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DIMENSIONS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 1990



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DIMENSIONS

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WE CAN CONATCT YOU IF WE
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR

EXPRESSING THE OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS OF DIMENSIONS' READERS

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH PAIN?

Dear Editor:

I am creating an anthology about lesbians healing from the loss of lover relationships, by break-up or death. I've been getting the word out to nearly every state in the United States for women to send me their stories of how they got through their loss. I'm also including Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Without a doubt, the pain of such a loss can be devastating. I want this anthology to speak of this pain and the impact on one's health, work, finances, sexuality, etc. I want to know if families were supportive or if they only caused more pain.

I also want to know what lesbians did to get back on their feet again. Besides such obvious actions as going to therapy. I'm looking for the little (almost subconsciously) "tricks" lesbians used. What did such women do when in the worst pain? What did they do as the worst of the pain began to subside and there was an inkling of light at the end of the tunnel?

I'm asking writers to "write from the

heart," which is also part of the tentative title. Please type, double-spaced, maximum length 15 pages, but can be much shorter. Send a copy, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope AND PHONE NUMBER to Anita Pace, P.O. Box 57795, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413 (U.S.A.) Deadline is October 31st.

Many Thanks,
Anita L. Pace
Sherman Oaks, CA

GREAT SITCOMS!

Dear Editor:

I would just like to make a comment about all the positive lesbian characters that have been showing up in prime time during the last few years.

Although they are usually not recurring characters (with the exception of ABC's "HeartBeat"), they do not follow the "dyke who hates men" stereotype.

There have been lesbian characters on "The Golden Girls" and "Designing Women" to name just two. Now, if we could only get a recurring character on a hit show, that would be great. But, at least they are taking a few tiny steps.

Thanks,
Name Withheld
Dallas, TX



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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

Marlboro/Miller Boycott Takes Hold In Texas Cities

Gay bars and establishments across the country have taken Marlboro cigarettes out of their vending machines to protest the Phillip Morris Co.'s financial support of the campaign of Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC).

Helms has continued to viciously attack the gay community during his years in the Senate. He is wildly opposed to all issues of gay rights and AIDS funding and research. Phillip Morris has contributed heavily to Helms campaign chest through the years.

Phillip Morris (PM) is the parent company of both Marlboro cigarettes and Miller beer. The Marlboro brand is PM's biggest seller.

While many bars are pulling Marlboros out of their vending machines, the Miller boycott is not progressing so smoothly. The Dallas Tavern Guild has stated that Miller has done little to support the Dallas Gay community and has encouraged the boycott. As a result, most Dallas bars are no longer selling Miller Beer. Other cities supporting the Miller boycott include New Orleans, Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington and some bars in San Francisco.

On the other hand, Houston bar owners have opted not to support the Miller boycott due to Miller's support of the Houston gay community through the years.

Austin has decided to allow individual

bar owners and bar patrons to decide the Miller issue for themselves. San Antonio, after several emergency meetings of the San Antonio Tavern Guild, has not yet made a decision although a few bars have already boycotted both Miller and Marlboro.

Case Against §21.06 Reveals Latest Findings on Anti-Gay Prejudice

AUSTIN - The Texas sodomy law, and other similar legislation, reinforces hostility, discrimination, and violence against lesbians and gay men and hinders efforts at AIDS education and prevention says new research which has come to light as a result of the case against §21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. The case, called *Morales et. al vs. The State of Texas*, is a challenge to the constitutionality of the Texas Sodomy law, which makes sexual relations between adults of the same sex a crime in Texas. The research was part of the affidavits presented in the motion for summary judgement recently filed by the Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF). The summary motion would have the law declared unconstitutional by a judge, making full trial unnecessary. The motion includes testimony by Dr. Gregory Herek, an award-winning research psychologist at the University of California at Davis. First stating that "homosexual behavior is common in

societies throughout the world . . . whether the particular culture admire, vilify, or ignore it," and that "a minimum of 6% of the American population is self-identified as gay." Dr. Herek says that legislation such as the Texas sodomy law does not decrease the incidence of homosexual activity, nor does it promote mental health. In fact, such laws primarily serve to reinforce hostility, discrimination, and violence against lesbians and gay men, while making AIDS education and research more difficult and less effective.

