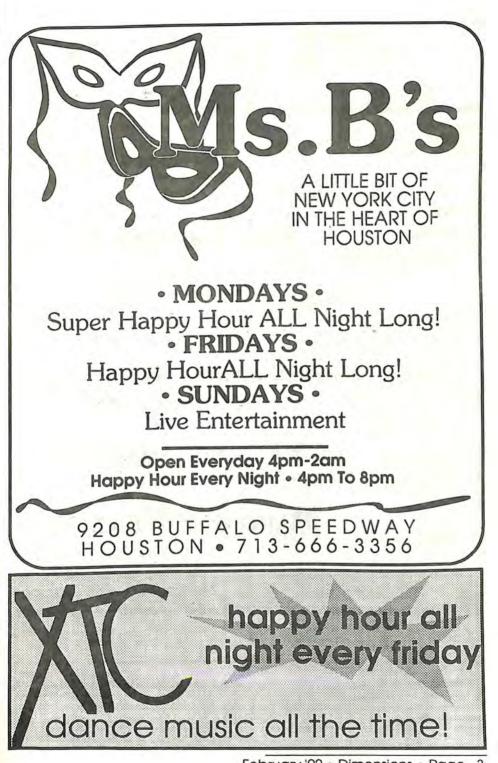


VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7











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## DIMENSIONS

P.O. Box 856 Lubbock, TX 79408 (806) 797-9647 Office Hrs: 1pm-6pm Mon-Sat



Kelly Chambers Managing Editor

Tasha Sumner Advertising & Art Director

Contributing Editors: Shannon Lacy Kelly Chambers Linda Monroe Cameron Taylor Judy Smith Nancy Ford

Shannon Lacy Production Manager

Suzanna Reilly Southwest Distribution

Cameron Taylor Staff Photographer

For Advertising Information & Rates, Call or Write Tasha Sumner at:

P.O. Box 856 Lubbock, TX 79408

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Articles and stories must be between 1500-2000 words in length, typed, double-spaced. Subject matter should relate to lesbians and/or women's concerns. Explicit erotica and profanity is discouraged.

Send your submission along with SASE to:



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# FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

## Gay Civil Rights Bill Has 100 Cosponsors in House

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A major breakthrough in the struggle for civil rights for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals came recently as the number of cosponsors for the federal gay civil rights bill in the U.S. House of Representatives topped 100.

"Obtaining 114 Congressional sponsors of our civil rights bill is a major milestone," said Peri Jude Radecic, the National Lesbian Gay Task Force's (NGLTF) Legislative Director. "It happened because our community is persistent and dedicated. This achievement belongs to every activist who sent a postcard, wrote a letter, called or visited an office this year on the gay and lesbian civil rights bill."

The federal effort to enact equal protections for lesbian and gay people has been underway since 1975 when then-Congresswoman Bella Abzug (D-NY) introduced the first federal lesbian and gay civil rights bill. The legislation has been reintroduced into every Congress since that time.

The legislation, officially known as the Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1991, is the only vehicle in Congress to provide recourse for those discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation. The bill numbers are S574 in the Senate and HR 1430 in the House.

The bills amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1968 to include sexual orien-

tation. These laws currently prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability and sex in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations, credit and federally-assisted programs.

Everyone should contact their Members of Congress and urge them to support and cosponsor S574 and HR1430. Contact NGLTF for constituent postcards: 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009.

The following list shows cosponsors from the Dimensions distribution area: SENATE (S574) NONE HOUSE (HR1430) Louisiana NONE New Mexico Bill Richardson (D) Oklahoma NONE Texas Albert Bustamante (D) Henry Gonzalez (D) Craig Washington (D)

## Thompson Wins Guardianship Of Kowalski (Again)

MINNESOTA - Calling Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski "... a family of affinity, which ought to be accorded respect," a Minnesota Court of Appeals named Thompson guardian of Kowalski. The decision, issued on December 17, culminates an eight year legal battle by Thompson for the right to care for her life partner Kowalski who was severely disabled in a car accident in 1983. Karen Tomberlin, who had been named guardian by the trial court, has 30 days to appeal the decision.

"The court's decision is a significant breakthrough, not just for Sharon and Karen, but for all women's rights, lesbian and gay rights and disability rights activists," said Patricia Ireland, President of the National Organization for Women. "In the choice of Sharon's guardian, Sharon's wishes and Karen's qualifications ultimately prevailed over the court's prejudices. It is gratifying that the court finally recognized and valued the right of people with disabilities to be self-determining and to live their highest quality of life."

"The trial court's decisions were shot through with gender, sexual orientation, and disability biases which caused Thompson and Kowalski inexcusable pain, suffering, and physical and emotional damage," added Rosemary Dempsey, Action Vice President of NOW.

As part of a "Campaign for Justice," NOW mobilized support for Thompson and Kowalski in the case. NOW organized rallies and helped publicize a hotline which generated letters of support to Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson. In addition, NOW filed a women's rights amicus brief in the Court of Appeals arguing that sexist stereotypes played a role in the trial judge not awarding guardianship to Thompson. Kowalski and Thompson made their first national public appearance after Kowalski's accident at the 1990 NOW National Conference in San Francisco where they were both awarded the NOW Woman of Courage Award.

## THRF Goes To Court, Announces Awards

AUSTIN - The Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) will be arguing *Morales v. the State of Texas* before the Texas Court of Appeals on January 29th (as this issue is being distributed). This case challenges the constitutionality of §21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, which criminalizes sexual relations between consenting adults of the same gender. Although THRF has already won in the trial court, with §21.06 being declared unconstitutional in that district, a victory in the Texas Court of Appeals would apply to the whole state of Texas.

In other news, THRF will hold the fifth annual Schwab Memorial Awards on February 8th in Houston. The awards, in memory of Houston activist Robert Schwab, recognize the following for their contributions to gay/lesbian equality over the past year:

· Gene Harrington - the Schwab

Memorial Award.

