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VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 1995



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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

COORS GRANTS BENEFITS TO

SAME-SEX PARTNERS

COLORADO - The Adolf Coors Brewing company extended employee benefits to same-sex partners on May 11. The company has been the target of gay rights advocates since the seventies and is still actively boycotted by many members and groups within the community.

The most recent criticisms do not revolve around the Brewing Company but around the Adolf Coors Foundation, which is funded by the Coors family. The Foundation has openly supported right wing organizations such as the John Birch Society, the Free Congress Foundation and the Heritage Foundation, according to the *Colorado Daily*.

Organizations calling for the boycott believe that the Foundation is a mechanism for the family to funnel money to anti-gay causes while claiming that Coors, the company, is a gay affirmative organization.

It is unknown at this time whether the organizations involved will call for an end to the boycott. However, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force continues to refuse donations from Coors.

Reprinted with permission from the Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance Update, July 1995, Volume 2, No. 4.

RIGHT WING WORKING HARD

The American Family Association (AFA), Donald Wildmon's right-wing organization dedicated to media monitoring, claims an "active involvement of one million plus supporters." Wildmon describes his organization as America's #1 pro family organization fighting for wholesome, family-oriented TV." His well-funded efforts continually demonize gay men and lesbians while dispensing misinformation about our lives.

Wildmon's newest campaign calls for a boycott of Unilever products which include Calvin Klein cosmetics, Close-up toothpaste, Q-tip swabs, Vaseline products, Lipton tea and Dove, Lifebuoy and Lever 2000 brands of soap. According to Wildmon, Unilever is "a leading sponsor of programs promoting homosexuality."

The campaign involves a "Nationwide Television Values Survey," mailed to his members. The "results" of the "survey" will be shared with major TV advertisers. The highly biased survey materials, (which doubles as an AFA fundraising letter) state: "Our children are crying for network TV to teach them values, Hollywood and network TV give your children...OVER 15,000 SEXUAL ACTS AND INNUENDO IN A GIVEN YEAR!"

"The single best way to change what's on TV," Wildmon writes, "is to

CONVINCE CORPORATE AMERICA TO STOP SPONSORING TV SHOWS which TEACH our children to be...SEXUALLY ACTIVE...ANTI-GOD and ANTI-FAMILY."

With his "values survey," Wildmon has shipped out thousands of "boycott cards" that list Unilever's many products, instructing his members to "Send a message by leaving these products on the shelf." They have also been given pre-printed complaint postcards, addressed to Unilever.

It's important for Unilever to hear from consumers who support the fair, accurate and diverse representation of lesbian and gay lives. Send you comments to: Richard A Goldman, President, Unilever United States, Inc. 390 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022; fax (212) 906-4411. Donald Wildmon can be reached through AFA, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803; e-mail AmFamily1@aol.com.

In addition, the AFA is calling for a boycott of all products manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb because the company has advertised its Clairol Men's Choice hair products in The Advocate. Reportedly, letters from homophobes "are pouring into corporate headquarters." Contact Richard L. Gelb, Chair, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, 345 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10154; fax (212) 546-4020.

Reprinted with permission from the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation publication, GLAAD Reports, July/August 1995, Vol. 7, No. 718.

LESBIAN/GAY POLICE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PALM SPRINGS

LOS ANGELES - The Golden State Peace Officers Association, California's Lesbian & Gay Police organization, and the Los Angeles Police Department, proudly announce their co-sponsorship of the Second International Conference of Gay & Lesbian Criminal Justice Professionals. This series of educational seminars represents the first time any police department in the United States has fully cosponsored a professional event dedicated to the examination of issues concerning gays and lesbians in law enforcement.

The conference is expected to draw as many as 500 participants from around the world, with representatives expected from London, Copenhagen, Paris and Australia. It will be held on Friday, September 8, 1995 in Palm Springs with additional educational and networking gatherings scheduled throughout the Los Angeles area from September 5 through September 10.

This second professional gathering will address a variety of topics including decreasing discrimination in the workplace, equal opportunity issues, coming-out on the job, AIDS & HIV, and concerns of women in law enforcement.

The conference is designed for lesbian and gay police officers, deputy sheriffs, firefighters, parole and probation officers, prosecutors, as well as all other interested law enforcement managers and executives who are dedicated to

creating a positive working environment for an increasingly diverse work force. The first such conference was held in New York City in June of 1994, in conjunction with the Stonewall '25 celebration and proved to be an effective forum for lesbian and gay criminal justice professionals to exchange ideas, network with one another, and to discuss relevant issues in law enforcement.

Ms. Elizabeth Birch, Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, and Deputy Superintendent William

Johnston of the Boston Police Department will be featured speakers at the event. Other panel speakers include Police Commissioner Art Mattox and Assistant Chief Ronald Banks of the Los Angeles Police Department, Chief Leroy Baca of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and retired Chief of Police Penny Harrington of the Portland Police Bureau.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

HOUSTON - Inklings Bookshop (1846 Richmond) will host a **book signing** by a hot lesbian mystery author from New Orleans, **Jean Redmann** on Sunday, August 6th at 3:30pm. Jean's three mysteries combine steamy sex, complex characters and great adventure. For directions or info, call (713) 521-3369.

