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## THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

### TLC '95 DRAWS NEAR

AUSTIN, TX — The Eighth Annual Texas Lesbian Conference will be held March 31-April 2nd at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake and the Austin Convention Center. This year's conference includes an exciting lineup of entertainment, 40 vendors and exhibitors, 20 workshops, keynote speakers, and a drop-in 12-step and lesbian of color caucus rooms. Conferees are urged to join the 'Texas March to Stop the Violence, Stop the Hate,' on Sunday, April 2nd.

Speakers at the conference will include Letitia Gomez, Executive Director of the National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organization and Ann Northrup, an award-winning New York journalist with CBS News turned full time lesbian activist/educator. Entertainment will be provided by Austin singer/guitarists San Gordon and Rene Russell, San Francisco's Mother Tongue (a readers' theatre by older lesbians) and Puerto Rican born singer/guitarist Lourdes Perez.

Registration for the conference begins Friday, March 31 from 4pm-9pm at the Radisson Hotel. For more information, Write TLC, P.O. Box 200546, Austin, TX 78720-0546 or call the TLC Information Hotline at 512-326-4453.

## TASK FORCE CHALLENGES ANTI-GAY IMMIGRATION POLICIES

NEW YORK, NY — The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force, Inc.

(LGIRTF) is challenging the widespread discriminatory impact of immigration law on lesbian and gay couples. The Task Force has been organized to support the recognition of the foreign lesbian and gay partners of U.S. citizens on the same basis that U.S. immigration law recognizes foreign heterosexual spouses of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. Current U.S. immigration law discriminates against lesbian and gay couples by failing to recognize their relationships. This results in thousands of loving relationships being torn apart each year with many couples forced into separation. As a grass roots organization, the Task Force seeks to end this discrimination against gays and lesbians in immigration law through education, outreach, advocacy, and the maintenance of a nationwide resource and support network.

Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands already allow the same sex partners of their gay and lesbian citizens and lawful permanent residents to

immigrate.

Headquartered in New York City, the Task Force has five additional existing chapters located in Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles, San Francisco, Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri and several more in formation. The Task Force currently has a membership of over one-thousand and is growing quickly. Most members are directly affected by discriminatory U.S. immigration laws.

## NEBRASKA SAYS GAYS UNFIT FOR PARENTING

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A statewide ban on foster parenting for gay and lesbian parents has been implemented in Nebraska, infuriating local activist groups and sparking outcries of discrimination and prejudice.

Mary Dean Harvey, Director of the Nebraska Department of Social Services, this week released to state offices the new anti-gay policy, saying it was in the best interest of the state to place children "in the most family-like setting," and not with gay and lesbian parents. The policy also bans gays from operating foster care agencies, and prohibits unmarried heterosexual couples from adopting.

The directive, effective immediately, states, "It is the policy of the Department of Social Services that children will not be placed in the homes of persons who identify themselves as homosexuals. This policy also applies to the area of foster home licensure in that "no foster home license shall be issued to persons themselves who identify homosexuals. It is also my decision...that children will not be placed where unrelated, unmarried adults reside together."

Harvey released the new policy in conjunction with the introduction of state Legislative Bill 255, by State Senator Kate Witek of Omaha. That bill also banned homosexual foster parenting. Witek, described by local activists as "far right" and extremely opposed to gay rights, withdrew her bill after being assured that the state social services policy was stronger. Department Chief Harvey also has a history of anti-gay actions, and even

canceled a diversity training on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues for her department after pressure from the Radical Right.

"This is simply bad public policy," said Scott Winkler, legislative action chair for Citizens For Equal Protection (CFEP), a statewide gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender group. "It is blatantly discriminatory and is based on prejudice, bigotry and homophobia. One's sexual orientation has nothing to do with one's capability to provide a stable and loving home for foster children."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Fight the Right project has condemned the policy and is working with CFEP and local activists to challenge the policy. Public hearings on the issue are planned for the department of social services although no date has yet been announced.

"The Radical Right is launching multiple attacks against gay, lesbian bisexual community simultaneously, and in a sense is evolving their anti-gay crusade," said Robert Bray, NGLTF Fight the Right organizer. "First it was 'no special rights' initiatives, then opposition to inclusive curriculum, now foster care and adoption attacks, next will be proactive and anti-gay marriage measures. We need to respond aggressively, fortify our defenses against the Right and be prepared for future attacks whether they are in Nebraska or New York City."

## VANITY FAIR & ABC NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

NEW YORK, NY — An article in the February issue of *Vanity Fair* and a

January 25 ABC Prime Time Live news piece both examined the trail of murder through Texas that has led to deaths of eight gay men in 16 months. Vanity Fair, ABC News and "Prime Time Live" need to hear from their appreciative audience to offset the barrage of mail and phone calls from the Far Right condemning their work.

