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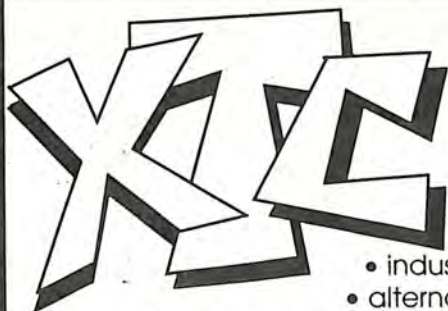
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DIMENSIONS

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

Office Hrs:
1pm-6pm Mon-Sat



Kelly Chambers
Managing Editor

Tasha Sumner
Advertising & Art Director

Contributing Editors:

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

Shannon Lacy
Production Manager

Suzanna Reilly
Southwest Distribution

Cameron Taylor
Staff Photographer

**For Advertising
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**Dimensions needs
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To The Editor

\$21.06 UPDATE

Dear Editor,

We all know about 21.06: It is, of course, the "sodomy law" or the "anti-sodomy law," and it criminalizes private, consensual sexual relations between individuals of the same gender.

The Texas Human Rights Foundation is sponsoring a law suit which contends that this law is unconstitutional. The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, under the leadership of former Executive Director Laurie Eiserloh, mounted a formidable challenge to this statute in the legislature this past session. (The Texas Human Rights Foundation *was not* involved in the legislative challenge, just as the Lobby *is not* involved in the law suit challenging §21.06.) Although the Senate voted to take §21.06 out of the revised penal code, ultimately the statute was kept in. Now, our hopes of defeating §21.06 lie with the law suit, through the courts.

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments on January 5, 1993, and we all have been anxiously awaiting their decision. Well, we get a little break.

The court recessed for the summer on June 30, and will not reconvene to hand down decisions until September.

Frustrating isn't it? Well, at least we can relax for awhile . . .

The Texas Human Rights Foundation would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the law suit. We'll keep you posted.

Suzy Wagers

Director of Development

Texas Human Rights Foundation

HAWAII NEEDS HELP

Dear Editor,

As you have noted in your publication over the past few months, there are some exciting projects going on throughout the nation to secure the legal rights of same sex couples. We are writing to share some important

news about the forefront of that movement. With the Hawaii Supreme court's decision declaring the state ban against same-sex marriage unconstitutional unless the state can prove a compelling state interest, Hawaii is on the crest of being the first state to legally recognize same-sex marriages. With this will come the entitlement of over 100 civil rights and privileges previously denied to lesbian & gay couples; health care benefits, survivorship laws and tax deductions to name a few.

But to secure these rights we need mainland help. As can be expected the fundamentalist fanatics have landed and are spreading misinformation about the implications of same-sex marriage. We must counter their nonsense.

Those interested in joining the forefront of the marriage rights pursuit should contact the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (HERMP), c/o GLCC of Hawaii, 1820 University Ave. #8, Honolulu, HI 96822. Or contact HERMP by calling (808)951-7000. We are an all-volunteer, tax-deductible, 501(c)(3) group. It is really a great grassroots organization, very dedicated to promoting our loving relationships. And EVERY CENT goes directly to legal costs and educational efforts.

Thank you for the continued work of your publication in keeping our community informed and active.

With aloha,

Joe Melillo/Patrick Lagon

Ninia Baehr/Genora Dancel

Plaintiffs, HERMP lawsuit



Tell Us What You Think!

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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, DON'T PURSUE

AUSTIN -Laurie Eiserloh, Executive Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas expressed disappointment over President Clinton's policy on lesbian and gay people in the military, yet called it an improvement over the old policy.

"The new policy which prohibits lesbian and gay soldiers from stating their sexual orientation and prohibits so-called "homosexual behavior" on or off base invades the privacy of lesbian and gay people."

"It is understandable why the military, like any other employer, would seek to prohibit sexual behavior — whether homosexual or heterosexual — while soldiers are busy at their jobs. By the same standard, it is ludicrous for the military to allow heterosexual soldiers to engage in sexual behavior while off-duty and prohibit the same off-duty behavior for lesbian and gay people. This has no effect on how we perform as soldiers."

Eiserloh also had some criticism for the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. "This policy is ridiculous. In job situations, people talk about their private lives — the movie they went to over the weekend, the color they painted their house, that sort of thing. Sometimes in these conversations, people talk about significant others in their lives. Why should lesbian and gay people be prohibited by law from engaging in this sort of friendly workplace talk, which plays an important role in building workplace camaraderie, while heterosexuals can say whatever they want?"

However, Eiserloh did find some good points in the policy. "I am pleased that the military now must have actual proof of so-called "homosexual acts" in order to separate

someone from military service, this should curb at least some of the witch hunts which have gone on in the military."

"I'm also pleased that recruits are not asked about their sexual orientation upon entering the service. This is an improvement, although of limited significance, because so-called "homosexual acts" are still disallowed in the military."

"Probably the biggest improvement in this policy is that attending a gay pride march or visiting a gay bar is not in itself a reason for separation from the service. Considering the restrictiveness in the rest of the policy, this is once again a limited victory."

