

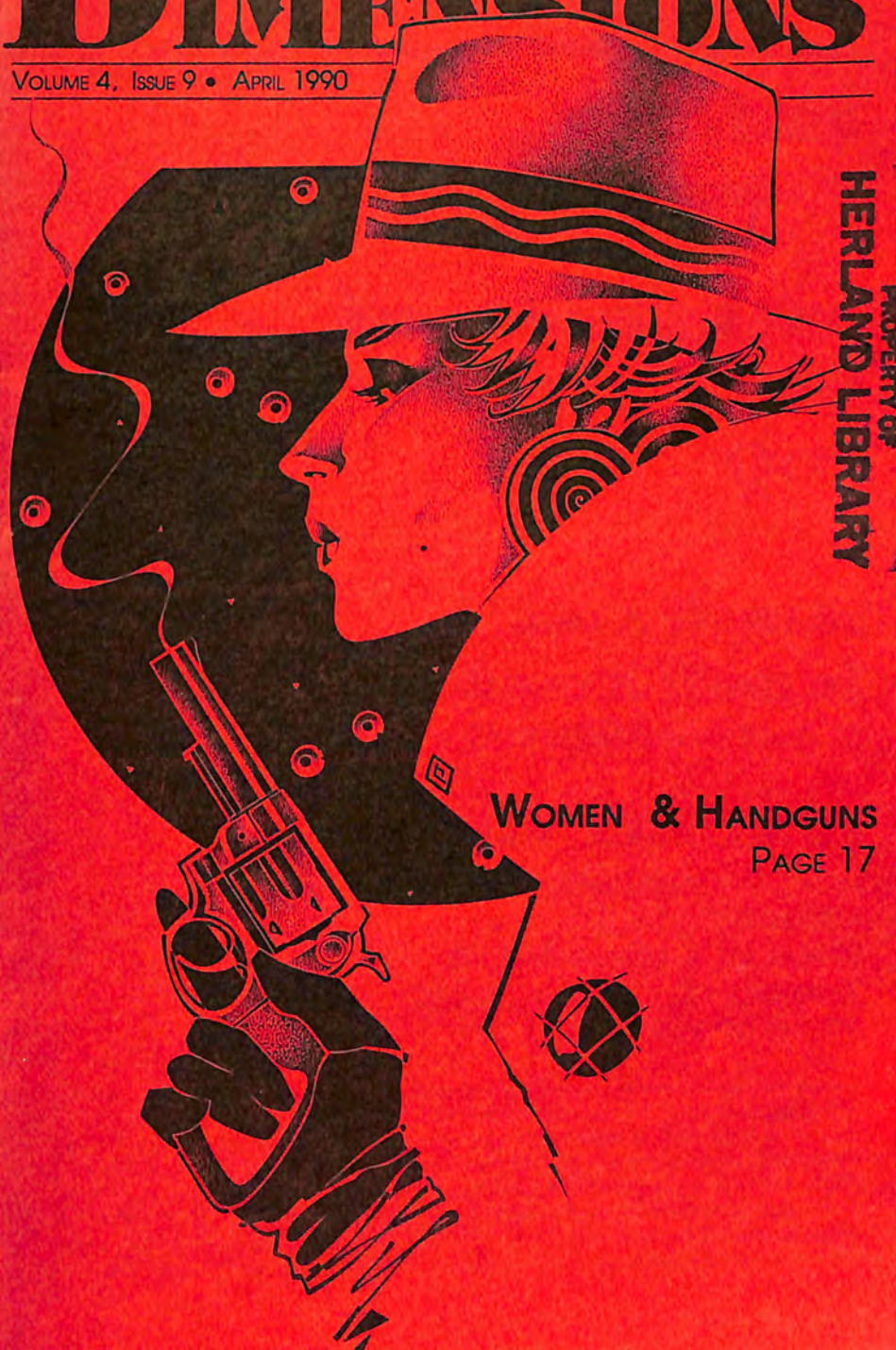
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VOLUME 4, ISSUE 9 • APRIL 1990

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WOMEN & HANDGUNS

PAGE 17

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DIMENSIONS

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TO THE EDITOR

EXPRESSING THE OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS OF DIMENSIONS' READERS

GLAAD Will Make A Believer Out Of You

Dear Editor:

A community round of applause is due to the work of the Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and their ousting of Andy Rooney from his perch at 60 Minutes. Unfortunately, it took his racial slurs, not homosexual bigotry to get the suspension. Unfortunately he didn't face the full ax as did Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder or L.A. Dodger vice-president Al Campanaris who were both fired for their bigoted bull. If you didn't get involved because you don't believe it's possible to do

anything about a problem like this, write to GLAAD/NY or GLAAD/LA and they'll make believers of you.

If you've got the nerve to write and request some really scary stuff from a little Hitler of a man, I dare you to write an "innocent" note inquiring about an organization headed by "Reverend" Donald Wildmon — the American Family Association.. Ask for more information about their group. It will scare the pants right on you. Write AFA, 107 Parkgate, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, Mississippi 38803.

David Reid

West Hollywood, CA

Where Dallas Meets Country. . .



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THE NEWS

From Around the Region, the Country & the World

US Senate Passes Hate Crimes Statistics Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Senate voted 92 to 4 to pass the Federal Hate Crime Statistics Act. They also rejected, by 77-19, an anti-gay amendment to the bill presented by Senator Jesse Helm (R-NC).

