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DIMENSIONS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 10 • MAY 1990

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DIMENSIONS

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TO THE EDITOR

EXPRESSING THE OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS OF DIMENSIONS' READERS

LESBIAN OR GAY WOMAN?

Dear Dimensions:

There is another publication in the great state of Texas that has been waging the debate of Lesbian vs. Gay Woman in their pages.

I know it's been brought up in Dimensions before, but I thought I'd ask your readers again: What do you think? Would you rather be called a lesbian or a gay woman?

Personally, I prefer the term Gay Woman. After all, we are trying to create a unity within the gay community and separating yourself from it by calling yourself a lesbian only undermines that goal.

I understand the need we, as women, have to state our own identity and not become secondary to a stronger male group, however, we must keep in mind our common goal: to obtain for gay men and women the rights and privileges inherent to all other citizens of this great country. Coming together under one name (gay) can only help increase our visibility and strength.

J.D.

Dallas, TX

A LOADED LETTER

Dear Dimensions:

I'm writing to thank you for your article on Women and Handguns (Dimensions, April 1990). Since I read the article I have bought a locking case for my gun. I have two small children and I had previously kept the gun unloaded in my nightstand. I guess I hadn't really thought about how little protection it gives me when it is unloaded. Now, I'm keeping it locked during the day and unlocking it only at night.

I have also signed up for classes at a nearby shooting range. I haven't fired the gun since I bought it ten years ago, and then only at some beer cans in the field behind my mother's house.

I suppose I thought just having a gun would be protection enough, I hadn't considered that I might actually have to use it someday.

Thank you for your informative articles, they often give me much needed information to make my little part of the world a happier and safer place.

Keep up the good work!

Gun Owner

Houston, TX

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

Send your letter to:

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

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THE NEWS

From Around the Region, the Country & the World

Family Partnership Case Goes To Court

WISCONSIN - National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) has filed suit against the state of Wisconsin Personnel Commission for denying Jerri Linn Phillips, an employee of the Department of Health and Social Services, the right to obtain health insurance for her spouse equivalent and domestic partner, Lorri J. Tommerup.

The State of Wisconsin is one of the few states with a statute banning employment discrimination based on marital status and sexual orientation.

On October 20, 1986, Phillips filed an Application with her employer, DHSS, during the open enrollment period, to change her health insurance coverage from individual to family coverage, for the purpose of adding Tommerup beginning in January 1987.

In November 1986, her application was denied based on the rationale that "Since Ms. Phillips has, according to definition, no "eligible dependents," she may not be covered under the family coverage option and is therefore eligible only for the "single coverage option for other eligible persons."

The decision was upheld by the Wisconsin Personnel Commission following NGRA's filing of an administrative complaint in 1987.

Paul Di Donato, NGRA's incoming Staff Attorney, commenting on the suit stated: "The importance of this case is

clear. Family partnerships in the gay and lesbian community must be legally protected and recognized for us to truly obtain equality. The State of Wisconsin has demonstrated through legislative means its intent to protect all its citizens from discrimination based upon sex, marital status or sexual orientation. Our suit seeks to enforce this intent."

Phillips is represented by NGRA's cooperating counsel Shelley J. Gaylord of the Madison Wisconsin law firm of Gaylord and Schuett, and by Warren Bittner, Esq.

Clearinghouse on "Femicide" Established

BERKELEY, CA - Sexism often equals violence and frequently leads to death. Murder is the second leading cause of death for young women in the U.S. Half of these women are killed by husbands or boyfriends, typically when the woman wishes to leave the relationship. In light of this, the Berkeley Clearinghouse on "Femicide" was founded in December 1989 in Berkeley, California.

Groundwork for the Clearinghouse was begun in 1980 when a group of Berkeley feminists, appalled by a series of femicides in parklands near San Francisco, began organizing. A study group was formed, demonstrations against sexually violent entertainment

were organized, and scores of new clippings were collected from national and international sources to help raise awareness of woman-killing as an expression of male-supremacist politics.

Since the spring of 1988, a major project of the Clearinghouse has been research for the book Femicide: The Politics of Woman Killing, edited by Jill Radford and Diana E.H. Russell, due on bookshelves this summer.

The Clearinghouse on Femicide is calling for support in the form of volunteers, monetary donations, material donations, and people who can donate services such as graphics, translating (especially French), and grant-writing. \$15 memberships are offered for those who wish to receive monthly updates and news articles on the campaign to stop femicide. For more information, contact: The Berkeley Clearinghouse on Femicide, P.O. Box 12342, Berkeley, CA 94701-2243, (415) 845-7005.

Court To Block Amendment On Phone Sex

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a court order issued in response to a suit challenging the government's most recent attempt to control dial-a-porn companies, U.S. District Judge Fern Smith declared that phone sex is constitutionally protected speech.

The suit, filed by three California companies offering sexually oriented telephone services, seeks a preliminary injunction against the Helms Amendment to the Communications Act of

1934. National Gay Rights Advocates(NGRA) the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) filed a joint amici curiae (friends of the court) in support of the injunction.

Plaintiffs in the case are Ramrod Enterprises, Synchronet Inc. and Westpac Audiotext.

The Helms Amendment calls for FCC regulations that would require users of sex phone services to be subscribers of these services. Because of billing technicalities, such an arrangement would effectively eliminate dial-a-porn companies.

In his brief filed on behalf of the amici, Leonard Graff, former Legal Director for NGRA, argued that "sexually explicit telephone communications may play a positive role in curbing the AIDS epidemic . . . sexually explicit telephone communications deserve first amendment protection if they may help save lives by deterring or replacing life-threatening behavior."

