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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9

APRIL 1992





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CONTENTS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9 • APRIL 1992

FEATURES

CRUISING! CRUISES FOR WOMEN 17

THE COFFEE CLUB

LESBIAN LITERATURE, MUSIC, MOVIES & MORE 24

QUIZ

ARE YOU A GAME PLAYER? 27

CONVERSATIONS WITH BIANDA

HUMOR BY COMEDIAN NANCY FORD 22

A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

WOMEN & POLITICS WITH LOBBYIST LAURIE EISERLOH 38

MONTHLY FEATURES

8 NEWS • 12 WHAT'S GOIN' ON

15 DEAR AGNES • 29 POETRY

30 HOROSCOPE • 32 DIRECTORY

35 CLASSIFIEDS • 39 GRAFFITI

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P.O. Box 856
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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
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Rates,
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Tasha Sumner at:**

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Lubbock, TX 79408

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**Dimensions needs
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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
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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

Meeting Between Bush & Gays Sparks Backlash

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Far Right organizations have seized on a meeting between the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Bush/Quayle '92 campaign to push anti-gay rhetoric to the forefront of the presidential race and attack gay and lesbian campaign visibility.

NGLTF representatives met with Robert Mosbacher, chair of the Bush reelection campaign on February 13 in Washington, D.C. The activists briefed the campaign on discrimination, AIDS and homophobic campaign rhetoric. Following national media coverage of the meeting, several arch-conservative political and religious groups aggressively condemned the meeting and demanded President Bush disavow himself from gay and lesbian issues.

"Having the highest-ranking member of your re-election campaign meet with the homosexual lobby is a direct contradiction to your attempts to portray your administration as pro-family," wrote Rev. Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and reported in the *Washington Times*. "We call upon you to personally disavow any support or sympathy for the homosexual civil rights agenda."

On February 24, Reps. William Dannemeyer (R-CA), Newt Gingrich (R-GA) and other conservative Congressmen fired off a letter to Bush blasting the meeting. "The invitation and meeting was a slap in the face to every voter who affirms the traditional family. The

NGLTF agenda is not the Republican agenda and should not become part of your re-election bid."

The Conservative Political Caucus, Pat Robertson's "700 Club", the National Association of Evangelicals and other groups have also vilified the meeting. Richard Land, Christian Life Commission head, was quoted in *The Tennessean* as saying, "People who campaign for office as pro-family are engaging in hypocrisy when they court people whose lifestyle is not . . . traditional."

The White House has distanced itself from the meeting, saying it was a "personal decision" by Mosbacher.

"Gay people have every right to meet with representatives of our elected officials," said NGLTF executive director Urvashi Vaid, who arranged the meeting. "These extremist groups are anti-democratic. In a panic because of increasing gay political organizing, they are striking out at our visibility. Now the burden is on President Bush. Will he capitulate to the bigotry of extremists, or will he stand for tolerance and justice?"

Anti-Gay Pressure On In Oregon, Alabama & Colorado

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A far-right Christian organization has bombarded Oregon's gay and lesbian community with a number of statewide and local anti-gay initiatives to be placed on the ballots this year. Meanwhile, in Alabama, the state Senate is poised to vote on a bill which would mandate that schools teach that homosexuality is

unacceptable and a criminal offense. At the same time in Colorado, activists are waging a battle against a statewide anti-gay initiative.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance, a far-right group that initiated a successful anti-gay measure in 1988, introduced two statewide and three local initiatives.

One statewide initiative amends the state constitution to prohibit local, regional, and state governments in Oregon from "promoting, encouraging, or facilitating" homosexuality.

These initiatives would mean that gay men and lesbians could lose their jobs or homes simply because of their sexual orientation, with no legal recourse. Governments could not issue permits for gay pride marches, public facilities could not be rented to gay organizations, public libraries would be required to remove books that treat homosexuality neutrally or positively, and public schools would be required to teach students that homosexuality is "abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse."

In Alabama, the State Senate Health Committee unanimously approved of a bill mandating specific limits on sex education in public schools. If passed, the bill would require that schools remove abortion and safer sex discussions in sex-ed classes, teach total abstinence as the only form of prevention for AIDS, and teach that homosexuality is unacceptable and a criminal offense.

The Colorado for Family Values initiative, would exclude sexual orientation from protected class status in any civil rights laws in the state.

If you would like to get involved in the fight to defeat these various initiatives, you can contact the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force at (202) 332-6483

for a list of organizations and contacts in the various states.

Students Collect Ballots to End ROTC Discrimination

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Student Caucus, an affiliate of the United States Student Association (USSA) collected close to four thousand postcard-like ballots urging the President to rescind the ROTC's and the Department of Defense' discriminatory policy against lesbian, gay and bisexual people. The ballots were collected from over one-hundred (100) campuses spanning over thirty states. However, the ballots themselves represent voting students in forty-eight (48) states and even American students as far away as Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

The campaign is part of the Caucus' "1992 Student vote Against Discrimination." Each postcard-like ballot is a potential student vote and conveys a message that students are a voting constituency to be reckoned with for the '92 Elections.

The ballots were distributed at both small and big, rural and urban campuses. The highest return came from campuses throughout the Central, South and Southeast, extending from Arizona to Florida and the Atlantic Ocean. Campuses in the Dimensions distribution area that participated include: Rice, SMU, A&M, UT North Texas, UT Arlington, UT Austin, UT San Antonio, Oklahoma State, and the Univ. of Oklahoma at Norman.

The National Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Caucus is an affiliate of USSA and networks, organizes and advocates for lesbian, gay and bisexual students across

the nation and in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Student Association is the country's oldest, largest and most diverse national student union representing close to four million students to the White House, U.S. Congress, Federal Education Department and in the national higher education community.

