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VOLUME 9, ISSUE 6

DECEMBER '95/JANUARY '96



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DIMENSIONS

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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

PFLAG Responds to Attacks by Right

Tulsa, OK - Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), has met with harsh attacks on its Project Open Mind television advertisements in Tulsa, Oklahoma and in Houston, Texas. Project Open Mind challenges anti-gay hate speech and addresses its harmful impact on lesbian and gay Americans, their families and friends and society at large. The ads show scenes of Rev. Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and others speaking vehemently against homosexuality. These clips are interspersed with shots of gay and lesbian bashing and inferences that this hate speech has a direct connection to the high rate of lesbian/gay teen suicides. In a letter addressed to all television general managers in Project Open Mind's target cities of Tulsa, Atlanta and Houston, Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) threatened to "seek judicial redress" against all stations airing the television advertisements, "to the maximum extent permitted by law, including injunctive relief and monetary damages."

When Tulsa NBC affiliate station KJRH consulted its attorneys and decided to air the ads, CBN then issued a memo to the station that said "we hereby demand that you immediately air a retraction and public apology to Pat Robertson and CBN." KJRH discontinued its airing of the ads, citing its concern about the "creative content" of the ads. "This is censorship, pure and simple," said PFLAG President Mitzi Henderson. "We are saddened and angered that television stations who have a broad-

cast responsibility to their communities would cave in to pressure to censor from the Christian Broadcasting Network."

KHOV, the CBS affiliate in Houston, Texas and KHTV, a Houston independent station, who had accepted the initial advertising buys, also pulled the advertisements from their schedules after receiving the letter from CBN. The spots never aired on either station. At the time of this release, TCI Cable of Oklahoma has also put the ads "on hold."

Mitzi Henderson said, "We are condemning hate speech. Project Open Mind was created to challenge all hate speech that is currently being spoken by those who consider themselves moral leaders in our society, and to show the potential tragic consequences of such anti-gay rhetoric. America needs to hold its leaders accountable to a higher standard of tolerance and acceptance of their fellow human beings. The ads are a wake-up call to tolerant, fairminded Americans that this kind of hate speech in their communities is harmful to their lesbian and gay family members and neighbors.

"The religious and political leaders featured in the television advertisements are unfortunately only representatives of those who bring insidious anti-gay rhetoric into our culture every day for political gain. There is no justifiable context for the demonizing and marginalization of gays and lesbians, or any group of American citizens."

PFLAG says it will continue to try to find stations in these and other cities who will air the ads.

Task Force Applauds Research But Warns of Consequences

Washington, DC — Biology may influence sexual orientation according to a recently released study. The study, based on DNA analysis of gay brothers, contributes to a growing pool of research that suggests some biological link between genetics and sexual orientation. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) welcomes studies into the complexities of human sexuality. Regardless of the scientific origins of homosexuality, however, NGLTF calls for an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Dean Hamer, a molecular biologist with the National Cancer Institute, reports that the study found a hereditary predisposition to homosexuality in some men. Hamer suggested that the genetic material in one segment of the X chromosome may increase the probability of homosexuality in some men.

"The Hamer study is an important addition to the growing body of evidence indicating a biological basis for homosexuality in some people," said Beth Barrett, NGLTF spokesperson. "And it shows that homosexuality is a naturally occurring and common variation among humans — a fact that gay, lesbian and bisexual people have known all along." "Regardless of the origins of homosexuality, however, discrimination based on sexual orientation is always wrong and must end," Barrett said. "This is especially true to avoid potential genetic engineering if science should ever discover a gene responsible for homosexuality."

"Studies of human sexuality are not conducted in political and social vacuums," Barrett noted, "The results must

therefore be used in the most ethical ways and precautions must be taken to ensure that the studies are not used against any individuals or groups."

In the past, Right Wing organizations have claimed that homosexuality is not genetically based and some groups therefore encouraged "reparative therapy" to "cure" gay people of their "abnormal behavior." However, upon release of the LeVay brain study four years ago, Rev. Lou Sheldon, an anti-gay activist with the Traditional Values Coalition, insinuated that if homosexuality were proven to be biologically based, he believed medicine and science should seek to genetically alter lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

"We know that the Right Wing will use any research results against lesbian, gay and bisexual civil rights, because theirs is not a movement based on seeking the truth but on perpetuating bigotry," Barrett said. "Our movement, on the other hand, wants to end discrimination against gay, lesbian and bisexual people, regardless of how or why sexual orientations vary."

For further information about the scientific and ethical questions surrounding biological research, contact the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, (818) 791-7689.

Walls of Silence

Denver, CO - In November the Denver School Board heard arguments for and against plans to display an informational poster in the district's 10 high schools. The poster advises lesbian/gay and questioning youth that they may contact the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Services Center of Colorado. Students would be provided with additional assistance from school

counselors.

In most classrooms across the nation, an informational vacuum deprives and degrades lesbian and gay youth. Textbooks either ignore or demean homosexuality. Teachers seldom challenge homophobic harassment. Students are left to fears rather than facts, torment instead of tolerance. Testifying before the Denver School Board, one parent described this climate as a "wall of silence."

However, according to the "Rocky Mountain News," several parents have criticized the poster's message as "an intrusion on families," an assault on the "true authority of parents," and "an improper role for the district."

The staunchest opposition has come from Focus on the Family, a Colorado-based group of the Christian Right. In a letter to school board members, James Dobson, president of Fo-

cus on the Family, said: "The poster's intent is clear: It is meant to promote same-sex romance among teens."

