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A GAY & LESBIAN NEWSLETTER ON COUPLING

COUPLES

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January 1992

Couples Groups...

New York, Long Island:
 The Couples Group
 c/o Titus & Speights
 43 Dewey Street
 Huntington, NY 11743

Pennsylvania, Delaware & New Jersey:
 Delaware Valley Couples
 P.O. Box 553
 Collingswood, NJ 08108

Washington, DC & Virginia:
 Couples Support Group
 P.O. Box 1010
 Alexandria, VA 22313

Greater Los Angeles:
 The Couples Group
 P.O. Box 69554
 West Hollywood, CA 90069
 818-994-3438

San Diego:
 Couples Outreach
 Suite #86
 405 W. Washington Street
 San Diego, CA 92103
 619-283-6243

Any couples groups in your area?
 Please let us know. [ED]

Sex, Lies and Money

Market Accounts

by Yvonne Zipter

The category is: most likely to cause trouble in a relationship. And the winner is—oops there's a tie: sex, housework, and money.



Chances are, if there is trouble in paradise, it centers around one of these three things. We have a simple way of dealing with this in our household: we don't have two of them and don't bother with the third, as my partner puts it. (I'll leave you to sort out which is which.) Anyway, that solves that.

Now of course, these problem areas are not unique to gay and lesbian couples; straight couples have essentially the same types of problems. However, that doesn't mean

that there aren't, in fact, differences.

I know you're probably all hoping that I'm going to talk about sex here, but the truth is, with the holiday season having just past, the only thing really on my mind—besides peace on earth and good will toward mankind, of course—is money: How will I ever pay for the gifts I bought for my loved ones? In these recessionary times, this too is not an uncommon problem.

What *does* differ between straight couples and lesbian/gay couples is how the money is handled. In straight relationships, the money is traditionally pooled. That's not to say that the money is equally *shared*, mind you, but the usual thing to do, nonetheless, is to put all monies into joint accounts.

Such expectations are not necessarily held in gay and lesbian relationships. As with many things in our relationships, we have to make it up as we go along—which makes us very interesting—and tired—people. Anyway, over the years, people have developed a number of ways to deal with money in a homosexual relationship—where both people (or no one) may wear the pants in the family.

Perhaps the most clear-cut way is to maintain separate households and go dutch on food or entertainment. (Just why is it called "dutch," anyway? Is that some kind of

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News notes..

ANN ARBOR, MI—Two lesbian couples "registered" their relationships on the first day of a new city law intended to provide recognition for couples who can't marry. Registration confers no legal benefits, but the ordinance, approved by the City Council is seen by advocates as a step toward affirming gay and lesbian relationships. According to the NGLTF, Ann Arbor is the first city in Michigan and the 18th in the nation to pass such a domestic partners law.

BOSTON, MA—Gov. William Weld of Massachusetts has taken under consideration a plan that would grant bereavement leave, and hospital and prison visitation rights to state employees in non-traditional relationships.

Weld would enact the plan by issuing an executive order in which gay and lesbian state employees will be granted three days bereavement leave for the death of a partner, a partner's parent, or a child. The leave would be equivalent to benefits now granted to married state employees. Employees would be required to register as domestic partners.

HONOLULU, HI—A circuit court judge rejected a lawsuit designed to force the state to recognize gay and lesbian marriages. The judge ruled that "homosexual marriage is not a fundamental right under the law.

The suit argued that denial of marriage licenses to gay couples is a violation of their constitutional rights to privacy, due process and equal protection under the law. The three couples who filed the test case, plan an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

ATLANTA, GA—Arguments on the legality of a joint-property agreement

New Notes continued on page 3

ethnic slur?) In any case, while that sort of arrangement keeps money matters very unambiguous, all that commuting would drive me crazy. Then too, there's the problem of remembering where you left what—your place? Or hers? And believe me, as I get older, remembering *anything* is more and more a problem. As I'm fond of saying, we only have one brain in our household—and my lover Kathy has it most of the time.

