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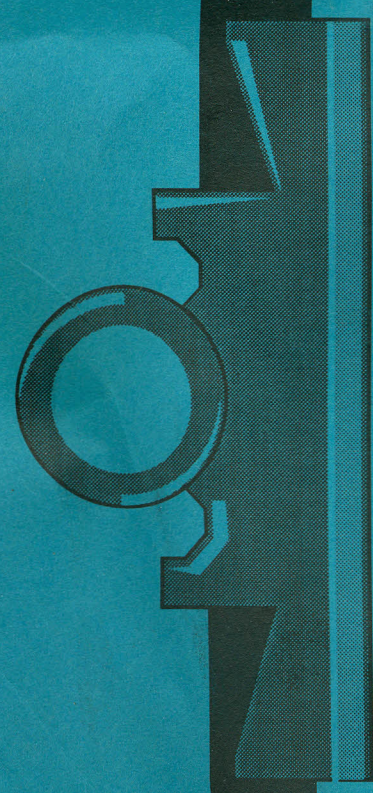


July 1994

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

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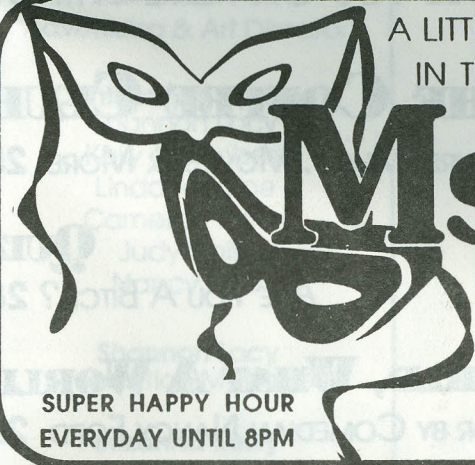
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Any letter received by Dimensions will be assumed for publication. All letters must include signature, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters as we feel necessary. The writers name will be withheld if so requested.

DIMENSIONS

P.O. Box 856
Lubbock, TX 79408
(806) 797-9647

Office Hrs:
1pm-6pm Mon-Sat



Kelly Chambers
Managing Editor

Tasha Sumner
Advertising & Art Director

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

Shannon Lacy
Production Manager

Suzanna Reilly
Southwest Distribution

Cameron Taylor
Staff Photographer

For Advertising
Information &
Rates,
Call or Write
Tasha Sumner at:

P.O. Box 856
Lubbock, TX 79408

(806) 797-9647

We Need Writers!

Dimensions needs
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Articles and stories must be
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Subject matter should relate
to lesbians and/or women's
concerns. Explicit erotica and
profanity is discouraged.

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To The Editor

Letters and Comments From Our Readers

KUDOS FOR STONEWALL ARTICLE

Dear Dimensions,

I am writing to thank you for the article in the June issue entitled "What Is Stonewall Anyway?." I am 21 years old and only discovered I was gay two years ago. I've been hearing a lot about "Stonewall" recently and had no idea what it was. Thanks for understanding that a lot of us are new at this and don't have a clue.

Name and City Withheld

Dear Dimensions,

Thanks for publishing "What Is Stonewall Anyway." I knew that Stonewall was a riot that happened in the sixties, but I wasn't real clear on the details or what it had to do with lesbian/gay rights. I found the article very interesting and informative.

I read Dimensions every month and really enjoy it. Keep up the good work.
Sherri Sherman
New Orleans, LA

FIGHTING THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT

Dear Dimensions,

I am writing to urge all of your readers to get involved in their local political process.

Recent news reports about the Christian right's infiltration of local politics are pretty scary, but the only way to fight is to get involved ourselves. Fear and hiding in the closet won't get us

anywhere, only our direct involvement can help us win this battle.

Join the political party of your choice, run for office, circulate petitions, do anything you can to get the word out that we will not rest until we are treated as full citizens of this country — with all the rights and responsibilities that entails.

Sincerely,

Norma Mayers

Austin, TX



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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

NGLTF APPLAUDS CAMMERMEYER RULING AND ELDER'S COMMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) issued the following statement in response to U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly's ruling, ordering the reinstatement of Margarethe Cammermeyer, a highly decorated Colonel in the Washington State National Guard dismissed for acknowledging she is a lesbian:

"The ruling is an indictment against the government's new policy of don't ask, don't tell," said Tanya Domi, NGLTF's Legislative Director, who is a former Army Captain.

Zilly said in the 51 page ruling issued in June that the Military experts "conceded that their justifications for the policy are based on heterosexual members' fear and dislike of homosexuals. Mere negative attitudes, or fear, are constitutionally impermissible basis for discriminatory governmental policies." "Because the new policy is identical to the old in that it serves to accommodate prejudice against gay people, we believe this ruling is another nail in the coffin of 'don't ask, don't tell,'" Domi concluded. Officials at NGLTF also applauded Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders for continuing to speak out against anti-gay prejudice.