The sodomy law also makes it less likely that gay people will be open about their sexuality with non-gay acquaintances and co-workers, because they fear stigmatization, job loss, or other negative consequences. Dr. Herek points to research which shows that the development of a close personal relationship with a member of a "minority" group is one of the most powerful means of combatting any form of prejudice. Such relationships are discouraged by existence of the sodomy law. Section §21.06 also makes it less likely that gay men and lesbians who are victims of violence will report the crimes. Lesbians and gay men also fear encountering additional homophobia from law officers and others when they learn about the victim's sexual orientation.

In Texas, a recent survey by the Dallas Gay Alliance found that nearly one-fourth of gay men and lesbians have been threatened with physical harm because of their sexual orientation. Almost one-fifth of those reporting said that they were actually attacked.

Another major impact of the sodomy law, according to Dr. Herek, is the difficulty it creates in efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic. People are less

likely to report homosexual activity to their doctor, making early diagnosis and treatment difficult. AIDS research and funding are also affected because gay men are less likely to come forward and participate in research projects.

The case of *Morales et al vs. The State of Texas* is part of an ongoing battle by the THRF against §21.06.

For more information on this case or other work of THRF, call (512) 479-8473

Dallas AIDS Study to Focus on Lesbians

DALLAS - The Nelson-Tebedo Clinic (associated with the Dallas Gay Alliance) will be sponsoring a study beginning in September to determine the actual and perceived impact of AIDS on the Dallas Lesbian Community.

The questionnaire will be available at local bookstores and through various women's newsletters in an effort to reach as many women as possible.

Participation in the study will help to assure accurate analysis and help to determine future educational programs and projects at the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

GLAAD Fights for Gay and Lesbian Artists

NEW YORK - The New York chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD/NY) is urging members of the President's Commission on the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to "take a strong leadership role and stand firm against . . . expressions of homophobia"

The Commission was formed by Presi-

dent Bush to make suggestions on possible ways to restructure the process by which the NEA determines which artists should be awarded grants. The Commission is the President's response to recent attacks on the NEA by Senator Jesse Helms and other right-wing legislators who are particularly incensed by the NEA's support of artists who depict gay and lesbian themed work.

"The right wing's assault on artistic freedom of expression should be of concern to all Americans," said Craig Davidson, GLAAD/NY's Executive Director. "Gays and lesbians have been singled out so far, but we are only the first of many victims in a war that all stand to lose."

Earlier this year, Congress prohibited the NEA from funding "homoeroticism." More recently, NEA's Chair John Frohnmayer took the highly criticized step of rejecting the NEA's peer review panel's recommendation to support four

artists — three of which were openly gay.

In addition to writing letters to the Commission's members, through it's Freedom of Expression project, GLAAD/NY has also written letters to every Congressperson asking them to support NEA funding of gay and lesbian artists; has worked with the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force to launch and sustain a national post card and letterwriting campaign; and was represented at a recent meeting with NEA staff to discuss these issues face-to-face.

Founded in 1985, GLAAD is the only national organization devoted primarily to discouraging negative stereotypes and misinformation about lesbians and gay men. It pursues it's goal by organizing grass-roots response to public bigotry and working with the media to improve coverage of issues that concern gay people.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

AUSTIN - Yes, we've finally got our own! The **LONE STAR WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL** will be held in Austin on October 5, 6 & 7. Featured performers will include **Nancy Scott, Laura Love, Lara Linette, Susan Colton, The Therapy Sisters, the Fontanelles** and many, many more. There will also be arts and crafts booths, river rafting on the Guadalupe, and all kinds of watersports including fishing! The festival also coincides with **Octoberfest** in Fredricksburg! If you want more info, write: **Lone Star Women's Music Festival**, ATTN: DIM, P.O. Box 2650, Austin, TX 78768.

DALLAS - The annual **Black Tie Dinner** will be held Saturday, September 22nd at the **Fairmont Hotel**. Organizers are expecting 1200 guests. The dinner benefits local Dallas organizations, including **Lesbian Visionaries**, as well as the **Human Rights Campaign Fund** based in Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$150.00 per person. For more info, call Kay at 528-4087.

