aspect of Turkish wrestling that bests WWF:

Slightly less common is seeing a spectator hold up a sign that says "Allah 3:16."

1993 marked the first time I had returned to DC since 1977. That first time, I was visiting our nation's capital on my honeymoon. Yeah, remember that? I was married to a man for a minute. Seems like a different lifetime to me, too.

Since then I've been on a honeymoon of a different kind. Not long ago I officially - more or less - married my career, as they say. We had a small quiet ceremony at the Better Business Bureau, and are registered at Office Depot. The good news is that this is one marriage I expect to last.

Speculation regarding whether or not Hillary is a lesbian has swirled in our collective queer neighborhood for years. Some call it gaydar, others call it wishful thinking. But if she wanted to be, HRC (now there's a funny coincidence!) would be considered by many to be a prime recruit.

Strong, yes. Ground-breaking, of course. Independent, absolutely. But a lesbian? Frankly, I don't feel it. Hillary doesn't register so much as a blip on my personal gaydar screen.

For one, I once saw Hillary toss out the first ball at a Major League Baseball game. Stereotype-perpetuating as this may sound, truth is, Hillary throws like a girl. And not in a good way.

Regina Quattrochi, Priscilla Lenes and their two children arrived at Newark International Airport with tickets and valid proof of United States citizenship for each family member. As the family attempted to board the craft to begin a vacation in Mexico, airline agents demanded permission from a non-existent father before permitting them access to the plane.

Kind of gives the phrase "Who's your Daddy?" a whole new twist, doesn't it?

The sample Convention Barbie at the 1999 GOP's convention headquarters in Philadelphia had blond hair, but delegates also will get African American, Asian American and Latina Convention Barbies, all in the same red suit, *The Inquirer* said. It's such a big toy tent, you know.

Perhaps this new Barbie is just one of a number of new Barbies we're about to see introduced to the doll-buying market in this, the new Millennium. Don't be surprised if the next time you visit Toys R Us, you meet

- Survivor Barbie. Makes every other dolls eat Beanie Baby rats until she's the only one left in the toy box.

- Cyber Barbie. Glued to internet, still dressed in the same clothes you last saw her in, suffering from baggy eyes and carpal tunnel syndrome, Cyber Barbie is in need of a cyber intervention.

- Don't Ask, Don't Tell Barbie. Comes dressed in fatigues with tape over her mouth. Genital area is completely smooth, with nipples already conveniently ground down to discourage sexual response to G.I. Jane dolls.

- Lesbian Avenger Barbie. Comes with re-attached genitals and nipples and an attitude.

- Compassionate Conservative Barbie. Has true remorse for the plight of homeless dolls left out in the rain, but has no room in her Malibu Dream House for them.

- Dr. Barbie Schlessinger. Extra blonde, extra plastic, this model comes complete with a holier-than-thou attitude regarding human relationships despite no practical experience nor educational certification to back it up.

- Chainy Barbie. Not to be confused with Barbie Cheney, Chainy Barbie is dressed in full military uniform, ready for a Play Party.

- Barbie Cheney. Not to be confused with Chainy Barbie, Barbie Cheney is dressed in full military uniform, ready to play with the Party. Enjoys a Coors Light with her big sister at the dyke bar whenever possible.

- Texas GOP Delegate Barbie. Automatically removes oversized cowboy hat and bows head in prayer when homosexuals appear in public.

In the spirit of balance, Mattel is also donating Convention Barbie dolls to the upcoming Democratic convention in Los Angeles. Democratic Convention Barbie, we're told, wears a blue suit. Hopefully she doesn't come already stained.



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The Twenty-First Century

If you find yourself in a gay or lesbian relationship, but a still small voice stirring in your soul tells you you need to get out of it, maybe you do. But maybe you don't need to go through reparative therapy. Maybe you just need to get a new haircut and go shopping - so to speak - at an Indigo Girls or Ricky Martin concert.

I personally don't know any women - or men, for that matter - who've indulged in any of the Love Won Out seminars or Exodus-type programs. Once or twice I've wondered if I've ever inspired any exes to enroll in one, though. It might be worth a look to see if I could get any referral cash.

