

# LAVENDER RHINOCEROS

Victoria's Premiere Lesbian & Gay Magazine  
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— Inside —

**M.A.R.S Project Results Prove Sex is More than Condoms and Posters While the Gals Choose A Bill of (Sexual) Rights**

**Marsha Mildon Launches New Novel**

**Sue's Sun Signs Made It Again!**

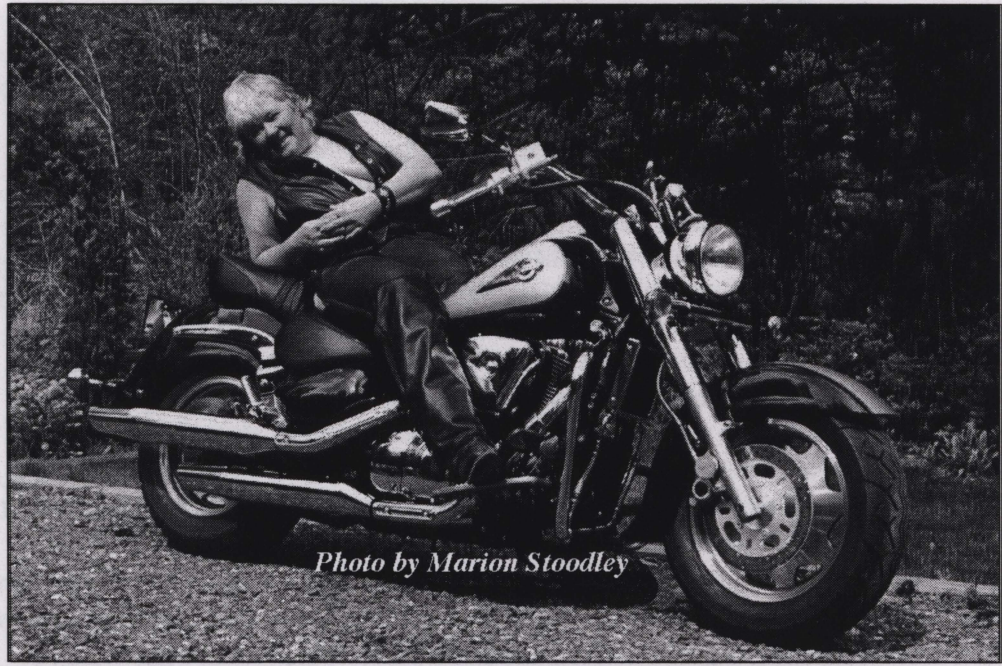
**AIDS and Chiropractic**

**Time For Pride: "Celebrate"**

**Business Course and Mixer**

**Same-sex Relationships & the Law**

**and Much, Much More**



*Photo by Marion Stoodley*

## **Dykes on Bikes!! Let the Parade Begin!**

*by Nicolle McKenna (Miner)*

One event I consider a 'must-do' every summer is ride in the annual Victoria Pride Parade. Every year for the past three, I have donned my helmet and boots and taken my place at the front of the parade with other dykes on their bykes. (I should mention that last year, we had an "honorary dyke" with us—a gentle leatherman named Ernie.)

Besides getting to lead the parade and having traffic stopped for me (for once!), I love meeting other riders and socializing before the parade begins. There are some dykes (lesbians, if you prefer but it doesn't rhyme with bikes) who have been riding in the parade for as long as the parade has existed.

Some dykes get dressed up in costumes—some decorate their bikes. The bikes range from small scooters to big Goldwings, from cruisers to sports bikes to motorcross (they have to be street legal and insured) - and represent as much diversity as our community itself has. All riders and passengers have two things in

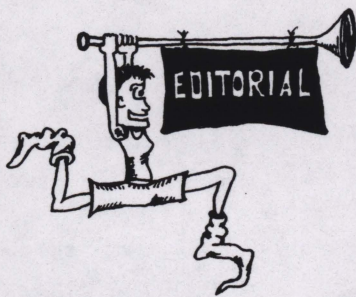
common though – a love of bikes and a big smile on their faces. In fact, I seem to be smiling for weeks after.

One good thing about leading the parade is arriving at Fisherman's Park before the rest of the parade, hopping off the bike (is parking for a bike ever a problem?) and watching the others as the parade enters the park. You get to be in the parade and watch it too.

Pride celebrations are about celebrating our diversity as the queer community – from the outrageous and lovely drag queens to the shy quiet librarian to the smiling dykes on bykes. It is the one day of the year where we are visible and there is safety in our numbers – it is, indeed, a celebration.

So, dykes with bykes.....this is an invitation. Pull your scoot out of the garage, polish up the chrome and paint, rev her up and get her ready for a good time. Come join the parade and have some fun –celebrate your pride! Join me at the front of the parade – start your engines please!

## Honoring Us



This is the Pride Issue. Time to celebrate our sexuality whatever it may be and to be joined by P-FLAG and our allies. "Celebrate?" How does it translate to our pride and to our parade? We proclaim, often, "we're here, we're queer, get used to it." Are we not saying "we are a part of this community. Celebrate with us. Join us in accepting the grand diversity that is Victoria?" To me the parade is a political act. It shows Victoria we're here, there are more than a few of us, we work

and play here and we represent big bucks—most of us. So, I have talked sometimes of the necessity of at least inviting our mayor to join us. It's not an endorsement of his political stance. It's not even an endorsement of his "acceptance" (I hate that word as much as I hate "tolerance") of us. It is simply stating— lesbians, gays, bis, trannies, questioning, ... are as much a part of this community as heterosexuals of all ages, races, ethnic origins and backgrounds, religious beliefs. I can quite understand Stacy of the Pride Society when he says he doesn't want the mayor in his parade. But, I also believe that the parade is our opportunity to celebrate more than ourselves. It's an opportunity to openly express our incredible desire to be thought of as a valuable resources in a growing and thriving community. It's a time to forget political views and shake hands with the society and the cultural mores of those who aren't us. However and whatever you believe, politically or otherwise, join in the fun and celebrations. The Pride Society has worked hard. Thank you. Barbara

## Pride and Prejudice

There was a bomb blast in London and three people were killed. They weren't all gay, but they were all in a gay pub. The blast was connected to a single white male who, in previous weeks had targeted the Bangladeshi and Black districts of London. The bombs were an indication of the continued hatred that plagues our species – an odd species that is singular in its destructive nature.

We come together as communities, we live in one area, or congregate in one location because we find comfort and acceptance in each other, because we know that we each understand to a greater or lesser degree the issues faced by others nearby. We don't expect that this safety will be shattered by a bomb.

Clearly, we're wrong.

While we (collectively) shout about wanting to be accepted as equals to straights, to have the same rights and entitlements as them, we have yet to convince many in the world that we even have a right to exist. The privileged gays and lesbians of "the West", are so myopic in the struggle for equal rights with hets—the right to be married, the right to claim dependents, the right to spousal benefits—that we miss the horrific loathing that still seethes in some people. Loathing that makes it still all right to kill people, because we're 'less than human' anyway.

To change that loathing will take years and years. In India it's illegal to be homosexual; in parts of the Middle East men and women can be executed for engaging in homosexual sexual acts. Even in the United States to this day, sodomy laws can dictate punishments of years in prison.

So while we struggle to gain even more privilege, we need to remember that privilege and pride won't bring back the lives of those people in England, or Matthew Shepard, or Harvey Milk. We still have that battle to wage and it ain't over.

We can have all the pride we want, and as long as one more life is taken because of our orientation, the pride has style, but not enough substance. In the hateful faces of the real world, we haven't done our homework. Michael

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### Rhino Team:

**Publisher:** Barbara McLauchlin

**Editors:** Michael Yoder, Barbara McLauchlin

**Layout & Design:** Marion Stoodley

**Treasurer:** Sally Hamill

**Display & Advertising Sales:**

Barbara McLauchlin (for now) at 598-6490 In Vancouver for advertising, Michelle Clancey at 377-3584 or e-mail:audience@intergate.bc.ca

Barbara : (250) 598-6490 or by e-mail at barbmcl@coastnet.com

Michael: (250)386-3458 or by email at myoder@direct.ca

All submissions may be edited for space and clarity. Copy is considered to be the property of Lavender Rhinoceros. Letters and submissions must be accompanied by address and telephone. Only under extraordinary circumstances, discussed with you will unsigned letters/articles be printed. Deadline for advertising and for written submissions is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

While the Lavender Rhinoceros is a lesbian/gay publication it should not be assumed that all advertisers, contributors, letter writers are gay/lesbian. All may be assumed to be allies.

Lavender Rhino is a division of the Lesbian Community Connections Foundation. The LCC mandate is to provide a monthly written forum that celebrates all aspects of queer lives, to promote a healthy visible community by giving voice to and honoring diverse and common interests and to promote dialogue on such issues as class, culture, racial differences and diversity.

Lavender Rhino sells individually for \$3.00 per issue at Bolen Books and Munro's, in Courtenay at Headquarters Grocery and in Vancouver at Little Sister's Books. A subscription is \$25 per year. Cheques are payable to LNews. Mailing address is PO Box 5339, Stn B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4

# Victoria Pride 1999

by Stacy P. Leblanc

Yes there will be a Pride parade, a pride festival and, I'm excited to say, a pride week.

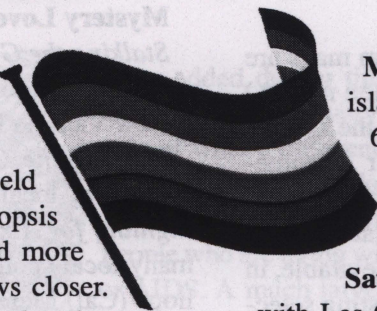
This year a number of events will be held throughout the week. Here's a quick synopsis of events. This list is not complete and more events will be added as Pride week draws closer. To add your event to the Pride Week calendar please call David at 595-3799.

The next Pride Planning Meeting is Monday, May 31, 5:00pm at the offices of AIDS Vancouver Island (304 - 733 Johnson St.). Volunteers are still needed.

On **Friday, June 4**, the Pride Society hosts a coffee house fundraiser (Pride is an expensive event to produce) at the G-Spot (1910 Store St.) from 8:30 pm to 12:30am. This is an ALL AGES, ALL GENDERS event. The cost is a sliding scale of 0-\$10. For more info call lisa j. lander at (250) 629-6445.

**Sunday, June 27**, at BJ's Lounge - The Miss Gay Vancouver Island Pageant. Phone BJ's for more information.

**Monday, June 28**, A Royal Proclamation with Her Majesty Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, on the steps of the Legislature starting at noon.