Both the district's director of student services, John Leslie, and superintendent, Irv Moskowitz seem supportive. Moskowitz told parents he understood "the horrors" gay students often face in silence. "We will be on guard," he told parents of gay children, "You've certainly touched us."

Encourage Denver to take the first step toward educational equity and a curriculum that is fair, accurate and diverse. Write to: All Members, Denver Board of Education, 900 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203, tel. 303-764-3211, fax 303-764-3216. Copy your correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, "Rocky Mountain News," 400 W. Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80204, fax 303-892-2568, send your e-mail to: letters@denver-rmn.com.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

FORT WORTH - The Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance will hold its **Sixth Annual New Year's Eve Benefit Gala** entitled **Fort Worth Formal '95: Black Tie to Blue Jeans**. The event will be held at the **Radisson Plaza Hotel** (815 Main St.) in the **Grand Crystal Ballroom** on December 31 beginning at 8pm. Proceeds will benefit a variety of non-profit organizations. Tickets range in price from \$50 per person with no seating guarantee, to \$1000 for eight tickets, a reserved table, a hotel suite, a full page ad in the program and a bottle of champagne (there are also other options in between). Tickets must be purchased in advance and can be paid for by check, Visa or Mastercard.. Rooms are available at a discounted rate for those attending the benefit. For more information or to make reservations, call the **Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance** at (817) 877-5544.

HOUSTON - **Team Houston** will host a **Countdown to Amsterdam Party** on Friday, December 8th from 9pm-2am at **Heaven** (800 Pacific). There will be lots of great drink specials. If you interested in participating in the **'98 Gay Games**, join **Team Houston** now by calling (713) 935-1060. It is important to join early and identify in which sport you are interested in competing.

DALLAS - **Dallas Rainbow NOW** holds their meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the YWCA on the third floor of the **Women's Resource Center** (4621 Ross Ave.). For more info, call the Hotline at (214) 948-1144.

HOUSTON - **The Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents** will hold a non-alcoholic, family **New Year's Eve Party** as their **January Family Activity**. The **HGLP Support Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month (December 9 & January 9) in the **MCCR Library** downstairs. For more info on HGLP, call (713) 980-7995.

SAN ANTONIO - A study, tentatively entitled "**Cuentos 'de Las Otras': Cultural Aspects Affecting the Coming Out Experience of Chicana Lesbians and Bisexuals**" is looking for lesbian and bisexual Chicanas to participate. Participants will be asked to attend an in-depth interview. Confidentiality will be strictly enforced. Subjects will not be identifiable. If you are interest, contact **Gina** at (210) 949-3167, Monday-Thursday 8am-4:30pm or Fridays 8am-11am.

HOUSTON - **The Houston Area Women's Center** provides a variety of free services for women and their children. Services include an emergency shelter for battered women, a 24-hour

Hotline, peer counseling and other assistance. Lesbian women are encouraged to use their services or to volunteer their time. For more information or to volunteer, call (713) 528-2121. The 24-hour Hotline number is (713) 528-RAPE.

DALLAS - The Oak Lawn Soccer Club's co-ed adult team won the **championship** round in Division 5 of the **North Texas Co-ed Soccer Association's** fall league. Registration is now underway for the men's, women's and co-ed Spring teams. Newcomers to the sport are being sought for the club's beginners clinic. For more info, call the **Oak Lawn Soccer Club** at (214) 942-9537.

OF INTEREST TO ALL

The **8th Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival** will be held April 4-7, 1996 at **Camp Sister Spirit** in Ovett, Mississippi. The festival is co-produced by **Brenda and Wanda Henson** and promises sober land and safespace. (You may recall that the residents and government of Ovett, MS have tried to run the Hensons off of their land by means of threats and harassment. They are asking you to come help support them against the homophobics.) The festival will feature **workshops, night stage, craftwomyn show, raffle, silent auction, good southern food and hospitality.** The **Hensons** will also host a **Winter Solstice Gathering** on December 22, 1995 as well as other events scheduled for the **Spring of '96.** For

more information about the festival, events, or about working or non-working vacations, call (601) 344-1411 or write P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464.



If you have information for
What's Goin' On,
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P.O. Box 856, Lubbock, TX 79408

e-mail: Visions782@aol.com

**Deadline for
submissions
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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

I know this will seem ridiculous after some of the problems you hear and deal with, but here goes. My lover and I have an on-going fight this same time every year. She thinks it's ok to spend a small fortune on Christmas and the holidays. I don't see any problem except that her idea of spending and mine are totally different.

She will drag out her credit cards, all of them, and go on a wild spending spree over the holidays and take until June or July to pay them off. The first year we lived together it took her until the following Christmas to pay off all the bills. Then she took the cards out and did it all over again. She makes payments all year to pay off her spending for the holidays.

I have begged her to cut back. For six months, at least, she cannot do anything or go anywhere because she is too broke to even take a weekend off because of her extravagant spending over the holidays.

The first year we lived together (the one it took a year to pay off) she threw a big party for all "our" friends that cost over seven hundred dollars. Then she bought all her family and friends Christmas gifts. Half these people don't even give her a gift and if they do it is not anything near as nice as what she gives them.

I wouldn't complain about her spending as much if she could afford it, but to make payments for six months afterwards is not affording it.

This is causing some big fights. I did talk her out of the Christmas party after the first year. Most of the people who came to the party she only sees once a year anyway. They never call and could

(in my opinion) care less except to come drink free booze and eat. They are not what I classify as "real" friends.

