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Dimensions is published by Visions Publishing Co., P.O. Box 856, Lubbock, TX 79408, Phone (806) 797-9647. Opinions expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Dimensions or its staff. Publication of the names of any person or organization is not an indication of sexual orientation. Subscription rates: 6 mos. \$12.00, lyr. \$24.00. Payment must accompany all subscription orders. Copyright ©1991 Visions Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

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Office Hrs: 1pm-6pm Mon-Sat

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To Our Many Faithful Patrons At Desert Moon, We are going into our third year, We felt this was cause for a big celebration. The staff and owners want you to join us for this grand occasion. We have plans for September to be one big party to show you our appreciation. So come on by for the best knee-slappin', three-steppin' time around and let us personally thank you for our success!

Lanene Provost sincerely,

Jeanene Provost David Roberts Managers, Desert Moon

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## THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

#### Lesbian Health Care Focus of Task Force Coalition

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has joined the Breast Cancer Coalition, a national advocacy group, to increase awareness of and response to lesbian breast cancer and other health issues.

breast cancer and other health issues. Created in February 1991, the Breast Cancer Coalition is comprised of cancer, women's health and grassroots women's groups to advocate for health improvements in the area of breast cancer. Among other initiatives, Belinda Rochelle, NGLTF health issues lobbyist, is advocating for greater education and awareness of lesbian breast cancer and a broadening of mammogram reimbursement guidelines.

Rochelle points out that many lesbians do not routinely consider breast cancer exams and that insurance policies often are not broad enough to cover them.

"Most women only visit a physician because of reproductive health needs," says Rochelle. "For some lesbians that is not a concern and therefore they do not visit a doctor as often as they should. Some lesbians may only go to a doctor when they are sick, and unfortunately that might be too late."

The Coalition is currently pressuring Blue Cross/Blue Shield to reexamine its decision to limit mammogram and screening coverage reimbursement to asymptomatic women of a certain age. "Blue Cross/Blue Shield should not limit coverage only to women over 50 years

of age," said Rochelle. "It is absolutely critical that all women, including lesbians, and regardless of age, have accessibility to screening coverage."

American Cancer Society statistics show that more than 25 percent of all women who get breast cancer are between 40 and 49.

#### Dallas To Host 5th Annual TLC

DALLAS - The Fifth Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) will be held in Dallas in the spring of 1992. The first TLC was held in Dallas in May, 1988, followed in succeeding years by conferences in Houston, San Antonio and Austin.

The conference will feature nationally known lesbian speakers, workshops, exhibits, dances, entertainment, film festivals and other events of interest to the lesbian community of Texas.

All women are invited to help plan the 1992 TLC. If you would like to help, please contact Rose Podilla at (214) 621-3202 or Elizabeth Harvey at (214) 823-7672.

#### 2nd Annual Lone Star Women's Music Festival Coming In October

AUSTIN - The 2nd Annual Lone Star Women's Music Festival (LSWMF) will be held near Canyon Lake on the Guadalupe River on October 11, 12 & 13. The festival will offer a variety of music to suit every taste, including; country, blues, jazz, and rock and roll. Prices, including camping, are \$58.71 (tax included) for tickets purchased after September 1st or \$65.00 plus tax at the door. An optional meal ticket will also be offered for \$21.35 including tax. Meal tickets are available only in advance and will cover Friday supper, three meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. A vegetarian menu will be available upon request. Tickets can be purchased from your local bookstore or by mail from LSWMF, P.O. Box 2650, Austin, TX 78768.

#### Lambda Student Center Dedication Slated

San Antonio-The San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance (SALSA) will dedicate it's new Lambda Students Center at 1140 West Woodlawn Avenue on Sunday, September 1st at 1pm.

The center is located in a former garage apartment on the grounds of the Metropolitan Community Church and will provide office and meeting space for student programs.

This fall SALSA will institute a weekly schedule at the new center. Monday nights will be devoted to literary activism with readings, reviews, discussions and writing projects. Friday evenings are designated for screening lesbian and gay programs on VHS format. Other days the Center will be available for special events and reservation by campus and student interest groups.

For more information the public is urged to attend the dedication or call the new SALSA line at (512) 733-1225. Lambda Student's Alliance can also be reached by writing P.O. Box 12715, San Antonio, TX 78212.

#### Foundation For Human Understanding Scholarships Available

DALLAS - Organizations in Dallas are joining together to develop the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Scholarship Fund, also called the "Lambda Scholarship".

Created in 1990, the Lambda Scholarships are to be awarded during Gay Pride Week in June of each year. However, due to lack of applicants the scholarships will probably be rewarded during the Texas Freedom Parade festivities in September in Dallas,

The goal of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Scholarship Fund is to award scholarships to individuals who reflect the diversity of our community. Students are eligible when they have completed 60 hours of college study. Students in all fields of study are eligible.

Applications may be requested from sponsoring organizations and by writing to Lesbian Visionaries, P.O. Box 191443, Dallas, TX 75219. Donations to the scholarship fund may be sent to FHU Lambda Scholarship, Dallas Gay Alliance Credit Union, P.O. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219.

#### Linda Morales To Address Conference

DALLAS - The Coalition of Lesbian/
Gay Student Groups, an organization
of lesbians, gays and bisexuals at colleges and universities in the Southwest
will hold its second conference in Dallas. The conference, titled "Beyond
Tolerance: Diversity in Our Communities", will bring together 100 people
from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana,
New Mexico and Texas for a one day
educational and inspirational event.
Houston activist and Texas Sodomy
Law co-challenger, Linda Morales, will
give the opening address.

Conference attendees will also hear from Laurie Eiserloh, Executive Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. The conference will be held at the First Unitarian Church at 4015 Normandy on Saturday, September 21st in Dallas from 9am to 6pm. Conference attendees will march in the Texas Freedom Parade on Sunday.

