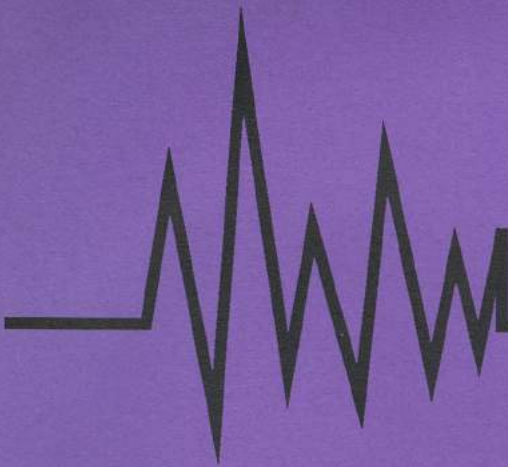


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FEBRUARY 1993



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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

Texas Supreme Court Hears Arguments In \$21.06 Suit

AUSTIN - The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments Tuesday, January 5, presented by attorneys for the State and for the Plaintiffs in *Morales et al. vs. the State of Texas*, the case challenging the constitutionality of the Texas Sodomy Statute.

Patrick Wiseman, the attorney retained by the Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) to represent the five named plaintiffs, argued that the sodomy law clearly discriminates between homosexual and heterosexual conduct, and is a violation of an individual's right to privacy and equal protection under the Texas Constitution.

The nine justices on the court asked questions of both attorneys. Both Justices Lloyd Doggett and Robert "Bob" Gammage seemed to support the arguments set forth by the plaintiffs. At one point, Gammage asked Harry Potter who was arguing for the State, if the plaintiffs had to actually be prosecuted under the statute in order to have standing to challenge it. He asked, rather incredulously, "Is the threat of prosecution not enough to give them standing?"

Also at issue was whether the plaintiffs had standing to challenge a criminal statute in a civil court. The Court of Criminal Appeals, which is the highest court for criminal matters, declined to hear the case citing that there had been no prosecutions under the statute.

All arguments regarding standing aside, the State's primary argument in support of the statute is "upholding public morality." Patrick Wiseman, attorney for the plaintiffs, contended that although homosexuality was considered a disease in the past, the American Psychological Association removed it from the category of aberrancy in

December of 1973; and he contended that the State had not been able to find one "expert" witness to support their arguments. The State conceded that point.

Amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs were filed on behalf of the plaintiffs, supporting the abolition of the sodomy law by the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Abortion Rights Action League, the Texas Abortion Rights Action League, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, and a host of other organizations, both local and statewide.

An *amicus* brief was filed in support of the State's position by thirty legislators. This brief included such statements as "Homosexual conduct is per se contrary to society's morality and decency" and that "Unrestrained homosexual conduct leads to other antisocial activities, i.e. 'group sex and sex with minors' and 'violent tendencies.'" A list of the thirty legislators who signed the brief appears at the end of this story.

The *amicus* brief filed by the American Psychological Association clearly refuted the legislators' claims and stated that homosexuality has not been considered a disorder for two decades. It stated that "Scientific, demographic, and clinical knowledge demonstrates that the intimate conduct prohibited by the statute is healthy, and important to the mental health of individuals and their most profound relationships. Engaging in a variety of sexual expression, including oral and anal sex, does not result in mental or physical dysfunction; rather, repression of desires for such expression is associated with dysfunction and pathology."

It is not known when an opinion will be handed down because the Texas Supreme Court is not held to a timeline, but THRF was pleased with the line of questioning on

Tuesday and calls upon the court to uphold the constitutional rights of all Texans, and abolish §21.06.

LEGISLATORS WHO SIGNED AMICUS BRIEF FOR THE STATE: SENATORS

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John Leedom	Dallas
David Sibley	Dallas

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Toby Goodman	Arlington
Kent Gusendorf	Arlington
Will Hartnett	Dallas
Talmadge Heflin	Houston
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Mike Jackson	La Porte
Ted Kamel	Tyler
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A.R. Ovard*	Dallas
L.P. Patterson	Paris
Randy Pennington*	Houston
Glenn Repp*	Duncanville
Ashley Smith	Houston
Curtis Soileau*	Lumberton
David Swinford*	Dumas
Robert Turner	Voss
Gerald V. Yost	Longview

*not returning to 73rd Legislature

NGLTF Launches "Fight the Right" Campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute this month hired Oregon activist Scot Nakagawa to coordinate its "Fight the Right" campaign against an onslaught of

Colorado-style anti-gay initiatives. "Family values" groups in at least a dozen states are gearing up to put anti-gay ballot measures before voters this year and next.

