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VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 1994



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for Music, Comedy and ...

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### Lesbian Safer Sex Seminar

Thursday, October 20th

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Any letter received by Dimensions will be assumed for publication. All letters must include signature, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters as we feel necessary. The writers name will be withheld if so requested.

## DIMENSIONS

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# We Need Writers!

**Dimensions needs  
writers of short stories  
and feature articles.**

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

Send your submission  
along with SASE to:

## **DIMENSIONS**

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# To The Editor

Letters and Comments From Our Readers

## GREETINGS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Editor,

I write this from a free South Africa! Having read a copy of Dimensions given to me by one of my sisters who visited your country during the conference of people of color, I had to sit down and write these few lines thanking you for taking care of her (Nomsa Kundo).

She brought us some good items from Texas and we hope with the help of him, we will also grow and prosper like you do.

I would like to keep writing to you about South Africa and being gay here. I only ask permission from the editors.

**Yours in Africa,**

**YoYo**

**Joubert Park, South Africa**

## AND FROM FLORIDA

Dear Dimensions,

Please send me information regarding subscriptions to your magazine. I

recently moved to Miami from Houston and would really like to keep up with what is happening in Texas.

Dimensions is definitely the best way to do that! I love your magazine

(especially the Poetry section, Dear Agnes and the Graffiti Page) and have missed it terribly in the five months I have been away.

Hopefully, I'll be able to make it back to Texas permanently in a few years, in the meantime, I need my Dimensions to help me feel connected!

Thank you in advance for your time,

**S.J. Holliman**

**Miami, FL**

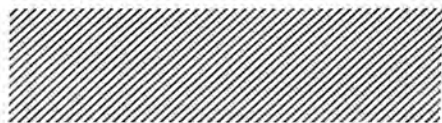


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# THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

## HATE CRIME PROVISION INCLUDED IN CRIME BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The recently passed federal crime bill in a final vote in the Senate, includes two important measures supported by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) — the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

The Hate Crime Sentencing Enhancement Act will advance the federal response to crimes in which the perpetrator intentionally selects a victim because of his or her "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation." Specifically, the act increases penalties for federal crimes that are hate-motivated and enhances federal sentences not less than three offense levels.

"This act sends a dramatic signal to those who seek to victimize gay people, and others," said Tanya Domi, NGLTF Legislative Director. "The federal government declares that hate crimes will be taken seriously by the federal courts and will be punished."

Passage of the measure is especially timely, with several anti-gay incidents garnering media attention nationwide. Gay and lesbian activists in Salt Lake City staged a rally earlier this month after a district court judge reduced the sentence in a case involving the killing of a gay man. While the case proved the victim was targeted because he was gay, the perpetrator was charged merely with manslaughter and sentenced to only six years. In a separate incident, four teens were charged in August with the vicious murder of a gay man in

Houston. According to police, the teens hunted down the victim because they had heard that gay men often had a lot of money and were "easy targets."

"Many vicious crimes against gay, lesbian and bisexual people are not federal crimes, and will not be directly impacted by this legislation," Domi said. "However, it is imperative that the highest level of government send a message that hate crimes will not go unpunished in this society."

Along with the Hate Crime Sentencing Enhancement Act, the Violence Against Women Act was folded into the massive crime bill. That act doubles the federal penalty for repeat sex offenders and requires that federal laws treat acquaintance rape and stranger rape the same. The act also mandates restitution for the victims of sex crimes. The measure includes money for a wide variety of police training, counseling services, data collection systems, and educational programs.

## LESBIAN MOTHER'S NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND EXPANDS

SEATTLE, WA — The Lesbian Mother's National Defense fund (LMNDF) celebrates its 20th anniversary this year with an expansion of its membership and program services, and a name change to become the Lavender Families Resource Network. In 1974 the twelve "founding mothers" of LMNDF began fundraising for two lesbian mothers in Eatonville, Washington. One mother lost custody and her children were placed in foster care. Only after four years of expensive



litigation and intense personal struggle did she regain custody of her children — custody she lost solely because she was a lesbian.

Twenty years ago, it scarcely occurred to lesbian and gay parents to even try to maintain or fight for custody of their children. Since that time, more and more lesbians and gay men have refused to accept the social prejudice which assumes that we are not fit parents, and have taken their cases to court. Although the chances of winning such a legal battle are relatively good in a few areas, gay and lesbian parents in most parts of the United States still face the serious threat of losing their children if they end up in court.

LMNDF's ability to serve as a clearinghouse of information and a network of support has enhanced opportunities for every lesbian to exercise her right to parent. Although our custody and visitation information has focused on lesbian families, it has also helped gay fathers, lesbian grandmothers, bisexual mothers and transsexual parents when these people are discriminated against based on their sexual orientation. Heterosexual parents, too, lose their children when they are labeled as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. None of these groups has developed a resource designed to support their struggles against discrimination in parenting as LMNDF has done for lesbians. Changing the name and explicitly including this whole variety of families is a natural extension of their traditional services.

From its original purpose of assisting lesbian mothers in custody litigation, LMNDF branched out years ago to provide information about donor insemination, adoption and parenting rights.

Lavender Families Resource Network is looking for attorneys to participate in their attorney referral program and is

currently searching for additional Directors for the board including individuals with specific expertise in legal issues and finances.

Annual membership in the Lavender Families Resource Network is \$10 and includes a subscription to their quarterly newsletter, Mom's Apple Pie. For more information or to join the Network, write to: P.O. Box 21567, Seattle, Washington 98111 or call (206) 325-2643.

