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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

Lesbians in Politics

by Kathy Deitsch

After the 1990 census Liz Stefanics discovered her State Senate district had been redrawn, a rural district covering parts of six counties in New Mexico. As a result "I decided to run," said Stefanics, "I can't drive my district in one day. It's 150 miles wide and 400 miles long." The district includes Indian reservations, a part of Los Alamos and Santa Fe and ends in the mountains north of Albuquerque.

In her first primary campaign in 1992 Stefanics, "faced four male opponents of color and won," she said. "My campaign issues were environmental, individual water rights, education, access to services for rural families and human and civil rights." When she took her seat in the 40-member senate chamber, "legislative colleagues and lobbyists knew I was a person who'd listen," she said. Stefanics had advocated for seniors, the physically challenged, women and AIDS services. Stefanics is the state's first lesbian or gay lawmaker. Linda Siegle, Stefanics' partner of six years, is the paid lobbyist for lesbian and gay issues in New Mexico. Siegle says "it would be easier if I weren't involved politically." Liz and I "weren't prepared for the lack of privacy and the incredible stress."

According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund there are a total of 32 lesbians in elective office in the United States. Those include state lawmakers, city council members and school board positions.

* Of the 100 U.S. Senators, none are openly gay or lesbian

* Of the 435 U.S. Congressmen, only

three are openly gay, there are no open lesbians

* Of the 7,461 members of the state legislatures, only 12 are openly gay and eight of those are lesbians.

Dale McCormick, Maine State Senate and Liz Stefanics, New Mexico State Senate; Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin State Assembly; Karen Clark, Minnesota House of Representatives; Deborah Glick, New York State Assembly; Shelia Kuehl, California State Assembly; Gail Shibley, Oregon House of Representatives; Cynthia Wooten, Oregon House of Representatives.

Anti Marriage Bills Spread

Washington, D.C. - Aided by an unprecedented national coalition of gay movement groups focused on winning and keeping the freedom to marry, gay, lesbian, bisexual and non-gay activists around the country are fighting a rash of anti-marriage bills. With state legislatures in session for hardly a month, the bills have been introduced by Radical Right lawmakers to block recognition of same-sex couples' marriages in 17 states.

Although gay and lesbian couples cannot legally marry in any state, arch-conservative legislators are attempting to rush through anti-marriage bills in Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington. The measures would declare that a couple's legal marriage from one state would not be recognized when they crossed the border to another state.

In addition, an anti-gay ballot measure in Oregon, if passed this year, would prohibit same-gender couples' civil marriages as well as overturn gay-inclusive nondiscrimination laws. The bills reflect the growing national attention to gay people's equal marriage rights, especially from the Radical Right. Randall Terry, chief of Operation Rescue, has announced this week he is going to Hawaii with "Gay Agenda" video maker Bill Horn and other right wing representatives to protest gay marriages.

"The goal of these anti-marriage bills is to shut down the public discussion that has begun around the injustice of denying same-sex couples the freedom to marry," said Evan Wolfson, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Marriage Project director. "The state attacks offer us an excellent opportunity to push our political and educational work alongside the legal efforts that will bring us the freedom to marry." Numerous media reports, editorials and talk show programs have already addressed the unfairness of denying the freedom to marry to gay people. For example, the Economist magazine endorsed equal marriage rights in a cover story, the Des Moines Register opposed a local anti-marriage bill, and Oprah and Nightline have covered the struggle. Last year, measures to block recognition of marriages were defeated in Alaska and South Dakota. Unfortunately, Utah passed such a measure, which civil rights groups have vowed to challenge in court. So far this year a measure in Maine was withdrawn by its sponsor after public uproar.

Although each measure is worded slightly different, most of the bills are virtually identical. For example, California's A.B. 1982 states, "A marriage contracted outside this state between individuals of the same gender is not valid in this state." The bill was

passed 41-31 by the Assembly last month, with a Senate battle still to come. South Dakota's House Bill 1143 went a step further, stating, "Marriage is a personal relation, between a man and a woman, arising out of a civil contract to which the consent of parties capable of making it is necessary. Consent alone does not constitute a marriage; it must be followed by a solemnization."

"What we have been trumpeting for the past year is happening: same-gender marriage is in the sights of the radical right and is exploding into the national political consciousness," said Robert Bray, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) media director. "Marriage is a basic human right. And whether I choose to get married or not, that choice should be mine and my partner's to make — not Pat Robertson, Lou Sheldon, Newt Gingrich or homophobic state lawmakers."

The National Freedom to Marry Coalition, comprised of more than 250 organizations, is helping activists battle the bills, educate communities and brief the media. It has sponsored a Freedom to Marry sign-on resolution, which has gathered hundreds of signatures from individuals and organizations, including religious leaders.

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Bill Defeated for Second Time in SD

In the latest skirmish on the marriage front, the South Dakota legislature struck down a bill that would have banned the recognition of same-gender marriages. House Bill 1143 was de-

feated in the House State Affairs committee after a "do pass" vote of 7 "no" and 6 "yes." The bill was then tabled. The bill would have mandated that only a man and woman could be married and would have ostensibly prohibited same-gender marriage and the recognition of such unions allowed in other states.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Roger Hunt (R-Brandon) and others, was the second time the state legislature defeated an anti-gay marriage law. A similar measure was defeated last year. Hunt had claimed the new bill was needed to "protect families" and stop rising insurance rates that would result if gay couples could be married.

