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Please call the Family Studies Laboratory <u>collect</u> at: **708-491-4239** 9 to 5, weekdays or **708-866-0924** after 9:00p.m., CST



Attorney General Morales Appeals Ruling On 21.06

AUSTIN - On April 5th, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales appealed State District Judge Paul Davis' order that Texas' sodomy law, Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, is unconstitutional and may not be enforced. In his motion for appeal Morales said,

"Our obligation is to defend the laws of the state when they are challenged." He continued, "Our goal is seek a determination once and for all on the constitutionality of this particular law."

21.06, which makes it a Class C misdemeanor for consenting adults of the same gender to have "deviant sexual intercourse," has been successfully challenged by the Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) in a lawsuit filed April 12, 1989 on behalf of five gay men and lesbians. The organization is paying all court costs and attorneys' fees in the case.

Judge Davis heard the case, entitled Morales et al. vs. the State of Texas, on December 10, 1990, and he declared the law unconstitutional from the bench. His written order, blocking the State "from arresting, prosecuting or otherwise enforcing" 21.06, was issued on March 15, 1991.

THRF attorneys estimate that it will take from 120 to 200 days for the case to be heard and an additional 30 to 90 days for a decision to be handed down. THRF's Legal Coordinator Margaret Tucker stated, "We welcome this appeal. An appellate court victory would clearly establish a statewide precedent on the unconstitutionality of 21.06. The upcoming appellate court battle is crucial in insuring equal rights for gay men and lesbians in this state."

Hearings Reopened in Kowalski Case

MINNESOTA - St. Louis County, Minnesota District Court Judge Robert Cambell has reopened the hearing in the case regarding Karen Thompson's request for guardianship of Sharon Kowalski, her lesbian partner who was disabled in a car accident in 1983. Although Judge Campbell heard four full days of testimony in November and December of 1990, he has decided to allow one more day of testimony to accommodate medical personnel from Leisure Hill Nursing Home. No other party has filed a request to be Kowalski's guardian.

Sharon Kowalski resided in the Leisure Hill Nursing Home from July 1985 until January 1989, during which time Karen Thompson was not allowed to see her. Dr. William Wilson, a physician at the nursing home scheduled to testify at the December 5, 6 & 7, 1990 hearings in Minneapolis but failed to appear.

"I fail to understand what relevant information the Leisure Hill Nursing Home staff could have on my ability to be Sharon's guardian," said Thompson. "They never saw us together, as I was forbidden to see Sharon while she was there. Everyone testifying at the upcoming hearing had the opportunity to testify last November or December." "This is another in a long series of legal hoops through which Karen and Sharon have been force to jump in this case," said Rosemary Dempsey, VP - Action for the National Organization for Women. "The evidence is clear and it is time for the Judge to make a decision. Every day of delay only hurts Sharon Kowalski."

Thompson filed for guardianship of Kowalski in August of 1989. Following the hearings in December, a decision was expected by early March. With the reopening of the hearing, a decision could be delayed until late June of 1991. The extra day of testimony is expected to cost Thompson over six thousand dollars in additional legal fees.

Women Veterans Support Network Formed

VIRGINIA - A new publication and support network is being established for women veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. "Pallas Athena" will provide articles of interest to women veterans and resource information, as well as fiction and creative works by women veterans. All women veterans, regardless of race, creed, religion or sexual orientation are encouraged to participate. A special (discreet) supplement will be published for lesbian veterans. The Pallas Athena Network was created to respond to the lack of resources specifically designed for women veterans. The network is named after the Greek Goddess of wisdom, craft and war. The likeness of Athena also served as the branch insignia for the Women's Army Corps.

If you would like further information on Pallas Athena, you may write to them at: The Pallas Athena Network, P.O. Box 1171, New Market, VA 22844.

GLAAD To Meet In Dallas

DALLAS - The Steering committee of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation USA (GLAAD/USA); has announced that its next meeting, to continue the work of forming a national federation, will be held May 11-12 in the new Dallas Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

Representatives from GLAAD chapters nationwide met recently in Brooklyn, New York, at which time they elected Los Angeles representative Dana Gorbea-Leon to serve as Chair. Gorbea-Leon, a GLAAD/LA board member, is a union activist and freelance writer who has also served as public relations co-chair of Gay & Lesbians Latinos Unidos.

Debra Johnson of Santa Cruz, CA has agreed to act as facilitator and consultant for the May meeting and on an ongoing basis for the GLAAD/USA Steering Committee. Johnson is a distinguished California-based activist. Texas lesbians and gay men may recall that Johnson was facilitator for the Texas-wide Town Hall Meeting in Austin last July.

The GLAAD/USA Steering Committee is made up of representatives from chapters in New York, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, the National Capitol Area, Baltimore and Dallas. There are also chapters in formation in Houston, Atlanta, Florida, and in Sacramento, Santa Cruz, and Orange County, California. GLAAD/USA is a diverse group dedicated to confronting public expressions of homophobia or heterosexism, and to promoting the fullest possible understanding of the breadth and diversity of lesbian and gay lives. GLAAD pursues these goals by organizing grass-roots responses to public expressions of bigotry and by working with the media to promote accurate coverage of issues that concern the lesbian and gay community.

AAA agrees to "family discount" for Same Sex Couples

SEATTLE - In a settlement of a Seattle human rights complaint brought by a gay man, AAA Washington ha extended its requirements for "associate" membership to include domestic partners and other residents of a "primary" member's household.

The discounted associate membership previously had been reserved for the

primary member's spouse or dependent children age 23 and under.

Civil rights attorneys say the settlement is the first in Washington state, and one of only a few nationwide to prevent a business from discriminating against same-sex couples. It is believed to make AAA Washington the first and only AAA chapter in the nation to formally accept same-sex partners as associate members.

