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VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

FEBRUARY 1995



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Guest Editorial

THRF NEEDS YOU!

Dear Dimensions,

It's unfortunate but true that the radical right is intent on destroying our basic freedoms. They wish to force their narrow dogma on all of us, and they have now taken their campaign to our college campuses. Their well-funded propaganda machine is stealing the minds of our youth. We cannot stand idly by while they attempt to convert public institutions to their radical agenda!

A case in point: the recent events at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. At the urging of young conservatives, the Student Government Association voted to revoke the charter of the Gay/Lesbian Student Association, depriving the group of funding and the use of campus facilities.

On public college campuses, students must be free to express themselves without fear of condemnation. The courts have agreed. They have upheld free expression on college campuses, regardless of whether the message is popular. The Texas Human Rights Foundation sponsored the lawsuit against Texas A&M University that affirmed the right of gay and lesbian student groups to use campus facilities. The result: we have seen gay and lesbian student organizations and support groups formed on every major college campus in Texas.

The administration at Stephen F. Austin pushed the matter on the back burner to be dealt with at a later date. This wasn't the response that the Texas Human Rights Foundation wanted to hear! This was no "routine administrative matter" and we would not tolerate the notion that "it could be awhile" before the administration decided to veto the

Student Government's illegal action. We announced legal action against the university. Two days after our announcement, the administration reinstated the Gay/Lesbian Student Association.

This time, we didn't have to sue to win. We didn't have to because we already had established precedent through an earlier court case. But we did have to respond. Only through our own vigilance will the illegal acts of radical right be halted.

To maintain such vigilance, we need your help. Our opposition is well-funded in Texas. You can become a sustaining member of THRF for as little as \$5 per month. Contributions are fully tax deductible and can really make a difference.

The radical right has demonstrated that there really is strength in numbers. Through the individual contributions of their supporters, they have generated a war chest of millions. The time has come for us to join together: each of us giving what we can.

To donate or for more information, call or write THRF at: (512) 479-THRF; P.O. Box 49740, Austin, TX 78765.

Sincerely,

Michael Garabino

Acting Executive Director

Texas Human Rights Foundation



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THE NEWS

FROM AROUND THE REGION, THE COUNTRY & THE WORLD

ALL EYES ON THE 104TH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Promising to revolutionize American government, Republicans opened the doors of the Capitol Building to a new House of Representatives and Senate both dominated by the Republican party for the first time in 40 years. Stepping up to the rostrum for the first time on the morning of January 3rd, new Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich touted his Contract With America. Previous statements by Gingrich, including that "it is madness to pretend that families are anything other than heterosexual couples," make it clear that his Contract With America is intended to support only some Americans. Gay, lesbian and bisexual people have learned to read between the lines of proposed Contract policies like "The Family Reinforcement Act" and might consider renaming the Republican Contract a "Contract on America."

What concerns most progressive activists is not the takeover of the House and Senate by the Republican party per se, but rather the dominance of an ultraconservative faction of Senators and Representatives. According to a recent report by the Christian Coalition, a full 44 of the 62 new Republican members of the House conformed to its "pro-family, pro-life" agenda. Also alarming are the number of familiar faces now chairing powerful committees

who have a long-standing tradition of opposing gay-positive legislation. Chief among them is Jesse Helms, the homophobic North Carolina senator, who will now head the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Activists can expect to spend the bulk of their energies throughout the 104th Congress fighting off anti-gay legislation and funding cuts. Many previously defeated Radical Right initiatives may find a second wind in the 104th session. Anti-gay amendments may appear in legislation on topics ranging from government personnel policies to milk subsidies. Funding may be challenged for the Ryan White CARE Act and other AIDS research and service appropriations, the National Endowment of the Arts for its funding of gay positive art, and for schools teaching tolerance and acceptance of all students, including gay and lesbian youth. Unfortunately, pro-active efforts, including movement of pro-gay federal legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act seem unlikely in such politically conservative and hostile environment. In addition, attacks on abortion rights, social security insurance, health care and new immigrants all appear likely.

Activists from all corners of the country will need to keep up on the new hostile Congress by lobbying their Senators and Representatives regularly if the voices gay, lesbian and bisexual people

are to be heard on Capitol Hill. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) offers several resources to assist in lobbying the federal government. To learn more about writing, calling and visiting your senators and representatives, Call (202) 332-6483, ext. 3327 and request *Lobbying Tips* (\$1.00) from the NGLTF publication request line.

NBC TO AIR MARGARETHE

CAMMERMEYER STORY

HOLLYWOOD, CA - NBC will air the two hour, made for television movie "Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story" on Monday, February 6th.

The movie is based on the true story of Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer, the highest ranking officer ever to be discharged from the U.S. military for admitting she is a lesbian. Colonel Cammermeyer has fought her discharge through the federal courts with the help of the Lambda Defense Fund, Northwestern Women's Law Center and the National Lawyers Guild. In June of 1994, a federal judge declared the regulation leading to her discharge unconstitutional and reinstated the Colonel in the National Guard. An appeal is pending, but it is believed that it will be resolved in her favor based on the Keith Meinhold decision.

Academy Award nominated actresses Glenn Close (as Colonel Cammermeyer) and Australian Judy Davis (as her on-

screen lover) will star in the production. "Serving in Silence" will include a much anticipated lesbian kiss between these two well-respected and popular actresses. The Radical Right is already up in arms over the kiss and is urging advertisers to boycott the movie. Executive producers are Glenn Close, Barbra Streisand, Craig Zadan, Neil Meron and Cis Corman.

