

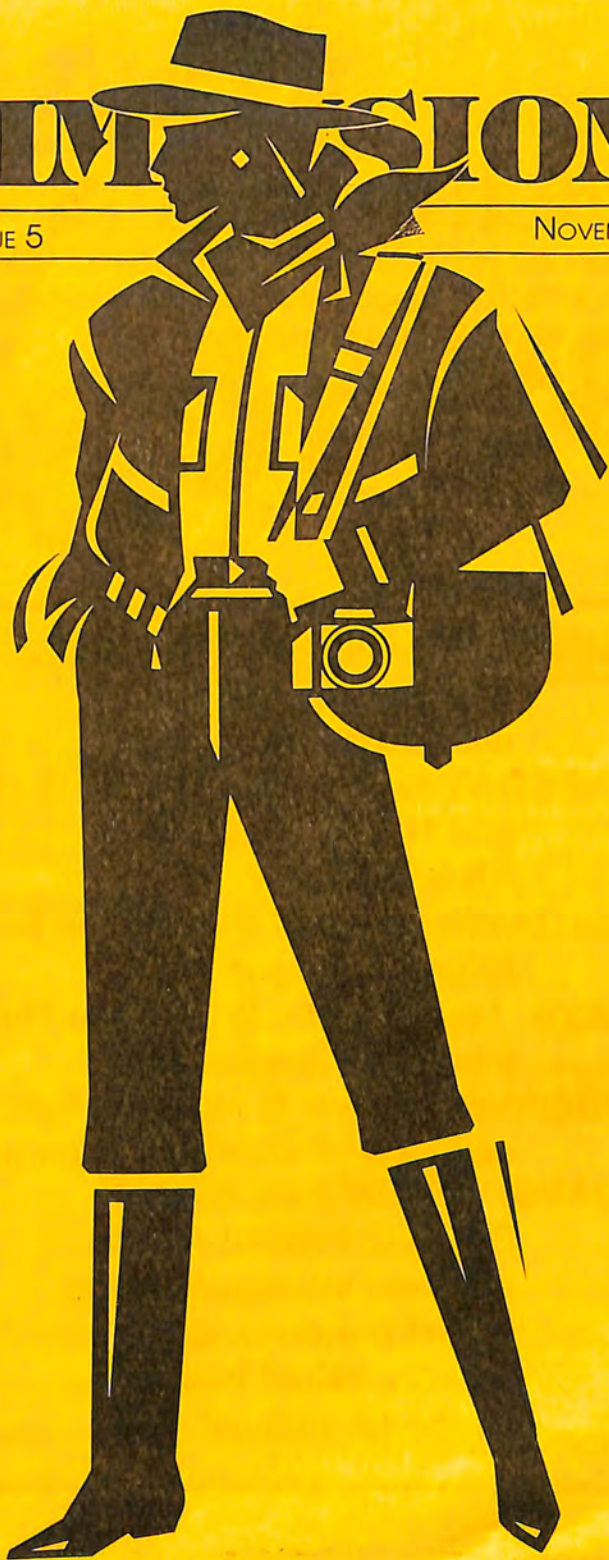
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VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER 1994



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DIMENSIONS

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returned, so please do
not send your original!

Guest Editorial

GET INVOLVED. IT WORKS!

Dear Kelly,

"The News" column is interesting and informative, and I read with interest what is going on around Texas and in other parts of our nation. It was truly great to know the hate crime provision was included in the recently passed federal crime bill.

How I wish people would wake up and get involved in what is going on in our country! When my son was murdered nine years ago, it changed my life forever. I've always been a volunteer and involved in human rights, but now I'm very focused on the rights of crime victims.

What I'd like to tell your readers is **LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!** Remember, they want to be elected again, so it does matter what their constituents think.

Each time you write a letter, list your Voter's Registration number under your signature. They will know that you are a voter and you are monitoring the way they vote.

You can easily find addresses in your phone directory or by calling you City Hall or Courthouse. Or you can write to the general addresses listed below:

Governor Ann Richards
State Capitol Extension
Room E1.304
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-2000

To Write Your State Senator:

Senator _____
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
FAX: (512) 463-0362

To Write Your State Representative:

Representative _____
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
FAX: (512) 463-5896

To write the Parole Board:
Raven Kazen, Director
Victim Services Division
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Pardons and Paroles
8610 Shoal Creek
P.O. Box 13401
Capital Station
Austin, TX 78711

Please help me get this point across to everyone: WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
I know we are busy working to survive day to day, as well as working on our personal relationships. However, it takes only a little time and makes a great deal of difference in the great scheme of things. I read once that "Just as long as you participate in the creation of a building that will remain long after you are gone, you can participate in the evolution of group energy dynamics that will remain long after you are gone."
Let's communicate with our officials and let them know how we feel about the issues that involves us as human beings.

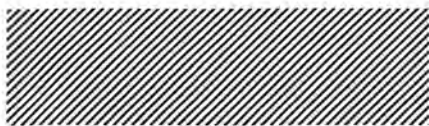
I've included the Victim Assistance Director for the Board of Pardons and Paroles so you can write letters protesting early release of murderers, rapists, sex offenders, etc. Include their Texas Department of Correction number if it's available. If not, call them at 1-800-848-4284 and ask for assistance.

