

y'ALL:

Voices from LGBTQ+ Fort Worth

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Manufactured in the United States of America  
eleven40seven Books is a nonprofit literary organization funded by the TCU  
Service Learning Grant, the TCU English Department, and the TCU Institute  
for Critical and Creative Expression.



Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for picking up this chapbook. Thank you again for opening it, and once more for choosing to read what's printed inside.

It's a common refrain in the written arts that beginning is the hardest part, that the first step is the hardest one to take. I think that was proven true with this inaugural edition of y'ALL: Voices From LGBTQ+ Fort Worth. While it is, in many ways, the spiritual successor to TCU's outreach publication program with the Tarrant County Women's Center, much of this semester was spent learning the ways in which this publication would be different. How the pages themselves would be structured differently, how the process of conducting and collecting interviews would be different, how the emotional impact would feel different. As someone who has now worked on, and loved working on, both projects, while these differences were sometimes jarring, they were always worth exploration.

My favorite difference is our newfound access to archival material, something that was not a component of the previous publication. It was a little awkward to navigate at first when our existing scaffolding did not have any place for it, but I couldn't be more glad we found our footing with it. Getting to explore the legacy of LGBTQ+ individuals and community in this city and on this campus was such a privilege, and such an honor, and my gratitude for Yesterqueer, our outreach organization, and the TCU Mary Coats Burnett Library knows no bounds.

I'd also like to thank our interview participants for taking a chance on us. When we reached out to them, we didn't have a printed chapbook to show them, to say, "See, this is what we're doing here." They just believed in our cause and the importance of preserving history as it's happening today.

And, of course, I owe such a big thank you to Dr. Mat Wenzel and Dr. Chantel Carlson for their guidance of this project from beginning to end, their support when things were difficult or didn't go to plan, and their flexibility as our collective idea of what this publication would be grew and shifted over time.

All the best,  
Christina Phillips, Editor-in-Chief, Fall 2023



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## OUR TEAM

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## INTERVIEWEES

Veronica

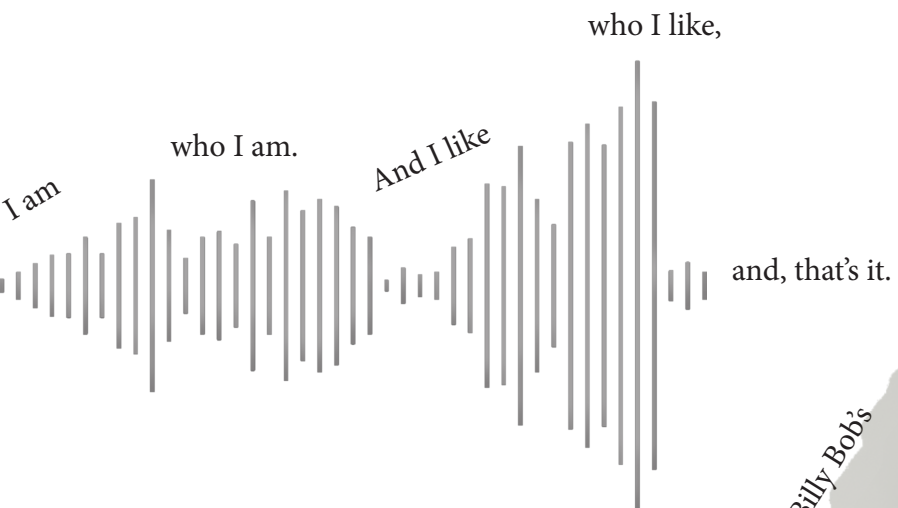
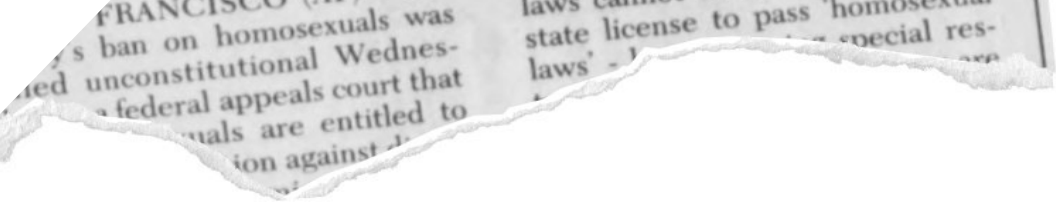
Bianca

Abbey

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Cameron



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to discuss sessions on sexual ori

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

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# INTERVIEW ONE



INTERVIEWER TWO

Veronica, if you would like to tell us about your name, your age, your gender pronouns, anything like that.

VERONICA

Um, my name is (-). I know I'll be using an alias for the thing, but that's my name. And, I am 23 years old, turning 24 later this month. I use she/her pronouns, and I am a lesbian.

INTERVIEWER TWO

Alright, so our next question is, what do you think is important to know about you?

VERONICA

I think it's important to know that being queer is a huge part of my identity. I would say the intersection of being black and queer is another huge something that factors into it. Um, I do think I am a multifaceted person, but obviously, you know, I think it's a part of me that I can't hide. And I would say that it is something to where if I can't be comfortable talking about my attraction to women around you, then the friendship just won't work in general. It won't work.

INTERVIEWER TWO

So our next question is, I wanna know about what your connection is to Fort Worth.

VERONICA

Um, I will say I grew up about 40 minutes away from Fort Worth, so I went to Fort Worth occasionally growing up. I went to school in Fort Worth at TCU, and so then I lived there for four years. I really did like it.

INTERVIEWER TWO

Oh, awesome.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Yeah, so you mentioned you live about 40 minutes away. What was it like moving to Fort Worth?

VERONICA

Um, where I lived, I would say—I don't...Hmm. I lived in a suburb of Dallas, and moving to Fort Worth, I did like the little western vibe of it. I think it's different than Dallas. Um, and in a way, I think it's good, and in a way, I think it's bad. I—I think there's things I like better about Fort Worth. There's things I like better about Dallas. But, um, but I, I'm sorry. I hope I didn't lose track of where I was trying to go.

INTERVIEWER TWO

You can expand on the differences between Dallas and Fort Worth, if you'd like.

VERONICA

I would say Fort Worth is more laid back, um, definitely more of a Western vibe. I think Dallas is more of like a generic big city. Even now, I'm out of state, I live in the Northeast now, and, um, when people ask me about Dallas, I tell them, 'You should visit Fort Worth instead. I think you'll get more out of it. Like, I think you'll like, as a tourist, have more, you know?'

INTERVIEWER TWO

Yeah, I agree with that. Yeah. Yeah, I'm from in between Dallas and Fort Worth, so I grew up going to both.

VERONICA

Ah.

INTERVIEWER TWO

Good parts of both.

VERONICA

Yeah. I like both too.

INTERVIEWER TWO

Yeah. So how would you say, how does living in Fort Worth compare to other places? And are there any like, specific benefits of Fort Worth that you like than other places?

VERONICA

In general, what I really liked about Fort Worth was the vibe. I used to love going to Billy Bob's. I used to drag my friends there, and I'll say most of my friends are people of color, and they'd be like, 'Ew, Billy Bob's like, what the heck?' But I would try to be like, 'No, like, it, it is fun, it's something to do.' I used to love that. I will say what I also liked about Fort Worth is... I don't know; the main thing is the vibe. Um, I like the vibe of Fort Worth. What I didn't like, if I'm being completely honest, I don't know if I should say this. I didn't like the politics of Fort Worth. I like the politics better where I am now in the Northeast. I think that with Fort Worth, one of the things I remember seeing as the ex-president of Spectrum, when we would have events and stuff and like just walking down the street, you know, on University, there'd be like 'Honk for traditional marriage' type stuff. Obviously, there's that guy who would come up there whose name I can't really remember. It's not important, but the 'change my mind' guy, can't remember his name. Stuff like that, that stuff I don't miss about Fort Worth, is the stuff that was antagonizing queer people, even though I do think there were a couple of queer-friendly spaces in Fort Worth and at TCU, which I'm thankful for.



## INTERVIEWER TWO

Mm-hmm. Do you wanna maybe expand on any of those queer friendly places? Do you remember any of them? Or perhaps a specific experience you had at one of them?

## VERONICA

I will say, can I say one at TCU? Because I've heard of them, but I've never actually been myself. I just know that they exist. At TCU in my freshman year, Spring 2019, we had a queer prom, a Spectrum Prom, and that was out of my whole time there, my absolute favorite queer event that we had. Um, it was really fun. We had a prom king and queen, well, no prom king and king, my bad. It was really fun. We had a really, really good turnout. That was absolutely my favorite event for queer people, and we didn't have any problems or anything like that.

## INTERVIEWER TWO

Yeah. So to expand a little more on Spectrum. Like what was it like getting involved with Spectrum and then becoming president?

## VERONICA

Spectrum, um, I'm really passionate about, um, queer community, but especially the intersection of queer identity with other marginalized communities. I will say one thing that I really liked, um, having a safe space for queer people, but if I'm being completely honest, I think sometimes for some people, queer people, find queer spaces off-putting, which is something that I during my presidency, I really tried to combat that. It's like, you know, there's like a stereotype almost associated with queer spaces being for a certain type of white person. And, um, you had to sometimes... you just really had to outreach and be like, 'Hey, you should really come,' and things won't change if people like you and me don't get involved.

So that was one thing that I really liked during my presidency or something that I really cared about...I don't know, I think it was just really important to, first of all, have the space and then second of all, have queer people interested in taking advantage of that space.

INTERVIEWER TWO

For sure. That's wonderful.

VERONICA

Thank you.

INTERVIEWER TWO

Let's see, I know we briefly talked about TCU. Do you wanna describe more of just your overall experience at being at TCU?

VERONICA

I will say overall, TCU was challenging but rewarding. I'm thankful that I went... There were times that, as a person of color and as a queer person, there were times that I felt uncomfortable/unsafe. But, um, but I overall had a positive experience, and I think it's like you have to go through the, I know what I'm trying to say, I'm just trying to think of a way to say it. You have to find your people, basically. Like, find people that you connect with. And I felt like, truthfully, I didn't fit in the grand scheme at TCU. I, I really didn't. But, um, I did make a few lifelong friends, and that I'm really thankful for.

INTERVIEWER TWO

That's good to hear.

## INTERVIEWER ONE

So what particular Fort Worth spaces do you think felt important to your experience? How do you want them remembered? Maybe from TCU, like was there any other place than Spectrum that you found particularly welcoming or good?

## VERONICA

I would say... I mean, this is, I guess, kind of connected to Spectrum, but the GRO and the Intercultural Center were a really nice place. I really enjoyed that because when I first went to TCU, I think the GRO was brand new, but we didn't even have the Intercultural Center. Um, we got the Intercultural Center sometime while I was at TCU. 'Cause I know when I first got there, we didn't have it. So it was nice, like, once we got it. Um, in Fort Worth... I'll be honest; I always felt safe at Billy Bob's. I really enjoyed it. That was always a fun place to go. Um, and I really liked going to Magnolia, um, that area. Yeah, I had some good times in Fort Worth.

## INTERVIEWER ONE

Yeah, awesome. So you mentioned the, uh, the Intercultural Center and stuff. Do you wanna expand on that at all, or was there any specific events or memories there?

## VERONICA

Um, I will say I liked how we were—I don't know how it is now—but I liked how we were able to like reserve the space for meetings. And, like, I know when we had Spectrum meetings, a lot of times we would have it in the Intercultural Center. I liked how the spatial arrangement of everything encourages minorities to work together to make TCU a more welcoming place because you get Hispanic people, Black people, queer people, um, et cetera, coming together when maybe normally we wouldn't.

INTERVIEWER TWO

And you mentioned Magnolia, I'm not familiar with that place. Is it like a town square of sorts?

