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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 1992



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# THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

## Lesbian Mother Wins Custody of Son in Jury Trial

AUSTIN - A Travis County, Texas jury trial has ended with a lesbian mother being awarded custody of her two and one-half year old son, who, she says, will continue to live with her and her domestic partner, an Austin police-woman.

The jury of nine women and three men voted the mother custody of the child in a 10-2 vote, with two of the women jurors casting the dissenting votes.

The lawsuit, which sought custody through a jury trial, was filed by a man once believed to be the child's biological father. According to testimony of the child's mother, the man brought suit and insisted on a jury trial hoping that lesbian issues would inflame the jury enough to award him custody even though he was not the child's biological father.

However, the mother's attorney, Linda Farin of Austin, explained that homophobic bias among jurors was essentially eliminated by her co-counsel, Austin attorney Diane Henson. Doing a nontraditional voir dire (the questions asked when picking a jury) of prospective jurors, Henson elicited the juror's responses through the use of an informal public opinion poll about current issues. Approximately one-third of the jurors were eliminated due to responses that indicated "homophobic" tendencies before they even knew what the

case was about.

While the mother was awarded custody of her child and the man is not required to pay child support, the jury did grant the man visitation rights because of his longstanding relationship with the child. In addition, the lesbian mother was awarded her attorney's fees paid by the man.

## Republicans Speak Out on Gay Issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute has released a compilation of Republican statements on gay and lesbian issues. The following statements were made by various Republicans over the course of the last six months.

FEBRUARY '92 - Patrick Buchanan ran sensationalistic attack ads featuring clips of "Tongues Untied," a film partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts about black gay male culture. He accused the Bush administration of funding art that "glorified homosexuality."

• When Bush/Quayle campaign chairman, Robert Mosbacher met with officials of the NGLTF and the AIDS Action Council, conservatives decried the meeting and criticized the President. Conservative congressmen fired off a letter to Bush that said: "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 a part of your re-election bid."

APRIL '92 - Bush invited evangelical Christian activists to an April meeting at the White House where he told them that he opposes "special laws" to protect the rights of gay people.

MAY '92 - Beverly LaHaye, president of Concerned Women of America and a regular participant in White House meetings with conservatives, sent a fundraising letter out in May that said the "homosexual movement poses the most serious threat" of all to American children.

• The Republican National Committee rejected the requests of three gay rights organizations — the NGLTF, Human Rights Campaign Fund, and the Log Cabin Republicans — that asked to testify at the RNC platform hearings.

JUNE '92 - In an interview with Barbara Walters, President Bush reaffirms his support for the military's ban on gay and lesbian service members.

• Vice President Dan Quayle, speaking to the Southern Baptist Convention about the "cultural elite," said, "They seem to think the family is an arbitrary arrangement of people who decide to live under the same roof, that fathers are dispensable and that parents need not be married or even of the opposite sexes. They are wrong."

• When asked by the *New York Times* whether he thinks it is "wrong for people of the same sex or unmarried people to be parents," President Bush said, "... I can't accept as normal life style [sic] people of the same sex being parents . . . I don't accept that as normal. And I believe in traditional family values."

JULY 1992 - Commenting on Democratic party support for gay rights issues, Tony Mitchell, deputy press secretary for the Bush/Quayle campaign, told a reporter, "I don't expect that the President is going to 'use' any of these issues against . . . Clinton." Mitchell noted that Bush "is a supporter of two-parent traditional families" and backs a continued ban on military service by gays and lesbians.

• Tyler Franz, an openly gay man who worked for the Bush/Quayle re-election campaign, filed a discrimination complaint under D.C. Human Rights Ordinance after he was demoted. He claims the personnel chief attributed the reassignment to "ideological differences with the religious right." The Bush/Quayle campaign denies the claim that he was demoted due to his sexual orientation.

As I type this, the Republican Convention, being held in Houston, is in its third day. The anti-gay, "traditional family values" rhetoric has been flying hard and fast. Expect more updates on discriminatory Republican party statements in this space.

---

## K-Mart & Mickey Mouse Include Gays

From the GLAAD/LA Reports, Vol.4, No. 8, August '92 — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) reports that K-Mart recently included a gay couple in their ongoing commercials that include diverse types of families. The extremely positive commercial features two men in business suits looking at a wood cutter and one



remarks, "We should get that." His companion responds, "Well we don't have a fireplace." "But your father does. Let's get it," he replies, as he picks up the cutter. One of the men puts his arm around the other as the camera pans to a straight couple. Obviously this commercial is a major step forward for all concerned. K-Mart can be encouraged to continue its inclusive advertising and to extend it by showing lesbians as well, by writing: Joseph Antonini, CEO, K-Mart, 3100 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48084.

In other news, GLAAD/LA reports that a lesbian and gay support group has been formed at the Walt Disney Co. at their Burbank Studios. Sanford M.

Litvock, Executive Vice President for Law and Human Resources, who cleared the way for the group, said, "Disney has a strong anti-discrimination policy to which we remain committed."

Please write to Disney acknowledging their support. Write: Sanford M. Litvock, Executive VP for Law and Human Resources, The Walt Disney Co., 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521-1030.



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# WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

---

**AUSTIN** - Live Wire Productions will present the **Karen Williams' Comedy Revue** on September 11 at 8pm at **The Terrace** (formerly the Austin Opera House), 200 Academy Drive. Ms. Williams is known for her performances at women's music festivals and on Olivia Cruises. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door and are on sale at **BookWoman, Celebration! and Liberty Books**. Call (512) 472-2785 for more information. Live Wire is an all volunteer, non-profit women's production company.