Moving? Call 1-800-673-9093

A new toll free number has been established to provide free and confidential information for Lesbians and Gays who are relocating from one city to another. Many Lesbians and Gay men feel more comfortable working with a Realtor who understands their needs. Callers will be referred to a Realtor familiar with the local gay community in any particular metropolitan area by calling 1-800-673-9093. The line will operate every day from 8am-11pm Eastern Standard Time.

While promoting gay businesses, callers will also be helping to fight AIDS because 10% of the commissions generated through the use of this line will be donated to a national organization dedicated to fighting AIDS. Callers can even request that a contribution be made to a specific organization.

TGRA Forms 6th Chapter

AMARILLO - The Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) has formed its sixth chapter in Amarillo. The new chapter already has 31 members.

The first meeting was attended by 15 State and local officers from around the state including guests from Dallas, Houston, and Austin. Visitors arrived on Saturday and were entertained at Alexanders, The Ritz and Maggies. Over 100 people were in attendance from Amarillo and the surrounding Tri-state area.

Anyone interested in joining may ob-

tain information by writing TGRA, Box 15005, Amarillo, TX 79105. The next meeting of the Amarillo Chapter will be held at Alexanders, 1219 W. 10th, on May 6th.

IGTA Conference Slated

KEY WEST, FL - The annual convention of the International Gay Travel Association (IGTA) will be held in Key West, Florida May 16-20, 1990. Over one hundred gay/lesbian travel agents, guest house owners and tour operators from around the world will be in attendance.

The IGTA is a non-profit professional service keeps both travel agents and consumers informed about properties, businesses and destinations that welcome gay/lesbian clientele.

For more information call the IGTA's 24 hour message center in Denver at (303) 467-7117.



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Tournament Championship

SUNDAY, MAY 13th

The Little Bit Of Texas Band

SUNDAY, MAY 20th

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Deadline for entries is May 31st So don't delay!

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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A Monthly Listing of Special Events All Around The Area

OKLAHOMA CITY - O.K. all you cowgirls out there, get ready for the **5th Annual Great Plains Regional Rodeo Memorial Day Weekend** at the Oklahoma City State Fairgrounds! The host hotel is the Central Plaza Hotel at Eastern & Reno in OKC. For more information about the rodeo, call the **Great Plains Rodeo Association** at (405) 942-9305. For reservations at the hotel, call (405) 235-2761.

SAN ANTONIO - This is your last reminder! The **Third Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC)** will take place May 18-20 in San Antonio at the downtown Menger Hotel. Registration is \$40 until May 10th or \$45 at the conference site. This year's theme will be — **Lesbians in the 90's: Speaking Out**. There will be speakers, workshops, a dance, an art exhibit, and a lesbian film festival. And, (just a coincidence) **Tracy Chapman** is slated to appear in San Antonio the weekend of the conference! For more information contact TLC at: P.O. Box 12327, San Antonio, TX 78212 or call the TLC planning committee at (512) 828-1761.

SAN DIEGO, CA - What a treat! **Emerging Women Publications** is producing a full color wall calendar featuring some of California's beautiful lesbians! The **1991 California Lifestyles, A Gay Woman's Calendar** will be published in June and is available for \$10.95 with a \$2 early-bird discount for orders received before

May 15th. If you are interested, send an SASE to: EWP-SD, 10601-A Tierrasanta Blvd., Ste. 195, San Diego, CA 92124. They will send you a color flyer and order form. Be sure and tell them that you saw it in Dimensions!

OKLAHOMA CITY - The **Herland Sister Spring Retreat** is scheduled for May 17-19 at **Robber's Cave State Park** in Oklahoma. There will be entertainment, education, recreation, meals and good company. Registration is \$22.50 to \$30 based on your ability to pay. Three meals are included with your registration. Cabins with bunks are available, or you can bring your own tent or RV. Space will be limited, so sign up now! Call **Herland Sister Resources** at (405) 521-9696 for more info.

AUSTIN - Sunday, May 6th is the big day — **Splash Day** — and the gang at **SADIE'S PLACE** invites you to join them for a day of fun in the sun! To get you in the mood **SADIE'S** will be hosting **Fantasy In Motion** (dancers & Strippers) on Thursday, May 3rd. Also, be sure and get out for live music with **Girl's In The Nose** on Sunday May 20th.

HOUSTON - How would you like to be the queen of country? You can if you enter the **First Annual Ms. RANCH Contest!** Get your application at the **RANCH** and start shopping. Deadline for entries is May 31st and the pageant will be held in June. All you pool tour-

nament winners get ready for the **RANCH Pool Tournament Championship** happening on Sunday the 6th. On the 13th you can sit back and enjoy the music of the **Little Bit of Texas Band**, and on the 20th get out to support the **Houston Women's Softball League** at their **Benefit Show**.

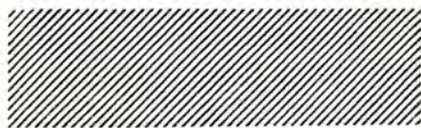
DALLAS - There is all new **Sunday** fun at **SUE ELLEN'S!** From 12 Noon - 8pm you can get **3-In-1 Cocktails** or **Happy Hour Prices**, then from 8pm on you have your choice of **\$1 longnecks**, **\$2 Coronas** or **\$1 Schnapps**. **Kathy Jack** will be your host for a **Show** beginning at 10:30pm and you get all this for no cover charge!

SAN ANTONIO - **Kathy** at the **CIRCLE** tells me that the Tuesday Night Topics this month are: **Lesbian Battering** on the 1st, **Forgiveness** on the 15th, and **Animal Companions** (that means dogs, cats, fish, bird, etc... for those of you with really wild friends) on the 29th. Yes, **Bolt Uprite** will be returning - look for their return in the near future! If you'd like information on upcoming events and live en-

tertainment - call the bar at (512) 341-2818 and they'll be glad to give you a schedule!

