

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## GLBT Historical Society, Curve Foundation, Open Exhibition Exploring Lesbian Cartoons

**San Francisco** — On Thursday, July 13, the GLBT Historical Society will open a new exhibition exploring the landscape of 1990s lesbian cartoons in the GLBT Historical Society Museum in the Castro district. The exhibition, *Curve Magazine Cartoons: A Dyke Strippers' Retrospective*, was created through a partnership between The Curve Foundation and the GLBT Historical Society, and will be on display through fall 2023.

The landscape of lesbian cartoons in the 1990s was small yet vibrant; full of passion, satire, self-deprecation, and deep-cutting political and social commentary. Publishing these cartoons in the early years of *Curve* magazine (which was named *Deneuve* magazine between 1991-1995) was a natural fit, aligning with the pivotal lesbian publication's cheeky voice and journalistic integrity, and enhancing both the aesthetics of the pages and its witty content. In the 1990s, these alternative artists had few platforms to publish their voices and their art. *Curve* magazine is proud to have been at the forefront of amplifying these marginalized voices and allowing them to further spread lesbian representation, culture, and humor.

“The cartoons selected in this exhibit are meant to highlight the best of *Curve* magazine's youth; the distinct early-1990s San Francisco edge, the playfulness, and the journalistic integrity,” said curator Julia Rosenzweig. “It's important that our community is educated about *Curve's* legacy as an integral resource for lesbian connection, culture, and news. We are thankful for the museums and archives that allow these stories to live on, letting future generations see themselves reflected in the historical canon.”

Franco Stevens, the founding publisher of *Curve*, noted the impact of the comics they published, and their enduring impact. “Including comics in *Curve* (and *Deneuve*) magazine sparked many thought-provoking discussions,

everything from safer sex to political controversies. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to push the boundaries of our printer's potential censorship. The exhibit offers a unique perspective on the lesbian culture of the 1990s."

This exhibition is produced in collaboration with the Curve Foundation, an organization that empowers lesbians, queer women, trans people, and non-binary people to share our culture and stories, connect with each other, and raise visibility. Jasmine Sudarkasa, Executive Director of the Foundation noted, "This exhibit represents the culmination of a thoughtful and long-term founding partnership with our 2021 grantee, the GLBT Historical Society. We are so grateful for the opportunity to collaborate in such an innovative way, ensuring that lesbian and queer stories (and images) speak for themselves."

Paige Braddock, one of the artists included in the exhibition remembered the connections forged through *Curve* magazine. "Having now lived close to the Bay Area, and comparing and contrasting that experience to my experience of growing up in a more rural, deep south area, that magazine is like a lifeline to people who don't have that community. You read that magazine and you feel less lonely. You feel like somebody else shares your experience. And even though you can't relate to every article in there, it was a great monthly experience with a group of people you would want to be with or you'd want to know. I always felt like that magazine was sort of a feel-good experience."

Artists showcased in the exhibit include Kris Kovick, Jennifer Camper, Hope Barrett, Kirsten Zecher and Lori Priestley, Rhonda Dickson, Alison Bechdel, Cari Campbell, Andrea Natalie, Joan Hilty, Paige Braddock, Debby Earthdaughter, Leanne Franson, Terry Sapp, Nikki Gosch, Diane DiMassa, Bambi and MiMi Design, Kim Schilling, Catherine Goggia.

Additional information about the exhibition, and tickets to the opening reception, are available at [www.glbthistory.org/curve-magazine-cartoons](http://www.glbthistory.org/curve-magazine-cartoons).

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## ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The GLBT Historical Society is a public history center and archives that collects, preserves, exhibits and makes accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity. Founded in 1985, the society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of queer public history and maintains one of the world's largest archival collections of LGBTQ historical materials. Our operations are centered at two sites: the GLBT Historical Society Museum, located in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood; and the Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market district. For more information, visit [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org).

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## ABOUT THE CURVE FOUNDATION

[The Curve Foundation](#) was co-founded by Jen Rainin and Franco Stevens. The mission and vision of the organization are inspired by *Curve* magazine, formerly *Deneuve*, America's best-selling lesbian magazine.

As *Curve*'s 30th anniversary approached, Franco reimagined how *Curve* would serve lesbians and queer women in its next chapter. To further her commitment to lesbian representation and visibility, she reacquired the magazine and donated it to the Foundation. Her journey to this historic decision is captured in the documentary film [Ahead of the Curve](#).

