



January 1996

# THE WAND

Vol. 13, No. 1

Womynspace Activities / Networking Directory

Inside: News from Camp Sister Spirit  
Dyke Drama...[cigarette] Butt Out



Invites you to attend:

## Lesbians: To Your Health '96

## Lesbianas: A Tu Salud '96

Saturday, January 20, 1996

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1475 West Gray

West Gray Metropolitan Multiservice Center

Workshops • Breast Cancer Screening  
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Lots of activities for everyone!

Schedule Mammogram Appointments in person  
at Inklings Bookshop, 1846 Richmond (age 35 and over)

## 8th Gulf Coast Womens Festival April 4-7, 1996

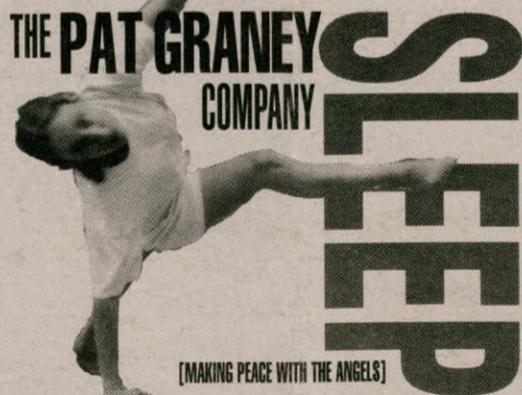
Lesbian-Feminist Festival on Sober land and safespace at Camp Sister Spirit, Ovett, Mississippi. Brenda and Wanda Henson, Co-producers. Workshops, night stage, craftwomyn, raffle, good southern food and hospitality. Write PO Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464.

"Once we recognize what it is we are feeling, once we recognize we can feel deeply, love deeply, can feel joy, then we will demand that all parts of our lives produce that kind of joy."

--Audre Lorde  
activist, poet,  
lesbian, author of  
*The Cancer Journals*

Feb. 18, 1934 -  
Nov. 17, 1992

DiverseWorks, Society for the Performing Arts,  
University of Houston Dance Division, and the  
National Performance Network Present



A fascinating, highly theatrical exploration of the dreaming state, this performance ranges in tone between striking ethereal beauty and intensely physical movement. Threaded through *Sleep* are women's cultural rituals: childhood, adolescence, communion/bas mitzvah, maturity, marriage, aging, and death.

Fri & Sat, January 12 & 13, 1996 8pm

University of Houston's Lyndall Finley Wortham Theatre **Free Parking**  
TICKETS: \$15, DIVERSEWORKS MEMBERS: \$10, STUDENTS: \$7

Call 228-0914



## Lesbian Health Initiative:

### Working to Keep Houston Lesbians out of Bed

by Pokey Anderson

Over the past two decades, lesbians have been in the forefront of several battles which primarily affect other groups -- like AIDS, like reproductive freedom, like environmental concerns. Meanwhile, who do think has been the watchdog for the health of lesbians in this nation -- the AMA? the CDC? AIDS groups? the American Cancer Society? Jesse Helms? Hilary Clinton? While our backs have been turned, lesbians are being struck down, one by one, by serious illness and fatal diseases. Even lesbians have been in denial that there is a problem. Many of us were lulled into a sense of false security when we realized that we were at low risk for AIDS. Unfortunately, there are other diseases...

Breast cancer is one example. Breast cancer is the number one killer of women aged 35 to 50. More Americans die of breast cancer each year than of AIDS. Dr. Kate O'Hanlan of Stanford says it is likely that lesbians are at higher risk than straight women for not only breast cancer, but lung cancer, ovarian cancer, endometrial cancer, colon cancer, cervical cancer, heart disease, and stroke. But -- and here's the kicker -- no one really knows because no one has done the research. There has been little or no interest in researching or funding lesbian health issues by mainstream groups in this country.

Lesbian Health Initiative started up in Houston to find out just what the truth is about lesbian health here. Until about five years ago, there was basically no lesbian health movement in this country. Even now, there are several thousand AIDS/HIV groups in this country, compared to several dozen lesbian health groups.

Lesbian Health Initiative had little data to go on at the start. Unsettling numbers of our lesbian friends had serious diseases, but what did this mean? We were determined to assess what our community's needs really were, so that we could develop programs to serve real, not imagined needs. What we found, after a large survey of the community that took nearly two years to complete, is that while lesbians certainly need to know about and practice safer sex, basing a lesbian health program solely on AIDS would be like basing a gay men's health program solely on preventing breast cancer. Sure, a few men get breast cancer, but that's not where the need is the greatest. The survey was accomplished by LHI with the help of the Montrose Counseling Center and advice from UT School of Public Health. High rates of skin and breast cancer were found. In addition, 30% reported some health condition that restricted their activities. High rates of stress, depression, and isolation were also reported. Complete results of the report can be obtained from the Counseling Center at (713)529-0037.