Thank You,

Thomas Ann Hines

State Chair

People Against Violent Crime



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INTRODUCTIONS



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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

DALLAS TO HOST

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will host its annual "Creating Change" skills building conference in Dallas November 11-13, with pre-conference workshops November 9 and 10.

More than 70 workshops will be showcased at this year's Creating Change conference. Prior to the main body of the conference, Creating Change features full-day pre-conference institutes: the People of Color Organizing Institute and the Transformation Institute on November 9; and the Race Class and Gender Institute on November 10. This year's conference will include three Fight the Right "intensives" (focusing on elections, education and religious organizing), as well as "intensives" on Fundraising, AIDS and Youth.

The conference will be held at Southland Center Hotel in downtown Dallas. Call 1-800-272-8007 for room reservations and identify yourself as a Creating Change participant for special rates. For further information about Creating Change, contact Sue Hyde at (617) 492-6393.

TEXAS GAY RODEO TO BE HELD IN AUSTIN

AUSTIN, TX - The Eleventh Annual TGRA Rodeo will be held in Austin, TX, November 11-13 at the Travis County Exposition Center located off State Highway 290 East and Decker

Road. The rodeo is always the main focus of the weekend, but there will also be vendors and entertainment venues.

Friday, November 11th will be the Rodeo Kickoff Dance from 7-10 at the Doubletree Hotel Ballroom. Two rodeo performances will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 12th and 13th. The first performance begins at 9am, followed by the Grand Entry at noon and a second performance at 1pm. Dances will also be held both Saturday and Sunday from 7pm-midnight at the Doubletree Ballroom.

Individual tickets are \$12.50 for each day's rodeo and \$5 for each night's dance. 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 the Rodeo Hotline at 214-720-6051 or 512-835-5314.

VICTORY FUND CANDIDATES ON BALLOT IN EIGHT STATES GAY-BAITING A FACTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Victory Fund, a donor network of individuals who are committed to electing openly gay and lesbian public officials, has backed 16 candidates in eight states in this year's general election. The Victory Fund backs candidates at the city,

county, state and federal levels and has helped many openly gay candidates since its inception in 1991. Candidates who are recommended must meet certain criteria and complete an exhaustive screening process.

The 16 Victory Fund recommended candidates running in November are:

- **Tom Ammiano** for San Francisco board of Supervisors

- **Cal Anderson** for Washington State Senate

- **Derek Belt** for Massachusetts House of Representatives

- **Karen Burstein** for New York State Attorney General

- **Chuck Carpenter** for Oregon House of Representatives

- **Ken Chevront** for Arizona House of Representatives

- **Bonnie Dumanis** for San Diego Municipal Court

- **George Eighmey** for Oregon House of Representatives

- **Will Fitzpatrick** for Rhode Island State Senate

- **Sheila Kuehl** for California State Assembly

- **Susan Leal** for San Francisco Board of Supervisors

- **Tony Miller** for California Secretary of State

- **Mike Pisaturo** for Rhode Island House of Representative

- **Teri Schwartz** for Los Angeles Superior Court

- **Cynthia Wooten** for Oregon House of Representatives

- **Tim Van Zandt** for Missouri House of Representatives

The Victory Fund is a registered Political Action Committee (PAC) and supports candidates with in-kind contributions, referrals to campaign professionals and access to its donor network. Members Join the Victory Fund for \$100 or more and agree to give at least \$100 on two

recommended candidates within a 12 month period. After candidates are qualified, members receive profiles of each race and choose which campaigns to support and when. Checks are made payable to the candidates campaign, but sent to the Victory Fund where they are combined with contributions from other members and sent to the campaign as a massive show of community support. Membership in the Victory Fund is more than 3,500 nationwide.

To demonstrate the Victory Fund's effectiveness, some 72 candidates contacted the Fund for financial aid during the 1993 election cycle. Of these candidates, only 12 were recommended to the network, of which six won. Of the remaining 60 candidates, only two won. For more information on the Victory Fund or about these candidates, contact Kathleen DeBold at (202) 842-8679 or via email at victoryf@aol.com.

The Victory Fund is also reporting several incidences of increased anti-gay campaigning — even from opponents who claim to be "gay-friendly."

One explanation for the increase is the rise in power of the Radical Right and its demonization of the gay and lesbian community as fundraising gimmick. "The Radical Right has stepped up its attacks on openly gay political figures as part of its overall strategy to undermine the strength of our community — and to raise money," says Victory Fund Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold. "They know that qualified gay and lesbian officials dispel anti-gay stereotypes and increase our community's visibility in an extremely positive way — something they don't want to see happen. Seventeen of the Victory Fund's this year are in states that were targeted by the right for anti-gay ballot initiatives.

The extremely reactionary Traditional Values Coalition (TVC) has beefed up its attacks on openly gay and lesbian candidates. In regards to California's openly gay Secretary of State candidate Tony Miller, TVC head Lou Sheldon announced, "I've yet to see an open homosexual not promote [gay] agenda... If the Press puffs up Tony, we will crucify him." Sheldon has also targeted openly lesbian California Assembly candidate Sheila Kuehl and took a special trip to Wisconsin to campaign against openly lesbian State Assemblymember Tammy Baldwin, who is up for re-election this year.