DALLAS - Registration and clinics for the **Dallas Independent Volleyball Association (DIVA)** fall league will begin on Thursday, August 3rd, and Friday, August 4th at 6:30pm at **Reverchon Recreation Center** (3505 Maple Avenue). The league is open to women and men of all skill levels. Women are encouraged to come participate in a welcoming environment. Clinics for recreational and intermediate players will be held Friday, August 4th and clinics for power and competitive levels will be held Thursday, August 3rd. The season games will be played on Friday nights only. Games will be scheduled at the **Reverchon Recreation Center** and **Marcus Park Recreation Center** in north Dallas. For more details, call the **DIVA** info line at (214) 521-5342, ext. 804.

HOUSTON - The **Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents (HGLP)** organization will hold its **August Family Activity** on Friday evening, August 11 at a neighborhood pool. **HGLP** is a support and social group for lesbian/gay parents and their children. They hold support

group meetings, offer a social and support group for youths in 6th-12th grades who have lesbian or gay parents and a monthly family activity. For more info, call (713) 666-8260 or write **HGLP**, P.O. Box 35709-262, Houston, TX 77235-5709.

DALLAS - Oak Lawn Community Services (OLCS) has a host of activities planned for August. **The 6th Annual Bachelor/Bachelorette Bid: Pumps & Sneakers** will be held with presenting sponsor, **Caven Enterprises** on Saturday, August 19th from 7-10pm at the **Sammons Center for the Arts** (3630 Harry Hines Blvd.). Tickets are \$15 and a cash bar will be available. Sue Ellen's Kathy Jack, the Village Station's Kathy Corbin and Blanche Fury's Deborah Vial are just a few of the "bachelorettes" that will be available for bidding. Mastercard, Visa and American Express will be accepted.

OLCS will also hold **LIFEWALK '95 Team Captain Training** on August 27th from 2-4pm in the **Fairmount Hotel's Gold Room** and **Gay & Lesbian Information Line Training** on August 18th & 19th. For info on any or all of these activities, call OLCS at (214) 520-8108.

FORT WORTH - Pleiades Productions, Inc. presents **The Topp Twins** in concert on Saturday, September 9th at 8pm at the **Agape MCC Auditorium** (4615 SE California Pkwy.). Opening for the twins will be

Cheryl Anderson. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door and will be available at **Connections Bookstore** and **Agape MCC** in Fort Worth and at **Crossroads Market** in Dallas. For more information, call (817) 924-3264.

DALLAS - On August 23rd, the **Candy Marcum Institute** along with the Women's Community Association will present **From Small Change to Big Bucks: Women & Money - Financial Independence** from 7-9pm at 4300 MacArthur, Ste. 200A (Lemmon @ Tollway). Topics to be covered include **Credit Repair, Investment Clubs, Investment Brokerage** and **Bartering**. Refreshments will be available until 10pm. A \$5 donation is suggested. Call (214) 520-8108 for more info.

HOUSTON - **HeartSong, Houston's Women's Community Chorus**, will resume weekly rehearsals Monday, August 21st at 7pm at the Community Room in **Sharpstown Center**. They will welcome interested singers at that time. The chorus is also seeking a qualified **Co-Director**. To apply as Co-Director or to receive more information, call **Kathy** at (713) 526-9095.

AMARILLO - The **Amarillo Lesbian Gay Alliance** will hold its annual membership meeting at **Washington Square Cafe and Bookstore** (1607 S. Washington) on Tuesday, August 15 at 7pm. ALGA will elect officers for the coming year at this meeting and all members are encouraged to attend and participate. For more info, call (806) 373-5725.

OF INTEREST TO ALL

The **5th Annual Lone Star Women's Music Festival** will be held on the beautiful Guadalupe River outside New Braunfels, TX on October 6th, 7th & 8th. The festival includes music, camping, great food and activities and lots and lots of fun! For more info on performers and tickets, check with your local women's bookstore or call (512) 929-0002.

Uniformed Services Activity, a resource-referral network for all military, veterans, law enforcement and emergency personnel, is searching for an **Executive Director** to assist the Chairman. Duties include grant writing, fund raising, benefits and recruiting. Requirements include a personal computer with modem, the ability to work from your home and "experience." Salary is on a commission basis. Qualified individuals respond to: 2725 13th St. NW, Washington D.C. 20009 or call 1-500-445-1670.



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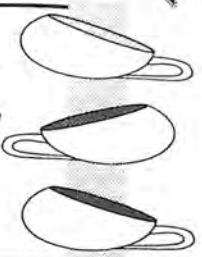
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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

I have a really big problem. I hope you can help.

For the last year and a half I have been seeing a wonderful woman. We share lots of interests and are very compatible. I broke up with my lover of 6 years to be with this woman and have been very happy with her. The problem is that she is married and has two children.

She has been telling me for the last year that she was going to leave her husband, but it hasn't happened. Then, today, she told me that although she wants us to go on seeing each other, she doesn't want to leave or divorce her husband. She says it is because she is afraid that he will fight her over custody of the kids. She told me that she wants us to continue on as we have been doing and has asked me to wait for her for another five years when both her kids will be in college. I am devastated and don't know what to do. I love her very much and I want to continue seeing her, but I'm not sure I can take sneaking around for another five years. I think she is asking too much of me, but she says that if I really love her I'll be patient.

