Lesbian To Be Executed

Would Be First Woman Killed In Oklahoma

DENVER (AP) - A woman who is scheduled to become the first female executed in the state of Oklahoma has filed an emergency appeal with the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Wanda Jean Allen wants all 10 judges of the court to stop her scheduled Jan. 11 execution, even after a three-judge panel from the court refused to overturn her sentence in January. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider her case and she was denied clemency earlier this month. Allen maintains - as she has throughout her previous appeals - that her prior counsel was deficient. Assistant Attorney General Sandra Howard said his office will oppose Allen's request.

Allen was convicted of the 1988 murder of Gloria Leathers, her lover, outside The Village police station. Allen had earlier been convicted of manslaughter.

Oklahoma's Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist bishops have called on Gov. Frank Keating to establish a moratorium on all executions in the state.

NGLTF Lesbian and Gay Journalism Scholarships

WASHINGTON, DC - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force recently announced a Feb. 15, 2000 deadline to submit applications for the NGLTF Messenger-Anderson Scholarships. The NGLTF Messenger-Anderson Scholarship Program next year will award four $5,000 scholarships to high school seniors or undergraduates in journalism and as degree in journalism at an accredited four-year college or university.

The NGLTF Messenger-Anderson Scholarship was established by Larry Messenger and Jim Anderson in memory of Lawrence and Selina Messenger. "The Messengers believed that there is a pressing need to encourage Gay and lesbian people to become more involved in shaping media coverage," explained NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Tolbus. "Fair coverage of issues important to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community depends on the basic premise that all of us are created equally. But media coverage today often begins with the discriminatory notion that equality for GLBT people is somehow a matter for debate. By encouraging GLBT people to pursue journalism and by assisting them with their studies, the Task Force hopes to improve the way the GLBT communities and movement are covered."

Democrats Concerned About Ashcroft as Attorney General

WASHINGTON (AP) - Several influential Democrats said Sunday that they are distressed by President-elect Bush's cabinet choices to date, mentioning attorney general-designate John Ashcroft as a particular problem because of his opposition to abortion, gun control measures, and anti-Gay positions.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., called Ashcroft's prospects at Senate confirmation for attorney general "hardly a done deal" and said he is "truly worried" that Ashcroft would not enforce federal laws banning violence against abortion clinics or laws that restrict gun ownership. In fact, Schumer commented that Ashcroft's response to repealed parts of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act is "hand in hand with the most troubling choice," Schumer said on ABC's "This Week." "The question is will Senator Ashcroft enforce the law of the land on things that he's morally opposed to."

However, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, appearing on the same program, said he would be surprised if the Senate does not confirm Ashcroft, the outgoing senator from Missouri who has served as state's attorney general and governor. "He is a man of integrity. He has a record of great experience," Hatch said. "I have no doubt, as a former attorney general and hopefully as this attorney general, he will enforce the law, regardless of whether he agrees with it or not."

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., also expressed concerns about Ashcroft, saying that he and other Democrats intend to ask tough questions during his confirmation hearings. Specifically, whether he intends to enforce civil rights laws that protect minorities and statutes protecting equal rights for women. "He has to convince a lot of his colleagues and a lot of the people who are concerned ... that he can do that," Daschle told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Republican Whip Don Nickles of Oklahoma said he doesn't understand why Ashcroft's critics are "taking these unfair cracks at him." "I think some people are... looking for an issue to make a fight," Nickles told NBC. "They want to have a big divisive battle..."

Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual + Transgendered Tulsans, Our Families + Friends

Tulsa Family News Added State Historical Archives

commentary by Tom Neal, editor & publisher

OKLAHOMA CITY/TULSA - You would have thought it was simple to do little "historical research. Just as elementary school, you go down to the Central Library and look up the material. After a friend mentioned some stories in The Gayly Oklahoman that were published before this newspaper existed, I tried to do just that, only to find that our library threw out its Gay publications after six months - so much for minority history!

Having donated seven years of copies of TFN thinking that a portion of Tulsa's LGBT history was being preserved, I was concerned. Suspension of Tulsa's minority history is hardly new. Tulsa's Centennial celebration and book deliberately excluded any mention of the existence of Gay people, and Tulsa covered up some events, like the Race Riots of 1921, for years.

Tulsa County Library System (TCCLS) had reasonable excuses: they don't have space to archive hard copies, they need to have the materials on microfilm, etc. True enough. Large newspapers, like The Tulsa World and The Daily Oklahoman, monopoly dailies with huge profits, of course can and do pay for their own filming. Those film rolls are then purchased by TCCLS. However, small minority publications clearly don't have those sorts of resources.

However, The Oklahoma Eagle is in the TCCLS archives. How so? The Oklahoma Historical Society is committed to preserving more than just Oklahoma's "mainstream" history. As part of Tulsa's response to its minority citizens (give us your tax dollars, keep your mouth shut and just don't get uppity), the Oklahoma Historical Society was delighted to add Tulsa Family News to its collection including microfilming of the TFL and we hope can better reflect minority as well as majority history.

With the interest of preserving as much of Oklahoma's LGBT history as possible, I felt a message for Paula Hand Brown of The Gayly Oklahoman to encourage them to provide their back issues to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

see OHS, p. 10

Soulforce-OK to Host Noted Bible Scholar

Prof. Scott to Address Bible Passages, Soulforce Goes to Rome + MLK Parade

TULSA - Dr. Brandon Scott will give a lecture this Friday, January 26th at 1:15 p.m. at the Bishop Curry Atrium at 11am and ends in the Greenwood district. Marchers are asked to arrive 30 minutes early and look for Soulforce's purple banner to be a part of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade.