---

## Celebrities Lend Their Names to Fight the Right

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Some 110 notable figures and groups from the political, entertainment, religions and other fields have lent their names and support in the coalition effort to fight the Radical Right's campaign against lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Equality Statement Endorsement Project has asked major political organizations, civil rights groups, unions, elected officials, government bodies and others to sign onto a statement supporting fundamental equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The statement condemns the Radical right-sponsored anti-gay ballot initiatives.

"We support equality for all Americans," reads the statement. "Every American's right to be free from discrimination in jobs, housing and public accommodations must be defended and protected. No person's fundamental civil rights should be denied by a ballot initiative or any other means."

The Endorsement Project has garnered the support of Hollywood and entertainment celebrities including

Whoopi Goldberg and Armistead Maupin. Political leaders in the U.S. Congress, including Senators Paul Simon, John Chafee and Representatives Patricia Schroeder, Barney Frank and Gerry Studds have signed on, as have the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, United Auto Workers and other unions. The American Library Association, National Lawyers Guild, PEN (international writer's association) and numerous other professional associations have joined the effort. In addition, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a host of other religious affiliations, dozens of advocacy groups, businesses and

governmental organizations have lent their support.

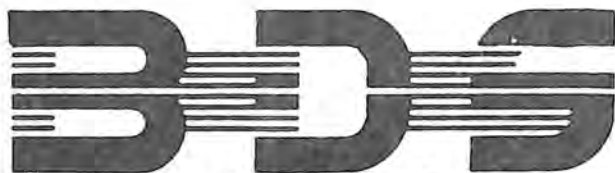
NGLTF is distributing the list of endorsers to state and local groups that will use it to build coalitions for fighting anti-gay ballot initiatives. This year started with ten states targeted for anti-gay measures. The Radical Right failed to place measures on the November ballot in all but two states — Idaho and Oregon.

The Project is still seeking endorsers. If you, your organization or business would like to sign on, contact NGLTF Fight the Right Project volunteer, Buzz Harris at (617) 492-6393 or [bxhngltf@aol.com](mailto:bxhngltf@aol.com).



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# WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

---

**WOMEN EVERYWHERE** - The **Fifth Annual Lone Star Women's Music Festival** will take place October 7, 8 & 9 on the beautiful **Guadalupe River** north of New Braunfels. More than 20 musical acts will perform. There will also be comedy, workshops, campfire song circles, open mike and lots of women! Tickets are \$85 in advance and \$105 at the gate and are available at most women's bookstores. Maps and other info are also available at ticket outlets. For more info, call (512) 929-0002.

**TEXAS** - The **Eleventh Annual Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) Rodeo** will happen November 11-13 in Austin, TX at the **Travis County Exposition Center**. In addition to the rodeo on Saturday and Sunday, there will also be a dance both nights. Individual tickets are \$12.50 for each day's rodeo and \$5 for each night's dance. The package ticket price for all events is available for \$25 (a \$10 savings) if you purchase your tickets by November 1st. Hotel accommodations are available at the **Doubletree Hotel** (1-800-222-TREE or 512-454-3737) and at the **Red Lion Hotel** (1-800-547-8010 or 512-323-5466). Ask for the TGRA rate when making reservations. For information about vendor spaces, volunteering or about the rodeo itself, call 214-720-6051 or 512-835-5314. To order your tickets, send your check, along with your name, address and

phone number to: **TGRA Rodeo Director**, PO Box 116863, Carrollton, TX 75011-6863, ATTN: Tickets.

**HOUSTON** - **Heartsong, Houston Area Women's Chorus** will present its fourth solo concert, "**New Directions and Shared Hopes**" in **Hamman Hall** on the **Rice University** campus at 7:30pm on Saturday, October 15th. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door and are available at **Inklings, Lucia's Garden, Crossroads Market** and from individual chorus members. For more info, call **Denise** at (713) 988-7150.

**SAN ANTONIO** - The **Esperanza Peace and Justice Center (EPJC)** needs donations to help meet their next semi-annual building payment of \$25,000. EPJC is a multiracial, multicultural, grassroots organization helping to empower women, lesbians & gays, people of color, youth, environmentalists and other progressives. To help out, send donations to: **The Esperanza Building Fund**, 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212.

**HOUSTON** - The law firm of **Moore & Hunt** is sponsoring an all-day seminar called **Womyn Choosing Motherhood** on Saturday, October 1st. Professionals and lay persons specializing in the psychological, medical, financial and legal aspects of donor insemination will

present detailed information and answer questions. For more info, call **Natalie** at (713) 522-4282 ext. 14.

**AMARILLO - Washington Square**, a new coffeehouse and bookstore, the only one of its kind in Amarillo, will open sometime in October at 1607 S. Washington. **Washington Square** is gay owned and operated and will offer books, coffee, food and music. For more info, operating hours and calendar of events, call (806) 373-5885.

**NEW MEXICO - The Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe** is planning an exhibit about lesbian presence and history in New Mexico. The curators of the exhibit are asking to borrow one object of significance to you (that you didn't produce yourself). The resulting collection of borrowed objects will be shown at the **Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe**. For information, call or write **Catherine Lord** and **Millie Wilson**, c/o Site Santa Fe, P.O. Box 10190, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Phone (505) 982-2935, FAX (505) 989-1188. E-mail: cblord@uci.edu. All letters answered, all calls returned. Requests for anonymity will be honored.