States targeted by the Right Wing are Idaho, Michigan, Ohio, Washington, Montana, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, California, Maine, Georgia and Oregon. Gay and lesbian activists around the country are preparing for battles similar to those waged last year in Colorado and Oregon.

Lon Mabon, head of the Oregon Citizens Alliance that sponsored the unsuccessful Oregon anti-gay initiative in November, is serving as advisor to many of the right wing groups. Rather than using the Oregon initiative language, which called homosexuality "unnatural, abnormal, wrong and perverse," right wing activists are using the less inflammatory Colorado language as a model. Mabon and right wing activists in Idaho announced the formation of the Idaho Citizens Alliance and the beginning of a drive to place a Colorado-style initiative on the ballot this November.

"The far right has shifted its focus from the federal level to the grassroots," Nakagawa said. "Gay and lesbian activists and our supporters need to be prepared for tough battles and must organize as quickly as possible to preempt or defeat these initiatives. We have an opportunity to learn lessons from Oregon and Colorado and coordinate effective campaigns against the Far Right immediately."

Operation Rescue Protests Against Gays in Military Called a "Big Flop"

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Operations Rescue (OR), the notorious anti-abortion group, sponsored protests around the country on January 8 against gays in the military. But the protests, originally scheduled for "100 cities," according to Operation Rescue's chief, Randall Terry, fizzled out as only a

handful of protesters appeared in three or four locations.

Operations Rescue, in conjunction with the Christian Defense Coalition, led by Rev. Patrick Mahoney, sponsored the events to protest President Clinton's decision to rescind the ban on gay and lesbian servicemembers in the U.S. Armed Forces. According to OR's advance information, obtained by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and made available to gay groups nationwide, the events were to take place at Federal, state and local government buildings in at least 100 cities.

"Christian civilians and veterans will gather in cities all across the nation to send a prophetic message of rebuke to the coming Clinton Administration," said an OR pamphlet advertising the events. The literature also included several biblical quotes.

Tanya Domi, director of NGLTF's Military Freedom Initiative, helped organize counter demonstrations in the few cities where OR appeared. In Washington, D.C., about five OR protesters at Lafayette Park across from the White House were met by more than 50 gay, lesbian and other counter demonstrators. In Seattle, no OR protesters showed up, even though a group of gay activists

were prepared to challenge them. And in Cincinnati, although a small band of OR protesters outnumbered gay activists, one gay veteran counter-protester in uniform managed to draw most of the press. In Colorado Springs, organizers of the event tried to conceal OR's sponsorship, until NGLTF informed local media.

NGLTF's Domi, a decorated former Army Captain, challenged Randall Terry personally at the Washington protest. "Where are your medals! Where did you serve!" shouted Domi at the OR chief, who quickly fled the scene by taxi.

Robert Bray, NGLTF director of public information, "If there are any homosexuals out there, gay men in particular, who still believe abortion is not a gay issue, let this be a wake up call. Operation Rescue has allied itself with other Far Right religious extremist groups to attack gay and lesbian freedom. Their objective is to mandate control over our privacy. Their agenda is not to 'save babies,' but to repress people, especially women and gays."



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

EVERYWHERE - The Wedding, a massive ceremony of commitment will be held April 24, as part of **The March on Washington**. Organizers are looking for lesbian, gay and bi couples who have been together for a long, long time. They are launching a nationwide search for those couples who have stayed together for the longest time. **The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches** will give all three couples a free round-trip ticket to Washington to attend a ceremony to honor them. If you think you're relationship may be one of the oldest in the U.S., write to: Rev. Troy Perry, The Wedding, UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

DALLAS - There's a new video dating service for lesbians and gays in the DFW area. **Alternative Visions** guarantees four dates in six months or your membership will be extended to one full year. For more info, call (214) 823-8392.

FT. WORTH/HOUSTON/LUBBOCK - Singer/songwriter **Jamie Anderson** will be touring Texas over Valentine's weekend. She will appear in Houston on Friday, Feb. 12 at 8:30pm at **Dudley Recital Hall** at the University of Houston School of Music Building. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$16 at the door and are available at

Inklings and Crossroads Market. Jamie's next stop will be in Fort Worth on Saturday, Feb. 13th at 8pm at **Orchestra Hall** (4401 Trail Lake Dr.). Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door and are available at **Connections, Curious Times, Crossroads Market and Athena's Attic**. Last, but not least, Jamie will appear in Lubbock on Sunday, Feb. 14th at the **Holiday Inn Civic Center**. A reception with Jamie will be held in conjunction with the concert and proceeds will go to benefit **South Plains AIDS Resource Center (SPARC)**. Tickets are \$15 for both the concert and reception, \$10 for the concert only and are available at **Ellie's Garden**.