Dallas Gearing Up For TLC '92

DALLAS - The fifth annual Texas Lesbian Conference will take place on May 15-17 at the Southland Hotel in Downtown Dallas. The conference is sponsored by Lesbian Visionaries and between 600-1000 women are expected to attend.

The conference keynote speakers include Laurie Eiserloh, lobbyist for the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby; Emma Perez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History at UTEP and featured author of Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About; and, Sabrina Sojourner, past director of Women of

Color in Diversity Program for NOW, and current Coordinator of Leadership for the Black Gay and Lesbian Conference.

Kate Clinton, Lesbian-Feminist-Humorist, is scheduled for the conference's Saturday night entertainment. The Kate Clinton concert is open to everyone. Tickets are \$10 in advance for conference attendees and \$12 for those not attending the conference.

TLC will host more than 39 workshops and will sponsor a round-table discussion open to gay men so that "community gender issues" may be addressed. The cost of the conference is on a sliding scale of \$35-\$45. Rooms are reserved for conference participants at a flat rate of \$55 for up to four people. Home hospitality is also available if requested in advance. Vendor space is also available.

For more information about TLC, call (214) 740-3407. For travel arrangements, contact Fantastic Voyage at 1-800-622-6988.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

HOUSTON - **Monica Grant** returns to Houston on Friday, April 3rd at 8:30pm for a very distinctive comedy performance in the Downtown Market Square Historic District's **Bayou Terrace** (located in the historic Magnolia Brewery). Taking the stage first will be Dimension's (and Houston's) own **Nancy Ford** dishing out her unique brand of comedy. Tickets are \$10-\$20 and are available at **INKLINGS** Bookshop, at the door, or by calling **Planet Earth Productions** at (713) 528-0748.

DALLAS - The **CATHEDRAL OF HOPE MCC** will hold its third annual **Shop 'til You Drop** auction on Saturday, April 4th, 1992. Proceeds will benefit the **Lesbian Resource Centre**, **Lesbian Visionaries** and the **Women's Health Project**. Some of the items to be auctioned are: wine tasting parties, moonlight cruises, movie passes, concert tickets, haircuts and stylings, dinners, objects d'art, and massages. Preview is at 6pm and the auction begins at 7pm. Admission is \$1. Hors d'oeuvres will be available throughout the evening. Cash, check, Visa, MasterCard and American Express will be accepted. The church is located at 5353 Maple Ave. For more info, contact **Sue Schrader** at (214) 526-6221.

ALBUQUERQUE - Start making plans now to attend **Wimifest '92**, May 22-24 (Memorial Day Weekend). The weekend will include lots of music from performers such as **Havens**, **Marga Gomez**, **Dissappear Fear**, **Venus Envy**,

Sally Cavell and **Altazar**. There will also be an **Arts & Crafts Fair**, workshops, a fun run and dances held on Saturday and Sunday nights. Housing is available at the **University of New Mexico** dorms or from various hotels in town. For housing and ticket information, please write: **Wimifest**, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204.

DALLAS - Comedian/singer **Monica Grant** will also be appearing in Dallas on Saturday, April 4th at the **Dallas Gay Alliance Community Center** (2701 Reagan) at 8pm. **Julie Mondanaro** will open the concert. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and are available at **CURIOUS TIMES**. A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the **Dallas Gay & Lesbian Alliance** and the **AIDS Resource Center**. For more info, call **Soundtrax Productions** at (214) 986-0040.

AUSTIN - **Shaman's Circle**, a gay men's empowerment group will offer **Coming Together: Gay Men and Lesbians**, a weekend of sharing on a thousand-acre ranch in the Texas Hill Country on April 3-5 and again on May 29-31. For more information about these weekends and other events sponsored by **Shaman's Circle**, please contact **LIBERTY BOOKS** at (512) 495-9737 or (800) 828-1279.

EVERYWHERE - The **13th Annual Conference of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI)** will be held at the downtown

Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, Indiana June 3-5. The conference will be a gathering of parents, co-parents, partners, spouses and children. There will be workshops, guest speakers, a banquet, a dance, entertainment, fireworks and a family picnic. There will be a **Children's Conference** for ages 6-12 and a **Youth Conference** for ages 13 and up. Childcare will be available for infants to age five. For more information on **GLPCI** or on the conference, please call (202) 583-8029 or write: P.O. Box 50360, Washington, D.C. 20091.

FT. WORTH - **Chris Williamson & Tret Fure** will be in concert at the **Orchestra Hall** in Fort Worth on April 11th at 8pm. Tickets are available at **Curious Times** in Dallas and **Connections** and **Crosswords** in Ft. Worth.

HOUSTON - A Houston author is seeking information, recollections and individuals associated with **Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Weeks of the past**. If you are willing to be interviewed or have anything to contribute to a book on Houston's Pride History, please contact **Jazz** at (713) 522-9325 or (713) 527-9111.

DALLAS - Looking for something new and different to do? A **lesbian Tupperware Party** and fundraiser will be held on April 26th from 2-5pm at the **Dallas Gay and Lesbian Center**. Proceeds will go to benefit the **Texas Lesbian Conference**. For more info, or for pre-sales and catalogues, call **Susan** at (214) 881-1467. Visa, MasterCard and Discover will be accepted.

HOUSTON - **Betsy** will be celebrating her **Six Year Anniversary of The RANCH** on Sunday, April 26th — don't miss the party! In addition to all the anniversary activities, on Thursday, April 9th, the **Thursday Bowling League** will hold it's **Award Ceremonies** in the RANCH and on Sunday, April 12th, the **Sunday Bowling League** will hold their awards in **MS. B'S**.

