

Gay (adjective): alert, animate, blithe, blithesome, bouncy, brash, carefree, cheerful, cheery, chipper, chirpy, confident, convivial, devil-may-care, festive, forward, frivolous, frolicsome, fun-loving, gamesome, glad, gleeful, hilarious, insouciant, jocund, jolly, jovial, joyful, joyous, keen, light-hearted, lively, merry, mirthful, playful, pleasure-seeking, presuming, pushy, rollicking, self-assertive, sparkling, spirited, sportive, sprightly, sunny, vivacious, wild, zippy

### **From the Editor's Desk**

As you delve into this initial issue of *GAY*, you are no doubt wondering from where inspiration for such a publication sprang forth (and even if you're not wondering, just play along with me here). After extensive research (read as: two nights of looking on the internet) I determined there was a notable scarcity of outlets for writers aspiring to be the "lesbian Erma Bombeck" or "lesbian David Sedaris" or "lesbian your-favorite-humor-writer's-name-here".

Sure, we have *Curve* and *Girlfriends*, but neither have been clamoring to regularly feature satirical personal essays written by often politically incorrect unknown writers – and, believe me, I've asked them! Faced with the possibility that the editors of these publications might soon invoke a protection order against me for email stalking, I have elected instead to start my own humble publication, an initial foray into the brave (not so) new world of e-zine distribution.

This debut issue is comprised entirely of my musings, but my goal is to attract additional contributors to *GAY*, providing a forum for other lesbian creative types who have no other outlet for their own sarcastic, caustic ruminations. If you're saying to yourself, "Hey, that's me!" then please

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### **Meet You in the Rat Maze**

I'm not sure when lesbians began sporting long tails and beady pink eyes, but judging from the number of allegedly straight women who are looking to "experiment" with us, it appears that lesbians are the new lab rats. In perusing various "Women for Women" online personals sites, I am frequently astounded by the number of women expressing curiosity in regard to same-gender sexual relations.

The ads run the gamut from the woman whose "boyfriend just isn't doing it for me anymore" to the woman who is "happily married with two children, but looking to explore" her sexuality. Holy Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria! I'd never quite thought of myself as an uncharted territory, but it appears there are many women willing to set sail on a journey to my private little island.

I often wonder how many card-carrying lesbians offer themselves up for this type of exploration and experimentation. Aside from the obvious moral/ethical considerations (remember, most of these would-be scientists appear to be otherwise involved with a member of the opposite sex), there are the second-tier health and emotional dilemmas. Engaging in sexual relations with a relative stranger who is presumably knockin' boots (or insert your euphemism here) with a male with some degree of

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# Meet You in the Rat Maze

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regularity may give one pause. Not that girl-on-girl sex doesn't offer its own set of health risks, mind you, but any prospective rhesus monkey would have to think twice before getting it on with a primate who diddles with the banana-bearing chimps on a recurring basis.

One would also have to weigh the perils associated with matters of the heart. What lesbian among us hasn't used the four-letter "L word" (and I don't mean "Lust") far too quickly in a relationship, simply because acts of a carnal nature had been performed? For whatever reason, women who love women seem more susceptible to transfer of the love bug during sexual activity (activate "forgiveness for sweeping generalizations" NOW). And who wants to offer herself up as research material only to have a broken heart listed as one of the lab results?

On the possible plus side of the debate, one would have to give weight to the "toaster oven" line of reasoning. Yes, we're all fantastic lovers. Yes, if these otherwise straight women slept with us just once, they'd be logging on to Netflix to add seasons

1-3 of "The L Word", "Go Fish", and every Angelina Jolie movie ever made to their queue. Yes, once these curious females experienced the unparalleled ecstasy of lesbian sex they would no doubt be trading in their factory-equipped male partners for those who prefer the staying power of a strap on. Who wouldn't like to think they possess THAT type of orientation-altering sexual know-how?

If you're looking for my take on subjecting oneself to those looking to experience lesbianism on a trial basis (and I know you are), I'd have to 'fess up to being slightly old fashioned in my views on such matters. While I have no qualms about bumpin' donuts with one who has not yet planted her flag firmly in either the "straight" or "gay" territory (I do love me some bisexual women), I prefer that the encounter not be offered up in the context of a hypotheses which must be either proved or disproved. I'll leave the experimentation to those more fascinated by chemistry, as I was never much good at science. Though I do have to admit this concept has me conjuring up fantasies involving women in spiked heels and lab coats.

## From the Editor's Desk

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check out the contact info on page four. I will respond to all inquiries (at least until this venture escalates out of control and I have to have "my people" do that for me).

Finally, I will admit/warn/stipulate here in this virgin issue that GAY is not for everyone, nor is it intended to be. One of my best friends often tells me, "There is something **wrong** with you!" The portion of my brain which emits thoughts dripping in sarcasm, cynicism, mockery, and irony seems to be unusually ample. I find that those who take me literally don't always like me much. As a Libra, this pains me deeply, but at the ripe old age of (almost)

45, I've learned to let go of the need to be liked by everyone and instead focus on my need to be myself.

If you don't like what you see in GAY, just unsubscribe. If this is the case, **please** don't waste your time composing an exhaustive email telling me all the ways in which I'm generalizing or stereotyping or otherwise being offensive. Life's too short; just let it go. On the other hand, if you enjoy what you see in GAY, hang around (and tell all your friends to subscribe!).

