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To The Editor

EXPRESSING THE OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS OF DIMENSIONS' READERS

ARTWORK GREAT

Dear Dimensions,

This is in regards to the February 1991 issue of Dimensions, Volume 4, Issue 7. I would like to know who did the cover art for this issue, and/or if there is a possibility of obtaining a print of this work. It is so beautiful (and very romantic).

I would also like to take this occasion to comment on your publication in general. The articles and notices are informative and provide a forum for those of us who choose an alternative lifestyle. The comments and personal views of your readers show what a diverse group we really are. I look forward to reading

every issue.

Any assistance you may be able to offer will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tabitha K. Bergman
Austin, TX

Editor's Note: The artwork you refer to was obtained from an art "clipping" service. At the present time it is not available in the form of a "print", but if you'd like, we can send you a black and white copy that you can alter however you like. Just send us an SASE requesting it and we'll be happy to send it to you!



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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

The Month of [the] March

AUSTIN - The 1991 March On Austin will be held on the weekend of March 15-17, 1991.

The weekend will kick-off on Friday evening with a cocktail reception hosted by the Austin Names Project at the Radisson Hotel from 7pm-9pm, a "Welcome to Austin" reception sponsored by the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby at the Zilker Park Clubhouse from 8pm-Midnight and a concert by the Washington Sisters at the Austin Opera House. The Coalition of Lesbian/Gay Student Groups along with Gay & Lesbian Young Adults will also host a Hospitality Reception from 6pm-Midnight at the Radisson Hotel.

A series of community workshops will be held at the Radisson Hotel on Saturday afternoon. The workshops will be followed by the March On Austin Banquet at the Crest Hotel. A dance, sponsored by ALLGO and the Texas Lesbian Conference will follow the banquet. Also on Saturday, the Beth El Binah, a Lesbian/Gay Jewish congregation, will sponsor a ceremony of candlelight ritual and melody to close the Jewish Sabbath from 6-7pm at the Radisson and a special combined performance of lesbian and gay chorales from across the state will be held at 9pm at the UT Bass Concert Hall.

The March itself will be held Sunday. Participants will meet at 11am at Disch Field and the March will step off at noon up Congress Avenue to the Capitol. Marchers will gather at the south

entrance of the Capitol to hear from prominent speakers. Keynote Speaker will be Urvashi Vaid, Executive Director of the National Lesbian/Gay Task Force. Also in attendance will be recently elected state officials, state legislators, and national political leaders. Following the March, enjoy live entertainment, arts and crafts and information booths at Waterloo Park. Food and Drinks will be available.

Monday, March 18th is LGRL Lobby day at the Capitol. You will have a chance to visit your State Senator and Representative to discuss our legislative agenda. Scheduling prior appointments with legislators will be helpful. Call LGRL at (512) 474-5475 for more information.

For registration and information, please contact the March On Austin office at (512) 474-5475. For travel arrangements and hotel accommodations, contact Capital of Texas Travel toll-free at 1-800-880-0068.

TLC Activities Planned

AUSTIN - The fourth annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) will be held April 12-14, 1991 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin.

In addition to participating in the conference, you are also invited to attend the many fundraising events to be held throughout the month of March. The first fundraiser in March will be Mo-town Night at Vanities on March 15th. The evening kicks off at 9pm and will feature a free buffet. Cover charge is

\$2.00. TLC will also sponsor the March On Austin Dance on Saturday, March 16th at the Crest Hotel in Austin. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. On Saturday, March 23rd, a Chem and Smoke Free Dance will be held at McBeth's Recreation Center at 2502 Columbus Drive in Austin. TLC will also be selling conference tee-shirts and buttons at Vanities, and Chances through the month of March.

The TLC is also offering scholarships to help and encourage women of limited means to pay for conference fees. The fee for the conference is \$40 for early registration and \$45 the day of the conference. Work assistance is also available for those women who wish to trade work for fees. Application for assistance and scholarships should be made to TLC no later than March 17th. An effort is also being made to place those of limited means in the homes of other lesbians in the Austin area. Special arrangements can be made for women who smoke as well as vegetarian women.

If you would like more information on the conference, scholarships or other activities, contact TLC at P.O. Box 402063, Austin, TX 78704, or call (512) 462-2369.

Homeowners Insurance Company Recognizes Domestic Partners

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Fireman's Insurance Company of Washington, D.C., one of American's oldest business firms, has become the first insurance company in the nation to file a Homeowners policy change that recog-

nizes domestic partners. By redefining who is insured, the new endorsement extends to domestic partners the automatic coverage rights enjoyed by spouses and relatives of Homeowners policyholders.

Fireman's offers Homeowners coverage to apartment renters and owners of dwellings and condos in D.C. and the states of Maryland and Virginia.

