

Emerald pillows



www.gogirlsrock.com
PROMOTING WOMEN IN MUSIC

GoGirlsMusic.com presents

GoGirlsRock!

Friday, February 27th

Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington Ave.

9pm, \$5 cover

featuring performances by

Kristie Stremel

Amy Jo

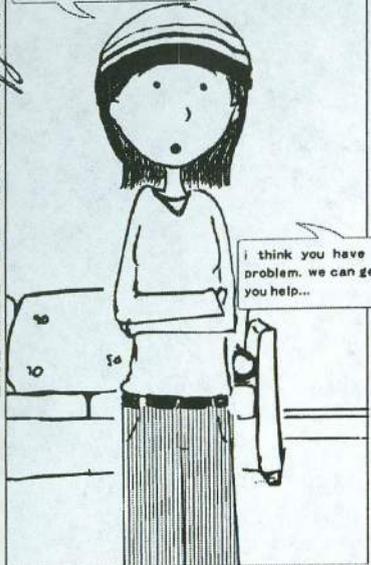
Clatter

Stage Dive

KICK IT OUT by jenny conte

So, I had a very difficult issue to address with my girlfriend recently...

baby, we need to talk...



i think you have a problem. we can get you help...

She's a non-stop self hair cutter.



BABY!— NO! you promised you'd stop!

i can't! I HAVE a problem!

Every time I turn around, there's fresh clippings on the floor.



hmmm... blond...

Over the past couple of months, it's gotten worse.

Evolution of a self proclaimed "hair artist"



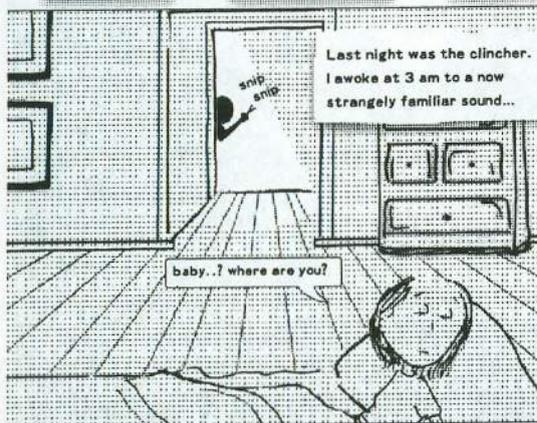
2 months ago.

1 1/2 months ago.

4 weeks ago.

2 weeks.

1 week.



baby...? where are you?

Last night was the clincher. I awoke at 3 am to a now strangely familiar sound...



don't come in! uh...it's my stomach, yeah, my stomach's upset...JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

IT'S MY HAIR! I CAN DO WHAT I WANT WITH IT!

Like I said, it's getting bad...

the end.

jenny@emeraldillows.com © KICK IT OUT PRODUCTIONS

I was in a bookstore the other day and, oh my stars, to my very horror there was a book about...shhh...lesbians. Well I never in my whole life saw such a thing! Page after page after page of...er...lesbian sex stuff...there were just so many pages of this smut. I just kept going on and on, page after page after page looking at all the pictures. There were a lot of pictures and I looked at all of them. And now they have this new tv show about lesbians and there are all these lesbians, you know, having sex! Can you believe? I had to watch that show three times just to believe what I was seeing. I couldn't believe they would put such trash on the television like that so I had to watch it one more time.



counting lipstick

by Kristie Helms

I've started counting the lines on my face. Wrinkles. Creases around my eyes. I noticed new lines around the corners of my mouth tonight where I either pull my lips down into a frown or up into a smile or set them tight against one another when there's too much that I want to say and I don't allow myself to say any of it because that's how I was taught.

And I am the good girl.

When I was young and my skin was plump and held its own and I still went to church and I still kneeled before those statues of Mary, I would spend Sunday sermons staring at the backs of my hands. White. Smooth. Folded over one another and around a hymn book. There were no creases. No spots that were not totally white and pink and plump.

I no longer recognize my own hands. The nails break off and my knuckles seem large. The skin hangs in spots and there are red areas where I forgot to wear gloves when I shoveled that one day. That one day.