SAN ANTONIO - The **San Antonio Chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA)** will host the **First Annual Fall Fest '90** on Sunday, September 16th in **San Pedro Park**. The event will run from noon to 8pm and will include booths, games, dancing, a volleyball tournament, and of course, beer. Music will be provided by guest

DJ's from area bars. For more info on the event, call (512) 646-TGRA. To sign up your team for the volleyball tourney, call Lance at (512) 822-0051.

HOUSTON - The **Montrose Counseling Center** will host **Women's Weekend 1990** on October 26 & 27 at the **University of Houston Hilton (4800 Calhoun)**. The theme for the weekend will be "**Embracing Women's Legacy: Our Healing Connection**". Workshops will be offered, as well as "playshops" on music, art, writing and games. For registration information call (713) 529-0037 or write to: **Women's Weekend, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, Suite 203, Houston, TX 77006**

DALLAS - A 3-day **women's film festival** is currently in the planning stages for this fall. The festival will include regional and international works, as well as works by local artists. If you are interested in **volunteering** to help with the event, call and leave a message at (214) 824-0743.

HOUSTON - A strange and wonderful rumor has been heard in certain circles around Houston recently. The rumor is that the **RANCH** is moving to bigger and better quarters. Keep your eye on this space for further info! Of course, it's no rumor that the **RANCH** features great drink specials all week long . . .

including **50¢ Draft Beer All Day and All Night** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays. Coming up in September **Amiga de Houston** will sponsor a **Tex-Mex Dance** benefit on the 16th from 4pm-8pm at the RANCH. **Becky Contreras** will be the guest DJ and will play your favorite Tex-Mex music. Cover will be \$5 at the door or \$4 with your Voters Registration Card.

AUSTIN - Soon girls, I promise! I have it on good authority that NEXUS will be opening soon in a downtown Austin location. I've received letters and phone calls by the dozens asking about an address and exact opening date, but I'm not at liberty to say just yet. I will say that I will have all the details in next month's Dimensions, so hang in there!

SAN ANTONIO - All you baby-boomers put on your bell-bottoms and come

on out to the CIRCLE on Wednesday nights for "**ThirtySomething Night**" - that's right, music for the Baby Boom generation! Tuesday Night Topics for September are: A **Short Story/Poetry Reading** on the 4th. The reading is open to anyone and you may read either your own work or someone else's work that you admire; and "**I Passed For Straight**", a skit to be performed by a group from Austin on the 18th. And, last but not least, get your boots polished 'cause **Dena Kaye** is coming to the CIRCLE on the 14th of October!

FORT WORTH - Be sure to get out to **PARTNERS** on **Labor Day Weekend** when they will have special guest entertainers and a DJ nightly. Plus, don't miss out on their great drinks at great prices! Be sure to tell Barbara Hello while you are there!



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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Readers,

Last month's letter "Crossroads of True Love" (August '90) in which a Dallas woman complained about her lover living in San Antonio, has created a small rebellion from the women of that city. In the interest of equal time, I am printing some of the letters I have received below.

Dear Agnes,

I have lived in San Antonio for 20 years and I've never felt like my lifestyle has had to be hidden. I hug & kiss my lover wherever and whenever I feel the need. We don't exchange affection in a straight bar at 2:30 A.M. — we are careful with our surroundings, but only because we can't be bothered. Most straight couples don't exchange any affection in those circumstances either.

The world is not safe and being cautious is important. It isn't advisable to take a moonlight walk down a dark alley either.

Besides, Dallas didn't get so understanding overnight. You and your lover could be involved in the growth of San Antonio. We hope you'll consider experiencing the River City.

Alamo Fan

Dear Agnes,

Even though the San Antonio gay & lesbian community is not as politically

active (yet) as it is in Dallas, we do have a lot to offer.

I resent having my city being berated as "where gay bashing is express." Like she said, at least we don't throw lesbians & gays off the police force.

This is a beautiful city with a great gay community. The women here are very supportive and are working very hard to help the community. Maybe "Crossroads" could be of some help in this area instead of just complaining that we aren't good enough for her.