DALLAS - The **Lesbian Resource Centre** will host **Saturday Night at the Movies** on Saturday, February 6 at 7pm. And be sure to join in the fun at the weekly **Friday Night Dinners** every Friday at 7:30pm. Call (214) 821-3999 for more info.

HOUSTON - **Inklings Bookshop** is holding their annual **Scratch & Dent Sale** Friday thru Sunday, February 4-6 from noon to 5pm. Used and dented books will be one sale for about 1/2 price and used books can be traded in two-for-one of similar value. Proceeds from the sale will go to benefit **AWE**, the first all-woman expedition to cross Antarctica.

DALLAS - The **First Church of Divine Metaphysics** has begun meeting again in room 302 of the **Dallas Budget Inn** (4001 Live Oak). If you need more info, call (214) 826-7110, Ext. 302.

AUSTIN - **Getting The Love You Want**, a workshop for lesbian/gay couples will be held in Austin on February 12-14. The workshop will help couples rediscover the joy and spiritual potential of being together while utilizing their relationship for personal change and growth. The fee is \$250 per person/\$500 per couple and includes the workshop itself, your workbook, a continental breakfast each day and an afternoon snack. For more info, call **Sherry Kliegman** at (512) 288-2891.

DALLAS - The **Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church** is now in it's new location (and it is beautiful)! The new church is at **5910 Cedar Springs** (to get there, go thru the parking lot of the **Ruth Christ Steakhouse**) or call for directions at (214) 351-1901. A weekend of **dedication ceremonies** will be held February 19, 20 & 21.

OKLAHOMA CITY - The **Oklahoma City Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW)** has reorganized and is meeting at the **Village Library**, 10307 N.

Pennsylvania on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. For more info, call **Robin Reed** at (405) 686-0722.

HOUSTON - The **LiB (Lesbians in Business) Bicycle Club** meets most Sunday for a ride in the park, around town or just some comraderie. If you would like to join or want more info, contact **Cookie** at (713) 869-1686.

NEW ORLEANS - The **Theatre Marigny** (616 Frenchmen) will feature it's **Lesbian and Gay Film Night** on February 16th. Movies will start at 6:30 and 8:30pm. Admission is \$6.



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

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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

In the November issue of Dimensions, you had a letter from "Locked Out" who had come out to her parents and whose father had refused to talk to her since her confession.

You advised "Locked Out" to give her Dad some time to get used to the idea. Your advice was good but I would also like to suggest that she have her parents call P-Flag (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays). If "locked Out" can't get her parents to contact P-Flag themselves, she could call her local chapter and get some literature to give to her parents.

There is now an 800 number (1-800-4-FAMILY) that can put her (and others all over the U.S.) in touch with their local P-Flag Chapter.

Thanks so much,
Pat Stone
President
P-Flag/Dallas

Dear Pat,

Thanks for passing that information on. Contact with other parents who have gone through the experience of having their child "come out" could be very helpful. "Locked Out" could also benefit from talking to parents, other than hers, to get a feel for their state of mind when their children "came out" and how to help her parents "handle it."

Dear Agnes,

I really don't know where to start, but I'll try. I'm gay and just came out in January 1992. I'm deeply in love with the woman who brought me out. We were best friends and companions and had complete honesty in our relationship. I spoiled her rotten, there's nothing I wouldn't do for her.

Three days before Thanksgiving, I lost her to another woman. There were no signs of anything. When I asked her why, all she would say is that she loves and cares for me and that I'm a wonderful person.

We are still friends, but I don't understand how, if I'm such a wonderful person, she could hurt me the way she has. She asked if I would take her back if it doesn't work out between her and the other woman. She says I'm the best woman ever in her life and that I make her happy... so why is she with another woman?

I'm very shy and lonely and miss her so badly. I stay depressed and the only thing I want is for her to come back so we can go on with our life together.

My question is if I should wait for her or if I should try to get on with my life?

Heartbroken & Lonely
Irving, TX

Dear Heartbroken,

It's normal to be depressed after a

breakup, but staying by yourself and waiting for her to come home will only make you feel worse. She may come back, but what if she doesn't?

Get out and get involved: Take a class, volunteer to help with a community service group, go to a support group or call up your old friends.

She obviously wants to have her cake and eat it too. She wants her new girlfriend, but just in case her new relationship doesn't work out, she wants to make sure there is a "backup plan." You are the backup plan.

Life is too short to wait! Don't spend

too much time trying to figure this woman out. The bottom line is: she is self-centered and selfish. Go on with your life and if she catches up — work it out from there. But, be warned — a woman who pulls this kind of trick once can always do it again.