I rub moisturizer into my skin every morning. I have since I was 16 and I got a bad sunburn and then saw photos of women in their 40s who had tanned every day since *They Were My Age* and they looked. Older Than That. And I swore I would make you love me forever. Whoever I thought You Might Be then. And I made it a ritual. Shower. Towel. Drip. Lotion.

I got in late tonight. Late for us. And I pulled the fleece over my head. When did I start wearing fleece? When did that happen? When did I stop dressing up for going out?

Do you still love me?

Do you still love me with these lines, these wrinkles, these creases?

Can I still be your girl. Your femme. Your woman. When I'm grey? Do I count when

I'm grey? When I'm not turning heads, not trying to turn heads, not obviously. Not obviously beautiful. (Was I ever beautiful?) Anymore.

My eyes were red. From being tired. And there were lines on my skin. I pulled the fleece over my head not remembering when it was I began wearing fleece instead of silk and you saw my lips. And you asked me.

You asked me.

(why do these simple questions always become Something Bigger?)

You asked me if I had just put on lipstick. But I had only been biting my lips. Hard. To bleed. Because I'm wearing fleece and I don't know when that happened and it's 9 p.m. and I don't know when that became late and I have these lines creeping around the edges of my face and I don't know. I don't know. I don't know how to be.

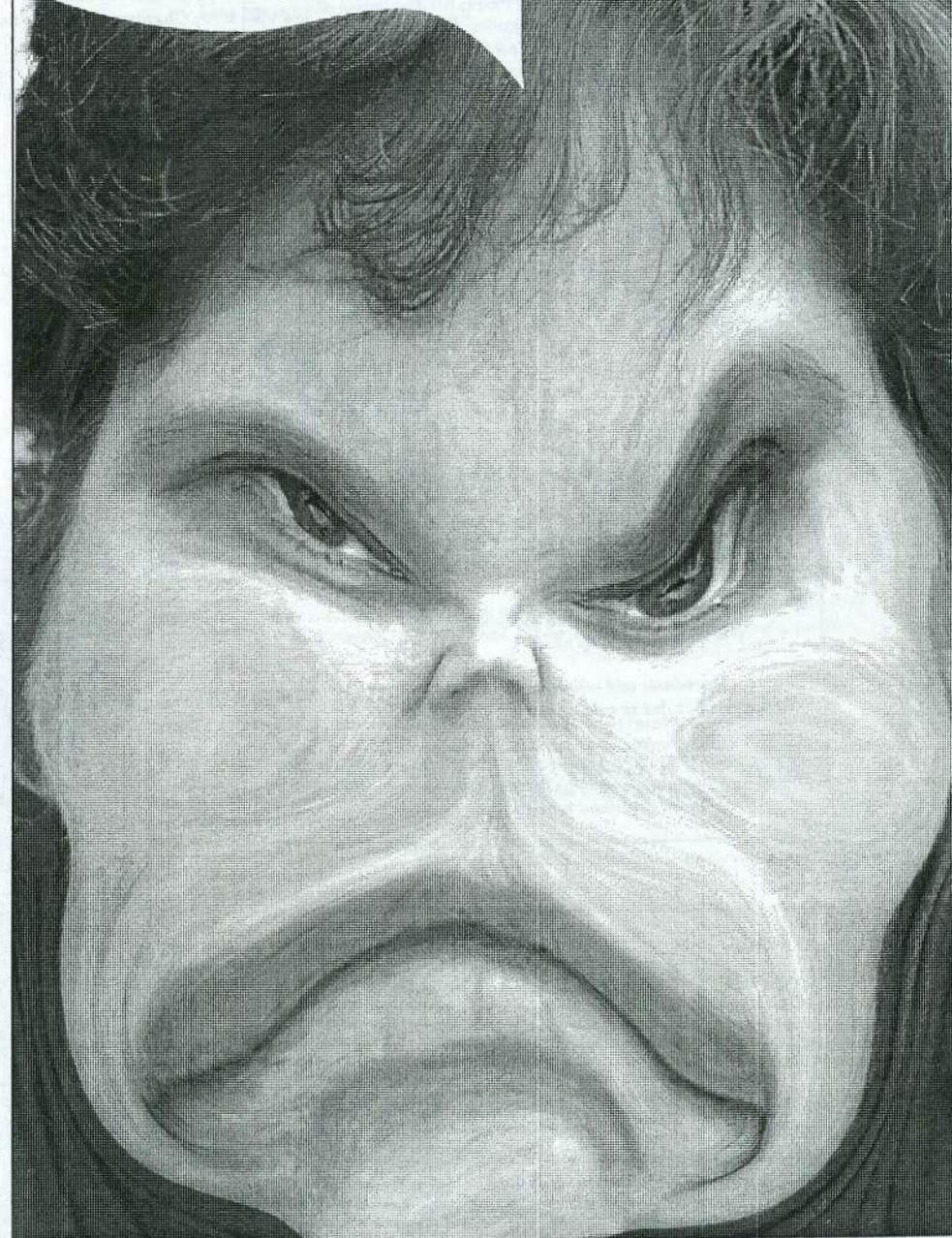
The Femme. The Girl. Your Woman.