That is all I have been able to talk her out of though! The gift list has stayed in tact. I am at a loss. I just do not understand why anyone would put themselves through such financial hell year after year. Maybe you can say something that will get her attention. I feel like running away from home every year at Christmas.

SPENDING SPREE Dallas, TX

Dear Spree,

Christmas is a time for giving, but you can put yourself into the poor house all year over holiday spending.

Talk to her about how she finances Christmas. You might suggest reviewing the Christmas list. Some people will willingly agree not to exchange gifts. Review what you are spending on everybody and cut back on the size gifts you are giving. Lastly, the payments made on credit cards could be put into a savings account and the credit cards would not have to be used at year end. The catch is that you have to watch yourself and not spend the savings account *and* charge up your credit cards. I assume the credit cards are in her name, and short of making some progress on changing her ideas on how much to spend and how to finance the spending you are probably fighting an uphill battle.

Dear Agnes,

My lover of ten years has suddenly made some really strange decisions. The first was about eight months ago.

She started writing day and night. It was suddenly like she said to hell with everything else. She was going to write and anything else that was going on in her life or mine was off. She quit sleeping regular hours, she wouldn't come out of the study to eat, in fact, often she just wouldn't eat. The only thing she did was get up in the morning and go to work.

She got a small article published and this really sent her over the edge. Two months ago she marched in and announced that she was quitting work so she could dedicate herself fulltime to her writing. We had a huge fight. I told her it was nearly impossible to make a living writing, and that we could not make it financially without her check. She threw a fit and quit work anyway. We are in terrible financial shape and, for the life of me, I cannot make her understand that I feel abandoned and

frightened for both of us. I don't know what to do any more. Nothing I say or do matters.

WRITER'S CORNER Taos, NM

Dear Corner,

You can sit her down and talk to her about what you see going on. It may or may not help especially since you are so close to the situation. Do not be confrontational, but do be specific. Explain that you see her locking herself up to the exclusion of eating and sleeping, quitting her job and ignoring her financial responsibilities. Tell her you feel abandoned. See if you can get her to set a deadline on what she feels would be a reasonable time frame for some of her work to sell. Explain that you cannot make it financially. A counselor might help, but you may not be able to get her to go.



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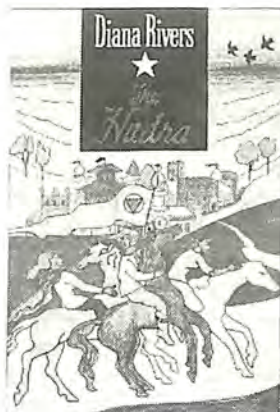
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THE FEMME MYSTIQUE

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A fascinating and insightful look at the world of femme identity within the lesbian community, written by femmes, former femmes, femme wanna-bes, femme admirers, and, of course, femmes fatales. Through poetry, essays, short fiction, and photography, *The Femme Mystique* explores what it means to be a femme and a lesbian in a society that often trivializes the feminine.

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GAY WINTER TRAVEL

Gay Places to Stay
& Gay Things To Do
In Colorado & Northern New Mexico



With Amendment 2 in the hands of the Supreme Court, the boycott of Colorado is off (for the moment) and with winter coming on, you are ready to hit the slopes. Whether it's skiing in Aspen or partying in Denver, you will want a gay friendly place to stay, and you'll want to know about local gay attractions. Also included here is the North-

ern New Mexico town of Taos. The following should give you some ideas for your winter getaway.

TAOS

Taos is a town of narrow streets, quiet courtyards and lots of adobe. In addition to skiing at Angel Fire, Red River,

Sipapu and Taos Ski Valley, the area also offers many other attractions. These include the Taos Pueblo, Rancho de Taos and countless art galleries.

Taos offers the Ruby Slipper (505-758-0613), a lesbian owned bed & breakfast with seven rooms. All rooms include private baths and private entrances and some rooms have their own fireplaces. They offer a full breakfast from December through March and an expanded continental breakfast throughout the rest of the year. Rates are from \$75-\$95 per night for two (\$85-\$105 during the Christmas holidays).

ASPEN

The Aspen community is very gay-friendly and boasts an anti-discrimination ordinance that includes "sexual orientation." Aspen as a whole voted resoundingly against Amendment 2 and welcomes all gay travelers with open arms. The Aspen Gay and Lesbian Community Organization (970-925-9249) hosts Gay Ski Week during the first week of February every year. This year's Gay Ski Week will be held January 27th-Feb 3rd. The week includes skiing (obviously), parties and lots of other activities. Packages for Gay Ski Week are available by calling Aspen Reservations at 800-872-7547. You'll need to call early as accommodations in Aspen are hard to get.

There are four ski resorts within easy reach of Aspen and skiers can get multiday tickets to all four mountains. The slopes here go from beginner (at

Tiehack/Buttermilk), to intermediate (Aspen Highlands and Snowmass), to expert at Aspen mountain. Aspen is full of hotel, but there are two standouts for the gay traveler. Hotel Aspen (800-527-7369), a gay-friendly hotel in the heart of Aspen. Rates range from \$69-\$295 per night during winter. The hotel offers some rooms with private Jacuzzis, a heated pool and great views. The Aspen Bed & Breakfast Lodge (800-36-ASPEN) is a bed and breakfast with private baths and a large gay & lesbian clientele.

Aspen doesn't have any gay bars, however it is a fairly open community and you will be welcome most anywhere. The Aspen Gay and Lesbian community recommends The Tippler on Tuesday and Thursday nights and Club Soda on Friday and Saturdays.