I'm pretty sure Exodusians almost never come to The Dyke Show. If they do, they are probably chided about their poor tipping habits, and are encouraged to leave. Remember this simple rule: ten percent goes back to the Lord, fifteen percent is minimal for good service, and it costs \$5 to request a show tune.

timeline

at once. Everything will have to be fought for one step at a time, and this is one step."

David Oakley, 37, of the Metropolitan Community Church, a gay-friendly place of worship.

matters is that we feel we have to educate the lesbian and gay community that we need to be included and why. It's for our survival."

Attorney, civil engineer, and transgender activist Phyllis Randolph Frye

Jun. 1994

"We're not going to be an angry group, and it doesn't matter if we're not a large group. What

Jul. 1994

"Queer studies is not the kind of work I could have done in graduate school—it wasn't

Ultimately, MTV's Anatomy of a Hate Crime speculates that Matthew Shepard had both reason to celebrate and to anesthetize — he was a lonely young man with a lot on his mind. And loneliness can make people stupid.

No, I'm not calling Matthew Shepard stupid. He was obviously an intelligent, accomplished, multi-lingual scholar, as AOAHC illustrates.

I'm calling the behavior stupid. And yes, that's dancing uncomfortably close to loving the sinner but hating the sin, isn't it? Sorry.

If AOAHC has a moral, a message beyond the obvious, perhaps it is: Don't get into a pickup truck in the middle of nowhere with two strangers. Just don't.

Church officials said Saturday that the Rev. Nelson W. Koscheski resigned as a delegate from the Diocese of Dallas after the "salting" brought the convention's House of Deputies to a screeching, salty halt last week.

According to the report, the House of Deputies was plowing through routine Episcopal business when Louie Crew, founder of Integrity (the Episcopal church's advocacy group for gays and lesbians), said that someone had put salt under his table.

Can't help but wonder what form all this salt took: Was it a sprinkling? A pile? A shaker-full? A handful of those little salt packets - the kind that when you fold them to break them open, the salt flies out and covers everything but your food? Aromatherapeutic bath salts? A pillar, in an Old Testament, Sodom and Gomorrah tribute to Lot's wife? A little man sitting hunched up under the table with a pissy gourmet sea salt grinder from Smyth and Hawken (It was, after all, the Integrity table...)? Or did Rev. Koscheski ring the whole table with salt, devising a giant Episcopal margarita just waiting to be licked?

That's the beauty of true spirituality. Jesus Loves Me, and He knows I Question Authority.

Dear Anne (Paulk),

Girl! What did you do when you found out that John - Mr. Ex-Gay Incarnate, the man who turned you from a life of lesbianism - was spotted last week by Human Rights Campaign staffers in Mr. P's, a Washington, DC gay bar?

My goodness, but it must have been quiet at breakfast that morning. I bet nobody was enjoying his or her Froot Loops with any appreciable gusto.

Why won't anyone believe John when he says that he had stopped in at the legendary queer watering hole only to use the bathroom? Whether or not he intended to urinate is another matter entirely. But if ya gotta pee, what better place to do so than in a place called Mr. P's?

I believe him Anne. Don't you?

So what if he hung around the bar, buying drinks and watching the drag show for 40 minutes? You know what they say - drag time flies.

So what if he told one of those HRC staffers who immediately recognized him from his Newsweek cover shot that his name was John Clint instead of John Paulk? Maybe he thought the staffer was just an autograph hound.

So what if he replied "yes" when someone at the club asked him if he was gay? When he said "Yes" maybe he was simply replying in the past tense affirmative, as in "Yes, I was gay. But now I am a straight man in a gay bar, having a drink, watching a drag show. And I have to pee. Watch my drink."

We hear that John may be losing his job over this little fracas. That doesn't seem fair, someone losing his or her job because he or she is gay. But wouldn't it be ironic? Kind of makes you think twice about the importance of passing legislation protecting GLBTs against non-discrimination in employment, doesn't it?

But tell the truth, Honey. Is this the first time John has come home late, his clothing reeking of cigarette smoke and martinis, humming a little Cher ditty? We think not.