The survey reflected some of the diversity of the local lesbian community: 612 lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered women responded. Respondents' ages ranged from 15 to 78; income ranged from under \$15,000 to over \$150,000; all Houston's major ethnic groups were represented; the survey was asked and answered in English and Spanish; and we lived in 130 ZIP Codes around town. Even so, certain themes kept cropping up in the answers. First, lesbians are like the Marlboro Man: "I don't need any help, I can do this myself." As little support as open lesbians get in our society from family, workplaces, health practitioners, etc., it's no wonder we don't ask for help. And, one in four respondents reported instances in the last year in which they had not received medical help when they needed it. Combined with that was a Mother Teresa attitude: "Yes, of course I can help you." Many lesbian have chosen professions where we are the caretakers of others: nurses and doctors, counselors, teachers. Many of us (20% in the survey) are the caretakers at home, for older or younger family members. The result: we as lesbians have often neglected our own health care. LHI is here to change that.

Continued next page

**Dykes To Watch Out For**

Poetic  
Justice

©1995 BY ALISON BECHDEL

**Dykes To Watch Out For**

DOUBLE  
NEGATIVE

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**Health Fair sponsored by the Lesbian Health Initiative  
January 20. To volunteer, call Virginia at 681-1309.**

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**Lesbian Health Initiative continued from page 1**

LHI currently has several ongoing projects. First, the Cancer Survivors' Support Group for lesbians, and their partners meets at the Montrose Counseling Center biweekly. A licensed counselor facilitates. Call 529-0037 for more information.

Secondly, a lesbian health fair, *Lesbians: To Your Health '96 / Lesbianas: A Tu Salud '96*, will be held on Saturday, January 20 at the Metropolitan Multiservice Center at 1475 West Gray from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be workshops on a number of health related issues, vendors and food booths, as well as live music. Mammogram appointments available in person for those 35 and over at Inklings Bookshop, 1846 Richmond.

Now that the survey is completed, LHI has a dozen more projects on the drawing boards, and is open to considering any project that benefits lesbian health in the Houston area. Volunteers to date have ranged from a lesbian surgeon to a chiropractor to a psychologist to activists, students, and lesbians who are in business. Our ages range from 20s to 60s, our ethnicities are varied. The sky is the limit to what we can accomplish with your energy. Call Virginia Miller at 681-1309 or Laura at 523-5539 to check it out.



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## Weekly Events

### SUNDAYS

**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church - A Reconciling Congregation**, 1440 Harold St. Sunday school 9:15am, Sunday Worship 10:50am.

**Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection**, 1919 Decatur 861-9149. Holy Eucharist Service at 8:30am (45 min). Choir Rehearsal 9:30am: Traditional Service 10:45am (Signed for hearing impaired and nursery available)

**The Women's Group** - The Women's Group meets at the **First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore at 10:45am** on the third floor. For more info, call Iris 529-8571.

**Dignity** 11am-2pm Coffee, snacks and conversation 5:30pm Holy Eucharist Worship, 1307 Yale. See Jul 8.  
**Houston Tennis Club (HTC)**, Memorial Park Tennis Center, meets from 9am to noon. HTC is a lesbian gay tennis club with members of all levels of play - beginner to advanced. For more info, call Bobby Riggins at 868-5039.

**Montrose Flag Football**, 1:00pm at Memorial Park. For more info, call 526-7271.

### MONDAYS

**HeartSong Women's Chorus** rehearses at 7pm on the third floor of the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. New and former members welcome. For info, call 947-1488.

**Women's Roller Hockey** 6-8pm at Trade Winds Roller Rink, 5006 West 34th at 290. All skill levels welcome. Bring your skates, a stick, pads & a helmet. \$8 per person. For info, call Trade Winds at 682-5312 or Houston Inline Association at 863-1107.

**Monday Nite Women's Bowling League** reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is in second. Nine is Fine is third and Walking Wounded is 4th. For info, call Pat 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

### TUESDAYS

**Women's Clarity Group - A New Way** 7pm to 9pm. 5906 Dolores #201, 784-6511. Facilitated by Linda Bedre.

**CODA Support Group (CoDependency)** at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149.

**Southern Country** Country Western Dance lessons at The Ranch, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 8:00pm.

### WEDNESDAYS

**HIV Resource Network Meeting at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold.** 6:45pm Potluck; 7:30pm group meetings: family groups, women's group, caregivers group, mixed HIV groups and HIV+ only groups.