**Monday, June 28**, an evening reception at the Legislature. Hosted by Island Rainbow. Starting at 6:00pm.

**Friday, July 2**, Raw Ink. Rainbow Artists and Writers. Art and readings. Location to be announced.

**Saturday, July 3**, 11:00am a Tour of China Town with Les Chan. A PWA fundraiser. Phone 383-7317 for more information.

**Saturday, July 3**, the Pride Society in co-operation with the G-Spot presents the 1999 Pride Dance at the Fernwood Community Centre (1240 Gladstone). This is an ALL AGES, ALL GENDERS event. [Liquor license covers minors. See ed's response to letter inside.] For more info leave a message on the Pride Line, 360-2393. Stay tuned for more details.

**Sunday, July 4**, the Pride Parade and Festival. The parade line-up starts at 11:00am and the parade officially begins at 12 noon. For registration information call and leave a message for Marc on the Pride Line at 360-2393.

More details to follow. Volunteers are still needed and cash donations are always welcome.

Events will continue to be added to the schedule in the coming weeks. If you have any questions please leave a message on the Pride Line at 360-2393.

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# What's a Word's Worth?

By Maddy Aramis

Serendipity. Gotta' love it - first the mainstream mags are demanding to know 'Is Feminism Dead?' and then my S/O (one or two decades older than I) confronts me in the kitchen with the question, "What is WITH you and your 30-something laissez faire-all-the-work-has-been-done mentality?" (And, no, the comment was not in any way related to me doing, or not doing, the dishes...) So, it seemed inevitable, in a cosmic kind of way, that one of the more interesting selections featured in the latest issue of *The Women's Review of Books* sounds like a great title for all those among us who are puzzling over the future (hell, the present) of feminism.

In *Letters of Intent: Women Cross the Generations to Talk about Family, Work, Sex, Love and the Future of Feminism*, editors Anna Bondoc and Meg Daly, have collected letters written by young feminists to their 'foremothers.' The older women were then invited to respond and this collection is the result.

By the sounds of it, the correspondents came up with letters of varying degrees of interest and profundity. Nevertheless, this sounds like a unique opportunity to listen in on conversations between women as diverse as Judy Blume, Starhawk and Gloria Steinem. Whether or not you actually run out and order a copy at Bolen's or Munro's (this is so new it hasn't hit the shelves here in Victoria), the review by Lisa Marcus in *Women's Review of Books* is worth reading. Not only does she ask some rather pointed questions about some of the book's underlying premises (her favourite line in the whole book is a quote from Katha Pollitt, 'Since when did sisterhood become mother-daughterhood?') but in general provides thoughtful commentary on the project, the writing, the exchanges and the women who write their "Letters of Intent."

## Polestar-Press Gang Publishing Alliance

For readers who enjoy work by the likes of Kate Braid (who, by the way, will be in Victoria during the last week of May for the BC Festival of the Arts) and Persimmon Blackbridge, you will be happy to hear two fine small presses (Polestar and Press Gang) have formed an alliance. By pooling their resources they hope to be able to maximize their ability to promote, publicize and market books of literary and cultural merit. In this day of mega-publishing houses and superstores, such alliances are a necessity as small presses struggle for survival.

## Visibilities

Looking for an on-line source for lesbian books? "Visibilities" is an on-line magazine for lesbians. There's lots to check out here besides their bookshelf including an interview with Joan Nestle. <http://www.wowwomen.com/visibilities/>

## Mystery Lovers!

*Stalking the Goddess Ship*

Marsha Mildon

New Victoria Publishers, 1999 \$10.95

*Stalking the Goddess Ship* is the second Cal Meredith mystery by local author, Marsha Mildon. Like her first book, *Fighting for Air*, the novel is set on Vancouver Island and many local spots will be familiar to Victoria readers. Caliope (Cal) Meredith's travels as she pursues the twists and turns of this complex plot take her from a little table at "Jumpin' Java" (where she attends a poetry reading) to the coves, islands and underwater wrecks near Bamfield.

The tightly written plot is made all the more enticing by a spicy love triangle between the key suspect (a University of Victoria professor and expert in underwater archaeology) and the murder victim (another professor's wife). Skillfully navigating the waters of cold water diving and international porno rings, Mildon has crafted a fast-paced story with a satisfying and intriguing ending. Note: The book will be launched at La Run Theatre, 1983 Fairfield Road, June 11 at 7 p.m. No admission charge.

## Conferences are Murder

by Val McDermid

Spinster's Ink, 1999 \$12.00

And, here's the blurb from Spinster's Ink about the latest mystery from Val McDermid's pen: Lindsay Gordon is in the thick of it, as usual. Now living in California, she returns to England for a trade union conference and swaps insults the first night with Tom "Union" Jack. When this unethical union boss is found dead early the next morning, having catapulted out of Lindsay's tenth-floor room, she is taken away for questioning by the police. In an effort to clear her name by finding the real killer, Lindsay searches among hundreds of unruly conventioners for a murderer who may have struck once before.

Finally, the self-described "cynical, socialist, lesbian feminist" ex-journalist uncovers a seething cauldron of blackmail, corruption, and abuse of power, all brought to a boil by her sleuthing! "Lindsay Gordon makes deft work of murders past and present in this thriller with a shock ending that is Everywoman's secret fantasy. Val McDermid knows the way to a woman's heart is through nasty, elegant poetic justice. This one delivers it!"

Val McDermid is the creator of both the Lindsay Gordon and the Kate Brannigan mystery series. She also wrote *The Mermaids Singing*, which won Britain's prestigious Golden Dagger Award for Best Crime Novel of 1995. Ms. McDermid lives in England.

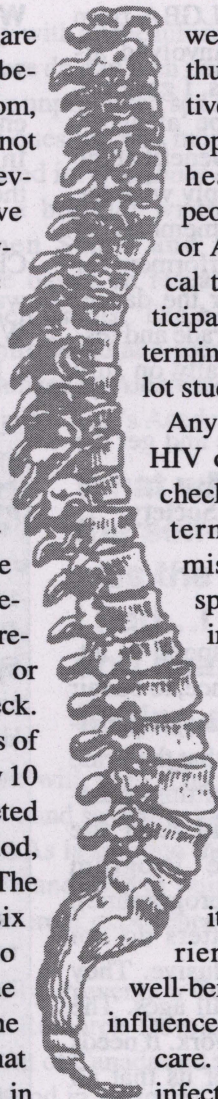
*Maddy Aramis is a freelance writer living in Victoria.*

# Chiropractic Care and HIV/AIDS

by Dr. Misty Watson

When people think of seeking care from a Chiropractor, it's usually because they have some kind of symptom, usually pain. What many people are not aware of is Chiropractic care is for everyone, not just for people who have symptoms. For people who are living with HIV or AIDS, Chiropractic is an essential part of their health care routine.

Late last year, Life Chiropractic University released findings from a pilot study which was conducted at their research facility. The study was conducted over a six month period, during which time 25 people who were HIV positive received specific adjustments to the upper neck region and 25 people received fake, or sham adjustments to the upper neck. The study looked at CD4 cell counts of the study participants. Although only 10 of the original 25 subjects completed treatment during the six month period, the results are exciting nonetheless. The study was actually halted after six months because the results were so dramatic it was unethical to continue to withhold Chiropractic care to the control group. The study found that CD4 cell counts increased by 48% in the group which was receiving upper neck adjustments, while the counts decreased by 7% in the control group. All of the study participants were closely monitored during the entire six months of the study to ensure that no new medication or other lifestyle modifications



were added during this time; thus the results are very reflective of what a difference Chiropractic care can make in the health and well-being of people who are living with HIV or AIDS. A much larger clinical trial with close to 300 participants is now underway to determine if the results from the pilot study can be duplicated.

Any person who is living with HIV or AIDS should ideally be checked by a Chiropractor to determine if there are any misalignments in his or her spine which may be interfering with the proper functioning of his or her nervous system or immune system. These spinal misalignments (also called subluxations) not only cause symptoms, but they also interfere with the ability of an individual to experience abundant health and well-being. My life has been greatly influenced by receiving Chiropractic care. I used to have chronic sinus infections (up to 10 per year, each of which required antibiotic therapy) and chronic colds. I have now been a Chiropractic patient for eight years and my sinus infections are gone, and I have only been ill once in the last three years. Many of my patients experience these same changes in their health status.

Please do not misinterpret my article. Chiropractic does not cure HIV or any other disease or illness. What Chiropractic does do is remove subluxations from the spine that are causing interference to the optimum functioning of your nervous system. Once these subluxations have been corrected, the entire body sees the benefit. Whether you are living with HIV, asthma, or low back pain, having your spine checked will cause change in more than just your symptoms, and it may even change your life.

*Dr. Watson is currently practicing on the Saanich Peninsula. If you wish to see a Chiropractor and are unable to travel to her office, please feel free to contact her for a referral to a Chiropractor in your area.*



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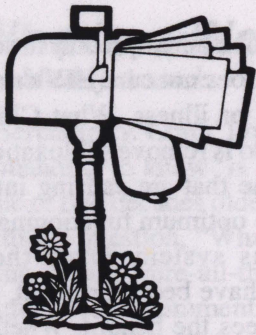
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# Letters to the Editors

Hi barb:

Well, sure wish you'd get your facts straight (hate to use that expression).

In your last editorial, even though two letters said otherwise, you persisted in saying that the Pride dances were not "all-age accessible".

Pride dances have bars does not mean anything, and that terse comment did nothing but potentially damage the reputation of a hard working grassroots organization that puts on an extremely important event for our community. For your information, the last Pride dance was produced for the Pride Society by none other than the Women's Creative Network. Su Hallatt herself purchased a special occasion license in the name of Sheralynn Pierce. (That is a license that makes the event accessible to all ages). If you had read Stacy and Lisa's letters carefully they had mentioned that, also that previous years had the same arrangement.

This fact was advertised in all Pride publicity.

Now this year, the same thing will happen. The Pride dance will be at the Fernwood Community Centre on

July 3. I tried to get the LGBA from the University of Victoria involved, after un-returned phone calls, I gave up.

However the event will be 'all ages'. So will the Pride Society Benefit at the G-Spot on June 4th. I deeply wish the participation of younger members of our community. How? Performers for the coffee house, DJ's for the dance, volunteers for the pride parade and festival, performers for the rally on July 4th. Please give us a call.

Barb, pick up the phone and get the facts before you print them.

