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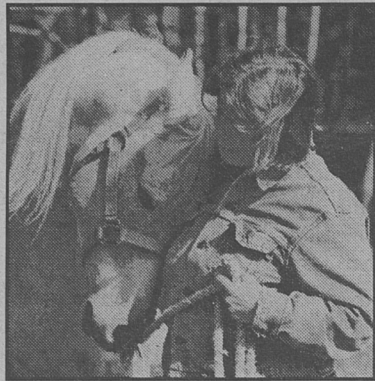
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My apologies to my readers for what may or may not be erroneous information in last month's column. Reuters circulated a report of detainees in Egypt. Apparently it was a gay wedding/gay disco arrest/round-up of 54/55/60 men that Amnesty International is very worried about. You now have as much or as little truth or lies as I do.

I was at a party last weekend, and I love to watch people. I was the designated driver so I was sober — completely sober amidst a good size group of mostly queer as a three dollar bill people, I think. Now, I don't have the gift of "positive gaydar" all the time and I learned a long time ago to never make assumptions, so my guess is there were straight people there too. But again, I am not sure.

It was an incredibly lovely setting in the lush green of Bethel, VT, the food was amazing, and the conversation was without comparison. As usual, I found myself drawn to the company of men, oh and a merry band it was. I like men and I enjoy their camaraderie. It's hard to make friends quickly and easily with women, speaking for me of course. Men on the other hand, bond in immediacy. That's why straight girls claim they never see it.

I do have an advantage though, a secret weapon. In the early 70's through 1988, I drove tractor trailers in the greater Boston area. I have seen the best and the worst and everything in-between in men. And along with making an

Bark o' the Banshee

By Pat Robinson

Welcome Fairies

honest wage well beyond what the average woman was making, I learned to handle men. All of my ex-husbands complained about it.

By now my partner was looking for me and when seated, leaned and whispered, "All I have to do is find a group of men and there you are." She smiles and dives into her salad. I cannot help laughing at the statement made to me so many times by all the ex's.

Now the great thing about my partner is she too enjoys the company of men and this makes complete sense to her. Now I am certainly not trying to suggest that I made no effort to enjoy the company of women, only that it once again seemed to divide up according to sex, with a little blending here and there. And we made new friends of both too, but we sat with the guys.

The fellow to my right was inspired by my sober attitude and we both shuddered to think of me with a buzz. John Malkovich sat directly across being Dustin in Disguise. He thinks I won't remember. I did. Stephen with a "ph" enjoyed my little reminiscence down memory lane with a horse I called Spaghetti Head among other things. My day was made, however, with the revealing tale of the now-retired doctor who made out laxative orders as a young man, and signed them BM. I agree! Anything that gets a charge out of a Mother Superior deserves 40 years of use. I guess retelling that story is part of the fun too. Go, BM, go!

So by the time this hits the print, Pride Month will be over. I have enjoyed the button Kelsey Flynn gave me at the

Northampton Pride March, May 5, 2001 and Burlington, VT will be mine to treasure in a host of warm memories after June 15-17th.

Sadly for some Americans, there is no honor in being gay.

July 4, 2001 looms ahead and still we have Americans in the United States not free. I live in the State of New Hampshire. The motto? Live free or die. When my partner was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance, I was adamant that I be listed as next of kin. Why should I have to make any extraordinary effort to be recognized?

My dad knew in 1956 that the armed services had gay men and women. How come Colin Powell and John McCain don't know? And only the Air Force has lower numbers to report of gays being dismissed under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy for the year 2000. Maybe someone should tell the Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps that it really does take more than just a FEW GOOD MEN to keep a country free and safe.

And how about the great man from the little state that just swung the balance of power in a profound manner. All you Log Cabin Republicans can just roll over, thank you. It is not going to be the sweet ride down TRASH EVERYTHING LANE you had originally anticipated.

Oh and now my big dilemma? Where should I put my \$300.00 tax refund so it will be to my best advantage?

In Gaelic, Shee means Fairies. In my garden, fairies are always welcome.

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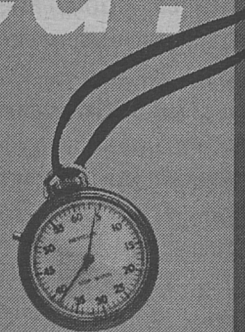
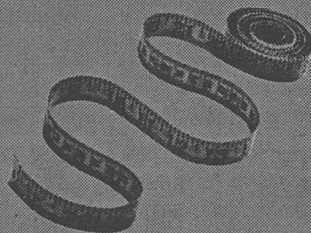
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