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Volume 3, Issue 11 June 1989





SPECIAL FOR THIS GAY PRIDE ISSUE!

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by top lesbian author Katherine V. Forrest

a short story - complete in this issue!



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70 7he Editor

LIVE WIRE OFFERS APOLOGY

Dear Editor

Many Thanks to those of you who have voiced words of encouragement and support for Live Wire Productions despite the problems experienced at the Teresa Trull/ Dianne Davidson concert in Austin on Friday, April 28th (the weekend of the March on Austin for Lesbian/Gay Equal Rights). Most of you were very understanding, and we appreciate that. We extend many apologies to all who came and had to wait and wait for the concert to begin, and especially to those who had left work early to travel to Austin in time for the concert, but then couldn't stick around long enough to actually hear the performance. Unfortunately, it was impossible for us to allow people into the ballroom during the waiting period because it would have prevented the performers and sound technicians from hearing the sound check.

The delay that night was due to the inept sound company we had contracted for that concert. They had old equipment in bad repair that they did not know how to operate properly, causing the sound check, and consequently the concert, to be delayed by almost two and a half hours. In the past, Live Wire Productions has earned a reputation for having concerts of excellent quality that start on time and have good sound. We have never had anything like this happen before. Unfortunately, the excellent sound company we have used for almost three years decided to sell their equipment and leave the sound business. This necessitated our trying out a company we had never used before. We were wrongly told that this new sound company would be a good choice, and now we are paying for that misinformation. We assure you we will never use that sound company again!

Please forgive the discomfort and inconvenience you felt waiting for the concert to begin and remember the power we all felt as we marched up Congress Avenue and made our presence known statewide. Yours in Women's Culture,

Lou Tompkins Producer, Live Wire Productions

DIMENSIONS IN COSTA RICA!?

Dear Dimensions:

Hmm...did you ever expect that a copy of Dimensions would be passing through the hands of gay Peace Corps Volunteers working in Costa Rica, Central America? Neither did I, but I recently found a copy mysteriously placed in my mailbox & a good thing too because, #1 I thoroughly enjoyed it and #2 I needed the connection to home and the gay community.

After having circulated that March '89 issue among some other gay/lesbian volunteers, we decided to write and find out about subscription rates to Central America and about a possible discount. We are considering forming a support group for lesbian volunteers and would like to have access to gay publications from home.

Anxious to hear from you.

Cindi Bermudez Costa Rica

THANKS

To the Women of Dimensions:

THANK YOU!! Finally, something decent to read that deals with a major part of every lesbians world; WOMEN!!

Each issue is better than the one before, and I read it from front to back. (Saving each copy for reference of course.) I call them Mini Lesbian Reader's Digests - Ha-ha! I ordered a 12 month subscription last week and I'm looking forward to each delivery. Keep up the super work! Love that Nancy Ford! She's fantastic.

Sincerely

N. Moore Dallas, TX

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Texas Lesbian Conference To Be Held In Houston

HOUSTON - Lesbians from all over the Texas will be heading for Houston for the 2nd Annual Texas Lesbian Conference on June 2-4, Co-sponsors, AMIGA (All Mujeres Interested In Getting Active) and WOMYNSPACE, have a great weekend planned.

Workshop topics include: "Unlearning Racism", "Self-Esteem", "Women's Studies", "Parenting/Co-parenting, and "Legal Issues".

A dance is planned for Saturday night along with a concert featuring <u>Heartsong</u> and other artists on Sunday afternoon.

Speakers include: Gloria Anzaldua, coeditor of <u>This Bridge Called My Back:</u> <u>Writings by Radical Women of Color</u> and Antoinette Azolakov, author of <u>Cass and the Stone Butch, Skiptrace</u> and <u>Contactees Die Young</u> - both women are native Texans.

The conference will be held at the Astro Village Hotel, 2350 S. Loop W. (South 610 Loop) in Houston. Cost for the entire weekend is \$45.00 or \$25.00 for Saturday only and \$20.00 for Sunday only. For more information on TLC '89, contact AMIGA at (713) 520-5667.

Gay Democrats Support Reproductive Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "Gay and Lesbian Democrats of America (GLDA) has signed on to the amicus brief of the Women's Legal Defense Fund (WLDF)," announced Christine R. Riddough, executive director of the GLDA. The brief is being filed in the Supreme Court case of Webster v. Reproductive Health Services. " We are involved in this brief because of our commitment to full civil rights and social justice for all people," continued Riddiough. "We are specifically concerned with the attack on the right to privacy and with the health care implications of this case."

The Webster case is crucial to the protection of the reproductive rights of women in that it challenges the landmark case of Roe v. Wade which upheld those rights. In addition to signing on to the WLDF brief, GLDA endorsed the April 9th March on Washington for women's Equality and Women's Lives. GLDA is also assisting the National Abortion rights Action League in their efforts to circulate petitions in support of reproductive rights.

"We believe that these issues are

important to to our community both because of our basic commitment to civil rights and because they will impact on the rights of lesbians and gay men in such areas as family rights and privacy rights," said Riddiough. This effort is part of GLDA's Progressive Agenda project aimed at raising a range of issues of importance to the gay and lesbian community.

California Task Force Urges Lawmakers To Recognize Domestic Partnerships

CALIFORNIA - A report just issued by a California state task force urges California lawmakers to recognize domestic partnerships as family relationships. The report of the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family also includes several recommendations to eliminate discrimination against the nearly 1.4 million adults who live in unmarried-couple households in California. The domestic partnership proposals recommend that:

- Public policies should respond to the changing needs of today's families, while respecting their privacy, integrity and diversity;
- Domestic partnerships should be recognized as family relationships;
- Employee benefit plans should define family broadly enough to encompass the diversity of today's families, regardless of family structure;
- Public schools should expand curricula to promote recognition of family

- diversity by providing students with current information on changing family structures.
- Counseling services whether publicly funded or provided through private health plans, should serve not just individuals, but all families regardless of their structure;
- Insurance practices such as rate discrimination against unmarried couples, should be prohibited;

Wrongful death laws should be amended to allow adult dependents to recover damages when a domestic partner is killed by a criminal, drunk driver, or by other intentional or negligent conduct of a wrongdoer.