"I feel that sexuality is up to the individual," Elders said in an interview in the *USA Today Weekend Magazine*. "...I don't feel that policy makers and decision makers should worry about

anyone's bedroom but their own."

"The Surgeon General continues to be a strong advocate against discrimination," said David M. Smith, NGLTF Public Information Director. "She understands how anti-gay prejudice wreaks havoc on American lives, and she has the courage and conviction to stand up and speak truth about it."

Elders was the target of right wing extremists after a similar interview was published in the *Advocate* where she was equally outspoken against anti-gay discrimination.

U.N. POSTCARD CAMPAIGN SEES EARLY SUCCESS

NEW YORK, NY - The United Nations Postcard Campaign is petitioning the U.N. General Assembly to demand equal rights for all lesbian, gay and bisexual people. The campaign is asking the U.N. to amend Article II of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to include the words, "Sexual Orientation." They plan to accomplish this goal by delivering over one million postcards supporting the change to the U.N. General Assembly during its fall session.

Over three and a half million cards have been sent out to over 2,500 lesbian and gay organizations to distribute to their members. More than one million cards have been sent to bookstores and community centers.

Although the postcards were only sent

out during the first week of May, the U.N. Postcard Campaign reports that as of June 1, they were already receiving returns of over 1,000 postcards per day. If you want to get in on this phenomenon, fill out the form reprinted below or copy it onto a post card and send it to: U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, c/o The U.N. Postcard Campaign, 245 Eighth Avenue, Suite 217, New York, NY 10011. If you would like to distribute postcards through your business or organization, call (212) 966-5876.

*Dear U.N. Secretary General
Boutros Boutros-Ghali,
I urge the General Assembly to
add "Sexual Orientation" to
Article II of the United Nations
Universal Declaration of Human
Rights. The time has come for the
United Nations to support the
rights of all the world's people,
including its gay, lesbian and
bisexual citizens.*

name (please print)

address

city

state

zip

signature

LGRL INTRODUCES FOUR NEW PROGRAMS

AUSTIN, TX - The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas has developed four new programs: two are specifically designed to enhance statewide lobbying efforts, and two are educational programs run out of the Allen G. Calkin Human Rights Education and Research Fund, which is LGRL's 501(c)(3) charitable arm.

RURAL OUTREACH PROJECT

This project will involve direct outreach into rural towns and smaller cities throughout Texas. The outreach efforts are designed to enhance LGRL's relationship with organizations which already exist in these areas so that they can work together more effectively. The outreach project will attempt to involve existing organizers in a statewide network. The project will also be available to help with the formation of organizations to support lesbian/gay/bisexual people living in rural areas and smaller towns.

LEGISLATIVE MATCHING PROGRAM

The Legislative Matching Program will attempt to match every state legislator with an LGRL volunteer from their individual districts. These volunteers will track legislators and help organize our lobbying efforts on a district level. This will involve getting to know legislators, gathering information on their views regarding lesbian/gay/bisexual issues, and organizing district letter writing campaigns.

WORKPLACE ACTIVISM

The Calkin Fund has developed an

educational program to help lesbians and gay men organize within their workplaces. This program is designed to provide information to lesbian/gay employees on "How-to" organize to obtain anti-discrimination policies, domestic partner and family benefits, and employee networks.

HATE CRIME EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Calkin Fund will release a manual on hate crimes. The manual defines

hate crimes, explains how to report a hate crime, and discusses how to follow-up when a hate crime has been reported. The Hate Crime Education Program will also have speakers available to discuss hate crimes.

For information on these programs, to volunteer or make a donation to LGRL, call (214) 474-5475.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

OKLAHOMA - The Oklahoma Pride Summit will be held July 15-17 on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Peri Jude Radecic, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task force and Mandy Carter, Director of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum will be the keynote speakers. For more information about the Pride Summit or to register to attend, call Herland Sister Resources at (405) 521-9696.

TEXAS - Singer/songwriter/guitarist Jess Hawk Oakenstar will be performing all around the state of Texas during the month of July. She was a finalist in the New Folk competition at the Kerrville Folk Festival in 1992 and is a popular lesbian artist. She will be appearing in Lubbock on July 8th (call 806-791-4499), Euless on the 9th (817-685-1669), in Dallas at Cafe Brazil on the 13th, at Desert Moon on the 14th, at the Tipperary Inn on the 16th and at Trees on the 27th, in Tyler on the 15th (903-595-3996), in Austin at Threadgills on the 18th, at Chances on the 21st, at Cafe Brazil on the 23rd, at Texas Showdown on the 24th, at Waterloo Ice House on the 30th and in San Antonio at Cibolo Creek Country Club on the 31st. She will also appear in Houston at the Red Lion on August 5th, in Dallas at Cafe Brazil on August 6th and in Austin at Cafe Brazil on

August 12th. If you need more info, call (602) 258-7985.