Anyway, apparently to avoid just such commuting and memory hassles, some folks cohabit but judiciously divvy up all joint expenses, leaving each person responsible for her own personal expenses—and each couple to decide whether tampons and ice cream count as joint—or personal. One couple I know was so organized that each month, they would put all of the receipts in a fish bowl—presumably sans water and fish—and figure out at the end of the month who owed what to whom.

Kathleen and I merely marvel at such efficiency: we are not that kind of couple. For us, a major feat of organization is to enter all checks in the register. Our lack of organizational ability aside, we have another reason for not handling money like that: laziness. All the calculating and keeping track—why, that time could be spent doing household work, or having sex...or going solstice shopping.

Basically, here's how we do it: put all of our money into our joint checking account and spend it 'til it's gone—and apparently the faster, the better. We tried for a while to put X amount of dollars into a joint account for household expenses and maintain our separate individual accounts for our own stuff, but one of us would invariably run out of money before the other, and we were not, predictably, very good at keeping track of who borrowed how much from whom. And then there were the *three* checking accounts to balance. Eventually we just gave up the pretense of economic independence.

Part of it too, with us, has to do with trust. I mean, it seems to me that if you're willing to trust someone with your *body* and with your fragile *psyche*, you really should be able to trust them with something as replaceable as money. But, not everyone has the same relationship with money.

Anyway, this is not to say—trust issues or not trust issues—that there are not problems with getting a joint account. Whose name goes first on the check? How do you decide whether to get the plain 'ol pinstripe patterned checks, which you want, or the little bunnies, which she wants? Who gets to carry the checkbook? And how do you send away for a gift for your girlfriend without her knowing?

If you have lots of dough, this last option might not be a problem: just take out cash under the pretext of 'mad' money (which is—what? Hiring a hit man?) and get a money order. However, if your financial situation is like ours, each of you won't find any spare change in our couch cushions, for instance. Popcorn maybe, but no dimes or nickels.

Anyway, to buy my baby the compost bin of her dreams for her birthday (what a shitty birthday present, as our friend Laura said), I took out a loan from my credit union at work and gave the cash to a friend who then wrote a check to the company. It worked like a charm: Kathleen never suspected a thing. She was totally surprised. Now just imagine how surprised she'll be when she opens that package of coffee grounds and egg shells on Christmas morning. Hey—what good's a compost bin without something to put in it? But the best part is, I won't even need to write a check! ▼

Yvonne Zipter is a Chicago-based, nationally syndicated columnist and author. Her books, *Diamonds are a Dyke's Best Friend* and *The Patience of Metal*, are available at bookstores nationwide.

If you're interested in writing for COUPLES, forward your name, address, a phone number and a general outline on a subject matter. We will contact you shortly. Or just drop us a note and tell us how we are doing! See you next month.

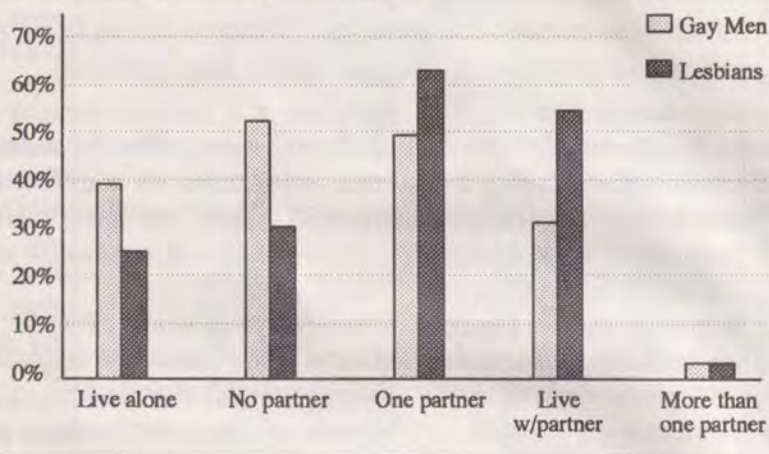
OUT AND COUNTED

Survey Results

Several recent Surveys have reported some important data regarding Gay and Lesbian couples, our family life, and the nature of our relationships. COUPLES will periodically report this information as it becomes available.