Free Americans Creating Equal Status (FACES) of South Dakota, the new state-wide gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocacy group, played a leading role in arranging testimony and educating legislators and the press about the bill.

Keith Elston, executive director of the ACLU of the Dakotas, which assisted

with lobbying to defeat the measure, heralded the victory and said, "Law-makers are realizing that anti-gay legislation is bad for our economy, bad for the state's image, and bad for all citizens, not just gay, lesbian and bisexual people."

Local activists and lobbyists credited several factors for the defeat of the bill, including the new-found visibility of gay people and their supporters in the highly rural state, the potential economic impact of costly lawsuits and other legal expenses paid for by taxpayers if the bill passed, and the fact that same-gender marriages are already not recognized in South Dakota, making the bill wasteful and unnecessary. In addition, apparently more than one gay-supportive lawmaker who have gay or lesbian children came forward to oppose the measure.

Unfortunately, trouble still brews in South Dakota as the legislature is considering a mandatory HIV testing bill for people arrested for particular crimes, including sex assaults, and an anti-affirmative action bill.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

DALLAS - The **Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC)** will be held May 3-5 at the **Dallas Grand Hotel**. For information and to be included in the registration mailing, call the **TLC Hotline** at (214) 248-2406, write to TLC at P.O. Box 191069, Dallas, TX 75219 or send e-mail to CWinkle@aol.com.

TLC is also looking for women interested in volunteering in the following areas: **signing** for the hearing impaired, **bilingual** translation, **home hospital-ity**, **child care**, **transportation**, **registration**, help with mass **mailings**, and passing out **flyers**. If you would like to help out, please calling (214) 337-5644 and leave a specific message including name, number and area you are interested in volunteering for.

Last, but not least, **Pleiades Productions**, in conjunction with the **Texas Lesbian Conference** will present **Suzanne Westenhoffer**, lesbian comic extraordinaire, at TLC on Saturday, May 4th at 8pm at the Dallas Grand Hotel. Tickets for this event are \$16 in advance or \$20 on the day of show. Tickets can be purchased at **Agape MCC**, **Connections Bookstore** and **Cowgirls Oasis** in Fort Worth or at **Crossroads Market** in Dallas. If you would like to charge tickets on **Mastercard** or **Visa**, call (817) 924-3264.

DALLAS - **Honesty/Texas**, a support, education and advocacy group for **Gay & Lesbian Baptists** will present the

religious right video production "**The Gay Agenda**" and a gay positive video, "**Straight From The Heart**" on March 4th at the **White Rock Community Church Fellowship Hall** (722 Tenison Memorial Rd.). "**The Gay Agenda**" features "recovered" gays and anti-gay doctors and psychologists. "**Straight From The Heart**" is a personal story featuring parents who express their feelings about their gay children. A discussion group will follow discussing the two videos. The video showing will begin at 7:30pm, but everyone is invited for refreshments and fellowship at 7pm. **Honesty** meets the first Monday of each month. For more info, call (214) 521-5342, ext. 233.

DALLAS - The **Turtle Creek Choroale** will present a "**Gershwin Explosion**" with special guest singer/pianist **Michael Feinstien** in three concerts March 17, 19 & 20 at the **Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center**. All performances begin at 8pm. The show will include excerpts from **Porgy and Bess**, a vocal rendition of **Rhapsody in Blue**, "**I Got Rhythm**", "**But Not For Me**" and other Gershwin favorites. Tickets are \$10-\$25 and may be obtained by calling **ARTTIX** at (214) 871-ARTS.

HOUSTON - Austin artist **Diana Jones** will hold a **CD release party** on Saturday, April 13 at 8pm at **Ms. B's in Plaza 9200**. Opening for **Diana Jones** is Hous-

vited for refreshments and fellowship at 7pm. **Honesty** meets the first Monday of each month. For more info, call (214) 521-5342, ext. 233.

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OKLAHOMA - **Herland Sister Resources** will hold its annual **Spring Retreat** May 17-19 at **Roman Nose State Park**. For information and registration, write to **Herland** at: 2312 NW 39th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

AUSTIN - **KO.OP**, Austin's community radio station is looking for individuals and community groups interested in public affairs programming. No previous radio experience is required. You or your group will be asked to submit a proposal, if it is accepted

you will be required to devote ten hours of volunteer work at the station before you begin training, attend training and orientation and devote thirty hours of volunteer work (plus one hour for each hour you are on the air) during the six month program cycle. Interested? Call **KO.OP** at (512) 472-1369 or stop by the station at 505 San Jacinto #202.



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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
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Dear Agnes,

This is a petty problem compared to many I have seen in your column, but none the less, I felt like I had to say something before one more summer passed. My lover and I bought a hot tub three years ago this summer. The first summer we had it, we really enjoyed it. It got us outside when we would have otherwise been inside watching the television. We started cooking out most evenings, and we socialized with our friends alot more than we had in several years. That was the first summer, before our families and all the neighbors found out we had a hot tub.