If you would like more info on gay Aspen, you can find their on-line site at <http://www.aspenonline.aspengay> or call the Gay and Lesbian Community at the number above.

COLORADO SPRINGS

Yes, Colorado Springs does have a very high concentration of religious right organizations and an anti-gay reputation, but this is still a tourist town which welcomes all kinds. It has a strong gay community that has become stronger since the passage of Amendment 2. As one bar owner told me, "we don't really have the 'bashers' here. What we have are the 'love your neighbor' types who won't assault you physically. Just don't listen to their radio shows."

Attractions around Colorado Springs include the usual outdoor activities as well as Pike's Peak and The Garden of the Gods (home of the Red Rocks Amphitheater). Cripple Creek with its mining town atmosphere and low stakes gambling is about 40 miles away.

As for places to stay, The Hearthstone Inn (719-473-4413) is a lesbian owned, non-smoking bed & breakfast featuring 23 rooms (some with working fireplaces), a full gourmet breakfast and rates ranging from \$78-\$140 per night. The Pikes Peak Paradise Inn (800-354-0989) is a gay owned bed and breakfast about 20 minutes from Colorado Springs with a view of (you guessed it) Pikes Peak. Rates range from \$85-\$150 per night with a \$15 discount if you mention you are gay or lesbian. The Inn is a replica of a Southern Mansion and offers a full breakfast (breakfast in bed is available) and even welcomes your toy breed dogs or declawed cats if you make prior arrangements.

As for bars, you can visit the Hide & Seek Complex, a 24 year-old gay and lesbian gathering place featuring four different bars with different music and atmospheres and a restaurant under one roof (719-634-9303). If you are looking for women only, try True Colors (719-637-0773).

For more information about Colorado Springs' gay community and events, call the Lesbian & Gay Community Center at (719)471-4429.

CRESTED BUTTE

Crested Butte is an old mining town

with easy access to the slopes and the owner of The Great Escape (303-349-1201) bed & breakfast tells me the town itself is gay friendly and welcoming of everyone. The Great Escape offers winter rates of \$55-\$95 in a beautiful Victorian home.

DENVER

A cosmopolitan city with a western feel, Denver offers lots of gay places to stay and gay things to see and do. The Mile High Bed & Breakfast (800-513-7827) is 6 blocks from the gay bars and offers great rates of \$39-\$49

continued on page 22



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Painted Ladies &
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FRIDAY • DECEMBER 15

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With Emcee Karen D'Angelo
Proceeds to Benefit Skyward Bound Ranch

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 17

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SAN ANTONIO PARTY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS

Volleyball League
Karaoke • Happy Hour All Night • \$2 Frozen Ritas

THURSDAYS

Steak Night • Liquor Promos

FRIDAYS

TGIF Party 5pm-9pm • \$2 Draft/75¢ Refills

SATURDAYS

PINK PARTY!

No cover til 9pm

No cover all night if you have pink hair!

SUNDAYS

Volleyball League • Football (audio & video)

Gourmet Burgers at 6pm

AUSTIN
W. 5th
72•5288

SAN ANTONIO
WEBB BROOK
41•2818

WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

TRACKING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

BY NANCY FORD

Once again, like a straight woman with something to prove, the holidays are right on top of us.

Time to haul out the holly, string up the popcorn and, if necessary, start inventing clever retorts as to why a lovely girl like you hasn't found herself a husband yet. But before you take advantage of that mistletoe dangling over your holiday pucker portal, you might want to take a look at this parasitic plant's family tree.

According to Charles Panati's *Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things*, mistletoe was a plant of hope, peace and harmony for second-century Druids. They derived its name from *mista*, meaning "dung," since the evergreen is propagated by seeds in birds' excrement. No shit!

The Druids celebrated the advent of winter by burning mistletoe as a sacrifice to their gods. Evidently, zoning restrictions regarding open fires weren't a problem in Druidania. Sprigs of the plant were also hung in their homes to ensure a year's good fortune and familial peace. I'm thinking the Menendez family could have used a little more greenery around their house, and a few less ski sweaters.

During the pagan Roman festival of *Natalis Solis Invicti*, the birthday of Mithras, (*the Invincible Sun God* to you

and me,) rich and poor alike shaped mistletoe sprigs into boughs and festively draped the garlands throughout their homes. *Natalis Solis Invicti* and *Saturnalia* (honoring Saturn, the god of agriculture,) were celebrated annually on the 25th of December as far back as 753 BC. That's **Before Christ**. Get it? December 25 didn't officially become Christmas until more than three centuries after the recorded birth of Christ, when the holiday was changed by those always-alert Christians also interested in enjoying an automatic week's vacation at the end of the year.

As time passed, it became tradition for pagan guests to embrace their pagan hosts under the mistletoe. (Hi! Merry *Natalis Solis Invicti*! Come on in! You didn't park behind Stonehenge, did you? They tow.") Twigs of mistletoe outside a house welcomed weary travelers, not unlike an all-natural neon VACANCY sign. The plant became so famous as a symbol of goodwill that enemies who met under a mistletoe-laden tree were required to call a temporary truce, disarm themselves and give peace a chance. All this nearly two thousand years before John met Yoko. Guess it's hard for a person's lips to yell "Charge!" when they're busy kissing. I'm thinking that hanging a little mistletoe around Bosnia couldn't hurt.