**HOUSTON** - The **Lesbians In Business (LIB) Self-Employed/Small Business Owners group** is starting their fall meetings on Monday, September 28 from 7-9pm. The meeting will be held at the **Metropolitan Multisevice Center** at 1475 West Gray (near the intersection of Waugh & West Gray) in room 143. Please bring \$1-2 to help defray the cost of the meeting space. For more info call **Elizabeth** at (713) 626-2920 (evenings) or **Julie** at (713) 460-1885.

**SAN ANTONIO** - **TRI HOPE**, a peer support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, assists those who are under 22 years old who are questioning their sexuality. Meetings are held regularly and will focus on various topics in a drug and alcohol free environment. Those in crisis will be referred to professionals. Enlightening speakers, fun outings, an **Alternative Prom** and showings of gay positive films are just

some of the activities planned. Although adult volunteers will supervise all activities, the youth will share in the running and planning of **TRI HOPE**. For more info, write P.O. box 681906, San Antonio, TX 78268, or call (512) 690-7710.

**STATEWIDE** - The **Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club**, a planned all-womyn guest ranch has raised enough money to remove the 700 acre hill country ranch from the real estate market but still needs more investors to complete the purchase. If you would like to help, please contact **Leanne or Jeanne Beauxbeannes** at Box 472, Bay City, TX 77414 or call (409) 244-8759 (beeper), they will return your call as soon as possible!

**DALLAS** - The **Lesbian Resource Centre** is looking for **massage therapists** to give low cost massages at the Centre. If you are interested in participating in this program (or would like to get on the list to receive a massage) contact **Maria** at (817) 265-1717 Metro.

**NEW ORLEANS** - The **Vieux Carre Metropolitan Community Church** is holding monthly **potluck suppers and communion services** on the 16th of September and the 14th of October. The night begins at 7pm and you should bring a dish for supper. For more info, contact the church at (504) 945-5390.

**STATEWIDE** - **SDA Kinship**, the lesbian/gay group for **Seventh Day Ad-**

**ventists** is looking for new members. If you were born, raised or came to the SDA faith later in life, you know that homosexuality and SDA are not a combination that blends well. **SDA Kinship** is the place for you. Kinship has chapters all around the U.S. and in many foreign countries. For more info, call **1-800- 4 GAY SDA** or call (214) 707-1791 to reach the Dallas chapter.

**AUSTIN - The Bisexual Network of Austin** is a non-profit social/support group for bisexuals and their friends and lovers. They sponsor weekly social and other events. For more information please call (512) 370-9573.

**SAN ANTONIO - A "Gathering of Like-Minded Womn Who Love Womn"** will be held on Saturday, September 19th. The gathering is for women who believe in the Oneness of the Universe and accept responsibility for themselves. The gathering will be held at 263 Barbara and will start at 5pm. Light refreshments will be served. For more info and directions, call **Trish** at (512) 824-4701.

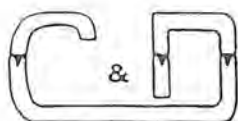
**DALLAS - Lynn Lavner**, "America's most politically-incorrect entertainer," will be appearing at the **Cathedral of Hope MCC** (5353 Maple Ave. @ Butler) on Sunday, October 4th at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. They are available at the Church office form 2-5pm or by mailing an

SASE with a check to the church. For more info, call (214) 526-6221.

**STATEWIDE - The Lone Star Women's Music Festival** is happening again! We had a blast at last year's (see review, Nov. 91 issue) and hope you'll be able to make it this year! It happens October 2-4 on the **Guadalupe River** outside of New Braunfels. Performers include: **Lara Linette, Nancy Scott, Girls in the Nose, The Therapy Sisters, Laura Love, the Lone Star Band, and lots, lots more!** Tickets are \$65 and are available at women's bookstores or by writing P.O. Box 2650, Austin, TX 78768. Tickets will be \$75 at the gate so get your's now! For more info, call (512) 929-0002.



If you have information for the **"What's Goin' On"** column, please send it to us! Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.



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Already noted as THE up and coming gay destination, the Palm Springs community consistently welcomes gay travellers with open arms, offering a wide selection of special accommodations, bars, restaurants, clubs, etc. This positive attitude sets the tone for a tremendous gay attendance at the Dinah Shore golf tournament, now in its 21st year of existence.

The constant mild temperatures, together with striking southern California desert scenery makes for a perfect vacation spot year-round. Golf abounds in this dreamy resort town as does swimming, hiking, hot air ballooning and sightseeing at nearby Borrego Springs wildlife park and the Palm Springs Indian Reservation. There truly is something for everyone, particularly in March for this world-renowned LGPA golf extravaganza.

Call Cinnamon at ADVANCE-DAMRON VACATIONS for more information on the NABISCO DINAH SHORE GOLF TOURNAMENT. Space is becoming EXTREMELY LIMITED.



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# DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,  
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

---

## Dear Agnes,

For a few months now I've been thinking about breaking up with my girlfriend. We've been together for over two years; but it seems like the longer we're together, the more unhappy I get. We argue a lot more than we used to, she's very possessive, and my son, who's only five years old, has always had problems getting along with her. I don't want to hurt her, but I can't keep living with her and pretending everything is fine.

I have told her that I was going to leave before and she made me feel very guilty, cried all night long and begged me not to go. It was horrible! We talked and decided to try and work things out. I didn't leave, but I'm still not happy.

