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Volume 4, Issue 4

October 1989

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October 1989

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Dimensions

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To The Editor

Surviving Incest

Dear Dimensions:

I have enclosed two poems I have written in the last year. The one with the title "Dreaming" is based on my recovery as an incest survivor. I am not sure if you print poems that deal with such topics. My only hope is that you do.

Here in Houston, we have put together a group called "LISA" (Lesbian Incest Survivors Anonymous). It is the first group of it's kind in the area. The group is now up to 30 members with 5 to 6 new members showing up every week. It is really mind blowing that 1 out of every 3 women are incest survivors. It is truly sad, but there are women out there who are in pain with no understanding at all of what is happening. It happened so long ago, an like then, they still feel alone.

I do hope to see my writings in print. As an incest survivor, to be seen and heard is important, so you may use my real name.

**Thank You,
Kim Wright
Houston, TX**

Editor's Note: Ms. Wright's poem, "Dreaming", appears on page 29 of this month's Dimensions. We thank her for her openness.

Texas to Alaska

Dear Dimensions:

I just moved from Dallas to Alaska and needless to say, there's nothing like Dimensions in this state. Please extend my subscription so that I can keep up with the outside world.

I would like to say that I have lived in many different places around the country and seen lots of lesbian publications, but Dimensions is by far and away my favorite. I especially enjoy the poetry and the graffiti pages. I'm hoping my new Alaskan friends will too!

Keep up the good work and keep sending me my copy - I might not make it through the long, cold winter up here without it!

**Thanks
Name Withheld
Nome, Alaska**

**Exchange your views with Us and Other
Readers in the "To The Editor" column!**

Send your letter to:

Dimensions, To The Editor, P.o. Box 856, Lubbock, TX 79408.

Letters must be signed and include your address and phone number.

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Judge Hampton to Face Formal Public Hearing

Dallas - Judge Jack Hampton will face formal public hearing set to begin on October 16th in Dallas, based on disciplinary proceedings started on December 16th of last year when the Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) filed a sworn complaint against Hampton with the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct. THRF initiated the disciplinary action after The Dallas Times Herald published an interview in which Hampton expressed publicly his views on his allegedly lenient sentencing of a Mesquite youth for the brutal execution-style murder of two gay men. Among other statements, Hampton was reported to have said, "These homosexuals by running around on weekends picking up teenage boys, they're asking for trouble, they really are," and "I put prostitutes and gays at about the same level. If these boys had picked up two prostitutes and taken them to the woods and killed them I'd consider that a similar case. And I'd be hard put to give somebody life for killing a prostitute." The formal hearing will be presided over by the Honorable Robert R. Murray, a retired court of appeals judge in San Antonio, who was appointed on May 10th of this year by the Texas Supreme Court as the master or judge to hear the case. THRF's legal director, attorney David Bryan, expressed satisfaction with the setting of the

hearing date.

"THRF received a call from Judge Murray this morning telling us of the hearing date," said Bryan. "THRF is anxious for the process to go forward. It has been nearly nine months now since THRF filed the original complaint against Hampton, and over the summer months I have had several personal communications with the Commission's staff and with the master directly, urging that a trial date be set soon, so that the disciplinary proceedings would become public." State law provides that all documents filed with the Commission and all proceedings remain confidential until the formal hearing is convened by the master. "THRF has been monitoring this action very closely," said Bryan, "sending a lawyer to the pre-hearing conference held by the master in May and responding to a request for help from the Commission in developing evidence. I have conveyed THRF's concerns in the past several to the master and to the Commission's staff over the fact that Hampton continues to hold court without a resolution of these very serious charges against him," Bryan stated.

Hampton could be removed from office if the evidence produced at the hearing shows his actions violated the Code of Judicial Conduct. THRF has alleged that Hampton's statements violated the Code by, among other things, displaying a belief that punishment for homicide may be conditioned on the identity of the victim rather than the nature criminal conduct; by rendering

the impression that heterosexual murderers of gay men or lesbians would be treated sympathetically in his court; and by showing his inability to preside impartially over cases in which gay or lesbian individuals are involved.

Federal Appeals Court Rejects Army Lesbian

Chicago - In the latest development in lesbian Miriam Ben-Shalom's 13-year battle to re-enlist in the U.S. Army Reserves, the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled on August 7th that the Army is not required to re-enlist Ben-Shalom. Justifying its decision in part on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, in which the court held that states could regulate the rights of gay people to engage in private, adult, consensual sexual behavior, the court in Ben-Shalom upheld the Army's regulation discharging persons who "engage in homosexual conduct, or who by their statements demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct."

The new decision by a three-judge panel in Chicago reverses a lower district court ruling which had declared the Army regulation unconstitutional and had ordered the Army to re-enlist Ben-Shalom. Ben-Shalom will appeal to a full (en banc) panel of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sue Hyde, Director of the Privacy Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and organizer of the Gay & Lesbian Military Freedom Project Coalition, condemned the court's decision. "The damage *Hardwick* did to the lives of gay men and lesbians continues to become clear with each new case. In

Ben-Shalom, the 7th Circuit extends the dangerous logic of *Hardwick* to say it's o.k. to be gay, o.k. to say you're gay and you favor gay rights, but that it's not o.k. to act on one's sexual orientation, not o.k. to live our lives fully, without experiencing discrimination."