The conference is open to everyone. Registration fees are: \$10 for students and youth under 21, \$15 for all others. For information, call (214) 621-6705.



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# WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

HOUSTON-PLANET EARTH PRO-DUCTIONS is bringing Olivia Records recording artist Deidre McCalla to the University of St. Thomas Jones Hall on Saturday, Sept. 14th at 8pm. Houston guitarist/singer Edna Garcia will also appear. Tickets are priced on a sliding scale from \$10-\$20 and are available at INKLINGS and at the door.

DALLAS - LITTLE FEATHER PRO-DUCTIONS will present Hunter Davis in concert at the Metropolitan Community Church-Dallas at 5353 Maple on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 8pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance (\$12 at the door) and available at CURIOUS TIMES and CROSSROADS MARKET.

SAN ANTONIO - The Annual Gay Fiesta will be held in San Antonio on Sunday, October 13th in the Villita Assembly Hall located at Presa and Villita Streets, from noon to 8pm. Admission is \$5. The event will feature a raffle, fashion show as well as lots of entertainment. For more information or to volunteer to help out, please contact Eva Pope at (512) 225-4715.

NEW ORLEANS - The First Annual SPIRIT FEST will be held north of New Orleans November 14-17. The women's spirituality festival will feature workshops, arts and crafts and entertainment. 180 beds (indoors) are available at the campsite. For more information, call (601) 896-3196.

DALLAS-LESBIAN VISIONARIES will host it's first "Share The Vision" meeting on September 20th. These

meetings will feature topics of interest to the Lesbian community and will be held monthly. The September program is titled "Making It Last", and will feature three Lesbian couples who have been together for at least ten years talking, and answering questions, about their relationships.

NEW MEXICO -Women On The Water (WOW), a weekend of fun, concerts, workshops and friends, will be held at Elephant Butte Lake, Sept. 13-15. The First Annual Semi-Professional Scramble Golf. Tournament. will be held in conjunction with WOW. For more info, call 505-744-5431. Don't put it off — space is limited!

HOUSTON - The Women's Group will present Garla Bradley, a lesbian therapist, talking about current psychological thought in the area of sexual orientation on September 8th at the First Unitarian Church, Sojourner Truth room. For more information, call Iris at (713) 529-8571 or Laura at (713) 529-1886.

DALLAS - Women's Activities of MCC Dallas will hold its second annual Women's Arts and Crafts Festival to be held on Saturday, Nov 9th. If you are interested in selling your arts and crafts at the festival, please call MCC at (214) 526-6221.

NEW ORLEANS - The Vieux Carre'
MCC will host an Evening of Music
on Friday, Sept. 13th at 7pm. A variety
of musical talent from the Church's
musical department as well as from the

New Orleans community will be presented. Funds raised will go to buy air conditioners for the Church's new building.

FT. WORTH - Theresa Trull will be in concert on Sept. 14th at Orchestra Hall (4401 Trail Lake Dr.) at 8pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance (\$15 at the door) and available at CONNECTIONS and CROSSWORDS bookstores in Fort Worth and at CURIOUS TIMES in Dallas.

ARLINGTON - You've been waiting for it! Farron will be in concert at Fatsos Burgers and Blues (428 E. Lamar Blvd.) on Weds., Oct. 30th at 9pm. Tickets are \$10 and are available by calling (817) 461-3287. Seating is very limited and many tickets have already been sold, so call for reservations and tickets now!

DALLAS - The Oak Lawn Band will begin its eleventh concert season with An Afternoon at the Pops! on Sun., Sept. 15th at 3:15pm at MCC Dallas. The concert will feature tunes from popular motion picture soundtracks, Broadway favorites, etc. - no Mozart or Bach this time! Tickets are \$5 and are available at CURIOUS TIMES or at the MCC Dallas Bookstore. Future concerts include: A Christmas Fantasy on Sat., Dec. 7th, and A Celebration of Our Heritage on Sat., April 28th. The band will also participate in the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America (LGBA) convention in Houston on Sept. 28-29. For more info, call (214) 826-8608.

HOUSTON - The PLAZA has yet another bar opening in September. XTC,

a dance bar, will open on Sept. 14th. This month at the PLAZA, you can also enjoy The Hoedown at the PLAZA on Sept. 6th, Live Entertainment every Thursday at MS. B'S and Happy Hour all night long on Tuesday thru Thursday and Sunday at the RANCH!

DALLAS - Be sure to check out the faceliftat DESERT MOON! They have new pool tables, dart games and lots more fun — all this to help the celebration as they enter their 3rd year! Be sure to say Hello to Jeanene and David while you're there.

ARLINGTON - If you are looking for some great country music don't miss Country & Western Newcomer of The Year 1991, Shelby Lynne, at ROPERS on Fri., Sept. 13th. Tickets are \$24.50 and are available at the bar. The show is to celebrate ROPERS first anniversary and will start at 10pm. Doors open at 8:30 for general admission ticket holders.

AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO - The girls at NEXUS have been busy for the last month. In addition to the original NEXUS-Austin, they now bring you NEXUS-San Antonio & PHAZE II in Austin! NEXUS SA is located at 8021 Pinebrook (formerly "The Circle") and will be opening in mid September. PHAZE II, Austin's newest dance club is open now at 117 San Jacinto. Specials at PHAZE II include Steak Night with Margie on Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm, Latina Night on Thursdays and After Hours on Saturdays.

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### DEAR AGNES

Answers to your questions about love, relationships & personal problems

#### Dear Agnes,

I am an old(er) lesbian. Why does it matter if I'm old or older? Why is there such a fear of touching, talking, or accepting older people in the Gay World? I am attractive, professional, etc. I am also a Christian and fun to be with. I don't see any clubs or groups for older lesbians. We are here and we want to be out there.