DALLAS - Lesbian Visionaries will present Painted Faces (not just an all girl band) on Friday, July 22nd at 9pm at The Country Club (Maple & Throckmorton). There will be a \$5 cover which will go to benefit various lesbian/gay community organizations, including the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. For more info, call (214) 521-5342, Ext. 844.

HOUSTON - Do you love to go to the movies? The Movie Club is the place for you! The group is for gays and lesbians who enjoy going to the movies. The group meets on the first and third Saturday of each month at a different restaurant and then goes to a movie. The location of each meeting is different and depends on the location of the theater, meeting times depend on the starting time of the movie. About 25 gays and lesbians have been enjoying this group viewing experience. For information on the next meeting, call Jimmy at (713) 952-4048. Restaurant info and movie schedule are posted on the answering machine on the first and third Fridays of each month. Please leave your name and phone number so they will know you are coming and how many seats to reserve at the restaurant.

LUBBOCK - If you are looking for something to do in July, look no further than the LLGA Community Outreach Center (102 Avenue S). An Independence Day celebration with barbecue and fireworks will be held on July 4th at 8:30pm. Movie and game night will be held on July 1, 15, 22 & 29 from 7-11pm, singer Jess Hawk Oakenstar will appear on the 8th (tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door), a Cookout, Car Wash, Cut-A-Thon and Massage will be held on the 17th from 2pm-6pm, Pride Cafe will be held on the 22nd from 9-11pm, and a Spades Tournament and raffle for an autographed copy of k.d. lang's *Ingenue* CD will be held on the 30th. For more info, call (806) 791-4499.

DALLAS - The Candy Marcum Institute for Women's Studies will hold the Fourth Wednesday Speaker's Series on July 27th at the Daire Center, Suite 200A (4300 MacArthur). The subject will be "We Just don't Take Care of Ourselves" and will focus on HIV in lesbians, cardiovascular health and cancers specific to lesbians. For more info, call Dilia Loe at (214) 520-8108.

AMARILLO - The Amarillo Gay/Lesbian Alliance will sponsor a trip to see the play *Texas!* in Palo Duro Canyon. There will be a chuckwagon dinner, camping overnight and a hike to Lighthouse Rock the next morning. For more info, call (806) 373-5725. ♀

If you have information for **What's Goin' On**, please send it to us! Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month before publication.

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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

My father died eight months ago. We (my mother, my lover and I) have spent months settling my father's estate.

Now that we have a clear picture of my mother's financial situation, I don't see any choice but to have my mother move in with us. She just doesn't have any money. Medical bills ate up all their savings and they rented for years, so their are no major assets.

The problem here is that my mother has never approved of my lifestyle. She is down right homophobic. In addition, she is semi-hostile toward my lover. She isn't physically hostile, but she is verbally abusive.

I feel like I'm between a rock and a hard place. Mother can't make it without help. I can't afford to rent her an apartment. We can't get her on Social Security since she has never worked. She was a housewife all her life, so work is not an option.

My lover is not totally opposed to mother moving in with us, but she has already told me that she isn't going to put up with any crap out of my mother.

Do you have any suggestions on how to handle an already bad situation?

**Rock and a Hard Place
San Antonio, TX**

Dear Hard Place,

This is a classic example of why children should discuss finances with their aging

parents — *before* it comes to this. Although it is a difficult subject and sometimes impossible to get them to open up, persistence often pays. However, it is too late for that in your case.

Make an appointment with the Social Security office nearest you and take your mother in. Although your mother never worked outside the home, she should be entitled to one half of your father's benefits. Social Security is not known for it's speedy processing, so get her in right away. This could be enough for you to afford a place for your mother, even if you have to help. If she does move in (and from the sound of things she will probably have to), sit down with her alone and tell her what you expect. Tell her that just like there were rules in her house that you had to follow when you were growing up, there will be rules in your house that you expect her to follow. Be sure you give this some serious thought before you sit down to talk to her.

One of the rules should be that she will treat your lover with dignity and respect, whether or not she approves of your lifestyle.

You didn't mention any brothers or sisters, but if you have either, you should enlist their help. This could be either with alternate living arrangements or with financial assistance for your mother's support.

Finally, you should be thankful that you

have such a supportive and understanding lover.

Dear Agnes,

I just wanted to write and comment on the letter in the June column signed "Left Out."

My sister also tried to keep me away from her wedding. She was very homophobic and didn't want me "contaminating her special day." I argued with her until I was blue in the face. I talked to my parents about my exclusion from the wedding, but my mother decreed that it was entirely up to my sister. They all blamed their stance on their Baptist faith.

When I pointed out that there would be dancing and champagne at the reception, they said that was "different" — dancing and drinking weren't on the same level with the kind of sin I committed everyday.