 Lt. Governor Bob Bullock - elected official award

- Tim Fleck of the Houston Press -
- journalism award
- Diverse Works community
- organization award, arts
- The Assistance Fund community

organization award, HIV/AIDS. • Queer Nation - community organization award, political • Inklings Bookshop - business award • Lois Moore, President & CEO of Harris County Hospital District appointed official award

Houston attorney John Paul Barnich
 advocate award

The featured guest at the event will be playwright Terrence McNally. For more information, call Robert Rosenberg at (713) 868-9560, or THRF at (512) 479-8473.

Texas Anthology Call for Entries Calling all Texas lesbian writers, artists

and photographers! Send orginal work to be considered for publication in the first annual Real Texas Cowgirls Wear Lavender anthology. Original art and photographs must be copy ready on 8.5"X11" paper. Original writing (poetry, short stories, essays, etc.) need to be typed and double-spaced. Include your name and city as you want it to appear in the anthology. Only two entries please. Send two dollars per entry along with an SASE. Although this anthology will be made available for both personal and public purchase, you will retain personal copyright. Mail to: saxeT Lavender Press, 2125 8th St. Port Neches, TX 77651. Deadline for entries is February 14th, 1992.



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DALLAS - Nancy Leiberman-Cline, known to fans of women's basketball as "Lady Magic" and the number one draft choice of the Dallas Diamonds will be the guest of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Church of Dallas (MCC-Dallas) on Sunday, February 23rd at both morning worship services (9am & 11am). At 10am Ms. Leiberman-Cline will be autographing her new book Lady Magic. Advance copies of the book will be available at the church beginning Sunday, February 9th. For more information, contact MCC-Dallas at (214)526-6221.

HOUSTON - Ann Reed will perform in Houston on Sunday, February 16th, presented by Hazelwitch Productions. Ann is an acoustic musician with six albums to her credit, and recently was recognized as Artist of the Year in her home state of Minnesota. The concert starts at 7:30pm at Fitzgerald's (White Oak at Studemont). Advance tickets are \$10 and are available at INKLINGS BOOKSHOP or FITZGERALD'S. Tickets at the door are \$12. For more info, call (713) 521-3369.

BEAUMONT - The First Annual Lavender Connection (TLC) Valentine Dance will be held at the Spindletop Unitarian Church at 1575 Spindletop Road from 8pm-2am Friday, February 14th. Admission is \$9 per person, \$16 per couple plus two canned goods. The donated canned goods will go to TANS and the Beaumont Women's Shelter. For more information, call (409) 724-1192. To order tickets by mail, send check or money order to TLC, 2125 8th St, Port Neches, TX 77651.

HOUSTON - The topic of the February LIB (Lesbians in Business) meeting will be "Buying A Home" with Suzanne Anderson, Owner Broker of Suzanne Anderson Properties and Stephanie Scott, CPA. Nominations for officers will also be accepted at this meeting. The meeting will be held Friday, February 21 at Innova, 20 Greenway Plaza (on Cummins between Portsmouth and Norfolk). For more info, call (713) 529-0077.

SANTA FE - Natalie Goldberg, author of Writing Down The Bones and Wild Mind, will teach a workshop for writers on Thursday, February 13th at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Mt. Carmel Rd, from 7pm-10pm. The workshop is designed to give you confidence in your own experience and writing. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Tickets are available in Santa Fe at Little Earth School, Ark Books, The Bookroom and Old Santa Fe Trail Books, and in Albuquerque at Full Circle books, Living Batch and Salt of the Earth.

HOUSTON - Q-PATROL is a foot patrol in the Montrose area to guard against violence and gay bashing. This non-violent, non-armed group is associated with Queer Nation. All participants must sucessfully complete training before being allowed on the streets. For information on how you can get involved, contact Tracy Brown at (713) 524-4657. **EVERYWHERE - Celebration The** atre, Los Angeles' only Gay and Lesbian theatre, is hosting its first annual New Play Competition. All plays must portray the Gay and/or Lesbian experience in a positive light. Winners will receive: 1st place, \$200; 2nd place, \$100; and 3rd place, \$50. For guidelines, send SASE to Celebration Theatre, New Play Competition, 4470-107, Sunset Blvd., suite 353, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

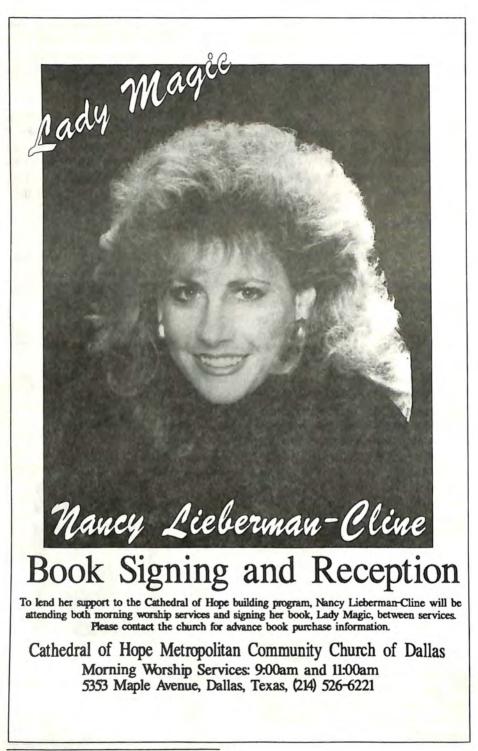
EVERYWHERE - The 4th Annual Gulf Coast Women's Festival will be held April 15-19 south of Jackson, Mississippi. Musicians include: Sue Fink, Jamie Anderson, Diane Lindsay and more. More than 30 workshops will also be held along with a craft fair. For registration information, please write: GCWF, 1806 Curcor Dr., Gulfport, MS 39507; or call (601) 896-3196.