FT. WORTH - You can really get in the mood for summer at **PARTNERS' Memorial Day Hawaiian Luau!** Yes, there will be a **pig** with an apple in its mouth, **fresh flowers** and a **Polynesian Revue** direct from the big island of Hawaii! Also beginning Memorial Day Weekend — **Country Beer Bust!** Starting May 27th every Sunday will be filled with fun. In addition to Beer Bust all day and into the night, there will be **Dance Lessons** and **Food!**

AUSTIN - Rumor has it that the owners of **NEXUS & PETTICOAT JUNCTION** have located a new building and are in negotiations to close the deal. It's just a matter of time, so keep your eyes on this space for details coming your way soon.



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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 over 4 years. Everything was going great until about 6 months ago. That's when my lover got laid off from her job. Now she sits around the house all day and drinks beer and watches the TV. She hasn't even tried to find a job and her unemployment will run out soon. On top of that, she has gotten very verbally abusive towards me — telling me that I've gotten fat and that she doesn't know why I can keep my job, after all, I'm not nearly as smart as she is, etc...

At times it seems like she blames me for all her problems. She's even asked me to quit my job and stay home with her! I don't know if she realizes that I'm the only thing standing between us and the streets right now.

I've tried talking to her and have offered my help in looking for a job, but she refuses to even discuss it. I've even started looking through the classifieds and circling jobs in her field in red. Then I leave it where she will find it when she gets up in the morning. It's always right where I left it when I get home. She doesn't even bother to look. I know that losing her job was a severe blow to her self-esteem, but if she doesn't come out of it soon, I'm going to be forced to leave her.

Do you have suggestions to try before I take that drastic action?

Headed Out The Door
Dallas, TX

Dear Headed Out,

This relationship can only be described as abusive. Left to itself, the situation is not likely to improve.

For your safety and sanity you should try to get her to see a counselor. Don't bring it up when she is drinking and do it as tactfully as possible. If she refuses to go, move out and get counseling for yourself.

If you are forced to leave her, be sure that you tell her in no uncertain terms why you are going. It may be best to write it down as she is likely to become physically abusive when threatened with being left alone. Your leaving may be the only thing that will snap her out of her self-pity.

I wish you well - write and tell me how it turns out.

Dear Agnes,

This may sound silly to you, but it's a big problem to me.

My girlfriend (we don't live together) recently got a new puppy. The dog is a long-haired breed and needs to be taken care of regularly. She's now eight months old and has been combed out once — when I did it. My lover got mad at me because she claims that “dogs in the wild never get their hair combed” and she wants this dog to be as “natural” as possible.

The poor dog has sores from the mats in her coat and now has a nasty infestation

of ticks. I try to doctor her and comb her when my girlfriend is not around, but what she really needs is some drastic veterinary care and a shave. She hasn't even had her shots and I'm afraid she's going to get sick from the ticks.

I've tried explaining that domestic dogs haven't been in "the wilds" for quite some time and need regular care, but it hasn't gotten me anywhere.

Any suggestions? I'm about to the point that I'd like to steal the dog and take it to the Humane Society to be adopted by someone who will care for it.

Going To The Dogs Houston, TX

Dear Going,

Your girlfriend sounds a bit eccentric and maybe a little "touched".

Houston does have laws that require animals to receive vaccinations each year. There are cases of rabies reported every summer in Texas and many in urban areas.

Make an appointment to get the dog it's shots, and insist that your girlfriend accompany the dog to the vet. If this dog is in the sad condition you have described, the vet will chew her out.

If you can't get the dog to the vet this way—call the Humane Society and the city animal control people. They will give her a citation for not having the dog's vaccinations.

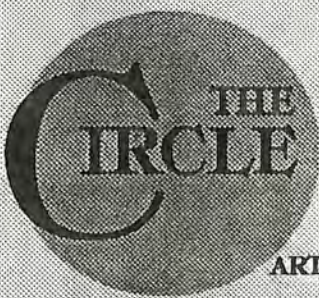
Anyone who has ever seen an animal die from distemper or rabies would never postpone getting their animals shots. It is an awful death.

Good luck! I hope she doesn't treat her girlfriends the same way she treats her pets.