I keep having flashbacks of when my ex-girlfriend and I broke up. I had to literally leave the state for a few months just to keep her from following me and crying everytime we ran into each other. It drove me crazy!

I know breaking up is never easy to do, but isn't there an easier way?

## FEELING TRAPPED

### City Withheld

## Dear Trapped,

If there is, I sure haven't found it yet. Breaking up is never easy. Perhaps you should reexamine your reasons for wanting to end this relationship. You never state any real reason except that you are

"unhappy" for vague reasons.

Things don't always go smoothly and most relationships go through unhappy times. From the sound of your letter, you and your lover have a serious communication problem. Counseling, either for you alone or for both of you could help improve communication and let you explore your feelings of unhappiness.

## Dear Agnes,

My lover and I have been together for almost six years. We are very happy, very much in love, and plan to stay together for life. There's only one problem in our relationship . . . my "mother-in-law".

"Sandy" and her mom have always been very close. They shop, travel and go camping together, they talk on the phone at least twice a day and have lunch about three times a week. All this is fine and never bothered me.

Then, about two years ago, Mom divorced Sandy's dad and "came out". Now she's with us all the time. She goes to the bar with us, comes over for dinner almost every night and is always hitting on our single friends. It seems like Sandy and I never get any time to ourselves anymore. Now here's the kicker: I recently booked Sandy and I a trip to the Bahamas for our sixth anniversary (in December), when Mom found out about it, she promptly went out and

booked herself to go with us! I couldn't believe it.

I've talked to Sandy about it, but she doesn't want to hurt her mother's feelings by telling her to back off. Now I don't know what to do, any suggestions you might make would be greatly appreciated.

### THIRD WHEEL

Houston, TX

Dear Third,

Tell Sandy to talk to her mom and give her a deadline to do it. If she won't tell Mom that this trip is for your anniversary — you tell her and explain that you

booked this trip for the two of you and that you wanted it to be a romantic getaway for two.

Mom should understand — and if she doesn't, it sounds like Sandy may be spending her next anniversary with Mommy.



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# HERBAL REMEDIES

A SHORT GUIDE TO HERBS AND THEIR USES

You probably know that Aloe Vera is a great pain reliever for burns, and you may have heard that Garlic can help lower blood pressure and has mild antibiotic properties. But, did you know that Ginger is helpful in breaking up the congestion that comes with a cold or bronchitis, or that Peppermint tea can help soothe an upset stomach?

Herbal remedies have been used since ancient times to help heal both the body and the soul. Documented use of herbal

medicines date back to 5000 B.C. and are recorded in writings from China, Egypt, Babylon, India and ancient Greece. More than 25% of modern medicines are based on the same herbal remedies used thousands of years ago. For instance: birch bark has been used to treat headaches for thousands of years. Birch bark contains methyl salicylate, a chemical compound closely related to salicylic acid, the chemical used in aspirin.



Below, you will find some common herbs and their medicinal uses. All of these herbs are currently available at your local grocery or health food store. However, that may not be the case for long.

Two bills are currently in committee in both the U.S. House and Senate that would greatly limit your access to both herbs and vitamins. Health food retailers, holistic medicine practitioners and vitamin takers across the country are urging everyone to *write your Congressman and Senators to voice opposition to H.R.3642/S.2135*.

If passed, these bills would make 50% of nutritional supplements (vitamins and herbs) unavailable to consumers within 12 to 18 months. High potency vitamins would be *regulated as drugs* ("high potency" is described as anything more potent than that found naturally in foods, i.e. a vitamin C tablet could contain no more of the vitamin than found in an orange), supplements such as selenium, PABA, chromium and other supplements would be *eliminated*, and herbs (and probably amino acids) would be regulated as drugs and be available *by prescription only*.

The herbs listed below are only a partial list of what is currently available. Many books are available on the subject that will give you a much more comprehensive listing of herbs and their uses.

## ALOE VERA

Of all the healing plants, aloe is probably the best known. It's ability to soothe minor burns is almost legendary. Aloe is also useful to help pain and irritation caused by minor skin inflammations, insect bites, mild cases of poison ivy and poison oak, heat rash and sunburn.

The best way to use aloe is straight off the plant. Just snip as much as you need, split it down the side and apply the wet side to the irritated area. The plant will heal itself, so don't worry about cutting on it. If you don't have a "green thumb", you can purchase pure aloe gel from any health food store and most grocery stores.

## BASIL

Basil has a slight antiseptic quality and can help relieve pain and promote healing when applied as a paste to cuts and abrasions. A mild tea made from basil is also useful for soothing gas and relieving nausea and headaches.

## GARLIC

One of the most prominent herbal remedies, garlic works well for a number of illnesses. It's antibiotic properties make it effective in treating infections ranging from tooth abscess to yeast infections. To use as an antibiotic, either take internally or apply garlic oil on a cotton ball (available in capsules) directly to the affected area. Garlic, taken internally, has also been used to treat high blood pressure and cold and flu symptoms. Soaking in a hot bath for 15 to 20 minutes after taking garlic will help remove the smell from your skin.

## GINGER

Ginger is available both in powdered form in capsules and fresh from most large grocery stores. Taken internally in either capsule or tea form, ginger can help relieve menstrual cramps, nausea and help break up congestion in the chest or sinuses. Ginger can also be

used externally as a compress (a compress is made by soaking a towel in a strong tea made from the herb and applying it to the skin) on the forehead to relieve sinus congestion, on the abdomen to relieve cramps, on the lower back to relieve pain or put the tea in a hot bath to help ease the pain of arthritis. A report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1983 showed that taking powdered ginger in capsule form is very helpful in treating motion sickness and vertigo.