Soulforce in Oklahoma is also joining PFLAG, HRC-Oklahoma, and TOHR in the annual Martin Luther King Memorial Parade on Monday, January 15th, 2001. The Parade starts at Cincinnati and Pine at 11am and ends in the Greenwood district. Marchers are encouraged to share a ride if possible. For more information, call the Community Center at 743-4297 between 6-9pm, Monday through Friday.

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### DIRECTORY

**Tulsa Clubs & Restaurants**

- *Chasers*, 4812 E. 33 712-2324
- *CWA's*, 1737 S. Memorial 610-5233
- *Club Cherry Bomb*, 1926 E. Pine 385-2119
- *Como Vortex*, 2153 S. Peoria 833-2276
- *Pollo Grill*, 2038 Utica Square 744-4280
- *St. Michael's Alley Restaurant*, 3324 E. 31st 745-0996
- *The Star*, 1565 Sheridan 834-4323
- *Renegades/Barnes Room*, 1469 S. Main 585-3435
- *TNT's*, 2114 S. Memorial 660-0856
- *Tool Box*, 1338 E. 3rd 884-1308
- *The Yellow Brick Road Pub*, 2630 E. 15th 749-1650

**Tulsa Businesses, Services, & Professionals**

- *Assoc. in Med. & Mental Health*, 2225 S. Harvard 743-1000
- *Barnes & Noble Bookstores*, 8620 E. 71 250-5034
- *Barnes & Noble Bookstores*, 5231 E. 41 665-4880
- *Bower's Books*, 2725 S. Peoria 729-0573
- *Borders Books & Music*, 2740 E. 21 712-9555
- *Borders Books & Music*, 8015 S. Yale 494-2665
- *Brookside Jewelry*, 4649 S. Peoria 743-5272
- *C&D Warehouse*, 3807 S. Peoria 743-1234
- *Cheap Thrills*, 2640 E. 11th 295-5809
- *Cherry St. Psychotherapy*, 1515 S. Lewis 581-0902
- *Community Cleanser*, 1142 N. Edmond 743-1117
- *Deco to Disco*, 3212 E. 15th 749-3620
- *Doghouse on Brookside*, 3311 S. Peoria 744-5556
- *EILE Books & Video*, 4136 S. Sheridan 838-8801
- *Encompass Travel*, 13161 N. Memorial 369-5855
- *Ross Edward Salom*, 584-0337
- *Events Unlimited*, 507 S. Main 592-0460
- *Floral Design Studio*, 3404 S. Peoria 830-3001
- *Four Star Import Automotive*, 9906 E. 55th Pl. 610-0880
- *Gay & Lesbian Affordable Daycare* 808-0026
- *Gloria Jean's Gourmet Coffee*, 1758 E. 21st 838-3718
- *Group Therapy*, 1934 S. Main 341-6866
- *Hacker Animal Clinic*, 2732 E. 15th 712-7250
- *Hare's Antiques*, 1602 E. 15th 744-7440
- *Hawkeye frames*, 1635 E. 15th 746-5553
- *Hendrickson*, 3800 S. Peoria 743-1080
- *Four Star Import Automotive*, 9906 E. 55th Pl. 610-0880
- *Hendrickson*, 3800 S. Peoria 743-1080
- *Iowa*, found that students reported feeling less safe in their schools, even the best teachers and counselors, encouraging and empowering the good health-arts, and justice for all ....

### Letters

**An Open Letter to President-Elect George W. Bush**

Congratulations on being elected to the office of President of the United States of America. Like you, I am a patriotic American and a person of deep faith. But I am also a mother of a Gay son and the Executive Director of PFLAG. (Parenting Gay, Lesbian & Transgendered Youth)

PFLAG is an organization that provides support and understanding for parents and others who have Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgendered youth. We are a national organization that provides parents and others with the tools and resources they need to help their children and their families.

You have an opportunity, too, to reach out and listen to the concerns of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Americans and their parents, families, friends and allies. It is said that one in four families has a family member who is Gay or Lesbian. We are sick and tired of the unarranted discriminations that arise because we have not been able to reach out and treat people with respect.

We know that: Unless our children feel safe, their parents, families, friends and allies. It is said that one in four families.

We hope that you will understand and appreciate these concerns of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Americans. We are more than ever committed to building a world where all people are treated with respect and dignity, both at home and abroad. You have the opportunity to make a difference in our country and do everything we can to ensure that actual justice is achieved for the goals of our parents, families, friends and allies.

We have a great potential, of all Americans. You have a great opportunity to be a leader in this important and justice for all....
THOMPSON, HHS & AN LGBT AGENDA
by Elizabeth Toledo, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

The first time I picked up the Teacher in front of the Reagam Building in Washington, D.C. was in protest of a visit by Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson. He had signed some of the most misogynist legislation in the country, including the most restrictive anti-abortion legislation implemented since the Supreme Court in Roe v Wade recognized abortion as a constitutional right in 1973. He also engineered Wisconsin's onerous welfare law, which kicked off the trend that resulted in punitive measures at the community and read an uncritical analysis of Thompson's nomination as Secretary of Health and Human Services, whom President-designate George W. Bush has nominated to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. Replace Donna Shalala with Tommy Thompson? The dismal reality of the presidential election has begun to sink in. The question arises, what vision and leadership will we in the GLBT movement provide over the course of the next four years? Is it enough to say that Tommy Thompson is not as bad as an appointment as Bush could have made? Is it enough to say that the nomination of Sen. John Ashcroft to be attorney general is somehow mitigated by the nomination of the pro-choice and pro-GLB New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman to be head of the Environmental Protection Agency?