As for President Clinton and his role in making this policy, Eiserloh had this to say, "No other American President has done so much for lesbian and gay rights. The public discussion that this policy has initiated is almost more important than the policy itself. Nevertheless, Clinton did not follow through on his campaign promise and the so-called compromise he has left us with has done very little for our community. Frankly, I'm pretty disappointed."

"I expect that this policy will be challenged in court on the grounds that it violates the right to privacy, the First Amendment, and the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution. This battle isn't over yet."

NEVADA SODOMY LAW REPEALED

CARSON CITY, NV - Nevada Governor Bob Miller has signed into law a bill to repeal Nevada's sodomy statute. This marks the first legislative repeal of a sodomy law since 1986, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Bowers vs. Hardwick that homosexual sodomy is not constitutionally protected.

First-year Nevada state senator Lori Lipman Brown introduced the bill to repeal the sodomy law in the state senate. The 82 year old law was previously amended in 1977 to apply to sexual activity between members of the same sex only. The repeal measure faced heated opposition during judiciary committee hearings including testimony from out-of-state "expert witness," Paul Cameron, a disbarred psychologist.

Judy Corbisiero of Nevadans for Constitutional Equality said, "This effort [to repeal the sodomy law] proved that when the gay community in northern and southern Nevada pull together we can make things happen."

After a grueling lobbying effort led by Corbisiero and Kevin Kelly of the Nevada Association of Criminal Justice, the repeal measure passed both chambers by more than a two to one ratio. Lee Plotkin, a member of the Las Vegas Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee who also lobbied for the repeal, said, "We developed a formula to make this effort work." He added, "If it can work in Nevada, it can work anywhere."

COME OUT TO CLINTON

DENVER, CO - The formation of a new, Colorado based, multi-purpose national organization has been announced. The "Come Out To Clinton Campaign," is a national effort, committed to supporting President Clinton to end the military ban against gay & lesbians (see story above) and encouraging the passage of a federal civil rights bill for everyone.

The goals of the right wing extremists are becoming more and more apparent. With passage of Amendment 2 in Colorado that legalizes discrimination based on sexual orientation and with many similar measures being voted on across the country, it's apparent that something must be done on a national level regarding the basic human rights of lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

The goals of the "Come Out to Clinton Campaign" are twofold: Primarily, the goal

is to make it simpler than ever to have everyone's voice heard in the nation's capital, more specifically: to generate and send letters of encouragement to President Clinton reminding him that we're here and that without our vote, he wouldn't be President! Secondly, the money raised through the efforts will be donated to various gay and lesbian organizations nationally and locally.

Letters to President Clinton are generated and sent when you call 1-900-285-5462. The cost of the call is \$2.90 per minute (average call is 2 minutes) and will appear on your phone bill. You will be asked to leave your name and phone number (which will be held in strictest confidence), and your letter to the President will go out the next day.

HAWAIIAN SAME-SEX MARRIAGE RULING STANDS

HONOLULU, HI - Reaffirming its commitment to equal rights, the Hawaii Supreme Court recently turned down the State Attorney General's request to reconsider its May 5 ruling that said that the State's refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples is unconstitutional. In answering the State's request for reconsideration, Hawaii's highest court made clear that the State must prove a "compelling interest" or lift the ban on same-sex marriages. The court's most recent edict, which was supported by the majority of the court, means that other states will be able to use the May 5 ruling in efforts to legalize same-sex marriage elsewhere.

Hawaii supporters of equal rights hailed the May 5 ruling as a victory for all people wishing to end gender-based discrimination. "We're overjoyed and we couldn't be more pleased, and we now expect to prevail ultimately on the issue of gay marriages," said Dan Foley, attorney for the three gay couples who filed the original lawsuit against

the state as part of the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (HERMP).

A final decision is expected to be made by the Hawaii Supreme court within the next two years. The legal bill for this fight is already \$25,000 and growing. Help is needed to continue the court battle. All contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to HERMP c/o GLCC, 1820 University Ave #8, Honolulu, HI 96822.

2500 WOMEN TO ATTEND EXPO

LOS ANGELES - Valerie Clark's Maverick Productions, LA's premiere women's event organizer, will present Phoenix Rising Expo, a weekend conference for women in the industries of entertainment, sports & business beginning August 20th at the Westin Hotel — LA Airport.

The Expo will feature nearly 50 workshops, seminars entertainment events and exhibits. Workshops topics include Screen writing, Business Marketing, Concert Production, Sports Careers, Publishing, Acupuncture, Self-Defense, Hair/Make-up Design for TV & film and "Putting Some Sizzle Into Your Sex Life." Panel discussions will be held on the music business, professionals in sports, health & wellness, "Secrets of Successful Businesswomen" and "Movie Makers and Shakers." Entertainment will include comedy shows, women's films, dance parties, art gallery tours and live concerts. Preregistration discounts are available through August 13th. Special hotel rates of \$99 are available with preregistration. Registration information can be obtained from Maverick Productions at P.O. Box 1600, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 or by calling (310) 318-2144.



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DALLAS - Are you into gardening? Whether it's flowers, vegetables or just house plants, you'll want to check out the new **Gay and Lesbian Gardeners** club. They meet in private homes on the first Sunday of each month. For meeting places and times and more info, write P.O. Box 190552, Dallas, TX 75219 or call 214-339-0787.

