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Dimensions is published by Visions Publishing Co., P.O. Box 856, Lubbock, TX 79408, Phone (806) 797-9647, e-mail: visions782@aol.com. Opinions expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Dimensions or its staff. Publication of the names of any person or organization is not an indication of sexual orientation. Subscription rates: 6 mos. \$15.00, 1yr. \$24.00. Payment must accompany all subscription orders. Copyright ©1996 Visions Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. Any letter received by Dimensions will be assumed for publication. All letters must include signature, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters as we feel necessary. The writers name will be withheld if so requested.

THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

Senate Passes, Clinton Signs DOMA

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has made a historical misjudgment by signing the discriminatory "Defense of Marriage Act," (DOMA) the Human Rights Campaign asserted.

"President Clinton has become the first president in history to trample on states' traditional jurisdiction over marriage," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director. "With the stroke of his pen, he has condoned the exclusion of all lesbian and gay Americans from the federal benefits and responsibilities that come with marriage, even though it will be years before such an institution becomes available to them."

The so-called Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage in federal law as a union between one man and one woman. This will mean that when gay people are someday allowed to marry in this country, they will be unable to collect each others' Social Security, veterans or other federal benefits; they will be prohibited from filing joint federal income tax returns; and they will be excluded from a host of other federal benefits that heterosexual couples take for granted.

"We regret that Clinton opted to sign this needless and mean-spirited bill," Birch said. "We had hoped that the president would have changed his mind after hearing the anti-gay rhetoric spouted by some extreme members of Congress.

"It became clear during the debate on this measure that it defends' against nothing and is merely cheap election-year politicking. As we have maintained since the bill was intro-

duced, it is a cynical strategy to scapegoat gay and lesbian Americans "

The Defense of Marriage Act also seeks to reinforce the right of states to ignore same-sex marriages performed in any other state. However, there is no jurisdiction in this country where same-sex marriages are legal.

The House passed the Defense of Marriage Act on July 12 by a lopsided 342-67. The Senate followed suit on Sept. 10, by a vote of 85-14.

However, the same day the Senate passed this anti-marriage bill, it came within one vote of passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to outlaw job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Sen. Robb, who voted against the legislation, said, "As one who represents a traditionally conservative state [Virginia]...many of my friends and supporters have urged me to sit this one out because of the political fallout, but I can't do that. I feel very strongly that this legislation is fundamentally wrong. Despite its name, the [act] does not defend marriage against some imminent, crippling threat. Although we have made huge strides in the struggle against discrimination based on gender, race and religion, it is more difficult to see beyond our differences regarding sexual orientation. The fact that our

hearts don't all speak in the same way is not cause for justification to discriminate."

Melinda Paras, executive director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) made the following statement following the passage of the legislation, "The passage of DOMA and the defeat of ENDA may be roadblocks

on our journey to equality, but they will not turn us back. Unfortunately, the majority of the Senate was not willing to stand up for the principles for which this country stands: tolerance, compassion and fairness. Gay and lesbian loving relationships and families are here to stay because they speak to our aspirations of justice and reflect the real circumstances of our lives. Passage of DOMA will not change this. We will not stand by silently. We will not be used as scapegoats. We will continue to fight for ourselves, our loving partners, our families and our equality."

Record Number Expected At Conference Following Roller Coaster Year for Gay Rights

Washington, D.C. — In the wake of the recent passage of the anti-marriage bill and defeat of the non-discrimination measure, registration to the 9th Creating Change activist conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has surged. Sponsors say this event, coming just one day after the national elections, will cap what can only be described as a roller coaster year of highs and lows for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders.

"We predict a very strong turnout because of the confluence of emotional events this year," said Sue Hyde, NGLTF conference coordinator. "There was the euphoria following the Supreme Court ruling on Colorado's Amendment 2, then collective depression after the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination bill (ENDA), then the ups and downs of the presidential elections. It seems activists anxious to

figure out what's next are all flocking to Creating Change."

The 9th Annual Creating Change Conference is the national gathering for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement. It will be held this November 6-10 at the Radisson Hotel Mark Center in Alexandria, Va., just outside of the nation's capital. Last year's gathering in Detroit attracted some 2,000 attendees. Organizers expect many more this year because of the prominence of key political battles and issues in 1996.

This year, the conference will feature special workshops on DOMA/ENDA, including statewide organizing sessions focusing on the grassroots implications of the bills and follow-up strategy. Grassroots activists have been pondering the impact of DOMA on the local level since the bill mandates that states are not obligated to extend "full faith and credit" recognition to marriages performed in other states.

Creating Change will feature numerous workshops designed to capture the current energy and channel the anxiety of the movement. For example, there is heavy emphasis on grassroots movement building and leadership training. This includes a professionally facilitated Leadership Training track conducted by nationally renowned consultant Karl Mathiasen and a leadership training session for g/l/b/t organizations conducted by noted campaign consultant and trainer David Fleischer. The Fleischer training is co-sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Those interested in attending the Fleischer training are strongly advised to register early by calling 718-230-9865.