Write To Dear Agnes With Your Problems or Comments at:
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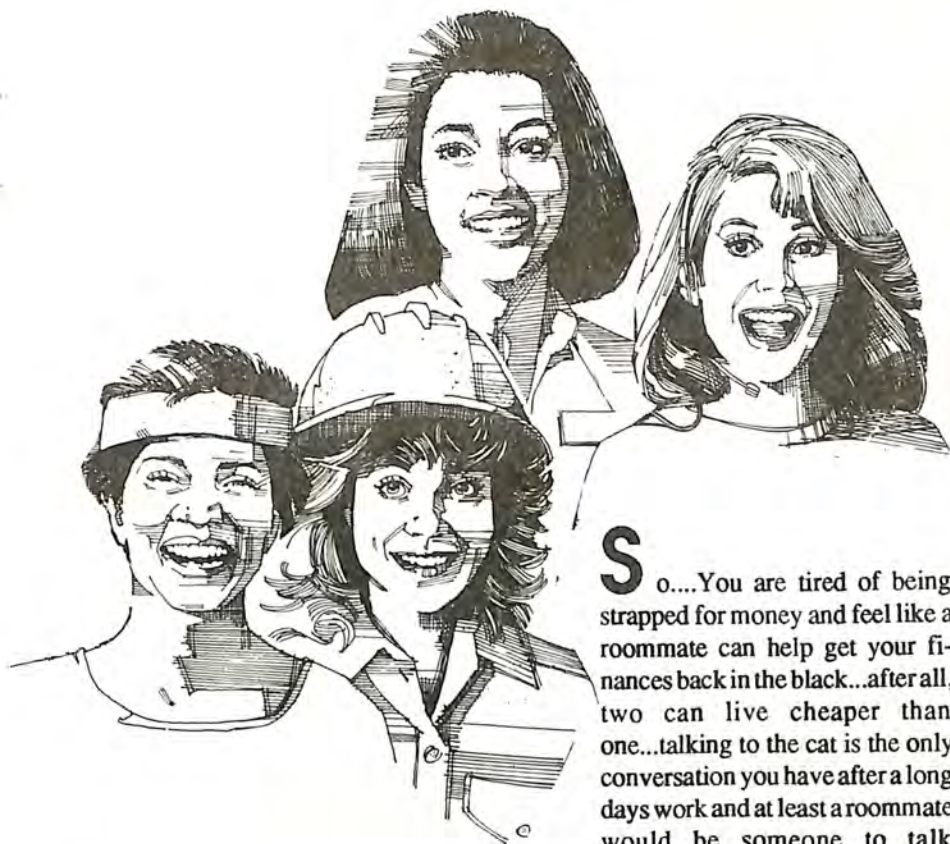
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How To CHOOSE YOUR ROOMMATE

BY CAMERON TAYLOR

So....You are tired of being strapped for money and feel like a roommate can help get your finances back in the black...after all, two can live cheaper than one...talking to the cat is the only conversation you have after a long days work and at least a roommate would be someone to talk to...someone to help paint the back bedroom this summer would sure be nice, and maybe a roommate would be the perfect motivation...poor Jeannie just needs a place to stay for a couple of months until she gets her feet back on the ground, so maybe we could live together for a while....

Do any of these situations sound familiar? If you have ever lived with a roommate or considered living with a roommate, one or more of these situations or factors may have played a part in your

thinking. Are these valid reasons to consider a roommate? You bet. But, before you rush out and buy a new welcome mat and hand over the spare key to your apartment, there are some additional factors to consider.

Just because you are looking for a roommate, and she (or he) is looking for a roommate at the same time, does not mean that this is a "match made in heaven". Before you get your bags

money come from? Are their bills caught up or do they owe everybody they know? Do ask former roommates (if you know them) about rent and bill payment history, including if the payments were on time. Do discuss the utility bills and who's name will be on the account.

Keep in mind that utility companies do not understand roommate disputes, and failure to pay the bills and pay them on

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK FOR A FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND THREE YEARS BACK TAX STATEMENTS, BUT IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO BE CAUTIOUS..

packed, ask a few questions. Now if this sounds like an interview, it is! You will be spending a lot of time sharing the same living space, and there is nothing that can cause more conflict, misunderstanding, or hostility.

Always ask your prospective roommate why they are moving. Listen carefully to the answer. Most people are not going to say, "my roommate is throwing me out because I haven't paid rent in the last three months and I still owe a \$200 phone bill." But, there can be hints in the conversation of key problems — if you are listening. If you are financially strapped already, you could be taking on more financial problems by letting someone move in who is already behind on their bills.

Some things to consider are: Are they financially responsible? Do they have a steady job? If not — where does their

time can ruin a good credit rating, no matter whose "fault" it is. Late payments also don't assure continued hot showers. The first person a utility company will try to collect from is the person whose name is on the account. Take into consideration that even though the rent or house payment will be cut in half, the utilities will go up. Not much in some cases, but if you work opposite hours they can climb as much as 25% — perhaps even more. All this does not mean that you have to ask for a full financial statement and three years back tax statements, but it is a good idea to be cautious. Especially if you do not know the person!

Don't expect a roommate to magically cure your money problems...it can help if you pick a good "roomie" and manage the additional money well.

Just because you are tired of talk-

ing to the cat does not mean a roommate will be any more company or security than the cat. This is probably the worst reason to get a roommate. Especially if you are considering someone you do not know. Companion type relationships take years to develop. If however, you have an established relationship and then consider moving in together for companionship things can work out beautifully. But talk about what you expect from one another before there are any "key" exchanges made. Living together can ruin a good friendship or enhance it greatly. Just don't think a roommate will make you less lonely or be a better companion than your cat. After all your cat probably doesn't wear your clothes or jewelry.

Don't make the mistake of moving in with someone you "have a crush on", or are romantically interested in, because you think it could turn into a romance. Most likely it will be a disaster. And if romance is a hidden motive for either one of you, be very cautious - especially if the feelings are not mutual.

If you expect a roommate to help you with the errands, shopping, yard or house maintenance bring up this point before you are living under the same roof. Tell them what you want and don't spring it on them after they have moved in. This type of little surprise can lead to big fights and resentment. If, for instance, you want the shower first every morning and there is only one bathroom... mention it before you live together and do not just assume that after you move in together your roommate will magically know that this is one of your little quirks.

Do discuss the rent or house payment and when it is due every month. Work out how you will buy groceries. Dis-

cuss the phone bill and other utilities. Discuss how the household chores will be divided up.

Having a roommate can be a very rewarding experience especially when you pick the right person. There are drawbacks to living together and you should consider them before you move in together. Probably the most important ingredient in any relationship is communication, and roommate relationships are no exception. If you can communicate with each other you can probably live together successfully, and hopefully for a long time. ♀



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POETRY

From Our Readers

I know you!
I know your smile when you smile for me.
I know your eyes when you look so deep
and endless
 at my body
I know your arms, the arms and hands
 that so slowly explore
 my nakedness.