*Curve* magazine is now a nonprofit project of The Curve Foundation, providing a portal into the hard-won lessons from our past that can inform our actions well into the future. The Foundation empowers lesbians, queer women, trans people, and non-binary people to share our culture and stories, connect with each other, and raise visibility. It achieves this mission through its two avenues: the Curve Award Program, which celebrates and supports queer journalists, and the Curve Archive, which provides access to the 30-year legacy of *Curve* magazine, as well as community programming that activates the inherent value of everyday culture and stories to build bridges and inform, raise visibility, and foster connections.

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## GRAPHICS

The following images may be reproduced only in association with coverage of *Curve Magazine Cartoons: A Dyke Strippers' Retrospective*. Credits noted in captions are mandatory.



like our parents, offending someone, or bringing up our "issues" that they get plugged up. While our brains are trying to make some headway, our vaginas take over. Everything runs smoothly for about a week. .then our brains kick in, and the political constipation begins.

Our brains scramble to repair the damage that our genitals have done. We tell ourselves that we really must care about this person if we are sleeping with them. We assume that a \*monogamous situation now exists, because we just aren't the type to sleep around. We begin to think of ourselves as a couple. In short, the minute we see a woman naked our whole world turns upside down. While it might be true that our vagina simply wanted some attention, our brain would rather die than admit that it was duped by lust.

So, we end up having a relationship with every woman we sleep with. Our vaginas, however, cannot be so easily led. After the initial thrill, it needs a reason to carry on. If the brain cannot provide a reason to continue, the twat will shout, "Next!" Often, the brain finds itself alone in a dismal situation.

Lust is underestimated in our community, and not just by us, but by our "experts" as well. Lust is viewed as an annoyance. We feel guilty for feeling it and positively beastly for acting upon it. Those who succeed in keeping their lust in check are seen as virtuous and enlightened. This line of thinking was already tried, and it failed. The period was called The Dark Ages. That particular bout of political constipation lasted 300 years. Let us hope the Lesbian Renaissance happens a little faster.

Why wait? Let's start our renaissance today. Stop thinking of lust as a "boy" thing. Even straight girls are admitting they love sex. Stop feeling guilty about sex. You only have to feel guilty if you were a lame lay. Put sex into perspective. It is fun, but it is not a short

out to intimacy, nor is it a substitute for real communication. We must put an end to the practice of equating sex with ownership of our partners, using our vaginal juices to mark a body the way a dog uses urine to claim a tree. Just because you licked it doesn't make it yours. And stop lying. Don't pretend that tonight's object of lust is the love of your life. She might turn out to be, but don't let your brain make any promises that your vagina can't keep.

Accept the fact; no, revel in the knowledge that two evolved cerebrums are no match for two wet twats. This seven-day plan is a win-win proposition. At worst, when the week is over you will have some great memories and someone new to have coffee with. At best, she might turn out to be "the one."

If you are serious about reducing stress in your life, then this plan is for you. Imagine how wonderful it will be to enjoy another woman's body without having to wonder what it is going to cost you emotionally. Your muff will be happier, your brain will be happier, and your friends will be positively giddy. For they will never again be forced to endure your long-winded and tiresome speculations about what "it meant."

So, what's the catch? There is only one. You've got to be honest. No fair telling her about your "week of glory" plan, the morning after you've slept with her. She will probably find your views exciting and refreshing. Then again, she might brand you a sick pig. In either case, it is better to know before you see her in her skivvies.

Political constipation can make a person grumpy, so don't expect the community to share your initial enthusiasm. Let them talk, the more tongues that wag, the faster the idea will spread. In short order, the ranks of the politically constipated will dwindle, elevating you to the status of a trendsetter and leaving the few remaining naysayers alone and grunting in the dark.

Seven days of unbridled passion, followed by a fond farewell or an even fonder hello. It will work. On your next first date, instead of bringing her a copy of the lease and a U-Haul, try presenting her with a brightly colored dental dam and whipped cream. The movement to end political constipation will reverberate with a resounding, AHHH!



You really want to get things moving? How about not thinking at all during the first week of courtship? Just have sex. If you want to sleep with her, and she wants to sleep with you, then do it. Don't attempt to discuss anything at that point, except perhaps safe sex and where to do it. No thinking allowed. Thinking can ruin sex, but it can't stop it, so let it be good. One-hundred and sixty-eight hours of ecstasy. . .no drama, no guilt.