Other sessions include a Strategy Meeting For Statewide Organizations for activists who toil in state legislatures and build cross-state networks; and The Next Presidential Administration, fea-

turing inside-the-Beltway pros who will analyze the next four years in the White House. A mini-track of workshops on the Presidential and Congressional Elections will also be presented. And to figure out how to pay for their work, activists can attend a special Fundraising Training session sponsored by Kim Klein, diva of grassroots fundraising.

More than 100 workshops and caucuses will be clustered under several main "themes", including: Anti-Violence, Campus, Elections, Families, Fighting the Right, Fundraising, Health, International, Leadership, Legislative, Marriage, Media, Organizational Development, Organizing, People of Color, Political Questions, Public Schools, Aging/Ageism, Sex/Sexuality/Gender Identify, Spirituality, Surviving and Thriving, Transgender, Workplace, Youth and more.

Creating Change keynote speakers always cause waves. This year should be no exception. Openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) will kick off the confer-

ence on Nov. 7. Frank is a witty, intelligent and blunt politician known as much for his soundbite zingers as for his staunchly liberal leanings. Noted author, playwright, librettist, activist and cultural warrior June Jordan will deliver the First Annual Vito Russo Memorial Lecture on Art and Politics. Closing the conference will be Carmen Vazquez, public policy director of the N.Y. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center and co-director of Promote the Vote, a national registration and mobilization project.

Also featured will be a community dance on Nov. 8, and preconference institutes on Nov. 6 and 7. These include sessions on People of Color Organizing; Race is the Issue; Finding Common Ground; Youth Organizing Institute, and Community Center Institute.

For more information and to register for Creating Change, contact NGLTF at (202)332-6483, ext. 3329; email to cc96@ngltf.org; or visit the NGLTF web site at <http://www.ngltf.org/cc96>.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

SAN ANTONIO - The Gay and Lesbian Community Center and The Happy Foundation, Gay & Lesbian Archive, will celebrate October as National Coming Out Month with a series of rarely seen documentary films, and concluding with a "Halloween Bash" on October 31, 1996. Fri., Oct. 4. will feature "Before Stonewall" Winner of 2 Emmy Awards and "March On" an unconventional documentary about the March on Washington. On Fri., Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, it's "The Question of Equality" Parts 1 & 2. On Sat., Oct. 12, join in San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade from 2 to 4 PM. Produced and broadcast live by San Francisco's KOFY/TV20, this two hour presentation is fun, shocking and enlightening. Fri., Oct. 18, it's "The Question of Equality" Parts 3 & 4 (see above). Fri., Oct. 25 features "Network Q" Hosted by Judith Light. This is a nationally syndicated television series which has never aired in San Antonio. And last, but not least, on Thurs., Oct. 31 — "Rocky Horror Picture Show"! Prize for Best Costume for tricking and treating and free refreshments. All programs are presented free-of-charge and begin at 7:30 PM (except the 10/12 event) at 923 East Mistletoe, San Antonio, Texas. For additional information call (210) 732-4300.

HOUSTON - The Group (Theatre Workshop) will present *Dos Lesbos*, a two character comedy revue beginning October 2nd and running each Wednesday and Thursday from October 3rd through November 7th. The production features **Kim Sevier** and **Sue Ulu** and was nominated for awards in San Francisco, where it ran for two years. Per-

formances will be held at the **Lovett Inn** (501 Lovett Blvd.). Tickets are \$15 and all performances begin at 8pm. Audience members are encouraged to come early in order to view showcased works of art by local lesbian artists. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly recommended. For reservations, call (713) 522-2204.

AUSTIN - Would you like to be in the spotlight or the power behind the scenes? **Queer Waves**, a proactive radio program spotlighting the diversity and power of Austin's Queer community on **KOOP 91.7 FM** is looking for volunteers. **KOOP Radio** is an all volunteer community radio station, (except for one paid staff member). **Queer Waves** has been on the air since February 1995. They have an hour show from 4-5pm every Saturday. No radio experience is necessary. Radio training is offered at KOOP Radio if one wishes to learn how to run the equipment or you can work behind the scenes. For more information call 323-9778.

HOUSTON - The law firm of **Moore & Hunt** is sponsoring an all-day seminar called *Creating Families* on Saturday, October 19th. Professionals and lay persons specializing in building families through the process of both **adoption** and **donor insemination** will present detailed information and answer questions in sessions throughout the day. An informational "how to" sourcebook will be provided. Class size is limited and reservations are required. For more information, call **Natalie Williams** at (713) 522-4282, ext. 10.

