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DIMENSIONS

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TO THE EDITOR

EXPRESSING THE OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS OF DIMENSIONS' READERS

ALCOHOL NOT RESPONSIBLE

Dear Dimensions:

Thank you for printing the excerpts from my articles. (Lesbian Battering, Dec/Jan 89/90, Vol. 4, Issue 5) Overall I was pleased with your organization of it and the material. However, I was concerned about your statements that one of the causes of abuse is alcohol and drugs . . . etc. The "cause" according to my therapist, is poor impulse control. It is important to know and understand that if an alcoholic batterer goes sober, she will still batter. She will just be a sober batterer. Alcohol just allows her and everyone else to excuse or deny her behavior.

I received a call from a therapist in Dallas that wants more information. I especially appreciate your effort in finding other resources for women outside of Austin. I know that took some time and effort.

Well, thanks again. Keep up the hard work!!

Karen Stewart
Austin, TX

IS THERE ANY ROOM AT THE INN?

Dear Dimensions:

Thank you for your articles on women's travel. Before you began printing them, I had no idea that there were any places like that for women and I also had no idea that there were guide books available.

I live in the country and rarely get into the cities and then I have a tendency to go to the bars and come home - never setting foot in a bookstore and therefore, it seems, missing out on alot! In addition to the travel articles, I enjoy all of Dimensions - it helps me keep up with the outside world and lets me know about resources I would not have know about otherwise.

Thanks for giving us a publication of our own!

Lisa McLean
Ingram, TX



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

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THE NEWS

From Around the Region, the Country & the World

Gay New Orleans Politician Makes Run Off

New Orleans - After beating sixteen other candidates in the primary election, Louisiana's first openly gay politician, Larry Bagneris, Jr., will face Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, a well financed conservative candidate in the March 3rd run off for a hotly contested New Orleans City Council seat.

Bagneris is a New Orleans native who has been active in gay politics nationally as well as in Houston where he was once a resident.

He is a former Board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and of the Gay Rights National Lobby. He served on the planning board of the first March on Washington in 1979. In 1980 he was the first openly gay delegate from Texas to the National Democratic Convention.

Success in the primary was due in large part to the grass roots efforts of local gay political groups, and the political arm of the NOW chapter. Bagneris has been a long supporter of choice for women.

Lesbian Mother Wins Court Case

Austin - "S", one of the mothers that the Mother's Legal Defense Fund in Austin was established for, recently won her case against her ex-husband. He was denying her visitation rights to her seven year old daughter, which was in

contempt of their child custody agreement.

The Lesbian Mother's Group of Austin will be holding a benefit on March 2nd. If you would like to become a member or you need help in a child custody case, you can contact them at (512) 339-8508.

Egyptian Leader Calls for Death for All "AIDS Infected" People

From the *New York Native* - One of Egypt's leading theologians has stated that all people living with AIDS should be killed "to stop them from harming the many members of society."

According to *Rites of Canada*, Abdullah al-Mashad, who is head of the Fatwa Committee of Al-Azhar University of Cairo, an influential religious body which rules on important social issues in Egypt, has declared that people with AIDS should be denied food, water, and medical treatment, saying: "We must purge society of the AIDS patient and those like him, because his existence causes public harm." Al-Mashad also called for forced abortion and sterilization of all HIV-positive women.

Catholic Lesbians to Meet in Colorado

The Conference for Catholic Lesbians will be holding its 5th national,

biannual conference in Estes Park Colorado on May 25th.

The conference will feature workshops on homophobia, empowering relationships, women's health issues, coming out and more. Focus group sessions about aging, social justice, lesbian mothers, lesbian nuns, sexual and substance abuse, and women in management will also be offered.

For information and registration, write to: Conference Coordinator, CCL, Inc., P.O. Box 436, Planetarium Station, New York, NY, 10024; or call Erna at (212) 562-8922.

Texas Lesbians to Gather in San Antonio

The San Antonio Lesbian Community will host the 3rd Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) May 18-20 at the Menger Hotel in downtown San Antonio. The conference theme is *Lesbians in the 90's: Speaking Out*, and is being cosponsored LISA (Lesbian Information San Antonio) and ELLAS, a statewide network of latina lesbians.

Keynote speakers will include Letitia Gomez, co-chair of LLEGO (Latino/a Lesbian Gay Organization, a national organization located in Washington, D.C.; Joan Nestle, founder/curator of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City and author of Restricted Country; and Ivy Young of the National Lesbian Gay Task Force, also headquartered in Washington, D.C.

In addition to keynote speakers and a variety of workshops, the conference will feature a lesbian art exhibit and lesbian film festival. The conference is

held annually in Texas to provide a forum for lesbians to gather in a cooperative spirit for networking, the exchange of ideas, and the promotion of community.

In an effort to increase the number of women of color participating in TLC, scholarships will be available. Inquiries on the conference and/or scholarships should be addressed to: Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC), P.O. Box 12327, San Antonio, TX 78212, or call (512) 828-1761.

Discrimination Survey Needs Participants

Austin - The Lesbian/Gay Issues Committee of the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is gathering information about discrimination faced by lesbians and gay men in Texas. This statewide project's purpose is to document the wide range of discrimination that is experienced daily from employment and housing issues to adoption and child custody disputes. This information will form a data bank that can be used in a variety of ways. For example, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby is interested in this data for future legislative initiatives. The information will also be shared with organizations advocating anti-discrimination ordinances within their own communities.