Then I wonder. If there is someone else out There. Without lines, without creases, wearing silk, dancing until midnight (or after). Whom you would ask. If she had put on lipstick.

For you.

Kristie is the keeper of the well-read blog, *DishItUpBaby.com* and her new book is also titled *Dish It Up, Baby*

Homo-sexuals are always wantin' special rights. I don't have special rights, dammit, and I'm f-in normal! Why should faggots get all these whoop-de-doo rights?! Normal people don't get squat! Homos want the right to not get fired from their jobs just cuz they're homos. Well, shit, I got fired from my job cuz I'm a dumbass. I don't have no dumbass rights!! Were the hell is the dumbass agenda when ya need it?! Special rights, my left tit!





valentine's day extravaganza!

by cara dube



Hey everyone, it's February! And you know what that means. That's right, Valentine's Day! The time when you're expected, once again, to empty your pockets and prove your undying love. So if you blew it for Christmas, you get one more shot. Lucky you!

This one's easy; stuffed animals, roses, chocolate. Lots and lots of hearts. Anything red or pink, really.

But perhaps you're in the same boat as me this year and a little low on funds. In that case, you may consider making a gift yourself. Fortunately for you, I've already done the Internet legwork on this one. I've spent literally hours scouring the web for amazing homemade gift ideas and now I'm ready to share them with you. Join me as we engage in a Valentine's Day Gift Idea Extravaganza! Are you ready? Good!



1. First on the list is a charming gift idea submitted by Pat. Pat came up with the idea of filling a basket or coffee can (?) with little heartfelt things such as scented candles, bubble bath, and candies. Kind of ordinary. But then she went on to suggest the addition of cherry tea. Cherry tea? Kind of gross sounding, but different. Hey, that's *really* different. Let's have a look at the recipe.

Cherry Tea Mix
1 package cherry-flavored soft drink mix
1 1/4 cups instant tea mix

Combine ingredients until well blended. Store in airtight container. To serve, stir 2 teaspoons tea mix into 8oz. hot or cold water.

How simple! Why didn't I think of that? I'm sure your lover will appreciate a disgusting blend of instant tea and cherry-flavored soft drink mix. Thank you Pat.

Tip! If your girlfriend is dieting, use Crystal Light. She'll be glad you did.



2. The next special Valentine's Day idea is Love Trail. Lisa (we'll call her Lisa) suggested leaving a trail of Hershey's Kisses leading to the bathroom shower. When your sweetie pulls back the shower curtain have a bunch of red roses lying in the bottom with a note attached saying: "Now that I've kissed the ground you walk on and showered you with roses, do you promise to love me forever?"

Thanks to Lisa for this cute idea. Be prepared to yell at your lover for either wanting, or not wanting to eat candy off the floor.

Tip! Be extra romantic by cleaning the soap scum from the bathtub before sitting roses inside.



3. Irene has outdone herself with this great idea for Red Valentine Heart. Here are the easy instructions. Cut out two big identical-sized red hearts; decorate as desired. Staple edges together, leaving an opening at the top to be stuffed with newspaper. After stuffing heart, staple top together completely; including a red ribbon in the middle so heart can be hung up.

