

Lesbiannews

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June, 1996

Vol. 7 Issue 10

\$2.50

Your 1996 Pride Calendar

Tuesday July 2 - 4 p.m.

Banner and sign-making garden party at 1415 Bay Street. Sponsor is the Victoria Lesbian Art Collective. Come out and make banners and signs for the Pride Parade. If you would like to make a banner for your group, please call 595-7179 (Dawn or Rebecca) to pre-register. Potluck. Volunteers needed for fun and frolic. Also need fabric, preferably synthetic, small or large bits. Will pick up.

Wednesday July 3 - 7 p.m.

Five-pin Bowling for over 40s Queers and Younger Allies. At Town and Country Lanes. Call 595-7179 to register. Art Exhibit at Studio Gallery, 532 Herald Street

Thursday July 4

Body and Tattoo Art Show, Rumours.



Friday July 5 - 8 - 10 p.m.

Latex Cafe at Open Space, 510 Fort Street. Min. \$5 donation.
Spikes Volleyball Sunset Tournament, 7-10 pm Sticky Wicket

Saturday July 6

Pride Society T-Dance (as in T-shirt)

4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Fund-raiser fun-raiser for Pride Parade and Festival.

Tickets must be bought in advance - dance at Leonardo da Vinci, 195 Bay Street.

Sunday July 7 11 a.m.

(Details to follow in July issue)

Pride Parade: Assemble at Fisherman's Wharf.

Festival until 6 p.m. Children Welcome.

Mardi Gras at Rumours opens at 7 p.m.

Book a Table now for your group at the festival, call Monika Kendal at 721-5924. Also to enter a float or banner in the parade.

For Details, Information, Panic Calls and anything else but a date, call:

Terry Harrison - 385-6303 Nicola Harwood - 388-4750

Monika Kendal - 721-5924 lisa j. lander - 721-3083

Or to Marshall the parade: Kyle - 721-5924

Volunteers are needed to help out. Billets are needed for out-of-town guests. This schedule is by no means complete. If you've got an idea for a cool activity, there are still openings. Just call one of us.





Joyce Pate's *Jive Erotica* is part of the synchronicity that seems to be going in my own life. After Joyce's video showing Thursday night, I watched Charlotte Kasl's video *Beyond Recovery: To Discovery and Empowerment* with a friend. (Kasl comes out in that video, by the way). Then I saw *Antonia's Line*. Wow! And then there was Puente's live theatre production, *Sisters, Strangers*, about women immigrants to Canada. Had I the money, (I have since learned arrangements can be made) I would also have taken the Rowena Hunniset/Mary Wilkie workshop, *Good And Whole as A Lesbian*.

Joyce talks of internalized oppression resulting from sex and other abuse; homophobia, it seems to me is an active, internalized oppression. Homophobia, inside, is one of those self-shaming things that crops up in my own life when I least expect it. I lie. I dance around the topic. And I go home later feeling like I let myself down. Hell, I let down the entire Lesbian Nation! River Chandler and I were talking about it, and River, who attended the workshop said she'd do another one as "It's probably a life-time job to rid oneself of homophobia". She was explaining that the 10 lesbians attending spent a day looking at homophobia from different angles to "help us understand our negative core beliefs about ourselves as lesbians".

Why all this stuff on homophobia? Well, Gay Pride is coming up and out. And this one promises

to be a humdinger. Gone is the separate parade and nowhere to go. Gone is the later shy picnic.

Now we have the combined efforts of the gay and lesbian community and a proper festival and picnic and lots of pre-parade socializing. We have a whole week to be out there full and proud of who we are.

"As a lesbian I belong at the centre of all things" is an affirmation River shared. Well, as lesbians we are at the centre of a lot of things that seem to be changing the world, as Lahl often says, and does. The gay guys and us are going to celebrate and play together this July; Pride Week has all the potential of a giant healing: a healing between us and our own communities, and a healing within our larger community of Victoria residents.

We can make a positive difference in the world, and one of the best ways to do that is to be out as the best lesbians we can be: fully expressing who we are.

By the way. The vote is in. All but 29 liberals, one or two Reformers and the Bloc (why do we want to lose them?) voted in favor of legislation to protect gays and lesbians against discrimination. Now we can go about the business of same sex marriages for those who want them and pension and other benefits currently denied us. Equal rights? No. Rights. Period. See you at Pride Week. Getting together is how we change legislation. It's also how we can celebrate who we are to the max. BMCL

LesbianNews was founded September 1988.

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Letters to the editor may be edited for space and clarity. Letters and submissions must be accompanied by name and telephone #. Only under extraordinary circumstances, discussed with you, will we print letters that are unsigned.

LesbianNews is published 10 times per year and serves lesbians, bisexuals and allies. LesbianNews celebrates all aspects of lesbian life.

We encourage lesbian artists, writers, designers to contribute. Copy deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, readability.

Submissions to P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4.

Subscriptions are \$20 per year. Students, unwaged, \$10.

Advertising: Business Cards \$20 per issue, \$90 for five issues and \$150 per year. Display ads are \$35 for 1/4 page, \$60 for 1/2 page; full page is \$110. Send camera ready copy or layout with a cheque payable to S. Hamill to our mailing address.

Deadline is 10th of the month prior to publication.

Classified ads and Notices are \$5 for first 25 words and .50 for each word thereafter. If you want us to hold and forward personal ad replies add \$2. We run non-commercial notices free of charge.

We reserve the right to refuse any ad that might create legal difficulties or that offends our highly developed sensibilities. We reserve advertising space for lesbians and allies only.

Gift Certificates are available for those wanting to present LNews as a gift to discerning friends. Call Barbara for ads or certificates at 598-6490 up to 7 p.m. Messages will be returned.

Huge Screen, Huge Message

by Barbara McLauchlin

The sheer power and energy of Joyce Pate translates beautifully to the big screen. In fact, the screen serves almost to contain the energy to a serviceable level; it allows us the necessary distance between her power and energy and the wisdom and experience she imparts.

A standing ovation, and thunderous applause from more than 170 persons attending, greeted her production of *Jive Erotica*. And the lobby buzzed for some time after with individual response.

Jive Erotica, presented for us at David Lam Theatre May 2, is a rhythmic and poetic uncovering of a life once mired in abuse; it is Pate's public, honest and compelling sharing of the shedding of the despair and ravages of abuse. We are reminded of how much we contain within us: how much toxicity, negativity, homophobia, keeps us from truly expressing who we are. That's not to say we are all going to become what host for the evening, Robert Osborne, called, "this huge amazing lesbian." Yet how apt the phrase is for Joyce! And for the uncovering of any lesbian who has discovered herself, to paraphrase writer and "itinerant therapist" Charlotte Kasl.