"[A]s an adult, after trying to fill my emotional needs in homosexual relationships, I created a different personality, 'Candi,' and lived through her as a female impersonator... it was the only pride I had," oozes John from your website (www.stonewallrevisited.com/pages/john.html).

Now we know why John was so caught up in that drag show that he couldn't tear himself away for nearly an hour. Is it a comfort or a catastrophe to you that the lipstick on John's collar is probably his own?

Anne. Honey. Look at the picture of your husband on that website. It's a Glamour Shot. All that's missing is the boa.

It's time for some real Truth in Love, Anne: you are not married to an ex-homosexual. You are married to a homosexual, just like my ex-husband was. At best, you are married to a ex-ex-homosexual who makes a lot of money telling people he is an ex-homosexual, but then goes to a homosexual bar to pee, where he doesn't pee.

Who needs it, Anne?

The father of a dear friend of mine has a theory. Much as he loves and is proud of his gay son, it is his decided belief that the "weird, collar-wearing, paddle-loving folks" at Pride events aren't really gay. Rather, he insists,



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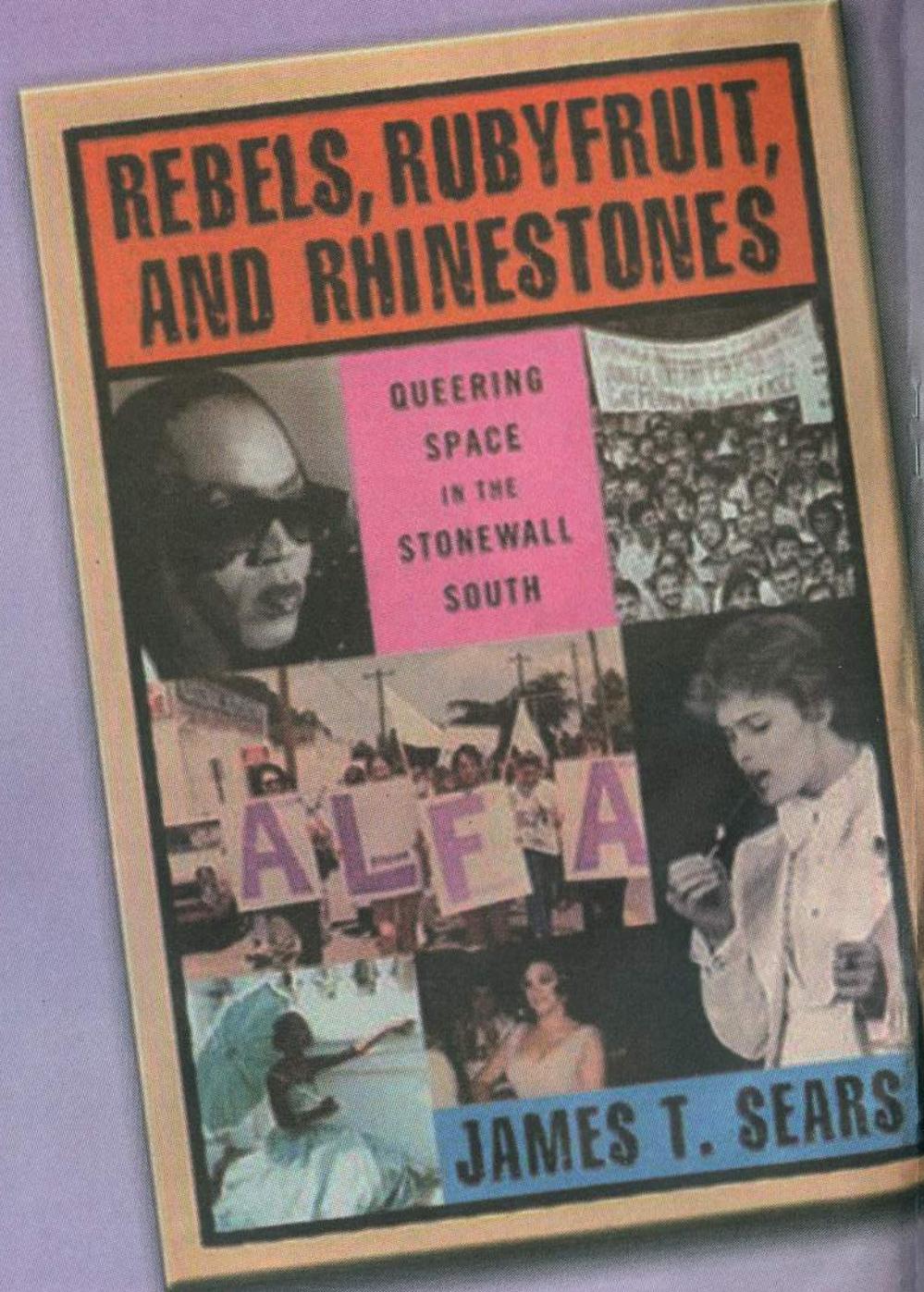
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Texas Tales to tell:



to Tell:

A Conversation with James T. Sears

By Jone Devlin

Prior to the birth of *Texas Triangle*, much Texas GLBT history was made that was previously unrecorded. If not for the work of gay historian and author James T. Sears, who is currently touring with his most recent work *Rebels, Rubyfruit, and Rhinestones, Queering Space in the Stonewall South*, much of our history would be completely lost. Recently Jone Devlin and J.D. Doyle of 90.1 KPFT-FM's *Lesbian and Gay Voices* talked to Sears regarding the events that led to the groundswell of Texas queer activism we know today.

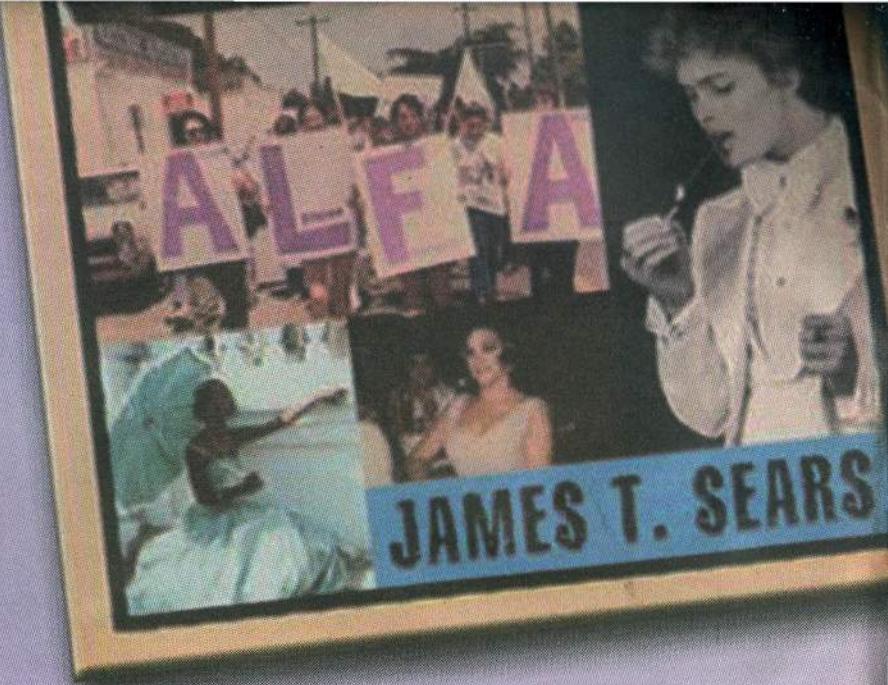
Texas Triangle: What is the time period covered in *Rebels, Rubyfruit and Rhinestones*?