Ben-Shalom began her legal battle in 1976, when she was discharged from the Army Reserves because she acknowledged her lesbianism to reporters writing about her appointment as one of the first two women drill sergeants in the Army Reserves. In earlier victories, lower courts held that Ben-Shalom's First Amendment rights were violated by her discharge, and that the Army regulation denied to gay people equal protection under the law because it penalized persons for their status as homosexuals. Hyde noted that the Gay & Lesbian Military Freedom Project Coalition, which NGLTF spearheads, will continue to pursue a Congressional strategy to overturn the anti-gay/lesbian military policy. Hyde also noted NGLTF's plans to hold a Military Freedom demonstration at the White House on November 10. The Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project is a joint project of NGLTF, the National Organization for Women, Women's Equity Action League, National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force, ACLU Gay and Lesbian Rights Project, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Citizen Soldier.

Gay Art Trashed by Government

Washington, D.C. - The Senate in late July vote in favor of Senator Jesse Helm's rider to a bill funding the National Endowment for the Arts that declares no Federal funds can go to

"promote, disseminate, or produce obscene or indecent materials, including but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the exploitation of children . . ."

By specifically defining "homoeroticism" as obscene and indecent on the par with child abuse, Helms hopes to chill any treatment of gay/lesbian lives in forums ranging from public television down to local theater and dance projects (romantic glances between two men or two women would be prohibited). The move is part of a larger conservative push against gays in the media, including efforts by the Rev. Donald Wildmon's American Family Association and the Christian Leaders for Responsible TV to intimidate sponsors of television shows with gay characters.

Helms boasts he will "win every time" on cutting Federal money for arts projects with homosexual themes.

A joint Senate/House conference committee is expected to decide whether to keep Helm's amendment

after the August recess. Now's the time to call or write your Congressperson, your Senator, and write Sen. Robert Byrd, the manager of the bill, who has indicated he may support the Helms rider.

Lesbians & AIDS Submissions Sought

Washington, D.C. - Submissions are being sought for a book on lesbians responding to AIDS focusing on the experience of the lesbian care-partners and those who have lost close friends or family members. Essays: (1) should not exceed five thousand words, (2) will be edited for grammar, and (3) should focus on emotional processes (love, anger, sadness, fear, survivor, quilt, etc.), day-today concrete experiences, and interactions with others close to the PWA. For more information, or to submit a manuscript, please write: Book Project, 1414 17th St. NW #802, Washington, D.C. 20036.



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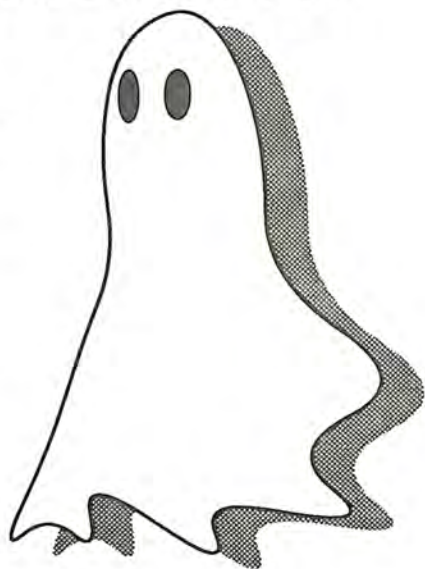
Beer Bust • 7pm-Midnight
Dance Lessons • Pool Tournament Night

WEDNESDAYS

Happy Hour Drinks All Night Long!

THURSDAYS

Beer Bust • 7pm-Midnight



Sunday, October 8th

BENEFIT SHOW FOR THE SURVIVORS
SOFTBALL TEAM & NEW RUGBY TEAM

Sunday, November 5th
NANCY FORD • Live At 8pm

Sunday, October 29th
PAID TOURNAMENT TABLES

RANCH

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What's Goin' On

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

AUSTIN - If you are looking for fun, **NEXUS & PETTICOAT JUNCTION** are the places to look in Austin! **Friday Happy Hour** in **NEXUS** is a great way to unwind after a hard week - look for **Nancy Ford** on the 6th, **Denise Fawcett** on the 13th, **The Therapy Sisters** on the 20th and **Lara Linette** on the 27th. If you want your money to go to a good cause, then check out **NEXUS/PJ's** on Sundays! Every Sunday is a benefit starting with a **Slave Sale** hosted by **Melanie for Ms. TGRA**, to benefit **ASA** on the 8th, On the 15th the **ALLGO Benefit** will feature "Chili", a **Benefit Show for ASA** hosted by **Mary Baldree for Ms. TGRA** happens on the 22nd and **People Helping People (PHP) Garage Sale** happens on the 14th & 15th in the **NEXUS** parking garage. Also, **PHP Support Nights** happen on Friday the 13th & 27th. If you're looking for a **Halloween Party**, **NEXUS** is definitely the place to be! Check at the bar for details.

HOUSTON - OK all you pool buffs out there - remember the the **RANCH** has a **pool tournament** every Tuesday and if you've already won one of these weekly tourneys remember to show up on Sunday, October 29th for the **Finals!** On October 8th come out to support the **Survivors** softball team and the **new rugby team** at a **Benefit Show**. You can celebrate **Halloween** over and over at the **RANCH** this year! Wear your

costumes on Friday, Saturday & Tuesday the 27th, 28th & 31st and join in the fun! Also, don't forget that comedian **Nancy Ford** will be playing at the **RANCH** on November 5th at 8pm, don't miss it!