Many candidates have been accused of being "single issue" candidates and that their only purpose in running for office is to promote the "gay rights agenda." "There are many ways to exploit homophobia in a campaign," says political activist David Mixner. "A straight candidate gay-baits when he calls himself *The Pro-Family Candidate* implying that his opponent is anti-

family." Another popular way for a straight candidate to introduce homophobia into a campaign is to make an announcement to the effect of, "I don't intend to use my opponent's homosexuality as a campaign issue," thereby making it a campaign issue.

For Victory Fund candidates, the increase in gay-baiting has meant an escalation in the cost of campaigning. Openly gay candidates must be more qualified and better-prepared than their straight counterparts, they need to raise more money early in the race so they can define themselves before the other side does, and they need to raise surplus funds to refute anti-gay attacks. "We've made great strides in electing our own these past few years," says Victory fund Executive Director William Waybourn, "and this backlash against Victory Fund candidates only reinforces the importance of our mission."



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

FORT WORTH - **Pleiades Productions, Inc.** will present **Deidre McCalla** with opening act **Jess Hawk Oakenstar** in concert on Saturday, November 5th at 8pm at the **Agape MCC Auditorium** (4615 SE California Parkway). Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door and are available at **Connections Bookstore, Collections Antique Gallery** and **Agape MCC** in Fort Worth and at **Crossroads Market** in Dallas. For more info, call (817) 923-4625. Advance tickets for comedian **Suzanne Westenhoefer** (to be held on February 11, 1995 at Orchestra Hall) will be on sale at the **Diedre McCalla** concert. Tickets will be sold on a reserve seat basis for \$15.

DALLAS - **The Oak Lawn Band** will present its second concert of its fifteenth season on Saturday, December 3 at 8:15pm at the **Metropolitan Community Church** (5910 Cedar Springs) under the baton of its Artistic Director, **Cathy Brown**. The program, entitled "**Christmas Around The World**," will also include an appearance by **Dallas Jazzworx**, under the direction of **Dennis Metz**. Tickets for the December 3rd concert are available through **ARTTIX** (214-520-2787) and can also be purchased for \$10 at **Crossroads** and **Sources of Hope** (the bookstore at MCC) in advance of the concert. Tickets will be \$15 at the door. For more info, call (214) 942-9537.

HOUSTON - **The Women's Group**, a feminist group for all women will celebrate **LANGMAS**, a celebration of **k.d. lang** on Sunday, November 13 from 3:30-5pm at the **Central Congregational Church** (on Holman,

between Austin & Caroline across from the HCC Central Campus). **k.d.** was born on November 2nd (known as "Langmas" to diehard fans) so come celebrate her birthday with us! **k.d.** has been invited... For more info call (713) 529-1886.

SAN ANTONIO - **Young Adult Lesbians (YAL)** of San Antonio presents **The Therapy Sisters** in concert at the **Guadalupe Arts Center** on December 10th. The concert is a fundraiser for the newly formed group. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and available at **Textures Bookstore**. YAL meets every Friday at 7:30pm the **Resource Center** (121 W. Woodlawn). The group provides an opportunity for young women to meet and socialize outside the bars — young women of all ages are welcome! Weekly meetings include 10-15 minutes of business and a fun activity (board games, video, Steak Night at Nexus/SA and lots more). For more info, call **Jena** at (210) 436-9475.

FORT WORTH - **The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington**, a non-profit group will hold a **Comedy Drag Show** at 10pm on November 5th. Proceeds will go to benefit the **AOC Food Pantry**. They will also hold a **Comedy Show** on November 26th at 11:30pm at **DJ's** to benefit **Healing Wings**. For more info, call **Emperor Melissa** at (817) 870-1555.

DALLAS - **Metropolitan Community Church** and **Oak Lawn Community Services** will hold a **Parenting Symposium** on Saturday, November 5th from 9am-4pm at MCC. The cost to

attend ranges from \$3-6. The Symposium will consist of information for lesbians and gays wanting to become parents as well as for those who already have children. For more info, call (214) 351-1901.

HOUSTON - The Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) is a social group for lesbians and gay men who enjoy the outdoors. HOG activities includes not only camping and hiking, but also lots of social activities. Regular monthly events include a social meeting, horseback riding and an average of one or more outings. There is no charge to join. For more info, call (713) KAMPOUT.

TAOS - The Ruby Slipper Bed & Breakfast is joining with the **Taos Bed & Breakfast Association** and numerous restaurants, outfitters, shops and galleries to offer fabulous savings during their annual **Fall Fling** (November 1-December 10, not including holidays). Guest staying at the **Ruby Slipper** will receive a complimentary **Fall Fling** card and list of participating business. Offers include two-for-one entrees at restaurants; discounts on horseback riding, hot-air ballooning and mountain biking; savings on clothing, jewelry and crafts; and gallery discounts on fine art. For more info or reservations, call (505) 758-0613.

HOUSTON - The Sixth Annual From All Walks Of Life, 10k Walkathon/Rollathon will be held in **Tranquility Park** on November 6th. Runners, Skaters, Walkers, Individuals and Groups are all

welcome. All proceeds go to benefit **AIDS Foundation Houston**. Preregistration and a \$15 fee are required. For more info, call (713) 626-WALK.

SHERMAN - The AIDS Resource Center of Texhoma will hold a food drive in November in honor of **AIDS Awareness Month**. ARCT Serves 65 clients in Cooke, Grayson and Fannin counties. To donate food or for more information, call (903) 813-1272 or 1-800-525-6381.