I honestly prefer someone my age (five years either way). Most younger women think when I talk to them, I am "after them". I just want to be a part of the gay world, and feel accepted when I walk down the street or go in the bars,

Is there a place for lesbians like me? I honestly feel I have a disease because I'm older. I could have cosmetic surgery just so I would be accepted, but I don't really want to do that. I can do lots of things financially, but all I want is to be accepted.

Should I just not give a damn? Should I get out there, wrinkles, age and all, and hold my head up high?

#### OLD(ER) LESBIAN North Texas

#### Dear Old(er),

You already have the answer... Get out there, "wrinkles, age and all", and hold your head up. Don't have cosmetic surgery unless it is really something you want to do for yourself.

American society, in general, is prejudiced when it comes to aging, and our

community is no exception. This is partly because we haven't had very many older role models to identify with. This attitude will hopefully change as the members of our community who have been "out" all their adult lives grow older. I don't see people crawling back in their closets and slamming the door just because they have reached a certain age.

One place you might look for support is an organization called Old Lesbians Organizing Committee (OLOC). This organization is designed to help you find and organize older lesbians in your area. They will provide you with ideas as well as support. For more information you can write to: OLOC, P.O. Box 14816, Chicago, IL 60614. Good Luck!

#### Dear Agnes.

I just saw Thelma & Louise — for the third time. What a great movie!

I can assure you that the criticism this movie has received is directly related to the light in which men are portrayed (a true picture in my estimation). I don't guess it has occurred to these critics that women are almost always portrayed as victims and/or sex objects. I guess it isn't pleasant to have the shoe on the other foot.

The reason I am writing is because the Hollywood community has already declared that *Thelma & Louise* is not a "hit" because it has only made \$50 million. In my view, it is a hit, and will probably be a cult film.

My point is that we, in the women's community, should support this kind of film. Women are consistently paid less in Hollywood and women over 45 years of age have hell getting any work at all. Couldn't we start a boycott of maledominated films? Just until the salaries for actresses are increased and studios see fit to produce more "women's" films.

What do you think? Sign Me A "Thelma" In The Making Austin, TX

Dear Thelma,

My money and social conscience are on your side.

Thelma & Louise is an excellent example of the "big budget", general release films we need to support. I have seen it twice and can't wait to see it again. After all, the money received at

the box-office is what counts. A movie that becomes a "hit" on videotape doesn't have the same impact as a box office hit.

Just like everywhere else, money talks in Hollywood. The only way more of these kinds of films will be made is to pay up and see the movies we like more than once, and to keep our money in our pockets when it comes to male-dominated films that portray women only as sex-objects and targets of violence.



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### THE OTHER SIDE

#### Another Look At LesbianParenthood From The Perspective Of The Non-Biological Parent.

Editor's Note: This Article Was Written In Response To The Article "Baby Boom" In Our July 1991 Issue. The Author Wishes To Remain Anonymous.

For the past 3 1/2 years, I have been in a very troubled, but until recently, seemingly determined, lesbian relationship with an incest survivor. Approximately two years ago, in spite of all the problems in our relationship, we decided to have a child through artificial insemination. Approximately one month ago (one month before our daughter \*Nancy's first birthday and two months after we had begun therapy to help our relationship) my partner \*Carol, the biological Mother, packed all our daughter's furniture, all her toys, and even all her food one morning while I was at work and moved back "home" with Carol's mother.

Now that Carol and I are "divorced" (Carol wrote, "If I can no longer justify a lesbian lifestyle to myself, how can I justify it to Nancy in a healthy way?") not only is Carol resisting my seeing Nancy frequently ("How will you explain that to her? It's not 'normalizing."") but she is also seriously considering changing her will to replace me as Nancy's legal guardian in the event of Carol's death by naming her sister's family as legal guardian to Nancy if something were to happen to Carol. Before we had Nancy, Carol and I went to a lawyer to set up wills that would give each other power of attorney, protect our rights to each other's property,

Carol, I would become Nancy's legal guardian. Except for this will, I have no legal

and that would protect my rights as a

parent, so that if anything happened to

rights to custody of Nancy. And even this will would probably not protect my rights if it were challenged in court by Carol's family.

Moreover, I am powerless to stop Carol from changing her will if she chooses to do so. In fact, I have no legal rights even to visitation. If Carol, or possibly later, her family, were to decide not to allow me to see Nancy at all.

Carol defends her recent actions concerning Nancy and me by saying that having a baby was something she had always wanted to do but something I had never even considered before.

However, many straight families begin this way - with one partner desperately wanting children and the other partner ambiguous yet supportive and no one would think of limiting visitation or denying custody to a straight parent, even a "non-biological" straight parent on these grounds.

I fear that Nancy's lesbian ties, especially her ties to me, may be phased out of her life, and I am powerless to change this if it is the case.

I have been a good Assistant Mom to Nancy. I love her as my own. I can think of no legitimate or healthy reason for our visitations to be restricted or for me to be phased out of her life or her phased out of mine. She has bonded with me as her secondary caretaker, and the knowledge that she and I must lose this bond and the fear that we might lose each other forever is the greatest pain I have ever known.

Right now, I am allowed absolutely no

say anymore in Nancy's life and how she is raised. I must ask permission for the time I spend with Nancy, for everything I do with her, and I must accept Carol's decisions gracefully. I have learned that if I try to "have a say" or if I press for more time with Nancy, my time with her is restricted even more. In spite of all this, Carol has said that she would never stop Nancy and me from seeing each other. I desperately hope this is true.