SAN ANTONIO - Be sure to come on out to the **CIRCLE** on October the 15th after **Gay Fiesta** for an after the party, party! Check at the bar for Fiesta details. **Tuesday Night Topics** for October are: **Homophobia and/or Heterosexism** on the 3rd and **Working in the Lesbian Community with a focus on the Lesbian bartender** on the 17th. On the 29th, come out for the "Anything Goes" **Talent Show** with a \$100 First Prize (cash). The **CIRCLE** is celebrating **Halloween** on Friday the 27th with prizes for best costumes and drink specials all night long! Also, don't forget that Thursday is **Steak Night** - your bring your own meat, they'll cook it and provide the rest - can't beat a deal like that!

HOUSTON - **KEYSTROKE & KEYSTROKE 2** are still providing a great entertainment concept for women in Houston! **KEYSTROKE** is a once-a-month blow-out party for women and friends and **KEYSTROKE 2** happen every **Friday night** in a intimate setting for those who like their party's cozy. **KEYSTROKE & KEYSTROKE 2** are produced by **Stop Searching**. **Stop Searching** is a private

membership organization for women, designed to enhance women's social and business connections through recreational activities. For more info on dates, times and places, call the **KEYSTROKE HOTLINE** at: **785-9258**.

DALLAS - If you're looking for a great place to go after work - check out **SUE ELLEN's Happy Hour!** Happy Hour happens everyday till 8pm, Fridays till 9pm and all day and all night on Mondays. Also be sure to get out for **SUE ELLEN's Country & Western Night**. It happens every Thursday night! There's \$1 Longnecks, \$2 Coronas and a Show starting at 10:30pm. **Kathy Jack** also presents a special show every Sunday night starting at 10pm. You'll see **Lisa Bryson, Cozy White** and lots of special guests!

OKLAHOMA CITY - If you are looking for a place to go that isn't a bar - check out **Herland Sister Resources**. They sponsor all kinds of activities for women, both political and social. **HERLAND** is a non-profit corporation composed of a collective of wommin - open to any womyn who wants to be a part of it. They maintain a **feminist**

library & bookstore, and sponsor workshops, retreats, concerts and other events. **HERLAND** is located at 2312 NW 39th or you can call (405) 521-9696.

DALLAS - Drink Specials are the rule, not the exception at **JUGS!** There's **75¢ Draft** on Mondays and Thursdays, **25¢ Draft** on Tuesdays, Fridays and all day and night on Sundays. You can also get **Free Draft** on Saturdays from 10pm to Midnight! If beer is your thing, you can get **\$1.50 "Swirls"** on Wednesdays, **\$1 Frozen Margaritas** and **Pool Tournament** on Thursdays and **\$1 Bloody Mary's** and **Screwdrivers** from noon to 4pm on Sundays to help you recover from Saturday Night!



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SUNDAY

Happy Hour Till 8pm

50¢ Draft 8pm-2am

10PM SHOW : KATHY JACK PRESENTS

LISA BRYSON & COZY WHITE



TUESDAY

Happy Hour till 8pm

AIR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
WITH CASH PRIZES AT 10PM

Optional \$2 Beer Bust 8pm-2am



THURSDAY

Happy Hour till 8pm

COUNTRY & WESTERN NIGHT

\$1 Longneck & \$2 Corona All Night

Show at 10:30pm

NEW ON MONDAYS LIVE FEMALE ENTERTAINMENT

Happy Hour All Day & All Night

\$1.50 Longnecks 8pm-2am



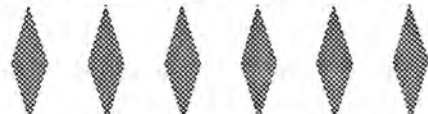
WEDNESDAY

Happy Hour Till 8pm

\$1 Well & Draft All Night

NO COVER

Pool Tournament with Cash Prizes at 10pm



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Dear Agnes

Answers to your questions about love,
relationships & personal problems

Dear Agnes,

Let's hear it for Denmark! I was excited to read in last month's Dimensions they will legalize gay and lesbian marriages on October 1, 1989. Since straight marriages performed in one country are recognized in others, could this legal tactic work with gay and lesbian marriages performed in Denmark? If so, what are their marriage laws and procedures?

Already Packing!

Dear Packing,

I hope you just packed and didn't purchase non-refundable plane tickets yet. According to the National Lesbian/Gay Task Force, gay marriages are not legal here, and therefore will not be recognized!

Dear Agnes,

Mine is a big problem and I'm not sure what to do about it or even where to start. See, my lover and I have been together for ten years. About three years ago she was laid off her job and started drinking heavily. I really didn't think anything about it because I thought she would be fine as soon as she found work.

Well, she found work and it did get better, I thought. I discovered about a year later that she had stepped up to doing "speed" and was doing it fairly

often. She said it was nothing and that I shouldn't worry, she could handle it. She couldn't. Her drug habits have gotten worse and worse. She can no longer hold a job for very long and has gone through our savings buying "crank", cocaine, and various other drugs.

I've tried to talk her into going into a treatment center but she refuses. I don't really want to leave, I still love her and would like to see her get better, but I'm not sure how much longer I can live like this.

Where do I turn now?

Victim of the "Drug War" Austin, TX

Dear Drug War,

Call your local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or some other twelve step group, and find out what they have to offer for friends and relatives of the addicted person (Alanon is AA's version), and go! Many larger cities have lesbian/gay chapters, but if yours doesn't, don't be put off—go anyway. A support group is a must for your well being.

The mental anguish suffered by lovers, family, and friends of people on drugs leaves deep scars, guilt, and shattered self esteem. We always tend to blame ourselves. But it is important to remember you did not make your lover start drinking or abusing drugs, and you

cannot make her stop. The only way a person can get sober and stay sober is if they want to.

If you cannot bring yourself to go to a support group, I strongly urge you to get private counseling for yourself.

