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Volume 3, Issue 3 September 1988

MENSIONS



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Volume 3, Issue 3 September 1988





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From the Editor

In February I was on a sales trip to Houston. There were three other people with me on the way down and we were discussing politics. One of these women and I have always sat on opposite sides of the political camp, but we were discussing politics anyway. Out of the clear blue sky, her girl friend said, "I've never voted, but I will, if you will tell me who to vote for". It has always been against my principles to tell anyone how to vote, what to do, how to live, etc..

I won't tell you how to vote, but I will try to direct your thinking on some issues that are important

to our future and let you decide who can best serve your purpose.

The first thing we must do is keep in mind that a Republican administration has been in office for eight years. Now, the primary force behind the Republicans is a strong defense and a sound economy, both of which the Democrats always remain vague on and it gives lots of voters cold feet. Let's face it, we all want a strong economy. And the other negative side of the Democrats is that wild domestic social spending. They give hand-outs to everybody – right?

Well, just think about what the Republican have done for you the last eight years. We do have a strong defense. Of course it is riddled with bribes and pay-offs at the top. We have a space program that has been grounded for the last two years and may (and I do mean may) get off the ground in October. We have the biggest trade deficit in history. We are living on borrowed foreign money. We slid through the October stock market crash, but they slid through it in '29 too. It is after the new President takes office that we will discover what kind of shape the economy is really in. That is when the market always turns down. No, the Republican's haven't gone wild on social spending. In fact there are entire families on the streets in our major cities, but we sent \$800 million to the Contras. The number of bank failures in this country is at an all time post depression high. Corporations are borrowed to the limit and CEOs are raking in more than \$125 thousand a year along with the rest of the officers and board members. What about us blue collar workers and middle managers? Good question! There are thousands of workers that have left their jobs either through layoffs or forced retirement and when we hit our next inflationary spiral the prospects for these people are not good. We have tax reform, but in who's favor? We have a Republican administration who's leader until a few months ago, could not even say the word AIDS in public. Yet, we have been living with this reality for seven long years in the gay community. We watch our brothers moved from their homes on to the streets because they were ill. Most of the men with AIDS I have personally known, worked two jobs all their life, but couldn't collect social security once they were no longer able to work.

Some questions to consider: Do you want another Republican appointed Supreme Court Justice? I think not! I realize that the Supreme Court doesn't mean much to most people, but it does make the laws in this country. Women's rights are in trouble, gay rights are in trouble, abortion is in trouble, affirmative action is in trouble, and the outlook for AIDS patients isn't good if there is another Republican appointed Supreme Court Justice. How do you feel about the environment? Is your job secure? Are you really any better off financially than you were before 1980?

I don't want anybody to tell me how to live. Unfortunately, one of our political parties seems to think that if you aren't white, upper middle class, married with 2.5 children and the mother at home, you're voice does not count.

No, Randi, I still won't tell you who to vote for, but I hope you will vote because in any given election between 40% and 60% of the voters stay home. Our community is between 10% and 20% of the population. Hell yes, we can make a difference. It is simple arithmetic.

Roxanne Hunter/Editor

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From Around the Region, the Country & the World

National Coming Out Day Oct. 11

SAN FRANCISCO - The National Gay Rights Advocates and The Experience Weekend are coordinating efforts to make "National Coming Out Day" (NCOD) a success. The event will be a reminder to all lesbians and gay men that the time has come to go forward in the campaign for civil rights, the time has come for them to "take their next step."

To excite gay and lesbian organizations in local communities, the organizing body of NCOD has begun a large scale campaign of its own. The national media has been put on alert and "Coming Out Kits" have been mailed to organizations nationwide.

NCOD encourages every gay man and lesbian to "Take their next step" this October 11th, a step that for each individual is intensely personal.

For more information about NCOD, and to obtain an Official Coming Out Kit, contact the National Gay Rights Advocated at (213) 650-6200 or write to 8380 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 202, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Marine Corporal

PARRIS ISLAND, SC - Marine Corporal Barbara Baum, 23, was convicted on charges of having sex with another woman and sentenced to a one year prison sentence. Corporal Baum was

sentenced on June 10, 1988 at the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot for committing indecent acts with women, sodomy, and obstruction of justice.

Corporal Baum is the first woman to be court-martialed on sex charges. Of the four women investigated, one has been discharged in lieu of court-martial and three others have been discharged.

Corporal Baum's conviction is part of an ongoing investigation of lesbianism at Parris Island that is a result of a report published last fall which mentioned lesbianism among Marine Corp women. The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service issued the report.

Major General Joseph Hoar, the Parris Island Base Commander, will review Corporal Baum's case. The sentence can either be reduced or "let stand", but not increased. After Major General Hoar reviews the case, it automatically goes to the Navy and Marine Court of Military Review in Washington for review.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is urging lesbians and gay men to protest this discrimination by the military

You may express your opinion on this matter by writing to: Major General Joseph P. Hoar; Marine Corps Recruits Depot; Parris Island, SC 29905 and The Honorable Frank Carlucci; Department of Defense; the Pentagon; Washington, DC 20301.

THRF Has New Address

AUSTIN – The Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) announced today that it has moved its offices.

"The move has put us into a space that works better for our operations and which allows us some savings on our rent," said THRF Legal Director Tom Doyal.

THRF's new address is 2201 North Lamar Boulevard, Suite 203, Austin, TX 78705. The office telephone number (512) 479-8473 has not changed.