Joyce tells us right off: "I gave myself the right to choose. I was born to rant and rave. I am taking my place in this world." She talks of the father who was in touch with his anger, but never with the root (of his anger). And she reminds us: "You will never forget

the sound of your own power."

We knew she touched the centre of our own power cum laugh button when she described herself as once being "the punk rocker of the 60s with a Marlon Brando attitude"; when she described models on magazine covers as "fashion on a stick"; and one delicious outburst when she described some women who have said, "I need a crowd, I need acknowledgement, so I can act out my revenge and call it feminism".

Another great line was: "Have another cigarette baby, but don't blow your unresolved childhood shit in my face." Now there's a metaphor for external power, gone missing inside. Can we use the line on The Bay Street boys or the high politicians trying to jive in the corridors of power? Well, Joyce herself mentioned that "there are those in authoritative positions who never healed their lives and "that's why the world is so messed up".

Jive Erotica is so named, she explains because jive represents the rhythm to the words and erotica is the rhythm that binds us. "Everyone in life is erotic in some way," she says. Our own rhythms soon got caught up in

the rhythms on the screen and we were quickly in sync with the energy and the words and their meaning and their pain and their laughter and their dignity. Hell, don't we all want to become "aging play-girls" in a way?

Joyce, under her Girl Talk Productions banner, is taking the video with her on a

speaking tour. She has requests for her work and many requests for the video which she will release for sale once she has explored all possibilities for touring with it. She is visualizing a CD, an audio book and much more. And she'll be successful. She has met with a sorority (which was like meeting with a "roomful of my mother") on the subject of empowerment, for example. There's a new awareness out there and Joyce is going to take the flooding tide that leads to fortune.

And for us it was a moment in time when we all had a chance to share without speaking, to care without arms, and to be present with each other in our own separate and together shedding of our terminal uniqueness.

"Have another cigarette baby,
but don't blow your
unresolved childhood shit
in my face."

Rouvena Hunnisett M.A.

Lesbian Counsellor
for the Lesbian & Gay communities

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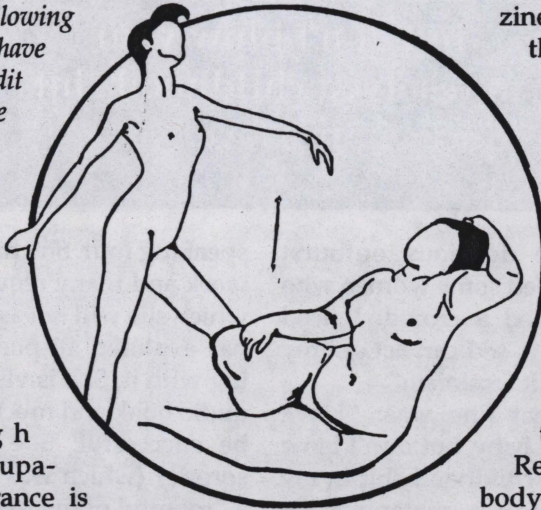
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My Body Is Not an Object

by Susan-Rose Slatkoff

Internal homophobia is one thing. The attitude we have about our bodies is another. As we gear up for Pride, it seems important that we gear up for a summer pride in our own bodies. Ask anyone who didn't pose nude for the Art Collective Calendars, just how hard it is to overcome personal body rejection. Susan Rose wrote the following six years ago. We have her permission to edit and reprint. She will follow up with a series of articles on how outward forces have caused us, and womyn in general, to feel bad about ourselves.



Although women's preoccupation with appearance is ridiculed and trivialized as vanity, this is a serious subject. How we feel about our bodies affects our self-esteem and our sense of power and legitimacy in the world. A woman who has low self-esteem around her body is more likely to value herself less and is more easily manipulated into a one-down position. Body hatred is not the individual's problem, but a women's issue in general. Women are not sick, the society is. Anorexia nervosa and bulimia are epidemic and the overwhelming majority of sufferers are women.

We are chastised if we "let ourselves go". I always wondered where all these women went to and whether or not they were having fun when they got there. We need to ask ourselves, "Whose body is it? To whom does it belong?" Are our bodies the property of others —parents, partners, siblings, etc.?

The changing ideal of female beauty over the ages indicates that there is no "natural ideal". In the Middle Ages women padded their bellies and wore stomachers because looking pregnant and having a big belly was

erotic.

Consider all the women you know; they are all different. The idea that we must all look the same is ludicrous. Not only that, today we have two opposing and mutually exclusive

ideals: the voluptuous centrefold of men's magazines and the ultra-thin fashion model.

For years I tried to look like both of these at the same time. Surround yourself with protective images of women in all their diversity.

Remember the body is a tool, not an object.

Few women see premenstrual syndrome as pre-menstrual energy, a time when many women are at their most psychic, sexual and creative. It is a little-known fact that in some other societies menstruating women are seen as having special magic and powers. Menstruation is a taboo topic in polite conversation in the social mainstream, yet each healthy woman between puberty and menopause bleeds once a month. We all remember our first bleeding, but whenever we do talk about it?

Fear of fat is encouraged by a protestant ethic which believes that anyone can be thin if she tries, yet chronic eating can be both physically and psychologically damaging. All recent research indicates that dieting makes you fat and it is suspected that many health problems connect-

ed to obesity are not a result of obesity, but of dieting which is taxing to the heart.

Few women know that: They need 22 percent of their body weight in fat for normal reproductive functioning; mortality studies show that fat is no less healthy than thin; fat people eat the same or less than thin people; large women are deviant, yet 30 percent of women are size 16 and over; the attitude that fat is bad is not based on solid bio-medical evidence. We need to ask ourselves why our society is promoting an ideal that looks like a male adolescent rather than a mature, ripe and fleshy woman. If health is not the issue, and studies indicate that this is so, then aesthetic is the issue. What tragedies take place every day in the worship of this aesthetic?

Above all women must not age. We must replace negative images of aging with positive ones. Let's see aging as a time to be wise and not merely nice, to be competent and not merely helpful, strong and not merely graceful. It is a time to be ambitious for ourselves and not merely for others. We can age without embarrassment; we can protest and disobey convention. At last, we can become pregnant with ourselves.