DALLAS - The 1996 annual Gay &

Lesbian Soccer World Cup will be held this October 30 to November 2 in Dallas. Hosted by the **Oak Lawn Soccer Club** and sponsored by the **International Gay & Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA)**, the tournament will feature over twenty teams from around the world. In the past twelve years of the tournament, there has been a high level of play and competition, but the focus is on fun and camaraderie. If you or someone you know are interested, please send e-mail to: astrojet@aol.com. Or you may write to: Oak Lawn Soccer Club, 834 S. Montclair Ave., Dallas, Texas 75208. If you're unable to attend this year's tournament, but would like information about the IGLFA, please e-mail to: iglfa@aol.com.

HOUSTON - Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents are holding a camping trip to **New Braunfels** the weekend of October 25-27. The November family activity will be a **Thanksgiving Potluck** on Saturday, November 16. For more info, call (713) 284-4939.

FORT WORTH - Pleiades Productions presents **Jamie Anderson and Romanovsky and Phillips** on Saturday, November 9th at 8:30pm at **Orchestra Hall** (4401 Trail Lake Dr.). Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$22 at the door and are available at **Connections Bookstore, Agape MCC and Cowgirls Oasis** in Fort Worth and at **Crossroads Market** in Dallas. For more information call (817) 924-3264.



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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

Maybe you can help me since I don't have anyone else. My problem is I've just come out of the closet and admitted to my family that I'm gay.

My problem is that I'm a novice. Even though I've known for years that I am gay, I've never gone anywhere or tried to meet anyone for fear of someone finding out. Now I'm ready to meet someone and I don't know what to do or how to go about doing this. I don't want to meet someone in a bar because inhibitions are too loose.

I want a friend first and then a lover.

Alone & Lonely

Houston, TX

Dear Alone,

Since you live in a large metropolitan area, you shouldn't have any problem meeting people and making friends. There are groups for gay men and women with almost any interest in Houston. There are groups for lesbians in business, gay lawyers or gay students, groups for almost any sport — including bowling, cycling, soccer, softball, etc., groups for gay parents, groups for gays who like to campout, etc., etc., etc. The best place to start is to go to the nearest gay community center, women's bookstore or gay church and look on the bulletin boards or ask for information about groups in the Houston area.

Another way to meet people and do some good in the meantime is to volun-

teer your time at any number of lesbian/gay charitable associations. This information should also be available at the same locations as listed above.

Dear Agnes,

I am a faithful reader of yours and have been a "fan" for almost four years. My problem seems insignificant compared to others in your column. I have been tempted to write to you several times but thought it was just to silly.

I know this will sound totally ridiculous, but my lover is a terrible cook. Now, before you throw this letter in the trash, let me tell you that I have been living with this woman for thirteen and a half years. Further more, she has been cooking all those years. I've tried to "take over" the kitchen numerous times over the years, but for some reason, "Joann" thinks she is the world's greatest cook. I assure you she is not!

She can't even boil water. I've spent hundreds of dollars on food thrown out the back door and ground down the garbage disposal. What can I do?

I've had steak as black as the bottom of a pot and as tough as boot leather, chicken that looks golden brown on the outside and raw in the middle, and vegetables of various textures and degrees of doneness.

One year she baked cookies for me to take to work — I threw hers out and bought some at the store rather than subject my co-workers to her cooking.

I really love her, but I can't spend thirteen more years with her cooking. I keep hoping that, with all this practice, she'll improve, but she only seems to get worse.

**OUT OF THE KITCHEN
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

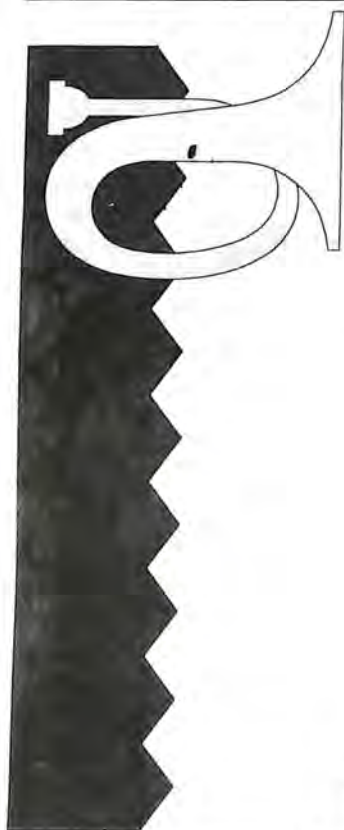
Dear Out,

I assume from your letter that you have never told her what you truly think about her cooking. That's the most direct approach, but after thirteen years, I'm not sure I would mention it.

You could give her cooking classes as a gift (tell her you are giving it to her

because you know how much she loves to cook and you thought she might enjoy learning some "tricks" from a gourmet chef). Or you might consider investing in some Julia Childs' videos. You might even develop a "great" interest in learning gourmet cooking yourself and ask her to loan you the kitchen for a few months — she might just give it up entirely.

One other solution might be a patio grill — many times the kitchen cook shies away from the grill. However, if she decides she likes cooking on the grill, your problems might only get worse.