According to Carl Blundell, CPCU, a company underwriting manager who created the new endorsement, "this Homeowners policy change will extend automatic coverage to anyone with whom an insured has a close, committed personal relationship that involves sharing household responsibilities and owning property together. Automatic coverage applies after an insured has established such a relationship and lived with their domestic partner continuously for at least six months."

"The public will no longer confuse us with Fireman's Fund or any other insurance company," says Fireman's new president, Dick Andrews. "We will have the first Homeowners policy in the insurance industry that will serve the diverse and changing lifestyles of today's society without sacrificing the privacy needs of the individual."

Mr. Andrews advises that Fireman's, unlike other insurance companies, will no longer require that the name of an insured's domestic partner be disclosed and appear on the Homeowners policy in order for the partner to be included in the coverage. "Because our new endorsement eliminates the need for such notification, unmarried insureds and their domestic partners will have the privacy choices and coverage rights enjoyed by married couples."

Fireman's Insurance company plans to

begin attaching the new endorsement to all Homeowners policies it issues beginning in early 1991.

National Film Festival Comes To Houston

HOUSTON - The New Festival National Gay and Lesbian 1991 Film Tour will come to Houston March 1-10 at the Rice Cinema, Rice University Media Center, Entrance #7, University Boulevard at Stockton.

The Film Tour is hosted by the Montrose Activity Center and will kick off on March 1st with a cocktail reception and screening to benefit the center.

In all, over 25 films with lesbian or gay subject matter will be shown during the festival. For ticket prices, reservations, or information, contact the Montrose Activity Center offices at (713) 523-6109.

National Conference All Set

ATLANTA - The last steering committee meeting for the National Lesbian Conference occurred February 1-3 at the national office in Atlanta.

The NLC has almost 40 operating committees and urgently needs coordinators for a few and volunteers for all of them.

Spaces in The Marketplace for craftswomen and vendors are still available. To reserve a space, contact Amoja Three Rivers at (703) 789-4257.

The deadline for pre-registration is March 30th. The deadline for cost-sharing and transportation assistance is March 15th. If you would like more information or registration forms, contact Stephanie at (317) 923-6309 or Mary Lu (404) 373-0000. Both phones are equipped to handle calls from the hearing impaired.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

DALLAS/HOUSTON - California singer/songwriter/comic **Monica Grant** will be appearing in Dallas on Saturday, March 2nd at **MCC Dallas** on Maple Avenue at 8pm. Tickets are available at **CURIOUS TIMES** for \$10 (\$12 at the door). The concert is being brought to you by **Little Feather Productions**, for more information call (214) 372-2796. On Sunday, March 3rd, you can catch **Monica** in Houston at the **DOWNTOWN GROUNDS** coffeehouse/gallery at 908 Wood Street (off Main & San Jacinto) at 7:30pm. Tickets for the Houston performance are \$5 and are available at **DOWNTOWN GROUNDS**, **INKLINGS** and at the door. All proceeds will go to benefit **L.E.A.P.**, a women's support group.

AUSTIN - **Live Wire Productions** presents Olivia recording artists, the **Washington Sisters**, live in concert Friday, March 15th preceding the **March On Austin**. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door and are available at **CELEBRATION!**, **BOOK WOMAN**, & **LIBERTY BOOKS**. The concert will be held at the **Austin Opera House** at 200 Academy (off Congress Avenue near downtown). For more information, contact the **March on Austin Committee** at (512) 474-5475.

HOUSTON - **THE WOMEN'S GROUP**, a feminist group for all women, will host at **Frolic for Fun in the Sun with Women at the Beach** on Bolivar Peninsula on March 29-31.

Bring food, drinks, games, frisbees, tanning oil and sleeping gear. All women are asked to donate \$6 per day for house rental. For more information and directions, call **Iris** at (713) 529-8571 or **Laura** at (713) 529-1886.

DALLAS - ASIANS & FRIENDS — **DALLAS** has announced the formation of their group to promote friendship and understanding among **Lesbian and Gay Asians** and people of other nationalities through social, cultural and educational events. For information on how you can become involved, call (214) 392-3339.

HOUSTON - **HEARTSONG**, **Houston Women's Community Chorus** under the direction of **Lynne Weynand** has been invited to participate in the **Texas Sing-Out**. Several other choruses will also perform. The concert will be held at the **Performing Arts Center** in Austin on March 16th at 9pm. The **Sing-Out** is just one of the many festivities planned for the **March On Austin** weekend. For ticket information, contact the **March On Austin** office at (512) 474-5475 or **Sean Somoskey** at (512) 478-3274.

SAN ANTONIO - The **First Annual Meeting/Conference of the San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly (SALGA)** will be held on Thursday, February 21 at **Magnolia Gardens**, 2520 N. Main (Next door to "On Main"). A Mixer will precede the meeting from 6:30-7:30pm, the meeting will start at 7:30pm.