The bill requires the U.S. Department of Justice to "acquire data about certain crimes which manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity."

The Helms amendment, which was overwhelmingly defeated, stated that: "(1) The Homosexual movement threatens the strength and survival of the American family as the basic unit of society; (2) State laws prohibiting sodomy should be enforced; (3) The federal government should not provide discrimination protections on the basis of 'sexual orientation;' and (4) School curriculums should not condone homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle in American society."

The landslide vote marks the first time in the history of the Senate that the problem of anti-gay and lesbian violence has been addressed, the first time positive gay legislation has passed the Senate, and the first time the gay and lesbian community has defeated Helms on a gay-related issue.

Both Senators Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm of Texas voted for the bill.

Census To Count "Unmarried Couples"

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 1990 Marks the first time the Census Bureau is including the category of "unmarried partner" in the relationship section of its questionnaire. This category could have a direct impact on the lesbian/gay community.

The new category expands the selection choices beyond "roommate/partner" or "roommate/boarder" and although the question is not specifically directed at determining the number of gay/lesbian couples, the Census Bureau will be able to determine the number of same-sex couples living in committed relationships.

The Bureau has agreed to publish the results of the count even though they have been sharply criticized for their failure to provide outreach to affected communities and to provide an accurate definition of "unmarried partner". Some activists have called for a boycott of the 1990 census to protest the serious lack of outreach by the bureau, coupled with deep-seated concerns over confidentiality. Others argue that if lesbians and gays elect not to be counted, no advantage will be gained.

Many public and private industry programs are affected by the census and social and economic policy, legislative agendas and initiatives launched based on the data provided by the census.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has stated that information collected in the census is barred by law from being turned over to any government agency (including the IRS, FBI and INS). The Census Bureau has also assured the NGLTF that no breach of security has occurred "in recent history". Despite all reassurances, however, many people are concerned about the confidentiality of their answers. The struggle to have lesbian/gay relationships and families recognized and protected will assume much greater urgency in the decade to come. Accurate statistics gathered from the 1990 census could provide the gay and lesbian community with a small, but important, weapon to help wage that struggle.

Names Project Joins Boycott of AIDS Conference

SAN FRANCISCO - The board of Directors of the NAMES Project Foundation, the San Francisco-based sponsor of the International AIDS Memorial Quilt, have decided to boycott the VIth International Conference on AIDS, which will be held in San Francisco, June 20-24. The Boycott is in response to the U.S. federal government's visa restrictions discriminating against people with HIV infection.

As a result of the withdrawal of NAMES Project participation, the Quilt will not be displayed within the conference this year. The Quilt will, however, be on display in San Francisco at the end of June for the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Parade.

Some of the other organizations boycotting or withdrawing from the AIDS Conference include AIDS organizations from France, Australia, Brazil, Great Britain, Canada, Holland, Germany, New Zealand and Switzerland, as well as: Save the Children, the Shanti Project, the International Planned Parenthood Foundation and the International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Organizations protesting travel restriction but still participating in the conference include: The National Commission on AIDS, National Minority AIDS Council, the Center of Disease Control and the International AIDS Society.

Women Involved in "12-Step" Programs Invited to Attend Conference

HOUSTON - Houston will host the First Annual Women's Recovery Roundup on April 13-15 (Easter Week-end). The event will be held at the City of Houston's Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray. This will be a conference for women who participate in "12-Step" programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, AIAnon, Overeaters Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics, etc.

Registration will begin at noon on Friday, April 13th and a schedule of workshops, speakers and meetings will begin in the afternoon. Evening social events are planned for both Friday and Saturday following the special guest speakers. On-site child care will be provided and both discounted hotel rates and some housing in local

Information on registration can be obtained by writing to the National Women's Recovery Roundup at P.O. Box 980131, Houston, TX 77098-0131 or calling (713) 868-3919.

TLC Announces Registration Dates

SAN ANTONIO - Lesbian Information San Antonio (LISA) and ELLAS, a statewide network of latina lesbians in Texas, are pleased to announce registration dates for the Thrid Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC to be held May 18-20, 1990 in San Antonio at the downtown Menger Hotel. Pre-conference registration is \$30 before April 15th and \$40 thereafter up to May 10th. Registration at the conference site will be \$45 based on space available. Special pre-conference rates are also available for the conference T-shirt and dance.

The Third Annual TLC will focus on Lesbians in the 90's: Speaking Out and include three keynote speakers: Leti Gomez, a native of San Antonio, co-chair of LLEGO, a national latino lesbian organization based 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 in Washington, D.C. In addition to numerous workshops covering a wide range of topics, the conference will also offer a lesbian film festival and a gala dance with live entertainment Saturday evening.

For a registration form with full details and costs for the conference contact the TLC at: P.O. Box 12327, San Antonio, TX 78212 or call the TLC planning committee at (512) 828-1761 and leave your name and complete address to receive information.



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THE RANCH



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Sunday Fun In April!