The Task Force on the Changing Family consists of six legislators and twenty public members. The panel was created by the California Legislature in 1987 to keep state lawmakers advised of changing family demographics and issues. Co-chairs of the task force are Assemblyman Tom Bates (D-Oakland) and Senator Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles).

Thomas F. Coleman, a Los Angeles gay attorney and educator, was appointed by Senator David Roberti to serve as one of the panel's 20 public members. Coleman, who teaches a class on "Rights of Domestic Partners at USC Law Center, authored a report issued last year by the Los Angeles City Task Force on Family Diversity.

"This is the first time any legislature in the nation has received a governmentsponsored report that includes the concerns of domestic partners," Coleman observed. Coleman expressed hope that the report of the California Task Force would stimulate the creation of similar study groups by governors and legislators in other states.

"Placing the concerns of gay couples within the larger context of family diversity should increase the probability that the domestic partner recommendations will eventually be implemented," Coleman predicted. In addition to domestic partnerships, the report addresses issues affecting dual-career married couples, elderly and disabled couples, single-parent families, families caring for elderly parents and low income families.

Copies of the report can be obtained from the Institute for the Study of Human Resources, P.O. Box 65756, Los Angeles, CA 90065/(213) 258-8955. Please include a \$10 donation for each copy requested. Checks should be made payable to ISHR.

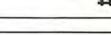
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What's Goin' On

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

EVERYWHERE - GAY PRIDE FESTIVITIES are happening all over this month! From New Orleans to Albuquerque — Oklahoma City to Houston and everywhere in between! Be sure and check with your local organizations or at your favorite bar for details in your area — and, join in the celebration!

AUSTIN - The place to be in June is NEXUS & PETTICOAT JUNCTION! Every Friday during Happy Hour in NEXUS you can catch some great entertainment: on the 2nd it's Lara Linette; on the 9th catch Alison Goodgame; on the 16th it's comedy by Nancy Ford; on the 23rd it's the Therapy Sisters; and Austin's own Nancy Scott takes off on the 30th! Now is the time of year when everyone wants to be outside — NEXUS/PJ's has a great solution — every Thursday through Sunday evening you can enjoy the weather on the Patio with Jill!

HOUSTON-It's a Monday and you're bored - what do you do? Head to the RANCH, Houston's only women's bar open every Monday with Dart Tournaments and Happy Hour Prices all night long! Plus get on out and help women's sports at the Houston Women's Softball League Benefit Show on Sunday, June 18th. The show starts at 8pm - don't be late!

HOUSTON - If you thought that KEYSTROKE was all STOP SEARCHING had in store for the women of Texas ... we have news for you! — EXECUCLUB, the city's most revolutionary and only entertainment club for women is set to open in Houston every Sunday through July, beginning June 18th, at 5611 Valverde, 4pm-12am

The cabaret club is a premier fusion of professional musicians, comedians, entertainers of all sorts, and You, in a resort type setting surrounded by sliding glass doors that will lead you to the garden and the pool. It's the perfect Sunday afternoon event for the professional, executive and progressive woman! You will have the alternative of being indoors in the midst of the action, or relaxing outdoors by the pool while sipping a tropical drink. The Choice is yours...

For more info call the STOP SEARCH-ING HOTLINE (713) 785-9258.

ARLINGTON - Everyone at BRITCHES & BLOOMERS invites you to join them in celebrating Tarrant County Gay Pride Week June 2nd thru 11th! On Friday the 2nd the Gay Pride Week Kick-off Party will be held at BRITCHES & BLOOMERS from 8-10pm and the Mr & Ms. Gay Pride Week Contest starts at 10pm. On Sunday the 4th, Join in the Parade

and Carnival! The Carnival starts at 4pm at the South Jennings/Crossroads Area in Ft. Worth. And, last but not least, don't miss the Annual Picnic on Saturday the 10th - be sure and check at the bar for all the details and — have fun!

HOUSTON - KEYSTROKE, Houston's Number 1 private club for women and friends introduces its "Wild Summer Season" with a variety of events that will keep you on your toes all the way through August! There will be a Black Tie Affair on June 9th followed by a Leather & Lace Adventure on June 16th. Next is the Gay Pride Celebration on June 23rd and a Toga Party on June 30th. But, that's not all - there will be many more surprises in August!

Keystroke is held at 2401 San Jacinto from 9pm to 2am and is produced by Stop Searching. For more info call the KEYSTROKE HOTLINE at (713) 785-9258.

DALLAS - Just when you were afraid to go back on the dance floor - DESERT MOON - the newest and biggest country & western bar is now open in Dallas! Located at 5039 Willis in the old Rumors location, it's got everything you could want! Pool and other games, a huge dance floor, a quiet space to talk and Southwestern decor! Check it out!

DALLAS - There's something big happening at SUE ELLEN'S! Bigger and better, that is! The new addition is now open and there's lots more room for dancing, sitting and talking, playing pool and generally having a great time! Don't forget you can get 3-in-1's or happy hour prices every day from 3pm-8pm and all day Monday!