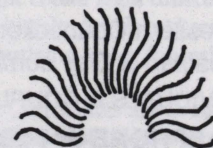
Susan Rose Slatkoff is a Victoria therapist who focuses on sexual abuse, depression, friendship, spiritual journey, dream interpretations and other areas as well as women's body image.

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A Story of Woman's Power

A review of *Antonia's Line* by the Sports Maven

Last Saturday night I went to see *Antonia's Line* and came away charmed, deep in thought, and tremendously satisfied. Marleen Gorris' Oscar-winning film is a story about woman's power. Antonia, with daughter Danielle in tow, returns to the family farm from the city in post-war Netherlands; her mother is dying and does so with great cinematic flourish; Antonia and Danielle settle into the community. The film covers a period of about 40 years and is told in Antonia's voice and in the voice of her great grand-daughter, Sarah. As Antonia sashays proudly through the village, she introduces us to key characters. We meet Crooked Finger, a reclusive erudite man who's a big Schopenhauer fan; there's the Protestant lady, Mad Madonna, who bays from her upstairs window at the full moon in sorrow and desire as the Catholic man who loves her, paces in his room below. They are star-crossed lovers whose religions keep them apart. There's Olga, the Russian bar-keeper and under-taker, the collaborationist priest, and two particular farm families. These and other people become part of Antonia's family.

You can assess Antonia's sense of self in this rural community by her response to a proposal from the farmer down the way. He has five sons and he wants Antonia to marry him because, as he says, his sons need a mother.

"But I don't need your sons," Antonia replies. This independence and confidence are passed on to her daughter and to her granddaughter and great granddaughter. Her daughter is an artist and a lesbian. Her granddaughter, Therese, is a prodigy in pure math and music while the great granddaughter, Sarah, seems to be destined to write or make films.

The film is paced beautifully as chapters' begin and end with characteristic Dutch landscapes filmed like van Ruisdael's *Landscape with a Blasted Tree* or even, van Gogh's *Cornfield with Cypresses*. These serve as cinematic, visual time-outs: interludes which allow primarily for the passage of time, for the audience to take in what they've seen, and to provide a look forward to the next chapter.

Antonia's line live in a world of humanist and feminist values. This film is unusual in that it talks about a woman's line of progeny, not a man's, and the progeny are, in fact, chosen, not borne.

See this film as it is full of wonderful actors portraying a wonderful tale of love, morality, magic, ritual and joy. The characters are unique and engaging.

Marleen Gorris directed another fascinating film called *Question of Silence* in 1983. It too, is a woman's power picture which examines male power in Dutch society through the mirror of the court system. Look it up and watch it.

Alison Campbell

Barrister & Solicitor

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Some More Information About Dildos

By Janna and Otter of Womyns'Ware

In response to requests in the Lnews survey we are providing a column that answers anything about sex that you want to know about and were afraid to ask anyone. Here discretion is assured. Right now the hot topic seems to be dildos. You may send your questions directly to the gals at 896 Commercial Drive in Vancouver. V5L 3Y5 or FAX (604) 254-5472.

Dear Jan and Otter:

I'm out of town on business frequently and I want to leave a dildo behind for my girlfriend to use (she likes penetration a lot) so that she has someone safe to play with while I'm gone. I snuck in to a sex shop, but all I saw were giant "dongs" in so-called flesh colour. I asked an experienced friend what she thought and she told me that her dildo picked up scent pretty quickly and broke down, too, so I'm not sure what to get my girlfriend. Can you help?

Signed When the Cats Away...

Dear Cat:

I'm not sure what sort of dildoes you've been discussing with your friend, but I can tell you that dildoes are similar to other consumer items in that they come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and materials. Common dildo materials include leather, wood, plastic, rubber and silicone. Leather dills are rock hard and need to be used with a condom (otherwise your girlfriend is going to have leather dye all over her genitalia). They're pretty expensive, usually costing anywhere from \$50 to \$150. Wood dildoes are obviously hard and run the risk of splintering. Ow! Plastic dills are cheap but for comfort (or discomfort) you may as well give your girlfriend a plastic shampoo bottle.

Rubber dills are not much different from rubber chew toys for dogs, the rubber breaks down over time,

sticks to skin, and always smells. Rubber dills or "dongs" as they are often called by their manufacturers, cost between \$25 and \$150 with not much choice in colour or design ("flesh" or black and usually a veiny penis look). Both rubber and plastic are porous materials. This means that they

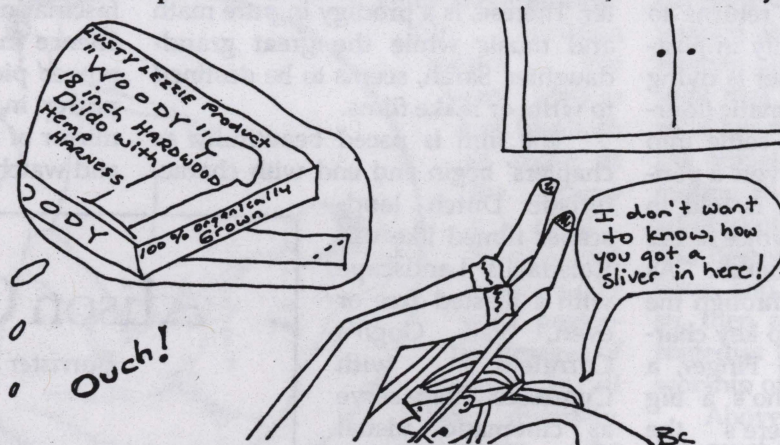
expensive. Silicone is a small cottage industry of craftspersons; six of the seven manufacturers in the world are women. This results in some colorful and clever designs rather than an industrial product churned out in China or Hong Kong.

Womyns'Ware Inc. in Vancouver

has the largest selection of silicone dills in North America with over 80 different styles to choose from, so you can have your pick of diameter, realistic to stylized designs, and multiple vibrant colours. It would take up too much space to describe the range of styles here but I am sure there is

something suitable for your girlfriend's taste. Prices range from \$35 to \$145 depending on design, size, density of silicone. The higher priced dills come with three-year warranties which speaks to their quality.

One more thing though. Don't be so rigid in your use options. Why should your girlfriend only use a dill when you're out of town? Try incorporating dildoes into your partner sex play too. Use it together. Add a vibrator to the dildo for vaginal or anal penetration and you'll see stars. You can start out by using your hands to manoeuvre the dildo or you can wear a pelvic or thigh harness. Or how about treating the dill as an extra limb? Wear a chest harness (common fetish chest harness with a centre ring will do, or adapt a pelvic or thigh harness) so your girlfriend can ride the dildo while you enjoy wonderful close-up visuals, etc. etc. With a little imagination, fantasy and conversation, I am sure that you and your girlfriend can come up with two or three or more variations in harness play. Think of your sex toys as accessories instead of substitutes and you'll open up a whole new world of play. Enjoy.



will absorb body lubricant and odor as well as bacteria. The rubber breaks down quickly unless it is always used with a condom, and even then should be replaced about every three months.