**Lambda Rollerskating Club Skate Night** each Wednesday at Starlite Skating Rink, 8075 Cook Road at Beechnut, 575-7655, 8:30-10:30p.m. \$5 admission, \$6 if you rent their skates. Take I59 South, exit and turn right on Beechnut. Stay on Beechnut past the Sam Houston Parkway and turn right on Cook Road. For more info, call Keith at 933-5818.

**MCCR Jubilation Mixed Ensemble** 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal or Bible Study at 7:30pm, 1919 Decatur.

**Get your instruments out of the closet!** The Houston Pride Band has formed to provide musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. We are actively seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Contact Russell Williams for further details at 524-0218 or send E-mail HousTxBand@aol.com.

**Bi-NET** Bisexual Network of Houston meets 7pm Wednesdays at MCCR, 1919 Decatur St. 861-9149.

### THURSDAYS

**Nancy Ford at Ms. Bs** performing music and comedy at 8:30pm, 9200 Buffalo Speedway.

**Lesbian & Gay Voices**, 9-11pm 90.1FM KPFT Womyn's music, reviews of gay and lesbian cultural events, new s from This Way Out.

### FRIDAYS

**CODA Support Group (CoDependency)** at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149 See entry for July 2.

### SATURDAYS

**Dignity** serving Houston's community of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual Catholics and friends - 7:30pm Traditional Worship 1307 Yale Ste. H in the Heights. Call for events, schedule, movie night 880-2872.

### SATURDAYS

**Movie Club** for gay/lesbian movie go-ers meets each Saturday to have dinner and watch the latest movies on the big screen. Call 395-2126.

### New group Calendar Girls

We are a new group of women looking for a diverse social outlet. We meet once a month to plan a calendar for the following month. If there's an activity, hobby, etc., you would like to put on the calendar, come to the meeting and we'll put it on the next month's calendar. If you can't make the meeting, you can call Cheryl at 523-4510 or Robin at 942-8888 by the deadline and still have your activity put on the calendar. You'll be responsible for setting it up and you'll be the contact. Pick up at copy of the monthly Calendar at Inklings Bookshop or Toupees Coffee & Co.

## Community Calendar

### 1 MONDAY

**Film: When Night is Falling** by the director of *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* - may be the last week; playing at the Greenway thru Thursday. Professor at divinity college meets performance magician and falls in love. Great reviews.

**Montrose Ice Picks skates** at the outdoor skate rink next to Foley's at 1000 Main which is part of "Miracle on Main Street" noon-10pm. For info, call 629-1432.

### 2 TUESDAY

**Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week** executive committee meets at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

### 3 WEDNESDAY

**New Heights Theatre presents PIAF by Pam Gems.** A play with music, celebrating the life of legendary French chanteuse, Edith Piaf. It follows her rise from singing for pennies on the street to being one of the most popular singers of all time. Piaf recreates her colorful, and ultimately tragic life with the passion of her music. Featuring Alissa Alban as Edith Piaf and Anne Quackenbush as her best friend, Toine. **January 3 thru January 28.** Show will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 7:00pm. 359 W. 19 Street. Tickets and reservations, 869-8927

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus** general meeting first Wednesdays at 7:30pm, 2700 Albany 304. For info, call 521-1000.

**Gay Lesbian Hispanics Unidos (GLHU)** regular monthly meeting, 7:30pm. Metropolitan Multi Service Center, 1475 West Gray. 270-GLHU.

### 4 THURSDAY

**Trish Murphey at the Mucky Duck**

### 6 SATURDAY

**Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) Breakfast at La Mexicana.** Call Howard at 528-6174.

**HOG Theater Night - opening weekend performance of the comedy musical Box Office of the Damned** at Theatre Lab Houston on Jan 5 or 6. Call Lisa for details 466-3309.

### 7 SUNDAY

**The Women's Group** meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in the Sojourner Truth room, third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

**P-FLAG** Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays general meeting - Winter Party call Susan Upchurch at 995-9777 to RSVP. 2pm St. Francis Episcopal Church, 345 Piney Point Road, 867-9020.

### 8 MONDAY

**Texas Medical Center LAMBDA Network** meeting, 5pm second Monday each month. RAS W-204 (School of Public Health Bldg). We welcome all TMC Lesbian, Gay and Bi- friendly students, staff and faculty. For info, call 523-5539 or sph1319@utsph.sph.uth.tmc.edu

### 9 TUESDAY

**Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week** fact finding committee to research moving the parade date meets at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents** - a support group for the parents on the second Tuesday of the month and also a monthly family activity, MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 980-7995.

