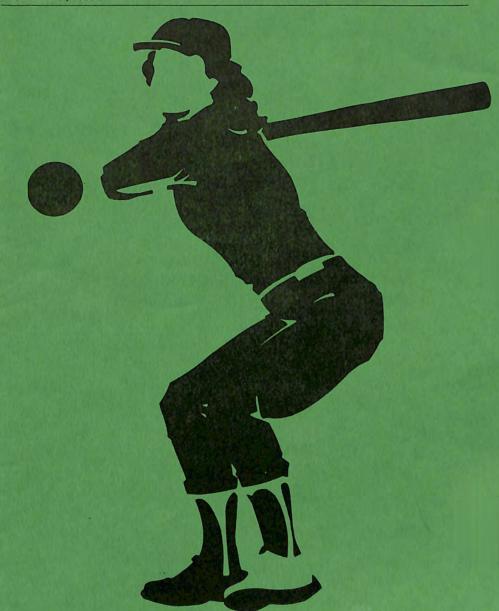
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VOLUME 8, ISSUE 9

APRIL 1995



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Kelly Chambers Managing Editor

Tasha Sumner Advertising & Art Director

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

Shannon Lacy Production Manager

Suzanna Reilly Southwest Distribution

Cameron Taylor Staff Photographer

For Advertising
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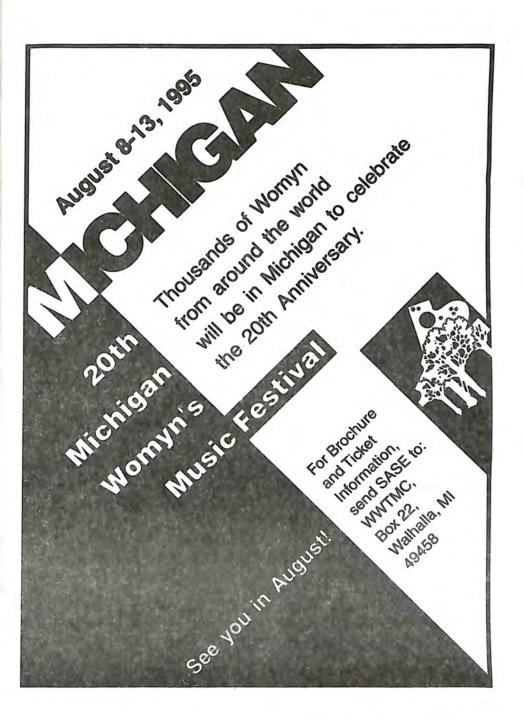
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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

GAY/LESBIAN MARRIAGE UPDATE

HAWAII - All signs indicate that the State of Hawaii may grant gay and lesbian couples the right to legally marry in the near future. The decision of the Hawaii courts will likely give same-sex couples the identical rights and benefits of married heterosexual couples. The court date, originally set for April 1995 has been delayed until September 25. 1995 after the state of Hawaii asked for and was granted a delay in the Circuit court hearing of the case, Baehr v. Levin. The state's delay request is believed to indicate that it is unprepared to demonstrate in court that a "compelling state interest" exists to continue to deny marriage licenses to same-gender couples.

Members of the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project, proponents of samegender marriage in Hawaii still expect a Circuit Court ruling to be handed down during 1995 and an appeal by the losing party to Hawaii's Supreme Court

by 1996.
SOUTH DAKOTA & UTAH —
Legislators in South Dakota and Utah
have already lashed out at our right to
legal marriage in their states. On March
I, South Dakota narrowly failed in its
attempt to prevent recognition of samesex marriage while Utah passed its antigay legislation.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A appeals court ruled that the District of Columbia did not unlawfully discriminate against

a gay couple in refusing them a marriage license. In a two-to-one decision, the D.C. Court of Appeals held that the city' "different-gender" marriage requirement did not violate the constitutional right of the two men who sought to get married after years together as a couple. The Jan. 19 ruling upheld a D.C. Superior Court decision in 1992 which quoted bible verses as part of the basis for its decision.

SWEDEN — Effective January 1, the Swedish Parliament passed a same sex marriage law. As with Denmark and Norway, all legal rights that heterosexuals have are recognized except church marriages and adoptions. The Netherlands is expected to be the fourth country to approve lesbian and gay partnerships. The right of gay and lesbian couples to adopt children is now supported by the European parliament, and it is expected that this legislation will eventually be adopted by all countries that legalize same sex unions.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF HATE CRIMES ACT QUESTIONED IN AMARILLO CASE

AMARILLO, TX — An appeal on the conviction of Wayne Monroe Blodgett Jr., 25, of Amarillo is pending following a hearing on Feb. 17 in Potter County. A Potter County jury convicted and sentenced Blodgett for terroristic threat

on Dec. 14, 1994 in connection with the harassment of Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance camp out in McBride Canyon near Lake Meredith, north of Amarillo on May 21, 1994.

Jeff Blackburn, defense attorney for Blodgett, requested the Feb. 17 hearing in a motion for arrest of judgment. The conviction included an application of Texas' hate crimes enhancement which increased charges to a Class A misdemeanor and doubled the maximum penalties. The jury sentenced Blodgett to a \$3000 fine (probated) and two years of community supervision (probation) - the maximum fine and length of probation possible in this case. "There is something really strange about this Texas law (hate crimes enhancement)," Blackburn asserted in the recent hearing.