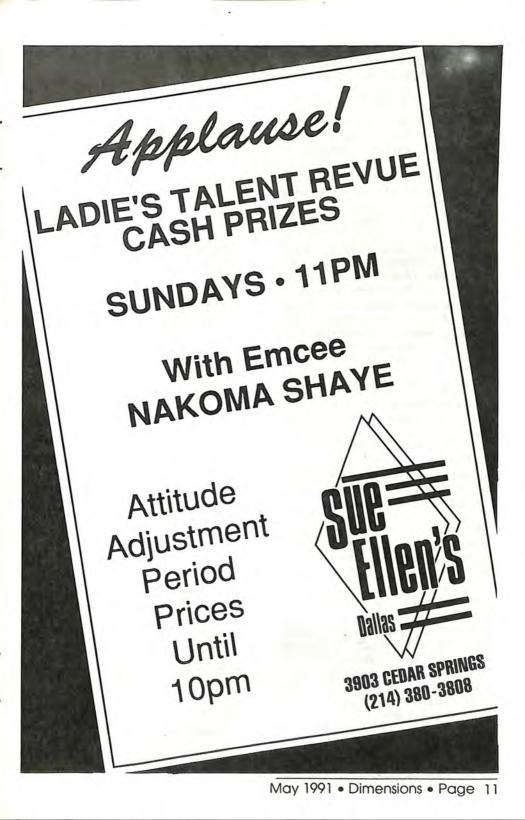
The settlement stems from a complaint made to the Seattle Human Rights Department March 1988 by Demian, a Seattle resident with a single legal name. In June 1990, the department determined that the former AAA policy discriminated on the basis of marital status when it told Demian that his domestic partner was ineligible for associate membership.

Primary membership in the non-profit organization costs \$45 for the first year; \$35 for subsequent years. Associate membership costs only \$17 yearly.

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ALBUOUEROUE - The Tenth Annual WIMINFEST will be held May 24th-26th at the KiMo Theatre in Albuquerque. The three day festival of music, arts, crafts and workshops will be emceed by Alix Dobkin. Appearing at the festival will be: Lucie Blue Tremblay, comedian Monica Palacios, musical duo Casslebury/DuPree, Faith Nolan, Venus Envy, jazz band Deuce, poet Sdiane Bogus, Rhiannon and Linda Tillery. Incuded in the weekend will be the 1991 Wiminfest Invitational Art Show, and an Arts & Crafts Fair. For more information or to register please write: Wiminfest, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204 or call 1-505-268-7345.

HOUSTON - The WOMEN'S GROUP will host a Women's Craft Exhibition on the first Sunday of each month beginning May 5th. Any woman can display her pieces for sale and each craftswoman will donate ten percent of her sales to the First Unitarian Church. If you would like more information, contact Jacsun at (713) 529-7329.

OKLAHOMA - It's that time again, time for the HERLAND Sister Resources Spring Retreat. The retreat will be held May 17-19 at Robber's Cave State Park. Music will be provided by "The Live Band" from Oklahoma City. The Saturday evening potluck dinner will let you show off your cooking skills. Workshops will be offered. Registration for the three-day retreat is \$25-\$35, based on your ability to pay. For more info, please write: 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 or call: 1-405-521-9696.

AUSTIN - A new support group is forming in Austin for women who have

a positive interest in S/M, B/D, or Leather. BOUND BY DESIRE will hold it's first organizational meeting on Wednesday, May 8th. If you would like to participate, please call (512) 473-7104. Just leave a message and someone will return your call!

FORT WORTH - Singer/songwriter Dianne Davidson will be performing live at the Agape MCC Auditorium on May 11th. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. You can purchase tickets at CONNECTIONS BOOKSTORE or CROSSWORDS BOOKSTORE in Fort Worth or at CURIOUS TIMES in Dallas.

HOUSTON - The Starnite '91 Pride Festival has plans to include a 2-day Art Show among the events it has scheduled during Gay and Lesbian Pride Week (June 22-23). The title of the art show will be "Taking Liberties" and will explore the controversial topics of both artistic freedom and basic human rights. The Festival will be held in the Kwik-Kopy parking lot (across from Kroger on Montrose). If you would like to participate in the Art Show, call Claude Pollard at (713) 862-5058 for details.

ALBUQUERQUE - Alice Walker, author of <u>The Color Purple</u> will appear at a booksigning and reception at the Woodward Center on Friday, May 3rd at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at FULL CIRCLE BOOKS or at the WOMEN'S CENTER. This stop is in conjunction with the release of Ms. Walker's new book of poetry, Her Blue Body: Everything We Know.

AUSTIN - It's that time again! Time

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for Splash Day! The big splash happens on Sunday, May 5th at Hippy Hollow and NEXUS will follow it up with a big party on Sunday Night. If you would rather watch than participate, be sure you catch the Wet T-Shirt Contest at NEXUS on Sunday, May 26th (Memorial Day Weekend).

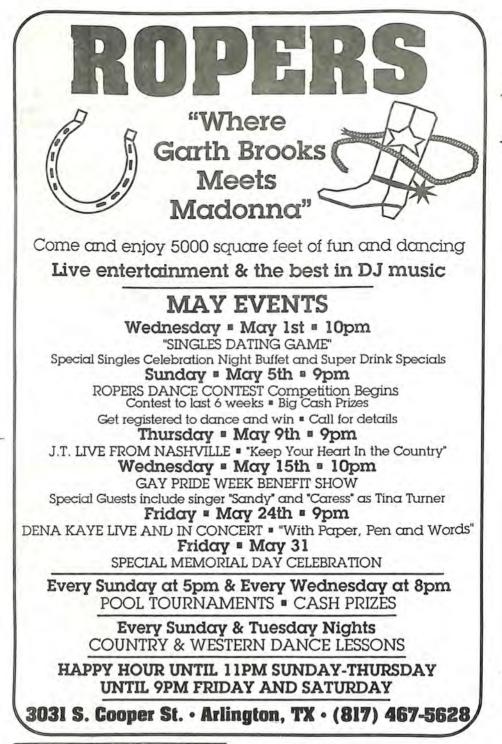
ARLINGTON - If live country music is what you want, you'll find it this month at ROPERS. They are bringing you the great country sounds of J.T. (that's it, just J.T., no last name) direct from Nashville on Thursday, May 9th. They will also have **Dena Kaye** appearing on Friday, May 24th. Polish up your boots and get to the C&W Dance Lessons every Sunday & Tuesday so you'll be ready!