Foundation for Human Understanding Elects Officers

DALLAS - Dick Weaver has been reelected president of the Foundation for Human Understanding, which acts as the charity organization and co-sponsor of the AIDS Resource Center. Bruce Monroe was re-elected to a second term as vice president, along with Jeffrey Campbell, CPA, treasurer, and Joseph Desmond, secretary.

Other members of the board serving additional terms are William Way-bourn, William Hunt and Bill Nelson. New board members include Dan Perry and Lisa Dobey.

The Foundation recently published its annual record and financial data as part of an external audit. The complete annual report is available from the Foundation at 3920 Cedar Springs.

Business Guild Invites Women to Key West

KEY WEST, FL - The Key West Business Guild, Inc. of Key West Florida is sponsoring "Women in Paradise",

September 12-18.

Some of the featured entertainers will be singer and comedian Lynn Lavner and winners of the MTV Basement Video Award, the Troia/Grier Band.

Activities include music, theatre, dancing, scuba diving, sailing, snorkeling, windsurfing, and the Ms. Key West contest.

For further information and reservations contact: the 416 Cafe at (305) 296-9483.

Second International Gay Rodeo

RENO, Nevada - The International Gay Rodeo Association will present their second Annual International Gay Rodeo finals in Reno, Nevada on October 19th through 23rd, 1988. Nevada's Silver State Gay Rodeo Association will be the hosting organization for this event. The top ten cowgirls and cowboys from across the country will be competing for International Titles in each of the events. Finalists will be selected based on their performance at the six IGRA sanctioned rodeos held this year. In addition to the rodeo, there will be several dances and festival activities for visitors to Reno to enjoy.

For further information call: Les Krambeal at (702) 746-1660 or Bob Atkinson (702) 849-0527. For travel and motel information contact Sam Koe (800) 234-7686.

Lambda Amateur Radio Club Seeks Members

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Lambda Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is a service-oriented international organization of amateur radio operators, or "hams," and has served the gay and lesbian community since 1975.

Amateur Radio is an exciting hobby that has an area of interest for everyone ... satellite communications, computer-to-computer message systems, talking via shortwave to stations around the world, contests, amateur television, awards, radioteletype, message handling (traffic) as a service to the general public at no charge, emergency preparedness, and experimentation with new methods of communicating are just a few.

Gay and lesbian hams in the Lambda Amateur Radio Club are involved in these exciting activities and more. This year, LARC saw its first localized chapter formed in the San Francisco area, called the "Golden Gate Chapter." followed by the Washington, DC "Potomac Chapter." And others are being formed. Local chapters offer a social environment and a local, friendly support group to aid in enjoying the hobby. LACR members maintain a number of on-the-air meetings for members every week. All members receive the monthly Club newsletter, "The Lambda Net News."

Membership in the Lambda Amateur

Radio Club has been increasing steadily, and foreign inquiries have been received recently. Over the next few years radio conditions will improve dramatically, making world-wide communications seem almost as easy as picking up the telephone. And with 1.6 million hams around the world, there's always someone to talk to. Gay hams share in this excitement with an extra common bond of friendship.

For more information about joining the Lambda Amateur Radio Club, write to: LARC, P.O. Box 24810, Philadelphia, PA 19130

New Company Looking For Gay/ Lesbian Pen Pals

Pompano Beach, FL - Gay Ways is a new Pen Pal organization which refers names all across the U.S. through personal letters and referrals. It's founders hope to give people in small towns with no gay community a way to reach people of other communities across the nation.

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Friday, September 30th



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What's Goin' On

A Monthy Listing of Special Events All Around Texas, Oklahoma & New Mexico

AUSTIN - September is going to be a big month at NEXUS and PETTI-COAT JUNCTION! The TGRA State Meeting will be held at NEXUS Saturday the 3rd at 10am. On Sunday the 4th it's Last Splash at Hippy Hollow followed by the 5th Annual Labor Day Wet T-Shirt Contest! Both bars will be open on Labor Day Monday from 6pm until 2am. New at NEXUS is Thursday Night Show Night! September's shows are: on the 8th, Drag Show, on the 15th Female Strippers, on the 22nd, Talent Show and on the 29th, Fashion Show. Also, don't forget all the daily specials at NEXUS/ PJ's - see their ad in this issue for details!

HOUSTON - If live music is your thing - check out the RANCH this month! The Country Express Band will be appearing Friday, September 16th and The Appaloosa Band comes in on the 30th. In addition to this, if you bring your Astros or Oilers ticket stub, you can redeem it for a Super Happy Hour Drink! Weekly Specials at the RANCH include: Tuesday Beer Bust and Pool Tournament Night (everyone welcome!), Wednesday Happy Hour Drinks and Thursday Beer Bust. Also, don't forget that you can cele-

brate the end of summer on Labor Day Sunday with no cover and half price drinks!

FT. WORTH - The remodeling is underway at PARTNERS and Barbara says it gonna be great! In the meantime, don't miss out on Thursday night Beer Bust with a guest DJ and food! Check at the bar for the weekly menu. J. Christopher will be appearing October 8th so get ready! Also don't miss PARTNERS daily specials and Happy Hour.

SAN ANTONIO - The JEZEBEL has moved and changed it's name! Now, this happened several months ago but we just now got word. The new name is THE CIRCLE and it is located at 8021 Pinewood. The new phone number is (512) 341-2818. Be sure to say "Hi" from Dimensions while you are there!

AUSTIN-The 5th Annual Texas Gay Rodeo will be held in Austin this November 18-20! The rodeo will be held at the Texas Heritage and Exposition Center and many of the social activities will be held at NEXUS/PJ's. Booths will be available to both groups and individuals. Contact Myra or Phil-

OKLAHOMA CITY - The HER-LAND SISTER RESOURCES Fall Retreat is coming up September 16-18 at Sequoyah State Park in northeastern Oklahoma. In addition to fun and food, entertainment will be provided by comedienne Karen Williams and singer/musician Nancy Scott. For more info, contact Laura at (405) 672-4141.