Good luck and my thoughts are with you.

Dear Agnes,

My lover and I have been together for five years. They have been five of the best for me. We both have good jobs and mostly we stay to ourselves.

However, there is a girl my lover is just totally in lust with. This all started about three months ago. We have been fighting alot lately and I am hinging between telling her to go get *this thing* out of her system... That's one side of me. The other side wants to tell her if she sleeps with this b—— that's it. Hit the road.

What are the odds of us working out if I let her go?

On the Fringe

Dear Fringe,

Nine to one against! Odds are even with your consent; you will default to your second decision.

We never get beyond a new face catching our fancy. It's what we do about that fancy that counts. Sleeping with someone outside the primary relationship generally opens a can of worms, much like Pandora's box, once the lid is open it cannot be closed.



**Write To Dear Agnes
With Your Problems or
Comments at:**

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**HALLOWEEN
COSTUME PARTY**
Friday, Oct. 27th • 9pm
Prizes & Drink Specials

**Thursday Night
Is Steak Night!**

TNT'S

(Tuesday Night Topics)

October 3rd -

Homophobia and/or Heterosexism

October 17th -

Working with the Lesbian Community
Focus On Lesbian Bartenders

GAY FIESTA

Sunday, Oct. 15th

Check At Bar For Details

TALENT SHOW

Sunday, Oct. 29th • 8:30pm

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What does your ex-lover mean to you?



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UNBROKEN TIES: Lesbian Ex-Lovers

by Carol Becker

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ALYSON PUBLICATIONS

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MANAGING YOUR MONEY

by Cameron Taylor



Money! One of the most talked about subjects. And generally in a negative way. "I'm broke!" "I don't have the money to go out this weekend."

Money, like power in our society, is often viewed in a negative light.

There is a very simple way to look at money! You can manage your money. Or—it will manage you, on a day to day basis. The next time you are hustling to pay the rent or find the extra hundred bucks that you need to buy a new washer, and out comes the old credit card... Stop and think; are you managing your money or is it managing you?

Well....unfortunately, your money is managing you! So what can you do to take control for yourself?

SAVINGS

Save! Now don't let that word turn you off — it does most people! But the only way to effectively manage your money is to save and invest. It is that simple. But, you say, "after I pay bills I'm broke, there's nothing left to save."

Well look at it like this, if you are out of a job tomorrow and don't have any money in savings, what are you going to live on? Unemployment? A relative's money? Friends?

The most effective way to save is by a direct deduction from your paycheck to a savings account, bank, or credit union. Be certain whatever institution you choose is FDIC insured. Five or ten dollars is an excellent start, and when you receive a raise or pay off a bill, increase the amount you pay to savings. Saving is like paying yourself instead of everybody else.

Consider two savings accounts. One account for emergency money — you should have enough money in this account to cover all essentials for three, to six months. Add to this account for things you want for the house and car, such as; stereos, tvs, etc.. Use this account for purchases that you would otherwise make with credit cards.

INVESTMENT

The other account will be investment money. To many people, the word investment means risk or that you can't get to your money for many years without a penalty. Now, this can be true in some instances, but there are many relatively safe places to put your money

for investment.

A saving account or money market fund is the safest investment you can make, but they do not offer the highest return on your money. Once again, be sure the bank has FDIC insurance. Banks can go out of business overnight — especially in Texas.

The first investment to consider is your employer's stock plan. Employers generally offer to match part of your money. (You put in a \$1 and they put in 25¢ or 50¢.) Be sure your company is financially sound, has good management, and check your stock report every quarter for accurate bookkeeping. There is risk in any stock investment, but the potential for profit make stocks an attractive option.

EE (Government) Saving Bonds are an excellent savings option. They can be purchased through payroll deductions or from most banks. They earn interest on competitive rates and there are no state or local taxes. You do not have to pay federal taxes until you cash the bonds in. You purchase saving bonds at half their face value (a \$50 bond costs you \$25). You must hold the saving bonds 6 months before you can take them to the bank and cash them in. To get the face value of the bond (\$50), you must hold them 12 years. (If you purchase a \$25 bond each month in a year you will have \$300 [600 face value] OR in 10 years \$3000 [6000 face value]) Most employer plans will let you deduct any amount for saving bonds (even \$3 or \$4 a pay check). EE bonds are a safe investment, backed by the U.S. government.

Consider investing in a mutual fund. Here's how it works: you put your money in the fund and in turn, it is

invested in a diversified list of stocks or bonds chosen by the fund managers. They move your money among various stocks and bonds to get you the best return. You are buying shares in the fund. Look for a no-load mutual fund. No load funds do not charge fees or commissions. There are many different funds, and there are risks involved. Don't let anyone sell you a fund over the phone. *Money* magazine is an excellent source of information for investing and there are toll free phone numbers for mutual funds, banks, stocks, etc... Call for a financial report and stick to the top performing funds. You will need \$500 to a \$1000 dollars to get you started in mutual funds.

Remember that an investment is something that goes up in value over time; it makes you money. CDs, money market funds, stocks, bonds, real estate, and collectibles are all investments. Some are riskier than others and some will bring a bigger return, so be careful and be sure you know and understand all the facts before you plunge in.

Cars, tvs, stereos, furniture, etc.. are not an investment. They cost you money that can never be recouped. Yes, you can resell them, but only at a fraction of what you paid, they do not go up in value.