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What Love Is (and what it isn't)

Love is a strange and fickle emotion that afflicts almost all humans sooner or later. Countless books and poetry are dedicated to the subject. There are statues, paintings, buildings, boats, planes and grave stones dedicated in the name of love. Love even has it's own holiday — not a paid holi-

day, I might add — but maybe it should be. Valentine's Day is certainly alot more exciting that Columbus Day. Love has many faces and stages. It's never the same for any two people. In fact, if you walked up to two different people on the street and asked, "What is love?" You would almost certainly get two different answers. Some would say

it's friendship gone mad. Others would tell you it's nothing more than a chemical reaction. Like all emotions, love is different things to different people.

There are, however, some sure fire signs to indicate when you are "in love." For example: You can't get her out of your mind. Of course, you are at work and this is one of the most important meet-

But we are. It's the fourth time today that her ex-lover has called. The first time it was to tell her that the cat was having kittens. The next time it was to give details on sex and colors. The time after that it was to ask if momma cat should be fed so soon. Now, she wants to know where to put the kittens. Well, you could have told her that on the first

*Like all emotions, love
is different things
to different people.*

ings of the year and all you can think about is her! *Get me out of here so I can call!* Driving home in rush hour traffic you search for her car — sure you would recognize it even though there are thousands of cars on the road that look just like her's. You look anyway. When you're at home you watch for her car to come around the corner . . . Yes, that was her . . . No it wasn't . . . Maybe that's her . . . Oops, that was the little old lady from down the street . . . Wait! There she is! . . . But then the phone rings and you are sure it's her on the line — even though you are also sure that her car is pulling into your driveway even as you pick up the phone.

Another good sign that you are in love is jealousy. Of course, the amount of jealousy really has nothing to do with the amount of love — and we would all like to deny that we are ever jealous.

call.

Love is a lot of things, but there are several emotions we confuse with love on a regular basis. Lust, also a four letter word, is a strictly hormonal emotion. Although lust plays a key role in many relationships, it shouldn't be confused with love. Most love relationships start out with a great deal of lust. There is a hot passion and you can never seem to get enough of each other or keep your hands off each other. Who cares if the dinner guests are arriving in fifteen minutes — we have time. Who cares if I only get thirty minutes for lunch and it's a ten-minute drive each way — we have time. And yes, it is three-thirty in the morning and you have to get up a five — but WE HAVE TIME! Thank the Goddess this phase doesn't last forever. If it did, the world as we know it would soon cease to exist.

We all know women who think that when all-consuming lust is gone — so is the relationship. As soon as the percentage of time spent in bed drops below the 25-percent rate, they are off to greener pastures. Chasing lust again and again and again . . .

On the other hand, most of us realize what lust is and put it in its proper place within a relationship. We understand that there is nothing wrong with the relationship just because you've started mowing the yard on Sunday morning instead of doing bedroom acrobatics until 1pm.

No discussion of love would be complete without mentioning infatuation. Infatuation is simply being "in love," usually with whoever happens to be handy at the moment. Infatuation is being in love for the sake of being in love.

As with the "Lust chaser", the infatuationist can often fall in and out of love in a matter of weeks (or even days). The major difference is that the infatuationist truly believes she has found love with each and every relationship. The life story of the infatuationist often sounds like a con-

tinuous rerun of *The Young and the Restless*.

And what about romance? Romance and love seem to go hand in hand. The difference is that love is an emotion while romance is action: sending flowers,

having a champagne dinner for two in front of the fireplace, doing weird and wonderful things to and for a potential lover. Romance is practiced by all participants in the game of love from the lust chaser and infatuationist all the way to those truly in love. Many of us tend to get romance mixed up with love. It's an easy mistake, but sometimes a painful one.

Love, like all emotions is difficult to explain. We all want it, even if we think we don't. The down side is the hurt, pain and tears when it ends. We think: *I'm never going through that again — it's not worth it.* But of course, it is. We quickly forget the pain. The heart has wings and there is passion again. 



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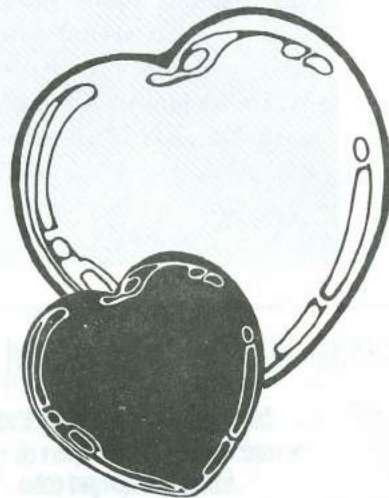
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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

HINTS FOR AMERICA — THE NEW BEGINNING

BY NANCY FORD

As you read these words the Clinton Administration will have been out of the starting blocks for less than a month. Chelsea's still trying to make friends at her new school in Washington. Bill's still trying to remember which of his Oval Office desk drawers holds the presidential bottle of White-Out. Hillary's still trying to figure out how to obtain absolute power.