HOUSTON - If you have a taste for exotic beer, check Carribe Beer Night on the 7th at KINDRED SPIRITS. On the 8th there will be a benefit for Clyde Williams with entertainment. On the 15th it's Deiz y Ses de Septimbre, a Fundraiser for the Amigos of Houston with \$1.50 Margaritas and \$1.75 Coronas. On the 16th you can get 7 oz. longnecks for only 50¢! And, last but not least, starting on the 22nd, every Thursday is Steak Night! Of course, you bring the steak, KS provides the

SOUTH PADRE - The time draws near for the LYLE'S DECK/Dimensions Women's Getaway Weekend! You'll need to hurry and get your reservations in! Remember that this is a three-day weekend, Friday the 7th thru Monday the 10th. Don at LYLE'S DECK says that you'll go back to work feeling much more refreshed after a three day vacation than after two days, and I know I believe him!

DALLAS - Weekly Specials and other events are up in the air at HIGH COUNTRY right now. However, Thursday and Sunday Night Shows go on! With Brandi as your host and lots of great talent, you can't help but have a good time! If you are wondering about drink specials, check at the bar!

Send Your Information for What's Goin' On to:

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Alyson Publications, Dept. P-15 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118 Answers to your questions about love, relationships & personal problems

Dear Agnes,

I have a big problem. I was just wondering if you could shed any light on it? My ex-girlfriend and I are trying to get back together. We were together for five years and we went our separate ways for about two years. We kept in touch the whole time. We always counted on each other in times of trouble. While we were apart she was with another girl that she lives with now. She says that they are only friends and I believe her to an extent. She was my first and I want her to be my last. I didn't say that during those two years I was innocent because I wasn't. I was very young and I needed that time away from her.

Now that you know a little background information here's the problem. We are trying to get back together. I have fallen in love with her all over again and I am ready to make a commitment. She says she wants one too. When we are at the bars she says she wants to make it work and she can't wait for us to be together all the time. But when we are by ourselves and it comes right down to it, she says, she doesn't know. The point is she cannot tell her roommate (ex-lover) that she wants to make a commitment with me. She says, she can't hurt her. But then she gets mad if I go out with other friends or if I just don't hang all over her at the bar.

I love her more than anything, but I

can't stand her indecisiveness. What should I do?

Confused

Confused Dallas

Dear Confused,

No wonder you are confused, your ex is saving one thing and behaving completely the opposite. I get the impression that she would be very happy if you would just sit home and wait for her to call. Don't quit seeing your friends or cancelling plans because she wants you to.

Some people like to see how many people they can string along and though I am not saying this is absolutely the case here, the signs point in that direction. I wouldn't take for granted (and by your letter you aren't) that her ex is definitely her ex. There is a good possibility that they are still lovers.

Until she takes positive action toward making a commitment; such as telling her ex, or perhaps moving out to a place of her own, don't put your life on hold. Actions always speak louder and truer than words.

Dear Agnes,

My grandmother recently had a stroke and while she was in the hospital, I got no support from my lover of five years. I was and still am crushed by the way she behaved. I have thought for a least the last six months that she was drifting away from me, but this last episode really takes the cake.

My aunt lives about two and a half hours out of town and since she brought my grandmother to the hospital I offered to go with her to pick up clothes for a stay of who knew how long at the time.

After we got back to the city, Janie (not her real name) was no where to be found. It was three in the morning and we have a good friend that lives about ten blocks over, so I drove by. Guess where Janie was?

Right! But neither one of them had a stitch of clothes on, and Janie was drunk as a skunk. I was very angry and still am, but I decided to let it slide and see if things got better.

They haven't! In fact all our plans include our neighbor and I feel very left out. Is my imagination just running wild? What do you think, Agnes?

About Through

Dear About Through,

I probably think the same thing you do. If after five years this woman can't even hang around when you obviously need moral support, she deserves what she gets.

Your imagination is not running wild. Sit her down and tell her what you think. Also tell her what you expect and if she doesn't straighten her act up—it's your move. Good luck.

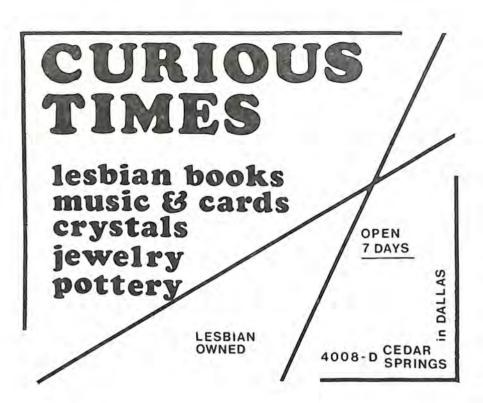
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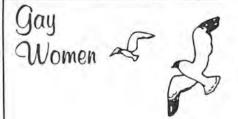
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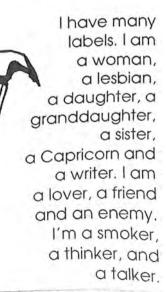
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Putting It All Together





None of these labels upset me. Taken together they make up a fairly accurate, if somewhat clinical, description. It is when they are taken separately and made to stand alone that they make me angry. I may be an enemy to some, but I am a good friend to others. Just because I am a writer doesn't mean that I am home with a typewriter all day and

time. She likes her fingernails long and it always makes her mad when she breaks one. No, she doesn't always initiate lovemaking and she takes just as well as she gives. I've seen friends with shock on their faces when she cooks dinner or does the dishes.