HOUSTON - The Lambda Women's Support and Social Group meets every Friday from 6:30-8:30pm. The group offers discussion, social activities, guest speakers, referrals and a support network. For meeting place and more info, call Cheryl at (713) 736-1439 or July at (713) 724-7222.

AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO - Are you an Aquarius? NEXUS (Austin & San Antonio) is hosting a birthday party just for you! The Aquarius Zodiac party will happen on February 18th. And, don't forget to come in on your birthday for a free bottle of champagne! NEXUS - San Antonio is bringing back Tuesday Night Topics, be sure and call the bar for dates and details! Also in SA, get ready for the Patio & Volleyball. Teams are now forming (men, women & coed) so contact the bar to sign up. NEXUS - Austin will be celebrating their first anniversary in February and Davie, Myra and the staff would like to thank you for a great year! Don't miss Nicole & Co. in Austin every Tuesday at 10pm.

DALLAS - If you are into costumes, DESERT MOON is the place to be this month! First you can dress up in your tux or formal for the DESERT MOON High School Prom on Valentine's Day (Fri., Feb 14th). Then you get to dress down for the Beach Party on Friday the 28th! You get in free at both parties if you are in costume. Thursday's Cabaret Desert Moon will feature Lisa Michaels on the 6th and Marge Troyer on the 20th. Entertianment for the 13th and 27th will be announced.







RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

#### Dear Agnes,

I have been dating a woman that I met through the Dimensions classifieds. I wrote to her in October 1990. We didn't meet until July 1991.

Well, I really thought this was the woman of my dreams. Everything was going fine until the moment came when we decided that we should make our commitment stronger. By exchanging vows & rings and moving in together. There was only one problem - distance. She's in the military in San Antonio and I am in business for myself in Dallas. She asked me to move to San Antonio and I did. On the first day I arrived that's when the bitter side began to show. She began to complain about my men's clothes. She stated how disappointed she was being around me because of the way I dressed (short's, tshirt, gym shoes). I was tired because I had just moved.

The real reason I am writing to you is I really, truly love this woman. It really breaks my heart how her so called "love" for me has brought so much heartache and pain.

She's homophobic, which I don't understand because I am so open. I need your advice on how to handle this painful relationship.

HEARTBROKEN Dallas, TX

#### Dear Heartbroken,

Hopefully your bags are still packed.

Pick 'em up and walk out of this woman's house and life. I know this sounds harsh, but some people just aren't worth the effort.

Considering the welcome you received upon moving to S.A., and her fear of her own gayness; this is not a match — now or ever unless this woman has a drastic change in thinking. Since this criticism started immediately upon your arrival, it leaves me wondering if she really wanted you to come at all.

Tell her you are leaving and tell her why. Life is too short to take any crap over how you dress or act.

#### Dear Agnes,

My lover recently ended our relationship and because of this, I now have two unrelated problems. I'm writing for your advice and help on both of them.

The first problem is the feelings that I still have for my lover. I still love her and would love to have us back together, but I realize that I'm probably just dreaming on that point. However, I would settle for a friendship between us instead of nothing at all. How do I make the transition from one to the other easier for both of us? Is it even possible?

The second problem concerns a friend that helped me get through the hurt of this recent breakup by caring and being there. Although I have never admitted it before, I've always had feelings for this woman and now I feel like I'm falling in love with her. How do I tell her how I feel? Should I tell her? What happens now? Could I be feeling this way because of the breakup? Please help. This is all so very confusing.

GOING CRAZY New Orleans, LA

#### Dear Crazy,

Yes, it is possible to be friends with an ex-lover. My best friend was my lover for seven years. We broke up over ten years ago and have remained friends since. The transistion is very hard, but it can be done.

Sit her down and tell her what you want and then leave her alone. You both need space and time to get used to the change in your relationship. Don't expect her to do things for you just because she always has, and don't try to intrude on her personal life. Basically, you need to start over as acquaintances and work toward getting to know each other as friends. The continuation of any relationship depends alot on the people involved and their temperament.

About your second problem — before you tell this other woman how you feel about her, give yourself some time. Your feelings for her are probably related to your recent breakup. It is highly likely that your feelings are confused right now — and who's wouldn't be? Only time will allow you to sort through these feelings. You need to get to know yourself again and get in touch with how you are feeling. Get out and see other people before jumping into another relationship.

> WRITE TO "AGNES" WITH YOUR PROBLEMS AT: P.O. BOX 856 LUBBOCK, TX 79408





# The The Facts & Figures of Lesbian/Gay Love Love Dy Cameron Taylor

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Ten Percent. It is widely reported that gays and lesbians make up ten percent of U.S. population. So how do we, as part of that ten percent, stack up against straight America? Are our relationships better or worse than straight couples? Do we make more money? Both straight and gay people have assumptions about what being gay means in the areas of sex, religion, politics and crime. What follows is the result of several studies and polls of lesbians and gays and includes information on everything from relationships to religion.

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#### TOGETHER

One common stereotype about lesbians and gay men is that we do not have long-term, committed relationships. But, in 1979, a study by Dr. Alan P. Bell and Martin S. Weinberg concluded, according to the New York Times:

> ... that many homosexual men and women lead stable lives with outfrenetic sexual activity and that some are considerably happier and better adjusted than heterosexuals as a whole.

In fact, the study concluded that most gay and lesbian couples were happier

**GAY & STRAIGHT** 

*Examiner* in 1989 found that 59 percent of all gays said that they were currently in a relationship and that the average length of the relationship was 2.3 years. The same poll also found that lesbians, on average, had 2.5 relationships over the past ten years.

## SINGULARLY

AGE: According to the San Francisco Examiner poll, the median age of gay men and women in the U.S. is 36.4, compared to 38.9 for the straight population of the U.S.