VERONICA

Yeah, it is like a, I think basically the way you describe it as like a town square, mm-hmm. Yeah. That's the best way I could describe it. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER TWO

What kind of, like, places were there that made you feel welcome or any experiences there that made you feel good about Fort Worth?

VERONICA

I think it was just generally pretty eclectic. I think that was genuinely one of the only places in Fort Worth where I saw a place with a pride flag. And that was a vegan place. I'm not a vegan, but I liked Magnolia. That was a good place to go.

INTERVIEWER TWO

Do you have any intergenerational relationships with other LGBTQ people? And if so, how do you perceive your experiences being different from theirs?

VERONICA

Somewhat. Um, I will say the closest intergenerational relationship I was able to make was—I'm not sure how it is now—but graduate Spectrum and undergraduate Spectrum would work together while I was at TCU, especially in my sophomore year and my junior year, less so in my senior year, but my first three especially. And there was a person who was an officer in graduate Spectrum who I got to know. She is older, um, a lesbian as well, but she's married and she has children.

And when it comes to their experience being different than mine, honestly, it might be superficial, but it's honest: how you meet people, dating-wise. I remember her telling a story about how she was trying to flirt with someone at Barnes and Noble or something because she looked queer, but later on found out that she had a boyfriend. So I think older lesbians had to put themselves out on a limb, if you will, and like really be bold and go for it, especially if you didn't have a queer bar in your area. Um, so I think your options were more limited, and you really had to be bold. But with me, I'll be honest, I will never, as they say, shoot your shot. I would never shoot my shot at someone if I don't know that they're queer. And so honestly, ever since graduating high school, I've exclusively met people through dating apps like dating-wise because I think... I guess in a generation where you don't have to put yourself out there and try to figure out if someone's queer, honestly, it might be a little bit taboo, but it makes life easier for sure.

#### INTERVIEWER TWO

Yeah. So that was our last big question. So if you wanted people to hear one thing from you, what would it be?

#### VERONICA

That is a big question. 'cause I've-

#### INTERVIEWER ONE

I don't know why... [I said that was the last big question]

#### VERONICA

That one I have to actually like think about because I think everything else is kind of just like, oh yeah, but like this one. Okay. If I wanted people to know one thing. I'm sorry, can you repeat it one more time?

INTERVIEWER TWO

Yeah. If you wanted people to hear one thing from you, what would it be? It could be multiple things, and it could be things about Fort Worth or, you know.

INTERVIEWER ONE

It can literally be anything.

INTERVIEWER TWO

Anything you want.

VERONICA

Okay. Um... get involved in queer spaces. I can't stress it enough. I know I said it earlier, but it's something I feel pretty strongly about. Queer spaces have a reputation—I'm not sure if I should say this—but like, weird insufferable blue hair. You know what I mean? It's not a stereotype that I think, first of all, those people should feel safe coming to those meetings, but it's like, that's not... people, people like that should feel like they have a safe space, don't get me wrong, but it's like, queer people are diverse. There are queer people who are different with different interests. There are queer people who are just less different, and that's okay. Queer people are not a monolith, and you shouldn't deprive yourself of queer spaces because of internalized homophobia and what you think other queer people are like, your negative perceptions of other queer people. That's what I'm trying to say.

INTERVIEWER TWO

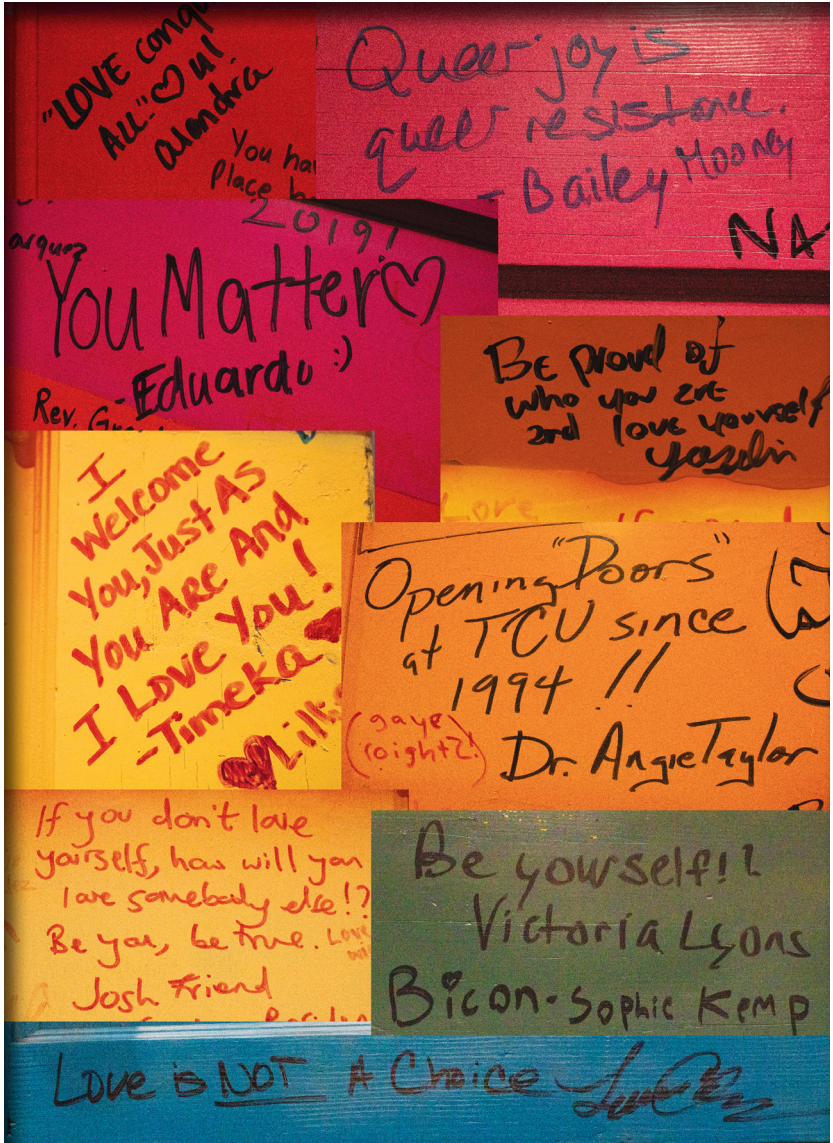
Okay. Is there anything else you wanna add before we conclude the interview? Again, it can be anything.

## VERONICA

Okay... I would say, especially to queer people of color, intersectionality is crucial. Don't deny one side of your identity because you think it doesn't fit in with the other. Be yourself completely and holistically.



*Intercultural Center photos taken by Lexie Woodall.*



*Pictured above are a series of quotes from a door created in 2019 to celebrate Pride Month. The door now resides in the TCU Mary Coats Burnett Library's Special Collections.*



## INTERVIEW TWO

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, so to begin the interview, what is your name?

BIANCA

My name is Bianca.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And what is your age and gender pronouns?

BIANCA

I am 25 and my pronouns are she/her.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, and what was your first experience in the LGBTQ+ community?

BIANCA

So my first experience was when I was 17. I had a coworker, and we quickly became friends after we both started working together pretty frequently. At the time, I didn't know if my interest in her was purely in a friendship type of way or in more of a 'hey, I like you' kind of way. So after we started hanging out for a while, I think one day we were watching a movie, and we just kind of kissed, and that was when I kind of just knew, hey, I might not be straight.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Did you always have this feeling or was this your first time experiencing that feeling?

BIANCA

So I, I mean, I had the feeling that I might not just like guys back in middle school, but I guess I never really tried to explore those feelings further until I met... my first kiss.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And how did your family react to you liking girls?

BIANCA

So my dad, he didn't really say anything. Um, but my mother, she, she cried quite a bit. And then she ended up finding the girl's mother on Facebook, and they talked, and they both cried for a bit as well. My mother told me I was probably going to hell and that she would pray for me. But after a while... she was less sad. And more happy that I had just, you know, found someone, and I was happy.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Do you feel comfortable now talking to your mom about your relationships?

BIANCA

Honestly, I don't really talk to many people at all about my relationships because some things I like to just keep private. But if I was ever in a situation where I really, really needed to talk about something that happened in a relationship, I could easily go to my mom because I know she would just be my mom and she would understand.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, and what other people have been important in your life?

BIANCA

So, my great-grandmother, she was really important to me growing up. She was probably my, I think it's fair to say she was a healthy role model during my childhood. My mom and dad, they've also been pretty important. They've supported me through some difficult times. And I've had some great friends that have helped me throughout my journey.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, so what is your earliest memory of Fort Worth? Now that we're talking about your childhood.

BIANCA

So when I was younger, my mom and my dad, they-I think they split up maybe like 3 or 4 times. And one of those times, I was in an apartment with my mom, and every morning, she would take me out to feed ducks at the pond that was right in front of our apartment. And that is like the youngest memory I have, and it is still so vivid, and it just makes me really happy every time I think about it.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And do you feel like Fort Worth has changed over time?

BIANCA

Absolutely. There's so many new buildings going up all over the place. We have new highways. Construction takes forever. But it is really easy to get in and out of Fort Worth these days.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Do you feel like there is a positive LGBTQ+ community here in Fort Worth?

BIANCA

Honestly, I would like to say yes. But, I would say take my yes with a grain of salt because I am not the most involved when it comes to participating in LGBTQ+ events.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And what do you mean by that?

BIANCA

I mean, I've never really been to a gay bar, attended a LGBTQ+ parade. The gayest that I have been was when I wore a pair of Vans with the pride flag on the bottom of the soles.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Do you feel like that part doesn't contribute to your identity?

BIANCA

The rainbow?

INTERVIEWER ONE

Just the events and pride marches and...

BIANCA

Well, I'm not much of a social-I mean, I am social, but I'm more of an introvert. So I don't really find myself in situations where I've. It doesn't matter what parade; I'm not really interested in doing parades. So, yes and no... I need you to repeat the question.

INTERVIEWER ONE

So you feel like your identity is outside the LGBTQ+ community?

BIANCA

I feel like I'm inside the LGBTQ+ community. I'm just not involved with the community.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, so you don't associate yourself with the labels.

BIANCA

That's exactly right. I have never associated myself with the label. So, like, like the other day, someone asked me... if I'm straight. I said, 'To be honest, I've never felt the need to label myself. I am who I am. And I like who I like, and that's it.'

INTERVIEWER ONE

Do you get offended when people assume that you aren't straight?

BIANCA

No, you can call me gay. I really won't care. It's part of me. It's just not how I like to be identified.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Do you have any stories that people assumed that you were straight and it affected you?

BIANCA

As a matter of fact, I do...So I had this therapist, and um, I remember one day she started asking me a series of weird questions. So, one of the questions she asked was if I got jealous when she was around or when she talked to other patients instead of me. And I feel like she assumed that I was romantically interested in her when really I just thought she was pretty.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Did that affect your treatment moving on?

BIANCA

From my perspective, it absolutely did. I felt like there were certain things I couldn't talk about with her because of the assumption that she made. And it really did get in the way of my treatment because we had- we had a method that we used to communicate with each other, and after she asked me questions about my intentions and my purpose? I felt like I just couldn't open up to her in the same way as I did before.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And do you feel like this affected how you could open up with doctors or other medical professionals?

BIANCA

Honestly, that is a really good question because, yes, it absolutely did affect the way that I interact with my therapist and my psychiatrist now. So my psychiatrist now, I'm very close with her. I really do not talk about things unless she asks me about them because I just don't feel comfortable. It's not even that, like, that I don't feel comfortable. It's just I don't want the words that I say to be misconstrued like they have been before. And honestly, I shouldn't feel this way. My psychiatrist is there to help me, but because of that one therapist, I fear that I may never have the same relationship with another mental health professional.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And do you feel...like that delayed your progress? Like as of now, you don't share super personal details with your psychiatrists. So when times that you do want to...