I finally gave up talking and decided to

crash the wedding. I bought a beautiful new dress and heels, had my hair and makeup done and showed up at the church. Of course, once I was there, they weren't going to embarrass themselves by throwing me out. They even ended up including me in some of the "family" portraits.

Twelve years later, my sister is divorced and living with a female lover. My parents have finally come around and we all laugh about my wedding day appearance. My mom swears that it's the only time since I was seven-years-old that I've worn a dress. My sister says showing up at her wedding after she specifically asked me not to come was the best way I ever said "I love you."

Of course, I wouldn't recommend this tactic to everyone, I just wanted to let you know how it worked out for me!

Happy Crasher
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Finding A Roommate You Can Live With

Do you always wind up with roommates who don't pay the bills on time? Leave their dirty clothes laying around the living room? Or, expect to spend every free moment with you? There is a solution. A little upfront planning and frank discussions can eliminate many of these problems by helping you choose a roommate you can get along with. A variety of reasons contribute to the

decision to get a roommate: help with the bills, a need for companionship or the security of having someone else in the house at night. These are all valid reasons for wanting a roommate. Whatever the reason, when you start looking for a roommate, there are several other factors to consider before handing over the keys to the house.

Always ask your prospective roommate

why they are moving. Listen carefully to the answer. Most people are not going to say, "my roommate is throwing me out because I haven't paid rent for three months and I owe \$200 on the phone bill." But there can be hints in the conversation of possible problems. If you are strapped for cash already, you may be making it worse by letting someone move in who is already behind on their bills. Some of the questions to ask about finances are listed below, you may have others you want to add or want to be more specific, but be sure you get the basic information.

- Does your prospective roommate work? Steadily?
- If they don't work, where do they get money? Is Mom paying their way through school? Do they live on an inheritance?
- Have they lived on their own before?
- Why are they moving or looking for a roommate in the first place? Are they being forced to move for back rent or bills, or having someone move in because they are behind on the bills?
- If at all possible, you should talk with any former roommates of theirs. Ask about their bill paying habits and general reliability.

If you decide they are a good financial risk, there are more things to discuss before you move in together. Talk to your prospective roommate about what each of you expect from the other on a personal basis. If you are looking for companionship and the other person is just looking for a place to sleep at night, you will both be disappointed.

Be sure you examine your own motivation when interviewing

prospective roommates. If you are expecting to feel less lonely or gain a sense of security, you may be better off joining a social group or getting an alarm system. If you like living alone and are only looking for financial relief, you might consider moving into a smaller place or getting a second job. The expectation of romantic involvement is another thing to consider before you exchange keys. Are you moving in with this person in the hopes that a romance will bloom? Bad idea. If it's romance your after, you would be better off joining a dating service. If you are moving in with a friend (or letting them move in with you), be aware that your relationship will change. Living together can ruin a good friendship or enhance it greatly.

After you've decided on a roommate you'll need to have another talk about the actual business of living together. This discussion should include both financial and personal considerations. The list below should give you a jumping off point.

- When do you expect the rent each month and what will happen if it isn't paid?
- How will you split the utility and phone bills and when are they due?
- What about groceries?
- Housework and chores.
- Guests.
- Girlfriends sleeping over.
- Borrowing of clothes, etc.
- Pets and pet care.
- Any pet peeves?
- Privacy considerations.

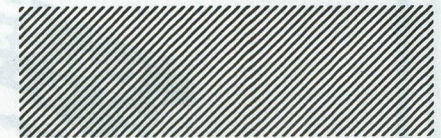
Remember, there are no right answers

to any of these questions, as long as the two of you agree. For instance you may want to each buy your own separate groceries, toilet paper, etc., you might decide to take turns buying groceries for the household, or you might even decide to forego buying groceries all the way around and eat out every night. It is all up to you. Just remember that the more you agree on now, the less you'll have to fight over later. If you expect a roommate to help you with errands, yard work, house maintenance or to car pool with you to work every morning, talk it about now and don't spring it on her after you are already living under the same roof.

Pets are an important consideration. If you both have dogs and they don't get along, what will you do? If her black cat loves to sleep on your white couch, how will you work it out? You may think this is overkill and that these things can be worked out after you are both settled in, but any one of these things can be a source of great friction — something you want as little as possible of after

you are living together.

Communication is the key to any successful relationship, and roommates are no exception. Following the guidelines above may not eliminate all potential problems, but knowing what each of you expect can go a long way toward making your roommate relationship a peaceful one.



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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY NANCY FORD

One of the first times I realized I had more of an affinity toward *la femme*, (as opposed to *l'homme*), I was at the movies. My best girlfriend Cindy M. and I were enjoying a first-run showing of Walt Disney's *Sword in the Stone*, having been driven downtown to the State Theater by my father.

