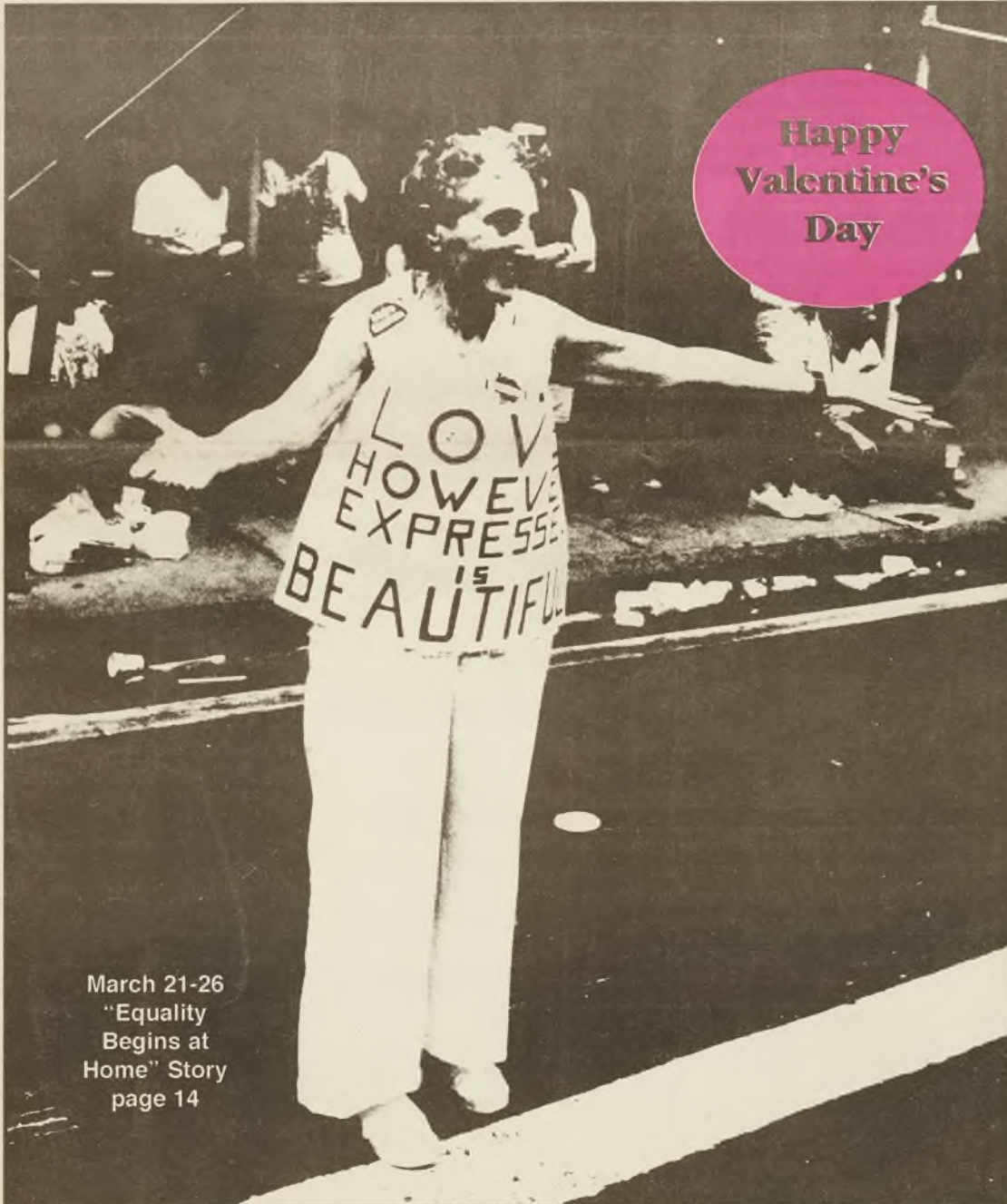


# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SERVING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY



March 21-26  
"Equality  
Begins at  
Home" Story  
page 14

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

The Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) has received a \$30,000 grant from the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, Inc. to support the Project's Interfaith in Action (INFACT) program. INFACT is a coalition of churches and synagogues founded in 1996 to promote compassionate and coordinated response to HIV/AIDS. The grant money will help to defray administrative costs of the INFACT program over the next three years, including the salary of a full-time volunteer coordinator.

"Participation by local faith communities is key to our dealing with the AIDS epidemic in North Carolina over the coming years," said Leslie Burnside, Executive Director of WNCAP. "This grant ensures that we can move forward in drawing on the caring and talents of local congregations to help people living with HIV and AIDS."

Burnside noted that local faith communities have provided care teams to assist AIDS victims unable to fend for themselves because of their illness and have coordinated annual AIDS healing services. "As people live longer thanks to advances in AIDS medications, we will need the involvement of faith communities more than ever to help people with AIDS rebuild their lives," she added.

The Western North Carolina AIDS Project, an independent non-profit **WNCAP** continued on page 18