Socializing soon became the drawback! We had friends or family or neighbors over every single weekend and often two or three nights a week.

What was once a really nice recreational activity and escape for us, has turned into a nightmare. My lover does not seem to mind near as much as I do, but honestly I get sick of all the people. They come unannounced, drink anything that is in the refrigerator or liquor cabinet, and stay for hours on end. The house is a wreck after they leave and every towel in the house is dirty. Any plans or activities we have planned are totally disregarded. They (family and neighbors) bring their kids over and don't even pretend to watch them. It's as if we are unpaid life guards.

I am so sick of having to put up with everybody else-I would like to sell the hot tub just so we won't have to put up with one continuous party all summer. Besides I would like to have my life back.

I suggested selling it at the end of last

summer, but my lover absolutely "hit the ceiling". She had a fit and let me know there was no way we were going to sell it. I talked to her about the disadvantages of having people over all the time and never being able to plan anything on the weekends. She insist that the benefits far out weigh the disadvantages. At this point I have my doubts. Do you have any suggestions, before I book a trip abroad for the summer?

Not So-Hot Tub, Austin, TX

Dear Not,

If you both enjoy the hot tub, don't let everybody else spoil it for you. Lay down some ground rules before you even open it up this spring. Start by sitting down and making a list of what you expect of your guests. Once you reach an agreement on what you do and do not want, put it in writing. Then either mail it or hand it out when people drop over. If you want to head off the rush, mail it or drop it off.

For instance, you may want everybody to: bring their own towels (this is a reasonable request); make arrangements 24 hours in advance; bring your own beer or cokes; life guard your own kids; etc...

Remember this is your hot tub, so you make the rules! Don't let everybody else ruin your good time.

Dear Agnes,

My lover of ten years has decided to open a business, and I am scare to death we will starve. At the present time she

is unemployed and has several thousand dollars in savings. I know what the failure rate of start up businesses is. She has never run a business and she is almost fifty years old.

I have tried every argument I can think of to talk her out of this hair-brained idea, but she will not listen. She has been researching this for several months. I think she should stick her money in a money market and find a job with benefits so she can at least have the security to plan a retirement.

Do you know how many flower shops there are? I am sure that after her savings are all spent, she will be looking for the job with benefits like I already suggested.

Every time I say something, she tells me that she has always wanted a flower shop, and the chance to run her own

business. I hope you can say something that will make her think about this decision before she spends all our savings and ruins the rest of her life.

Flower Power
New Orleans, LA

Dear Power,

No, I don't know how many flower shops there are in your city or neighborhood. Have you always been so unsupportive? How did *her* savings turn into "our money" at the end of your letter? Lots of people find or start new careers much later in life than fifty years old.

If she is as far along in the planing for her new business as your letter implies, you better get on board or you may miss the boat.



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GARDENING BASICS

More and more people are discovering the benefits of growing their own fresh produce. Not only do you get great, fresh, vine-ripe vegetables, you also have the advantage of knowing exactly what pesticides and chemicals your veggies have or have not been exposed to. In addition, there have been actual scientific studies that show gardening to be one of the best stress-busters around.

If you have never planted a vegetable garden before, you may feel a little intimidated by all the specialized information out there about organic versus

non-organic gardening, about "hardening" plants and starting transplants indoors with grow lights and all sorts of fancy equipment. All this information may be useful later on, but to get started you just need to know a few basics. The following should help you get going and let you enjoy the first bite of a home-grown tomato by the middle of summer.

THE SITE

Of course, the first thing you'll need to do is pick a spot for your garden. You'll

be happy to know that it doesn't take acres to grow your own produce. You can grow a variety of vegetables in a fairly small space. You can even grow them in pots on an apartment balcony (more on that later). The biggest considerations in choosing a spot for your garden are:

- **Light** — your site should get sun all or most of the day.
- **Drainage** — pick a site that drains well. Don't put your garden in the one spot in your yard that stays muddy for weeks after a rain.
- **Air Circulation** — be sure the breeze can get into your garden. Good circulation helps keep plants cool, helps some plants pollenize and helps prevent plant disease.

PREPARATION

Now that you've picked a spot, you have to get it ready for planting. You don't want to put the plants in the ground until the danger of a freeze has passed, but you can get the site ready in early spring.

Start by removing all existing vegetation. You can do this with a hoe or a square-bladed shovel. Be especially careful to get all Bermuda grass runners and weeds out of the area.

Next, you'll need to rototill the area to a depth of 8 to 12 inches. (Rototillers can be rented from almost any equipment rental company.) Till the area several times until all the soil clumps are the size of a ping pong ball or smaller. Remove any rocks, roots or other debris as they come to the surface. Now add a 3 or 4 inch layer of peat moss, compost or shredded bark to the top of the soil. You can buy any of these in bags at your local nursery. Rototill

the organic matter into the soil and rake the area flat. Now you're ready to plant.