HOUSTON - **Nancy Ford** invites everybody to come on out to **JULIETTE'S PLACE** every Thursday at 9pm when she hosts **Open Mike Night**. Bring your voice, favorite musical instrument or your dancing shoes and show off your talent!



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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

I wrote to you back in November and you published my letter in December's Dimensions (letter signed "Miserable, City Withheld"). I wrote about a woman I had been dating for two years and I finally broke up with her because we always verbally and physically fought. Well, I ended up having to move because she was constantly over at my house causing problems all the time. I'm so glad I did. I took your advice and went to talk to someone. It helped alot. I finally got the nerve to go out and meet some people. Now I have lots of friends and they are wonderful. I didn't think it was possible I could have friends again as much as my ex-lover was putting me down all the time.

There were times when I started thinking about her and got depressed. My friends were right there to cheer me up again. I want to say thanks to them for being there, and thanks a million to you. I'm a much happier person today!

VERY HAPPY IN:

Austin, TX

Dear Happy,

It is great to hear that you are doing so well! I wish you continued happiness and success.

Dear Agnes,

This is in reference to your response to "Heartbroken" (February 1992 Dimensions), and your criticism of my former mate. Maybe you wouldn't be so judgemental, if you were better informed . . . "Heartbroken" and I wrote long letters

back and forth for months before we physically met. I gave an in-depth description of the kind of woman I am interested in. She knew that she didn't fit the bill, but she continued to disillusion me. And, I began to fall in love . . . I compromised my standards the moment I laid eyes on her. I accepted her for the person I had grown to love within — right down to the men's BVD's and Stetson! But, she took advantage of that love.

Although she claimed to have owned a business, it became apparent that she preferred to spend my money. There were no contributions to the rent, food or phone bill that she ran up accepting collect calls from all over Texas! What really hurt was her blatant disrespect for me and my career, when she'd scream at the top of her lungs about our personal affairs during her temper tantrums. Does my desire of a discreet relationship make me homophobic?

As long as this is America and I have the freedom to choose, I choose a woman who looks like, acts like, and enjoys being a woman. I know that "Heartbroken" loves me; as I do her. But, as Arnold said, in the movie Torch Song Trilogy, ". . . but, NOT enough!"

P.S. Hopefully, you have room to print "the rest of the story."

Without "Love"

San Antonio, TX

Dear Without,

Thanks for filling us in. I realize that all stories have two sides. Unfortunately, in the letters I receive, there is only one side of the story represented.

Dear Agnes,

I have a question I thought maybe you could answer. I really don't get into "butch" or "fluff". I am just me. Why can't more women be like that?

I don't want someone who carries a wallet in their back pocket, nor do I want someone that carries tons of makeup in a purse.

Are there any down to earth, comfortable, gentle, strong women anywhere? If so, point me in their direction.

**Looking For A Real
Relationship
Fort Worth, TX**

Dear Looking,

It's bad business to judge people on how they look, what they wear, where they carry their wallet (or how fat it is), or how much makeup they do or don't

wear. It is always a good idea to get to know people for who they are as individuals. They will surprise you every time. The woman with all the makeup may be a great car mechanic, and the woman with the wallet in her back pocket may arrange flowers for a living . . . you just never know.

Perhaps Dimension's readers have some comments on this subject. I'd like to hear from anyone who has an opinion on the stereotyping of butch and/or fluff women!



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CRUISING!



Cruises For Lesbian Women (and gay men too)

by Tasha Sumner

Imagine sailing the ocean blue on a ship with hundreds of women... *gay* woman. Imagine that nobody cares if you kiss your lover in the dining room or hold hands while you sunbathe on deck. If you are single, imagine meeting other single gay women from all over the country (and the world) in one place. Sounds like fun, huh?

Two companies are now offering cruises for lesbians (others offer mixed - gay men & lesbian — cruises). Destina-

tions range from the Caribbean to the Nile.

So what's a cruise like and how do you get on board? Well, we'll start with a little information about cruises in general and then move on to specific companies.

THE CRUISE

Most cruise packages include everything except your travel to and from the port city and your beverages (alcoholic

and non-alcoholic) while on board. You'll also have to pay your own taxes, gratuities and transfer fees.

Most ships offer one or two large dining rooms as well as buffets in the lounge or on deck. Most will make arrangements for special diets (vegetarian, diabetic, salt-free, kosher, etc.) upon request when you make reservations. Food is included in the price of the cruise.

If you are worried about being bored while on board — don't! Most ships have a lounge, one or more swimming pools, and a gambling casino (depending upon the ship). Activities range from aerobic classes, dances and nightly entertainment to 12-step meetings and commitment ceremonies.

Most cruises offer planned tours and activities while you are in a port, but you are welcome to hit the local market or explore on your own as long as you are back on the ship in time for departure.

What should you wear on a cruise? Casual attire is fine although you will be expected to "dress" for dinner (you don't have to wear a tux or formal — unless you just want to).

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Olivia, the biggest name in women's cruises, offers a variety of destinations including: the Bahamas; the Mexican Caribbean; the Mexican Riviera; Alaska; and the Greek Isles (with a stop at the Isle of Lesbos!). Prices start at \$795 per person all the way up to \$2595 per person depending on destination

and accommodations. Every cruise includes nightly entertainment by some of the best names in women's music. Past performers include (but aren't limited to) Chris Williamson, Teresa Trull and Tret Fure.

Olivia Cruises also offer meetings and events with women from different communities along the travel route. The Greek cruise will offer a special ceremony on the Isle of Lesbos for those who wish to honor Sappho. The Alaska cruise will offer plane rides over the glaciers, hiking and other activities.

