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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10

MAY 1993





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Dimensions is published by Visions Publishing Co., P.O. Box 856, Lubbock, TX 79408, Phone (806) 797-9647. Opinions expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Dimensions or its staff. Publication of the names of any person or organization is not an indication of sexual orientation. Subscription rates: 6 mos. \$15.00, 1yr. \$24.00. Payment must accompany all subscription orders. Copyright ©1993 Visions Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

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# THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

## MARCH ON WASHINGTON

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to our printing schedule, we will not have a report on the 1993 March on Washington in this issue. However, we will bring you the complete story in our June/Gay Pride issue.

## 1993 Texas Lesbian Conference

**HOUSTON** - Hundreds of lesbians will be gathering in Houston May 21-23 for the 6th Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC). Keynote speakers at the conference will be Akasha (Gloria) Hull, Susie Bright and Dr. Nancy Lee Jose. Akasha Hull is a poet, author, lecturer and professor of Women's Studies and Literature at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Susie Bright is an author, lecturer and self-proclaimed "Sexpert" who has appeared on national talk shows and performs across the country. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose is with MCC Cathedral of Hope in Dallas.

Workshops will cover a diversity of lesbian-oriented subjects including sexuality, intimacy, parenting and lesbian legal issues.

Lesbians in Business (LIB) will hold an open meeting Friday evening as a part of the conference. They will present Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, founding members of the first national lesbian organization in the U.S. — The Daughters of Bilitis, helped publish the first lesbian publication, *The Ladder*, and have written several books including Lesbian/Woman. The LIB meeting is

free to all out-of-town registrants. Entertainment will be provided by Denice Franke on Friday night, and by the Therapy Sisters and Girls In The Nose on Saturday night (followed by a dance with DJ Cherry Wolf). Registration is \$65 and includes attendance to all workshops, speakers, three meals and a free showing of the film, *A Place Of Rage*. The Saturday night concert and dance is an additional \$15. A "hard times" discount rate is available. For more information or to register, call (713) 867-8904 and leave a message.

## Minnesota Passes Gay Rights Bill; Other States Consider

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Minnesota became the eighth state in the country to extend civil rights to its gay and lesbian citizens when Gov. Arne Carlson signed a bill on April 3. Meanwhile, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) reports that similar legislation failed in New Mexico and that bills are pending in six other states.

The Minnesota law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in the areas of housing, public and private employment and education. However, four amendments muted the bill's impact: language specifically prohibits gay and lesbian marriage; owner-occupied dwellings of two units are exempted from the housing statute; religious institutions are exempted; and groups providing services to youth are also permitted to discriminate on the basis of sexual discrimination.

New Mexico's gay and lesbian civil



rights bill was tabled by the House Judiciary Committee after it had cleared two Senate hurdles and passed on the Senate floor. New Mexico activists were disappointed that the bill died after it had made such progress, but are determined to make an even stronger showing next session.

In Maine, gay and lesbian activists cheered as a gay and lesbian civil rights bill was reported out of committee with a huge vote margin. By a vote of 11-2, the Joint Judiciary Committee approved the bill, which won the support of the Maine Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Banking Association. However, a referendum question to repeal the civil rights law has already been filed in anticipation of the law's passage. An organization called Maine Families, based in Auburn, has said it will begin gathering signatures on repeal petitions. In nearby Rhode Island, openly gay Senator Will Fitzpatrick and the Rhode Island Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights lobbied their bill through the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee approved the bill by a vote of 11-6 and sent it on to the full Senate for a vote expected in mid-May.

Gay and lesbian Nebraskans gave persuasive testimony on a fair employment bill that was approved by the Senate Business and Labor committee by a vote of 4-3. One senator who was not expected to support the bill voted for it, saying, "The lack of action in other states can't justify doing nothing here."

New York and Washington also have bills pending that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, while Hawaii has a bill in the legislature that would expand its current statewide gay and lesbian civil rights law.

If you would like to help activists in any of these states, please contact Robert Bray or Robin Kane at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at (202) 332-6483 for a list of resources.

---

## Gays in Military Hearings Called Disappointing

WASHINGTON D.C. - The long-awaited hearings conducted by the Senate Armed Services Committee on President Clinton's proposal to lift the ban against gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals in the U.S. military began on March 28th. What follows are the reactions of some legal scholars, historians, civil rights leaders and veterans to the first day of testimony.

CMS Coordinator Thomas B. Stoddard stated, "We have been working with Senator Nunn in anticipation of these hearings, while fully knowing his predisposition against us. We gave him the benefit of the doubt, but given his poor performance and the weak substance provided by this panel, we can only conclude that we have more doubt in Senator Nunn than before. We are disappointed with the testimony. The testimony has been confused, incomplete and often beside the point. Simply, the panel lacked substance and failed to provide accurate information to the Senate Committee. Cardboard witnesses were substituted for experts in the legal and historical dimensions of this important issue."

John D'Emilio, a Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, representing the Campaign for Military Service, said, "There were no historians on the panel today — the Committee did not get the history lecture they needed. From the 1940s to the 1970s

the military's rationale for the policy was the danger of blackmail, and the unsuitability of gay men and lesbians because they were mentally unstable. The Navy's Crittenden report concluded there was no factual data to sustain the blackmail argument and the American Psychiatric Association concluded that homosexuality is not pathological. Only at this point, when their other rationales have been taken away, did the military raise the military 'cohesion' rationale. The bottom line is that their last-ditch, fall-back position is simple discrimination and prejudice."