HOUSTON - Due to the recent rains, the new Patio at the RANCH is still under construction and will be opening some time in May — hopefully in time to celebrate the RANCH's Fifth Anniversary Party! The date for the party hadn't been finalized at press time, but you can check at the bar for a date and time. Coming up in June at the PLAZA you can win big at the Men's & Women's Softball League Annual Casino Night to be held in the ARENA Ballroom.

SAN ANTONIO - There's alot going on at the CIRCLE this month including **Dianne Davidson** on Thursday, May 9th, and **Ericka Wheeler** on Thursday, May 30th. There will also be a **Makeover Party and Variety Show** on Sunday, May 12th where you can get a makeover done by an area cosmetologist! Tuesday Night Topics for May are: <u>Why</u> Do We Have To Keep Talking About Heterosexism and Homophobia? on the 14th, and Journaling (techniques of keeping a Journal) on the 28th.



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DEAR AGNES

RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

I don't know where to start. Everything in my life seems to have been turned upside down in the last few months. First my lover left me for my best friend.

Then I got laid off from my job. Now I'm about to lose my house because I can't pay the mortgage on my unemployment. It seems like the whole world has just crashed down around my ears. All this is bad enough, but I just can't seem to get motivated to do anything. I know I need to look for a job and possibly a roommate, but it just seems like so much trouble to get up and do anything. I have even quit eating very often because it is too much trouble to cook.

My friends have been on me to get counseling, but I think if I just wait awhile, I'll get my equilibrium back. All I need is some time.

Anyway, I decided to write to you. If you think I should get counseling, I will. I just can't seem to decide anything for myself right now.

LOST Houston, TX

Dear Lost,

Frankly, I think counseling is a very good idea. It is probably also a good idea to see a medical doctor to rule out any physical problems.

It sounds to me like you have a full blown case of depression. Yes, it can get better with time, but it can also get worse. One thing, in addition to counseling, that you might try, is just starting with one thing. Place an ad for a roommate or go to one job interview. Just the act of doing something, anything, to help yourself may help you feel better and lift your spirits.

Good luck, and keep me posted on how you are doing.

Dear Agnes,

My lover and I have lived together for almost a year. I am madly in love with her and very happy except for one thing. When we first started seeing each other (before we lived together), we were party animals. We went to the bar every night. I do mean <u>every</u> night.

Now don't get me wrong, I still love to party, but I don't want to go out every night of the week anymore. The problem comes in because she still wants to party every night.

I can't keep up! Besides, I feel lousy when I have to get up and go to work in the morning after staying out all night. This is really the only thing we ever fight about. Do you have any suggestions as to how we can work this out? At this point, any advice would be helpful. **PARTYING 'TIL I DROP**

Dallas, TX

Dear Party,

First, I would suggest is a compromise. Maybe you can agree to go out only on the weekends, or just on Friday and Saturday plus one week night. Another thing you might try is cultivating some friends outside the bar and entertain at home. Not big parties every night, but just have one or two friends over for dinner or to play cards.

Dear Agnes,

I wrote to you a few months ago and you published my letter in the March 1991 issue. My problem was my lover's cooking and the letter was signed "Out of the Kitchen".

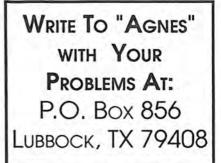
I just wanted to let you know that your advice really worked! You advised me to send her to cooking school. I decided that would make a great birthday present.

She's only been going for 5 weeks as of this writing, but the difference is amazing! I guess they taught her how to set the oven and measure the ingredients. It been good enough to convince me that she needs to go back and take some of the more advanced classes when she is done with this one. Besides that, she loves it — it's the best birthday present I ever gave her.

I just wanted to thank you — you don't know how much the quality of life around here has improved! I can't believe I didn't think of this years ago.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN Oklahoma City, OK







INTERVIEW

TASHA SUMNER TALKS TO LOBBYIST LAURIE EISERLOH ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, THE BILLS WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR, THOSE WE NEED TO DEFEAT, AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP,

This session of the Texas legislature is in full swing and will be finished around the end of May. The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL) is hard at work on all legislation that involves lesbian and gay concerns. So this month we are talking to Lobbyist Laurie Eiserloh about the legislative process and how we can get involved.

I know there have been changes at LGRL that have altered the focus of your job and Glen Maxey's. Can you tell us about it?

Since Glen's election to the House (District 51, South Austin), he can no longer do any lobbying. He is still staying on with the LGRL, but in an administrative capacity. As a result, I am pretty much running the legislative program. The main difference is that now I am working by myself on legislative issues, and I am working on all issues that affect the lesbian/gay community. I'm not focusing so much on just women's and lesbian issues.

As soon as the legislative session is over, Glen will come back to work at the LGRL on community organizing, and I will be able to work more on women's issues.



Can you tell me (in abbreviated form) how the legislative process works? Ordinarily, some lobby, or group, or constituent will decide that a bill needs to be passed in a certain area. They do the research, write up a bill and put it in bill form (sometimes representatives or senators write the bill themselves). Then it is given to a representative or senator and then they send it to the legislative drafting counsel. When the bill comes back to the legislator, everyone looks it over. If everything is alright, it is filed, given a stamped bill number, and put in the "big book". Then the bill is assigned to committee. When it goes to committee, this is the public's opportunity to give testimony. Anyone who wants to can come and speak on a bill (of course, if you would like to speak on a bill on gay and lesbian issues, it is best to talk to the Lobby first). The bill then will either go directly out of committee for vote by the entire House or Senate, or it is referred to a sub-committee. Once it is referred to sub-committee, it can either die in committee or be sent on for a full vote in the House or Senate. If it passes there, it then goes for vote in the other legislative body. The process can start in either the House or the Senate.