Let's give credit where it is due. As chair of the committee that drafted the Republican Party platform last summer, Thompson did do the effort to remove some— not all of the GOP's anti-GLB language. A measure condemning recognition of same-sex relationships remained in Thompson's platform as it was signed into law; measures were later placed back in the platform after religious right activists wrested the document away from the Wisconsin governor.

Thompson also has been a positive advocate for AIDS funding. He strongly supported the Ryan White Care Act and he sought Medicaid waivers for HIV-positive people, who are not normally eligible for Medicaid until they have developed AIDS symptoms.

That's two marks in favor of Thompson — and in opposing Thompson's nomination as Secretary of Health and Human Services, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force does not trivialize their importance. Our Eighth Year: Tulsa Family News seeks to be fair in our reporting and clear in our editorial writing. Sometimes we have been critical of either which we regret. For example, we wrote in last month's editorial that there are groups involved in Tulsa Metropolitan Community, which we regret. For example, we wrote in last month's editorial that there are groups involved in Tulsa Metropolitan...
Anti-Gay Petition Filed

SALEM, Ore. (AP) - Just weeks after Oregon voters defeated an anti-Gay rights measure, Lon Mabon and his Oregon Citizens Alliance have filed a similar initiative petition for the 2002 ballot. Mabon filed the initiative, dubbed the Student Protection Act II, with the secretary of state's office. If it qualifies for the ballot, it would be the OCA's fourth anti-Gay civil rights ballot measure. Voters rejected measures in 1992 and 1994.

Measure 9 would have prohibited instruction in public schools that "encourages, promotes or sanctions" behaviors defined as homosexual or bisexual. The initiative says sexual orientation should "not be taught in Oregon public schools in a manner that would express approval of, promote or endorse homosexual or bisexual behaviors." Sexual orientation and homosexuality are defined as "yielding, whether in thought or deed, respectively, to urges or temptations to engage in sexual activity with members of the same gender."

In the fall campaign, Measure 9 opponents said the measure risked children's health because it would limit AIDS education in schools and lead to increased teen suicide. The new initiative says the proposed statute should not be construed as limiting: "age-appropriate, objective, and factual" AIDS education, instruction regarding human sexuality, teaching "affirming the human worth of all students," or suicide counseling. The statute also should not control the firing of openly Gay teachers, the proposal says.

Ellen Lowe, who worked on the No on 9 campaign, said the new effort would not persuade voters who rejected the measure to switch sides. "I sense that people really do understand the motives of Lon Mabon. I don't know that they are going to be fooled," Lowe said.

In a fund-raising letter dated Dec. 18, Mabon, the OCA's executive director, told supporters that "we filed right away to keep the homosexual activists in our schools from taking more license with our innocent children," the letter said.

School Charged With Censorship of Gay Bios

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) - Two students sued the Anaheim Union High School District for removing 10 biographies on homosexuals from their school library in what they contend is a violation of constitutional free-speech rights.

The Orangeview Junior High School students said in the U.S. District Court lawsuit that the district censored a book series called "Lives of Notable Gay Men and Lesbians." The books include biographies on tennis player Martina Navratilova, economist John Maynard Keynes, and writers Willa Cather and James Baldwin.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the suit on behalf of the two unidentified students, demanded that the district immediately return the books to the library shelves. "We all know why these books have been banned," ACLU attorney Martha Matthews said. "The books were banned because they had a positive statement to make to kids about Gay and Lesbian people. "The books were banned because of deep-seated prejudice."

Principal Barbara Smith removed the books and took them to the district office in September, the suit said. No reason was given by administrators, Orangeview library teacher Chris Enterline said. "In my heart, I know it's because they are about Gays and Lesbians, and it says so on the front of the book," Enterline said.

Telephone calls to Smith weren't returned.

Federal and state constitutions forbid schools from banning books because officials disapprove of their viewpoints.

Enterline said she ordered the books over the summer because the library lacked biographies and she wanted students to have the chance to learn about Gay and Lesbian role models. "The books are not about sex. They are just about people who have led interesting, productive lives and also happen to be Gay," said Tom Kovac, the school's library technician.

It isn't the first time the district banned books. Two years ago, the district removed the Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Beloved," by Toni Morrison, because of complaints that it was too graphic in its description of a slave who kills her daughter instead of having her live as a slave.

Baltimore Official Slams Gays, Then Gets Arrested

BALTIMORE (AP) - City's housing commissioner was arrested after refusing to open the door of an official's residence to a state police officer, where a bartender complained the commissioner made repeated disparaging remarks about patrons he suspected of being Gay. "You guys are fags," and "This whole place is full of fags," were among the remarks Paul T. Graziano repeatedly made, according to a police report filed by Officer Evert Luudetue.

Graziano, 47, was arrested at Gerber's, a popular bar and restaurant in the historic Fells Point waterfront district, police spokeswoman Regina Averella said. After trying to ignore the remarks, the two patrons, Jason Edward, 29, and Prasad Narasimha Koduvalli, 33, asked the bartender to ask Graziano to leave, the report said.

"Police were called because Mr. Graziano had been asked to leave and refused to do so," Averella said. "Police were called to the scene and he still refused to leave, and he was placed under arrest." The officers advised the suspect repeatedly to leave, and arrested Graziano after he said "I don't have to go anywhere," the report said. Graziano, who was initially charged with disorderly conduct, was released from the city detention center later the morning of his arrest, the police spokeswoman said.