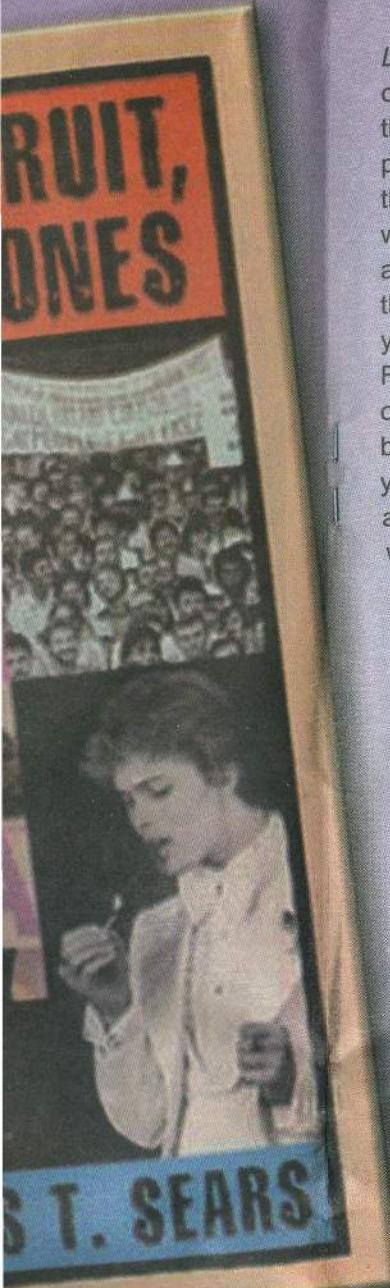
James Sears: My book covers the era, primarily, from Stonewall to the first march on Washington in 1979. During that ten year period of time, Houston and Atlanta were really the two cities that had the most influence in the "gay rights movement" in the South. And, in fact, some of your readers would recognize by the end of the '70s the major national newspapers and magazines were calling Houston the San Francisco of the South.

TT: Did you have much trouble tracking down Houston's history?

JS: Yes and no. One of the things that Houston has that many cities do not have is an archive; right

now, in fact, Houston has two archives. Which is really important because for too long when we talk about history, or when we read history, or learn history in school, we don't learn about people's history. We only learn about the history of great events or great people - which are often white male - and we certainly don't learn about our rainbow history. And the only way that we can tell our stories, and tell our stories to the next generation, is by maintaining and collecting those bits of memory of our communities, and that's in newsletters, that's in love poems, in photographs, those are in all the different kinds of every day life and luckily, much of that was in Houston for this period of time that this book covers.





TT: How had queer history changed in the era before and then after Stonewall?

JS: The book that preceded this one was called *Lonely Hunters* and that period of time covers basically from the early '50s through the late '60s. During that period of time in Houston, there were for example a number of queer bars. But oftentimes the places throughout the South, the space that you had, if you were homosexual and living in the South in the '50s and '60s was a space that was really on the edges of the communities and of the cultures. For example, if you would go to any large city whether it be in Raleigh or in Tampa, and you were looking to meet other men, you'd go to a bar. But how can you find a bar when there's not a *Damron's Guide*? One place you would go would be to the nicest hotel in that city, and at that hotel bar would be the place where you would likely find the people who were homosexual. And again, that would just be by a wink and a nod.

What happened, during this period of time from the mid '60s into the '70s you really had a number of activists who came out of the anti-war movement, the feminist movement, the hippie movement, etc. And they brought their activism to organize in gay issues. And so, this book really talks about the emergence of communities in the South, and communities in Houston and how space became queered in a lot of other spaces, from softball fields, to Metropolitan Community Churches, to radical fairy gatherings, to leather motorcycle clubs like the Texas Wranglers, etc.

TT: Is there a Southern gay sensibility?

JS: That's almost redundant. I think there is a gay sensibility and I think a lot of that is also Southern. One good example, I think, is one aspect of queer communities is the drag culture. And part of that is clearly rooted in the South. If by 'Southern sensibility' or 'Southern gay sensibility' you mean being different than Northern sensibility, absolutely! One of the problems individuals had who were organizing the South - who were doing it less effectively than people like Rita Wanstrom, the grandmother of the gay rights movement here in the South - was that they were

Lesberadas, had softball teams, they had potlucks, they had lots of different newsletters, lots of activities that on the surface we say "Oh, that's not political, that's not doing anything" but that was quite political. It was political because it brought together people as a community. And when you bring together people, people who are queer - whether for a poetry reading, or whether they're there for a motorcycle run or they're there for a drag pageant, or for an MCC congregation - then you are in fact creating communities. And that's what this book is about, the emergence of different communities, from Houston, to Lexington Kentucky, to Lubbock Texas, to Norfolk Virginia.

TT: Prior to Anita Bryant, was there much networking between the cities in the South?