Blackburn questions the constitutionality of the law since it "does not give notice as to what group and what conduct compromises this behavior." The law states that the enhancement applies in any crime where the offense is committed because of hatred of a specific group. The attorney claimed that other, similar state statutes list standard verbiage such as "race, sex, religion, creed or nation of origin" to determine what groups are included under the umbrella of the hate crimes enhancement. Such terminology would potentially limit application of the law on the basis of sexual orientation, political views (e.g. pro-life supporters), social affiliations (e.g. union membership) and a host of other variables.

"On the contrary, the Texas statute is very clear as to what behavior is prohibited," countered Potter County Attorney Sonya Letson. As stated, the Texas law allows the hate crime enhancement if a crime is committed because of hatred f a specific group. Letson argued that the law is quite clear. She also asserted that "these offenses (hate crimes) cause a greater damage to society as a whole."

After hearing arguments from both attorneys, Judge Dambold stated that he felt "the decision should be made by an appellate court, not a trial court." Blackburn expressed his intention of filing an appeal in the case. A hearing on that appeal has not been scheduled. Written by Jean Owen and reprinted with permission from the Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance Update, Volume 2, Number 1.

LAVENDER FAMILIES OFFERS PAMPHLETS ON FAMILY

SEATTLE, WA — The Lavender Families resource Network has produced a series of pamphlets on lesbian and gay family issues which are now available by mail.

Lavender Families (formerly Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund) is a volunteer resource network designed to support lesbian, gay and bisexual parents; and to educate families, professionals and the public about our rights and concerns. They provide information, attorney referrals and emotional support for lesbian and gay men in issues of custody and visitation, childrearing, donor insemination and adoption.

The new pamphlets offer information and advice about a variety of issues. Current titles are:

- Coming Out to Your Kids: Tips for Parents
- Custody advice for Lesbian and Gay Parents
- Diversity in Your Classrooms: Tips for Teachers
- Donor Insemination Basics for Lesbians
- Glossary for Lesbian and Gay Families
- Introduction to Lesbian Families: A fact Sheet
- National Coming Out Day: Ideas for Families

 Second-Parent Adoption for Lesbian and Gay Families

Future pamphlets will include: Rights and Responsibilities of Sperm Donors, Co-Parenting Rights and other lesbigay family issues.

Each pamphlet costs 75¢ and quantity discounts are available. Send requests to: Lavender Families, P.O. Box 21567, Seattle, WA 98111.





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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

ALBUQUERQUE - Wiminfest '95, will be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-28. The festivities will be held at the Kimo Theatre, the Convention Center and Johnson Field on the University of New Mexico campus. The concert portion of the festival will include performances by: 4 Big Girls, Laura Bowly, comedian Marga Gomez, Juca, Orquesta Azucar Y Crema, Purple Moon Dance Project, Alice Di Micele and Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir. Also included in the festival will be open mic time, the Wimin's Arts and Crafts Fair, two dances and "Fun in the Sun." "Fun in the Sun" includes volleyball, softball, bridge, and the Canine Costume Contest. Festival passes include all activities and are priced from \$45-\$75. Other ticket packages are available covering individual concerts and dances and range in price from \$8-\$25. The Arts & Crafts Fair, Fun in the Sun, Open mic and other activities are free of charge. For more info on ticket packages or to register, write to: P.O. Box 80204, WIMIN. Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204 or call (505) 265-3297. Hotel accommodations are available at La Posada de Albuquerque. Special rates are available for Wiminfest participants. Call 1-800-777-5732 for reservations. Due to another large convention in the Albuquerque area, hotel rooms and rental cars will hard to come by during the festival, so call early. Work exchange programs and low-cost housing alternatives are available.

DALLAS-The Fourth Dallas Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival will be held April 27th at the Inwood

Theater and then move to the Kalita Humphreys Theater at the Dallas Theater Center April 28-29. The Festival will include over 30 independent features and shorts from a variety of artists that showcase the diversity of the lesbian and gay community. Some of the films to be included are: The Disco Years, Two-Spirit People, Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter and Super 8 1/2. For a complete schedule and ticket information, write to the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at P.O. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219 or call (214) 257-4443.

AUSTIN - AIDS Services of Austin will be offering a volunteer orientation on Wednesday, April 5th, 1995. This 2 1/2 hour seminar will give basic AIDS information, as well as an overview of all the volunteer opportunities ASA has to offer. Volunteers are needed in many areas of ASA's work. Some aspects deal directly with clients, (persons with AIDS or HIV), while others are educational or administrative in nature. This is the first step one takes to volunteer at ASA. For more information, call Cathy Cook at (512) 406-6150 or Russell Walker at (512) 406-6167.

LUBBOCK - The South Plains AIDS
Resource Center (SPARC) will
present To Lubbock With Love, Part
IV, A Musical Tribute to Sir Andrew
Lloyd Weber on Saturday, April 22 at
the Watson Building (1109 13th St.).
The evening will also include cocktails
& hors d'oeuvres, dinner, a silent
auction of celebrity items (including
items donated by Elizabeth Taylor,
Carol Burnett, Charlton Heston, Cindy

Crawford, Gloria Estefan, Jamie Lee Curtis, Whoopi Goldberg and many, many more) and the 5th Annual Diamond Awards Presentation. The recommended donation is \$30 per person. All proceeds go to benefit SPARC. For more info, call (806) 796-7068

DALLAS/FT. WORTH - Unity Fellowship Church has landed in North Texas. The Dallas/Ft. Worth congregation will be the eighth to join the Unity family. They are excited about reaching out to the African-American gay and lesbian community. Unity will hold a general membership meeting on April 9th from 3-4:30pm at the MCC Cathedral of Hope educational building and will host a community reception at the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center on April 22nd at 7pm. Unity also holds a traditional African-American service called "Jubilee" every third Sunday at MCC Cathedral of Hope, Included in the Jubilee service is an ensemble named Imanti. If you are interested in joining Imanti, either as a vocalist or playing any instrument, call Nadine at (214) 326-7960. Call this same number for info about regular service times and locations.