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are great, but they cost you money unless you pay them off each month. The interest rates range from 13% on some cards to 18% on others. This is money you are paying to the bank to use their money. Shop around

for cards carefully and choose the lower interest rate, and annual fee. Close accounts that you are not using, but paying annual fees on. These cards are costing you money each time you pay the fee, and it only takes two or three to add up to a hundred dollars a year. Also, the tax deduction is being phased out for credit cards, so pay cash whenever possible.

We live in an instant gratification society - when we want something we want it now - today. For this instant purchase power, we end up paying the banks and credit card companies hundreds of dollars each year. Learn to save your money! Learn to manage your money! It takes time, but it is well worth the time and trouble. It feels good to pay cash and pocket that money that you had been giving to the bank - your hard earned dollars.



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Nexus

Petticoat Junction



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Sunday, October 29th - 6pm

Bands • Booths • Show

On the Patio at Nexus/PJ's



A BENEFIT EVERY SUNDAY!

October 8th - Slave Sale to Benefit ASA
by Melanie for Ms. TGRA

October 15th - ALLGO Benefit
Starring "Chili"

October 22nd - Benefit Show For ASA
By Mary Baldree for Ms. TGRA

401 E. 2nd St. • Austin, T

ALL YE WITCHES HALLOWEEN BALL

Saturday, October 27th

Costume Parade & Contest with Cash Prizes

Drink Specials All Night

TRICK OR TREAT PARTY

Tuesday, October 31st

Drink Specials

Costume Contest with Cash Prizes

BIGGEST CASH PRIZES EVER BOTH NIGHTS!



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Friday the 13th & 27th — With Hot Dogs in PJ's

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Saturday & Sunday the 14th & 15th

In the Nexus Parking Garage

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October 6th — Nancy Ford

October 13th — Denise Fawcett

October 20th — Therapy Sisters

October 27th — Lara Linette

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What A World, What A World!

Make A Wish

by Nancy Ford



A funny thing happened to me on the way to domestic tranquility. It was one of those grey, rainy, silent afternoons - the kind of afternoon during which one can go quite contentedly for hours without hearing the sound of another human voice. You know the kind - a perfect, interruption-less afternoon which creatively-motivated people, particularly writers, cherish. Minimum distraction yields maximum concentration, you see. Kind of like being the Vice President.

As would any good and true writer worthy of her craft, I spent the afternoon rearranging furniture.

No major rearranging occurred, mind you. No big deal. Just slide that loveseat over here, angle that coffee table over there, move the electronics from one corner to the other. No big deal. No walls were knocked down. I have neither the constitution nor the patience for renovation. If it's not permanent press or requires the strength of more than one person to move it, it has no place in my life.

When my Significant other arrived home that evening, it became crystal clear that one woman's 'No big deal', is very often another woman's 'Dear God, What have you done to this house?' - followed by - if you don't put that couch back where it belongs, plan on sleeping on it tonight.

Well. All this aversion to change came as quite a surprise. Up until this point, based on a number of past, pleasant experiences, I'd come to believe that my Honey was at least, well, flexible. If only I'd known - if only I'd been cautioned that it was so important to her that our furniture have a sense of permanency - I would have gladly left the 200-pound potted plant in front of that same window until it sprouted roots into the carpet.

But not to worry. Eventually we compromised, kissed, and made up. Happy Ending. But the fact remains that an ounce of prevention is worth the a pound of cure, unless, of course, the cure is only readily available in Mexico. In that event, an ounce of

prevention is worth the price of a bus ticket to Matamoros.

Therefore, the following guide has been compiled to warn you of The Little Things that can lead to trouble in paradise for too many lovelomes. Simply clip and magnet them to your refrigerator between the pizza coupons and the hurricane tracking chart.

▼ Purchase toothpaste in the nuevo stand-up, pump-style dispenser. Old-fashioned toothpaste tubes that can be either squeezed in the middle or rolled from the end can be springboards to tragedy when PMS levels run high.

▼ Private, funny little nicknames for each other mean absolutely nothing to the rest of the world, except as a substitute purgative, and should remain private for exactly that reason.

▼ Just Say No to ex-lovers, no matter what the request may be.

▼ Do not use pins that represent past achievement or the memory of a loved one (i.e. - a fraternity or sorority pin, the antique brooch of a favorite, deceased aunt, or an International Thespian Society medal) for any purpose other than the one for which it was intended. Remember that, for some, there is sanctity in symbolic ornamentation, and those ornaments should not be used to remove splinters or in-grown hairs when the tweezers are missing.

▼ Never, ever rearrange the furniture.



Nancy Ford's column,
*What A World,
What A World,*
appears every
month right here in
Dimensions!



nancy ford

- comedy •
- residential • commercial •

for booking info
call or write:
You'll See Productions
2990 Richmond #316
Houston, Texas 77098

(713) 721-4125
(713) 520-7237

the **Coffee Club**

A Discussion of Lesbian Literature Both New and Old

This month, T. Sumner Reviews:

Chris

by Randy Salem

THREE WOMEN

by March Hastings

Two Novels first published in the late 50's at the beginning of the era referred to as the golden age of lesbian paperback originals.

This month we're going to look at two books first published in the late 1950's at the beginning of an era known as the "golden age of lesbian paperback originals".

Chris by Randy Salem is about a beautiful Christopher Hamilton. Chris writes scientific articles on marine life and is very successful in her career. For the past four years, Chris has lived with "Dizz". Their sexual relationship has

never been good, and Chris seeks satisfaction on the weekends when Dizz is gone. On one drunken night, she picks up Carol Martin.

Carol admires Chris and her work, and soon finds herself falling in love. Carol is determined to get Chris out of her terrible life with Dizz and into her own. But Dizz knows her power over Chris and is determined not to let her go.

