

Who th' hell needs a Gay newspaper?

— An Honest Appraisal from the Editor of Community News —

It doesn't matter how many people need a Gay newspaper — unless there is a sufficient number of people who want a Gay newspaper. That means at least a few people who are willing to give a little of their time, energy, talent and/or money to make such a newspaper a reality.

After the first issue of *Community News* was distributed, there was nothing but praise. Everyone, it seemed, thought "our own paper" was an excellent idea.

Unfortunately, words were just about all we got. There was no money to help support such an ambitious project, and precious little in the way of donated time and effort.

Our own newspaper is a good idea. Very few of our Sisters and Brothers have any awareness of what is going on in the Gay Community or in our civil rights movement. *Community News* can continue not only to tell us what's happening as it relates to us, but it can also be a sounding board for the broad range of opinions and attitudes among Gay People themselves, and it can help prepare non-gays for the eventual acceptance of Gay People into open society.

So *Community News* is a good idea. Is it a good enough idea for you to support it?

If *CN* is to continue beyond this issue, we must quickly see some firm signs of support.

Immediately we need a part-time staff. There is no pay . . . but shared among many people, the work won't be very hard or time consuming.

We need a photographer who can take and develop pictures,

a cartoonist (just one cartoon a month isn't too much to ask, is it?), an illustrator to illustrate *CN's* feature articles, a feature writer to research and write articles on a variety of pertinent subjects — plus as many miscellaneous staff members as we can recruit: people to distribute the paper, people to mail it out, people to help with editing, writing and layout, people to contact businesses about advertising, etc., etc., etc.

If you can help in any way, please drop me a note to P.O. Box 7367, Fort Worth 76111, or call me at (817) 838-2095. This means you people in Dallas, too!

Futhermore, we must have more paid subscriptions and we must have regular advertisers. *CN* is not intended to produce a profit, but if it is to continue it must pay for itself. We appreciate the sponsorship of AURA in publishing *CN* as a service to the Community . . . but printing and postal costs are almost prohibitive, and AURA will not be able financially to subsidize *CN* beyond this issue.

We must pay our own way . . . and that means we must have faithful, concerned advertisers who want to see *CN* succeed for the benefit of the entire Gay Community. If you have any influence with any business (Gay or not), take a copy of this paper and urge them to contact us about advertising.

We need our own paper. If you want it badly enough, we can have it. What do you say?

Allen Reid

NOT FOR LESBIANS ONLY

By Sue Harris

Mother never told me that my prince might be a princess.

Consequently, it was hard to rationalize wanting to kiss my high school journalism teacher in the darkroom.

It was even tougher to suppress dreaming of getting married to one of our cheerleaders.

The turning point in the realization of my lesbianism came when I asked a girl I had been playing kissy-mouth with if we were gay.

She said that we had a strange and beautiful friendship. I guess she just couldn't break it to me, but I knew.

It began to dawn on me. I like men, but I love women in a warm-soft-deep emotional way.

You might know I found my princess — without the help of my mother.

At least my mother did teach me how to be tender, love and care for someone. And she also taught me how to fight with that someone so that when something is wrong I don't just cradle it in my gut.

Perhaps most important of all, Mother taught me how to forgive and make a go for the second round. I guess that's why I didn't move out after two months.

All of these things work just as well with my princess as that prince that Mom kept telling me about.

and By Kay Wilson

And my mother always told me that someday I might have mother-in-law problems.

I have them alright, but not exactly the kind she was thinking of. I guess the main problem is that Sue's mother doesn't know she is my mother-in-law.

She isn't quite sure what kind of an arrangement her daughter and I have, but whatever it is, and as long as it has no labels, it's OK.

But that doesn't mean things can't get hairy. There was the time Sue slipped and said something about my side of the bed — when there is another bed in the house.

Then there are the little things that Mrs. Harris says whenever Sue and I do something that parallels something in her relationship with her husband. "That's just like your father and I," she says. Makes me wonder if she isn't a bit more aware than we think she is.

(Whoever you are, you are welcome to look for this column in each issue of

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(A member organization of the FW/D Metroplex Gay Council and the Texas Gay Task Force, Northern Region)

Community News, because it's *Not For Lesbians Only*.

If it gets a bit feminine and feminist around the edges at times — it's because two lesbians are writing it.

The column will reflect a few memories, a few more thoughts and a lot of feelings. What we have to say is for everybody — Gay women, straight women and men and our Gay brothers.)

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