What do you think?

**THE "OTHER" WOMAN
SAN ANTONIO, TX**

Dear Other Woman,

Life is too short for this kind of crap. If she refuses to leave her husband, you should leave her. Tell her that if you are still available in five years, you might

try again. Yes, I realize her children are important, but so is your life. Do you really want to look forward to five more years of sneaking around before she will even consider leaving her husband? Cut your losses now. If you hang around, you can almost bet that in five years she will decide that she needs to stay with "hubby" for another four years to make sure the kids have stable college financing or some such excuse.

Dear Agnes,

This letter is in response to the letter from "Newly Gay" in the July issue. I also came out after having been married for quite some time. I have two children who were seven and nine at the time of the divorce. I opted to tell my children the situation immediately and I am very glad that I did. My kids have grown up (now ages 16 and 18) well-adjusted and accustomed to the fact that Mom is gay. I have several friends who decided to wait to tell their children and have regretted it. When their kids learned at 14 or 15 that Mom was gay, they had a much harder time adjusting and learning to live with this knowledge.

Although I know that what was right for me and my children isn't the answer for everyone, I wanted to share my experience in hopes of helping others in the same situation.

Thank you for your time.

**GAY MOM
AUSTIN, TX**

Dear Readers,

The following letter is a follow-up to "Scared" which appeared in the June issue of Dimensions (Vol. 8, Issue 11). Scared had sex with a male co-worker and ended up pregnant. She wrote for advice about whether to have the child and if so, how to tell her lover of three years.

Dear Agnes,

I wrote you in June and wanted to let you know that I followed your advice. First I went to the doctor to confirm that I really am pregnant, then I told my lover. She did get angry (ballistic is a better word) and we went through two

or three weeks of pure hell.

After things settled down, we both decided that this was a blessing in disguise. We had talked in the past about having a child together, we just didn't expect to get one this way.

Now we are planning for the baby — turning our guest room into a nursery and buying baby clothes.

Thank you for advising me to "tell her immediately." I guess I just needed a push in the right direction. I feel much better and I really think everything is going to be fine.

**SCARED NO MORE
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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

What it is and how to fight it

Ever since Anita Hill came forward with accusations against Supreme Court nominee, Clarence Thomas, the term "sexual harassment" has become a household word. There have been TV specials, talk shows and even a movie made on the subject (with a woman as the harasser). However, there is still a whole lot of confusion out there about what sexual harassment is and who the perpetrators are. Of the three cases below, pick the the one (or ones) you think constitute sexual harassment.

Case 1: John Freshman presses against you ever chance he gets; any excuse will do, asking a question, reviewing a report... When he comes in the office he presses up as close as physically possible and then never seems to notice that it makes you uncomfortable. This guy is always in your intimate space!

Case 2: Fred Sleaz is the company trash mouth. He repeats every dirty,

ethnic and sexist joke he hears to the whole office. It is Monday morning, he is loaded with a new list and here he comes, "Do you know how many lesbians it takes to change a light bulb?..."

Case 3: "Yes, Jamie your work is really appreciated, but if you ever expect to get a raise or promotion around here, Honey, you better lighten up and start socializing... Know what I mean?..."

Case 4: Bob, the single guy in the next office asks you to go out to dinner and a movie. You politely tell him that you don't want to go out with him. Afterwards he is still friendly, but doesn't ask again.

Once upon a time, a person who was being sexually harassed at work had to either put up with it or leave the job, hoping that a new job would offer a more professional work environment. By 1980 things began to change, you had the option of filing a complaint, but a final resolution of the case could take years. Then, in 1986, the Supreme Court handed down a decision that said the employer was responsible for a harassment free environment and further responsible for the *prevention* of sexual harassment.

Today most major companies have a sexual harassment policy.

But what is sexual harassment???

There are no clear cut guidelines for determining what is and what isn't sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is what ever makes you feel uncomfortable.

Legally, there are two categories of sexual harassment—the first is defined

as an intimidating or hostile work environment. This can be a result of teasing, comments, the presence of suggestive posters, or sexual jokes. The second is unwelcome physical or verbal behavior of a sexual nature. This behavior may be an implied or an outright condition of your employment, wages, or advancement.

What to do.... if you are being sexually harassed?

1. Confront the "harasser"! Tell him that his behavior is offensive and that if it continues you will report it to his supervisor. (Document the date you confront him. This can be a simple note on your calendar at home.)

if he doesn't stop?

2. Warn him again. This time both verbally and in writing that if his behavior continues you will notify his supervisor or manager and the personnel department. (Keep a copy of the letter and note the date you sent it on your calendar)

All documentation should include the date, time, specific behavior, and details involved. Be sure to note any witnesses present. Always keep copies of all your records.

If the behavior persists?

3. Use the company complaint procedure. If there isn't a formal complaint procedure, go to the next ranking supervisor in the department. Remind the supervisor, manager, or employer that it is the company's responsibility to correct the situation.

If you still can't get the situation corrected?