AUSTIN - Dallas-based gay comedian, Paul J. Williams.

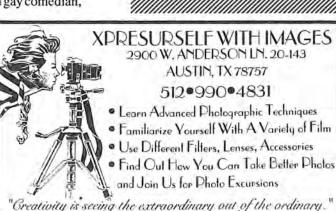
brings his one man show, The Best Little Homo In Texas to the Velveeta Room as Esther's Follies (521 E. 6th St.) on Friday and Saturday, March 31 & April 1st (in conjunction with TLC '95 and The March on Austin) and April

8th & 9th. Showtimes are at 9:30pm each night and tickets are \$8. Reservations can be made by calling (512) 320-0553.

SHERMAN/DENISON - There is a new club coming to the Sherman/Denison area — QuadAngles will be opening on or about April 1st at 5006 S. Farm Road 1417 in Denison. The name refers to the group of four women who are joint owners. For more info, call (903) 786-9996.

OF INTEREST TO ALL

FEM: An Anthology of Lesbian Sexuality and Gender Identity, edited by Lynnie Levy and Jade River is seeking submissions from fems and the women who love them. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address below for more info. Submissions should be 250-5000 words, typed double-spaced or on 3.5 disc format for Mac. Please list application in writing and include a printout of your submission. Submission deadline is 8/1/95. Mail to FEM FATALE, P.O. Box 6021, Madison, WI 53716 or call (608) 244-0072.



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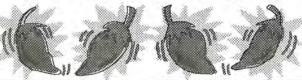
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DEAR AGNES

Answers to your questions about love,

Dear Agnes,

I'm having a serious problem that has been building over several years. The problem is my lover and my job. Over the past few years, my work has gotten more and more demanding. It requires me to work late, bring home work and to travel on business quite a bit. As a result, I have less and less time to spend with my lover.

My lover and I have been together over six years and she is having a really hard time dealing with my increased workload. She complains constantly about the amount of time I have to spend working. She says we don't do anything together anymore and that we aren't spontaneous like we used to be. If I even bring up my job she turns her head and quits listening.

She works, but her job is much less demanding than mine (and pays less, too).

I am afraid if things continue this way, we will break up. I definitely don't want that to happen, but I don't know what I can do to make a difference. I love her dearly, but my career is very important to me as well.

Lover vs. Work Austin, TX

Dear Work,

If your lover is as important to you as you say, you will make time for her. Maybe you should set aside at least one night per week where you devote yourself totally to her. Do what she wants to do and don't even bring up your work. You might also try surprising her with something completely of the wall — kidnap her from work and go roller skating or whisk her off for a surprise weekend at the beach. You might even try sneaking her on a business trip.

The point is that if you really want this relationship to continue, you are going to have to work just as hard at keeping your lover happy as you do at your career. Your lover feels as if she is having to compete for your attentions with a very powerful foe and you need to help her feel as if she is more important to you than anything.

One last note: it doesn't matter who makes more money. If you are bringing this point up to her in your discussions about your job, you are making a serious mistake. You may be making her feel like she is less important than you and undermining her self-esteem. If you truly love her, it shouldn't matter how much money either of you makes.

Dear Agnes,

My problem doesn't sound very serious, but it is making my life miserable. I'm very shy and my shyness is affecting my career and my social life in very negative ways.

I recently moved from the city where I grew up to a new city because of a job transfer. Although I've always been shy, it seems to have gotten worse since my move. I don't know anyone here,

either as friends or in the office and I'm having a really hard time making friends and getting to know my co-workers.

I guess I just never noticed how much my shyness affects me until I moved away from familiar surroundings and familiar people. I know my co-workers think I'm a snob and when I go out to try to meet people, I can't ever seem to bring myself to speak to anyone.

Please help. I'm miserable here and can't seem to make any headway on my own.

Painfully Shy Dallas, TX

Dear Shy,

Counseling might be in order here. Shyness can adversely affect every area of your life and can be very difficult to overcome. As you've pointed out, you may not even know how much of a problem it is until you are forced into this kind of situation.

Some other options for making friends include having a friend from your old city introduce you to friends in the new one, joining a group that interests you or going to church.

As for work, if there is one person in your office you feel even a little bit comfortable around, explain your problem to them. You can be sure that the office grapevine will take care of the rest of the office for you. Just pick out someone you'd like to get know better and tell her/him that you are aware that everyone thinks you're a snob, but that you are very shy and having a hard time because of it.

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INTRODUCTIONS



Louisiana has it. New Mexico and Oklahoma have a little and want more. Texas is working on getting it. "It" is casino gambling and its popularity and availability is spreading. In the following article you'll learn a little about the basics of casino gaming including casino etiquette, money management and some general advice.

CASINO BASICS

When you first set foot in a casino, it can be a very confusing experience. Bells are ringing, money is clinking, a group of people somewhere is yelling out numbers at the top of their lungs. People are everywhere and everyone but you seems to know exactly what they are doing. How do you get the chips everyone is playing with, how do you know which slot machines are not being played by someone else, where do you start? Below are some basic rules, broken down into categories to help keep you from feeling like a fool.