Special activities on Olivia cruises include: singles nights, midnight buffets on the deck, the "Dating Game", and dance lessons. 12-step meetings are also available on all cruises.

Cruises for the remainder of 1992 include: Alaska - 7 nights, June 19-26 leaving from Vancouver; and the Greek Isles - 7 nights, September 14-21, leaving from Athens. A Mexican Riviera Valentine's cruise is already scheduled for February 13-20, 1993. This cruise is 7 nights, leaves from San Diego, and goes to Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta.

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Robin Tyler is well known for the success of her women's music and comedy festivals and has had two sold-out all-women cruises. Her next cruise is scheduled for February 1993 and will take a lucky group of women up the Egyptian Nile. An optional, add-on tour of Israel and a separate Nile cruise for men are also available. Between now and the Nile cruises, Robin Tyler will offer a



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Greek cruises are scheduled for April 23, May 23, June 18, July 2, August 1, and September 10, 1992. Three or four night Bahama cruises leave on April 11, April 18, May 16, May 23, May 30, June 6, and June 23, 1992. Seven night Caribbean cruises leave on March 21, April 11, April 25, May

photo safari in Africa July 4-21, 1992. Also in 1993, Robin Tyler will offer the "least expensive women's cruise ever" to the West Coast of Mexico (leaving from San Diego) July 3-10. Prices start at \$299 and you have your choice of a 3, 4 or seven day cruise. Although Robin Tyler produces a major women's music festival, "women's" music is not a part of the cruise. Entertainment runs the gamut from jazz to dance music and includes comedy, C&W dance lessons and lots more.

MIXED CRUISES (for gay men & women) are also available from several companies. Their addresses and some basic information are listed below.

ADVANCE-DAMRON
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1992 schedule includes cruises to the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and Greece. Nine day

2, and June 13, 1992. Prices start at \$595 for Caribbean cruises all the way up to \$1495 for the greek cruises.

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Has only one cruise scheduled for seven nights in the Mexican Caribbean, leaving on January 9th, 1993. Prices start at \$1095 with airfare included.

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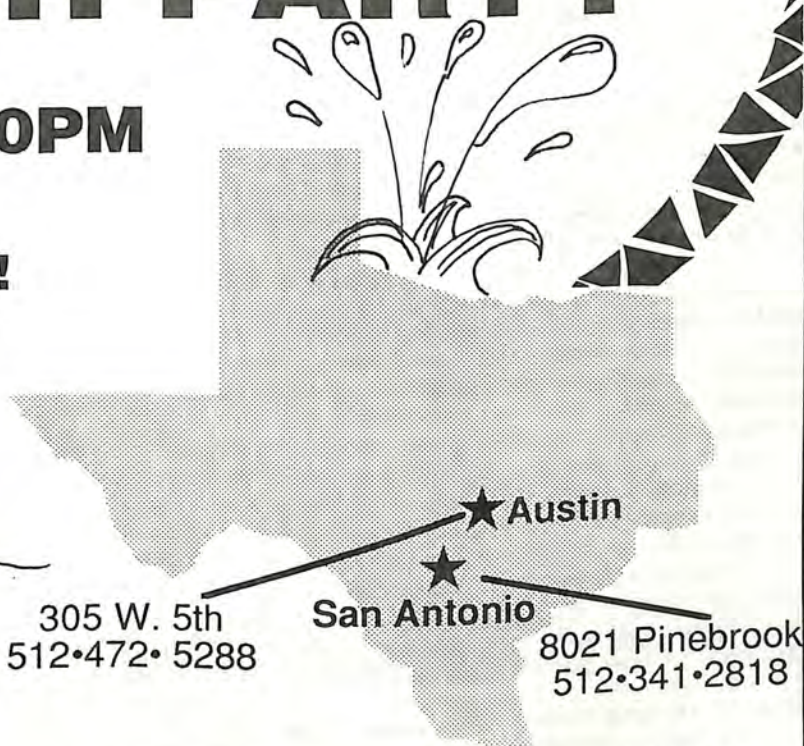
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CONVERSATIONS WITH BIANDA



PART X

BY NANCY FORD

Bianda was amazed at the ease in which the two-hundred some odd patrons (some odder than others) flowed into and around the club. It was the Power Hour at The Storm Cellar — that weekly post-work gathering of the lesbian community's movers and shakers. The subterranean meeting place was once a huge wine cellar beneath Auntie Em's, Bianda's favorite restaurant. But since the Reagan years, most of the wine served at Auntie Em's was generally stored in a cardboard carton, leaving this voluminous cavern empty, echoing.

But not tonight. Not during Power Hour. The women crammed together, lined up in pseudo-rack formation, somewhat akin to the wine bottles that had aged and ripened in that same room lifetimes before. Many of them wore business suits and tasteful pumps, some comfortably, easily, while others donned pantyhose only as an inevitable corporate disguise. On a good night they would move together in one body, dancing in conversation and innuendo. This seemed to be a good night.

The women networked, drank, poliucked, smoked and pontificated, thinly veiling their ancient mating ritual. Two macfillion years ago women huddled around a fire in a cave exchanging herbal remedies, tribal songs and nurturing massages while their male counterparts pounded the killing trail. Tonight at The Storm Cellar women huddled together to organize funding to propagate their own social interests, or to share the name of a good investment broker, gynecologist or veterinarian. With any luck these conversations de deux will later turn into invitations for a cappuccino nightcap upstairs at Auntie Em's. Perhaps later still some of the women, the one whose planets and stars have aligned and linked double-heart fashion in the cosmos, will retire to the nearest cave to exchange herbal remedies, tribal songs and tender nurturing massages.