Looking back, I realize that my young mind considered this more than just another night at the movies. Cindy was head cheerleader, you know — a heavy social responsibility for any adult, let alone an eighth grader. I wanted to treat her to a really good time, to help her relax for a couple hours and forget about her burdensome calling of lifting the spirits and the voices of our unappreciative class members and teammates.

We huddled together, enjoying the cartoon, sharing popcorn, shoulders and elbows touching, subtly thrilling us. Okay — subtly thrilling *me*. Sitting in the dark, crowded theater, I felt that Cindy and I also shared an exciting, albeit dangerous, secret. I may be hallucinating, but 25 or so years later I seem to recall that at one point she ever-so-briefly took my arm, promenade style, as we walked out onto the street to wait for our parental chauffeur.

Oh, Cindy . . .

Many movies and cheerleaders later, I still find myself romantically inclined when positioned in front of a big silver screen with the aroma of cholesterol-laden popcorn bathing myself and my viewing companion. Thank goodness, cinema has matured much more, if not far more, than my personal tastes.

Perhaps if we had not chosen the repressively phallic *Sword in the Stone* as our first outing, perhaps if more *young-lesbian-with-*

a-crush films had been available in the late 60s (*The Parent Trap* doesn't count), perhaps Miss M. would to this day store her pom-poms in my locker.

Actually, one film has been produced, long ago, that might have inspired us to even more dizzying heights than Disney. Released in 1931, *Madchen in Uniform* was shot in West Germany. It is the classic story of a young schoolgirl's devotion to her female teacher.

That's 1931, kids. Hoo-yeah.

Realize that in 1931, there were more gay and lesbian clubs and cabarets in Frankfurt than in 1994's Houston and New York City combined. Mainstream visibility was becoming the norm. Gay/lesbian magazines and periodicals flourished. Gay researcher and early civil rights leader Magnus Hirschfeld and his contemporaries had almost defeated Paragraph 175, the Texas 21.06-like legislation declaring homosexuality illegal.

Seemingly, it was a very good time to be gay.

In fact, efforts by Hirschfeld and his contemporaries to abolish Paragraph 175 had nearly succeeded. But the reform was postponed because of the severe world-wide economic crisis resulting from the collapse of German and Austrian banks, as well as the American stock market. Food and shelter took priority over the struggle for gay and lesbian rights.

Two years later Adolph Hitler was appointed chancellor. Amazing how quickly governmental policy of a world power can change. That same day the new Hitler regime banned the gay press in Germany. Five gay papers had their offices raided. Four months later

the Nazis raided Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexology in Berlin, and burned an estimated 12,000 books, periodicals and other documents from its library. This burning marked the death of the early gay rights movement in Germany. Considering 1930s Europe had no Blockbuster video franchise, *Madchen in Uniform* was no longer a viewing option.

Twenty-five+ years later, *The Sword in the Stone* would have to suffice.

Now comes, *Go Fish*, the latest entree in what is becoming a very rapidly expanding buffet of gay/lesbian cinema. Originally a self-produced, self-financed endeavor, *Go Fish* was lauded at the Sundance Film Festival and subsequently picked up for distribution by the Samuel Goldwyn Company. Talk about mainstream visibility....

Last month members of the gay/lesbian press were invited to a private screening of *Go Fish* and to meet with its co-producers Rose Troche and Guinevere Turner, prior to its general release. A handful of us occupied the almost-empty theater, watching images of young, confident lesbians as they (according to Goldwyn's production notes) "date, endure fashion crises, oversleep, wish for and encounter love." None of us shared popcorn; none of us sat close enough together to rub shoulders or elbows.

The neat thing was, though, that the *Go Fish* actors don't just portray images of lesbians — they are lesbians! Every single tattoo-laden, shaven-headed, angst-ridden one of them! No more wondering, during the love scenes, if the participants were second-guessing or second-natureing. No more lusting after your favorite assumedly-gay heroine only to later read of her husband and new baby (Read: Caye in *Desert Hearts*).

Oh, Cindy....

If only we were in junior high school *now*. If only, back on that memorable Saturday night we had had the opportunity to view a movie together that offered a little insight to some of the feelings that we were experiencing. Okay — that *I* was experiencing. If only I would have been empowered and confident enough to slip the love note into

your coat pocket that I had written to you that afternoon.... If only we could have felt free to discuss our feelings with someone older and wiser and more supportive... If only Hitler hadn't been so hard to get along with....