### 10 WEDNESDAY

**Women's Network-Topic to be Announced** -The Women's Network meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus** board meeting second Wednesdays at 7:30pm. For info, call 521-1000.

### 11 THURSDAY

**Lesbian & Gay Voices 90.1 KPFT FM 9-11pm**

### 12 FRIDAY

**The Pat Graney Company SLEEP [Making Peace with the Angels]** presented by DiverseWorks, Society for the Performing Arts, University of Houston Dance Division and the National Performance Network.

A fascinating, highly theatrical exploration of the dreaming state threaded with women's cultural rituals.

**Fri & Sat, January 12 & 13 8pm University of Houston's Lyndall Finley Wortham Theater**

**Tickets \$15, DiverseWorks Members \$10, Students \$10 Call 228-0914 Free Parking**

**The Sound of Encodings**, a reading by women writers to support ENCODINGS: A Feminist Literary Journal, 8pm at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin. Suggested donation \$3-\$5. For info, call 529-7329

### 13 SATURDAY

**12 Step Women's Support Group** for addictions, grief work, healing and empowerment, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month for women with at least a year of sobriety. Sliding scale. For info, call Peacemaker at 293-8653.

**The Pat Graney Company SLEEP [Making Peace with the Angels]** see entry for Jan 12.

**Houston Outdoor Group Game Night.** Call Karen and Donna at 721-2068.

### 14 SUNDAY

**The Women's Group** -The Women's Group meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

**Sisters** ( for African-American women, meets every second Sunday) Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond 5-8 pm. 446-4115

### 15 MONDAY

**Cancer Support Group** meets every other Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

### 16 TUESDAY

**Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week** general meeting at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

### 17 WEDNESDAY

**Women with Life Challenging Illnesses** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-8:30pm. For info, call Marion at 667-8735 or Leila at 728-1914.

**OutVote** general meeting third Wednesdays. 7:00 pm 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 713-521-1000.

### 18 THURSDAY

### 19 FRIDAY

**LiB (Lesbians in Business)**, a woman's empowerment group, Networking 6:00-6:30pm. Program/speaker begins at 6:30pm. For info, call 529-0077. LiB meets at Innova Bldg one block south of Richmond between Wesleyan and Buffalo Speedway (on Cummins between Portsmouth and Norfolk). \$3 members/ \$5 non-members.

### 20 SATURDAY

**Lesbians: To Your Health '96 - Lesbianas: A Tu Salud '96** sponsored by the Lesbian Health Initiative. 9:00am to 4:00pm, 1475 West Gray at the Metropolitan Multiservice Center. Call Inklings Bookshop at 521-3369 for information about scheduling mammograms.

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents support group for youth grades 6th - 12th with gay or lesbian parents, Just For Us** will lead a non-competitive volleyball game in the pool at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray from 2:00pm-3:00pm for the Lesbian Health Fair. 980-7995.

**Houston Outdoor Group Social** - call Dennis and Bruce at 529-2691.

**14 THURSDAY**

**Q Patrol Holiday Bash & General Elections at 7pm at Suzanne Anderson Properties at 239 Westheimer (park in lot 2 doors east). Bring dish, snack or dessert. Call 528-SAFE for info.**

**Lesbian & Gay Voices 90.1 KPFT FM 9-11pm**

**15 FRIDAY**

**16 SATURDAY**

**Stories of the Season: Fables, Carols, and Holiday Songs: The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice in Galveston at 8pm. For tickets, call 1-800-821-1894.**

**17 SUNDAY**

**The Women's Group Kuwanza Celebration-**The Women's Group meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

**First Unitarian Church Opening ceremony** in the afternoon or evening. Call 526-5200 for more info.

**Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF)** meets the third Sunday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00pm at the Houston Mission Church. The mailing address is POB 98601 Houston, TX 77098. For info, call 661-1482. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door. Rich's is at 2401 San Jacinto, 639-5910.

**18 MONDAY**

**Cancer Support Group** meets every other Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents support group for youth grades 6th - 12th with gay or lesbian parents, Just For Us** will go bowling 1-4pm. There will be at least 2 parents there and rides will be provided if your child needs one. 980-7995.

**19 TUESDAY**

**Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week general meeting** at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

**20 WEDNESDAY**

**Women's Network - NO Meeting on the 4th Wednesday in December.** The Women's Network meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

**21 THURSDAY**

**22 FRIDAY**

**23 SATURDAY**

**24 SUNDAY**

**The Women's Group** meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

**25 MONDAY**

**Happy Winter Solstice**

**26 TUESDAY**

**27 WEDNESDAY**

**28 THURSDAY**

**29 FRIDAY**

**30 SATURDAY**

**31 SUNDAY**

**LiB New Years Eve Party, Stouffer Presidente at Greenway** (where TLC was in 1994) - Tickets available at Inklings and Crossroads, \$25 in advance. DJ Cherry Wolf. See flyer in this issue. For info call, LiB line at 529-0077.