Bianda scanned the periphery of the room looking for some human drama to entertain her. To her left a group of five women discussed heatedly the difference between a lesbian and a gay woman. At the corner table just beyond the debaters, two other women were having a confrontation of another kind altogether. They stared at each other lustily as each raced to be the first to tongue-tie a cherry stem.

"The one on the left. I give her a 5.5 for technical merit, but a perfect 6 in artistic interpretation."

Amused, Bianda turned toward the direction of the quip. She recognized The Stranger, yet she didn't. Familiar anonymity. *Say something, dummy*, Bianda thought. *Say something quick, something witty, something intelligent before this goddess is sucked back into the whirlpool, and out of my life forever.* Bianda turned, and volleyed. "Soooo, what's a well-adjusted, stable-looking woman like you doing in a tawdry place like this?" Bianda winced at her own triteness. *That's it, dazzle her with repartee.*

The Stranger flashed a glistening smile, without doubt causing at least 3 or 4 fellow cave women within her immediate sphere of influence to lose their trains of thought. And if anyone could derail a thought train, it would be this woman. She was diminutive, barely five feet tall in boots. But she acted tall, confident. "Tawdry? Why whatever could you mean?" She spoke in a thick, half-mocking Southern Belle. Again with the smile, except this time she partially concealed it's radiance with a glass of soda and lime. "Tawdry? Why, my roommate just loves it when I come home stained with liquor I don't drink, reeking of cigarettes I don't smoke and six different kinds of perfume I don't own."

Roommate? Bianda thought. *Ten seconds into the conversation and she's already let me know*

that she doesn't have a lover, just a roommate.

Suddenly the sea surged, pitching her closer toward Bianda, gently pinning her between her and the bar. The crowd ebbed, but The Stranger made no attempt to return to its previous position, her body now somewhat jigsawing itself into Bianda's.

"This is kind of a neat place. Is it always this crowded?"

Aha, a new girl in town. Otherwise she would know that this is the only night of the week it might be dangerous to fire a cannon through the Storm Cellar's main thoroughway. "Only when they're lucky," Bianda offered. "Most of the time the bulk of the activity is going on upstairs in the restaurant. You've never eaten at Auntie Em's?"

"No, my roommate and I just moved here about 3 weeks ago, and this is the first time we've, I mean, I've gotten away from unpacking boxes -"

Another roommate reference. Hmnnnnnn.

"- and I swore that if I didn't get out to make some kind of human contact tonight, I'd just, I'd just -" now The Stranger was fanning herself with a cocktail napkin. "- well, I just felt like I was going to explode!" She drained her soda, peering over the edge of the glass at Bianda and actually fluttering her eyelashes. As she leaned past Bianda to place her glass on the bar, Bianda detected a faint hint of Jasmine.

Bianda realized that the Southern Belle routine was no routine at all. Scarlett O'Hara lives, is gay, and stood there before Bianda in all her Confederate splendor. She was nearly overcome by a case of the vapors. "Can I offer you another julep? — I mean soda — I mean, would you like another drink?"

"Why how very kind of you. Yes, yes, I believe I would like a drink -"

Bianda pivoted toward the bar, signaling for help. Before she could order another soda and lime, The Stranger interrupted.

"- except this time I think I'd like something just a tad stronger. My daddy always drinks Jack Daniels. And it's his birthday today, so I believe I'll have another Jack Daniels in my daddy's honor. Straight, no rocks." Another smile, another flutter of the eyelashes. "But you have to promise me, if I get silly you'll have to take care of me. After all, my roommate's out of town for a couple days, and I have no one to rely upon to keep me out of trouble tonight."

Suddenly Bianda had an overwhelming urge to whistle Dixie. "Well then," Bianda said raising her glass toward the south, "here's to Daddy, wherever he may be."

"Oh, I know where he is," The Stranger stated matter-of-factly. "He's in prison." She tossed the drink down her throat in one swoop. "He just doesn't understand my lifestyle, and he has such a temper."

Bianda gulped air, then gulped the rest of her own cocktail in a single swallow. Her life passed before her, followed by pages of a calendar flipping madly through the number of days, nights, weeks it had been since she shared her bearskin, even for a couple hours, with another cave woman.

Before she could speak, the woman had ordered two more drinks, smiling, fluttering, smelling of Jasmine. Without much of a fight at all Bianda's intellect and reason were pushed aside, her hormones taking over.

"So, when is your daddy up for parole?"



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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER REVIEWS:

HOUSTON TOWN

by Deborah Powell

The END of APRIL

by Penny Sumner

I've got two great (but very different) mysteries to look at this month. The first is Houston Town, the second in the Hollis Carpenter Series by Deborah Powell.

The setting is 1930s Houston. Hollis is sleeping soundly when she receives a call from her friend Charlotte. Charlotte has come home from a night out only to find a man's corpse in her bed. Hollis comes to the rescue, but Charlotte refuses to tell anyone where she was earlier in the evening. With no

alibi, Charlotte is the prime suspect. Hollis hides Charlotte with her gay friend and upstairs neighbor while she sets out to find "whodunit." Along the way, Hollis finds a sheriff on the take, a goofy and corrupt politician (who shows a remarkable resemblance to recent Texas gubernatorial candidate, Clayton "Claytie" Williams), another corpse, and a charismatic woman evangelist with a past. Wading through offers of sex and money and dodging threats on her life, Hollis must figure

out how all these people fit together. You may recall that I really liked Ms. Powell's first book, Bayou City Secrets, and Houston Town is a great follow-up. If Larry McMurtry (author of Texasville and Lonesome Dove) wrote big city mystery novels, this might be what came out. The eccentricities of her characters are delightful. Ms. Powell's writings are bright, witty, and thoroughly readable. She captures the seediness of 1930's Houston with a flair that few others could master.