Graziano, a senior adviser and former general manager of the New York City Housing Authority, was appointed in October after former commissioner Bertha Graziano, 47, was arrested after refusing to leave the apartment after being banned; ACLU attorney Martha Matthews filed, on behalf of the two unidentified students, demanded that the district immediately return the books to the library shelves. "We all know why these books have been banned," ACLU attorney Martha Matthews said. "The books were banned because they had a positive statement to make to kids about Gay and Lesbian people. "The books were banned because of deep-seated prejudice."

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Telephone calls to Smith weren't returned.

Connecticut Scouts Try to Explain Anti-Gay Views

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - Connecticut Boy Scout officials have distributed more than 25,000 copies of a pamphlet explaining the national organization's reason for not accepting openly Gay members or adult leaders. "It is a statement of who we are and what our belief system is," said Douglas Kroffin, executive director of the Yankee Council, based in Middletown.

The pamphlet, called "In Support of Values: A Communication Tool for Parents, Leaders and Friends of Scouting," outlines the policy that was narrowly upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"This is a complicated issue, but our critics are jumping up and down saying we discriminate," said Kroffin, whose council serves 25,000 youths in most of New Haven and Fairfield counties.

"The court said we have a First Amendment right to..."
Charlotte Begins Gay Center Fundraisers
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Backers of a proposed community center for Gays in the Charlotte area have begun a campaign to generate financial support for the project. The center would serve the region’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender population with child care, sporting events, support groups and educational seminars.

The center’s soon-to-be-announced board of trustees plans to begin a fund-raising campaign to buy a site. “We are looking for a place that is going to be accessible to most of the community,” said Dan Kirsch, a member of a committee putting together the fund-raising campaign. Kirsch said the center also will welcome memberships from Charlotte’s non-Gay population.

Depending on the success of the fund-raising campaign, supporters expect a center location to be secured in two or three years.

Lone Star Living: Gay Camping Near Waco
WACO, Texas — Located off a bumpy, gravel road, with an inconspicuous sign and a line of trees blocking the scenic lakeside view, it might be said that the Rainbow Ranch has been in the closet for the past five years. The Gay and Lesbian campground, which is just outside Groesbeck, has become one of Central Texas’ best kept secrets, said Neil Johnsen, a guest turned ranch manager. “We are remotely located and not highly publicized, so a lot of people don’t know that we are out here,” Johnsen said.

Even Johnsen and his partner, Kelvin Winn, who manage the campgrounds, stumbled upon the ranch accidentally while taking a two-year trip around the United States. “We came here almost by mishap,” Johnsen said. “I found the Web page while we were in Arizona, and we decided to stop in and see. It was going to be a two-week stop, but we’ve been here for the past nine months.”

The serenity of the location, with campgrounds overlooking Lake Limestone and a small forest teeming with wildlife, helps to draw many regulars to the ranch from major cities through Texas and the entire country. But it’s really privacy and the comfort of being able to spend time out in the open with their partners that keeps couples coming back.

“It’s just the simple things, like holding your partner’s hand as you walk through the woods,” Johnsen said. “It can be scary for folks with a partner of the same sex to be themselves at other campgrounds, so the comfort factor is a real draw here.”

Since beginning their travels at their home in Vancouver, Wash., Johnsen and Winn have experienced the anxiety of staying elsewhere:

“We were staying at a very nice RV park, and I was outside grilling,” Johnsen said. “I said something as basic as, ‘Honey, can you pass me the tongs?’ and you could just feel the looks from the couple in the next RV.”

The husband looks at the wife and says, ‘did you see who he called honey?’ They were uncomfortable and we were uncomfortable. If you eliminate that factor, it makes it a lot easier to have a good time.”

To ensure that such a sense of security is maintained at all times, owner Peggy Thomas does not allow heterosexuals to camp by themselves at the ranch. “I will allow them to camp with Gay campers, but not if they come by themselves,” Thomas said. “I think it’s important to have a place where you can be yourself, where you don’t have to have straight people staring at you. I opened it because I liked camping and I didn’t like being stared at.”

Thomas said she picked out the location near Groesbeck because the land was cheaper than in other areas. Another nice aspect, she said, was a tree line separating most of the grounds from the road outside, affording campers a little more privacy. That barrier makes campers feel more comfortable about being near such a rural town, said Winn, although he says the people of Groesbeck have been nice to them.

Although the camp hasn’t had any trouble with the reactions of other people, the camp’s Web site did experience a setback lately. While trying to locate the camp’s site on several search engines, Johnsen found out that it had been kicked off most of them — an act that requires some kind of complaint lodged against the business.

Because most of the camp’s business is generated by Internet searches, that hurt camp attendance, he said. “We found ourselves by accident that we were dropped from the search engines,” Johnsen said. “But we reregistered with all of them, and in 8 months we have had over 10,000 visits, and business has picked up.”

“It really amazes me, the perceptions that still exist that we are out here doing something strange, but it is really just like a typical campground,” Johnsen said. “Our sexual identity is just a part of us, but this is a place where that is not an issue and we can do the things we enjoy, whether it be fishing or boating or hiking. There’s just really something for everyone here.”

Group Asks Mormons to Change Anti-Gay Policy
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A group of more than 300 Gay and Lesbian Mormons and their family is asking The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to change its stance on homosexuality. The loosely knit group “Mormon Advocates for Further Light and Knowledge” ran an advertisement with a petition in The Salt Lake Tribune late in December.

The document called upon Mormon general authorities to repudiate church statements about homosexuality that are false and misleading. The petition said that would include the church’s position that “same-sex attraction is an undesirable and unnatural emotion, which, when acted upon results in sinful, Satan-inspired behavior.” Church spokesman Dale Bills said it is too early to respond to the petition, but that “President Gordon B. Hinckley has repeatedly expressed the Church’s compassion toward homosexuals.”