I think I can scrounge up some red paper. All I would need then is to steal the evening paper off the neighbor's lawn. Kudos to Irene for this money-saving tip. This is a real money-saving tip! Let's move on.

4. Do you love these so far? That's what I figured. Let's hear Kendra's take on the familiar message in a bottle. She calls it, Love Note in a Bottle. Let's see how it's done.

Write a romantic poem, (either make one up or copy one out of a book), roll it up and place it in a fancy bottle. Replace the top.

Now stand aside as the love of your life cracks it on the edge of a sharp corner while attempting to open it. Whoops! It must have unraveled inside the bottle on the drive over. It's really the thought that counts. Thanks for the idea Kendra.

5. And now it's time for our final Valentine's Day gift idea. My personal favorite. While searching the Internet I felt I was definitely getting warmer, but I wanted red hot, and this one is just that. Susan explains how a simple romantic gesture is worth a hundred Valentine's gifts. I'll let her tell her story.

"We live in Ohio where there is usually snow on the ground in February. So my husband got a can of red spray paint, and out in our pasture he wrote his Valentine message to me! In bright-red paint on the glistening snow he wrote, 'I love you, the love of my life.' Everyone thought it was so neat. Even the people from the newspaper came and took a picture of it and it ended up in the evening news!"

Holy cow that is the pinnacle of romantic! And yes, if you are reading this you are probably in Houston and this is going to take some major finagling on your part. But once you've got the problem licked, score! A can of red spray paint is five or six bucks tops. If you can't swing that even, I'm sure there is a less expensive alternative for writing your message in the snow. I'm surprised Susan's husband didn't use one. And don't forget, you'll probably end up on the front page of The Houston Chronicle! Go ahead and write your message on the front lawn in case no one from the paper goes wandering around in your pasture. Most gracious thanks to Susan and her thrifty husband.

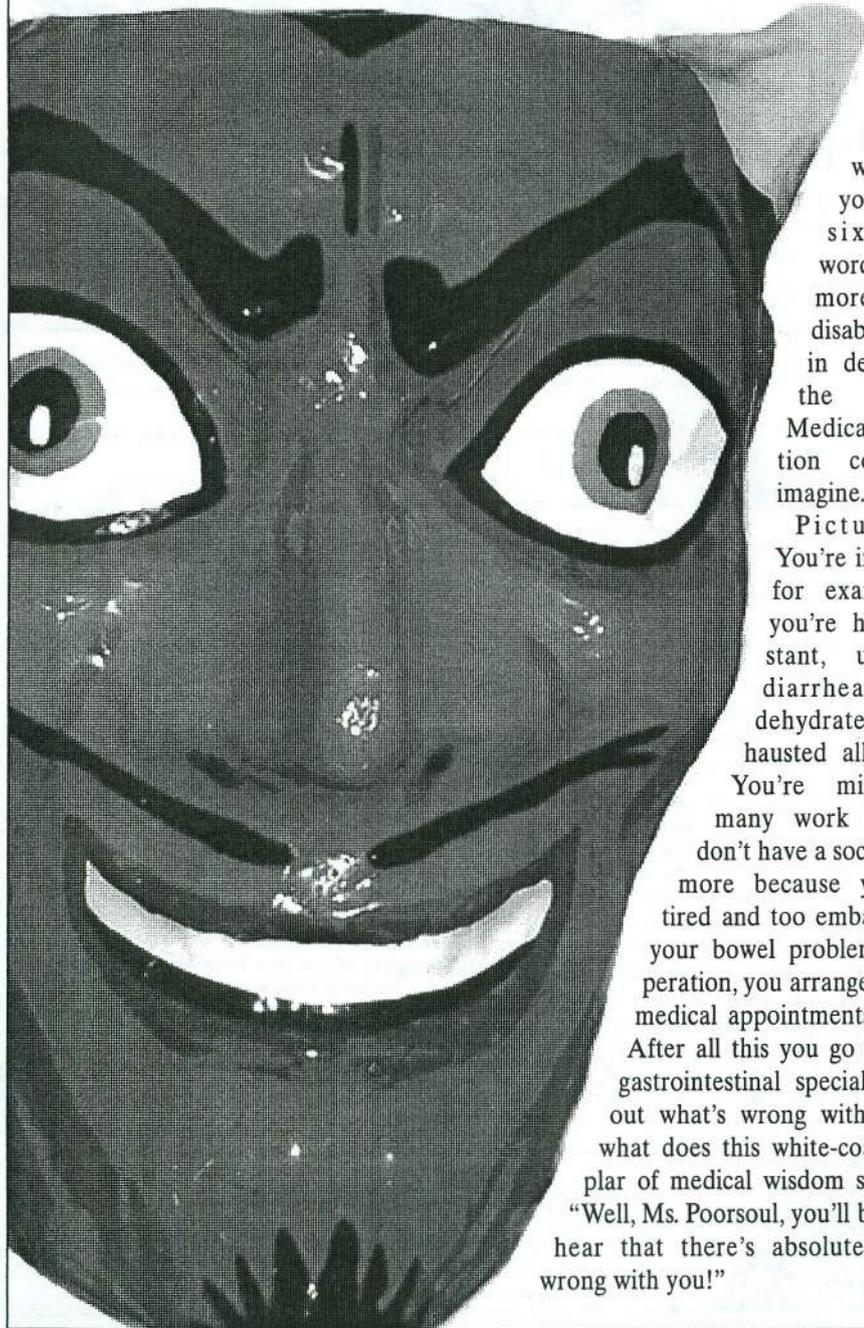
Well folks, this concludes my Valentine's Day Extravaganza. I hope you find all of these ideas helpful. If you're hankering for more unique Valentine's Day ideas email me at cara@emeraldpillows.com. I came up with a mountain of ideas of my own that I can't wait to share. Hurry while there's still time. *Limit of one per email.*