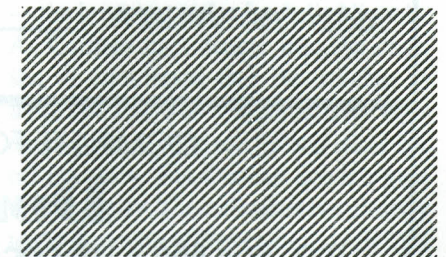
The good news is that now, best-girlfriends in junior high have an alternative to a Disney production. Granted, they might have to sneak from Screening Room One into Screening Room Two in the suburban mall complex after the features have started. But sneak they will, I promise you. *Go Fish* gives young lesbians all over America who have a curiosity, if not compulsion, the opportunity to learn more about who they are and where they're going. In addition to being an entertaining piece of cinema, *Go Fish* also strengthens the freshwater mainstreaming of gay and lesbians in the media, and, if for no other reason, should be congratulated for that.

Twenty-five years after Stonewall, gays and lesbians are in the movies. We're all over television and on the radio. Gay/lesbian magazines and periodicals are flourishing. It's exciting to realize the opportunities that this increased visibility has brought to our community and to our continued fight for civil rights.

Seemingly, it is a very good time to be gay.



Nancy Ford performs her improvisational comedy revue at Ms. B's Cabaret at the Ranch in Houston on Thursdays, July 14th and 28th from 8:30-midnight. Call (713) 686-3484 for reservations.



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THE COFFEE CLUB

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

THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

Edited Out

by Lisa Haddock

Wednesday Nights

by Camarin Grae

This month we'll take a look at two great new books to take to the beach. *Edited Out* is the first in a new mystery series by Lisa Haddock. Carmen Ramirez works as a newspaper copy editor in the fictitious town of Frontier City, Oklahoma. She has returned to Frontier City (her home town) to get away from an ex-lover. A lousy financial situation forces her to live with a very homophobic grandmother. Carmen's boss assigns her to assist a veteran reporter to update a two-year-old news story about a dead lesbian school teacher. The teacher apparently

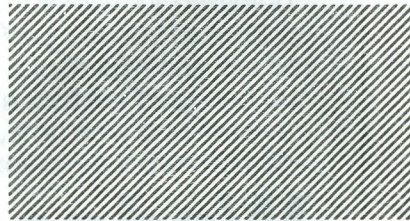
committed suicide after killing a twelve-year-old girl. Although the case is marked "solved," Carmen finds many more questions than answers in her background search on the case. As her search goes on, she is assisted by the newspaper library clerk — the innocent and naive Julia Nichols. As Carmen digs deeper into the case, she is convinced that the teacher is innocent and was murdered. Her boss decides she's gone too far and takes her off the story. But Carmen doesn't give up that easily. The trail takes her directly to the doorstep of Reverend Lovell Taft

— the powerful preacher and televangelist whose empire includes Lovell Taft University in Frontier City. *Edited Out* is a fun mystery — great for a short mental vacation. Although the book begins with the statement that Frontier City is fictitious and not intended to bear any resemblance to any city in Oklahoma — you can't help but be reminded of Oral Roberts, his university and his influence in Tulsa. Ms. Ramirez has an irreverent sense of humor that keeps you on your toes.

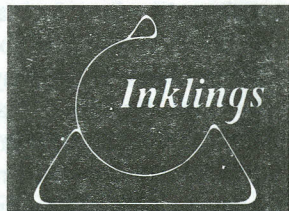
Next we'll look at *Wednesday Nights*, the latest novel by author Camarin Grae (author of *The Secret in the Bird* and *Edgewise*, among others). The story revolves around Lyla Bradshaw, a successful therapist with a loving partner. There's only one problem — sex. Lyla's partner, Candace just doesn't excite her anymore — so Lyla finds an outlet. She meets the sexy and exciting Jade for sex every Wednesday night. When the police show up at Lyla's door to arrest her for non-payment of parking tickets on a car she sold two years ago — she figures it can be straightened out. Once at the police station, she finds out that she is under suspicion for the murder of one rapist and the assault of two others. All the assaults happened on Wednesday nights, and Lyla and her car have been identified by three witnesses as being at the scene of the crimes. Of course, Lyla thinks she has an airtight alibi, but it's going to be a little hard to explain to Candace. In my humble opinion, Camarin Grae is the best mystery writer in lesbian literature. Her novels are filled with believable characters and complicated plot twists. She has a style that sets her apart from other authors in this genre.

There is nothing straightforward about a Camarin Grae mystery — they twist and turn in the most unusual directions. *Wednesday Nights* is no exception. I strongly recommend it.

Edited Out (\$9.95) and *Wednesday Nights* (\$10.95) are available from your local bookstore or by mail from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. If ordering by mail, please include 15% postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



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*-Ann Winfield
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QUIZ

Are You A BITCH?

Some women are too bitchy — others aren't bitchy enough. Where do you fall on the "bitch" scale? Take the following quiz to find out. Remember that your friends and loved ones may not agree with the findings!

1. You order a steak medium-well. It arrives medium rare. You:

- a. chew out the waiter and demand a refund.
- b. send it back to be cooked some more.
- c. eat it anyway.