Aside from the leather and wood options that are usually hand-crafted, plastic and rubber dills are mass manufactured in China or Hong Kong by the same folks that bring you "quality" rubber dollies and other such tacky sex stuff.

"Yuck" to all of those options. But don't despair. There is an alternative in dills made of silicone. Silicone is the ideal material for dills. It is both dense and flexible. It responds quickly to and retains body heat and conducts vibration. It's not absorbent so it doesn't pick up smells, and lubes go a long way on the dill rather than being absorbed into it. When cleaning you are dealing with the surface only, so in most cases soap and water is sufficient. If you have any concerns like infections from moving from vaginal to anal penetration, or sharing toys, silicone toys can be boiled. Three minutes will kill anything; don't boil for more than six. The manufacturing process is labour intensive and the raw material

Needs Assessment Query

LesbiaNews,
in a moment of weakness,
has decided to sponsor
a second comedy night.

Please forward your interest, your
act, your plans via note, video, tape
or disc to LesbiaNews at
P. O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria
V8W 6S4.

Performance will be on a Friday or
Saturday night in October. Details
next issue.

You didn't get to write reams
about lesbian life in the census, but
you can play a major role in the lives
of lesbians on the island, and for
those who are coming here to retire,
to play and grow old here, or who
are coming to here to celebrate les-
bian life in the company of us won-
derful good strangers.

Before the grand old and
younger dykes on this committee
can make plans to fulfill its mandate,
it needs to know what senior les-
bians need. You can help. And it
doesn't matter how young you are,
either. Or how old.

The Victoria Lesbian Seniors
Care Society announces the distribu-
tion of a needs assessment survey.
It's not a bad idea to include yourself
in the survey as any seniors' housing
conference avoids the subject, does-
n't discuss lesbian seniors care, and
probably wouldn't anyway. The
Society is the perfect antidote to

aging and completing life in the
company of grumpy, or otherwise,
old men.

The society hopes to reach all
lesbians, including those who are not
usually involved in the women's
community of Greater Victoria.

The Society was established to
enable senior lesbians to live active
and meaningful lives through the
establishment of a community sup-
port network, and housing with var-
ious levels of care.

The deadline for return of the
survey is June 30, 1996.

Copies of the survey can be
obtained from SWAG and
Everywomans Books.

Copies are available at the mail-
ing address of the Victoria Lesbian
Seniors Care Society, P.O. Box 39022,
James Bay Postal Outlet, Victoria,
B.C. V8V 4X8.

Lesbian Seniors Care Society Contest We Need A Logo!

The purpose of the Lesbian Seniors Care Society is to enable senior lesbians
to live active and meaningful lives through the establishment of housing
with various levels of care and a community support network.

We are calling on the women in our lesbian community to design a logo for the society.

CONTEST DEADLINE

July 7, 1996

(camera ready copy)

The winning entry will receive two dinner/dance tickets to the Gala (Oct. 19, 1996)

Mail entries, complete with name, address and phone contact to:

Lesbian Seniors Care Society

Box 39022

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Victoria, B.C. V8V 4X8

Quotes & Queries:

News & views from the lesbian & gay press,

compiled by the truly literate and indulgently single Mary Lasovich.

Subaru is pitching its rugged all-wheel-drive vehicles to lesbians with a new ad campaign that features photos of two women and the caption: "It loves camping, dogs, and long-term commitment. Too bad it's only a car." But don't throw away your mirror. You can look through a heck of a lot of advertising before you'll find reflections of lesbidyke lives. The Advocate reports that U.S. research shows that in 1995, 73% of advertising in gay publications was skewed toward men -- specifically, educated, urban, white men.

Teacher Polly Attwood was supported by Massachusetts school officials when she came out to her high school social studies class three years ago. But the parents of student Johanna Jenei claim they took a direct hit in the pocketbook. They are demanding \$350,000 from the school on the grounds that Attwood effectively deprived their daughter of a public education. The girl suffered such "severe mental and emotional pain"

that she was obliged to transfer to Lexington Christian Academy. School district officials reject the claim, pointing out that they offered to move Jenei to another class, an option her parents rejected because the two classes occasionally met together.

Still undecided? In the last 4 years, your NDP government has banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and further amended the BC Human Rights Act to prohibit publication or display of materials promoting hatred toward lesbians and gays; increased annual funding for AIDS prevention and education programs from \$1.4 million under the Socreds in 1991 to \$7.4 million today; extended same-sex spousal benefits to all provincial government employees; and revised the education curriculum to include unbiased mandatory coverage of sexual orientation. In an interview with Xtra! West Glen Clark vowed that a re-elected NDP would proclaim proposed changes to Adoption Act, which will remove barriers to same-sex adoption.

The 7th Annual GLAAD Media Awards were handed out in what The Advocate fetchingly describes as star-studded bi-coastal events. New Yorkers saw a weepy Greg Louganis give Barbara Walters the trophy for Excellence in Media. (Walters was the first to interview the Olympic champion on his coming-out autobiography.) And the Hollywood set joined the GLAAD gala in Los Angeles, where top honors went to Boys on the

Side (studio film), The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love (independent film), NYPD Blue (TV series), and Jill Sobule (outstanding song) for her hit single "I Kissed a Girl." Finally, a fabulous round of applause for everyone who already knows that the name of the awards sponsor, in long-hand, is the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Barbra Streisand and the production team that brought the story of Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer to TV ("Serving in Silence") reportedly have a deal with CBS to create a new film about a lesbian who fights a tough court battle to get legal custody of the daughter of her dead lover. Also from *OutNOW!* [with thanks to whoever passed on to Lnews a copy of "South Bay's largest and most widely read gay newspaper," published in San Jose, CA] comes word that ABC has announced a made-for-TV movie in the works about the ongoing legal fight by lesbian mom Sharon Bottoms for custody of her young son, who is still in the court-ordered custody of his homophobic grandmother, Kay. Scheduled to play the role of Sharon is Valerie Bertinelli, and Vanessa Redgrave has reportedly been signed to portray Kay Bottoms.