"There is nothing wrong with you...."

By Candace L. Van Auken

nothing



"There is nothing wrong with you..." Those six simple words have left more sick and disabled people in despair than the American Medical Association could ever imagine.

Picture this: You're in pain. Say, for example, that you're having constant, unremitting diarrhea. You're dehydrated and exhausted all the time. You're missing too many work days. You don't have a social life anymore because you're too tired and too embarrassed by your bowel problems. In desperation, you arrange a series of medical appointments and tests. After all this you go to visit the gastrointestinal specialist to find out what's wrong with you. And what does this white-coated exemplar of medical wisdom say to you? "Well, Ms. Poorsoul, you'll be happy to hear that there's absolutely nothing wrong with you!"

Then the idiot doctor looks surprised at the expressions of shock, horror and sorrow that parade across your face. "Well, surely," he says, "you're happy that you don't have a life-threatening condition, right?"

And you sit there, overwhelmed, confused, and crazed, having not a clue what to say to this person. You fight to hold back your tears of frustration and anger until you get out of the doctor's office. Once in your car or in your home or in a dark corner of some convenient diner, you sob like a little kid. And you feel guilty for sobbing, since it certainly should be wonderful news that you don't have cancer or something....

This would never happen to any of us, if only we better understood Doctor Talk. Doctor Talk is not English, and it is based on the premise that specialists do not treat people, they treat systems. In other words, in the above example, your gastroenterologist does not see a person walk into his office — he sees a gigantic intestine. He examines the Giant Colon. He extracts blood from the Giant Colon and sends it off for laboratory analysis. He schedules tests on the Giant Colon. And when it's all done, he announces that the Giant Colon is Just Fine, which means that it is not overrun with Cancer or some other Interesting Disease. It is all that such a doctor can do not to sigh as he tells you that there is nothing wrong with you — the Giant Colon.

In the real world, there are not all that many Giant Colons walking around (although some might disagree when it comes to Giant Rectums — especially the ones in white coats). We're used to thinking of ourselves as people, who have complex bodies and symptoms and lives. We have this silly idea that doctors will help us understand why our bodies are causing us so much pain and unhappiness.