NASW is particularly interested in discrimination in adoptions, foster care and child custody issues. We hope to use the information collected to advocate for statewide policies prohibiting discrimination against

lesbians and gay men in this area. Participation in the project is highly confidential. Names, addresses and telephone numbers are optional. For more information and to acquire a discrimination form, call NASW/Texas (512) 474-1454.

Latin American Conference Moved Due to Violence

The Lesbian Feminist Group of Costa Rica, Las Entendidas, will be hosting the 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Lesbian Feminist Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, April 11-13, 1990.

The conference was originally scheduled for Lima, Peru, but GALF, the Lesbian Feminist Self-Knowledge Group decided not to host the conference due to violence against gays and lesbians and political instability in Peru.

Both left and right wing groups in Peru

have been attacking alternative social movements such as feminists and homosexuals.

The recent assassination of feminist leader Consuelo Garcia and death threats against two other feminists caused GALF to fear for the safety of conference participants.

The reports of the murder of nine gay men in Tarapoto, Peru, under the pretext of a moralizing action, by an armed group who proclaimed their purpose to be the elimination of drug addicts, prostitutes and homosexuals, became the final influence, causing the Organizing Commission to withdraw their plans to host this conference in Peru.

For more information on the conference contact: GLFC, Apartado 1057, San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San Jose, Costa Rica, or the International Lesbian Information Service at ILIS, c/o COC, Rozenstraat 8, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A Monthly Listing of Special Events All Around The Area

DALLAS - The **Stonewall Dive and Travel Club** is a new Texas-based scuba diving club for lesbians and gays who enjoy scuba diving and would like to meet others who share their enthusiasm! For more information, send an SASE to Stonewall Dive And Travel Club, P.O. Box 35492, Dallas, TX 75235.

SAN ANTONIO - The **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center** is presenting **The Independent Woman Film Series**. The festival will run from March 1-16 and features the works of two Oscar nominees as well as many others. Also at the Guadalupe Center during March: **Contemporary Art by Women of Color**, featuring works from women of color from Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California and Colorado. The art show will open March 8th. For more info, call the Arts Center at (512) 271-3151.

AUSTIN - A new **empowerment group** for battered lesbians is now forming and will meet every Monday at the **Center for Battered Women - Outreach**. If you are or have been battered, call Outreach at (512) 385-5181 for an appointment and more information.

DALLAS/AUSTIN - Look for details concerning the upcoming **Chris Williamson/Theresa Trull** concerts! The first ladies of women's music will be in Austin on April 6th and Dallas on

April 7th. They are on the road to promote their new joint album, **Country Blessed**.

AUSTIN - There's a new organization in town just for you! **Sapphire!** meets every 2nd and 4th Friday at the Austin Women's Center at 1700 S. Lamar from 7-9pm. **Sapphire!** was created to give lesbians a safe, supportive place to meet other women and as an alternative to the bars. They sponsor small concerts with local musicians, game nights, videos, plays, sporting events and discussions. During March the meetings will focus on **Lesbian Battering** (March 9th) and a **Massage Workshop** (March 23rd) and a special brunch is planned for the 25th. You can get more info about **Sapphire!** by calling (512) 447-4437 or just drop by any 2nd or 4th Friday!

HOUSTON - The **RANCH** has got some new employees and they are just itchin' for ya'll to meet them! You can meet and greet new manager **Packie Rohrer**, new bartender **Lora Davids**, and new DJ **Bridgett Tucker** and have a great time while you are at it! Don't forget that you can catch **Beer Bust** Every Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm-Midnight and All Day/All Night on Sundays!


AMARILLO - The folks at **ALEXANDER'S** want you to know that they are ready and willing to help you plan that special birthday or

anniversary party! You just give the word and they'll decorate and everything. They also want you to know that they have a real, live fireplace - the kind that burns wood and everything! The perfect compliment to your favorite cocktail on a cold winter's night!

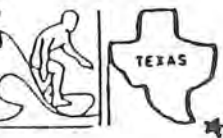
SAN ANTONIO - All you Irish women get ready! The CIRCLE is gearing up for a big **St. Partrick's Day Party** on the 17th with **free Green Draft Beer** beginning at 10pm and lasting til it's gone! If green beer doesn't sound very appetizing to you then you can join in the **Tuesday Night Discussion Sessions** every other Tuesday at the CIRCLE. This month's topics are: **Women's History** on the 6th; and **Goddess Religion** on the 20th.

DALLAS - Another big **St. Paddy's Day Bash** is in the works at **DESERT MOON** on March 17th. It's **Barbara's** favorite holiday and she's gonna need help celebrating — she's taking volunteers (ah, come on, a little green beer never hurt anyone!) so sign up today. Also, don't miss **Lipstick**, live from Colorado on March 30th!