The *Northstar Project's* survey in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area found in a gender balanced survey of 1,865 gays and lesbians that 64% of the women and 40% of the men currently have one lover or partner. Eighty-nine percent of these women and 80% of these men described their relationship as being committed and monogamous. Nearly twice as many lesbians (55%) live with a partner than do gay men (31%). Thirty percent of female and 53% of male respondents do not have a lover or partner.

Figure 1 *Gay & Lesbian Relationships*



Nineteen percent of the respondents have been in heterosexual marriages and 20% have children. Of those with children, 60% of the women and 33% of the men have full or joint custody. Of the non-custodial parents, 19% of the men and 13% of the women said their sexual identity influenced the custody decision. No provisions was made in this survey question for respondents to say how the decision was influenced.

In regards to gay and lesbian families, and in light of the fact that 65% of women and 40% of men are in same-sex primary relationships and that 20% of gays and lesbians have children, it is clear that the social definition of "family" needs to be broadened. All community organizations including employers, service providers, schools, churches, foundations, and government agencies must find ways to accommodate this expanding definition. These groups should seek training and consult with lesbian and gay agencies so they can expand traditional definitions of family to include same-sex couples, with or without children. These organizations should then extend their services to these family units, making adjustments as necessary to fit the needs that may be unique to these families. ▼

Northstar Project, Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council, 310 East 38th Street, #204, Minneapolis, MN 55409 612-822-0127

New notes...

between two lesbians were recently heard by the Georgia Supreme Court. Two former lovers had drafted an agreement stipulating that all property would be divided equally should their relationship end. But when the couple broke up in 1989 and one asked for her share the other refused, arguing that a contract between a lesbian couple is unenforceable in Georgia. A trial court date has been set and legal briefs have been filed by the Lambda Legal Defense Fund and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

DENVER, CO—A lesbian should have been granted sick leave to care for her ailing partner, the Career Services Authority of Denver ruled. They said that Denver General Hospital violated the Dept. of Health and Hospital regulations when it refused to grant three days sick leave to an employee to care for her partner who was recovering from a fractured skull. The hospital's action was deemed "discriminatory on the basis of appellant's sexual orientation"—a clear violation of the agency's own anti-discrimination policy. Although Denver has a gay rights law, the city plans to appeal the decision.

ANN ARBOR, MI—The University of Michigan Board of Regents rejected a proposal to allow gay and lesbian couples to live in student family housing. Although university policy prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, the anti-discrimination clause in the regent's by-laws does not cover gays and lesbians.

BELGIUM—A gay couple awaiting trial at a Belgian prison was granted conjugal visitation privileges following protests from the International Lesbian and Gay Association. The couple were banished to different cell-blocks.

News notes continued on page 4

News notes...

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Voters again said NO to the attempt by homophobes to deny San Franciscans the right to become domestic partners. About 60% of the voters voted NO to *Proposition K* which would have repealed the city's domestic partners law.

CHICAGO, IL—Parents living with gay or lesbian partners may be denied custody of their children, an Illinois appellate court has ruled. A woman was denied custody of her daughter because she was living with her female lover. The appeals court upheld the custody decision, saying that an "intimate cohabitation relationship," whether heterosexual or homosexual, can be weighted by judges considering where to place a child after a divorce.

CHICAGO, IL—A Chicago man was recently sentenced to 22 years in prison for stabbing his lover to death in February of 1991. According to evidence, James Enlow killed his lover in a fit of rage after discovering his lover in the bar bathroom with another man.

PORTLAND, OR—About 30 homosexual couples seeking marriage licenses at the Multnomah County Marriage license Bureau were told Oregon law doesn't sanction same-sex unions. The 30 couples' action was a low key demonstration for what members of Portland's homosexual community say are equal rights.

No state currently allows same-sex marriage. But municipal laws in San Francisco, Berkeley, West Hollywood and Santa Cruz, California, Seattle, Washington, Madison, Wisconsin and Ann Arbor, Michigan recognize "domestic partnerships" between same-sex couples.