Comic by Kris Kovick published January 1992 in *Deneuve* (later *Curve*) magazine.



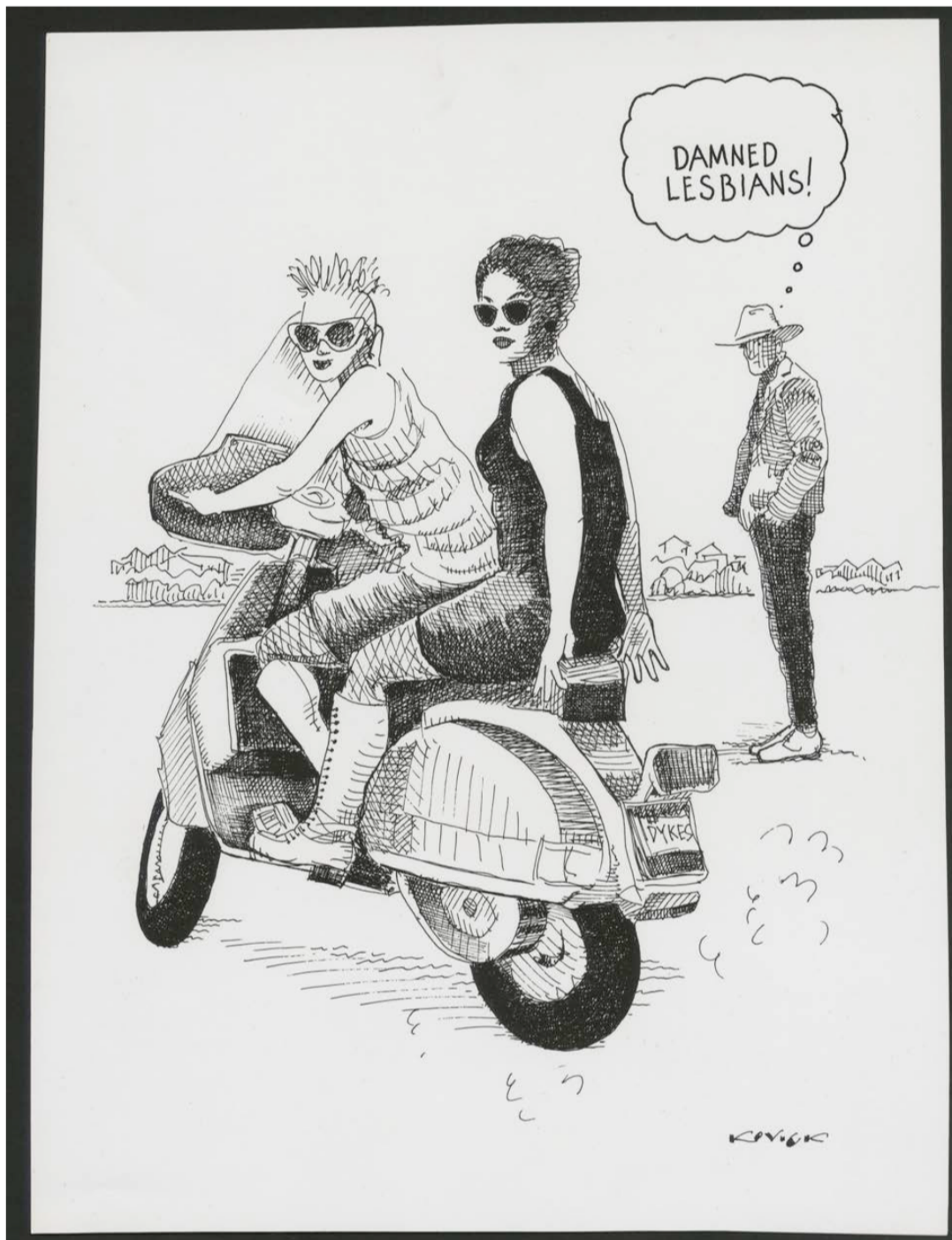
dyke **drama** [ ! ? ]

dating  
hits  
and  
myths

by  
**michele fisher**



Comic by Kris Kovick published April 1994 in *Deneuve* (later *Curve*) magazine.



Comic by Kris Kovick published August 1994 in *Deneuve* (later *Curve*) magazine.

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