POLITICS: The
same poll also
found that 51 per-
cent of gays con-
sider themselves
Democrats and 19
percent Republi-
cans. The other 30
percent either didn't
know, weren't reg-
istered voters or had
no party affiliation.
Seventy percent of
gays said they were
"liberal" or "very
liberal", compared
to only 34 percent
of straights.

than their heterosexual counterparts. Another study showed that the same number of homosexual couples and heterosexual couples scored in the

A poll conducted by the San Francisco

"well-adjusted" range on a standard-

ized test.

EDUCATION: Although I couldn't find any major studies on education, a spokesperson for the Department of Education told me that 21.1 percent of Americans have a college education. A survey of Dimensions readers showed that 46% of our readers are college

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	LESBIAN/GAY	STRAIGHT
Income (in th	ousands)	
	\$19.1	\$28.4
Self-employee	d	
	18%	11%
Very religiou	S	
	9%	21%
Not at all reli	gious	
	25%	9%
Politically lib	eral	
	70%	34%
Politically con	nservative	
	31%	7%
Currently mo	urried	1.00
Constraint in	9%	57%

graduates and 13% of those hold a Masters or Ph.D.

INCOME: The San Francisco Examiner poll reported a median income of \$29,129 for gay men and \$26,331 for lesbians. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that a male head of household in the U.S. earns \$24,556 on average, while a single female head of household earns only \$13,660.

RELIGION: While 21 percent of straight respondents reported that they and 97 percent of those said that their friends were supportive.

#### CRIME

**GAY WOMEN & MEN** 

COMPARISON CHART

LESBLANS

\$26.3

64%

57%

70%

33%

10%

44%

Income (in thousands)

Out of closet to family

Family is supportive

Out of closet at work

Victim of hate crime

Married before coming out

Currently in a relationship

One fear that many straight people express when talking about gays, is that homosexuals are molesters of children. Yet studies consistently show that most sexual abuse of children is by a family member and involves men who abuse young girls. One study reported that 88 percent of all child sexual abuse victims

GAY MEN

\$29.1

60%

75%

79%

62%

5%

28%

were "very religious", only 9 percent of gays said the same. At the other end of the spectrum, 25 percent of gays said they were "not at all" religious, compared to 9 percent of straights.

# COMING

Going back once again to the San Francisco Exam-

iner poll, 67 out of one hundred gays said that their families know about their sexual orientation. Of that 67, seventyseven percent said that their families were supportive.

Ninety three percent reported that their friends were aware that they were gay

were female and that the majority of abusers are male. And, according to the Gay Teacher's Caucus of New York, they have many complaints on file from female students having problems with male teachers, but they do not have any complaints from male students about male teachers.

## CONCLUSION

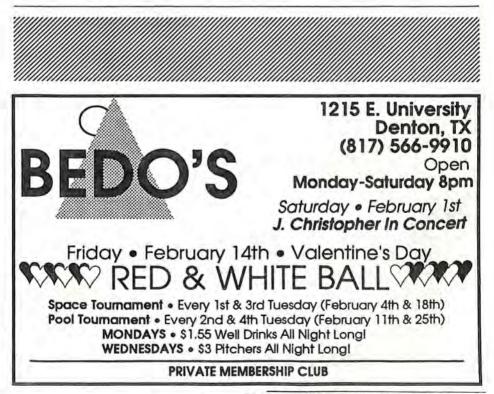
So how do we stack up against straight America? Pretty well! In areas of employment, income and education we definitely have an advantage. Not only do we make more money on average, we have more of it to spend because we have fewer children. In the area of relationships it seems we compare very well. Our relationships seem to be just as stable and long-lasting as most straight relationships and we may even be happier once we are in a relationship than most straight couples.

The rest of these statistics tell us something about ourselves: that it is likely our friends and families will be supportive if we tell them about our sexual preference; that we really aren't childmolesters; that we aren't very religious as a whole; and that we are mostly liberal democrats. They also tell us that, just like straight America, lesbians don't make as much money as gay men (although we are doing better than straight women).

Overall, we're doing pretty good. Now if we could just get the rest of America to understand that ...

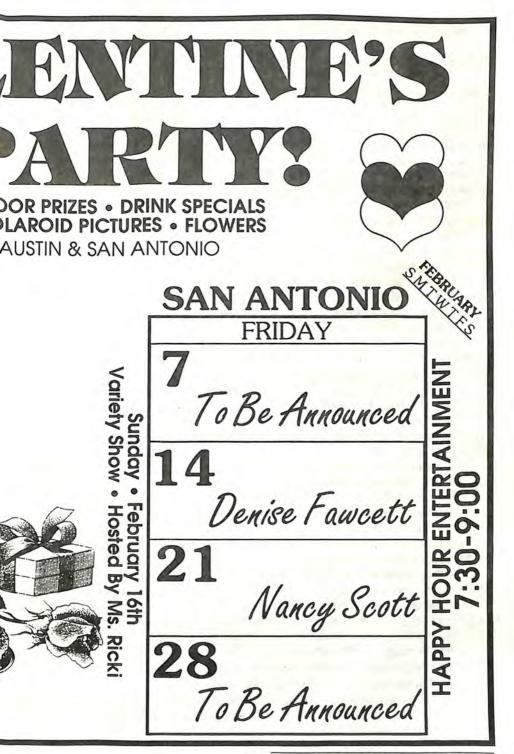
Information from the San Francisco Examiner's Special Report, "Gay In American, June 1989, is used here with permission.

Other information obtained from, Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life, Warren J. Blemenfeld & Diane Raymond, Beacon Press, 1988.



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# Conversations With Blanda

PART IX BY NANCY FORD

Bianda flipped on the light in the kitchen and opened the refrigerator. Evidently, the photo of an engorged Elvis taped to its door was not producing the revulsion to food she was hoping it might. "Well, let's see," she said out loud, her words echoing in the empty white cavern, rattling its nearly barren metal shelves. "Perfect. I have all the ingredients I need to bread an onion with baking soda, and make a sauce with whatever juice I can squeeze out of half a dried up lemon. Yum." She closed the refrigerator, groping for unexpired pizza coupons on its top. "I gotta think about going Krogering."