**For the Victoria Pride Society,  
Ellen Hines**

### *Barbara replies:*

It is not my habit to respond to letters. However, in this instance, to be fair to VYPS and my intent, it is not generally known and clear to all that the Pride Dance has a license permitting attendance by all ages. I did read the government's Licensee Program Manual (their spelling of programme). The above mentioned letters do not specify the license is inclusive. They reiterate the dance is for all ages. The phrase "all ages" doesn't work. It needs to be spelled out for all of us that all ages means the license to sell booze is inclusive of those under-19 and the responsibility to refuse service to those under-19 is that of the licensee. Hopefully, all this discussion will make that clear, and good will be done.

### **Women's Music**

Hi Barb,

I was reading the article in the Lavender Rhino by Sunshine Goldstream. In it, she referred to the "Changer and the Changed (Meg Christian)".

While I would never belittle Meg Christian, Changer and the Changed was in fact written and recorded by Cris Williamson.

**Dr. Ruth Simkin**

## **CPOW Powers On** *by Betty Krawczyk*

How sex trade workers first came together to form the hard-working Prostitutes Empowerment Education Resource Society (PEERs) highlighted discussion at the last Canadian Party of Women (CPOW) meeting. Speaker Jannit Rabinovitch told members how the women have been given opportunity and encouragement to improve their lives, health, safety, housing and education and training for work for those wanting to get out of the sex trade.

Cher Morgan lead a strategy session and formed committees from the membership to look into election strategies and means by which the goals of CPOW could be presented to the general public.

Meetings are the last Friday of every month. Call Betty (250)382-6378

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## **Alison Campbell**

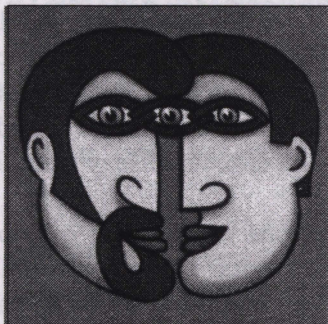
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# M.A.R.S Project Results Releases

By Rhino Staff



Why with all the information out there do gay men persist in having unprotected sex?

The question was more than answered in: *It's About a Lifetime*, a booklet written by Stephen Samis and Karen Whyte based on research by

Stephen Samis. The booklet and the findings of research was introduced at a press conference for the M.A.R.S Project organized by Aids Vancouver Island and presented at the theatre at St. Ann's Academy.

Men's Attitudes about Relationship and Sexuality are explained in their own words in the pamphlet. Sad words, some, but there's hope offered not only in the integrity of the sharing, but also in the reader's opportunity to relate, to understand, to accept.

The men taking part in the research are not all gay. They are also bi-sexual,

and heterosexual men who have sex with men. The operative shorthand used to define gay sex and sexuality has been MSM or Men having sex with men. As is so often the case, the shorthand doesn't work. Samis and Whyte point out, straight men "have qualitatively different experiences from gay and bisexual men."

The M.A.R.S. project was funded by Prevention Community Action Program and National Research Development Program, Health Canada, Government of Canada and administered through AIDS Vancouver Island in Victoria.

The first block to self-esteem for gay men is the closet. Dwayne, gay, aged 33 reports: "What was excruciating was the self-acceptance. That was the biggest resistance I had...I had a lot of guilt and shame attached to feeling attracted to men. Coming out and learning to accept myself was absolutely liberating and amazing."

Safer sex is, the research proved, linked to men's feelings

**What was excruciating was the self-acceptance. That was the biggest resistance I had...I had a lot of guilt and shame attached to feeling attracted to men.**

*Dwayne, aged 33*

about themselves, their personal relationships and the social environments in which they grow up and live. Some men grew up in abusive homes, were abused, abuse drugs and alcohol to overcome feelings of low self-esteem, relax, "go away" from themselves. Having parental acceptance helps but one man reports having a "good gay family around"—what we might call family of choice. Social supports are important.

Gay and bi-sexual men want and need to share their stories as gay and bisexual men and not simply in relationship to HIV/AIDS. And, certainly not knowing gay people in youth is counter-productive. One young man heard his parents trying to be liberal, 'some of our best friends are' but "you would

get the picture that ooh this is not kind of right yet they had close friends." Yet, he, Chuck, now 33, still says in regard to his parents..."I guess I've been lucky." Certainly, having positive gay role models is an important construct of good gay self-esteem.

Stephen's and Karen's report is a good read for anyone. Sometimes it's heart-wrenching. Those of you who need to know, want to know, care about your brothers, will find the research an easy read to greater understanding. You can probably get copies through AVI by calling 384-2366. Or, drop into the offices at 733 Johnson Street off that Yates St. Alleyway near the Odeon.

"Most of the time we stand with our backs to our own Light, looking into the shadows."

Swami Radha

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# Striking a Balance:

## The Place of Politics in the Queer Community

by John Trueman

Lawrence Aronovitch wrote about his experiences as a “political” guest at the Victoria Youth Pride Society, the capital’s LGBTQ youth group. He concluded that “these young women and men care very deeply about these issues. They’re thoughtful about the implications and are moved to do something about it. They just don’t want to use the “p” word to describe it.”

In my work with Victoria’s queer community, both with VYPS and previously as Acting Chair and Outreach Coordinator of UVic’s Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Alliance, I struggle with the “p” word constantly. Clearly, there were many, many issues in the community and in society that required a political response. But the very thought of politics was scary, particularly at UVic where I personally watched the LGBA collapse amid political turmoil at the very moment when I needed it the most, as I myself was coming out.

When I joined the LGBA board in March 1997, my colleagues and I decided that we were going to take the organisation in a new direction. We would move away from “politics” and become more relevant to the issues of real students. At least, that was the theory, and it sure sounded good after a year of apparently endless “political” struggles.

In practice, this meant expanding support programs, converting a sterile office into a comfortable drop-in centre, and finding new ways of getting the word out to queer students on campus. Over six months, we transformed ourselves and the organisation, and the effects of that transformation are still visible two years later (though many don’t recall it being any other way).

But the problem remained. The LGBA continued to be seen as a “political” group. It had a reputation for loud protests, noisy marches and ag-

gressive tactics. Even the campus press saw us as obnoxious and unproductive. This was a perception, and an erroneous one at that. The LGBA had always done much more than noisy protests. Even with our focus changed, the perception lingered. As time went on, it became clear that this reputation was hurting our ability to reach out to the campus. The perception, regardless of reality, made us unable to be there for students who needed a group like the LGBA (first year university is still prime coming out time).

But as much as it hurt, it was that same political action that made the LGBA what it was. Without that action, the LGBA wouldn’t have space, status, or funding. Without that action, queer issues wouldn’t have the profile they do today and UVic wouldn’t have become one of the more queer-friendly campuses in the nation. We were faced with the harsh reality that the LGBA needed politics, even if its members didn’t. We needed to find appropriate political forums where the LGBA could actually make a difference, and we needed to find a way to keep a separation between our political role and our social/support role. With this in mind, we embarked on what I called “a new kind of politics” that year. Gone were the rallies and sit-ins with bullhorns and banner-waving. They had a place, but UVic in 1997 wasn’t it. We replaced the clenched fists of protest with the open arms of anti-homophobia speaking, residence outreach, and rational dialogue for change.

In a sense, we had abandoned vocal, radical politics not because they were ineffective (they certainly still had a place), but because they created a perception that rendered the entire organisation ineffective in fulfilling our primary mandate: to improve the lives of queer students at UVic.

In my last speech as Acting Chair, I summarised it thus: “we’re not out to change the world anymore, but as long as we continue to improve the worlds of individual students, staff, and faculty, we’ve done our job.” In hindsight, we were helping change the world, even though I didn’t realise or admit it at the time.

Not everyone agreed with our approach. Students’ society officials warned that “we won’t fund a social club.” Past board members described us variously as “lazy,” “cowardly,” and “useless.” Perhaps we were, in some eyes. Discussion revealed two distinctly different views of the LGBA: those of us who believed that it should be open and welcoming to all queer students, and those who saw the LGBA as a much smaller group of committed activists ostensibly acting on behalf of the silent masses. My position was clear: “I won’t sell out our membership for politics.” But the dilemma remained.

Two years later, the question of politics in queer organisations still lingers. Today, I work with the Victoria Youth Pride Society, an organisation that does not claim or desire to have any political function whatsoever. But when you really look at it, many of the things we do are definitely political: Anti-homophobia outreach in schools. Speaking out on queer youth issues. Even the visibility of our very existence. But we still don’t want to call that existence political.

Why not, I often ask myself. Because the perception of politics is scary, particularly to those just coming out. We must walk that tightrope, and balance the competing interests of the need to engage in some politics, versus the need to maintain an atmosphere that is open and welcoming to those who need us most. Do we succeed in maintaining that balance? It all depends on your politics.

*John Trueman is Chair of the Victoria Youth Pride Society, the capital’s group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, two-spirited, and questioning youth. He has yet to come out as a politician.*



# Marsha Launches Goddess Ship

By Barbara McLaughlin

When I caught up with Marsha Milton at Bean Around the World, one of her favourite coffee haunts, it was easy to see that the 'fame and fortune' of having a second mystery novel published had not gone to her head. In fact, her head was almost hidden under a too-big ersatz Tilley hat that announced Golden Retrievers are Great. Along with the paw prints on her jeans, I concluded that her dogs and cats are still her first love; humans and writing mysteries coming a close second.

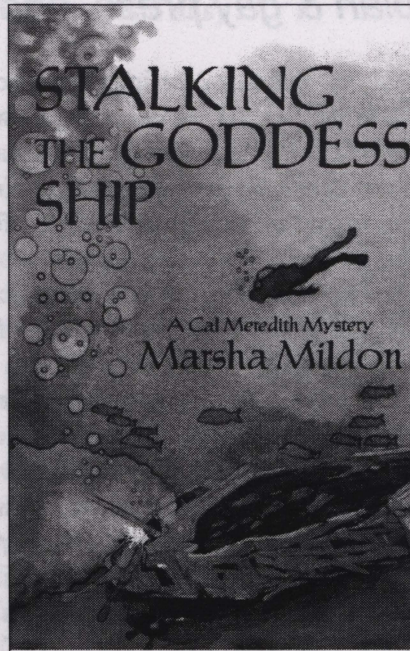
*Stalking the Goddess Ship* is the second of Marsha's Cal Meredith mysteries, published by New Victoria Publishers. In the first, *Fighting for Air*, we met Cal Meredith, a private investigator based in Victoria, and follow her investigation of a scuba student's death and her budding love affair with Jay Campbell, the scuba instructor. In *Stalking the Goddess Ship*, Cal and Jay have just returned from a brief holiday in Crete where they had immersed themselves in goddess archeology, and unwittingly, archeological politics. Back on Vancouver Island, Jay heads to Bamfield to assist a friend with a scuba resort. When they discover the wife of a local archeology prof chained to an old shipwreck, Cal finds herself pulled reluctantly into investigating the murder, and the lives of more acquaintances than she ever wanted to know.