Write or call the following to express your appreciation:

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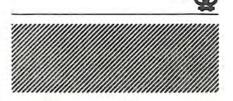
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## What's Goin' On

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

DALLAS - The Dallas Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival has rescheduled the 1995 event for April 27th-29th. The deadline for submitting entries to the Festival's first juried video showcase has also been moved to March 25. The 1995 Film Festival will feature films representing the diversity of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community as well as showcase short videos produced by gay, lesbian and bisexual artists. The Festival will be held at the Kalita Humphreys Theater at the Dallas Theater Center located at 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. For more information regarding the Video Showcase, please contact Kay Christian, Showcase Director at 214-257-4443.

ALBUQUERQUE - Wiminfest, the annual women's music festival will be held in Albuquerque on Memorial Day Weekend, May 26th, 27th & 28th. Scheduled to appear are: Linda Tillery, Juca, Marga Gomez, Laura Bowly, Azucar y Crema, Four Big Girls & Alice diMicele. The festival will include four concerts, 5 dances, afternoon showcase concerts, arts & crafts show, fun in the sun and a Post-Fest potluck party in the park. For more information or to register, send your name and address to: Wiminfest, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204. Out of town festival-goers are encouraged to make air, hotel and car reservations early.

HOUSTON - Get ready for Spectrum '95, a business expo, art expo and

community town meeting for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay friendly community to be held at the Astroarena June 18th. Included in the business expo will be American Airlines, OutSmart Magazine, Strubco, Inc., and over 350 other businesses. For more info, call 800-203-4597 (National) or 713-526-2853 in Houston.

SAN ANTONIO - WomanSpace, a publication for the women's community of San Antonio is looking for a few good women to write a monthly column on topics of interest to women. Possible topics include: local current events and news; information on women's groups (NOW, League of Women's voter, Women's Political Caucus, etc.): women's health concerns; minority women's concerns; women's legal concerns; feminist theory; spirituality; sporting events or profiles of local women or women owned businesses. Contributions must be received by the 15th of each month. Send your contribution to: WomanSpace, P.O. Box 12327, San Antonio, TX 78212.

DALLAS - The Oak Lawn Soccer Club is seeking players and a coach for its adult co-ed team. The club will have a team this spring in the local league as well as in various tournaments this spring and summer. Season play starts March 10th and games are every Friday evening. The coach will be responsible for weekly practices and will not play in games. For more information, contact Michael Moore at 214-942-9537.

HOUSTON - The Metropolitan Community Church of Resurrection (MCCR) is holding a Clinic/Workshop and Concert with Mark Hayes on March 4th & 5th. The choral workshop will conclude with a full concert by the MCCR Sanctuary Choir, Jubilation and visiting choirs on Sunday evening at 6pm. MCCR is also announcing the beginning of Wednesday night services beginning on March 8th at 7pm and a series of workshops entitled "Getting the Love You Want" in March, For more information on any church activities, call the church office at (713) 861-9149.

SAN ANTONIO - All women are invited to the monthly Fourth Tuesday Discussion held from 7:30-9pm at The Resource Center (121 W. Woodlawn). Upcoming topics are: March 28th, Favorite Women's Gatherings; April 25th, Spirituality and Homosexuality; and May 23, Your Favorite Short Readings. Bring a friend and your own refreshments!

TULSA - A Graduate Student Conference will be held at the University of Tulsa March 17-19. The conference is titled "Crossing the Boundary: Feminism Inside and Outside the University." The Keynote speaker will be Judy Grahn, one of the foremost voices of Lesbian/feminism and author of many books including Another Mother Tongue. For more information on the conference, contact Kerri Shaw at (918) 631-3421.

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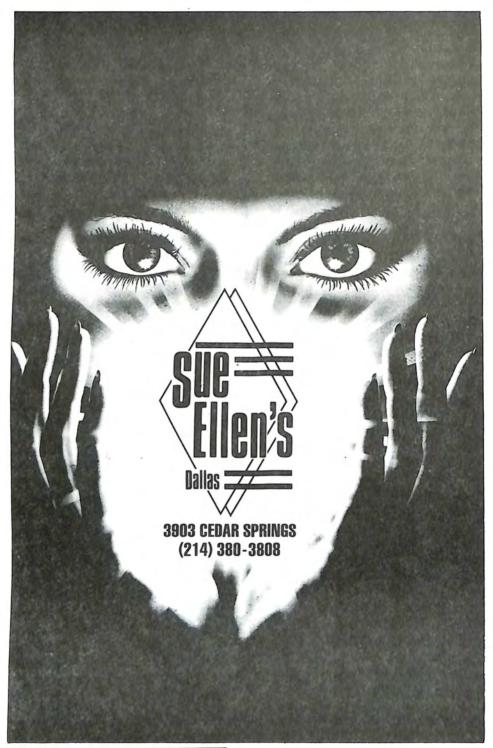
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## DEAR AGNES

Answers to your questions about love,

RELATIONSHIIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

I have a problem and I'm not sure what to do about it. I live in a semi-small city that has one gay bar and no organizations. The problem is that I would really like to find someone to love, but I know I'm not going to find her here. I grew up here and I probably know every gay person in town. I've had a few relationships here, but they didn't work out—and, there isn't really anybody around here that I'm interested in.