Now, if you take us as a couple, what you would see if you looked only on the

Being "fluff" doesn't mean I don't know a hammer from a lug wrench or that I consider my fingernails to be the most important part of my anatomy.

night. There are many facets to my life and my personality and one of those facets, all by itself, could never convey my complex nature.

It is with this in mind that I would like to discuss the lesbian community's fascination with the terms "butch" and "fluff" (or "femme", it depends on where you are from).

Yes, I like to wear a dress on occasion, and I usually have on make-up. But, this doesn't mean that I don't know a hammer from a lug wrench or that I consider my fingernails to be the most important part of my anatomy. I can pump my own gas, change my own tires and even change the oil in my car. I am good with most things mechanical and it doesn't bother me at all to get dirty. So, why is it that so many lesbians view me as helpless? Is it simply because I own, and wear, high heeled pumps? My lover, on the other hand, rarely wears make-up and wears jeans approximately ninety-five percent of the surface is one woman in jeans, another in a dress. I work at home, she goes out into the cold hard world. She drives a truck, I drive a car.

If you looked deeper into this relationship, you might also find that I really do work at home. I don't sit around eating bon-bons and watching soap operas. Yes, I do clean house, but only when my work is slow. You would find that my lover cleans house as much as I do and that this is a fairly equal partnership. But, despite all this, we have a very close friend who insists that I am a "fluff". She always apologizes for telling dirty jokes in front of me, even though, I may be laughing the hardest. She will concede that I am intelligent but will only address my "butch" lover in conversation. To her, I am a "pretty lady" to be loved, pampered, and complimented, but not taken seriously.

I know she knows better. She prides herself on the fact that her best friend is a "fluff". And, knowing her best friend, it is unlikely that she gets away with her chauvinistic attitudes without at least some comment.

Don't we take enough of this from men? Why do I have to endure other females who insist on saying, in my father's voice, "Women...", like I am some unfathomable life-form that has been forced upon them while they weren't looking.

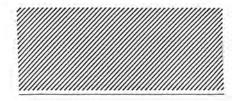
My lover has just as much room to complain as I do. People who haven't spoken to her months will call up and make multitudes of small talk before they finally get to the point – "there's something wrong with my car (my sink, my heater, my washer), do you think you could come look at it?" And when she tells them she doesn't know anything about their car (or whatever), they always come back with, "But, you are so good at that sort of thing, I just thought you'd know." A pair of jeans does not a handyperson make.

Complaints or no complaints, the simple fact is that if you look really hard, you will see that we are all women. It isn't possible to be more or less a woman any more than it is possible to be more or less a daughter. Some may be more feminine than others, but anatomy cannot be disputed. I ask no more than to be treated, as a person - capable in some areas, needing help in others, just like everyone else. Don't make fun of my girlfriend's long fingernails or the fact that she owns a purse. And, last but not least, when you see us as a couple, don't leave me out of discussions about cars and don't leave

her out of discussions about clothes.

We just might surprise you in who is interested in what subject.

Yes, I have many labels. So do we all. Just keep in mind that they come as a package deal, you can't have one without all the others. And you can't decide to forget the one about me that you don't like.





LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, Sept. 3rd TGRA State Meeting 10AM

Sunday, Sept. 4th Last Splash at Hippy Hollow

5th Annual Labor Day VET T-SHIRT CONTEST

cash 10:30PM On The Patio

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What A World, What A World!

"A Real Classy Broad"

by Nancy Ford

Hiya! And welcome to What a World, What A World—a new humor column here in Dimensions. Monthly in this space expect to see the sort of literature Erma Bombeck might write if she had a thing for women.

To give you a little background on myself (Thanks for asking.) I am 5"2", eyes of green, and was born sometime prior to the Johnson Adminstration

(Thanks for not asking.)

Physiquely, my weight is nowhere near proportionate to my height, as they say in Stewardess School. I should be on the same macrobiotic diet John Lennon was on before he checked out.

I would be okay on a diet if it weren't for Peanut M&M's. And I don't buy the 40 cent bag of Peanut M&M's. Nonononono. I don't buy the 80 cent bag of Peanut M&M's. Nonononono. I go straight to the \$2.99 POUNDER! This is the BIG one you can buy for \$1.99 at K-Mart blue light specials (And don't pretend to not know what blue light special means because any number of you can be found lurking in the gaudy lingerie department at any given time of the day or night, waiting for that blue light to go on. Don't lie to me; I know my audience.) If they packaged Peanut M&M's in those big, fifty pound dog-food bags, I'd buy those, too. The grocery bag boy would sling the big yellow-with-brown-letters bag over their shoulders and grunt, "Put these in the trunk for you, ma'am?"
"Oh, nonononono," I'd reply. "Wedge
them up there in the front seat. It's a
long drive home. Five, six blocks,
maybe."

But it's not my fault. Obesity runs in my family. Well, okay, it doesn't exactly run; it just sort of lumbers along, very laboriously. My aunt Delores weighed nearly 300 pounds when she died. Her will stated that, at the time of her death, she wished to be cremated, and for her ashes stored in a decorative urn and placed on the family mantlepiece. But at 300 pounds she would only cremate as far down as chitlins. She wouldn't fit into that decorative urn, either. We had to put her remains in a big Tupperware container up on the mantle. After one New Year's Eve party we noticed that Aunt Delores had disappeared completely. But her spirit lives on within us because after all, we are what we eat. Sexually, I've been gay all my life, but out for only eleven years. My mother asks how I know I'm gay. Because my lover told me I'm gay — that's how I know I'm gay, Contrary to popular belief, women do not "go gay" as a result of not being able to have an orgasm with a man. I can have an orgasm with a man. I can also have an orgasm with a hair brush and a six-pack of Lone Star, but I don't want to set up housekeeping that way.