**HOUSTON - Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR)** is looking for a few good books. The **MCCR Library and Gay/Lesbian Archives** is looking for any books borrowed from their library that have not been returned. They also need donations of used books and other artifacts for the Archives and volunteers for the **Library Committee**. For more info, call (713) 861-9149.

**LUBBOCK - South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC)** is holding its annual fundraiser, **Art for Humanity V: An Exhibition of Hope**, on Friday, October 14th from 8pm-1am at the **Baker Building** (1211 13th St.). All proceeds will go to benefit SPARC and their clients. The event is a silent art auction and exhibition and will include a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. A donation of \$15 is requested. For more information, call **SPARC** at (806) 796-7068.

**HOUSTON - The Pride Committee of Houston** is selling **videos** of the **1994 Pride Parade** for \$27.43 each (price includes sales tax and shipping). To order, send your name, address and telephone number along with a check to: **Pride Committee of Houston**, PO Box 66071, Houston, TX 77266-6071.

**ALBUQUERQUE - Full Circle Books** will hold a **Read-a-Thon** by, for and about lesbians to honor **National Coming Out Day**. The event is titled "**Lesbian Tongues**" and will be held at the bookstore from noon-midnight on Tuesday, October 11th. For more info, call (505) 266-0022.



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

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# DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,  
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

---

## Dear Agnes,

I have been reading your column for years. I never imagined that I would someday write you with a problem. Anyway, here goes...

My lover and I have been together for two years and we get along beautifully. We share many of the same interests and we enjoy spending time together. We have an excellent sex life. The only problem we have is money.

We are not out of control with our credit or anything like that, we just can't seem to manage our cash. We both get paid at the same time. We pay the bills and then, by the start of the next week, we're completely broke.

That's when we start fighting. She'll accuse me of spending too much, then I get mad and accuse her of overspending. It gets progressively worse from there. We spend a whole week fighting until payday comes around again. Then we start all over with this little cycle of ours.

I'm sick and tired of this, but I don't know what to do about it. Do you have any suggestions other than getting two apartments and only seeing each other around payday?

**Money is the Root of All Evil**  
**Houston, TX**

## Dear Money,

Another apartment won't help anything. You'll only double your expenses and be twice as broke, so scratch that idea.

Start by making a budget. It doesn't have to be anything complicated, just start writing down what you spend on bills, and then figure up how much cash you have (on average) after the bills are paid.

Most people will not write down their expenses because they really don't want to know where their money is going (or, they think it's just plain hopeless). This has got to be your first step.

Once you've written down your expenses for a couple of months, you'll be able to see your "spending trend." From here you will be able to see the places you can cut back.

For instance, are you going to the grocery store and spending lots of money and then going out to eat while your food rots in the fridge? Are you paying for two movie channels and then renting videos so you've seen all the movies before they make it to cable? Can you cut back on clothing purchases? These are all places to look for overspending. Based on your individual circumstances, you will be able to find more areas where you can cut back.

After you have figured out where you can cut back, you might consider splitting your spending money in half. Stash half back for the week before payday.

Remember, it will take both of you, working together, to solve this problem.

**Dear Agnes,**

My lover and I are having a huge fight. It sounds really silly, but it is very serious to me.

I have a six-year-old male cat. I had this cat for three years before I even met my current lover.

We live in the country and the cat comes and goes as he pleases. The problem is that he isn't "fixed." My lover insists that I should have him neutered, but I don't think so.

He's getting older and I think it would be cruel to have him fixed at this late date. Besides, there are millions of "unfixed" cats around here. all our neighbors keep cats in their barns to keep the rat and mice population down. I don't see what difference fixing this one cat is going to make. My lover says I'm just being stubborn, but I think she

is being unreasonable. What do you say?

**Neuter or Not  
East Texas**

**Dear Neuter,**

In most cases, it really is a good idea to have a any cat fixed. Not only does it help control unwanted kittens, it can also help prevent many other health problems. A neutered male is also much less likely to wander off or to fight with other males. However, since your cat is six years old, I would suggest that you talk to your vet before making a decision.



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# PROTECTING YOURSELF

...and your car, and your home,  
and your belongings, and...



*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."*

*"The best offense is a good defense."*

*"There's no use closing the barn door after the horse is gone."*

Cliches? Yes, but there is truth to back them up. Steps you take now to protect yourself, your home and your belongings can pay off in a time of crisis. There's more to personal protection than an alarm system and a can of mace — the following should give you some ideas on how to guard against harm to yourself or theft of your property.

## YOUR HOME

Home security systems come in a variety of forms ranging from the do-it-yourself kind from the local hardware store to elaborate systems that are monitored on a 24 hour basis. Monitored systems are the most reliable. Talk to your local alarm company about what is best for your home and your lifestyle. Monitored

alarm systems are available in a wide range of prices to suit most budgets. Make sure that the stickers the alarm company places on doors and windows don't specify what type alarm is installed. Experienced thieves know how to get around many alarm systems, and advertising what type you have installed may increase your chances of being robbed rather than decreasing them. If you simply can't afford an actual alarm system, you can always place those "This property protected by a monitored alarm system" stickers on your doors and windows anyway. Studies have shown that homes with these stickers in place are burgled 40% less often than those without them.

Although home security systems abound these days, there are some simpler steps you can take to protect your home and belongings.