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Of course, it doesn't always happen like this, it can get much more complicated, but this is a general overview of how it works.

There are many bills, both good and badfor our community, that are coming up in what is left of this session, can you tell me a little bit about them? We can start with the good...

Well, let's talk first about House Bill 1592. This is a bill that was written by the LGRL and introduced by Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston). What this bill does is alter the Texas Family Code. Presently, the Code specifically says that one factor you cannot take into consideration in determining the custody of a child is the sex of the parent. This bill alters that language so it now states that you cannot take the sex, the sexual orientation, the race, or the religion of the parent into consideration when determining custody.

Race and religion are already protected by the Texas constitution, however, more specific guarantees within a statute are always stronger protection than just general protection in the constitution.

We also wrote a bill that I'm not sure will even get a hearing. This is a marriage bill and was introduced by Rep. Debra Danburg. We simply marked out the line in the Texas Family Code that says "two persons of the same sex may not be married".

Travis County District Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir, made a statement that she thinks it is ridiculous that she cannot issue a marriage license to consenting adults. She also pointed out that a marriage license is a legal tool. The license will allow you to get health insurance through your lover's em-

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ployer, etc.

The next bill I would like to talk about is the repeal of 21.06 (the state sodomy statute). This is House Bill 1153 and was introduced by Rep. Danburg and Rep. Cain. It is going to be very, very difficult to repeal 21.06 through the State Legislature this session. The bill is going through an extremely conservative committee. We're going to try, of course, but I think the courts are our best option right now. (For more info on the status of 21.06 in the courts, see page 8 in this issue of Dimensions).

A group of about 15 community leaders from across the state recently met with Attorney General Dan Morales. He invited us to the Supreme Court for breakfast, and to talk about how we wanted this case to be handled. All of us pretty much agreed that it needed to be appealed to the Third District Court of Appeals in Austin.

The reason it needs to be appealed is that the decision by the Travis County District Court doesn't really have precedential value outside of Travis County. This means the recent ruling striking down 21.06 really only applies to Travis county. It doesn't apply anywhere else in the state. Taking the case to the court of appeals would give it more value as a precedent.

In fact, in Michigan, they have a case similar to this one where the state refused to appeal, and now the gay and lesbian activists there are suing the state to appeal.

Next, there is House Bill 1154 (introduced by Rep. Danburg and Rep. Maxey). This is a basic, statewide nondiscrimination policy. This bill would basically take lesbian/gay people and give us the same protections that have been given by various civil rights acts to other minorities. Again, I don't think that this bill is terribly likely to go through until 21.06 is taken off the books, but we still have to keep talking about it every single session. We can't let the issue die because it is so important.

This session there is a bill (House Bill 899) that would specifically state that funeral homes cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or cause of death. This bill would protect PWA's because funeral homes often refuse to accept the bodies of people that have died of AIDS.

It would also protect other lesbian and gay people. Right now, funeral homes often refuse to follow the wishes of gay and lesbian people as to the disposal of their bodies. This means that they can ignore the wishes of the deceased and/ or their "life partner" in favor of the wishes of the family. For instance, you and your lover have purchased a burial plot together in Austin and you both wish to buried there, but your lover's parents decide that they want her buried in the family plot in Arlington. The funeral home will most often follow the wishes of the family, even though those were not the stated wishes of the deceased.

There are also two different varieties of Hate Crimes bills in the legislature this session. The first variety (House Bill 2294 and Senate Bill 1317) is very specific and states that penalties would be increased for those committing hate crimes against anyone based on their race, religion, sexual orientation, physical disabilities, etc. The other variety (House Bill 1568 and Senate Bill 767) are just general bills that apply to "people traditionally discriminated against".

All these bills have provisions for keeping statistics. This just gives police officers a sheet that looks like a parking ticket. When they report a hate related crime, they check off what kind of hate crime it is (racial, religious, sexual orientation, etc.). Many people have criticized the Federal Hate Crimes Act because it is just a statistics keeping act. I think it is important to point out that these bills are important. Police officers often don't realize how often hate crimes happen until they begin keeping records.

Well, now what about the "Bad" bills? Most of the bad legislation this session is AIDS related. The worst is Rep Clemons bill (House Bill 2509). This bill undercuts the omnibus AIDS bill passed last session. It does things like require mandatory HIV testing for all prisoners. It allows any public school official or teacher to know the HIV status of child regardless of whether they have had any training about HIV. It would even make it a crime for a woman who is HIV positive to breast feed her child. It would also require that all AIDS education programs state that homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle.

There are also several others including: House Bill 2440 and House Bill 1362 which require mandatory AIDS testing; House Bill 702 which discriminates against HIV positive Doctors and Dentists; and House Bill 238 requiring mandatory testing of persons suspected of exposing police officers, fire fighters and others to the AIDS virus.

continued on page 29



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WELCOMING Y



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SPLASH DAY Sunday, May 5th Join Us After The Splash For A Great Party!

WET T-SHIRT CONTEST Memorial Day Weekend Sunday, May 26th

Nexus (nek'sas) n., pl. nexus 1. a connection between members of a group; 2. a link in a series; 3. where the girls are!

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Conversations With Blanda

PART 2 BY NANCY FORD



When Bianda reached the top of the stair, she checked the number on the door, just to be sure. The grocery sacks were starting to slip from her arms, Bianda having opted for the more environmentally-respectful paper vs. plastic. She was trying to be aware of that sort of thing these days — cans in one bin, glass in another, newspapers neatly stacked and bundled. "If we could all be a little more obsessive-compulsive, saving the Earth would be no problem," she thought, making what seemed to be more noise than necessary as she fumbled with her keys.