- APRIL 1st** — Synergy Softball Benefit
APRIL 8th — Little Bit Of Texas Band
APRIL 15th — Benefit
APRIL 22nd — Stone Soup Benefit
Hosted by Mr. & Ms. TGRA Candidates 1991
Wayne Grabein & Felicia Webb
APRIL 29th — Fourth Anniversary Celebration
featuring the Little Bit Of Texas Band

DJ EVERY NIGHT

DAILY SPECIALS

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SUNDAYS — Beer Bust All Day & All Night (except during special occasions)
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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A Monthly Listing of Special Events All Around The Area

GULFPORT, MISS. - The second annual **Gulf Coast Women's Festival** will be held Easter weekend, April 12-15 in a rural area near Gulfport, Mississippi. For information please call Tahnya or Barbara at the **Mystic Moon** in New Orleans at (504) 865-9465.

OKLAHOMA CITY - Be sure and catch the **Carpenter Square Theatre's** presentation of **Cabaret** on Sunday, April 8th at 2pm. All proceeds will go to benefit **Herland Sister Resources** so be sure to attend!

ALBUQUERQUE - Get ready for **Wimifest '90**, Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27 at the **KiMo Theatre** in Albuquerque. Performers will include: **Ferron, Phranc, Altazar, Edwina Lee Tyler, Marga Gomez, Melanie Denmore & Duece**. There will also be an open mike, dances and fun in the sun. An arts & crafts show will be held during **Wimifest**. To register for the festival or to get information on selling or displaying your work please write to **Women In Movement in New Mexico**, 2408 Mervosh Pl. SW or call (505) 873-2950.

TOKYO - If you ever wanted to travel to Japan, now is your chance! **The Fifth Anniversary Coming Home Weekend** in Saitama, Japan is scheduled for November 22-25, 1990. Lesbians from

Japan and the world will convene in Saitama to celebrate the continual strength of the International Lesbian Community. For information write to: Suzanne Sullivan, 8-26-27-201 Kinuta, Setagaya-ku Tokyo 157, Japan or call 03-416-4216. Get your passport ready!

ESTES PARK, CO - If you are Catholic and a lesbian then you'll want to attend the **5th biannual conference of Catholic Lesbians** in Estes Park, Co on May 25th. There will be all kinds of workshops and entertainment! 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.

HOUSTON - April is a "month 'o Sundays" at the RANCH! On the first get out and show your support for the **Synergy Softball Team**. On the 8th you can dance to music of the **Little Bit Of Texas Band**. On the 15th an, as yet unspecified, benefit will be held, on the 22nd it's the **Stone Soup Benefit** hosted by **Mr. & Ms TGRA Candidates 1991**, **Wayne Grabein and Felicia Webb**, and on the 29th you can top off the month with the RANCH's **4th Anniversary Bash** featuring the **Little Bit of Texas Band!** Whew! What a month!

DALLAS - They are getting the **Golf and Tennis Leagues** organized and ready to roll at the **DESERT MOON!** Watch for game and tourney dates coming soon!

SAN ANTONIO -This late breaking news is just in from the **CIRCLE** — **Bolt Uprite** will be appearing on the 6th! The show starts at 9:30pm and there will be a \$3 cover. **Lynn & Sylvia** will appearing on the 13th at 8:30pm with a \$1 cover. **Tuesday Night Topics** for April are: **Dating Tips** on April 3rd and **Fun: Things To Do, Places To Go, People To See** — **Awaken the Child Inside of You** on April 17th. **Steak Nite** happens every Thursday at the **CIRCLE!** It all starts at 7pm, \$1 plus tax gets a veggie and salad. Bring anything “grillable” and **Stacey** will cook it right up for you! Also, Tuesday's are “**Girls Nite Out at the CIRCLE Roundup**”! The night kicks off at 9pm with no cover, the music is guaranteed to be 90% C&W and there's lots of drink specials to help

you get in the mood for a little two-step.

FT. WORTH - They got some tricks up their sleeves at **PARTNERS!** Watch for **Country and Western Nite** coming soon on Sunday Nights! There will be **Beer Bust, Country & Western Dance Lessons, Contests and a guest DJ.** I heard that the **Partners Ms. Fluff/ Mr. Butch Contest** was a smashing success (it happened in March) and we would like to congratulate the winners of this dubious honor (although we aren't sure who they are, we're sure they deserve the award)!

AUSTIN - Are you hungry? Pick up something for the grill and head for **SADIE'S PLACE** on Wednesday Nights! That's right, Wednesdays are **Steak Night** - you bring the steak and they'll cook it and provide all the fixin's for just \$1. If you are just thirsty, **SADIE'S** has drink specials all week long — I'm sure they've got something just for you!



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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes:

My lover and I have been together for six months. We have a very good relationship with only one exception. She wants to move in with me and I'm not ready for that quite yet.

I do love her and I would like for us to live together at some point in the future, but I'm just not ready for the changes that living together brings to a relationship. I would like to enjoy living alone for a little while longer.

She thinks that, since I won't let her move in, I don't really love her. I tried to explain that I just want the "engagement" to go on for a little while and that this doesn't mean I don't love her or that I'm not committed to the relationship. She listened and told me she understood, but the next night she brought it up all over again.

Neither of us is hurting in the financial area, so there's no real necessity to move in together right away. Also, we spend most nights together anyway.

I really love her and I don't want to push her away but I feel like she's trying to push me into this and won't even talk about a compromise.