Angry in S.A.

Dear Agnes,

This woman may "feel a certain 'hush' thing" in San Antonio, but I feel a certain "snob" thing in Dallas. Just because you live in a city with a well-organized, centralized gay community, you have no right to come and criticize our community. We are working as hard and as fast as we can to change both the attitudes in this city and the misconceptions about our city's gay community.

Living in Dallas does not make you a better lesbian, nor does it make you less susceptible to anti-gay violence. For you to make these kinds of blanket statements against San Antonio makes me very angry.

There are wonderful, caring women here, just as there are in Dallas. At least

give us a fair chance before you judge. P.S. Yes, you can hold hands on the Riverwalk if you so choose. You will be in no more danger than if you held hands outside the Oak Lawn area of Dallas. A few sideways glances is probably all the harassment you'll get.
Hushed Up in S.A.

Dear Agnes,

. . . All cities have their problems, Dallas has a centralized gay community, but they won't allow lesbians on the police force, and they've got at least one very homophobic judge that I can think of. Our gay community may not be centralized in one area, but it is large nonetheless. I like to look at it like our community covers most of the city instead being confined!

San Antonio does have it's drawbacks. Being a predominantly Catholic city, we have a harder time overcoming the stigma of being gay. But, we manage to get along just the same.

I'm sure that you and your lover would be welcome additions to our fair city. Your "life" may be in Dallas, but if your "heart and soulmate" are in San Antonio, then that's where you ought to be!

**Waiting to
Welcome
You to S.A.**



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COMING OUT

by Tasha Sumner

Let's face it. "Coming out" is one of the hardest things lesbians and gay men are faced with. The process of coming out, both to yourself and to others, is fraught with anxiety. National Coming Out Day (NCO) happens on October 11th. Organizers of the event urge all of us to "take the next step" in the coming out process. In view of this, we thought we would examine the process of coming out, as well as the benefits and drawbacks.

STEP 1:

Coming Out To Yourself

Admitting to yourself that you are homosexual can be a long, arduous process. Our families (and society in general) "assume" that we will be heterosexual. Their expectations lead us to believe that any course other than heterosexuality is unacceptable.

This "homophobic" atmosphere can cause much pain to the emerging homosexual. The high suicide rate among gay teens is evidence of the fear and low self-esteem that coming out to yourself can bring.

The visibility of happy, healthy homosexuals can do much to alleviate some of the fears of being gay. The gradual process of integrating thoughts, feelings and sexual experience into a new definition of ourselves as a homosexual can be much less frightening with the presence of positive gay role models.

STEP 2:

Your Family

Although the rejection by family members is a very real consideration, issues of self-esteem lead many of us to tell our families about our sexual orientation. Although most parents are accepting of the fact that their child is gay, the risk of rejection means that many lesbians and gay men will never tell their parents or siblings about their true feelings. Many homosexuals will even marry someone of the opposite sex to

avoid a confrontation with family members.

Many gays will choose to come out to a sympathetic family member first. Depending on what kind of reaction they get, they will tell another family member, and so on. Others may choose to call a "family meeting" and announce it to everyone at once. Either way, the closet door is hard to close once it has been opened even a crack.

For many, the freedom to call your mother and cry when you've broken up with a girlfriend is worth all the worry and discomfort of first coming out.

STEP 3:

Your Job

Coming out on the job is a big step. For most of us it is the one hurdle we avoid jumping. Coming out on the job can mean loss of income and security, as well as making it harder to get a new job should your boss not be understanding. However, those that have come out on the job (and kept it) say that, despite some initial setbacks, life is easier. No more trying to explain the flowers that came without a card. No more trying to remember to change all your pronouns to "he".

Coming out, no matter how far, is a very personal decision. There are many who choose to stay in the closet forever. There are also many who may come out to family and friends but stay closeted on the job (or vice versa) Emotional and financial considerations keep most of us from throwing caution to the wind

and coming out to everyone. You know what is best for you and how far you can open that closet door without doing damage to yourself.

Of course, it would be wonderful to not have to worry about being rejected, fired or otherwise emotionally trampled for just being who we are. In a more perfect society all of our closet doors could be wide open.