HOUSTON - The Lone Star Symphonic Band will perform for MCC of the **Resurrection** (MCCR) at **Wortham Theater** on March 10th at 10:45am. They will also play in the **March on Austin** as well as at the rally at **Waterloo Park** following the March. Their **Rite of Spring Concert** will be held Saturday, March 30th at 7:30pm at MCCR. The Lone Star Symphonic Band rehearses every Monday night at 7:30 at MCCR (1919 Decatur). New members are welcomed!

AUSTIN - If you haven't checked out the new **NEXUS** you should! They've got a **Pool Tournament** on Tuesdays, **Country Night** on Wednesdays, **Steak Night** on Thursdays and lots of fun on Fridays and Saturdays. Be sure to pick up your free parking sticker at the door and tell **Myra and Davie** hello!

HOUSTON - There's all kinds of neat things going on at the **RANCH** and **MS. B'S** this month. Beginning on March 1st at the **RANCH** you can play **Seleccrocuton** — the High Tech Flirtation Game. **Nancy Ford & Teresa Maunet** will be performing live at **MS. B'S** on March 7th, and **Tim Williams** will play

on March 21st. Back at the **RANCH** on the 17th will be the **Hollywood Bears Softball Benefit**. And, coming soon will be the big new patio!

SAN ANTONIO - If you live in San Antonio and have friends, family or a lover participating in **Operation Desert Storm**, the **CIRCLE** has something just for you. A support group for women who have friends or loved ones in Saudi Arabia is meeting every Wednesday at 8pm at the **CIRCLE**. This is a great way to meet others who share your concerns and to help you deal with the anxiety and fright of having loved ones in a war.

FT. WORTH - Meetings to organize the **PARTNERS softball team** have begun. If you are interested in participating, check at the bar for details and date of the next meeting! Also, watch for the **USO Tour Turnabout Show**, sponsored by the **Court of Fort Worth**, coming to **PARTNERS** sometime around the end of March. Also coming sometime around the end of the month is the **All-Female Revue**. Check at the bar for dates and details on these events.



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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

I am a faithful reader of yours and have been a "fan" for almost four years. My problem seems insignificant compared to others in your column. I have been tempted to write to you several times but thought it was just to silly.

I know this will sound totally ridiculous, but my lover is a terrible cook. Now, before you throw this letter in the trash, let me tell you that I have been living with this woman for thirteen and a half years. Furthermore, she has been cooking all those years. I've tried to "take over" the kitchen numerous times over the years, but for some reason, "Joann" thinks she is the world's greatest cook. I assure you she is not!

She can't even boil water. I've spent hundreds of dollars on food thrown out the back door and ground down the garbage disposal. What can I do?

I've had steak as black as the bottom of a pot and as tough as boot leather, chicken that looks golden brown on the outside and raw in the middle, and vegetables of various textures and degrees of doneness.

One year she baked cookies for me to take to work — I threw hers out and bought some at the store rather than subject my co-workers to her cooking. I really love her, but I can't spend thirteen more years with her cooking. I

keep hoping that, with all this practice, she'll improve, but she only seems to get worse.

OUT OF THE KITCHEN
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Dear Out,

I assume from your letter that you have never told her what you truly think about her cooking. That's the most direct approach, but after thirteen years, I'm not sure I would mention it.

You could give her cooking classes as a gift (tell her you are giving it to her because you know how much she loves to cook and you thought she might enjoy learning some "tricks" from a gourmet chef). Or you might consider investing in some Julia Childs' videos. You might even develop a "great" interest in learning gourmet cooking yourself and ask her to loan you the kitchen for a few months — she might just give it up entirely.

One other solution might be a patio grill — many times the kitchen cook shies away from the grill. However, if she decides she likes cooking on the grill, your problems might only get worse.

Dear Agnes,

Having read your letter last month (Feb. '91) to BROKEN HEART, I just wanted

to say your advice is right on target. The absolute best thing she could do is pack her bags and get out! Oh, I know it's hard; however, the longer she stays, the worse she will feel about herself, and the harder it will be to leave. She shouldn't wait for things to get worse (and believe me — they will).

I was living with a woman much like the one she described. One day she loved me, the next she didn't. She was verbally abusive at first, and eventually she started hitting me. My friends tried to get me to leave her, but I was sure it was "love" and I didn't listen. And, since she wouldn't leave, I figured that she loved me too. How wrong I was. To make a long story short — I have been away from this woman for almost a year, and I'm just now feeling like I

have my life back together. I wish I had listened to my friends to begin with.

I know it's tough to pass out advice that people don't want to hear, but my personal experience would have been much easier if I had listened. Hang in there!

**FINALLY LEFT
DALLAS, TX**



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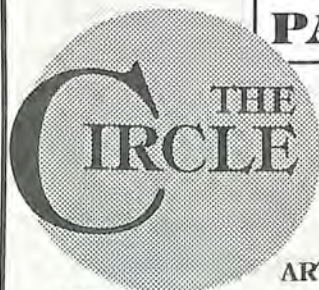
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WOMEN & ALCOHOL

A LOOK AT THE CAUSES, SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT OF ALCOHOLISM IN WOMEN.