Am I being to hard, I mean, I want us to live together before too much longer anyway. Should I just let her move in now to smooth things over or stand up for what I want? I'm really confused

but I want to do the right thing before all this causes a break-up.

Happy Alone For Now
Austin, TX

Dear Happy:

Tell her exactly what you think. There is nothing wrong with the way you feel. Remember, it is easier to move in together than to move out when things don't go as planned.

Dear Agnes:

You printed a letter last month that really hit home with me. (Sexually Frustrated, March '90)

I have lived with the same woman for the last ten years. A couple of years ago I found out she was having an affair. She too was unhappy with her sex life, or at least that's the story I got.

I became suspicious when she started spending a lot of time away from home (Midnight trips to the grocery store that lasted two or three hours, etc.). The writing was on the wall for a long time. It just took me awhile to catch on.

When I finally confronted her, she was real cool. At first she denied it, then she blew up and accused me of spying on her. It was an ugly mess.

Our life was hell for about a year, but

things are much better now (so is our sex life). We learned to talk to each other about our feelings before they got out of hand.

If this experience taught me anything, it is that communication is critical to maintaining a healthy relationship. And, we both learned that lying and sneaking around is the worst thing that anyone can do because it erodes trust. Without trust it is hard to carry on any relationship at all.

Recovering Dallas Metro

Dear Agnes:

In response to "Sexually Frustrated", I think you are a narrow minded old fart. There is nothing wrong with having two lovers. Especially when you aren't totally satisfied with one of them in bed.

Nobody ever said you have got to tell everyone everything!

Two Women Woman Austin, TX

Dear Two:

Sorry, but my advice stays! No, no one ever said you have to "tell everyone everything", but it is best to be honest. Sooner or later your actions will catch up with you.



Write To Dear Agnes
With Your Problems or
Comments at:
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EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday • April 15th

WASHER TOURNEY

H.O.R.S.E TOURNEY (B-Ball)

Sunday, April 22nd • On The Patio

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LESBIANS IN THE 90s: SPEAKING OUT

Third Annual Texas Lesbian Conference

May 18th - 20th, 1990

Menger Hotel - San Antonio, Texas

Keynote Speakers to include:

Letitia Gomez
of LLEGO (Latina(o) Lesbian Gay Organization)

Joan Nestle
author of Restricted Country, co-founder of the
Lesbian Herstory Archives

Ivy Young
of the NGLTF (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force)

Order your TLC T-shirts

\$10 with Pre-registration \$12 at conference
(to be held and distributed at door)

REGISTRATION

Before April 15 \$30 April 15 - May 10 \$40
At conference \$45 (space limited)

Limited scholarships available for low-income women of color.

For more information, write to: TLC3, P.O. Box 12327, San Antonio, Texas 78212
or call (512) 828-1761



WOMEN & HANDGUNS

BY T.W. JOHNSON

Women are buying and using guns in ever increasing numbers. A 1986 poll conducted by gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson indicated that between the years 1983 and 1986 the number of women in the U.S. who owned guns increased from 7 million to 12 million. Gunshop owners also indicated that

their female customers have increased 10%-20% in recent years.

While I am not advocating gun ownership, I am aware that many women already own guns and many more are considering the purchase of one. I believe that if you are going to be a gun owner, you should be aware of the

consequences of your decision. If you are thinking of purchasing a firearm, the following article will give you some idea of what is needed to buy and handle a gun. If you already own a gun, you will find some useful information on firearm safety and the legal aspect of gun ownership.

WHAT TYPE GUN?

While there are many types of hand guns, all of the gunshop owners I spoke to, and the National Rifle Association (NRA) told me that the best "self-defense" firearm for a woman would be a revolver — at least .38 caliber — with a 3 to 5 inch barrel. But, all also said it depends on the woman's physical size and intended purpose for the gun.

THE PURCHASE

All of the states in which Dimensions is distributed (Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas & Louisiana) require proof of residence to purchase a gun. This can be a driver's license, voter's registration, etc. You must be 21 years of age to purchase a handgun although you can purchase a rifle in some localities at the age of 18.

In all states you are required to fill out a form provided by the gunshop. In Texas you must answer questions pertaining to drug and alcohol abuse, criminal record and U.S. citizenship. In Oklahoma, it is called a "yellow form" and is simply a verification of who owns the gun and the address at which it will be kept. New Mexico and Louisiana forms vary depending on location. None of the four states require any waiting period at all. As one man said, "fill out the form, pay your money and it's yours."

TRAINING

You should never purchase or own a gun and expect to be able to use it effectively without proper training. Don't expect that just because you have experience firing a shotgun that a handgun will be "no problem". Every gun has it's own unique characteristics and you should be trained in it's use. Even if you have owned a handgun for the past ten years, a refresher course in handling and caring for your firearm is advised.

Many police departments offer civilian firearms training course, but training is also available from many other sources. Your local shooting range may have classes in handgun use and many sporting goods and gun shops can refer you to a qualified instructor. Another option is to call the NRA at 1-202-828-6304 to obtain a list of NRA certified instructors in your area.

