

THE AGORA

June 27, 1993

Volume 1, Issue 2

Address all correspondence to:

The Agora

P.O. Box 66403

Houston, Texas 77266

713-729-4267

MEETINGS

Monday, Sept 27

7-9 PM

Metropolitan Multi-
Service Center

1475 W. Gray

Spurred to Action

By Denay Hudson, President

As a 34 year-old homemaker and mother of two, a school fundraiser, a mentor for troubled teenagers at a high school, and a vice president of my neighborhood association, I do not have the "luxury" of staying in the closet. I am regularly outed by my young children who innocently tell classmates and strangers "I have two mommies." As uncomfortable as these moments can be, they do personalize the word "homosexual".

Although I am not a veteran activist, I was spurred to action by the hateful rhetoric dumped in our city last August by the National Republican Convention. I'm convinced however, that when teachers, parents, neighbors, and co-workers have the opportunity to know us, they will see that our lives mirror their own. Our values and contributions to society can be seen accurately and honestly.

The Agora wants to provide the media with fair and positive portrayals of our diverse community. Our goal is to fill the critical need for a gay and lesbian public rela-



Denay Hudson

tions/media consulting group. We also want to assist gay and lesbian organizations in their educational and public relations efforts.

Agora members represent a cross-section of the community, from PR professionals to energetic volunteers, both gay and straight. I am happy to serve as the first president of The Agora. It will take many more volunteers to carry out the ambitious projects described in this newsletter. I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Committees Set to Explore Diversity

By Ron Dalton

The Agora's strength lies in the diversity of its people. Our different personalities, careers and interests become one of our strongest assets through our different committees. Members may be as outgoing and visible as they wish through our speaker's bureau or provide an equally important role behind the scenes through our research committee.

The Agora's committee structure includes:

Speaker's Bureau: Designed to provide positive information to

business, civic, professional and other organizations interested in having speakers from the gay and lesbian community address their group.

Media Relations:

Responsible for writing and disseminating information to media as well as providing a liaison to the media from the gay and lesbian community.

Research & Archives:

Provide "backbone" data to support articles and news releases from the organization; maintain files on topics directly related to

the gay and lesbian community.

Community Outreach:

As liaison to local gay and lesbian organizations, this committee plays an integral role in providing a personal contact between the groups.

Fundraising & Grants:

Primarily assists in raising funds and grants to achieve the goals/mission of The Agora.

Anyone interested in joining The Agora or learning more about the committees, please phone (713) 729-4267.

Church ● Northwest Assistance Ministries' Family Violence Center ● Rice University Assistant Dean for Student Affairs ● Ri University Counseling Center ● Rice University Office of He Education ● Rice University Office of Multicultural Affairs ● Women

Co-Sponsors: Houston Area Women's Center ● Houston Association for Marriage & Family Therapy ● The Men's Group of First Unitarian Universalist

Rice University's
S.O.A.R.

Students Organized Against Rape
and
C.A.P.P.
College Assistance Peer Program

Ending Violence Through
P.E.A.C.E.

Personal
Education,
Action,
Community
Education

present



STOPPING RAPE:

A CONVERSATION

with

CASSANDRA THOMAS

President, National Coalition Against Sexual Assault

and

RUS FUNK

Author, Stopping Rape: A Challenge for Men

Thursday, September 9, 7 - 9 p.m.

Rice University, Hamman Hall

near Entrance #13 off Rice Blvd.

~~Admission~~ **FREE** ~~Admission~~

Against Violence Everywhere (WAVE) ● The Women's Group at First UU Church