Sharon Bottoms continues to struggle to get back the son the Virginia courts took away, handing custody to her mother. In the latest twist to this heart-wrenching saga, Kay Bottoms has sued to terminate her daughter's visitation rights because Sharon had allowed Tyler to visit with her live-in lover, April Wade, and other lesbians.

On a lighter note, **Susan Sarandon** continues to fulfil all my starstruck fantasies. She's confessed to *Curve* magazine that she was responsible for both the spilled-wine-on-blouse foreplay maneuver in *The Hunger* and the farewell kiss with Geena Davis in *Thelma and Louise*. Sigh...

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Women's Financial Planning Centre

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Us / Them: Our Need to Belong.

by Rowena Hunnisett

The power issues in Us / Them splits are usually destructive to individuals, even though communities of lesbians have recovered from them many times over. This article is about the Us / Them issue in lesbian communities, how it relates to our need for belonging and how we may use power in these splits. It is understandably human that when we are part of a group, we are relieved to belong and to feel less vulnerable to "Them" (read: any group that we imagine may attack us). As lesbians who have recently discovered community, we may be especially needful of bonding with a group of like-minded women.

The Us / Them split usually begins in our individual lives with the need to belong and its correlative, the fear of rejection. The latter shows itself in a statement like "well, I'm not going to talk about [name some contentious political subject] because I'm not supposed to think the way I do." This person feels victimized by creating a projection of an oppressor. If her imagination coincides with reality, she has a good reason to conserve her thoughts for more respectful people. But such a statement shows a person, whose need to fit in eliminates self-expression, which will most certainly result in feeling like an outsider.

The Us / Them split often shows up at the community level when cer-

tain individuals bond fiercely to create a powerful group, while others may gradually bond together as outsiders to the first group. In 1974 in Toronto we "dykes" who frequented the Lesbian Drop-In at the women's centre intimidated the "gay women" who went to the Blue Jay lesbian bar. WE were Lesbian-Feminists; THEY were Apolitical. Since we were such a small group, we were all the more committed to our survival through defining what was politically correct. We were Born-again Lesbians. The Us / Them split allowed us to feel superior but we were in denial about the vulnerability we felt in expressing our new ideas, so we tended to impose them on others.

However, in holding a strong position we still have the responsibility to recognize that collective blocking or superiority regarding others' viewpoints can become an abuse of power.

As a dyke in 1973, wearing my leathers, riding a motorcycle and being aligned with the Lesbian-Feminists, I felt baffled when women told me I had intimidated them. I needed to learn - we need to learn - that we have the respon-

sibility to choose to use our power with integrity. On the other side, when we let ourselves be intimidated, we are surrendering our right to express our differences and letting ourselves be victims. When we let ourselves be silenced by charismatic or powerful women, we can ask ourselves: what are we giving our power away for?

If we want to put an end to Us / Them camps, we need to be respectful of ourselves and others in expressing different points of view. Our community would be strengthened because we could discover that no one needs to be made into one of "Them".

Rowena Hunnisett is a therapist in private practice in Victoria.

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BRAIN FEVER



It was ironic that the stucco house of therapist Myfanwy Breughel stood on a street of stucco houses in a neighbourhood of stuccoed normalcy. Neighbourhoods like this always made Eileen feel fucked up. No, the neighbourhood made her feel out of place. Seeing a therapist made her feel fucked up.

She clutched the book to her breast in a rather Victorian gesture. The fatigued plastic cover was peeling although the rings still held. An ancient three-ring binder full of lemonade, life having endowed her with an oversupply of lemons.

A path of cedar rounds led to the back of the house where Myfanwy had her therapy studio in an enlarged and expensively landscaped garden shed. The therapy room looked out on a private garden at the rear. A tatami mat dotted with big colourful cushions covered the floor. Myfanwy was a slight woman with a porcelain complexion, dressed in loose pants and a bulky sweater in pale, early-spring colours. She motioned Eileen to a cushion and lowered herself gracefully onto the one beside it.

"What can I do for you?"

Eileen, who had come straight from her job at the Parkside Animal Shelter, was dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt that smelled like dog and disinfectant. She also appeared to be shedding. She let go of her crushing grip on the binder and rested it on her lap. Her fingers picked nervously at the peeling cover, revealing its cardboard insides. "I don't understand why I'm always breaking up with somebody." Because she was fucked up, of course, why be here otherwise? "I thought if I wrote it all down, you know? The Book of Breaking Up. It's the story of all my relationships."

"All your relationships until now," Myfanwy pointed out.

"Oh, right," Eileen giggled automatically, feeling stupid.

A therapist wouldn't necessarily know about her pretend relationships, although she might be able to guess. There was one every month or so, based on a fragment seen on the sidewalk or in a store. The curve of a lip, an opening eye, a swaying hip that made Eileen's blood rush to her cunt (and away from her brain!). She wrote them down in her book, under the heading Women I Don't Have To Break Up With.

She couldn't understand why Myfanwy wasn't laughing. Mention of her Book always got a laugh at parties, where it made a good excuse to trade stories with other love veterans. But Myfanwy leaned forward with her grey eyes focused seriously on Eileen. Her interest made Eileen feel unworthy.

"I've lost track of where I'm going with it. I've done all this work and I still can't hold on to a relationship. And I can't write at all lately."

Myfanwy said, "When I work with writer's block I assume there is something unsaid getting in the way of what the writer is trying to express. We have all sorts of reasons for leaving things unsaid. It isn't appropriate, or it might hurt or anger someone. Does that sound like what you had in mind?"

"Something unsaid," Eileen echoed mechanically. Her life had suddenly diverged into three short films which she could see in her mind as if they were being shown simultaneously on adjacent screens. In the centre she saw Myfanwy striking her lightly on the head with a magic wand, and then she was in bed with, well she was very attractive anyway, and she, Eileen, was saying "Will you marry me?" and whoever it was was also saying "Will you marry me?", so it was equal.

On the left was a scratchy monster movie, an angry mob pursuing a fleeing figure over a fog-shrouded moor. Closeup of the figure: nothing between

the hat and the overcoat but thin air and a voice gasping, "Help me, help me!" The coat, Eileen realised, was her own.

On the far right was the image of a television set, a bit larger than life-size. Eileen saw herself sitting in a straight-backed wooden chair. She looked at her hands, twisted together in her lap, and then she looked off-camera, presumably at someone, and said, "Take away the pain, doctor." The tape looped, the video Eileen repeating herself until the other two films finished.