She wasn't quite yet finger-familiar with which one was the door key. She could find all the light switches in the dark without groping up and down the wall, though. "Progress," she thought. The groceries were mid-thigh now, and Bianda was still standing in the hall. If there's a God in heaven, the rice cakes and Evian in these sacks turned into chocolate croissants and cokes somewhere along the way home." In addition to saving the Earth, Bianda was also promoting a less ozone layer/fluorocarbon-type relationship between her body and her diet. She had even resisted the bite-size sausages being pushed by the food sample-giver-outer woman at the grocery store, and barely made it through check-out before a killer bakery special was announced over the p.a. Chocolate croissants. "Just as well," she remembered. "Americans know nothing about croissants."

"Of course she knows. She was smiling, wasn't she?"

Indeed, the graying, gracious housewoman was smiling, noticing the two twin beds had once again been pushed together.

"Don't worry about it. I'm sure this isn't the first time someone rearranged the furniture in here." Scores of scuffs chiseled into the hard wood floor indicated she was right. "If this room could talk ..."

"— it would speak French. Appropriate for this room. If French is the language of love, then certainly it must also be the language of this bed-and-breakfast suite in Adoutte. Turning over, Cari reached over the edge of the bed and picked up the stray comforter that had spent the night undisturbed in a cream-eyelet heap on the floor.

"That's really not necessary, is it?" Bianda asked, teasingly tugging the potential covering from her grasp. "I can't help it if I love looking at you."

Of course she loved looking at her, clothed or unclothed. Bianda had been looking at her for awhile now, not being able to focus on anyone or anything else since the night they accidentally met. It had been at a reception for their state's first openly-gay candidate to the legislature. Three hours into that first night's conversation had revealed, in addition to countless similarities and sensitivities, that Cari also subscribed to that same regional monthly alternative/feminist/gay women's magazine. Beyond that, she said she had not only noticed a personal, but had responded. She just hadn't mailed it yet. Bianda assumed this was little more than bar talk, albeit very effective bar talk, until Cari produced from her purse an envelope with Bianda's box number code typed upon the front. Though not particularly a student of the astrological school of though, Bianda was certain that all her planets must be, at that moment, lined up as precisely as Radio City Music Hall Rockettes on New Year's Eve, her letter read:

Dear Fed Up, Your ad made me laugh out loud for a full minute, and I found myself smiling off and on the rest of the day just thinking about it. Maybe one day we could get together for coffee or lunch or something and I could try to make you laugh, too. Frankly, you sound like you could use a little entertainment.

The rest of the night they danced, they talked, touching each other on the arm or leg or hand or shoulder, just to emphasize more important points of their conversation. They drank. They toasted anything that gave them an excuse to gaze into each other's eyes. They spoke full sentences simultaneously so often that it soon became more of a rhythm than a novelty.

"Yes, it is necessary. It's cold in France in November, in case you hadn't noticed." But as she wrapped and walked to the bureau to the breakfast tray so discreetly left there by the smiling housewoman, the quilt unraveled, revealing to Bianda one more example of why total and immediate commitment to this woman she had met only one week ago was completely within the bounds of reason.

"Sit up, close your eyes, open your mouth and get ready for the treat of your life." The farther away from the warmth of the fireplace Cari walked, the more her nipples absorbed the unexpected draft of this high-ceilinged, many-windowed little room.

"Close my eyes right now? This moment? Not for a million francs." Before she could comment further, Cari had pounced back into bed, and popped a piece of the still warm croissant into her lover's mouth. The delicate pastry disintegrated layer by layer, releasing a sweet stream onto Bianda's tongue. "You're right — the croissant from Kroger never tasted like this."

"Americans know nothing about croissants." As they burrowed once again under the cream-eyelet comforter they had used the night before, Cari alternated feeding bites to herself and her partner, holding the last morsel between her teeth, offering it to Bianda in a kind of croissant-avec-kiss. "My, but aren't we romantic this morning?" Bianda whispered, kissing a circle around Cari's lips, removing the residue pastry crumbs from them with her own lips.

"Hey, what do you expect? It's raining. There's a fire in the fireplace. I'm in the arms of the woman I love. The door is locked. And, best of all, there's no telephone. I'm supposed to be romantic." With each sentence she snuggled closer to Bianda until soon she was as much on top of her as she was beside her. "Complaining?" Cari was on top of her now, and pulled the comforter up over their heads. "Let's play tent."

Tent, high-rise condo, igloo, mobile home — it didn't matter. Bianda knew she would play just about any kind of house this woman wanted to play. For a long time.

As they began to roll back and forth, winding themselves even tighter, closer together in their comforter cocoon, the big bed slowly, slowly began to separate in the middle. Soon it was once again two small ones, gently depositing Bianda and Cari on the floor in between.

Finally the key slid into the lock and turned, and Bianda made it to the kitchen before letting the bags slide the rest of the way down her legs onto the floor. The phone bussed, suddenly pulling Bianda back from Adoutte, back to her new apartment. Back to now. The answering machine promptly picked up on the first ring. Before Bianda could pick up the receiver, whoever called chose to hang up. No name. No number. No date or time of message.

Bianda bit into a rice cake.

"She must be thinking about me, too."

(to be continued)



I watch her sleep It's these times I think I know her Bevond the talk, talk that shapes the heart. I watch her sleep and cannot judge the infant that rises in us all and pulls the pillow close and sleeps It's now that I cherish the life the heart and the path that has crossed mine. In innocence she dreams comfortable with me making love seem simple as she sleeps.

-Jennifer Mullin Dallas, TX

Would you like to see your poetry or short stories in print? Send us a copy! Please include your name, address, phone number & signature. All poetry received will be assumed for publication. Your signature grants Dimensions permission to publish and verifies that you are the author/owner of said poetry or writings. Be sure and tell us if you want to use your real name or what pen name you prefer.

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THE COFFEE CLUB LESBIANS IN THE ARTS • BOOKS, MUSIC, MOVIES, ETC.