HOUSTON - The Bar Association For Human Rights (BAHR) will hold its semi-regular networking happy hour on November 9 from 5:30-7pm at the **Museum Restaurant & Bar** (1512 West Alabama). Legal professionals, law students and other interested in **BAHR** are encouraged to attend. **BAHR** will also hold a program focusing on **federal tax law and planning for non-traditional couples** on Nov. 11th at the River Oaks Health Alliance Building (1414 West Clay). The program is free and open to the public. Attorneys who attend will qualify for 1 1/2 hours of MCLE credit. For more info, call 713-942-8408.



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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

I'm writing to you from sheer frustration. Each and every year, beginning the first part of October or even late September, my lover goes to the craft store and buys all her Christmas gifts. She buys tons of stuff that has to be painted and glittered and pasted and baked on. Then she spreads out newspaper all over the kitchen table and gets to work.

Now this would not be a problem, but we have been together for fourteen years. At this point both of our families look like craft stores. Don't get me wrong, these are nice, tasteful gifts, usually in a holiday theme. But after fourteen years of this same routine, I'm sick of it.

I feel like I'm living with Ms. Claus. She is busy with this for three solid months, right up to December 24th.

Both our mothers always have all the previous Christmas crafts set out all over the house. There is barely room to set a drink down anymore.

For once, I would love to go Christmas shopping like normal people. Just one year, I would like to see her without paint under her fingernails and glitter on her face between the first of October and Christmas. Not only does she invest all her spare time in these projects, she also spends a fortune.

Can you help me convince her to do something different for once? I have

already tried begging, so now I'm turning to you.

The Elf's Wife El Paso, TX

Dear "Wife,"

I doubt that anything I can say will make any difference, especially if you have already tried begging. Probably your lover just really enjoys this for a hobby. You might not talk her out of the craft projects, but you could try getting her to focus on things that could be used sometime other than the holidays.

If she is spending all of your joint Christmas budget on this, you could negotiate for half and do your own shopping — like "normal" people.

Dear Agnes,

I have a big problem with the woman I live with. It sounds trivial, but it is very serious to me. She won't vote! She has never voted and won't even register. Her excuse used to be that she didn't want to be picked for jury duty. But when they changed the law to select people for jury duty from licensed driver's, she still refuses to register.

We've been living together for three years and most of time I don't focus on this "no voting" issue. But every time we get close to an election I get obsessed. She wouldn't even register when Austin had the "domestic partner benefits for

city employees" issue on the ballot — even though it was an issue that affects us directly.

I have argued with her till I'm blue in the face, but she says it doesn't matter if she votes, that it is a waste of time, she doesn't care about politics, and all politicians are crooks anyway. Then she tops it off with silliness like the outcome of elections are predetermined and her one vote isn't going to make a difference.

Will you say something to help swing this argument? After three years, I am sick of arguing with her. I know it's too late for the upcoming election, but there will always be another one.

One Person, One Vote Austin, TX

Dear Vote,

I know it is cliché, but voting *is* a privilege as well as a responsibility. We can either participate and help decide our future, or we can let someone or some group decide it for us. Tell her that there are more than a few politicians who have been elected by just a few votes and that her vote really could be the one that makes a difference.

Election outcomes are not predetermined. Whether it is electing someone to office or defeating a gay-rights measure, each and every vote counts.



Love by Amy E. Burtell

COME OUT, COME OUT...

Our gay holiday cards are finally out! Bright designs with light-hearted greetings, as well as a great selection of Chanukah, Kwanzaa and Solstice cards. Posters include: Audre Lorde; Stonewall 25 Commemorative, And I Said Nothing (pink ▼ origin); Fabulous Feminist; A Little Too Straight, and many more. 1995 Peace Calendar (14x11", \$16.90 shipped) — the multicultural calendar that proudly includes gay content. 1995 Women Artists Datebook (5.75x8", \$17.90 shipped) — lesbian artists and content in this elegant, warm planner. Plus rainbow flags, buttons and stickers. Send \$1 for catalog to Syracuse Cultural Workers, P.O. Box 6367, Syracuse, NY 13217, (315) 474-1132. (MC/VISA)



THE BAR:

Twelve Years Later

My wife and I met in a bar. Of course. At the time, I knew my way around the Dallas bars as well as my own kitchen. Knew the bartenders, and could even get a beer at the Landing on Thursdays during the crowded dime beer and quarter drink night. I never knew that cute blonde bartender's name, but she knew I tipped and I always got that beer.

After years of the bar scene, when I finally met the wife, I was delighted to join America in its celebration of the suburbs. In lieu of recovering from

Friday night by the apartment pool, I was planting dwarf yaupon hollies. And there's no time for the dance floor when you're installing oak flooring in the dining room. Instead of being content to have an almost maintenance-free cat, we decided our lives were too uncomplicated and we started collecting basset hounds. Who promptly dug up the yaupon hollies.

Time passed and we bought another house, crossing our fingers that the one we sold on assumption didn't come back to us. Our family grew, we now

had three basset daughters. And, able to quote Neil Sperry like a preacher does the Bible, I planted dwarf Chinese hollies. I mean let's talk dog proof, every leaf is armed to the teeth with three sharp points. Still digging thorns out of my fingers, I glanced out the patio door and saw first the dirt and then a basset fly across the yard with a Chinese holly in its grasp.