Frankly, I've never been quite sure why

we call ourselves "gay". Most of the time I can bearly afford to be happy. Spiritually, "I believe in the incomprehensibility of God," (Honore de Balzac), that we must "Love one another," (Jesus Christ), and "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometime you just might find you get what you need." (Mick Jagger). I also belive that Elvis lives, but that subject rates its own column. For now, suffice it to say that any twentieth century rock star that rates a mention in the book of Revelation has earned my respect.

Educationally, I attended Kent State University and majored in Post-radical Depression, Ironically, I was married at the time. Yes, Sis, to a man. For three years. They were six of the happiest months of my life. As I talk to more and more women of the Community I discover that many of us have dabbled in hetero matrimony. Then we divorced and moved on with our real lives. Incredible as it may seem, statistics show that the divorce rate has declined. Suicide, on the other hand, has gone through the roof. What a co-inky-dink. Politically, I'm aghast. At press time, this girl's vote was still up for grabs. On one hand we have the threat of goodol'-boy Bentsen with his history of antigay votes behind him, running for President of our Vice. On the other hand I recently saw a bumper sticker which stated America Needs Bush In '88. Who can argue with logic like that? In any event, God bless the USA. In the United Kingdom (you know - England - where it swings like the pendulum do,) they have a law called Clause 29 which prevents local municiple authorities from promoting homosexuality. The practical effects of this recent legislation will be the closure of gay centers funded by the government as well as possible removal of licenses for gay pubs and clubs. Positive images of homosexuality in schools will be out-

lawed, as will the promotion of gay or lesbian lifestyles as "pretend family re-

lationships."

This, I fear, should almost be expected from a country who honors its groundbreaking, statement-making men by giving them the title of "Sir" prefixed to their names (i. e. Sir Lawrence Olivier, Sir John Gielgud, etc.). And how are outstanding English women honored? The monarchy proclaims them Dames, (i.e. Dame Judith Anderson, Dame Edith Evans,) as in "there is nothing like a" Everyone knows that even the more colloquial Classy Broad beats Dame, but today neither one of them can beat this particular Royal Flush. What a world, what a world.

So now, Loyal Dimensionites, you know a little about me, and how I stand on a few of the issues of the day. Now it's your turn. If you have comments, questions, or have any suggestions regarding the content of WAW, WAW, feel free to write to me, c/o Dimensions. Talk to me, ladies. I know you're out

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A Discussion of Lesbian Literature Both New and Old

This month T. Sumner Reviews:

Cherished Love
by Evelyn Kennedy

Last September
by Helen R. Hull

This month I am going to review two very different books. The first is pure romance - no murder or mayhem or intrigue, just romance. The second is a truly wonderful collection of short stories from the early part of this century. We'll start with Cherished Love by Evelyn Kennedy (Naiad Press, Inc., \$8.95). The story revolves around Dr. Megan McKenzie who has recently lost her lover, Ellen, to a car accident. Into the midst of her shock and grief comes attorney Randall Grayson who is trying settle the affairs of Ellen's estate. Randall is married but intensely interested in her new client

As the relationship between Megan and Randall grows deeper, Megan's best friend Lynn looks on with dismay. Megan scoffs at her warnings about being involved with a married woman until they both find out what Randall's husband has planned.

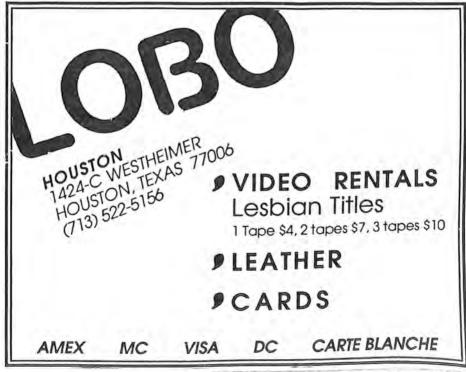
Cherished Love is not only a very idealistic romantic adventure, it's main character is a woman of unbelievable perfection. Megan is not only rich, she's beautiful, intelligent to the point of genius and so emotionally correct that she comes across as cold. This changes towards the end of the book as we get a glimpse of her humanity and the loving woman she was meant to be. Although I was sometimes annoyed at the unswerving perfection of Megan, overall I enjoyed this book. Like a prime-time soap opera, I couldn't wait to find out if Randall would leave her husband, if Megan would pay any attention if she did and how it would all turn out at the end.

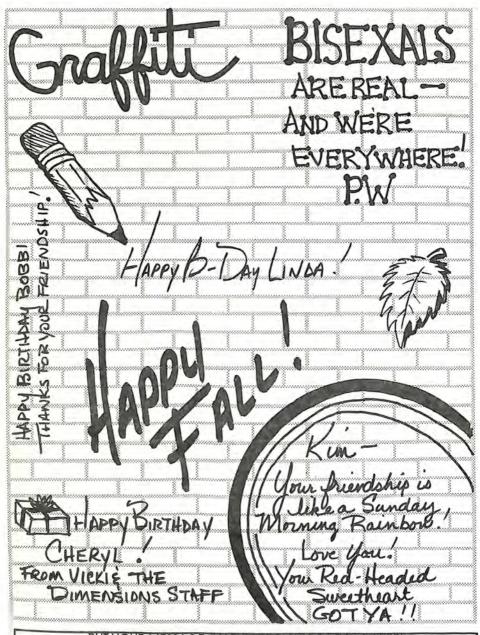
Next, we switch to <u>Last September</u>, seven short stories written by Helen R. Hull and edited by Patricia McClelland Miller (Naiad Press, Inc., \$8.95). Ms. 'Hull was born in 1888. She participated in women's suffrage parades, lived with another woman and never married. Her stories reflect not only the era in which they were written but the confusion that comes from being a strong woman in a world controlled by mothers and men.