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents New Years Eve Party** 980-7995.

**1996 Lesbian Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Slogan is "Pride with out Borders".**

The runner up was "Pride Don't Stop". Watch the Montrose Voice for details of the Logo Contest or call Pride Line at 529-6979.

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**News Briefs**

A lesbian couple, Roxanne Ellis, 54 and Michelle Abdill, 42 were murdered in Medford, Oregon on December 4. There was an article in the Houston Voice in the December 22 issue and National Public Radio aired a piece interviewing members of the Medford community where Ellis and Abdill lived and owned a property management company.

The Lesbian Health Initiative received a donation of \$4,160 from the Black Tie Dinner, a glitzy joint fundraiser for local gay/lesbian civil rights, advocacy and health-related groups and the Human Rights Campaign.

## Bona Dea, Alaska Women's Bookstore Closes

I drove to Bona Dea today, hoping to have a chat with Joanne and Mariah and gain some historical perspective for this piece. However, the moment I stepped inside the store, I knew this piece needed to be about something bigger than the exchange of inventory and personalities over the years. On this day, there were several women gathered in small groups to talk, hug, or exchange thoughts about what was going on in the Lesbian community. The image I have of empty shelves all around seems an ironic backdrop for the women, who were generating the kind of energy that has kept the bookstore going this long. That is what it's all about. That is what I will miss.

In mythic terms, the journey toward wholeness begins with a crisis, a crisis threatening the integrity of the community. That was certainly the case when the bookstore began, women searching for themselves and finding no representation. Who are we? What are we? We had become aware of forces we could not handle alone, and came together to seek answers to difficult questions. According to classic mythic structure, during the crisis period protective figures will appear to aid the heroine—these have been the Lynns and Marions, the Susans, the Karens, the Lucys, the Joannes and Mariahs and countless volunteers serving the bookstore to guide the community toward wholeness. The struggle began with the bookstore changing hands as women came and went, going through periods as a non-profit, a for-profit, and for a time, shareholders held interest. These struggles not only reveal the pressures the bookstore was experiencing, but our community as well, and the need to balance vision with fiscal reality. Despite the changes, the bookstore always stayed true to the original vision of being a safe, welcoming place for women to explore themselves and their culture. The challenges that occurred when the bookstore changed hands illustrate well that the moments between the secure past and the unknown are where sparks occur to create new energy, images, ideas. This is the energy we need to capture now, at this critical moment, so that we may facilitate the return to our community all that the bookstore has given us. This return must occur in order for the heroic task to be complete, for the community to re-engage itself.

How do we do this? Where will our tribe gather now? In individual living rooms? At the Women's Music Festival? We need to be careful to keep the bookstore's gift to us alive. Let us continue to share what we have learned, to share her gift with us—that there is power and hope and strength in community. Let us be careful not to splinter off and retreat, polarize and separate. Let us remember the bookstore as a living, breathing entity—it began in someone's house, and what it has to offer will again need to be found in someone's house. Open your doors. -KW  
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## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The Pride Committee is asking for community input about moving the Parade and Lesbian/Gay Pride Week, the 1996 date will be June 14-23, but we are working on future dates, please fill out this form, we will only consider comments if the form is completely filled out. I would like

- Pride Week/Parade moved to SATURDAY NIGHT in June to commemorate Stonewall
- Pride Week/Parade moved to a FALL date
- Pride Week/Parade moved to a SPRING date
- Pride Week/Parade to stay in June to commemorate Stonewall if the heat issue can be solved
- I would like to become a Pride Week/TASK Force volunteer
- I would like to continue/begin my subscription to the newsletter
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a donation

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FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

All entries must contain valid name and address to be counted. One entry per person. Must be received by January 31, 1996.

**PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON**  
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### 8th Gulf Coast Women's Festival April 4-7, 1996

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**THIS YEAR ... BUTT OUT!**

by michele fisher

**Sure, there are lots of good reasons to quit smoking. It just took me twelve years to find one. Once I made the decision to quit, I started reading everything about the subject I could get my hands on. I found nothing that inspired me.**

Then one day, about three days before my target date to quit, I hit upon my own inspiring thought. It was my own bright idea to start smoking, so why should I expect somebody else to convince me to stop? At that point I stopped reading and started thinking for myself.

If you are expecting a righteous diatribe on the evils of tobacco, you will be disappointed. I would still be smoking today if I were as happy about being a smoker as I was the first ten years that I smoked. I quit because I had become one of those annoying whiny smokers. I began confessing my desire to quit to my friends.