Nan Hunter, professor of law at Brooklyn Law School and an established expert on constitutional law stated, "The most stunning point about the panel on the first day centers on what was missing. The panel failed to address the only really important question: 'What is the government's justification for its discriminatory policy?' So far the only rationale offered in defense of the policy

has amounted to an acquiescence to prejudice. The Supreme Court has made clear that this is an impermissible justification. Until the Committee addresses that point, the hearings overall will be pointless."

Lt. Tracy Thorne stated, "I found it very troubling to be talked about today like a laboratory animal or alien being, not a fellow American. Let me be emphatically clear: this debate was not based in reality. I did not join the Navy to get a date in the shower or go to a square dance on a ship. This is not about marital benefits or some grand social experiment. This discussion today was about my life, not my lifestyle. Senators — talk to me about these issues and you will find more truth in an hour than in this whole day's worth of bigotry and bias. . . If America and her military does not protect liberty, what does it protect? This is about discrimination — experts on this issue were not heard today."



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# WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

**TEXAS** - The Sixth Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) happens at the Stouffer Presidente Hotel in Houston, May 21-23. Featured speakers include: Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, authors of *Lesbian/Woman* and founding members of the Daughters of Bilitis (the first lesbian organization, founded in 1953); "Sexpert" Susie Bright; poet and author Akasha (Gloria) Hull; and Dr. Nancy Lee Josie, minister at MCC Cathedral of Hope in Dallas. The film "A Place of Rage" will be shown several times. The film features June Jordan, Angela Davis and Alice Walker recounting their experiences in the civil rights movement. Entertainment will be provided by Denice Franke, *Girls in the Nose* and *The Therapy Sisters*. For registration information, call (713) 867-8904 or write to: TLC '93, c/o LIB, P.O. Box 66748, Houston, TX 77266-6748. For hotel reservations, call the Stouffer Presidente at 1-800-468-3571 and mention TLC. Room rates for participants are \$79 for up to four women. Rates are good through May 7th, so call now!

**HOUSTON** - Houston's Fem TV (Feminist Television) will present performer Jamie Anderson in concert and interview on May 6 at 9:30pm, May 8 at 6:30 and May 9th at 10:30am. Artist Rachel Hecker, the administrator at the Museum of Fine Arts' Glassell School of Art will appear on the program beginning May 15 at 2pm, May 18th at 10:30pm, May 20 at 8pm, May 23 at 4pm and May 25 at 6pm. Fem TV can be seen on Houston's Public Access Channel (PAC in the TV Guide).

It is on channel 4, 9 or 11 on Warner Cable and channel 41 on Storer Cable. If you would like more info, please contact Fem TV at P.O. Box 66604, Houston, TX 77266-6604.

**FORT WORTH** - A number of talented North Texas musicians, vocalists and dancers are uniting for the Performing Artists Spotlight Show (PASS), donating their performances to benefit the Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network, the Fort Worth/Tarrant County Chapter of The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and the AIDS Outreach Center. Appearing in the show will be the Dallas Women's Chorus; the Turtle Creek Chorale; symphony pianist, Shields-Collins Bray; premier ballet dancer Todd Edson and more. The show will be held Saturday, May 22 at Fort Worth's Will Rogers Auditorium. Tickets are \$15-\$40 and are available at all DFW area Dillard's department stores. For more info, contact Alliance Productions at (817) 763-8382.

**DALLAS** - You keep meaning to quit smoking . . . but you just never seem to do it. Well, here's your chance. The Oak Lawn Counseling Center is holding a Smoking Cessation workshop titled "Nicotine: The Toughest Addiction" on Saturday, May 1 from 10am-4pm at the center (3434 Fairmont). The cost is \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. For more info, contact Martha Graham at (214) 520-8108.

**LUBBOCK - The South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC) will present "To Lubbock With Love" on Saturday, May 8th at the Depot Restaurant (19th & Ave. G). Dinner will be served and the show, "Burlesque!" will be presented after dinner. Tickets are \$30 per person. All proceeds will go to benefit the 27 services provided by SPARC. For more info, call SPARC at (806) 796-7068.**

**NATIONAL/LESBIAN SPORTS - The first annual Lesbian Golf Tournament presented by Women's Golf Tours will be held in Minneapolis, MN August 19-22. This will be a 36-hole Tournament held the two days prior to the LPGA Classic Tournament (WGT is not affiliated with the LPGA). Play is open to all lesbians. For more info and a registration packet, contact Women's Golf Tours at 1-800-373-7244.**

If you aren't into golf, maybe you prefer to swim. **The Seventh Annual International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA) Meet will be held Memorial Day Weekend (May 28-31). The event will feature participants from 40 IGLA teams from five continents, however, individual swimmers and water polo teams who are not affiliated with IGLA are also welcome. The competition is open to everyone regardless of ability, but there will be several world-class swimmers on hand, including Mike McGuire who is currently ranked third in the world in the 800-meter freestyle for males 35-39 years old. The meet will be held at the North-**

**eastern Illinois University's Chicago Campus. For more info, call Alan at (312) 528-2504.**

**NATIONAL/MUSIC FESTIVALS - The 18th Annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival will be held August 10-15. This 6-day all-womyn camping event is the largest of the womyn's music festivals in the U.S., and is attended by 7-8,000 womyn every year. This year's performers include Margie Adam, The Washington Sisters, Laura Love, Nona Hendryx, Alice Walker and many more. For more info and registration, write to WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458 or call (616) 757-4766.**

**The 19th Annual National Women's Music Festival will be held on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington, IN June 3-6. Performers include: Sue Fink, Teresa Trull, Jamie Anderson, The Washington Sisters and Alix Dobkin among others. For more info, call (317) 251-5413 or write P.O. Box 1427-PR, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1427.**



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# DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,  
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---

## Dear Agnes,

I realize this is a different kind of a problem, but I really need to get this off my chest. My lover of five years went with her family to the Bahamas over Thanksgiving. She said she had a really great time and I was glad she got to go. We have always had a great relationship (I thought) and have been relatively happy most of the time. We have our share of fights but we have always managed to work things out. I don't want to leave this relationship, but here's the problem: she's pregnant. She told me in late February that she was four months pregnant (four months before that was roughly Thanksgiving).