The NRA also offers the Personal Protection Program, designed specifically for women, which will give you instruction in safety, operation, care & storage, marksmanship fundamentals, local gun laws, the legality of deadly physical force, and avoiding criminal attack. You can obtain information on this course by calling the number above or by writing the NRA, c/o Tracy Martin at 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

KEEPING A GUN IN THE HOME

Your gun should be kept handy and loaded with extra ammunition located in the same place. The nightstand or dresser drawer in your bedroom is one good place. Many people will keep an

unloaded gun in one place and ammunition in another, supposedly for safety's sake. However, if you bought a gun to protect yourself, you will not have time to find ammunition and load a gun during an emergency.

One good way to keep yourself protected as well as keeping children and visitors safe is to keep your gun in a locking gun case. The case can be unlocked at night and locked during the day or when you have visitors. Keep the key in a place where children cannot get to it, but where you can find it quickly.

CARRYING A GUN

In all four states you must have a special permit to carry a concealed weapon on your person. These permits are usually available from your local police or sheriff's department. You will have to, as one gunshop owner informed me, "have a damned good reason" for wanting to carry a weapon this way.

All four states will allow you to carry a gun in your car although restrictions vary. In Texas, you can carry a gun, as long as it is not concealed (don't put it under the seat of your car or in the glove box), and you are traveling out of your county of residence and staying for at least one night. You may also carry a non-concealed gun to and from an organized shooting event or if you are carrying large sums of money (how large is not defined). You may also carry a gun in the locked trunk of your car.

In Oklahoma, you may carry a gun anywhere, so long as it is not loaded. You are allowed to keep ammunition in the car as long as it is in a different location than the gun.

In New Mexico you may carry a loaded weapon concealed anywhere in your car. However, if you are stopped by the police, you should inform the officer that you are carrying a weapon and where it is located in the car. You won't get in trouble for carrying the firearm as long as you are honest.

I was unable to obtain information about carrying a gun in your car in Louisiana. Check with your local police department or sheriff's office for more information.

continued on page 26



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We are looking for the Right People to help us in covering the news and happenings in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico & Louisiana. Dimensions is also seeking qualified, part-time, regional sales reps to help us reach a growing ad market in these areas.

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POETRY

From Our Readers

When I see you on the outside
I hurry to rid my view of you.
when we are thrown together inside,
I busy myself, trying not to notice you.

At night, when I retire, I search
frantically for the sand man
to fill my eyes and blot out
memories of days, once spent with you.

Amidst my slumber state, dreams come —
tender, warm and loving dreams
All were of you.

But reality wakes me to the
startling truth —
that for months now, weeks
and even days . . .
There hasn't been a you.

MEO
Austin, TX

I Love You Then

I remem
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The days
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Night's
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I'll love yo

K. S
Ft. W

Would you like to see your poetry or
Please include your name, address, phone number & signature. All poetry received will
verifies that you are the author/owner of said poetry or writings. Be sure

Now, and Always

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ere warm
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ou then ...

the dawn,
f to work,
the dusk
to bed ...

are bright,
are warm,
h my heart
ou now ...

ir is gray,
ement slow,
ures fade,
are gold ...

s still bright,
still warm.
h my heart,
ou always ...

ewart
prth, TX

hey —
where are you
i'm here
standing on the outskirts
of your affections
waiting for you
to make up your mind

hey —
where are you
did we sail past
one another
in our careless
attempt
to dissolve this fate

hey —
where are you
am i to blame
for this abandonment
of the passion
we've discovered
buried within us both

hey —
where are you
i'm still here
lurking among
your fantasies
and hiding behind
your smile
where are you

Kruz
DeSoto, TX

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

WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD!

All In The Name Of Progress

by Nancy Ford



Let me begin with a disclaimer. I think Progress is a wonderful thing. Progress is the Destiny of Man. We wouldn't be here today without Progress. Exactly where here is I'm not entirely sure, but it certainly beats being *there*.

But with Progress have come a number of modern conveniences/contrivances that have exceeded the boundaries of the sublime and entered into the ridiculous. Space-saving-under-the-cabinets-small-appliances are Progress. Premie Cabbage Patch Kids are not. It's not that I'm complaining, but a friend once told me it was good to talk about things rather than keeping them bottled up inside.

Therefore, for the common good, even though nobody asked, here are a few of my least favorite things that have been thrust upon us is the name of Progress.

TALKING CASH REGISTERS

Is that voice a recording Florence Henderson did before she cashed in on the Wesson Oil gig, or some women hiding in the ceiling over the check out

lane with binoculars calling out prices, or what. And while certainly there's nothing particularly unusual about purchasing seven cans of albacore tuna packed in spring water, next week's T.V. Guide, a pack of generic toilet paper (grey/white with visible splinters) and a 1.5 ounce tin of exquisitely delicate Danish butter cookies, I don't care to have it announced to the general populace. Call me old-fashioned, but the general populace and I have barely been introduced. But the worst part comes at the end of the transaction when Florence thanks us. And we look into her digital display and say, "You're welcome" to a talking cash register with more sense of social grace than most of the people I went to High School with. Not good.