Casino Layout

In most casinos you will see a bunch of tables in a big oval in the middle of the room. Surrounding these tables in every available space will be slot machines and video poker machines. Those tables in the middle include the games of blackjack, craps, roulette and a variety of other specialty games. The space in the middle of the tables is called the "pit." This space is for casino personnel only and off limits to you.

Betting Limits

On each table, no matter what the game, there will be a plaque that tells you what the betting limits are. The plaque will say something like, "\$5 minimum, \$2,000 maximum." This means just what it says — the lowest bet you can make is \$5, the highest bet you can place is \$2,000. Pay attention! It is very embarrassing to sit down, put a five dollar bet out and have the dealer inform you that the minimum bet is \$50.

Getting Chips or Change

Although you can bet with cash, casinos prefer that you use their casino chips. The chips are easier to count and stack and casinos believe that you are more likely to gamble with chips (i.e. play money) than with cash. Chips usually come in \$1 (blue or silver), \$5 (red), \$25 (green) and \$100 (black) denominations. To get chips for your cash, you must "cash in" at a table game. This simply means that you hand your money to the dealer or lay it on the table and say you want to "cash in." Be sure you put it down on the plain felt part of the table and not in any betting area. Betting areas are usually pretty clear and boxed off with words or a casino logo printed in them. If you do place your money in a betting area, the dealer may think you want to bet all that on the next deal or roll of the dice. The dealer will pick up your money and give you an equal amount of casino chips in exchange.

You can get change for slot machines either at the Change booth or from one of the many change people in the slot area. Change people are the ones pushing a little cart (usually with a flag on top). When playing slots, you will notice a button on the machine that says "change." You can press this button to turn on the light on top of the machine which will bring a change person to you right at your machine. Slots also come in many different denominations from nickels to \$100 machines and up. Nickel, dime, quarter and half-dollar slot machines can be played with the coins out of your pocket. Dollar and higher machines are played with special coins (called "tokens") that must be purchased from a change person. These are made of metal and minted especially for the casino. They aren't good for anything outside the casino so be sure you trade them in for cash before leaving. One last note: The big cups you see sitting around the slot areas are there for you to carry your coins in.

Where to Sit

At table games you can sit down at any empty seat - just be sure there are no chips in front of that chair (this usually means someone is playing there and has simply gone to the bathroom). At the slots, be sure to ask players at adjoining machine if they are playing the one you want to play. Many people play more than one slot machine at a time and will get very irate if you try to play "their" machine. If there is a cup placed over the handle of the slot machine or the stool in front of the machine is leaned up on the machine, this usually means someone is playing that machine and will be back.

When You (Hopefully) Win

If you win at a table game, the dealer will pay you in casino chips. Although the dealer can give you chips for your cash, she cannot give you cash for chips. To cash in your chips, you must take them to the booth marked "casino cashier."

If you win at a slot or video poker machine there are some things you need to know. Whatever you do, don't leave the machine until you are sure you have received all your money. These machines can run out of coins, jam up or may not pay the whole jackpot. If you leave the machine, someone else can step up and claim your win. Stay by the machine and don't touch it except to press the "change" or "service" button if you need help. If you have a friend with you, send them to the change booth to ask for help. Many machines will say something like this on the front: "This machines pays only 2000 coins on jackpot wins." This means that the machine will give you 2000 coins and the rest will be paid in cash by an

attendant. Be aware of this so that you don't walk away before you get all your money. DO NOT try to play the machine again until you are paid. The attendant will want to see the symbols lined up before she will pay you the rest of your jackpot. If you play the machine before she arrives, you will probably forfeit the rest of the money due you.

To convert coins to paper money, load them up in one of those cups and take

them to the change booth.

MONEY MANAGEMENT Basics

The main rule here is obvious — don't gamble with money you can't afford to lose. Don't gamble with your house payment, car payment retirement funds. etc. If it isn't "fun" money to begin with, don't take it to a casino.

The best thing to do when going to a casino is to leave your ATM and credit cards at home. All casinos have an abundance of cash machines. The best way to avoid temptation is to not give yourself the option. Without that ATM card in your pocket, an ATM machine is useless.

The second rule is equally obvious, but often ignored - don't chase your bets. If you are losing, don't keep playing. Statisticians will tell you that casino games break down into percentages,

odds and averages, but luck definitely has a role. If you are having good luck, that's great - keep playing until it runs out. If you are having bad luck, don't keep betting to see if it willchange. You can run out of money long before your luck turns. Get up, go to dinner, see a show, do anything other than continue to gamble. You can always come back later and try again.

Specifics

When you are planning your gambling vacation, you will want to determine how much money you are going to take for the specific purpose of gambling. Then you'll want to divide it into per day and per "session" stakes.

Let's say you decide you can take \$600. You are going to be at the casino for 3 days so you will have \$200 per day. Now divide that amount into "sessions." You may choose to divide it into four \$50 stakes. One for the morning, one for the afternoon, one for evening and one for late night. Take only the stake for one session with you to the casino. Leave the rest in the hotel safe.

The purpose of this is to make it easier to get up and go when you are losing. Say you start the morning with your \$50 in hand and lose it all within and hour. Now you will have to go to the hotel safe to get to any more money. This will force you to take a break and help keep you from giving into the temptation to chase your bad bets with more of the same. Too many people arrive at a casino and are totally broke only hours later. You can be the smart

continued on page 30



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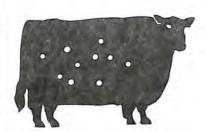
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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD CAR MAINTENANCE IN NANCYLAND

BY NANCY FORD

Every ten days, says the Texas Automobile Association, motorists who drive with poorly maintained engines and under-inflated tires waste 70 million gallons of gasoline. That translates to 2.6 billion gallons every year, or roughly the same amount of petroleum products as it takes to remove La Toya Jackson's eye makeup.