HOUSTON - **Unique Boutique** is hosting a **Lesbian Art Show & Sale**. Lesbian artists are encouraged to submit their art for consideration. 10% of sales will go to benefit **Lesbians In Business (LIB)**. The show will be held on August 28th from 6-10pm. Refreshments will be served. **Unique Boutique** is located at 4317 Montrose (at Richmond) and open seven days a week from noon-8pm. For more info, call (713) 526-5266.

DALLAS - **GLAAD/Dallas** needs your help! If you see something about gays on TV, in the paper, in magazines, at the movies or hear something on the radio, give them a call. Whether it's positive or negative, makes you happy or makes you mad, they want to know. Call the **GLAAD**line anytime at 214-526-4523 for more info. They appreciate copies of articles and cassette or video tapes of radio or TV broadcasts if possible. Send materials to: P.O. Box 190365, Dallas, TX 75219.

SAN ANTONIO - If you are interested in learning more about Goddess worship, contact the **San Antonio Circle of the Reformed Congregation of the Goddess (RCG Circle)**, P.O. Box 12931, San Antonio, TX 78212, or call 210-822-4601 for meeting date and location. Meetings are held twice a month.

EVERYWHERE - Are you a lesbian? Are you over 60 years old? There's an organization just for you called **Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC)**. The group works to confront ageism both in society at large and in the gay community. If you are under 60, you can still join as a "supporter" and become a member on your 60th birthday. For more info, write OLOC, P.O. box 980422, Houston, TX 77098.

TEXAS - Texas based video producers who would like to have their works considered for KERA's "**Frame of Mind**" can send films and videos to producers **Suzanne Dooley and Marlis Schmidt** at KERA/KDTN, 3000 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75201. Submissions of 30 minutes or less are preferred, but submissions of up to 55 minutes will be considered. Subject matter is unrestricted, but must be suitable for television broadcast. Call 214-740-9212 for more info. "**Frame of Mind**" airs at 10pm on the first Saturday of each month on Channel 2 in

Dallas and repeats at midnight the following Friday on Channel 13.

HOUSTON - ID Travel is offering a great Thanksgiving trip to **San Juan, Puerto Rico** from November 24th-28th. The price is \$895 per person and includes **roundtrip airfare** from Houston, four nights in the **Deluxe Condado Hotel**, **Thanksgiving dinner** and lots of other fun things! The trip is limited to 20 people so sign up now! Call Bob at **ID Travel** at 1-800-856-9332 for more info and reservations. See their ad on page 19 for details.

EVERYWHERE - Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club, the all women's guest ranch is open for business! Located in Bandera (50 miles NW of San Antonio) in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, you can rest assured that your stay will be fun. The ranch offers 30 wooded acres for hiking, a beautiful creek for wading, and lots of nearby activities. There is horse racing, riding, tubing and rafting, shopping and fishing in the area. For more info and reservations, call 210-796-7446 or write DHCC, HC 3, Box 650, Bandera, TX 78003.

FT WORTH - First Friday Fort Worth, the lesbian social group, will be meeting in a new location come September. In the meantime, they are meeting on the

first Sunday of each month for a picnic. The size of the group has grown to such an extent that meeting in member's homes is no longer possible. A committee is currently looking at alternatives and possible meeting places. If you would like to join First Friday, call 817-763-5544 for the next meeting date and place.



If you have
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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
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Dear Agnes,

I have a big problem and I'm totally at a loss as to what to do about it. My girlfriend and I have been together since 1987. We've been very happy. We've lived together since 1988 and recently purchased a house together.

The problem is that she is having an affair with a co-worker. This has been going on for about eight months (since right after we moved into our new house).

Around that time she started staying much later at work and "going to the office" on weekends. I didn't really think anything about it until a friend of mine reported that she had seen "Jane" at a romantic restaurant with another woman. The next time Jane said she had to work on a Saturday, I followed her. She didn't go to her office but to a house about a mile from our home where she was greeted at the door by a woman. She was there for almost three hours.

I haven't said anything to her about this. I've been hoping she would quit seeing this other woman of her own accord. I am afraid if I say something our whole relationship will blow apart — and that's something I don't want to happen. However, I've taken it for about as long as I can stand it. It's not going away and I'm afraid I can't take it much longer.

Do you have any advice about how to approach her? I really want us to stay together, and I'm afraid if I go about this in the wrong way, I'll lose her. Please help.

SILENT

Fort Worth, TX

Dear Silent,

Apparently communication is not one of the strong points in this relationship. Before

you decide that your lover is definitely having an affair, let's look at the evidence: First—a romantic restaurant can double for a business lunch or dinner. Second — unless your lover specifically told you she was going to her office, don't assume because she was at someone's house that they were in the throes of passion for three hours. They could have actually been working.

Unless you two are a lot better off financially than most people (which you may very well be), her timing of added work is understandable. Generally, the first year after you buy a house is financially difficult. With an open mind, and in a non-confrontational way, ask your lover what is behind all this extra work and about the romantic restaurant (leave the "romantic" part out). DON'T accuse her of having an affair — give her a chance to give you an explanation before you jump to conclusions. My money says she is working. Talk it out and if, in fact, she is working, be cautious of friends who carry tales.