BIANCA

You know, that's good. I can touch on that. So, yes. If I was able to be more open with my psychiatrist, I would happily tell her that I have been weaning myself off of my anti-depressant for the past month, but because I'm not comfortable with her, I am suffering from side effects and I don't know if I'm supposed to be experiencing these side effects because I can't talk to my psychiatrist because I don't feel comfortable. So for the meantime, I will...just deal with the pain. And hope that it's okay.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And have you had any other times where you felt like you couldn't really talk about yourself completely with other people?

BIANCA

I mean, to an extent there is always a part of me that I will hide from everyone else because... there's just something about being a hundred percent vulnerable that terrifies me.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And is that because you fear how people would react or is that just how you always were?

BIANCA

I think that's just how I've always been, but, maybe I've always been scared of how people will react.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Have you had negative reactions besides the one from your mom, like from your friends or...?

## BIANCA

Never actually. Everyone, I think, for the most part, everyone in my life has been super supportive. I think even when my mom told me she thinks I'm going to hell. She was just upset. She was just being human and reacting...People are positive. And so am I. I think that a lot of the negative reactions I have seen in my lifetime are just because of people's emotions running and them needing to get their words out. Out of frustration, out of sadness, out of anger, but like when my mother told me I was going to hell, I just took those words. I didn't let them sink in. They just rolled off of me. And then, shortly after, when she said, 'I still love you.' Those were the only words that really mattered.

## INTERVIEWER ONE

And is there a reason why you don't like involving yourself in the community?

## BIANCA

Honestly, there is not a, there's not a direct reason why I don't. It's not that I don't like involving myself in the community. It's just that I don't necessarily have a desire to. Because I don't, I don't consider my sexuality to be the biggest part of who I am. There are other aspects of my personality that I think there are other parts of me that I prefer for the world to know. I don't want them to know me as someone who is gay and goes to pride events. I just want them to know me as me, like a kind, caring, cheerful, happy individual...So, for example, if I meet someone and they ask me what my sexuality is, I'm just gonna say that I'm straight. It doesn't mean that I'm not proud of who I am. It just means that I don't like to disclose certain parts of me to someone that I do not trust, but once I trust you, I will completely and happily open up and say, 'Oh yeah, I like women. I like men.'



It depends on the day. I just think that the LGBT+ community shouldn't be a huge part of my identity. It is a part of me, but it's not all of me.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Yeah, I get that. And, so how do you go about your relationships that way if you don't like to tell people that you aren't straight?

BIANCA

So, when it comes to guys that I'm interested in, I find that the majority of them really do not care. When it comes to girls that I'm interested in, I don't ever really have to disclose that I'm attracted to them. It's just kind of a mutual, it's a mutual feeling. I can't really explain the mutual feeling. It's just if I like a girl and the girl likes me, we just kind of know that we like each other, and we go from there. So, there's never a moment where I have to say like, 'Hey, I'm not straight. Are you not straight?' Things just happen naturally, and it's nice.

INTERVIEWER ONE

And has it ever been an issue in one of your relationships where they don't like that you don't disclose that you aren't just strictly straight?

BIANCA

The opposite, actually. So, it's never been an issue where I don't disclose that I'm gay. It's been that the other person doesn't disclose that they are. So-so pretty much all of my relationships with other women, I've been the one that's out and happy, and the other person has been the one that's kind of more tucked away in the closet.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, so when you mention that, do you feel like there was a reason that your past relationships haven't come out?

BIANCA

Oh yeah, yeah, that's probably because I tend to go after straight girls. I like to help them realize their full potential. I don't do it purposely. I just don't necessarily pick out who I'm going to pursue based on their sexual identity. If I think someone's cute, I'm gonna chase after them. If it doesn't work, then it doesn't work.

INTERVIEWER ONE

What's your idea of chase?

BIANCA

That is a complicated question. When I say chase, I mean, I'm gonna actively throw hints at someone that, like, will very easily let them know that I like them. And if they pick up on those hints and they throw some back, then great. That's the chase. But then, I caught them, and it's game over.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay. Have you been rejected? By doing that.

BIANCA

No, actually. That I have not, I've not come across a situation where I have been rejected after actively chasing someone. I guess I just pick people that throw the right vibes.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, so when talking about your relationships, do you feel like you have grown now versus before?

BIANCA

I've absolutely grown. So, I guess when I first kind of discovered that I like women, I would throw hints to a lot of people, even if I had no intention of pursuing a relationship with them, and I ended up hurting quite a few people by doing that. And I don't know what happened, but I realize that I probably shouldn't play with people's emotions unless I have intentions beyond just messing around. I have nothing else to say about that. I've learned, I've grown, I won't do it again.

INTERVIEWER ONE

So you feel more comfortable now in relationships than you did before?

BIANCA

Absolutely. 110%... That was a close-ended question.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, so you mentioned that you like to keep that part of your life private, but whenever you do have a serious relationship going on, do you like to tell other people close to you about it?

BIANCA

I do. So, like once me and the other person decide that we are going to take our interests and pursue a relationship, I think after some time has passed, maybe a month or two, then I would feel okay telling other people about it. I don't like telling people about something fresh and new. I would rather people see that we are working towards a relationship and we are serious about it.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, so to close things off, if you wanted people to hear one thing from you, what would it be?

BIANCA

One thing about what? If I could share one message to anyone that hears or reads this, that message would be: You are uniquely you. Don't let the opinions of the world or anyone in it affect the way you live, the way you love, or the way that you are. That's all.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Thank you for that. Is there anything else you want to add?

BIANCA

No, that's all.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, thank you so much.

BIANCA

You're so welcome.



# TCU Daily Skiff

Friday, April 19, 1991

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

88th Year, No. 107

## Administrators to discuss sessions on sexual orientation

By JAMIE McLVAN  
TCU Daily Skiff

A TCU senior says he thinks other students want him dead.

He has been chased by men carrying baseball bats and has received death threats on his answering machine.

When "Die Fags" appeared scratched into the paint of a bathroom stall across from his room in Tom Brown Hall, Brad Vanderbilt, a news-editorial journalism, political science and French major who openly admits he is homosexual, alerted university administrators to his plight.

Because of Vanderbilt's testimony, the Student Affairs Office will discuss imple-

menting staff training on issues of sexual orientation at their regular staff meeting Wednesday, said Margaret Barr, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Vanderbilt played a tape of obscene messages left on his answering machine for Elizabeth Profitt, dean of students, last spring. He wrote a column for the *TCU Daily Skiff* about gay rights in October. Many students wrote letters to the *Skiff* in response to the column, and a sampling of the letters was presented at the Trustee/Student Relations committee meeting in November.

Because anti-gay messages appeared on Vanderbilt's door during spring break, he wrote a letter to the Trustee/Student Relations committee about continued harassment

of gay and lesbian students on campus. Copies of the letter were made available to the committee at its April 4 meeting too late to make the committee's agenda, members said. The issue was not discussed at the meeting.

Vanderbilt met with Barr on April 9 to pursue the issue.

"We will try to develop specific sessions to help people become aware of what the issues are — what are the sensitivities and how to provide support," Barr said.

Sessions on sexual orientation may be a part of training for hall directors and resident assistants conducted in August, Barr said. Special seminars on the subject also may be conducted for other members of the Student

Affairs staff, she said.

Barr said she does not know how TCU will further address the issue because university officials have not determined the full extent of the problem.

"Incidents of harassment need to be reported so we can judge how large of a problem this is," she said.

To combat harassment and discrimination against homosexuals, many universities have designated gay men and lesbians as a protected class in their nondiscrimination statements.

More than 65 universities include gay men and lesbians as a protected class, including the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Arkansas, Harvard, Yale, Syracuse

and Princeton.

Barr said gay men and lesbians do not need to be added as a protected class in TCU's nondiscrimination statement because an individual's sexual orientation is never a factor considered in matters of admission, hiring or promotion.

Barr said she expects the U.S. Congress to designate homosexual people as a protected class under civil rights law within the next decade, and that TCU would probably adjust its policy at that time.

"Our policy reflects federal statutes on anti-discrimination," she said. "TCU has traditionally reflected the law of the land."

See *Phobia*, page 4

*TCU Administration Decides that Gay and Lesbian Students Do Not Need Protected Status Despite Homophobic Violence Faced By Student.*

# Gay students say group not needed

*Editor's note: This is the second story in a three-part series dealing with the situation of gay students at TCU.*

*Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, the names of the gay TCU students have been changed.*

**By KRISTIE AYLETT**

**Staff Writer**

Gay student associations on other campuses said there are enough homosexuals at TCU to support a campus-recognized group, but gay students at TCU say they do not feel the need for an official organization.

"With all the students and faculty I know from (TCU), there is more than enough people to support an organization," said Warren Becker, president of the Gay and Lesbian Association

at University of Texas at Arlington.

"Almost all it takes (to form an organization) is one student who recognizes a need and acts upon it," he said. "To start an organization, courage is the biggest thing you need."

"All it takes is one person to be a role model, to take a stand," he said.

Dana Lynn Reecer, co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Student Association at the University of Texas at Austin, said, "An organization makes an enormous difference in the lives of the gay students. Having an organization – just the mere fact that we exist – is comforting to the gays."

The organizations act as a support group to provide homosexuals on campus with a place to meet.

They also serve to lessen homophobia, the fear of homosexuals, and to

address issues that gay students face, she said.

"Unlike heterosexuals, you just can't ask someone from class out," Reecer said.

"For straight people, it gives them a chance to know that we're people too," she said. "For gay people, it provides them with an opportunity to meet others and to know they're not alone."

David Tucker, faculty adviser to the UTA group, said, "(The association) tries to raise the consciousness of students on campus and provide support to the gay students."

"It also tries to be publicly active, at least on certain issues – AIDS, of course, repeal of Subsection 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code and discrimination against gays," he said.

Subsection 21.06 of the Texas Penal

Code makes it a Class C misdemeanor to engage "in deviant sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex."

The organizations also work to change attitudes and myths about homosexuality.

"Our theory is that each person should have freedom over his or her own actions," Becker said.

"If you're in the mall, and you want to hold your boyfriend's hand, you can just reach down and hold his hand. If I do it, people stare, they point, they walk past me and mutter faggot under their breath," he said. "I just want to be able to do the same things that straight people can."

"I don't flaunt it; I just live my life," Becker said. "I'm just being natural."

*See Support, Page 4*

*Queer Students at TCU Deny the Need for a Gay Student Organization, Arguing it Would Increase Harassment.*

## INTERVIEW THREE

INTERVIEWER ONE

Would you like to state your name and your pronouns?

ABBEY

Uh, yes. Hi, my name's Abbey Laisure and I am she/her, and those are the main pronouns.

INTERVIEWER ONE

All right, perfect. Uh, before we officially start, were there any questions on that list that you didn't wanna talk about or wanted to maybe focus on something else with them? Just so I know before we start?

ABBEY

No, the only issue I had was trying to interpret the first question just because, you know, it's over a time span and I feel like I might have an unfair answer since I didn't really know what being ace was at the time.

INTERVIEWER ONE

That's totally fair. Whatever you're—I mean, I have a very similar experience. Um, I, like, if someone asked me what it was like to be ace in Wyoming, 'cause that's where I'm from, um, I wouldn't have a super, like, I wouldn't have the same experience as someone who had known they were ace at the time that they lived in Wyoming. So I totally get where you're coming from, but any answer you have, too, that is the perfect answer.

ABBEY

Okay, thank you. Sorry. Like I said, I wanted to be as completely transparent, you know?

INTERVIEWER ONE

No, I totally get what you mean. But I—my whole thing was like, I know how easy it is for ace voices to get underrepresented or even just completely erased from the narrative, so my goal here is to sort of combat that.