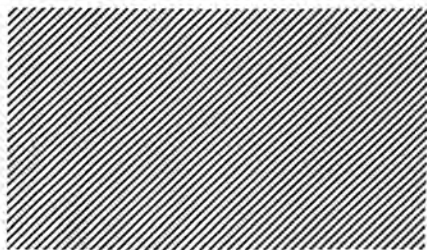
4. Further contacts include your States' Labor Department and the EEOC [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission] 1-800-USA-EEOC. They will direct you to a regional office.

It is essential to follow these guidelines and DOCUMENT your actions. You should always confront the person verbally first. That gives them the benefit of a doubt—there is always a possibility that they really do not realize their behavior is offensive to you. Further, a sexual harassment charge can ruin a career and won't leave either party untouched. While the harasser may suffer the loss of his job, you may also gain a reputation as a troublemaker and possibly ruin your chances for promotion within the company. Trying to talk it out in private can help resolve the problem with less career and emotional damage for both of you.

At the beginning of this article we asked you to choose which case(s) represented sexual harassment. All of them except case number four constitute harassment. If it makes you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or pressured - it is harassment. Keep in mind that even though the examples in this article refer to a male harasser/female harassee, this is not always the case. Harassment can occur at all levels of employment and can

come from members of either sex. It is very unprofessional for a supervisor, manager, or anyone of authority to solicit sex for favors. Under the law you are entitled to a comfortable, harassment-free work environment.

As for case four — if someone in your office asks you for a date, you have every right to accept or turn them down depending on your own feelings and the policies of your company (some companies don't allow employees to date one another). You always have options as a consenting adult. Having said that, you should also know that if you had turned Bob down and he continued to ask you out or started leaving flowers on your desk every day even after you asked him to stop, case four could easily turn into sexual harassment.



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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD THEATER OF THE MIND

BY NANCY FORD

Don't Look now. Another "lesbian movie" has been released.

The Incredibly True Adventures of 2 Girls in Love is being heralded by critics as a rarity — a "lesbian movie" with crossover appeal. It's the story of two mismatched lovers from the opposite sides of the track. Passion triumphs when two high school sweethearts defy the odds and choose to love each other, regardless of the obstacles thrown in romance's path. It's kind of like a funny Romeo and Juliet without the death, the period costumes, or the penis.

It seems so strange to enter a movie theater and enjoy a film about "us" that isn't tragic, or preachy, or at least pretentious. Wonderfully strange. Things have changed so much. Whatever happened to those movies with "adult overtones" that merely hinted at the "different-ness" of the protagonists? In a world full of changing social mores, the one constant we could always count on was that these movies would end with everyone coming to their senses and riding off into the sunset with a companion of the opposite sex. Or we could bet n some accident to tear the ill-fated lovers asunder. Suicide, at least. Good grief, is nothing sacred? Could it be that as acceptance of gay men and lesbians is becoming more mainstreamed in the real world (whatever that is), our characters are also finally, being mainstreamed onto the silver screen?

Maybe these really are the Gay 90's. Never before in the history of film has the industry been so inundated with films dealing either specifically with gay and lesbian themes, or at least including a strong gay/lesbian presence. Yesterday they had *Going My Way*. Today we have *Priest*. I like it — how about you?

One of the best things about all this gay cinema is that it sheds a welcome light on our culture, our modus operandi, our essence, that might otherwise be overlooked. "Do you still think we'll still know each other when we're 30?" is a poignant question the 2 Girls in Love ask each other. Research and conversation has indicated, at least to me and my contemporaries, that not only do most lesbians still know their first lover, they continue to play a major role in each other's lives. What doesn't kill us, makes us stronger? In fact, bringing a new paramour home to meet "the family" now often means introducing her to your ex-lover, your ex-lover's current wife, her current wife's ex, and her current wife's ex's gay cousin from out of town who we think is probably gay but no one is completely sure. Welcome to Lesbianville — we hope you enjoy your stay here.

It's become a welcome trend for filmmakers to focus specifically on various lesbian rites — and wrongs — of passage. *Bar Girls* gave us an accurate

backstage view of the theater where most lesbians give their first — and best — public performances. *Desert Hearts* gave us a tasteful yet provocative lesson that love, especially when you find it in Reno, is always a gamble. *Claire of the Moon* gave us a rash. *2 Girls* gives us a nostalgic tweak recalling the unspeakable excitement and incomparable buzz that accompanies first love — that constant ache in your stomach that has never before or since hurt so very, very good.

It's encouraging that lesbians (and gay men, for that matter), can now go to a neighborhood theater, other than the kind that only accepts quarters, and enjoy a positive film experience. Prior to this new cinematic enlightenment, a gay person's identifying and internalizing a film experience was limited to fantasy.

So fantasize I did. The following is a list of films that I hope to be able to experience before my buttered corn-popping days are done.

What's So Funny Girl? Instead of joining hopeless gambling addict Nicky Arnstein on that European bound luxury liner, Fanny Brice remains in New York at the curiously-insistent urging of co-chorus gypsy Ann Francis. They spend hiatus from *The Ziegfeld Follies* writing their own terse, two-woman comedy show which becomes the vaudevillian precursor to *The Kathy and Mo Show*.