I rambled on endlessly about the damage that cigarettes were causing in my life. I couldn't light up without seeing the Grim Reaper tapping on my shoulder. After about two years of such nonsense, I had to admit that the thrill was gone for me. If the thrill is gone for you, too, I hope I can provide some encouragement.

My first suggestion is to use any means necessary to help you stop. If you want to go "cold turkey," you have my admiration. I opted for the nicotine gum method myself. (Many straight people warned me about the perils of the gum, such as jaw soreness, but, needless to say, that has not been a problem.) Use the patch, acupuncture, past lives, whatever. My experience has been that if you think it works then it will work.

If you, like me, are looking for inspiration from literature, know that most of it is written by non-smokers. Take for example the supposedly motivational fact that if you quit today, your lungs will be back to normal within ten years. Smoking is all about immediate gratification. If we could wait a decade to feel better, we wouldn't be smoking in the first place. How many people would buy a diet book that boasted, "Lose all the weight you want by 2004"? You will live longer. Now that is definitely a non-smoker's idea of encouragement. Who wants to live forever thinking the entire time about how badly she wants a cigarette?

The folks who write stuff like "reduce your risk of cancer and heart attack" must not realize how much denial is involved with smoking. Deep down, every smoker believes that she will be that legendary puffer who lives to be a robust 100. Willard Scott's grandson will be wishing us a happy century along with that lady in Montana who lived so long because she never wore her seat belt and therefore was never trapped in a burning car.

What I have for you here are a real smoker's reasons to quit:

**1. MORE SEX**

It's true. Whether you are single or partnered, you will be having more sex

when you quit. You will have no choice. One of the primary withdrawal symptoms is increased sex drive. Smoking is an oral fixation. Take the cigarette away and the fixation still remains. Also, you will not stink or have dragon breath any more, so women are bound to find you more attractive.

**2. MORE TIME**

I never realized how time-consuming smoking was until I quit. This was especially evident at work. I used my breaks to smoke. By the time I reached the designated smoking area and had a few puffs, it was time for me to race back to work. I was always exhausted after my breaks.

**3. YOU GET TO BE A BITCH**

And get away with it. The truth is that people who quit smoking are no grumpier than the average non-smoker. We just seem crabby compared to how we used to be when we smoked. Hey, it's easy to be mellow when you know that you can suck on a drug and everything will be all good.

**4. NO MORE CONVENIENCE STORES**

Talk about living longer. You are much more likely to be killed while purchasing a pack at a mom-and-pop death stop than you are to die of lung cancer. Have you seen the papers lately? Those places are like shooting galleries.

**5. EVERYTHING TASTES BETTER**

If you think *food* tastes better when you quit, wait until you try . . .

**6. FEWER CAR ACCIDENTS**

Non-smokers have been wasting all of their time and effort getting bars and restaurants to prohibit smoking. Sure, second-hand smoke kills a few thousand people a year, but that is nothing compared to how many car wrecks smokers cause. Those groups should be lobbying for a non-smoking lane on the freeway.

If I ran out of smokes while driving and I thought there might be another one somewhere else in the vehicle, you better

believe that I was looking for it. Many's the time I have steered my car with one foot while I searched the back seat for a butt.

Did you know that it is impossible for the human eye to focus on an object that is very close and one that is further away at the same time? Ask any smoker; she will tell you. Every time you light up behind the wheel, you travel a few hundred feet totally blind. Ever try to steer a ton of metal while a burning object smoldered on your crotch? I have, but not very successfully.

**7. SMOKING HAS BECOME FASHIONABLE AGAIN**

Generation X is big on smoking. I prefer my addiction to bring up feelings of isolation and humiliation. I used to thrive on the degradation of slinking outside alone at social functions. I would shiver on someone's back porch and pretend not to notice the occasional pitiful glance that would come from a warm non-smoker inside. Recently, the porch has become too crowded.

**8. NO MORE PET GUILT**

When I smoked, I felt sorry for people around me, but I figured they knew what they were getting into when they entered my ashtray of a house. I even puffed around the kids shamelessly. I reasoned that a little smoke in the crib was nothing compared to what the kid would do to himself when he became a teenager.

But pets. I just couldn't help feeling like a louse for screwing up their already too brief little lives.

When I quit smoking, the cat quit snoring. Now *that* was inspirational.

**9. WOMEN WILL HAVE TO DATE YOU TO FIND OUT THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE WITH YOU**

When you smoke, it is too easy for women to rule you out as a prospective partner. When you quit, you will be like everybody else. A woman will be privy to your short-comings and bad habits only after sex has occurred.