ABBEY

Sorry, I'm very awkward on the phone. I'm just gonna let you know now.

INTERVIEWER ONE

You're totally fine. So, however you wanna interpret that first question is totally up to you, but I'm gonna go ahead and get started with it. Okay, so how does the Texas of today compare to how you first remember it and how does Fort Worth factor into that?

ABBEY

Okay, so for the second part of the question, I'm actually native born to Fort Worth, so I'm, like I said, might have biased answers, but to me it's kind of weird. There was like a weird early 2000s—it was more towards religion, like the bad side of religion, unfortunately. And it was more, you know, people hit problems. They wanted to be stricter, you know, it was all about appearance, you know? But then maybe I wanna say like, when I got into high school, people started talking about these things, started talking about LGBT, started talking about their views on religion that didn't necessarily hate on each other, if that makes sense.



Except for one time, but that's gonna be part of a different question. And then, other than that, I would say I grew up in a very, personally, I feel like, accepting area. That helps.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Okay, perfect. Um, what's your first memory or interaction with the LGBTQ+ community?

ABBEY

Uh, so I have a grandma who is married to a woman. They live in California, so I never really met them, but I was always aware that, you know, two people of the same sex could be married. I wanna say since I was at least five, and as for like, going out and seeking LGBT community activities, it wouldn't be till high school when I started learning what asexuality was.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Alright, perfect. What Fort Worth spaces are important to your LGBTQ+ experience, and how do you want them to be remembered?

ABBEY

I want them to be remembered the best way, because I always would go to places like Joanne's, Barnes and Nobles. I know those are, you know, not the same people you're gonna meet every day, but you kind of hear stories and you feel safe there. I would just be going down looking at fabrics and I would get to see different types of people, and oddly enough I get to hear their stories. And as for Barnes and Noble, I just, I always felt safe there. I would spend my days there. I would get a snack and I would just talk to random people.

INTERVIEWER ONE

What kinds of stories did you hear there and at Joanne's?

## ABBEY

Uh, one of 'em, let me think, I'm trying to remember. So one day—It's been a long week too, so, um, uh, I'm trying to think. And it was mostly school, so I might have—I think I just felt safe in general, but I think I would like to focus on school. The reason is that's when I actually learned what being ace was. One day, I was talking to my friend, uh, Lou, and I was just like, 'yeah, I dated, and I do wanna date, but then the few times I've dated, there was like nothing there, you know?' And, and even with other people I don't feel comfortable talking about—you know, like I'll have friends come up to me and be like, 'Hey, me and my boyfriend did this, this,' and I'm like, 'can we not?' Um, let me see what else. But what sticks out to me is when I moved to Austin, I know this is not Fort Worth, but it's still Texas. I had a friend who was like, 'Oh yeah, you're ace.' And I was like, 'what?' And she's like, 'yeah, you're ace.' And we sat down and read the, you know, description online, and I was like, 'Oh my God, I am.'

## INTERVIEWER ONE

Well, that kind of leads in pretty perfectly to my next question, which is, what details do you remember from your coming out experience? Or experiences?

## ABBEY

Oh, this is my favorite. Me and my friends were just, like I said, sitting on the computer reading it, and they were just playing on their phone. And then I turned to them, and I'm like, 'Guys, it's official. I'm ace.' One of my friends, uh, KB, just turned to me and they were like, 'No shit, Sherlock.' And, like I said, my friend Lou, too, he always kind of knew because he was always there when I started dating, and he's just like, 'Yeah, you just, you're not really touchy-feely; you put more emphasis on friendship and family relationships.'

And I'm like, 'Yeah, that's what I do.' And that was it. It was nothing special. We were just sitting in the dorm, and then we went and had brownies. They were legal brownies, don't worry. We got coffin-shaped pans, and that became a joke.

INTERVIEWER ONE

If you could talk to yourself the day before you first came out, what would you say?

ABBEY

Um, I'd be like- what I'd tell myself now. It's okay not to want a date or do those things. We just live in a time where that's kind of expected from us, and this is gonna get a little personable, but even as a female, and especially as somebody who identifies one and presents herself as one, I never liked that narrative for us. I never—now the people who wanna be moms, that's great. You know, go them. You can take care of kids. Amazing. I love my nieces, but I don't want that for me. Yeah, I just didn't like that narrative.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Totally get that. Um, if religion had an impact on your LGBTQ+ experience, what was it?

ABBEY

Okay, this is the story I was getting to. Um, so I am a firm believer that there is something out there, whether it be God, whether it be the spirits, or just the space vibes, you know, I'm kind of open to any of that. But there was one time in church, me and my mom just wanted to try a brand new church, and it was a good church, but then the pastor came on, you know, things were going good, and then all of a sudden he said something about 'it's not okay for men to be with men.'

And for some reason that struck something in me and my mom had to, like, hold me back because I was about to go up there and start a debate, and that should have been a sign that I wasn't, you know, straight.

INTERVIEWER ONE

I love that story.

ABBEY

Thank you. But don't worry, nobody got punched, nobody got hurt there. There's no bad rep. I was just salty for the rest of the day.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Uh, so do you have any intergenerational relationships with other LGBTQ+ individuals? And if so, how do you perceive your experience as being different or similar to theirs?

ABBEY

Uh, for the inter-can we count friends too?

INTERVIEWER ONE

Oh yeah, of course. Okay. Any kind of, um, relationship that spans, you know, um, different age demographics or age groups.

ABBEY

Okay. So, like I said, I do have a grandmother who is married to another female. However, like I said, I never really got to meet her or talk to her. Um, she just predominantly stayed in California with her partner, so it really didn't start until one of my mom's friends, um, came out as gay. I knew his husband. He and his husband were the coolest people.

They had a bunch of lizards and let me play Sims on their computer. And I remember us going over there a few times. But then, uh, I wanna say in middle school, he moved. I don't know what happened to them. Unfortunately, all I lasted was he's now my Aunt Zach, but I never got to talk to him again. But I was happy I got to know them, you know?

#### INTERVIEWER ONE

Mm-hmm.

#### ABBEY

And then, of course, you know, there's my friend Lou, who I'm gonna mention quite often because he took me to my first bar, which happened to be drag night. And um, I still like the Celine Dion, you know, drag person, I don't know them. So, but it was a really cool performance, and it was like such a comfortable bar, if that makes sense because I don't like to go out. And then, like I said, with my friend KB and Anya, they were just, you know, one of those things where like, you're happy, it wasn't a big in your face, it was just like, oh, I'm ace. And it made sense. It was just that feeling of us, you know, everything just being normal. And so, um, to answer your question, I was exposed to it without realizing it, but I think the biggest difference is they all date people, and they wanna go out, but then me and Anya are the two aces of the group. So we're sitting there playing Pokemon. And, um, to me, I just feel like it—it's all normal, you know? So I don't wanna say I had bad experiences and I don't—it was just so normalized that I feel like it wasn't, you know, talked about maybe? I'm trying to think how to answer this completely, sorry. Um, but I think it was a good experience, you know?

INTERVIEWER ONE

Yeah. Alright. So what do you think is unique about the LGBTQ+ experience in Fort Worth?

ABBEY

Like I said, Fort Worth is very broad, and most of my experiences happen to be at school, so unfortunately, I cannot speak for the, um, you know, all of LGBT or the aces. To me, my experience was, I'm accepted, you know, it's normal daily life for me. Um, so I would say pretty safe, but I also always knew kind of who to surround myself with. And I would say we're getting pretty good programs, though now this may not be Fort Worth anymore, but recently I had to go to Austin for an emergency, and when we were at the place, I- I can't fully talk about that due to reasons. They had a lot of support systems for LGBT community members, and they talked about, uh, relations with LGBT, and it was so open if that makes sense, and in Fort Worth, I think it's becoming like that, but I know it's not as to the point where Austin is.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Gotcha. Gotcha. Okay. What is your favorite LGBTQ+ memory?

ABBEY

Oh, like I said, uh, my, you know, coming out day, just sitting there with my friends, but I would say getting to learn more about it, especially when I would talk to my other friends because- so I have friends who are trans, I have friends- 'frands?'-friends who are, you know, gay or lesbian, one is pan, you know, so getting to hear them talk about like, the differences, I don't know. To me, it's getting to learn, I guess. Getting to wear the other shoe without, you know, wearing the other shoe.

INTERVIEWER ONE

All right. So that's the end of my prepared questions. Uh, is there anything at all you'd like to add? Anything I didn't ask specifically about that you think is important to talk about? Anything specific to the ace experience that you want to speak about maybe?

ABBEY

Oh yeah, definitely. I, the one thing I want—I know this is probably verbatim from other ace people, we're not broken, but when we wanna be your friends or you know, your, uh, siblings, your adopted family, your true, you know what I mean?

INTERVIEWER ONE

Mm-hmm.

ABBEY

I feel like, because we don't necessarily put the energy, you know, into sexual relations, we focus more and we try to be—we try to be there for the people we love, you know, and I don't want people to think, you know, we're not empathetic. We're still very empathetic people. And I feel like, you know, we'll always be there.

INTERVIEWER ONE

So true. We will always be there.

ABBEY

We will! Trust me, like I said, I had to be in an emergency and I can't talk about it, but, you know, I was there for who I needed to be there for. And then I'm trying to think, um, also, no offense to the other LGBT, we have the best colors.

INTERVIEWER ONE

We do have the best colors.

ABBEY

Yes. And we get the axolotl rep a lot. Oh, by the way, uh, I know this is not for the interview, but I'm literally wearing an axolotl shirt that says Snaxolotl, and I feel like that should be the ace mascot, just saying.

INTERVIEWER ONE

I love it. Um, one last question. I'm sorry to spring this on you. I just kind of jotted it down when I was getting ready. Um, how do you feel ace representation kind of compares to other LGBTQ+ representation and do you ever feel like there's any kind of exclusion that happens for ace people when it comes to the community?

ABBEY

To me, I'm gonna be honest, it's a--it is gonna be a weird question because, you know, I'm somebody who doesn't really care if you know I'm ace or not. Um, but you gotta remember a lot of my information comes from online, can't speak for a lot of people. I do see- I see 50/50 if aces are, you know, part of the community or not. But like I said, all my friends, I surround myself with, even the LGBT ones, um, they're just like, 'no, you're part of it.' They're like, 'you get the card with us.' And so, like I said, mine might be a different experience. Um, I feel completely accepted. I've never had somebody be like, 'No, you're not part of the LGBT. You're just straight without realizing.' You know, I've never had that. But I have had a lot of people, when I tell them that, be like, 'Oh no, you're gonna find somebody eventually.'



And I'm like, I mean probably, but I'm still, if anything, demigod, you know? And I think I'm still allowed to figure myself out in that area. So, for me personally, it's been good.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Alright, perfect. Um, so just to kind of round it out, uh, is there anything that you've spoken about here that you want stricken or that you don't want published or that you don't want, um, quoted in our publication?

ABBEY

Nope. I want full transparency. The only thing I want noted is I did not punch the preacher. Don't worry. Um, one last thing. I did wanna thank you for the opportunity. Sorry if, like I said, I was very awkward.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Oh, you're totally fine. Thank you so much for meeting with me. Uh, it's been wonderful to interview you.

ABBEY

No, thank you for doing the interview!



## INTERVIEW FOUR



INTERVIEWER ONE

If you'd like to state your name.

TODD

Uh, my name is Todd Camp, and I'm the founder and executive director of YesterQueer, the Tarrant County LGBTQ History Project.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Alright. Uh, perfect. So starting off with some softballs. What are your pronouns?

TODD

Uh, I go he/him.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Alright, perfect. All right. So to jump into 'em, how does the Texas of today compare to how you first remember it and how does Fort Worth factor into those perceptions?