She entered the living room, turning on each light as she passed it. She thought somehow the additional wattage might compensate for the lack of sunshine that always accompanied the post-holiday rainy season. Tossing her jacket on the couch, she noticed the little red light on her answering machine was steady, flatlining, instead of pulsing with messages. "Look at that. I'm gone all day, and not one person has called. Nobody loves me. I have no friends. I have no life." On cue her stomach growled loudly, reminding her that she also had no food.

The phone rang. "Damn — I'm not home five minutes and right away the phone starts ringing." That Bianda — such an enigma. "Hello?"

"Hiya. Busy?" Bianda was never quite sure if Priscilla was being polite, or if she simply wanted to determine upfront how hard she would have to fight to capture all of Bianda's attention.

"No, I just walked in the door. I haven't had time to get busy yet. What are you doing?" "Nothing. I just turned off the news."

"I don't watch the news anymore. It's gotten too Chuck Norris for me."

"I know what you mean. But this station always ends with an uplifting story. Otherwise I couldn't take it either."

Believing firmly that no one ever overdosed on happy endings, Bianda bit. "Okay. What was tonight's uplifting story?"

"Get this. It seems that this farmer kid in North Dakota or somewhere was out in the field doing something with one of those big machines like you see on those Archer-Daniels-Midland commercials on Sunday mornings. Well, somehow this machine took off one of his arms at the elbow and the other one up to the shoulder."

"Oh yeah, I'm uplifted now. If I got any cheerier I might just burst into song."

"I'm not through. So this kid somehow makes it back to the farm house, kicks in the door, picks up a pencil with his mouth and dials 911."

"I'm warning you, Pris. I'm starting to tap dance . . . "

"Listen! Anyway, the happy ending is that the paramedics came right away, found his arms in the field, sewed them back on, and except for losing the actual use of his hands, he's going to be just fine."

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Bianda paused for a moment, then two moments, hoping, praying that was the end of Priscilla's tale. "That was a lovely story, Priscilla. Thank you so much for sharing it with me. I am truly uplifted. I gotta go now."

"You just don't get it, do you?"

Bianda thought hard. "Now let's see. I guess the moral of this story is, if you intend to operate dangerous farm machinery, make sure it's not in a heavily congested urban area where the 911 response time can be somewhat — shall we say — unpredictable." A helicopter flew overhead, beating the night air, completing the illustration. Sometimes Bianda felt as though she lived in a Chuck Norris movie.

"No, the message is, compared to this farm guy, we have no problems. Get it? No stress. The next time you think you've had a really bad day, look down and check to see if you still have your arms." With that, Priscilla folded her own arms over her breasts in metaphoric triumph, Bianda was almost certain. "The End."

"You know, for a woman who has never actually, biologically reproduced, you give great guilt."

"Hey, you don't live with and ex-nun for six months without learning something. Listen, my stomach is eating itself. Are you hungry?" Priscilla could switch focus faster than most Louisiana Replublicans jump party.

"As a matter of fact, I was about to order a pizza just before you called. C'mon over. You can tell me how your date with that blonde wrecker driver turned out."

"It's not much of a story. The evening started out with her kissing my hand. You know how I hate that." This from a woman who has been known to rinse her contacts in other people's mouths.

"Does this have something to do with your ex-nun? Is this a pope-ring thing, or what?"

"No, it's a sexist thing. It's a control thing. I never trusted a man who kissed me on the hand. Why would I trust a woman who displays such mannish behaviors? What do you want on the pizza?"

Another speed-switch. "Everything but the dead fish. Hang up so I can call Dominoe's. If you leave now, both you and the pizza should arrive at my door in thirty minutes or less —"

"---or I'm free!" Patricia squealed. "No, dinner's on me tonight. I've got a new connection at Pizza Hut."

"Are you dating another waitress? I thought you'd sworn off women who pay their rent with rolls of change."

"Don't be shallow. Besides, she's not a waitress. She's assistant shift manager."

Bianda's stomach growled again, suggesting that that onion in lemon sauce might no be so bad after all.

( ... to be continued)





i am Death when i allow the motion of my life to take a new path. i am Life when i am enlightened by this regeneration and i sense the delicate attunement to new perspectives - new visions. i am Enslaved when i refuse to face the reality of my fears. i am Free as i proceed into the expansive mysteries that await me. i am a Label when i relinquish myself to those who espouse mediocrity. i am Immune to prejudice when i nurture my faith, my strength. i am a Victim when i surrender my power and submit to that role. i am a Survivor of the chaos which burgeons from lack of understanding and awareness. i am Isolated when i allow the depth of my relationships to be retarded by my ineffective communications. i am Connected to the universe when i become impassioned by its intricacy. i am Afraid when i feel strangled by rigid, heartless thoughts. i am at Peace when i relinquish resistance. i am Colorless in the dark where i am heavy with hostility. i am Colorful in the presence of light, and of life. i am Numb when i cease to be moved by the music of the earth. i am Rhythm with each breath, each pulsation of my existence becoming the chorus of the universe as it reverberates my soul. i am Anesthetized when i obstruct my reflections and expressions. i am a Child; primitive and unevolved. i am a Time that is yet to come. I am You. You are Me.

Together, we are the ultimate paradox. - Wendi Ellen Jekubik Dallas, TX

Would you like to see your poetry or short stories in print? Send us a copy!