TLC & MARCH TO BE HELD IN AUSTIN

AUSTIN, TX - The Eighth Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) will be held March 31, April 1 & 2 at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake in Austin. TLC is the only annual statewide lesbian conference in the United States. Organized each year by volunteers in the host city, TLC has proven to be an effective tool for sharing resources and ideas, for expanding awareness and developing leadership as Texas lesbians. This year's theme is "Texas Women: Living Out Loud." We are currently accepting proposals for workshops to be presented at the conference under this theme.

TLC '95 will dovetail with the Statewide "Stop the Violence, Stop the Hate" Lesbian and Gay Rights March on Austin on April 2nd. The March begins at 12 noon at Palmer Auditorium and will proceed up Congress Avenue toward the Capitol. The March is being held because seven people in Texas were murdered because they were gay in 1994. The March is sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

Early registration for TLC '95 is \$45 and includes entertainment, keynote speakers, workshops, a banquet, Saturday night women's dance and all other conference activities. Registration fees will increase closer to the conference.

The Radisson Hotel is offering a special rate for conference participants. Single or double occupancy will be \$82 per room, with three or four per room the rate will be \$92 per night. The hotel is only holding 100 rooms for the conference, so be sure to make your reservations early to get the special room rates. Call the Radisson at (512)

478-9611 and state that you are a TLC participant. TLC will arrange alternative housing upon request.

For more information, call the TLC Hotline at (512) 326-4453 or write to TLC '95, P.O. Box 200546, Austin, TX 78720-0546. The conference is wheelchair accessible, and will provide sign language interpreters, Braille materials, and child care on request.



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

A MONTHLY LISTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS ALL AROUND THE AREA

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER -

Suzanne Westenhofer, comedienne extraordinaire will be making a quick tour of Texas in February. If you have caught her act on *Comedy Central* or various talk shows, you know just how funny she is. This is a don't miss show. **SAN ANTONIO** - First stop, San Antonio. **Ms. Westenhofer** will be appearing at **Bonham Exchange** on Thursday, February 9th. The show will start about 9:30pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door and are available at **Bonham Exchange**. For more info, call (210) 224-9219.

AUSTIN - She will be appearing in Austin at the **Radisson Hotel Ballroom** on Friday, February 10th at 8pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door and are available at **Bookwoman**, **Celebration!** and **Liberty Books**. Call (512) 929-8630 for more info.

FORT WORTH - She will then travel to the Metroplex for a show on Saturday, February 11th at 8pm at **Orchestra Hall** (4401 Trail Lake Dr.) in Fort Worth. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door and are available at **Connections Bookstore** and **Agape MCC** in Fort Worth and at **Crossroads Market** in Dallas. For more info, call (817) 924-3264.

HOUSTON - Then, it's on to Houston on Sunday, February 12th for her final Texas appearance at the **Heinen Theatre** (3517 Austin St. at Holman) at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door and are available at **Inklings Bookshop** and **Crossroads Market**. For more info, call (713) 521-3369.

AUSTIN - Make your plans now to attend the **8th Annual Texas Lesbian Conference** and to show your pride in the **Lesbian and Gay March on Austin**. The conference will be held March 31-April 2 at the **Radisson Hotel** on Town Lake. The March (sponsored by the **Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas**) will begin at 12 noon on April 2 at the **Palmer Auditorium** and proceed up Congress Ave. toward the Capitol. For more info on the conference, call (512) 326-4453. For more info on the march, call (512) 474-5475.

DALLAS - **ART-Positive**, a gallery show & sale featuring the work of HIV-positive artists opens Sunday, March 19th at the **Edith Baker Gallery** (2404 Cedaar Springs Road). The show will present a wide range of paintings and sculpture from area HIV-positive artists. A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit **Legacy Counseling Center**, a non-profit mental health care agency that provides counseling and emotional support to individuals, friends and family members challenged with AIDs and HIV. For more info, call **Carolyn** at (214) 622-5252.

OKLAHOMA CITY - **Herland Sister Resources** is forming a community food pantry to help lesbians in need. Donations of non-perishable food items, pet food and household supplies are needed. If you can donate or if you need help, go by **Herland** (2312 N.W. 39th) during business hours on Saturdays 10am-5pm and Sundays 1pm-5pm. For more info, call (405) 521-9696.

DALLAS - The Dallas Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival will hold their 4th annual festival on February 16-18. This year's festival will again be held at the **Dallas Theater Center** on Turtle Creek with a special opening night screening at the **Inwood Theater**. If you would like more info or are interested in volunteering to help with the festival, call **Deb** at (214) 257-4443.

FORT WORTH - The **First Thursday Lesbian Social** (formerly Second Tuesday, formerly First Friday) meets the first Thursday of each month from 6-9pm at **Downtown Java** (at 6th St. & Houston on Sundance Square). First Thursday is a monthly social networking group for lesbians. Admission is \$1. food, coffee and beverages are available. BYOB if desired.

SAN ANTONIO - The **Esperanza Peace & Justice Center (EPJC)** and the **Lesbian Caucus of the Women's Caucus for Art** will host "**Re/Defining Lesbians: Power/Transition**", a national exhibition of recent visual art by self-identifying lesbians. The show will be held through February 19th at EPJC (922 San Pedro at Evergreen). For more info, call (210) 228-0201.