TODD

Um, Texas, of course, I mean, I was born and raised in Texas, so it's always been kind of what it is to me. It really wasn't, I mean, I grew up in South Texas, so I was born in Corpus Christi, which was a relatively conservative city and, uh, on the Gulf Coast. I went to early school—junior, junior high, and the first year of high school in town. And then we moved out to a more rural part of, uh, Corpus Christi known as Annaville. So the high school I went to, there was very much a, um, oh, I guess all the kids were in FAA. I mean, I don't know if you know what that is, future Farmers of America. They all, they all raised sheep and cattle and goats and all kinds of things.

And it was just a big culture shock for me. Even though I'd grown up around horses, I was very much a city kid, and so that was my first real culture shock. And, and I, of course, was not out in high school, uh, the notion of being out in something like high school or, gosh, even junior high, was just unfathomable to anybody. Um, and I was, I mean, I was picked on and ridiculed just because of my taste in music. So, not imagine having that, uh, tacked on. But I always kind of had a perception that Texas was, you know, somewhat live and let live, but also, there was some intolerance bubbling not too far from the surface. And it wasn't really until I went to TCU, um, I graduated high school in '84, and I moved to Fort Worth, and that was my first real, you know, experience being away from home, uh, a pretty good distance away from home. TCU was very much, at the time, a much more open-minded, broad kind of experience, which is kind of funny to believe, knowing what we all know about TCU in many ways. But this, of course, is TCU 1980s. I lived in a dorm called Tom Brown, which no longer exists, and now it's the Tom Brown, Pete Wright community, whatever. But it was just a time, it was just a dorm. And at the time, Tom Brown was somewhat known as the academic dorm. It was Jarvis, I think, was the counterpoint. And it tended to be where, I guess for lack of a better word, the more studious people ended up going, even though it was, you know, it had its party element just as much as any dorm on campus. But that was the first time I ever even experienced the idea that gay people really existed in my world. Um, there were a couple of guys in my dorm that were rumored to be gay, and I guess they never openly denied it. So it was, it was just kind of there on the back burner. But I, again, didn't come out until I graduated from TCU, so it was probably '91 or '90.

Um, so Texas, at least in terms of being out and being homosexual in Fort Worth, it took a long time. I, I was 26 when I came out, so I had missed all the really fun formative crazy period, which was probably a good thing for me, but ultimately not as much fun as it could have been. But yeah, as far as how Fort Worth factors into those, I moved to Denton for a couple years right after graduating, uh, worked at the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, and then came back to the *Star-Telegram*. So again, working within an industry that tended to be a little more progressive than most businesses, um, the *Star-Telegram* kind of opened my eyes, and working with people who were, you know, very well educated and knew a lot about everything, was a, you know, highly formative experience for me. So when I did come out while working at the paper, um, you know, it, it took the *Star-Telegram* a long time to kind of come around. Uh, one of the things that I've been interested in, in my research, is looking at the early stories that the *Star-Telegram* did about the gay community. It really wasn't until AIDS hit that they did their first major piece that kind of addressed the existence of a gay community in Fort Worth. And the *TCU Daily Skiff* had predated that by about a year-and-a-half or two years; they had done several big pieces about being gay and what it was like and what area clubs were like. So I always thought it was interesting that TCU was a little ahead of the curve, even for the major, you know, Metropolitan Daily.

#### INTERVIEWER ONE

Yeah. For the, um, for the cover of our publication, um, we decided to do kind of a collage of old TCU Skiff, um, articles. And so I've been going through and combing through the archives and looking at it, and it's pretty interesting all of this stuff that you find there 'cause I wasn't expecting to find much at all, but...

TODD

Yeah, I wasn't either and, and I was delighted that, you know, the library has, has digitized all of them. I mean, every single issue of the Skiff. And, uh, and just going back to the timeline that you guys have created, uh, in the, what is it, gender studies social department over there is, is crazy. I mean, a lot of things that I didn't know a lot about the early days, but I think that TCU was probably a little more ahead of the game, at least the students were now, it took a long time for the administration to come around and I, I helped start the first gay student organization, which at the time was called the TCU Triangle, but it was after I graduated and we fought tooth and nail. I mean, both student government and the the school itself. So they were just not willing for a long time to do that. But looking at what TCU is now versus what it was when I was there, it's just, it's night and day. Going to the drag show that Nino Testa puts on and some of that, it's just like, oh my gosh, I could not imagine being a student back then.

INTERVIEWER ONE

Mm-Hmm. Alright. So what is your first memory of or interaction with the LGBTQ+ community?

TODD

I'd had some...some experience. Um, my mom's cousin on her side of the family was gay. He was a, is, uh, well, he was at the time, he was the manager for Ginger Rogers, uh, you know, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Um, and he lived in New York City, worked around Broadway, and was, you know, definitely showbiz type of person. And I went as a student, again, I wasn't out yet, but I went with a couple of friends to New York City, and he kind of took us around, and he took us to some gay bars in Greenwich Village and some other places.

And that was really my first experience with it. And he was, he was very much a, you know, just a total gadd fly and never met a stranger and, you know, had a million stories and knew everybody every place. And it really wasn't until I was at the *Star-Telegram* and there was a bar called Magnolia Station, which used to be on Magnolia right near Hemphill. Uh, it's ironically, it's now a breast milk bank. But it was a, it was a gay bar at the time. And I went opening night with a friend of mine from the *Star-Telegram*. And that was kind of, that became my, you know, my little home away from home 'cause it wasn't far from my house. And that's where I met my husband, uh, probably a year or two later. And then we were together 24 years. So it was, that was kind of my, my major experience locally with Fort Worth. And I was very much on the outskirts of the community at the time. I was just, you know, another nameless person in the bar, like a lot of other people. It wasn't until later on that I started the Gay Film Festival and became kind of a community leader—in quotes—that I really started to pay a lot more attention to what the community was doing and all of the different organizations and other businesses and things.

#### INTERVIEWER ONE

Yeah. Well, that kind of leads pretty perfectly into the next question, uh, which is what Fort Worth spaces are important to your LGBTQ+ experience, and how do you want those to be remembered?

#### TODD

When I first, you know, when I first really started getting interested in doing YesterQueer, my primary interest was in bars. And I wanted to make as complete a list of every single bar in Fort Worth and Tarrant County that I could.

Uh, and I talked to a lot of folks who had been around for, for many years. The fascination with bars is it works on multi-levels because, you know, a lot of people within the gay community don't necessarily want the association with gay bars. Um, they think that that's just a very minor aspect of you know, gay life, especially people who have kids or who are, you know, just have full-time jobs. And, but I, I mean, I can't, I can't overstate the importance that LGBTQ bars played in our entire history because they worked as, in many ways, they were a sanctuary. They were a place where you could go, where you could find other people who were like you, and you could feel safe there because everyone there had the same secret and these places were, you know, the safest places you could go, even though they weren't necessarily all that safe. In the early days, police would come and literally drag people out of the bars and arrest them for everything from public intoxication to lewdness to whatever, uh, most of the time completely unfounded. But they still had this kind of safety, at least presumption of safety. And, you know, I've told stories with some of the earliest bars were on North Jacksboro Highway, which was kind of the rowdier part of Fort Worth back in the day. These were all former Gangland bars. So they, when, when they kind of shifted into, uh, you know, when alcohol and drinking establishments became respectable again after prohibition, um, you know, the criminal element had really didn't know what to do with all these crappy, dark little, you know, hole in the wall bars. And for many years it was illegal to serve homosexuals. So this was the perfect chance for organized crime to step into the gay bar business, which a lot of early bars all over the country were run by mobsters, you know, because it was, it was another criminal enterprise. You could sell illegally, you could sell booze to homosexuals, you could overcharge them for it and you could water it down, and they couldn't say anything because we didn't know where else to go.



Uh, that's why most of those bars that, you know, the early bars are all just like windowless boxes. Um, so, but these, but the bars themselves are, are important more for, you know, the being a safe place to go. There were also a place that had to transform over the years, at least their purposes did. When AIDS hit in the, you know, mid-eighties, um, bars became a place to educate yourself, to learn, you know, how the disease was being spread, to sometimes to get condoms, sometimes to, to, uh, mourn and remember people that you'd lost, to raise funds for people who needed it to collect canned goods for people who didn't really have any other form of assistance because their families had abandoned them. So these places, while they, and many, many had, you know, kind of a seedy past, they, they've also become, you know, uh, kind of the same importance level as, as churches have in the African-American community. It was, they served the same role. It wasn't until, you know, once the community began to mainstream a little more, and, and it became a little more acceptable, then you saw things like, uh, you know, the emergence of gay churches and, you know, gay organizations that had spaces and then gay-owned businesses. So, but in those early days, bars were the, you know, the only place. So those always hold a special place in my heart. And I've, you know, I've tried really hard to document where all these places were, photograph what they look like now. Fort Worth loves to tear things down when it gets old. And, uh, so a lot of them are gone, but a handful still exists.

#### INTERVIEWER ONE

Alright, what details do you remember from your coming out experience or experiences?

## TODD

It's interesting. We did a every month, YesterQueer does a gay history happy hour. So last month for October, our event was held on coming out day, national coming out day. So we did a, uh, I had I, myself and several other people that are connected with yesterday. And then we just had people from the audience come up and tell their coming out stories. So one of the things that I did, and I'd never done this before, but it was just something that I had, had stumbled across when, you know, my dad passed away last year, and I was home helping my mom go through a bunch of things, and I found a folder that had the letter that I wrote him when I came out. And, you know, because I was a coward, and I didn't want to do it face-to-face. And I, you know, I'm a journalist and a writer, so I, that's, that was my way to control it as best I could. So I wrote him a letter, and then he had also put a copy of his response, which I have somewhere, but I, for the life of me, hadn't been able to find it recently. But my mother had never seen it. I mean, he didn't show it to her before he sent it to me. And, um, and it's pretty brutal. I mean, it's very well written, which kind of, in some ways surprised me a little because he obviously put a great deal of thought into it, but it's incredibly hurtful and just, um, and I read it to the crowd. I mean, I gave them, you know, a summary of what I've said, and then, and I read it to them. And, you know, it was like, you could've heard a pen drop. People were just horrified. But then I told 'em, it's like, you know, but a year later I took my husband home to meet him. And I, and I think, you know, as many counselors and friends told me over the years, it's like, how long did it take you to come out? I said, well, I came out at 26, and it's like, okay, now you expect your parents who have known you for 26 years as one thing to accept it immediately.

And I was like, I get it. And it's like, they don't get 26 years. They gotta come around a little quicker than that, but you gotta give 'em some time. That may take a year, that may take two years. Uh, you know, it may take more. Some parents never come around. I, I, I think I was an only child that helped. But honestly, I think the thing that probably factored in more was that I think my dad genuinely liked Doug. And I think he felt that he was a good fit for him. He kind of was a man's man, even though he was a modern dancer, which I think my dad was also like, 'What the...' but he was the kind of guy that, you know, he could take anything apart, put it back together. He just knew he was a practical guy, and in every way that I wasn't, uh, I would be, I don't know, I'll just call somebody, they'll fix it. But, um, so I think he felt that I would be protected with him. And so it helped come around—him come around. And, and then his parents were also, uh, pretty, you know, surprisingly for being an older generation, they really pressed him hard on getting over it because it's like, he's the only son you have. I mean, you don't have any kids. You're not having any more kids after this. So you, you need to grow the hell up and, and get past this. 'cause he's still a great kid. And, um, and you should be very proud. So that was really, you know, my earliest, uh, and oddly enough, I had started, you know, at the *Star-Telegram*, I had also began working for a statewide newspaper called the *Texas Triangle*, which was based out of Austin. And I started doing editorial cartoons and a comic strip. And I did that like maybe two years before I came out to either one of my parents. Now it was risky on my part, but I was like, when are they ever gonna see the Texas Triangle? Um, but it was something like, in many ways I came out to the state of Texas before I came out really to some of the most important people in my life, most of my friends.