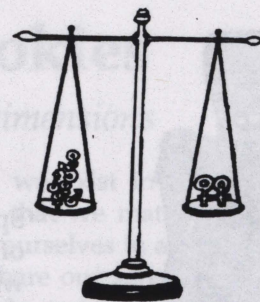
Eileen's life joined up again in a single set of pictures. "On the other hand," Myfanwy was saying, "perhaps your book contains everything you want to say at the moment about breaking up. It might be time to begin work on the book of staying together."

Eileen winced at the word 'together.' "What I know about staying together would fit on a card you'd be able to carry in your wallet for quick reference. I'm an expert on breaking up."

"Well then," Myfanwy said reasonably, "what would you like to do? It's perfectly acceptable to change your mind, you know, but if we're going to work together you need to feel comfortable with the process."

It was a heartless offer, Eileen thought, at odds with those kind grey eyes. If she had known what to do, she would not be hunched on this lumpy cushion holding in her lap the compiled obituaries of all her relationships. It occurred to her that this was probably as much comfort as she was going to enjoy in her therapy. She may as well get on with it. Since she was sure her block was already beginning to melt, like an ice cube stuck in the middle of a swallow. When it finished burning her throat she would start a whole new chapter in The Book of Breaking Up. She would title it simply, Therapy.

Ask a Mediator



Dear Patricia:

Are there any situations in which mediation is not the appropriate way to resolve a dispute? Is mediation a good idea, for example, when one party has power over the other (such as an employer over an employee.) I have a bad experience of having a dispute mediated by someone chosen by my boss. I felt powerless to do anything other than appear to agree and left feeling silenced and manipulated. The mediator was, and remained, a friend of my employers.

Signed: Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Your question is a good one. Every relationship has power imbalances and mediators are trained to deal with them, so that the parties can recognize their joint interests in having a level playing field. One of the reasons that mediated agreements tend to be implemented more often than do court-ordered ones, is that when both people feel the process was one of their making, and fair to both, they tend to live with the outcomes they design. Once you point this out to the party with the

power, they see that it is in their interests to ensure that power is balanced equally - otherwise everyone is wasting their time as the process is consensual and anyone can withdraw at any time. But this demands a neutral mediator.

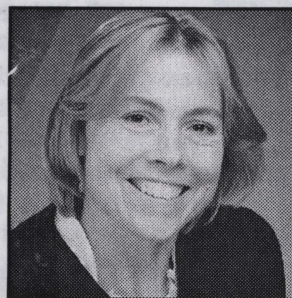
In your case the problem was not so much with the difference in power, although this is certainly a factor to be addressed, but that the mediator was not neutral, at least as far as you were concerned. No mediation can succeed if the parties do not trust the mediator to be unbiased. If the mediator has been neutral she might have helped you to see your power in the situation. Clearly you have some - otherwise

why would the employer have bothered with even the charade of the process. Your "consent" to the outcome was important. You had some chips.

The mediator would have worked with you to help you to discover what alternatives you had to negotiating an agree-

ment in that forum, and from that strength you might have chosen to stay and work it out to get what you wanted, or you might have chosen to play your other cards. Good agreements can't result from unfair processes. This is an elementary lesson of the feminist movement which good mediators understand and apply in their work.

Patricia Lane is a mediator in private practice in Victoria who has an interest in helping the lesbian community. Next week Patricia answers one of our reader's questions regarding abuse and the question of trust.



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Babe Notes

Sports Illustrated in a suit of chain mail and armour with the Pacific Ocean in the background.

A second photo of her and her lover, Lynda Roth, smoking two humongous stogies, is also featured in the manly mag.

There's lots of gabber around about lesbians on the PGA Tour. I, for one, am glad there is a paid sport at which lesbian athletes can earn a modest living. In Spencer-Devlin's case, her contract with the prestigious golf equipment firm Callaway Clubs remains in place. So keep your eye on the LPGA tour if the networks will show the games (they seem to prefer showing old retired golfers play rather than gorgeous-legged women) and, if you're at the Nabisco Dinah Shore maybe you'll find a love just as Spencer-

"Oh golf!" she swore. And that's the beauty of the game. The name of golf sounds like an epithet. You can swear with impunity and not be censored or glared at.

Muffin Spencer-Devlin appeared in a recent issue of

Devlin did in 1992.

Other news is included by our cub reporter at large, Dawn Heiden who sent us this fine schedule of ball

games (not girlie ball), played by women who mean business. Until next time..

Play hard. Use a hand lotion.

Dyke Recreational Softball Schedule

Monday May 13

Dunsmuir Park	BJs vs Super A's
Reynolds Park	Spinnakers vs George and Dragon
Vic West Park	Rumours vs Mustang Sallys

Monday May 14

Beacon Hill	George & Dragon vs Rumours
Vic West	Blues vs BJ's

Wed May 22

Colville	Rumours vs Blues
Beacon Hill	George/Dragon vs BJ's

Monday May 27

Reynolds	George & Dragon vs BJ's
Vic West	BJ's vs Blues

Wed. May 29

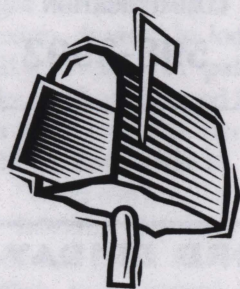
Colville	George & Dragon vs Peppers
Vic West	BJ's vs Rumours

Wed. June 5

Beacon Hill	BJ's vs Peppers
Vic West	Double Header George & Dragons

Mon. June 10

Dunsmuir	Rumours vs Mustang Sallys
Reynolds	BJ's vs Super A's
Vic West	George/Dragon double header



The Thirteenth Opinion

Dear LNews:

Just a quick note to say...love the

'zine girls! I especially liked the review Lahl did of the Chrystos Poetry reading in the April issue...but hey, wait a minute - you didn't mentioned who organized this event!!! Chrystos and Nicola, not to mention the great treats at the reception, didn't just appear out of nowhere! Everywomans Books and SWAG coordinated this event to celebrate IWD [International Women's Day]--and, if I do say so myself, should be acknowledged for doing so.

You may think me immodest, but I think we need to recognize the work that both these organizations do in

this community. Everywomans and SWAG have both been around for a long time - maybe that's why as a women's community, we sometimes take them for granted. Let's turn it around and show some appreciation for these long-time matriarchal organizations. It's not a popularity contest, not everyone agrees with everything we, at SWAG, do - but that's what happens when you push the edges. This is something that SWAG was doing long before my involvement with them, I'm proud to be associated with this organization, and was thrilled that we put on the 1996 IWD celebration with the amazing women at Everywomans Books!... and I just need to say that.

thanks, Terry Harrison

Outreach and Project Coordinator, Victoria, Status of Women Action Group

Dear LesbiaNews:

It's time to renew. I thought I'd take the time to comment on the last issue. I really enjoyed reading "Facing the Demons" by Barbara McLauchlin re: Joyce Pate's journey to personal power. I would enjoy reading more articles about women's healing journeys and the variety of problems that necessitate them.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$20. Keep up the good work.