Around the fourth century, the Church forbade the use of Mistletoe in any form, in attempts to squelch its idolatrous associations to the pagan Druids. "We'll have none of that love stuff in our church," we can almost hear these pre-Inquisitioners insist. As a substitute, the Church suggested holly. The sharply pointed leaves were to symbolize the thorns in Christ's crown and the red berries drops of his blood, and thus, became a Nativity tradition. Yep — blood and thorns — now that's cheery. For Scandinavians, mistletoe belonged to Frigga, goddess of love. The custom of kissing under the mistletoe is thought to be rooted in this romantic association. Powerful little plant. Leave it to the Scandinavians. One wonders if perhaps those ancient elves might not have been drying and smoking a little pre-Amsterdamaian 'toe themselves. Now when your overly-eggnogged boss pulls you under the mistletoe during your office party and slobbers, "How about a little Christmas kiss?" Feel free to reply, "No friggin' way man," then call your attorney.

With or without benefit of mistletoe, the ancient Babylonians are the folks

responsible for the tradition of making New Year's resolutions. Rather than longing for release from their collective weight problem or nicotine addiction, these upstanding ancestors of ours made it a point at the

first of each year "to return all borrowed farming tools and household utensils and to pay off outstanding debts."

Well, bully for them. Keep in mind that this balancing-of-accounts tradition began many, many centuries prior to the tradition of unbridled holiday credit card abuse. Keep in mind, too, that if all of us suddenly paid off all of our outstanding debts, thousand of phone collectors all over the globe would be thrown into the chasm of unemployment. To prevent world-wide economic collapse, I suggest that this is one resolution that begs to be broken.

Regardless of whose traditions you choose to employ — ancient or untested, pagan or Christian — may your holiday season be filled with light and love, and may the New Year bring each of you all the joy you desire. In other words, make the Yuletide gay.



Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and frequent contributor to the gay and lesbian press. She accepts gratuities.

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YOU DON'T NEED TO SKI TO LOVE TAOS!

Gay Winter Travel

continued from page 17

per night. The Victoria Oaks Inn (303-355-1818) is gay owned and centrally located to the heart of Denver's gay community. It is convenient to shopping, museums, and downtown Denver. Rates range from \$50-\$85 per night. Denver has many bars — those of interest to lesbian women travelers include: Club Alternative (303-892-1704); Ms. C's (303-322-4436); Three Sisters (303-458-8926); The Elle (303-572-1710).

If you'd rather eat than party, you can check out one of Denver's gay owned/friendly restaurants. The Bistro (303-894-0600) offers breakfast and lunch seven days a week and features a heated outdoor patio. The Devine Cafe (303-333-8463) specializes in Southwestern cuisine. Other restaurants include the Denver Sandwich (303-333-8463), the Footloose Cafe (303-722-3430) a popular happy hour gathering place, and the Denver Detour (303-377-4563).

Denver also boasts a great lesbian/gay bookstore. Category Six Books at 1209 E. 11th is a three story collection of gay

and lesbian literature, studies and periodicals. They even offer mail order. Call (303) 832-6263 for more info.

There are also many other gay-owned and gay friendly bars, restaurants and businesses in the Denver area. For more information, call the gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Center of Colorado at (303) 832-1250 or e-mail to glbcsc@tde.com.

KEYSTONE

Keystone is a planned community centered around a man-made lake and located in the Copper Mountains close to Breckenridge and Vail. It offers the Tanrydoon (800-850-1956), a gay/lesbian bed & breakfast in the skiing hot spot of Colorado. Winter rates range from \$60-\$95 and include a full, home-cooked breakfast and one free night on a seven night reservation. Shuttle buses take skiers from Keystone to three different resorts ranging depending on your skill level.

So now that you know where to stay and what to do, it's time to wax those skis and get ready to hit the slopes. Enjoy!



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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

Holiday Reading List



This month, we'll take a look at several books for your holiday reading. All are available through your local women's bookstore or by mail. For info on ordering by mail, call Inklings Bookshop (Houston) at (800) 931-3369 or (713) 521-3369.

Miss Pettibone and Miss McGraw by Brenda Weathers

Naiad Press, Inc., paperback, \$10.95
When a young lesbian couple, Tess and Ellie, open a bed and breakfast, they discover that the house is already inhabited by a pair of closeted lovers from another generation. Miss Gillian Pettibone and Miss Anna McGraw were lovers when touring with an all-girl USO band during World War II. Their affair was discovered and they were shipped home, disgraced and disowned by all who knew them. Now they are dead and surprised to find

themselves still together in their home and with two young lesbians moving into their space.

This is a fun book although the ending leaves you wanting more.

Faint Praise: A Jane Lawless Mystery by Ellen Hart

Seal Press, Hardback, \$20.95

When a well-known television personality meets with an untimely demise, a sinister series of events begins to unfold. The action starts at Minneapolis' famed Foshay Tower, but quickly spreads to entangle the Twin Cities in a web of deceit and fear.

Jane Lawless, and her irreverent sidekick, Cordelia Thorn take on the residents of Linden Lofts, each of whom has suspicious connections to the deceased.

Faint Praise is a witty and fast-paced book. I highly recommend it.

The First Time Ever

Love Stories by Naiad Press Authors

Naiad Press, Inc., paperback, \$14.95

From babydyke crushes to blistering passion, every lesbian remembers the moment of revelation when she was first awakened by another woman's touch. This collection includes stories from Claire McNab, Penny Hayes, Diane Salvatore, Karin Kallmaker and Dorothy Tell.

If you like short stories, you'll like this. A much better book than either *The Erotic Naiad* or *The Romantic Naiad* story collections.