When I asked Marsha why she chose mystery novels as the genre to write in, she chuckled as she pronounced, "Write what you know—the first rule for beginning writers, isn't it?"

"But you haven't murdered anyone have you?" asked your intrepid reporter.

"No. It turns out I'm not very good at it. I always botch the job," she smiled as if discussing cooking. "But what fascinates me is that every one of us has all the potential necessary for good, evil, and the whole spectrum in between. What I want to know is what exactly tips otherwise 'normal' human beings over that edge where they can consciously kill another human being.

"Crimes done in the very height of passion aren't as interesting. The murderer is barely aware of what she's doing. And so far, serial killers seem too far off the scale—pure goodness or pure evil bores me. It's the woman or man who's 'just like me' until one day some irreversible switch goes



off, and they break the primal taboo against killing one's own species. Those are the characters I want to explore—along with their friends, enemies, victims, and the parts the whole community plays in the tragedies."

And what about the role of the goddesses in this 'Goddess Ship'? Are you a believer in goddesses?"

"I'm not sure I'm a 'believer' in anything—more like an explorer of everything. I find the notion of societies in which the female aspect of humanness is in the ascendant incredibly attractive—as are the goddess figures themselves. As Cal says, 'it was only after seeing the Willendorf goddess that I was able to begin liking my own body.' As for the goddesses in this novel, let's just say they stand

at one end of the spectrum of the female."

When not puzzling over the intricacies of human character, Marsha publishes a magazine, *V.I.Pets*, for the dog and cat set on the island, and edits a magazine, *LawNow*, about law for the general public. "I'm really in the 'family' business," she says. "My dad became a probation officer when I was seven, and from then on, law and crime were the main topics of dinner conversation."

When I asked if she was working on a third Cal Meredith mystery, Marsha frowned. "I have an idea for one and I've written some chapters, but at the moment the whole thing seems overwhelmingly dark. And it has a twisted element of the classic British whodunit where the characters are all locked up together for the duration of the novel. So it has the possibility of being both black and passive—not a good recipe for a dynamic plot.

"Right now, I feel more like I'd like to write something slightly humourous—delving for the years of a novel into the dark side of humanity is not always good for one's own state of mind. So who knows what will come next? Except for sure, there'll be a bit of champagne for *Stalking the Goddess Ship*, and then some R & R to recharge my creative batteries."

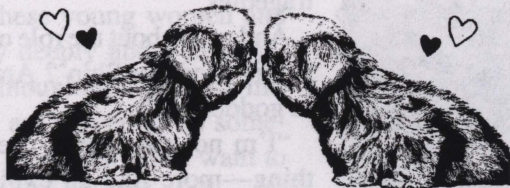
**Come sip with Marsha at her book launch at La Run Theatre 1983 Fairfield Road, June 11 at 7 p.m. There will be refreshments. And books for sale.**

# Quotes & Queeries:

News & views from the lesbian & gay press, and queer cyberspace

By Mary Lasovich

**Bruce Bagemihl**, author of a new book *Biological Exuberance*, has sparked a debate among scientists with his research on the homosexual side of nature.



Time magazine staffer **Jeffrey Kluger** (April 26, 1999) reports that Bagemihl documents same-sex pairings in more than 450 different species and evidence of long-term relationships.

Responding to critics, Bagemihl argues that since homosexuality comes naturally to other creatures, perhaps it's time to quit getting into a lather over the fact that it comes naturally to humans too. He believes that political questions are beside the point: "We shouldn't have to look to the animal world to see what's normal or ethical. Indeed, when it comes to answering those questions, Mother Nature seems to be keeping an open mind."

**Sharon Stone** and **Ellen DeGeneres** will star in and produce *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, a trilogy about the lesbian experience in America. An HBO premier, *Walls 2* has also signed **Anne Heche**, who directed an episode of the original *Walls* (three stories about abortion) broadcast in 1996. She will direct Stone and DeGeneres in a segment entitled *Miss Conception* which presents a contemporary lesbian couple's experience conceiving a child.

**Ellen** (again) has bounced back to stardom in an ironic bit of casting in the film *EDtv* — in which she plays a cable network executive who seizes on the idea of making a regular guy named Ed into a TV personality. Interviewed on CNN, Ellen declares "life is good" in all respects: "We live in a small town just a few hours out of Los Angeles, in the mountains, and have a farm and animals and kind of balance out — coming into Los Angeles every few weeks for business... I used to live that way in high school. I lived in a small town and liked knowing everybody and waving when you drive down the street."

Word is that Ellen and Anne recently exchanged gold wed-

ding rings, each engraved inside with the word "wife." Now, don't cha just wonder how I know that you care?!

**Dena** (surname unknown) of the St. Louis Pride committee is calling on the community to support **Anheuser-Busch** (Bud Light) for its groundbreaking ad depicting two men holding hands and the slogan, "Be yourself and make it Bud Light." Predictably, the brewer—one of several key corporate sponsors for the upcoming St. Louis festival—is feeling the heat from homophobes. A national campaign is underway to transform St. Louis Pridefest into a "destination of choice" for the lesbigay community. Organizers have pulled together an all-star entertainment lineup and impressive guest speakers, including author **Armistead Maupin** and **Leslie Sadasivan**, who became an advocate for P-Flag after her gay son committed suicide at the tender age of 14. "Her appearance adds relevance and a reminder of what Pridefest is

about," said a festival spokesman. "This is not just a party, but a time, place and state of mind for everyone to feel safe and confident in who they are. It is about community."

**Paul Cameron**, a right-wing Christian psychologist, seems to have a serious case of same-

sex envy. He told *Rolling Stone* magazine that he fears gay sex will supplant heterosexual sex unless a vigilant society represses it. Homosexuality, he said, "seems too powerful to resist." Cameron appears to have done his homework: "Marital sex tends toward the boring," he explained. "Generally, it doesn't deliver the kind of sheer sexual pleasure that homosexual sex does... The evidence is that men do a better job on men, and women on women." Is it any wonder we recruit?  
(Cont'd page 11)

“  
**(Marital sex) doesn't deliver the kind of sheer sexual pleasure that homosexual sex does... The evidence is that men do a better job on men, and women on women.**”

*Paul Cameron, a right-wing Christian fundamentalist*

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## Quotes & Queeries

(Cont'd)

Maxine Wolfe vowed to herself that this spring's rally in New York City would not be a repeat of past protests against police brutality, in which lesbian involvement went unnoticed. This time, says the longtime activist with ACT UP and the Lesbian Avengers, she would be visible as a lesbian: "So we got some red satin material and put across it, (Lesbians against police brutality., A lot of people [made banners].) Visibility was enhanced by the work of Maura Keaney, chief of staff for a lesbian NYC council member, who co-ordinated efforts by local gay organizations to reach out to the community. Police estimated that 4,500 people protested the shooting death of African immigrant Amadou Diallo by four police officers. Organizers put the number at 25,000.

## Sweet Dreams Are Made of You

by Michael Yoder

[with comments by the co-ed who roped him into this]

Celebrating the Spirit they surely did! at a fundraiser for the G-Spot and the Lavender Rhinoceros. Uvic's Student Union Building was the site for this event which featured the many incarnations of Joe Carlson (Mother Loquacious of the Strawberry Heart, Mr. Nancy and others) as the M.C.

The talent show and dance was a blend of humour and drama. Comic Meredith McLeod started the evening with a round of comedy. "I understand phone sex - but how do you get it out again?..." She was followed by poet Jill Goodacre, who read two of her works, *Lamborghini Goddess* and *Endocrine Religion*, sharp, witty, social commentary delivered with punch. [Get it published, Jill]

A dramatic dance piece by Carolina

Choy and Beatrice Emmanuel (also the show's organizers), included a tribute to the many aspects of spirit, homophobia, racism and sexism. I was struck by the energy and flow and the powerful drumming section of the act.

A comedy sketch (a fringe group's debut of their latest act) followed. Affie's Wax performed the sketch which begins in a court room and a talk show breaks out. [Hopefully they'll keep working at it.] Rounding out the talent portion was a fast and lively performance of Bayou Boogaloo by the Cajun Creole Dancers {Betty Krawczyk and "sidekick" and drummers (Taisa and Shara). With Zydeco music as the base the dance was sexy and fun.

The small numbers there didn't reflect on the quality of the evening. Hats off to Carolina for her strong commitment to her community.

*Michel Blais*

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## Valu 1 Productions- Raising Funds and FUN

*For those of you who "danced 'til you dropped" at the Spring Fling in March, you know what kind of a show Valu 1 Productions puts on.*

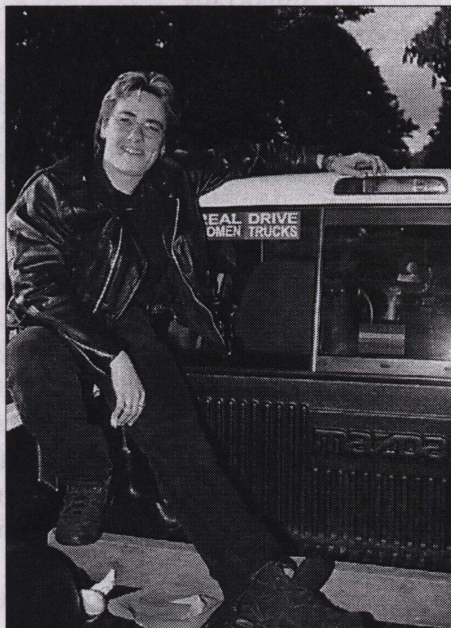
### What is Valu 1 Productions?

Valu 1 Productions is a local production company owned and operated by Val Utman, a woman of, and surrounded by, many talents. Val's long-time interest and personal history (she has worked as an actor and a back-up singer) in the entertainment industry, led her to start her own production company five years ago.