Dear Agnes,

About six months ago, I started going to Alcoholics Anonymous. I have a serious drinking problem that I have under control at the moment.

The problem is my friends. They go out to the bar almost every night and are always bugging me to go with them. They all think that my drinking is not all that serious a problem and keep encouraging me to "just drink one" or "just drink a beer" or something else stupid like that. They don't know how very tempting that is.

I don't want to give up my friends, but it seems as if they don't really care about what I want for myself. I haven't talked to my AA sponsor about this because she doesn't know

I'm gay, and I don't want her to find out. Do you have any suggestions on how to handle this? The longer it goes on, the more and more tempted I am to give in. Giving up alcohol was hard enough to do once, I don't want to have to do it again.

TRYING TO STAY SOBER

Denton, TX

Dear Sober,

Social pressure to drink is heavily engrained in our society — and in the lesbian/gay community. Drinking dates back to the beginning of civilization and our ancestors — particularly those of European descent — were heavy drinkers. Gay social life focuses on many activities that revolve around alcohol.

Often, when people quit drinking or make any other serious lifestyle change, some friendships will change. Much of your friendship with these people may be based

on drinking, and when you take that away, you have permanently altered the terms of the relationship. The most important thing you can do now is contact the AA group for lesbians and gay men in the Denton/Sherman area. You can reach Lambda AA of Texhoma by calling 903-893-6941.

Involving yourself with a lesbian/gay AA group should give you the support you need while allowing you to be open about your lifestyle. Being gay *and* alcoholic presents some special problems that straight people don't face — and being with others who have the same experiences will help you deal with these problems, as well as give a good place to start making new friends. Good luck and let me hear from you.



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WHY Are We Gay?

Theories on the Cause of Homosexuality Through the Ages

Recently, there have been a number of studies released that claim to have found biological and genetic causes of homosexuality. Dr. Simon LeVay's study showing that the hypothalamus in gay males was slightly smaller than in straight males was the first widely publicized study linking homosexuality to biology. Then came two "twin studies" from Northwestern University that showed that a disproportionate number of identical twins (both male and female) were both gay and that more fraternal twins were both gay than regular siblings. Now, researchers at the National Institutes of Health claim to have found a genetic marker in the X chromosome of male homosexuals (a study of lesbians is under way). In light of this "hard" scientific evidence, I though it might be interesting to look

back at some past theories on the "causes" of homosexuality.

You'll notice that most of the theories relate to gay men. Although some cultures acknowledged the presence of lesbianism, male-dominated cultures tended to overlook the fact that females could ever be attracted to anything other than men. England, during Queen Victoria's reign, instituted laws against "buggery" (male homosexuality), but there were no laws against female homosexuality, since the Queen didn't believe that women could do such a thing.

THE CAUSES

The Lepchas tribe of the Himalayas believed homosexuality was caused by eating the flesh of an uncastrated pig.

Babylonian astrologers thought that the planets governed homosexuality. Scorpio and Mercury were strongly implicated.

Plato thought that the gods had created three sexes — male, female and hermaphrodite. The hermaphrodites were too strong and Zeus wanted to weaken them so he split them into two beings. These “half” beings are always looking for their other half and, as a result, are attracted to others of the same sex.

During the Dark Ages, people who had sex with others of the same sex were believed to have been possessed by the Devil. The condition was contagious and the cure was exorcism or burning at the stake.

Arabs believed male homosexuality was caused by “excessive itchiness in the buttocks region,” and that it could be cured by applying a salve to the area.

In the Middles Ages, “The famous surgeon William of Bologna ... attributed lesbianism to a growth emanating from the mouth of the womb and appearing outside the vagina as a pseudopenis,” according to sociologist David E. Greenberg’s book “The Construction of Homosexuality.”

Reincarnation plays a role in theories from India. If you change gender from one life to the next, your physical body may be changed, but your “spirit” may be slower to change. Thus, if you were a man in your last life and a woman in this one, you may be carrying over an attraction to women left over from your days as a man.

In the 19th century, Scottish physician, Robert Macnish claimed to have found the cause of homosexuality by studying the shape of people’s skulls.

In the late 1800s, it was believed that masturbating too much could cause homosexuality. It was also blamed on insanity and was associated with criminals.

A contemporary Islamic surgeon believes that homosexuality is caused by eating pork. He believes that pigs are the only “gay” animals and the genes for homosexuality are absorbed through the mouth when you eat pork. He believes that this explains why there are more homosexuals in pork eating nations (of course, this would mean that there are no homosexuals in Islamic (or Jewish) countries — yeah, right.)

After World War II, scientists thought homosexuality might be caused by hormonal imbalances. A study was conducted on military inductees which showed that “some subjects showed a high degree of estrogen (female hormones) ...” However, the test was inconclusive and it was too expensive to test every person entering the military.

Freud didn’t really state a “cause” for homosexuality, but he did have some theories. He hypothesized that Male homosexuality might be caused by a fixation on the mother, by the male placing such a high value on the penis that he can’t tolerate the object of his affection *not* having one or by jealousy of his father or an older brother. Helene Deutsch, a disciple of Freud, thought there were two causes of lesbians: “arrested development” (the girl never

outgrows her friendships with other girls), and the fact that when the girl realizes she can't have her mother, she transfers her feelings not to her father, but to other women.