Joining the Tribe:

**Growing Up Gay & Lesbian in the '90s
by Linnea Due**

Anchor Books, paperback, \$12.95

This is a truly moving book which tells the tale of gay and lesbian teenagers all over the U.S. From the closeted culture of a Midwestern women's college to the gay teen culture on the west coast, these are the stories of what it is really like to be a lesbian or gay teenager in this country.

Recommended for parents of gay teens, counselors or anyone who has a curious mind.

Payback

by Celia Cohen

Naiad Press, Inc., paperback, \$10.95

Senator Darlene Christmas is the youngest of a rich and powerful (and ruthless) family that has controlled Mason County, Louisiana for generations. Former high school classmates Jess Marceau and Mamie Todd learned the hard way what happens when the Senator is crossed. Together, they hatch up a plan to bring the Senator down once

and for all.

This is a great thriller. It makes all those revenge fantasies you've ever had pale in comparison.

Found Wanting:

Women, Christianity & Sexuality

by Alison R. Webster

Cassell Books, paperback

A serious lesbian/feminist critique of Christian teachings about sexuality, **Found Wanting** is an interesting read. The book focuses mainly on how the Church has idolized a particular heterosexual ideal which ignores the experience, desires and needs of women. Alison R. Webster is a graduate in Theology and Religious Studies and knows the Church from the inside-out. A very interesting book.



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Quiet Moments

Only during rare quiet moments,
I close my eyes and sit alone.
As warm summer breezes gently brush my face,
memories of you cross my mind.

In my mind, I see your smile.
I hear your laughter.
In my heart, I feel fragments of the love
We once had for each other.
Love you now deny.

I endlessly wonder
How what I thought was love,
Ended so bitterly.
Your carelessness towards my needs.
My anger towards your carelessness.

Our time together was so short.
I didn't realize, that a person could pass so quickly
Through another person's life,
As you passed through mine.
The emotional whirlwind left behind
Engulfs me to this day.

As the gentle breezes embrace my face,
I remember quiet peaceful times
Of sharing each other's lives and loving each other.

I miss you. I love you.
You have closed me
Out of your life forever.
The silence left by the void
Of not having you in my life,
Makes me realize
That you are really gone.

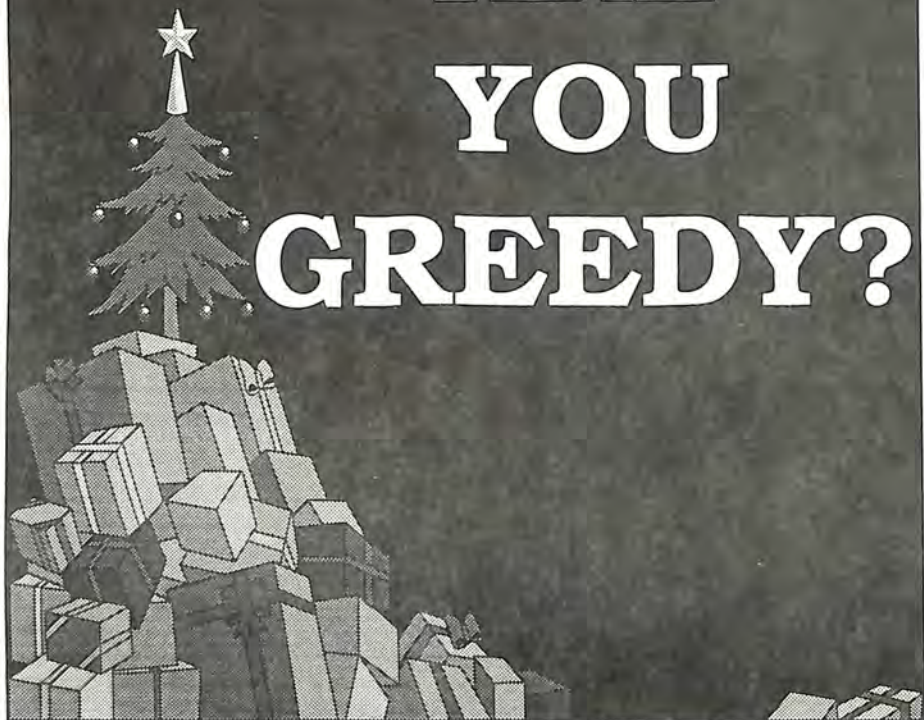
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San Antonio, TX

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QUIZ

ARE YOU GREEDY?



Webster's defines greed as "wanting more than one needs or deserves" or "having too strong a desire for food and drink; gluttonous." This is the time of year when both definitions are definitely at the forefront. Are you greedy? Answer the following questions to find out.

1. During the holidays you:

- a. buy lots of expensive gifts for everyone.
- b. try to be frugal without being stingy with time or money.
- c. buy the smallest gifts you can get away with giving.

2. For Christmas, you expect:

- a. the love of your family and friends and not much more.
- b. gifts that are about equal to what you give.
- c. lots of expensive gifts from everyone.

3. When it comes to food during the holidays, you:

- a. don't eat or drink any more than at other times of the year.
- b. eat and drink more than usual, but try to control it.
- c. overeat and drink too much and pay for it later.

4. You expect to get your way:

- a. sometimes.
- b. about half of the time.
- c. all the time.

5. When you don't get your way, you:

- a. get on with life.
- b. try to compromise without giving in too often.
- c. pout and throw a fit.