THIS MONTH, LASHA SUMNER REVIEWS:



LODESTAR by Phyllis Horn

We'll start this month with the latest from Australian author Claire McNab. <u>Cop Out</u> is the fourth in the Detective Inspector Carol Ashton mystery series. This new book finds Carol thinking of leaving the police force, unhappy with her relationship with lover Sybil, and distracted by the attention her partner is paying to the career of a promising female constable who is new to homicide.

In the midst of all this turmoil, Bryce Darcy, a member of a prominent family has been murdered. His sister, Charlotte Darcy is found at the scene of the murder with blood on her shirt and the murder weapon laid beside her. Carol's partner, Detective Sergeant Mark Bourke, believes Charlotte is the murderer and is willing to let the case be closed.

Carol believes there is something more to this case than meets the eye and sets out to investigate. The Darcy parents insist that their son was murdered by an intruder. Charlotte claims that she has been given drugs without her knowledge. Eric, Charlotte's husband had motive and opportunity. And finally, Carol learns that the dead man was a member of a support group for married gay men.

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I always look forward to Ms. McNab's novels and <u>Cop Out</u> was well worth the wait. The Carol Ashton series is right up there with the Kate Delafield mysteries on my short list of great lesbian mystery novels. Not only do I recommend <u>Cop Out</u> to all mystery lovers, I would also suggest all of the Carol Ashton series, including <u>Lessons in</u> <u>Murder</u>, <u>Fatal Reunion</u> and <u>Death</u> <u>Down Under</u>.

Our second book this month is <u>Lodestar</u> by Phyllis Horn. This thriller from the author of <u>The Chesapeake Project</u> is one of the best lesbian novels to come out in awhile.

This is really three separate stories involving a series of strange occurrences in the lives of therapist Stephanie Scott and Judge Alice Cutter. To begin with, both women are being threatened because of a child custody case that was decided in favor of a lesbian mother.

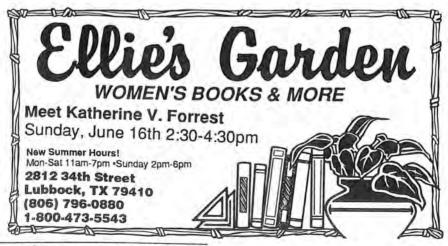
After meeting Stephanie at the trial, Judge Cutter decides to bring her in on a FBI project to get her son, Michael Cutter, and his family out of a commune named Enlightenment. The commune's leader has discovered a chemical compound named Lodestar that makes the commune residents do whatever they are told, no matter how outrageous.

In the meantime, Stephanie's ex-lover Robin has asked for her help because her new lover Megan is being threatened by mysterious phone calls. Megan claims that the harassing phone calls are coming from a man who raped her when she was a teen.

All of these stories are intertwined and make <u>Lodestar</u> a very readable, extremely satisfying book. Ms. Horn's affinity for grand, diabolical plots mixed with romance and humor certainly sets her apart from most lesbian writers and makes her books a joy to read.

All the books of Phyllis Horn and Claire McNab are available from your local bookstore or from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302.





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Do you avoid expressing your opinion because someone you love may not agree with you? Do you put off doing small things until they become so big that you can't handle them? Do you find it hard to express how you really feel? Answer the 11 questions below and find out if you need to speak up.

Answer the questions below with a: Y for Yes, S for Sometimes, N for No.

1. I have a problem giving anyone bad news.

2. I usually tell people what I think even if it is unpleasant.

3. I usually act on my "gut feelings"

4. I find it easy to make decisions.

5. I still have friends I made years ago.

6. If I make a mistake on the job, I point it out to my boss as soon as possible.

7. When I run short on cash, I notify my creditors immediately to explain the situation.

8. I would tell my lover if I wasn't satisfied with our sex life.

9. If I am trying to learn something new, I ask for help from someone who knows.

10. If there is something unpleasant that needs to be done, I do it and get it over with as soon as possible.

11. I find it easy to express how I feel about issues that are important to me, even when I know people will disagree.

SCORING

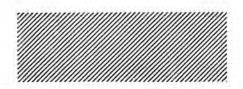
Give yourself points on each answer as follows: Y=3 S=2 N=1

If You Scored: 26-33

You are very good at expressing your feelings and are usually honest about your opinions. You may, however, be too forthright at times and this could cause resentment among your friends and co-workers. Since you always confront your problems head-on, those around you may feel that you will think they are weak if they don't do the same. In other words, you are a hard act to follow. The ability to express yourself is a wonderful trait, but be sure you use compassion in your dealings with others. job (or vice versa), or you may just have problems over the small or the big stuff. No matter where the problem lies, try to make yourself speak up whenever it is important to you — you will probably be surprised at the results.

11-18

You have a tendency to keep your mouth shut - even when it something very important to you. Not only does this cause you to build up resentments, it may also cause your loved ones to question your love for them. Everyone likes to hear the words "I love you" spoken out loud. Even though you may think that your actions speak louder than any words, others may not see it that way. Learning to express yourself is easier than you think. Start small tell someone how important they are or ask for something you want. You'll get alot more of what you want and you'll give those around you more of what they want.



19-25

Although you don't usually have a problem expressing how you feel, you may have a problem in just one area. In other words, you may be perfectly able to say what you feel at home, but may have problems expressing your opinions on the PRIDE IN OWNERSHIP TEXAS' FIRST MAILORDER WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE Pride In Ownership, Texas' first mailorder women's bookstore featuring the finest in women's literature, music, jeweiry, stationary, cards, and what not. To be

music, jeweiry, stationary, cards, and what not. To be included on our mailing list send your name, address, and one dollar to: PIO 3403 80th St., Galeveston, TX 77551. The dollar will be deducted from your first order. Our mailing list is confidential and all communications are discreetly packaged.

INTERVIEW continued from page 19

Okay, so now we know what bills are good and bad, what can we do to help? When I was in college, I didn't think writing or calling your representative did much good, but <u>it does</u>. Letters and phone calls are <u>very</u> important.