The bar scene here is like musical beds. It seems like everyone has been with everyone else at one time or another, and I'm not interested in getting involved in that game. So, I guess my question is: Short of moving, is there any way to meet new women?

I will tell you that I live in far northeast

Texas, if that's any help.

LOOKING Town withheld

Dear Looking,

Depending on where you are in northeast Texas, you could try the bars and organizations in Dallas, Little Rock or Shreveport. If you have a hobby or play a sport, try looking in the Dallas area for a group that caters to your interests. The metroplex has literally hundreds of groups that cater to every whim. There are sports teams and groups (softball, soccer, biking, golfing, swimming, tennis, bowling, etc.). There are groups based on hobbies (gardening, arts, crafts, etc.). There are lesbian/gay churches of all denominations, political groups and groups for women of specific races and/ or ages.

If you prefer the "bar scene," but just want to widen your opportunities, try the bars in the cities and towns around you. Shreveport has two bars and a bookstore. Fort Smith has one bar, Little Rock has a couple of women's bars and a women's coffeehouse and bookstore. If you want to find other bars or organizations in the area around you, call one of the bookstores that offer mail order (Inklings Bookshop in Houston (800) 931-3369 is one), and order a copy of Places of Interest to Women, Gaia's Guide, Damron's Women's Traveler or any other comprehensive guide book for lesbian women. If you have never seen one of these guide books, just ask the clerk at the bookstore for a recommendation. Last, but not least, if you are willing to write a few letters, you might try placing a personal ad either here in Dimensions or in a regional publication.

Dear Agnes,

My friends are driving me crazy. Within my group of close friends there are three couples plus my lover and I. We get together almost every weekend and do something. The problem is that one of these couples are constantly fighting and making up. They have been together over five years and this seems to be the pattern of their relationship.

This wouldn't bother me at all except for the fact that they insist on bringing their fights to our get-togethers. They don't see anything wrong with fighting in front of everyone else and trying to drag the rest of us into it by asking us to take sides. This makes it very uncomfortable for all the rest of us. We've talked about it, but none of us wants to confront them about this behavior.

It's just as bad when they are "making up." They will spend all their time making out and whispering to each other and ignoring everyone else.

Don't get me wrong — I love both of them to death and enjoy their friendship when they aren't putting me and the rest of the group on the spot or ignoring us all together.

Do you have any suggestions on how to solve this problem before I get say something that will ruin our friendship altogether?

CRAZY Houston, TX

**Dear Crazy,**Obviously there is something about this

couple that your group enjoys or you are all just masochists. Until one of you gets up the nerve to confront them about their behavior, it will not stop. It is probably best for only one person or one couple to be the ones to confront them about this. If you all try to talk to them about it, they will feel like you are ganging up on them.

If you confront them, let them know that their fighting upsets you and the others in the group. Tell them in a tactful manner that if they want to fight of make out they should stay home. When they are ready to socialize, you would love to have them join the group. Be sure to emphasize that you enjoy their company when they aren't fighting or making out in front of you.

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## INTRODUCTIONS



# SPRING CLEANING HINTS & TIPS

Spring cleaning. Ugh, what a chore! After a long winter of closed windows and doors most people want to get the house completely clean and aired out so they can play outside during the summer. The following are some helpful hints to speed up your spring cleaning and make housekeeping an easier chore year round.

## LIVING AREAS & BEDROOMS

If you dust your wood furniture often with a damp cloth containing a *small* amount of furniture polish, you won't have to polish as often.

Don't switch back and forth between a furniture polish containing oil and one

containing wax. This can cause a blotchy appearance.

To remove stains from light colored cotton upholstery, use a soft eraser from an art supply store. Just "erase" the stain and vacuum up the eraser crumbs.

To fluff up cushions or pillows that have gone flat, place them in the dryer with a pair of <u>clean</u> tennis shoes and let them tumble for 10-15 minutes.

To clean silk flower arrangements, blow with a hair dryer set on low, OR place the arrangement upside down in a bag with a cup of salt and shake vigorously. Don't ever use liquids to clean silk flowers. Water can cause them to fade, spot or fall apart.

To help keep pottery, brass and china (not glass) clean, put a small amount of liquid furniture polish on them. This works especially well on ashtrays.

The easiest way to clean all those small glass and china knickknacks is to place them all in the sink, spray liberally with window cleaner and set them on a towel to air dry.

Dust shutters, louvered doors, carved furniture or anything else with lots of nooks and crannies with a clean, soft, slightly damp paintbrush.

To remove soot from the brick around your fireplace, scrub with a mixture of 1/2 water-1/2 vinegar. If it is still stained, you'll need to get some brick and stone cleaner from a fireplace shop.

#### BATHROOMS & KITCHENS

To remove soap scum and hard water marks from ceramic tile, spray heavily with straight white vinegar. Let it set for a few minutes, rinse and buff dry.

To clean grout, scrub with an old toothbrush dipped in full-strength bleach. (Note: DON'T use bleach with any other cleaning product — it can cause toxic fumes.)