I know your lips as you kiss me so tenderly
and so caring.
I know your voice as you speak so softly in
my ear.
I know you!
As you speak of your life,
 your emotions, so sensitive you are.
Your needs and desires, so precious.
I know you and I have known you before;
 you touched my heart.
I will always know you

dkb
Amarillo, TX

She has the ha

Strong . . .

Sensitive

Well-shap

Perfect enough

on Me

if she wa

Terry Wildie
Dallas, TX

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 a

Sand From Some Hawaii Beach

i

Your postcard came yesterday
And the picture of the woman silhouetted
In the moonlight
Brought me to LONESOME tears.

Hawaii must be beautiful,
how would I ever know?
I'm left instead to imagine
your soft skin against the sand
drinking up the sun,
Hoping you gather enough of that sun
In your senses, to bring it to me
With grains of sand from the beaches
the only thing I said I wanted.

I touched the flower you taped
against the postcard,
trying to keep it for myself, taking in the color
that can't be real —
Not even I have fallen into moonlit tears that blue.

ii

Let me sleep myself away from thinking of you.
And you
smiling-at-strangers-coming-to-meet-strangers,
How could you be so without me?
I cry blue, moonlit tears out of missing you.

tommie
San Antonio, TX

Short stories in print? Send us a copy!

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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD!

The ABC's Of The Open Road

A Guide to Cross-Country Motoring
by Nancy Ford



A is for Apples: Good things to eat on a long trip. Mothers two-to-one prefer seeing apple cores to beer cans in the back seat of their offsprings' cars.

B is for Bad Mileage: What normal people's cars get.

C is for Comedy Club Managers: Whose problem it is not, should I get lost in route to said club, thus delaying showtime and my paycheck.

D is for Directions: A good thing to have to most efficiently reach a specific destination, preferably outlined by a navigator with asthetic tastes parallel to those of the driver. (Example: "Take the first right past the Galleria, then turn left at the 2nd Porsche dealership.")

E is for Empty: What neither your gas tank or your stomach should be in remote parts of rural America where tuna salad sandwiches with time-released expiration dates cost as much as \$3.49.

F is for Freeway: Limited-access thoroughfare whose use is offered at no cost to the traveller. However, fees are procured through those tuna sandwich revenues.

G is for good mileage: What a car gets when its owner practices regular

maintenance, safe and consistent driving habits and general obsessive-compulsive automotive habits.

H is for Hats: What truckers wear. All truckers. Without hats, truckers would have nothing to tip in truckstops except the waitresses.

I is for Interference: What Bucksnot, Tennessee has instead of a radio station.

J is for Jesus: Who you pray to when you find yourself traveling 65 mph down a steep incline in front of an 18-wheeler which is driving 75 mph.

K is for Kilometer: Communist word for mile.

L is for Luggage: What you don't lose when you opt to drive instead of to fly.

M is for Mileage: What makes your automobile worthless as soon as its last installment payment has been made. (See Good, Bad, and Ways to Improve Mileage.)

N is for No Vacancy: What hotels have when you have no reservations.

O is for Oreos: A staple of the Open Road. Oreos make the longest long-distance trip seem shorter: pass the time simply by chewing one, two, or three Oreos, then smile at your fellow

travellers as they pass you along the road. You'll never see these people again anyway.

P is for Potty Stop: A biological inevitability. Never, ever sit down. Better to hover. Even better yet, catheterize at the onset of the trip.

Q is for Queen-Sized Deluxe Vibra-Beds: What hotels with no vacancy have, where you have no reservation.

R is for Road Map: Origami style directions.

S is for Serial Murderer: What hitchhikers might be. Even the clean, pathetic-looking ones. Even the ones wearing military uniforms. Even the ones that hold up signs that say "Chocolate".

T is for Tennessee: Colorful state inhabited by people who knowingly give their towns names like "Bucksnort", but who lose their sense of humor about it.

U is for Under Construction: What Oklahoma is. The whole state.

V is for Vaccination: What you'll need if you don't hover. (See Potty Stop.)

W is for Ways to Improve Your Mileage: Practice regular maintenance, safe and consistent driving habits and generally obsessive-compulsive automotive behavior. If these methods seem too conventional for your tastes, simply drive backwards. This method is dangerous and illegal, but an effective tool come trade in time. In the event you should be questioned by a figure of authority while engaging in this activity, keep readily available an open road map. Clutch it frantically while repeating to the arresting officer "Where am I? Where the heck am I?" And best of luck to you.

X is for Kisses: A good thing to take up

space at the bottom of postcards sent from Bucksnort, Tennessee.

Y is for Yellowstone National Park: What you should not see signs for when travelling north along the Mississippi River. (See Directions.)

Z is for Zebras: Z is always for Zebras. Ask Anybody.



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THE COFFEE CLUB

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

This month, T. Sumner Reviews:

LIFESTYLES

BY JACKIE CALHOUN

The Chesapeake Project by Phyllis Horn

Just in time for Memorial Day Weekend, I've got to "waterfront" novels to tell you about this month. We'll start with Lifestyles by Jackie Calhoun (Naiad Press, Inc., \$8.95).

Kate's husband has found a younger woman, and Kate is taking refuge at a lakeside cabin. She's got decisions to make and some pain to work through. Pat and her lover are renting a cabin across the lake. This trip is a last-ditch

attempt to save their relationship. Kate and Pat become fast friends — sharing their pain and frustrations over lost love and giving each other support in time of crisis.

When Kate's brother Gordie falls ill with AIDS, Kate is forced to learn some painful truths about the world around her. But, when all other relationships are slipping away, Pat is still there to support her.