I hope it sounds like it, because we have fun. This home ownership business can be consuming. So, it's not surprising that last Saturday night when we were driving into Dallas, we couldn't agree when we had last gone out. At least twelve years, but it might have been more. At any rate, we were having an adventure for us; an evening out with friends.

The place we all met is mainly a boys country western bar. I could hardly believe we were in a men's bar, the air conditioning worked and there were ceiling fans. And as always, my hat (cowboy of course) is off to you guys. Ya'll boot scoot real good.

Maybe it's because I grew up here, but I've never been into that country-western thing. Or maybe, living in the land of yesteryear and classic rock as I do, I'm merely trying to remain true to my vision of Woodstock and days gone by. Whatever, after an hour or so, I was glad to hear we were leaving for a women's bar where it was promised there was music with a beat, not a twang.

We paid our cover and were carded. As I'm forty-something and the

youngest member of our group around thirty-five, it was flattering. It's even possible women own this women's bar. Can't you hear it, "Card everyone. It'll keep the young ones out, our liquor license safe, and the old ones will love it." We did.

Another sign that women may own this bar: Doors on the restroom stalls! I mean, after years of gay bars, I can pee in front of a cast of thousands, but its a nice touch and appreciated. The music was more to my taste, although a disco version of the ever nasal Stevie Nicks was a bit much. But what the hey, if I can like Frank Zappa then I suppose the gauzy Ms. Nicks has her fans too.

Of course, the biggest difference between going out in the late seventies and going out now are the women themselves. Back then we were all a little more butch. Short hair was almost universal and the unwritten dress code was polo shirt (preferably white), jeans or jean cutoffs, white crew socks and white tennis shoes.

But a large majority of these women had long hair and were wearing, besides alot of makeup, everything from halter-tops to dresses. Fem must be in. I should have paid more attention to *Geraldo* when he did the lipstick lesbian hour. I really thought that was hype, possibly a *Geraldo* fantasy thing. But no, there they were. I'm grateful I was going out when it was okay just to be a dyke.

We'd been there awhile when I noticed two ladies up on platforms on either side of the dance floor. Dressed in little black leather bikinis, *a la* Madonna, and wearing black fishnet hose. Oh My

god! They were go-go dancers! Well, actually they were a little more than go-go dancers and a little less than strippers. Erotic dancers maybe?

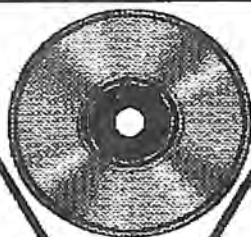
I always felt erotica for women a more subtle thing. You know, dinner, wine, soulful looks, a hand cupping your cheek, an old quilt spread out on the floor in front of the fireplace. But not this blatant rubbing of thighs and crotch and pointing of tits.

Imagine my surprise when the wife leans to my ear, nods toward one of the dancers and says, "All I have to say is, yes." Really!? "It doesn't hurt to look." Spoken defensively. No, it doesn't matter where you get your appetite as long as you eat at home. But still...

A sign of the times? It is the nineties. Everything is more "in your face." It's as if everyone is so deaf that it's necessary to

scream to get our attention. So why be surprised if it's the same for lesbians.

It's a little thing, easy to get used to if I planned on being in this bar alot. But I don't, so it really doesn't matter a great deal. Its given me something new to think about in my idle moments. I still doubt that women need their libidos stroked so openly. But should I ever need a jump start, you'll find me in Dallas, on the dance floor gazing up those long fishnetted legs. Wishing it were me, not their owner, running my hands over their length.



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- K. Angel

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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

BY NANCY FORD

Food. Its been a part of me for as long as I can remember. Still is. Get it?

My earliest awareness of food as entertainment occurred when I was approximately 2 1/2 years old. I recall being intrigued at the concept of walking (or, being carried) into a place other than one's home, relatively uninvited, sitting down at a table, telling a stranger what I would like to eat, and then having it served to me. Fascinating. It was at that moment I was irretrievably introduced to the wacky, wacky world of separate checks, no substitutions and long division tipping.

Caloric intake vs. burnoff, with all its accompanying implications, came later. According to the National Institute of Health, Americans today weigh ten more pounds, on average, than they did ten years ago. This new development really cheese me off; not that it's an insult, but that it's true. What I want to know is, what is the National Institute of Health doing in *my* bathroom, looking over *my* shoulder at *my* scale? It appears big Brother is watching us get bigger, sister. What to do? I perused my kitchen cabinets seeking guidance. It's amazing to discover how many companies provide 1-800 telephone numbers to counsel customers on the optimum usage of their product.

I started by calling the customer service operator at Ozarka spring Water. No calories in Ozarka Spring Water. No

customer service operator either. Leaving a message was as close as I could get to telling the folks at Ozarka that I thought it was pretty slick that this water came from Moffitt Spring, Texas, which is nowhere near the Ozark Mountains. Don't worry—their secret's safe with me.

Behind a bottle of fajita marinade stood a lone can of Allen's Baked Beans, my personal legume of choice. I think my affection for ABB's lies in its illustration of the ceramic crock full of beans, that big old slab of pig fat floating in the middle. It reminds me of a simpler time, when cholesterol was something foreign and distant, coursing through someone else's veins.