## When It Comes to Online Dating – You Get What You Pay For!

We've all found ourselves looking for love in all the wrong places at one point or another. Whether in a smoky bar, the office, amongst an incestuous cadre of friends, or amid the plethora of dating websites, nearly everyone has experienced a peek-a-boo moment with love we'd prefer to forget.

If you're not the smoky bar type, all of your co-workers are straight and/or coupled, or you prefer to maintain your friendships status quo, you have no doubt spent some time online, checking out the personals at Match.com, TheLesbianPersonals.com or – the most adventurous site of them all – Craigslist.com. Craigslist (CL) is a website which hosts local community classifieds and forums – including Men4Women (M4W), Men4Men (M4M), and Women4Women (W4W) personals forums, to name some of the tamer options.

I ventured on to CL W4W mistakenly thinking it might be a good place to make some new friends or, even better, meet a potential new girlfriend. Well, CL is a free service and the age-old axiom has never been more true – you most definitely get what you pay for! After a couple of days sorting through the ads, it was obvious that most of the posts populating the W4W forum fell into one of ~ a half-dozen categories. In order for others to learn from my experience and not have their own expectations shattered, I've put together the following guide to CL W4W.

### **I'm a Skank/My Boyfriend's a Skank... (but We Can't Help but Fantasize)**

Are you a straight woman with a fantasy? Does your boyfriend have a birthday coming up? Then "I'm a Skank/My Boyfriend's a Skank..." is the place for you!

Never mind that the forum is found in the W4W section – that's just to keep all the REAL straight women and men without goals from wandering in. If you have a boyfriend, but spend your days daydreaming about what it would be like to be with a woman (and, hey, who hasn't, right?), then step

right up, give us your measurements and his "dimensions" and let's get it on! This forum best suited for those with no respect for their partner, who can host, and who own their own digital camera.

### **I'm Really a Guy AND a Pervert... (And Since I Don't Leave My Mom's Basement, This is the Only Way I Can Ever Possibly Hope to See a Naked Woman)**

Are you male, 35+ years old, and still living at home? Do you routinely not bathe for days or weeks at a time? Have you or a close friend had your picture posted on at least one State's "Sex Offender Web Page"? Then "I'm Really a Guy AND a Pervert" is the place for you!

Don't worry about grammar and no need to romance your prey. Just shuffle on in, tell us how horny (alternate spellings include: horny, hornee, whoreny) you are, and tell us ALL about how badly you'd like to slurp, lick, finger, and fist us. Be sure to request a naked photo and send us one of your "member" in response.

### **I'm a Pissy Bitch... (and Have Nothing Better to do Than Find Fault with Everyone Else)**

Do you have a miserable life? Does someone piss in your Cheerios every single damned day of the week? Do you have TONS AND TONS of spare time on your hands? Then "I'm a Pissy Bitch..." is the forum for you!

Peruse the ads in the other forums at the CL W4W board and post away with your litany of criticisms and grammar mistake corrections. This board is particularly appealing to those who know it all and have never actually experienced heartbreak – makes it much easier to make fun of those who seek advice, guidance, and sympathy on the next board.

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# When It Comes to Online Dating – You Get What You Pay For!

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## **Bi-Polar ‘R’ Us...**

**(The Woman I Met Three Weeks Ago Who Swore She Loved Me on Our 2nd Date Broke Up With Me)**

Do you rent the U-Haul just in ANTICIPATION of the first date? Do you use the word “love” with a woman before you’ve memorized the names of her five cats? Have you been told by more than two friends that you really should seek therapy? Then “Bi-Polar ‘R’ Us...” is the place for you!

Debate the pros and cons of co-dependence. Commiserate with others who’ve experienced both the thrill of new love and the agony of the end of a relationship within the same calendar week. This is a great forum for meeting that next “special lady”.

## **I’m Caucasian/African American/Asian/Hispanic/Etc... (and I Hate Everyone Else)**

Did your granddaddy wear a hood and burn crosses on the neighbor’s lawn? Do you think the words “whitewash” and whiteboard” are racist? Are you incapable of tactfully stating a dating preference for a woman of a specific race without using racial slurs or slanderous physical descriptions? Then “I’m Caucasian/African American/ Asian/ Hispanic/Etc...” is the forum for you!

Who says you can’t be both a player AND a hater? Woo that next conquest by showing her just how morally offensive you can be. There are no grammar skill requirements for this forum.

## **I’m A “Normal” Lesbian... (and Can’t Figure Out How I Ended Up Here)**

Did you stumble on to CL one day, see the W4W icon, and naively post a well-written and witty personal ad, listing your interests, what you’re looking for in a partner, and asking that interested individuals contact you? Do you possess boundless amounts of optimism and believe that you might truly find an intelligent, interesting, emotionally stable (with or without the aid of medication), clean and sober, d/d free, single, lesbian or bisexual woman with a sense of humor on CL? Then “I’m a Normal Lesbian” is the place for you!

Practice the great lost art of written communication. Engage in enthralling conversations with other women possessing similar optimism and naiveté. Display your class, intelligence, and personality to those who recognize and appreciate such qualities. **WARNING:** This forum is not heavily trafficked.

**Editor:** Candy Parker

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