NETHERLANDS—The city of Best has become the 17 Dutch city to allow gay and lesbian couples to get married.

TOUCHING

Embraceable You

by Scott Margolin

Isn't it nice to snuggle up in front of the fireplace, just the two of us, plus the menagerie of pets (in our case one cat), keeping each other warm as winter's gray afternoon skies give way to yet another seemingly premature darkness? You bet! The only thing wrong with this picture is that we have no fireplace. And gathering around the broiler on the kitchen floor just doesn't cut it. Fortunately, Frisco and I can and do turn to each other for creating warmth. There is, however, so much more to a snuggling hug than meets the eye (or any other part of the anatomy).

When someone gets a hug from me, they know it means many, many things. You can be sure that

yes, I do love you, I am very thankful for our relationship, I need you very much, I like being around you, I accept you, faults and all, and no, you do not have bad breath! The key here is the accepting faults category. I bask in my belief that the past relationships Frisco and I had with others were testing grounds so that we could achieve the level of respect and intimacy that we share today.

I am so glad that I have someone who accepts me for me. It wasn't always that way; I blamed myself for an early series of failed flings. Hoping to prevent any such future failures that could have possibly led to long-term relationships, I stood on

my head for twenty minutes every evening for three months and tried a multitude of mechanical devices resembling medieval tortures but alas, I did not add so much as one quarter-inch to my _____! In time, I learned that those who didn't come back for seconds and so forth also didn't realize what I truly had to offer.

I have been told to join a health club and develop my body. While I'm a far cry



Tim Burke

from the Michelin Man and all his rolls, I'm not adverse to solidifying my dormant muscles. Firstly, I didn't want my chest and upper arms to be my calling card, but secondly, how could I tell people that I was thrown out of the very first gym I joined? The

hyperventilation at the pool would have been enough (I thought it was a heart attack—boy, did it scare the staff!), but the club lost sixteen members in the half hour I was there: all thought I was a product of the gym's fitness program. (Any health center care to take me on?)

One friend warned me that I appeared sexually frigid to others as a result of my conservative appearance. Let's face it, some of us just seem to ooze something or other. Well-meaning, he attempted to doll me up and make me more appealing to the husband-hunting league. I was indeed a hit, congratulated by everyone for getting a head start on the Halloween season in

mid-July.

"Men don't make passes at boys who wear glasses" is something we've all been told. Or close enough, I guess. Well, I'm not even going to touch this one.

I gather that by now, you all must have a fairly good idea of how intense it is to be caught up in a loving hug. There is great security in knowing that though the arms that hold us will release the hug, the lovers hugging you and me will (hopefully) never let go of us. Nobody's per-

fect. Frisco's hug tells me that he likes my style of dress, and that it's not terribly important to him that my chest is hovering somewhere between that of Charles Atlas and Jayne Mansfield. And I love Frisco, thinning hair, off-key singing and all. Let's just hope we remain this way. After all, it will be pretty difficult and terribly embarrassing to explain to any newcomers why my head has become so flat on top.

Anyone for seconds? ▼

WORKING FOR CHANGE

Family Diversity

A Project of the Spectrum Institute

This article continues our series on institutions, groups and organizations which promote political and social change, awareness, education and social outreach for same-sex couples and the other two-hundred and twenty-five million people in our lives.

The Spectrum Institute is a non-profit corporation promoting respect for human diversity. While the institute has many important goals the Family Diversity Project works towards a society—

- ▼ in which the human diversity—both individual and family—that actually exists in society is fully recognized and respected, where all have an equal opportunity to participate fully;
- ▼ in which public policy decisions are based on reality rather than ideology, where policies are inclusive rather than exclusive;
- ▼ in which justice and fairness in the economic, social, and legal structures, are available for all people;
- ▼ in which people have an opportunity to learn about each other and to show that they care about one another.