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

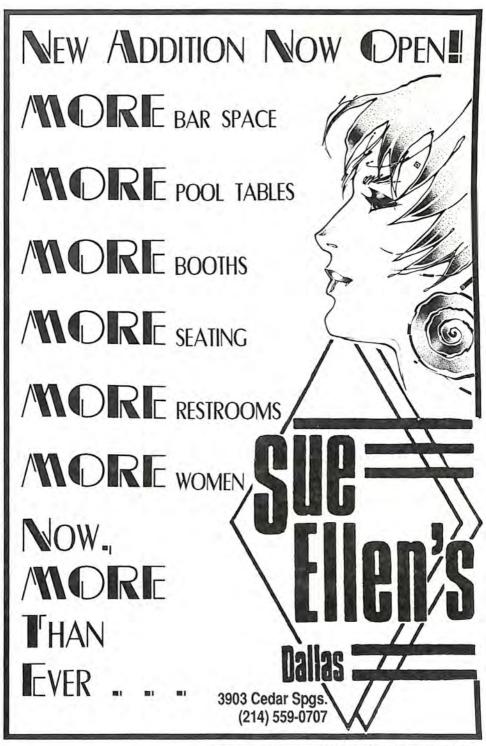
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Answers to your questions about love, relationships & personal problems

Dear Agnes,

I pulled a big boo-boo about three months ago. My best friend from college lives in the same town, and we have continued to be friends for years now. She works in sales and is out of town frequently. Needless to say, I spend a lot of time at her house and when she is out of town I spend alot of time with her lover. There has never been a problem until about three months ago.

It was a Thursday night and I had had a terrible week at work so I dropped by Jan's to talk and have a drink. Well....needless to say we got very intoxicated and I got the big come on. We slept together. It was wonderful! I have wanted to sleep with this woman forever, but have pushed it out of my mind because she is my best friend's girlfriend.

So, I figured that was that. Except now everytime "my friend is out of town" Jan and I end up sleeping together. I have tried staying away from her, but I can't. I know she and Jan's relationship isn't perfect, but I can hardly look my friend in the eye any more. I spend less and less time at her house when she is home.

Can you help me with this mess I have gotten myself into? What should I do? I feel like a rat, but seems like I can't stay away. Jan is a real "looker" and everytime she suggests we fall into bed; I do. I really feel like this is out of control, but I can't seem to stop.

Help San Antonio

Dear Help,

You are definitely playing with fire. The best course of action you can take is to stay away! As things stand now, you can't even look your friend in the eye, and if you continue to sleep with her girlfriend, things are only going to get worse. You can stay away from her. You are responsible for your actions and sex seems to be the primary motivation behind this "little fling". I suggest you start looking for another person to spend some time with.

Talk to Jan and tell her what you decide, otherwise you run the risk of losing them both. Even if you don't end up in a relationship with Jan, odds are you will lose your best friend.

Good luck there is nothing like being between a rock and a hard place. This may be a good time for a vacation-preferably to a women's resort.

Dear Agnes,

I have been an avid reader of your's for almost three years now. Little did I know that someday I too would be writing you with a problem.

My lover and I have lived together for the past two years and we get along very well most of the time. She is terribly jealous of my family and as a result ever since we have lived together I have not been home alone.

The problems really started a couple of months ago when my parents invited me to vacation with them in Europe this summer. At first my lover "acted" glad for me and then she decided "we" should start planning a vacation together. Guess when? That's right during the same time period my parents are planning their trip. I told her that there is no way I would rather go to Colorado, but she keeps planning and talking about this trip. I pointed out that is the same time mom and dad are taking their trip. She keeps laying a big "head trip" on me about how I would rather spend my vacation with my parents.

How do I get it through her head that this is a chance of a life time and I am not going to pass it up?

SPLIT IN OKC

Dear Split,

You summed it up rather well yourself. All you can really do is tell her that there is no way you are going to miss the trip to Europe. From the way things sound she may still not believe it, until you call home from London.

Thanks to Lynn in Dallas for answering our question.

DWF-Divorced White Femal



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by Katherine V. Forrest

A Short Story -Complete In This Issue

teepling her fingers, Dr. Newell studied the Petersons. "Richard and Mary," she said gently, "your daughter will suffer the gravest kind of trauma unless you have highly substantive reasons for believing she is a lesbian." Her light blue eyes shifted to the folder on her desk. "There is no genetic confirmation whatever."

Richard said anxiously, "We realize she doesn't have the gene, but she —"

"It's not a gene. The discovery involves a specific genetic configuration, a signature." The doctor spoke with weary patience, as if she had explained this distinction countless times before.

"Yes. Well..." Fingering his tie, Richard adjusted his shoulders in his navy blue suit jacket. "We knew from the day she was born she didn't have it, and of course Mary and I don't either. It comes out in how she is and the way she acts, you see. From what we hear, that's enough to test her for a recessive ... whatever you people want to call it."

"A recessive genetic signature." The whitecoated psychologist sighed. "A great many other parents are making similar decisions about their children — and are inflicting severe psychological damage." Studying the grim, set faces, Dr. Newell added with resignation, "Describe specifically how she acts."

"Like a complete tomboy," Mary answered sharply. "She *insists* on being called Casey. And she's very different from her peer group, doctor." Her voice had softened into more deferential tones. "The only playmates she'll have are other girls, and they're different, too. None of them tend to act in the traditional ways of —"

"Normalcy. Heterosexuality," Richard finished dourly.

Dr. Newell's gaze narrowed on Mary; she took in the carefully coiffed brown-blonde hair, the smartly styled plum-colored dress, the high-heeled sandals. "Mary," she said softly, "Cassandra is only nine years old. That's typically a tomboy age. And her behavior may be a reaction to ..." She spoke meaningfully to both Petersons, "... outside pressures."

"We think differently," Mary said through tight lips.

The doctor tapped a few keys on the computer access near her elbow. "So she's



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formed primary female relationships within her peer group." Her low-toned voice clearly conveyed skepticism. "What other specific behavior patterns?" Her fingers remained poised over the keys.

Richard said with more than a touch of belligerence, "She likes the out-of-doors. Likes nothing more than to hike and camp. Her girl friends are the same way —"

"These days more and more of them seem to be," the doctor observed darkly.

"You've seen her, doctor, you'll have to admit she's unusually well-muscled —"
"Everything you're saying is a thoroughly discredited stereotype." The doctor's tone was not harsh. She continued to tap more keys. "Some of the most delicate, non-athletic women you can imagine are lesbians. Some of —"

"We know all that," Mary interrupted, her tone once again sharp with insistence. "We're telling you it's a whole combination of things. She's a leader-type, assertive — bold as you please about taking charge of everything."