Valu 1 Productions manages local performers Janis Mullan and Gary Preston and radio personalities Drew Snider and Diane Johnson of CFX. Val has also worked on projects like Victoria Cares. She has fund-raised for VARCS and now does fundraising for many local groups looking to raise their profile along with cash-flow. (Valu 1 Productions' Spring Fling raised eight hundred dollars for our own Lavender Rhinoceros.)

### What personal qualities does Val Utman bring to her business?

"The gift of gab", she says earnestly. Val genuinely enjoys people, which makes her very personable. She is calm and organized, qualities people around her have come to trust.



Once prospective clients see past her tough leather exterior, they know they have found a gem. Val knows what jobs she can do herself and when to bring in her support team. Val Utman has been called the "honest manager" by some. And honesty is a much sought after quality these days. Val is not only a skillful and confident stage and productions manager, she is also a knowledgeable trouble-shooter who hires herself out as a consultant.

### What has contributed to the Success of Valu 1 Productions?

Val credits the success of her business to "listening to her gut instinct" and to her home office which allows her the freedom to create a calm and nurturing work environment. She also recognizes her valued clients, mentors and support network who include Janis, Gary, Drew, Diane, Barb, Corina, Billy, Bruce and his staff at BJ's, Mindi and Colleen.

### Future Goals?

Val sees Victoria as a great place to start and build a business, but knows that in order to make her dreams come true, she must move beyond this little island. In the future, Val hopes to take Valu 1 Productions on the road, helping others in Vancouver and beyond. And who knows where she will take her success? After all, Val's parting advice to others is this: "believe in yourself and the world is yours".

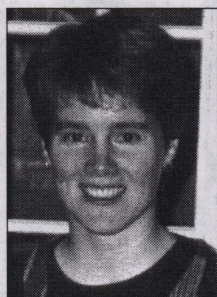
Valu 1 Productions can be reached by calling 881-1069.

**Don't Forget Musaic sings June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Philip Young Auditorium.**

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# Legal Eagle Spells it Out for Dykes & Gays

By Rhino Staff

If you plan on getting married, cohabiting, being a spouse, finding a spouse, or settling down in a marriage-like relationship the first thing you better do is grab a pen and paper and a lawyer might be a good idea too. Lawyer Alison Campbell couldn't have been plainer as she warned of the aspects of the law in this province that can help or hinder how we conduct the legal aspects of our partnerships—and protect one another.

Write a will. Get a will written. Find a lawyer or a piece of paper now, if you are in partnership and want your estate to go where you want it to go. Speaking primarily to lesbians attending the legal workshop in a series sponsored by Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society, Alison urged this “legally recognized piece of paper” be a priority to protect you and your relationship. “If you have a will, you forego government interference,” she emphasized.

The Estate Administration Act does not include the definition of spouse as applied to same sex couples. If it isn't spelled out in your will, she told us your estate will go to your children, parents, brothers or sisters. And your poor partner has no say. The legislation in B.C. is in the forefront in adoption legislation and allows for lesbian partnerships to both be seen fully as parents. The Family Relations Act was changed to redefine spouse as persons living in a married-like relationship for two years. For purposes of this Act, spouse can be same gender. If application for support is made within one year of dissolution of the partnership, we can apply for spousal support. Under parts five and six of the Act, which deal with division of property, common law and same sex spouses do not qualify. Those two parts only apply to legally married people. A common-law or same-sex couple who have an agreement regarding property, must use the courts. A judge can use the provisions in five and six to review the fairness of the agreement.

## Division of Pensions

We have no access to pensions federally. We do have access to our spouse's provincial government pension plan if we are designated as “spouse”. We all remember the Egan-Nesbitt application for change to the law. While Egan and Nesbitt can't claim one another's pension, the Supreme Court did rule that there was discrimination. A door is open. But we can't yet walk through.

## Property e.g. house

If you are buying property together, the commitment financially is seldom equal. Whether equal or not, buying or not, you or your significant other may be seen in the law as tenant, border, or joint owner depending on the way you have put together your paper work. Even if your SO is not on title she/he may claim part ownership in the property by way of constructive trust. To avoid all this multitude of pitfalls, Alison recommends documenting everything in writing.

If you own your home as joint tenants then upon the death of one tenant the other tenant automatically owns the whole home.

Keep Records. Redo wills within two months of signing a partnership agreement. Every piece of paper should be tight, written in clear, plain language that can't be interpreted in different ways. There is a danger of misinterpretation if you write your own agreements, or if you don't have them looked over by a person with some experience of the law, like a lawyer. Also, the person looking it over may raise issues you've left out, Alison told us.

Judges interpret. There is less homophobia on the bench. But it is still there, she warned us.

Bring your best selves to the writing of the agreement. If a child is involved be aware of the Wills Variation Act. Definition of spouse here is accessible only to legally married spouses and biological children. If a person who has

children who don't need their assets and wants to write those children out of the will, those children can go to court and rightfully demand what assets your partner was expecting. It is a good idea to leave children something to avoid resentment and any court tie-ups.

A holograph will is no good in BC. A will must be witnessed by two people at the same time and those people must in no way be connected to the will.

Power of Attorney is a document that let's one person act for another in any area the other person would normally act for herself. There's an enduring Power of Attorney that continues even if the person who gave it becomes mentally incompetent.

A *limited* power of attorney is confined to the purpose for which the power was given. For example one might have Power of Attorney for the purpose of selling the house and dealing with land registry. However, once the house sale is complete, Power of Attorney is dissolved.

You can revoke a Power of Attorney by writing to the person to whom you gave it and to any financial institution where it has been used. A power of attorney form is very simple it is a prescribed form under the Act.

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# Melaney at The Movies

By Melaney Black

Partial list of videos that are lesbian-theme or are inclusive of lesbian characters at Pic-A-Flic. Or you can directly order from Videomatica in Vancouver. Check their ad this issue.

**L - lesbian-theme**

**S - supporting lesbian characters/lesbian subplot**

**D - documentary.**

**NEW RELEASES**

High Art (L) excellent, dark

More Tales of the City (S) continuation of A. Maupin 70s classic

**BEST RENTERS**

All Over Me (L) coming of age

Antonia's Line (S) subtitled, sweet

Born in Flames (L) intelligent, political Lizzie Borden film

Bound (L) Jennifer, Gina and the Mafia

Butterfly Kiss (L) totally twisted Amanda Plummer

Celluloid Closet (D) gay and lesbian portrayals in movies

Chasing Amy (L) well, I liked it - anybody who can dis Ben Affleck...\*\*

Costa Brava (L) low-budget with charm Erotique (S) unscreened

Female Perversions (S) uncomfortably well crafted; Tilda Swinton

Fire (L) wonderful Indian film, still sparking demonstrations in India

First Wives (S) very small bar scene, but good movie

Gia (L) story of lesbian super model Gia++

Girls In Prison (S) horrible spoof of the genre - even Anne Heche is bad

Le Joupon Rouge (L) French ya-awn

Love and Other Catastrophes (L) Fun Aussie flick

Losing Chase (L) Helen Mirren good as always

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit (L) based on Jeanette Winterston book; wonderful characters

Paris Was a Woman (D) Gertrude and Alice and Natalie and....

Rachel, Rachel (S) Estelle Parsons is, Joane Woodward isn't; Joanne Woodward excellent

Set It Off (S) Queen Latifa on a butch day

Siren (L) - more eroticism than plot

Teasers (L) sensual vignettes & music videos

Therese and Isabelle (L) stilted classic

When Night Is Falling (L) Harlequin for lesbians

Women From Down Under (L) quirky vignettes

Women on the Roof (L) dark euro

Wild Things (S) Neve Campbell; flick tries hard to be hip

\*\*Ben Affleck directed a 1996 indie entitled "I Killed My Lesbian Wife,

Hung Her on a Meat Hook and Now I Have a Three-movie Deal with Disney"

++ Winner of two 1998 Golden Globes: best actress, Angelina Jolie; best supporting actress, Faye Dunaway

**DRAMA**

Bar Girls (L) alcohol and angst

Basic Instinct (S) included on a technicality

Boys on the Side (S) Whoopi & good music

Chanel Solitaire (S) the Euro version

Claire of the Moon (L) sensual

Colour of Night (S) Lesley Ann Warren, some okay scenes; beware, it's a Bruce Willis flick

Colour Purple (S) Whoopi's starmaker

Even Cowgirls Get the Blues (L) Uma Thurman....well, it was a good idea...

Go Fish (L) low-budget political Sundance hit

Henry and June (L) Uma as the inspirational June Miller

Higher Learning (S) college angst - one student is lesbian, another bisexual

Kamikaze Hearts (L) intense; drug-addicted porn workers

Lianna (L) another classic, realism even

Long-awaited Pleasure (L) low-budget Naiad

Manhattan (S) Woody's wife left him for another woman - if only...

Personal Best (L) jock voyeur flick

Poison Ivy (S) Drew Barrymore charms Sarah Gilbert

Quest For Love (L) another classic - clueless love scenes

Salmonberries (L) kd lang - nope

Silkwood (S) Cher's way of apologizing to Chastity

(Cont'd page 15)



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## Melaney's Movies

(Cont'd from page 14)

Switchblade Sisters (S) totally awful girls in prison by Tarentino

Wild Side (L) societal underbelly - Joan Chen, Anne Heche  
**COMEDY**

Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love (L) sweet, romantic

Live Nude Girls (S) reunion sharing flick

Switch (S) admittedly, this is debatable

Three of Hearts (S) lesbian breakup, little else

### COMEDIANS

Out for Laughs - TV pilot, pretty lame

Out There - standup, gay and lesbian, three volumes

Suzanne Westenhoefer - if you haven't seen her, you should

Lily Tomlin, four videos - no lesbian material per se

Wisecracks - four comics, Paula Poundstone among them

Women of the Night - more Paul and Ellen; no lesbian material

### FOREIGN FILMS

\*English\*

The Killing of Sister George (L) neurotic and negative

Scrubbers (S) more girls in prison; gritty

Sister, My Sister (L) redefines intense; based on true story N.Z./Aus

Desperate Remedies (L) Gothic meets Fellini; great art direction

Only the Brave (S) the hard knock life

Getting of Wisdom (S) a true gem coming-of-age story; recommended

Heavenly Creatures (L) based on true story; Kate Winslet starmaker

### Canadian

Forbidden Love (D) interviews with B-movie subplot

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing (S) flight of fancy

### French

Entre Nous (L) another classic - good

Je Tu Il Elle (S) one of those confusing art movies

French Twist (S) contemporary menage comedy

### Cult

The Hunger

## A Bill of Rights for Negotiating Desire

Aids Vancouver Island sponsored the first in a hoped for series of safe sex workshops for women at the Y. The results? The following:

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I have a right to explore my sexuality as I define it

I have a right to know my own body

I have a right to be vulnerable

I have a right to not feel sexual


I have a right to feel sexual

I have a right to look after and respect my own boundaries

I have a right to respect another person's rights

I have a right to have pleasure.