Lifestyles was right on target in it's depiction of divorce and the painful process of coming out. Pat and Kate are very believable characters with very real problems. However, I felt that the way the book handled Gordie's illness was very simplified. While the book accurately described the pain, suffering and prejudice PWA's everywhere must face, the book's answer to the discrimination that threatened to engulf the characters was overly simple. The death of an AIDS patient does not automatically eliminate all the discrimination his or her loved ones must face.

Over all, I found Lifestyles to be quite enjoyable and I commend Ms. Calhoun on this, her first novel. We should be seeing more of her in the future!

Now, moving on to the next body of water, we'll take a look at The Chesapeake Project, another first novel, by Phyllis Horn (Naiad Press, Inc., \$8.95). Jessie and her father make their living harvesting crabs from Chesapeake Bay - until Jessie's father is brutally murdered.

Apparently, his killers did not find what they were looking for and Jessie is forced to flee with her lover, Meredith.

Jessie disguises herself as a man and finds work with a waterman on the other side of the bay. She sets out to find out why her father was murdered.

The is an excellent novel — I especially enjoyed

the machinations of the diabolical Mr. Coxson. His scheme and motivation to overthrow the U.S. government is well thought out and very believable. My only complaint is that the book wasn't long enough! The Chesapeake Project is a real page turner and when it reaches the climax, I found myself holding my breath for paragraphs at a time.

Both Lifestyles and The Chesapeake Project are available for \$8.95 from Naiad Press Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please include 15% postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



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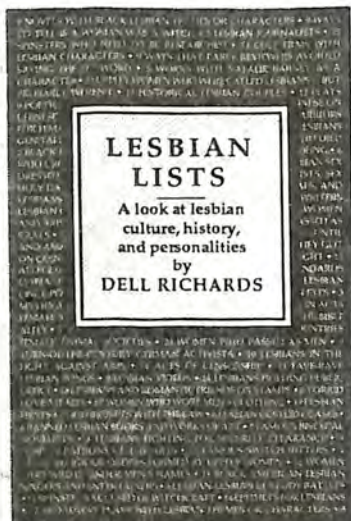
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How Self Aware Are You?



What are your strong points? Do you really know? How about your weak points? Are you self-confident? A worrier? Are you giving or selfish? Answer the True or False questions below to find out just how well you really know yourself.

TF 1. After you've finished a project, you aren't happy until you have approval from someone else.

TF 2. After visiting with someone at a party, you worry you possibly said something rude or offending.

TF 3. You don't like to talk about other people's faults because you are afraid you might be wrong about them.

TF 4. You often feel that your boss is not happy with your output at work.

TF 5. Even when you're swamped, you still feel like you can handle everything by yourself.

TF 6. You feel like you have perfect manners at formal social gatherings and dinner parties.

TF 7. You consider yourself a fairly 'with it and up-to-date' type person.

TF 8. You rarely worry about your sexual performance.

TF 9. You feel that people take you

seriously in the things you have to say.

TF 10. Sometimes you are afraid the people you associate with criticize your opinions and ideas.

TF 11. If you think you have made a bad first impression, you will definitely will try to fix it.

TF 12. When involved in a sports activity, you do not worry about how well you did, or what the other teammates think of your athletic ability.

TF 13. Sometimes you feel like people think you are weird.

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. T=0 F=2 | 8. T=2 F=0 |
| 2. T=0 F=2 | 9. T=2 F=0 |
| 3. T=0 F=2 | 10. T=0 F=2 |
| 4. T=0 F=2 | 11. T=0 F=2 |
| 5. F=2 T=0 | 12. T=2 F=0 |
| 6. T=0 F=2 | 13. T=0 F=2 |
| 7. T=2 F=0 | |

around you because of all the self-assurance you project.

12-19

Your self-esteem tends to be up and down. Sometimes you feel like you're doing everything right and other times you have no self-confidence. Go back over this quiz and look at what you scored zeroes on. Try to identify what situations make you feel insecure. Is it work or social gatherings? Then try to work on it.

Below 12

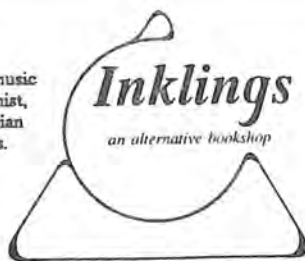
You worry alot that you're not "up to par" in all the things you do. You have no self-confidence and you worry about how other people see you. You may spend so much time worrying about what you do wrong that you don't see any of your strong points. Work on identifying the reasons you feel insecure and then go on a big self-improvement kick. You will be surprised at the things you do right.



If You Scored: 20-26

You know yourself well! You are aware of your strong, as well as your weak points. You have alot of self-confidence and believe in what you do. People feel stable

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The Graffiti Page

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 LOVE, RHETS

Ever love
 your new
 beautiful
 shoes
 I love
 you
 always
 love
 you
 always
 love
 you
 always
Mona



KATHY JACK -
 I PROMISE WE'LL
 SEE YOU SOON!
 TASHA

Thank You - Barbara B.

Happy Birthday DAVE - CALLUS!! RHETS



MENNIE -
 TO US AND OUR NEW HOUSE
 MAY WE PAINT OUR LIVES TOGETHER
 JUST AS WE DID OUR LIVING ROOM!
 LOVE YOU ALWAYS - TRUDY

"MAY SO"
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHELBY!
 I WISH YOU ALL THE JOY TODAY
 THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO MY LIFE
 PSILY - KAREN



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REACH FOR THE STARS

by MIKE VOSS

ARIES

Resolving old romantic issues can be very satisfying for the entire month. Nice marital aspects on the 8th, 15th and 23rd should give greater peace of mind. Between the 4th and 10th career successes can be enhanced by a more glamorous social approach. Look your best. Romantic blessings are due to fortunate associations. Live happily ever after — till month's end anyway.