## PEPPERMINT

Peppermint tea (available in grocery and health food stores) is a great remedy for gas and indigestion. The Chinese also drink hot peppermint tea to cool off in the summer. This is because the tea brings blood to the skin where evaporation helps cool the body. Because of this, peppermint tea is useful in breaking a fever. It is also useful to help relieve a sore throat, sinus congestion and other cold and flu symptoms. Peppermint has also been used to treat headaches, insomnia and to relieve tension.

## PARSLEY

Parsley contains vitamins A and C, calcium, thiamin, riboflavin, and niacin as well as having a high amount of chlorophyll. Eaten raw, it is helpful in the diets of anemic people. As a tea it can help relieve menstrual cramps, asthma, and menopausal symptoms. The chlorophyll in parsley is a great breath freshener and helps relieve indigestion (so, yes, you should eat that parsley off your plate at the end of a meal).

## THYME

The ancient Greeks used thyme to calm convulsions and other spasms. Modern herbalists still use a tea made of thyme to help the spasms associated with asthma, stomach cramps, menstrual cramps, coughs, migraine headaches, and circulation disorders.

Many of these herbal remedies have not been scientifically tested to determine their effectiveness. But, none are harmful when taken in small amounts and all have centuries of knowledge and acute observation behind them. If you have a serious problem, it is best to consult a doctor, but for a minor cold, headache or menstrual cramps it is certainly worth a try!



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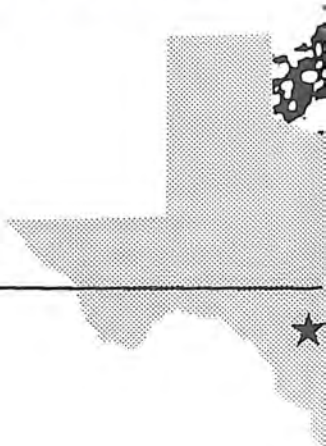
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# WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

BY NANCY FORD

Hey, how was your summer? Mine was great. Survived one Republican National Convention. Had a good birthday. Got a little sun. No major lawsuits. All in all, it's been a good summer. So good in fact, here's my report. Grade it as you see fit:

This summer, besides watching *I Love Lucy* at least twice a day, I —

— visited the home of Mayor Bob Lanier of Houston. It was Gay Pride Week, and Mayor Bob and his wife Elyse opened their home in a lovely reception for the political and professional movers and shakers of the Houston gay community. Me — I crashed. As my friends and I ate chocolate-covered strawberries in the *rec room*, we wondered out loud what Mayor Bob and his wife Elyse do to *rec*. There was a karaoke machine in the corner. Swear to God. We mused among ourselves what tune Mayor Bob would be most likely to belt out in the privacy of his own home, possibly while wearing pajamas. Immediately, My Way (Sinatra's, No Elvis') came to mind. Over come with curiosity, I hit the mayoral eject button. Out popped the cassette. *My Way*. Sinatra's, not Elvis'. Swear to God again. If I'm lying may I go to bed and wake up Republican.

— discovered, while watching late-night TV, that Fran Lebowitz bears a chilling resemblance to Oscar Wilde. Co-incidence or re-incarnative fate?

— enjoyed the Summer Olympics.

Watching those perfect bodies inspired me to commit to a fitness program of my own: During the entire telecast I placed the remote control *on top of the TV*, and would actually, physically *get up off the couch and walk across the room* each time I wanted to scan the channels or adjust the sound. What a workout. You can only imagine how pumped up I feel. I wonder how many of those power-pounding volleyball playing women might show up at the Gay Games this year? I wait for the day when a major network will televise the Gay Games. The events may be somewhat different, though. Instead of using free weights, a couple (which has been co-habiting no less than three years) will compete as a team. One must literally power lift the other off the couch, transporting him or her to the lifter's parents house for Thanksgiving dinner.

— vacationed in New Orleans. For those of you who've never experienced the Big Easy, let me tell you that everything you've ever read or heard or fantasized about New Orleans is true. It is Big. It is Easy. People really do dance spontaneously to "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" in open air cafes, flipping up their skirts to reveal scarlett petticoats - sometimes even the women. If you don't smoke or drink, New Orleans is a great place to start.

- went to the movies. My favorite this summer is *A League of Their Own*. Maybe it's because it's a little reminis-

cent of *Bad New Bears* with Tom Hanks playing the drunken Walter Matthau role and Geena Davis as a very tall Tatum O'Neal. Maybe it's because Penny Marshall had the guts to put together a Laverne and Shirley reunion, but forgot to invite Shirley. But I think my real affection for this movie was watching Madonna become enamored with yet another female comic. First it was Sandra Bernhard. Then it was Rosie O'Donnell. Am I the only one who sees a pattern here? Is it unreasonable to believe there could be a Material Girl in my future?

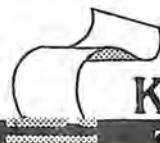
I also saw *Single White Female*, which is being hyped as a psycho-lesbian thriller. As one woman who has known a psycho lesbian or two in her time, let me just say, huh-uh. At the close of the picture various crystal goblets, lamps and family heirlooms remained whole and perfectly intact. Believe me, these lesbians were not *that* psycho.