Yet I can't help but be afraid. Motherhood has changed us both. Motherhood has changed Carol in such a way that neither she nor I know who she is. The homophobia that has crept into her, in between us, and it appears inevitably will creep into Nancy, is something neither of us expected to happen from within our relationship, from within

our own family.

When we first talked about having Nancy, we tried to discuss every angle, every obstacle, every possibility. What I feared most (and to a large extent what I feel has happened, especially considering our histories of emotional incest) was that Carol would become so enmeshed with our child that she would have no room left for me. I expressed this fear to Carol, but usually we would both become so defensive about it that we never truly explored it. (That should have been a signal to us both, I guess.) But one thing we never even discussed - one thing we never feared would be an issue - was the possibility that motherhood would tap into hidden homophobic fears that we didn't even know existed within us. Neither of us had any idea that homophobia would be an issue, especially for Carol.

For the past fifteen years of her life, Carol has been very strong about her lesbian identity, and for the past five to ten years, she has been a lesbian activist. She has given "coming out" talks to college classes and to feminist conventions; she took me to the Gay and Lesbian Rights March on Austin; and she is even mostly "out" at work.

Not to mention that when we first had Nancy, Carol was so sure, so strong, so determined to be honest with Nancy right from the start about our lesbianism that I had to face my own homophobic fears about job security. Nevertheless, I had to agree that total honesty form the start was best for Nancy.

However, last May Carol told me that she was having second thoughts about being honest with Nancy. Carol had been, and still is, getting much closer to her family since Nancy's birth, and she feared that her family's silence, their unwillingness to be open about our lesbianism, would confuse and negatively affect Nancy, and it would be better for Nancy if we were also silent, at least until Nancy was old enough to ask and understand the social implications. I was shocked and greatly frightened by this change in Carol, yet my own homophobia led me to agree with this new plan.

(Carol's family was always very nice to me, and although all was known but unspoken by the adults and substantial efforts were made to conceal the truth from the children, I'm not sure that Carol's family wouldn't have tried to be more "open" — for Nancy's sake, for Carol's sake, for our sake — if we'd ever been brave enough to actually ask

them to do so.)

So far, Carol has allowed me to see Nancy as a "friend", I guess. She doesn't know yet what she is going to tell Nancy about me. She says at least I'll be represented as the person who helped Carol find the courage and strength to have Nancy. That is only a small consolation to me right now. I wanted to help raise Nancy in an environment that truly nurtures the female spirit, respects female rights, and values female strengths. The only place I have truly experienced

this is within the beauty, power, and wisdom of the feminist lesbian commu-

nity.

Yet Carol is right; if she can no longer justify a lesbian lifestyle to herself, she will not be able to justify it to Nancy in

a healthy way.

She needs time to sort things out. Carol is a good person and a good Mother. She is a strong, moral woman with amazing powers to survive and to heal herself. I am praying that she will pull through for Nancy and me - that she will stand up for Nancy's and my rights to be important in each other's lives. Meanwhile, however, I must wait and live in fear that Carol may allow herself and Nancy to be sucked under by the potently homophobic and sexist values of the patriarchy, and that Nancy and I might even lose each other forever.

If you are the lesbian partner of someone who wants to have a baby, my advice to you is to go to a lawyer and draw up more than a will - both of you draw up and sign a contract - an agreement to co-parent with specific stipulations for visiting rights and child sunport in case of "divorce" as well as legal guardianship custody rights in case of

death.

However, please be aware that neither the will nor the contract will be legally binding if the biological mother, or maybe even her family, choose not to honor them.

(By the way, though some states allow lesbian or gay couples to adopt someone else's child, no state so far allows a gay or lesbian to adopt her or his partner's biological child. Also, for your information, typical child support payments make up twenty percent of the net income of the estranged straight parent. And typical visiting privileges do not begin until the child is three years old. Before three years the courts and the parents get together to decide how often the estranged parent may

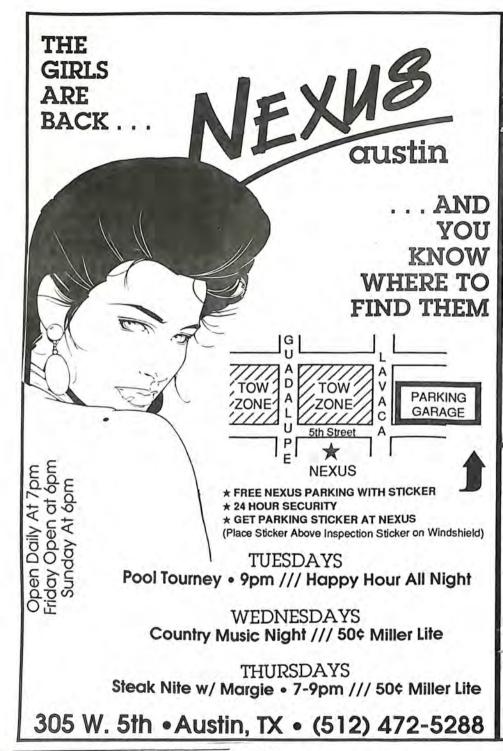
visit the child and on what conditions he or she may visit. After the child is three years old, typical visiting privileges include the following: one full week at Christmas; every other year for each holiday other than Christmas; and every first, third, and fifth weekends of each month.)

Most importantly, if you are the lesbian partner of someone who wants to have a child, please beware that parenthood will test and continuously stress your relationship, probably change you and definitely change your partner, I was told by many people that it is supposedly normal, or, at least, extremely common, for new mothers to become so obsessed with their babies that they are unable to give love or energy to anyone else for awhile, especially their partners.

My own Mother told me to "hang in there" with Carol until Nancy was at least eighteen months old. But I didn't get the chance. After Nancy's birth Carol began pushing me farther and farther away and continued pushing me away until now she views her "family" as herself and Nancy, with me excluded. Although I feared this from the start, and although I had never before dreamed of becoming a parent, I couldn't help but continue to love Nancy more and

more every single day.