DALLAS - All week long you can find some great specials at **SUE ELLEN'S!** There are **3-In 1 Cocktails** every evening from 3pm to 8pm and all day and all night on Mondays! Plus, you can find great entertainment at **SUE ELLEN'S** with **Lisa Michaels & Laural** beginning at 8:30pm every Monday and a **Cast Show** with **Lisa, Cozy & Coco** every Thursday starting at 10:30pm. And, if you prefer to provide your own entertainment, be sure to catch the **Pool Tournament** Wednesdays at 10pm, there will be cash prizes and lots of fun! Or, join in an **Air Hockey Tournament** beginning at 9pm on Tuesdays.

DALLAS - Just a reminder that best-selling author, **Katherine V. Forrest** will be in Dallas on March 16th for a Friday night booksigning at **CURIOUS TIMES** and a **lecture/workshop/reception** at the Ramada Hotel on Saturday March 17. A **St. Patrick's Day Dance** will follow the reception at the Ramada Hotel. For more information, call **CURIOUS TIMES** at (214) 528-4087 or **Lesbian Visionaries** at (214) 521-9642 

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DEAR AGNES

Answers to your questions about love,
relationships & personal problems

Dear Agnes,

I feel really weird about writing to you for advice but here goes... the problem is my lover's sister.

She is also gay and has always been around our house alot. Recently she broke up with her lover of 6 years and now it seems like she is here all the time.

She comes over right after work and if we aren't here, she waits for one of us to get home and let her in. She stays for dinner every night and stays until all hours. She always helps pay for groceries and brings us nice gifts every once in awhile so it's not the money I'm worried about. It's just that it has gotten so that my lover and I don't have any time to ourselves any more.

I really hate to say anything to either one of them. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. I really like her sister, and I know she's going through a rough time right now. I would just like to have my house and my lover to myself every now and then. I don't think it's too much to ask, but I don't know how to start.

Three's A Crowd
Dallas, TX

Dear Crowd,

Start by mentioning to your lover that you "are never alone any more". Bring it up when you are alone — first thing in the morning perhaps. Gauge her reaction to this statement. It is your

lover's responsibility to say something to her sister, not yours. She is probably also missing your time alone, but hasn't mentioned it for fear of hurting or offending her sister.

You might try introducing "Sis" to some of your friends. After six years in a relationship, she may not know anyone socially except the two of you. Don't try to "fix her up" with a date — that could backfire. What she needs now are friends.

Another thing you could try is getting "Sis" to help you plan a surprise, intimate evening for you and your lover. Having her participate in the planning could get her to recognize that the two of you need more time alone without either you or your lover having to mention it specifically.

Dear Agnes,

I have a really big problem — I hope you can help.

For the last eight months I've been seeing a wonderful woman I'll call "Jana". She is intelligent, witty, caring, beautiful and all the other things I ever wanted in a lover — except for one thing...I don't enjoy sex with her.

Then, about two months ago, I met another woman I'll call "Rene". We met when Jana was out of town. I went to the bar, got a little tipsy and things got out of hand. I ended up back at her apartment in bed with her. It was great. Ever since then, I've been sneaking

around to see her just for the sex. I really love Jana and I don't want to hurt her. Rene and I have an understanding that our relationship is nothing but sex. She makes no demands on me and understands the situation. I feel like if I stop seeing Rene, I will eventually get bored with my sex life with Jana and go looking for another "Rene".

As long as Rene understands and there is nothing to it but sex, wouldn't it be alright to go on sleeping with her? After all, what Jana doesn't know won't hurt her.

Sexually Frustrated Houston, Texas

Dear Frustrated,

What do you plan to do if and when Jana finds out about Rene? Do you truly believe she will not be hurt, no matter how "good" your intentions? Or, what if Rene decides she wants something more than just a "hot lay" whenever

you can sneak away for an hour or two? The only person you are fooling is yourself. It is known as "having your cake and eating it too", and it is usually a very dangerous proposition. Keep it up and you won't have to worry about Jana or Rene — you'll lose them both. You need to decide what you really want in a relationship and get on with it. You never said what the exact problem with your sexual relations with Jana is, but communication can do wonders in all areas of a relationship, even in bed.



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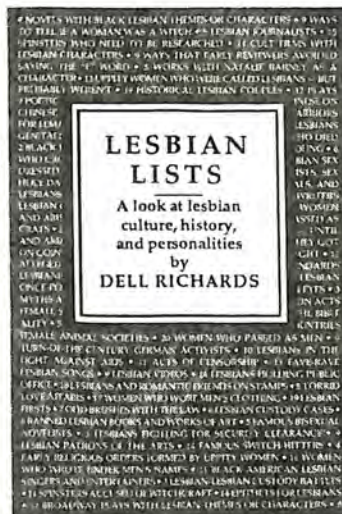
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THEORIES ON HOMOSEXUALITY
THROUGH THE AGES

Psychological and societal views on homosexuality have obviously changed throughout the ages. There have been eras of acceptance, ages of witchhunts and times of indifference. Among the different views have been a variety of interesting theories on what causes homosexuality and how it could be "cured". These theories range from the mundane to the outrageous. Below, we will give you a little taste of some of these theories as presented by science writer, Key Davidson of the San Francisco Examiner. This examination of homophobia through the ages was first published in the San Francisco Examiner's *Gay In America* series in June of 1989.