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WICCA

The Basics



Hallowmas. The witches' New Year. The time when the goddess Hecate shows her power as the destroyer of life. A time when Nature, so central to the wiccan religion, retreats so as to renew itself and gather strength for the coming spring. A time when spirits walk the Earth. In honor of this time leading up to the Wiccan New Year, we'll take a look at the rituals, spells and potions of the Wiccan.

The word "witch" is a derivative of the

Celtic word *wiccan* (meaning *wise*), and *wicca* (*coven of the wise*). The word witch literally means *wise woman*. The wiccan religion is Earth centered and has no relation to the devil-worshipping horror portrayed in popular culture. The Devil is a Christian phenomena and the wiccan religion predates Christianity by thousands and thousands of years.

Although much in-depth study and practice is helpful in the practice of witchcraft, what follows is a brief summary of

the tools, rituals, spells and potions of the wiccan religion. Of course, I won't guarantee that these spells and potions will work, and I won't be held responsible should you choose to cut off a lock of your lover's hair in the middle of the night.

HOLY DAYS

The four Great Sabbats in a witches year are: Candlemas (February 2nd), the celebration of waxing light and coming end of winter; May Eve (April 30th), the celebration of fertility and the re-birth of spring; Lammas (August 2nd), a time for celebration of the bountiful crops and wishes for a good harvest; and Halloween (October 31st), the most sacred of the Greater Sabbats.

There are also four Lesser Sabbats: the two two solstices at mid-winter and mid-summer, and the spring and autumn equinoxes.

CANDLES, OILS AND INCENSE

Candles, oils and incense are all important tools in the practice of witchcraft. All are used to help you tap into the powers of your mind.

The color of the candles you burn in your rituals is important — different colors have different meanings. A few of these are listed below:

Happiness: Pink, Orange, Blue

Friendship: Blue

Love: Pink and Red

Prosperity: Red or Green

Work: Purple

Candle colors can also coincide with

your astral colors. These colors are determined by the month in which you were born and can be used to represent yourself and others when casting spells. You can find your astral candles in the list below.

January: Red & gold

February: Yellow & blue

March: Blue & green

April: Pink & orange

May: Blue & gold

June: Red & blue

July: Red & green

August: Pink & orange

September: Pink & gold

October: Pink & gold

November: Yellow & blue

December: Red & orange

Oils are worn as perfume or used to anoint candles during a spell. They can be purchased at occult shops or ordered by mail from the addresses listed at the end of this article. Some of them are easy to come by and I've listed them below.

Cinnamon Oil: Attracts love, good luck and health

Musk: Used in love spells and to excite sexuality.

Patchouli, Rose and Violet: Sacred to Pan, Diana and the Fairy Queen in that order. Used to strengthen a spell or as general use oils.

Incense is burned to help in spellcasting. A few of the most powerful are listed below.

Healing: Patchouli, Bayberry, Sandalwood

Money: Frankincense, Myrrh, Nutmeg, Saffron, Sandalwood

Love: Almond, Sandalwood, Rosemary

SPELLS

There is only one rule in spellcasting: "Harm none, and do as thou wilt." It is helpful to cast positive spells such as those to bring money, love, health or success on the waxing moon (when the moon is getting bigger - going from new moon to full). Cast spells to break hexes and get revenge on the waning moon (from after the full moon until the new moon).

The only spells talked about here are "candle spells". They are the easiest and will bring the most results with a minimum of planning.

The first step is to set up your altar. You will place a Goddess image in the center of a small table. The Goddess image can be anything that represents the Goddess to you (a picture, statue, magazine cutout, etc.). Your candles will be set at either corner of your altar. Incense can be set wherever there is room.

Write down your wish on a piece of white parchment paper. Place it underneath the candle and anoint the candle with the appropriate oil. Take a sharp instrument and write what you want on the candle three times. Light the appropriate incense and say:

*Upon this candle I will write
What I receive of thee tonight
Grant what I wish you to do,
I dedicate this rite to you.
I trust that you will grant this boon,
O lovely Goddess of the Moon.
I call earth to bond my spell,
Air speed its travel well.
Fire give it spirit from above,
Water quench my spell with love.
So Mote it be!*

- Sybil Leek ¹

Candle spells can be used to draw money, love, health, power or whatever you may come up with. The candles, oil and incense represent the elements of earth, air, fire and water. The spell is really nothing more than turning your wishes over to the power of nature and the Goddess.

Of course, there is much more to the practice of witchcraft than the spells and rituals given here. Like any other "religion" it is a way of life. The techniques listed in this article are only a simplistic overview and should be treated as such. There are many good books detailing the practice of witchcraft and many of them are available at your local women's bookstore.