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Maybe it's the Las Vegas in me, but I find it extremely difficult to tear myself away from a machine that's spitting out money until it won't spit anymore. And

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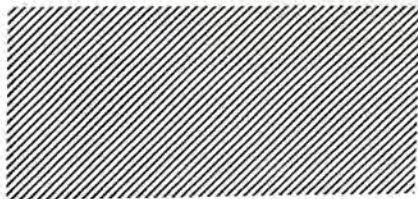
I've never even been to Vegas. But I kinda like the music. Wait — what were we talking about? Oh, yes — ATM's. I don't know if it's a coincidence, but whenever the balance in my checking account exceeds a certain amount, my car breaks. And somehow the number of dollars it takes to repair it too frequently equals the excessive (?) amount of dollars in the aforementioned checking account. Could there be a connection here — some electronic impulse detonation system tied together by a massive computer run by a conglomerate of the international financial world and the automotive repair industry? ("ATM to cooling system

— ATM to cooling system — extra fifty dollars detected in checking account. Clearance to blow two radiator hoses.") A possible connection? In this world of motionless waterbeds, six kinds of Coca-Cola, and ALF in stereo, you bet your Cuisinart it's not only possible, but highly likely.

MOVIES FEATURING MUSCULAR WOMEN BUT ONLY AS MYTHOLOGICAL HEROES

I mean heroines. No elaboration necessary: the reasons are obvious.

And **MANDATORY VALET PARKING**. And **CHEESE FOOD**. And **CELEBRITIES WHO MAINTAIN FACIAL MOLES LONG AFTER THEY CAN AFFORD TO HAVE THEM SURGICALLY REMOVED**. And **FRUIT FLAVORED POPCORN**. And . . . 



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THE COFFEE CLUB

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

This month, T. Sumner Reviews:

LESBIAN LISTS BY DELL RICHARDS



Columnist Dell Richards has put together a collection of clever and enlightening facts about lesbians in *Lesbian Lists* (Alyson Publication: Boston, MA). (Photo Credit: Hope Harris)

Have you ever wondered where you could find a list of movies with a lesbian theme? How about a list of lesbian queens and aristocrats? You can find this and much more in *Lesbian Lists: A look at lesbian culture, history and personalities*, by Dell Richards (Alyson Publications, \$8.95).

Lesbian Lists is a great book for everyone. In addition to providing valuable resource material for writers and researchers, it is full of interesting facts and even more interesting women.

As the author says, "When it comes to sweeping lesbians under the carpet,

critics and scholars . . . have been the worst offenders. Instead of shedding light, they have been the first to cover it up." Ms. Richards is certainly shedding light.

But, all of the lists aren't made up simply of women, past and present, who were lesbians. There are lists of alleged causes of lesbianism [see box], myths about female sexuality, all-female animal societies and more! You'll find all sorts of intriguing information contained in *Lesbian Lists*. For instance, did you know that the first woman to reach the north pole was

lesbian Ann Bancroft in 1986? Or that the word "lesbian" was first used in a newspaper when the *New York Times* published a story titled "Lesbian Love and Murder" about Alice Mitchell's murder of Freda Ward in 1892?

In addition to all of the great information you'll find in the book itself, the bibliography also provides a comprehensive list of books from which you can find more information on many of the subjects covered in Lesbian Lists.

This is a book for everyone interested in odd facts and falacies about their lesbian lifestyle as well as a "who's who in lesbian herstory". This book should be required reading for all lesbians (and gay men, as well).

Lesbian Lists is available for \$10 (price includes postage and handling) from Alyson Publications, Dept P-15, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



18 ALLEGED CAUSES OF LESBIANISM

1. Masturbation (1600s through early 1900s)
2. Faulty Nervous Organization, which can also lead to Dementia and Death (1890s)
3. Cerebral Abnormalities (1890s)
5. Female Friendships (1890s)
6. Being Allowed to dress like boys (1890s)
7. Being Allowed to Play With Boys (1890s)
8. Feminism (1890's)
9. Separate Schools for Girls & Boys (1890s)
10. Women's Colleges Which Encouraged Athletics and the "Masculinization" of the Female Mind (1900s)
11. Co-ed Colleges (1900s)
12. Childhood Trauma (1920s)
13. Being an Only-Child or First-Born (1920s)
14. Shortage of Men Following World War I (1920s)
15. World War I: Emotional Trauma caused by the Separation of Men and Women During The War and also, Women Taking Over Men's Jobs (1920s)
16. Overfunctioning Adrenal Gland (1930s)
17. Glandular Imbalance (1950s)
18. Poor Parenting (1960s)

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

Women & Guns
continued from
page 19

Gun ownership is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. The safety issues involved, especially when there are children in the household, cannot be ignored. Many people, both children and adults, are injured or killed every year through the improper handling of firearms in the home. Be sure you are aware of all the risks before you decide that gun ownership is for you. With proper training and responsible handling and safe-keeping, a handgun can add a measure of security to your home and family.

— T.W. Johnson is a freelance writer from Dallas, TX. The views she expresses in this article do not necessarily represent the opinions of the staff or editors of Dimensions.



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Is She Ready For Commitment?

You're in love and ready to really commit to your new relationship, but is your partner ready? Although much of it depends on the specifics of the relationship, there are some general indications that she will commit to you if she feels you're "the right" woman. Answer the following questions to the best of your ability and find out if she's ready for a committed relationship. You could be in for some surprising insights.

1. How many serious relationships would you estimate she's had in the past?

- a. One to three.
- b. Four to five.
- c. Too many to count.
- d. None. You're the first.

2. Most of her friends are:

- a. in a happily committed relationship.
- b. committed but unhappy.
- c. devoutly single.
- d. single and looking.