The Family Diversity Project is one of the primary activities of Spectrum Institute. The Project promotes awareness about "families" in America, including changing demographics and the use of

realistic and inclusive definitions of "family" by government and businesses so that they include same-sex couples; the elimination of "marital status" discrimination against employees, consumers, and private citizens; and the protection of personal privacy rights of all adults from unreasonable business intrusions and unjust government regulations.

Here are a few examples:

- ▼ A gay man is refused a three day paid bereavement leave although his unmarried partner of 15 years has died.
- ▼ A public employee in Oregon is refused child care because, as a lesbian co-parent, she is not the biological mother of the child.
- ▼ A same-sex partner of an airline attendant is denied free travel benefits although spouses of straight legally married flight attendants can fly free.
- ▼ A police department in Texas requires a job applicant to take a lie detector test about her private sex life.
- ▼ A household dependent is denied the

Love is when...

...the idea of separate household accounts seemed superfluous....

In describing her unique feeling for Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn writes in her autobiography, *ME*:

"It seems to me I discovered what 'I love you' really means. It means I put you and your interests and your comfort ahead of my own. .. LOVE has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get—only with what you are expecting to give—which is everything... If you are very lucky, you may be loved back. That is delicious but it does not necessarily happen..."


When Ron and I decided to live together, 40 years ago, I was surprised at how easily I gave up financial independence, since I'd always been a scrupulous record-keeper. I was the one in any group who tallied the lunch checks to make sure we each paid our share. But I quickly realized no such thing applied to my life with Ron. Sure, we'd want to split costs and windfalls roughly 50/50, but: no big deal. I meant to spend the rest of my life with this man, and what's mine was his.

Luckily, I was loved back the same way and—yes, Kate—it has been delicious.

Subscriber Alfred Lees ▼

Coming Soon...

- ▼ Staying Together
- ▼ Out in the Garden
- ▼ The Right To Wed
- ▼ To Be or Not to Be...
- ▼ If You Listen
- ▼ Home Sweet Home: Buyers
- ▼ Joint Tenancy: Pro's & Cons
- ▼ Practical Housekeeping
- ▼ Mediation
- ▼ Outreach for Couples Group
- ▼ Battered Spouses
- ▼ Anniversaries
- ▼ New Notes



Mail bag...

"Our Best friends recently experienced exactly what you describe in your *Couples* article, *Giving Your Lover Legal Rights of Next of Kin*. In fact, it was much worse because the hospital refused to give our comatose friend, Don, a needed tracheotomy without permission from the "next of kin." His lover, David, only knew that Don's sister lived "somewhere in Philadelphia" and was not sure of her married name. It was a nightmare trying to track her down but we did, and, thankfully, Don's life was saved.

It is incredible to me, and surely illegal, that a major New York Hospital would withhold emergency treatment in a life threatening situation but they did. I suggest that *Couples* warn its readers that having a Power of Attorney could mean the difference between life and death for a gay partner.

George Page, Philadelphia, PA

My lover and I enjoyed the complimentary copy of your newsletter. However we hoped you would have a section that couples could meet each other, similar to a "personals" section. Since we *are not* bar people it is difficult to meet other couples for friendship. If you provide this service (even for a fee) I will then subscribe to your newsletter. Please let me know.

S.H., Mastic, NY

There are very few resources available to gay couples that encourage and nurture relationships.

In fact, there are very few opportunities to even meet other happy, stable gay couples. The only place to really meet people is in bars, and those people are normally looking for sex. Add the fact that I am a recovering alcoholic and that leaves us with few gay friends.

I'm hoping that your newsletter might offer us the opportunity to hear from or meet other couples.

K.J. and A.A., Boston, MA

right to sue a drunk driver who kills the survivor's life-mate who was the household's primary bread winner.

- ▼ More than half the states still have laws criminalizing various private sexual practices of consenting adults which are particularly prejudiced toward the sexual relationships of gays and lesbians.