-got hooked on the Texas Lottery. As is almost everyone I know. I have always been one to hold more stock in fate than coincidence. One evening when I was still a Yankee, through a strange twist of whimsical fate, I missed hitting the Ohio lottery for 1.3 million dollars. But that's another story for another time. But, naturally, I was among the first in line when the Texas lottery got the green light. It's working out great for me — now when I go to a

convenience store or a gas station or a bait shop, instead of buying a Hershey's Big Block with almonds, I buy a lottery ticket. Or two. I call it lot-away. So far it's working out great — I've lost 17 pounds and \$327.00.

— went camping. For one night. I learned two things. 1) Don't leave food in your tent. 2) Duct tape, the heavy, thick silver kind, is an effective non-toxic way to rid your tent of ants. It just takes a long time and is kind of noisy.

*Conversations With Bianda* has been discontinued for an indefinite period to allow Bianda to recuperate from a psychic accident. During a past life regression, she got stuck in 16th century France and was having such a good time she decided to stay. What A World. What A World! returns to this space.



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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

*Love,*

*Zena Beth*

*by Diane Salvatore*

## Morton River Valley by Lee Lynch

Talk about a fantasy! Imagine yourself in a relationship with the most famous lesbian writer in the U.S. The same woman who has had an affair with a world-famous woman sports star. (Sound like anyone familiar?)

This is the premise of *Love, Zena Beth*, the new book by Diane Salvatore (author of *Benediction*).

Zena Beth Frazier is the aforementioned author, Joyce Ecco is a journalist work-

ing for an alternative newspaper in New York. When Joyce is granted an interview with Zena Beth, she is overwhelmed with the thought of just being in the same room with her. When she is invited back to the hotel a month later, she can hardly contain herself.

After several encounters in the New York hotel, Zena Beth invites Joyce to come to her home in the South. Joyce knows that following Zena Beth will



end her relationship with lover Elaine, as well as cut short her career as a New York journalist. Will she go? You'll have to read the book to find out.

Love, Zena Beth is a great book. Who among us hasn't wondered what it would be like to have a relationship with Martina or Rita Mae Brown? What would you give up for the chance to try? This book explores all these questions as well as the down side of fame and fortune. I would encourage anyone who has ever dreamed of the possibilities to read it.

On a totally different plane of being is Morton River Valley, the latest novel by Lee Lynch (author of Dusty's Queen of Hearts Diner).

The story revolves around Paris Collins, an adult education teacher who changes jobs, cities and lovers every two years. Now she has come to Morton River Valley, the same New England town where Dusty has her diner.

Before long, Paris is involved in community issues — the loss of green park land to real estate developers and the budget cuts at the school. She also becomes involved in the problems of the Scala family: Sophia, the mother that Paris is teaching to

speak English; Guila, her oldest daughter whose beauty almost blinds Paris; and Mad-die, the younger daughter who is kicking down closet walls as fast as she can.

In the midst of all this, Paris also meets Peg — a cute butch who has

sworn off love relationships for life — just the thing to suit Paris and her two year plan.

This is a good book — Lee Lynch's usually are — very entertaining even though it tends to get preachy at times (Lee Lynch's usually do). Environmentalism, education cutbacks, small town budget problems, fear of heights, sexism, racism, homophobia, and corrupt government officials are all legitimate issues, but a bit much to cover thoughtfully in a novel of this length. However, the basic story is good and I liked all the characters so I would recommend it for some fun fall reading.

Both Love, Zena Beth and Morton River Valley are both available from your local bookstore or by mail for \$9.95 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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# Do You Keep Up With The Times?

We all know them. Those women who are forever reminiscing about their high school prom. Women who are still wearing the same hairdo they had 20 years ago. Are you living in the past or are you looking eagerly to the future? Answer the following questions to find out!

**1.** Your favorite music comes from the:

- a. nineties — of course!
- b. late sixties and seventies.
- c. anything before 1959.

**2.** Your office is installing computers at every desk, you:

- a. get a subscription to *PC World* and

- sign up for an MS-DOS course.
- b. attend company training classes, but keep your typewriter.
- c. let the computer collect dust—you've gotten along this far without it.

**3.** The best time of your life:

- a. today and tomorrow!
- b. the last five years.
- c. was your high school years.

**4.** Your favorite movies are:

- a. foreign art films.
- b. whatever is at the video store this week.
- c. black & white—non-colorized, thank you!

**5. Your closet contains:**

- a. stirrup pants & menswear style suits.
- b. classic suits, jeans & t-shirts.
- c. bell-bottoms, clogs & an Annie Hall blazer.

**6. Your favorite recreational activity is:**

- a. rollerblading.
- b. riding your bike.
- c. playing jacks.

**7. Your favorite TV show is:**

- a. Beverly Hills 90210.
- b. Murphy Brown.
- c. The Mary Tyler Moore Show.

## SCORING

Give yourself points as follows:  
10 points for every "a" answer  
6 points for every "b" answer  
2 points for every "c" answer

## If You Scored: 52-70 points

You are perpetually modern. No fad passes you by in your quest to always be "up with the times". Keep it up and you'll be one of those really fun older women that everyone wants to be around! The only problem is that by always looking to tomorrow, you may miss out on some of the enjoyment of today. Plus, keeping ahead of what's fashionable can be very hard on your pocketbook.

## 33-51 points

You got your feet planted firmly in the here and now. You aren't afraid of the future and you don't dwell on memories of times past. You understand that

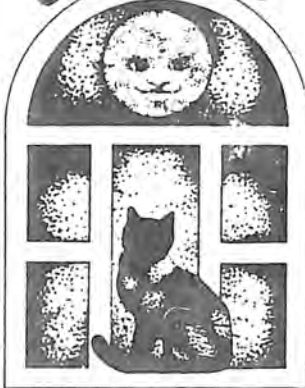
life is short and the time to live it is right now! You know how to change with the times, but you don't get caught up in the merry-go-round of fads and fashions.