But you do not have to leave the doctor's office feeling frustrated, hurt, angry, or disenfranchised. Simply remember that to

some of these fools, you're nothing more than a single body part. And all that they can tell you is whether or not they can find something wrong in that particular body part or system.

So, for example, if a hormone problem were causing your diarrhea, the Colon Guy would tell you that nothing was wrong. This doesn't mean that nothing's wrong — it only means that there's nothing wrong within the very limited aspect of you with which he's willing to deal.

Understanding this point will make your travels through the medical system much less frustrating. Just say to yourself, "Okay, now it's off to see the Eyeball Guy." And whenever he or she speaks to you, substitute the word "eyeball" for "you." Then whatever is being said will make much more sense.

Another way of understanding the words, "There's nothing wrong with you....," is to hear them as, "Nope, I'm not the one stuck with you. Get out of here — I'm passing the buck." That, too, is a useful way to translate Doctor Talk.

Unless you're lucky enough to have a single, uncomplicated disease that looks and acts just like a disease as described in a medical textbook, you're probably going to have to go see a whole bunch of specialists. And they will pass you around like a hot potato. It's best to prepare yourself mentally for this so that it doesn't take you by surprise.

Whatever you do, try to keep things in perspective. Try to remember that you're not alone. Thousands and thousands of people every year feel just as demeaned, dehumanized, and dismissed as you do by those six simple words.

Candace Van Auken has abandoned a traditional career to devote her time to chronic illness. She is curious to find out how much of a babe magnet a really sick, middle-aged woman can be.

February Moon Scopes This month the Full Moon is on the 5th in Leo and the New Moon is on the 20th in Pisces.

Aries - The full moon drives your creative and sexual adventures and makes you more playful than usual. You will be more giving and if children are around, they will add to your sense of recreation. You will not want to do much work. The new moon pulls you back into your spiritual center. You want to be more isolated or away from daily routines. Choose healthy forms of escape.

Taurus - Emotional stability at home is what you seek with the full moon. There may be more drama there than you like. Some of you will clean out your nest while others will redecorate. You will want to be treated like the queen you are. As the new moon shines, you are rethinking your ideas and how you want to communicate them. You are more driven by emotional needs rather than material desires.

Gemini - You are more chatty than usual with the full moon. You are talking to anyone who will listen. Your brain is in a very creative time and it is being fed by instinct and the unconscious. You will be great at problem solving. Your impact on the world and just where

you fit in is triggered by the new moon. You will feel alone or as a force of one trying to make an impact on the unconscious of those around you. Others will hear your song.

Cancer - Money and security issues are bubbling up to the surface with the full moon. You may be feeling like you work very hard and are not very appreciated. Make sure that you are special and significant in your own heart or others will not be able to see how to relish you. The new moon is a time to begin new projects associated with teaching or travel. You are in touch with the flow of the universe and know just how to nurture those around you, whether in love or business.

Leo - With the full moon in your sign, you are shinning your limelight on those around you. People will be drawn to you and will lavish their love and gifts upon you. Be the center of your own universe. You are much more interested in how others view you with the new moon. Their thoughts and opinions are very important, and you are more vulnerable to negative and critical consideration. Choose your judges wisely.

Virgo - You are more sensitive than usual to interaction with other's egos and hearts with the full

moon. You may feel that they are drawing your life forces from you. You will want to be in seclusion more. You will have to choose what company you allow in very wisely. A new relationship begins with the new moon. You will attract new people to you and you will have to renew existing relationships. There must be a greater heart chakra connection.

Libra - Celebration and social activity with friends is highlighted under the full moon. You are making connections with others so easily. This will help any business venture or group association that you are a part of. Your charisma is strong. Your intuition at work is very good with the influence of the new moon. There are things going on behind the scenes even if others are talking about it. Follow your heart and don't expect validation until the next full moon.