Two of the stories focus on a young girl's attraction to the older women in her community and the trouble it brought. Rumors and accusations, hurt feelings and remorse. The final story, Last September, revolves around two women at the end of their lives who find

each other again and for the last time. These are not stories about lesbianism although it is implied at times. These are stories about women in a different time. The struggles and and the joys. Mainly they are about decisions and relationships.

I found them superbly written and very interesting as well as entertaining. Ms. Hull published 17 novels, four books on writing and 65 short stories. She also worked full-time at Columbia University where she taught creative writing. Last September and Cherished Love are both available for \$8.95 from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please include 15% for postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.





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ARE YOU IN CONTROL?

Some women seem driven to succeed in everything they do and never seem to enjoy it. Others are more than happy to let someone else do all the work while they live a carefree life. Which are you? Answer the ten questions below and find out!

1. In your family, you are:

- a. the youngest.
- b. the middle child.
- c. the oldest or only child.

2. You decide what to wear to work:

- a. just before time to go.
- b. first thing when you get up.
- c. the night before.

3. Your mother is:

- a. wonderful, but dependent on your father (or the man in her life) for almost everything.
- b. independent and very loving.
- c. a stickler for detail and very strict.

4. When single, you date:

- a. to satisfy your sexual desires.
- b. to have fun and possibly find love.
- c. to find a relationship.

5. When you go to the dentist, you prefer to be given:

- a, a general anesthetic.
- b. a local anesthetic and gas.
- c. a local anesthetic only.

6. When on vacation, you like to:

a, be totally lazy.

b. balance your time between lazing around and going and doing. .c. See and do everything there is.

7. In high school you:

a. made good grades, but only when you were interested in the subject. b. did well when you applied yourself but were more interested in having fun than homework.

c. always aimed for high grades and worked hard

8. You usually pay bills:

a. Just before they turn you over to a collection agency.

b. By the due date.

c. On the 1st and 15th.

9. When friends drop by without calling, you:

a. love it!

b. prefer to be warned but you enjoy their company.

c. hate it. You don't like anything unexpected.

10. Do you know where you see yourself 10 years from now?

a. No, you have no idea where life will lead.

b. You have an idea but nothing is written in stone.

c. Yes, you know exactly where you are going and what you want.

SCORING

Give yourself points as follows: a-1 b-2 c-3

if you scored:

23-30

You are certainly in control of your life. You know what you want and how to get it and you hate to be thrown off track by any surprise. Although you may accomplish alot in your life, you may not enjoy it as much as you should. You have always got to get started on the next plan as soon as possible and don't give yourself time to bask in your success. Try relax and give yourself time to nothing. You'll be surprised at how much fun it is!

17 - 23

You have a general idea about what you want out of life but you don't mind changing your plans at the last minute. You do set goals for yourself and enjoy achieving them but you understand that you should balance work with fun. This may mean that you don't achieve quite as much career success as someone more driven, but you'll certainly enjoy vourself more.

10-16

You prefer to live life in the present. You don't like setting goals and would rather go out and play than think about anything as serious as work. You always thought that money, love and success would just drop into your life but that isn't usually the case. Although you may be having fun right now, a little planning for the future wouldn't hurt.



Two people who need and love in a special way The same, and yet, different Two sides of a coin joined by a great force You move me as no other can And Your eves tell the story of your love My need for you is greater than life itself My love even stronger Although it may be silent

> -Tamia Oklahoma City

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Please include your name, address, phone number & signature. All poetry received will be assumed for publication. Your signature grants Dimensions permission to publish and verifies that you are the author/owner of said poetry or writings.

Be sure and tell us if you want to use your real name or what pen name you prefer.



VIRGO

(August 23rd-Sept 22nd)

During the first week of September you could find yourself moving ahead and making plans for your future. Be cautious with your money - steer clear of debts and do not take any unnecessary financial risks. The 9th to the 16th will bring high energy romance, and a full social calendar. This can all be funbut you'll have to watch your temper and not insist on having everything your way. From the 17th to the 23rd your thoughts will be torn between your past and future. Don't let a friend slip away right now because she will prove to be very important to you later on. From the 24th thru the 30th your career may seem to be going downhill, but be patient, everything will work out.

LIBRA

(Sept 23rd - Oct 23rd)

Social activities are especially attractive to Libra during the first week of September. Romance will also spice up your life. It may seem like all fun and games, but remember your committment and responsibilities, or you could be in trouble. From the 9th thru the 16th you may feel like you are on a roller-coaster. Maintain your charm and poise and it will see you through these trying times. Be cautious with your money now. From the 17th thru the 23rd it will be best to stay home and relax. A full social calendar can leave you emotionally drained and may make

for some compromising situations with friends and lovers alike. The week of the 24th thru the 30th will be exciting and rewarding. Your charm and charisma could put you in the role of trendsetter as well as filling your social life with fun!