The 1988 "Coming Out Kit" from the NCOD says it best:

"Our invisibility is the core of our oppression. we experience hate, fear, and prejudice because people don't know who we are. But we know. We are their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers."

We truly are everywhere. Everyone knows at least one of us. We are doctors and lawyers and Indian chiefs. We work in every field at every level. We touch the lives of millions of people every day and their view of homosexuality would improve considerably if they knew who we are.

Many people are afraid of homosexuality because they imagine that homosexuals are those "weirdos" they see on the news every so often. They don't realize that we are their family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers. If, by coming out, each of us can change the mind of just one person per year. It wouldn't be long before the discrimination we face now would be only a memory.

National Coming Out Day is an annual event. The date, October 11th, commemorates the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. If you would like more information on National Coming Out Day, you can write to: NCOD, P.O. Box 15524, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506, or call: (505) 982-2558.

Also, be sure to check your local bookstores (gay and mainstream) for Coming Out: An Act of Love by Robert Eichberg to be available in early September.



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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD!

"JUST SAY 'NO'" TO PHILLIP MORRIS

BY NANCY FORD



By now you've all heard about the Miller Brewing/Phillip Morris controversy, yes? No? Okay — once more:

Seems that the MB/PM folks are — in a big way — financial supporters of that wacky Senator from North Carolina, Jesse Helms. You remember Jesse — he's the one who opposes the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, funding to the National Endowment for the Arts, all AIDS funding, and virtually any legislation that might benefit lesbians and gays, period. Needless to say, ol' Jesse is a busy guy.

As a result, many gay/lesbian decision makers have chosen to officially abstain from purchasing products manufactured under the huge Phillip Morris corporate umbrella, thereby not lending support to a supporter of a politician who goes out of his way not to support us.

At this writing Dallas is going the route of the boycott. Houston is not, leaving the decision to the discretion of the individual consumer. The vote is still out in Waxahachie.

As for me, the choice is a simple one. A) I don't smoke. Don't need to: I reside in Houston, the noxious emissions capital of the southwest. I automatically receive toxic levels of tar and nicotine just by being conscious. And, B) I don't like Miller beer. It's not so much the taste that turns me off — beer is beer is beer. Rather, it's that I'm intellectually opposed to the concept of "light" beer in general, and Miller was the first to introduce it. "Light" beer, indeed. Makes as much sense as dietetic M&M's.

But, as more time passes, the more complex this whole issue is becoming. In order to do this political consumer abstinence thing right, it's more than just cigs and brews that will have to be sacrificed. So, not that you asked, but just so you know and can cast your own moral judgement, below is a list of items that may help Phillip Morris reelect Jesse Helms if we continue to purchase them — even with a coupon. Marlboro, Virginia Slims, Merit, Benson & Hedges, Parliament, Cambridge, Alpine, Chesterfield and

Lark. But, tell the truth, do you know anybody who smokes Larks?)

Miller Beer, Lite, Sharp's, Lowenbrau and Milwaukee's best. All Post Products, Minute Rice and Oro-wheat products. Jell-O. That's right — no more pudding pops. So much for those romantic evenings in front of the freezer, girls.

Sanka, Maxwell House, Entemann's, Tang and Kool-Aid. Parkay. Not butter, Parkay. Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Cracker Barrel and Breyer's Ice cream. Say goodbye to the big daddies of luncheon meat, both Oscar Meyer and Louis Rich. No more Miracle Whip. No more Velveeta. No more Cool-Whip. Dear God in Heaven, no more Cool-Whip? Where will the sacrifice end?

Actually this could all work out for the best. In retrospect it's clear that by avoiding consumption of these right-wing affiliated products, not only might we sleep a little more soundly with the partner of our choice, but we also might drop a couple pounds in the process. After all, there's nothing like being svelte and politically correct simultaneously.