That's alot of crude.

This month marks the 25th annual celebration of Earth Day, the day our global awareness is focused on healing the earth. What better way to celebrate than to blow out your carburetor and give your points and plugs some attention.

Intellectually, I understand basic care and maintenance can help our vehicles run more efficiently and last up to 50 percent longer, while careless and improper care can severely damage the vehicle as well as the environment. Ideally I feel that a car owner's responsibility need only extend to putting gas in the tank and avoiding hitting other objects. Obviously, Nancyland is happy land.

In Nancyland all cars are maintenance free. That includes vacuuming the interior. In Nancyland all cars are rustproof and automatically converts to pick-up trucks in the event of moving, or in case you find yourself in the midst of a softball team in need of transportation. It's happened before.

Each year do-it-yourselfers (read: "Honey, I love you so much I'm going to save you \$19.95 and a trip to Jiffy Lube. Hand me a wrench and a Bud.") improperly dump 20 times the amount of oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez into the American environment. While its hard to envision a weekend mechanic draining her lover's crankshaft then drunkenly drenching a baby seal with the leftover 10W 40, the result is the same.

To deter such waste, the Texas Automobile Dealers Association suggests that car and truck owners follow basic maintenance guidelines developed by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. Car and truck owners can help save their vehicles and help the environment by getting an "environmental tune-up." The guidelines are quite basic and commonsensical, yet, as in life itself, the most obvious solutions are often the most elusive ones.

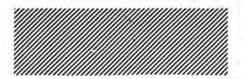
- Keep tires properly inflated. Underinflation wastes fuel because the engine has to work harder to push the vehicle. This will become very evident when the tires become so under-inflated they blow, causing you to have to push the vehicle.
- Keep the air conditioner in good condition. One third of ozone-depleting

chlorofluorocarbons released into the atmosphere come from air conditioners, either through leaks or escape during servicing. Keeping the air conditioner in good condition is also advisable for Texans who prefer to arrive at their destinations in a blaze of glory rather than a pool of sweat.

- Observe the speed limit. Gas mileage decreases significantly when driving above 55 miles per hour. Yeah right. That's why I-10 between Houston and San Antonio is rapidly becoming known as the Lone Star Autobahn.
- To save gas usage and engine wear, drive gently without sudden accelerations and jerky stops and gos.
 In other words, limit your driving to I-10
- Remove excess items from your vehicle.
 Less weight equals better gas mileage.
 Well, duh.
- Keep your engine tuned up. A tune-up is strongly recommended at every 30,000 miles or 2-3 years. Or, just buy a new car. Nancyland has many dealerships from which to choose.

Or better yet, to celebrate Earth Day, leave your newly tuned-up car in the garage for one day. Ride the bus to the office. Jump on your bike. Walk.

Remember, the Earth is our mother, not just on Earth Day but every day. Stop dumping on her.



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THE COFFEE CLUB

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

THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

Once More with Feeling

by Peggy J. Herring

Open House by Evelyn Kennedy

We'll start this month with Once More with Feeling by Peggy J. Herring. The story revolves around the lives and loves of San Antonio residents, Laura and Mavis. Laura and Mavis were lovers for eight years when they casually went their separate ways. Mavis had been involved in a number of casual affairs and Laura just couldn't bring herself to care anymore.

As the years pass after the separation, Mavis and Laura remain friends. Mavis goes through a series of lovers. Laura remains alone except for her poodle. Their circle of friends grows each time Mavis breaks up with a lover. It isn't "musical beds," but with Mavis' help, it comes close.

When Laura meets Robin, she is once again thrown into the turmoil of love. Most unexpectedly, Mavis gets more than a little huffy about Laura's new love interest. After a series of twists and turns, Laura's mother falls ill and all of her friends, including Mavis pitch in and help. Because of this crisis, Laura and Mavis are forced into close quarters for the first time in years. What happens next is as fun as it is surprising.

Once More with Feeling is a hard book to describe, but easy to read. In fact, this is one of the best lesbian books I've read in a while. The book, with all it's surprises, convoluted relationships and enduring friendships, feels like a slice of real lesbian life. Once More with Feeling takes that real life tendency of lesbians to add their ex-lovers (and their ex's new lovers) to those they call friend, and turns into into great fiction.

I would also like to give kudos to Peggy Herring for not giving into the temptation to throw in any of those illiterate redneck Texans for color. Too many authors outside of Texas see us as backward hicks — Ms. Herring has done alot to dispel some of those myths by describing a modern Texas lesbian community and leaving the stereotypes out of it.

Next we'll look at **Open House**, the fourth in the Helen Black Mystery Series by Pat Welch.

Private investigator, Helen black is asleep with her lover when the phone rings at 3am. It's her Aunt Edna calling to tell her that her Great Aunt Ruth has died and left her a house outside Vicksburg, Mississippi. This wouldn't be so strange except for the fact that Helen ran headlong out of Mississippi years ago when her father disowned her for being a "pervert." She hadn't been back or seen any of her family since then.

Now, she finds herself on a plane headed for Tupelo and into her past. But when she arrives, the mystery of her Aunt Ruth leaving her a house is surpassed by the series of murders in the area. A number of black women have been brutally murdered in recent weeks and could be linked to a thirty five year old corpse found on the grounds of the house Helen now owns.