CHOOSING PLANTS

It's time to decide what you are going to plant. For your first garden try easy to grow vegetables like beans, black-eyed peas, tomatoes, peppers, radishes, spinach, cucumbers, okra, squash and zucchini. Although you can grow just about any vegetable, our hot climate and alkaline soils make some vegetables harder to grow than others. Start with the easy stuff and work your way up.

Your first time out you will find it easier to start most of your plants from seedlings available in pots at your local nursery. Avoid long, lanky seedlings and look for ones that are short and stocky. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini, cucumbers and okra are generally available as seedling. Peas, beans and radishes are usually available in seed form only.

When planting, pay attention to the spacing requirements on the tag or seed packet. If you get plants too close together they will shade each other and not produce as well.

TENDING THE PLANTS

Although water is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of caring for your garden, you need to be careful not to over-water. The best way to water is to watch your plants for signs of water stress (dry soil and slight wilting) and **water only when they need it**. If your plants are wilted even though the soil is wet, you are watering too much. Avoid watering your garden

with a sprinkler — wet leaves promote disease. Water around the base of plants with a hose instead.

Fertilizer is also important to your garden's health. Ask at your local nursery for a fertilizer recommendation and follow the directions on the label. Remember that your garden may need fertilizer more often during rainy periods since the extra water will leach nutrients out of the soil.

Try to keep your garden as weed free as possible. This isn't just for looks. Weeds use up valuable water and nutrients that your vegetables need to stay healthy.

Last, but certainly not least, you need to mulch your garden. A mulch is a covering placed over the bare earth around plants. You can use bark mulches, shredded leaves, compost, straw, or any of the commercially available roll mulches (these are usually fabric or plastic). Remember when using a roll mulch that black absorbs heat, a good feature in early spring but a plant killer in the heat of summer.

Mulch serves many purposes. Two of the most important are helping to preserve moisture in the soil on hot summer days and helping to retard weed growth.

GARDENING IN CONTAINERS

If you have room to grow flowers on your porch or balcony, you can also grow vegetables. Just like picking a site in a yard, be sure the area gets enough sun and plenty of air circulation.

You can grow vegetables in any container you would use to grow flowers. Large clay or plastic pots or whiskey barrels are a good choice as long as they

have a drainage hole. Don't put dirt in them from the yard. You will be much better off using a general-purpose commercial potting soil.

Keep in mind that plants in containers will need to be watered and fertilized more often than those in the ground. During hot, dry spells they may even need water twice a day.

That's really all you need to know to get started. There are many more advanced gardening techniques. If you are interested in a total organic approach to gardening or in starting your own seedlings indoors you can find many books on the subject at your local bookstore.



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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD PLANET NANCY

BY NANCY FORD

Man oh man, do I have a cold. Sneezing, sniffly, stuffy-headed, achy, coughing, fever, can't breathe, the whole works. Hardly conscious, highly contagious and lookin' for sympathy — that's me. Unlike other unpleasant afflictions, which are considerably less traceable, origin-wise, I think I know how I contracted this particular little bug.

There I was, minding my own business, feeling relatively germ-free, standing on the sidewalk in the area reserved for press, at the grand opening of Planet Hollywood in San Antonio. You know Planet Hollywood. It's that trendy theme restaurant chain, famous for its famous shareholders — Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Demi Moore. You know, those guys.

I'd received a news release earlier that week, announcing the most recent Lone Star addition of the stellar restaurant chain, and considered it an opportune business-cum-pleasure trip out of town. Plus, the prospect of possibly meeting Demi Moore was somewhat enticing. Somewhat. Like the Grand Canyon is a *somewhat* big hole in the ground. Soon, I became obsessed with the idea of friends and co-workers asking me the following Monday how my weekend was, and responding, "Oh, not bad; kind of quiet. Demi and I just kind of hung around the Riverwalk. You know — quality time." Pass holders 18-41 now boarding for Nancyland.

but I digress from my original assignment, which was to cover the grand opening of a new restaurant. Now, you'd

think that when a restaurant provides press passes and credentials to a writer about its grand opening, seeking coverage, said writer might actually enter said establishment to check out the furnishings, and maybe even sample the cuisine. Anyone who knows anything about the media game will attest that a free buffet and open bar speak volumes about the host public relation firm's sincerity. Well, not this time. No free buffet. No open bar. Not even so much as a rose carved out of a radish.

Nonetheless, the event did carry with it the excitement of a real, old-fashioned Hollywood opening. Limo after limo emptied itself of celebrities who strolled down the long red carpet, and into the cordoned-off restaurant, probably to enjoy the free buffet and open bar. Autographs, microphones, camera flashes, screaming fans. It was all very glitzy. Our press kits informed us that Planet Hollywood are springing up in locations even more exotic than San Antonio: Seoul. Barcelona. Jakarta. Helsinki. Ain't that just like Hollywood? — bringing potato skins to the world.

but regarding endorsing anything that is seen or produced within the actual confines of Planet Hollywood, I cannot comment. I'm guessing, PH offers a standard Bennigan's-esque menu flanked by Hollywood memorabilia. My insight is chilling, no?