Nancy Ford's September Play Dates:
13-29 - Houston Skyline Theater -
"Award Zone" - Original Comedy
Review, call 759-0701 for reservations;
6th - Missouri St. Station,
Houston 8:30pm; 7th - Vanities, Austin
at 8pm; 10th Interview on Wilde &
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nancy ford

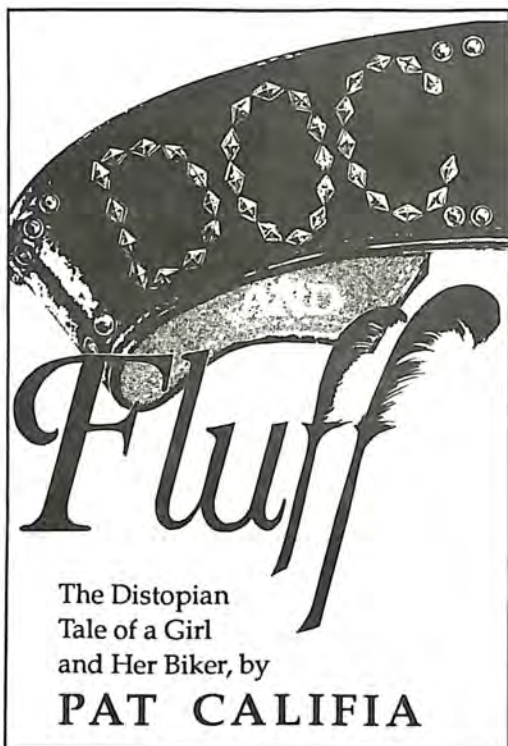
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THIS MONTH, T. SUMNER REVIEWS:

Murder Is Relative

by Karen Saum

A Room Full of Women

by Elisabeth Nonas

We'll start this month with Murder Is Relative by Karen Saum (Naiad Press, Inc. \$8.95). The story begins when Brigid Donovan, a recovering alcoholic, is assigned by matriarch Claire Du Lac to write the history of a charitable organization. But, that isn't all Mrs. Du Lac wants. She also wants Brigid to find out who murdered her son-in-law, David Thorne.

Could it be his wife, his daughter Sister

Genevieve, his illegitimate son Sid? The suspects and family members are too numerous to list.

Although I enjoyed the book, I found it very superficial. In meeting all the characters, it seems you never really get to know any of them or truly understand their relationship to one another.

This is a book with too many issues. The focus on alcoholism contributes very little to the book and leans towards

being "preachy". Many of the major characters are either heavy drinkers or recovering alcoholics, and while this fact is pointed out, it does nothing to increase our understanding of those characters and their motivations. I understand the need to educate our community about the effects of alcoholism, but I'm not convinced that a murder mystery is the right vehicle for that education. I found myself trying to keep up with who was still drinking and who was recovering instead of who was on the list of suspects.

Now we'll look at A Room Full of Women by Elisabeth Nonas (Naiad Press, Inc., \$8.95). Amazingly, I found a friend in almost every character in this outstanding novel of contemporary lesbian life. The names are different, but in each character lurked my real-life friends and acquaintances.

The story revolves around Blair Wilder who, unlike her friends, doesn't want a permanent relationship, and Natalie Bazarian who is the envy of most of her friends because of her ten-year relationship with Annie Weiss.

Blair and Natalie are both having serious second thoughts about their choice of lifestyle.

A new love interest, a friend dying of AIDS, and an ailing mother are causing Blair to rethink her solitary existence. Natalie is questioning everything in her life including her career and her relationship with Annie.

As both women set out to find out what it is they really want, they will learn more about themselves, their friends and each other.

This book has wonderful insights into the lesbian community of the 90's. A

Room Full of Women relies on nothing but the lives of the characters to provide the story. It is a refreshing change from the over-complicated plots of many lesbian novels. It is the story of my friends and your friends put in black and white.

Both Murder Is Relative and A Room Full of Women are available for \$8.95 from Naiad Press, Inc. P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302, or from your favorite bookstore. If ordering direct, please include 15% postage. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



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ARE YOU A REAL FRIEND?

QUIZ



There are fun friends, supportive friends, "best" friends and "fair-weather" friends, and then there are Real Friends. Which are you? The following short quiz should give you an idea!

1. You are getting ready for a really "hot" date when a friend calls crying because she just broke up with her lover. You:

- tell you've got a date and you'll call her in the morning when she feels better.
- call and ask your date if she can pick you up at a later time so that you can go and comfort your friend.
- stand your date up so you can rush to her aid.