Install a "peep hole" in your front door and use it. Remember that you don't *have* to open the door. Ask to see

identification for anyone who says they are with a utility, phone or cable company — even if you called them to come make repairs. If you don't know the person at the door, or if they claim to be a salesman, tell them (without opening the door) to call and set up an appointment.

Make sure that windows and doors have secure locks. A deadbolt is a must on all outside doors. Be sure that you use the type that locks with a key on the inside if the door has windows in it or is within reach of nearby windows. Without this feature, a thief could break out the window, reach in and unlock the deadbolt. Security experts recommend deadbolt locks made in the U.S. or Germany as superior to those made in Taiwan, China or Japan.

Tall shrubs that cover windows can provide a place for a burglar to hide while he is breaking into your home. Cut these back so that your windows and doors are visible to neighbors and police. Also be sure that your home has adequate outside lighting. Motion detector lights are a good option to scare off potential thieves. And, last but not least, don't leave a ladder laying around outside your home. This can be just what a robber needs to boost him into a second story or attic window.

## **YOUR BELONGINGS**

Next to chaining them to the foundation of your house, the best way to protect your valuables is to leave your mark on them. Police departments in most cities will either mark your property for you or loan you an engraving tool free of charge as part of Operation Identification. The identification number you use (usually your driver's license number) is placed on file with

the police and makes it easier to identify your property if it is stolen and retrieved by police. Some of the items most likely to be stolen include your TV set, CD player and stereo, cameras, computers and jewelry.

The other thing that can help is to make a complete inventory of your home with original price, purchase date and serial numbers. Store one list in a "safe" place in your home and a copy in a safe deposit box. Not only will this help in case of theft by establishing ownership and worth, it will also be invaluable in case of fire, flood, tornado or other natural disaster. One easy way to take inventory of your home is by videotaping. Make a tape that shows all your belongings and narrate it with original purchase prices. Be sure to open all your closets and cabinets to get an accurate and complete picture of your belongings. Once again, keep a copy at home and another in a safe deposit box.

One last note — Don't go around bragging to people you don't know about the \$8,000 stereo system you just purchased or the 4 karat diamond your lover bought you. And, don't tell anyone (even a friend) that you have an alarm system, but you rarely turn it on. This kind of information gets around and can make you a perfect target.

## **YOUR CAR**

This may sound obvious, but you should always take your keys out of the ignition when you leave the car. Statistics show that nearly half of all cars stolen in the U.S. had keys in the ignition. So, even though it is -30° outside, don't leave your car running with the keys in it while you run into a convenience store for a cup of coffee. After all, would you

rather have a warm car or no car at all? Some other tips to prevent car theft include:

- don't hide a spare key under the seat, above the visor or in one of those magnetic boxes. Thieves know all these places.
- Park in well-lighted areas at night, preferably close to a street corner.
- Don't leave the title in the car, it belongs in a safe deposit box.
- Car alarms seldom deter thieves, instead, invest in a \$25 cutoff switch. This device is easy to install and won't let the car start unless the switch is turned on. A thief won't take the time to look for the switch and will move on to greener pastures.

## YOURSELF

Homes can be repaired, belongings and cars can be replaced. Protecting yourself

from injury, rape or even death, is the most important part of any discussion about crime. You can make a good start by following the tips listed below:

- When walking anywhere, choose a well-lighted route where there will be other people around. If possible, walk with a friend or a dog.
- Walk with purpose (like you know where you're going) and pay attention to your surroundings.
- Walk in the middle of the sidewalk instead of close to buildings or near the curb.
- Carry your purse close to your body with the clasp facing you.
- Carry your keys and money in your pocket, not in your purse.
- Don't carry large sums of money and never flash a roll of bills (even if you know they are all ones).

*continued on page 30*

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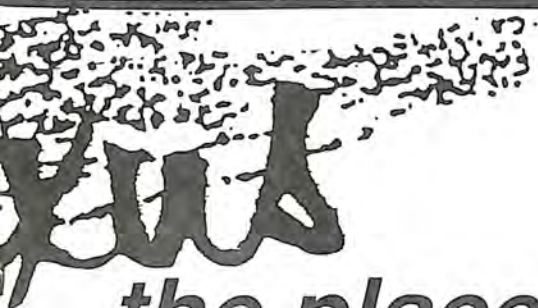
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# WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD WHAT IS "NORMAL" ANYWAY?

BY NANCY FORD

There I was, in my own home, minding my own business, when the phone rang. On the other end of the line was one of Those people — one of those telephone solicitors.

AAAUUUGHHH!

Let's pause for a moment. Make no mistake, I believe that there is dignity in all honest work. I understand that sometimes people find themselves in the unenviable position of having to do things which are extremely distasteful, sometimes even morally reprehensible, for the sake of economics. Don't take my word for it — ask Lisa Marie Presley. But this was no ordinary, run-of-the-mill, hey-lady-aluminum-siding-will-change-your-life kind of telephone solicitor. This particular solicitor was a representative of a high-tech matchmaking service. I can't say which one exactly — that might be misconstrued as a commercial endorsement. Let's just call the organization *Date Expectations*.

The gentleman introduced himself and said that he had a special invitation for me. Seems that the Yentes over at *DE* were throwing a big soiree that very weekend which would give me the opportunity to...well, it would give me the opportunity to do whatever it is people do at gatherings of this nature. "You are single, aren't you Ms. Ford?" "Well, yes, as a matter of fact, I am—" Generally, this would have been the

moment I would have said, "I'm not interested in your service, but thank you for calling," and hung up. But *Seinfeld* was a rerun, and something kept me on the line — perhaps the intrigue of it all.