6. When there is only one piece of your favorite cake left and someone else wants it, you:

- a. let them have it.
- b. offer to share it.
- c. hide it so you can have the whole thing for yourself.

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows:

- 4 points for each "A" answer.
- 8 points for each "B" answer.
- 12 points for each "C" answer.

If you scored: 24-40 points

Greed is not your problem. In fact, you may go too far in the other direction — giving everything and letting others take advantage of your generosity. You need to



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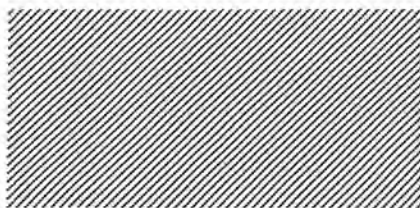
learn to ask for what you want every once in awhile.

41-56 points

You strike a happy balance. Although you give generously to those whom you love, you also expect them to give in return. You are good a compromise and understanding when situations arise that prevent you from getting what you want.

57-72 points

Greed is your middle name. You want everything for yourself and get upset when you don't get exactly what you want. You need to learn the fine art of compromise. Giving is a two-way street. If you always take and never give, eventually people will stop giving you anything.



HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

DECEMBER: Pay attention to your own needs before you tend to everyone else's or you'll finish out the year feeling cranky and exhausted. Be sure to make plans well ahead of time to avoid last minute mixups. **JANUARY:** News or gossip you hear may not be reliable. Keep in touch with those who can keep the story straight. Money and personal problems that have been plaguing you lately take a turn for the better.

TAURUS

DECEMBER: A friend may need your support, but don't get so involved that you make her problems yours. Try to wrap up holiday preparations by the 14th since your energy levels won't be nearly as high for the remainder of the month. **JANUARY:** Your ambitions haven't diminished, they may just be headed in the wrong direction. Reassess your financial and career goals to get you back on track.

GEMINI

DECEMBER: You may have a tendency to make play too much like work during this holiday season. Even if you are feeling swamped, give yourself time to relax and enjoy the season. **JANUARY:** All the extra effort you've put into your job could start to pay off. Keep social activities to a minimum, family interests should come first right now.

CANCER

DECEMBER: Your routine at work could be dragging you down. Be sure to get out and enjoy holiday preparations and the social activities of the season. This will help relieve the stress you've been feeling on the job. **JANUARY:** The recognition you've been seeking at work comes your way and makes you feel great — but, don't spend your money before you get it!

LEO

DECEMBER: You may feel torn between obligations and fun. Everyone seems to want a piece of you right now. Don't feel put upon, enjoy the limelight. Be careful with a new romance — it may not be all that you expected. **JANUARY:** Holiday spending has put you in a bind and you might have to cut back on expenses and travel plans this month. Focus on home and family matters.

VIRGO

DECEMBER: An old love may resurface, but don't be fooled. You have grown while she remains rooted to the past. Put your emotional ties to her behind you and move on with your life. **JANUARY:** It's a good idea to avoid either borrowing or lending money this month. A change of direction could be in the works — be flexible but sensible.

LIBRA

DECEMBER: An unusually heavy workload in addition to all the holiday

activities can keep you really busy. A sense of humor will help you get through. Watch your finances carefully as you may run into problems after the 14th. **JANUARY:** Money matters get back on track early this month. Turn on the charm and you can attract love and good fortune. Enjoy social events.

SCORPIO

DECEMBER: Avoid eavesdropping and prying — you may hear something you don't want to hear. Don't lend money or valuables to a friend, pay back could be a problem. Your serious mood lifts just in time for Christmas festivities - enjoy! **JANUARY:** Don't base all your plans on one financial deal. Spread yourself out for protection and security. Pay attention to details, both on the job and at home.

SAGITTARIUS

DECEMBER: You may have been so wrapped in work and home affairs that you haven't had time to socialize. Get out now and take advantage of all the social activities surrounding the holidays. **JANUARY:** Turn on the charm and you might just attract Ms. Wonderful! An optimistic mood colors the whole month and brings you good luck at work.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER: Take care of old business during the first part of the month to make way for some great new changes coming your way. Good deeds you've done in the past will be repaid by year's end. **JANUARY:** New projects are highlighted in '96. Your attention returns to the business of advancing your career and monetary interests.

AQUARIUS

DECEMBER: You could get so involved in other people's needs that you forget your own. Friends and family are especially demanding right now, but you must remember that you can't be all things to all people. **JANUARY:** Don't be so anxious to make a break in a current relationship. You may regret it later on. You could be torn between work and pleasure. If you handle it right you could find yourself with a raise or promotion.

PISCES

DECEMBER: Don't encourage an acquaintance who's been flirting with you. Be nice, but don't give in — both of you could end up being embarrassed. Be careful with your money since your gift list may grow at the last minute. **JANUARY:** You may not see eye to eye with a higher-up on the job. A compromise is possible if you set your mind to it. Romance may pop up where you least expect it.