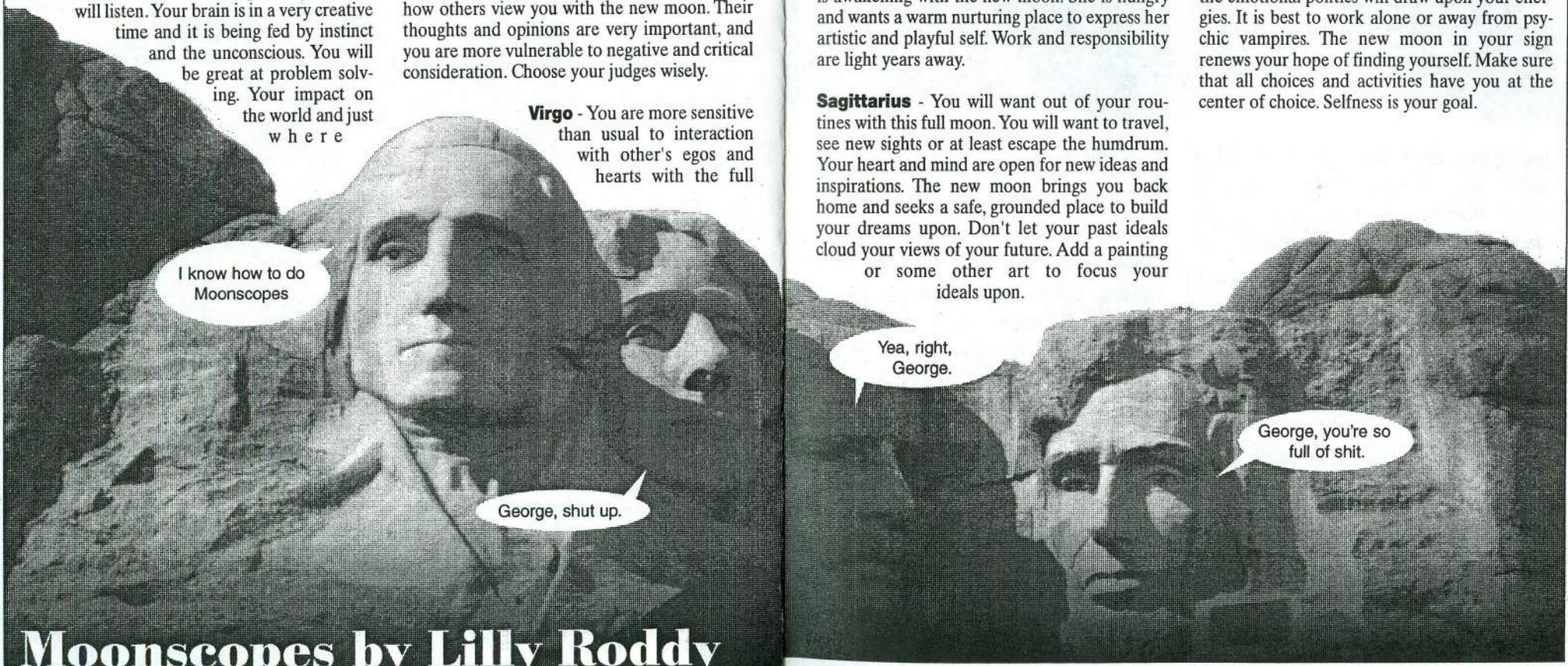
Scorpio - You are in a period of recognition and being outspoken at the same time with the atmosphere of the full moon. You will not be pushed away from your goal or be ignored. You feel justified for all your actions. Your inner child is awakening with the new moon. She is hungry and wants a warm nurturing place to express her artistic and playful self. Work and responsibility are light years away.

Sagittarius - You will want out of your routines with this full moon. You will want to travel, see new sights or at least escape the humdrum. Your heart and mind are open for new ideas and inspirations. The new moon brings you back home and seeks a safe, grounded place to build your dreams upon. Don't let your past ideals cloud your views of your future. Add a painting or some other art to focus your ideals upon.

Capricorn - The full moon will make you very dependent on what others feel about you. Your self-worth seems to be in their hands. If your desirability isn't what they want, are you still significant? Your "oneness" must fit into the whole. Communication of your ideals is stirred with the new moon. You are looking for a plan that fits everyone and leaves no one out. Some may see you are unrealistic but you are undaunted.