"More promising," the doctor conceded, "but not necessarily indicative either." She abandoned the computer keys and placed both hands on the desk, one over the other. The hands were strong, capable-looking. "I realize she's very young. But has she exhibited any concrete evidence of sexual identity?"

"She's very attached to her playmates," Mary said primly. "Very attached."

The doctor clenched her hands and closed her eyes briefly. "Again, that's normal at her age. You said she had only female playmates. It's understandable she'd form —" "There are boys her age at school." Richard's broad shoulders were hunched with tension. "Her grades are better than theirs. The teachers say she's precocious." "With the condition your schools have fallen into, that's no —"

"Look." The word snapped whip-like in the room. Mary glared at the psychologist. "You're supposed to help us. That's your job. To seek out any children who might be

homosexual because of this recessive —"
"Listen to me." Doctor Newell's raised voice commanded silence. "It's a vital part of my job to prevent children from undergoing a traumatic and unnecessary ordeal because overzealous parents suspect a recessive genetic pattern which is so rare as to be —"

"But it is possible and we have to know."

Mary bit off the words. "She's nine years old. If it does turn out she actually is a lesbian, then you people can help her . . ."

"Richard and Mary, I ask you one last time—please reconsider. Can you not simply accept Cassandra as she is?"

The Petersons looked at each other. Mary took Richard's hand. "No," Richard said. The couple shook their heads in added emphasis.

"It's an entire battery of tests," the psychologist said tiredly. "Cognitive, attitudinal, reactive —"

"We want the answer once and for all," Mary said. "We want Casey tested."

Dr. Newell's sigh was audible. She touched a key on the computer; a consent form flicked out of a slot on the desk. She picked it up, drew a pen from her tunic top and made an X, then slid the form across the desk top. "Sign here."

Some of the most delicate, non-athletic women you can imagine are lesbians.

he Petersons made their way into a large waiting area divided into separate enclaves, each enclave furnished with bright red chairs and sofas and tables against glowing white walls and white carpeting. Dozens of other parents were already waiting, some pacing the area's perimeter or sitting in those sections equipped with television; others read magazines or simply stared into space. The area was

hushed; none of the parents communicated with anyone else.

Concealed behind an opaque screen, a white-clad, dark-haired young man sat at a desk overseeing the entire scene. Several times before it had been his assignment to be here, and he well understood the silence, the resistance to communication among the parents: they felt themselves to be in a dread competition, and could bear only anonymous contact with other parents whose child might pass while their own might fail. The young man, immersed in assembling data for his own survey work, occasionally answered a question from a parent who pressed a query button under one of the communication screens. The questions were usually routine, and always whispered:

It's been two hours. Do you give out interim test results?

No, he transmitted in electronic response. How many children have tested positive so far today?

Information released on a monthly basis only, he replied.

His answers were always terse, aloof. He could do nothing to relieve their anxiety, and he remained an invisible, voiceless presence because the slightest indication of friendliness or concern would bring all of the parents flocking to receive a similar perceived benediction — as if to cast some subtle good fortune on their own particular offspring.

The Petersons sat on one of the sofas for half an hour, then got up and joined those parents pacing an endless circle around the perimeter. After a time the Petersons left the trek and walked outside to gaze silently at the manicured landscape, then up at the emerald walls of the Center for the Advancement of Humankind, its tower vanishing into the bright blue sky. Even though they had been told that testing of their daughter would consume a full four hours, they soon went back inside to pace, and to wait.

The parents, one group after another, were summoned by a signal on the ID insignia

each wore. They would be given the test results privately, along with appropriate counseling recommendations, then pick up their child and leave by another exit.

The Petersons were among the last parents to be called.

r. Newell awaited them in a cubicle furnished with a desk and two metal chairs. Expressionless, she gestured for the Petersons to be seated. They obeyed, Mary smoothing her hands repeatedly over the skirt of her dress, Richard hunching his shoulders.

Dr. Newell said evenly, "Your daughter's test result is negative."

The Petersons sagged in their chairs.

continued on page 27

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What A World, What A World!



by Nancy Ford

There's a best-seller on the bookshelves that is monopolizing conversations everywhere. The Book of Questions written by Gregory Stock, PhD., and published by Workman Publishing, New York, is comprised soley of inquiries concerning ... "values, beliefs, love, money, sex, integrity, generosity, pride and death ..."

As a public service to the readers of WAW, WAW, I have compiled a partial list of answers to some of the actual questions in this book. I know how some of you hate making decisions for yourselves). Clip and keep in your wallet for easy reference at your next chi-chi cocktail party or Levi's Docker's commercial.

Do you believe in ghosts or evil spirits? Yes, I do.

Would you be willing to spend the night alone in a remote house that is supposedly haunted?

Haunted by whom? Haunted by John Lennon? Sure! Haunted by Vlad Lenin? I think not.

You discover your wonderful one-yearold child is, because of a mix -up at the hospital, not yours. Would you want to exchange the child to correct the mistake? It depends on which child had the more extensive line of credit. And suppose, just *suppose*, I'd lost my receipt? Then what?

If you were able to live to the age of 90 and retain either the body of a 30 year old or the mind of a 30 year old for the last 60 years of your life, which would you want?

It depends on whichever that particular 30-year-old would be willing to sacrifice.

If at birth, you could select the profession your child would eventually pursue, would you do so?

Probably not. I would have been too traumatized (having just passed through the birth canal) to make decisions for my own unborn children.

If God appeared to you in a series of vivid and moving dreams and told you to leave everything behind, travel alone to the Red Sea, and became a fisherman, what would you do?

I would leave everything behind, travel alone to the Red Sea, and become a fisherman.

What if you were told to sacrifice your child?

Being childless, I would consider the possibility that these dreams were not from God, but rather from eating too much 59¢ Mexican food after midnight.