The petition’s author, Mac Madsen, said the petition is a last-ditch appeal to church leaders for meaningful dialogue about homosexuality. He said he has pleaded for two years with church leaders to hear them out. The former Weber State University health-lifestyles professor and men’s golf coach said he mailed the petition to church leaders more than a year ago and he received no response.

Madsen originally planned to run the ad during the church’s October General Conference, but lacked funds. No names appear due to space constraints, but Madsen said more than 300 individuals from 12 countries and most states backed it. Madsen initially hesitated to have his name printed, hoping to protect his daughter, who is a Lesbian. But, he said, “there is nothing in the petition that I’m ashamed of or that’s inaccurate.”
Gay, Black And Positive in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) - Harsh is a word that in hand might fear for their lives. One whois openly Gay and HIV-positive, could wither away unnoticed, another statistic - and two men walking hand in hand might fear for their lives.

It's the sort of place where Derrick Hicks, who is a growing number of black church leaders who are preaching about AIDS from their pulpits and publically getting tested for HIV.

Two men had forged a friendship, a bond quietly. Even as he struggles to lift his hand in the early to mid-1990s. Even now, as he struggles to lift his hand in the early to mid-1990s.

Some of Oldham's own colleagues were stunned, but not Hicks. By that time, the number of deaths in New York alone and often directs the West Side neighborhoods, who are preaching about AIDS from their pulpits and publicly getting tested for HIV.

Some of Oldham's own colleagues were stunned, but not Hicks. By that time, the number of deaths in New York alone and often directs the West Side neighborhoods, who are preaching about AIDS from their pulpits and publicly getting tested for HIV.

Oldham has had challenges of his own - namely trying to unite non-profits that, before his arrival, were warring over limited funding while dealing with a growing number of HIV-positive people who were surviving, but still in dire need of services.

Gay vs. straight, black vs. white vs. Hispanic, rich vs. poor - the divisions were deep in a city where the coalitions hadn't been the most vocal advocates for the U.S. population hardest-hit by the AIDS epidemic: poor Blacks.

So when Frank Oldham Jr. - a black AIDS administrator who's run programs in New York and the District of Columbia - came to town two years ago, it surprised - and withering whom is openly Gay and HIV-positive, could wither away unnoticed, another statistic - and two men walking hand in hand might fear for their lives.

"Hi, my name is Derrick Hicks," he said, shaking Oldham's hand. "And I'm going to be your worst nightmare." Quietly, however, Hicks was hopeful. He already knew that he and Oldham had some things in common. Oldham, too, was a Black, Gay man in a city where the combination of those labels can make for a heavy load.

In June, Oldham made another public revelation. "I... too, am a face of AIDS," he said, shaking Oldham's hand. "And I'm going to be your worst nightmare." Quietly, however, Hicks was hopeful. He already knew that he and Oldham had some things in common. Oldham, too, was a Black, Gay man in a city where the combination of those labels can make for a heavy load.

Oldham has about $20 million in funding to dole out to AIDS agencies that he says could easily put ten times that much to good use. Still, though it hasn't always been easy for this admittedly private man to share his story, Oldham is well-versed in adversity.

A rising star in the administrative circles of former New York mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins, Oldham took a leave in 1994 to run the District of Columbia's AIDS programs, shortly after Rudy Giuliani became New York's mayor. Frustrated with the slow pace of progress in Washington, Oldham moved back to New York after just six months, in part, to care for his elderly parents who were slipping into senility and sometimes forgetting the very face of their only child.

In the months that followed, he began what he called a "downward spiral." He also decided to get tested for HIV - to finally confirm what he'd already suspected. "You feel like you just want to walk down a road and just keep going until the road runs out and you fall off the cliff," Oldham says of that period in his life.

It was hardly the life he had envisioned in the early 1980s. It was a jazz singer who took acting classes on the side and dreamed of making CDs. But when nearly 20 of his friends - including the best friend who was also his composer - began dying of a mysterious, ruthless killer called AIDS,
Lesbians and Gay men face many special tax situations whether single or as couples. Electronic filing is available for faster refunds.

Tulsa's Two-Spirited Indian Men's Support Group is here for you!
- Evening support group meetings
- Relationship workshops
- Short trips, outings and retreats
- Free HIV testing

For information call Tulsa Native American AIDS Prevention Project
918.588.1900, x4275 or x4276

Are You Gay or Bisexual?
Are You Native American?

more pressing matters took over.
Nearby two decades later, Oldham saw Chicago in a dangerous fight for survival.
To do it, he quickly enlisted help from everyone from political types and activists like Hicks to South Side pastors and anyone who knew the city's Gay club scene. The CDC's Barnes calls the relationship that Oldham has built between grassroots AIDS organizers and his agency, the Chicago Department of Public Health, "a national example."

Others agree. "Frank has brought us on some sense of civility and diversity and common purpose," says Greg Harris, chief of staff for Chicago Alderman Mary Anne Smith, whose ward includes Chicago's largest Gay neighborhood. That neighborhood is filled with trendy shops and restaurants on a main drag lined with rainbow columns that mark it as Chicago's "official" Gay neighborhood.

It is a stark contrast to Hicks' side of town, where his own agency tries hard to blend in. There are no rainbow flags and the word "Gay" is hardly uttered. "To lay with another man is a sin, a lot of people would like to say that just doesn't happen." Hicks says, describing what he calls the general attitude in the black community. "It's not talked about."

So even his organization, which serves Gay, Bisexual and Black clients, has a nondescript name: the Greater Chicago Community. And when they come to his agency's food pantry or clothing bank, he asks them whether they are "sexually active" and encourages them to get tested.