Middle Ages:

"The famous surgeon William of Bologna ... attributed lesbianism to a growth emanating from the mouth of the womb and appearing outside the vagina as a pseudopenis," according to sociologist David E. Greenberg's book "The Construction of Homosexuality."

13th Century:

Scholastic thinker Albert of Magnus suggests that a powder prepared from the fur of a hyena and applied to the anus would cure a patient of desire for sodomy," according to Greenberg.

19th Century:

Scottish Physician Robert Macnish claims to have explained homosexuality via the pseudo-science of phrenology, which holds that one's personality is related to the shape of one's skull.

Late 19th Century:

Some doctors advocate castrating or vasectomizing homosexuals as genetic "degenerates" who shouldn't reproduce.

Turn of the 20th Century:

Sigmund Freud expresses views on homosexuality to some kind of inhibited emotional development. On the other hand, he denies it is a "sickness" and says the "causes" of heterosexuality are no less mysterious than those of homosexuality.

1930s:

Psychoanalysts take a dimmer view. One writes that the homosexual, by not

19 ALLEGED CURES FOR LESBIANISM & MASTURBATION

1. Bromides (1860s)
2. Baths and Douches (1880s)
3. Oophorectomy
(removal of the ovaries) (1880s)
4. Visiting a spa (1880s)
5. Bread and Water (1890s)
6. Clitoridectomy
(removal of the clitoris) (1890s)
7. Anaphrodisiacs (1890s)
8. Early stress on sexual differences (1900s)
9. Making little girls wear dresses (1900s)
10. Sleeping with the hands inside the blanket (1910s)
11. Confining children to the company of their own sex (1900s)
12. Co-ed education (1910s)
13. Separate beds (1910s)
14. Rest (1910s)
15. Sitting on your feet (1910s)
16. Surgery on the adrenal glands (1930s)
17. Hormones (1930s)
18. Analysis (1920s through 1970s)
19. Isolation or confinement to mental hospital (1920s through 1970s)

Excerpted from *Lesbian Lists* by Dell Richards
(Alyson Publications: Boston, MA)

reproducing, is "trying to extinguish the race." Hence "society would be justified in ... taking steps against him."

Mid-20th Century:

Scientists suspect homosexuality might be "caused" by variations in sex hormones. During World War II, psychiatrists take soldiers' urine samples seeking to detect hormonal differences between gays and straights. According to a 1947 issue of *Newsweek*, in some cases the tests "showed a higher degree of estrogen (female hormones) than androgens (male hormones), just the opposite of a normal man. But this test was too uncertain and too expensive to try on every inductee."

1940s & 1950s:

Colorful New York psychoanalyst Edmund Bergler argues that male homosexuality is "caused" by an infant's failure to get enough milk from its mother's breast. Upset, the child grows into an adult who unconsciously seeks revenge against women by having sex with men.

1950s:

Famed computer pioneer Alan Turing is convicted of homosexual acts in England. The court orders "treatment" including injections of female hormones. Later Turing commits suicide by biting into a poisoned apple.

1950s & 1960s:

Media warns parents to keep an eye out for signs of homosexuality in their kids. In 1966 *Parents Magazine* runs an article by New York Medical College psychoanalyst Irving Bieber, who says a mother may promote homosexual tendencies in her son. This mom "may be overly occupied with (her son's) manners and appearance... She probably spends too much time in his company ... She holds her husband in contempt and usually dominates him ..."

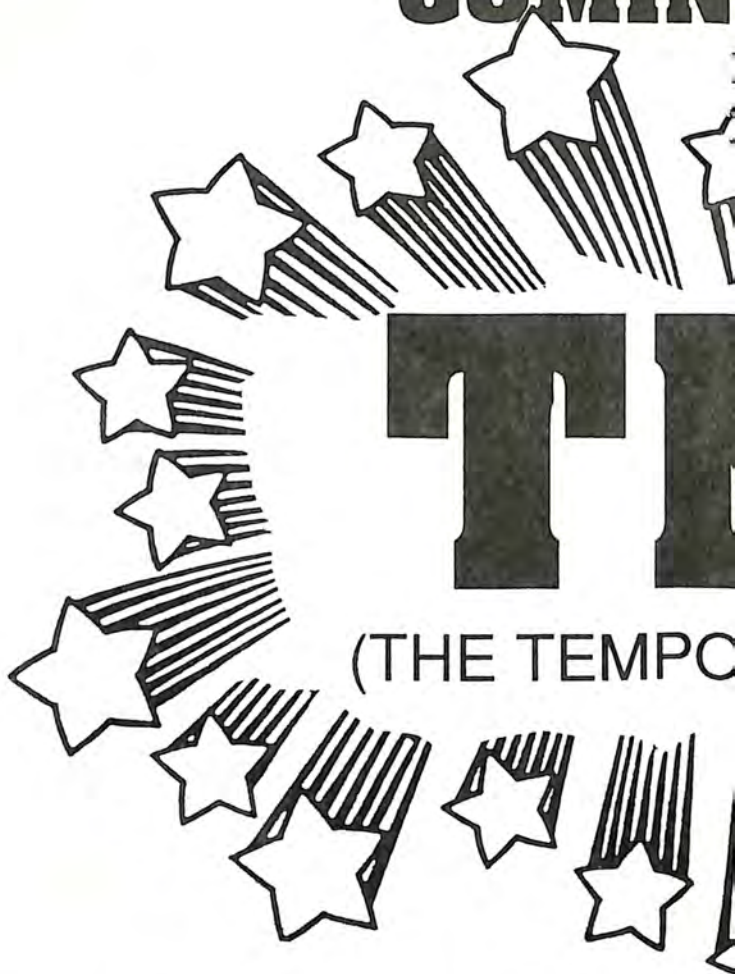
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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD!