JS: There was. As early as 1972, there was a convention of gay Southern militants that was held in Athens, Georgia. Three years later - in Chapel Hill, North Carolina - was the first gathering of what was to be called the Southeastern Gay and Lesbian Coalition. Those groupings of three and four days brought together several hundred people who were organizing all over the Southeast and those kinds of conferences and conventions were incredibly important because it enabled people to communicate with one another across different localities, so not only people who were involved as lesbian feminists, but people who were lesbian feminists and Radical Faeries, etc. And so those kinds of organizational times were very important but again, prior to Anita Bryant all of these individuals...and we're talking about several hundred people in the South by '75-'76...were activists. That was a minuscule

from the Southeast that engaged and enraged thousands of persons.

TT: So community is not a city, community is different parts of a city?

JS: Yes, and in fact I talk about this a lot in the book. [When] some people speak of the "Gay



Then Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire meets with Dennis Spencer and Max Todd of Houston's Gay Political Caucus in 1983. Photo courtesy David Fowler.

Community" in the 1970s - the gay community of Texas or the gay community of Atlanta - really they were misspeaking. What they were really talking about was their vision as a small group of what this larger locality of people who were queer living in Atlanta was about. But in fact, those communities in Atlanta were groups of people who were grouped together based on interest. For example, you had the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance, and you had political groups publishing *The Closet Door* and only occasionally would those groups intersect.

A good example of that intersection was in Houston, where you had the emergence of the Gay Political Caucus and which eventually developed into



ears

Jone Devlin

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The whole notion of being social is much more important, I think, for Southerners, than for other people outside the South. So when individuals and groups were organizing in Houston, one of the groups that was organizing were women's groups - Milam House here, the National Organization for Women chapter, and groups like the Lesberadas. Those groups, like the

South?

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people in the South by '75-'76...were activists. That was a minuscule amount of people compared to those people who would go party at the Old Plantation or go discoing at the Glitter Gulch in Raleigh or be involved in one of the gay Krewes in New Orleans or Mobile. Most of the gay community was outside of any kinds of any of this activism, and what Anita Bryant and this referendum in Dade County did was to present an opportunity for those activists to engage a larger group of people in organizing.

It mainstreamed the community. And if Stonewall was the match that started the modern gay liberation movement, then Anita Bryant was really the wildfire that spread across the entire country, starting

Then Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire meets with Dennis Spencer and Max Todd of Houston's Gay Political Caucus in 1983. Photo courtesy David Fowler.

Community" in the 1970s - the gay community of Texas or the gay community of Atlanta - really they were misspeaking. What they were really talking about was their vision as a small group of what this larger locality of people who were queer living in Atlanta was about. But in fact, those communities in Atlanta were groups of people who were grouped together based on interest. For example, you had the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance, and you had political groups publishing *The Closet Door* and only occasionally would those groups intersect.