Although they aren't official suspects,

Helen's mentally retarded cousin and her grandfather could be involved in the murders. Helen is helped in her search for the killer(s) by her childhood sweetheart, Beth, who is now a cop. Pat Welch does good mystery. Her characters are intriguing though sketchily drawn. The plot keeps you turning pages right through to the end. She does an exceptional job of pointing out the insidiousness of racism without being preachy.

Both Once More with Feeling and Open House are available from 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.





CLOSER TO PEACE

THE ELEGANT SPECTRUMS OF
LIGHT ENDOW YOUR BEAUTY,
GRACE IS IN EVERY MOVEMENT OF YOUR BODY,
I SIT LOW AND ADMIRE IT, AND SMILE OUT OF LOVE.
AS MY LIPS FEATHER OVER YOUR JAW,
I THINK OF HOW LUCKY I AM,
SLEEPING IN YOUR ARMS MAKES LIFE
SAFER AND COMFORTING,
HOLDING YOUR HAND BRINGS ME CLOSER TO PEACE.
TO BE WITH YOU IS TO LIVE,
TO BE WITHOUT YOU IS A HEART'S CERTAIN DEATH,
OUT OF ALL THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD;
YOU ARE THE ONE
I LOVE THE MOST.

Jennifer Ratliff Houston, 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.



At work, at home, out on the town. Wherever we are, manners are important. We all know we are supposed to say please and thank you, chew with our mouths closed and put the napkin in our laps. But what about more difficult situations? The following will test your knowledge about the finer points of etiquette. See how many you get right! (FYI: Some questions may have more than one correct answer.)

- 1. You get an invitation that says R.S.V.P., you:
- a. call only if you are going to attend.
- b. call only if you aren't going to attend.
- c. call no matter what you plan to do.
- 2. When a woman at the bar asks you to dance and you don't want to, you:
- a. just say no thanks.
- b. tell her no for now but that you will ask her later.
- c. make an excuse about why you don't want to dance.

- 3. You are out on a date at a fancy restaurant. How do you know which fork to use for the salad?
- a. Ask the waiter.
- b. Watch the guests around you.
- c. Use the outermost one first.
- 4. When should you send a thank you note?
- a. Anytime you receive a gift.
- b. To the hostess of a party.
- When you are an overnight guest or someone does a favor for you.
- 5. You are at a meeting with your boss. She goes to the bathroom and comes back with a long piece of toilet paper stuck to her shoe. You:
- a. take her aside and tell her quietly what the problem is.
- **b.** ignore it because you don't want to embarrass her.

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Answers

1) C: You should always respond to an R.S.V.P. whether you plan to attend or not. If the invitation includes a response card, mail it back with your intentions as soon as possible. Remember that the hostess needs to know how many people to plan for and needs to know if you are going to be there as far in advance as possible.

2) A or B: If this is not someone you ever want to dance with, a simple "No, thank you," will do. If it is someone you would like to dance with, just not right at this moment, say, "Thanks for asking, but I'm not up to dancing right now. I'll come ask you in a little while."

3) C then B: A correct place setting will have the forks set out on the left side of the plate by course. The fork for the first course is the one on the outside, the fork for the last course is nearest to the plate. Knives are on the right side of the plate and laid out in the same manner. If you are still confused, watch other diners (or the hostess if you are at someone's home) to try to determine which utensils you should be using.

4) A, B & C: Although thank you notes are not required for gifts from family members whom you have thanked personally, they are always a nice gesture. Thank you notes should always be sent when you receive a gift through the mail or you are an overnight guest in someone's home.

5) A: Although your boss may feel embarrassed when you point out the problem, she will thank you for pointing it out rather than letting it continue and allowing her to be embarrassed in front of others.

Scoring

Give yourself 2 points for each correct answer you chose. If there is more than one correct answer, give yourself points for each one you picked. (i.e.: Question number 4 has a possible 6 points, 2 points for each answer chosen.)

If You Scored

12-18 points

You have great manners and an innate sense of what to do in awkward situations.

6-11 points

You could use a little help. Manners are mostly nothing but kindness. Try putting yourself in the other person's place and thinking about what you would want in that situation.

0-5 points

Charm school is the best option for Check your local yellow pages!



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CASINO GAMBLING

continued from page 19

one. I'm not promising you will win with this method, only that your "gambling money" will last the length of your trip.

GENERAL ADVICE

♣ Before you go to a casino for the first time, do some studying. Go to your local bookstore and get a book on casino gambling. There are many books out there that can tell you the specifics about how to play each of the casino games, about your odds of winning (or losing) and which are the best bets to make. It is safest to pick one game to concentrate on. For instance: if you are interested in playing only slots, learn all you can about slots so that you can make an informed choice about which ones to play.

Of all the games in a casino, blackjack and craps offer the best odds, but only if you know what you are doing. You can greatly improve your "luck" just by learning the basics of when to "hit" and when to "stand" at blackjack and which bets to place at craps. If you find you really love blackjack, you can study further and teach yourself to "count" cards and further improve your odds. (One note: counting cards can get you thrown out of most casinos and should

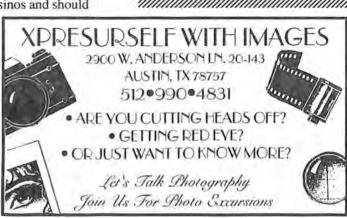
not be tried except by those who really know what they are doing.)