"—but let me save us both some time, I am single, but I'm a single lesbian."

"Excuse me?"

"I said I'm a lesbian. I'm a gay woman."

"What does that mean — that you're happy all the time?"

I'm serious; this is truly how he responded. Seems to me that the Personnel Department at *Date Expectations* needs to pay more attention to the social-awareness level of the people they hire to perform the function of professional dance-card-filler-uppers. "No, that means I form my romantic relationships with people of the same sex." So unless your company has a division that links members of the gay and lesbian community, I would have no need for your service."

"Wait a minute. You mean you don't date?"

"Yes, I date," I recollected, thinking back to a kinder, gentler period of my life. "But when I do, I date women. That's what a lesbian does."

"Well, if you've never dated a man, how do you know you're a...you're a..." He couldn't bring himself to say the word. "Okay, that's your choice—"

I didn't bother addressing the nature vs. nurture question. After all, Letterman would be on in an hour or so. He continued relentlessly.

"—but haven't you ever thought about getting married? We're not just a dating service you know. People get married for a lot of different reasons..."

Had it become my karmic assignment to try to make this guy realize the misconceptions he was operating under? As much as the whole conversation annoyed me, it nevertheless comforted me to know that I was not interacting with Quintessential Straight Man anymore than he was conversing with the Queen of the Lesbians.

I further tried to explain that yes, indeed, someday I hoped to marry. And when that happened, it would be because I was in love with a woman I wanted to monogamously spend the rest of my life in partnership with. What an outrageous concept! I told him about the legislative breakthroughs in Hawaii, where same-gender marriage was closer to being legalized than ever before. He was stunned, yet undaunted in his quest to sign me up for that party.

But what about my biological clock, he queried.

Onward through the fog. I patiently briefed him on the myriad reproductive alternatives in artificial insemination, sperm donation, adoption and even turkey baster therapy; that it was no longer imperative for a woman to be linked, legally or otherwise, to a man if she chose to raise a family. We got into it about different kinds of families, how it requires much, much more than merely two members of the opposite sex to properly raise and nurture a child. We even broached the subject of how the term "lesbian" wasn't synonymous with

"man hater"; that, in fact, I had once been married to a man.

"Oh, that explains it. Your marriage didn't work, so now you're taking the easy way out."

That's when I hung up.



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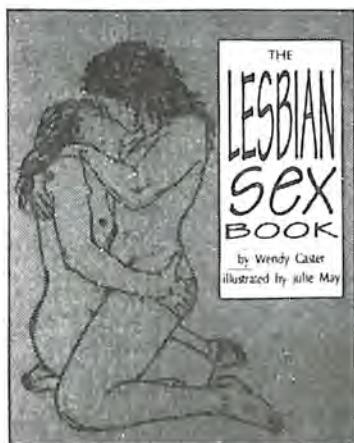
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# THE COFFEE CLUB

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*THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:*

## Second Guess

by Rose Beecham

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## THE SURE THING

BY MELISSA HARTMAN

The first book we're going to look at this month is **Second Guess** by Rose Beecham. **Second Guess** is the second in the Amanda Valentine Mystery Series.

Detective Inspector Amanda Valentine of the Wellington, New Zealand Police Department has just returned from a year's leave of absence in New York. She is looking forward to the slower pace of life in New Zealand. Instead, she returns just in time for a highly public, very scandalous murder case. Sybil Knight was the director of the Wellington City Art Gallery and daughter of the former Ambassador to the U.S. Her body is found in the

private S&M dungeon at a lesbian sex club.

Sybil had lots of money, and lots of enemies. The man at work who thought she had stolen a job that was rightfully his; her homophobic brother who believed she had more than her share of a wealthy Aunt's estate; her lover, Kim, who suspected that Sybil was having an affair; and Casey, the owner of the sex club where she was found dead.

Amanda must deal with the press, as well as Sybil's influential family while trying to find the murderer.

Author Rose Beecham also writes under the name Jennifer Fulton. Her previous books include **Passion Bay**, **Saving**

**Grace and True Love.** She is an engaging writer and has created some unusual (but entirely believable) characters. Detective Amanda Valentine can be compared very favorably to that other scion of lesbian detectivedom — Kate Delafield (the creation of Katherine V. Forrest). **Second Guess** is a good read and is definitely recommended.

Next, we'll look at **The Sure Thing** by Melissa Hartman.

Dr. Christine Kennedy is a researcher studying earthquake prediction. When she accurately forecasts a Southern California earthquake, the press is very interested.

Dory Moraga, an Emmy award-winning reporter for an LA TV station is sent to interview Chris. To thank her for the interview, Dory offers to take Chris to lunch — a lunch that turns into much more.

Chris' lover of seven years was killed in a car accident three years before and Chris is still having a hard time with her death. Dory grew up in the barrios of East LA and is driven to succeed in her chosen profession.

When Dory's work takes her into dangerous situation, Chris is terrified. The thought of Dory putting herself in harm's way — on purpose — is totally foreign to her and very nerve-racking. When Dory has to go out and report on the riots in L.A. following the Rodney King verdict, Chris is beside herself with fear.