I flew into a terrible rage and called her every name in the book while I packed her suitcase. I put it into her car and told her to get out.

I was so angry . . . that she cheated on me, that she slept with a man, that she had known she was pregnant for two months and hadn't said anything. It's not the baby that bothers me. We had already talked about having children using the "turkey baster" method, but this wasn't quite what I had in mind.

When I threw her out in February, I was lashing out. Now I want her back. She won't take my calls and her mother told me flat out to leave her alone. I don't know how to get through to her.

I realize I behaved badly, but I was just so angry. What can I do to get her to at least talk to me? I hope you can help.

**I'M SORRY**  
Dallas Texas

## Dear Sorry,

The only thing I know to tell you is to send her flowers and a copy of this letter. Maybe, if you can find a way to communicate with her, the two of you can come to some sort of understanding.

I understand that you were angry, but you would have been better off to get out of the house and cool off before you talked about this. Flying off the handle and calling someone names is no way to solve any problem.

If you can't get through to her with flowers, you might try getting a mutual friend to talk to her for you.

## Dear Agnes,

This is a really stupid problem, but it is driving me crazy. I have a wonderful lover I've been with for five years, lots of great friends, a fabulous job and a family that is very accepting. The problem is that I am very overweight.

I've tried every diet and even had my stomach stapled. Nothing worked. I have resigned myself to the fact that I am a big woman and will always be a big woman. So that isn't the problem. The problem is that whenever my lover, our friends and I go out to the bar, I feel like I'm being shunned. No one outside our group will talk to me, the bartenders give me sideways looks and when I get out on the dance floor it is like the red sea has parted. No one wants to get close to me.

I've thought about announcing before I

enter the bar that I know that I'm fat and that I promise it isn't contagious. We don't go out very often, but when we do it really drives me up a wall the way the women there treat me. Any suggestions?

## FAT & VERY HAPPY City Withheld

### Dear Happy,

If the rest of your life is great, why are you so worried about what the people in the bar think of you? If any of these people were worth your time and trouble, they wouldn't care if you were green and had antennae as long as you are a nice person.

I know all that "beautiful on the inside" stuff sounds cliché, but it is very true. The other thing to consider is that your

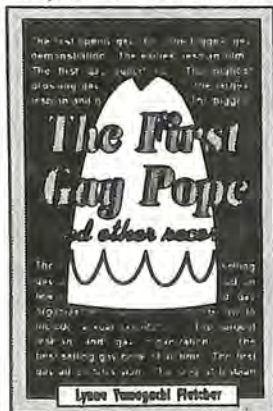
own self-consciousness about your size is skewing your perspective. The women on the dance floor may not give you any more room than anyone else, you are just more aware of it. Talk to your friends and lover and see if they notice all the things that you think you are seeing when you go out. You might be surprised to learn that you are treated just like everyone else — you are just more sensitive to how others react to you.



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# DECADES

## A look back at the women's & lesbian/gay rights movements in the 20th century.

There are those who believe that "you can't really appreciate where you are going until you understand where you've been."

As I write this, events leading up to the historic '93 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation are just beginning. The March itself won't happen for another week. In the midst of all the excitement, I thought this would be an appropriate time to look at where we came from. So here it is — a short history of both women and the lesbian/gay community in the 20th century.

### 1900s & 1910s

At the beginning of this century women in most states were the property of their husbands (or fathers, brothers or other close male relatives) with no legal control over their own earnings, children or property. Women were not allowed to vote, one fourth of the states did not allow wives to make contracts, and women could not enter into business partnerships without male consent.

But, it wasn't all bad news. From 1890 until the beginning of World War I, the women's movement was alive and well. By 1900 twenty percent of women were employed outside the home and beginning to dominate professions such as nursing and teaching. Out of 369 occupations listed in the census of 1890, women could be found in all but nine.

Although the federal government didn't give in until the '20s, many municipalities allowed women to vote in local elections as early as the 1900s and four states (Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho) allowed women to vote in state and federal elections. By 1914 six additional states had given the vote to women.

Lesbians and gay men were isolated by a largely rural population and homosexuality was rarely mentioned outside the realm of church or medical journals. There were a few pockets of gay life in the larger cities, evidenced by the opening of San Francisco's first gay bar, The Dash, in 1908. By and large, lesbianism was not thought to be possible, thus the advent of "Boston Marriages," close "friendships" (with definite romantic overtones) formed by middle class women.

### 1920s

On August 18, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment gave women all over the U.S. the right to vote. With this victory came a definite downturn in the Suffrage movement — with no great cause to unite them and bring in new members, women drifted from the movement. The "New Woman" waited until later to marry, wore shorter skirts, smoked cigarettes and generally had more freedom.