Parent Trap: The Rest of the Story Hayley Mills plays grown up twins who discover they're not really twins at all, but completely unrelated. In an ultimate act of narcissism, they fall in love with each other and marry. Mayhem ensues as they become famous as the only

bickering couple in film history who, after telling each other to go f _ _ _ themselves, actually can.

Mommy, You're the Dearest Devoted adopted daughter discovers that her mother, an old former motion picture queen, is really just an old queen.

Orlando, Part Deux Quentin Crisp stars as the Mayor of a steamy Florida tourist mecca which receives its water supply from Ponce de Leon Natural Springs, giving all its citizens eternal life and unlimited potential for sequels.

The Whining Game Audiences are shocked at the surprise ending when the film's heroine, a cabaret singer and model, is revealed to actually be a woman. Kinky.

When Harry Forgot Sally in Paris A man and a woman, supposedly in love, re-evaluate their relationship when he joins the chorus line in the Follies Bergere.



Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and frequent contributor to the gay and lesbian press. She performs each Thursday night, 8:30pm at Ms. B's in Plaza 9200 (9200 Buffalo Speedway). Call (713) 666-3464 for info. On Sunday, August 11 at 11pm, Nancy opens for Candace Gingrich for the Human Rights Campaign Fund at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto in Houston. Tickets are \$20 at the door.



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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

FAMILY

A Gay Pride Recording by

The Turtle
Creek Chorale
and

The Women's
Chorus of Dallas

This month we'll do something a little different. We're going to take a look at The Turtle Creek Chorale and Women's Chorus of Dallas new CD entitled "FAMILY."

The Turtle Creek Chorale is a 200 voice men's chorus that has performed with numerous other Dallas arts groups including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The group has toured extensively in the U.S. and has plans for a European tour this summer. They

have 9 recordings and two videos available with a tenth recording due out in the fall.

The Women's Chorus of Dallas boasts over 100 singers and has one solo (Women's Chorus only) CD entitled "Our Turn" in stores and just finished recording another that will be available this fall.

As the press notes say, "Under the direction of one of the biggest queers in Dallas—Dr. Timothy Selig, The Turtle

Creek Chorale and The Women's Chorus of Dallas join forces for Gay Pride in song. This recording brings together not only an incredible array of talent with over 300 singers and instrumentalists, but a true community of loving, caring people as well." I couldn't have said it better myself.

The CD contains 14 songs reflecting the love, spirit and self-acceptance of the lesbian/gay community. Included are renditions of popular songs from the past, spirituals and "The Peace Waltz," an original composition by Bill Mays in honor of the Chorale's 15th anniversary. The Women's Chorus of Dallas goes it alone on their beautiful version of "Wind Beneath My Wings." The Women's Chorus has adopted the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation as a recipient of a portion of Chorus proceeds. This arrangement was included on the CD in honor of the foundation; it is the unofficial theme song of the "Race For The Cure."

Both men's and women voices are heard on the best version of the old slave spiritual-turned-civil rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome" that I've ever heard. The song is beautifully done and incredibly uplifting.

Other cuts on the CD include "Secret Love," "Over the Rainbow," "Somewhere," "When I Fall In Love," and "Love Don't Need a Reason."

It is truly amazing to listen to this CD and realize that all those beautiful voices belong to the gay and gay friendly communities of Dallas, Texas. There must be something in the water in Dallas to produce such a wonderful array of singers.

The CD is available through gay and lesbian bookstores nationwide. The Turtle Creek Chorale's previous

recordings are available in most mainstream music stores. The Women's Chorus of Dallas recording of "Our Turn" is available at Block Buster at Mockingbird & Lemmon and at Crossroads Market in Dallas.

All the CD's are also available by mail. Call (800) 746-4412 or (214) 526-3214 to order Turtle Creek Chorale recordings or (214) 520-7828 for the Women's Chorus of Dallas.

The Women's Chorus of Dallas will start their new season on August 14th and is always looking for new voices. If you are interested in auditioning to become a member, call (214) 520-7828. The Chorus suggests that you attend a few rehearsals and sing along before the actual auditions on Sunday, August 27th, so call now!



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SOMEONE LIKE ME

Her childlike innocence reflects my own,
Having grown up emotionally unattended,
Looked at but not really seen,
Talked to but not really heard.
An overachiever, driven hard but not allowed
To take a break to bask in the sincere glow
Of parental adoration.
Once a child, then grown up,
Never allowed to be a child again.

Forced to live with a facade
That covered the real face, the real smile,
The real tears, the real laughter,
The real person.
Acting out in traditional, acceptable roles
That made the family happy and accepting.

Her childlike innocence reflects my own,
Showing a sad face that bravely hides
The needs, wants and desires
Left over from childhood, unattended,
Unseen, unheard-except by me,
Now an adult, looking into the face
Of another child trapped in an adult body,
Reaching out to another child trapped.

The love we have for each other
Will set us free to run in playgrounds,
Cry at movies, laugh at bad jokes,
Play "hookie" from work on a special spring day.
Lay in fields of grass staring at the white
Clouds in blue skies trying to figure out
The shape of a dog's face from a clown's nose,
Or a tree branch from an airplane.