SCORPIO

(Oct 24th -Nov 22nd)

Confidence and control are your key assets during the first week of September. Calm and poise will be your ticket to success. You will succeed as long as you keep the eccentric side of your nature under control. The 9th thru the 16th will find you with a full social calendar and the prospect of a new and exciting romance. Control the urge to overspend. You may have some decisions to make about a relationship from the 17th to the 23rd. You could find vourself pulled between the carefree single life and an intense romantic involvement. From the 24th thru the 30th you will have a tendency to overreact both emotionally and physically. Keep a short rein on your temper.

SAGGITARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 21)

You may not find time for travel during the first week of September, but that will not make the urge go away! Your career is taking an upward turn and you will have to direct all your energies toward that. From the 9th thru the 16th romance and social activities will have to be cut back due to extra stress at work. Avoid signing any agreements or contracts right now. From the 17th thru the 23rd, your social and romantic life will come back into play and the feeling of isolation you have been experiencing will go away. From the 24th thru the 30th you may find you do not share the same romantic feelings as someone you have been seeing. The love and support of friends may be more satisfying than that of a lover.

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22nd-Jan 20th)

The first week of September will find you planning your career and how to move ahead. Don't expect too much, you may have to return to the drawing board several times to get everything squared away. The 9th thru the 16th could see your plans take off, don't be afraid to push for what you want. An interesting person may enter your life the end of the week but don't get carried away. From the 17th to the 23rd you may be more concerned with domestic affairs. Now is a fine time to let those you love know how you feel. The 24th to the 30th may be emotionally trying, but don't let it get you down. This week will bring both luck and love.

AQUARIUS

(Jan 21st - Feb. 18)

During the first week of September it is hard for anything to go wrong. Love, money, career, and social life are all positive. The 9th thru the 16th will prove to be a most productive week for you, both at work and in your love life. Your self-confidence will bring positive reactions from those around you. From the 17th to the 23rd you may be

feeling irresponsible and irritated; but the latter part of the week will find you more responsible, caring, and playful. The 24th thru the 30th may be full of emotional ups and downs. You will come to realize how important another person is to you. But, at the same time, you may discover some deception in a close personal relationship. Try to rely on your intuition.

PISCES

(Feb 19th-Mar 20th)

The first week of September may find you reassessing some personal relationship, either at work or at home. This could create some stressful situations for everyone involved. You will be the center of attention from the 9th thru the 16th. You may be feeling successful in every way, but don't take on too much or you'll find yourself swamped next week. From the 17th thru the 23rd you will be busy planning personal goals and activities. There could also be an exciting new romance in the works. From the 24th thru the 30th you should try to keep your positive attitude no matter what you encounter.

ARIES

(Mar 21st - April 19)

Money matters could be taking up all your time during the first week of September. A new, unexpected romance could also heat up this week. From the 9th thru the 16th everything is going your way, as long as, you remember to put your career first. Work may seem tedious but the rewards will be plentiful. From the 17th to the 23rd you may be thinking seriously about committing yourself to a relationship. Don't go too fast, you may still have your head in the

clouds. From the 24th thru the 30th be sure to keep your emotions under control. A problem in your relationship could have you feeling down, but things will be back on track be the last day of the month.

TAURUS

(April 20th-May 20th)

The first week of September is a good time for setting goals, both for career and romance. Try to make them reasonable so that you don't get in over your head. From the 9th thru the 16th your relationship with that special person will be strong and secure. Keep a conservative view on financial matters. From the 17th thru the 23rd you will be feeling very laid-back. Keep in mind that curiosity causes trouble and mind your own business at work. From the 24th thru the 30th you may be feeling nervous and restless. Plan some special activities to get you out of the house.

GEMINI

(May 21st - June 21st)

Affairs of the heart are accented during the first week of September. Everything is going good at home, so it is a good time to catch up. From the 9th thru the 16th a bad situation at work could be getting worse. This could lead to problems in your personal life if you take out your frustrations on friends and loved ones. From the 17th thru the 23rd positive changes will be on the horizon at work. Things will improve in your relationship. From the 24th thru the 30th your home life and career may, once again, be competing with each other. You may have to juggle your time and energies to keep everyone happy.

CANCER

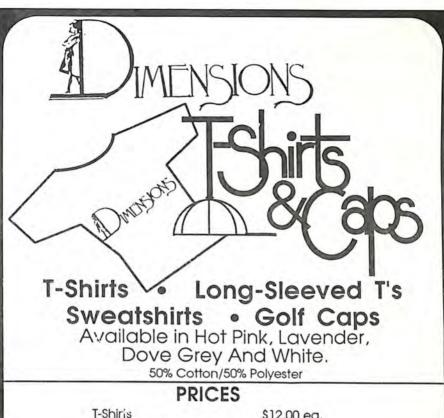
(June 22th - July 22th)

You may be worried about job security during the first week of September. Things will be looking up by week's end and an idea of yours could even lead to extra money. From the 9th thru the 16th try to control your tendency to be possessive and your love life will be much happier. From the 17th thru the 23rd everything seems to fall in place and you will be feeling in control again. Problems with a partner will be worked out if both sides make an effort. From the 24th to the 30th you will be well on your way to working through all your problems, and your outlook will be positive. Take some time off for social activities and outdoor recreation.

LEO

(July 23rd - August 22nd)

A romantic relationship could be heating up during the first week of September. You will have to watch your spending habits right now, romance always seems to open up your pocketbook. From the 9th thru the 16th you will be feeling very energetic. Your career, social life and romance are all doing well. Try to take some time out. From the 17th to the 23rd money may be tight, but you'll be searching for some creative solutions and you're likely to hit on one that will be a source of income for years to come. From the 24th thru the 30th you will be feeling relaxed and happy. Someone you just met may be full of compliments but they may have ulterior motives.