The Allen family is so confident about the quality of its product that it recommends adding “-no additional ingredients. Eat our baked beans just as they are.” Printed right beside this statement of confidence is a recipe that calls for plenty of additional ingredients, Bubba, including not one, but two different kinds of pig fat.

I found this to be somewhat contradictory in nature, or at the very gentlest, a mixed message. Unfortunately, when I called the Allen clan to chew the fat, so to speak, no one was home. No answer, no message machine, no nuthin'. 1-800-234-ALLEN. You try.

Onward through the pantry. There on

the shelf, leaning against the Cremora, hid a packet of dry Hidden Valley Ranch original Party Dip mix that I recognized as a leftover from the Bush administration. As with George, the time recommended for optimum results for this particular dip had expired, too. In fact, again, there was no answer at the 1-800 number. Evidently they, along with the Allens and the Ozarkans, were all hiding together at that Ranch in the Valley, swapping recipes and customer service anecdotes.

The system at Proctor & Gamble is much more sophisticated. When you call the 1-800 line to inquire about Folgers Automatic Drip Mountain Grown Coffee, you are retentively instructed to "press 1 for questions regarding the vacuum jar, 2 for crystals, and 3 for singles." Imagine their customer training program. Press 4 if you think maybe they're a little too caffeinated over there at P&G.

Jodie, a real person at Kraft General Foods 1-800 number, was very friendly. We spoke about General Foods International Coffees; specifically, their Double Dutch Chocolate Instant coffee Beverage. Seems that prices are going up, what with two freezes in Brazil interrupting the coffee bean crop and all. But she's going to send me some coupons. Thanks, Jodie. Love to Buffy and Cissy.

Pace Picante Sauce was the only company that actually *returned* my call. I left a very complimentary message. If you suck up and feign interest ("Which is the most popular flavor—red, yellow or wimp green?"), they'll send you a coupon for 25¢ off a jar. 1-800-433-PACE. Have a fiesta on me.

Waiting on hold while calling the 1-800 number printed on a can of Diet Coke.

I learned that if you took all the Coca-Cola ever produced and stacked it in 6.5 ounce bottles on a football field, the resulting pile of carbonation, caramel color and caffeine would be 325 miles high, or 59 times taller than Mt. Everest. Okay. Suppose you took all those coke bottles, shook them vigorously and opened them at the same time. Would the resulting explosion throw the Earth off its orbit? How would it effect the tides? How many nails would it dissolve by morning? If Coke is going to reveal arcane information of this nature for the sake of entertaining people while they're on hold, they could at least make it information worth losing sleep over. Oh well. The Coke Lady's going to send me a whole book filled with Coke trivia. I'll keep you updated.

In the meantime, to try to avoid keeping up with the national average, and not to gain another additional 10 pounds by the year 2004, I acquired some workout equipment—a stationary bicycle and a professional cross-country ski machine. They're beautiful, all sparkly and white and well-oiled with gauges and meters and stuff; just what I was looking for to balance the decor in my spare room.

Tonight I intend to call the 1-800 number in the brochure to see if I actually have to *use* this equipment to become physically fit.

Maybe they'll send me a coupon. ☞



Nancy Ford will appear on Thursday, Nov. 3 & 17 at Ms. B's (9200 Buffalo Speedway), on Nov. 11 & 12 at The Triangle (4020 Southwest Freeway • (713) 622-4211) and starting Mon., Nov. 7 at the Penthouse (3400 Montrose • (713) 522-0745).

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The Guide to the Relationship Galaxy for Dates & Mates by Helen L. Grieco

Plus: Naiad Press Inc Introduces Books On Tape!

Fasten your seat belts! It's time to go voyaging through asteroid belts, black holes, constellations, and negative orbits of the relationship galaxy. To begin, you need your own space suit, an oxygen mask and a starship of your own. You wouldn't buy something significant without doing an investigation of the purchase and preparation for ownership. For a successful voyage through the inner and outer space of a relationship you must also be prepared and have the right directions. Voyage through your inner space, voyage in outer space, voyage through the commitment zone if all systems are go.

Now you are ready to blast off with **The Guide to the Relationship Galaxy for Dates & Mates** by Helen L. Grieco. This fun, humorous, short, yet substantial book shows how to successfully demystify the search for love by providing explanations and guidelines of the forces affecting your choice in a mate.

You'll learn about the origin of the relationship galaxy; the influences — "family patterns," "cultural roles" and "personal design" — that affect your choices of who you choose for romantic relationships. You'll learn how to search for the right mate. Exercises, worksheets and questionnaires help you find out if

the two of you are compatible. You'll learn about the The Dating Zones, where you discover as many things as possible about yourself and your prospective mate. When you complete this phase, you are ready for The Romance Zone. The final mission is your galactic voyage into The Commitment Zone — are you willing to be stuck in a starship with this mate for a long voyage? For the rest of your life?

The Guide to the Relationship Galaxy for Dates & Mates gives solid advice and guidance. The author believes that by finding out if you are intellectually, emotionally, psychologically, morally, spiritually, psychically, sexually, socially, economically and politically suited for each other, you will know what you agree on and what you don't and whether these difference are acceptable to each of you.

Author Helen L. Grieco has a B.A. in Women's Studies and an M.A. in Clinical Psychology. She has worked for the National Organization for Women for over a decade, and currently serves as the public relations coordinator for California.