Will their relationship last? Who cares. Although Chris is a sympathetic character at the start, her whining about Dory's work gets old. Dory's love 'em and leave 'em, "my career comes first" attitude may be common among

lesbians, but that doesn't make it an endearing quality. Any woman who will leave and not speak to you for three months when you complain about her work isn't worth a second chance. Maybe **The Sure Thing** is just too close to real life for comfort. If I want to hear stories of women who get together and break-up, get together and break-up again and again, I'll go to the bar.

Both **Second Guess** and **The Sure Thing** are available at your local women's 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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- Linda Owens  
Houston, TX

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## QUIZ

# Do You Believe In Ghosts?



Halloween is here. Ancient cultures believed this was the time when the door between worlds was open and spirits were free to roam the earth. Do you believe in ghosts and other things that can't be explained? Take the following quiz to find out!

**1.** When one of your possessions is not where you remember leaving it, you:

- a. assume you moved it and forgot.
- b. figure your lover moved it.
- c. figure the poltergeist is acting up again.

**2.** A picture you took has a strange, filmy, human-shaped blob in the middle, you:

- a. wonder why the camera is double-exposing your film.
- b. figure the sun was hitting the lens wrong.
- c. show everyone your picture of a ghost.

**3.** After you've watched a vampire movie on the late, late show, you:

- a. go to sleep as usual.
- b. are a little scared and go to sleep with the radio on.
- c. stay up peeking out your window, wondering why your neighbor always leaves her house at 3 am.

**4.** You've been thinking of friend you haven't spoken to in years and she calls the next day. You:

- a. are happy she called.
- b. are amazed at the coincidence.
- c. figure she got your psychic messages.

**5.** You dream that your lover dies in a car accident, you:

- a. are upset when you wake up, but figure it's only a dream.
- b. tell her about it and ask her to be careful.
- c. take her car keys and drive her everywhere for the next two weeks.

**6.** When you wake up with a feeling that something bad is going to happen to you today, you:

- a. laugh it off.
- b. try to shake it off and go to work.
- c. call your boss and go back to bed.

**7.** When you hear someone talk about being kidnapped by aliens, you:

- a. think they are completely crazy.
- b. wonder about the possibilities.
- c. want to know why they haven't come to get you.

## SCORING

Give yourself points as follows:

4 points for each "A" answer.

6 points for each "B" answer.

10 points for each "C" answer.

## If you scored: 56-70 points

Yes, you believe in ghosts, and vampires, and werewolves, and esp, etc., etc. — almost to the point of obsession. These beliefs are perfectly okay as long as you don't let yourself get taken by the hucksters out to make a buck off true believers like yourself. A little skepticism and some intelligent investigation can help you separate the probable from the merely possible.

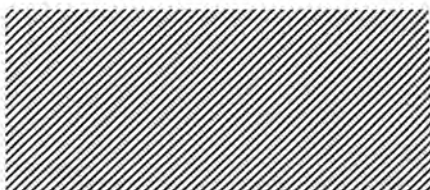
## 42-55 points

Although you believe in ghosts, you have a healthy skepticism that keeps you from believing every story you hear about things otherworldly. This balance serves you well, allowing you to believe in some mysteries while you reserve judgment on others. You are

smart enough to pay attention to your instincts without going overboard.

## 28-41 points

Your feet are firmly planted on the earth. You have little use for ghost stories, esp or premonitions. This is all well and good, but can make life pretty boring. Shouldn't there be some mysteries in world so full of answers? Open your mind to the possibilities. Who knows, someday you may be the one to finally prove the existence of Sasquatch.





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## PERSONAL PROTECTION

*continued from page 19*

- Avoid walking near vacant lots and alleys.
- If you think someone is following you, head for a well-lit place where people congregate.
- If a car pulls alongside you, don't run straight ahead, turn around and go back the other direction (the car will have to make a U-turn to follow you).
- Never hitchhike or pick up hitchhikers.
- When traveling on the bus, choose an aisle seat close to the driver.
- If you are headed out of town, even for only a day, let someone know where you are going and when you should be back.
- Don't use isolated ATM's, go instead to a grocery or convenience store where other people are around. Stay alert and

don't let anyone see your personal code number.

Other than these simple tips, you can also take a self-defense course, or purchase a gun. If you do choose to own a gun for protection, be sure you take a class that teaches you how to use it and practice at a shooting range on a regular basis. If you are not comfortable with the use of a gun, you could end up in worse trouble since the criminal could take it and turn it back on you.

Protecting yourself and your belongings is mostly a matter of common sense. Following these simple tips can reduce (although not eliminate) your chances of being a victim. If you are the victim of *any* type of crime, report it to the police immediately.



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# HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

---

## ARIES

Don't spend money just to make an impression during the first part of October. You'll only hurt your wallet. Try to keep your composure when a companion gets bitchy around the 15th. A difference of opinion is nothing to fight about. Rely on your gut feelings instead of a friend's advice when it comes to a money matter around the 24th. Take your time in matters of love and money toward month's end. Your instincts aren't very reliable, so you'll need to watch your step.

## TAURUS

You may be feeling isolated during the first part of October. Getting together with friends or family you haven't seen for a while will help. You may be feeling moody around the 16th. Keep to yourself as much as possible and try not to take it out on others. An invitation you receive toward month's end shouldn't be ignored. You never know what wonderful people you might meet — this may even be the beginning of a new romance!

## GEMINI

Balancing personal and professional commitments could put strain on a close relationship during the first part of October. All your hard work starts to pay off after the 16th with a raise or promotion. Major changes in a relationship could be in the cards towards month's end. Sit down and talk about where the relationship is headed and how to work things out.