We, as gay and lesbian individuals, yet also as a powerful political collective, have a serious responsibility that accompanies this new era that most of us worked so hard to realize. Along with the rest of America we have been challenged by President Clinton to become part of the solution to restrengthen our country. With that in mind, here are a few suggestions I was able to come up with, without benefit of advice of special counselors or cabinet members.

Remove Republican and Democratic partisan boundaries nationwide, replacing them with Butch and Fem parties. Be realistic; we've all attended soirees for both. That should pretty much clear up the passive-aggressive question, not to mention completely side-stepping the issue of gender discrimination in the Congressional steam room.

Before overhauling the military to accept the presence of gays and lesbians, consider encouraging gays and lesbians to leave the military to implement our own constructive, peaceful collective completely separate from the destructive, warring Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. En masse. If they are as well-trained and prepared for transition to anything life can throw at them as military recruiters have promised, they'll have no trouble assimilating to the real world. Plus, chances are they won't have to wear those nasty khaki uniforms.

Solution for housing the homeless: arrange for them to live in all those vacant Savings and Loan buildings. Just a thought.

Leave Chelsea Clinton alone. No more *Saturday Night Live* sketches portraying her as a pre-pubescent dork, no more references to Amy Carter heaving a sigh of relief, no more braces-picking-up-the-Weather-Channel jokes. Give the kid a chance to grow up and gather some ammunition and self-esteem before we, the world, start sniping at her for things she can't control. With luck, she'll mature and grow to become a Maria

Shriver-esque, responsible member of her generation instead of the subject of Pearl Jam's next video or an unwelcome customer at Luby's.

Open the doors of the White House to gays and lesbians as a bed-and-breakfast tourist home during the March on Washington in April. Adopt a homosexual or two for the week. Put some linkin' back in the Lincoln Room. Reserve the West Wing exclusively for Marilyn Monroe illusionists, just for old time's sake.

Make it a rider to the Bill of Rights that Michael Jackson can't write any more songs with "The World" as part of the title. Nor should he be permitted to ever again use a tag line, the lyrics "for you and for me." Two hit humanitarian songs with the exact same words and music in one 5-year period is more than enough for any universe. Also, no more tears on stage, Michael. We know you're sincere, but tears only work when they're unexpected. With you, it's become part of the ticket price. C'mon Mike. Be a man. Or whatever.

It has become obvious to the world that there was a definite wisdom as to why Fleetwood Mac split the blanket. I hadn't seen Stevie Nicks on stage since she revved herself

into such a dervish frenzy that she whirled right into the orchestra pit at Houston's Summit. Rumours have it that she's up for a part on Delta Burke's new show. A lesson for the new administration: let sleeping rockers lie — K.C. and The Sunshine Band, The Archies, The Ink Spots, all of them. Besides, music is Tipper's agenda. President Clinton should be more worried about the big stuff, like trying to reunite the Beatles.



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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

GOSSAMER AXE

BY GAEL BAUDINO

Pagan Babies

by Greg Johnson

Swords, sorcery and *rock and roll*? That's the premise of *Gossamer Axe* by Gael Baudino. Christa, a harpist from 6th century Ireland was trapped for centuries in Sidh — a kind of parallel universe/faery land where nothing ever changes. Christa escaped back into 18th century Europe through a doorway between worlds, but the door closed too fast, trapping her lover, Judith, in Sidh. Through the years, Christa has tried several times to rescue Judith from Sidh and the master harper, Orfide. She has followed the doorway across continents

and centuries, doing musical battle with Orfide for the return of Judith. With her magical harp to keep her young, she ends up in contemporary Denver, teaching harp and losing faith that she will ever get Judith back. The door is beginning to brick itself up, and in only a matter of months, it will be closed to her forever. Then, Melinda, one of Christa's harp students, offers to take her to a heavy metal concert. Christa is shocked at the power of the music and decides that it

may be the key to defeating Orfide and getting her beloved Judith back. She transforms her harp into an electric guitar, forms a band of heavy metal women called Gossamer Axe, and prepares to do battle with Orfide, one last time before the doorway to Sidh disappears forever.

Gossamer Axe is a wonderful story with a great twist. It goes beyond most "sword and sorcery" tales with the addition of modern music, modern problems and modern lore. The contemporary problems of drugs, battering and stalking are strikingly set against a background of ancient religion and legend. Gael Baudino is a powerful writer and deserves praise for giving new life to an old formula. I would recommend Gossamer Axe to anyone who enjoys fantasy fiction as well as to those who have never been introduced to this genre.