Sources for Oils and Incense:

Magic Circle Herbs

Circle Sanctuary

P.O. Box 219

Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Enchantment

341 E. 9th St.

New York, NY 10003

(212) 228-4394

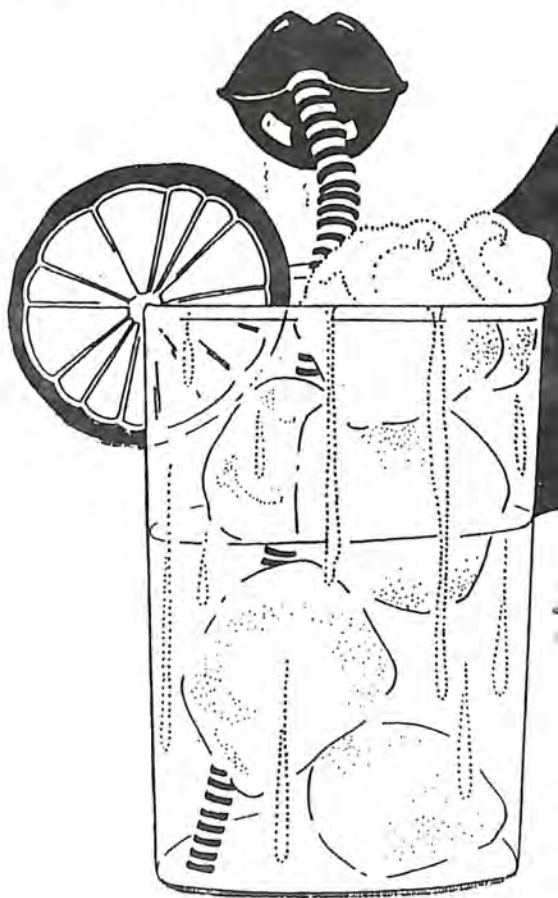
Information for this article was taken from:

¹ Zsuzsanna Budapest, *The Holy Book Of Women's Mysteries*, Wingbow Press, Berkley, CA, 1989.

Doreen Valiente, *Witchcraft For Tomorrow*, Phoenix Publishing, Custer, WA, 1978



Nexus





Where The Girls Are.

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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD QUICKLIES

BY NANCY FORD

Do you ever watch that show *Ellen*, that situation comedy on ABC starring that cute Ellen Degeneris? Of course you watch *Ellen*. You're a lesbian. You have to. It's the law. Well, it's been announced that Ellen's character may come out on her show. Swear to God. After all these seasons of our gal being disappointed by hetero-bent romantic relationships (Remember the pizza boy who moved to Rome?) she's on the verge of figuring out why.

I've said it before, I'll say it again. What a world, what a world. I knew that this day would come, but only hoped it would be in my lifetime. After enduring decades in front of the boob tube (and I call it that with great affection, being a breast woman, myself) I have longed and fantasized for the prime time show that portrayed Gay Life as what it really is — just like Straight Life, but with a lot more style, taste and fun.

This could be the smartest psychological move in TV history since Roseanne's Double Becky-Switch. Consider the concept — all of America (and much of the rest of the world, including the Bible Belt) already loves Ellen. The ratings prove we love her. After all, how many of us invite someone other than our very best friend and/or lover into our homes for regular, standing weekly visitations regardless if she's

running the exact same situation she first experienced 3-5 months ago. That reminds me: I need to call my mother. It will be very interesting to see how more homophobic viewers will react when they find out that Americas Sweetheart is really Americas Big Ol' Dyke. How can they stop liking her? That's just it — they can't. That's why it's such a smart move. They can stop watching, but they can't stop liking someone they already like just because she's gay. I just found out that one of my closest friends is Republican, but I can't stop liking him because of something he obviously has no control over. I don't understand it, it worries me for his health, and I'll pray for him, but he'll always be my friend.

I've long suspected that others in TV_land may not have been quite as attracted to the opposite sex as they would like us to believe. Oh sure, we have the occasional Jodie on *Soap*, Lea Delaria on *John Larroquette*, Phyllis' brother Ben on that one episode of *Mary Tyler Moore*...but this is big time. Ellen's the star. Ellen's the focus. Ellen's the one who has borne the chastisement of many (including me) who have long believed she should open the closet door and bolt, leaving Jodie F. and Mary C.C. and the others behind. But what about —

Mary and Rhoda They didn't live together, but Rhoda lived right over Mary. Hmmm.

LaVerne and Shirley These two didn't fool us for a moment. Sure, they slept in twin beds. So did Rob and Laura. And who were their closest male companions? Lenny and Squiggy and Carmen, all of whom, I believe, slept three together in the same bed, a la The Three Stooges.

The Three Stooges All three slept in the same bed a la themselves and were members of The Womenhater's Club. Ah, subtlety.

Wilma and Betty Stone Age Dykes. Who knows what happened when Fred and Barney paddled the car off to the quarry?

Petticoat Junction Betty Jo, Bobbie Jo and Billie Jo may have not been sleeping together, but they had no problem bathing together in the water tower which was nothing but a metaphor for a locker room.

Felix and Oscar Without question, there's a lost episode in which The (not-so) Odd Couple marches in New York's annual Gay Pride Parade.