I mean, almost all my friends knew, my coworkers knew. But, you know, I held off on my parents and I, and I, you know, I was even more of a coward. I told my mom and then waited a year to tell my dad, and, uh, and then lied to him and said that I was telling her at the same time. But it's, you know, it's a dad thing. I don't know, with a lot of, with a lot of gay men, it's like fathers can be really, really tricky. Uh, and it's not the same experience for everybody, but that was the way it was. My dad was the one I was the most afraid of, even though I knew he, I knew he would never be like, 'I'm gonna disown you. Don't ever call me again.' I knew I was, that's a fear I think a lot of people have, but I was pretty confident that he would not do that, even though the letter he wrote was pretty harsh. I was, I, everybody I talked to was like, yeah, he'll come around. And he did.

#### INTERVIEWER ONE

That's good. Uh, if you could talk to yourself the day before you first came out, or maybe, you know, whichever sort of time you came out was most impactful for you, what would you say?

#### TODD

Um...probably it's not, it's, I don't know what it is about that experience that just feels like it's gonna be the end of the world. And, you know, everything is worst case scenario. Your friends aren't gonna be friends with you anymore. Your parents are gonna disown you, you're gonna get fired. I mean, all these different things, and again, these are all legitimate fears for some people in some areas, in some situations. However, you know, I think people do their friends and family a tremendous disservice by immediately assuming the worst about them. So, you know, I, I, intellectually I knew, I knew how my friends were gonna react.

I knew how my family was going to react and, you know, I just needed, I wish I could have told myself to have a little faith in that it's not gonna be easy. I mean, it's gonna be difficult for a while, but the thing that I, you know, that I tell so many people who are still in the closet, you know, and again, I don't press, I don't pressure anybody into coming out. That's a—that's a personal decision, but there is no matter how bad it goes, no matter how, how many tears and screams and cries and all that kinda stuff. I don't know anybody who's ever regretted doing it. I mean, most of the time, you know, the—the old Dan Savage trope of it gets better. It does—it does get better. And it's better being honest about who you are with the people you care about than not. And it's worth the risk. Now, once again, you know, there's always—there's always a disclosure. Uh, people know their lives better than others. I mean, people in very small towns and very backwards places, you know, you have to sometimes wait until the right time to get the hell out. And maybe doing so, in, you know, a tiny little town with—with a lot of, you know, ignorant kind of angry people is not the best time t-t-to, you know, share your truth. But, I think most, I think most people know what they need to do. And, you know, the biggest thing that you can do is, you know, find your family, your new chosen family, and the people that you know are gonna support you, no matter what. And once you have that in place, I think you can pretty much do anything. It's the folks that I feel really sorry for, who just—who just legitimately feel completely and utterly alone, that's a tough thing to do all by yourself without somebody to bounce off. I mean, like, I read that letter to, I don't know how many of my friends before I sent it to my dad, and it was extremely helpful. And I, you know, I rewrote it like, I don't know how many times, probably the hardest thing I've ever had to write, but it's something that, um, you know, that's an experience that is, it's worth all of the mess. I-I think.

## INTERVIEWER ONE

Uh, if religion had an impact on your LGBTQ+ experience, what was it?

## TODD

Thankfully not. I probably was, well, comparatively, I was probably more in tune with religion than anyone in my family. We didn't go to church. We were like holiday churchgoers, maybe Easter and Christmas. Um, but we didn't go every Sunday. I didn't really ever do Sunday school or anything like that. My closest involvement to the church was I was in scouts, and we met in a church. Our boy scout troop met in a church like most Boy Scout troops. So I would occasionally go to a church with my friends, uh, who were also scouts. But, you know, that was—that's probably my greatest, uh, relief looking back throughout the coming out process, is that I never got Bible verses hurled at me or any of that stuff. I-I-I had actually read the Bible. I knew what the Bible said, and I had, you know, in preparation for ongoing battles and discussions, I taught myself what the passages meant. And the ones that did mention homosexuality or, you know, the closest counterpart to—since homosexuality as a concept didn't exist until the 1800s. Um, so the idea that, you know, the Bible would ever be used as a cudgel against me was never a fear for me. Which I'm completely grateful for because I have a lot of friends who have had incredibly difficult times, who are people of faith and who still very much enjoy, uh, you know, a spiritual existence that they found. Whether it's Metropolitan Community Church or other gay, you know, affirming churches. That experience has been a huge part of their lives. For me, not so much. I mean, I-I love that they exist, and I love the people who do 'em, and I don't fault or wanna deny anyone the joy they get out of that experience, but it's just not for me.

## INTERVIEWER ONE

Gotcha. Uh, do you have any intergenerational relationships with other LGBTQ+ individuals? If so, how do you perceive their experience as different or similar to yours?

## TODD

Um... Yeah, I kind of—I do obviously, you know, working with YesterQueer, I have, and this is something that really has kind of started to come into play recently. I met a woman named Glenda Gardner, who was herself an archivist for the Tarrant County Gay community for many years. And it took maybe two or three years of, I mean, kind of wooing her to earn her trust as to what I was doing with YesterQueer. And she eventually loaned me her entire archive to digitize and, and sort through. And it's been invaluable in filling holes and—and—and trying to, uh, complete, you know, the story of the Tarrant County LGBT community. And then I've met a lot of people recently. Um, I-I-I spoke at an organization, um, called the Coalition of Aging, LGBTQ, I think. And, um, it's primarily for older LGBTQ. And they are, I'm working with them next year, kind of in a partnership to—they're going to make YesterQueer kind of their project celeb. They're going to really try to get their members to go through their own personal archives and pull things out and share. And we're gonna try and put together a, you know, a big oral history project with a lot of these folks. 'Cause these are the folks that, that know the stories. And I-I spoke with him about two or three weeks ago, and it, that's part of, that's part of the, you know, I would say the hair on fire, uh, most important thing that needs to get off the ground from our seat on the buses, uh, is getting these oral histories down. We—we've lost so many people in the last few months alone that were crucial to, you know, the early history of LGBTQ Life in Tarrant County.

And, you know, we're already at a huge disadvantage because we lost an entire generation of people to AIDS. So the folks who survived that period are the only ones who know some of the stories of that, of that entire gap. And getting them on tape, and getting these stories down is, you know, it's a--it's a race against the clock in a lot of ways. So, um, I regret that I didn't get started sooner, but it was, you know, I had a life, and I ran another gay organization for 14 years. So it was like, it had always been kind of in the back of my head, and I had been gathering things, but this, that's been the one that I've probably the most, uh, interested in going toward. But the other part of that is not only connecting with these older folks, but also with an entire generation before me, uh, after me, the generations that have come since. And I've been very, uh, surprised, uh, pleasantly so by the fact that so many young people are interested in learning more about our history. Um, the YesterQueer events. I--I mean, honestly, I thought it was gonna be me and a bunch of old farts talking about the old days. And we've had so many young people come who were just fascinated, and they soak it up, and they--and they, the stories, uh, you know, to me it's crucial that they learn this stuff because there's nothing new under the sun. The things that we're facing right now, we've been through all of this before. I-I mean, the grooming, you know, 'We're all groomers trying to come after their children.' That's Anita Bryant in the Save the Children campaign of the 70s, it's the same crap, and they keep digging it back up. Uh, you know, right now, everything is about the trans community because they--they've found--they have found themselves a very easy and very vulnerable target. And it's despicable, but it's, again, it's all part of the same playbook they've been using for years. So we've beaten them before, and learning from how we did it in the past will help us for the battles that are ahead of us, I think.



## INTERVIEWER ONE

Mm-Hmm. Uh, I think you've already kind of talked a lot about this, but if there's anything you'd like to add about it. Uh, what is unique about the LGBTQ+ experience in Fort Worth?

## TODD

Um, it's interesting, you know, we're often compared to Dallas. Dallas has this huge, uh, a huge, very organized gay community. Uh, Tarrant County and Fort Worth particularly has always been more quiet when it came to rights and, and fighting and getting out there and being vocal. Uh, the early, uh, early organizations like the Tarrant County Gay Alliance, um, they took a very hands-off approach. Um, in the early days, preferring usually to not enter the fray, in fear that doing so would, you know, rock the boat and bring more attention to the community than was wanted. We were not, you know, we weren't doing Act Up kind of antics here. So that in many ways, uh, kind of reinforced our invisibility for you know, the 70s and 80s into the 90s. And it didn't help. Even though we had leaders, and we had people in the early days who were doing things that were, you know, incredibly brave, uh, they were very much a minority. And unfortunately, that meant a lot of those folks moved on elsewhere, and went to bigger cities and went to places where that had more of an organized community where their voices could really make a difference. Um, so that—that part of it is, uh, let's see, is unique to Fort Worth. The thing that Fort Worth has always had that I like about this town is Fort Worth is a very live-and-let-live kind of city. It's, it's like, we don't care what you do, just don't, you know, just don't rub it in my face or, you know, be jerks about it. And I think Dallas has had, you know, a bit of—a bit more of a struggle around that area.

That's one of the reasons why I think Fort Worth has always been a little ahead of the game when it came to, um, actual rights and laws arranged to protect the LGBTQ community. We've—we've always been kind of on the forefront, e-even in Texas as a whole. I mean, more so than Austin, more than Houston in some cases. And there have been other events where, you know, after the raid of the Rainbow Lounge and, you know, we've, started an organization called Fairness Fort Worth. And the—the amount of progress that came out of that one event was, you know, nothing short of spectacular. Uh, it was just a huge sea change, uh, and a major improvement for how LGBTQ people live in Fort Worth. And that was, you know, that was a—it was an interesting combination of—we had protesters from Dallas and some very loud, vocal, angry people marching in the streets and protesting and having parades and doing all this kinda stuff. And then you had a very lowkey, uh, intellectual, uh, calmer element of people working behind the scenes with city officials to try and get some change happening. So, one drove the other. I don't—I don't think it would've been successful if only one element was involved. Um, you had to have people yelling and jumping up and down and screaming to make the people who were calmer saying, 'All right, we can make this go away, if we can sit down and get some stuff done.' And it worked. It worked amazingly. And, you know, we had cities all over the country come to us asking, 'How did—how did you get so much, so quickly?' Because we got a lot of trans protection, uh, after that. And this was... 2009, I guess. So, you know, this was pretty early in the trans right movement as we know it today. So Fort Worth was already—we had a lot of these things on the books already. So that's one of the things I love about it. It's like—it's—this is inarguably, it's a big city. I mean, we are, I think we're the, what, 14th largest city in the country, but it doesn't feel that way.

It still feels kind of like a small town in a lot of ways. Um, and I—and I, you know, it’s like the whole cow town culture. And that’s something that’s always appealed to me too, is that we have this very kind of country, you know, rural, you know, ‘Y’all come back now, you hear,’ kind of vibe, but we’re every bit, as you know, vital and vibrant a city as Dallas or all these other major metroplexes around the country. So that’s one of the things I’ve, I, I’ve always loved about Fort Worth and why I—I think why I’ve never left after I got here.

#### INTERVIEWER ONE

All right. So, what is the story of YesterQueer from your perspective, and what has your experience with it been like?