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# Coffee with Gerald Walton: What Is Community

By Barbara McLaughlin

Rowan Percy was right. Community is "more like an abstract concept". As she says, in the April Rhino, the tricky thing is that "community" is a concept.. an expression of its constituents.

Gerald Walton rightly called me on my comments, made all over the place, regarding men's community and my perception that there isn't one. Gerald and I met for coffee to talk about men and he surprised me right away by saying he doesn't subscribe to the identity of man. Okay. Why?

"I learned through sociology, women's studies, gender and sexuality studies what 'man' meant. I don't want to be what I am not. I have never been comfortable with the term 'man'.

"Some gay men come from the perspective of reclaiming masculinity as a political act. When does it become an attempt to reclaim rather than merely subscribe to the gender ideology?," he went on. "So I see two things happening—gay men are trying to adopt the masculine thing, but on the other hand, it's not cool cause it perpetuates the gender standard."

Hunh?

"It's about the whole macho thing. Rigid standards of muscle, denying emotion and a fear of appearing to be feminine. Gay men are taught to feel bad about that."

Oh, so you flaunt to affirm?, I asked.

"Why not? It has taken years to be okay with my gender as opposed to my sexuality. I've never heard anybody say

is it okay to be a man? On the other hand there is a kind of tyranny about growing up as a boy who can't cry—otherwise I'm a sissy. Eventually, I stopped being everything I'm 'supposed to be'. It's a lot of crap!!! When I made the decision I'm going to be as I am, not what everybody else says I should be, my life improved dramatically."

“

**Gerald surprised me right away by saying he doesn't subscribe to the identity of man.**

"My very outness is a political act. I came out while I was studying sociology, women's studies and gender and sexuality courses. My acting as a gay man who has the same rights as heterosexuals do, that is a political act. What I've tried to do is manifest political living. Politics is more than Pride Parade, more than legal fights, although they're important. So is living as if, visibility, flaunting it without reacting to accusations of flaunting it.

There was a period of time when Gerald was uncomfortable, even more uncomfortable perhaps, with his sexuality. He got involved with Fundamentalist Christianity and became one of the Ex-Gays. While initially he found the experience "quite euphoric" Gerald


went through a lot of hell.

"They [church] tell you this is how you can be healed. Its a gradual process. They blame the choice on childhood, my not growing up with a dad I was close to, no peers, no relationship. It mis-aligned my gender, they said. And a homosexual attraction is one manifestation of that [growing up time]."

Gerald's anger at all that society has said about him as a homosexual gave fuel to a united campaign to thwart Karey Simpson's mission when she visited Victoria. Gerald had been invited by his P-LAG-member sister to a public forum in Courtenay. In Courtenay the idea was to inform people about Simpson and her message. Here, thanks to Gerald's efforts, the reverse was true. Simpson gave a different presentation here than she probably intended and it was Gerald's awareness of her doctrine of hate toward homosexuals and lesbians that lead him to call Monday and tell them to alert the community she was coming. He also personally alerted a number of key people here and—well, we know what happened. We now have the Island Rainbow—our own political activist group. Gerald didn't foresee that kind of result, but: "I sent her [Simpson] a thank-you note. She didn't respond."

Gerald has harsh words for anyone who wants to "heal" us. "How many people come from a terrible back  
(Cont'd page 17)

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## Gerald Walton (cont'd)

ground because of Christianity. On the other hand I really do believe gays and lesbians as Christians have a powerful potential to undermine the Christian Right."

Well, so far we have seen Gerald as a political activist. And we saw a lot of gay men at the Karey Simpson event. Let's go to more on 'community.'

I start with the overall and ask Gerald about a gay and lesbian centre. He endorsed the idea but he wasn't sure it make much difference in his life personally. "It might have been vital when I first moved here. It would give accessibility to new people. How do you access community if you are a new gay in town?

"I used to envy the lesbians on campus. They are more easy to access. Part of my success has been accidental. Some people advertise for a social group which I never had to do. "

It seems to be a bit like a trickle-

down. Talk to one, who introduces you to another. Well, there is gaydar to get you guys started, I am thinking.

Gerald, like a lot of lesbians I know, is interested in challenging the status quo on a lot of issues. Relationship is one thing. Monogamy as we have noticed by the divorce rate in the heterosexual community, doesn't work for everyone. Gerald found in his own long-distance and open relationship with Aaron he could challenge the expectation of monogamy.

"I think it becomes a social institution and an expectation. There's a lot of assumptions i.e. monogamy equals trust; non-monogamy doesn't. There is a distinction between sexual monogamy and emotional monogamy. I think what I am talking about is changing social attitude. Life-long monogamy is really eroded—apply it to gay, straight, bi, tran. Fewer people are subscribing to what it means to be a man. Women's studies helped me to establish a voice. I'm not willing to be

a gay version of what we call a man. I model a kind of openness."

None of what Gerald has experienced does he regard as a waste of time. He still calls himself a spiritual person and his past has shown him what he doesn't want and what is dangerous. His eagerness to share his experience is also politics in the finest sense of the phrase—and the way we dykes use the term—as ideal social organization.

Gerald finishes up his Masters degree this year and he hopes to work with Ministry of Education in the area of Human Rights.

We talked for much longer than I intended. We had "community" in a coffee shop in Oak Bay—well, one kind of community. It was neat. Let's do it again, all over the place—in groups of twos and threes, lesbian couples, gay couples, gay and lesbian couples, gay, lesbian and tranny couples, bi-couples. The thing is: let's keep talking. Who knows what grand kind of Community will come of it all.

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# The Bakerwench Makes Friends With Herbie

By chef Marcia Hicks

So spring has finally arrived, hooray! Yes, you can feel it in the way the blossoms coat the driveway, the mind boggling number of garage sales per neighborhood, and in the way our hormones are raging rather uncontrollably. I say "Put that sexual energy to use." But if no one grabs your fancy, than the next best thing is..... grow herbs!

No, really. Many a happy moment has been spent skipping gaily (its the only way) through my herb garden, snipping and sniffing, tra-la-la. OK maybe that's taking it a bit far, but really, nothing can make a meal come more alive than fresh herbs.

Now you might think you'd have to be a master gardener as well as chef to grow fine herbs, but this is simply not true. Herbs are one of the happiest plants, and providing they are planted

in the right location, will give lovingly for years to come. Everyone has their favourites. For example, if you're a meat and potatoes kind you might be partial to rosemary, sage and chive. Whereas a swinging west-coast granola chick or guy might prefer cilantro, lemon-grass and garlic. Me, I'll take 'em all, morning, noon and night. Big or small, old or young, they're all yummy to me.

So, I know you are all screaming, "Where do I sign up?" Well, as it is spring, there can be no better time. First off, I suggest that you visit your local nursery and find yourself some lovely specimens. Be sure to pay heed to their particular light and liquid requirements and fertilise often. Keep in mind that most plants tend to put out more shoots once trimmed, so do not be afraid to

snip all through the season, you are doing yourself and the plant a favour. Another thing to keep in mind is whether it is prized basil to return next year, whereas mint is so invasive you could easily have a garden full of it in a few years if left unattended.

I shall pass on to you a favourite recipe that will make your tastebuds do cartwheels and your soul vibrate at a higher frequency. If the aforementioned doesn't happen, than maybe it is best to put your sexual energies where they belong, and come back to the herbs when spring is over. Happy herbing!

## Roasties:

- 2 lb. small red potatoes
- 2-3 tbsp. sunflower or olive oil
- 2 tbsp. fresh rosemary leaves, picked from stem
- 12 whole garlic cloves, skinned
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/3 cup of chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 450F. Cut potatoes into large pieces of equal size. Toss in oil to coat, adding as is necessary. Place into roasting pan in an even layer. Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle with rosemary. Roast for 10 minutes. Remove from oven, turn gently adding garlic cloves. Return to oven for 30 minutes turning as necessary. If adding nuts, add 5 minutes before the end of cooking. Potatoes are done when crisp and golden.

Questions or suggestions? Email me at bakerwench@hotmail.com

## Super Simple Salad with Rosemary Garlic Roasties. Serves 4.

### Salad:

- 4 large handfuls of mixed salad greens (bibb, endive, chicory, red oak leaf, romaine)
- 1/2 cup of loosely chopped fresh herbs (thyme, mint, basil, chive, lovage)
- 1 handful of mixed edible flower heads (pansies, violas, nasturtiums)
- 8-12 sprigs of herb of your choice for decoration (chive, mint, cilantro, parsley, dill)
- \* looks best if the herbs for decoration are flowering.

### Dressing:

- 4 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 clove of garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- pinch sugar
- salt and pepper to taste.

Just before service toss the greens, herbs and flowers in bowl. Shake dressing in lidded jar and pour over salad. Toss well and divide among individual bowls. Decorate with herb sprigs and serve immediately.

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# ALTA Moving to Co-Adoptions

from Lawrence Aronovitch off Net

*Ed Note: In the November 1988 edition of LNews (the Rhino's fore-runner) we ran a story about Susan and Penni who were trying to adopt a child. My friends Peggy and Michele have written to tell me of the successful adoption of their baby Kira. They are going to tribunal in the fall to make sure that both names are on the birth certificate when their second child is born. Peggy and Michele have moved to Banff since that time. What happens anywhere in this country has an affect on us all. Our support, our prayers, our affirmations, our rituals, our vocals—all are necessary to ensure equal rights equally in this marvelously regional country.*

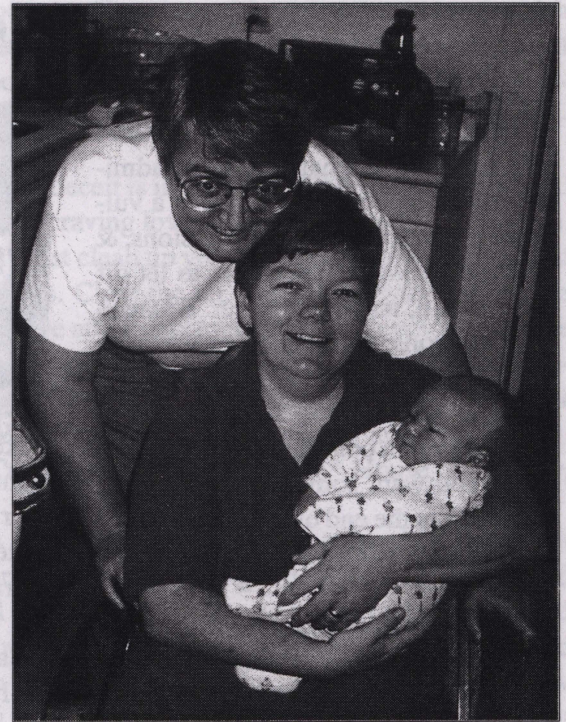
*As the Alberta government announces a bill to allow co-adoptions to same-gender non-bio co-parents, a right-wing group races to oppose a pending suit that could force an even broader law.*

Alberta's Social Services Minister Lyle Oberg announced April 21 the Conservative government will soon be introducing legislation to open second-parent adoptions to same-gender partners, a significant step in the recognition of gay and lesbian couples. Currently, non-biological parents in unmarried heterosexual relationships can co-adopt their partners' children, but those in gay and lesbian couples cannot.