BY LINDA MONROE

Alcoholism does not discriminate. It is a problem for both sexes, people of every age and all social and economic classes. While it is a problem that can strike anyone, there are more women drinkers now than at any time in the past, and many of these women are problem drinkers.

Recent research has shown that women are more vulnerable to the effects of alcohol than men and are likely to develop problems more rapidly and with less alcohol consumption. The same number of drinks over the same period of time will produce a higher blood alcohol level in a woman than in a man. This happens because women's bodies

have a higher percentage of fatty tissue and a lower volume of body water than men's. Women also tend to metabolize alcohol more slowly causing a higher concentration to remain in the bloodstream for a longer period of time.

Another problem that women alcohol abusers face is the reluctance of some health professionals to label women as alcoholics. Women don't fit their stereotypic view of alcoholics, and the symptoms of alcoholism in women have been seriously under-studied. Friends and family of the woman alcoholic are more likely to deny or try to hide the fact that the woman has a drinking problem. Society attaches more of a

stigma to women alcoholics than to men. One good example of this bias is the recent mud-slinging against Ann Richards in her campaign for governor of Texas. A male candidate's alcoholism might have been brought up in a campaign, but his recovery would have been hailed as a sign of character, not as a sign of potential weakness as it was for (now) Governor Richards.

One additional problem in the lesbian/gay community is that our social lives revolve so much around alcohol. This makes it especially hard for those who are potential alcohol abusers to avoid situations where alcohol is served.

CAUSES

It is impossible to say exactly why some women have problems with alcohol and others don't, but research does show some shared traits among alcoholic women. Following is a list of some factors that can put you at greater risk for alcoholism.

- Family history of alcoholism. This includes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Although your risk is higher if alcoholism is present only on one side of your family, your risk increases even more when a history of alcohol abuse can be found on both sides.
- Family history of abstinence. This is true especially when drinking was shunned in your family for strong moral reasons.
- A family history of depression disorders in female members.
- Having an emotionally or physically absent father.
- Being of Scandinavian, French, Irish or Native American descent.

Keep in mind that just because you fit into one or more of these risk groups does not mean you will become an al-

coholic, only that you are at increased risk and should be very careful about your alcohol intake.

DANGER SIGNS

Just drinking on a regular basis does not mean you are an alcoholic. There are signs that tell you when alcohol is becoming a problem in either yourself or a loved one. Some of the early signs are the ability to drink more without feeling drunk, no or fewer hangovers, preoccupation with drinking (worrying about whether drinks will be served), or a personality change after a few drinks (pleasant to mean, shy to out going, etc.).

Saying you are only going to have two drinks and having ten, or drinking alone are signs that the addiction is getting worse. Remember that it is possible to drink "alone" even in a bar full of people. At this stage, the drinker may begin to lie about her alcohol consumption and deny that she has any problems with alcohol. Blackouts and memory lapses may also begin to occur in the middle stages. As the addiction takes hold, alcohol will become a source of stress instead of relieving it, leading only to further drinking.

Later stages of addiction are: emotional highs and lows, loss of control, loss of family, job, etc.

Having the "shakes", skipping meals, drinking in the morning or to relieve a hangover, rapid drinking and using alcohol to aid sleep are also danger signs.

TYPES

Part of the problem in identifying alcoholism is that there are so many different forms alcohol abuse can take. While most alcoholics do drink every day, not

all do. Some problem drinkers have control over when they drink but not how much, others may drink all day without ever being "drunk", and some may "binge" by not drinking for days or weeks before going on a big drinking spree. Some "social" drinkers also have a problem when they are drinking to help them feel more relaxed or to "fit in". These drinkers plan their social activities based on if drinks will be served or not.

No matter what the drinking pattern, alcohol has become a problem when it interferes with any major area of your life. This includes personal relationships, health, work performance, and legal problems. Many times, these problems may be the first sign to the alcoholic and those around them that there is a problem.

WHERE TO GET HELP

The hardest part of recovering from alcoholism is realizing that there is a problem and seeking help. The decision to seek help is more important than the choice of a treatment program. There are twelve-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, inpatient programs, outpatient treatment, halfway houses, and private counseling. Where one goes for treatment is an entirely personal decision.

There are a surprising number of cities with AA groups specifically for lesbians and gays. Although AA, as an organization, is very non-discriminatory, the lesbian or gay alcoholic may feel more comfortable dealing with this problem in a "friendly" environment. Women For Sobriety (WFS) is an alternative to AA for women. WFS stresses

self-help and disagrees with the AA assertion that the alcoholic is "powerless" to control their drinking without the help of a higher power.

To find out what options are available in your area, look in the Yellow Pages under Alcoholism Information and Treatment Centers. Your local AA office will be able to tell you if a lesbian/gay AA group meets in your area.