Easing Cher's Heartbreak

by Nancy Ford

So how's your decade going? As for me, I was thrilled to enter the Gay Nineties flushed with the realization that after all these years it's true — our mothers and Cher really do have something in common (other than their questionable taste in men, that is).

You saw the headlines, and if you're like me, you probably bought the magazine — just this once. There it was in big bold letters splashed across the front of *Star* magazine: "CHER SHATTERED AS CHASTITY ANNOUNCES 'I'M GAY!'"

Shattered? SHATTERED? Puh-leease, Cher, let's keep this thing in perspective. Now you and Chastity can start doing all those video-star-mother/gay-daughter cameraderie things — like carpooling together to the tattoo parlour.

So Chastity's gay, huh? How could this have possibly happened to young Chastity, given her conservative upbringing? All three of her father figures made each his own indelible imprint on her feminine training, si? Sonny taught her how to find her way around a kitchen. Gene Simmons gave her make-up tips. Greg Allman taught

her how truly distracting unwanted facial hair can be.

Is it possible that Mom and Dad Bono may have brought this gay thing upon themselves? Is it possible that if they had chosen a name for their daughter that was a little more suburban and a little less sub-urbane, they may not be faced with the spectre of their private lives confronting them in headlines every time they walk into a convenience store to buy a Slurpee?

Picked up my dictionary, turned to the word "Chastity". To my amazement there was no picture of Brooke Shields, but rather the words "The state or quality of being chaste. See 'virgin'." I said "No problem." (You know me.) Beside the word "virgin" were two entries: First, of course, was that picture of Brooke. I knew it was in there somewhere. Second, the defining text said "... untouched by sexual intercourse, an unmarried woman."

I rest my case. That pretty much spells "Lesbian" to me, how about you? We can fairly assume that Chastity's brother Elijah Blue is not generally a happy little guy, and reads the Torah alot. Thank god Cher stopped

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reproducing before she dropped a litter: she might have named them "Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves."

When Cher tours Texas this spring (she'll be rocking the Summit in Houston April 1) I plan on offering my services as to how Cher can better deal with her trauma, based on my own experiences with coming out to my own family.

Unlike Chastity, my gender pref announcement was revealed by the discovery of a few ill-placed, steamy love letters to a same-sex, out-of-town paramour. The tabloids didn't pick up the story, yet the realization that their daughter was gay was no less burdensome to my parents. My husband wasn't exactly thrilled by the idea, either.

It's my intention to advise Cher to become

more enfranchised with her daughter's gay world, in order to better understand Chastity, her friends, and her attitudes. Yes, the best thing Cher could do right now would be to start dating women, too.

I volunteer.

When she comes to Texas, I intend to FAX Cher a map of all the Lone Star Lesbo Hotspots — you know, like Nexus, The Ranch, Sue Ellen's, The Circle (and, of course, any other Dimensions advertisers I may have missed.) That way Cher can discover first-hand (no pun intended) what all this gay noise is about. It's the least I can do — what with Chastity being "a sister" and all.

So, if you should see us out in any of these clubs be sure to come up and introduce yourself. Cher will be the one wearing little strips of leather. I'll be the one wearing a big smile.



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THE COFFEE CLUB

Lesbians In The Arts • Books, Music, Movies, Etc.

This month, T. Sumner Reviews:

Wilderness Trek

by Dorothy Tell

VIRAGO

by Karen Marie Christa Minns

We'll start this month with a first novel from a Texas author. Wilderness Trek by Dorothy Tell (Naiad Press, Inc., \$8.95) is an engaging tale of eight women who set out on a two week trek into the Ozark mountains.

The group includes: Kay and her life partner, Ray, the guides on the trek; Lu and Desiree, lovers of twelve years who face a life changing revelation during the trip; Poppy Dillworth who's lover, Irma, recently died; Marcie, an Austin school teacher who is trying to become

a South American missionary; and Jane and Ramona, two conventional women whose passions are awakened when they become tentmates.

All of these women are very different, but their trek will bring them closer in ways they never imagined. In some ways, this is the same old "coming out" story that has been told dozens of times, but it has one difference — Poppy Dillworth. Her character brings the entire story to life. Her gruff manner and determination give Wilderness

Trek a tinge of black comedy.

Ms. Tell is currently at work on another book starring Poppy. Murder at Red Rook Ranch will be out soon, and if it is as good as Wilderness Trek, it will be a good one!

Not only was this a very enjoyable book, I enjoyed reading about locales I am familiar with. Most of the women in this tale are from Texas, and the cities of Dallas and San Antonio figure prominently in the story. I commend Ms. Tell on her first novel.