Finally, please beware that even if you have never thought about having kids before, even if, in your wildest dreams, you never saw yourself as a parent, more than likely, you will become a parent, maybe even a Mother, in your heart, in your mind, and in your soul; and you will love your child more than life - more than you have ever loved before - and you will have no legal rights, even to visitation, if the biological mother wants to take your child away.





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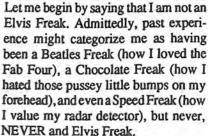
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#### WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD?

#### **ELVIS LIVES!**

BY NANCY FORD



I was raised to believe that Elvis Freaks collect aluminum cans to save money to vacation in Graceland with dozens of cousins, all of whom have "Joe" or "Jo" as a middle name. Elvis Freaks all have hair-dos that emulate Nancy Sinatra's coiffure when she recorded "These Boots are Made For Walkin'" — and sometimes not just the women. Elvis Freaks live in mobile homes balanced precariously on cinder blocks not because they have to, but because they want to.

I am NOT an Elvis Freak.

But I do believe The King ain't dead. It all started on my birthday, which incidentally is August 7th for those of you who like to complete your shopping early. Among my gifts were a pair of socks that sing "Happy Birthday To You" when you slap the ankle. Perfect for a clogger or an Ocktoberfest dancer. Among other assorted loot was a colorfully-wrapped package that piqued my curiosity to the max in that it had obvi-



ously been refrigerated. You know me. I opened the box. Carefully placed inside were individual microwave servings of White Castle hamburgers, Ore-Ida Tater Tots, and a box of bite-sized Baby Ruths. At the bottom of the gift box was a copy of Gail Brewer-Giorgio's best-selling paperback book and cassette entitled "Is Elvis Alive?" The accompanying birthday card read:

"Dear Nancy—Happy Birthday! Now that you're all grown up, it's time we tell you the truth: ELVIS IS ALIVE! We know what you're thinking—we've heard it all before—but the plain facts are that The King lives! We're hoping you're old enough to understand; with age comes a wisdom and a special peace from within that enables us to believe damn near anything. Some have referred to this as senility; we like to think of it as selective reasoning.

"We've gathered together most of The King's favorite foods; please enjoy a snack while you read this fact-filled handbook and listen to the tape. As your blood sugar rises and your arteries clog the facts will become clearer. Of course, we can't guarantee this, but some followers have actually seen The King while reading this document. Their secret: a loop tape of "Viva Las Vegas" and four percodans. But go at your own pace—eat, read, listen, eat some more.

call everyone "Sonny Red" if you like - that's the way Elvis would want you to learn the facts. Enjoy!" Well.

I played the cassette. It sounded like The King, especially if he had been taped while making a long, LONG distance phone call without the benefit of fiber optic technology, possibly speaking into the receiver through an empty paper towel tube.

I took a bit of burger, popped a Tot, and breezed through the Babies Ruth.

My friend was right. As my glucose level rose the living room took on a ethereal quality. One more Tater Tot pushed me over the edge. I believe The King lives.

There was a knock. I opened my door to find The King standing there.

He came. I saw. He conquered. I was aghast, to say the least.

Entering the room, but first wiping his feet on the welcome mat, he spoke. "Nice place you got here, ma'am. Nice ethereal quality."

Just like Elvis - so polite.

"Thanks," I replied, still aghast. I felt his eyes bore a hole through me, as though somehow he knew that the LPengorged orange crate in the corner contained not one Elvis album - not even "Aloha From Hawaii."

"Sorry about the delay, ma'am. I would have been here in thirty minutes or less. but or the way I noticed a stray dog that looked kinda lost and scared, but he had tags on his collar, so I picked him up and took him to the pound. He ain't nothin' but a hound dog, but his family is probably happy to have him back. Anyway, here's that large pepperoni you wanted."

Only then did I notice the flat, white 20"x20"x20" box he held horizontally above his head. "If you don't say any-

thing about this, neither will I. Please ma'am, don't be cruel. I need this job." Instinctively he placed the box on the coffee table, picking up a \$10 bill, but leaving the coupon.

"Keep the coupon," he said, winking.

"This one's on me."

Yes, I saw his face. Now I'm a believer. Shaken, I collapsed on the couch. As I often do when in need of spiritual guidance, I flipped through my Bible to the passage that was hopefully Divinely intended to calm me. The pages randomly opened to the Book of Revelation, chapter 17, verse 8:

"And the people of the earth . . . will be dumbfounded at his reappearance after being dead."

You figure it out.





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# THE COFFEE CLUB

LESBIANS IN THE ARTS . BOOKS, MUSIC, MOVIES, ETC.

THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER REVIEWS:

# ZETA BASE

by Judith Alguire

# Second Chance

by Jackie Calhoun

The sun is dying. This is the premise of Zeta Base by Judith Alguire, the latest in a growing list of great lesbian science fiction.

Several hundred years in the future, after the schemes of humankind have almost obliterated the earth and severely weakened the sun, Antiquity, Earth's science-philosopher makes the startling announcement that the sun is taking the last steps towards death. However, Antiquity's age and her use of outdated

instruments to arrive at her conclusions cause doubts about the accuracy of her prediction.

Into the fray step Antiquity's three proteges: Morgan, Jaffey and Deirdre. Morgan is an artist and daredevil, Jaffey is a brilliant engineer now living on Zeta Base, a planet fashioned in the pattern of the Earth of times past, and Dierdre is a biologist determined to save the animals of Earth. The three women are involved in a love triangle

that dates back to their days as students of Antiquity.