She wrote this book in response to her own search for a compatible life mate. Her questionnaires are entertaining and thought provoking. The book is not gender-specific and is written for all "humans" who are looking for love.

The Guide to the Relationship Galaxy for Dates & Mates is available by mail from Celestial Arts, P.O. Box 7123, Berkeley, CA 94707 or by calling 1-800-841-2665.

Also this month, Naiad Press Inc. introduces Katherine V. Forrest's **Curious Wine** on tape. **Curious Wine** is the most popular lesbian novel of all

time and is the first in a on-going project of putting classic lesbian novels on audio cassette.

The book is on two cassettes and runs 3 hours and twenty minutes. Reading is done by Actress Jane Mero who has appeared in numerous films and garnered a Golden Globe nomination for her role in *The Lion In Winter*. The sound quality is excellent and the tapes are very well produced. The tapes are available at your local bookstore or from Naiad Press, Inc. Please call their order line at 1-800-533-1973 for ordering instructions.



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QUIZ

How Do You Handle Change?



Do you enjoy constant change or are you more likely to stick with the tried and true? The twenty questions below will tell you if you are the kind of person who thrives on an ever changing environment or if you are so stable that you are almost boring.

If you have a lover, both of you can take this test and find out if you are compatible in this area. Be sure to answer with your feelings, not what you think is the right answer.

Answer the questions below True or False.

1. ____ You enjoy trying new and different foods.
2. ____ You don't have any problem finding time for sex.
3. ____ You like to go to a movie on the spur of the moment.
4. ____ Your stomach rarely gets upset.
5. ____ You seldom find time to eat three meals a day.

6. ____ You are usually comfortable around people you have just met.

7. ____ You enjoy experimenting with new and different ways of having sex.

8. ____ You are the type person who will try anything once.

9. ____ You usually don't mind a harmless practical joke even when you are the victim.

10. ____ You enjoy every season of the year, from the heat of summer to the freezing cold of winter.

11. ____ You enjoy traveling and exploring new cultures.

12. ____ You create your own style when it comes to clothes instead of following current trends.

13. ____ You like variety in your schedule.

14. ____ You like to shop in stores you know nothing about.

15. ____ You enjoy sex after physical exercise.

16. ____ You will do almost anything on a dare.
17. ____ You are a "night person" but enjoy the early morning too.
18. ____ You don't mind going out on a whim, even when you don't look your best.
19. ____ You enjoy all types of books and movies.
20. ____ You could enjoy fantasy and play-acting as a part of your sex life.

SCORING

Give yourself (three) 3 points for every True answer.
Give yourself (one) 1 point for every False answer.

If you scored: 47-60 points

You are truly a creature of change. You are interested in everything that goes on around you and have little or no problem adjusting to new circumstances. You will have problems getting along with people who don't share your enthusiasm for things new and different, but you will intrigue them with your vitality. You enjoy meeting new people and taking on a challenge. You may even be considered an eccentric!

33-46 points

You are the most well-balanced of this group. Your desire for change and challenge is tempered with stability. You like exploring the world just as much as staying home. You can fit into almost any group of people and probably have many friends. You can easily

switch gears to adapt to any situation. From climbing Mt. Everest to watching the evening news you are usually comfortable with anything and anyone.

20-32 points

You have a hard time adjusting to new situations and you don't like anything that breaks the even tempo of your life. You may have a hard time making friends because you aren't comfortable around new people. You like the comforts of home and a steady routine. A fast paced life-style is just not for you. You dislike change for changes sake and hardly ever do anything on a whim. When faced with a challenge you prefer to avoid it if at all possible. You are usually on time and can be counted on to be there when needed.





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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

A change in your home or work situation can change your lifestyle for the better during the first part of November! Your feelings for a new love interest are deepening. Don't get too carried away. Go slowly and you have a better chance at a happy and successful relationship. After the 17th a problem with a family member may be getting out of control. It may be best to just avoid this person altogether. Make plans now for holiday activities.

TAURUS

Be careful not to ignore your home life while trying to advance your career during the first part of November. A good mix of work and pleasure should keep everyone happy. Some very good news could come your way after the 17th. A raise or promotion could be coming your way after the Thanksgiving holidays. Don't brag! Your good mood might get on the nerves of those who don't share your good fortune. Be subtle.

GEMINI

You may feel like being alone during the first part of November, but you may not get the chance. Family get-togethers, unexpected guests and social events combine to make your life busy all month. Paperwork piles up at work after the 18th, you'll just have to plow through and get it done. An upbeat attitude could be contagious both at work and on the job. A romantic getaway at month's end may be just what the doctor ordered to perk up a faltering relationship.

CANCER

Someone in the background may be causing you trouble on the job during the first week

of November. Jealousy over your accomplishments may be the root cause. Follow your gut feelings about a financial matter. After the 20th you could find new romance with someone totally your opposite. Toward month's end take time to reassess your goals; both personally and professionally. You could find that you've gotten off track.

LEO

You may want to get some distance from a close relationship during the first week of November. A different perspective will help you decide what it is you really want. Your career is taking off after the 15th, but be careful not to let your ego get in the way of your ambitions. Take some time to slow down after the Thanksgiving holidays. Too much activity may be putting a strain on your relationship. A short trip for just the two of you over the weekend of the 24th could be just what you both need.