3. At a party, you introduce her to a friend of yours who happens to be gorgeous, she:

- a. is polite and friendly. Period.
- b. acts starstruck, she just can't contain herself.
- c. pays attention to you but watches her on the sly all night.

4. She currently lives:

- a. alone.
- b. with family.

c. with a roommate.

5. Given a choice, she'd rather:

- a. go to the bar with friends.
- b. go to the bar with you.
- c. stay home with you.

6. She views herself as:

- a. stable.
- b. a free spirit.
- c. searching for something.

7. When she is sick, she expects:

- a. to be left alone.
- b. to be "babied" constantly.
- c. to be checked on now and then.

SCORING

Give yourself points as follows:

- 1. a-0, b-2, c-3, d-1
- 2. a-0, b-2, c-3, d-1
- 3. a-0, b-3, c-2
- 4. a-0, b-3, c-2
- 5. a-3, b-1, c-0
- 6. a-0, b-3, c-1
- 7. a-3, b-1, c-0

If You Scored: 7 or less

The only question is: Are you ready to commit? Assuming all the chemistry is there, you couldn't find a more willing partner.

8-14

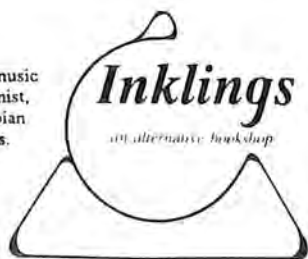
OK, maybe she isn't "chomping at the bit", but she isn't against the idea of a commitment, either. She may just need some space to get over a recent relationship, or maybe she just needs a push in the right direction. Whatever the problem, you've got a 50-50 chance. Once you feel you have the problem pinpointed, weigh your decision to try and hurry things along carefully. You could end up pushing her away instead of getting the commitment you want.

15-21

She's not ready for commitment and she may never be. True, she may be sending out mixed messages, but if you get right down to it, commitment just isn't in her plans at the moment. It may be best to let her drift away unless you, too, are commitment shy — then she may be the perfect partner for you — so long as you don't change your mind!



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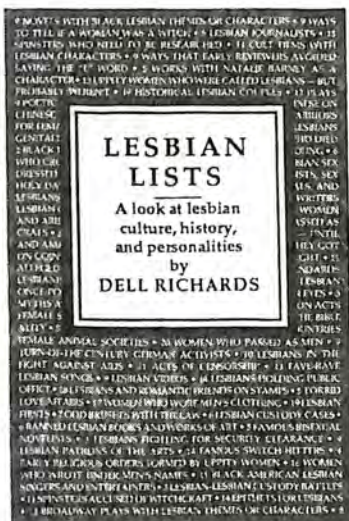
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 - 5 lesbians and amazons on coins
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LESBIAN LISTS BY DELL RICHARDS

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REACH FOR THE STARS

by MIKE VOSS

ARIES

Challenges met early in the month can produce big profits by month's end. Between the 2nd and 8th financial partnership concerns are tested. Avoid blowing things out of proportion at this time. Image and self worth improve due to educational opportunity presented between the 16th and 21st. Romance is rocky all month, but then you kind of like it way, don't you ??? Best career breaks are offered on the 6th, 11th and 23rd.

TAURUS

Expect some opposition on career views all month. Someone may even be out to get you. Caution is advised between the 4th and 12th when violence should be avoided. Good romantic notions can actually materialize after the 17th. When someone else is finally released. Enjoy harmony and profit in all domestic pursuits between the 21st and 26th. Travel may be offered all month.

GEMINI

Friends and money matters need re-evaluation. Getting the future in order would be alot easier by clearing up the present. In the first week, deal with loss in order to gain in the 3rd week. Romance leaves you baffled between the 8th and 14th. Best luck with love happens out of town. Travel is offered after the 23rd. Business accompanies all trips.

CANCER

Promises made on career fronts can be broken or interrupted now. In the 1st week proceed as if all is the same. By the 3rd week, you will find that it really is. Romance between the 8th and 19th may boggle the mind of your friends. Domestic and financial aspects combine nicely after the 26th to bring in extra bucks. You need 'em.

LEO

Disappointments stem from work, obligation and educational pursuits. You may have to try harder now, because all you want to do is play. In the 1st week getting over some major creative failure can infringe on loved ones. Between the 9th and 19th spirits can skyrocket due to new ideas and a new love. Love to you means everything. Expect to have just about everything between the 20th and 29th.

VIRGO

Romantic no's received in the 1st week can be turned into yesses by the 3rd week. Giving space to another is the key. Career improvement includes an increase in cash between the 11th and 19th. After the 23rd the domestic arena provides an excellent back drop for future success. Branching out with a new project gets all the green lights.

LIBRA

What appears to be a great romantic idea can turn sour early this month.

Compromise looks difficult and the home front can get pretty confusing. After the 19th try re-defining relationships or else start over with someone new. Before this, expect obstacles. Career gets a welcomed boost between the 11th and 23rd. Friends are the key. Travel after the 25th enhances both business and love conditions.

SCORPIO

Relatives and short trips can consume both time and energy this month. Obligations are placed on you in the 1st week. Working your way through these problems makes you a new person in the 3rd and 4th weeks. Major obstacles can occur with partners between the 5th and 13th. Watch temper. Best successes occur all month when you rise above pettiness.