Psychoanalyst, Irving Bieber believed homosexuality was caused by a great fear of the opposite sex. He also promoted the thought that mothers "caused" homosexuality in their sons by being "overly occupied with manners and appearance ... She probably spends too much time in his company ... She holds her husband in contempt and usually dominates him."

New York psychoanalyst, Edmund

Berger thought that male homosexuality was a result of not getting enough milk from the mother as a child. This makes the child angry and he unconsciously seeks revenge against women by having sex with men.

Information for this article was obtained from the following sources:

Looking At Lesbian and Gay Life by Warren J. Blumenfeld & Diane Raymond. Beacon Press, Boston, 1989.

Lavender Lists by Lynne Yamaguchi Fletcher & Adrien Saks. Alyson Publications, Boston, 1990.

The San Francisco Examiner's *Gay In America* series, June 1989.



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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

DESIGNER GENES

BY NANCY FORD

"It is claimed by those who have had experience, that in certain professions — a very large percentage practice abnormal sexual relations. Many of these individuals are thoroughly healthy, and not in any other way to be distinguished from normal human beings.

"As we in this country well know, many homosexuals among men are splendid musicians, capable writers, adept hairdressers, and designers, and perhaps best of all interior decorators. In fact, many of these individuals take a certain pride in their un-normality, claiming that their practice is far to preferred to the old-fashioned, and to them obsolete relations that exist between normal men and women."

This text has been plucked verbatim from the well-respected medical journal/sex manual *Eugenics and Sex Harmony* by Herman H. Rubin, M.D. The bad news is that this text was considered the Sexology Bible for some time, the theories of which were referred and adhered to almost exclusively by the major medical universities and colleges in the U.S.

The good news is it was published way back in 1933, and has since been used as an illustration as to how far the medical community has come regarding the

cause of homosexuality and lesbianism. I read the news *today*. Oh boy.

As published in an Associated Press report in July, "researchers have identified a gene pattern linked to male homosexuality, adding powerful new evidence to the scientific theory that the tendency to be gay is inherited.

This validates the argument by many gays and lesbians that homosexuality is not a matter of choice, but rather, of biological design. Science has spoken, indicating that Nature does indeed triumph over Nurture, and the concept of homosexuality as sin takes a holiday. Or does it? Oh, that it were so simple. Seems that evidence of a gay gene was found by studying the X chromosome in 40 pairs of homosexual brothers. A third of those studied shared the same pattern variation in the tip on one arm of the chromosome. Certainly it won't be long before some fledgling college newspaper cartoonist will reap notoriety by creating a picture of chromosomes lined up in a row, one of them limp-wristed, singing showtunes.

As for the prolific attitudes among many mothers that they are to blame for their offspring's deviance, they may be right. This study suggests that if there were a genetic basis for homosexuality, it would likely be on the X chromosome,

the sex-linked chromosome inherited by males from their mothers. So put down this magazine, guys, rush to the phone and thank your mom for the designer genes she gave you.

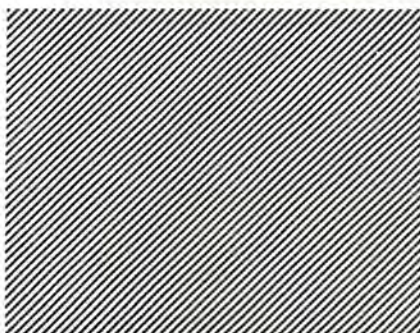
Double-edged sword: some fear that if a biological basis for homosexuality is found, there may be some people who view it as an opportunity to medically change sexual orientation *in utero*.

Scenario: Okay. It's the year 2010. You're relaxing at home with your spouse watching Holovision. Suddenly the image projected before you is a commercial for one of those home pregnancy tests. Except this is the souped-up version. Not only will this test indicate pregnancy, but also the fetus' gender. Blue eyes or brown. Race. Left or Right handedness. And sexual orientation.

Kind of gives the concept of a woman's right to abortion a whole new twist, doesn't it? What if a woman determines she does not want to give birth to a left-handed child. Or a blue-eyed child? Or a gay child? It's her body, her choice, you know.

So you see, all this genetics stuff can be good news *or* bad news. Perhaps the sanest answer to the *What causes it* question is *It doesn't matter*. We just *are*. Just for the record, *Eugenics* also contained the following passage: "If it should develop that a boy at the age

of puberty still retains an abnormal fondness for doing fancy work, or if girls should exhibit a desire to dress in boys clothing, and to indulge in boyish games, it might be well to make a physical and endocrinological examination of these children. For, not infrequently, the entire trouble may be absolutely corrected by merely aiding the thymus gland to regress normally, and allow normal development of the sexual organs of the boy or the girl to be completed. In which event, all traces of abnormal yearnings for those of his or her sex will be removed, and true heterosexual function will be restored." Hmmm.



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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

Shadows After Dark

by Ouida Crozier

Isis Rising

by Jean Stewart

I have two new fantasy novels for reading on the beach this month.