#### TODD

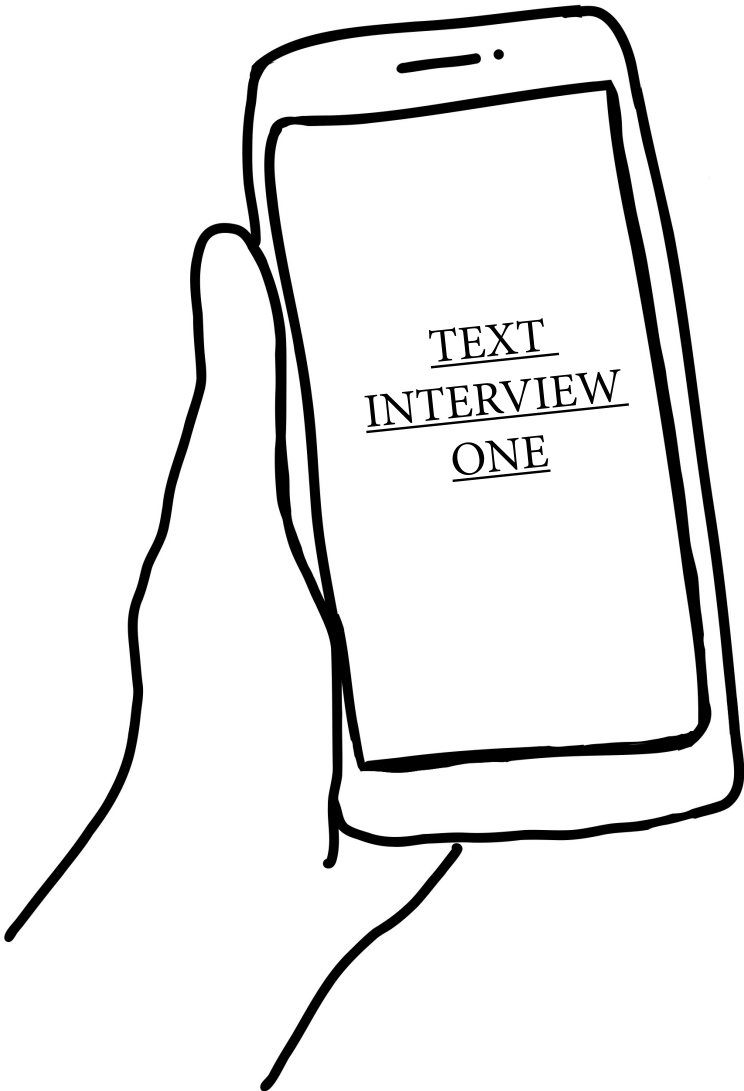
Um, YesterQueer really started, I guess, back in the days when I was running Q Cinema, which is the Fort Worth Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival. And it was probably about halfway through the run of Q Cinema that I, and I’m still trying to find, I know that I’ve it’s where I put an ad in one of the programs or something, advertising what I was just calling the Gay History project at the time. And my goal was to, similar to what I’m doing now, reach out to people in the community who had materials that they’d be willing to donate or share. Uh, ‘cause I just recognized how, um, fleeting a lot of this stuff was, but it really wasn’t until Covid hit and that—that it kind of came into full fruition. ‘Cause I had created a Facebook page, uh, just a private Facebook group for, uh, the Gay history project. And I hadn’t done anything in a while. And I hadn’t done anything in a while. But during Covid, we were all looking for ways not to go crazy. Um, and I just began posting on this page and like, things from my collection, um, little-little stories and tidbits and news notes.

And it got very popular very quickly and tripled in size and quadrupled in size so that by the time Covid was close to being lifted, I really was curious about, you know, well maybe this has some legs. And I, I went to Jenna, uh, Jenna Hill, who owns the Liberty Lounge, and I pitched the idea of like, 'Hey, I'd kind of maybe like to do a gay history happy hour and to see if people are, you know, if they care.' Um, and again, not thinking there'd be much a whole lot of interest, maybe getting some older folks. I was really purely, you know, for being, uh, purely greedy. I was just wanting, you know, some of these older folks to come out and, and, and share some stories. 'cause I wanted to hear the stories myself, but the first one we did was April of last year, I guess? And it was, um, it was about the—the—the area where her bar is located, which was, for all intents and purposes, the gayborhood of Fort Worth. Um, and at the time, it was called the South Jennings Crossroads. And, um, Billy Ray Hill, who was a big bar impresario at that time, he owned four different gay bars. Uh, his company was called the South Trainings Crossroads. And I just talked about, you know, the history of a lot of those bars. Well, we had like, you know, maybe 25, 30 people, which I was delighted by. And so then it became kind of a monthly thing, and we began to do different topics. And, you know, I learned very quickly that it's like, all right, it—it can't just be me yammering on for an hour. 'Cause that's a lot of work and research. 'Cause I-I-I really wanted to be on my game when I was talking about specific topics. So then I started to bring in guests and interview people. So, which is kind of where we are now with what it is. And, um, I don't know. It—it's like I said, I-I was very much interested in the, um, the bar scene as primarily my historical focus. But I learned very quickly that that was just not gonna be tenable. We had to really broaden it and, and put it, pull in every aspect of gay life.

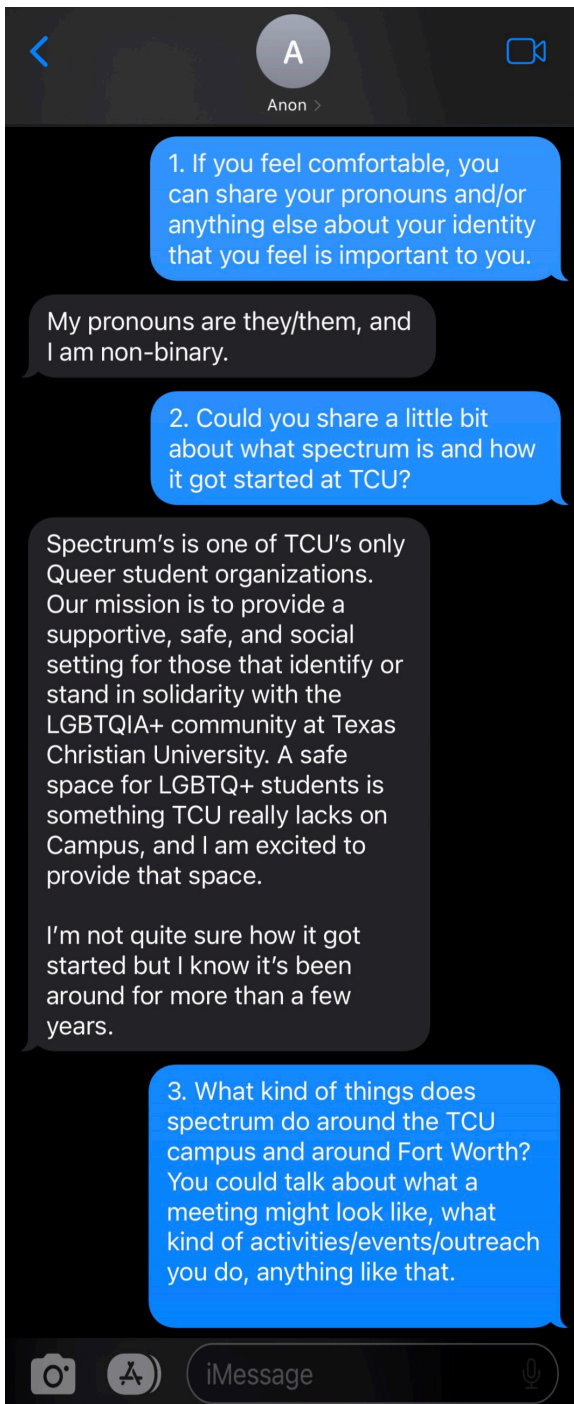
So another key factor was, um, during Covid, a friend of mine who was a local historian, had given my name to the Handbook of Texas. And they reached out to me to write a chapter for the Handbook of Texas about the LGBTQ history of Fort Worth. And they wanted, specifically, they said, 'We don't just want modern history. We want—we wanna go back to the 1800s.' And I was like, 'Well, uh, I think they were hanging us back then. I don't know what I can tell you much more,' but, uh, so I just began doing a really deep dive, and I worked on it for about three or four months and pulled together a chapter, uh, get, you know, a ton of sources. You know, the, trickiest part about pulling our history together is that, you know, there's not—there's no book, you know, there's not like the big book of gay history of Fort Worth. I mean, that's what I'm working on—one of the projects I'm working on. But it's just, it's not there. You have to—you have to pull from all these very diverse, and not necessarily all that reliable, sources. So, um, in doing so, I was able to pull together this chapter, and it ended up, um, surprisingly, it ended up winning best chapter out of 200 and—I don't know—280 new chapters for the book that year. It was chosen as the best one. And I got like, a, you know, a \$1,500 prize. And it was like, and I was competing with all these other people who were scholars and, you know, professional historians. So that really kind of lit the fire under me that, okay, now I really need to start taking this seriously. So we're in the process of—of, you know, getting our 501c3 and turning this into a legitimate, organization. And I've met with a lot of other people locally, who run similar events. And it's—I've been very encouraged by the fact that gay history is a very hot topic right now. There are a lot of organizations around the country that are involved. Um, I went to an event called, Queer History South, which was a big conference they had in Dallas.

And it essentially involves all of the states, all those southern states from Texas, all the way over to Georgia, and all these people that run archives and run different organizations and stuff come. And it was just like, it gave me so many ideas. But, you know, again, I have—I have pages and pages of ideas, it's just, it's the free time. Uh, you know, 'cause I do have a full-time job. So it's, uh, this is just something I do for fun in my spare time. But I'm trying to, you know, that's one of the reasons I'm really trying to get people involved and get other people involved. 'Cause there's a lot of, like I said, there's a lot of subjects that I think need to be covered. But I'm not necessarily all that interested in, uh, you know, churches, for instance, are a huge part of our history, and the church history, locally, is dense and fascinating. But it's like, I don't necessarily wanna write that history or necessarily really go deep dive into it. Drag is another, uh, you know, a huge part of what I'm really curious about now, is, uh, trying to—trying to trace the history of, you know, queer people of color, which is a closet within a closet within a closet. It's just, it's really tough. I mean, 'cause a lot of gay history tends to be the history of gay white men. And as a gay white man, I'm very hyper-aware of that stereotype. So I mean, I wanna make sure that we're talking about women and we're talking about the rest of the alphabet, the, you know, the LG, the LB and T as well, and all the pluses. So it's, all of those stories are increasingly difficult to tell, uh, trans history is incredibly complicated because so many people in the early days didn't identify as trans, even though they are, and were technically what we now know as trans. So it's finding the right people and the people who are passionate about these particular areas of study to, you know, to steer them in the right direction, to talk to people who—who might know these stories, is, you know, part of the, the nut I'm trying to crack as well.

So it's a lot. But, uh, I love it. I love the fact that I learn things constantly and the fact that we've found so many amazing things that we're saving and protecting for future generations to see is important to me. And I-I love, you know, just random people coming up and just being super appreciative of what we're doing; that kind of makes it worth it 'cause it is a lot of work. And, um, but I'm glad to hear that people are embracing it.







1. If you feel comfortable, you can share your pronouns and/or anything else about your identity that you feel is important to you.