## 14-32 points

Wake up! These are the 90's (the 1990's)! You have the "those were the good old days" syndrome — romanticizing everything from feelings to fashions of years gone past. You complain that today's fashions just aren't flattering and that things are just too complicated these days. You forget that bell-bottoms and clogs didn't really flatter the female form and that microwave ovens have made cooking simpler, not harder. Get with the program and remember that today is tomorrow's memory — make it a good one!



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# POETRY

FROM OUR READERS

She's gone  
I can't believe it  
The house would be deathly still  
But I moved into an apartment  
I had to — the house was "ours"  
But my apartment is deathly still  
No laughing, no conversation,  
    no hairdryers blowing in the  
    morning, no coffee perking,  
    no TV, no thrown towels or  
    messy kitchen counters  
Boy, I miss her

What was I thinking when I decided  
    I needed some space after seven years?  
A week later a mutual friend took  
    her away from me  
Every time I see them together, or  
    even think of them together,  
    I get sick,  
I never thought our relationship  
    could end this way  
Boy, I miss her

Now a "stranger" sleeps in "our" bed  
A "stranger's" car sits in the driveway  
    of "our" house  
My phone now longer rings with someone  
    asking me "Are you O.K.?"  
I am totally alone  
My friends have no sympathy - I wanted  
    some space -  
Yes, I wanted a little space but not  
    the dissolution of a relationship  
    that meant everything to me  
Boy, I miss her

Kimberly V. Forsyth  
Mesquite, TX

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# HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

## ARIES

Pay close attention to business and financial affairs during the first part of September. Don't put off dealing with a troubling situation — it will only get worse the longer you wait. You may be feeling the weight of too many responsibilities after the 12th. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Spending too much time at work could cause problems in a close relationship after the 24th.

## TAURUS

Your love life is at the forefront throughout the month of September. Whether you are already in a committed relationship or just "playing the field", your love life will take a turn for the better. Career matters will take more of your time after the 15th. Small upsets at work may take some time to smooth out. Be patient. Keep a promise to a loved one or you could find yourself in hot water near month's end.

## GEMINI

You won't have time for much of a social life during the first part of September. Family, home and security matters will take all of your time and energy. Things improve after the 12th although there will be ups and downs on both the financial and emotional fronts. After the 24th it will seem that both love and money just flow in your direction without much help from you!

## CANCER

Your extra energy can either be a help or a hindrance during September. It can either make you restless and unfocused

or put new life into your work — it's your choice! Lots of social events are on tap after the 16th. You'll have to work hard to keep a close relationship on an even keel through all this activity. A trip or even a change of residence could be on the horizon at month's end.

## LEO

Matters of money and security are at the forefront during the first part of September. You should be able to improve your lifestyle while securing your future if you look for opportunities. After the 14th, check details on any contracts, someone could be misleading you on purpose. Someone who was important to you in the past could re-enter your life in a surprising way toward month's end. Be careful — it could cause trouble at home while it advances your career.

## VIRGO

Career matters take up most of your time during the first part of September. You can move up the ladder at work if you put your mind to it. After the 14th you may be being difficult to get along with. Change how you approach a relationship to improve communications. Good luck seems to follow you toward month's end. Love, money and family matters are looking up!

## LIBRA

Your energies always seem to rise with the start of fall and this year is no exception. Money matters may keep you close to home during the first part

of September, but you should be able to get away by mid-month. After the 17th you could be feeling indecisive about a career matter. No matter what decision you make, luck is with you! Change may be scary after the 26th, but don't worry — it really is for the best!

## SCORPIO

You could profit from group activities both on the job and off during the first week of September. People you meet at these activities could help your career. Your social life really picks up after the 16th. Be on the lookout for a new friend or romantic partner around the 20th — they will be very important to your well-being toward month's end.

## SAGITTARIUS

Be careful not to stir up old fights during the first part of September. You should be able to put old animosities to rest with just a little effort. Your career could really take off around the 16th. Set goals for yourself and work toward them to get ahead. Team work is the key to success after the 26th. Whether at home or on the job, working with other people is the way to what you want.

## CAPRICORN

Financial realities hit home during the first part of September. Now matter how well you plan ahead, big expenses could sneak up on you. Money matters smooth out after the 16th although you'll run into problems with deadlines at work. Do your best

to hold your tongue. Temper tantrums won't solve a thing. You'll find ways to work through recent problems toward month's end if you'll just put your mind to it.

## AQUARIUS

You'll have to be assertive to get what you want during the first part of September — just be sure that you are tactful as well. You may be overwhelmed with responsibilities after the 16th. Take your time and work through it one thing at a time. A close relationship could crack under the strain if you don't pay attention. You move into a more social phase toward month's end.

## PISCES

A goal you've been working toward could be in your grasp during the first part of September. Congratulations! Someone you want to be "more than just friends with" could express the same feelings about you if you'll just loosen up around the 11th. You may be in a super sensitive mood around the 17th so stay away from conflict, if at all possible. Keep plans flexible toward month's end.