Her childlike innocence reflects my own,
And I am glad she's my friend, not just my lover.

Sandra A. Meros
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.

QUIZ



Are You Sure Of Yourself?

There are days in everyone's life when they feel unloved or unattractive. The problem is when we start to feel insecure all the time. How you see yourself affects the way others see you. If you want to be liked, you have to like yourself first. Answer the questions below and find out if your self-esteem needs a boost.

PART I

1. A woman you just met in the bar tells you that you have beautiful eyes, you:

- a. look over your shoulder to see who she's talking to.
- b. tell her thank you and move on with the conversation.
- c. tell her there are parts of you that look even better.

2. When you find out that you and a co-worker are both up for the same promotion, you:

- a. assume that your co-worker will get

the job.

- b. make sure you are caught up and put in some extra hours to show your worth.
- c. figure you've got the promotion locked up without any extra effort.

3. You've got the flu and pull yourself out of bed to go to the drugstore. While there, you run into an old friend who is always perfectly groomed. You:

- a. hide on the aspirin aisle so she won't see you.
- b. straighten your sweats and say hello.
- c. say hello and tell her you are recovering from an exotic disease you got on a business trip in the Congo.

4. You are fifteen pounds overweight when your mother decides it is time to have a family portrait made. You:

- a. agree and ask what she wants you to wear.
- b. redouble your efforts to lose the weight and wear your most slimming

clothes and make-up.
c. refuse to have your picture made until you are in top form. You don't want your weight on film for posterity.

PART II

Answer the following questions True or False.

- 1. I love parties.**
() True () False
- 2. I am beautiful.**
() True () False
- 3. I am intelligent.**
() True () False
- 4. I am lovable.**
() True () False

Scoring

Part I

Give yourself points as follows:

- 1 point for every "A" answer.
- 3 points for every "B" answer.
- 5 points for every "C" answer.

Part II

Give yourself 5 points for every "True" answer.

If You Scored:

4-15 points

You are your own worst critic. You have a tendency to focus only on what you see as your shortcomings. You need to learn to look at the whole picture. Find out what you like about yourself and play it up, then you can start to work on improving the things you don't like. Start small and work your way up to the big stuff. Keep in mind that everyone has faults — you aren't aiming for perfection, just an improved sense of yourself and your wants and needs.

16-27 points

You are very accepting of yourself. You understand that everyone has strong and weak points and you know what yours are. You have enough self-esteem that you don't need to be the picture of perfection all the time. You are able to laugh at your mistakes and accept praise gracefully when it is deserved. You like yourself and, as a result, you are usually well liked by others.

28-40 points

Yes, you appear to be confident. You are outgoing and love to be in the spotlight. The problem is that when you brag on yourself all the time, you don't give anyone else a chance to pay you an honest compliment. On the inside, you are really insecure. You figure that if you don't point out how wonderful you are, no one else is going to do it. Settle down and give yourself a chance to make some real friends. You may just find the love you've been advertising so prominently for.



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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

Try to achieve your goals without pushing too hard during the first part of August. You could wind up trampling on others if you're not careful. You can look forward to better times when it comes to finances after the 17th. Make changes and improvements in other areas of your life toward month's end. Work on matters that concern you from behind the scenes, you will make better progress if you keep to yourself.

TAURUS

Let things move at their own pace during the first part of August. Romance and money matters will go more smoothly if you don't push. Your social and romantic lives will be exciting after the 12th. Everything is going right for you now. Keep an open mind and avoid criticism of those around you toward month's end. You may have a tendency to overspend so keep a close eye on your pocketbook!

GEMINI

You'll be able to step up the pace both in business and romance during the first part of August. Although you are content and happy at home, you may have the urge to travel after the 18th. Toward month's end the focus will be on financial and career matters. A raise or promotion could be coming your way, but you'll have to finish projects that you have been putting off.

CANCER

Don't let anyone, particularly a lover, push you into a decision you aren't ready to make during the first part of August. Go at your own pace in all matters. After the 16th you may be feeling the urge to get out and party.

Go ahead, but don't overdo it. People and projects that have needed your attention for awhile are in the spotlight towards month's end.

LEO

Travel may be on your agenda during the first part of August. Whether it's for business or pleasure, romance will play a major role. You may have a hard time pinning down how you feel about someone around the 17th — trust your gut instincts they will be right on target. Romance is definitely in the cards towards month's end, but don't ignore your friends or they may get upset.

VIRGO

Progress can be made in all things important to you, including money and love, during the first part of August. 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 is really heating up but try not to focus all your attention on it. Toward month's end you may have to rewrite a budget because you underestimated expenses in the past.

LIBRA

Money is your strong point during the first part of August. A raise, promotion or other financial windfall could be headed your way. Concentrate on home and social activities after the 17th, your friends and love interest will provide much enjoyment and insight right now. After the 20th the emphasis will once again be on work and career matters. Toward month's end you will have the energy to push ahead on matters that need taken care of and the time to start new projects.

SCORPIO

You get what you ask for during the first part of August. Your social life is picking up and people will be willing to grant you favors. After the 17th you will know instinctively what others are thinking. 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 August. Don't go out on a limb in business or personal matters after the 16th. You may make decisions you will regret and could hurt you later on. Pay attention to your loved ones and their needs toward month's end. Let them have the lead and you will find that you are both more content.