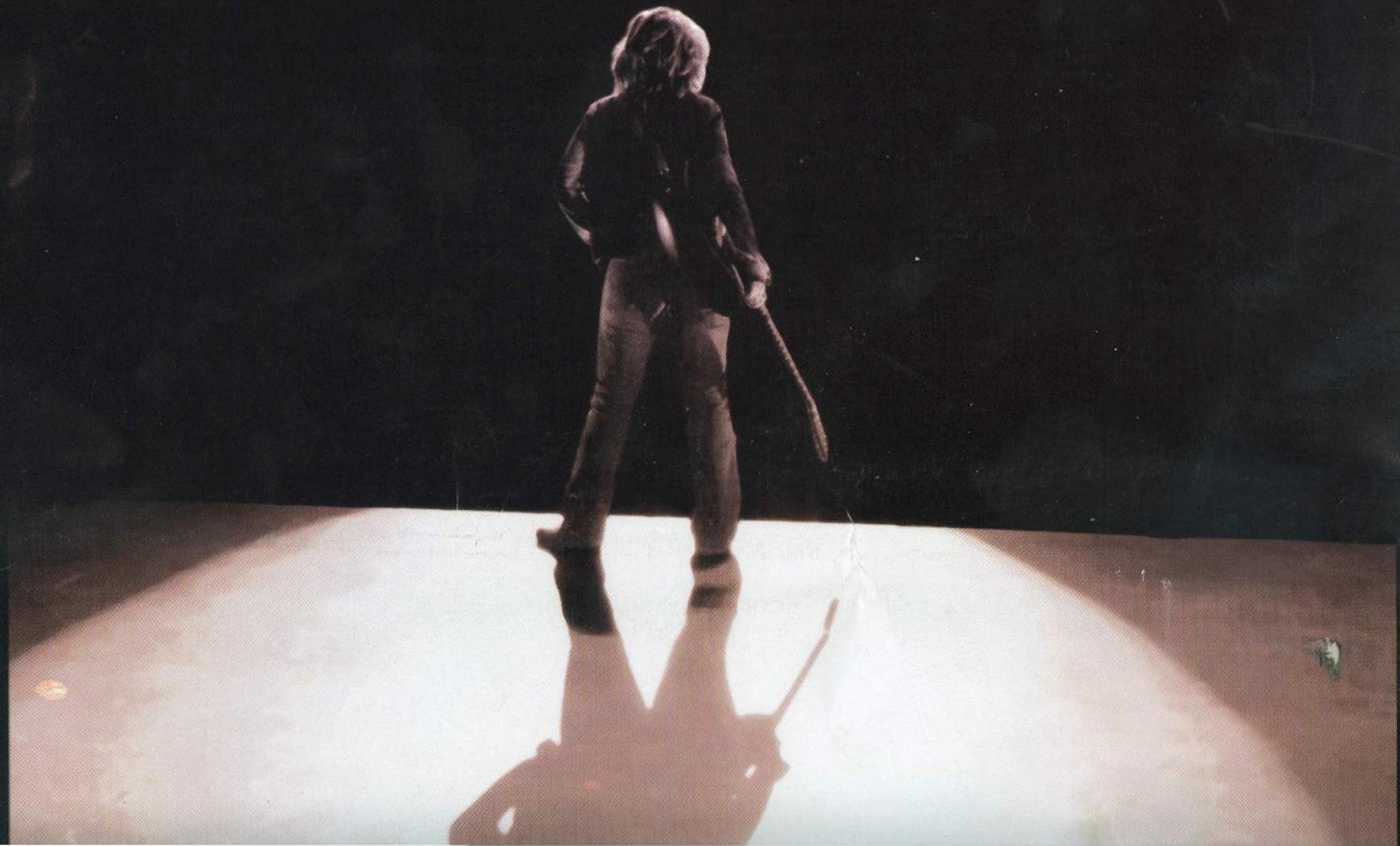
A good example of that intersection was in Houston, where you had the emergence of the Gay Political Caucus and which eventually developed into the election of Kathy Whitmire as City Controller and the unseating of Frank Mann. That was through a series of alliances by people such as Pokey Anderson and many other people who cut across these different communities of differences.