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organizations

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Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby
P.O. Box 2505 78768
Metropolitan Community Church
1100 Springdale Rd • 929-3660
Oasis Ministry
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Waterloo Counseling Center
507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654

2201 N Lamar # 203 78705 • 479-8473

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14902 Preston Rd 75240 • 733-1108
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3930 Cedar Springs
521-8919 or 1-800-992-6404
Kennel Kare Grooming Salon
Dallas/Ft Worth/Mia-Cities
(817) 379-0737

clubs

Rumors 5039 Willis Ave • 828-4471

Organizations
AIDS Resource Center
3920 Cedar Springs 75219
Among Friends
P.O. Box 710135 75371

Dallas Gay Alliance P.O. Box 190712 75219 •528-4233 Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives 3930 Cedar Springs • 821-1653 Dallas Gay Youth Group 300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203 Dallas Outdoors P.O. Box 35474 75235 • 276-5270 Dallas Tavern Guild 3900 Lemmon Ave #220 • 526-5292 Foundation for Human Understanding 528-4233 Gay Community Center 3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233 Gay/Lesbian Young Adults 528-4233 Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus 2727 Oak Lawn 75219 • 528-2811 Lesbian Information Line (LIL) 528-2426 Lesbian/Gay Rights Advocates 528-4233 Lesbian Visionaries P.O. Box 710185 75371 Oak Lawn Counseling Center 3000 Turtle Creek Plaza, Suite 116 75219-5311 • 520-8108 Oak Lawn Symphonic Band P.O Box 190973 75219 • 986-1751 Womyn Together 3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

FT. WORTH (area code 817) businesses

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Partners
1612 Park Place • 924-2519

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

businesses Lobo Bookstore

1424-C Westheimer • 522-5156

clubs Kindred Spirits

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4902-C. Westheimer • 623-6135 Panch 9125 S. Main • 666-3464

organizations

AIDS Foundation 3400 Montrose #700 . 524-AIDS

AIDS HOTLINE

c/o Switchboard • 529-3211

Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston

4800 Calhoun • 529-3211

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

P.O. Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211

Houston Gay Political Caucus

P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000 Houston Thurday Nite Mixers

Bowling League

Steve: 699-3732 or Phil: 688-6970

Kingdom Community Church

614 F. 19th . 862-7533 Lambda ALANON

Lambda Center for Alchoholics

1214 Joanne • 521-9772

Lesbian/Gay Students

University of Houston - Clear Lake

2700 Bay Area 77058

Lesbian Mothers Mothers Group

864-3098

Montrose Pool League/Billiards

P.I 863-8482

PWA Coalition - Houston 3327 Essex Lane, Suite #16 77027

623-4436

Women's Lobby Alliance

4 Chelsea • 521-0439 Women's Softball League

6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806) organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 796-2403 West Texas Aids Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 93120 • 794-1757

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Action Council 729 Eighth St. S.E. Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20003

(202) 547-3101 AIDS 800

1-800-221-7044

National Gay Alliance for Young Adults, Inc.

PO Box 190426 Dallas, TX 75219-0426 (214) 307-7203

National Gay/Lesbian Clearinghouse 666 Broadway 4th Floor

NY. NY 10012

National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline

1-800-221-7044 The Fund for Human Dianity

666 Broadway 4th Floor

NY. NY 10012

NORMAN, OK (greg code 405) organizations

Women's Resource Center P.O. Box 5089 73070

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (grea code 405) organizations

Oasis the Community Center 2135 NW 39th 73112 • 525-AIDS Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39th 73112 • 794-7464

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 512) clubs

Blue Angel West 1583 Bandera • 434-5652

The Circle (formerly The Jezebel)

8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

organizations

LISA (Lesbian Information SA)

828-LISA (5472)

San Antonio AIDS Foundation P.O. Box 120113 78212-9313

San Antonio Tavern Guild 822-2823

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☐ Travel	☐ Help Wanted	Miscellaneous
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Personals

SEEKING: GWF, very feminine, thin, young, patient, monogamous. Likes: older, athletic women, living in Dallas, staying home, active relationship. Working, tired college, graduating. No smoking, alcohol, drugs, men. Reply to Box # 137.

DALLAS-FT. WORTH AREA - Professional GWF, 5'7", athletic build, loves life, people, animals, dancing, quiet evenings and a variety of interests and hobbies. I am shy at first but once I feel comfortable around who I am with, I am more outgoing. I don't care for the singles bar scene but I do go occasionally for dancing with a date or to meet friends (rarely now because of early mornings and busy schedule). Light drinker, absolutely no drugs. I am look-

ing for a nice femme lady who loves life, people, animals and has a variety of interests for friendship and possible future romantic relationship. Photo if possible. Reply to Box # 138.

AUSTIN: GWF (33) New to the area, wanting to meet a lady who enjoys a variety of activities from sports, going out, relaxing evenings at home, also like the outdoors. Photo requested. Reply to Box #139.

FT. WORTH: Gentle, caring, 41 year old GWF looking for GF 35+. Tired of mind games, I could settle down with a faithful, romantic partner. Like to go, do & have fun, quiet evenings at home, holding hands, outdoors and most music. Please be clean, neat appearing (beauty comes from within) and have a steady job. Reply to Box #140.

Messages

CHERYL, Happy Birthday Baby. Together we'll make all your wishes come true. I Love You. Vicki.

SHARI - Thanx for showing me this and so much more - especially for keeping me in "touch". Miss Ya! D.

Video

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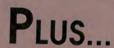
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