Gossamer Axe is available from your local bookstore for \$4.50 plus \$1.00 postage and handling from ROC, New American Library (a division of Penguin Books USA, Inc.), P.O. Box 999, Bergenfield, NJ 07621. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

Next we'll look at Pagan Babies by Greg Johnson. Janice Rungren and Clifford Bannon have been friends since the third-grade, when they attended a Catholic School in a small East Texas town. Janice is a rebellious, high-strung troublemaker and Clifford is a quiet, brooding

artist. Together they make the perfect pair, until Janice becomes pregnant, not knowing that Clifford is spending his weekends in the gay bars of Dallas. Clifford plans to "do the right thing", but a tragic twist separates the two. Many years later, Janice and Clifford resume their friendship in Atlanta. Although they have come to terms with their mutual attraction, their friendship must face the ultimate test: they are both in love with the same man.

Pagan Babies is an odd, but strangely comic tale about growing up Catholic, growing up gay and growing up on the fringes in America. It captures perfectly the feelings of each decade; the optimism of Kennedy's Camelot, the promiscuity of the "disco years", and the fear of the age of AIDS. I would recommend it to everyone.

Pagan Babies is available in hard cover at your local bookstore or for \$20.00 from Dutton (a division of Penguin Books USA Inc.), 375 Hudson St., NY, NY 10014.



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QUIZ

Do You Know How To Say NO?

Are you always changing your plans to suit family and friends? Do you end up doing a lot of things you don't want to do just because you can't say "no"? Answer the following question to find out if you know how to say "no".

1. Your best friend loves a restaurant that you absolutely hate. Everytime you go out to dinner with her she wants to go there. You:

- a. go to the restaurant with her anyway.
- b. suggest another restaurant, or agree to go with her only every third or fourth time.
- c. refuse to go out to eat with her unless she chooses another place.

2. Your Mom is planning a large anniversary party for your Aunt and Uncle for the same night you have planned a party for a friend. She insists that you change your plans. You:

- a. change your party to the next weekend.
- b. move your party up an hour so that you can make an appearance.
- c. send your regards and go on with your plans.

3. You drive a pickup. Your friends and acquaintances are always asking you to help them move. You:

- a. help them even when you don't want to.
- b. let them take the truck, but don't help with the move itself.
- c. put a big sign on the tailgate that says, "I don't do moving!"

4. You and your lover have planned a romantic getaway for two. Your best friend and her lover invite themselves to go along. You:

- a. call and change the room reservation from two to four people.
- b. tell them it's fine if they get their own room.
- c. tell them they can come along next time, but this trip is just for the two of you.

5. A friend borrowed money from you several years ago and she was months late paying it back. She's back asking to borrow money again. You:

- a. go ahead and loan it to her, but don't expect it paid back on time.
- b. loan it to her, but only after she signed a note saying that she will pay market interest if it's not paid back on time.
- c. tell her to go talk to her banker.

6. Your boss has asked you to take on a project that you just don't have time to

do. You:

- a. take it on anyway, so she won't get mad.
- b. take the project with the understanding that you will delegate as much as possible.
- c. tell her that you just can't do it.

7. You donate your time and money to an organization in your area. When they ask you to make a large, one-time donation for a project you don't agree with, you:

- a. give it to them anyway since so many people think it's a good idea.
- b. give a small donation but be sure you're at the next board meeting to express your displeasure.
- c. cut off all your money since you don't agree with this project.

SCORING

Give yourself points as follows:

- 2 points for every "A" answer.
- 4 points for every "B" answer.
- 6 points for every "C" answer.

If You Scored: 14-22 points

You rarely get to do what you want. You're so busy fulfilling everyone else's requests and demands that you rarely have the time or the money left over for yourself. You need to learn to set limits and quit letting others take advantage of your good nature. If you really don't want to do something, say so! Learning to say "no" can be hard. Start by saying "no" to the little things — to the neighbor's kids when they come around selling candy when you're on a diet, for instance. Then you can work your way up to the bigger things. Once you've learned, you'll find that you have more time and money to do the things you want!

23-32 points

You have a great attitude and are always looking for a compromise. Most of the time that's fine, but there are times when you really need to give an unequivocal "no". Others will take advantage of your willingness to give in, so stick to your guns when it's really important.

33-42 points

Yes, you are good at saying "no", but you might want to soften your tone a bit. A compromise every once in awhile won't hurt you. It might even bring you closer to loved ones and could even help you get ahead at work. We all have to do things we don't want to do sometimes. Be willing to work with those around you to come up with the best solution and continue to say "no" when you really need to.