Zeta Base is a truly imaginative story. The picture Ms. Alguire paints of an Earth without trees and a lack of bright sunlight is frightening and very realistic. The only thing I would wish for is that the book be longer and the characters more defined. The story itself is good, but with the ending leading so obviously towards a sequel, I can only hope that it comes soon.

Next, we'll look at Second Chance by Jackie Calhoun. Amy Netzger has recently separated from her husband to live with her lover Deb. Although her husband has been very understanding about the whole affair, her children are having a hard time with the situation. In particular, Amy's daughter, Marge, has refused to see or talk to her for months. In addition to the problems with her children, Amy is also half-owner of a rental business with her husband. The business demands much of her time. Deb is a teacher, and is left to entertain herself during summer vacation. The real trouble starts when Deb takes up sailing with another teacher. The long

days on the water quickly turn the sailing partnership into an affair.

Amy's family starts to come around after a serious car accident and a burglary at the rental business. They begin to accept Amy's choice, but they still exclude Deb from family gatherings. Then Amy finds out about Deb's indis-

cretion and all hell breaks loose.

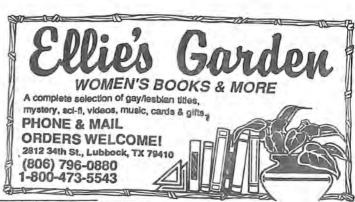
Second Chance is a novel about choices.

Choices we all have to face in one form or another. The characters here don't have perfect jobs, perfect lovers or perfect lives. They are real people with real problems. The book takes a look at things as diverse as coming out to your family, dealing with a philandering

lover, and owning your own business.

Both Zeta Base and Second Chance are available for \$9.95 from your local bookstore or by mail from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please include 15% for postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.





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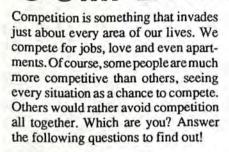
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For more information call 713-528-0748

# ARE YOU TOO COMPETITIVE



- **1.** When you find out that a friend has received a promotion and is now making more money than you are, you:
- a. Say nothing and start the big push for a promotion for yourself.
- b. Congratulate her and ask her to take you to dinner since she's making so much money now!
- c. Congratulate her and offer to take her to dinner.
- 2. When your ex-lover starts seeing someone else, you:
- a. develop a sudden new interest in her.
- b. could care less one way or the other.
- c. Are glad that she is happy.

- 3. A friend invites you to play tennis with her. She is a much better player than you. You:
- a. say no. You don't have a chance of winning.
- b. tell her you'll go only if she'll go easy on you.
- c. go. It'll give you some exercise, even though you'll get beat.
- **4.** A big social occasion is coming up and you need a new outfit. You:
- a. buy the latest style, even if you can't afford it and it doesn't suit you.
- **b.** buy something stylish that you can wear again.
- c. wear the same thing you've worn to every occasion for years. It's fine and you can't afford anything new.
- 5. When you are playing any team sport you like to:
- a. be the star player on a winning team.
- b. contribute to the team work of a winning team.
- c. have fun. Whether you win or lose isn't important.

6. You are head over heels for a woman you just met. She is also casually dating a friend of yours. You:

a. try to always give the best gifts and take her to the fanciest restaurants figuring you'll win out eventually.
b. be yourself and hope for the best.
c. give up. You don't stand a chance anyway.

7. You believe that what others think of you is:

 a. more important than what you think of yourself.

b. important, but not as important as your happiness.

c. not at all important.

#### SCORING

Give yourself points as follows: 2 point for every "A" answer 4 point for every "B" answer 6 point for every "C" answer

#### If You Scored: 14-23

Your competitive spirit can be an asset or a liability. It works great for you when you are working toward something as an individual, but when team work is required it can cause you prob-

lems. Your desire to always be the star player can stifle your career because it hampers your ability to work well with others. On the social front it can cost you friends as well as money. You don't want to keep up with the Joneses, you want to stay ahead of them at all costs. Keep in

mind that you don't always have to be out front. Your friends, lovers and family will appreciate you more when you quit trying so hard to be always better and brighter. Let those around you have the limelight every once in awhile and you will all be happier.

#### 24-33

You know when cutthroat competition is called for and when to back off. You are smart enough to know that the cost of winning does not always justify the reward. Stepping on the toes (and egos) of friends and co-workers just to be the best is not your style. You would rather compete on your own merits and if you lose, you pick yourself up and try again.

#### 34-42

You have a tendency to give in when the going gets rough. As a result you often end up settling for the dregs instead of drinking some wine. You need to learn to ask for what you want, and fight for it when necessary. You need to learn to push for recognition at work and at home. Your unwillingness to jump in and compete for what you want may be costing you more than you know.



### Horoscope

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

#### ARIES

Don't blow your money trying to impress someone during the first week of September. Not only will it ruin your budget, it won't help the relationship. After the 16th changes on the job could be happening too fast to suit you. Take your time to sort things out or you could get behind. "Vacationitis" could hit you hard towards month's end. A weekend getaway could get you back on track.

#### TAURUS

Love is in the air during the first part of September. This could be the "real thing" if you play your cards right. After the 14th try your best to be gentle when dealing with a sensitive issue that has clouded a friendship. Around the 24th you may be forced to choose between work and play. See if you can reach a compromise. Towards month's end an excess of money may allow you to go on that shopping spree you've been wishing for all month. Enjoy!

#### GEMINI

After an upset on the first, your personal affairs will experience a definite upturn during September. Until the 14th your social obligations will keep you close to home. After the 14th your career or business will take up much of your time and may bring some stress. You'll be able to get away and relax around the 23rd, but the race is back on toward's month's end. You'll score a breakthrough on the job on the 30th. Get out and celebrate with friends.