"You have to meet them where they are," Oldham agrees. "If you're African American, you're fighting racism; if you're African American, you're probably fighting poverty. So now in your own community, you're going to fight homophobia?" Oldham says. "You have to be an awful strong individual with a lot of support to come up and say, 'I'm in African America and I'm very proud to be Gay, very proud to be Lesbian and this is my partner...""

There are days when taking the lead on all of those fronts takes its toll on Oldham. But even when pressed, he talks more about the health of those around him than his own. Still, Hicks says he hears the fatigue in his friend's voice, especially when they chat on the phone late at night. "We lie to each other ... but we're both starting to feel our age and our illness," says Hicks, who declines to give his own age but predicts his own death in the next five years. But not before he gets more work done. "I have amnesia," Hicks says. "And it's not my time - yet."

Teens: Oral Isn't Sex

MESA, Ariz. (AP) - Arizona health experts are concerned about reports of a national study showing that adolescents believe sexually transmitted diseases can only be contracted through sexual intercourse and not other types of physical contact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study shows that 15% to 20% of young men and women will become infected with herpes by the time they reach adulthood.

Doug Hauth, public information officer for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, said that this year alone more than 1,700 get herpes between the ages of 13 and 18 have been diagnosed with chlamydia in Maricopa County, "and the numbers don't include everybody," Hauth said.

Judy Harvey, research director at the Scottsdale Prevention Institute, said she believes there is no disparity between the national survey and local teens. "Unfortunately, there's a myth out there that if you have oral intercourse, you're not going to get disease," Crider said. "Unfortunately internalized one of the arguments used by President Clinton when he defended his affair with intern Monica Lewinsky by proclaiming that oral sex is not sex. The huge push in AIDS awareness education, meanwhile, leads kids to believe they can only get the disease from traditional intercourse, she said.

Diaphragms May Reduce STD Risk

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) - A University of Oregon researcher plans to study whether women are willing to use a diaphragm not just to prevent pregnancy but also to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases. The National Institutes of Health has awarded a $1 million grant to the three-year project, which will interview current and former diaphragm users and try to get young women at risk of contracting STDs to use the device.

It is estimated that today just 2% of contraceptive users rely on the small, disc-shaped cap that a woman fits over her cervix, creating a physical barrier to pregnancy. Although diaphragms are just as effective as condoms in preventing pregnancy, they are also known to prevent some STDs, such as gonorrhea and chlamydia, although it's not known if they guard against HIV, the virus that can lead to AIDS. Currently, research is underway on new methods for preventing the spread of STDs, such as microbicides.

But Marie Harvey, researcher at the University of Oregon's Center for the Study of Women in Society, said diaphragms could hold a niche for women at risk of getting STDs until new methods are proven.

Harvey is conducting the study along with co-researcher Sherri Bird. "If the diaphragm protects against (some) STDs and pregnancy, and might offer protection against HIV, it could be a wonderful option for women," Harvey said.

Harvey got the idea of studying the effectiveness of diaphragms because of another study she's doing that shows high-risk couples how to protect themselves during sex, primarily through the use of a condom. It's clear the condom protects against STDs, but its use is controlled by the male and some men won't use them, she said. The benefits of the diaphragm is that it can be inserted up to two hours before sex, is not visible and the man doesn't have to know the woman is using it, Harvey said.

Harvey believes the diaphragm is a valuable tool for women. "If women can't get a man to use a condom, the diaphragm is a good option, period," she said, "even if we don't find out it protects against HIV."
Happy New Year! Hard to believe it’s 2001. I hope the new year brings your hopes and dreams to fruition.

Great news! Bernadette Peters returns to Tulsa Jan 5th and 6th for an evening of showstoppers and triumphant. She’s one of the few people I’ve seen perform live that can wrap an entire audience around her finger with seemingly effortless ease. She performs with the Phil, and if you want to see a true star, then don’t miss her live!

For tickets, call 596-7111.

I really think that everyone should see her show, especially just to see if she performs “Making Love Alone” again. (I heard the song on her “Sondheim, etc.: Live at Carnegie Hall” CD, a recording of a benefit she did for Gay Men’s Health Crisis. And yes, it is about what you might think, and she wasn’t going to perform it last time she was here due to the rep Tulsa has of being, well, prudish. Can’t imagine why what with the preying hands and all)

Happily, Robert Reed, then artistic director of the Phil talked her into it, and the audience loved it. I was able to thank her for including it after the show. She’s a lovely woman, and so tiny! You’d never think so to see her onstage, since she projects such larger-than-life persona. And never underestimate the power of big hair! Again, this will be the don’t miss performance of the Phil’s season. So don’t miss it!

I am pleased to announce the new CD “Love Decides”, Jane Olivor’s new recording is one of the most rewarding lists I’ve had in a long time. For those who haven’t heard her name, she was a cabaret diva and recording artist of the 70’s and 80’s. No one can beat her when it comes to wringing every bit of emotion out of a lyric. Her phrasing is impeccable, and her voice is angelic. She made four successful recordings from 1976 to 1982, which are all in print. She was rumored to have died of cancer at one point, since she never recorded any CDs after 1982’s “Jane Olivor in Concert”. (The other albums are “Jane Olivor - First Night” 1976; “Jane Olivor - Chasing Rainbows” 1977; “Jane Olivor - Stay the Night” 1978; and “Jane Olivor - Best Side of Goodbye” 1980. All are well worth a listen. Her version of “Vincent” and “Some Enchanted Evening” are the definitive recordings of both songs.)