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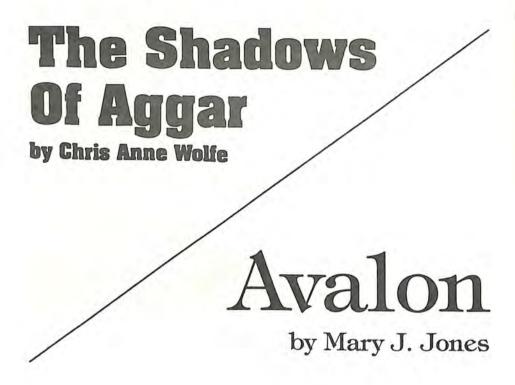
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## THE COFFEE CLUB LESBIANS IN THE ARTS • BOOKS, MUSIC, MOVIES, ETC.

THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER REVIEWS:



I'm not quite sure how to label both of the books I have to review this month. Historical, science fiction, fantasy romance novels might cover it. A better term might be "fairy tales for women". Whatever you call them, they are both great books.

The first is <u>Shadows of Aggar</u> by Chris Anne Wolfe (New Victoria Publishers, Inc.). The story centers on two very different women. Diana is an Amazon. She has come from an all-woman planet to serve as an undercover agent, disguised as a man on the medieval planet, Aggar. Elana has the "blue sight" and is assigned to serve as Diana's "shadow" on a dangerous mission to prevent an interplanetary war.

They face untold dangers from the local townsfolk, the different tribes and from their treacherous journey to rescue a downed pilot. Along the way, the two women become attracted to one another, but Diana doesn't realize what Elana's role of "Shadow" truly means. <u>Shadows of Aggar</u> is an imaginative and engrossing novel. Part science fiction, part romance and part adventure, this is a book that should appeal to just about everyone. Ms. Wolfe has created a richly woven story full of surprises. This is a must read for all women. <u>Shadows of Aggar</u> is available for \$9.95 from your local bookstore or from New Victoria Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 27, Norwich, Vermont 05055. Please include \$1.50 for postage.

Next is <u>Avalon</u> by Mary J. Jones (Naiad Press, Inc.). In the time of Arthur and Camelot, the Isle of Avalon is a women's realm. Argante, captured as a baby is destined to rule as Lady of the Lake. Her childhood is idyllic, and as she grows into adolescence, her childhood friend, Elin, becomes more and more important to her.

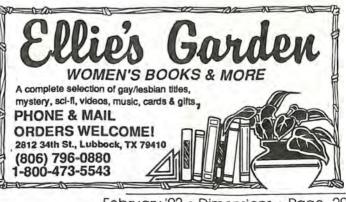
When Argante comes into power, she and Elin have been separated by war, and her once prosperous island nation is suffering through poverty, drought and disease. tional story of a time in history when women ruled over most of Europe. It will make you think not only about our past, but also about our possible future. I would definitely recommend it.

<u>Avalon</u> is available for \$9.95 from your local bookstore or from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please include 15% postage and handling. Complete catalogues are available upon request.



This pestilence is the work of Annis the Hag, the dark sister of the Goddess Mother. It is up to Argante, Elin and the Daughters of Avalon to save their island and the surrounding Celtic realm.

Avalon is the fic-



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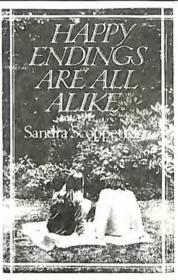
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## Love can hurt

Jaret and Peggy don't broadcast their love for one another, but Jaret's mother finds out anyway. Soon, like it or not, they must learn to deal with the outside world's reaction to their lesbianism.

"The characterizations in this novel are excellent. All the questions about a gay relationship are wrapped intriguingly within the story, so that scene after scene entertains as well as increases the awareness of young readers and parents." —Plexus

#### HAPPY ENDINGS ARE ALL ALIKE by Sandra Scoppettone



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Property of the Center

Yes, opposites do attract, but that doesn't mean they can live together. Every couple needs some common ground on which to base a relationship. Both of you take the quiz below (separately) then compare your answers. If you don't score in the same range, you need to talk!

1. You've gone back to her home-

town and go out to the bar to meet all her old friends. She:

a. gets you a drink then leaves you at the table while she makes a round of the bar talking to everyone.

b. leaves you at the door while she joins a group on the dance floor.c. takes you around and introduces you to everyone.

2. Her idea of a perfect weekend is watching any sport that comes on the

TV. Yours is: a. sitting by the fire with a great book

a. sitting by the fire with a great book and no distractions.

b. Saturday afternoon shopping with

friends, Sunday watching the big game with her. c. bribing her away from the TV with sex.

J. You are the one with the mechanical ability in the relationship. She:
a. lets you take care of the cars.
b. asks you to tell her what's wrong so she can fix it.

c. always ignores your advice and then tears things up.

4. You love to dress up, she:

a. loves to take it off.

b. wears only jeans & flannel shirts.c. will at least wear a blazer to dress up her jeans every now and then.

5. You both:

check all that apply

- a. like the same foods.
- b. enjoy the same hobbies.
- c. have mutual friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. have similar religious beliefs.
- e. have similar political beliefs.

Do you Agree or Disagree with the following statements?

6. You can't go into a relationship

expecting to change someone to meet your needs. Agree \_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_

7. There are no set rules for a successful relationship. Agree \_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_

8. It is always better to confront your problems than to ignore them. Agree \_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows. 1. a-4, b-2, c-6 2. a-2, b-6, c-4 3. a-6, b-4, c-2 4. a-6, b-2, c-4 5. 5 points for each one checked. 6., 7. & 8. 5 points for each "agree" answer.

If you scored: 46 points or higher

Yours is a match made in heaven! Of course, being a perfect match doesn't mean you are justalike. What makes you such a good pair is that you respect each other's opinions. You agree on most things, but even when you don't, you agree to disagree. You have

your separate interests, but that is what makes life interesting.

## 27-45 points

You get along the majority of the time, but you may let the same problems trip you up time and time again. You may think that a difference of opinion is cause for alarm. You could take a lesson from the group above. Remember that variety is the spice of life. If your tastes were identical, things might get pretty boring. Learn to respect the differences and take them in stride instead of worrying it to death.