However, let me tell you about Demi Moore.

First of all, I'm no Lucy Ricardo. I've

never stolen anyone's cement slab footprints from Graumann's Chinese Theater. I've never missed my cigarette and lit my putty-nose while trying to disguise myself from a celebrity I'd covered with spaghetti at the Brown Derby earlier that afternoon. But I would be ore than willing to scale a brick wall and wrestle a St. Bernard to snag a piece of fruit from Demi Moore's back yard.

Demi was one of the last of the dozens of mostly-male celebrities to exit their stretches and enter the restaurant — Patrick Swayze, George Clooney, Dan Ackroyd, Luke Perry. Demi waved at the tens of thousands of cheering fans, a 90's version of a brunette Bacall to hubby Bruce's Bogie. As she walked toward me, dressed in skintight black jeans and skintight black boots and a skintight black sweater, I noticed she accessorized with the cutest little teddy-bear backpack, riding low across her shoulders. When she was about

three feet away from me, she turned toward me, caught my eye, smiled, and exhaled. I responded by returning the smile, and inhaling.

I can only assume that his brief encounter is what landed me here, as one dear friend so illustratively describes, lounging on the banks of the River Snot. Obviously, that little teddy bear backpack of hers was filled with Kleenex and Vicks Vapo-Rub and NyQuil and cough drops. Undoubtedly, that one innocent moment in which Demi and I exchanged air space was enough to infect me with her microbes.

Yes, yes. I caught Demi Moore's cold. Sneezzy, sniffly, stuffy-headed, achy, coughing, fever, can't breathe, the whole works. She might as well have gone ahead and tongue-kissed me.

Think I'm delirious?



Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian whose columns appear in alternative publications throughout the U.S.

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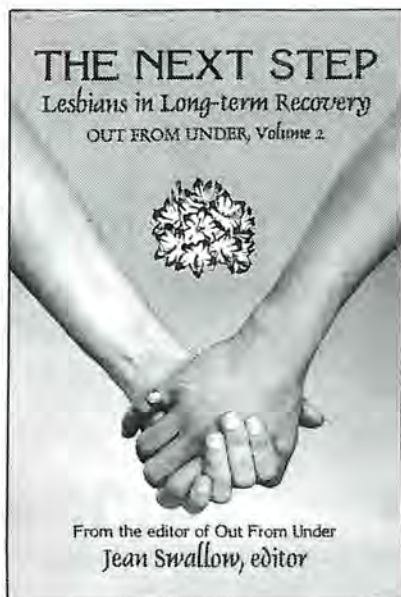
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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

Love's Harvest

by Peggy Herring

Northern Blue

by Tracey Richardson

The first book we'll look at this month is **Love's Harvest** by Peggy Herring, author of **Once More with Feeling**.

Love's Harvest is set in the heart of France's wine country where Nicole Jeton is the winemaker of her family's winery. Nicole runs the winery while caring for her invalid father.

When Nicole meets Camille Cartier at a party, the attraction is instant for both

of them. However, after spending only one weekend together at Nicole's estate, Nicole's father passes away and the burden of the winery and family matters convinces Nicole that a relationship is not possible at this time in her life.

After several weeks of waiting and wondering, Camille decides to take matters into her own hands. After a

wonderful weekend, the two return to the winery to find that Nicole's wayward brother has come home to demand that Nicole buy his share of the winery. Nicole retreats from Camille again, deciding that her life is already complicated enough without the added strain of a new relationship.

In addition to all this trouble, the ghost of Nicole's great aunt has become increasingly restless, frightening the help and keeping the winery's residents from sleeping.

Love's Harvest shows promise, but the characters and plot are sketchy and underdeveloped. The reader learns more about the process of winemaking than about the characters involved in the story. Although I cautiously recommend it for lovers of gothic novels, this is ultimately a forgettable book.

Next, we'll look at **Northern Blue** by Tracey Richardson. Miranda McCauley is at the top of her class at the Ontario Police Academy when she is seduced by her physical training instructor. By the time she figures out that she is nothing more than this semester's "toy" to the predatory woman instructor, she has already let herself fall in love and is heartbroken at being dumped.

After the breakup, she is befriended by fellow student Miki Paxton. Eventually, the two women fall in love, but not even love can deter Miranda from her ambition to be a police chief by the time she's forty. The two part company upon graduation with Miranda going to work in a small town police force and Miki going to Toronto.

Years pass and Miranda is on her way to realizing some of her goals. She is up for a big promotion and is engaged to the mayor's son. Then Miki transfers to

Miranda's town.

Northern Blue is a well-written first novel. Richardson effectively captures the difficulty some women have coming to grips with their lesbianism. Although the conclusion is more than a little bit optimistic, Richardson gives the reader's what they want — a happy ending.

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



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If I Never Touch You

Frustration and fun; I hate having a crush on you.
It's a love hate thing all the way,
One great desire but no way to play the games I imagine.
You know that space falling asleep at night
when day slides back and you float out over the night
and everything seems right and possible?
It's not, at least when day breaks my eyes apart.
I feel you still in my mind, not really in my heart.