Moving on, we'll take a look at a novel from the darker side. Virago by Karen Marie Christa Minns (Naiad Press, In., \$8.95) revolves around lovers Manilla and Ginny. These two have only each other to rely on as their world is turned upside down by events beyond their control.

Unbeknownst to them, they are being watched by Darsen, a creature thought to live only in legend. Darsen has chosen Ginny to be her next "companion" — and Darsen always

gets what she wants. You see, Darsen is a vampire ... a very powerful vampire. Also involved in Manilla and Ginny's lives is Professor Slater, the new head of the Anthropology Department at Manilla's school. Slater has been having strange hungers ever since her experiences with Darsen while on a research expedition in an Amazon jungle.

Professor Slater is determined to rid the world of Darsen forever, and she and Manilla set out to do just that. They are Ginny's only hope.

Virago is a strange and exotic tale. The dark sensuality and underlying fear will leave you breathless. It is definitely one lesbian vampire tale I would recommend to anyone.

Both Wilderness Trek and Virago are available at your local bookstore or from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please enclose 15% postage. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



Curious Times

provisions for the mind, body & soul

(we now buy & sell used books)

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Cures & Causes

continued from page 19

From 1962 to 1979:

West German physicians try to "treat" about 30 gay men by performing brain surgery on them, according to Greenberg's book. Their goal: to eliminate the part of the hypothalamus where doctors believe a "female center" is located.

1970s:

Psychological research indicates gays are no more or less innately prone to mental disturbance (e.g., psychosis) than straights. A study by UCLA psychologist Evelyn Hooker finds no psychopathological difference between non-patient homosexuals and heterosexuals.

1972:

The American Psychiatric Association votes to drop its designation of homosexuality as a mental disorder. The American Psychological Association follows suit the next year.

longer try to "cure" homosexuality but try instead to treat homophobia.

Although discrimination is still to be found among mental health providers, it is much less severe than in years past. Twenty years ago it was almost impossible to find a sympathetic straight therapist, much less an admitted gay or lesbian therapist. Now there are major organizations consisting of nothing but lesbian and gay psychologists and psychiatrists. This, in itself, shows the acceptance we have gained in the mental health professions.

As Brian Gladue, a researcher from the University of North Dakota is quoted as saying in the San Francisco Examiner, "... if we assume heterosexuality is 'natural' then why not homosexuality?"

All of the information contained in this article was reprinted with permission from the San Francisco Examiner, Gay In America series, June 1989.



Many things have changed since 1972. According to the San Francisco Examiner, researchers are now more interested in finding out what causes all types of sexual orientation and not just homosexuality, and most mental health professionals no

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Do You Run Away From Your Problems?

QUIZ



All of us run into situations we'd rather not face from time to time. For the most part, we face up and go on, but there are some who would rather duck and hide than ever confront a problem. Are you running away from your problems? Answer the questions below and add up your score to find out.

1. You've just broken up with your long-time lover, do you:
 - a. move, change jobs — anything to get away from the way you feel.
 - b. go on with your life and try to adjust to the new circumstances.
 - c. keep your feelings under wraps and remain friendly with her.
2. The roof in your house has a leak, you:
 - a. let it go until the ceiling starts to crumble.
 - b. climb up and try to repair it yourself first.
 - c. call a roofing company immediately.

3. You have received a traffic ticket that you believe you don't deserve, you:
 - a. refuse to pay, after all it isn't your fault.
 - b. set a court date and try to get the matter resolved.
 - c. pay anyway, you don't want to get in trouble.

4. You made a mistake at work that could cause big problems. You:
 - a. seriously consider changing jobs before you are found out.
 - b. try to correct the mistake and minimize damage before you 'fess up.
 - c. hide until things "hit the fan" and then take the blame.

5. Your boss has discovered a mistake you made that you weren't aware of, you:
 - a. try to place the blame somewhere else.
 - b. admit to the mistake and take steps to avoid it in the future.

c. take all the blame whether you deserve it or not.

6. When you and your friends or lover have an argument, you:

- a. leave before things get too bad.
- b. try to keep an open mind but stand by your position.
- c. play peacemaker and try to get everyone calmed down.

7. Your mother loaned you \$200 recently and you don't have the money to pay her back yet, you:

- a. avoid her and don't take her calls until you have the money.
- b. explain the problem to her and work out a payment plan.
- c. hock your jewelry to pay her back on time.

Scoring

Give yourself:

3 points for each "A" answer.

2 points for each "B" answer.

1 point for each "C" answer.

If You Scored:

17-21

Yes, you do have a tendency to run from your problems. The thing to remember is that running away doesn't resolve the problem, in fact, most of the time, it only gets worse. If you run away from problems in a relationship or job by leaving or quitting, you will probably only recreate the same problems in a

new relationship or job somewhere down the line. You need to learn to face up to your mistakes and acquire the art of saying you're sorry.

12-16

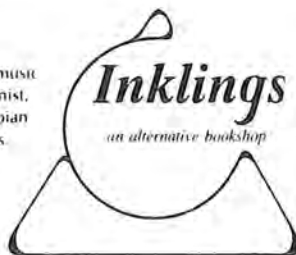
You obviously understand the art of problem "management". You are perfectly capable of facing up to your problems and make every effort to correct them as well as avoid the same problems or mistakes in the future. On the other hand, you also know when it is time to walk away, when you have done all you can do, you chalk it up as a learning experience and go on.