The first is Shadows After Dark by Ouida Crozier. Kathryn is a mild-mannered researcher at the University of Minnesota. When she meets a woman at one of the local bars, it only takes one dance and the whisper of a name to start her obsession. Kyril, the dark-haired, enigmatic dance partner isn't seen again for two years. When she finally does come back into Kathryn's world, it isn't at all what Kathryn expects.

Kyril has come from Körnagy, the world of the Oupir (oupirs are known to humans as vampires). A new disease has killed Kyril's lover, and she has come to Earth to try to find the cause of this new threat to the Oupirian world.

Kyril and Kathryn's relationship is fine until Kyril discloses her true nature and the reason for her visit. Kathryn is horrified at Kyril's disclosure.

After the police in Minneapolis become concerned about a series of murders where the victims have been drained of blood, Kyril is forced to return to Körnagy — and decides to take Katherine with her.

Shadows After Dark is definitely one of the better lesbian vampire novels around. The premise is original and defies many vampire stereotypes. This is not a novel of wooden stakes through the heart and strings of garlic, but rather a fanciful explanation for the persistence of vampire legends throughout the world.

The writing is superb. There is a fluidity and grace evident in her style. Ms. Crozier's work isn't quite on par with Anne Rice, but she has the potential.

My only complaint, as with so many other lesbian novels, is length (yes, I've said it before). Lesbian publishers tend to put out books that are all about the same length. I don't know if the authors cut their own work too short or if publishers do it for them. I only know that the slim volumes issued by lesbian publishers aren't enough.

Character and plot development are rushed and stories often seem to be cut off mid-stream. Maybe that explains the abundance of sequels in lesbian novels.

The same problem of length also plagues the second in the Isis series. Isis Rising by Jean Stewart is the long-awaited sequel to Return to Isis.

In this sequel, Kali, the refugee from Elysium and her lover, Whit are helping to rebuild the community of Isis after it's destruction by "Regs" from Elysium. Three women are appointed to help with the rebuilding and while it is under construction, Whit is appointed as Military Governor. Power struggles begin almost immediately as each woman has ambitions to be the elected leader of Isis.

Problems plague the rebuilding as the campaign for leadership progresses. Sabotage, arguments over design and internal power plays all work to divide the new community. Is all this trouble just the result of human nature and politics, or is it the consequence of an evil master plan by one of the women? Although I loved Return to Isis, Isis Rising leaves much to be desired. The characters are poorly developed and the

plot was very murky right up to the last chapter. "Magic" of the really powerful sort comes into play toward the end of the novel and the only lead-in is Kali's increasing ability to hear other people's thoughts. This is a fantasy novel, but the jump from ESP to full blown magical warfare is a little *too* fantastical.

The length problem mentioned earlier crops up in its full glory with this book. The end comes right when it starts to get good, leaving the reader and most of the characters at complete loose ends.

Both Shadows After Dark and Isis Rising are available at your local bookstore or for \$9.95 from Rising Tide Press, 5 Kivy Street, Huntington Station, New York 11746. Call 1-800-648-5333 for ordering and catalog information.



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FROM OUR READERS

I sit on the edge of a hospital bed
In a room scented with disinfectant, used bedpans,
And death,
In a building, which for some,
Is the last checkpoint to finality.
A sparring court with mortality
Where their battered bodies and fragile souls
Struggle against the odds of death.
Fate tugs at my own soul -
A reminder that the Master always drives,
No matter where we go.

A young man cries out from his bed,
A remnant of a viral infection,
Now being guided down the road of life
To this last checkpoint for monitoring.
The Master sees.
The young man struggles to sit up
Delirious with fever,
Looking for his home.
He is lost.
And in my own way, so am I.
I think of how long I watched my friend
Teeter between this world and the next,
Fighting to hold onto memories
Of his short life,
Now slipping away.

I hold his hand as if to keep him from slipping
But know I am no stronger to hold onto him,
Than the bones and flesh I press
To reinforce my own existence,
And watch him slip away.

- Sandra A. Meros

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QUIZ

Are You HOT Tempered?

Most of us think we know what kind of temper we have, but our perceptions aren't always on target. Family and friends may have a totally different opinion. Are you hot tempered or easy going? Answer the following questions as honestly as possible to find out how others view your temper.

1. In your opinion, you are:

- a. quick to lose your temper and slow to get over it.
- b. slow to lose your temper and quick to get over it.
- c. even tempered and easy going.

2. When you do lose your temper, you:

- a. blow up, scream and throw things.
- b. give the silent treatment while you fume.
- c. count to ten and then try to discuss it.

3. When someone hurts your feelings, you:

- a. tell them off, then don't speak to them for months.
- b. make a snappy comeback and get over it.
- c. ignore it.

4. When you have a fight with your lover, you:

- a. verbally and/or physically abuse her.
- b. leave until you cool off.
- c. try to talk things out calmly.

5. You think that revenge is:

- a. necessary sometimes.
- b. sweet but not necessary.
- c. a silly waste of time.

6. You are in a restaurant and the service has been very poor. You:

- a. throw a fit and walk the check.
- b. complain to the manager.
- c. leave only a 5% tip.

7. Your boss gets very angry at you for making a mistake. You:

a. quit. You don't have to take the abuse.

b. complain to all your co-workers about what a bitch she is.

c. figure you had it coming.