OF INTEREST TO ALL

Golden Threads, a worldwide social network of Lesbian women over 50 and women of any age who are interested in older women will hold its **9th Annual Golden Threads Celebration** on June 23-25 in Provincetown, Massachusetts. There will be workshops, entertainment provided by Alix Dobkin and a banquet to be followed by dancing. **OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change)** will also hold their June meeting to coincide with the Celebration. For more information, write **Christine Burton, Golden Threads**, P.O. Box 60475, Northampton, MA 01060-0475.

Team Seattle will hold its **Second Annual Winter Sports Festival** March 10-12 at the **Seattle Center Arena** and at **Snoqualmie Pass** ski area. Competitions will be held in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey and figure skating (singles, pairs and ice dancing). For more info or to register, call (206) 820-3438.



If you have information for
What's Goin' On,
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DEAR AGNES

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE,
RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Dear Agnes,

How refreshing to read that there is a butch out there willing to be "a butch searching for a femme." She can feel free to write to me if you will give her my address.

It seems that a lesbian is in the eye of the beholder, like beauty. You see, I don't see many (if any) butches out there unless already welded - oops - I mean wedded.

"Looking for Femmes" would not be attracted to me for I am an older woman, not too femme, but attractive. Living has left its trace-lines and so forth. But, I delighted in her letter and strongly encourage her to keep up her search. I believe there can be good butch/femme togetherness, mutual respect. I cherish a dream of someday meeting a butch with whom I can live life as her femme . . . even though I understand women's all-abledness and liberation. Women's Libempowered me—and I am a person, a lesbian, a femme — all part of a spiritual being and hey — it's great. I believe a good way to approach me as a femme is to be simple and honest. Say, "I'm not a good dancer, but I'd like to buy you a coke (or a drink, or whatever) and talk with you a little — even try a dance . . ."

Sincerely,

Femme Looking for a Butch
Austin, TX

Dear Agnes,

This is in reference to the letter in the Dec./Jan. 94-95 issue signed "Looking for Femmes."

The best thing she can do is quit putting women into categories based on their looks. I have long hair, wear makeup and occasionally even heels. I can work on my own car, do my own home repairs and have a collection of tools that would make most men drool. I may look "femme," but I'm truly a butch girl at heart.

On the other hand, I know women with a classic "butch" look who can't even change their own tire.

The letter-writer states that she is "not attracted to someone who looks like myself." I think she needs to change her standards. Looks are not what it is about. If she truly wants to find someone to love, she should look for a woman who shares her interests and not someone who looks just right but couldn't care less about the things she finds fun, interesting or entertaining.

One last note: going on the "big love hunt," usually results only in disappointment. The best way to find love is to quit looking for it. Make friends, have fun. Love can find you in the most amazing places.

Look Below the Haircut
Dallas, TX

Dear Agnes,

This is to "Looking for Femmes" in the January issue. Give me a break! Can't we get passed all this butch/femme crap? Women are women are women. Period. Whether they have short hair or long, wear jeans or skirts, heels or workboots, they all have the same plumbing. Most women I know fall close to the middle of the butch/femme equation. In the right circumstances they can lean either way. They may go to work in a dress, heels and full makeup, and to the bar in jeans, t-shirt and no makeup.

The only way to know if you are truly attracted to someone or not is to talk to them. It may be that the prettiest femme in the bar has a mouth like a sailor and that semi-butch girl you passed over because she didn't look right is someone you could really fall in love with.

Also, the best way to approach someone if you don't know how to dance is simply to ask if they mind if you buy them a drink and sit down to talk.

Looks Aren't Everything
Houston, TX

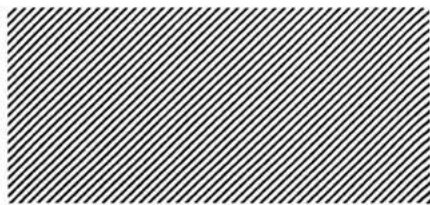
Dear Agnes,

I would like to address the two heavy-set dykes that walked out of Shocking

Gray on December 27th, without paying for the items that had previously hung on the hangers left on the magazine rack.

We are blessed to have a gay store that provides a variety of items and services, for San Antonio's gays and lesbians. How could you steal from your "family"?

Your Conscience
San Antonio, TX



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THE LOVE HUNT

HANDY HINTS AND TIPS TO HELP YOU IN
YOUR SEARCH FOR A VALENTINE

You're single (not by choice) and it seems like everyone around you has someone to love. You would really like someone to share your bed and your life. Someone who will bring you candy and flowers on Valentine's Day, comfort you when you've had a bad day and someone who will help you do laundry and clean house on Saturdays. So you set out for the bar, dressed in your best and start looking, right? Wrong. Below are some tips to help you find love. Some are common sense, some are a little harder to implement, but all are sound advice.

1. QUIT LOOKING. I know, I know. You've heard it before. The problem is that the old adage usually holds true — "Love will find you when you least

expect it." Instead of going out to a bar, coffee house or church and seeing every woman present as a potential partner, try going to those places just for fun. Desperation is not pretty. When you are on a big hunt for love, it shows on your face and scares off those who might otherwise respond to an overture of friendship.