The Family Diversity Project needs your participation and in addition they offer a selection of publications, reports and analysis. To learn more about the project, or to donate money or equipment, volunteer your time or services, or obtain a free list of their publications contact the Family Diversity Project, P.O. Box 65756, Los Angeles, CA 90065 or call (213) 258-8955. ▼

YOUR MONEY

Tax & Financial Tips

by Byrna D. Bicknell

Following are some outstanding rules that can help you and your partner get started on a financial plan that will have long-term benefits:

- ▼ Build a secure foundation before investing. Plan for a home, necessities, cash reserves and adequate insurance coverage first, then gradually build a program of tax planning and investments.

- ▼ Pay yourself first. Only competent management of spending makes savings and investment growth possible. Set aside 10-20% of income each month towards investing for your financial future.

- ▼ Establish financial goals and objectives. One reason why many people fail to reach their financial goals is they aren't quite sure what they are. Write them down. Review them on a regular basis.

- ▼ Maintain realistic financial expectations. You can't achieve financial independence in just a year.

- ▼ Understand any investment risk and act accordingly. There are many risks which should be weighed against each other when making investment decisions. Understand the risks involved before acting.

- ▼ Understand the threat of taxation and inflation. Planning is the key to not being eaten alive by the tax and inflation monsters. They have frequently been referred to as the silent enemy.

- ▼ Establish a clearly defined "financial game plan." Work with a professional who is trained in helping you define your goals, work out a plan and steer yourself in the proper direction.

- ▼ Diversify. Diversification is the most important risk mitigating factor in building an investment portfolio. A risk diverse portfolio should have some percentage in all areas and you should adjust that percentage according to changing economic trends or needs.

- ▼ Establish an estate plan. The less you plan disposition of your estate, the more the government will do it for you. An individual who has a successful program of planning, saving, and investing can lose the benefits without a proper estate plan.

- ▼ Do not procrastinate. Don't wait for the windfall, it will probably never come. Those who reach financial success are those who take action.

Byrna Bicknell is in private practice in San Diego, California in the area of financial management and tax preparation for over 10 years. She is an enrolled agent and is authorized to represent clients before the IRS. ▼

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PARENTING

Childless...No Way!

by Jerome Murphy, M.D.

When I accepted that I am gay, I immediately assumed that I would be childless for the rest of my life. As one of eight children, I always wanted children (not 8!, just 1 or 2), but that's not possible no matter how many times a gay couple tries. All of those ideas changed when I read an article in the *Advocate* about a gay couple that adopted children in California. I discussed this idea with my husband and we contacted the Department of Social Services in Sacramento that week. My very first question was: will our sexual orientation affect our opportunity to be foster parents? I was told no, and it's been full steam ahead ever since.

We did our "paperwork" for foster parenting and adoption concurrently. That means we did all of the financial statements, physical exams, blood tests, fingerprints, criminal records, work references child abuse profiles, etc. We were then able to go to the classes for foster parenting and the adoption classes (I didn't get to place out of any of the classes because I'm a pediatrician). Our home was approved for adoption *and* foster parenting. About two months later our social worker informed us about prospective children!

After six years of being a childless couple we were used to certain freedoms (I'll be specific). Suddenly on July 6th, 1990, we were dads (actually, I'm dad and my husband is papa). It's an incredible feeling to have my eight year old son call me dad, go to parent teacher meetings,

and root for him at his softball games.

Our son had been with us for about three days when we showed him our wedding pictures. He saw our romantic "you may kiss the bride" photo and laughed uncontrollably. As the son of a gay couple he has questions that I feel comfortable answering. How old were you when you knew you were gay (i.e. did you know when you were 8 like me). To answer that one I surveyed my friends and found answers as incredibly high as the late teens. Can I go to the gay pride festival even though I'm not gay or lesbian (he *always* uses the words together)? Why does George Bush hate gays and lesbians?

Our son has met a large number of gays and lesbians, and he thinks that he's straight. He knows that it doesn't matter which way he goes (though as a father I hope either he's straight or the world changes in the next decade so that it truly doesn't matter that he's gay).