The freer morals of the '20s brought

increased freedom for women as well as homosexuals. Many homosexual men had encountered the relative freedom of gays in large European cities during the first World War and brought this expanded view back to the States with them. The growing shift of the population from rural to urban also helped things along.

## 1930s

The Great Depression brought severe setbacks to women's employment opportunities. With fewer jobs to go around, many women were forced out of the job market. Those that did hang on to their jobs were often faced with wage and hour cuts. When an advertisement for 150 jobs as soap demonstrators was advertised in St. Louis, over 1,000 women stormed an office building to apply for the jobs.

Homosexuals were also affected by the Depression. With urban areas being especially hard hit, the small gay communities that had formed in the twenties were forced to focus on economic instead of emotional needs. As a result, they retreated further underground so as not to lose hard earned jobs, apartments and family support.

## 1940s

More than 6 million women went to work for the first time with the advent of World War II. In the media, women at work were pictured as positive role models. Many state governments repealed legislation that prevented women from working in "dangerous" positions to encourage women to work in war plants. Women were also seen in military uniforms.

This explosion of women in the work force gave lesbians the opportunity (many for the first time) to make a comfortable living without the aid of a man. Many women discovered that they were lesbians during this time.

## 1950's

The attitudes of Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House UnAmerican Activities Committee influenced both the women's and the gay communities. The overriding conservatism of the decade did not allow for any radical action by women's organizations. Many women did not reenter the work force after World War II and the media image of women shifted from "Rosie the Riveter" to the perky housewife.

Persecution of homosexuals came into vogue with massive military purges and fear of communism. The early fifties saw the first forerunners of our modern gay organizations founded in California — West Coast-One, Inc., the Mattachine Society, and, in 1955, the first lesbian organization, the Daughters of Bilitis. The groundwork for the gay rights movement had been laid.

## 1960s

The advent of "the pill" and the civil rights movement both played a role in bringing feminism back to the forefront of national politics in the sixties. More and more women were moving into the work force out of economic necessity. The National Organization for Women was founded in 1966. Women were not only expressing their discontent, they were translating it into action.

The number of Lesbian and Gay activists were growing all across the coun-

try. They were beginning to realize that maybe they weren't the ones who had a problem, and that only by changing the attitudes of those around them would they ever be accepted. Then in 1969, on Friday, June 27th, the gay movement erupted. The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village was raided by the police — and patrons decided to fight back. The fight moved into the streets and was soon joined by people on the street and from other bars in the area.

## 1970s

Feminism was growing steadily in both numbers and appeal in the early seventies. Women formed feminist theater troupes, rock groups and made feminist movies. *Ms.* magazine went into publication. The Supreme Court gave women

the right to choose an abortion in 1973 with the decision in *Roe v. Wade*. By 1975, 32 of the required 38 states had passed the ERA amendment. The San Francisco gay community held the first Gay Freedom Day Parade in 1970 to celebrate the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. In 1972 the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality

from their list of mental disorders. In 1975 California legalized homosexuality. Harvey Milk was elected supervisor of San Francisco in 1977 and was fatally shot by ex-supervisor Dan White in 1978.

## 1980s

Three of the bastions of almost exclusively male domain were broken when Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to serve on the Supreme Court in 1981, Sally Ride became the first woman crew member of a space flight in 1983 and Geraldine Ferraro became the first woman on a major party presidential ticket. Women moved into the medical and law fields and started their own

*continued on page 27*

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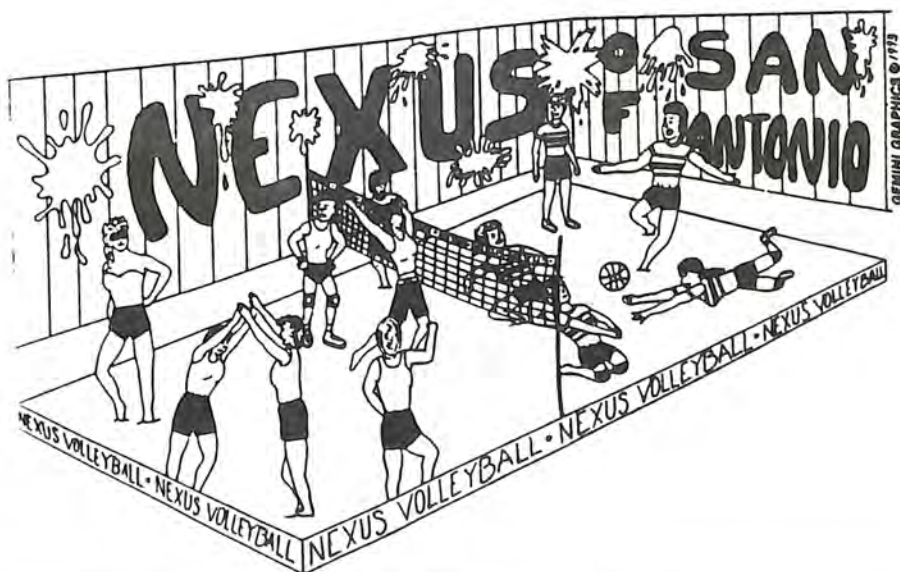
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# WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

## THE ABC'S OF THE ROAD

A Guide To Cross-Country Motoring

BY NANCY FORD

**Nancy Ford is on the road to the March on Washington. She will report on her experiences next month.**

---

**A is for Apples:** Good things to eat on a long trip. Mothers two-to-one prefer seeing apple cores to beer cans in the back seat of their offsprings' cars.

**B is for Bad Mileage:** What normal people's cars get.

**C is for Comedy Club Managers:** Who's problem it is not, should I get lost in route to said club, thus delaying showtime and my paycheck.