CAPRICORN

You will be more content both in relationships and on the job during the first part of August. You should watch your tongue around the 12th and be careful to say nothing that will hurt another person. After the 19th you will be able to set goals and reach them with ease. An opportunity arises toward month's end — don't hesitate to take it! Wait too long and you will have missed out.

AQUARIUS

You will be able to work rings around your co-workers during the first part of August. This could bring your boss's attention your way and could net you a raise or promotion. After the 12th you may feel very affectionate toward your friends and loved ones - don't let them take advantage of your emotions. Love and money matters are moving along smoothly toward month's end. This is an especially good time to improve your income

if you didn't get that raise earlier in the month.

PISCES

Romance is in the air during the first part of August. After the 16th you will have good luck in all partnership matters — whether it's a business or love relationship, things just seem to crystallize right now. Expenses could rise unexpectedly around the 20th — don't worry, it's nothing you can't handle. Avoid travel towards month's end, especially if it is an unplanned trip.



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THE DIRECTORY

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ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505)

organizations

Sister Source Cooperative & Lesbian Resource Line
144 Harvard SE • 266-2116

AMARILLO, TX (area code 806)

organizations

Lesbian/Gay Alliance • PO Box 9361 79105 • 369-4219
MCC of Amarillo • PO Box 1276 • 372-4557

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817)

organizations

Gay/Lesbian Association of UTA
P.O. Box 19348-77, UTA SL 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/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
Gay/Lesbian Student Association at UT Austin
456-3971 • Box 275 Texas Union 78712-7338
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby • PO Box 2579 78768 • 474-5475
Lesbian Mothers • Karen • 339-8508
Live Wire Productions • PO Box 141202 78714
Metropolitan Community Church • 1100 Springdale Rd. • 929-3660
Oasis Ministry • 5565 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 • 441-9191
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 331-8445
Sapphire! • Lesbian Social Group • 450-0659
Meeting Address • 825 E. 53 1/2 St., Ste E103
Mailing Address • 201 W. Slassney, Ste. # 321 78745-3156
Waterloo Counseling Center • 507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654
Texas Human Rights Foundation • P.O. Box 49740 78765 • 479-8473
AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417
The Treehouse (Lesbian Mothers Support Group)
607 Nueces St. 78701 • 477-5822

ATHENS, TX (area code 903)

organizations

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

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HC 3, Box 650 78003 • 796-7446

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clubs

The Moon • 5039 Willis • 828-4471
Sue Ellen's • 3903 Cedar Springs • 559-0707

organizations

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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 75360 • 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 Names Project • PO Box 190869 75219-0869 • (214) 520-SEWS
Dallas Outdoors • P.O. Box 35474 75235 • 276-5270
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The New Vision (newsjournal) • 521-5342 ext. 255
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P.O. Box 190464 75245 • 521-8446
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organizations

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P.O. Box 5067 76203 • 382-3813
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Recreation Plantation • Campground • HCO1 box 40-A 78620 • 894-0567

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organizations

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MCC El Paso • 916 Yandell • 542-1227
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • Spanish & English • 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
Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County • 263-9006 or 860-0326
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 498-5607/498-4855
RESPECT • 828 Hardwood Rd. • Hurst, TX 76054
Tarrant County LG Alliance • 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 76116 • 763-5544

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clubs

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organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796
AIDS HOTLINE • c/o Switchboard • 529-3211
Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston • 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211
Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • PO Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 980-7995
Houston Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000
Integrity • P.O. Box 66008 77266-6008 • 432-0414
Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 862-7533
Lambda ALANON • 1214 Joanne • 521-9772
Lesbian/Gay Students-Univ. Houston Clear Lake • 2700 Bay Area 77058
LTN Houston • Lesbian Teacher Network
PO Box 1835 • Bellaire, TX 77402 • 529-3211
Metropolitan Community Church Of The Resurrection
1919 Decatur • 861-9149
Montrose Counseling Center • 900 Lovett #203 77006 • 529-0037
Montrose Pool League/Billiards • P.J. 863-8482
The Movie Club • 867-9454
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PWA Coalition - Houston • 1475 W. Gray #163 • 522-5428
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The Women's Group • 529-5871
Wornyspace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601
Women's Softball League • 6431 Pinesthade • 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)**organizations**

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P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 791-4499
Community Outreach Center & Outreach AA (Tues. & Thurs. @ 8pm) • 102 N. Ave. S • 762-1019
MCC Lubbock • 5502 34th St. • 792-5662
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 799-8529
South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC)
4204-B 50th St. 79413 • 1-800-627-7079 • 796-7068