2. NETWORK. Sounds like a business term, but it can be applied to personal relationships as well. Many women are in relationships with people who started out being "friends of friends." Ask your friends to introduce you to women they think you might like. Go to parties where you are likely to meet women you wouldn't meet in the normal course of your life.

Join a club that interests you. There are hundreds of specialized groups for gay men and lesbians out there. There are outdoor groups, political groups, sports teams, gardening clubs, theater clubs, and organizations for gays of many occupations or certain ages or both. Pick one that suits your interests and join up. If you can't find a group you like, start your own.

If you are a religious person, join and attend a gay church in your area. Even if you live out in the sticks, you could still attend church in a city close to you once a month or so. Of course, while you are doing all this networking, keep rule number one in mind.

3. ADVERTISE. No, this doesn't mean wearing a low cut blouse and skin-tight jeans to the bar. I mean...place an ad. In your local gay paper, here in *Dimensions*, or on the bulletin board at your local women's group. Don't go into it looking for love. Start by looking for new friends. Give yourself some space. This way you don't have to feel bad if you don't find that perfect someone and you might end up with a lot of new friends to network through.

4. GO ON LOTS OF CASUAL DATES. I do mean casual. Don't make every date the wine, dinner and dancing type. Go to lunch or to the softball park. Be creative. It is hard to know if you really like a woman when the only conversation you have is shouting at each other over the music in a bar or sitting quietly next to her in the pew at church. Go somewhere where neither of you will feel that romantic pressure and there's lots of room to just talk.

5. NO TALK OF COMMITMENT ON THE FIRST (OR SECOND OR THIRD) DATE. The fastest way to scare off a woman is to talk about setting up housekeeping before she's even met

your cat. You've heard the old joke: What does a lesbian bring on the first date? A U-Haul. Don't be a u-hauler. Just because you've met a woman you like and enjoyed your first date doesn't mean you have to move in together within the week.

Put yourself in her shoes: You've met a woman at a friend's house. You ask her out to dinner and a movie. Before you even get to the main course, she's talking about what colors you'll decorate the house you are going to buy together and asking if you want to be the one to be artificially inseminated. What do you do? a. Swoon and say yes, you'd love to have a family with her, or; b. Run screaming from the restaurant and go straight home to call all your friends to tell them how crazy she is and that you are lucky you got out alive? Most of us would probably pick "b."

6. DON'T COUNT ON "LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT." Yes, it does happen, but that doesn't mean it's the only way to find true love. I once had a friend who believed fervently in love at first sight — and she practiced at the bar every weekend. She always knew she was "in love" with a woman just because she danced a certain way or walked across the bar in just the right manner. Never mind that she didn't know the woman's name, age, occupation or temperament — all she needed was to see her across a crowded, smoky room and that was enough. Over the years she had countless "lovers" who lasted a week to six months. I don't know where she is today, but I hope she's learned that although love at first sight is a possibility, it isn't anything to base a long-term relationship on.

7. WHEN YOU DO SEE SOMEONE YOU THINK YOU LIKE, BE PERSISTENT (BUT NOT TOO PERSISTENT). Most of us have had

this experience. You are sitting in the bar with friends when a nice looking woman comes over and asks you to dance. You have just come off the dance floor and you are hot, sweaty and thirsty. You tell her no thanks and say you'd love to dance later, after you rest for a minute. She takes it as total rejection and never comes back. On the other hand there are the women you might have talked to if they hadn't been so pushy — asking you to dance at the beginning of every song for an hour when all you want to do is sit back and take it easy. If she had only offered to buy you a drink instead of constantly bugging you to dance, you might have accepted and gotten to know her.

Take these examples as lessons. Just because someone turns you down once doesn't mean she is totally uninterested. Ask again — you may be surprised. If you've asked her a couple of times with no response, try changing your tactics. If that still doesn't work — give it up. Case in point: My lover of ten years asked me out the first time I met her and I turned her down. I had plans that had been made for months for the night she wanted to go out. She told me later that she thought I was just making excuses and had decided she was not going to ask again. However, the next time we met, we started talking, she asked me out again at a much more convenient time and the rest is history.

So, now that you've read all this advice, go back to number one. Keep your eyes and your mind open, but don't go out hunting for love. Go hunting for friends, have fun and be open to all the possibilities. Who knows, you may decide that being single isn't so bad after all and decide to stay that way — right before you meet Ms. Right.



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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

SMART FAT

BY NANCY FORD

The New Queer Year is here, and a mere one month later, already the sound of resolutions can be heard shattering across this great self-deprecating land of ours.

I personally have never been much of one for resolutions. I figure, I'm forty years old. The only New Trick this Old Dog is interested in has little to do with changing habits permanently ingrained into my psyche for four decades. Not to imply that I'm inflexible. Absolutely not. I *am* flexible, I don't care *what* you say, and I'll *never* change. So f___ you. Silliness aside, (Yeah, right.) There is one resolution-type specter that has hung over my head for as nearly as long as I can remember. It's the old "*This year I'm definitely losing weight*" post-holiday mantra.