**D is for Directions:** A good thing to have to most efficiently reach a specific destination, preferably outlined by a navigator with asthetic tastes parallel to those of the driver. (Example: "Take the first right past the Galleria, then turn left at the 2nd Porsche dealership.")

**E is for Empty:** What neither your gas tank or your stomach should be in remote parts of rural America where tuna salad sandwiches with time-released expiration dates cost as much as \$3.49.

**F is for Freeway:** Limited-access thoroughfare whose use is offered at no cost to the traveller. However, fees are procured through those tuna sandwich revenues.

**G is for good mileage:** What a car gets when its owner practices regular maintenance, safe and consistent driving habits and general obsessive-compulsive automotive habits.

**H is for Hats:** What truckers wear. All truckers. Without hats, truckers would have nothing to tip in truckstops except the waitresses.

**I is for Interference:** What Bucksnot, Tennessee has instead of a radio station.

**J is for Jesus:** Who you pray to when you find yourself traveling 65 mph down a steep incline in front of an 18-wheeler which is driving 75 mph.

**K is for Kilometer:** Communist word for mile.

**L is for Luggage:** What you don't lose when you opt to drive instead of to fly.

**M is for Mileage:** What makes your automobile worthless as soon as its last installment payment has been made. (See Good, Bad, and Ways to Improve Mileage.)

**N is for No Vacancy:** What hotels have when you have no reservations.

**O is for Oreos:** A staple of the Open Road. Oreos make the longest long-distance trip seem shorter: pass the time simply by chewing one, two, or three Oreos, then smile at your fellow travelers as they pass you along the road. You'll never see these people again anyway.

**P is for Potty Stop:** A biological inevitability. Never, ever sit down. Better to hover. Even better yet, catheterize at the onset of the trip.

**Q is for Queen-Sized Deluxe Vibra-Beds:** What hotels with no vacancy have, where you have no reservation.

**R is for Road Map:** Origami style directions.

**S is for Serial Murderer:** What hitchhikers might be. Even the clean, pathetic-looking ones. Even the ones wearing military uniforms. Even the ones that hold up signs that say "Chocolate".

**T is for Tennessee:** Colorful state inhabited by people who knowingly give their towns names like "Bucksnot", but who lose their sense of humor about it.

**U is for Under Construction:** What Oklahoma is. The whole state.

**V is for Vaccination:** What you'll need if you don't hover. (See Potty Stop.)

**W is for Ways to Improve Your Mileage:** Practice regular maintenance, safe and consistent driving habits and gen-

erally obsessive-compulsive automotive behavior. If these methods seem too conventional for your tastes, simply drive backwards. This method is dangerous and illegal, but an effective tool come trade in time. In the event you should be questioned by a figure of authority while engaging in this activity, keep readily available an open road map. Clutch it frantically while repeating to the arresting officer "Where am I? Where the heck am I?" And best of luck to you.

**X is for Kisses:** A good thing to take up space at the bottom of postcards sent from Bucksnot, Tennessee.

**Y is for Yellowstone National Park:** What you should not see signs for when travelling north along the Mississippi River. (See Directions.)

**Z is for Zebras:** Z is always for Zebras. Ask Anybody.



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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

## CHAUTAUQUA

by Catherine Ennis

---

### The Year Seven

by Molleen Zanger

We'll start this month with the latest novel by Catherine Ennis, author of To the Lightning and Clearwater. Part medical mystery and part romance novel, Chautauqua is set in the bayou region of Louisiana. Dr. Bernie Herbert, the crime lab expert we first met in Clearwater, is scheduled to conduct a class on crime lab techniques in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Two days before she is supposed to leave she receives a call telling her that there is a suspected outbreak of cholera in the Lake Charles region. Bernie packs her bags and heads out to help track down the source of the cholera.

No sooner does Bernie arrive in Lake Charles than her lover, Vi, tells her on the phone that she is thinking of ending their relationship. Bernie is shocked,

but she can't leave to go back to New Orleans and talk to Vi.

On the trail of the deadly bacteria, Bernie meets some very interesting people. Through the cajun folks who invite her to a wild cookout and dance, to a young man with AIDS and a married lover, Bernie must track the cholera back to its source. In addition to her lover leaving and a cholera outbreak, Bernie must also deal with her attraction to Anne, a student in her class and Louise, a nurse at the hospital.

Catherine Ennis has created a very interesting character with Bernie. Her forensic exploits make her the equivalent of a lesbian "Quincy." I truly look forward to more books featuring her in the future. The only criticism I have of Ms. Ennis' books is the lack of charac-

ter development in her secondary characters. Although her part is important to the plot line of Chautauqua, Bernie's lover, Vi, is hardly more than a cardboard cutout set up in the background to give Bernie some heartache to deal with while working on a case. We know little about her except that she's leaving. But then, maybe that's why she's leaving. Other than this small detail, I would definitely recommend Chautauqua.

Next is The Year Seven, an apocalyptic novel by Molleen Zanger. It begins on an ordinary evening in July. Vic is sitting in front of her TV set when the power goes out. She waits for it to come back on and when it doesn't, she goes to bed. When she wakes up in the morning she discovers that the world as we know it has come to an end. People, dogs and cats are all gone — laying dead in the streets and in their homes. There is no explanation for this sudden, horrible cataclysm.

Vic decides to drive out of the city and see if she can find other survivors. She finds one — a straight-laced, half-crazed red head running out of the library with her arms loaded with books about chickens. Her name is Nancy and she has seen chickens in her dreams.