Ginger and Mary Ann These two castaways weren't really lesbians — just bored. Notice though that neither ever seems overly eager to be rescued.

Aunt Bea and Clara Edwards It starts with an afternoon tonic and sitting on the piano bench together singing "Chinatown, My Chinatown." We all know where it leads.

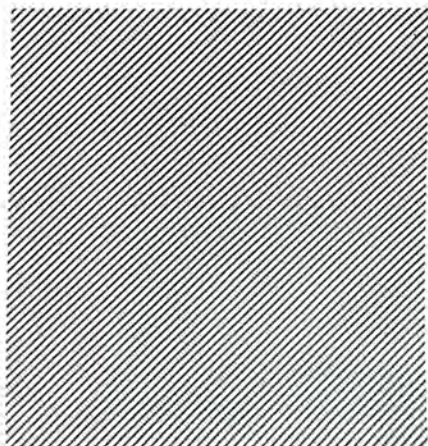
Let ABC-TV know that you highly approve of Ellen's coming out of the

closet. You know those folks we refer to collectively as The Religious Right are busy at their word processors — typing and praying, typing and praying — as we speak. Drop a card to ABC Television, attention: Ellen's a Lesbian, 77 W. 66th Street, New York, New York 10023. And, while you're at it, tell them you'd like them to stop turning up the volume during commercials. It's very annoying. Congratulations and thanks for your courage, Ellen. You're risking being made history to make history.



Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and writer. She hosts Friends Fest '96, a three day music, comedy, sports and entertainment camping extravaganza.

October 4-6 in
Dripping Springs, Texas.
For more information,
call 512/894-0567.



THE COFFEE CLUB

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

THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

The Girl Next Door

by Mindy Kaplan

Wild Things

by Karin Kallmaker

We'll start this month with **The Girl Next Door** by Mindy Kaplan.

Lina is a foreign exchange student working as a live-in nanny for a wealthy family in Washington State. Her time is spent going to school and taking care of 4-year-old Sean. All is going well until Alexandra, the family's daughter returns home from college for the sum-

mer. Suddenly, Lina is having a hard time concentrating on her studies. She would rather be looking out the window at Alex's long, tan legs as she lounges by the pool.

Lina has taken to anonymous sexual encounters at a local bar to keep her sexuality in check.

As Lina learns more about Alex, she

finds out that Alex spends a lot of time on the Internet, hanging out in the chat rooms. On impulse, Lina creates a false identity and sets out to find Alex in the chat rooms.

In the midst of all this, Lina is having increasingly frequent nightmares related to her troubled family life. Her father is a foreign diplomat, her mother is dead. Although **The Girl Next Door** is a hard book to explain, it is a great one to read. The plots and subplots keep you turning pages right through to the very surprise ending.

Next we'll look at **Wild Things** by Karin Kallmaker (author of **In Every Port**, **Touchwood** and **Painted Moon**). Professor Faith Fitzgerald is a scholar, award-winning author and good Catholic girl — still living with her parents at the ripe age of 34.

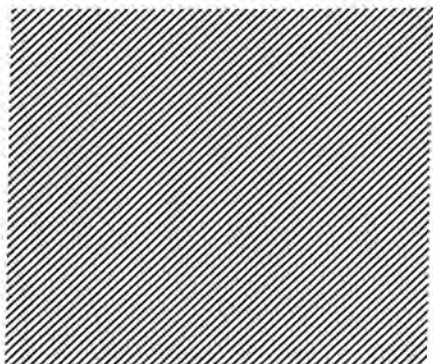
Sydney Van Allen is a recovering alcoholic, a rising star in the Chicago political machine — and the sister of Faith's fiancé, Eric. Sydney has decided to forgo love for the sake of her career, and has done such a good job that her friends and colleagues have dubbed her "The Ice Queen."

Eric is anxious for his fiancé to meet his favorite sister, never guessing the roller-coaster that he will set in motion for both women.

Wild Things is one of Kallmaker's best works. She definitely gets better with every book she writes. I highly recommend **Wild Things** to all who like a good love story.

The Girl Next Door and **Wild Things**

are both available at your local women's bookstore or by mail for \$10.95 from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, Florida 32302 or call 1-800-533-1973. Please include 15% postage. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



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QUIZ

How Well Do You Express Your Feelings?



You say you're "fine" when you really feel lousy, you say "nothing" when you are angry and a lover asks you what's wrong, and you avoid people you are mad at instead of confronting them. Although these things may seem trivial, hiding your feelings can become a very destructive habit. Answer the questions below to see if you need to learn how to express your feelings.

Answer the questions below with a: Y for Yes, S for Sometimes, N for No.

1. I find it hard to express my

opinion when I know people will disagree with me.