Clean glass shower doors as noted above for ceramic tile, then, to keep them looking great, wipe down once a week with lemon oil (the kind used on wood furniture).

To get that yucky white stuff (mineral deposits) off your faucets, wrap them in paper towels soaked in vinegar. Let them stand and keep re-wetting them with vinegar until the deposits come off. Clean mineral deposits out of your shower head by unscrewing it and placing it in a bucket with some vinegar.

If your sink or bathtub is draining too slow, pour one cup of baking soda and two cups of vinegar down the drain. Cover the drain and let it sit for 10 minutes and rinse with very hot water. This really works and is easier on your pipes, the environment and you pocketbook than commercial drain cleaners or calling a plumber.

#### **FLOORS & CARPETS**

To remove pet urine stains from carpet, use a solution of 1/2 vinegar and 1/2 non-sudsing ammonia. (Be sure to test in an inconspicuous area to make sure it won't discolor your carpet.) Using a clean white cloth, wipe up the stain and rinse with a separate cloth and clean water. If the stain remains, wipe with hydrogen peroxide. When the carpet is dry, sprinkle with a little dry laundry detergent to help keep your pet from going in the same area again.

To remove deep indentations left in your carpet by furniture, lay a clean bath towel over the dent and steam iron. The steam will lift the carpet fibers and fluff the pad below and the dent will disappear.

To remove black marks from your vinyl or wood floor, wipe with a clean dry cloth. If the mark is more stubborn, use a white eraser.

To clean wood floors, mop with a solution of cold tea and water. Wring the mop out thoroughly. Mop a small area and wipe dry before moving on.

#### WINDOWS & BLINDS

The easiest way to clean mini-blinds is to put them in the bathtub. Let them soak in the tub in hot water and dish detergent. Scrub with a soft brush if you need to, then rinse and hang over the shower curtain rod to dry (put down some towels to catch drips. If it is a nice day, you can clean them outside. Put two large nails in the fence and hang the blinds on the nails. Clean with a garden hose and a soft brush dipped in soapy water. Rinse and air or towel dry.

The best time to clean windows is on a cloudy (not rainy) day. Direct sunlight causes streaks. To make it easier to know if streaks are on the inside or outside, wipe one side horizontally and the other vertically.

Rubbing alcohol is a great window cleaner and helps keep frost and fog from forming on windows. (Be very careful if using on mirrors — alcohol can damage the silver backing.)

#### LAUNDRY

Vinegar in the rinse when laundering whites will help keep them from yellowing. Use vinegar in the rinse on all colors if you have extremely hard or soft water in your area.

Instead of buying expensive dryer sheets, take a clean sponge, dip it into liquid fabric softener and wring it out until almost dry. Toss it the dryer with your clothes and just rewet and reuse with each load.

To make your own stain treatment, mix two cups water and two tablespoons shampoo in a spray bottle. Spray on and let sit a few minutes before washing.

continued on page 22

## THE NEXT STEP

edited by Jean Swallow

The editor of the popular recovery book <u>Out From Under</u> looks at long-term recovery in the lesbian community. Here are heartbreaking stories, fine writing, and raw courage.

#### THE NEXT STEP

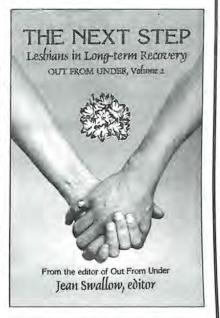
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# WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD QUICKLIES

BY NANCY FORD

QUICKLIES — Totally unrelated, somewhat witty observations on life that have been accumulating over the last month.

#### MEDIA:

So did you see the Margarethe Cammermeyer Story on NBC last month? Loved it. I give it a big thumbs up, if I may be digital. I was a bit puzzled, though. "Splain to me how a woman can be 45 years old, have a thing about wearing a uniform, play football, play guitar, drove a Jeep Cherokee, have the good sense to divorce her Mormon husband, live with a Chrissie-Hind-look-alike artist roommate and still not know she is a lesbian? Stop the insanity.

# FROM THE "AM-I-BECOMING-A-LITTLE-TOO-SENSITIVE-ABOUT-SEXUAL-HARASS-MENT?" FILE:

Overheard at Academy Sporting Goods customer service counter—"I'm going to bring my rod in here to see if the tip fits."

#### DOUBLE JEOPARDY

What's the best thing about lesbian safe sex? Respectful, responsible intimacy on a risk-free basis, of course. What's the worst thing? The latex gloves make you look like a mime.

#### OH MY GOD!

Riddle: What do you get when cross a crazy lunatic religious nut with a nymphomaniac? A trouser snake handler, of course.

I've been thinking a lot about religion lately, because something quite unusual has happened at my house. I woke one recent morning and lifted the shade on my bedroom window. Gazing at the beautiful tree immediately outside as I do every morning, I was dismayed to see that a bird had deposited its calling card, so to speak, on the windowpane. Crap, I thought. Later that night, repeating the procedure in parallel, I noticed light from the street lamp hitting the window and illuminating the splay. But upon closer examination, it was apparent that what had that morning been nothing more than a distracting indiscretion of nature had been transformed that evening into an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

I know what you're thinking: Nancy's crossed over. The unrelenting pressure of trying to maintain political correctness in her comedy has taken that one last synapse of sanity she so futilely has been clinging to for lo these many years, and it has snapped like a twig.