I was raised to believe that the best time to start a diet is January 2. If that date happens to fall on Monday, all the better. Magic Monday. It's as though we think fat is stupid. We think we can binge all week long, but then, come Monday morning, we eat a couple of carrot sticks, pop some bee pollen, and chase that silly, stupid old fat away — right? Wrong. Fat is not stupid. Fat is smart. Fat homesteads. Fat is not nomadic. Fat finds a place where it is most comfortable, and it stays. Like on thighs. Smart fat. Smart, smart, smart. Cellulite, the most enduring member of the fat

family, should be regarded and respected as fat with a Master's degree. Weight and body image have been very much in the forefront of our collective American consciousness since Dolly Madison put aside her needle and started baking snack cakes. We've watched Oprah expand and contract, expand and contract, expand and contract. We've listened to Susan Powter pout. We've played poker with our Deal-A-Meal cards. *I'll see your three vegetable exchanges and raise you a chocolate croissant.*

Food for thought, but not for swallowing. The average American female stands 5'4" tall and weighs 146 pounds. Conversely, the average fashion model stands 5'10" and weighs 120 pounds. Hel-lo? Who's doing the math at the fashion designing store? Hubbell telescope scientists?

It's been suggested that love always has a metabolic effect on those who have the good fortune to tumble into it. Some insist that one has a tendency to lose weight when in love, as a result of turning to one's paramour, rather than food, for comfort. It's true — who among us, when single, haven't indulged ourselves by curling up on the couch with a big pork roast dipped in chocolate on a cold, rainy night? Maybe that's just me.

Now comes psychiatrist and eating-

disorder specialist Dr. Leo Wollman to tell us that "two out of three people gain weight after falling in love," Social drinking also increases because meeting each other's family and friends often involves a few drinks; sometimes, a lot of drinks, depending on the family and friends.

The good doctor offered tips to avoid adding poundage after giving your heart to another. These suggestions were originally published in *Weekly World News*, in the same issue in which Elvis informed President Clinton of his eminent return to show business. So don't think I haven't done my journalistic research.

- *Find substitutes for gifts you eat. Bring flowers instead of wine.* Even non-edible panties might be nice for a change.

- *Don't make a special event out of mealtime.* Avoid exotic restaurants and gourmet cookbooks. This is a good way to your honey's depth of devotion, too. Do you love me a la Filet do boeuf or do you love me a la Whopper? It's all in the translation.

- *Have a talk about food early in your relationship.* Determine through open communication if you and your partner intend to eat together. Make sure you're both ready. Plan it, don't be embarrassed, and don't be ashamed. It's a matter of respect. Oh, wait — that's the procedure for safe sex. Forget I brought it up.

- *Work off anxious moments with activity rather than food.* Unfortunately, it has been determined that while sex can be wonderfully invigorating, the actual number of calories burned during the act is

relatively inconsequential. But it still beats the hell out of bowling. And you can wear your own shoes.



Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and writer, and is a frequent contributor to the gay and lesbian press. Each Thursday, she hosts Open Mic at Plaza 9200 (9200 Buffalo Speedway in Houston), 8:30pm-midnight. Singers, poets, comics and musicians are encouraged to share their talent, or lack of it. Ford's Respect Yourself! — Safer Sex Seminar for Lesbians presented by AIDS Foundation Houston is Thursday, Feb. 23, 9:30pm. Call 713-868-3484 for information and reservations.

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THIS MONTH, TASHA SUMNER INTRODUCES:

Getting to the Point

by Teresa Stores



Night Songs

by Penny Mickelbury

The first book we'll look at this month is **Getting to the Point** by Teresa Stores. The story revolves around Dix, an aspiring writer who has returned home to "The Point" to help her mother while her grandmother dies. The Point is a town at the end of the road on the Florida-Georgia border.

Dix's family is filled with born-again Christians. Her father hasn't spoken to her since she announced her lesbianism. Her mother avoids the subject except

for the occasional "don't tell your grandmother," and her brother and his wife are trying hard not to be judgmental. Everything is moving along semi-smoothly until Dix's lover, Sarah, arrives.

Sarah has never had a family. Abandoned by her mother at age five, she grew up in a procession of foster homes. She doesn't understand Dix's need for her family's love. She shows up at the Point in her restored '52 pickup

with pink triangles painted down the side and Greenpeace, Pro-Choice and No Nukes bumper stickers all over the back end. One of the first things she does is kiss Dix in full view of the entire family.

There are no stereotypes here — only family. Dix's right-wing family reacts with real-life confusion to the news that one of their members is gay. There is love and concern mixed with disgust and embarrassment.

Getting to the Point is a wonderful book although a little choppy. Abrupt changes in person (i.e.: from whose point-of-view the story is being told) are confusing and ineffective. However, those complaints aside, the overall effect is an honest look at how families cope — with death, with life, with abuse, with love and with a lesbian in their midst. I highly recommend this book to any and all.

Next, we'll look at **Night Songs**, A Gianna Maglione Mystery by Penny Micklebury (author of **Keeping Secrets**).

Gianna Maglione is a police lieutenant and head of the Hate Crimes Unit in Washington, D.C.. Her lover, Mimi Patterson, is a hot-shot investigative newspaper reporter. Both, on their own time are investigating the murder of a number of prostitutes in the city. The two women can't share information about their separate investigations although each knows the other is working on the same case. Gianna, as a cop, can't even be seen talking with Mimi, much less acknowledge their relationship. Mimi, a reporter, is just trying to break a hot story until she meets Baby Doll. Then her quest to find the killers becomes personal as she fears

for Baby Doll's life.