I would like to thank Betty Johnson of Waterloo Counseling Center in Austin, Texas for her assistance in preparing this article.



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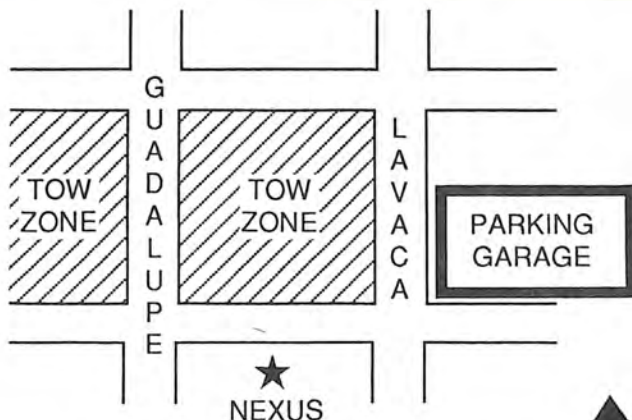
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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD!

SPRINGTIME EQUALS OSCAR TIME

BY NANCY FORD



Hold onto your vernal equinox, gang, 'cause springtime is here once again. Which of course, makes an afternoon at the zoo a heck of a lot more interesting. But not only that — because Everybody knows springtime means Oscar Time. Admit it — all of us have an acceptance speech (just in case it should ever come up) tucked away in the very, very back recesses of our minds. Who among us haven't stood before that bathroom mirror, tearfully clutching a blowdryer, thanking the Academy for bestowing this long-awaited, much deserved honor? In fact, the more extreme creative visualizers among us might even apply a few bits of electrical tape here and there, stick a couple of Pier 1 decorator ostrich plumes in our hair, and pretend we're Cher.

So much of our lives are influenced by the cinema, and sometimes it's no paradox. Anthropologically speaking, the Movie Date ranks right up there with birth and death as a rite of passage in some communities. For a mere five, well, ten, well, maybe fifteen bucks you can spend a full evening in a dimly lit room in close physical proximity to the object of your desire, and together laugh, cry, witness action, adventure and intrigue, NOT TO MENTION repeatedly brushing each other's butter soaked

hands in the popcorn barrel. Make that \$30 if you want cokes with that popcorn.

In fact, my first real live date with a woman was a Movie Date. My first real live date with a man was a Bowling Date, which should have set off a flashing light in my head even at that tender age, now that I think of it.

It was a Saturday night. Winter. My date's name was Cindy. Spelled the right way, with no smiley face to dot the "i". So unpretentious, my Cindy. It was, no, we were meant to be.

She was in the sixth grade. I was in the sixth grade. She was a cheerleader. I was a cheerleadee. She was knocking on puberty's door. I was trying to kick it in. Indeed, as Gertrude and Alice, as Lily and Jane, as Madonna and everybody, Cindy and I were meant to be.

As we sat in the darkened theatre thrilling to Walt Disney's latest, The Sword and the Stone (hot stuff) I realized that the film had captured the essence of my, no, our struggle, my Cindy's and mine. The stone, you see, symbolized our patriarchal society with all the rigidity and inflexibility of its exclusively heterosexual expectations and restrictions. The sword, of course, represented Cindy's and my budding relationship, which could be released from the stone

only by the strength and purity of (sigh) our love. Not bad for a sixth grader. Yes, that was certainly why fate had brought us to that film on that night. Or ... maybe it was the only G rated movie available at the time. Parents, you know. Cindy went on to marry one of those guys she spent so much time cheerleading at, leaving me to continue an ever-lengthening string of Movie Dates. From this experience, I've compiled a list of films which have unquestionably entered the Movie Date Hall of Fame, and for that reason, a special Oscar category should be established. Until it is, clip this list and tape it to your Blockbuster Video membership card.

• **The Wizard of Oz.**

The stuff that dreams and nightmares are made of. In fact, my very first recollection of ever having a nightmare followed my introduction to TWWO. As a child, how could I have known that nightmares induced by the Wicked Witch of the West would pale in comparison to countless drag tributes to Judy Garland later endured when I would reach adulthood. At least Margaret Hamilton knew she looked scary.

• **Funny Girl.**

How many times did you want to stand on that fake velvet theatre seat and shout at the screen "Forget Nicky Arnstein! He's a loser!"? Great way to show your date the passion burning in your soul, as well as your advanced gift of equilibrium.

• **Funny Lady.**

Sequel which lavishly illustrates to you and your friend that, as bigger is not necessarily better, neither does older necessarily mean wiser. Or funnier.

• **This Old Woman Has Gone Completely Hysterical.**

Sequel to the sequel, plot consists of Streisand as Octagenarian, spending all her time riding around New York harbor in a tugboat and waving to the Statue of Liberty. A metaphor in confusion, is a great Movie Date for relationships that are going nowhere.

• **Jinxed.**

Bette Midler at, alas, her very worst, which goes a long way to prove to you and your date that nobody's perfect.