Perhaps. Or perhaps not. I think a fairer measuring stick for my sanity might be the fact that I have called neither Current Affair or even the Vatican to report this sighting. But I can't help but wonder how this news of the Miracle Ca-Ca would be received. Is a religions apparition a religions apparition a religions apparition, or is it only valid if the image is in a tortilla?

I prefer to consider this occurrence to be a message to me personally. The Lord has spoken to me, and told me there is no need to alert the media, inviting a flock of parishioners to parade through my bedroom to check out the stained glass. Rather than turn my bedroom into a mini-Medjugorie, I have chosen to be gently reminded daily, as I look out my window, that one person's shit might be the next person's miracle.

## FROM THE FAGLY-MY-DEAR-WE-DON'T-GIVE-A-DAMN FILE:

If Congressman Dick Armey (R-Texas\_ insists that his calling fellow Congressman Barney Frank "Barney Fag" was nothing more than a slip of the tongue, he should probably also admit that his favorite lunch is beans and fags. loved Kenneth Branaugh in Mary Shelley's Fagenstein, has a collection of limited edition commemorative coins from the Faglin Mint, digs the musical shoo-be-do sounds of Fag Sinatra and burns Faginscence and Myrrh at Christmastime. Otherwise he might lose his Senate seat and, with it lose his fagging privileges, and have to start paying for his own postage.



Nancy Ford is a Houston-Based comic and frequent contribrutor to the gay and lesbian press. She performs at Ms. B's, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, in Houston every Thursday at 8:30pm. Call (713) 666-3464 for reservations.

## ONE TEACHER IN TEN

edited by Kevin Jennings

Educators describe their efforts to be openly gay and proud.

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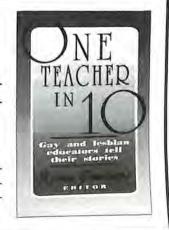
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### SPRING CLEANING

continued from page 17

A cheap sweater dryer can be made by using an old (but clean) nylon window screen placed over the bathtub.

## MISCELLANEOUS & ORGANIZATION

WINDOW CLEANER — In a clean spray bottle mix 3 parts water with one-part non-sudsing ammonia. Add two tablespoons of white vinegar and you're off! If you must have blue window cleaner just add a drop or two of blue food coloring (Although this sounds silly, it is a good way to identify the contents of the spray bottle).

Baking soda can be used as a substitute for harsh scouring powders on kitchen and bath fixtures. It is also a good substitute for expensive carpet fresheners. Just sprinkle it on your carpets, let it sit a few minutes and vacuum up.

Always clean from top to bottom. This way those dust bunnies that fall on the floor from the top of the refrigerator won't mess up your newly mopped kitchen floor.

Carry a small box with you as you clean. Put items that belong in other rooms in it as you clean.

Break big tasks into smaller ones. Instead of cleaning out all your closets in one day, clean one closet every week when you do your other cleaning. This way it gets done and you don't have to spend a whole day doing it!

The easiest way to keep clean-up to a minimum is just what Mom always told you —put everything back in it's place.

Although everything should have a place, leave yourself a few places to put small things you don't know what to do with: A basket on the dresser to catch loose earrings or pocket change; a "junk drawer" in the kitchen; and a jar in the pantry to catch those important looking things you find around the house (like the bolt you found beside the refrigerator or the left over screws from installing a shelf).

If you have a messy roommate, start a box for her in the garage or utility room, When you find her "stuff" strewn around the house, place it in the box for her to go through when she gets ready.

One last note: Don't use a "timesaver" unless it really is. In other words, don't make things harder than they should be. Why get out the food processor to chop one onion? By the time you set-up, chop the onion and clean the food processor, you could have chopped five onions by hand.

Happy Cleaning!



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See Page 32 for details

# LESBIANS IN THE ARTS • BOOKS, MUSIC, MOVIES, ETC.

THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

# Whispers

by Kris Bruyer

# Forever

by Evelyn Kennedy

We'll start this month with a look at Whispers by Kris Buyer. The story revolves around Ashley Wendlow, who has what her mother, Patricia, calls the "gift." Ashley has a recurring dream. The same dream that her mother and her grandmother had before her. In the dream, something is calling to her. A small girl and her mother are trapped in a fruit cellar by a house overlooking the ocean. The dreams frighten Ashley. She feels as if she is being drawn further and further into the dreams each time she has them. Along with the dreams, Ashley is able to read minds and see into people's past. She tries to ignore her "powers."

Ashley's best friend (and ex-lover), Emily is also psychic. When Emily asks Ashley and her mom to accompany her on a trip to investigate the haunting of a Bed & Breakfast, Ashley is coerced into going. Along for the ride is Catherine, an ex-nun and fledgling psychic with the power to foresee events. The Bed & Breakfast is on the Oregon coast and has reportedly been haunted for years. All four women are soon seeing apparitions. Ashley's dreams become stronger until she finally makes the connection. This is the house she has been dreaming about all these years. Ashley and her friends must solve the century old puzzle of the house and the dreams before the evil that lurks there claims Ashley's soul forever.