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A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505)

organizations

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

AMARILLO, TX (area code 806)

organizations

Lesbian/Gay Alliance • PO Box 9361 79105 • 373-5725
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 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 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
458-3971 • Box 275 Texas Union 78712-7338
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby • PO Box 2579 78768 • 474-5475
Lesbian Mothers - Karan • 339-8508
Live Wire Productions • PO Box 141202 78714
Metropolitan Community Church • 1100 Springdale Rd. • 929-3660
Oasis Ministry • 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #L101 • 441-9191
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 331-8445
Sapphires! • Lesbian Social Group • 450-0659
Meeting Address • 825 E. 53 1/2 St., Ste E103
Mailing Address • 201 W. Stassney, Ste. # 321 78745-3156
Waterloo Counseling Center • 507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654
Texas Human Rights Foundation • P.O. Box 49740 78765 • 479-8473
AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417
The Treehouse (Lesbian Mothers Support Group)
607 Nueces St. 78701 • 477-5822

ATHENS, TX (area code 903)

organizations

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

BANDERA, TX (area code 210)

accommodations

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

DALLAS, TX (area code 214)

businesses

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

clubs

The Moon • 5039 Willis • 828-4471
Sue Ellen's • 3903 Cedar Springs • 569-0707

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 B'nai • 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
Dallas Tavern Guild • 3900 Lemmon Ave. #220 • 526-5292
Dignity/Dallas • PO Box 190133 75219 • 226-4101
Foundation for Human Understanding • 528-4233
Gay/Lesbian Gardeners • PO Box 190552 75219 • 339-0787
GLAAD/Dallas • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 526-GLAD
Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus • 2727 Oak Lawn • 528-2811
Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas • 521-5342 ext. 229
Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition • P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882
Lesbian Resource Center • 1315 Skiles • 821-3999
Lesbian Visionaries • PO Box 191443 75219 • 521-5342 X 844
LIL (Lesbian Info Line) • 521-5342 ext. 298
SPROUTS (coming out group) • 521-5342 ext. 256
TWIGS (the wynn in gay society) • 521-5342 ext. 269
The New Vision (newsjournal) • 521-5342 ext. 255
Metropolix 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 566-6640
Imperial Sovereign Royal Court • P.O. Box 190464 75245 • 521-8446
Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship • 416-1358
White Rock Community Church • 722 Tension Mem. Rd. • 320-0043
Womyn Together • 3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

DENTON, TX (area code 817)

organizations

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

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX (area code 512)

accommodations

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

EL PASO, TX (area code 915)

organizations

Lambda Services • PO Box 31321 79531-0321 • 24 hour line 562-GAYS
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

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)**businesses**

Inklings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3369
 Alternative Visions • 526-8223

clubs

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

organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796
 AIDS HOTLINE • c/o Switchboard • 529-3211
 Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston • 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211
 Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • PO Box 66691 77266 • 529-3211
 Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 960-7995
 Houston Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000
 Integrity • P.O. Box 66008 77266-6008 • 432-0414
 Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 862-7533
 Lambda ALANON • 1214 Joanne • 521-9772
 Lesbian/Gay Students-Univ. Houston Clear Lake • 2700 Bay Area 77058
 LTN Houston • Lesbian Teacher Network
 PO Box 1835 • Bellaire, TX 77402 • 529-3211
 Metropolitan Community Church Of The Resurrection
 1919 Decatur • 861-9149
 Montrose Counseling Center • 900 Lovett #203 77006 • 529-0037
 Montrose Pool League/Billiards • PJ 853-8482
 The Movie Club • 867-9454
 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 867-9020
 PWA Coalition • Houston • 1475 W. Gray #163 • 522-5428
 The Women's Group • 529-5871
 Womynspace • P.O. Box 990601 77098-0601
 Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

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

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance & Wild Wide West Prod.
 P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 791-4499
 MCC Lubbock • 5502 34th St. • 792-5562
 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 799-8529
 South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC)
 4204-B 50th St. 79413 • 1-800-627-7079 • 796-7068

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian/Gay Concerns
 PO Box 1021 • Evanston, IL 60024
 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

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-ADSD
 Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
 2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9596

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

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 944-4323
 Concho Valley Gay/Lesbian Alliance
 P.O. Box 750 76902 • 653-2956

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 210)**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

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

WACO, TX (area code 817)**organizations**

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

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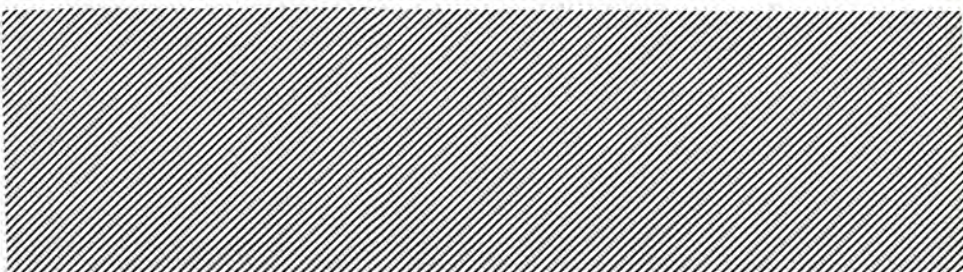
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put your return address and the Box # on it
as shown.

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 001 111 091

The Graffiti Page

J.P.

JULIE,
MERRY CHRISTMAS
SWEETIE. I HOPE NEXT
YEAR IS AS GOOD AS THIS
ONE. MEETING YOU AND
LOVING YOU HAS MADE
ME VERY HAPPY. LOVE,
SHARON

FOR STANDING BY ME.
FOR BELUEVING IN ME.
FOR SEEING MY DREAM,
AND HELPING IT COME TRUE.
FOR JUST LOVING ME FOR ME.
MY LOUE WILL ALWAYS BE
WITH YOU AND INTO OUR
FUTURE.

RB.



Season's Greetings

From everyone at
DIMENSIONS

Happy birthday S.R.B.

I love you more than
you will ever know.

Have a great year - Christy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARY JO.

WE LOVE YOU

→ FROM
YOU KNOW WHO !?!



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