The next question is: Who is killing women on the streets of Washington, D.C.? The further each woman gets into her own investigation, the more the evidence points to the highest levels of the political food chain.

Night Songs is a step above most lesbian murder mysteries. The plot is believable and the characters feel real. Plot and sub-plot work together seamlessly to make **Night Songs** a great read.

Both **Getting to the Point** and **Night Songs** are available at your local women's bookstore or for \$10.95 from Naiad Press, Inc., P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Please include 15% postage and handling. Complete catalogs are available upon request.



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Love or hate
No neutral state
That fleeting moment must subside
The waiting, Oh the waiting
A heavy weight
Will this weight lift
Can the fire go out
Is the fire of the earth
Will time let it die
Of the earth there is a volcano
This volcanic activity rules my soul,
Mostly my heart.

- CJ
Dallas, TX

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...is it *LOVE* or is it **LUST?**

There are many stages to a relationship. First comes lust ... you know, it's that time when you first get really involved when you can't seem to drag yourself out of the bedroom. Hopefully the lust period is followed by love — when you finally emerge from the bedroom to find that even out here, you still want to spend your time with her. So, is it love or lust or on the rocks? To find out, answer the questions below.

1. The most attractive thing about her is:

- a. her eyes.
- b. everything.
- c. her butt.

2. When you look into her eyes, you:

- a. wonder if she fed the dog.
- b. think about how much you love her.
- c. wonder how many steps it is to the bedroom.

3. On a typical date, you:

- a. go to dinner and a movie.
- b. talk about anything & everything.
- c. intend to go out, but never make it out the door.

4. When you are away from her, you think about:

- a. how mad she was this morning because you left the lid off the toothpaste.
- b. her smile.
- c. the hot time you had last night and will have again tonight.

5. When the two of you talk about sex, you:

- a. wonder why you don't do it more often.
- b. tell each other how wonderful you are together.
- c. don't talk, you act.

6. She looks her best:

- a. when she's asleep.
- b. all the time.
- c. in the shower.

7. During the last seven nights you've spent together, you've had sex:

- a. not at all.
- b. one to three times.
- c. 15 to 20 times if you count more than once a night.

8. When you go out of town:

- a. you go to the museum while she goes to the zoo.
- b. you plan things you both enjoy and save the nights for romance.
- c. you never see anything but your hotel and the room service waiter.

Scoring

Give yourself points as follows:

4 points for every "A" answer.

6 points for every "B" answer.

10 points for every "C" answer.

64-80 points

Although love may be in the making, you are definitely in the extreme lust stage right now. The question is if the love will grow enough to replace the lust when it cools down. Although it may seem hard right now, try to think about what you like about her other than the feel of her naked body in your bed. Can you imagine living with her on a daily basis when you aren't spending every moment in the bedroom? If so, this relationship just might have a chance!

48-63 points

Congratulations! You have found love. Sex is important to both of you, but it is not the entire basis of your relationship. You share common interests and enjoy spending time together outside the bedroom. Your sex life is fun, but your whole life together doesn't revolve around it.

32-47 points

You may have settled into this relationship a little too comfortably. You take each other for granted and forget sometimes just how lucky you are. You may need to plan time for intimacy and getting to know each other again. Next time you look at her, try to think about what is right in your relationship instead of focusing on the negative aspects.



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HOROSCOPE

WHAT'S IN THE STARS FOR YOU THIS MONTH?

ARIES

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

TAURUS

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

GEMINI

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

CANCER

Try not to spread yourself thin or change directions too quickly during the first part of

February. Between work, financial, and family problems, you may feel you are being pulled in too many directions after the 8th. Try not to lose your temper with anyone and stay focused on the task at hand. Things work themselves out by the 14th. The last part of the month brings more fun and social engagements.

LEO

Your communication skills are the focus in February. Even though you aren't in a sociable mood, you may have many obligations that require your diplomatic skills. Although your finances seem to be in good shape, you should watch spending after the 15th when you may have to shell out some money for a household emergency. You may have to compromise with your partner to resolve and old problem on the 20th. Speak up about your wishes toward month's end—you may be surprised and get just what you want!

VIRGO

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

LIBRA

Your bargaining skills should be put to use during February. If you go about it the right way, you could talk higher ups into giving you a raise, promotion or both! An

unexpected attraction to someone you meet after the 10th could catch you off guard. Be careful not to move too quickly or you could get hurt. A weekend apart from a loved one might be just what you need to improve your relationship after the 22nd. Month's end is a good time to explore new career options open to you.

SCORPIO

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

SAGITTARIUS

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

CAPRICORN

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

AQUARIUS

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

PISCES

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



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A LISTING OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CLUBS

ALBUQUERQUE, NM (area code 505)

organizations

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

AMARILLO, TX (area code 806)

organizations

Lesbian/Gay Alliance • PO Box 9361 79105 • 359-4219
MCC of Amarillo • PO Box 1276 • 372-4557