Joy Lennox, Terrace, B.C.

Girl Guides and Dyke Cookies

Lahl's word of the week, from CFUV's *Dyke Dimensions*

i was at a potluck on saturday night and i walked a friend with three boxes of girl guide cookies. Dykes were exclaiming and giggling and waiting for the boxes to be opened. i saw someone walk over, pick up a box, turn it over, shake it, smile at it and carefully put it back in the pile. and quietly, as the evening progressed into dessert, stories emerged.

Dykes that sold those cookies at 6 and 10 and 9 and 7, timidly knocking on doors looking up from their three and a half feet height, their mother tapping her foot on the sidewalk, small hands shaking, holding out the blue box asking the lady barely coming from behind the door if she, would you like to buy a box of girl guide cookies.

Dykes as girls taking boxes of cookies and sharing them with friends. Dykes as girls eating boxes of cookies on their own. Dykes as girls not wanting to sell those cookies. Dykes as girls somehow escaping from the duty, but not remembering how they escaped. Dykes as grls hanging out with grls. my favourite story was from the Dyke who put girl guide cookies in the context of her coming out story. she said that for hours, year after year, she would stare at that blue box, stare at those pictures of girls camping together, hiking together, around the campfire together, in tents together. she would stare and imagine and walk into that girl-only world until the last box of cookies was eaten.

in the last week of april, for more than 45 years, young girls and women have been going from house to house selling cookies. last year, in b.c. alone, those young women sold 21 million, 446 thousand and 40 cookies. that's 6 cookies for every person in b.c.

i was surprised by the number of us that were excited by those cookies. and then i realized something for many of us girl guides/brownies was the only girl's only place we had when we were young. once a week, we would iron our uniforms, carefully put them on, lift our collars and put the orange and white tie around our neck, and tongues straining, tie that tie into a perfectly square reef knot. then we'd

hook our thumbs under the edges of our tams, pull them over our heads, and trundle off to a church basement full of other girls and women.

i don't remember the name of my six was it leprechauns or fairies or pixies. i don't remember who from my class at school went to brownies. i remember the paper mache toadstool and the fake green grass under it. i remember skipping around that toadstool holding the hands of other little girls.

but what i remember best is my sixer, mary dexter. i thought she was divine. she had red hair and freckles, not just sprinkled quietly across her nose, but spread, thick, like a fine icing on a rich cake. she had muscles and her legs were strong and she could get up from the floor without using her hands. she was restless and she laughed from her toes. there was a secret language between her and the seconder. they were the same age. they would talk to each other over our heads mary at one end, the seconder at the other, and the energy thick like smells travelling over my head as i turned from first one then to the other trying to understand what they were saying. they liked each other, they liked us.

today i had a delightful conversation with the pr woman for Victoria's Girl Guides of Canada. there are now 8.4 million members throughout 134 countries. 8.4 million grls promise, each week, to do their best, to be true to themselves, to their faith and to their country. they promise to help others and to accept the guiding law. The guiding law challenges each of them to be honest and trust worthy, to use their resources wisely, to respect themselves and others, to recognize and use their talents and abilities, and to protect the environment. it also challenges each of them to love with courage and strength and to share in the sisterhood of guiding.

i like most of that promise. it's what i want for us as Dykes: millions of us, promising to be true to ourselves and to be our best with each other; each week, millions of us, around the world, performing rituals affirming

that we exist in dozens of countries and that we matter to each other; to put ourselves in a community context; to share our selves and our resources wisely; to be honest and trust worthy and to love with courage and strength; and, to share in creating this gangly evolving erupting thing called community. maybe it's time to create a Dyke cookie.

Finally, the answer to the age old question "What are we going to do tonight?"



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by Mayne Ellis

Looking backward to re-value the future

by Lillian Faderman, Penguin Paperback, New York, 1992, 308 pp.

Every generation claims "things have never been better than they are right now." Ten or a hundred years hence, our inheritors look back at us and snigger or sigh wistfully for such vanished innocence. But let's face it, sisters, isn't it a thrill to be part of the first generation that's free and out enough to recover and publicly celebrate our lesbian heritage?

The Lesbian Elders/Youngers event on April 1 this year was a local beginning step to discover who we have been, as a community and before. For a larger grasp of the beginnings and the struggles of our lesbian foremothers/sisters, no dyke can do better than read Lillian Faderman's *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*: a history of lesbian life in 20th century America, published in 1991 and in Penguin paperback (the publisher alone tells you how far we've come).

Lillian Faderman is known to many of us for *Surpassing the Love of*

Men, on female friendship before the 20th century, and her magnificent compendium of three centuries of women-focussed writing, *Chloe + Olivia*. Her clear and compassionate prose is a delight in itself.

Faderman "[came] out as a working class lesbian in the 1950s, when McCarthyism was still giving its tenor to American life and lesbians were out-laws" and still "cannot see [many] police cars all at once without an almost unconscious sharp intake of breath." Her direct experience of the depths to which our society has sunk in its persecution of difference informs, but does not overwhelm this disciplined, and elegantly written text.

And what a history it is! Baseball teams and the bar scene, the changing trends of lesbian philosophy, from Lesbian Nation to Queer Nation. It is a marvel to me how Faderman was able to work with the mass of material she obtained.

American pogrom still reverberates in the consciousness of lesbian and gay people. The stories about police harassment and official ignorance may make younger women among us shake their heads in disbelief, but our elders will say flatly, "That's the way it was, then."

Faderman's real forte, though, is her delineation of the trends of lesbian culture. Her personal research and discovery of archives, individuals, ephemera and even military documents constructs a vibrant montage: the oversophisticated Greenwich village scene of the 1920s, emerging lesbian consciousness in the women's forces in World War Two (the book happily includes Johnnie Phelps' famous encounter with General Eisenhower), the butch/femme reality, and the conscious growth of lesbian ideology, culture and values, including women's music. With a scholar's eye and a lesbian's passion, she examines the ideology of separatism and the politics of moderation.