## CANCER

You may feel confined by obligations to family or friends during the first part of October. Your social life is on an upswing and a vacation could be in the works after the 17th. Don't let your concentration stray on the job or you won't enjoy your time off. A break up of a close relationship could leave you feeling disillusioned but you bounce back quickly toward month's end.

## LEO

Money and prestige could be yours during the first part of October — but if you aren't careful, it could slip through your fingers. A personal relationship could be strained to the point of breaking around the 15th. Try to work things out but don't hesitate to leave if it reaches that point. Concentrate on work toward month's end so that you'll be free to enjoy social activities on Halloween.

## VIRGO

What you want and what you can accomplish may be at odds during the first part of October. Don't be in such a hurry! Everything will happen if you'll just give it time. Family problems need your attention after the 16th. Do what you can to help out, but don't be taken advantage of. Finances have been on your mind all month, but an increase in income could help you out after the 26th.

## LIBRA

The restlessness that has plagued you for awhile now will lift during the first part of October. Focus on a love

relationship, but don't get overly possessive with your lover. After the 15th, avoid the temptation to spend money just to impress someone. You will lose more than you will gain. Reckless behavior (your's or another's) could get you in trouble toward month's end if you don't watch your step.

## SCORPIO

A relationship takes a serious turn during the first part of October. Job responsibilities may prevent you from spending as much time with a loved one as you would like until the 17th. Don't worry — she'll understand. Your intuition is working overtime toward month's end — follow a hunch and see where it leads. Luck is on your side if you take a chance on an investment.

## SAGITTARIUS

Social plans could be postponed by a family fight during the first part of October. It may be left up to you to get things back in control. You could get in real trouble if you don't keep close tabs on your spending habits after the 12th. Romance takes center stage toward month's end and could turn into "true love" by the 30th.

## CAPRICORN

A friendly get-together is just what you need to get you out of the dumps during the first part of October. Try not to be too trusting with someone you meet around the 13th. Keep your guard up and you'll save yourself time, money and frustration. Toward month's end you should be in a great position to take some time for yourself - recent problems are behind you now and you can relax and enjoy Halloween.

## AQUARIUS

It's the little details that can trip you up during the first part of October. Stay on your toes and be alert to changes both on the job and at home. Avoid taking risks with money or love after the 17th, "Lady Luck" isn't on your side right now. A casual relationship could turn serious toward month's end. Trust your intuition to lead you in the right direction.

## PISCES

You should be able to resolve a conflict between relatives or coworkers during the first part of October. After the 16th your heart wants to do what your head says you shouldn't — listen to your head. You will have to try hard to keep a secret toward month's end. The temptation to confide in someone is almost overwhelming, but could cause BIG trouble!



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# THE DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

## ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505)

### organizations

Sister Source Cooperative & Lesbian Resource Line  
144 Harvard SE • 269-2116

## AMARILLO, TX (area code 806)

### organizations

Lesbian/Gay Alliance • PO Box 9361 79105 • 359-4219  
MCC of Amarillo • PO Box 1276 • 372-4557

## ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817)

### clubs

Ropers • 2023 South Cooper • 265-5674

### organizations

Gay/Lesbian Association of UTA  
P.O. Box 19348-77, UTA St. 76019 • 794-5140  
Trinity MCC • 331 Aaron Ave., Ste 125 • 265-5454

## AUSTIN, TX (area code 512)

### clubs

Hollywood • 113 San Jacinto • 480-9627  
Nexus • 305 W. 5th • 472-5288

### organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 7403 Shoal Creek • 451-2329  
Austin Latina Lesbian/Gay Organization  
PO Box 1350 78787 • 280-6107  
Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 822 78767 • 462-9688  
Center for Battered Women • (Lesbian Group)  
365-5181 or 928-9070 (hotline)  
Gay/Lesbian Student Association at UT Austin  
456-3971 • Box 275 Texas Union 78712-7338  
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby • PO Box 2579 78768 • 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  
Sapphire! • Lesbian Social Group • 450-0659  
Meeting Address • 825 E. 53 1/2 St., Ste E103  
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

## BANDERA, TX (area code 210)

### accommodations

Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club • Women's Guest Ranch  
HC 3, Box 650 78003 • 796-7446

## DALLAS, TX (area code 214)

### businesses

Alternative Visions • Dating Service • 747-2033

Business Delivery Systems • 14902 Preston Rd. 75240 • 733-1108  
clubs

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

### organizations

Affirmation • PO Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546  
AIDS Resource Center • P.O. Box 190712 75219  
Asians & Friends • PO Box 9142 75209 • 932-3339  
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 191188 75219 • 497-1591  
Couples Metro Dallas • PO Box 803156 75380 • 504-6775  
Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance  
P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 528-4233 • FAX 522-4604  
Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 821-1653  
Dallas Gay Youth Group • 300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203  
Dallas Outdoors • P.O. Box 35474 75235 • 276-5270  
Dallas Tavern Guild • 3900 Lemmon Ave. #220 • 526-5292  
Dignity/Dallas • PO Box 190133 75219 • 226-4101  
Foundation for Human Understanding • 528-4233  
Gay/Lesbian Gardeners • PO Box 190552 75219 • 339-0787  
GLAAD/Dallas • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 526-GLAD  
Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus • 2727 Oak Lawn • 528-2811  
Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas • 521-5342 ext. 229  
Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition • P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882  
Lesbian Resource Center • 1315 Skiles • 821-3999  
Lesbian Visionaries • PO Box 191443 75219 • 521-5342 X 844  
LIL (Lesbian Info Line • 521-5342 ext. 298  
SPROUTS (coming out group) • 521-5342 ext. 256  
TWIGS (the wynn in gay society) • 521-5342 ext. 269  
The New Vision (newspaper) • 521-5342 ext. 255  
Metropex Republicans • P.O. Box 191033 75219 • 941-8114  
Oak Lawn Community Services 4300 MacArthur • 520-8108  
Oak Lawn Symphonic Band • P.O. Box 190973 75219 • 986-1751  
PFLAG/Dallas • Helpline 556-6640  
Imperial Sovereign Royal Court of Dallas  
P.O. Box 190464 75245 • 521-8446  
Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship • 416-1358  
Womyn Together • 3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