Even while she seeks to hold onto

Chris, Dizz is letting herself become more and more interested in George, a dapper young man who caters to her every whim.

This book was first published in 1959 by Beacon Books and has been re-issued now by Naiad Press. The book gives a bird's eye view of life as a lesbian in the late 50's. Chris is a well-written, emotional love story even though I found it to be a bit naive. Everyone you meet as you read the book is more or less understanding about the gay life-style.

On the other hand, Three Women by March Hastings gives us a better idea of the scars that discrimination can leave. Three Women was also published in the late 50's by Universal Publishing and Distributing Company and re-appears now courtesy of Naiad Press.

Byrne and Greta are tied together by a terrible event in their childhood. Greta is mentally-ill, and Byrne feels it is her duty to care for Greta. Byrne longs to


live a life free of her commitment, but knows she cannot. Then she meets Paula Temple.

Paula is her nephew's fiance. Paula has agreed to marry Phil as a way to escape from her family and her alcoholic father. But, from the moment Paula meets Phil's Aunt Byrne, she feels she has found the key to true happiness. Even with all odds working against her, Paula is determined that Byrne will come to love her and leave the dark shadow—Greta behind.

Three Women is an excellent novel. Ms. Hastings has captured the essence of new love, as well as, the desperation of a woman trapped by her past. I would recommend it to everyone.

Both Three Women and Chris are available from Naiad Press, Inc, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, Fla 32302. Please enclose 15% for postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.





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Do You Have Charisma?



Webster defines charisma as “a special magnetic charm or appeal.” Charisma isn’t looks. We’ve all know people who weren’t particularly beautiful that had that special something that drew people to them. Charisma isn’t money or power - just look at George Bush. Charisma is a great asset but it may be hard to develop. Are you charismatic? Take the quiz below to find out!

- 1.** When someone is talking to you, you:
 - a. look them in the eyes, but not so much as to make them uncomfortable.
 - b. have a hard time looking someone in the eye, your attention wanders a bit.
 - c. look at them hard, you’ve always

believed that the one who looks away first is the loser.

- 2.** When you meet someone for the first time, you:
 - a. usually remember their name and other pertinent information if you meet them again — no matter who they are.
 - b. remember their name, etc., but only if they interest you.
 - c. always have to be introduced several times before you remember anyone’s name.
- 3.** When it comes to fashion, you:
 - a. make your own.
 - b. more or less follow the trends.
 - c. could care less.

- 4.** In group situations you are usually:
- the leader, even if not officially.
 - part of the group, but not in the lead most of the time.
 - just going along, you really aren't fond of groups anyway.

- 5.** When you go out to a bar, you:
- have a large group of friends and are always meeting more.
 - stay mainly with your group of friends but sometimes acquire new members.
 - usually keep to yourself or with the person you came with.

- 6.** In your circle of friends and acquaintances, you:
- tend to be the one people always come to for advice.
 - don't feel you are qualified to give much advice but will try if asked.
 - are usually in the background.

- 7.** You consider yourself to be:
- self-confident most of the time.
 - self-confident in some situations but not in others.
 - supremely self-confident.

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows:

4 points for every A answer.

2 points for every B answer.

0 points for every C answer.

If you scored: 19-28

Charisma could be your middle name. You have that magnetic quality that

draws people to you. You make others feel special when they are around you and therefore people clamor to be a part of your circle. You are a good listener and you carry yourself with self-confidence. You truly enjoy life and it shows!

9-18

You definitely have your charismatic moments and that's just the way you like it. You enjoy your friends and would always welcome another, but you prefer to keep things small and intimate. You are loyal and affectionate and you like to take the time to get to know people. Having women you've never seen flock around you every time you walked into a social situation would make you slightly uncomfortable. There may be times when you wish you were more outgoing or self-confident but you are basically happy just the way you are.

0-8

Charisma is not your strongest point. Although you may be kind and lovable once people get to know you, you tend to be a bit off-putting at first. Learn to laugh at yourself and work on really listening when others talk. You'll find yourself with more friends and a social calendar that seems to fill itself!



Graffiti

To: FOOKE w/♥
 Happy Belated 3 Year
 Anniversary (9/8/89)!
 I Love you more each
 day - here's to many
 many more!

FOR SUZIE-Q, MERRY, KATHY,
 LORI & MY FRIENDS AT "THE CIRCLE":
 THANKS FOR THE GRAND TIMES!
 NY IS SPARKLING AND BIG BEN IS
 CHIMING. KEEP A D.P. BURNING
 TO LIGHT MY WAY HOME.
 HUGS & SMILES - LYNN

From: THE BABY
 w/♥

Cheryl B. (9-9-89)
 Happy Belated Birthday!



Steph B. (10-27-89)
 Happy Birthday!
 You are very
 Special Lady!
 Sincerely
 Kris

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OCT. 1ST
 TO PEB ELDER OF
 "CURIOUS TIMES"
 WE LOVE YOU.
 CHIP & DALE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY!
 K.S.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY MARRIES!
 LOVE KRIS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIZ...!! I LOVE YOU... Ms. "O"

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Poetry

Dreaming

If nothing had happened

There would be no fear of love
or my constant fear of uncertainty
I wouldn't have any problem with trust.

To have been seen and heard as a child
I wouldn't fear insanity.

To be able to use all my senses
taste
smell
to see and to hear
to feel
without feeling the craziness
or the fear of when the next memory
will appear.

the heart that knew no despair,

To be able to stand naked in the mirror
and love who and what I see.