If you knew there would be a nuclear war in one week, what would you do? After I stopped screaming, I would stop payment on any outstanding check I'd written.

What was you most enjoyable dream? Definitely not the one about the Red Sea.

Your worst nightmare?

Rambo III

Can you urinate in front of another person?

Probably not right in front of another person, unless the wind is with me and that person holds onto my shoulders to keep me from tipping.

An eccentric millionaire offers to donate a large sum of money to charity if you will step — completely naked from a car onto a busy downtown street, walk four blocks and climb back into the car. Knowing that there would be no danger of physical abuse, would you do it?

By any chance would this eccentric millionaire also be a televangelist? Would you accept \$1,000,000 to leave the country and never set foot in it

again? Absolutely, I much prefer the city,

anyway.

While out one day, you are surprised to see your mother holding hands with someone who is clearly her lover. She notices you, runs over to you, and begs you not to say anything to your father. How would you respond? What would you do if your father later told you that he was going crazy because he kept thinking your mother was having an affair, yet knew it was just his imagination?

First, I would react with horror. Then I

would consider my love for and responsibility to both my parents, discuss it over an outdoor cafe luncheon of poached salmon and endive salad with a trusted friend who advises me to follow my own heart. Ultimately, I make the right decision, appear on Oprah Winfrey, and sell the TV-movie rights to ABC.

Would you give up half of what you now own for a pill that would permanently change you so that one hour of sleep each day would fully refresh you?

Certainly not, and I believe there are an abundance of professionally staffed clinics in Southern California and West Texas that cater to those persons who would.

If 100 people your age were chosen at random, how may do you think you'd find leading a more satisfying life than yours?

None. If they all said they were my age, they're all liars. No one would admit to being my age unless they were at least 3-5 years older.

Which sex do you think has it easier in our culture?

Heterosex. But then, what good is anything if it's easy?

Do you think that the world will be a better or worse place 100 years from now?

We can only hope and pray that it will be a better place. I hate Visualizing the World in Pieces.



the Coffee Club

A Discussion of Lesbian Literature Both New and Old

This month T. Sumner Reviews:

In The Blood

by Lauren Wright Douglas

Fatal Reunion

by Claire McNab

This month I have two great new books from Naiad Press.

The first is <u>In The Blood</u> by Lauren Wright Douglas. In the early part of the 21st century America's west coast is the site of the explosion of biological warfare device which unleashes a virus called the Red Death.

The world promptly seals the borders of the United States and entire states within America seal off their borders. Enclaves do exist where the Red Death has not yet infected the populace. One is in Arizona. Two lesbian groups, one named the Gaians, and a hidden one rumored to offer sanctuary, are also uninfected.

When a group from the Tuscon Medcenter is asked to take and experimental vaccine to the California border, Solar-tech Hart is reluctant to go. Reluctant for good reason! As it turns out, the Arizonans are kidnapped and led on a terrible trek through a

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lawless land where they are caught in a web of intrigue and murder.

Lauren Wright Douglas weaves a frighteningly plausible tale from the spectre of the Red Death. I read this book in one sitting - great stuff!

The second book is once again about murder and intrigue, but this time in a much "tamer" (if that's a word that can be applied to murder) setting. Fatal Reunion by Claire McNab brings back one of my favorites - Detective Inspector Carol Ashton. She is an unofficial observer in a murder case where her ex-lover, Christine, is the main suspect.

It's been three years since Christine told Carol that it was impossible for her to leave her husband, Mitchell, and that their relationship was over. Now Mitchell is dead and Christine is asking Carol to help her clear her name.

High society in Sydney, Australia is shocked at the list of suspects and you will be shocked to find out "who dun it"!

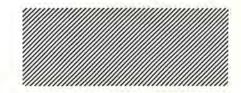
This is the second appearance of Detective Inspector Carol Ashton and it is just as satisfying as her first appearance in <u>Lessons In Murder</u>.

Claire McNab is an impressive mystery writer and the Carol Ashton series definitely has the potential of becoming a classic.

One thing that I particularly enjoy about these books is the glimpse of Australian society. Things like:

"the mild sunny spring October day..."; or "swimming costumes" instead of bathing suits. But, above all, I enjoy the stories. The plots are well thought out, the characters believable, and the endings always a surprise.

Both of these books are great reading. In The Blood ends far too soon, but a sequel is planned and I'm looking forward to it. I'm also looking forward to the further adventures of intrepid detective Ashton of Fatal Reunion. These are all women you feel like you know when you are finished reading and you'll want to see them again too! Both In The Blood and Fatal Reunion are available at your favorite bookstore or for \$8.95 from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please enclose 15% postage. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



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Pride in Ownership, Texas' only mailorder women's bookstore featuring the finest in women's literature, music, jewelry, stationary, cards and what not. To be included on our mailing list send your name, address, and one dollar to: PIO, 3403 80th St., Galveston, TX 77551. The dollar will be deducted from your first order. Our mailing list is confidential and all communications are discreetly packaged.



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8pm-10pm
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WEEK CONTEST
10pm

Saturday, June 10th
ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, June 4th

PRIDE WEEK PARADE & CARNIVAL

Carnival Starts at 4pm at S. Jennings/Crossroads Area in Ft. Worth

809 N. Collins - Arlington, TX - (817) 860-8717

THE TEST

continued from page 19

"You have considerable damage to repair." The doctor's voice was quiet, firm. "Because of your contention of abnormality in your daughter, you've given her every reason to believe she's failed you." She pushed a form towards them. "Take this, these are your instructions. You've committed yourselves to treatment for her. It's vital that you follow through."

Richard nodded, his blue eyes tearing. He folded the paper, slid it into his inside breast pocket.

"I can't believe this," Mary said, her face ashen. "I'm sure there's some mistake, I'm sure another test —"

"Mary, you know the rules. The test is fully validated, the result is incontestible. We're just as anxious as you to identify special children, but we don't practice child abuse." There was a slight emphasis on the "we." "It looked like there was something," Richard whispered. "We were positive we saw something."