7-11

You not only face up to your problems, you also have a tendency to take on everyone else's. You never make excuses, even though you may have a perfectly good reason for what you did, or when you know you are in the right. Learn to take only your fair share of the blame and to stand up for yourself. Instead of running away from your problems, you are letting them run over you!



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POETRY

From Our Readers

One day there was a knock upon the door to my heart,
It had been knocked upon before ... only to have another bolt added
to the lock,
But this one was different,
So I opened the door,

Standing there was someone that looked lost and alone,
I asked her to come in,
She seemed delighted at the invitation,
But said she could not,

I continued to ask her to enter for she looked so alone,
only to have her smile and say "it's not possible",

Not being able to watch her pain any longer,
I let the love light of my heart pour out and surround her with
warmth and affection,
She became so beautiful and happy...glowing and basking in that light,
until she thought she might be able to actually walk through that open door,

Suddenly that light became too bright...the warmth too hot,
So she turned and walked away...to knock upon another door...to
smile upon someone else...from a distance,

So I closed the door to my heart...but left a window open,
To let the light shine through...to remind myself it is there,

And every so often I hear that same knock at the door,
Not as loud...but very persistent,
I can't open the door...but I look out the window,
And I see her there
...smiling
...from a distance...

B.H.
Irving, TX

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

REACH FOR THE STARS

by MIKE VOSS

ARIES

Separations can occur by not reconciling differences with a mate. Expect to bicker at least. Domestic and career forces oppose in the 1st week. Harmony achieved between the 9th and 17th allow you to look like the vicious one. Romantic path is uncertain after the 19th. New alliances interfere. Secrets can be exposed at months end. Caution should be advised in all romantic dealings.

TAURUS

Friends usher in many new experiences this month. Take advantage of romantic possibilities between the 4th and 14th. Money problems need to be worked out verbally with partners in the 3rd week. Special attention should be paid to some bad investments proposed at that time. Play the waiting game. Domestic issues bring smiles at last in the final week. Financial windfall can be expected between the 23rd and 28th.

GEMINI

Excellent time to succeed. Superiors show favoritism in the first week.

Shining examples can be set for others between the 6th and 10th. Raises are only one advantage in the 2nd week. Others interested romantically must stand in line after the 17th. You're hot and you know it now. Flaunt it a little on the 24th and 26th. Domestic arena changes quickly at month's end.

CANCER

Admirers may be numerous in the first and fourth weeks. A peculiar parade of suitors amuses your friends all month. Between the 8th and 14th and the 21st and 26th, big business deals can be closed effectively. The rest of the month may be consumed in both thought and action to partnership and the public. Extravagance should be avoided after the 22nd.

LEO

Numerous changes on the career front can have your head swimming. Trying to juggle love and responsibility look like your biggest problem. Enjoy domestic bliss in the 1st and 4th week. Best business movement is in the 3rd week. Romantic ecstasy is easily achieved in the 4th week. Marriage

may even be proposed between the 23rd and 29th.

VIRGO

Creativity is high. Being recognized for varied talents is assured in the 1st and 4th week. Marriage or partnership exists still in the mental state between the 1th and 17th. Partnership plans may best be put on hold til the months end. Financial breaks between the 22nd and 26th are due to damn good friends.

LIBRA

Pleasant new working conditions affect your whole mood this month. Expect to get things done more your way. In the first week caution is still advised in the partnership arena, however, impenetrable walls may exist. Knocking them down in the 2nd week only reveal more. Domestic blessings soothe you emotionally between the 14th and 19th. After the 21st travel offers more than the doctor ordered. Friends enrich the experience.

SCORPIO

Job promotions are possible this month. Best weeks to promote skills are in the 1st and 3rd weeks. Communication ability is almost too sharp between the 6th and 9th. Loved ones may experience your sting. Improvements on the homefront may include a change of faces at month's

end. Allow for the inadequacies of others. Good profits can be made through creativity between 22nd and 27th. Enjoy being a star.

SAGITTARIUS

Emotional level is high. Friends helpful on domestic front all month. From the 3rd to the 12th new business proposals are actually very sound. Expansion of present working conditions allows for more freedom in the 3rd week. Romance seems void or at least mysterious until the 21st. Facts uncovered about your new found honey between the 23rd and 28th please you. Capitalize on love at months end.

CAPRICORN

Travel can consume both thought and action this month. Family issues could be the key on the 1st, 9th and 21st. Obligations seem to be many in the 1st week. Enjoy new suitors that appear almost out of nowhere in the 2nd week. Between the 10th and 4th marriage may even be proposed. Career shapes up nicely after the 22nd when what has been promised is actually delivered. New image surprises friends at months end. Do something outrageous and love it.

AQUARIUS

Communication efforts spell profit this month. Success lies within your own

creative talents. Others are willing to give you that big break between the 3rd and 11th. On the 12th, 19th and 29th experience temporary domestic setbacks. Partners need guidance in the third week. Decisions made in the 4th week allow you to win all year. Don't be afraid to move, get started.