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# THE DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

## ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505) organizations

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

## 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) organizations

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

## AUSTIN, TX (area code 512) clubs

Nexus • 305 W. 5th • 472-5288

## organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 7403 Shoal Creek • 451-2329  
Austin Latino/a Lesbian/Gay Organization  
P.O. Box 1350 78787 • 280-6107  
Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus  
P.O. Box 822 78767 • 462-9888  
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  
1100 Springdale Rd. • 929-3660  
Oasis Ministry • 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 • 441-9191  
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 328-3830  
Sapphire! • Lesbian Social Group  
Meeting Address • 1700 S. Lamar  
Mailing Address • 201 W. Stassney, Ste. # 321 78745-3156  
Waterloo Counseling Center  
507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654  
Texas Human Rights Foundation  
P.O. Box 49740 78765 • 479-8473  
AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417  
The Treehouse (Lesbian Mothers Support Group)  
607 Nueces St. 78701 • 477-5822

## DALLAS, TX (area code 214) businesses

Advanced Electrolysis • 3209 Premier Dr. #124  
Plano, TX 75075 • 424-7147  
Business Delivery Systems  
14902 Preston Rd. 75240 • 733-1108

Crossroads Market • 3930 Cedar Springs • 521-8919  
Curious Times - Women's Books etc.  
4008D Cedar Springs • 522-5887

## clubs

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

## organizations

Affirmation • PO Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546  
AIDS Resource Center • P.O. Box 190712 75219  
Asians & Friends • PO Box 9142 75209 • 392-3339  
Congregation Beth El B'nai  
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  
Lesbian Information Line (LIL)  
P.O. Box 191443 75219 • 528-2426  
Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition  
P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882  
Lesbian Resource Center • 1315 Skiles • 821-3999  
Lesbian Visionaries • P.O. Box 191443 75219 • 528-4087  
Metropole Republicans  
P.O. Box 191033 75219 • 941-8114  
Oak Lawn Community Services  
P.O. Box 191094 75219 • 520-8108  
Oak Lawn Symphonic Band  
P.O. Box 190973 75219 • 986-1751  
PFLAG/Dallas • 556-6640  
SDA Kinship • PO Box 38454 75238 • 707-1791  
WANT (Women In The Arts) 288-929/ 823-3105  
Womyn Together • 3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

## DENTON, TX (area code 817) businesses

Athens's Attic - books, jewelry, art, etc.  
106 N. Austin St. • 565-9755

## organizations

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

## FT. WORTH (area code 817)

### organizations

Agape MCC • 4615 SE Loop 820 • 535-5002  
Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837  
RESPECT - Gay/Lesbian Association  
828 Hardwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 76054

## HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

### businesses

Adavnac-Damron Travel  
Houston 682-2002 • Statewide 800-695-0880  
Crossroads Market • 610 W. Alabama • 942-0147  
Inklings • an alternative bookshop  
1846 Richmond • 521-3369  
Kathy Hubbard • Income Tax Service • 522-9000  
Strip-O-Gram • 521-9592

### 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  
Integrity • worship & fellowship for Episcopalians & Friends  
P.O. box 66008 77266-6008 • 432-0414  
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

## LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)

### businesses

C&D Tees • 3402 Belmont • 797-6356  
Elle's Garden • 2812 34th St. • 796-0880

### organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance & Wild Wild West Prod.  
P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 796-2403  
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  
P.O. Box 5089 73070

## OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (area code 405)

### organizations

Oasis the Community Center  
2135 NW 39th 73112 • 525-AIDS  
Horland Sister Resources, Inc.  
2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9696

## SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 512)

### clubs

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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| <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:

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

COMPLETE FORM & MAIL TO:

**DIMENSIONS • P.O. Box 856 • Lubbock, TX 79408 • (806) 797-9647**

## 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

# CLASSIFIEDS

## RATES

45¢ PER WORD

(50¢ PER WORD BUSINESS ADS)

50¢ PER WORD BOLD TYPE

ADD \$1.50 FOR ADS IN ALL CAPS

**2" X 1 1/2"**

**DISPLAY AD**

WITH BORDER & BOLD HEADLINE

**\$25 PER MONTH**

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

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

## PERSONALS

GWF, 39, Soft Romantic Dyke seeks that special someone who enjoys sunrise, sunsets, long walks and talks. Enjoys the outdoors, sports and quiet evenings. Must be open and honest. Not into games or drug-users please. Reply to Box #411.

## MESSAGES

STEADY TEDDY. Happy sixth anniversary, August 17, 1986. I love you more every day. You are my reason. I look forward to a lifetime with you. Love always, BEAR.

## 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 avail-

# The MOO - HAPPY B-DAY LINDA G! Graffiti Page

(AKA "SISSY")



Allison -  
Happy B-day to a fun  
& SUPER SEXY gal!  
Love Jac, Rhonda  
& all your pool buddies

ANN -  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
I LOVE YOU  
ANGELA

9-19-92

GEORGINA

HAPPY 1ST ANNIVERSARY  
YOU'RE EVERYTHING I  
WANTED IN A LOVER,  
FRIEND, COMPANION  
AND MOST OF ALL MY  
SOUL PROVIDER.



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
TO ALL  
VIRGOS & HONEY

HAPPY 14TH  
BIRTHDAY  
TO ROBERT  
FROM THE STAFF  
& MANAGEMENT  
OF NEXUS.

Kathy - Happy 6th Anniversary.  
I wish all I ever want through  
life is to be with you, but I know  
you're not as all go' - CJ

from little things  
I still want things  
of all, I miss you  
on the couch holding  
dads, cuddling  
yes, I miss the  
DNL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOBBI - WE MISS YOU!