TAURUS

Excellent educational factors are still in effect. Foreign travel or cultural exchange of some sort can be found between the 8th and 20th when a superior shows you off in some way. Love interests grow after the 21st. Dubious attractions should be avoided if possible between the 23rd and 30th. Your imagination surprises others.

GEMINI

Financial concerns can actually work out nicely at last. Between the 8th and 20th enjoy some favorable new partnerships and situations in strife iron out beautifully by then. On the 2nd, 3rd and 9th being swept off your feet makes you the third party in a relationship. Domestic trials in the first two weeks can be best avoided by proper communication. Travel aspects couldn't be better after the 21st. Enjoy a partial free ride.

CANCER

Ambition, money and love are battling it out in your life. Getting priorities straight can be difficult because your too damn busy. On the 3rd, 8th and 17th unbelievable career success can be attained. Between the 19th and 24th incredible romantic solutions unfold. Nice marriages are even possible. Domestic theft threatens between the 18th and 21st. Caution is advised. Changing career direction entirely occurs between the 23rd and 31st. Shifts are healthy. Friends assume you're crazy.

LEO

Structured career changes are wonderful. Playing the waiting game finally pays off between the 11th and 21st. Getting what you want seems easier this month. Love life exists but appears complicated or mysterious. Best days for the emotions are on the 3rd, 7th, 22nd and 30th. Nice matches occur more towards month's end. Domestic blues between the 17th and 23rd are due to your own neglect. Shame on you.

VIRGO

Travel and romance can consume thoughts if not actions right now. On the 2nd, 3rd, 17th and 23rd collecting yourself emotionally is necessary. Living in the past can be dangerous mid-month. Going forward in business is

inevitable after the 19th as your qualifications blow any competitor out of the water. Good breaks financially in the 1st week enable great growth in the last week. Win at all you try this month.

LIBRA

Reshuffling of financial obligations can be quite effective this month. Amaze friends with your business wizardry in the 1st and 3rd weeks. Between the 8th and 20th say goodbye to someone who should have already been long gone. Better romantic arrangements land in your lap between the 23rd and 30th. Get rid of the garbage. Go forward. You're stuck in an emotional rut. You deserve better and can get it.

SCORPIO

Partnership activity increases. Focus on marriage and those issues can consume thought and energy all month. Special attention should be paid to challenges presented in the 1st week. Remember "force meets force"... perhaps compromise would be more effective. Enjoy harmony and a lifted mental spirit between the 14th and 20th. Optimism carries you through the last week. Others respond favorably when given the opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS

Excellent financial cards are dealt to you this week. Others see you as luck, but this time you've actually earned it. Best business days are between the 7th and 19th. Travel in the first week feeds both the emotional and the spiritual. Domestic issues challenge partnership

issues at month's end. Priorities fold right into place. Relax. Enjoy winning.

CAPRICORN

Personal power increases as you begin to feel more self-confident. Business aspects are great between the 8th and 20th. Financial clouds disappear like magic. Enjoy flirtation with bad romantic matches in the first week. Complications may be the result when a past is discovered in the last week. Best romantic days are the 12th, 13th, 18th and 30th. Avoid the written word between the 19th and 22nd. Stories can be twisted.

AQUARIUS

Wonderful domestic issues unfold now. Improvement in this area is due to good financial breaks and close friends. Between the 8th and 20th any romantic entanglements have a turbulent beginning but smooth sailing end. Nice month to sort out feelings. Family matters can cause temporary financial disappointment between the 17th and 22nd. At month's end we find you happy and in love.

PISCES

Travel and educational pursuits can mean profit this month. Incredible diplomatic talents can actually make you some big bucks between the 11th and the 21st. Enjoy others fawning all over you in the first week and expect more of the same at the month's end. It all bores you for some reason but you make it through once again. Friends and money can prove disappointing between the 16th and 19th.



THE DIRECTORY

A Listing of Service Organizations, Businesses & Clubs

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817) organizations

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

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512) clubs

Sadie's Place
113 San Jacinto • 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
Waterloo Counseling Center
507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654
Texas Human Rights Foundation
2201 N. Lamar # 203 78705 • 479-8473
AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417

DALLAS, TX (area code 214) businesses

Business Delivery Systems
14902 Preston Rd. 75240 • 733-1108
Crossroads Market
3930 Cedar Springs
521-8919 or 1-800-992-6404
Curious Times - Womens Books etc.
4008-D Cedar Springs • 559-0707

clubs

Sue Ellen's
3903 Cedar Springs • 559-0707
Desert Moon • 5903 Willis • 828-4471

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist)
P.O. Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546
AIDS Resource Center
4012-B Cedar Springs 75219
Dallas Gay Alliance
4012-B Cedar Springs 75219 • 528-4233

Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives
4012-B Cedar Springs • 821-1653
Dallas Gay Youth Group
300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203
Dallas Outdoors
P.O. Box 35474 75235 • 276-5270
Dallas Tavern Guild
3900 Lemmon Ave. #220 • 526-5292
Foundation for Human Understanding
528-4233
Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus
5029 Lemmon Ave. • 528-2811
Lesbian Information Line (LIL)
P.O. Box 191443 75219 • 528-2426
Lesbia/Gay Political Coalition
P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882
Lesbian Visionaries
P.O. Box 191443 75219 • 521-9642
Metroplex Republicans
P.O. Box 191033 75219 • 941-8114
SDA Kinship (7th Day Adventists) • 373-8484
Oak Lawn Community Services
P.O. box 191094 75219 • 520-8108
Oak Lawn Symphonic Band
P.O. Box 190973 75219 • 986-1751
WANT (Women In The Arts)
288-9299 or 823-3105
Womyn Together
3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