If you are planning to quit, I hope this helps. If you are still smoking, then for Goddess's sake shut up and enjoy it.

*As of press time, Michele Fisher was still making the world safe for her cat and getting plenty of sleep.*

Reprinted from Deneuve  
January/February 1995

Deneuve has a new moniker. **CURVE**

**Quotes and Soundbites From Feminist Booksellers on The Importance of Feminist Bookstores to Feminist and Mainstream American Culture**

"We are in feminist bookselling to educate, to end sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, classism, and all the other inequities that threaten our society and survival, and to create a safe space for our sisters and brothers. We are in the business to change the world. Feminist bookstores are in it for the long haul and are proud to be part of a larger movement for social change."  
-- Theresa Corrigan Lioness Books, Sacramento, Calif.

"We have a commitment to carry and disseminate progressive ideas, not merely to sell commodities. We do so much more than sell books; over the last ten years we have helped innumerable women through life crises, not by counseling them, but by empowering them about the choices they have."  
-- Tollie Miller, Co-Owner, A Readers Feast, Hartford, Conn.

"If people buy books at Barnes & Noble, small stores (including feminist stores) will go out of business, feminist presses will suffer and books will disappear. This is how economics creates censorship -- book buyers contribute to their own censorship by supporting the chains. If book buyers allow this to happen, Barnes & Noble (and the other chains) will decide what gets sold, what is in print, the size of print runs, and ultimately, what people have access to. The question is not who gets a piece of the pie; the pie itself will be drastically changed. And don't expect feminist and other progressive causes to be part of what's left."  
-- Sally Owen, co-owner of the recently closed Judith's Room, New York City

**Seeking Submissions for March issue on Body Image and Overeating**

So as not to dis smokers by themselves and because body image is a universal concern for women, we are planning to feature personal writing and book reviews on body image and behaviors around food in the March or April issue. Please send submissions to Womynspace, P.O.Box 980601, Houston, TX 77098 or drop off at our envelope at Inklings Bookshop in the Bulletin board area behind the door. Please sign your submission. We will withhold names if specified. For more info, call Sue Cox at 664-9215. Submissions must be received by February 15.

A very prolific author, Leslea Newman published a novel in 1986 **Good Enough to Eat**. Her heroine is Liza Goldberg who is funny, twenty-five and a bulimic. Here's how Liza eats Doublestuff Oreo cookies:

"She put the book back and reached for her calorie counter. I do have to plan another diet after my fast, she thought, bringing the book over to her bed. She thumbed through it as she ate the tops off a bunch of Oreos. When she'd had about ten, she put the bottoms together, making quadruple cream sandwiches, lined them up, and ate them slowly as she plotted a new eating scheme. Let's see, 500 calories. Think I'll start with English muffins. Liza looked them up: plain 120 calories; raisin, 130. A tablespoon of butter had 100 calories, so two teaspoons would be about 66. That makes 200 calories for breakfast..."

Newman's novel explores the disease, bulimia and the recovery process.

A more recent work is **Fat Girl Dances With Rocks**, a coming of age, coming out novel about two high schools girls who like geology and looking for rocks. The girls also experience a rocky relationship. More on this book later. *Sue Cox*

The WAND is a monthly publication of Womynspace, a 100% volunteer organization.

Opinions expressed in articles printed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the WAND or the Womynspace organization as a whole.

**Submissions to the calendar:** Groups may send us notice of their regular meetings and special events by the 15th of the month for next month's issue. We are glad to network with other groups that work for social change and share a feminist perspective.

**Submissions of articles, poetry and cover art** should have positive, coalition building content. Articles may be submitted on IBM 3.5" diskettes, ASCII or WordPerfect format. Please use 3" columns for typed submissions. Sign and include a phone number. WAND Layout is scheduled around the 20th of the month. Check the calendar for date or call 664-9215. We need community support to ensure the WAND is a comprehensive networking directory for the women's community. WAND distribution is 2,000 copies.

**Advertising Rates for the WAND**

Call 728-3637 for information.

Approximate Size	1 month	3 months
Business Card	\$25	\$67.50
1/8 Page (3.5 x 5")	\$30	\$80
1/4 Page (5 x 7")	\$40	\$100
1/2 Page (7x10")	\$60	

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Mail correspondence to **Womynspace, P.O. Box 980601, Houston, TX 77098** or use the mail drop envelope at Inklings Bookshop in the bulletin board area behind the door.

**Group steps up attack on Triangle**

excerpts from article by Juan R. Palomo which appeared in the Austin American-Statesman 12/28/95

For weeks, the head of the American Family Association of Texas has read the names of advertisers in an Austin-based gay and lesbian newspaper over the air during his weekly radio show. Last week Wyatt Roberts executive director of the group intensified his campaign against the Texas Triangle with a letter to advertisers giving them 10 days to let him know whether they planned to continue advertising in the weekly newspaper.