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows:

6 points for every "A" answer.

4 points for every "B" answer.

2 points for every "C" answer.

If you scored:

33-42 points

While you may know that you have a temper, you may not realize the effect it has on those around you. You are quick to fly off the handle over even trivial transgressions. Your explosive personality doesn't do very much to enhance your relationships and may even be hampering your career advancement. Remember the old "count to ten" trick and try to put yourself in the other person's shoes *before* you start screaming. Your relationships and your blood pressure will both benefit from a calmer attitude.

23-32 points

Although you are usually pretty easy going, you do lose your temper every once in awhile. Although this is normal, you really need to examine when you lose your temper. You may have a tendency to store up all your frustration over big problems and then explode over something small. Try expressing your anger when you are angry instead of holding it all in. You'll be less likely to go ballistic over something silly, and the person who made you mad in the first place will be less likely to do it again.

14-22 points

You may be *too* even tempered. Although the people around you appreciate your laid-back attitude, they may be walking all over you simply because you allow it. If you are angry, say so — anger is a normal emotion and suppressing it does more harm than good. Expressing your anger will help you feel less frustrated and more in control. Being a doormat is no fun, and if you don't speak up for yourself, who will?



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ARIES

The first part of August is a great time to start creative projects. Financial disagreements with your partner may cause some problems, but you'll be fine if you'll sit down and talk it out. Expect some ups and downs in close relationships through the 24th. Give each other some room to breathe and everything should work out. You'll be in a social mood all month long—get out and enjoy the company of friends and family.

TAURUS

Conflict in relationships could cause some problems both at work and at home during the first part of August. The air clears after the 8th when you'll be able to sit back and relax. You may be ready to get away for awhile after the 17th. Be sure you've met all your commitments at work before you take off. Luck is running your way after the 27th. Check your lottery tickets carefully and follow through on your money hunches.

GEMINI

Expect some slowdowns at work during the first part of August. Coworkers could be feeling irritable—keep cool or you could get in hot water. Relationships seem more fun after the 17th. Whether you're already involved or just met someone new, let yourself enjoy the good times. Communications, both at work and in your personal life are emphasized after the 24th. Old friendships and new business contacts could be very beneficial.

CANCER

Love is definitely in the air during the first part of August. Whether you fall in love with your partner all over again or find love

with someone you haven't met yet, Cupid's arrow is definitely flying toward you. Keep a careful eye on your finances after the 14th, make sure everything is in order. A mistake in your checkbook now could have implications for months to come. Watch your temper toward month's end—you can catch more flies with honey than with B.S..

LEO

Although your home life is improving, it's best not to push too hard during the first part of August. Look for a compromise instead of insisting that your ideas are the only right ones. Your optimism and enthusiasm can take you far on the job after the 17th and could lead to a raise or promotion around the 26th. Avoid getting mixed up in someone else's argument toward month's end. Although you may think you can fix things, you'd be smart to stay out of it.

VIRGO

Keep pushing your ideas during the first part of August. Although your boss might not be receptive at first, if you'll keep plugging away it could lead to a raise or promotion down the line. A relationship could be heating up after the 11th—be careful, this could be the beginning, or the beginning of the end. A short vacation toward month's end could be just what the doctor ordered to help improve your performance on the job.

LIBRA

The harder you work, the more likely you are to make others mad during the first part of August. Take a break and try not to do anything *too* useful. Schedule in some fun for after the 12th, the past few months have been rough and a break right now will do you some good. Reexamine your

relationships with old friends toward month's end. You may be having communication problems or you may have just grown apart, take time to make things right.

SCORPIO

Your future may be limited if you don't let go of the past during the first part of August. You've been busy lately and may have been neglecting your partner. Schedule some time after the 10th to spend some "quality" time with her. Your creativity is going full blast after the 20th. You'll have some great ideas that can give your income, social status and relationships a boost.

SAGITTARIUS

You may be feeling drawn toward the limelight during the first part of August — at the same time, a close relationship may feel like it's falling apart. Stay cool — it's not falling apart, it just feels that way. Things smooth out after the 15th when you work out a compromise that suits both of you. Watch out for a manipulator at work toward month's end. There is a practical solution if you'll look for it.

CAPRICORN

Spend more time with your partner during the first part of August. You may have been spending too much time at work and need to get some balance between career and personal life. Your sex life should improve after the 17th even though you may feel you aren't communicating very well. Toward month's end you'll want to double check all financial activity. A mistake now could have consequences for months.

AQUARIUS

You may feel like you are rowing against the tide in personal relationships during the first part of August. However, your career is moving ahead at a rapid pace. Take time out

to take care of personal issues after the 12th, your partner will appreciate it and it will improve your relationship. Try not to be overly critical on the job after the 24th — it could make someone important very upset.

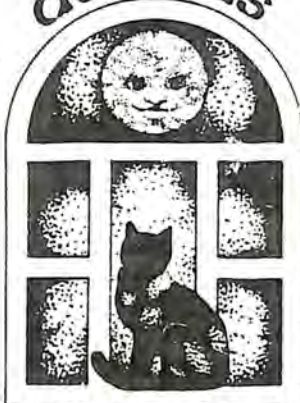
PISCES

Romance is in the air during the first part of August. An exotic vacation or just some unusual social situations could help things along. You may need to slow down and catch your breath after the 16th. If this is a new relationship, you'll want to put off making any commitment until after the 24th. If it's an established relationship, take advantage of this time to make sure she knows how you feel about her.



