

COMMUNITY

NEWS

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The Real Debbie Starnes

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Issue 2

Tommy Morrison Tests Positive for HIV

I am sure that you have heard the news, probably more times than you wanted, that the professional boxer, Tommy Morrison, tested positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). This not only sent out a message to all people, but especially to the white heterosexual male and female community, that this virus does not discriminate and that drastic measures are going to have to be taken.

This news has brought about many changes but, one of the biggest changes has been in Tommy Morrison's attitude. Noted for being a promiscuous and high tempered individual, Tommy spoke out for living a life with high moral character, looking at sex as more than just a recreational activity, but a means to communicate the depth of our love for our significant other in a monogamous relationship. If everyone followed this simple practice, how many people would be HIV positive today?

This announcement, along with Tulsa City County closing down their testing

clinic, has sent a typhoon through our testing clinic. We are now the only anonymous testing clinic in eastern Oklahoma.

Previously, our average amount of clients per month was 70 people. Last month we tested over 170 people and this month we have already tested 170 and we have no doubts that our count will reach more than 200 for the month. That is triple our usual amount of clients.

In the next few months we hope to see the testing clinic grow like never before. Not only have we gained substantial amounts of local publicity through local television and radio stations, but Claudette Peterson made an appearance on *Inside Edition*, a national television show. This publicity in conjunction with being Tulsa's primary HIV test site, will be sure to bring wave after wave of people requesting HIV tests into our clinic.

Special thanks to Claudette Peterson, our faithful testing clinic director, for all of her hard work and extensive hours she has devoted.

Two Area Police Officers Speak to TOHR About Domestic Violence

If you did not have the privilege to be at last months meeting, you missed out on a great presentation. Two police officers gave a presentation about domestic violence.

These police officers weren't from New York or San Francisco but from Oklahoma; two people who have more than twenty years combined experience in domestic violence issues in the Tulsa area.

These police officers brought about an awareness that not just straight people are offenders and victims of domestic violence. Gay or straight, 50 percent of women will be victims of domestic violence. Women are also nine times higher at risk in their own home than out on the street. While it is only estimated that 30 percent of GLBT couples have domestic violence issues, it is thought to be much higher. This is primarily due to the occurrences of homophobia in the police department.

St. Patrick's Day Dance

After we had set the date for the St. Patrick's Day dance, we found out about Gaylapalooza '96.



This event is a national tour of famous comedians, direct from Las Vegas. They will be performing at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center on March 16 at 8:00 p.m. We hate to cancel the Patty's Day dance but, for an occasion such as this, we thought we might make a change or two. Actually one big change. We will be canceling the St. Patrick's Day dance.

This has worked out for the better. Now we will be able to plan an event twice as big and ten times as festive. I have even heard rumors of a southern cotillion or a community wide prom. Look for this exciting event sometime soon.

Join the rest of us at the PAC to yuck it up and have a good time with Gaylapalooza '96.

Community Insights

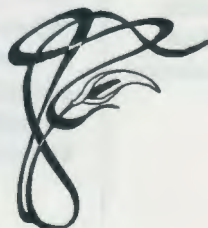
This section of the newsletter is devoted to the organizations that make up our highly diversified community, and the special events that happen and sometimes go unnoticed. Just a few of these organizations include:

- ▶ TOHR Testing Clinic;
- ▶ HIVRC;
- ▶ AGAPE' Christian Fellowship:
Agape' Christian Fellowship presents Marsha Stevens in her "Come to the Water Tour". This event will be held on March 6, 1996 at the All Souls Unitarian Auditorium at 2952 South Peoria. Performance time is 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Agape' Christian Fellowship at 599-7688. Agape' Christian Fellowships' services are held every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday evening at 7:00 at 6540-HE. 21st. Agape' also has a Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ TU GLBA;
- ▶ Bless The Lord At All Times Christian Center;
- ▶ Canterbury Ministry Center;
- ▶ Indian Health Care;
- ▶ Rainbow Business Guild;
- ▶ Prime Timers;
- ▶ Rainbow Village;
- ▶ Community of Hope;
- ▶ Dignity/Integrity;
- ▶ Free Spirit Lesbian Center;
- ▶ Friend for a Friend;
- ▶ Friends in Unity;
- ▶ St. Jerome Ecumenical Catholic Church:
The following is a list of events that will be held at St. Jerome
 - Saturday, March 2, 1996 - Scriptural Rosary, 5:30 PM
 - Saturday, March 16, 1996 - Stations of the Cross, 6:00 PM
 - Saturday, March 23, 1996 - Visit from the Primate and Archbishop of the Ecumenical Catholic Church and the Ordination of Debbie Starnes to the permanent diaconate, 6:00 PM
 - Saturday, March 30, 1996 - (Palm Sunday Service), 6:00 PM Holy Week Services
 - Thursday, April 4, 1996 - Maunday Thursday Service, 6:00 PM
 - Friday, April 5, 1996 - Good Friday Service, 6:00 PM
 - Saturday, April 6, 1996 - Easter Vigil, 6:00 PM
 - Sunday, April 7, 1996 - Easter Sunday Service, 8:30 AM
- ▶ Tool Box Technicians;
- ▶ T.U.L.S.A.;
- ▶ TYDD;
- ▶ Family of Faith MCC;
- ▶ MCC of Greater Tulsa;
- ▶ The Gayly Oklahoman; and
- ▶ Tulsa Family News.