Although Roberts does not say in the letter what action he will take if the advertisers fail to respond to his request, he points out that the American Family Association of Texas "regularly broadcasts the names of Triangle advertisers during our Saturday radio programs" on KIXL-AM which bills itself as a Christian station.

Several advertisers said they interpreted the letter as a threat. Kay Longcope, the paper's editor and publisher, said Roberts also wants advertisers to fear demonstrations by family association members in front of their businesses similar to the one stages against First Texas Honda, which recently renewed its Triangle advertising contract. Longcope said Roberts' campaign has cost the Triangle two advertisers and has made others nervous. Some advertisers, however, have responded angrily to Roberts' letter and vowed to continue placing their ads in this 3-year-old weekly.

Longcope said her newspaper is particularly vulnerable to campaigns such as Roberts' because unlike other gay newspapers that rely heavily on 900 numbers and other sex-oriented ads, the Triangle relies primarily on mainstream advertisers.

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**RESOURCE GUIDE**

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- Alternative Broadcast Service [gay TV production facility] 522-5115
- Bar Association for Human Rights [Les/Gay Attys] 222-7002
- Calendar Girls 942-8888 or 523-4510
- Chain Gang [Gay Cycling Group] 863-1860
- Dignity/Houston [Les/Gay Catholics] 880-2872
- Dimensions (monthly mag) POB856 Lubbock, TX 79408 806-797-9647
- Fem TV [feminist program on the Public Access Channel] 755-7766
- First Time BBS 522-1173,522-1170
- Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos [GLHU] 880-GLHU
- Gay/Lesbian Switchboard: 529-3211
- GLOBAL [University of Houston Gay Les Bi Alliance] 743-5180
- Hate Crimes Hotline 529-9615
- Hazelwitch Productions [women's music and comedy] 521-3369
- Houston Area Gay & Les Engineers and Scientists[HAGLES] 480-2177
- Houston Area NOW 668-9008
- Houston Area Teenagers Coalition of Homosexuals [HATCH] 669-0452
- Houston Area Women's Center [HAWC] 528-2121
- Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus [HGLPC] 521-1000
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents 980-7995
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Week 529-6979
- Houston Gay Yellow Pages 621-0929
- Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth [HIPY] 942-9884
- Houston Outdoor Group [HOG] 526-7688
- Houston Pride Band 524-0218
- Just For Us [teens with Gay or Lesbian parents] 666-8260
- Lambda Center [AA Groups] 521-9772
- Lambda Rollerskating 933-5818
- Lesbian Health Initiative 869-6350
- Lesbians in Business [LiB] 529-0077
- Lesbians Over Age Fifty [LOAF] 661-1482
- KPFT 90.1 FM Les Gay Voices Thu 9-11pm After Hours Sat 12-3am 526-4000
- Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection [MCCR] 861-9149
- Mishpachal Alizim [Gay and Lesbian Jews and friends] 748-7079
- Montrose Clinic [full women's examination 6pm-9:30pm Mon-Fri] 520-2000
- Montrose Counseling Center [MCC] 529-0037
- Montrose Ice Picks 629-1432
- Movie Club 395-2126
- OutSmart Houston's Gay and Lesbian Monthly Magazine 520-7237
- OutVote [register and motivate gays & lesbian, to vote] 522-9837
- P-FLAG [Parents, Friends, Families of Lesbians & Gays] 867-9020
- Pet Patrol [helps hospitalized HIV/AIDS pet owners] 522-1954
- Q-Patrol [Prevention of Hate Crimes in Montrose] 871-8519
- Rape Crisis Hotline 528-7273; 528-RAPE
- Rice Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association 523-0259
- The Rose [low cost mammograms] 668-2996
- Southern Country Houston [country western dance] 648-9340
- Southern Hospitality BBS 522-1515
- Team Houston [Gay Les sports competition/Gay Games 1998] 935-1060
- 20 Something [social group ages 20-29 Les/Bi/Gay] 315-6786
- Women's Action Coalition Hotline: 867-9581
- Women's Information and Referral Exchange [WIRES] 528-2121
- Women's Group First Unitarian Church 529-8571
- Women's Wire BBS (free starter kit/diskette) 800-210-9999
- WAND (Womynspace Activity Networking Directory) 664-9215

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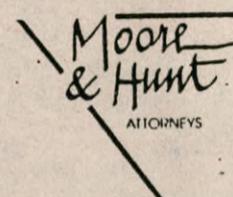
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