To hear you say I love you
Without any doubt why
I would just accept and believe.

To be able to cry
without any guilt or any apology.

To say no
without the fear you will abandon me.

To be able to touch and hug
without the fear of secrecy.

To have been just a little girl,
without fear to be,
to be all grown up,
without wishing someday I still could be.
There would be no question about my identity.

Kim Wright
-Houston, TX

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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.

oroscope

What's in the Stars for You this month?

LIBRA

(Sept 23rd - Oct 23rd)

You may not be able to get out of a family obligation during the **first week of October**. Try to be available when someone calls for your help. From the **9th thru the 16th** a romantic companion may be looking for a more permanent commitment. Think it over carefully before taking the plunge. From the **17th thru the 23rd** follow your logic and not your emotions. There may be a lot of conflict going on around you and you'll have to be on your toes to stay out of it. From the **24th thru the 31st** you can accomplish a lot more and feel better about yourself if you will take some time alone to get your private affairs organized.

SCORPIO

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)

You could find yourself with a new romantic interest during the **first week of October**. Don't count on any plans you've made since last minute snags could develop. From the **9th thru the 16th** keep a secret that has been entrusted to you. Someone you love may make a decision that is strictly private and you will lose their love and trust if you reveal it. From the **17th thru the 23rd** you may be feeling adventurous. Don't let anyone hold you back, you can do almost anything right now! From the **24th thru the 31st** a

recent misunderstanding between you and a loved one can be cleared up. Sit down and talk it out calmly and all will be well.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 21)

You may be feeling insecure and unsure of yourself during the **first week of October**. Make an effort to look on the bright side of everything. From the **9th thru the 16th** don't give in to a pushy friend. Stick to your guns and don't let them talk you into something that could have terrible consequences. From the **17th thru the 23rd** you'll need to get serious about straightening out your finances. Study all your options before you make any decisions. From the **24th thru the 31st** you won't get far if you try to mix business with pleasure. Keep socializing to a minimum on the job so you can finish a tough assignment.

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)

You may have a secret admirer watching you from afar during the **first week of October**. Get out and socialize and she just might get up the guts to approach you! From the **9th thru the 16th** avoid getting sentimental about an ex-lover. Time has a way of erasing past hurts and makes you remember only the good which could get you into

hot water. From the **17th thru the 23rd** you may need to change your mode of operation on the job. Step back and take a good look at how you get things done and then change them to make yourself more efficient. From the **24th thru the 31st** some powerful influences are at work on your behalf. Concentrate on realistic goals and you'll do great.

AQUARIUS

(Jan 20th - Feb 18th)

You'll have to work hard to keep your attention focused on the task at hand during the **first week of October**. Eliminate as many distractions as possible. From the **9th thru the 16th** be cautious about accepting an invitation from someone who might be trying to snowball you. Keep on your toes so you don't get taken. From the **17th thru the 23rd** you may face a minor disappointment. Everything will turn out fine if you will keep your sense of humor about the situation. From the **24th thru the 31st** a trip out-of-town could be on the agenda. Expenses could get out of hand if you don't limit yourself.

PISCES

(Feb 19th-Mar 20th)

Don't let your emotions mislead you about a romantic matter during the **first week of October**. Focus on other interests to take your mind off the situation. From the **9th thru the 16th** a friend you haven't seen in a long time is back in your life. Take time to spend with them and it could be just like old times. From the **17th thru the 24th** don't be too forceful when trying to gain another's affection. Back off and

let your natural charm do its work. From the **24th thru the 31st** you may have to put your foot down about a partner's spending habits. Bills have piled up and they're all coming due now. You'll have to buckle down and work hard to get back in good financial shape.

ARIES

(Mar 21st - April 19)

A close relationship could be under a lot of pressure during the **first week of October**. You can find a peaceful solution if you don't push so hard. From the **9th thru the 16th** things at work are calming down and you can enjoy some great social activities. Get out and enjoy yourself. From the **17th thru the 23rd** don't let your emotions get the better of your logic. Your feelings could be super-sensitive so you might put off making a big decision until you've calmed down. From the **24th thru the 31st** you can move up on the job by staying cool while everyone around you is losing their head. Trust your first impressions.

TAURUS

(April 20th-May 20th)

Be careful about basing your opinions on gossip that is making the rounds during the **first week of October**. Get more accurate information before making a decision. From the **9th thru the 16th** a phone call or message could bring you some very good news. Get your personal affairs in order while your feeling so good! From the **17th thru the 23rd** surround yourself with happy people and pleasant activities and you'll have a wonderful week. You

may get some dramatic news. From the **24th thru the 31st** you could have a feeling that you are being pushed along without having much control on the job. Go with the flow, it's the best thing right now.

GEMINI

(May 21st - June 21st)

You may want to take steps to slow things down in a relationship that is moving too fast for you during the **first week of October**. From the **9th thru the 16th** you may have to put your social plans on hold until a business matter is worked out. This can be important to your future so don't put it off. From the **17th thru the 23rd** don't get upset if someone seeks you out and takes your attention away from a hobby you enjoy. You should feel flattered that your opinion is sought. From the **24th thru the 31st** determination can take you far both at work and at home. Projects you've been putting off will get done and you'll still have time left to play.

CANCER

(June 22th - July 22th)

Be as honest with yourself as possible about a relationship that is under stress during the **first week of October**. Talking things over calmly will help. From the **9th thru the 16th** others may be demanding so much of your time that you don't have any left for yourself. Turn down an invitation if you start feeling too rushed. From the **17th thru the 23rd** nothing seems to go as planned. Don't worry, snags won't slow you down too much and everything will work out in the end. From the **24th thru the 31st** you may

be feeling impatient and it could get you in trouble. You'd be wise to listen to the advice of someone older and wiser.