Our second novel is a mystery from Penny Sumner. The End of April introduces Victoria Cross (nickname, "Tor"), an archivist and private investigator. She has come home to England at the request of her Aunt Rosemary to work on a transcription of "Victorian porn". She meets April, a beautiful law student, at a party given by her Aunt Rosemary and her companion, Eleanor. April is a very vocal lesbian/feminist activist on the Oxford campus. She is also the target of some very threatening letters and has been assaulted twice. Eleanor believes that the letters are April's doing. Why April would be sending herself threatening letters is something Victoria can't figure out, so she decides to look into it.

When a murder takes place in Victoria's dorm, the case takes a much more serious turn.

The End of April does one thing very well — it points out, with great clarity, that Americans and Britons don't speak

the same language. I still haven't figured out what a "punt" is. (I think it may be a rowboat, but it could also be an oar, or even the act of rowing. If anybody out there knows, write me, I would appreciate it!) This was a great story, but the cultural differences in the language did make it hard for this Texas girl to get through. Maybe a glossary in the back would help?

Other than the problems with the language, I really enjoyed The End of April. Ms. Sumner shows great promise as a mystery writer.

Both Houston Town and The End of April are available at your local bookstore, or for \$8.95 from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please include 15% postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



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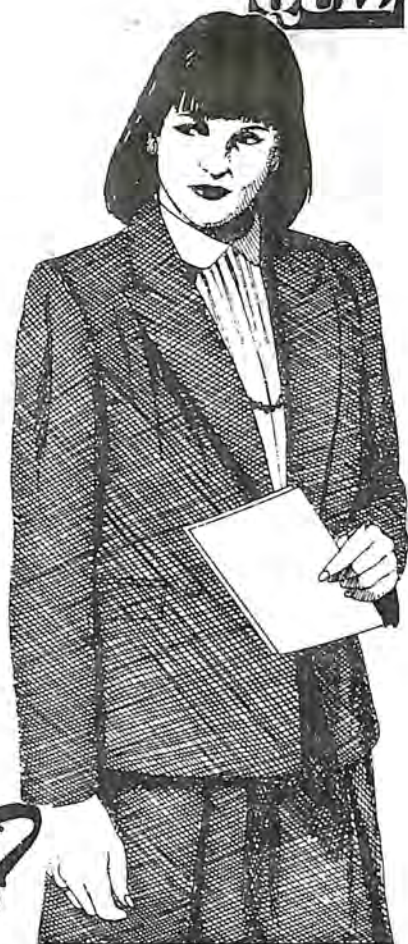
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Group 1

1. Do you believe that age is a state of mind?
2. Are you bored when you have to stay home more than two nights a

week?

3. Are you always stressing your good points to anyone who will listen?
4. Do you "throw a fit" when things don't go your way?
5. Is it hard for you to make promises because you hate to feel obligated?

Group 2

1. Do you read books and articles on self-improvement?

2. Do you keep a close check on your finances?
3. Do you keep a journal of day to day events?
4. Do you give your advice freely, without prompting?
5. Do you have a hard time making a decision until you know the facts?

Group 3

1. Are you a "slave to fashion"?
2. Are you always borrowing clothes, jewelry, tools, books, etc.?
3. Does money seem to slip through your fingers?
4. Do you try to hide your problems from friends and try to solve them yourself?
5. Do you like romance novels?

Scoring

If you have three or more "Yes" answers in any category, read that answer. If you have three "Yes" answers in more than one category, read both (or all three) answers.

Group 1

You are fairly extroverted and like to do well in all your endeavors. You are an independent thinker and don't like any effort to change your mind. You are courageous and imaginative, however, you should listen more closely to those around you — their opinions and advice could be valuable.

Group 2

You do not rely enough on your own efforts and therefore you expect too

much of other people. You are fairly self-confident, but you may be a bit judgmental. Relax and have fun — you are too serious about life and how it should be lived.

Group 3

You are not very self-reliant, but you help build up the self-confidence of others. You may be too much of a dreamer for your own good. Instead of fantasizing, you should set out to make just one of your dreams come true. Once you've had a taste of success you will become more self-reliant.



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- Lisa J. Slayton
Denali Park, Alaska

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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

Balancing the physical, emotional, and mental demands placed on you during the first week of April could be tough. A romantic alliance could have you walking an emotional tightrope after the 8th. Talk with friends to ease your anxieties. Tensions ease towards month's end if you get differences out in the open and talk them through.

TAURUS

Knowing when to quit can help in all areas during the first part of April. Your love life, career & finances will all benefit from quitting while you are ahead. After the 17th you may have to spend some time finishing up personal projects. Outside responsibilities take up all your time after the 24th. Take an occasional time out or you won't make it through!

GEMINI

Put old hurts behind you and look to the future during the first week of April. Big (positive) changes are on the horizon and you need to be ready to take advantage of them. After the 10th your social life will take a turn for the better. You have what it takes this month to attract new friends and romance. Someone close to you might not be leveling with you towards month's end. Pay attention and don't get taken.

CANCER

You tend to be more serious than usual during the first week of April. An emo-

tionally draining situation could be at the heart of your black mood. Make changes now and the mood will improve immediately, if you wait the rift may be permanent. Watch your money closely after the 18th, your financial picture looks murky for the rest of April so batten down the hatches and cut out some frivolous items in your budget.