SAGITTARIUS

Love and money issues are raised. Disappointments brought on by another may have to be worked out. No running away now. You're basically trapped in the 1st week. Cards become more clearly stacked in your favor after the 21st. Patience truly pays off this time. Best career days are between the 11th and 18th when showing off boosts sales. Blow your own horn all month.

CAPRICORN

Opportunity for partnership includes nice domestic changes also. Remember that the 1st week can be touchy, however. Limits need to be set. By the 3rd week details appear to be worked out and you can expect smooth sailing. Career is up and down all month. Between the 8th and 13th and between the 22nd and 28th

expect to win. Superiors recognize your worth. Romance is sudden if at all after the 24th.

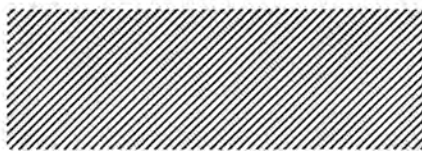
AQUARIUS

Major changes can take place in the career area. You must take a more objective view in the 1st week. You're in the mood to tell somebody off. Wait until the 3rd week if you can, because then you're liable to get all the things you want. Love plays second fiddle between the 9th and 14th. Travel is a great idea after the 22nd and looks like it might be free. Enjoy months end when perspective returns.

PISCES

Friends and financial obligations can keep you in suspense this month. In the 1st week you win by waiting. In the 4th week you win by acting. Romance is squeezed in nicely between the 8th and 14th. Between the 21st and 20th business projects presented to you are sound. Leap at offers presented. Travel could be a bonus.

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THE DIRECTORY

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

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512) clubs

Nexus/Petticoat Junction (coming soon)
448-2292

Sadie's Place
815-A Brazos #214 • 479-6939

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

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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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14902 Preston Rd. 75240 • 733-1108

Crossroads Market
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521-8919 or 1-800-992-6404

clubs

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organizations

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P.O. Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546

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

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300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203
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Foundation for Human Understanding
528-4233

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Lesbian Information Line (LIL)
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Lesbia/Gay Political Coalition
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organizations

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NH Gay Alliance for Young Adults,

Inc. P.O. Box 190426

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666 Broadway 4th Floor

NY, NY 10012

National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline

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National Gay/Lesbian Task Force

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organizations

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2312 NW 39th 73112 • 794-7464

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 512)

clubs

The Circle

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organizations

Dignity/San Antonio

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Integrity/San Antonio

P.O. Box 150006 78212 • 684-4920

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Community Church

202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121

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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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PERSONALS

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 to Box #247.

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

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

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.

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.

STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS Area: Attractive Black feminine gay woman who really deserves happiness & contentment is looking to meet feminine woman who is full of love, strong passions, is spiritual, patient, understanding, and is looking for and wanting a strong commitment. You want a beautiful commitment, wedding cake, fireworks, and pretty clothes and I want the same. Can possibly relocate to a small town, (New Mexico, or etc...) who enjoys traveling, has CLASS, deserves better, and doesn't take things for granted. Someone who is at peace with themselves, someone who doesn't throw static, jealousy or friction. One who's very affectionate, 100% in my corner, and who won't turn their back. No drugs or alcohol. Write P.O. Box 1813, Stephenville, TX 76401.

ATTRACTIVE, GWF, 30 is trying to meet Ms. Right. Attracted to slim, pretty, feminine women. Would love to meet someone who wants to be loved and has alot of love to offer. So if you're tired of the games and need love, honesty and compassion, drop me a line. Reply to Box #257.

GAIF, 27 Settled, quiet, independent, seeks feminine lady who prefers quiet evenings, long walks outdoors, nature, mysticism, poetry, music, over bars and fast life. Know you're there, just don't know where to look. San Antonio Area. Reply to Box #258.

GF - like to meet other San Antonio Rosierucians. Reply to Box #258.

ANDROGYNOUS LESBIAN: Leader of the band. Got Rhythm and looking for harmony. Like to play in life's symphony? Drop me a note. Dallas Metro. Reply to Box #259.

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GWF, 31, Houston. Looking for special woman for stable, long-term relationship. I'm attractive, intelligent, honest, affectionate, a witty conversationalist with a unique sense of humor. I don't smoke, drink, use drugs or play games. I'm a growth oriented individual with many interests and a creative approach to life. Respond if you are similarly outstanding. Reply to Box #261.

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The Graffiti Page

LOV CHIC,
THANKS FOR BEING A
SPECIAL PART OF MY LIFE.
FRIENDS ALWAYS!

CORNBREAD



BECKY (BMW),
I KNOW WHERE "BEAUTY" LIVES...
I'VE SEEN IT ONCE
I KNOW THE WARMTH YOU GIVE...
THE MEMORIES OF YOU BURN
INSIDE OF ME.
... WILL I EVER HAVE THE
CHANCE AGAIN?

ZZZZ ALWAYS...
Z



CEZAR
I LOVE YOU SWEETHEART
FROM Y.L.B.S.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAMES!
& HAPPY "NEWJOB" TOD!



Joshua,
I miss you, and cannot
wait until you get back.
Love you always
Bruce

EH,
MAY FLEETS OF
YACHTS BRING BUSHELS
OF HAPPINESS ON YOUR
SPECIAL DAY AND INTO
EVERY DAY OF
YOUR LIFE.
DINNA

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