Having a child is also an education for the people around us. They know that either of our son's "two dads" may come and pick him up at softball, day care, or Cub Scouts. Parenting is a wonderful experience and certainly worth all of the paperwork and the wait. We think though that for the time being we'll do a little family planning and limit ourselves to one child. ▼

This article originally appeared in *PATLAR*, P.O. Box 1413, W. Sacramento, CA 95691. Reprinted with permission.

News Notes...

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—The lesbian lover of a brain-damaged woman has been appointed the woman guardian, ending a dispute that has received widespread attention from feminist and gay rights activists. The state appeals court ruled that Karen Thompson is the most qualified person to act as Sharon Kowalski's guardian.

MONROE, OH—A recent issue of *Scholastic Update*, a magazine widely distributed to high school students, devoted its cover story to "The changing American Family." Included among the families in the article was a gay couple and their 14 year old son Jake. A family photo and interview with Jake made this a positive piece. (*GIADD*) Newsletter

VICTORIA, BC—The Federal Court of Canada has rejected a bid by a homosexual couple for spousal benefits under the old-age pension legislation, ruling the word "spouse" means a person of the opposite gender. The court ruled that the men do not come within the definition assigned by Parliament as the group it intended to benefit from the spouse's allowance.

BOSTON, MA—Unbowed by the narrow loss of the Family Protection Act, Boston Alliance activists are pressing domestic partnerships initiatives on two fronts. The Mayor's Domestic Partner Task Force is taking a comprehensive look at options available to the mayor for recognizing lesbian and gay families. In addition, board members have presented several proposals to the state's governor asking him to issue an executive order recognizing domestic partnerships.

HELSINKI—Gay and lesbian couples are now eligible for same housing loans. Until passage of this new city ordinance, gay and lesbian couples were given no special housing benefits. ▼



MOVING???

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Valentine's Day...

- ▼ Write up a "St. Valentine's Day Contract of Love" for each other.
- ▼ Send mushy cards with loving messages all week long.
- ▼ Prepare a candlelight dinner and set the table with your best china and tablecloth.
- ▼ Feed each other in a bubble bath.
- ▼ Drink champagne in front of a crackling fire.
- ▼ Call the local radio station and ask for a song dedicated to your lover.
- ▼ Give personal gifts that only you could get away with giving!
- ▼ Surprise your partner with a dozen red roses (even a single red rose will do)!
- ▼ Spend the day making paper hearts and writing romantic love poems.
- ▼ For those who express themselves better on paper, write a love letter.
- ▼ Spend a night at the theater or opera.
- ▼ Make love in an unusual place.
- ▼ Spend the night at a nice hotel right in your own city.
- ▼ Eat chocolate kisses and hearts.
- ▼ Dine at a lovely, romantic restaurant and have a bottle of *French* wine with dinner.
- ▼ Kiss each other good-night and sleep wrapped in each others arms.
- ▼ If money is no object, give the gift that keeps giving—diamonds.
- ▼ Since Valentine's Day is on a Friday, take the entire weekend away at a romantic bed & breakfast.

Happy Valentines Day! [ED]

COOKS CORNER

Peter Fitzpatrick

Table For Two

The major problem with shopping for two is buying too much food rather than too little. It is important to plan and shop carefully to eliminate leftovers which result in waste and food spoilage. This will save both time and money. Plan a weekly menu and accordingly a weekly shopping list. It is important to note that appetites do vary and the amounts you buy will depend on your personal needs.

Some basics should always be kept on hand. Other ingredients should be bought as you need them.

Plan two or three meals each week that can be partially prepared ahead, and perhaps an omelet, a soup meal or a casserole to use the cooked or fresh foods leftover in the refrigerator at the end of the week. When planning menus, choose only one dish per meal that requires constant attention while cooking. Consider complimentary flavor, color and texture combinations within a meal, keeping in mind that presentation is important to the enjoyment of a meal. The following recipe is a good example of this.