2. When you have to do something you don't want to do, you:

- a. throw a fit and try to get out of it.
- b. do it quickly and get it over with.
- c. put a smile on and pretend to enjoy it.

3. When you are angry with your lover, you:

- a. shout and throw things.
- b. wait until you cool off, then try to talk it out.
- c. ignore it and try to stay cheerful.

4. You and five friends are going out to dinner. You want Mexican — they all want Italian. You:

- a. pout until you get your way.
- b. compromise and go for variety.
- c. eat Italian.

5. An appliance you bought two months ago quits working. You:

- a. write angry letters to the manufacturer, the store and the newspaper.
- b. exchange it or have it repaired under warranty.
- c. repair it yourself or buy a new one.

6. A friend is helping you move and accidentally breaks your favorite lamp, you:

- a. yell at her and insist that she buy you a new lamp.
- b. express your dismay, but figure that s_ _ t happens.
- c. laugh it off.

7. Your normally great hairdresser has a bad day and cuts your hair too short. You:

- a. refuse to pay for the cut and change hairdressers.
- b. tell her it's too short and don't give a tip.
- c. figure it'll grow out.

8. You are most irritable:

(check all that apply)

- a. in the morning.
- b. at night.
- c. when you are hot.
- d. before your period.
- e. Mondays.
- f. when you are hungry.

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows:

Questions 1-7:

10 points for each "A" answer.

6 points for each "B" answer.

4 points for each "C" answer.

Question 8: 2 points for each checked.

64-82 points

Bitch should be your middle name. Loved ones, co-workers and people on the street are all at risk when you get started. You don't allow anyone to get away with anything. Yes, you get respect, but you don't inspire much affection. Try toning it down. Assertiveness is a good trait — hostile aggression is taking it a bit far. You obviously have a softer side, you just don't show it very often. The people in your life would like you a lot better if they didn't have to tip-toe around you.

46-63 points

You have a great balance. You know when to bitch and when to keep your mouth shut. You have the ability to stand up for yourself without making others feel threatened. You try to criticize only when necessary and to practice diplomacy if at all possible. You may have an occasional outburst of bitchiness — that's okay, there are

some situations where being the diplomat just isn't effective.

28-45 points

You are way too nice for your own good. You have a hard time standing up for yourself because you don't want to be the one who rocks the boat. Your efforts to keep from upsetting anyone may be very hard on you. You let people walk all over you until your own self-esteem is almost nil. The next time someone makes you mad, try telling them that their behavior has upset you. You'll be amazed at how much better you will feel about yourself and how a little bitchiness can bring a lot of respect.





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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

A romantic fling could have you walking on air during the first part of July. Be sure you aren't fooling yourself into thinking it's serious when it's all in fun. Try not to expect perfection from those around you after the 14th— they are doing their best to please you! It is important that you keep a secret that has been entrusted to you toward month's end. A friend would not have given you their confidence if you were not trusted.

TAURUS

You may be feeling bored by your routine during the first part of July. If you can't get out to socialize, try entertaining at home. After the 16th you are in a daydreamy mood - someone you have been interested in for awhile is beginning to show an interest in you! A good friend could be worth her weight in gold toward month's end. You need to get out of the house and go out on the town where you'll meet some very interesting people!

GEMINI

Plan some time away from work to enjoy the company of an old friend during the first part of July. You can improve a strained relationship by giving in to an invitation you don't really want to accept around the 15th — and besides, you just might have fun! Toward month's end you'll get farther and be happier if you are flexible — don't be afraid to change plans at the last minute.

CANCER

Travel could be part of the agenda during the first part of July. Whether you are leaving on a trip or just planning one, your mood

should be upbeat. Gentle persuasion works better than force to get what you want after the 13th. After the 24th greater prestige and income could be in the picture if you deliver on a recent promise you made at work. Everything seems to fall into place on all fronts.

LEO

Flattery will get you everywhere during the first part of July. Just be sure that you are honest with your praise and emotions. A social outing may be just the ticket to ease your feelings of impatience after the 14th. Toward month's end, show a loved one how much you care — sometimes you get so involved in your career that you forget to show your feelings.

VIRGO.

You may be reading more into a relationship than there actually is during the first part of July. After the 16th a friendship of long standing might take a romantic turn — try to keep your composure! You'd be smart to ignore idle gossip that's going around after the 21st. A friend could be having some problems, but doesn't want you to know it toward month's end. Let her have her secret — for now.

LIBRA

Finances are looking up and everything is caught up around the first of July so you may decide to take some time to play. Just don't get so caught up in social activities that you ignore financial warning signs around mid-month. Scheduling problems could plague a vacation if you aren't careful after the 23rd. News you receive in the mail toward month's end will be good!

SCORPIO

Avoid getting caught up in details on the job during the first part of July or you could lose sight of "the big picture." Pressure at work is building and you'll need to keep your wits about you. You may feel intimidated by a complicated problem in a close relationship after the 19th — ask an expert for help. What you want and what you get may be two different things toward month's end. This applies to both romance and career.