• **Desert Hearts.**

If you need to be told why this is a good Movie Date, you're reading the wrong magazine.



Nancy Ford appears at Missouri Street Station on March 14, and at Ms. B's on March 7th with Teresa Maunet.

nancy ford

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POETRY

FROM OUR READERS

Winter Chill

Winter wind blew in today and I thought about us
and I tried to remember everything. You the lover
and I the link, enchanted by your curious touch. Now
sown 'neath the fields of my mind, mired memories
lie waiting.

Winter chill froze tonight and I thought about us and I
began to recall and I sat frozen in fear. You the
deserter and I the deluded. Found out, cast out,
denied and betrayed. Temporary vows in exchange
for a substitute love.

Winter leaves fell today and I remembered us. You
the fugitive and I the free. Claiming no vendettas
and knowing no regrets. Although found guilty, I am
innocent since loving you. South bound, child's-eye
view, I anxiously await Spring. Yes, I thought about us
today and I remembered everything.

Tonie M. Tenorio
San Antonio

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THIS MONTH, T. SUMNER REVIEWS:

THE PROVIDENCE FILE

BY AMANDA KYLE

I Left My Heart

by Jaye Maiman

If you are a mystery and/or thriller fan, I've got two great books for you this month. We'll start with the thriller The Providence File by Amanda Kyle Williams. This is the second in the espionage series about deep cover CIA agent Madison McGuire. The first was Club Twelve, and you may remember that I gave it excellent marks.

Madison, code named Scorpion, has been in retirement since her last deep cover assignment turned sour. She is lured out of retirement to penetrate the Providence Liberation Army to learn the location of their terrorist training camp.

The leader of this "Army" is bent on moving his recruits, and the violence they bring with them, onto American soil. Madison must move to stop them

before they can implement their plans. After Madison gains entry into the exclusive top-ranks of Providence, she is constantly faced with the threat of being "found out". This assignment could cost Madison her life, as well as her lover, Terry.

Unbeknownst to the U.S. Government, the Madison McGuire novels may be the best recruitment campaign for lesbian spies ever created. Ms. Williams has given us a strong, but vulnerable, character with whom most of us would love to trade places. Madison is not the usual, two-dimensional heroine of lesbian thrillers. There is depth of feeling in this character that comes from between the lines.

Especially interesting is the timing of the release of this novel that examines

the problems of the Middle East and focuses on the Palestinians. This book is, by turns, gritty, realistic, frightening, intriguing, romantic, and above all, entertaining.

Now, on to mystery — and murder — in I Left My Heart by Jaye Maiman.

Robin Miller is sitting at home when the news comes . . . her ex-lover, Mary, is dead. The police report says the death was accidental (or possibly even suicide) from an allergic reaction. Robin doesn't believe it. Mary was a fastidious woman and was vocal, and careful, about her allergies. She took great pains to avoid any substance that provoked symptoms.

As Robin begins to look into the last days of Mary's life, she discovers all kinds of strange goings-on.

Mary, an investigative reporter, had been working on a story that implicated a rising local politician (and her lawyer) in some pretty sleazy deals. Then there is Mary's neighbor at her beach house who has been very vocal in complaining about "those" women that fre-

quented her house on weekends. This is the same woman who found, and reported, Mary's body to the police. There is also an unknown impostor who acquired a lethal medication in Mary's name.

Ms. Maiman has created a character as memorable and likable as any I've seen. I hope to read more about Robin Miller in the future.

My biggest complaint about most mysteries is that, with a little common sense, you can usually figure out who the culprit is by the fourth or fifth chapter — not so in this book. The surprise ending is what puts this "Robin Miller Mystery" in the same category with Homicide Detective Kate Delafield and Detective Carol Ashton.

Both The Providence File (\$8.95) and I Left My Heart (\$9.95) are available from your local bookstore or from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, Florida 32302. Please include 15% postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.




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DOES SHE LOVE YOU?

We've all asked the question — "Does she really love me?". While there is no sure-fire way to tell, the following quiz might give an idea about where you stand.

1. When she has to be out-of-town on business, she:

- a. calls you every night to tell you how much she misses you.
- b. calls every night to remind you of what you need to do the next day.
- c. tells you to call her since she doesn't know when she'll have time to get to a phone.

2. You accidentally dent the fender on her car. She:

- a. asks if you are alright and then asks

about the car.

- b. mopes around for awhile but comes around in a few hours.
- c. screams and yells about how irresponsible you are and tells you that you will never drive her car again.

3. You and your lover are at the bar when she spots her ex. She:

- a. ignores her and focuses all her attention on you.
- b. points her out, but doesn't make a move to go talk to her.
- c. goes to her table to talk for a minute and doesn't come back for an hour.

4. When you run into one of your old girlfriends at the bar, she:

- a. tells her to get lost.

- b. is polite, but asks you about it on the way home.
- c. doesn't notice. She's too busy talking to her ex.