ARLINGTON, TX (area code 817)

clubs

Ropers • 2023 South Cooper • 265-5574

organizations

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

AUSTIN, TX (area code 512)

clubs

Hollywood • 113 San Jacinto • 480-9627
Nexus • 305 W. 5th • 472-5288

organizations

Affirmation (Methodist) • 7403 Shoal Creek • 451-2329
Austin Latino/a Lesbian/Gay Organization
PO Box 1350 78787 • 280-6107
Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 822 78767 • 474-0750
Center for Battered Women • (Lesbian Group)
385-5181 or 928-9070 (hotline)
Gay/Lesbian Student Association at UT Austin
458-3971 • Box 275 Texas Union 78712-7338
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby • PO Box 2579 78768 • 474-5475
Lesbian Mothers • Karen • 339-8508
Live Wire Productions • PO Box 141202 78714
Metropolitan Community Church • 1100 Springdale Rd. • 929-3660
Oasis Ministry • 5555 N. Lamar Blvd. #101 • 441-8191
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 331-8445
Sapphires • Lesbian Social Group • 450-0659
Meeting Address • 825 E. 53 1/2 St., Ste E103
Mailing Address • 201 W. Stassney, Ste. #321 78745-3156
Waterloo Counseling Center • 507 Powell 78703 • 322-9654
Texas Human Rights Foundation • P.O. Box 49740 78765 • 479-8473
AIDS Legal Assistance 1-800-828-6417
The Treehouse (Lesbian Mothers Support Group)
607 Nueces St. 78701 • 477-5822

ATHENS, TX (area code 903)

organizations

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

BANDERA, TX (area code 210)

accommodations

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

DALLAS, TX (area code 214)

businesses

Alternative Visions • Dating Service • 747-2033

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

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

organizations

Affirmation • PO Box 225831 75222 • 948-1546
AIDS Resource Center • P.O. Box 190712 75219
Asians & Friends • PO Box 9142 75209 • 392-3339
Cathedral of Hope MCC • 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. • 351-1901
Community Church & College of Divine Metaphysics
4001 Live Oak #401 • 826-7110, Ext. 401
Congregation Beth El Binah • P.O. Box 191188 75219 • 497-1591
Couples Metro Dallas • PO Box 803156 75380 • 504-6775
Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 528-4233 • FAX 522-4604
Dallas Gay/Lesbian Historic Archives • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 821-1653
Dallas Gay Youth Group • 300 Turtle Creek Plaza #116 • 307-7203
Dallas Outdoors • P.O. Box 35474 75235 • 276-5270
Dallas Tavern Guild • 3900 Lemmon Ave. #220 • 526-5292
Dignity/Dallas • PO Box 190133 75219 • 226-4101
Foundation for Human Understanding • 528-4233
Gay/Lesbian Gardeners • PO Box 190552 75219 • 339-0787
GLAAD/Dallas • P.O. Box 190712 75219 • 526-GLAD
Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus • 2727 Oak Lawn • 528-2811
Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas • 521-5342 ext. 229
Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition • P.O. Box 224424 75222 • 828-9882
Lesbian Resource Center • 1315 Skiles • 621-3999
Lesbian Visionaries • PO Box 191443 75219 • 521-5342 X 844
LIL (Lesbian Info Line • 521-5342 ext. 298
SPROUTS (coming out group) • 521-5342 ext. 256
TWIGS (the wynn in gay society) • 521-5342 ext. 269
The New Vision (newsjournal) • 521-5342 ext. 255
Metroplex Republicans • P.O. Box 191033 75219 • 941-8114
Oak Lawn Community Services 4300 MacArthur • 520-8108
Oak Lawn Symphonic Band • P.O. Box 190973 75219 • 986-1751
PFLAG/Dallas • Helpline 556-6640
Imperial Sovereign Royal Court of Dallas
P.O. Box 190464 75245 • 521-8446
Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship • 416-1358
Womyn Together • 3920 Cedar Springs • 528-4233

DENTON, TX (area code 817)

organizations

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

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX (area code 512)

accommodations

Recreation Plantation • Campground • HCO1 box 40-A 78620 • 894-0667

EL PASO, TX (area code 915)

organizations

Lambda Services • PO Box 31321 79931-0321 • 24 hour line 562-GAYS
MCC El Paso • 916 Yandell • 542-1227
P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays)
Spanish & English Language Meetings • 591-4664

FT. WORTH (area code 817)

organizations

Agape MCC • 4615 SE Loop 820 • 535-5002
Affirmation (Methodist) • 478-7837

Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington • 870-1555 or 535-7188
 Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition of Tarrant County • 263-9006 or 860-0326
 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 498-5607/498-4855
 RESPECT • 828 Hardwood Rd., Hurst, TX 76064
 Tarrant County L/G Alliance • 3327 Winthrop, Suite 243 76116 • 763-5544

HOUSTON, TX (area code 713)

businesses

Inklings Bookshop • 1846 Richmond • 521-3369

clubs

Ranch • 9218 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3464
 Ms. B's • 9208 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3356
 XTC • 9212 Buffalo Spdwy. • 666-3356

organizations

AIDS Foundation • 3927 Essex Lane • 623-6796
 AIDS HOTLINE • c/o Switchboard • 529-3211
 Gay/Lesbian Students University of Houston • 4800 Calhoun • 529-3211
 Gay/Lesbian Switchboard • PO Box 66591 77266 • 529-3211
 Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents • 980-7995
 Houston Gay Political Caucus • P.O. Box 66664 77266 • 521-1000
 Integrity • P.O. Box 66003 77266-6003 • 432-0414
 Kingdom Community Church • 614 E. 19th • 682-7533
 Lambda ALANON • 1214 Joanne • 521-9772
 Lesbian/Gay Students-Univ. Houston Clear Lake • 2700 Bay Area 77058
 LTN Houston • Lesbian Teacher Network
 PO Box 1835 • Bellare, TX 77402 • 529-3211
 Metropolitan Community Church Of The Resurrection
 1919 Decatur • 861-9149
 Montrose Counseling Center • 900 Lovett #203 77006 • 529-0037
 Montrose Pool League/Billiards • PJ 863-8482
 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 867-9020
 PWA Coalition • Houston • 1475 W. Gray #163 • 522-5428
 SORA (Sex or Relationship Addicts Anonymous) lesbian group • 523-9398
 The Women's Group • 529-5871
 Womynspace • P.O. Box 980601 77098-0601
 Women's Softball League • 6431 Pineshade • 868-6256