LEO

Tension that has been building in the past few months starts to diminish during the first week of April. Both financial and emotional worries will be eased by a few happy coincidences early in the month. The biggest problem you'll have is juggling home and career interests. A good balance between the two works well until after the 24th when you'll have to put all your efforts towards your career.

VIRGO

A project you started months ago will finally start to pay off during April. Everything seems to be looking up this month. Your career, which seemed at a standstill, gets a jump start and your love life is definitely improving. Change is the watchword for April, so get ready! After the 24th you may finally have time to get away for a long awaited vacation, it may be a short one, but it will cure your wanderlust for awhile.

LIBRA

You may have taken on more responsibilities than you can handle during the

off what you can or you'll be feeling pretty exhausted. After the 15th you'll be having an itch to get away from it all, but you won't be able to. Turn this to your advantage by pushing your career ahead. You'll finally be able to relax after the 25th.

SCORPIO

Someone you care about could be playing on your sympathies to get what they want during the first week of April. Be firm and say "no", you won't be sorry. After the 8th your social life takes the spotlight and you are the prime attraction. Your cheerful attitude draws people to you like a magnet. After the 24th the pace will slow down and let you focus on career matters.

SAGITTARIUS

Your charm will make you new friends and let you enjoy old ones during the first week of April. After the 6th, a shock to your budget could cause some friction between you and a partner. Be careful what you say after the 20th or you could make things even worse with a tactless remark. Stay focused on the positive.

CAPRICORN

Your social calendar fills up quickly during the first week of April. Pick and choose which invitations you accept since demands on your time will be high. You'll probably need to rest up after the 9th. A short trip could be just

what you need to recharge your batteries. After the 21st a new money-making project could put a dent in your wallet temporarily. Don't worry — you'll get your investment back . . . with interest!

AQUARIUS

Problems at home or with family may cut into your free time during the first week of April. Keep your cool — a nice getaway is in the works after the 6th. A romantic attraction around the 19th may be short-lived. Keep an eye on your pocketbook or you could wind up overspending. Your emotions swing wildly after the 24th. Try to think things through logically instead of emotionally.

PISCES

An unpleasant argument with a close friend could have you feeling down during the first week of April. One of you may want a more intimate relationship while the other does not — talk it out and you'll be alright. Your creativity is in the forefront during the second and third week. Tension on the job could mar your good mood after the 25th — don't let it get to you.



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MCC of Amarillo • PO Box 1276 • 372-4557

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817) organizations

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

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512) clubs

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organizations

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P.O. Box 822 78767 • 462-9888
Bound By Desire (Women's SM Support Group)
P.O. Box 26583 78755 • 473-7104
Center for Battered Women • Lesbian Group
385-5181 or 928-9070 (hotline)
Gay/Lesbian 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
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Oasis Ministry • 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 • 441-9191
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 328-3830
Sapphfire! • Lesbian Social Group
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Waterloo Counseling Center
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Texas Human Rights Foundation
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AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417
The Treehouse (Lesbian Mothers Support Group)
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Asians & Friends • PO Box 9142 75209 • 392-3339
Congregation Bath El Binah
P.O. Box 64460 752206 • 497-1591
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
First Church of Divine Metaphysics • 2701 Reagan
P.O. Box 683 75221 • 826-7110, Ext. 302
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
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Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition
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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
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organizations

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Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837
RESPECT - Gay/Lesbian Association
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clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3464
Ms. B's • 9208 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3356
XTC • 9212 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3356

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 Alcoholics
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

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Community Outreach Center & Outreach AA (Tues. @ 8pm) • 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
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

National Gay Alliance for Young Adults, Inc.
P.O. Box 190426
Dallas, TX 75219-0426 • (214) 307-7203
National Gay/Lesbian Clearinghouse
666 Broadway 4th Floor • NY, NY 10012
National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline
1-800-SOS-GAYS
National Gay/Lesbian Task Force
1517 U Street NW
Washington D.C. 20009 • 202-332-6483
The Fund for Human Dignity
666 Broadway 4th Floor • NY, NY 10012

NORMAN, OK (area code 405)

organizations

Women's Resource Center
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organizations

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

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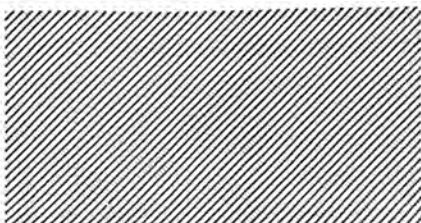
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Integrity/San Antonio
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Lambda Students Center • 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.
LISA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472)
SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian & Gay Assembly • 733-7300
SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
P.O. Box 12715 78212 • SALSA Line 733-1225
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals | <input type="checkbox"/> Roommates | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Messages | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent/Lease | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books/Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Investments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous |

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR AD IN THE SPACE BELOW:

Of Words _____ # Of Months _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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HOW TO ANSWER A PERSONAL AD

Put your reply in an envelope, seal shut and put your return address and the Box # on it as shown.

Place this in another envelope and mail to the address above. We will then forward your unopened letter to the person who placed the ad.

BE SURE TO STAMP BOTH ENVELOPES!

Your Return
Address
Box # XXX

Your Return
Address

DIMENSIONS
P.O. Box 856
Lubbock, TX 79408

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(50¢ PER WORD BUSINESS ADS)

50¢ PER WORD BOLD TYPE

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WITH BORDER & BOLD HEADLINE

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

PERSONALS

BLACK, Feminine, Attractive in my own right, 37 years old. 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, Sincere; Affectionate; Romantic; Cute "soft-but"; Versatile in hobbies, interests; Seeking feminine companion (21-35) in Ft. Worth-Dallas area. Reply to Box #377.