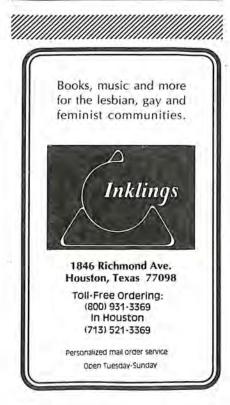
Whispers is an interesting book and quite a twist on the usual lesbian mystery novel. The addition of psychic powers doesn't diminish the mystery, but enhances it. Ms. Bruyer is a promising writer with a definite flair for the dramatic. The only complaint I have is the addition of "romance" to an otherwise great novel. Why, oh why does every lesbian novel have to end with a happy couple walking off happily into the sunset? The romance between Ashley and Catherine seems like an afterthought, thrown in so that the book would more fully satisfy some "lesbian" requirement.

Next well look at Forever by Evelyn Kennedy (author of Cherished Love). Sister Diana Colletti's dream has always been to serve her church in Kenya. Now she has a chance to achieve that dream by qualifying as a nurse practitioner. For her training, she has been assigned to Dr. Torrie Lassiter. When Dr. Lassiter needs a pet sitter, Diana volunteers. One thing leads to another and Diana moves in with the doctor on a friendship/roommate basis only.

When Torrie and Diana began to fall in love, the cost is quite high. Diana must leave her religious order and tell her parents why she is leaving. At the same time, Torrie finds out she has a rare brain tumor. Oh, the drama of it all, By the way, in the midst of all this we find out Diana has a gay brother, and Torrie has a gay aunt. We meet both for one chapter each - they announce they are gay, say they will support Diana and Torrie in any way they can and leave. I have some serious problems with this novel. It skims the surface of what could have been a good story. Diana's anguish at leaving the church is touched

on, but just barely. Her parents disown her when they find out she is in love with a woman, but Diana barely notices. Torrie is dying and only a "few, glistening tears" are shed. The basic plot is: two women meet each other, fall in love, have lots and lots of sappy, gooey, perfect sex, one partner dies, a window is broken, the end. For all the drama this novel should have, there is very little substance. The best thing about the whole book is Torrie's two-year-old Yorkshire Terrier.

Both Whispers and Forever are available at your local women's bookstore or by mail for \$10.95 from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please include 15% postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.





I couldn't breathe...
Underwater...
Drowning...
Unable to swim to the surface...

Until you reached in and clutched my hand.
Some savior?
Some angel from heaven?
No, only love...
All the confusion and pain summed up into one word...
Love.

I was pulled up from beneath the water...

Cold and shivering, you warmed me and comforted me...

You brought me to life.

Not back to life for I was never alive before you...

You have simply brought me to life.

With a touch to my hand and body and face and heart...
Physically...
Emotionally...
You have saved me...
We have each other.
Through our words and with our hearts...
We have found love.

I couldn't breathe... Until you came to me.

> Febe Valdez San Antonio, TX

## Would you like to see your poetry or short stories in print?

Send us a copy! Please include your name, address, phone number & signature. All poetry received will be assumed for publication. Your signature grants: Dimensions permission to publish and verifies that you are the author/owner of said poetry or writings. Be sure and tell us if you want to use your real name or what pen name you prefer.

# Do You Run Away From Your Problems?



All of us run into situations we'd rather not face from time to time. For the most part, we face up and go on, but there are some who would rather duck and hide than ever confront any problem. Are you running away from your problems? Answer the questions below and add up your score to find out.

- I. You've just broken up with your long-time lover, do you:
- a. move, change jobs anything to get away from the way you feel.
- b. go on with your life and try to adjust to the new circumstances.
- keep your feelings under wraps and remain friendly with her.
- 2. The roof in your house has a leak, you:
- a. let it go until the ceiling starts to crumble.
- **b**. climb up and try to repair it yourself first.
- c. call a roofing company immediately.
- 3. You have received a traffic ticket

that you believe you don't deserve, you:

- a. refuse to pay, after all it isn't your fault.
- b. set a court date and try to get the matter resolved.
- c. pay anyway, you don't want to get in trouble.
- **4.** You made a mistake at work that could cause big problems. You:
- a. seriously consider changing jobs before you are found out.
- b. try to correct the mistake and minimize damage before you 'fess up.
- c. hide until things "hit the fan" and then take the blame.
- 5. Your boss has discovered a mistake you made that you weren't aware of, you:
- a. try to place the blame somewhere else.
- **b.** admit to the mistake and take steps to avoid it in the future.
- c. take all the blame whether you deserve it or not.

6. When you and your friends or lover have an argument, you: a. leave before things get too bad.

b. try to keep an open mind but stand by your position.

c. play peacemaker and try to get everyone calmed down.