LUBBOCK, TX (area code 806)

businesses

Distinct Travel • 793-8374

organizations

Lubbock Lesbian/Gay Alliance & Wild Wide West Prod.
 P.O. Box 64746 79464 • 791-4499
 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
 PO Box 1021 • Evanston, IL 60204
 AIDS Action Council • 729 Eighth St. S.E. Suite 200
 Washington, DC 20003 • (202) 547-3101
 AIDS 800 • 1-800-221-7044
 Conference For Catholic Lesbians
 PO Box 436, Planetarium Station • New York, NY 10024
 GLAAD/USA • 80 Varick St. #3E • NY, NY 10013
 Hate Crime Line • 1-800-347-HATE
 Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI)
 PO Box 50360, Washington, DC 20091 • (202) 583-8029
 Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund
 PO Box 21567 • Seattle, WA 98111 • (206) 325-2643
 Lesbian Teachers Network (LTN)
 PO Box 638 • Solon, IA 52333
 National Gay Alliance for Young Adults, Inc.
 PO Box 190426 • Dallas, TX 75219 • (214) 307-7023

National Gay/Lesbian Clearinghouse
 666 Broadway 4th Floor • NY, NY 10012
 National Gay/Lesbian Task Force
 1517 U Street NW • Washington D.C. 20009 • 202-332-6483
 Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-Flag) • 1-800-4-FAMILY
 The Fund for Human Dignity
 666 Broadway 4th Floor • NY, NY 10012

NEW ORLEANS, LA (area code 504)

club & accommodations

Charlene's • 940 Elysian Fields • 945-9328

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (area code 405)

organizations

Oasis the Community Center
 2135 NW 39th 73112 • 525-AIDS
 Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
 2312 NW 39th 73112 • 521-9596

SAN ANGELO, TX (area code 915)

organizations

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

SAN ANTONIO, TX (area code 210)

clubs

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

organizations

Deaf Rainbow • 804-1904 TTY
 Dignity/San Antonio • 202 N. St. Mary's • 349-3632
 Integrity/San Antonio
 PO Box 150006 78212 • 684-4920
 P-Flag (Parents/Friends Lesbians/Gays) • 822-4135
 River City Living Metropolitan Community Church
 202 Holland 78212 • 822-1121
 Lambda Students Center • 1140 W. Woodlawn Ave.
 LISA (Lesbian Information SA) • 828-LISA (5472)
 SALGA - San Antonio Lesbian/Gay Assembly • 733-7300
 SALSA - San Antonio Lambda Students Alliance
 PO Box 12715 78212 • SALSA Line 733-1225
 San Antonio AIDS Foundation
 PO Box 120113 78212-9313
 San Antonio Tavern Guild • 822-2823

SHERMAN, TX (area code 903)

organizations

AIDS Resource Center of Texoma • 813-1272 or 800-525-6381
 Alliance for Life • PO Box 1695 75091 • 892-9049
 HIV/AIDS Services • PO Box 1695 75091 • 463-7258

WACO, TX (area code 817)

organizations

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

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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

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

Place this in another envelope and mail to
the address above. We will then forward
your unopened letter to the person who
placed the ad.

BE SURE TO STAMP BOTH ENVELOPES!

Your Return
Address
Box # XXX

Your Return
Address

DIMENSIONS
P.O. Box 856
Lubbock, TX 79408



M 001 111 082

Property of the Center

The Graffiti Page

J.E.S.-

"Bunkie"

Happy Birthday to You,
Happy Birthday to You,
Happy Birthday dear "Bunkie"
Happy Birthday to you!!!

Love ya,

R.A.-
"Bunk"

Judy
hap-hap-happy birthday
we love you. n you know who....



SHARE WITH ME YOUR LIFE, YOUR AFFECTION,
YOUR LAUGHTER, BODY AND YOUR LOVE.

I HAVE GIVEN YOU MY OPENESS, HONESTY,
TOUCH, NEED AND TIME.

WE NEED TO SHARE OUR THOUGHTS, DESIRES,
PASSIONS, DAYS AND NIGHTS.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO PUSH ME AWAY, WE
ARE BOTH LOSERS.

HAPINESS, COMFORT, DESIRE, CONTENTMENT
IS ALL HERE FOR YOU IN ME.

I HAVE GIVEN YOU TIME, SPACE AND
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

NOW WHAT DO YOU GIVE BABE?
LOVE, CB

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ROBIN J.
LOVE, VS

IT'S YOUR DEAL, KELLY. LET'S PLAY 7-CARD DRAW
DR. PEPPER, SWEAT, JACKS OR BETTER TO OPEN
FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY. HAVE A GREAT ONE - LOVE,
YOUR POKER OPPONENTS

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