5. You are going to a family gathering. Your girlfriend hates to go to these functions. She:

- a. goes anyway and makes the best of it.
- b. agrees to go, but only for an hour.
- c. refuses to go — after all, it's your family, not hers.

6. When you don't get a job you really want, she:

- a. takes you out for a romantic dinner to lift your spirits.
- b. tells you to cheer up — there are other jobs where that came from.
- c. tells you to get over it. After all, she makes more than you do anyway.

7. You meet her at the door in a negligee with a bottle of champagne. She:

- a. grins and leads you to the bedroom.
- b. kisses you hello and asks if you want to go out for dinner.
- c. assumes you've done something wrong and want to make up for it.

you show her how much you love her as well. Romance is a big part of your relationship and it probably always will be.

33-50

Yes, she loves you, she just isn't as good at showing it as others. Everyone has their own way of expressing their feelings and if you'll take a good look, you'll see that there is no doubt that she loves you. She's warm and supportive, sympathetic and sensual. She may need to be reminded of just how much she loves you sometimes, but that's just part of the fun!

14-32

Be honest — you may be feeling a little down over the way your lover treats you. She may love you, she just doesn't know how to show you (or tell you). She is imminently logical and tends to be a little unforgiving. The only way to bring her around is to teach by example. If you truly believe this is "the one", you'll have the patience to wait for her to come around. If not, it's probably time to start looking at your options.

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows:

A = 10 points

B = 6 points

C = 2 points

if you scored:

51-70

Of course she loves you! How could you ever doubt it? Without any prompting from you she shows it everyday. Just be sure that

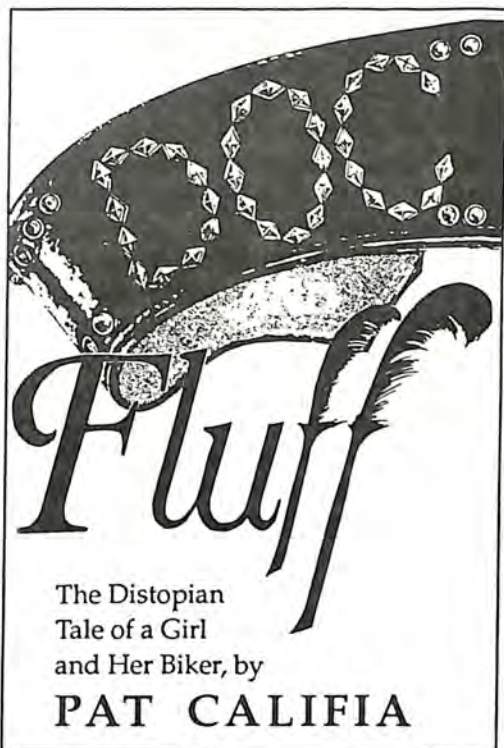


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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

Everything seems to be going your way during the month of March. Be careful what you wish for right now — you'll probably get it — especially between the 12th and the 19th. Ignore the bickering of family or friends towards the end of the month — they are liable to turn on you if you decide to take sides.

TAURUS

To make the most of this month, you'll need to shift your attention from social activities to personal and professional accomplishments. You may also realize some financial gains if you set your mind to it. After the 17th you may feel as if your normal routine has been turned upside down. A little patience is all it takes to get through this hectic time so that you can enjoy the Easter weekend at month's end.

GEMINI

This is a great time for planning ahead. Take a hard look at your goals and plans for the future and adjust them to meet new conditions. A pressing financial matter can be taken care of early in the month if you work at it. Professional and personal interests may be at odds after the 17th. Don't make any major decisions until you have thoroughly researched the options.

CANCER

Friends play an important role during the first week of March when you are

feeling a little down. An argument between you and a loved one between the 12th and the 18th doesn't have to get out of hand if you are willing to forgive and forget. You may feel your career is at a standstill until mid-month when it gets a big push from an unexpected source.

LEO

Your first priority in March will be putting your financial house in order. You may have to work overtime or weekends to get money matters back on track. You could be on the verge of a major commitment after the 14th — whether it's a love relationship or a business partnership, now is a good time to get started. Your career could get a boost towards month's end if you make your accomplishments known.

VIRGO

A close relationship could feel the effects of your devotion to your career during March. Try to make time for loved ones, even if you feel like your work is more important at the moment. After the 19th, you'll have the hardest part of a big job behind you and you'll be able to relax a little. Keep a sharp eye on your finances all month or you could end up falling short at month's end.

LIBRA

You may need to pay more attention than usual to an important relationship. Whether it is a romantic or a business partnership, problems could arise that

send it tumbling if you don't keep your eyes and ears open. You'll have to work to find time for yourself after the 23rd. Get away for a weekend and you'll come back with a new outlook.