Both can be very simple, all you have to say is "I oppose" or "I support House or Senate Bill so and so." When they get your letter or call, your support or opposition is tallied into a computer and taken into account when he or she votes. You don't even have to explain your position (although you can if you want), a simple "I oppose or support" will suffice.

You can also contact people who are not in your district, for instance, Rep. Danburg of the Houston Montrose district is very supportive of our community. It always helps to write and thank someone, like her, who introduces positive legislation for us on a regular basis. Writing and calling the people who write the really bad bills also has some impact.

All you have to know to write to your Senator is his/her name and this address: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711. For Representatives, the ad-

dress is: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768.

As late as it is in the Session, it might be a good idea to call as well as write.

If you don't know who your Senator or Representatives are, how can you find out? Well, they can call the LGRL, and I can try to find out for them. Or, if you know who your Senator is, you can look up his number in your phone book under State Government and call his office to find out who your Representatives are. You might even call your County Clerk's office to find out the names, and then you can look in the phone book for their office phone numbers.

And, last but not least, what are your plans after this session is over?

We're are going to really work on some of our community organizing projects. As I mentioned in our last interview, one of my projects is going to be working with women in rural areas, and working in the Valley.

On a last note, I would like to encourage everyone to become a member of LGRL. If you don't want to be on a mailing list or write "Lesbian/Gay" anything on a check, you can write your check to "Liberty Fund" to protect your privacy. We also have ways you can donate through bank drafts, credit cards, etc. You can call and talk to me about the options at 512-474-5475 or write to the Lobby at P.O. Box 2579, Austin, TX 78768.



Horoscope

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

Personal relationships are at the forefront, both at work and at home, during the first part of May. Be careful whom 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 you will feel like a new person.

TAURUS

You seem to have a "sixth sense" about business and financial matters during the first week of May. Your career is taking off and money seems to just fall in your lap. 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.

GEMINI

Your patience and persistence pay off this month when some of your longrange goals are finally reached. 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.

CANCER

A big decision in the work arena demands all you attention during the first part of May. 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.

LEO

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 May 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.

VIRGO

Your social calendar fills up quickly in May. 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.

LIBRA

You are in the spotlight on the job during the first part of May. A raise or promotion could be in the works around mid-month, but only if you press the issue. Keep your eye on spending since your budget seems to be a little tighter than usual. A conflict between home and work could be causing stress in a relationship — try to be sensitive to your partners needs as well as your own.

SCORPIO

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.

SAGITTARIUS

May will be a calmer time after the all the activity of early spring. 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.

CAPRICORN

Family problems seem to be eating into your free time all month. Your sense of humor will get you through even when your patience wears thin. You'll feel alot 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.

AQUARIUS

Your imagination could give you a boost in any creative endeavors during May. 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.

PISCES

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 you attention on work or you could wind up with major conflicts at home. A partner is sensitive right now so be careful what you say. Travel may be in the cards after the 24th.



THE DIRECTORY A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817) clubs

Ropers - 3031 S. Cooper St. - 467-5628

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

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512) clubs

Nexus - 305 W. 5th - 472-5288

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 7403 Shoal Creek • 451-2329 Austin Latino/a Lesbian/Gay Organization P.O. Box 1350 78787 • 280-6107 Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus P.O. Box 822 78767 • 462-9888 Bound By Desire (Women's S/M Support Group) P.O. Box 26583 78755 • 473-7104 Center for Battered Women . Lesbian Group 385-5181 or 928-9070 (hotline) Gay/Lesibian Student Association at UT Austin 458-3971 · Box 275 Texas Union 78712-7338 Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby . 601 W. 18th St . 474-5475 Lesbian Mothers - Karen • 339-8508 Live Wire Productions • PO Box 141202 78714 Metropolitan Community Church 1100 Sprinodale Rd. • 929-3660 Oasis Ministry 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 • 441-9191 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays)+328-3830 Sapphire! . Lesbian Social Group . 1600 S. Lamar Waterloo Counseling Center 507 Powell 78703 - 322-9654 **Texas Human Rights Foundation** 601 W. 18th St. • 479-8473 AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417 The Treehouse (Lesbian Mothers Support Group) 607 Nueces St. 78701 + 477-5822

DALLAS, TX (area code 214)

businesses

Advanced Electrolysis • 3209 Premier Dr. #124 Plano, TX 75075 • 424-7147 Business Delivery Systems 14902 Preston Rd. 75240 • 733-1108 Curious Times - Women's Books etc. 4008D Cedar Springs • 528-4087

clubs

Sue Ellen's - 3903 Cedar Springs - 559-0707

organizations

Affirmation • PO Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546 AIDS Resource Center • P.O. Box 190712 75219

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Asians & Friends - PO Box 9142 75209 -392-3339 Congragation Beth El Binah P.O. Box 64460 752206 • 987-5138 Dallas Gay Alliance . P.O. Box 190712 75219 . 528-0144 Dallas Gav/Lesbian Historic Archives P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 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 Dignity/Dallas • PO Box 190133 75219 • 226-4101 Foundation for Human Understanding • 528-4233 Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus 2727 Oak Lawn 75219 . 528-2811 Lesbian Information Line (LIL) P.O. Box 191443 75219 . 528-2426 Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882 Lesbian Resource Center • 1315 Skiles • 821-3999 Lesbian Visionaries . P.O. Box 191443 75219 .528-4087 Metroplex Republicans P.O. Box 191033 75219 • 941-8114 Oak Lawn Community Services P.O. Box 191094 75219: 520-8108 Oak Lawn Symphonic Band P.O. Box 190973 75219 + 986-1751 SDA Kinship (Gay & Lesbian Adventists) PO Box 38454 75238 • 373-8484 WANT (Women In The Arts) 288-929/ 823-3105 Womyn Together - 3920 Cedar Springs - 528-4233

DENTON, TX (area code 817)

Organizations COURAGE, Lesbian Gay Student Org. P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 382-3813 Harvest Metropolitan Community Church 5900 South Stemmons 76205 • 1-800-497-HMCC

FT. WORTH (area code 817)