7. Your mother loaned you \$200 recently and you don't have the money to pay her back yet, you: a. avoid her and don't take her calls until you have the money. b. explain the problem to her and work out a payment plan. c. hock your jewelry to pay her back on time.

## Scoring

Give yourself:

3 points for each "A" answer.

2 points for each "B" answer.

1 points for each "C" answer.

## If You Scored: 17-21 points

Yes, you do have a tendency to run from your problems. The thing to remember is that running away doesn't resolve the problem, in fact, it usually gets worse. If you run away from problems in a relationship or job by leaving or quitting, you will probably only recreate the same problems in a new relationship or job somewhere down the line. You need to learn to face up to your mistakes and acquire the art of saying you're sorry. Learning from the problems we face is the only way we learn to avoid them in the future and running away doesn't allow us to get past the problem and on to bigger challenges.

## 12-16 points

You obviously understand the art of

problem "management". You are perfectly capable of facing up to your problems and making every effort to correct them as well as avoid the same problems in the future. On the other hand, you also know when it is time to walk away, when you have done all you can do, you chalk it up as a learning experience and go on.

## 7-11 points

You not only face up to your problems, you also have a tendency to take on everyone else's. You never make excuses even though you may have a perfectly good reason for what you did. You allow others to put the blame on you even when you know something wasn't your fault. Learn to take only your fair share of the blame and to stand up for yourself. Instead of running away from your problems, you are letting them run over you!



# HOROSCOPE WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

### ARIES

Friendship is in the spotlight during the first part of March. You will feel like doing things for those around you and their appreciation is all you need as reward. Your schedule will be hectic after the 11th, but you may be feeling bored by all of it right now. Take time for yourself. You'll make all the right decisions in love and finances after the 20th. Mix this with a little luck and you just might hit the jackpot in both areas!

### TAURUS

The first part of March is not a good time to go on intuition in any area. Get the facts and make an informed decision or you may find yourself in hot water. After the 14th you may encounter some minor criticism but you will rise above it and prove that you are in the right. A short trip could be just what you need to help you relax toward month's end. If you can't get away, content yourself with some phone calls or letters to far away friends.

#### GEMINI

Watch out when discussing political or religious matters during the first part of March. You could offend someone you care about. Around the 16th you may feel trapped in a current relationship. Try talking it out with your loved one, you'll feel much better when you get it out in the open. You could be the victim of some vicious gossip toward month's end. Don't say to much or try too hard to defend yourself, you could be misquoted and start the cycle all over again.

### CANCER

Romance is in the air during the first part of March. Don't move too fast or you could wind up in trouble. Around the 14th you may find yourself receiving money from an unexpected source. Spend it wisely! Toward month's end your intellectual powers are at their best and your charisma is powerful. Now is the time to push for that raise or promotion you've been wanting.

#### LEO

Your charm and charisma can take you far during the first part of March. You are lucky in both love and money right now - take advantage of it! After the 14th you'll be more interested in social activities but you'll also manage to finish a very important project that could bring you a raise or promotion. The pace on the job and in romance picks up after the 22nd and you will be accomplishing more both at work and at home.

### VIRGO

Avoid competing with those around you during the first part of March. Any competition or difficult challenges you take on will not come out in your favor. A raise or promotion could be coming your way after the 12th. Your work schedule will be busy all month, but you'll be able to find time for romance too! Support from friends and family can help you get ahead in the work place as well as in financial matters toward month's end.

### LIBRA

Change is in the air for Libra during the first part of March. Don't try to force things, let them happen at their own pace and the results will be much better. After the 16th you can expect some sudden luck in financial matters. Behind the scenes events could lead to a windfall. After the 23rd you should try to see both sides of an issue or it could turn into a big argument between you and a

loved one. A family problem could have you running at top speed toward month's end. Take some time for yourself before you burn out.

### **SCORPIO**

Try to relax and don't take on more than you can handle during the first part of March. Someone who is interested in you physically (but not mentally) should be avoided. After the 13th it would be best to stay home and enjoy some time with your loved ones. You may feel slightly annoyed at your co-workers after the 21st. Hold onto your tongue and your temper. Your financial picture is looking especially bright toward month's end.

### SAGITTARIUS

You may be feeling lucky during the first part of March. Go ahead and follow your intuitions—you can't lose. You can benefit from some fresh ideas put to work at home and on the job after the 15th. Be sure to talk to those around you before implementing a new plan or they could feel left out. Toward month's end you could be feeling like you're the rope in a tug-of-war between work and home. Try slowing down so that you can keep both sides happy.

### CAPRICORN

You feel confident about most areas of your life during the first part of March. Now is the time to go for what you want ... and get it! You could be feeling adventurous around the 15th. Don't let it get out of hand or you could get yourself into trouble. Spend time with your family or love interest toward month's end. Your life has been so hectic lately, they may be feeling ignored.

## AQUARIUS

Your success at work during the first part of March depends on you holding your tongue and not criticizing co-workers. You'll get further, faster by being generous with compliments and ignoring the little irritants. After the 17th there may be some gossip involving you going around, ignore it and it will go away on it own. You will be on a roll toward month's end — not only in your social life but in financial matters, too.