Oberg says the new bill will simply substitute 'step-parent' for 'spouse' in the section of the existing Child Wel-

fare Act controlling private adoptions. What's not simple at all is the status of a lawsuit due to be heard in June, brought by two lesbian couples who have thus far been denied co-adoptions. Oberg announced that the Alberta government is ready to drop its defense against this lawsuit, but a right-wing group is seeking standing to take over the defense at government expense. Oberg's announcement represents still more follow-up to last month's Tory caucus meeting on gay and lesbian issues, as the provincial government struggles to find balance between conservative values and last year's Canadian Supreme Court ruling in the case of Delwin Vriend, which forced Alberta to recognize the civil rights of gays and lesbians. He called the extension of step-parent adoptions 'consistent' with the caucus discussion, emphasizing that what the provincial government wants to do is remove itself from private matters as much as possible.

However, the government is moving one step at a time, while some 60 provincial laws use the same exclusively heterosexual definition of spouse' as the Child Welfare Act does. Oberg's first move in the wake of the caucus meeting had been to loosen the ban on gays and lesbians providing foster care, but



**Two Moms and a Baby**

*Peggy Maher (back), Michele Gill and baby Kira*

he insisted on instituting a special written justification for his personal review for each such placement.

Oberg's latest announcement indicated that the only limitations on co-adoptions would be that they would not apply to children who are wards of the state, and that they can be rejected by a child over 12 or by a child's guardian.

As for the co-adoption lawsuit, the couples' attorney confirmed for the Edmonton Journal on April 21 that the government had agreed to withdraw, but that the Alberta Federation of Women United for Families is seeking a Calgary court's permission to defend against the challenge. If, as seems likely, the lawsuit proceeds before the new legislation has been adopted, the group fears that without opposition, the judgment against the Child Welfare Act could be so broad as to limit the legislature's options for future laws. The law firm currently representing the Federation is offering itself as an alternate defender of the law, should the court find the Federation not 'independent' enough to present an opposing position on behalf of the public.

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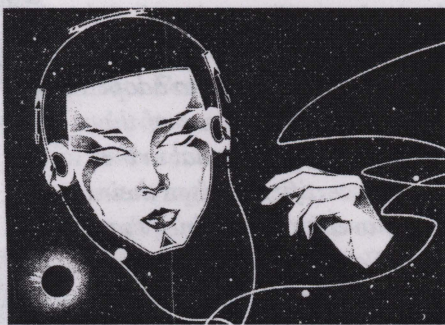
# Su's Sun Signs

June 1999

**Aries:** Your present home relationship may not be a happy one, so admiration you receive places you in a vulnerable situation. Choices, decisions, & disclosures weigh heavy and to let off some steam, isn't easy either. Broaden your horizons; strike a deal on that new vehicle you've got your eye on. 'Round the new moon on the 13<sup>th</sup> take a grip. You may seem cold-hearted; it's so because you want something and by the full moon at the end of the month you'll know what it is!! Have fun with a loved one.

**Taurus:** Secret plans! Some work, some don't; it's the risk you'll take. Bad news or vehicle problems can upset your routine yet where there's a will there's a way and by the new moon your financial and material status will be re-energised. Faith. If you have a clean out at home, double check what you're throwing away and be careful not to squander your gains at the end of the month. You have brain power enough to get 'round any awkward situation including skullduggery. Homesickness or a touch of loneliness may strike; drop it and move on. Good work has rewards and recognition.

**Gemini:** You may have a whale of a time, but your finances won't this month if you don't take care. Beware snotty letters. You'll fulfill at least one dream by the 7<sup>th</sup> but don't believe everything you read around the 30<sup>th</sup>. Tidy up your relationship status and start saving—



make room for new love letters!! Mid month is a Do period which fits in with your social reservations. Remember to protect your fragile feelings lest they be trampled on. Treat yourself to a face lift.

**Cancer:** Home and work conflicts really can affect you personally this month. Believing in the future is your secret weapon. You'll have to do a lot of behind the scenes juggling to get a balance. Prudence around the 13<sup>th</sup> is your ticket. Watch making bad career moves around the 26<sup>th</sup>. The new moon will bear a beneficial result for you. To have the freedom you so desire costs, so put the wheels in motion, even though you may nip a few people's person bets in the process. Watch for arguments 'round the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Leo:** Your personal calendar looks quite full this month, doing what your heart desires, privately you're discontented and may stop at nothing to get your leg over! Just remember that actions have re-actions. You may be iced! Yes, affairs can boost your ego; take a scheme only as far as you can maintain

it. Around the 7<sup>th</sup> an outing with someone special will be good, but work can't be ignored which you'll realise 'round the full moon on the 28<sup>th</sup>, whereas the new moon disclosures reveal success. Watch white lies.

**Virgo:** What you do with your time reflects all sorts of rewards: new job, new people, new places. Watch for jealousy. Any social ties must be planned as off the cuff ideas don't work out to your benefit at all. The potential of the New Moon works well for you, but don't expect others to do all your dirty work or you'll find yourself deserted. This is a great time to get all bills up to date and to be seen for what you are. There's more than one bitch in the universe, you'll find by the full moon.

**Libra:** It's an energy drain to start, but by the 4<sup>th</sup> when Mars directs up you'll re-energise. So many plans have been dashed. Unable to have fun with a loved one. Well, all is changing so when they know what they're doing, you know what you're doing—an inner rebirth, and around the new moon, expectations will run high again. The impossible becomes possible—you can make it so boost each other—re plan social times. You'll find it hard to relax around the 22, 23<sup>rd</sup>. Keep cool. You're so excited about the future you may neglect the present. Beware vagueness on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The 20<sup>th</sup> looks lucky for you.

**Scorpio:** Seclusion, inheritance, investment. It's time to reap rewards for  
(Cont'd page 21)

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## Sue's Sun Signs

(Cont'd from page 20)

past effort early in the month. If you win the lottery, you'll pack your job in and be off. Buying and selling property. A lonely life is not what you seek and the new moon inspires you to change for the future. The only way is up, Baby. Serious talk, serious relationship. The 17th to 20th you get things done, and you'll feel great about the progress made. This will bring new responsibilities (that you can share). The full moon brings this to a point. It's not wise to waste energy on frivolity yet.

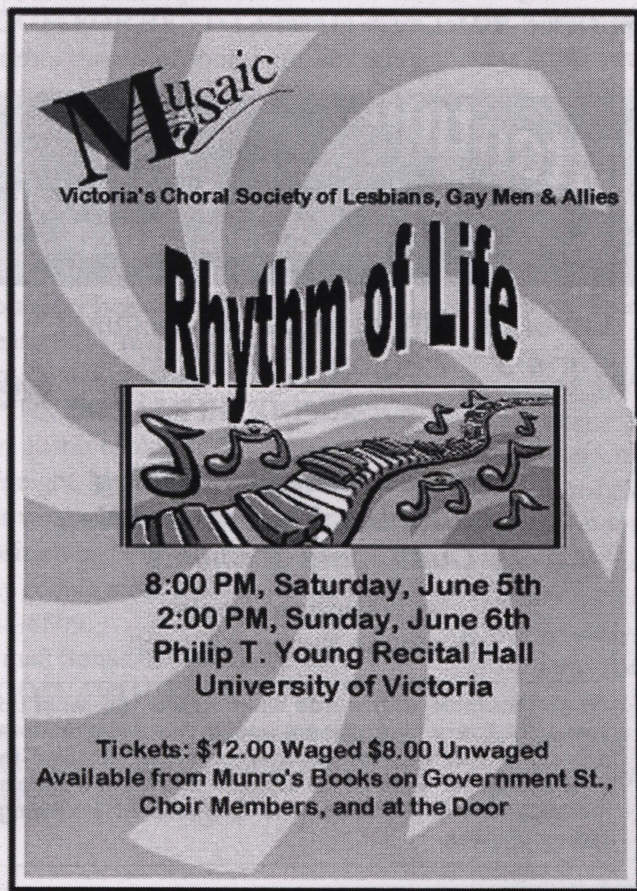
**Sagittarius:** This month you clear your heart, next month, your head. Your 7th House is full of goodies. News of love, love affairs, social flirting. Ooo la laa!! So what if one plan burned and crashed at the beginning of the month—build another in the real world. Go out when the going's good. Stop when it's not: 21st, 22nd and 26th. It's not a good time to rely on luck for your future—try planning. Use your energy on a deal—not the easy life. Stop yakking and get on the stage. You look great and grow up quickly.

**Capricorn:** Crossed wires in deals and relationships at the beginning of June reflect on home and work. Correct this by re-evaluating routine and savings. There's certain things you like to do and have, so start putting this right by the 4th then by the new moon all will be set. There are responsibilities

that won't be ignored and go with such arrangements which appear on the 20th. The 4th is a "good day" to stay home. If you feel good you'll look good around the 7th. You're leading the way and setting an example to others who are watching.

**Aquarius:** If deceit is in the air it will be found out around the 30th. You're craving love and affection later in the month, but first you must clean up your act. The system you've used in the past goes. Clear the air. From the 4th through to the new moon a love affair develops revitalising you—someone who believes in you and accepts your faults. If this is a swap-over of lovers it won't stay quiet. Check your oil and water levels too. Watch out for the 22nd and 23rd and lead the way on the 7th. You have a full, positive 5th House. Creativity, love affairs.