We're neighbors; so what, that doesn't do much good
when the closet common ground will never be understood.
I can't go around hounding you; I'm too old anymore
to play this thing up. No guts, never mind the glory.
I'll just wait for the rest of the story to unfold, to be untold.
In my younger years I would have been bold by now, figured out a way
how to test the waters like in '78; I learned to hesitate.

Resolution: to find a solution.
Can we be friends?
Should we be friends?
Let's be friends, make amends and build a trust.

I've been honest about how I feel.
And you told me at our cozy lunch that
You had a hunch my crush was real, enough so
to tell your husband - oh great, is that why you
brought the whole family over for our "date"?

We've reached a new level, you and me, and I think
it's where we really should be together, although I
would spontaneously prefer our former playground
where we weren't sure what energy was zapping us.
but now you're more aware of your stare, and cut it off
before that fire builds, and burns; before I take it, and feel it.

You're still aware that my caring grows for you, and in
the book I gave you I took the risk of writing my feelings, my love
and affection for you, and I liked watching you read that
with a smile on your face and pink in your cheeks because
you were embarrassed but loving it too. Am I right?

Wherever this may go, however we get there, I find you
delightful beyond compare. You may share catalogs in my
office any day, and call me names, lovingly of course, that show
you do care, too. Am I right?

In my dreams, day and night, and fantasies, too, I will carry
that desire so sweet and innocent to touch you. We play around
our touching by trying on each other's rings; I pat your shoulder or
squeeze your arm with a gesture of giving my desire to be close.
someday I will give you a hug and you will receive it with all the love
and warmth we can embrace together, and that, will make a memory
of a dream come true.

Martha Robinson
Houston, TX

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DOES SHE KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU HAPPY?



Champagne and roses don't make a relationship. It is the little gestures she makes every day that show you how much she cares. Of course, roses would be nice, but it's also helpful when she makes up the bed. Find out if she knows how to take care of the little things that make life pleasant by answering the following questions.

1. You get off work two hours late. When you get home, your lover:
- a. is sitting on the couch whining about being hungry.
 - b. has your supper waiting for you in the oven.
 - c. has cleaned house and is waiting to take you out to dinner.

2. You have a bad case of PMS. Your lover:
- a. goes to stay with a friend until it's over.
 - b. makes you an appointment at the doctor to see if you can't get some

medication.

- c. takes care of you like you have the flu, tucking you into bed and making your favorite supper.

3. On your last birthday she:
- a. forgot until your best friend showed up with a card and a gift.
 - b. took you out for dinner and a movie.
 - c. met you at the door in sexy lingerie with a bow wrapped around her waist.

4. Work is hectic, the house is filthy and you are ready to scream. She:
- a. asks where you hid the remote control.
 - b. offers to help you clean house.
 - c. offers to clean house while you go out with a friend to relax.

5. You've got a cold, you're late to work, it's icy, and the car won't start. Your lover:
- a. takes you to work, complaining the

- whole way that you've made her late.
- b. asks why you think you need to work with a cold anyway.
 - c. calls in sick for both of you so you can spend the day cuddling in bed.

6. You take her car to the grocery store and have a fender bender, she:
- a. screams about how stupid you are.
 - b. says it is all right and asks you to pay the insurance deductible.
 - c. asks if you are okay and tells you it is all right, it can happen to anyone.

SCORING

- Give yourself points as follows
- 2 points for every "a" answer.
 - 4 points for every "b" answer.
 - 6 points for every "c" answer.

IF YOU SCORED

12-19 POINTS

You've got a real charmer. She is self-ish and rude. You need to put your foot down and stop catering to a woman who treats you badly. A long talk about common courtesy, division of chores and cooperation is in order. It may take awhile, but she can learn to be more considerate if she works at it.

20-27 POINTS

Although she may not always hit the mark, at least she makes an effort. She is understanding, but her ef-

forts to lift your spirits may sometimes fall a little short. Give her the benefit of the doubt. You may even talk to her about what you want. Tell her that you much prefer an inexpensive, romantic evening at home to an impersonal dinner out (or vice-versa). If you have never spoken up about what you want, you can't expect her to know. Don't criticize, just give a suggestion here or there and don't forget to practice what you preach. You may be surprised at the results.

28-36 POINTS

You've got a great one! She's kind, considerate and romantic. She sends you roses and cards for no reason at all and is full of surprises when it comes to romance. Of course, no one is perfect, but even if she leaves the lid off the toothpaste or puts the toilet paper on the roll the wrong way, count yourself lucky and look the other way. After all . . . what's a little toothpaste in the name of love?



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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

You certainly won't be lonely during March! Social and group events fill your calendar all month. A new friend that you meet around the 5th could have a very calming effect on your life. Luck is on your side after the 19th. Take advantage of this trend to push your goals and ambitions forward. Budget your money carefully or you could find yourself in a bind by month's end.

TAURUS

You'll have to watch your finances closely this month. Romance could give way to bickering if spending continues to rise. Your life becomes even more hectic after the 15th when financial concerns carry over to the workplace and cause friction among your co-workers. Everything falls into place and it's smooth sailing after the 24th. Work, family and home lives are all on an even keel through month's end.