Cocktails are free in most casinos and cocktail waitresses are everywhere. Having said that, it is really in your best interest to avoid drinking while gambling. Alcohol gets in the way of

good judgment and you may end up spending more than you intended. Remember that the cocktail waitress will also bring you water, soda or juices at the same price as a cocktail — free.

♦ The cocktail waitresses, the dealers, the change people — just about everyone in a casino relies on tips (in a casino they're called "tokes") to get by. The subject of tipping in casinos could fill a whole article by itself, so I'll just tell you to watch those around you to figure out how to tip the dealer, how much to give the waitress, etc.

\$ The final note: Gambling should be recreational only. Once again I'll stress the point that you should never gamble with money you can't afford to lose. Gaming is a profitable business — for the operator of the casino. Don't count on winning or spend all your money chasing a big jackpot. Yes, it's exciting to dream about hitting that big one, but don't let that dream lead you to spend your money recklessly. Now, having said all that, I hope you come home from your casino vacation and have to decide whether you want to invest all the money you won in a new car or a mutual fund... Happy Gaming and Good Luck!



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

ARIES

Try to achieve your goals without pushing too hard during the first week of April. You could wind up trampling on the opinions of others if you're not careful. You can look forward to better financial times after the 17th. Make changes, improvements and corrections in other areas of your life toward month's end.

TAURUS

Let things move at their own pace during the first part of April. Romance and money matters will go much more smoothly if you quit pushing. Your social and romantic lives will be exciting after the 9th. After the 15th, try to keep an open mind and avoid criticism of those around you. You may have a tendency to overspend toward month's end.

GEMINI

During the first part of April, you should show caution in everything. After the 11th, your home life is in the spotlight, you are content and happy but the desire to travel is strong. The focus will be on financial and career matters toward month's end. A raise or promotion could be coming your way, but you'll have to finish projects that you have been putting off.

CANCER

You may find yourself playing the role of peacemaker during the first part of April. Co-workers, family members and neighbors may all need this service right now. After the 15th you should

avoid making or listening to complaints, they are a waste of time and you have better things to do. Don't let anyone, particularly a lover, push you into a decision you aren't ready to make toward month's end.

LEO

Travel may be on your agenda during the first part of April. Whether it's for business or pleasure, romance will play a major role. Your love life may suffer around the 14th because you are wrapped up in financial affairs. Take time out to give a a loved one a special treat. Romance is definitely in the cards toward month's end. A member of your family may also need your attention now, so be sure to make time for them.

VIRGO

Progress can be made in money and love during the first part of April. Your persuasive powers will be at their best after the 13th. You have the ability to influence friends, family and co-workers to your way of thinking. After the 18th a raise or promotion could be right around the corner, be prepared, you may have to push a little to get it to go through! Your love life heats up toward month's end, but try not to let it take all your attention.

LIBRA

Money is your strong point during the first part of April. A raise, promotion or other financial windfall could be headed your way. After the 12th you will want to concentrate on home and social activities. Toward month's end the emphasis will once again be on work

and career matters. You will have the energy to push ahead on matters that need your attention and the time to start new projects.

SCORPIO

You get what you ask for during the first part of April. Your social life is picking up and people will be willing to grant you favors. You will know instinctively what others are thinking after the 15th. This will enable you to put some ideas of yours to work and get others to go along with your plans. You may feel that your relationships are in turmoil toward month's end, but it's nothing a little time won't fix.

SAGITTARIUS

Be wary of romantic overtures and those who would use you for money during the first part of April. You may think that someone is withholding information from you around the 14th, but it is possible that they just want you to believe that they know something you don't. Don't go out on a limb in business or personal matters toward month's end. You may make decisions you will regret and that could hurt you later on.

CAPRICORN

You will more content in your relationships and on the job during the first part of April. You can move ahead with confidence in all matters. Watch your tongue after the 12th and be careful to say nothing that will hurt another person. Toward month's end you will be able to set goals and reach them with ease. Don't hesitate when opportunity presents itself.

AQUARIUS

You will be able to work rings around

your co-workers during the first part of April. This could bring your boss's attention your way and net you a raise or promotion. You will feel a strong sense of control in your home environment after the 17th, use it to finish projects started long ago. You may be feeling very affectionate toward your friends and loved ones toward month's end. Don't let them take advantage of your emotions.

PISCES

Romance is in the air during the first part of April. Don't get yourself in financial trouble trying to impress a loved one. Your expenses could rise unexpectedly due to a car breakdown or other mishap around the 16th. Don't worry, it's nothing you can't handle. Avoid travel toward month's end — especially if it is an unplanned trip.



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THE DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505)

organizations

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

AMARILLO, TX (area code 806) organizations

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

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817)

clubs

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

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512)

clubs

Nexus • 305 W. 5th • 472-5288

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 7403 Shoal Creek • 451-2329 Austin Latino/a Lestian/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 78712-7339 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 Sprinodale Rd. • 929-3660 Cesis Ministry • 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 • 441-9191 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 331-8445 Sapphfre! · Lesbian Social Group · 450-0659 Meeting Address • 825 E. 53 1/2 St., Sta 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) • 675-6326

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

CJ Publication Co. • 1209 NW Hwy., Ste 265 • Garland 75041 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 Aliance 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 Tavem Guild • 3900 Lemmon Ave. #220 • 526-5292 Dignity/Dallas • PO Box 190133 75219 • 226-4101 Foundation for Human Understanding • 528-4233 Gay/Lesbian Gardeners • PO Box 190552 75219 • 339-0787 GLAAD/Dallas · P.O. Box 190712 75219 · 526-GLAD Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus • 2727 Oak Lawn • 528-2811 Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas • 521-5342 ext. 229 Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition • P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882 Lesbian Resource Center • 1315 Skiles • 821-3999 Lesbian Visionaries • PO Box 191443 75219 • 521-5342 X 844 UL (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