#### CANCER

Hang on to your pocketbook during the first part of September. You could be in for a big shock when major car or home repairs hit your budget where it hurts. Financial matters smooth out after the 17th, but then you'll have to deal with problems on the romantic front. Actually, the problem may not have anything to do with you. Outside influences may be harming your relationship. Find out what is going on and try to resolve the problem. Take the advice of a friend toward month's end.

#### LEO

Your career ambitions move into high gear during the first part of September. Your dedication to moving up the ladder could bring you a raise or promotion by the 17th. Your "career-first" attitude could be playing havoc with an important relationship. Try to take her feelings into account when filling your social calendar for the last two weeks of the month. You may be able to arrange an extra day off work over Labor Day for the two of you to get away together.

#### VIRGO

Opportunity will be knocking during the first part of September, but you may not be ready to open the door. Take a good look at what you really want before you take on a project that's not suited to you. The focus shifts from work to home after the 14th. A new "home-improvement" project could be in the works. Avoid impulsive deci-

sions and consider your choices carefully before making a major purchase.

#### LIBRA

Take care not to come on too strong with someone in authority during the first week of September. Use charm and politeness to get your point across. A new romance could be budding after the 12th. Trust your instincts about another's motives, they may not be as noble as they first appear. Avoid burning the candle at both ends after the 20th. You may need to back off a little before a relationship gets out of control.

#### SCORPIO

You'll have to be careful what you say if you want your private affairs to remain private during the first part of September. Work and career matters will be the focus after the 15th. An idea you came up with could get off the ground and bring you favorable attention from higher ups. However, a problem could arise after the 24th that just won't seem to go away. Stay positive and don't lose your cool. Things will work out for the best by month's end.

#### SAGITTARIUS

You'll need to support, not criticize, a close friend during the first week of September. After the 9th you'll be able to mix business and pleasure with ease. Promoting your social image on the job will help you get noticed. A weekend getaway over the 14th could be just what you need to recharge your batteries. Try to be tactful when dealing with a problem in your relationship after the 24th. Your tendency to be outspoken could land you in hot water if you aren't careful.

#### CAPRICORN

Although your finances might be somewhat limited, your love life is on a roll during the first week of September. Business travel will offer personal pleasure around the 7th, you may make new friends or meet up with old ones wherever you go. After the 18th you attract attention wherever you go. Don't let your popularity go to your head. A relationship could be on shaky ground towards month's end. You may have to compromise to make your partner happy.

#### **AQUARIUS**

Money concerns are finally behind youduring the first part of September. You have the time (and money) now to concentrate on goals you set in the past. After the 17th your career could take off when you find a new direction for a stalled project. Don't get cocky! There are still plenty of pitfalls to trip you up. A work vs. home conflict could arise after the 27th. Try to work out a compromise to suit all parties.

#### PISCES

A relationship that has been on shaky ground takes a turn in a positive direction during the first part of September. After the 8th you may not be feeling very enthused about your job. But, favorable influences are at work and you could be in line for a raise or promotion if you keep your nose to the grindstone. After the 18th you could be caught off guard by someone from your past. Be careful, their intentions are not good. Your budget could be restricted around the end of the month.



#### MY MOMENTS OF MOMENTS

After the hugs gentle laughter and tears after the welcome home meal here in the house of my birth I sit cross-legged on the parlor floor trembling unwarmed by the fireplace For now is my moment of moments; telling my parents about her my heart pounding out the words with a brazen steel mill can't-hear-myself-think sound They only stare at my cropped auburn hair torn faded leans young womanhood lost in an oversized shirt.

I want to flee their confusion and hostile fear-brightened eyes mother's nervous rocking father's shocked surprise But now is my moment of moments rehearsed and rehearsed brave little confession that shatters their world and robs them of long-dreamed wedding plans carefully wrapped in white lace.

I reach out imploring to every memory shared only to feel my family withdraw unravelling their love from around me disowning their only child in this my moment of moments here in the house of my birth.

-Maria Veronica Bakkum Sloux Falls, SD

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### THE DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

#### ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505)

organizations

Sister Source Cooperative & Lesbian Resource Line

144 Harvard SE • 268-2116

#### ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817) clubs

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

organizations

Gay/Lasbian 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 Lesblan/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/Lesbinn 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 Springdale Rd. • 929-3660 Oasis Ministry . 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 . 441-9191 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 328-3830 Sapphirel . 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)

#### DALLAS, TX (area code 214) businesses

607 Nueces St. 78701 • 477-5822

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

Desert Moon - 5039 Willis - 828-4471

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

organizations

Affirmation • PO Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546 AIDS Resource Center • P.O. Box 190712 75219 Asians & Friends • PO Box 9142 75209 • 392-3339

Congregation Beth El Binah P.O. Box 64460 752206 • 987-5138

Dallas Gay Alliance - P.O. Box 190712 75219 - 528-0144

Dallas Gay/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

GLAAD/Dallas • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 526-GLAD

Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus 2727 Oak Lawn 75219 • 528-2811

Lesblan 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 Tegether • 3920 Cedar Springs •528-4233

#### DENTON, TX (area code 817)

#### businesses

Athena's Attic - books, jewelry, art, etc.