"You tried to pervert this child into ways unnatural to her because of your own wishful thinking," the psychologist pronounced quietly.

Mary's eyes were closed. "You can't blame us. If she'd passed, you'd put her in the finest of schools, her whole future would—"

"Richard and Mary, you have a lovely, perfectly normal heterosexual child. Accept her as she is." She touched a button on her desk top. "Take Cassandra home and love her."

A side door opened. A brown-haired young girl wearing jeans and a red shirt sidled into the room, her face blotchy, her hazel eyes red-rimmed. "Mom, Dad, I'm sorry," she blubbered.

"It's all right," her mother said, managing a smile. "It's all right, Cassandra."

Richard said, "This is our fault, honey, not yours."

The parents embraced their daughter. Arms around one another, the Peterson family walked slowly from the room, down a corridor toward the exit. The psychologist, her fingers steepled, watched with a compassion that deepened to pity.

The young man who had been overseeing the waiting area entered the room; he carried his survey report. "That's the last of the parents for today."

He looked more closely at the doctor, "My friend, you looked drained. Why don't you and Ginny bring the family over tonight for a relaxing dinner with Adam and me?"

She smiled, some of her exhaustion easing at the thought of her lover and their children. "It sounds wonderful, Steve."

"Another washout day?"

"You tried to pervert this child into ways unnatural to her because of your own wishful thinking," the psychologist pronounced quietly.

The psychologist nodded, the tiredness settling in once again. "You know the odds as well as I do. I wish we had some option other than to offer this charity, this pathetic exercise."

The young man tapped his survey report on the desk. "There's revised information, Eve. Life-expectancy among the normals has fallen another nine percent. Their birth rate since the discovery is down by sixtyeight point five percent. And both curves are in accelerated decline."

"Yes," she said simply.

"I know we predicted something like this. But so soon?"

"I'm not in the least surprised." Dr. Newell made one final computer entry, signed off, turned to the young man. "Imagine knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt that all those individuals in your species with exceptional intelligence or creativity possess a precise

genetic configuration, either dominant or recessive — and that you don't. Imagine learning that throughout history the genetic configuration has been passed from individuals who were invariably homosexual, either latent or overt. Imagine realizing that you and all those like you are now obsolete, are useless biological fodder."

The young man nodded. "It all seems to correlate to that other clearly dominant species on earth — the dinosaurs. I'm beginning to believe what's happening to the normals is the reason why the most spectacular animal fauna in history suddenly vanished."

"Imagine realizing that you and all those like you are now obsolete, are useless biological fodder."

"I'm convinced of it. We have good evidence that members of a species share subconscious awareness with other members of that species. It's reasonable to assume that when evolution left the dinosaurs fatally flawed and obsolete, instinctual awareness caused a once-dominant species to lose its will to live - to immediately stop reproducing. Today, those few normals who have a child do everything from the moment of its birth to force it into homosexuality, to prove the existence of a recessive genetic signature in both the child and themselves. But once the child fails the test . . . The parents never bring the child back for counseling, they produce no more children. They're dinosaurs and they concede it."

"I feel sorry for them." Circling the psychologist's shoulders with an arm, the young man walked with her from the room. "But all our own brothers and sisters before us," he said softly, "they haunt me, Eve. They held on to what they truly were and paid so dearly for it . . . If only they could

have understood why so many people feared and persecuted us, why the churches fought us, fought everything connected

"But all our own brothers and sisters before us," he said softly, "they haunt me, Eve. They held on to what they truly were and paid so dearly for it . . ."

with reproductive freedom, fought the whole concept of evolution — why they hated us with such instinctive desperation." "Instinctive desperation is right," said Eve Newell quietly, tightening her arm around the young man. "From biblical times, from the very dawning of our species, racial fore-knowledge told the normals that we represented humankind's next step on the ladder of evolution—that the homosexual is homo superior."

Together, an arm around each other, they left the Centre for the Advancement of Humankind.

▼Katherine V. Forrest, the most popular lesbian novelist writing today, also functions as editor for the Naiad Press. She lives in Los Angeles with her lover of many years and her new novel, The Beverly Malibu, Kate Delafield's third adventure, will be published in the Fall of 1989.

▼"The Test" by Katherine V. Forrest is reprinted from her collection of stories <u>Dreams and Swords</u> Copyright © 1987 with the kind permission of the author and publisher, Naiad Press, Inc.





Thoughts

As I sit here alone in a crowded bar Surrounded by smoke and laughter I think of you. When I walked in I was told you had called for me What could you want? Maybe to tell me you would come over tonight and share some quality time with me. Or maybe to tell me that you miss me and you enjoy my company. Oh, how I wish these things were true but still I sit in this smoky bar Surrounded by people but always alone Thinking of you.

-CMM

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GEMINI

(May 21st - June 21st)

You will work through some complicated conditions early during the first week of June and be on your way to fun and excitement later on! From the 9th thru the 16th someone you were depending on could let you down. Don't let it get you down - work thru any problems and you'll feel great. From the 17th thru the 23rd a close relationship could be on shaky footing right now. Be sure and listen to what others have to say right now - you may have to read between the lines to get the whole story. From the 24th thru the 30th don't pay any attention to what others think of your plans. They will see it your way before you are done.

CANCER

(June 22nd - July 22nd)

A strong attraction you feel for another person may turn out to be a close friend-ship rather than a passionate love affair during the first week of June. This is a good thing, so don't be disappointed. From the 9th thru the 16th avoid making any major decisions while your emotions are out of balance. Avoid being at the center of attention right now. From 17th thru the 23rd there could be stress placed on an unstable relationship. Try to play it cool and avoid losing your temper. From the 24th thru the 30th a change of plans

could catch you by surprise. Allow your logic and not your emotions to control your actions.