LEO

(July 23rd - August 22nd)

Don't be so quick to decide a romantic interest is the love of your life during the **first week of October**. You may have misread a signal or mistaken your partner's intentions. From the **9th thru the 16th** be sure you cover all bases at work. Be patient and work slowly and steadily to get the best results. From the **17th thru the 23rd** try to avoid becoming involved in a dispute among your family members. You're the diplomat in this situation! From the **24th thru the 31st** don't be fooled into buying something from a fast-talking salesman, investigate and compare before making a decision.

VIRGO

(August 23rd- Sept 22nd)

Don't be impatient about a relationship during the **first week of October**. Your actions could ruin any chances you may have had of making it work. From the **9th thru the 16th** when this relationship takes on a more serious tone, you may be surprised and confused. Be honest about your feelings. From the **17th thru the 23rd** you could be the most popular person in your social circle this week. Enjoy all the attention. From the **24th thru the 31st** let your intuition be your guide in a business matter. An interesting adventure could be on the agenda.



Directory

A Listing of Service Organizations, Businesses & Clubs

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817) **organizations**

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

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512) **clubs**

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

People Helping People (PHP)
P.O. Box 141021 78714 • 440-7669

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

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
4012-B Cedar Springs 75219

Dallas Gay Alliance
4012-B Cedar Springs 75219 • 528-4233

Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives
4012-B 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/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 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
3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

DENTON, TX (area code 817) **organizations**

COURAGE, Lesbian Gay Student Org. •
c/o Student Activities Center
P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 382-3813

FT. WORTH (area code 817) **organizations**

Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713) **clubs**

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
Kingdom Community Church
614 E. 19th • 862-7533

Lambda ALANON

Lambda Center for Alcoholics
1214 Joanne • 521-9772

Lesbian/Gay Students

University of Houston - Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area 77058

Montrose Pool League/Billiards
PJ 863-8482

PWA Coalition - Houston

3327 Essex Lane • 623-4436

Womynspace

P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601
880-9517 or 521-0780

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

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
Conference For Catholic Lesbians
P.O. Box 436, Planetarium Station
New York, New York 10024
**Nfl 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-SOS-GAYS
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 (area 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

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)

**SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian & Gay
Assembly** • 733-7300

San Antonio AIDS Foundation
P.O. Box 120113 78212-9313
San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX
(area code 512)**

accomodations

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



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Address _____

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Messages

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Miscellaneous

Please print or type your ad in the space below:

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* Business and Commercial Ads are 50¢ for regular wording and \$1 for bold type.

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HOW TO ANSWER A #'d PERSONAL AD

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!**

Place this in another envelope and mail to the address above. We will forward your letter unopened to the person who placed the ad.

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Box #XXX	
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CLASSIFIED ADS

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Personal

GWF, attractive, teacher/entertainer, enjoys sports, wanting to meet: professional 35-40's, non-drinker, non-smoker, no drugs, I have western interests, artistic, musical, gentle, creative. Reply to Box #200.

GWF, professional, career-oriented executive, 32, who is an avid sports fan, enjoys movies and quiet quality time, seeks 30-40 GWF who desires same. Please no smokers, drinkers or drugs. HOUSTON. Reply to box #203.

BABY — Stable and loving gay male couple in Texas want to become parents; searching for surrogate mother for legal arrangement. Call (713) 999-4933.

FT. WORTH/DALLAS: GWF, 25, seeks mature, feminine woman (22-32) who is sensitive, honest, affectionate, and believes in monogamy. No drugs. Reply to Box #204.

HOUSTON Couple looking to socialize with other couples away from the bar scene. We enjoy plays, movies, sports, and traveling. Reply to Box #209.

OKC, 42, professional GWF, many interests, loyal, generous, big hearted and fun loving. Seeking mutual friendship and correspondence with feminine GWF in Texas of Oklahoma. All letters answered. Reply to Box #210.

HILL COUNTRY Area: Age: 32, Caring, gentle woman looking for woman (25-40) to share the simple things in life. I enjoy camping, pets, quiet evenings. I believe in romance, truth and faithfulness. Reply to Box #211.

femme wanted! private dancer only, dig? if i do don't weigh, either way. reply to box #212.

FT. WORTH GWF would like to go out with military woman. For friendship and a possible relationship. Please send photo and some way to reach you. Boxholder, P.O. Box 165243, Irving, TX 75016-5243.

GWF, professional, career oriented executive, 32, who enjoys sports, movies and quiet quality time seeks someone 30-40 who enjoys same. Please, no smokers, drinkers or drugs. HOUSTON. Reply to Box #214.

DANA LEE - Still dream of a cabin on the cape? If so, use those wings behind you and fly back — Sara (I am aware).

BLACK GF, 22, exceptionally cute, mature, college senior, seeks gay or bi black woman, 23-35, with "drop dead gorgeous" looks, non-smoker, for afternoon rendezvous with no commitments. I'm working on my weight, if that bothers you - don't write me. DFW area. Reply to Box #215.

ATTRACTIVE, professional, female would like to meet same. Reply to Box #216.

DALLAS GWF, 37, Looking for feminine, petite lady to share good

times. I'm not into roles - believe in individuality - Would like to meet someone to share great music, good movies, warm fires, quiet evenings & stimulating conversations. Must be 38+ secure in your perspective of life. Reply to Box #217.

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