This column will greatly expand as the relationships between TOHR Community News and the individual organizations grow. If you have not been contacted by the Community News editor and would like to have highlights of your organization published in TOHR Community News please write to:

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TOHR Community News
P.O. Box 52729
Tulsa, OK 74152.



New Building Update

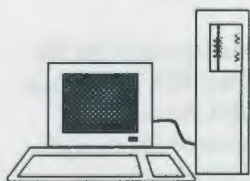
As far as our new building goes, there have not been any major changes. The bargaining still continues and we still keep fighting for it.

We plan to reiterate our first offer which is what was derived from our emergency membership meeting in December. We hope to have more information for you next month.

TOHR Receives Computers from Black & White

TOHR just received two computers from Black & White. No, they aren't the ancient 386 models. We actually have two 100 MHz computers both with 850 MB of memory and 8 MB RAM. For all of you who aren't into the computer lingo, that means two damn good computers.

Thank you Black & White for bringing TOHR into the 20th century.



The 1996 Gay Pride Picnic

Just a few months away!

We have great news regarding our 1996 Gay Pride Picnic. Tom Neal has began work in trying to obtain sponsorship from American Airlines in the picnic. Needless to say, if we had American Airlines as a sponsor, it would be a substantial benefit to us.

Two of the speakers we are looking at bringing to Tulsa are comedian Susan Westenhoefer and congressman Barney Frank. If you haven't heard of both of these people you have either been living under a rock or have lived and extremely sheltered life.

We are changing the location of the picnic this year. The proposed location is extremely pleasing to the eye and we might not have to battle with the legion of portapotties that usually accompany this grand event.



The picnic is going to be held on June 15th. Make sure to be there. This will truly be a different picnic. We look forward to seeing you there.

Saks Fifth Avenue to Display AIDS Quilt

Saks Fifth Avenue in Tulsa will be displaying sections of the NAMES PROJECT AIDS Memorial Quilt from February 21 to March 1.

This is the first time a corporation such as Saks has presented anything of this nature in Tulsa. Please come out and show your support for the fight against AIDS and for GLBT persons in Tulsa.

Community Letters

Gays and Politics

Using gays as the scapegoat for the demise of the family is reprehensible nonsense. Unfortunately, in order to get in good with Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, Republican presidential candidates are all too willing to go along with the lie that gay people are somehow a threat to the family. Wholesale divorce among heterosexuals does the real damage. With a 50 percent divorce rate, adultery, abused women, financial conditions that require both parents to work and leave children home alone, abandoned and abused children and so forth, it doesn't take much effort to see that heterosexuals have succeeded quite well in crippling the family without any help from gays and lesbians.

J.J. Stogsdill

Vicious Pink Closes

For the club goers that visit Concessions, I am sure you will notice that Vicious Pink has closed it's doors.

Have no fear for one of the owners of Concessions will be opening a small gift shop to replace Vicious Pink. You will still be able to purchase all of your GLBT paraphernalia at this shop.

Walk for Life Kick-Off

A Blues Festival will kick off this year's series of event for the fourth annual Walk for Life Campaign. Mark Snider, renowned Tulsa musician, has organized an outstanding evening of the "Blues" to be held at the Sunset Grill, 3410 South Peoria, Tulsa, on March 12, 1996.