HANDSOME, generous, lovable GF seeks romantic entanglement with a bright, cheerful, honest and caring GF who enjoys bookstores, jazz concerts, dinner parties and candlelit bubble baths. Smokers, overweight women and women who aren't 100% gay are (politely) discouraged from responding. Houston area residents preferred. Reply to Box #389.

GAY Black Female, Dallas, 41, Queen-sized but very attractive (physically) quiet, shy, incurable romantic seeks GF. Age, race, size not important for dating, romance, and possible relationship. I am very flexible. Reply to Box #390.

GHF - Mature, Attractive, 27, devoted, professional, loving Santonian. Likes everything! Desires same. Send photo, No drugs or smokers. Reply to Box #393.

I'VE been out of a long relationship for about a year. I'm one of those crazy entrepreneurs you hear about who likes to work and loves to enjoy the results. My work, if you could call it that, is creative, fun and I love it. I work hard and play hard and I'm my own boss. I don't go to bars. I prefer elegant dinners in fine restaurants, travelling to Mexico beaches, and about anywhere else I want, and nice things. I guess you could

say I've spoiled myself. I'm tired of being alone with a great lifestyle, and am looking for a beautiful lesbian Hispanic or Anglo woman. I'm a one person person and can be very good to the right woman. I want someone who is ready to make a permanent commitment and be with me. However, I can't take screaming, embarrassing me in public, violence, drugs, smoking, or bar scenes . . . or kids. Social cocktails are fine. I'm looking for a real lover, who wants to love and be loved, who can share the work, share the fun, who can be a wife to me, who can be free and flow with my energy. The right woman will love what I do, and love me the way I am (crazy, fun, aggressive, exciting, gifted in graphics, a tad extravagant, sexy, fluent in Spanish, no hangups). If you live out of town but are willing to move to Dallas, its okay, just send a recent photo. I know you've gotta be out there, somewhere! You never know, just give it a try. You can be shy, but sincere, as long as you are beautiful. I'm a responsible, Anglo butch with good taste. It's taken me a long time to get my confidence back from what I went through, but I'm over it, and would love to meet the right someone special. Reply to Box #394.

ROOMMATES

WILL Share Three Bedroom older home with GF. May keep horse on property. Housekeeping twice monthly - \$25 your share. \$375 Rent Monthly. 817-431-3749.



BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

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-WIDE LESBIAN 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 available 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 37**

A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

A NEW MONTHLY COLUMN FROM THE LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS LOBBY

WRITTEN BY LAURIE EISERLOH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Many of you may have heard the term "Log Cabin Republican." This is the name of a nationwide organization of individuals who are gay and yet support the Republican party. The name "Log Cabin" refers to Abraham Lincoln's humble, and perhaps mythical, abode in the woods Illinois. This is an unusual name considering how few lesbians are members of this organization. One can almost picture a log cabin clubhouse with a sign on the door "Girls Keep Out." Also, the word "log" conjures up certain phallic images. This connotation was probably not purposeful, but as Dr. Freud said, "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar." And sometimes, well . . .

Log Cabin members agree with the Republican party's economic ideas, but disagree with the party's social stance on the issues of gay rights and choice. The goal of Log Cabin is to alter repressive social policies by working within the party. Although I agree, in theory, with the Log Cabin goals, I question if it is possible to separate the Republican party's economic policies from its social policies. I also question whether we, as lesbians and as feminists, should support Log Cabin.

The Reagan administration ushered in a new era of Republican politics whereby the Republican party used organized religion and repressive social policies to garner the votes of individuals who would not benefit from the party's economic stance. This strategy depended heavily upon deep-seated prejudices in American society and was aimed at middle class and working class Americans who economically had nothing to gain by supporting the Republican party. However, these individuals could rest assured that by supporting the Republican party that they were voting for so-called "family-values." "Family values" is a catch phrase for policies that penalize lesbian/gay people, women, and single parents. Thus, the economic and social goals of the Republican party are inextricably connected and it may not be possible, as the Log Cabin Republicans suggest, to support the Republican's economic policies without supporting their social policies.

We are all familiar with the Republican's racist and sexist stand on the issues. With respect to gay and lesbian people, their stance is equally appalling. For instance, the Texas Republican Party Platform states, "Homosexuality should not be presented as an acceptable lifestyle in schools . . . no person should receive special privileges based on sexual preference — homosexuality necrophilia, pedophilia, bestiality, or incest . . ." It also seeks to deny us custody and visitation of our children. Although I know many Republicans who do not agree with the platform, few are willing to do so publicly.

Even if it were possible to separate economic policies from social issues, I do not see why women should support the economic policies put forth by the Republican party. As women, we are far more likely to be left without basic human rights such as health care. We are also far more likely to care for the young and the elderly. These human services issues are not a priority in the Republican party.

I am not suggesting that we should offer our support to the Democratic party. Currently, I know of two races in the state of Texas where the Republican candidate may, in fact, be stronger on progressive issues than the Democratic opposition. However, this is more the exception than the rule. As lesbians and as feminists, it is important for us to engage in the political process and understand how these issues of electoral politics affect our community.





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The Graffiti Page



SHEBA,

MEET YOU IN WYOMING!

TO THE MOON AND BACK -

DUMPLING



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
KENTON!
//////////

SINCE Y'ALL DIDN'T
HAVE ANY BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH, I'LL SAY...

Happy April!

TO THE STAFF
& MANAGEMENT
OF NEXUS FROM
TASHA!



*Sharon, I love you
very, very, much and
want to spend the rest
of my life with you! Du!*

*Darla Thornton,
you are so special!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JAMES I.
GET WELL SOON...

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