ClubS Partners • 1612 Park Place • 924-2519 The 1601 Club • 1601 Park Place • 926-0707

organizations Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837 RESPECT - Gay/Lesbian Association 828 Hardwood Ed + Hurst TX 76054

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

businesses Inklings • an alternative bookshop 1846 Richmond • 521-3369 Clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3464

Ms. B's • 9208 Butfalo Spdwy. • 666-3356 organizations

AIDS Foundation - 3927 Essex Lane - 623-6796 AIDS HOTLINE . c/o Switchboard . 529-3211 Gav/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 Alchoholics 1214 Joanne - 521-9772 Leshian/Gay Students-Univ Houston Clear Lake 2700 Bay Area 77058 Metropolitan Community Church Of The Resurrection 1919 Decatur • 861-9149 Montrose Counseling Center 900 Lovett #203 77006 • 529-0037 Montrose Pool League/Billiards - PJ 863-8482 PWA Coalition - Houston - 1475 W. Grav #163 - 522-5428 Womynspace . P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601 Women's Softball League - 6431 Pineshade - 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806) businesses

Ellie's Garden • 2812 34th St. • 796-0880

organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 796-2403 Names Project/Lubbock • 796-1800 or 744-1957 Wild Wilde West Productions — theatre co. P.O. Box 504 79408 • 796-0880

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 Contamince For Catholic Lesbians P.O. Box 436. Planetarium Station • New York, NY 10024 GLAAD/USA . 80 Varick St. #3E . NY. NY 10013 Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE National 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 • 521-9696

SAN ANGELO, TX (area code 915)

Books Etc., Inc. • Lesbian/Gay/Alternative Books 2410 W. Ave N 76904 • 942-1544

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 512) clubs

The Circle • 8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

organizations

Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632 Integrity/San Antonio P.O. Box 150006 78212 • 684-4920 River City Living Metropolitan Community Church 202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121 LISA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472) SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian & Gay Assembly • 733-7300 SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance P.O. Box 12715 78212 • Coordinator; Jim 228-9877 San Antonio AIDS Foundation P.O. Box 120113 78212-9313 San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX (area code 512) accomodations Lyle's Deck + 120 E. Atol St.

P.O. Box 2326 78597 • 761-LYLE

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AD INFO	
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ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
PHONE	
Personals Roommates	
Messages For Rent/Le	
Books/Publications For Sale	d Investments
# Of Words# Of Months	Amount Enclosed \$
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Put your reply in an envelope, seal shut and put your return address and the Box # on it as shown. Place this in another envelope and mail to	Your Return Address Box # XXX
the address above. We will then forward your unopened letter to the person who	Your Return
placed the ad. BE SURE TO STAMP BOTH ENVELOPES!	Address DIMENSIONS P.O. Box 856 Lubbock, TX 79408

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RATES

45¢ PER WORD (50¢ PER WORD BUSINESS ADS) 50¢ PER WORD BOLD TYPE ADD \$1.50 FOR ADS IN ALL CAPS

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Deadline for Classified Ads is the 20th of the month prior to the month of publication. Payment must accompany all ads. All Classified Ads will be accepted at the discretion of Dimensions.

Dimensions will not be held responsible for errors in your ad after the first month and cannot be held liable for more than the cost of the original ad.

PERSONALS

DALLAS GWF - seeks 40+ who enjoys C&W dancing, theatre, symphony, who is sharp dresser. No smokers, drugs or extremely butch. Workaholic wants someone for quality time. Reply to #317.

ARE YOU A TWIN? If you are a lesbian or bisexual woman and you have a female twin, we would like for you to participate in a study on the development of sexual orientation. We desire your participation whether your twin is identical or non-identical, and regardless of her sexual orientation. Please call collect for further information. Family Studies Laboratory, Department of Psychology, Northwestern University, 708-491-4239, or 708-866-0924.

DFW — professional GWF couple, early 40's seek monogamous couples to meet & socialize — together over 10 years. We live in country with horses and pets. Interested in organizations and groups relevant to our lifestyle. Reply to Box #334.

LONELY, GF, 30, Looking for friends in my neck of the woods. If you live anywhere near Greenville, Texas, Please write! Reply to Box #335.

DO YOU HAVE AN ADOPTIVE SISTER? If you are a lesbian or bisexual woman, and you were raised with a genetically unrelated female, we would like for you to participate in a study on the development of sexual orientation. We desire your participation regardless of your adoptive sister's sexual orientation. Please call collect for further information. Family Studies Laboratory, Department of Psychology, Northwestern University, 708-491-4239, or 708-866-0924. GBF, 27, Tired of bars and games. Looking for trust & Friendship. I'm honest, humorous, ready to spend time with someone special. If it doesn't work, you've made a friend. Fort Worth. Send photo if possible. Discretion assured. Reply to Box #336.

SAN ANTONIO - GWF - would like to meet petite, feminine lady, 30+ for quality time — possible relationship. If you like flea-markets, going to the lake, music, romantic dinners, quiet evenings just talking, I would like to meet you. Reply to Box #337.

DALLAS GWF, interested in partnership with equal. Believe relationships are built on Friendship, trust & mutual respect. Willing to make the investment (with the right woman). Are you? Reply to Box #338

WARM Hearted GWF, 45, OKC Area. Can be discreet. Seeking company of feminine one who is single, sensitive, and sincere. Reply to Box #339.

DALLAS - GWF, Attractive, MID-Twenties, College grad that is not real big on meeting women in bars. I enjoy women with a quick wit, good taste, intelligent, independent and preferably older than myself. Interested? Please Reply to Box #340.



ROOMMATE Wanted. Share 3BR/2B house in Clear Lake. Furnished. Large Yard w/Fence. Non-Smoker. No Cats. \$250 + 1/2 utilities. Please call and leave message. (713) 996-5107.

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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

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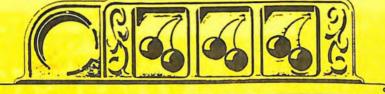
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