VIRGO

You're feeling loved and appreciated at the beginning of November. Finances are improving and your spirits are up. Be sure to investigate a risky financial move for yourself and don't rely on the advice of friends. Keep your secrets to yourself after the 16th. Telling even a trusted friend could start a storm of gossip. Family and social obligations take up the last week of the month as the holiday season begins.

LIBRA

The urge to travel is strong in November, but family or home obligations will keep you tied down until late in the month. Something you have worked hard to achieve could be within reach, but you'll have to buckle down and work hard to reach your

goals. Even though work may be getting you down, your personal life is going great and social engagements are many. Something you lost may turn up in an unlikely place.

SCORPIO

Someone you meet during the first week of November could have ulterior motives. Be sure to investigate before you decide to become friends. Handle your finances carefully after the 13th, an extravagant expense could put you in the red. A new romance could get started as the result of a phone call on the 20th. Don't rush in head first. Take your time and be specific about what you want from the relationship. You'll both be happier in the long run if you establish the ground rules now.

SAGITTARIUS

Emotions are intense during the first week of November. Although the situation isn't as complicated as you think, it will dominate your thoughts. Putting pleasure above all else could be tempting right now, but your boss may not take too kindly to the idea. After the 16th it is best to think before you speak or a new relationship could collapse before it even gets started. Towards month's end a partner's demands may lead to confrontation — be flexible and *listen!*

CAPRICORN

Being open and flexible can make November go much more smoothly for Capricorn. It won't be hard to convince others to go along with your plans, once you've figured out what they are. Your social life picks up considerably after the 18th. Try not to step on anyone's toes — someone you know may be itching for a fight, don't give them an opportunity. Keep things low key during the last week of the month

AQUARIUS

Financial matters are at the forefront at the beginning of November. You'll have to watch your pocketbook carefully and don't go overboard on holiday spending. After the 17th you will find yourself having to make compromises to ensure the happiness of close relationships. A few social events may have to be put on hold during the last week of the month. All the activity has got you run down and you need to rest!

PISCES

You'll have to be self disciplined to achieve your goals during November. Concentrate on your goals but remain flexible when dealing with people. Try to see the other person's point of view. Don't pass up a big social event around the 18th — it could give your career just the boost it needs. Toward month's end a former flame could reappear in your life and send the sparks flying!



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organizations

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144 Harvard SE • 268-2116

AMARILLO, TX (area code 806)

organizations

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

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817)

clubs

Popers • 2023 South Cooper • 265-5574

organizations

Gay/Lesbian Association of UTA
P.O. Box 19348-77, UTA St. 76019 • 794-6140
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 Latino/a Lesbian/Gay Organization
PO Box 1350 78787 • 290-6107
Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 822 78767 • 474-0750
Center for Battered Women • (Lesbian Group)
385-5181 or 928-9070 (hotline)
Gay/Lesbian Student Association at UT Austin
458-3971 • Box 275 Texas Union 78712-7338
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby • 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. #31 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 • 477-5622

ATHENS, TX (area code 903)

organizations

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

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accommodations

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

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businesses

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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 • 392-3339
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 • 309-0787
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 22424 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
Metroplex 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 • 966-1751
PFLAG/Dallas • Helpline 566-6640
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 582-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 • 535-6002
Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837

Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington • 870-1555 or 535-7188
Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County • 263-9006 or 860-0326
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 498-6607/498-4855
RESPECT • 828 Harwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 76054
Tarrant County LG Alliance • 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 76116 • 763-5544

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

businesses

Inkings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3369

clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3464

Ms. Bs • 9208 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3356

XTC • 9212 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3356

organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796

AIDS HOTLINE • c/o Switchboard • 529-3211

Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston • 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211

Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • 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 • 861-9149

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) lesbian group • 523-9398

The Women's Group • 529-5871

Womynspace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601

Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

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) • 799-6529

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/JSA • 80 Vanick 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 • SALSA Line 733-1225

San Antonio AIDS Foundation

PO Box 120113 78212-9313

San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

SHERMAN, TX (area code 903)

organizations

AIDS Resource Center of Texhoma • 813-1272 or 800-525-6381

Alliance for Life • PO Box 1695 75091 • 892-9049

HIV/AIDS Services • PO Box 1695 75091 • 463-7256

WACO, TX (area code 817)

organizations

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

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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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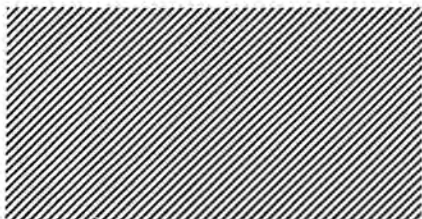
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Box # XXX



Your Return
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DIMENSIONS
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The Graffiti Page


A.

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VIOLETS ARE BLUE,
YOU'RE OVER THERE,
AND I MISS YOU.

NONE - WHERE ARE YOU???
PLEASE WRITE:
MAR. BOX 215 • MILAN, MI 48160

B.

*Myra - We love you & yours in our thoughts.
From the staff of Nexus*

HAPPY th
BIRTHDAY
GAIL R. I LOVE YOU
VERY MUCH.
TYRON



Luann → from Duddies.....
How Bout A Pizza and Movie with Me?



Hap-Hap Happy Anniversary J & L
WE MISS YALL ~ LOVE R&T

*Then, who would have thought we'd
celebrate a year together? It's true - friends
can be lovers. Happy Anniversary. ♥ Rommie*

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