LEO

(July 23rd - August 22nd)

Your love life is on the upswing during the first week of June, however, you must take the initiative or you may get left out in the cold. This is an excellent time to be assertive. From the 9th thru the 16th don't make waves at work, it can cause more problems than you bargained for. Be slow to criticize from the 17th thru the 23rd or you might damage some long-time friendships. Sincere flattery will get you everywhere right now! Be especially attentive to your lover from the 24th to the 30th if you want your relationship to grow. All your relationships will need a little special care this month, whether it be friends, lovers or co-workers.

VIRGO

(August 23rd - Sept 22nd)

The first week in June is excellent for entertaining friends, both old and new. An exciting romantic fling may be in the picture for you this month with a new person or perhaps an old friend. From the 9th to the 16th a new exercise regime may help you relax and take your mind off stressful situations. Good news from an old friend may also help your outlook! You'll be happiest

staying at home from the 17th through the 24th. A break-up with a lover could be coming this week but don't take it too hard, you will know if you have made the right decision. From the 24th thru the 30th everything has put on a new shine and you are enjoying life again - get outside and have some fun!

LIBRA

(Sept 23rd - Oct 23rd)

Involve yourself in social and community activities the first week of June. Your perception of personalities and situations will be right on target. From the 9th thru the 16th romance could come up between you and an old friend. Don't let jealousy creep into the picture. From the 17th thru the 23rd, keep yourself firmly grounded in reality. Your romantic involvement may distract you to the point of carelessness. From the 24th thru the 30th you may find yourself in the middle of a scandal because of a careless comment. It will blow over if you sit tight and keep quiet.

SCORPIO

(Oct 24th -Nov 22nd)

Profitable ideas and information pertinent to your career may come from people at a distance during the first week of June. From the 9th thru the 16th you'll find a new spark in your love life! A seemingly platonic relationship could escalate into something much more serious. From the 17th thru the 23rd travel plans could be upset by an unexpected delay. Check everything before you leave to avoid any unpleasant surprises. From the 24th thru the 30th your social calendar is filled! Try to make time for yourself or you may end up feeling worn out.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21)

Your social life will shift into high gear during the first week of June. You may find yourself with a whole new set of friends. You may find just the person you've been looking for to help you wrap up a financial deal from the 9th through the 16th. Get out into the social scene. The 17th through the 23rd will find you extremely content to stay at home with a new love. Catch up on projects at home. From the 24th through the 30th you should be cautious in romance, career and money. Things are not as they appear and you could find yourself in hot water if you don't pay attention.

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)

You will be called on to speak up about something important to you during the first week of June. Don't miss the boat. From the 9th thru the 16th friends are eager to get on with a plan you've made, but be wary of a hothead who wants to jump in before the time is right. From the 17th thru the 23rd you could see trying times. Don't lose your temper over rumors. Composure and a "cool" head are essential. From the 24th thru the 30th nothing moves as fast as you would like. Love and romance are elusive but a little progress is better than none at all — keep trying!

AQUARIUS

(Jan 20th - Feb. 18th)

The first week of June is a good time to prop your feet up, relax with a good book or sit quietly with friends. The 9th thru the 16th could be an emotionally trying time because of an upheaval at home or with friends. Rest, good nutrition and relaxation will help you get through. From the 17th thru the 23rd you may feel the urge to change jobs, careers, or even go back to school in order to increase your money-making potential. From the 24th thru the 30th you should make the most of it if you are single — it may not last long! Get out and enjoy the out-of-doors.

PISCES

(Feb 19th - Mar 20th)

Your financial picture looks brighter during the first week of June. This could be due to a possible raise or wiser spending on your part. From the 9th thru the 16th concentrate on your creativity in order to attain a long desired goal. A romantic fling could turn serious this week. From the 17th through the 23rd you may have problems with co-workers undermining your career progress. This trend continues from the 24th thru the 30th. Be sure and take only your share of the blam for something gone wrong. Be wary of someone shifting responsibility for their mistakes to your shoulders.

ARIES

(Mar 21st - April 19th)

Your wit and charm are your greatest assets during the first week of June. You can't seem to go wrong with your actions and opinions, but don't let it go to your head. From the 9th thru the 16th overspending or poor financial decisions could cause setbacks or create havoc but, it's a temporary problem. Your spending habits and financial stability will be returning to normal shortly. From the 17th thru the 23rd

affairs of the heart could fall short of your expectations. Don't let it get you down. The romance department is looking up from the 24th thru the 30th if you focus your affections on one special person. Be aware of a tendency to be overbearing at work.

TAURUS

(April 20th - May 20th)

Both friends and lovers hold your opinion in high regard during the first week of June. You have a way with words and do not hesitate to use them to your full advantage. From the 9th thru the 16th you could gain much recognition from both business associates, friends and social acquaintances because of past contributions. Avoid dwelling on financial problems from the 17th thru the 23rd, your money problems will take care of themselves. From the 24th thru the 30th get out and relax with outdoor activities (sailing, fishing, camping or even a picnic in the park). This is a great time to get away for a short vacation.





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Britches & Bloomers

809 N. Collins . 860-8717

organizations

Gay/Lesbian Association of UTA P.O. Box 19348-77, UTA St. 76019 794-5140

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512)

Nexus/Petticoat Junction 401 & 401-B E. 2nd • 495-9553

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist)
7403 Shoal Creek • 451-2329
Austin Lambda
P.O. Box 5455 78763
Gay/Lesbian Student
Association at UT Austin •458-3971
Box 275 Texas Union 78712-7338
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby
P.O. Box 2505 78768

Metropolitan Community Church 1100 Springdale Rd. • 929-3660 Oasis Ministry 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 • 441-9191

Waterloo Counseling Center 507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654 Texas Human Rights Foundation 2201 N. Lamar # 203 78705 • 479-8473

AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417

DALLAS, TX (area code 214) businesses

Business Delivery Systems 14902 Preston Rd. 75240 • 733-1108 Crossroads Market 3930 Cedar Springs 521-8919 or 1-800-992-6404 Curious Times - Women's Books etc. 4008-D Cedar Springs 75219 • 528-4087