2. If I have to do something unpleasant, I put it off as long as possible.

3. I have a problem asking for help when I need it.

4. I have a hard time expressing what I want when making love.

5. When I make a mistake on the job, I wait for my boss to find it instead of pointing it out to her.

6. When someone hurts my feelings, I try to ignore it.
7. If I'm late with the rent, I avoid the landlord until I have it.
8. I have a hard time making decisions when there are more than two choices.
9. When someone asks me for something, I have a hard time saying "no," even when I want to.
10. I try not to complain about how I feel unless I'm really sick.
11. I absolutely hate giving anyone bad news.

SCORING

Give yourself points on each answer as follows:

Yes - 6 points

Sometimes - 4 points

No - 2 points

If You Scored:

52-66 points

You rarely ever speak your mind — good or bad. You have a just as hard a time saying "I love you" as saying "I disagree with you." Even though you may think that your actions speak louder than any words, others may not see it that way. When you don't speak up, you let resentments build as well as leaving loved ones in the dark about how you feel about them. Learning to express yourself is easier than you think. Start small — tell someone how important they are or ask for something you

want — you may be surprised at how good it feels to get some of your feelings out in the open.

37-51 points

You have a good sense of when to speak up and when to keep your mouth shut. You know that expressing an unpopular opinion among friends is quiet different from openly disagreeing with your boss. You are expressive without being "mushy." You know how to say "no" without hurting feelings, and understand that there are times when you must do things you don't want to do. You know when to be completely honest about your feelings and when to tell a "little white lie."

22-36 points

You are very good at expressing your feelings, although you may be a little too honest at times. Do you really have to tell your best friend that her new haircut looks awful on her? There are some feelings and opinions that are best kept to yourself. The ability to express yourself is a wonderful trait, but you can take it too far. A little compassion and diplomacy can go a long way toward improving your relationships.



**Let Us Know
What You Think!**
Send e-mail to:
visions782@aol.com

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

Don't spend money just to make an impression during the first part of October. You'll only hurt your wallet. Try to keep your composure when a companion gets huffy around the 15th. Rely on your gut feelings instead of a friend's advice when it comes to a money matter around the 24th. Toward month's end you should take your time in matters of love and money.

TAURUS

You may be feeling isolated during the first part of October. Getting together with friends or family you haven't seen for a while will help. You may be feeling moody after the 16th, but try not to take it out on others. Keep to yourself as much as possible. An invitation you receive toward month's end shouldn't be ignored. You never know what wonderful people you might meet - this may even be the beginning of a new romance!

GEMINI

Balancing personal and professional commitments could put strain on a close relationship during the first part of October. All your hard work starts to pay off after the 16th with a raise or promotion. Major changes in a relationship could be in the cards towards month's end. Sit down and talk about where the relationship is headed and how to work things out.

CANCER

You may feel confined by obligations to family or friends during the first

week of October. Your social life is on an upswing and a vacation could be in the works after the 17th. Don't let your concentration stray on the job or you won't enjoy your time off. A break up of a close relationship could leave you feeling disillusioned but you bounce back quickly toward month's end.

LEO

Money and prestige could be yours during the first part of October but, if you aren't careful, it could slip thru your fingers. A personal relationship could be strained to the point of breaking around the 15th. Try to work things out but don't hesitate to leave if it reaches that point. Concentrate on work from the 26th thru the 29th so that you'll be free to enjoy social activities on the 30th & 31st.

VIRGO

What you want and what you can accomplish may be at odds during the first part of October. Don't be in such a hurry! Everything will happen if you'll just give it time. Family problems need your attention after the 16th. Do what you can to help out, but don't be taken advantage of. Finances have been on your mind all month, but an increase in income could help you out after the 26th.

LIBRA

The restlessness that has plagued you for awhile now will lift during the first part of October. Focus on a love relationship, but don't get overly possessive with your lover. After the 15th, avoid the temptation to spend money

just to impress someone. You will lose more than you will gain. Reckless behavior (your's or another's) could get you in trouble toward month's end if you don't watch your step.

SCORPIO

A relationship takes a serious turn during the first part of October. Job responsibilities may prevent you from spending as much time with a loved one as you would like until the 17th. Don't worry — she'll understand. Your intuition is working overtime toward month's end. Luck is on your side if you take a chance on an investment.

SAGITTARIUS

Social plans could be postponed by a family fight during the first part of October. It may be left up to you to get things back in control. You could get in real trouble if you don't keep close tabs on your spending habits after the 12th. Romance takes center stage toward month's end and could turn into "true love" by the 30th.

CAPRICORN

It's the little details that can trip you up during the first part of October. Stay on your toes and be alert to changes both on the job and at home. Avoid taking risks with money or love after the 17th, "Lady Luck" isn't on your side right now. A casual relationship could turn serious toward

month's end. Trust your intuition to lead you in the right direction.

AQUARIUS

A friendly get-together is just what you need to get you out of the dumps during the first part of October. Try not to be too trusting with someone you meet around the 13th. Keep your guard up and you'll save yourself time, money and frustration. Toward month's end you should be in a great position to take some time for yourself - recent problems are behind you now and you can relax and enjoy the fall weather.