COÜRAGE, Lesbian Gay Student Org. P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 392-3813 Harvest MCC • 5900 S.Stemmons 76205 • 1-800-497-HMCC P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 387-1491

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX (area code 512) accommodations

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

EL PASO, TX (area code 915) organizations

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

FT. WORTH (area code 817) organizations

Agape MCC • 4615 SE Loop 820 • 535-5002 Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837 Imperial Coun de Fort Worth/Arlington • 870-1555 or 535-7188 Lesban/Cay Political Coalinon of Tarrant County • 263-9006 or 860-0326 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Cays) • 489-5607/498-4855 RESPECT • 828 Hardwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 76064

Tarrant County L/G Alliance - 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 761 16 - 763-5544

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713) businesses

Inkings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3369 Introductions • 3118 Richmond, Ste. 230 • 520-6283

clube

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

organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796
AIDS HOTLINE • do 6 Switchboard • 629-3211
GayLesbian Students University of Houston • 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211
GayLesbian Switchboard • PO Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 980-7995
Houston Gay Polifical Caucus • P.O. Box 66664 777266 • 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 The Movie Club • 867-9454

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

Vomyrispace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601 Womyrispace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601 Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806) 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. 5 - 762-1019
MCC Lubbock - 5502 34th St. - 792-5562
P-Rag (Parents/Finends Lasbians/Gays) - 799-8529
South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC)

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

Affirmation: United Methodists for Leebian/Gay Concerns
PD 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
Conterence For Catriolic Leebian's
PD Box 438, Planetanium Station • New York, NY 10024
GLAAD/USA • 80 Vanck St. #35 • NY, NY 10013
Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE
Gay & Leebian Parents Codifition International (GLPCI)
PD Box 50360, Washington, DC 20091 • (202) §53-8029
Leebian Mothers: National Detense Fund
PD Box 21567 • Seattle, WA 98111 • (206) 325-2643

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 Aliance P.O. Box 750 76902 • 653-2956

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 210) businesses

Affirming Solutions • 1802 NE Loop 410, Ste. 102 • 828-6486 Clubs

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

organizations

Deal Rainbow • 804-1904 TTY
Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
Integrity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
Integrity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
Integrity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
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 Lesbian/Gay Assembly • 733-7300
SALSA - San Antonio Hos Foundation
PO Box 12715 78212 • SALSA Line 733-1225
San Antonio AIDS 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 Alliance for Life • PO Box 1695 75091 • 892-9049 HIV/AIDS Services • PO Box 1695 75091 • 463-7258

WACO, TX (area code 817) organizations

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BE SURE TO STAMP BOTH ENVELOPES!

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Corpus Christi - BI- Arlington - 22 & CURIOUS: 23. black NON-SMOKER female. attractive. Seeking other black or smoker & under 27 for dating & other non-smoking fun times. mb 46236

SWF, 22, nonnonhisp. curious females smoker/drinker. Seek females 22-35 for fun times. mb 46982

Dallas - MOVIE JUNKIE: Female & Fort Worth movie junkie. Love to GRAD STUDENT: dance & hug. Enjoy Grad student, 22, atthe arts & reading tractive. Not into bar books. mb 47050

club life/scene. Seeking other girls for fun. mb 46778

LOOKING FOR FUN: Sheryl, 19. bi- Dallas - FANTASY female, light smoker/ FUN: 28, 5'6", 130 drinker, brown hair/ lbs., bi-curious feeyes, 5'3", 120-30 lbs. Looking for dating

fun. mb 47022

Dallas - YOUNG

male. Seeking white females interested in fantasies. mb 816328

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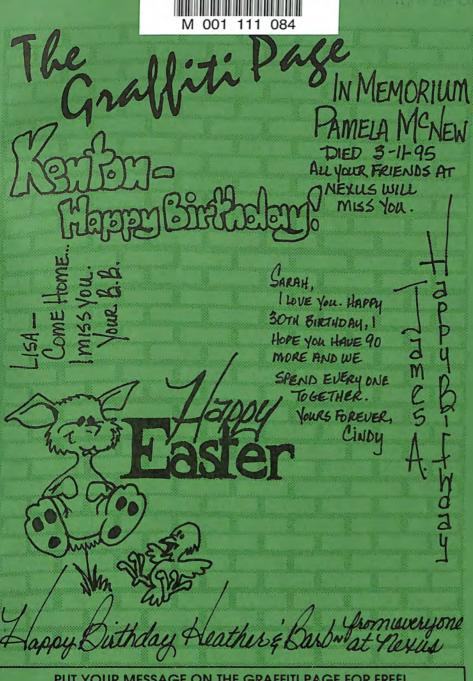
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Dallas - KIM; STU-DENT: 5'10", female. 135-40 lbs. Seeking other females. Any race/ color. mb 45814

Houston - LET'S GO FISHING: 33, 5'8", blue eyed female. Love horseback riding, fishing, skiing, & more. Seek female with same interests. mb 46676

Albuquerque, NM FRIENDSHIP MORE: 5'5", 135 lbs., SWF, blonde hair, green eyes, attractive. Looking for someone to be friends with, have a good time with, or a relationship. mb 46287

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