Clubs Sue Ellen's

3903 Cedar Springs • 559-0707 **Desert Moon** • 5903 Willis • 828-4471

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist)
P.O. Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546

AIDS Resource Center 3920 Cedar Springs 75219 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 Tayern 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) P.O. Box 191443 75219 • 528-2426 Lesbia/Gay Political Coalition P.O. Box 224424 75222 . 828-9882 Lesbian/Gay Rights Advocates 528-4233 Lesbian Visionaries P.O. Box 191443 75219 . 521-9642 Metroplex Republicans P.O. Box 191033 75219 • 941-8114 Oak Lawn Community Services 3000 Turtle Creek Plaza, Suite 116 75219-5311 • 520-8108 Oak Lawn Symphonic Band P.O. Box 190973 75219 • 986-1751 Womyn Together

FT. WORTH (area code 817) clubs

3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

Partners 1612 Park Place • 924-2519

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713) clubs

Keystroke Keystroke Hotline 785-9258 Ranch • 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 Group • 864-3098

Montrose Pool League/Billiards PJ 863-8482

PWA Coglition - Houston

3327 Essex Lane, Suite #16 77027

623-4436

Womynspace

P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601

880-9517 or 666-9558

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 Names Project/Lubbock

796-1800 or 744-1957

West Texas Aids Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 93120 • 794-1757

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for

Lesbian/Gay Concerns

P.O. Box 1021 . Evanston, IL 60204

AIDS Action Council

729 Eighth St. S.E. Suite 200

Washington, DC 20003 • (202) 547-3101

AIDS 800 . 1-800-221-7044

Ntl Gay Alliance for Young Adults, Inc.

P.O. 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

National Gay/Lesbian Task Force

1517 U Street NW

Washington D.C. 20009 • 202-332-6483

The Fund for Human Dignity

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 (area 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

The Circle

8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

Memories

6402 Callaghan Road

organizations

Dignity/San Antonio

202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632

Integrity/San Antonio

P.O. Box 150006 78212 . 684-4920

River City Living Metropolitan

Community Church

202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121

LISA (Lesbian Information SA)

828-LISA (5472)

San Antonio AIDS Foundation

P.O. Box 120113 78212-9313

San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX (grea code 512) accomodations

Lyle's Deck . 120 E. Atol St. P.O. Box 2326 78597 • 761-LYLE

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Business and Commerci	al Ads are 50¢ for regula	r wording and \$1 for bold type	
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Put Your reply in an envelope, seal shut and put your return address and the Box # on it as shown. Be sure to stamp this envelope as well as the one you send to us!

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Personals

AUSTIN GWF: Those who know me say I am loving, caring, attentive, articulate, attractive, warm, kind, loval, sincere, young. I am 52. I need nurturing, tenderness, strengthening, caring, a supportive, loving, long-lasting relationship. I believe in God as love, the spiritual truth path, honesty, trust, loyalty, faithfulness, monogamy, I enjoy philosophy, hobbies, travel, the west, television, walking, U.S.A., collectibles, Arizona, country, nature, crochet, camping. No smoking. No alcohol. No drugs. No games except Yahtzee, Scrabble, cards and pool, Write for friendship. All letters answered. Reply to Box #170.

SAN ANTONIO - GWF - attractive, age 38, seeking same 32-42 who enjoys shopping, movies, dining out and quiet

evenings, to also share 3 bedroom duplex on North side in nice area. Have furniture already. Reply to Box #181.

HOUSTON - I'm not lonely, just looking to meet new women. Me: GWF, 33, 5'4", 125 lbs., brn/bl, non-drinking but chain-smoking professional with a warped but earthy sense of humor. Honest, warm, with a strong sense of compassion. I'm told I'm quite attractive. Interests: music (country, jazz, oldies, classical, opera), politics and history, long conversations over strong coffee, art, travel, simple pleasures. Love romance. Grown up enough to let the child come out sometimes. You: GF, 25-40, don't do drugs, drink a little or none, intelligent, honest, caring, attractive and tired of mind games. You have a sense of purpose. You could be a wonderful friend and maybe more if your line is as clever as you are. Let's GWF 42, honest, hardworking, sensitive, tired of games. Enjoys long walks, romantic evenings. Seeks friends and lover. Reply to Box #187.

FT. WORTH GWF, 22, 5'3", 110. Feminine, professional, attractive, romantic nymphette - likes anything, mostly attention. Seeks same. No drugs. No Pisces. Reply to Box #188.

KILLEEN: 22, professional, attractive GWF. Enjoys music, art and athletic events, movies and animals. Would like to meet nice 20-30 woman. I enjoy long drives (Dallas? Houston?). No Drugs. Photo appreciated. reply to Box #189.

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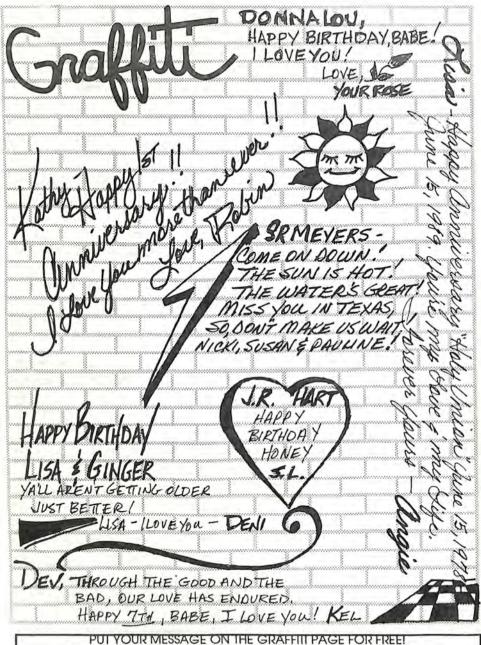
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