PISCES

Career and love have a peculiar mix this

month. Going with the boss or someone in an elevated position is quite possible. Best results occur in the first and fourth weeks. Between the 10th and 17th concentrated effort put toward career advancement works like magic. Spending money is one advantage to new positions obtained in the 3rd week. Gambling can pay off big between the 25th and 29th.



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794-5140

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5500 S. Congress • 440-0885

organizations

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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

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507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654

Texas Human Rights Foundation
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AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417

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300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203
Dallas Outdoors
P.O. Box 35474 75235 • 276-5270
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3900 Lemmon Ave. #220 • 526-5292
Foundation for Human Understanding
528-4233

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P.O. Box 191443 75219 • 528-2426

Lesbia/Gay Political Coalition
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Lesbian Visionaries
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AIDS Resource Center
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Dallas Gay Alliance
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c/o Student Activities Center
P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 382-3813

FT. WORTH (area code 817) clubs

Partners • 1612 Park Place • 924-2519

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837
RESPECT - Gay/Lesbian Association
TCJC-NE • TCJC Student Activities
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clubs

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4800 Calhoun • 529-3211

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

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Houston Gay Political Caucus

P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000

Kingdom Community Church

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Lambda ALANON

Lambda Center for Alcoholics

1214 Joanne • 521-9772

Lesbian/Gay Students

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2700 Bay Area 77058

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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

NH 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

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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

SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students

Alliance • P.O. Box 12715 78212

Coordinator: Jim 228-9877

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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	
Your Return Address	DIMENSIONS P.O. Box 856 Lubbock, TX 79408	

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PERSONALS

FT. WORTH GBF, seeks honest, loving, feminine woman. Reply to: P.O. Box 804, Fort Worth, TX, 76101.

GWF, would like to meet attractive, professional women for friendship. Reply to Box #242.

FRIENDS are few and far between. Why not share a little with me. Reply Box to #247.

DALLAS GWF, seeks special woman 40-50 yrs. who is attractive, lively, healthy, humorous, stable, loving. So am I. Reply to Box #248.

GWF, 34, Sensitive, honest, feminine, professional. Would like to meet new friends and that "special" person. Houston area. Reply to Box #249.

GWF, Attractive and professional, early 30's who enjoys modern art, films, good

music, humor, travel and quality time. Would like to meet gay-lady with similar characteristics and interests for friendship, maybe romance. Dallas-Austin area. Please send photo. Reply to Box #250.

GWF, 27, shy, work in Austin, live in the country. I'm new here and want to meet some friends. Reply to Box #251.

HOUSTON, WF, 47, Fun, Attractive, Spiritual, Caring, Professional, Smoker. Enjoys fine dining, movies, travel, career, intimate moments, beauty in everything. Loves flowers, romance and high integrity. Looking for special connection, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. Reply to Box #252.

SURELY there's a GBF in San Antonio who - like me - is tired of head games played at the bars and interested in developing a relationship with one special woman; who's not into roles, wild parties or drugs. I may be that one. Let's meet to find out! Reply to Box #253.

SURELY there's a GBF in San Antonio who - like me - is tired of head games played at the bars and interested in developing a relationship with one special woman; who's not into roles, wild parties or drugs. I may be that one. Let's meet and find out. Reply to Box #253.

GWF, 32, Houston, seeks feminine GWF, under 35. I want honesty, sensitivity, affection, laughter. No drugs. Drink occasionally. Enjoy movies, dancing, long conversations, romance, cuddling. Send photo, letter and I'll do the same. Reply to Box #254.

ROMANTIC GWF, 32, seeking the love of my life. Enjoy reading, old movies, dining out, cooking, quiet evenings at home, weekends at the coast. No Barflies, Fats, drugs. Prefer S.A. Area. Reply to Box #255.

ROBIN, Do Ya? 'Cause, Honey, I sure do. . . always will. I'm here, if *EVER*. Welcome to Dallas, Amy. *ALWAYS* — Toni.

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SEE PAGE 35.**

Graffiti

BIDEST.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
YOUR FRIENDS IN TEXAS MISS YOU.

JUDY-HANG
IN THERE.
WE LOVE
YOU.
RH&TS

MARYA
HEART TO HEART
SOUL TO SOUL
LOVE BINDS US
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
WL' BABE!
I ♥ YOU!
BRIGID



HAPPY
ST. PAT'S
DAY!

"I asked you to marry me and you
said yes" and made me the
happiest woman in the world.
I love you Steve. You will
"you will"
Cindy

LENORE,
BEST OF LUCK FOR U-
AND THE LITTLE
ONE! MISS YOU!
KYM

TO VALERIE KATHLEE S. -

AS I LOOK INTO YOUR HEAVENLY GREEN EYES,
MY HEART SEEMS TO OPEN UP & RISE,
JUST AS THE SUN COMES OUT ON A CLOUDY DAY
AND SHINES WARM FEELINGS ALONG THE WAY;
YOUR BEAUTIFUL SMILE, SO CONTAGIOUS, SO REAL,
BRINGS ON EMOTIONS THAT I TRY NOT TO FEEL.
JUST LIKE THE SUN'S HEAT MELTS THE ICE AND SNOW
ON A HILLTOP AND RESULTS IN A RIVER FLOW,

SINCERELY KS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JEFF.
LOVE RH&TS

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