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 dropped from my brown ones, never to hold them again.

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 for when I hear it, you are far from me.
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WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

An improvement in your financial and employment picture lets you focus on personal projects you may have neglected. A shopping trip to spruce up your wardrobe could lift your spirits even more than they already are. Keep your emotions in check when it comes to dealing with a new friend or romantic interest during the last week of February. People are not always what they seem and you could find yourself in over your head if you move too quickly.

TAURUS

Put your priorities in order early in February and stick to the plan. Work and career plans could be disrupted if you don't concentrate on your goals and tune out the distractions that seem to come from all sides this month. Long distance travel and communications could be in the works during the third week. A close relationship may be a bit strained toward month's end. Set aside time to be with your loved one.

GEMINI

You've got to ring your own bell to get any attention during February. Work and finances are the focus during the first three weeks of the month, but don't neglect your friends and lover. After the 20th put work and worries aside and concentrate on improving your appearance and making new friends. Don't let a problem at home drag on indefinitely. Handle it quickly and you'll be able to enjoy the last few days of the month.

CANCER

You are easily distracted from the job at

hand during the first week of February. Although you may be feeling the urge to take a vacation, it would be best to stay on the job and get work out of the way before you play. After the 17th you will be feeling much less pressured and able to enjoy a social occasion you've been looking forward to. Financial concerns could have you running in circles toward month's end. Some hard thinking will lead you to a solution.

LEO

A romantic affair could sneak up on you when you are least expecting it during the first week of February. You may be feeling a bit uptight around mid-month. A romantic Valentine's weekend alone with a loved-one may be the perfect thing to help you relax. Your charm and charisma will take you far during the last week of the month although you'll have to watch yourself and not come across as too overpowering.

VIRGO

You have a talent for being in the right place at the right time during the first part of February. Others may resent your luck, but don't let it get you down. You may decide on a spur of the moment trip over Valentine's weekend. Even if you stay home, the weekend could bring a change for the better on the emotional front. Your cash flow increases along with your work load after the 20th. Trust your intuition when it comes to money matters.

LIBRA

Give work and play equal time during the first part of February. Things could

get confusing at work during mid-month and put a drain on your energies. Romance, whether with a current or new love could have your head spinning after the 19th. A financial matter that's been worrying you for months improves toward month's end. It's not completely fixed yet, but you're on your way.

SCORPIO

Plan ahead to keep your responsibilities from overwhelming you during the first week of February. Try not to let your emotions get in the way of an important decision after the 7th. Work keeps piling up despite your long hours. Learn when to say "no" or you may never dig yourself out! You may find that little luxury item you've been wanting for yourself. Go ahead and splurge!

SAGITTARIUS

Temper flare-ups during the first week of February could disrupt your idyllic home life. Don't let it get you down, things aren't as bad as they may first appear. A few days away from work may help your attitude and that of your mate. Your social life is highlighted from the 22nd on. Both business and home life will profit from your social activities. You have the upper hand in romance at month's end.

CAPRICORN

Make some practical decisions about money matters early in the first week of February so that you'll have time to play toward the end of the week. A dispute with friends could turn ugly if you don't compromise a little. Pay careful attention to details toward the end of the month. Avoid signing contracts during this time since it's very possible you could miss something important that will come back on you later.

AQUARIUS

Go ahead, pamper yourself - or let someone else do it for you - during the first week of February. You may not be feeling up-to-par and a little indulgence will help to lift your spirits. Let your mate or partner make the big decisions late in the month. The changes they institute now can bring you great profit or love in later weeks. Social activities will brighten your life toward month's end.

PISCES

You may be feeling confined during February. Circumstances force you to focus more on others than on yourself. Be sure you are being realistic about a relationship before you commit yourself. Try to take care of unfinished work during the last week of this month. It's possible that higher-ups are watching your performance.



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National Gay/Lesbian Task Force
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Washington D.C. 20009 • 202-332-6483
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Integrity/San Antonio
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River City Living Metropolitan Community Church
202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121
Lambda Students Center • 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.
USA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472)
SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian & Gay Assembly • 733-
7300
SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
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placed the ad.

BE SURE TO STAMP BOTH ENVELOPES!

Your Return
Address
Box # XXX

Your Return
Address

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Responsible roommate wanted. Non-smoker. 10 min. to downtown Dallas. Call digital pager 558-6948.