Aquarius - Do you feel important in your relationship or do you have to constantly feed your partner? This is the question that the full moon brings to you. At what cost is a relationship too much? Unexpressed feelings will come to the surface so that you can soothe them. The new moon brings you a desire to have real security for your future. Often this seems the most intangible part of you, and yet, you will begin new plans for that quest.

Pisces - You are considering the meaningfulness of routine during the full moon. You have to find a deeper meaning in the concepts of commonplace. Work may seem dull and boring and the emotional politics will draw upon your energies. It is best to work alone or away from psychic vampires. The new moon in your sign renews your hope of finding yourself. Make sure that all choices and activities have you at the center of choice. Selfness is your goal.



Moonscopes by Lilly Roddy



Every Monday Queer Voices GLBT radio, KPFT 90.1, Houston; 89.5, Galveston. Every Monday from 8-10 pm. Hosted by Jack Valinski. Also available at www.kpft.org

Every Tuesday Center Lesbian Coming Out Group GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose @ Hawthorne, Suite 207. 7-9 pm. Free. www.houstonglbtcenter.org

Last Friday Lesbian Film Night GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose @ Hawthorne, Suite 207. 7-10 pm. Free. www.houstonglbtcenter.org

Every Sunday Don't have Showtime? View The L Word at Chances or Meteor every Sunday

February 6-7 Margaret Cho at the new Improv on the Katy Frwy at Silber. www.improv.com

February 6 Yoga And Lifestyle S. Hanif Hekima, speaker will share his experiences and insights as a student and teacher of how the practice of Hatha and Raja Yoga has transformed his life in the last 30 years and how it can benefit all who are willing to commit to this 'journey of self awakening.' S. Hanif Hekima is owner and teacher of Rising Hearts Yoga Studio in Northwest Houston. At Yogahmmm Center, 1801 S. Dairy Ashford. 7 pm. FREE.

February 6-8 Millenium Actress (Sennen Joyu) Japan, 2002, 87 min., in Japanese

Valentines Day

February 14 AssistHers' 2nd Saturday presentation will be the Oldy/Newly Wed Game--A discussion about lesbian couples. The presentation will last from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on the second floor at Bering United Methodist Memorial Church, 1440 Harold Street. For more information, please call 713-521-4628 or email contact@assisthers.org

February 14 Valentine "Celebration of Love" featuring entertainment by Kate Clinton. Fundraising gala presented by the Lesbian Health Initiative. Hilton Hotel Hobby Airport. 6:30 pm -1 am. \$60 per person (before Feb. 4). For more info see www.lhihouston.org/events.htm

February 14 Bubbly Sensations: A Valentine's Gala of Champagne & Desserts DJ, Dancing, Photographer, Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Raffles. Proceeds to Benefit Houston area Gay and Lesbian Sports Organizations. Key Star Events Complex, 3209 Montrose (at Westheimer), Valet: Via Key Star or Ruggles \$3.00. \$50 per couple / \$30 for singles (advance sale) More at the door. 8pm. For more info email PwatsonTX@aol.com

with English Subtitles) From the director of Perfect Blue comes another anime that pushes the boundaries.

February 18 Professional Women's Networking Happy Hour Meteor, 2306 Genesee @ Fairview. 7-9 pm. FREE.

February 27 GoGirlsRock! The Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington Ave. Featuring music by Kristie Stremel, Amy Jo, Clatter and The Googe. 9 pm. \$5. www.gogirlsrock.com

February 28 Dead Man Walking, 1995, Directed by Tim Robbins, Based on a true story, Dead Man Walking tells of Sister Helen Prejean (Susan Sarandon) Show Times: Saturday, February 28 6:00 PM

March 3 A Little Day Music Da Camera's free lunchtime concert in the lobby of the Wortham, 500 Texas @ Smith. Miro Quartet. Noon. FREE.

March 3 Professional Women's Networking Happy Hour Meteor, 2306 Genesee @ Fairview. 7-9 pm. FREE.

March 13 Kindred Spirits Reunion Dance Hornberger Convention Center on Holcombe Blvd. \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door. For more information call 713.523.2521 (House of Coleman).

March 17 Professional Women's Networking Happy Hour Meteor, 2306 Genesee @ Fairview. 7-9 pm. FREE.