DENTON, TX (area code 817) organizations

COURAGE, Lesbian Gay Student Org. •
c/o Student Activities Center
P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 382-3813
Harvest MCC - 387-8180

FT. WORTH (area code 817) organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837
RESPECT - Gay/Lesbian Association
TCJC-NE • TCJC Student Activities
828 Hardwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 76054

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713) businesses

Inklings • an alternative bookshop
1846 Richmond • 521-3369

clubs

Ranch • 9125 S. Main • 666-3464

organizations

AIDS Foundation

3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796

AIDS HOTLINE

c/o Switchboard • 529-3211

Gay/Lesbian Students

University of Houston

4800 Calhoun • 529-3211

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

P.O. Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211

Houston Gay Political Caucus

P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000

Kingdom Community Church

614 E. 19th • 862-7533

Lambda ALANON

Lambda Center for Alcoholics

1214 Joanne • 521-9772

Lesbian/Gay Students

University of Houston - Clear Lake

2700 Bay Area 77058

Montrose Counseling Center

900 Lovett #203 77006 • 529-0037

Montrose Pool League/Billiards

PJ 863-8482

PWA Coalition - Houston

1475 W. Gray #163 • 522-5428

Womynspace

P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601

880-9517 or 521-0780

Women's Softball League

6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)**organizations**

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance

P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 796-2403

Names Project/Lubbock

796-1800 or 744-1957

SPARC (AIDS Resource Center) • 792-7783

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for

Lesbian/Gay Concerns

P.O. Box 1021 • Evanston, IL 60204

AIDS Action Council

729 Eighth St. S.E. Suite 200

Washington, DC 20003 • (202) 547-3101

AIDS 800 • 1-800-221-7044

Conference For Catholic Lesbians

P.O. Box 436, Planetarium Station

New York, New York 10024

Nfl Gay Alliance for Young Adults,

Inc. P.O. Box 190426

Dallas, TX 75219-0426 • (214) 307-7203

National Gay/Lesbian Clearinghouse

666 Broadway 4th Floor

NY, NY 10012

National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline

1-800-SOS-GAYS

National Gay/Lesbian Task Force

1517 U Street NW

Washington D.C. 20009 • 202-332-6483

The Fund for Human Dignity

666 Broadway 4th Floor

NY, NY 10012

NORMAN, OK (area code 405)**organizations**

Women's Resource Center

P.O. Box 5089 73070

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**(area code 405)****organizations**

Oasis the Community Center

2135 NW 39th 73112 • 525-AIDS

Herland Sister Resources, Inc.

2312 NW 39th 73112 • 794-7464

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 512)**clubs****The Circle**

8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

organizations

Dignity/San Antonio

202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632

Integrity/San Antonio

P.O. Box 150006 78212 • 684-4920

River City Living Metropolitan**Community Church**

202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121

LISA (Lesbian Information SA)

828-LISA (5472)

SALGA - Lesbian & Gay Assembly • 733-7300

SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance

P.O. Box 12715 78212 • 228-9877

San Antonio AIDS Foundation

P.O. Box 120113 78212-9313

San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

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P.O. Box 2326 78597 • 761-LYLE

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PERSONALS

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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.

GWF, 28, professional, attractive, great sense of humor, enjoys being spontaneous. Many interests. Wanting to meet feminine women 28-37. No drugs or psychos. Send photo if possible. Austin area. Reply to Box #260.

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.

BISEXUAL WOMAN Sought by bisexual man (HIV-safe). Is real bisexuality possible? Help me explore this question. After 8 years with a straight woman (who tolerated then split with the kid), and 3 as a gay divorcee, I want to make a family with a woman who, like me, has two sides to her sexuality. Reply to Box #262.

HOUSTON, GWF, 44, Attractive, Professional, Smoker. Enjoys all kind

of music, movies, reading and quiet conversation. Looking for that special lady who is at peace with herself, possesses a good sense of humor and a high sense of integrity. Reply to Box #263.

GWF, traveling through life alone, wants to meet companions for dinners, dancing, movies, traveling. Romance a possibility. San Antonio area. Reply to Box #264.

MY ideal match is **LIBRA** or **AQUARIUS** age 27-late 40's without weight, drinking, drug problems. Romantic free spirit with humorous appreciation of life. Financially/Professionally/Emotionally stable but not a total slave to habit. San Antonio area. Reply to Box #265.

GWF 25, Honest, Caring, Intelligent, seeks GWF 21-30 with same qualities for friendship/relationship. Please write: Boxholder, Box 776, Crockett, TX 75835. Photo, Phone appreciated.

I'M 35 Years Young. I'm only 5'0" and very butch. Enjoy being with a woman who looks and acts like a lady. I enjoy making her feel like a lady. Reply to Box #268.

GWF would like to meet motorcycle buffs to ride with this summer. Reply to Box #269.

GWF, attractive professional, would like to meet same, who enjoys scuba diving, photography, dancing, movies, cooking, travel & last but not least, quiet moments. Reply to Box #270.

LESBIAN Vampire Still Seeking . . .
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GWF, 32, Dallas area. Member of AA. Seeking friendship, hopeful relationship with together, secure woman. Reply to Box #273.

HOUSTON GBF, 31 Enjoys quiet time at home, movies, sports. Looking for GF 30-40 who enjoys same. No drugs. Reply to Box #274.

I live in a straight society now. Need to meet more gay people in South Eastern New Mexico. Reply to Box #275.

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