## 26 points and below

You need to cut each other some slack. More than likely you were attracted to each other for the same traits that drive you crazy now. You need to find some common ground and start from there. Remember that you can't change anyone else, only yourself. You aren't perfect, why do you expect her to be? You both need to learn to forgive and forget. You can make it, but you are going to have to learn to talk things out and compromise a little.

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## ARIES

You seem to have a "sixth sense" about business and financial matters during the first week of February. Use these feelings to advance your career and improve your money picture. Try to find time in your busy schedule to enjoy some social activities before the 17th. After that you may be too snowed under at work to take time out. A relationship switches into high gear toward month's end.

## TAURUS

Interpersonal relationships are at the forefront, both at work and at home, during the first part of February. Be careful with whom you choose to associate 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 seperate to avoid new conficts. You may be feeling restless toward the end of the month. Take a break from your routine and the world will seem like a new place.

#### GEMINI

Your patience and persistence pay off this month when some of your longrange goals finally reach fruition. You may be torn between work and play during the second week. Someone you trusted could let you down — 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 your attention during the first part of September. Don't be rushed. Take your time and think things through. Take time to listen to a friend who needs cheering up after the 16th. Your mate could be feeling neglected after the 23rd — do something special to lift her spirits. Money matters dominate during the last week. Take time out to review your financial position.

## 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 February 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 February. 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

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

## **SCORPIO**

You seem to get bogged down in details either at work or in trying to manage your personal finances during September. 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

February will usher in a calmer time after all the activities of the holidays. 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

Your family and home life seem to be eating into your free time all month. Your optimism and sense of humor will get you through even when your patience wears thin. You'll feel 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 February. 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 your attention on work or you could wind up with major conflicts at home. Give yourself a break with a romantic get-away toward month's end.





# THE DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

## ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505)

Organizations Sister Source Cooperative & Lesblan Resource Line 144 Harvard SE • 268-2116

#### AMARILLO, TX (area code 806) organizations Lesbian/Gay Alliance • PO Box 9361 79105 • 359-4219

MCC of Amarillo • PO Box 1276 • 372-4557

#### 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

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#### clubs

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#### organizations

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#### FT. WORTH (area code 817) clubs

Partners - 3424 South Frwy. - 927-9555

#### organizations

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#### organizations

AIDS Foundation - 3927 Essex Lane - 623-6796 AIDS HOTLINE + c/o Switchboard + 529-3211 Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211 Gay & Lesbian Switchboard P.O. Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211 Houston Gay Political Caucus P.O. Box 66664 77266 . 521-1000 Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 862-7533 Lambda ALANON - Lambda Center for Alchoholics 1214 Joanne • 521-9772 Lesbian/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. Gray #163 - 522-5428 Womynspace . P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601 Women's Softball League - 6431 Pineshade - 868-6256

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

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

#### organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance & Wild Wilde West Prod. P.O. Box 64746 79464 \* 796-2403 Community Outreach Center & Outreach AA (Tues. @ 80m) \* 102 N. Ave. S \* 866-4380

#### 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 **Conterence 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/Lesblan 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)

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

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

Clubs Memories • 6402 Callaghan • 340-1241

Nexus San Antonio - 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 Lambda Students Center + 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave. 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 + SALSA Line 733-1225 San Antonio AIDS Foundation P.O. Box 120113 78212-9313 San Antonio Tavern Guild + 822-2823

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PROFESSIONAL Gay Black Female, extremely attractive, 36, looking to meet other professional lesbians for friendship and/or romance. Please include photo. You must be attractive, sensitive, and have a good sense of humor. Reply to Box #369.

BELLAIRE - fun, loving, adventurous, in 40's, for lesbians of same interest holidays, and summer. Reply to Box #371.

GWF, Early 40's, Mature and responsible, values openess, honesty, humor, compatibility, and stability. Interested in meeting like minded. No drugs, drinking, game players or stiff necks. Reply to #372.

GWF - 34 - Looking for friendship, companionship, possible relationship. Prefer Austin, but Houston OK too! I look butch, but am not into role playing. Exterior not important. Interior is what counts. Non-smokers preferred. Reply to #373.

BLACK, attractive, 29 year old gay female. Very nice! Seeking same; 29-35. Enjoy sports and traveling. Reply to Box #375.

HOUSTON - Attractive, professional, silky-soft butch desperately seeks sexy, educated non-smoker, 25-35, for fun, friendship and romance. Send me a letter describing your passions and peeves, and enclose recent photo. Reply to Box #376. BLACK, Feminine, Attractive in my own right. Tired of waiting and being empty and alone all of my life, seeking a long lasting relationship, looking for that highly passionate, aggressive gay woman, wanting and sharing my dreams. Love at first sight or second sight. No one-sided relationships. One who will share, not have hang-ups about their gay lifestyle, who is proud indeed. I want what I lost and never really had (true happiness). A beautiful commitment with a wedding cake and the works - true togetherness. No heavy drinkers, no drugs. Get along beautifully. don't like to fight, not many arguments. Enjoy beautiful waters, a sense and touch of class. Don't take things for granted, like to live in a small town. Willing to relocate out of U.S. to a beautiful island with beautiful blue waters with peace and tranquility. One who will cooperate and won't be overly jealous, negative and uptight about life, and won't hold anger. One who's really monogamous and knows that I am gifted with sight. Need someone warm and understanding who will really stick in my corner, but will not be afraid of unconditional love. Please no head trips or games. Have a good sense of humor. like movies, walking in the rain, walking on the ocean, beautiful gay resorts, beautiful gay cruises, dancing, musicals, concerts, candlelight, someone who has really never had, and will appreciate the same and deserve the same chance. Who enjoys driving on the roads and highways. Enjoys drinking coffee and tea. Please only sincere replies. Enclose photo if possible. Write to Sarah at P.O. Box 24, Tucumcari, NM 88401.