SAGITTARIUS

Be extremely cautious in money matters during the first part of July. Some behind the scenes activities could adversely affect your investments until the 12th. During the last part of the month social activities will take up much of your time — a welcome break in your recent routine. You may be in for a shock around the 27th when a longtime friend announces her romantic feelings for you. Play it cool, but don't rule out the possibility!

CAPRICORN

You'll have a lot of trouble keeping your mind on work during the first part of July. You've got free time on your hands and you're just itching to get out for some R&R. After the 14th you may be vulnerable to someone who plays on your sympathies. Don't let them get to you. Your emotions could get in the way of straight thinking after the 24th. Open your eyes to the reality of the situation and don't overlook important details.

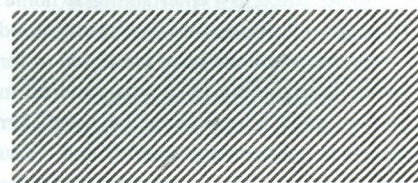
AQUARIUS

Try to stay focused and not get too scattered during the first part of July. Your nervous energy could be put to good use with "spring" cleaning or other home projects. Money, matters of the heart and friendships all put

you under strain after the 17th. Put some distance between you and loved ones until you feel ready to deal with their bickering. Take special care to please a loved one toward month's end — you will get back much more than you give.

PISCES

Listen to your gut and your heart during the first part of July, they won't steer you wrong. You'll be able to take care of any minor disturbances in relationships both on the job and off if you'll put your charm to work. Your organizational skills will be a great asset after the 17th when things really get hectic on the job. Matters of the heart and of the pocketbook are looking up toward months end.



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MCC of Amarillo • PO Box 1276 • 372-4557

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P.O. Box 19348-77, UTA St. 76019 • 794-5140
Trinity MCC • 331 Aaron Ave., Ste 125 • 265-5454

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Neus • 305 W. 5th • 472-5288

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Austin Latino/a Lesbian/Gay Organization
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Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus
P.O. Box 822 78767 • 462-9888
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385-5181 or 928-9070 (hotline)
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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
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

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Couples Metro Dallas • PO Box 803156 75380 • 504-6775
Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance
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Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives
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Dallas Gay Youth Group
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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 Information Line (LIL) • 528-2426
Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition
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Lesbian Visionaries • PO Box 191443 75219 • 521-5342 X 844
Metropolitan Republicans
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Oak Lawn Community Services 4300 MacArthur • 520-8108
Oak Lawn Symphonic Band
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PFLAG/Dallas • Helpline 556-6640
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P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 387-1491

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24 hour line 562-GAYS
MCC El Paso • 916 Yandell • 542-1227
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Spanish & English Language Meetings • 591-4664

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organizations

Agape MCC • 4615 SE Loop 820 • 535-5002
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Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • PO Box 65591 77266 • 529-3211
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 980-7995
Houston Gay Political Caucus
P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000
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Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 862-7533
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PWA Coalition - Houston • 1475 W. Gray #163 • 522-5428
SORA (Sex or Relationship Addicts Anonymous)
support group for lesbians • 523-9398
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Community Outreach Center & Outreach AA (Tues. & Thurs. @ 8pm) • 102
N. Ave. S • 762-1019
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
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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 • Soion, 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
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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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2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9696

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Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
Integrity/San Antonio
PO Box 150006 78212 • 684-4820
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 822-4135
River City Living Metropolitan Community Church
202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121
Lambda Students Center • 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.
LISA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472)
SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly • 733-7300
SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
PO Box 12715 78212 • SALSA Line 733-1225
San Antonio AIDS Foundation
PO Box 120113 78212-9313
San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

SHERMAN, TX (area code 903)

organizations

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

WACO, TX (area code 817)

organizations

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

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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

FREE introductory mail-order package from America's world-class lesbian/gay and feminist bookstore: Giovanni's Room, 345 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Call toll free: 800-222-6996. Monthly update subscriptions free to customers.

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

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Your Return Address

DIMENSIONS
P.O. Box 856
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The Graffiti Page HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Gwin-

Happy 8th Year Anniversary!
And I pray that we have many
more together. I love you baby,
Barbara



Happy 8th Birthday DIMENSIONS!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to #102 Amy
I LOVE YOU MORE EVERYDAY AND
HOPE WE'RE TOGETHER 40 YEARS
FROM NOW. I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY
HEART & SOUL. SHAWNNA

Laura,
Meet me at Miller
gardens on July 13th
at 6:30 pm. It's a
SURPRISE!!
JOSIE

- SARAH -
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU...
- JOHNNA -

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To:
JUDY & NORMA - BELATED
STACY, BUCKO, AND CARRIE ~
FROM EVERYONE AT NEXUS!

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