Vic picks her up and keeps driving. They end up in an old farmhouse with a chicken coop and a few chickens for Nancy to raise. Eventually, Vic makes a trip into a nearby town for canned goods, bottled propane and a few other necessities.

She notices that there are no bodies and on her next trip, even the rotten meat in the grocery store is gone. Then she discovers why — BJ a life-long resident of the town has been cleaning it up. Also, (miracle of miracles) BJ is a sex-starved lesbian.

Through BJ, Vic learns that most of the

survivors are female with only one or two males willing to travel and do "stud" service.

Slowly, other survivors gather in BJ's little town and she is determined to make this small society work better than what went before.

Although I truly enjoyed this book and the premise is a great one, I don't think Ms. Zanger went deep enough. The logistics of living in a world where all but a handful of people have disappeared would be quite a bit more daunting than she would have us believe. The idea is fascinating I would just like to have seen it taken farther.

Both Chautauqua and The Year Seven are 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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## DECADES

*continued from page 19*

businesses in unprecedented numbers. More and more women were winning elections at all levels of government. The gay community was (and continues to be) hit hard by the onset of the AIDS epidemic. Anti-gay violence increased as fear of the disease grew. The Supreme Court upheld the right of States to make sodomy a crime with *Bowers vs. Hardwick*. Despite these setbacks and hardships, the gay movement continues to gain momentum and win small victories in States and municipalities nationwide.

The eighties saw the birth of the AIDS Quilt, Gay TV, National Coming Out Day, the Gay Games, the first March on Washington and the National Museum of Lesbian & Gay History.

## 1990s

Although we still have our share of problems, both the women's and gay movements are making headway. The passage of Amendment 2 in Colorado and the fight over Proposition 9 in Oregon have led to ever increasing violence against gays in those states and others. On the positive side, with the election of Bill Clinton we have seen the first female attorney general and the first openly gay presidential appointees. Although Clinton's "gays in the military" proposal has been extremely controversial, at least the nation is talking about it.

The second March on Washington happened on April 25, 1993. Although it hasn't happened as of this writing, it is expected that more than one million people will attend.

## THE FUTURE

It's up to us. The future is what we make it. Both the women's and gay community have seen ups and downs over the past 93 years and that trend will surely continue far into the 21st century. But, without the help and support of us all, both will have a hard time gaining recognition and support. The March is over, but Gay Pride Week is just around the corner. And whether or not you made it to Washington, you can get out and March in your own city next month and do what you can to make sure that generations to come will also have the right and privilege to parade through the streets in a show of numbers and pride.



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## QUIZ

# Do You Hate To Be Alone?



Some women can be by themselves for days on end and never think about it. Others have to have contact with people all the time. How well do you handle being alone? Answer the questions below to find out.

1. When you are home alone, you keep the stereo or television:
  - a. on and turned up loud.
  - b. on and about medium volume.
  - c. on very low or off.
2. Do you have one or more hobbies that you can do alone?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
3. Are you always calling people on the phone for no reason — just to talk?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
4. Are you unhappy when you have to go shopping or run errands by yourself?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
5. Do you plan time to be by yourself on purpose?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
6. Do you crave something to eat or drink when you are alone?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
7. Are you generally happy with your job and home life?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
8. When you are faced with stress or boredom, you:
  - a. find something to do - read a book, work around the house, etc.
  - b. complain to whoever will listen.
  - c. go to sleep.
9. When you are faced with the prospect of spending a day or evening alone, you:
  - a. panic, you hate to be alone.

- b. aren't worried, even though you'd rather be with someone.
- c. look forward to it, you don't get enough time to yourself.

10. When it comes to relationships you:
- a. are "in one" all the time.
  - b. leave a healthy break between relationships to "get your head together."
  - c. prefer a long-distance relationship so that you don't have to share so much of your time.

## SCORING

Give yourself points as follows:

- 1. a-2, b-4, c-6
- 2. a-6, b-2
- 3. a-2, b-6
- 4. a-2, b-6
- 5. a-6, b-2
- 6. a-2, b-6
- 7. a-6, b-2
- 8. a-6, b-4, c-2
- 9. a-2, b-4, c-6
- 10. a-2, b-4, c-6

If You Scored:

47-60 points

You tend to be very self-reliant and are happy with your own company. You know how to entertain yourself and don't mind going out to eat, to the movies or traveling alone. However, you may need to guard against being alone too much of the time. You may be distancing yourself from friends, family and loved ones with your need to be by yourself. Particularly if you answered "C" to question number ten, you may need to open up and share more of yourself with those who love you.

33-46 points

You don't mind being left to your own devices. There are times when you feel lonely and other times when you want time to yourself. You have a very balanced outlook. You enjoy work that brings you in contact with people, but you can get by just fine with your own company when necessary.

20-32 points

You love anything loud crowded and exciting. You don't like to be alone and will take extreme measures to avoid it. On the rare occasions when you must be by yourself, you'll go out and make new friends just to avoid being left alone. Try spending a few minutes by yourself every day. Take up painting or gardening or some other hobby that will keep your hands busy while you are by yourself. You might just find that a little "down time" is good for the soul.



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# POETRY

FROM OUR READERS

## MY SISTERS

All of my sisters are married now,  
the youngest with twins on the way,  
the oldest with a two-car garage and motor boat.

All of my sisters are married now,  
the youngest with a second name,  
and children who will cry "Mommie."  
the oldest with a caring husband,  
and a warm comfortable home.