SCORPIO

New information you receive on the 5th or 6th could have you changing course on the job. Be sure you check all your facts before you take action or you could wind up with a big mess. A relationship that develops after the 14th may be more permanent than you imagined. Towards month's end you'll need all your diplomacy to end a quarrel with a friend or mate.

SAGITTARIUS

Someone else's perfectionist tendencies might drive you up a wall during the first part of March. You'll just have to overlook the annoyance and move on. After the 15th you could go overboard with a health or beauty routine. Think carefully before you cut of your hair or join a spa — your mood won't last long and you'll be sorry. Romantic relations may not be going all that well, but you'll make up for it in other areas.

CAPRICORN

Your prestige and social status are moving forward during the first part of March. An important relationship (whether in business or love) is moving along nicely and bringing great rewards with it. You may be called on to settle a dispute among family or friends — don't worry, it's

more irritating than serious. Follow your instincts when it comes to a major decision at month's end.

AQUARIUS

Your finances may seem to be on a seesaw during the first part of March. You finally get it all worked out around the 15th with the help of a relative or friend. Romance is in the air around the 16th and 17th along with a touch of Spring fever. Get out and enjoy the mood. Your career will take precedence towards month's end though you will still have plenty of time for fun and relaxation.

PISCES

Your moods may swing wildly during March. You could go between saving and spending, optimism and pessimism, etc., etc. Your friends and loved ones may have a hard time following the changes! Your creative forces are in full swing, and you can use them to your advantage if you work at it. Towards month's end a close relationship could be under some strain. Take time out to just be with one another and you can work out any problems.



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ATTRACTIVE Femme, from Texas, wants to meet women during trip to

New Mexico, Arizona and California — end of April. Let's correspond now! Reply to Box #326.

GWF, young 50's, Texhoma area, feminine, non-smoker; I love intense music, wildwood walks, discerning conversation, sensitivity and fidelity. "Love is a trembling happiness." I want to tremble for a thousand years. Reply to #327.

EXTRAORDINARY Human (who happens to be 35 year old male physician) seeks a unique bisexual woman as a life-mate. Please respond, so I can answer all your questions. Reply to #328.

GWF. 39. Desires Friend/Lifemate. Christian. Clean. Attractive. Healthy. Financially secure. Professional. Enjoys numerous activities. Flea Markets. The Arts. Gardening. Nature. Am open to your input. If you are similar, believe you can make a difference in Life, and are a concerned, honest individual, please write. No drugs. Lite alcohol. Single GF only. I will answer all serious inquiries. Picture is plus. Dallas. Reply to Box #329.

MESSAGES

POSITIVE, PING PONG, The mugs were beautiful, thanks for lunch and that slumber party in New Mexico was fantastic. Hope to see you soon. Next time lunch is on us. Happy Belated Valentine's Day! Take care, Native Dancer, Bright Eyes. SNC-MIL.

LJH — Can you believe it's been TEN years?!?! They've been great for me and I know the next ten will be even better. As soon as you read this ad, look on the top shelf of the hall closet and follow the directions for a big surprise! I love you, you are the light of my life. GLM

AMY A. — You better call me (collect if you want) before I start to believe don't love me anymore. Besides, if you'll just call and tell me your address, I'll send you a whole carton of cigarettes. What a payoff! Talk to you soon. — SSM

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

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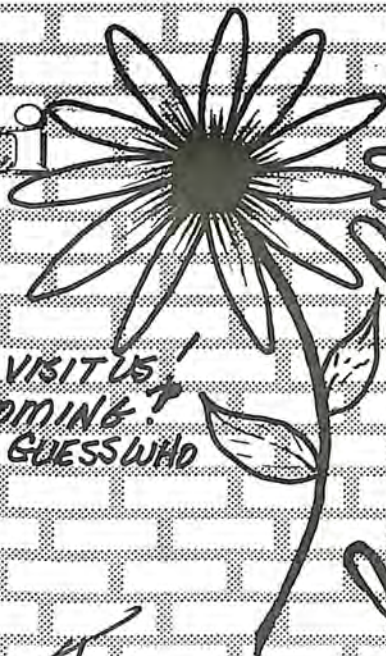
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The Graffiti Page



Happy Birthday JFL & LG

JFL & LG -
IT'S YOUR TURN TO VISIT US!
WHEN ARE YOU COMING?
WE LOVE YA'LL. - GUESS WHO

Jason - it's me my
this will be my
I can't wait to see you
happy because you
years I love you
you. I love you
JFL & LG

DANIE -
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SWEETIE. BELIEVE
ME, IT DOES GET
BETTER AFTER 40.
I LOVE YOU - LRL



(B) THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE MONTH
FOR WISHES & LUCK, AND HOPEFULLY
IT WILL SOMEDAY BE WITH YOU
AGAIN, FOR IT WILL BE SO
"MAGICAL & WONDERFUL"
THIS TIME AROUND, I PROMISE. (G)

PUT YOUR MESSAGE ON THE GRAFFITI PAGE FOR FREE!

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