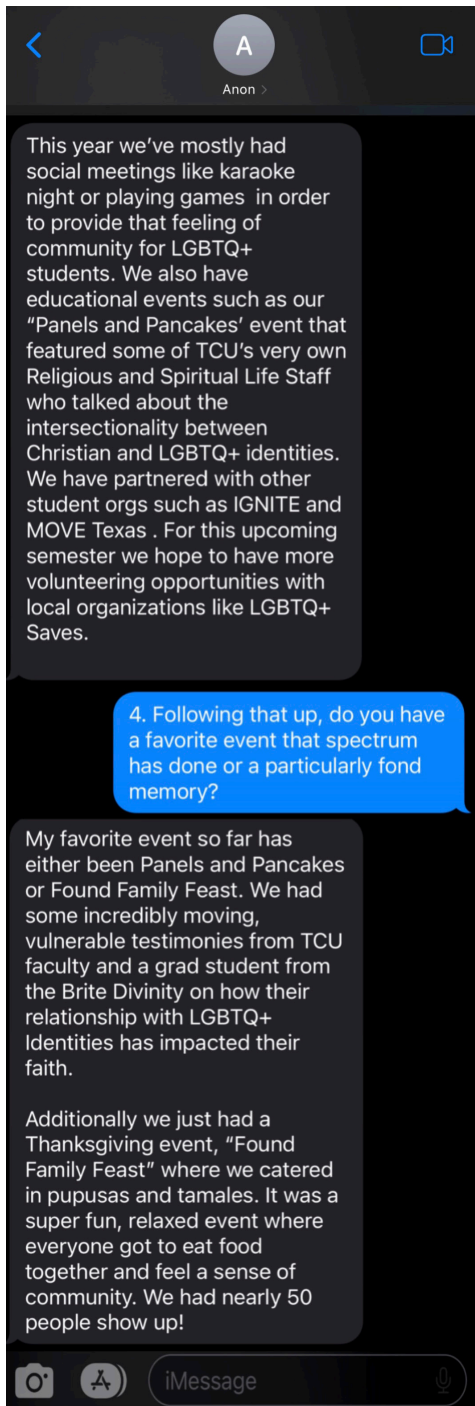
My pronouns are they/them, and I am non-binary.

2. Could you share a little bit about what spectrum is and how it got started at TCU?

Spectrum's is one of TCU's only Queer student organizations. Our mission is to provide a supportive, safe, and social setting for those that identify or stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community at Texas Christian University. A safe space for LGBTQ+ students is something TCU really lacks on Campus, and I am excited to provide that space.

I'm not quite sure how it got started but I know it's been around for more than a few years.

3. What kind of things does spectrum do around the TCU campus and around Fort Worth? You could talk about what a meeting might look like, what kind of activities/events/outreach you do, anything like that.



This year we've mostly had social meetings like karaoke night or playing games in order to provide that feeling of community for LGBTQ+ students. We also have educational events such as our "Panels and Pancakes" event that featured some of TCU's very own Religious and Spiritual Life Staff who talked about the intersectionality between Christian and LGBTQ+ identities. We have partnered with other student orgs such as IGNITE and MOVE Texas. For this upcoming semester we hope to have more volunteering opportunities with local organizations like LGBTQ+ Saves.

4. Following that up, do you have a favorite event that spectrum has done or a particularly fond memory?

My favorite event so far has either been Panels and Pancakes or Found Family Feast. We had some incredibly moving, vulnerable testimonies from TCU faculty and a grad student from the Brite Divinity on how their relationship with LGBTQ+ Identities has impacted their faith.

Additionally we just had a Thanksgiving event, "Found Family Feast" where we catered in pupusas and tamales. It was a super fun, relaxed event where everyone got to eat food together and feel a sense of community. We had nearly 50 people show up!

6. How would you describe your experience with the LGBTQ+ community here in Fort Worth? If you'd like, you can talk about any specific moments or places of significance.

Honestly I would really like to see more representation in Fort Worth. I did attend the Ft. Worth PRIDE festival in June, but I feel like LGBTQ+ representation in Fort Worth isn't commonly advertised.

7. Finally, if you wanted people reading to hear one thing from you, what would it be?

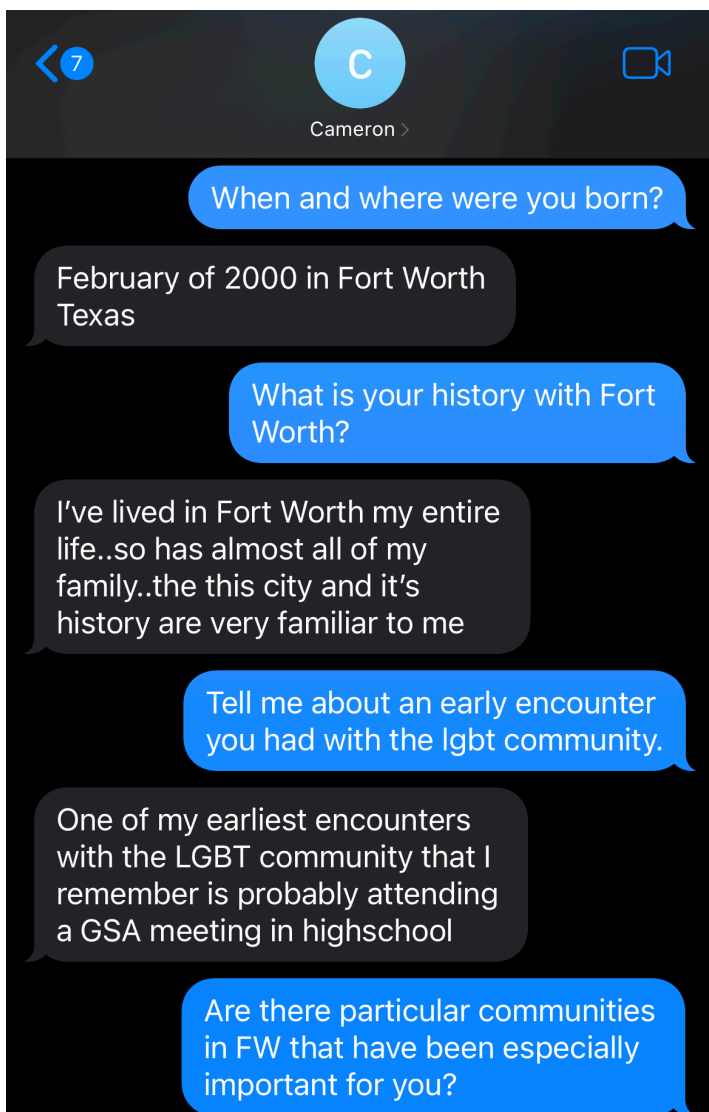
Don't just be nice, but be kind. Listening is more important and powerful than speaking.

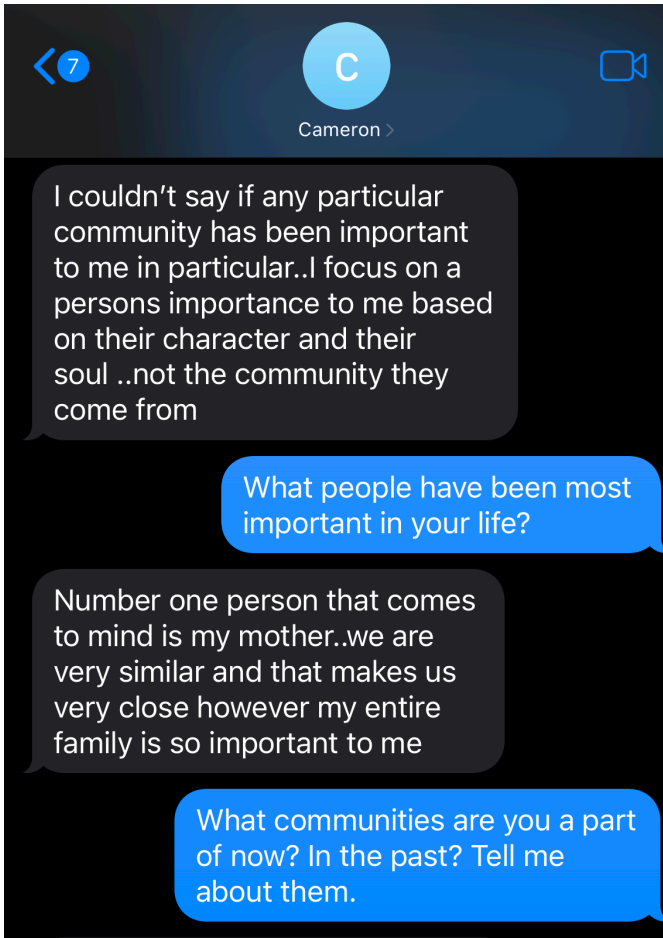


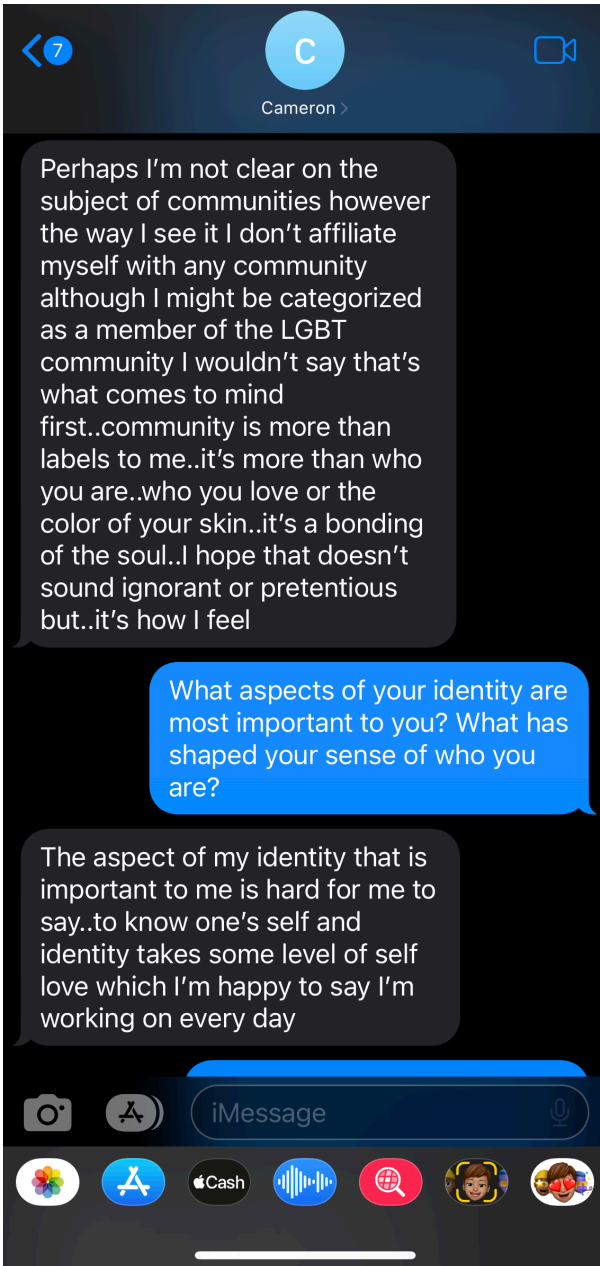
iMessage



## TEXT INTERVIEW TWO







Perhaps I'm not clear on the subject of communities however the way I see it I don't affiliate myself with any community although I might be categorized as a member of the LGBT community I wouldn't say that's what comes to mind first..community is more than labels to me..it's more than who you are..who you love or the color of your skin..it's a bonding of the soul..I hope that doesn't sound ignorant or pretentious but..it's how I feel

What aspects of your identity are most important to you? What has shaped your sense of who you are?

The aspect of my identity that is important to me is hard for me to say..to know one's self and identity takes some level of self love which I'm happy to say I'm working on every day

What memorable experiences have you had?

I'd say the most memorable experiences I've had in Fort Worth as a gay man is my first time being in a predominantly gay space as an adult...it's definitely an interesting feeling being surrounded by people like you and who may understand what it remotely can be like ..although I enjoy time with friends in any environment..predominantly gay or not(it doesn't matter) it's still something that stands out most memorably to me

What are you most interested in?

What I'm most interested in is to eventually answer the question asked previously as to what aspect of my identity is most important to me..the day I'm able to answer that is a day of growth for sure

If you wanted people to hear one thing from you, what would it be?

Read 11:29 AM

One thing I would want people to hear from me is be kind to one another...when we die worms will have no preference in consuming our remains..no matter our race ,gender,sexual orientation or religious beliefs..we will all be consumed and become apart of the same earth.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Rosangela Boyd  
Service Learning

Dr. Mat Wenzel  
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Dr. Chantel L. Carlson  
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