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FREE LESBIAN MAIL ORDER BOOK CATALOG, describing over 400 books, records, videos (including ALL Naiad titles). Send 2 stamps to

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GAIA'S GUIDE 1991/92 WORLD-WIDE LESBIAN GUIDE BOOK. 16th edition. Mail order: \$16.00 — (inc. p&h) from: LAMBDA RISING, 1625 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20009. Or toll free telephone order line: 1-800-621-6969; or local calls: (202) 462-6969; — seven days a week from 10am - midnight (Eastern Time). Accepting: Checks, money orders/VISA/Mastercard/& American Express. GAIA'S GUIDE-1991/92 is also avail-

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TO LEARN
How To
ANSWER A
PERSONAL
Ad,
SEE PAGE 34

A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

By LAURIE EISERLOH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS LOBBY

On January 12th the Texas Legislature went into session. The legislature meets once every two years from January through May. Sometimes, important issues arise between sessions, such as school finance, and the legislature must meet in special session. One of the first issues the legislature must consider is the state budget. Currently, Texas, like many other states, is in the midst of a budget crisis. At one time, oil revenues and special taxes, such as the sales tax, paid for much of the state's needs. However, market changes and increased need have endangered the state's funding base. Although few Texans are supportive, it may be time to implement a state income tax. Currently, Texas ranks forty-ninth in the U.S. in funding of health and human services programs. Consider the state AIDS budget. This year the legislature Budget Board (LBB) has proposed a \$32 million cut in the state's AIDS budget. This is a 94% reduction since last year. Also, since federal AIDS programs require that the state maintain funding at current levels, the state would also lose an additional \$9 million in federal funds.

Although the LBB's budget is far from finalized, these cuts, if approved, would devastate the state's AIDS programs. Programs such as the HIV medication program and AIDS education program would be cut. The HIV medication program allows people living with AIDS to obtain life-sustaining drugs such as AZT. The AIDS education program teaches people about risky behaviors and helps prevent the spread of the disease. Without these state-funded programs and others like them, local municipalities and hospital districts would be asked to pick-up the costs of treating AIDS. At a time when cities are facing budget short-falls of their own, shifting costs is unthinkable.

In the long run, cutting AIDS funding will actually lead to higher costs for the taxpayer. Without AIDS education, more and more individuals will become infected, thus increasing the need for health-care services. Without proper drug programs, people living with AIDS will require more hospitalization and thus increase the burden on the taxpayer.

The human cost of AIDS is inestimable. Rather than live in a society that does not value the lives of its citizens, many of us would rather live in a society that does provide proper education and health care for all its citizens. But unless and until someone in state government takes the initiative and introduces the possibility of a broad-based tax structure, the people of this state will continue to live with inadequate health and human services.



The views expressed in this column are not necessarily the view of the management of Dimensions.

An Urgent Message From The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force:

As of January 16th, calls to Congress regarding Gays in the military were running 100 to 1 in favor of upholding the ban on homosexuals in the military.

It is very important for your voice to be heard.

PLEASE CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR TODAY AND SAY "YES, I WANT THE BAN ON HOMOSEXUALS IN THE MILITARY OVERTURNED." YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Graffiti Page



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!

FEB 20th

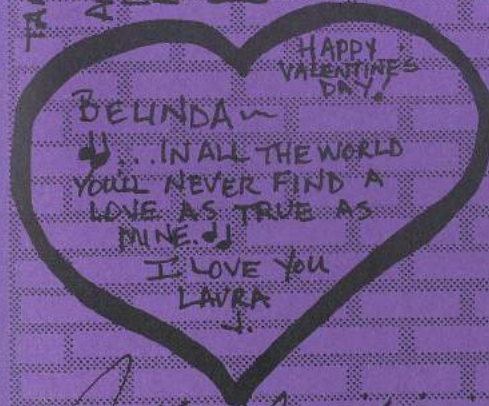
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY JENNIFER"

THANKS FOR ALL THE SMILES & WARMTH,

DEB

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!
JUDY L.

TAMMY,
YOU ARE MY PRIDE,
AND I AM YOUR SWEETIE!
I LOVE YOU WITH ALL
MY HEART. DEBBIE



BELINDA ~
... IN ALL THE WORLD
YOU'LL NEVER FIND A
LOVE AS TRUE AS
MINE. ♪
I LOVE YOU
LAURA
J.

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!

PATRI,
I LOVE YOU MORE,
EVERYDAY & YOU'RE
STILL THE ONLY
ONE FOR ME.
I KNOW THINGS
WILL WORK OUT
BETWEEN US IF
WE STAY TOGETHER
AND KEEP TRYING.
HAPPY 6TH MONTH
ANNIVERSARY!
I WOULDN'T WANT
TO BE WITH
ANYONE ELSE.
I LOVE YOU
ALWAYS & NEVER
LOVE... JENNIFER

TEDDY, I WANT TO SPEND THE REST
OF MY LIFE WITH YOU!
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
LOVE YOU, KIM
BABY

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You are special Love A

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