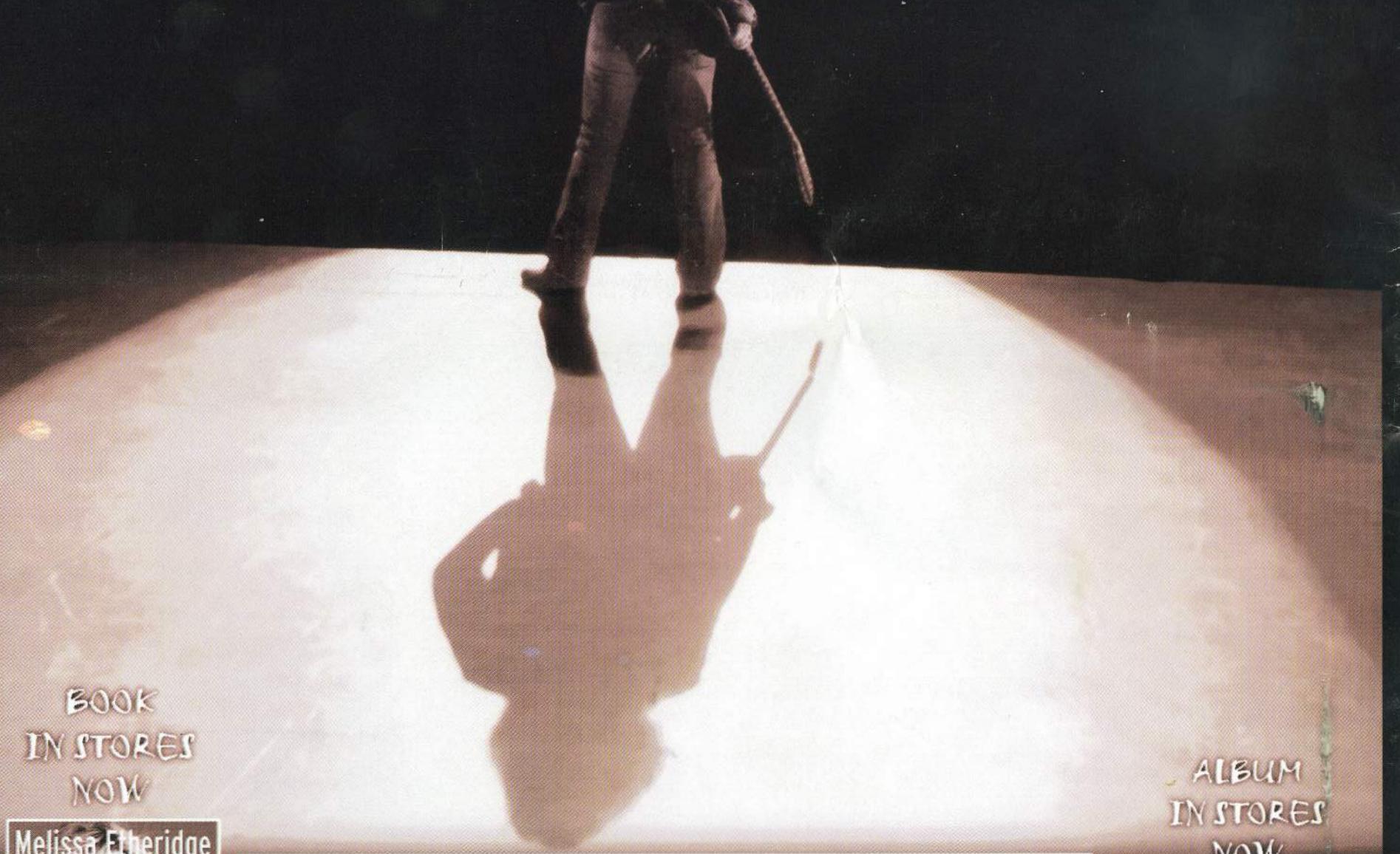
But sometimes when we talk about the gay community, we talk about the gay community in the sense of being monolithic, and also in terms of the gay community should have an agenda. But whose agenda?

I think one of the lessons that I hope people will learn from reading this [book] is that we are a rainbow community, with lots of different backgrounds, and positions and philosophies, and what we need to do in terms of success and effectiveness, is honor those different voices, the voices of the Lesberadas, the voices of the Ducks softball team, all of these different kind of voices, the voices of drag etc. and in the process of doing that we become a stronger community, not a weaker community.

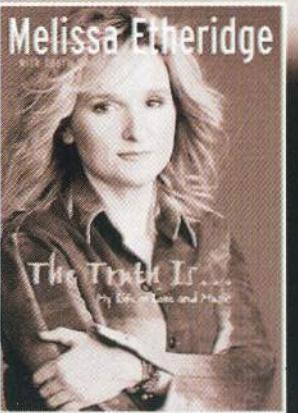
Melissa Etheridge

live...and alone

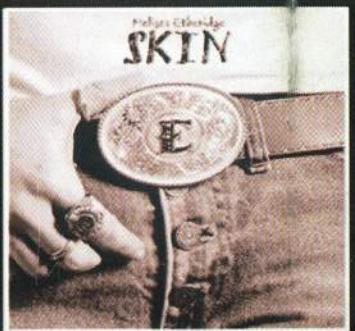




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Convenience charge may apply. Information subject to change.

WWW.MELISSAETHERIDGE.COM

The Emergency Message Center is available on the arena concourse during this event. For emergencies only, call 925-BELL.