GEMINI

Romance and creative pursuits are at the forefront during March. The great mood you are in could cause you to overspend or ignore your work. This works out fine until the 13th when you'll have to turn your attention to the workplace. Travel may be in the works after the 23rd. Although you and a partner may not agree on the particulars, you can have a great vacation if you will both compromise a little.

CANCER

You have your work cut out for you during March. Juggling love, money and career interests can be difficult if

you don't get your priorities straight. The urge to get away may set in by the 15th. A break from your usual routine can help you relax and be ready to go back to work with a new outlook. An opportunity to advance your career may arise during the last week, but you'll have to put in some long hours to secure the position. Make a plan and stick to it and you'll reach your goal.

LEO

Your financial picture looks rosy during March, but you may have some minor problems with the people you live and work with. Trust and cooperation can help improve a primary relationship after the 13th. You'll have to carefully balance work and pleasure after the 18th. You are likely to find yourself in a precarious position if you lean too much in one way or the other. After the 22nd you may be feeling hemmed in. If so, you may want to plan a short trip to improve your mood.

VIRGO

All work and no play won't make for a very exciting March. A change of jobs or just a change of routine could be just what you need to lift your spirits. After the 8th don't be too trusting with someone who has misled you in the past. You may be reluctant to form new ties or new relationships after the 21st. Although this may make you appear to be standoffish, it is best to remain low-key and approach any new people in your life with caution.

LIBRA

A major change in your living arrangements or a move to bigger and better

living conditions could be on the horizon in March. Improvements on the financial front could be behind the big change. Try to balance your life between work and home obligations after the 15th. Leaning too far in either direction could get you into trouble. Your income could rise after the 23rd, but along with the extra money will come extra responsibilities. Be sure to save time for family activities toward month's end.

SCORPIO

Your communication skills are the focus in March. Even though you aren't in a sociable mood, you may have many obligations that require your diplomatic skills. Although your finances seem to be in good shape, you should watch spending after the 15th when you may have to shell out some money for a household emergency. You may have to compromise with your partner to resolve an old problem on the 20th.

SAGITTARIUS

Try not to spread yourself thin or change directions too quickly during the first part of March. Between work, financial, and family problems, you may feel you are being pulled in too many directions after the 8th. Try not to lose your temper with anyone and stay focused on the task at hand. Things work themselves out without your help by the 14th. The last part of the month brings more fun and social engagements.

CAPRICORN

Your bargaining skills should be put to use during March. If you go about it the right way, you could talk higher ups into giving you a raise, promotion, or both! An unexpected attraction to someone you meet after the 10th could catch you off guard. Be careful not to move to

quickly or you could get hurt. A weekend apart from a loved one might be just what the doctor ordered to improve your relationship after the 22nd.

AQUARIUS

You can get what you want in March if you ask for it. Whether it's love or money, if you put in a word to the right person you just might hit the jackpot! A minor crisis can be turned into a great opportunity if you play your cards right after the 15th. Don't hesitate on an important decision — your first instinct is the one to go with. After the 24th you'll need to move into the background and follow a partner's lead to get what you want.

PISCES

You may be feeling especially vulnerable to stress during the first part of March. Upsetting conditions at home or work could be affecting you more than they should. Getting out to socialize could improve your mood as long as you don't overspend. After the 15th your patience and diplomacy can help keep a minor argument from getting totally out of hand. Your mood is much improved after the 22nd when your finances and love life both seem to be improving.



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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 - Karen • 339-8508
Live Wire Productions • PO Box 141202 78714
Metropolitan Community Church • 1100 Springdale Rd. • 929-3660
Cess 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

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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 • 432-3339
Cathedral of Hope MCC • 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. • 351-1901
Community Church & College of Divine Metaphysics
4001 Live Oak #401 • 826-7110, Ext. 401
Congregation Beth El Binah • P.O. Box 191188 75219 • 497-1591
Couples Metro Dallas • PO Box 803156 75380 • 504-6775
Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 528-4233 • FAX 522-4604
Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 821-1653
Dallas Gay Youth Group • 300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203
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Dallas Outdoors • P.O. Box 35474 75235 • 276-5270
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Foundation for Human Understanding • 528-4233
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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 294424 75222 • 828-9882
Lesbian Resource Center • 1315 Skiles • 821-3999
Lesbian Visionaries • PO Box 191443 75219 • 521-5342 X 844
L.I.L. (Lesbian Info Line) • 521-6342 ext. 298
SPROUTS (coming out group) • 521-5342 ext. 256
TWIGS (the wynn in gay society) • 521-5342 ext. 269
The New Vision (newspaper) • 521-5342 ext. 255
Metropolis Republicans • P.O. Box 191033 75219 • 941-8114
Oak Lawn Community Services 4300 MacArthur • 520-8108
Oak Lawn Symphonic Band • P.O. Box 190973 75219 • 966-1751
PFLAG/Dallas • Helpline 556-6640
Imperial Sovereign Royal Court • P.O. Box 190464 75245 • 521-8446
Savannah-Day Adventist Kinship • 416-1358
White Rock Community Church • 722 Tension Mem. Rd • 320-0043
Wormy 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