Local Blues musicians have volunteered their time and talents for an entire evening of powerful music. Acoustical guitars will start the festival and a jam session will end the evening's slate. Tulsa businesses have donated various items for raffles to be held throughout the night. These include, among others, the Blue Rose Cafe in Brookside, Doubletree Hotel at Warren Place and the Celebrity Club in mid-town Tulsa.

Budweiser beer will join with Sunset Grill and K-MOD Radio as a host of the evening's entertainment. In addition to the contributors for the raffle items, Paine Webber

and Roche Laboratories will serve as Patron sponsors.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5 which will include admission and two raffle tickets. Otherwise, tickets can be obtained in advance by calling 749-4194 and asking for John McCarthy or Beverly Stanley.

The Walk Committee, chaired by John McCarthy and Beverly Stanley, has organized a series of events to bring people together to prove support for agencies that give assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS throughout Green Country. The Committee is hosting a non-juried art show featuring prominent Tulsa artists in June, a jazz festival in mid-summer and will culminate in the fourth annual Walk for Life at Riverside Parks October 12, 1996.

Over the past years, the Walk has raised thousands of dollars which has provided direct financial assistance to agencies. In 1995 funds were given to Ahalya, HIV Resource Consortium, Hospice of Green Country, Indian Health Resource Center, Interfaith AIDS Ministries, Metropolitan Tulsa Substance Abuse Services, Multicultural AIDS Coalition, Rainbow Village, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, Saint Joseph Residence of Catholic Charities, TOHR Testing Clinic and Visiting Nurses Association.

Community Bio-Sketch

Our President, Debbie Starnes Discloses All

As an addendum to our monthly newsletter, we are going to be including biographical information, the good and the bad, about leaders in our community. From board members to religious leaders, you will get to know your leaders in an in-depth sort of way.

First off, I would like to thank Miriam for suggesting this column. At first I was leery, I didn't know if I could pull off being funny, inspirational and serious at the same time. After reading Debbie Starnes biographical information, I found out that I didn't have to do anything. The personality of the "lucky" person does it all.

Debbie's full name is Debra Sue Starnes, 38. Debbie's partner is Midge Elliott, 41. Debbie and Midge like to watch movies, attend roller hockey games, shop, go out to eat, take week-end vacations and collect different varieties of glass.

Being the outgoing person that she is, she doesn't embarrass easily. Although, if you asked her about the mischievous things she has done, she could give you a list longer than Santa's.

Debbie has accomplished many things in her life. Some of the things she is most proud of are starting her own business, helping non-profit organizations provide needed money by raising money, and

being a true motivator who can bring people together toward a common goal.

The main thing Debbie wants to bring to TOHR is organization. She wants to help develop a true professional organization dedicated to building pride in our community, fulfilling needs and providing environments in which we can be ourselves.

After asking her what she wants to gain from TOHR she replied, "A feeling that I, with others, helped make this community a better place for us to live and a more accepting community for those who come after us".

If Debbie could just accomplish one thing this year (she has already accomplished many) she would like to "bring the entire community together in a manner that empowers us as diversified yet equal human beings with a common thread". As her lifelong goal she strives to "love others as Christ love us - without conditional attachments and without judgement.

The person who influences her the most on a day-to-day basis is Midge, her partner. "Midge is perhaps one of the most caring, intelligent and sensible human beings I have ever known." She daily keeps me mentally stimulated while allowing me to be the somewhat playful rascal that I am. Another powerful influence is her mother. She says, "One of the most influential people in my life was truly my mother who taught me so much about

being proud of who I am and about the joy of helping others".

As editor of TOHR Community News I would like to thank Debbie for allowing me to print her biographical information. I have had a truly splendid time reading and typing all of it. I wish I was as eloquent with expressing what I think and feel. We truly have a president that will do what a president should do; be a strong individual who you can also get along with and believes that a president is here to serve the community.

Anti-Gay Resolution is Gaining Ground

If you read the Tulsa World on February 21, you might have noticed that the house of representatives passed an anti-gay bill. House Resolution 1045, by Rep. Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, passed without so much as one debate or discussion. This resolution passed 97-1. The only person to vote in our favor was Rep. Don Ross, D-Tulsa. This bill opposes the teaching of homosexuality in public schools and adoptions by same-sex couples.