Kidnapper's Casserole

A stick-to-your-ribs casserole; hearty flavor varies with the cheese used.	
1/2 cup onions	2/3 cup cubed cheese
2 teaspoons corn oil	(Emmenthaler, Gruyere, Edam, Gouda or Colby)
2 to 2 1/2 cups flat noodles	1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms	1/2 teaspoon marjoram
1/2 cup shredded prosciutto/ham	1 1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme	2 tablespoons whole grain crackers crumbs
1 teaspoon parsley	2 tablespoons grated cheese
2 tablespoons milk	
1 egg	

Saute onions 3 to 5 minutes in oil. Combine in a bowl with cooked noodles, mushrooms, prosciutto/ham, cheese, salt (optional), marjoram, thyme, and pepper. Spoon mixture into a buttered 1-1/2 quart casserole dish which has been sprinkled with 2 tablespoons of whole grain cracker crumbs. Top with mixture of 2 table-

spoons of milk and 1 egg beaten together. Bake in 400° oven for 20 minutes and then sprinkle with 2 to 3 tablespoons of grated cheese (same as used above). Bake for ten more minutes and then garnish with 1 teaspoon of freshly chopped parsley. Serve with a colorful tossed salad. Bon Appetite! ▼

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CLASSIFIEDS COUPLES

Vol. 1. No. 11

January 1992

New Classified Column

Many subscribers requested this addition to COUPLES. Well, here it is. We think you'll like it and hope many of you will participate.

We decided to make this a separate section so it would not compete for space in the main letter. Having a separate classified section means it can be disregarded by those who have no interest, but available for those that do.

This is an excellent opportunity for gay and lesbian couples to meet others. In a community that often caters to the swinging singles, many couples find it difficult to meet other pairs. The new *COUPLES CLASSIFIEDS* will allow you to meet others that share your interests, locally and across the country. Perfect for making friends and for those of you who travel frequently. *COUPLES CLASSIFIEDS* is also a great opportunity for networking, advertising your own couples organization, or even your own couples event.

Please fill out the form on the reverse side of this letter and send it in as soon as possible with your payment. Take advantage of our charter offer, two months for the price of 1—only \$5.00.

Hope to see you all take advantage of this section.

[ED]

TRAVEL

GAY TRAVEL

There's no reason to re-enter the closet when you go on vacation. For gay CRUISES, TOURS, and RESORTS call Jim Boin at YANKEE CLIPPER TRAVEL, Los Gatos, CA—Toll Free from anywhere in the United States 800-624-2664. Member IGTA. (14)

**HELP CREATE A STRONG
AND UNITED COMMUNITY
SUPPORT GAY & LESBIAN
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ORGANIZATIONS

OUTREACH FOR COUPLES

The premier organization supporting the positive aspects of your relationship, offers original social/informative events designed **exclusively** for Lesbian & Gay male couples in San Diego County, held twice every month. Mailing address: 405 W. Washington St. #86, San Diego, CA 92103. For more information call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Lisa/Geralynn at 619-698-7844. (13)

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15th of the month for
next months issue

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for February & March
at our introductory
rate of only \$5.00!

CALIFORNIA

CONNECTICUT

FLORIDA

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON - BAY VILLAGE

FOR RENT, Bay Village, 2 bedroom duplex penthouse just renovated w/great views in owner occupied 2 family townhouse. Very sunny, private roof deck, working fireplace, built-in shelves, D.W./D/Jenn-Aire range/ice maker, cedar lined closets, W/D, central A/C, hardwood floors. Heat & H.W. included. \$1,500/mo. Call Steve at 451-8068 (home). Available January 1st. (13)

MEET A STABLE GAY COUPLE

GWM cpl 25 & 30 looking to meet other stable professional couples for dining, conversation, friendship and get-a-ways. We are fun-loving, sometimes serious, into quiet evenings or a night on the town. Looking to meet other happy, monogamous couples. Boston area. Write: FRWD #1, TWT Press, P.O. Box 253, Braintree, MA 02184-0003. (13)

NEW YORK

If you share our avid interest in the performing arts, contact us. We'd like to meet fellow arts lovers throughout the nation. Chuck and John, 666 Broadway, Rochester, NY 14607. (13)

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