#### PISCES

You'll need to slow down the pace of your life during the first part of March. This is not a good time for quick decisions or change. You'll be able to push ahead on all the things you put off after the 13th. You'll have to guard against taking love and/or money for granted after the 21st. This could cause problems you hadn't considered and you could get in a jam. Toward month's end your love life will seem like magic.





## THE DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

#### ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505) organizations

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

#### AMARILLO, TX (area code 806)

organizations

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

## ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817)

Tomboys + 2315 South Cooper + 461-4475

#### 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

Affirmation (Methodist) • 7403 Shoal Creek • 451-2329

## AUSTIN, TX (area code 512)

Hollywood • 113 San Jacinto • 480-9527 Nexus • 305 W. 5th • 472-5288

#### organizations

Austin Latino/a Lesbian/Gay Organization PO Box 1350 78787 • 280-6107 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 Sapphfire! - 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)

#### ATHENS, TX (area code 903) organizations

607 Nueces St. 78701 · 477-5822

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

Atternative 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 •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 Tayam Gulid • 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/Dalles • 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 wymn in gay society) • 521-5342 ext. 269 The New Vision (newsjournal) + 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 • 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 - 332-3313 Harvest MCC - 5900 S.Stemmons 75205 - 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 Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington • 870-1555 or 535-7188 Lestran/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County • 263-9006 or 860-0326 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lestrians/Gays) • 498-5607/498-4855 RESPECT • 826 Hardwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 76054

Tarrant County L/G Alliance · 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 76116 · 763-5544

#### HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

#### businesses

Inklings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3369

#### clubs

Ranch • 9218 Butfalo Spdwy. • 666-3464 Ms. B's • 9208 Butfalo Spdwy. • 666-3356 XTC • 9212 Butfalo Spdwy. • 666-3356

#### organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796
AIDS HOTLINE • clo 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 \* 77266-6000 • 432-04114
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 • Bellare, 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 Coaltion - 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)

organizations

Lubbook 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. \$ • 762-1019

MCC Lubbook • 5502 34th St. • 792-5662

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 799-8529 South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC) 4204-8 50th St. 79413 • 1-800-627-7079 • 796-7068

#### NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian/Gay Concerns PO Box 1021 · Evanston, IL 60204 AIDS Action Council • 729 Eighth St. S.E. Suite 200 Washington, DC 20003 -(202) 547-3101 AIDS 800 · 1-800-221-7044 Conference For Catholic Lesbians PO Box 436, Planetarium Station - New York, NY 10024 GLAAD/USA · 80 Varick St. #3E · NY, NY 10013 Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) PO Box 50360, Washington, DC 20091 · (202) 583-8029 Lesbian 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 566 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/Lestvan Alliance P.O. Box 750 76902 • 853-2956

## 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 150005 78212 • 684-4920
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 822-4135
River City Living Metropolitan Community Church

August Carlo William (1997)

202 Holland 78212 \* 822-1121

Lambda Students Center - 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.

LISA (Lesbian Information SA) \* 828-LISA (6472)

SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly \* 733-7300

SALSA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly \* 733-7300

SALSA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly \* 733-7300

SALSA - San Antonio AlbS Foundation

PO Box 12715 78212 \* SALSA Line 733-1225

San Antonio AlbS Foundation

PO Box 120113 78212-9313

San Antonio Tavem Guild \* 822-2823

#### SHERMAN, TX (area code 903) organizations

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

GAIA'S GUIDE 1991/92
WORLDWIDE LESBIAN GUIDE
BOOK.16thedition.Mailorder: \$16.00
—(inc.p&h) from: LAMBDA RISING,
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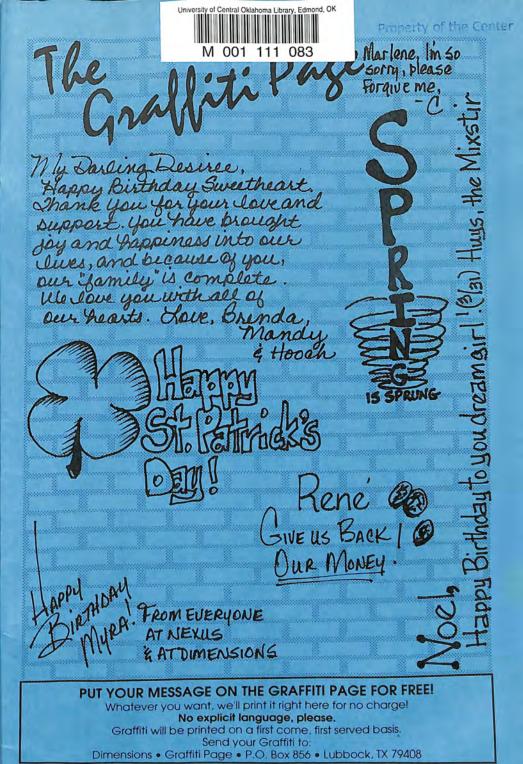




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