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian/Gay Concerns
PO Box 1021 • Evanston, IL 60204
AIDS Action Council • 729 Eighth St. S. E. Suite 200
Washington, DC 20003 • (202) 547-3101
AIDS 800 • 1-800-221-7044
Conference For Catholic Lesbians
PO Box 436, Planetarium Station • New York, NY 10024
GLAAD/USA • 80 Varick St. #3E • NY, NY 10013
Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE
Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI)
PO Box 50360, Washington, DC 20091 • (202) 583-8029
Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund
PO Box 21567 • Seattle, WA 98111 • (206) 325-2643
Lesbian Teachers Network (LTN)
PO Box 638 • Solon, IA 52333
National Gay Alliance for Young Adults, Inc.
PO Box 190426 • Dallas, TX 75219 • (214) 307-7203
National Gay/Lesbian Clearinghouse
666 Broadway 4th Floor • NY, NY 10012
National Gay/Lesbian Task Force
1517 U Street NW • Washington D.C. 20009 • 202-332-6483
Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-Flag) • 1-800-4-FAMILY
The Fund for Human Dignity
666 Broadway 4th Floor • NY, NY 10012

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Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9696

SAN ANGELO, TX (area code 915)**organizations**

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

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clubs

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

organizations

Deaf Rainbow • 804-1904 TTY
Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
Integrity/San Antonio
PO Box 150006 78212 • 684-4920
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 822-4135
River City Living Metropolitan Community Church
202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121
Lambda Students Center • 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.
LISA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472)
SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly • 733-7300
SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
PO Box 12715 78212 • SALSA Line 736-4329
San Antonio AIDS Foundation
PO Box 120113 78212-9313
San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

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

AIDS Resource Center of Texhoma • 813-1272 or 800-525-6381
Alliance for Life • PO Box 1695 75091 • 892-9048
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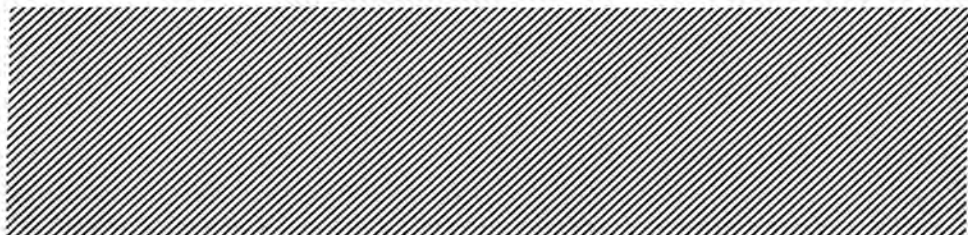
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WOMEN LOVING WOMEN, all ages, write/meet - EVERYWHERE! - through The Wishing Well, established 1974. Confidential. Prompt. Tender, loving alternative to "The Well of Loneliness." Introductory Copy \$5.00 (mailed discreetly first class). Free Information write: PO Box 713090, Santee, CA 92072-3090. OR call (619) 443-4818.

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Unique, Sensual lesbian greetings. Eloquent, yet thought provoking! Free color brochure, send SASE: Person II Person Greetings, P.O. Box 1841,



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

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

BE SURE TO STAMP BOTH ENVELOPES!

Your Return
Address
Box # XXX

Your Return
Address

DIMENSIONS
P.O. Box 856
Lubbock, TX 79408



M 001 111 089

The Graffiti Page

KRIS - Happy Birthday Baby!

Live your dreams, the best is yet to come.
My heart is yours,

I love you,

T.J.

Dear Beth,
I want to thank you for entering my world. You have given me so much and I want to share with you a long and lasting friendship. I feel that the Goddess has brought us together from our past lives. If we can be as honest and loyal as we were, I know that we will have a strong, affectionate and sharing friendship. Love, JC

Happy Birthday C.J.

WE LOVE YOU! FROM ALL YOUR AUSTIN FRIENDS - T.L., R.S., S.S. & J.R.



Back to School.

My DEAREST KATRINA,

- MY LOVE FOR YOU HAS GROWN & WITH IT, MY HEART. THE PASSION BETWEEN US IS INTENSE AND THE FRIENDSHIP IS ONE I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF... YOU ARE MY LOVE, MY SOUL AND MY HEART... I LOVE YOU - CHILLY

PUT YOUR MESSAGE ON THE GRAFFITI PAGE FOR FREE!

Whatever you want, we'll print it right here for no charge!

No explicit language, please.

Graffiti will be printed on a first come, first served basis.

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LABOR "GAY" PARTY!

September 1-4

**ENTERTAINMENT • SWIMMING
VOLLEYBALL • FUN, FUN, FUN!**

**AT RECREATION
PLANTATION CAMPGROUND**

ADMISSION ONLY \$20!

**Admission Covers Camping & Entertainment
From Noon Friday Through Monday Evening.**

Facilities Include:

- Tent Spaces/Limited R.V. Electric Hookups
- Clean Restrooms w/ Flush Toilets & Hot Showers
 - Springfed, Rock bottom Swimming area
60' wide, 550' long, 14' deep with wading area
 - Volleyball court
- Rock Campfire rings w/ grills
 - BBQ Pits • Picnic Tables

Directions:

Take 290 West of Austin to Dripping Springs traffic light. At the 4th Street past light, turn left onto Co. Rd. 190 (after 2 miles, road changes to 220). Stay on 220 6 miles to Co. Rd. 198. Turn right on 198. 1/2 mile turn left onto road past rock entrance. Follow road 7/10 mile to deadend at campground. (Arrows & Pink ribbons along the way!)

512-894-0567