Well, I later found she never had died. (Good thing, or else the new CD would definitely be a stink. OK, so you expected me to les that opportunity pass by?)十年后 she retired from recording due to being gyped by the record company she had recorded the albums for. Left with a bitter taste in her mouth from the experience, she performed live at small venues. To my surprise, she was practically in my backyard - I was living in Fort Worth when I read she was to perform at an AIDS benefit in Dallas, and was living and performing in Houston.

Unfortunately, the price of the benefit was beyond my reach at the time, or I would have been there for a few more performances, mainly at Poor David’s Pub in Dallas, but usually I learned of the performance after the fact. And since it is the Philadelphia tradition, in this column, I will wish it had been there for that! Again, this will be the don’t miss event of the Phil’s season. So don’t miss it!

I really wish I’d been there for that! And never underestimate the power of big hair! Again, this will be the don’t miss event of the Phil’s season. So don’t miss it!

Please...I mean...she performed a Stevie Nicks song from the 1981 Sire album Bella Donna - “The Highwayman.” I really wish I’d been there for that! I really wish I’d been there for that!

In a concern that differs entirely, Bernadette Peters will dazzle you with her distinctive stylings and singing magic. Penn. John Tin - deletable forgeries for uneasy and sweet audiences of Rodenbush’s most magical gift.

Pops

Some pleasures you simply can’t deny yourself.

B’nai Emunah

Featuring Ellen Kushner

Host of Public Radio’s Sound & Spirit as heard on KWGS 89.5

Saturday, Jan. 27th, 7:30 pm, Tickets $5
1719 So. Owasso Avenue, Info: 583-7699
Raging Lesbian: Wake Me Up in 2005

By Karin Gregory

Oh... My... God! I think I should revise Malice in Wonderland's lyrics slightly to read: "Wake me up when we hit 2005!" For the new millennium (we all know it begins THIS year) I made a wish list that includes crossing the Religious Right puppet masters out of the picture. After all, I'm sure veteran residents in this tiny state are still touting the season's first snow. Being a child of the sixties, I still have a hope dance that our country will:

1. Adopt Vermont's generosity. The least the other states can do is feel for it by taking some of the weight off the legislature's shoulders. After all, I'm sure veteran residents in this tiny state are still touting the season's first snow. Being a child of the sixties, I still have a hope dance that our country will:

2. Put education at the top of the list. Or maybe I should say, the list. The Religious Right should be able to announce that the campaign for the past two centuries has been a given for 'Dr. Who?'—then the campaign succeeds!

3. Become a true democracy. Yes, I just put my butt on the line here. I know this is a utopian ideal. Homosexuals have never been anyone's favorite, but we were always pushed to the back of the stage by the Native Americans, the Irish, the Jewish, African Americans, Hispanics, Japanese-Americans, etc. Now we're in the limelight because religious prejudice has (finally) become socially unacceptable. And who's left standing in line to be hated? Rather than certain government officials complaining that we want "special rights," my hope is for them to take a look back over the past two centuries to see that all anyone has ever wanted are EQUAL rights!

4. See a united Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered community. I know I'm a stickler for this, but I'm just plain sick of getting off the fence (and the inevitable jokes about that!). I don't know how my friends feel about Transgendered people, but I do know the topic never comes up. Maybe we're so critical of the other because we're all trying so desperately to live normal lives when the rest of society views us as abnormal. In other words, to present a campaign for equal rights, we need to show the rest of America that we consider each other... as equals....

5. Above all, respect us as valuable, irreplaceable, and EQUAL human beings. Hell, in Texas I'd sometimes just wish we were considered HUMAN! But we can't settle. With TV exposure of Gays and Lesbians at its highest (thank you NBC and Showtime!), you'd think we'd have it made. And that's good for us. Maybe one day soon we'll be stared at just because someone else wants the relationship we have, and for no other reason. Hey, I told you I was optimistic. My evil twin will return next month. Happy New Year!


dAmuse

from p. 8

draw a warm bath, put this CD on, and invite someone over. Or, make love alone. With Jane singing, you can't lose either way.

As for events around here, Theater Club presents "The Vagina Monologues" (God they can talk, too!) Jan 11-27. Call 857-1954 for ticket and location. Heller Theatre presents Steve Martin's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," the story of a fictional meeting between Picasso and Einstein. 746-5056.
"Christ-Like" by Emanuel Xavier
reviewed by Barry Henley
Tulsa City-County Library
Where does one start when reviewing a violent and disturbing novel about brutal, shrewdness allow him to get around carefully crafted sets of rules and, at the same time, no rules at all?
These are characters from ferocious families who understand nothing but deceit, confusion and drug induced brutality. The easiest thing to say is that Christ-Like is simply a Dennis Cooper novel set among Gay, Latino gangs in New York City.
Our protagonist, Mikey, born into an incredibly dysfunctional family in a distressed neighborhood, where Mikey's role model is a neighbor, yelling up from the street, "Come on Mikey! I don't wanna come up the stairs! Just throw the baby out the window! I'll catch it! I swear!"
Not all families are like this and, despite his friend, and a heartless relative, teenaged Mikey's mother soon has an abusive boy.
As he grows up in this chaotic environment, Mikey, of course, has no idea why the reader would care about this arrogant, misguided and contemptible youth, but I couldn't put this book down...

"...These are characters from ferocious families who understand nothing but deceit, confusion and drug induced brutality. It's hard to understand why the reader would care about this arrogant, misguided and contemptible youth, but I couldn't put this book down...

The Tulsa Philharmonic presents a matinee performance of "Peter and The Wolf" with the Magic Circle Mime Company on the 14th. 747-7445.
For the artsy-craftsy-crowd, Mayfest is seeking artists and artistes to display their wares and works at the 2001 Mayfest. Jan 12 is the deadline to apply for space. Musical types have to apply the 5th.