GWF - 25 yrs. seeking friendships in FWD area, before departing Hawaii. I enjoy the arts, pasta, tennis, life and family and friends. No drugs, no drinkers. Humor a must. Reply to Box #381.

GWF, Sincere; Affectionate; Romantic; Cute "soft-butch"; Versatile in hobbies, interests; Seeking feminine companion (21-35) in Ft. Worth-Dallas area. Reply to Box #377.

GWF - LATE 30'S - LOVES SUN-SETS, CAMPING & FISHING. SEEKS SPIRITUAL, CARING WOMAN FOR ROMANTIC LI-ASONS. SEND PHOTO PLEASE -WILL TRAVEL. REPLY TO BOX# 379.

GWF - Nacogdoches - Non-smoker, occasional drinker, seeking GF over 35 for dating, intimacy, possible lifemate. Likes C&W, outdoors, quiet evenings at home. Very flexible. Reply to Box #383.

GWF, Austin, 31, Professional, Christian, Non-smoker, non-drinker, softbutch. Looking for GWF/GHF for friendship, possible relationship. I like sports and dancing (I follow). Reply to Box #384.

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butch earth mother type for sparks & mutual nurturing. Special consideration given gutsy woman with brains. Reply to Box #386.

FT. WORTH - GWF - Big and Beautiful, looking for friendship and intimate relations with a married woman. Must be D/D free. Reply to Box #387.

## ROOMMATES

GWF - Ft. Worth - Looking for GWF to share two bedroom house. (817) 457-5136.

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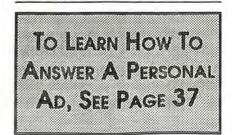
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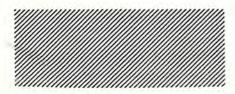
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# **A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**

A New Monthly Column From The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby Written By Laurie Eiserloh, Executive Director

This morning the letter carrier brought my spring issue of the Victoria's Secret catalogue. After perusing its perfumed pages filled with models in sexy lingerie, my lover Jess and I decided to indulge in a shopping spree at our nearby Victoria's Secret — one of our favorite rituals. Of course as lesbians shopping in a store that markets its products primarily to straight women, no trip would be complete without the following discussion: Is it politically correct to enjoy sexy lingerie? There is no single answer.

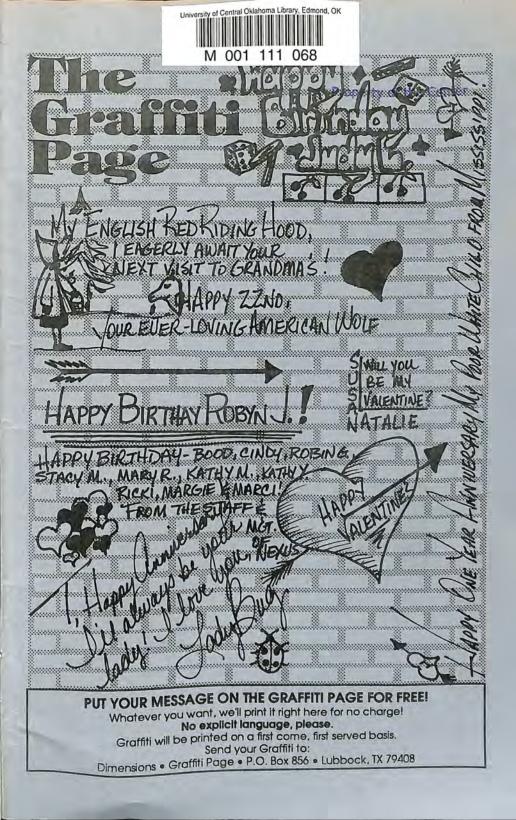
Victoria's Secret is actually a very appropriate name for this store. Women's underwear, particularly during the Victorian era, was a tool for the oppression of women. Consider the corsets, bodices, bustles and girdles that restricted women's movement and, in the 19th century, actually caused women to live their lives in perpetual illness. At one time, I worked in a Victorian museum in New Orleans where I saw the exhumed bones of women who lived in the 19th century: their ribs permanently bent under the corset, their collarbones and necks malformed from the pressure. Another danger to women in the 19th century were the highly flammable crinoline petticoats which instantly caught fire if brushed against a candle. The first year these petticoats were marketed in Victorian England thousands of women burned to death. Like the bone-crushing corset, the crinoline petticoat perpetuated violence against women.

Although women's underwear has vastly improved since the Victorian era, it remains a powerful symbol of oppression — as demonstrated by the bra burnings of the early modern feminist movement. Feminist theorists have pointed out that society teaches us to see and judge ourselves through men's eyes. In the Victoria's Secret catalogue, and most other depictions of women in lingerie, women are not presented as strong or independent, but instead as prone, weak, and submissive. At the same time, as such powerful lingerie-clad women as Madonna and Sandra Bernhardt have demonstrated, perhapes lesbians can appropriate sexy lingerie.

Many symbols in our society have been appropriated and reappropriated. For instance, the pink triangle which was originally used to identify homosexuals in Nazi death camps has become a symbol of the lesbian/gay movement. The cross, which was originally a device for torture and death has become a symbol of Christianity. The word "queer," once a derogatory term for lesbian and gay people, has been appropriated by Queer Nation and others. However there may be some cultural symbols such as the swastika that are too powerful to appropriate. Does women's lingerie fall into this category? Does it make a difference if women are wearing it for each other rather than for men?

Society has a powerful influence on all of us, and whether or not we are suffering from false consciousness, it cannot be denied that many lesbians find lingerie sexy on other women and on ourselves. Perhaps it is possible for us as lesbians and as feminists to appropriate lingerie from Victoria's Secret and make it our own.

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