GARLAND - KIM (HEY 19!) YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO THE GIRLS & I.  
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE PART OF OUR FAMILY. BABY, I LOVE YOU! NOV. 28  
SOUNDS GREAT TO ME! ♡ WILL YOU MARRY ME? ♡  
ALL MY LOVE, ALL MY HEART, ALL MY LIFE ~ KANDY

CONCIE - YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE "ONE" ... KIM M.

## PUT YOUR MESSAGE ON THE GRAFFITI PAGE FOR FREE!

Whatever you want, we'll print it right here for no charge!

No explicit language, please.

Graffiti will be printed on a first come, first served basis.

Send your Graffiti to:

Dimensions • Graffiti Page • P.O. Box 856 • Lubbock, TX 79408

# A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

A NEW MONTHLY COLUMN FROM THE LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS LOBBY

WRITTEN BY LAURIE EISERLOH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas is offering marriage certificates for lesbian and gay people. Each certificate is individually numbered and State Representative Glen Maxey and I will personally sign each certificate. They are sealed with the House of Representatives state seal. These certificates are not actual legal documents, gay/lesbian marriage is not legal in the state of Texas, but rather a certificate that recognizes your commitment to one another. Each union is entered in the LGRL registry of marriage. Marriage certificates may be used by those who are already united and by those who intend to unite. If you would like a marriage certificate, please send your names as you would like them to appear on the certificate and \$30 to LGRL, P.O. Box 2579, Austin, TX 78768. Please include a return address. Delivery in one to four weeks.

One of the most powerful and affirmative lesbian statements ever made in the Austin community was the July, 1992 wedding announcement of Ms. Sara Dee Strandtman and Ms. Karen Marie Umminger in the *Austin American-Statesman*, Austin's daily paper. Next to the endless announcements by happy heterosexual couples appeared a photograph of two beautiful newlyweds, both of whom were women. For many of us in Austin, the Strandtman-Umminger announcement symbolized a new era for the lesbian/gay community.

Politically, I am very supportive of lesbian/gay marriage. During the last legislative session, I wrote, and State Representative Debra Danburg introduced, the first lesbian/gay marriage bill in the history of the state. Lesbian/gay marriage works well as a political tool because it helps us proclaim to society as a whole that our relationships are as important as straight relationships. Lesbian/gay marriage helps us to associate our relationships with many idealized social concepts such as love, stability, commitment, family and home. This is a great relief for many of us who are weary of seeing lesbians associated with other much less positive concepts.

However, despite the power of lesbian/gay marriage as a political concept, there is a certain amount of ambivalence in our community about marriage. Many lesbians and feminists believe that the concept of marriage is theoretically problematic. For many, the most glaring problem with lesbian/gay marriage is that it assimilates heterosexual culture. We want to be married in order to gain the same respect for our relationships that straight people have for theirs. But why do we want this? Shouldn't we be trying to create our own institutions that are better than those created by straight people?

The second most glaring problem with marriage is that it is an institution created in order to oppress women. One theory is that marriage was created because surplus male wealth necessitated a need for male inheritance. While matriarchal lineage is always clear (i.e. the identity of a child's mother is not uncertain — the one who gave birth is the mother) patriarchal lineage is uncertain (in other words, one may not know the identity of the child's father). Marriage was created in order to establish a means for patriarchal inheritance whereby the father's property was passed to the father's children. Of course the most important part of this social contract was that women were not allowed to have sex outside the marriage or there would be confusion about the identity of the children's father. Males were exempt from this. Not only did this lead to the oppression of female sexuality, but it devalued any matriarchal means of inheritance. Opponents also point out that marriage is an institution in which women have been undervalued, brutalized, and oppressed.

So why would we as lesbians and as feminists ever want to support lesbian/gay marriage? Perhaps in recreating our own version of marriage, whether it be a lesbian wedding, an intimate union or a spiritual union, we have addressed all of the problems with traditional marriage. Perhaps we have not. But regardless of the theoretical implications of marriage, there is no denying the powerful political statement made by lesbian marriage.

Right now, I am looking at Ms. Strandtman and Ms. Umminger's wedding announcement from the *Austin American-Statesman*, and I still can't believe my eyes.



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**FOR A WEEKEND OF PARTYING!  
SEPTEMBER 4TH, 5TH AND 6TH**

**MEN & WOMEN'S C&W DANCE CLUB**

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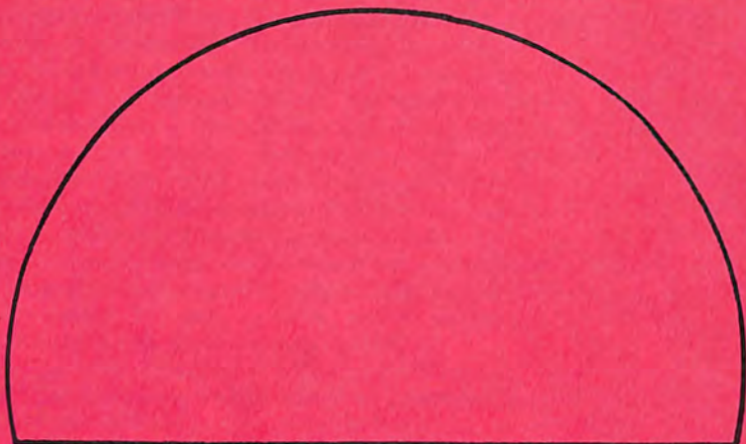
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# LAST SPLASH



# AUSTIN IS HERE

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AT HIPPIE HOLLOW ON LAKE TRAVIS

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