John Ragan
Call 665-3401

John Ragan, the friendly, caring real estate agent who understands your special needs!
Body Piercing
by Nicole
2727 East 15th
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Tulsa's only professional body-piercing

College Hill Presbyterian Church
In response to God’s Love,
College Hill Presbyterian Church
is a community of God’s people
called to tell others the Gospel of Jesus Christ
through worship, service, and evangelism.
Our congregation welcomes all
people who respond in trust and obedience to God’s grace
in Jesus Christ, and desire to become
entire membership and ministry
of Christ’s church.
Membership is open to all
people regardless of race, ethnic origin,
worldly condition, marital status, or
sexual orientation.

Sunday Worship 11am
712 S. Columbia Ave., 592-5800
(One block west of Delaware and
the University of Tulsa Campus)

NGTF
from p. 3
How will his support for privatization of
our public schools impact the employment
rights of GLBT teachers at private schools?
Or the right of GLBT kids not to get
harassed and kicked out of those schools?
On the issue of abortion, what will it mean
to have our top health and human
services officer reject the fundamental right
to privacy? If he has the right to interfere
in a decision to control our reproductive
development, what else can - and will - he do
to control our bodies?

Believe the GLBT community ought
to concern Task Force works to eliminate
prejudice, violence and injustice against
many for many reasons. After all, a significant
portion of our community grapples with
these issues in their personal lives. And
there are homophobic policies and practices
in the institutions that control these
services.

But even for those GLBT activists who
reject a more inclusive agenda, there ought
to at least be a mention of Thompson’s
record on these social issues. Does anyone
really believe that a politician who treats
women and poor people with such
disregard will hold our community in esteem?
A movement must have a set of values
otherwise we are just a disconnected group
of people who are outside the norms of
heterosexuality. I urge us to embrace a set
of values that represents the struggles of
every segment of our community. Let’s
thank Tommy Thompson appropriately
for his few gestures of support. But let’s
reserve “praise” for a nominee who has earned it.
Founded in 1973, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force works to eliminate
prejudice, violence and injustice against
gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered
people at the local, state and national level.

PFLAG
from p. 2
* The majority of young people who
harass, bully and assault our youth be-
cause of their sexual orientation or gender
expression do not fit the stereotype of
hate-filled extremists, but are average
young people who often see nothing wrong
with their behavior.
* Anti-Gay harassment - as well as ha-
rassment based on religion, race, ethnic
origin, or any other prejudice - destabi-
lizes the learning environment for all stu-
dents. No child can learn well when they
are scared. No child should be afraid that
they will be harassed because of who they are.
We need to do a much better job of
educating our schools and
in ending the toxic atmosphere that exists
in all too many of our schools today. We
need your leadership at the federal level to
send the message that anti-Gay harass-
ment is wrong.

We particularly ask you to keep us in
mind as you appoint a Secretary of Educa-
tion. We will be watching - and hoping -
to see that if that is someone who is dedicated to
an excellent and safe education for all our
children.
There is so much to be done. We need to
teach our students that we will reach our
full potential individually and collectively
only when we learn to appreciate our di-
versity. We need to do a better job of
educating our youth our country’s proud
history of welcoming people of different
religions, racial and ethnic origins, gen-
ders and opinions. It hasn’t been easy and
we don’t always do it well, but welcoming
diversity is the heart of what has made
our nation great. This is what can unite us
now and in the future. We now need a
national effort to realize that our lives can
be enriched as individuals; as families, as
communities, and as a nation if we embrac-
embrace, rather than fear, our Gay, Lesbian,
Bisexual and Transgendered brothers and
sisters.

Gays have an awesome opportunity and
responsibility ahead of you. We want to
work by your side to make our schools and
our country healthier. We call on you to
scale back accommodations made to
women and Gays in the service, Newsweek
reported, quoting an unnamed source.

While Ashcroft’s nomination brought
some criticism, Bush seemed less willing
to join an ideological fight over whether
Gays may serve in the military. Former
Indiana Sen. Dan Coats, a candidate for
secretary of defense, lost out on the job
when he reportedly told Bush he wanted to
scale back accommodations made to
women and Gays in the service, Newsweek
reported, quoting an unnamed source.

The bigger question, Democrats said, is
whether Bush can work with a Senate that
is split evenly between Democrats and
Republicans. “He’s going to have to show
whether Bush can work with a Senate that
is split evenly between Democrats and
Republicans. “He’s going to have to show
whether Bush can work with a Senate that
is split evenly between Democrats and
Republicans. “He’s going to have to show
"I think they’re picking on the wrong
person with John Ashcroft.”
Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, told CBS’
“Face the Nation” he believes Ashcroft
will eventually be confirmed, but not be-
fore he is thoroughly questioned by skep-
tical Democratic senators. Likewise, Sen.
Harry Reid, D-Nev., told “Fox News Sun-
day” he knows of no reason why Ashcroft
should be rejected outright.

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Wild Hearts Ball

Saturday, February 17th, 8pm-Midnight
The Brady Mansion, 620 North Denver

DJ, Hors d’oeuvres, Party Pics, Cash Bar,
Live Entertainment, Dress Mild to Wild
Door prizes for Best Dressed

Tickets: $15 advance or $20 at the door
Available at:
The Tulsa GLBT Community Center
2114 South Memorial Drive, 918-743-4297
and select vendors listed on the website.
Proceeds benefit The Pyramid Project
“Building a Home – Funding the Future,
for the Tulsa GLBT Community Center.”

Made Possible by Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights (TOHR), www.PyramidProject.org