And, I, the one in the middle,  
the "odd" one,  
who chases skirts,  
instead of shirt tails.

They'll never say  
"all her daughters are married."

There won't be a white wedding,

Only a spinster aunty,  
who smiled boldly and laughed,  
living in courage,  
Keeping company in the loneliest of times,  
with her grey tabby and a cup of tea.

Lee Holland  
Dallas, TX

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# HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

## ARIES

A close relationship is likely to have some ups and downs during the first part of May. You could end up being the bad guy, but things will come out all right. After the 13th luck is with you in business affairs if you watch your step. The urge to splurge could be overwhelming around the 18th. The emphasis on finances continues through month's end. You can write your own ticket at work if you keep your nose to the grindstone.

## TAURUS

A romantic fling could have you walking on air during the first part of May. Be sure you aren't fooling yourself into thinking it's serious when it's all in fun. Get out and socialize after the 12th. This could be just what you need to get rid of the blahs right now. Don't expect perfection from friends and coworkers around the 16th — they are doing their best to please you! Keep a secret that has been entrusted to you toward month's end. A friend would not have given you their confidence if you were not trusted.

## GEMINI

Your personal affairs are best kept under cover during the first part of May. Be very discreet, especially at work. After the 16th you may be feeling bored by your routine. If you can't get out to socialize, try entertaining at home. Someone you have been interested in for awhile is beginning to show an interest in you after the 23rd. A good friend could be worth her weight in gold toward month's end.

## CANCER

A special friend could drop in for a visit during the first part of May. Plan some time off work to enjoy their company. Your

instincts are right on target after the 15th and may signal a change of course at home or at work. You can improve a strained relationship on the 21st by giving in to an invitation you don't really want to accept. You'll get farther and be happier if you are flexible during the last week of the month.

## LEO

Travel could be part of the agenda during the first week of May. Whether you are leaving on a trip or just planning one, your mood should be upbeat. Gentle persuasion is a very effective way to get what you want after the 12th. After the 19th you may have to decide between career obligations and taking care of a situation that arises at home. Decide which is more important to you. Greater prestige and income could be yours if you deliver on a recent promise toward month's end.

## VIRGO

Flattery will get you everywhere during the first part of May. Just be sure that you are honest with your praise and emotions. Impatience will only slow you down after the 13th. Slow down and take your time both at home and on the job. Ignore rumors about a friend or colleague around the 20th. You have more important things to do than worry about untrue whispers. Show a loved one how much you care toward month's end — sometimes you get so involved in your career that you forget to show your feelings.

## LIBRA

Avoid getting caught up in the details during the first part of May. You could lose sight of your main objective. After the 15th pressure at work builds even more. Take advantage of the opportunity to use your business skills, but avoid showing off. What

you want and what you get toward month's end may be two different things. This applies to both romance and career. However, what you get may just be better than what you want!

## SCORPIO

You may be reading more into a relationship than there actually is during the first part of May. Be sure feelings are genuine on both sides before going off the deep end. A friendship of long standing might take a romantic turn around the 15th—try to keep your composure! A friend or companion could be under some stress toward month's end, but she doesn't want you to know it. Go along with the charade, she will tell you what's wrong in her own time.

## SAGITTARIUS

You may want some time to yourself during the first part of May. Go ahead and take it, but be sure to clue those around you in to the situation. After the 16th someone close to you could put you in a difficult situation. Take care of problems as they arise, putting them off will only make them grow. Don't try to ride roughshod over someone who could be important to your future toward month's end. Be nice and you'll go alot farther.

## CAPRICORN

Don't let yourself get into a relationship that is the least bit restrictive during the first part of May. You need room to explore right now. After the 15th, a promise could be just that and nothing more. Hold onto your heart—and your wallet. You attract lots of attention from others toward month's end—you may even be the target of someone's jealousy. Don't let it upset you.

## AQUARIUS

Be sure to watch what you say both on the job and off during the first part of May. You could inadvertently reveal a secret that has

been entrusted to you. Don't allow pressures to build up between you and a co-worker after the 17th. You may feel the urge to go on a spending spree around the end of the month. Don't! Your finances aren't in great shape right now, but a day of wild spending could make them worse.

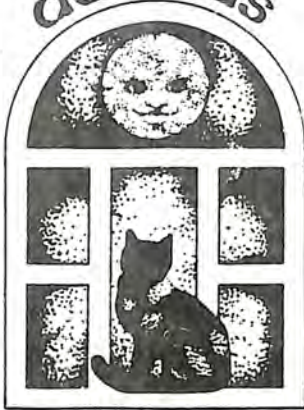
## PISCES

You may be showing the possessive side of your nature during the first part of May. Let go a little or you risk losing a loved one. An affair of the heart could be in the works after the 14th. This could be a lasting relationship if you play your cards right. A partner who wants your undivided attention could be upset about the time you spend at work toward month's end. A compromise is the only way to smooth things out.