106 N. Austin St. • 565-9755

#### 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) organizations

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

#### HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

businesses

Inklings • an alternative bookshop 1846 Richmond • 521-3369

clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3464 Ma. B's • 9208 Buffalo 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 & Leablan Switchhoard 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 Joanna • 521-9772 Lesbian/Gay Students-Univ. Houston Clear Lake 2700 Bay Area 77058 Matropolitan Community Church Of The Resurrection 1919 Decatur • 861-9149 Montrose Counseling Center 900 Lovett #203 77006 • 529-0037 Montrose Pool League/Billards - PJ 863-8482 PWA Coalition - Houston • 1475 W. Grav #163 • 522-5428

#### LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)

Wornynspace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601

Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

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

organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance
P.O. Box 84746 79464 \* 796-2403
Names Project/Lubbock \* 796-1800 or 744-1957
Wild Wilde West Productions — theatre co.
P.O. Box 504, 79408 \* 798-0880

#### NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for Leeblan/Gay Concerns - P.O. Box 1021 - Evanston, IL 60204 AIDS Action Council • 729 Eighth St. S.E. Suite 200 Washington, DC 20003 •(202) 547-3101 AIDS 800 • 1-800-221-7044 Conference For Catholic Lesbians P.O. Box 436, Planetarium Station - New York, NY 10024 GLAAD/USA - 80 Varick St. #3E - NY, NY 10013 Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE Mational 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/Leablan Crisistine 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

Omis the Community Center 2135 NW 39th 73112 • 525-AIDS Herland Slater Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9696

#### SAN ANGELO, TX (area code 915) businesses

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

#### SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 512) clubs

Mexus San Antonio • 8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

organizations

Dignity/Sen Antonio - 202 N. St. Mary's - 349-3632
Integrity/Sen Antonio
P.O. Box 150006 78212 - 684-4920
River City Living Metropoliten Community Church
202 Holland 78212 - 822-1121
Lambda Students Center - 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.
LISA (Lesbian Information SA) - 828-LISA (5472)
SALGA - Sen Antonio Lesbian & Gay Assembly - 733-7300
SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
P.O. Box 12715 78212 - SALSA Line 733-1225
Sen Antonio AIDS Foundation
P.O. Box 120113 78212-9313

San Antonia Tavern Guild • 822-2823

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#### PERSONALS

DFW Professional Gay Female seeking friendship/companionship. I'm 40, feminine, college grad. I enjoy sports, outdoors, the Arts & Travel. Nonsmoker! Oh yea, I'm cute too. Reply to Box #356.

GWF - San Antonio - 20's, romantic, sincere, mature, open, sports and nature lover, looking for same. please no drugs or smoking. Light drinker OK. Not into roles! Just be yourself. Reply to Box #357.

DFW Lesbian - In search of woman with gentle spirit, quiet mind & open heart. Can offer same. Reply to Box #358.

ALBUQUERQUE, GWF, Butch not Dyke, 23, seeks feminine ladies interested in friendship and possible relationship. Drug free, occasional drinkers OK. Reply to Box #359.

#### ROOMMATES

HOUSTON - Roommate wanted to share 2-bedroom house, Bear Creek area; Non-smoker, no drugs. 713-550-2008.

LESBIAN Wanted, 3BR/2<sup>1/2</sup>B, w/spa, home. Plano. No smokers, \$225 + 1/3. (214) 618-4282.

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FREE LESBIAN MAIL ORDER BOOK CATALOG, describing over 400 books, records, videos (including ALL Naiad titles). Send 2 stamps to Womankind Books, Dept. DTX, 5 Kivy St., Huntington Station, NY 11746. Mailed Discreetly.

FREE introductory mail-order package from America's world-class lesbian/gay and feminist bookstore: Giovanni's Room, 345 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Call toll free: 800-222-6996. Monthly update subscriptions free to customers.

GAIA'S GUIDE 1991/92 WORLD-WIDELESBIAN GUIDE BOOK. 16th edition. Mail order: \$16.00 — (inc. p&h) from: LAMBDA RISING, 1625 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20009. Or toll free telephone order line: 1-800-621-6969; or local calls: (202) 462-6969; — seven days a week from 10am - midnight (Eastern Time). Accepting: Checks, money orders/VISA/Mastercard/&American Express.

GAIA'S GUIDE-1991/92 is also on sale in every Feminist — Lesbian/Gay — Alternative Bookstore in the world. In-store price: \$12.95

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TO LEARN HOW TO ANSWER
A PERSONAL AD,
SEE PAGE 34

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

WOMENLOVING WOMEN, all ages, write/meet - EVERYWHERE! - through The Wishing Well, Established 1974. Confidential. Prompt. Tender, loving alternative to "The Well of Loneliness." Introductory Copy \$5.00 (mailed discreetly first class). Also, "Well Talk" Tapes. Free Information: P.O. Box 713090, Santee, CA 92072-3090.

SAPPHIC SISTERS, Coded Lesbian "Personals", arranged by states/headings to find compatible wimmin. Free 50 word ad. Sample \$3. Sealed first class mail. Free information. Large SASE to: MATCHMAKERS, POB 9974-DL, Colorado Springs, CO 80932.

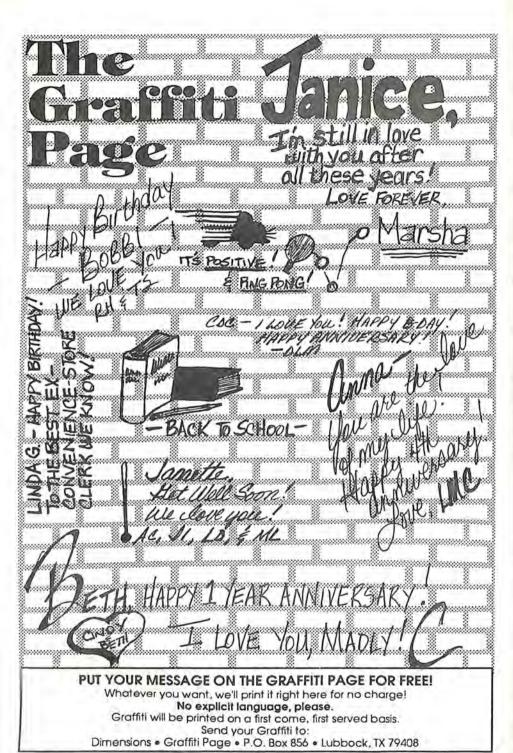
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