PISCES

You should be able to resolve a conflict between relatives or coworkers during the first part of October. After the 16th your heart wants to do what your head says you shouldn't — listen to your head. You will have to try hard to keep a secret toward month's end. The temptation to confide in someone is almost overwhelming, but could cause BIG trouble!



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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 Latina/o Lesbian/Gay Organization
PO Box 1350 78787 • 290-6107
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
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
Meeting 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 1-800-829-6417
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

Sue Ellen's • 3903 Cedar Springs • 559-0707

organizations

Affirmation • PO Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546

AIDS Resource Center • P.O. Box 190712 75219
Asians & Friends • PO Box 9142 75209 • 632-3339
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 603156 75380 • 504-6775
Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 528-4233 • FAX 522-4604
Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 821-1653
Dallas Gay Youth Group • 300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203
Dallas Names Project • PO Box 190689 75219-0689 • (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
LL (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
Metropole 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
Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship • 416-1358
White Rock Community Church • 722 Tension Mem. Rd • 320-0043
Wornyn Together • 3920 Cedar Springs • 628-4233

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 79931-0321 • 24 hour line 562-GAYS
MCC El Paso • 816 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 L/G Alliance • 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 76116 • 763-5544

GROESBECK, TX (area code 817)

accommodations

Rainbow Ranch Campground • Rt. 2, Box 165 76642 • 888-875-7596

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

businesses

Inkings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3368

clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3464

Ms. B's • 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 66591 77266 • 529-3211

Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 980-7995

Houston Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000

Integrity • P.O. Box 66008 77266-6008 • 432-0414

Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 862-7533

Lambda ALANON • 1214 Joanne • 521-9772

Lesbian/Gay Students-Univ. Houston Clear Lake • 2700 Bay Area 77058

LTN Houston • Lesbian Teacher Network

PO Box 1835 • Bellaire, TX 77402 • 529-3211

Metropolitan Community Church of The Resurrection

1919 Decatur • 861-9149

Montrose Counseling Center • 701 Richmond 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

Wornyspace • P.O. Box 960601 77098-0601

Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)

organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance

P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 766-7184

MCC Lubbock • 4501 University • 792-5662

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 799-8529

South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC)

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

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian/Gay Concerns

PO Box 1021 • Evanston, IL 60204

AIDS Action Council • 729 Eighth St. S.E. Suite 200

Washington, DC 20003 • (202) 547-3101

AIDS 800 • 1-800-221-7044

Conference For Catholic Lesbians

PO Box 436, Planetarium Station • New York, NY 10024

GLAAD/USA • 80 Varick St. #3E • NY, NY 10013

Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE

Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI)

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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

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (area code 405)

organizations

Oasis the Community Center

2135 NW 39th 73112 • 525-AIDS

Herland Sister Resources, Inc.

2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9696

SAN ANGELO, TX (area code 915)

organizations

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 944-4323

Concho Valley Gay/Lesbian Alliance

P.O. Box 750 76902 • 653-2956

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 210)

clubs

Bonham Exchange • 411 Bonham • 224-9219

Nexus San Antonio • 8021 Pinebrook • 341-2818

organizations

Deaf Rainbow • 804-1904 TTY

Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632

Integrity/San Antonio

PO Box 150006 78212 • 684-4920

Gay & Lesbian Community Center • O Box 15857 78212 • 822-3533

Lesbian Gay Switchboard • 733-7300

LISA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472)

P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 822-4135

River City Living Church • 202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121

SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly

P.O. Box 12614 78212 • 697-3266

SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance

PO Box 12715 78212 • SALSA Line 736-4329

Student Pride Soiree • PO Box 12715 78212 • 736-4329

San Antonio AIDS Foundation

PO Box 120113 78212-9313

SHERMAN, TX (area code 903)

organizations

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

Alliance for Life • PO Box 1695 75091 • 892-3049

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

WACO, TX (area code 817)

organizations

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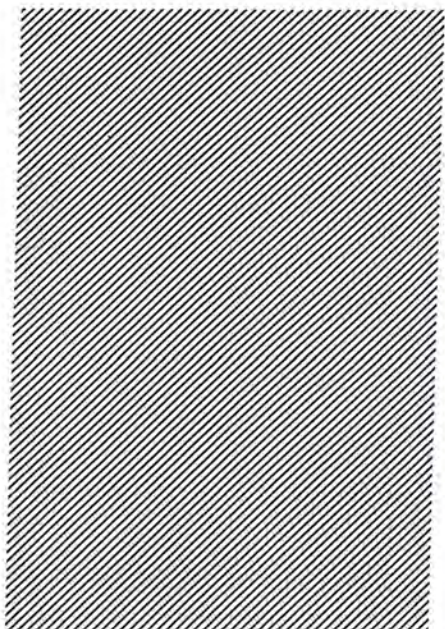
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