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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) • 331-8445  
Sapphires • 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

## ATHENS, TX (area code 903)

### organizations

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 675-8326

## 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 • 521-9919

### clubs

Sus 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 • 382-3339  
Cathedral of Hope MCC • 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. • 351-1901  
Community Church & College of Divine Metaphysics  
4001 Live Oak #401 • 826-7110, Ext. 401  
Congregation Beth 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 • 278-5270  
Dallas Tavern Guild • 3900 Lemmon Ave. #220 • 526-5292  
Dignity/Dallas • PO Box 190133 75219 • 228-4101  
Foundation for Human Understanding • 528-4233  
GLAAD/Dallas • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 528-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 • 821-9989  
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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PFLAG/Dallas • 348-1704  
Imperial Sovereign Royal Court of Dallas  
P.O. Box 45662 75245 • 904-9520  
Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship • PO Box 110116  
Carrollton, TX 75011-0116  
416-1358  
WANT (Women In The Arts) 288-929/823-3105  
Wornyn Together • 3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

## DENTON, TX (area code 817)

### businesses

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

COURAGE, Lesbian Gay Student Org.  
P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 382-3913  
Harvest Metropolitan Community Church  
5900 South Stemmons 76205 • 1-800-497-HMCC  
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 387-1491

## EL PASO, TX (area code 915)

### organizations

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays)  
Spanish & English Language Meetings • 591-4664

## FT. WORTH (area code 817)

### organizations

Agape MCC • 4815 SE Loop 820 • 535-5002  
Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837  
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 498-5807/498-4855  
RESPECT - Gay/Lesbian Association  
828 Hardwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 78054  
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance  
3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 76116 • 763-5544

## HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

### businesses

Advance-Darron Travel  
Houston 682-2002 • Statewide 800-292-0500  
Crossroads Market • 610 W. Alabama • 942-0147  
Innings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3369  
Kathy Hubbard • Income Tax Service • 522-9000  
Unique Boutique • 1631 W. Alabama • 528-5268  
Village Women's Clinic • 5925 Kirby, Ste. 201 • 528-6161

### clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spwy. • 686-3464  
Mis. B's • 9208 Buffalo Spwy. • 686-3356

XTC • 9212 Buffalo Spwy. • 686-3356

### organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6788  
AIDS HOTLINE • c/o Switchboard • 529-3211  
Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston  
4800 Calhoun • 529-3211  
Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • PO Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents Group • 686-8258  
Houston Gay Political Caucus  
P.O. Box 68664 77286 • 521-1000

Integrity • worship & fellowship for Episcopalians & friends  
P.O. box 66008 77266-0008 • 432-0414

Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 15th • 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 77008 • 529-0037

Montrose Pool League/Billiards • PJ 863-8482

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 867-9020

PWA Coalition - Houston • 1475 W. Gray #183 • 522-5428

SORA (Sex or Relationships Addicts Anonymous)

support group for lesbians • 868-8256 or 529-1827

Wornyspace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601

Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 688-6256

## LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)

### businesses

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

### organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance & Wild Wild West Prod.

P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 791-4499

Community Outreach Center & Outreach AA (Tues. & Thurs.

@ 8pm) • 102 N. Ave. S • 762-1019

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 799-8529

South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC)

4204-B 50th St. 79413 • 1-800-627-7079 • 796-7068

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian/Gay Concerns  
PO 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

PO Box 436, Planetarium Station • New York, NY 10024

GLAAD/USA • 80 Varick St. #3E • NY, NY 10013

Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE

Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI)

PO Box 50380, Washington, DC 20091 • (202) 583-8029

Lesbian Teachers Network (LTN)

PO Box 638 • Solon, IA 52333

National Gay Alliance for Young Adults, Inc.

PO Box 190426 • Dallas, TX 75219 • (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

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-Flag)

1-800-4-FAMILY

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 5069 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 ANGELO, TX (area code 915)

### organizations

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 944-4323

## SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 210)

### clubs

Nexus San Antonio • 8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

### organizations

Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632

Integrity/San Antonio

PO Box 150006 78212 • 684-4920

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 822-4135

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

PO Box 12715 78212 • SALSA Line 733-1225

San Antonio AIDS Foundation

PO Box 120113 78212-9313

San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

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### organizations

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# A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

BY LAURIE EISERLOH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS LOBBY

*Editor's Note: Due to pending legislation and the March on Washington, Laurie Eiserloh's regular article will not be in this space, instead, we bring this late breaking news story from the offices of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Laurie will be back with her regular column next month.*

## TEXAS SENATE PASSES REVISED PENAL CODE — NO 21.06!

AUSTIN - On April 22, 1993 the Texas Senate passed legislation which will revise the penal code. An amendment to place the anti-homosexual conduct statute back into the penal code was defeated decisively after a vigorous floor debate.

"Senator John Whitmire, Democrat from Houston is a real hero," stated Laurie Eiserloh, Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. "He understands this as a basic human rights issue. He argued passionately against the amendment to place 21.06 back into the penal code."

During the previous session, the legislature scheduled the current Texas penal code for repeal in September of 1993. For nearly one year, the Punishment and Standards Commission has been rewriting the penal code. Both House and Senate Bills are based on the Punishment and Standards Commission Report. Neither the report nor the bills contained the anti-homosexual conduct statute. Senator Jane Nelson, a conservative Republican from Denton, moved to place the anti-homosexual conduct statute back into the penal code with a floor amendment.

Senators Steve Carriker (D-Roby), Carl Parker (D-Port Arthur), John Montford (D-Lubbock), Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) and most importantly Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) argued in opposition to the amendment. Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock and Senator Mike Moncrief (D-Fort Worth) were also key players.

"All of the Senators had a slightly different stance. But I think the most important arguments centered around issues of privacy and individual rights. Also, Senators did not want to support a statute that prosecutors cannot enforce."

"This is an incredible victory for the lesbian/gay community in Texas. It represents months of work and countless hours spent lobbying," Eiserloh said.

The bill now goes to the House and is expected to be up for a vote there during the first week of May. LGRL is urging everyone to call their representative and urge them to vote for the revised penal code as written — with no amendments.



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