**Pisces:** A temptation was nowhere near what you felt it would be or even worth it. So get back to business. Spend time 4th and 18th on your home—to bring it up to a standard where you're happy. Writing, preening, thinking are good things to do in comfort, so to you it is fun. Or maybe a new abode? You may find out some unsavory information that makes you angry through 20th and 23rd, but you'll try to understand. Your 4th house is positive, so energise home and hearth; you'll enjoy the domestic side and entertaining—it's good standing for the future. Entertain the right ones and pamper them.

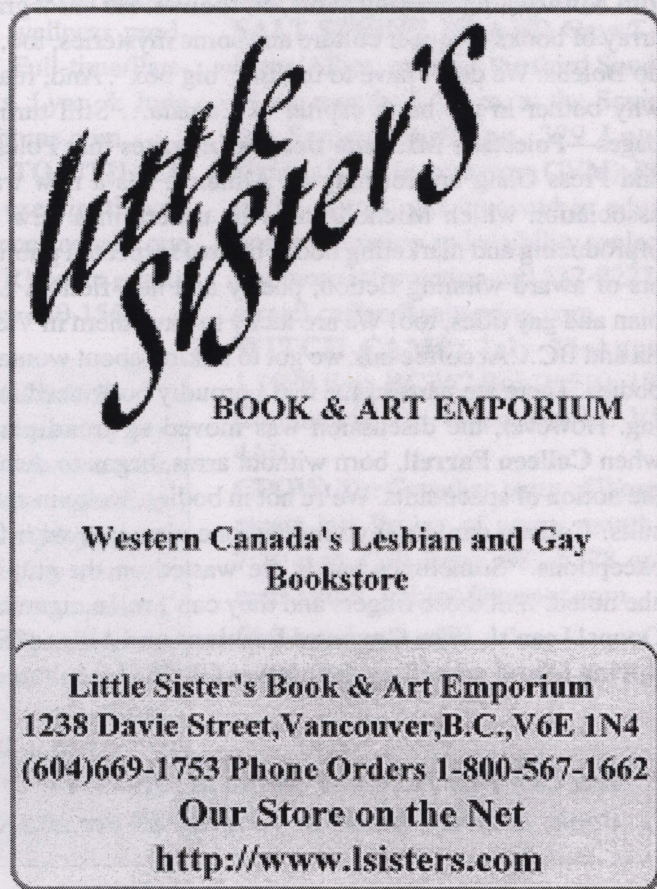


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# Little Lezzie Flashes



Sometimes, there are so many events and happenings that we don't have room to mention them, or your maybe post-menopausal co-editor forgets she was there! So, my hugest apologies to **Elana Dykewoman** who moved me to good places with her honest and vulnerable reading of her poetry and fiction. Her latest book, from which she read, is *Beyond The Pale*. Sounds fabulous... **Marsha Mildon's** second Cal Meredith mystery, *Stalking The Goddess Ship* is released this month. Check with Munros and Bolen Books. Her own book launch is slated for June at the Spot and helps out the Spot and The Rhino. Speaking of books, had a nice visit with **Jim Munro** after peeking at his, er, shelves. He has a grand array of books on queer culture and some mysteries, too. So do Bolens. We don't have to use the "big box". And, really, why bother in the book capital of Canada... Still turning pages—Polestar's **Michelle Benjamin** writes that Polestar and Press Gang are forming an Alliance. It's a new trade association which Michelle tells us ushers in a new era of producing and marketing books by two respected publishers of award winning fiction, poetry and non-fiction. Lesbian and gay titles, too! We are lucky to have them in Victoria and BC... At coffee talk we got to talking about women's bodies. There are parts of me that I proudly note: need ironing. However, the discussion was moved to grand places when **Colleen Farrell**, born without arms, began to discuss the notion of space suits. We're not in bodies, we're in space suits. Colleen can do anything anyone else can, with few exceptions. "Sometimes hands are wasted on the stupid," she noted. "All those fingers and they can't roll a cigarette." Ooops! I can't!... The **Gays and Lesbians and Allies of Salt Spring Island** are calling themselves GLOSSI for short and

are in the long run having a ball. The social committee, imagine that Victoria, organizes things like bowling nights and dog walks, potluck suppers and all sorts of amazing things. There are also community activities involving education and visibility. Next thing you know the island will be having its own parade!! Well, why not? Education has provided a Speakers Bureau and the group reports there is already an HIV/AIDS support group there. **Claude** runs that and can be reached at (250) 537-2099. GLOSSI is in the phone directory and the group is putting together a list of community service providers with intent to raise awareness of gay and lesbian issues. Visiting gays and lesbians, VYPS, trannies et al are invited to meetings and events. Call (250)537-8797 or (250)537-2227 for meeting and event information. Thanks to **Caffyn Kelley** for letting us know... **Ramona Scott** and **Robyn Patrice** opened their bed and breakfast for viewing this month. The Harbour Seal is gorgeous and the location is not only soothing, it's right at the little harbour ferry dock at West Bay. Hide out and go anywhere! Perfect for an at-home vacation in the best place to holiday anywhere! Call 385-7325... If you don't want to stay home, **Camp Camp** in Maine awaits you. E-mail info@campcamp.com. For lesbians, gays, bi and trannie adults.

The National Post ran **Heather Brown's** photo of Big Dance May 1 weekend. It's the same picture we scooped April issue. BMcL

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**ROOM FOR RENT:** Lesbian to share bright, three-bedroom, no-smoking character home with two others, no pets. Quiet cul de sac. \$375 inclusive. Jennie, 479-3423. Available immediately.

**GETAWAY in PORT RENFREW.** Rent by night or week - three bedroom house, fully equipped, beach view, near Botanical Beach and West Coast Trail. Reasonable rates: 388-0754 Website: <http://www.islandnet.com/~gspot/wwr/>  
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E-mail [Sunshine@macn.bc.ca](mailto:Sunshine@macn.bc.ca)

**ROOM AVAILABLE** commuters: in Vancouver for part-time commuter or short-term visitors. Lesbians and allies welcome. (604) 253-3740.

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### ATTENTION, PLEASE

*A number of our community, gay and lesbian etc., are between a rock and hard place situation regarding employment, self-employment. Lacking resources they cannot always access computers updated sufficiently to pursue their talents. If you have a pentium-style computer—but are updating, please give me a call at 598-6490 and I'll put you in touch with someone who needs one—really needs one. BMcL*

## COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

**PRIDE SOCIETY BENEFIT COFFEEHOUSE:** All ages and genders welcome June 4th Friday, 830-1230 sliding scale please come and support Pride 99! performers wanted, please call 250-629-6445.

**CHECK YOUR BOOTY:** Youth Health Conference—for gays and lesbian, transgendered, transsexual bisexual, Two-Spirited and Questioning youth May 22,23 1999 at University of Victoria. If you can sponsor a youth send \$145 to Check Your Booty, Youth Health Conference, 94 Linden Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 4C8 381-4766. E-mail [gosson@coastnet.com](mailto:gosson@coastnet.com) Plan to attend this important event.

**SALT SPRING ISLAND Gays/Lesbians/Allies:** meet on the third Sunday of the month, 2-4 p m, at the Seniors for Seniors Building, 379 Lower Ganges Road (across from GVM). Plan social events; get involved in education, exploration and visibility projects. For more information call 537-2227 or e-mail [caffyn@saltspring.com](mailto:caffyn@saltspring.com).

**WITCH CAMP:** July 25-August 1,1999 Reg. BCWC Box 21510, 1850 Commercial Dr. Vancouver, BC V5N 4A0

**CPOW:** The Canadian party of Women meets last Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Call Betty, 382-6378 or e-mail [Jannit,jrabino@ampsc.com](mailto:Jannit,jrabino@ampsc.com)  
*(Ads cont'd next page)*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS & SERVICES

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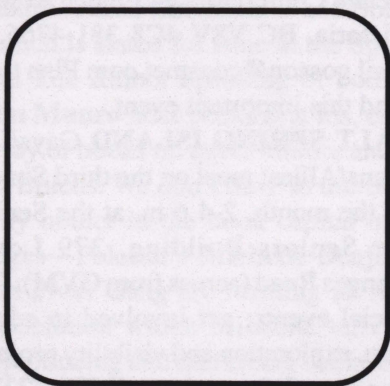
## PERSONAL

**GW, EARLY 50S**, playful, intelligent, n/s creative seeks GW 40 plus to visit or contacts. Five feet 71/2, attractive, fit, over 5-foot-four, please. Movies, camping, bookstores, hugs, sunshine, love. Reply c/o Rhino Box #40

**RUNNING GROUP:** For gays and lesbians to run. Gar Fisher @ 658-1613. All levels.

**TENNIS FOR GUYS:** Call David 388-0393 or Jim at 382-2970

**BRIDGE BEGINNERS:** Looking for others to play friendly game and exercise our minds. Call Betty or Nance at 480-0080.



## SERVICES, ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS

**Dyke Dimensions Radio Show:** Mondays, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. FM CFUV 104.3 Cable FM 101.9

**This Way Out Radio:** CFUV 101.9 FM Mondays 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

**Queer & Present Danger:** CFUV Radio 8:30-9:00 p.m. 101.9 or 104.3 cable

**AA for GLBs etc:** Front Runners Group meets Tuesdays 383-7744

**AIDS VANCOUVER ISLAND:** 384-2366 304-733 Johnson St. V8W 3C7

**The G-Spot:** Club for Women, Lesbians, Trannies 382-7768

**Camosun College Lesbian Collective.** Alt Weeks. 370-3484

**Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society:** Milnor, 360-2779 Mail P. O. Box 39022 James Bay Postal Outlet V8V 4X8

**Karaoke Night:** With Stacey at BJs Mondays 9 p.m.

**Musaic:** Lesbian & Gay Choir. Box 8533 Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, 360-1966

**Women's Outdoors Club:** Sherry norie@bc.sympatico.ca or tel. (250)812-5751 Meet at G-Spt

**Pink Umbrella, Pink Pages:** New Address Box 5231 St. B, Victoria V8R 1H0

**P-Flag:** Information, 642-5171.

**Queer Art Guild:** Rebecca 386-2550 (all-genders)

**The Victoria Status of Women Action Group:** Services available include: free use of computers, an extensive resource library; info on local events and organizations that work with and for women. Call for times open. 383-7322. 130-645 Fort St. Victoria. (Yarrows Bldg). Email swag@pacificcoast.net Fax 388-0100

**VYPS:** Victoria Youth Pride (14-25) 472-4393 vyps@writeme.com

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