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P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 498-5607/498-4855
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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 • P.J. 863-8482
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 867-9020
PWA Coalition - Houston • 1475 W. Gray #163 • 522-5428
SORA (Sex or Relationships Addicts Anonymous)
support group for lesbians • 666-8256 or 529-1827
Womynspace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601
Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)

businesses

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

organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance & Wild Wilde 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 50360, 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 5089 73070

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

(area code 405)

organizations

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

SAN ANGELO, TX (area code 915)

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

WACO, TX (area code 817)

organizations

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 750-7211



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ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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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 |

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Box # XXX

Your Return
Address

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GBF, 5'6", 175 lbs., 37, Attractive, quiet, romantic. Don't smoke or do drugs. Enjoy fishing, exercising, music, reading. Seeking friendship, possible long-term relationship. Houston area. Send photo. Reply to Box #425.

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Find Friendship & Love In The Dimensions Classifieds. Place Your Ad Today! See Ad On Page 35 For More Information.

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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

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.

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WORLDWIDE 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.

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Bandera, TX 78003
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**TO LEARN HOW TO
ANSWER A PERSONAL AD,
SEE PAGE 34**

THE LAST WORD

Various Views on The World Around Us

by Sandra Nichole Schnaithman

I am eighteen years old, I voted in the 1992 election, and numerous other city elections. I work two jobs, attend a conservative college preparatory, single-sex school full-time. I have been in a loving, committed relationship for almost one year. I am the arts editor for my school newspaper, and a staff writer; originally, I wrote this editorial for my newspaper.

Homosexuals should have the basic human right as American citizens to join the United States military.

Research is now revealing that homosexuality is not a choice; gays and lesbians are born with a sexual preference and orientation in which they are attracted to those of the same gender. To think about the issue logically, why would anyone want to put themselves in a position to be ostracized and mentally and physically abused.

We, as gays and lesbians, are everyday people that pay taxes. Homosexuals are business men and women, teachers, students, politicians, construction workers, waiters, waitresses, sons, daughters, and some even parents. The list could go on.

What many people fail to acknowledge is that gays and lesbians have been in the military for many years; in doing so they have had to denounce their own identity and closet their lives in fear of a discharge from the military. A continuation of the ban could be considered a form of ethnic cleansing.

For many years, the military has given a lighter sentence to those convicted of a crime if they would report the knowledge of any "queers." This practice is wrong. It is also wrong for a committed, hard-working service person to receive a dishonorable discharge simply because he or she is gay or lesbian. Military personnel dishonorably discharged will have difficulty finding a substantial civilian job anywhere.

Heterosexual men and women are concerned about being approached, or "picked-up" by a homosexual, but simply because a straight male or female is working closely with a gay or lesbian person does not by any means allow that the homosexual is even remotely attracted to the heterosexual. Many homosexuals will continue to "stay in the closet" for fear of brutal discrimination.

Approximately a year ago, some of the men in the navy were accused of raping many women in a hotel, but the issue, known as the Tailhook Scandal, did not remain in the public eye for long. For some of these men, punishment beyond a slap on the hand was not received. However, if an issue such as this were to have occurred with a homosexual, the public would have never heard the end, and that person or persons would have been immediately discharged.

Lifting the ban on gays in the military will be hell in the beginning, but will lead to a greater level of acceptance in the society for gays and lesbians. High ranking officers may lose respect and experience a freeze in their current position if they are "outed", but in time will regain their acquired and well-deserved respect.



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Property of the Center

The Graffiti Page

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 LOU ANN B. TO KAREN T.
 TABY AND CINDY G.
 HOPE EACH OF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DAY!
 DEBBIE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY D.J.
 I STILL LOVE YOU
 AND ALWAYS WILL!
 - ME -
 SUSAN
 HERE'S TO MANY
 MORE WITH LOVE!
 YOUR BESTEST BUD
 ROBIN



Kelly

Cathy & Lou,
 Congratulations on
 your Niagra Falls
 Honeymoon! ⁹⁹
 Love, Dennis

THANKS FOR
 BEING THE
 BOLD ONE THAT
 NIGHT... YOU HAVE
 MADE ME VERY
 HAPPY. I LOVE YOU
 WITH ALL MY HEART
 ALWAYS LORI
 143-286-572-1144-2282

SWIT'S YEA...
 DIRTY DAVE
 HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY
 ONE LUCKY AND MAY
 ALL YOUR DREAMS
 COME TRUE I LOVE
 YOU VERY MUCH!
 8-14-93 "Ricky"
 Love!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DUMPLING! I AM HAPPY
 TO SHARE ANOTHER ONE WITH YOU. CAN
 YOU BELIEVE THIS IS THE 14th ONE? YOU
 ARE MY FAVORITE CELEBRATION - I LOVE YOU YEA!

Happy Belated Birthday: Buco, Carrie, Britta & Stacy.
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