## DENTON, TX (area code 817)

### organizations

COURAGE, Lesbian Gay Student Org.  
P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 382-3813  
Harvest MCC • 5900 S. Stemmons 76205 • 1-800-497-HMCC  
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 387-1491

## DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX (area code 512)

### accommodations

Recreation Plantation • Campground • HCO1 box 40-A 78620 • 894-0567

## EL PASO, TX (area code 915)

### organizations

Lambda Services • PO Box 31321 79931-0321 • 24 hour line 562-GAYS  
MCC El Paso • 916 Yandell • 542-1227  
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays)  
Spanish & English Language Meetings • 591-4664

## FT. WORTH (area code 817)

### organizations

Agape MCC • 4615 SE Loop 820 • 535-5002  
Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 498-5607/498-4855  
RESPECT • 828 Hardwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 76054  
Tarrant County LG Alliance • 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 76116 • 763-5544

## HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

### businesses

Inklings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3369

### clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spwy. • 666-3464  
Ms. Bs • 9208 Buffalo Spwy. • 666-3356  
XTC • 9212 Buffalo Spwy. • 666-3356

### organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796  
AIDS HOTLINE • c/o Switchboard • 529-3211  
Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston • 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211  
Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • PO Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 980-7995  
Houston Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000  
Integrity • P.O. Box 66008 77266-6008 • 432-0414  
Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 862-7533  
Lambda ALANON • 1214 Joanne • 521-9772  
Lesbian/Gay Students-Univ. Houston Clear Lake • 2700 Bay Area 77058  
LTN Houston • Lesbian Teacher Network  
PO Box 1835 • Bellaire, TX 77402 • 529-3211  
Metropolitan Community Church Of The Resurrection  
1919 Decatur • 661-9149  
Montrose Counseling Center • 900 Lovett #203 77006 • 529-0037  
Montrose Pool League/Billiards • PJ 863-8482  
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 867-9020  
PWA Coalition - Houston • 1475 W. Gray #163 • 522-5428  
SORA (Sex or Relationship Addicts Anonymous)  
support group for lesbians • 523-9398  
Womynspace • P.O. Box 950601 77098-0601  
Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 668-6256

## LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)

### businesses

Distinct Travel • 793-8374

### 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  
MCC Lubbock • 5502 34th St. • 792-5562  
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 Vanck 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 Mothers' National Defense Fund  
PO Box 21567 • Seattle, WA 98111 • (206) 325-2643  
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 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

## NEW ORLEANS, LA (area code 504)

### club & accommodations

Charlene's • 940 Elysian Fields • 945-9328

## 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  
Concho Valley Gay/Lesbian Alliance  
P.O. Box 750 76902 • 653-2956

## SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 210)

### clubs

Bonham Exchange • 411 Bonham • 224-9219  
Nexus San Antonio • 8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

### organizations

Deaf Rainbow • 804-1904 TTY  
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 • SALSALine 733-1225  
San Antonio AIDS Foundation  
PO Box 120113 78212-9313  
San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

## SHERMAN, TX (area code 903)

### organizations

Alliance for Life • PO Box 1695 75091 • 892-9049  
HIV/AIDS Services • PO Box 1695 75091 • 463-7258

## WACO, TX (area code 817)

### organizations

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

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## BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

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or customers,  
or an employee ...)  
in the  
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## HOW TO ANSWER A PERSONAL AD

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

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

**BE SURE TO STAMP BOTH ENVELOPES!**

Your Return  
Address  
Box # XXX

Your Return  
Address

**DIMENSIONS**  
P.O. Box 856  
Lubbock, TX 79408

# The Graffiti Page

Billie Rose

THANK FOR  
YOUR FRIEND-  
SHIP ~  
LOVE, Us

HAPPY

OCT.



14th  
Dec

BIRTHDAY

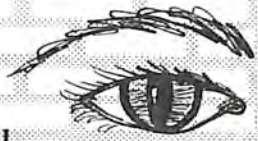
Happy Birthday



h. fartknocker & h.h.

Forever,  
I will never know  
how much I miss  
you. I wish it had  
been you. I love  
you - NMTI

Happy  
Halloween



Happy Birthday Renee ~

We love you ~ the Aardvarks



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8/20/93

Dear Dimensions,

You all are doing a great job for Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club. You are wonderful and we appreciate your work. Have had women from all over come to see us.

About 85% of our inquiries come from the ad in Dimensions!

Hope to see you if you ever get time off.  
Thanks a million,

Jeanne & Leanne Beauxbeannes  
Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club

Call Tasha at  
(806) 797-9647  
for Advertising Info