2. A friend is leaving on a business trip and asks you to take her to the airport. You:

- politely say "no" and remind her that since it is a business trip her company should pay for a cab.
- agree to take her if you don't have anything else to do that day.
- rearrange your whole day to take her.

3. Your car breaks down on the way home from a long trip, you call:

- your mother, you wouldn't ask anyone else.
- the auto club.
- an acquaintance in a nearby town.

4. One of your friends is dating a woman

you can't stand. When they ask you over for dinner you:

- a. go. You haven't really given yourself a chance to get to know her.
- b. say no. You don't want to put yourself through that.
- c. go because you can't let your friend down.

5. Since your best friend got a new lover, you haven't heard much from her. You:

- a. Call so often she threatens to unplug the phone.
- b. Call once and quit. You don't have time to chase after her.
- c. Call every so often. After all, you understand that new relationships take a lot of time and attention.

Answer the following True or False.

1. Friends are for life if you nurture the friendship.
2. Friends are more important than lovers.
3. Your best friend is like a sister to you.

SCORING

Give yourself points as follows:

- | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|
| 1. a-1 | b-2 | c-3 |
| 2. a-2 | b-1 | c-3 |
| 3. a-3 | b-2 | c-1 |
| 4. a-2 | b-1 | c-3 |
| 5. a-3 | b-1 | c-2 |

Part 2 - give yourself 3 points for each TRUE answer.

If You Scored: 5-10

You probably have loads of "acquaintances" but few true friends. The

answer may be that you take more than you give. You may expect your friends to always be there for you yet resent it when they need you. Make an effort to "be there" for them. This may mean a few sacrifices on your part, but it will be well worth it when you are more easily able to make new friends. Your current friends will also be pleasantly surprised at the change in you.

11-18

You are a great friend! You know how to be supportive without ignoring your own needs. You are always there when your friends really need you, but you know when you have to quit giving and ask for some support for yourself.

19-24

You are a very good friend... too good. You have a tendency to sacrifice all your needs for those of your friends. You have a tough time saying "no" even when you want to. You may also be unwilling to let your friends help you out when you need it. Friendship is a two-way street and you'll find your friendships are more productive and satisfying when you show your vulnerabilities sometimes.



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POETRY

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The incubus comes by night
slipping in the cracks
between my dreams,

It rises above me
big as a mountain
leaning forward to steal my breath.

'open your legs.'
open or be broken like a twig
or the needle's eye before the camel.

It tears into me
to steal my soul.
What else would a demon wish?

It breathes fire
I feel it on me
burning me away, I'm fading fast

I look at the incubus
lightning flashes, I see it's face
I speak its name . . .

"Daddy?"

Katherine N. Keene
Houston, TX

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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

Work is highlighted this month. You have a chance to improve your skills and performance on the job. Don't go overboard and focus all your attention on work or you could wind up with major conflicts at home. Travel may be in the cards after the 24th.

TAURUS

Your imagination could give you a boost in any creative endeavors during September. Your future, both on the job and at home seems much clearer after the 17th. Social events and romance fill your free time. Blending business and pleasure could be the key to success in the immediate future.

GEMINI

Your family and home life seem to be eating into your free time all month. Your optimism and sense of humor will get you through even when your patience wears thin. You'll feel a lot better after the 23rd when the promise of romance and extra money combine to lift your spirits. A co-worker comes to your rescue when you have problems meeting a deadline.

CANCER

September will usher in a calmer time after all the activities of summer. An emphasis on communications and work helps keep you grounded firmly in the "here and now". A close relationship will be in crisis around the 17th. The

decision about whether to continue this relationship will be left up to you. Weigh all possibilities carefully before making a decision.

LEO

You seem to get bogged down in details either at work or in trying to manage your personal finances. Pay attention and you could reap some great rewards from this seemingly endless task. When all is said and done, a few days off will not only help your attitude, it will also help strengthen your commitment to an on-going relationship.