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organizations

Lambda Services • PO Box 31321 79831-0321 • 24 hour line 562-GAYS
MCC El Paso • 916 Yandell • 542-1227
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • Spanish & English • 591-4664

FT. WORTH, TX (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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XTC • 9212 Buffalo Spdw. • 666-3356

organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796
AIDS HOTLINE • c/o Switchboard • 529-3211
Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston • 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211
Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • PO Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 980-7995
Houston Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000
Integrity • P.O. Box 66008 77266-6008 • 432-0414
Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 862-7533
Lambda ALANON • 1214 Joanne • 521-9772
Lesbian/Gay Students-Univ. Houston Clear Lake • 2700 Bay Area 77058
LTN Houston • Lesbian Teacher Network
PO Box 1835 • Bellaire, TX 77402 • 529-3211
Metropolitan Community Church Of The Resurrection
1819 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
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 980601 77098-0601
Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

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

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance & Wild Wilde West Prod.
P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 791-4499
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 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
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Charlene's • 940 Elysian Fields • 845-9328

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (area code 405)**organizations**

Oasis the Community Center
2135 NW 39th 73112 • 525-AIDS
Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
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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

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Affirming Solutions • 1602 NE Loop 410, Ste. 102 • 828-6486

clubs

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

organizations

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Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
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Lambda Students Center • 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.
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SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly • 733-7300
SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
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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 Tachoma • 813-1272 or 800-525-6381
Alliance for Life • PO Box 1695 75091 • 892-9049
HIV/AIDS Services • PO Box 1695 75091 • 463-7258

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Find Love, Roommates & Customers In The Dimensions Classifieds!

Just fill out the form below (or include all information on a separate sheet) & enclose a check or money order for the full amount. All ads are 50¢ per word (bold words 75¢ or all caps \$1.50) . We will assign you a box number.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD IN THE SPACE BELOW: CATEGORY _____

Of Words _____ # Of Months _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

50¢ PER WORD

75¢ PER WORD BOLD TYPE

ADD \$1.50 FOR

ADS IN ALL CAPS

2" X 1 1/2"

DISPLAY AD

WITH BORDER & BOLD HEADLINE

\$25 PER MONTH

Deadline for Classified Ads is the 20th of the month prior to the month of publication. Payment must accompany all ads. All Classified Ads will be accepted at the discretion of Dimensions.

Dimensions will not be held responsible for errors in your ad after the first month and cannot be held liable for more than the cost of the original ad.

PERSONALS

SWF, 40, seeking same 30-50 for friendship and possibly more. Looking for sincere and fun woman. Hope to meet you soon in Fort Worth. Reply to Box #453

SHY, Bi, 24, seeks caring, sensitive, creative women for correspondence/freindship. Enjoy reading, writing, music and much more. Write soon. Reply to Box #454.

**YOUR
AD
HERE**

See page 32 for details!

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL Guide to Periodicals of Interest to Feminists, Lesbians and Gay Men. Over 400 listed! \$9 ppd to Tsunami Records, PO Box 42282, Tucson, AZ, 85733.

TRAVEL

HAWAII - Hidden Paradise! Don't waste days in tourist traps, we help plan your dream vacation. Contact: EPC, P.O. Box 37953, Honolulu, HI 96837, (808) 538-3623.

RAINBOW HOUSE, New Orleans, LA. 20 room site, great for meetings, seminars, workshops. Up to 50 people — group rates, 1 block to women's bar, walk to French quarter. \$35 to \$85 per night. 1-504-943-5805.

**DESERT HEARTS
COWGIRL CLUB**

In the Beautiful Texas
Hill Country. Horses,
Hiking, Hand-holding &
Hearty Meals.

Nice accomodations,
friendly folks,
lower weekday rates.
(210) 796-7446

**PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES**

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.

BUY GAY.

The Job You Save May Be Your Lover's.

HOW TO ANSWER A PERSONAL AD

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 001 111 092

The Graffiti Page  Happy B.D.

Happy Birthday
Deborah C.

Happy B.D.
Jeffery
we love you!

Yo creo en un amor
yo creo usted
espedo en ta amor
yo se espeda

SPRING!

Deborah Jean
Sweetest hugs,
I promise never
to let you go.

Kim,
You are the love
I have always
loved you and
I promise never
to let you go.

I ♥ u

CHARLOTTE W. - PLANT CITY, FLORIDA
MY LOVE FOR YOU JUST GROWS AND
GROWS. I NEED YOU AND I WANT YOU BACK
FOR GOOD. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCH 24TH.
PLEASE COME BACK SO WE CAN BE
TOGETHER. ANGELINA IN PLANT CITY

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.

Send your Graffiti to:

Dimensions • Graffiti Page • P.O. Box 856 • Lubbock, TX 79408

CAMPING '96

First Weekend Of Every Month
From March Through November
20 Miles West of Austin

RECREATION PLANTATION
CAMPGROUND
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX

**SOBER
CAMPOUT**
April 26, 27 & 28

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.

for more information & reservations, call:

512-894-0567