People who opposed this bill say that "the NEA has taken a position that promotes the acceptance and tolerance of homosexual behavior and calls for a celebration of a Lesbian and Gay History Month to acknowledge the contribution of lesbians, gays and bisexuals, all of which is

inconsistent with traditional values in this state." This is opposite of what NEA advisors had to say. OEA President Barbara Smith said the NEA measure has been misconstrued. She said the resolution was aimed at ongoing education programs to identify and eliminate sexual orientation stereotyping in the education setting.

Make some calls to your representatives. Thank Don Ross for his support and let the other representatives know what you want in Oklahoma. You can reach all of the representatives at phone no. 800-522-8502 and fax no. 405-557-7351. For a complete list of your representatives, city council members and congress members please write to:

TOHR Community News
P.O. Box 52729
Tulsa, OK 74152

**Tulsa Oklahoman's
for Human Rights**

TOHR
P.O. Box 52729
Tulsa, OK 74152
(918) 743-GAYS
(918) 743-4297

**Debbie Starnes to
be Ordained
Deacon in the
Ecumenical
Catholic Church**

We would like to express our congratulation to Debbie Starnes. Debbie will be ordained to the permanate deaconate at St. Jerome Ecumenical Catholic Church Saturday, March 23, 1996 at the Garden Chapel, 3841 S. Peoria at 6:00 p.m. Hey Debbie, you go girl!



**TOHR MONTHLY
MEETING**

This month's meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Tulsa University's Allen Chapman Activity Center in the Choteau Room. We are here to serve you and for us to know what you want us to do, you need to be there to tell us. This month we will have a special guest, Attorney P. Gae Widdows. Be there or be ... arrested, beaten, have your children taken away, defamed, taken advantage of and all the other things that we might be able to stop by taking legal action.



**TOHR Community
News
Horoscope**

Aries

What is that on your head? Oh. I love your new hairdo. (Just because I dated and Aries doesn't mean that I'm influenced)

Taurus

What a beautiful day this is turning out to be. Schmack! Where did that pole come from.

Gemini

Wake up! Wake up! Wake up! This is too good to be true. I have to be dreaming.

Cancer

Yes this is my outfit and no you can't have it.

Leo

Out of all the days to go to the store looking like the grand high queen hoochie, I would have to go the day I would see the Pete Sampras (or Martina if you prefer).

Virgo

I have been here before and I sure the hell didn't want to come back.

Libra

No, not again I have a headache. Yeah, I have a backache too. Well in that case my neck hurts.

Scorpio

This sure wasn't my hair yesterday.

Sagittarius

I haven't been here before and I sure don't want to leave.

Capricorn

(Driving the wrong way down a one way street.) What is wrong with all these people? Don't they know how to drive.

Aquarius

If you even so much look at me I will beat you like a drag queen would beat someone who ripped off her wig.

Pisces

Who cares if I don't have a boyfriend (girlfriend). Dogs act better, do what I tell them to, and they don't cheat on me.

**The Gingrich Who
Stole Congress**

An Internet poem for those of you who love Newt as much as I do.

Now, no one knew what made the Ging such a meanie;
It could be because he was built like a weenie.

It could be because he had Donahue hair,
Or maybe because not much lurked under there.

But probably what most explained the man's life
Was the fact he abandoned his children and wife.

Yes, way down in Georgia, his wife lay near dead,
Sickened with cancer, in a hospital bed.

He crept in to see her (they let him of course)

And whispered, quite sweetly, "I want a divorce!"

He whipped out his pencil with something like zeal

And got down to work on his alimony deal.

And while she was whimpering he said, "By the way,

I'm leaving you for somebody younger - hooray!"

The Gingrich's heart shrank two sizes that night.

And that could be what makes him so Christian Right.

TOHR Membership Application

Name _____

Membership Type

Address _____

We are offering a special membership offer. If you already belong to another Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender organization, you will receive \$2.50 off a single membership or \$5.00 off an organizational/household membership. Just remember to list the name of your organization on this application.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

- _____ Student/Limited Income \$10.00
- _____ Regular Membership \$20.00
- _____ Organizational/Household \$35.00
- _____ Sustaining Membership \$100.00

Evening Phone _____

GLBT Organization _____

Please mail your application to:
TOHR Memberships
P.O. Box 52729
Tulsa, OK 74152

There is one true shatterer of dreams...

COMPROMISE !!!

UCO Women's Research & BGLTQ+ Center
 100 N. University Dr
 Edmond, OK 73034