VIRGO

Focusing too much on yourself and not enough on your "significant other" could get you in trouble during the first part of September. A raise or promotion could be in the works after the 15th — but only if you accept the challenges offered you. Count on your intuition both on the job and in love after the 24th.

LIBRA

Your social calendar fills up quickly in September. A focus on personal affairs all month brings contact with influential friends and family. They can help you reach your goals if you'll let them. Be sure to keep some time for yourself to sort out goals and priorities for the near future. Work captures all your attention after the 21st. Gentle persuasion will work better than throwing your weight around.

SCORPIO

You may feel you could be doing better financially than you are at the present time. Spending for pleasure during the first two weeks of September may have thrown your budget off track. You will have very good luck in both business and private matters after the 23rd. Be selective about social events. Too much partying can throw your ambitions at work into a tailspin.

SAGITTARIUS

A big decision in the work arena demands all your attention during the first part of September. Don't be rushed. Take your time and think things through. Take time to listen to a friend who needs cheering up after the 16th. Your mate could be feeling neglected after the 23rd — do something special to lift her spirits. Money matters dominate during the last week. Take time out to review your financial position.

CAPRICORN

Your patience and persistence pay off this month when some of your long-range goals finally reach fruition. You may be torn between work and play during the second week. Someone you trusted could let you down — go slowly and get all the facts before making a judgement. You get an "A" for effort after the 21st when all your hard work starts to pay off. A celebration could be in order.

AQUARIUS

You seem to have a "sixth sense" about business and financial matters during the first week of September. Use these feelings to advance your career and improve your money picture. Try to find time in your busy schedule to enjoy some social activities before the 26th. After that you may be too snowed under at work to take time out. A relationship switches into high gear toward month's end.

PISCES

Interpersonal relationships are at the forefront, both at work and at home, during the first part of September. Be careful who you choose to associate with or you could wind up in hot water. You and a partner reach an understanding about a long-standing problem after the 17th. Keep home and office interests separate to avoid new conflicts. You may be feeling restless towards the end of the month. Take a break from your routine and the world will seem like a new place.



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Oasis Ministry

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4012-B Cedar Springs 75219 • 528-4233

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300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203

Dallas Outdoors

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528-4233

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Lesbian Information Line (LIL)

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Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition

P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882

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4800 Calhoun • 529-3211

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard
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Houston Gay Political Caucus
P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000

Kingdom Community Church
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Lambda ALANON - Lambda Center for Alcoholics
1214 Joanne • 521-9772

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Names Project/Lubbock • 796-1800 or 744-1957

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Washington, DC 20003 • (202) 547-3101

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Conference For Catholic Lesbians
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New York, New York 10024

Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE

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

National Gay/Lesbian Clearinghouse
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NY, NY 10012

National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline
1-800-SOS-GAYS

National Gay/Lesbian Task Force
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Washington D.C. 20009 • 202-332-6483

The Fund for Human Dignity
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NY, NY 10012

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organizations

Women's Resource Center
P.O. Box 5089 73070

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organizations

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Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9696

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River City Living Metropolitan Community Church
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LISA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472)

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

SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
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-DAWN



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1-2-83
PUFF

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ALTHOUGH WE'VE JUST BEEN
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BEST EVER. YOU ARE MY
LIFE AND MY WORLD! I LOVE YOU!



Alana

HECK! - Sorry, you are
such a gift from God. You make
all of our lives & dreams we have
been together for more than
100 years. Love you until I
dying day the day I die!!!
your wife

TO PUFF,
YOU ARE MOST EXCELLENT
HOLD MY HEART BEHIND - Z.O. QUINN

ANGELA
I'll NEVER FORGET
YOU OR WALLY
SOMEDAY
THE MARY

Penny -
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I miss ya lots
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 MORE THAN ONE COLOR OR SIZE, PLEASE PUT ON SEPERATE SHEET.

T-Shirt Pink, Orchid, Green, White — S, M, L, XL — # _____
 Sweatshirt . . . Pink, Orchid, Green, White — S, M, L, XL — # _____
 Golf Cap Pink, Green, White — One Size — # _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please Allow 2 to 6 weeks for delivery

MAIL TO: DIMENSIONS, P.O. BOX 856, LUBBOCK, TX 79408