Of especial significance, in view of the antics of the New Right, is her review of the McCarthy era, and how that

Nothing we have done, in Faderman's view, is failure. If separatism didn't work, it provided a powerful critique and challenge to more moderate received notions about the larger milieu. If young women seem brash, self confident, unreconstructed (s/m and leather, lesbian chic, owning your own home), elders provide context while also being liberated and empowered by their daring. Our communal victory, though, is that we have survived through generations, made our lesbian lives real and powerful, TO BE in our own right.

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LITTLE Lezzie Flashes

The Lez bought new sneakers. I didn't mean to do it. But as Jan and I were nearing the envelope store (for Lnews) she noticed two things—my old sneakers with the holes in the toes and the green Sickens Paint on the sides - and the shoe store. "I don't need new shoes!" I protest. "Yes you do," retorts the Jan. You come over to my place in those things and pollute my hall and devalue my property!

Many of us gathered in Diane Smith's backyard to say farewell and to wish her luck in her time with refugee Tibetan women in India. Saw Cindy, Joyce, Ramona, Helen, Pearl, Gloro, Nancy Isenman, and former Belly Dance partners there.

Robin Durkin called to let us know that if we are going to support the Leslie Fineberg Health Fund mentioned in Mary's last column, we should send money orders. Cheques, it happens, can be very expensive ways to be generous. It has something to do with exchange and the way banks on both sides exact their respective

pounds of flesh. So if you want to keep the queen's rear end intact.. Incidentally, Robin fit that call in to the Lez while she was readying her glad rags for the Opera with the delectable Joann Nicolson. It was fun to discover Piedad Escobar in Puente Theatre's production, Sisters/Strangers. A wonderul theatre experience that I hope is revived.

Lahl has finally finished her first year of English at UVic. She has survived a difficult year, kept her knickers on, in public at least, and is readying herself for summer school. Good luck, dear heart.

What plans have all of you made for Pride Week in Victoria? We'd love to know, you know.

Audrey B. called to say how much she got out of Rowena's workshop on homophobia. Apparently, Rowena has been "pressured" into considering another similar workshop in the fall. Not a bad idea.

Turns out that our Kinsey Milhone wannabe, Taylor Margo, for short, did not move into a garage after all. It had something to do with too much power in the closet. Trust you, Taylor.

Over lunch with Sally Hamill, I

noticed her elegant green paper napkins. A gift from Sally's 62-year-old daughter, they read: "Young At Heart, Slightly Older In Other Places". That's a fitting tribute to LNews' devoted treasurer and all-purpose good person who is organizing herself for a trip (solo) to Denmark. Sally is also active on the board of the Lesbian Seniors Care Society. Which reminds me. Don't forget to fill out the enclosed for the girls.

Did you happen to notice the good Samaritan type in May 8 T/C was a male called Frank Outingdyke? He says it would be nice if people would take the time to get to know their neighbours. I'd like to know how he got (or chose?) his name. It puts a whole new spin on Venus envy. Or is that going to far?

By the way. Musaic never seems to want to let LNews know what they're up to, but they spent last weekend in retreat. Getting ready, one thinks, for their upcoming concert June 15 at Philip Young. Judy Bell told me. Until next time.

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NOTICES

Gay-Lesbian Hotline Toll Free: Province-Wide Resource Mon.-Fri. 1-4 p.m. 1-800-566-1170

ADOPTED women support group for those who have found their birth parents. Contact Trish Sharp at 598-9426.

LESBIAN ART COLLECTIVE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: June 9 at 7 p.m. 1415 Bay Street

DYKE CAMPOUT: At Ruckles Park, Salt Spring Island. May 16-20. Just show up.

BASKETBALL: Temporarily suspended. Watch here for re-start. Jahnet 380-6617

BOWLING: Once a month now. Dawn 595-7179 for info.

DROP-IN SOFTBALL: All levels welcome. Marion 598-1257

DYKE NON-FICTION: Free-read on loan from Lahl. She has great selection of poetry, culture, health and herstory. Call her at 995-0147 for appointment to view and select.

LESBIAN MENOPAUSE: Interested in starting a support group? Call Gloro 380-7098.

CLASSIFIED ADS

ROOMMATE WANTED: Mature dyke for three-bedroom, smoke-free, pet free house in Fernwood. \$308/mo. plus utilities. Call Dawn or Nuria 595-7179.

APARTMENT WANTED: Cozy one-bedroom, self-contained. By June 1st. Reasonable rent. Fairfield or James Bay. Joyce at 383-1748.

VANCOUVER BOUND? Need a room on occasion in Vancouver? Inexpensive room to let to women travellers/part-time commuters. Parking available. Kids welcome. Call Sand (604)873-1125.

WATERFRONT CONDO: For rent. 2 bedrms, 2 baths, ensuite laundry. View Royal. Call Alison at 382-7498.

ROOM FOR RENT: Cozy house near Gorge Park. 380-7562

TWO-BEDROOM SUITE: Pets okay. Non-

smokers. \$660 plus Utils. 380-7562.

CREATIVE ART EXPERIENCES FOR WOMEN: with Margo Farr. Safe, supportive art studio environment to unravel beliefs about art and expression which keep us creatively blocked. Focus on process, not technique, can lead to increased self-respect, artistic empowerment, fun, laughter. Small classes ensure personal attention. Call 388-0929 for upcoming schedule of week-end workshops and 8-week groups. Financing available.

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SUDDENLY DANCE THEATRE: presents Romp! A festival of independent dance May 31 and June 1 at the Planet Theatre. Constance Cook performs. Exciting, innovative, modern dance. \$8 or \$6 for students, seniors. At Lyle's Place or at the door. Lori Hamar at 388-0600.

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Victoria Lesbian Art Collective: Dawn 595-7179

Blind Date Productions: Gwyneth Powell, 598-2327

Bowling: Dawn H., 595-7179

Bridge: Marion S., 598-1257

Dyke Basketball: Off for now. Jahnet 380-6617

Dyke Dimensions Radio Show: Mondays 8:30 CFUV 104.3 FM Cable FM 101.9

Dyke Writers: Serious writers meet bi-weekly. Lahl, 995-0147

Lesbian Drop-in Softball: Marion, 598-1257

LesbiaNews: P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, V8R 6S4 Barbara, 598-6490

Lesbian Outdoor Club: 1st Thurs. every month 7 p.m. Lynn Kirk, 480-1560

Lesbian Seniors Care Society: Sally, 388-6036

Lesbian Social Group: Mary, 361-9568 or Iris, 389-6772 (was Very Nice Dykes)

Musaic: Lesbian and Gay Choir: Contact Daphne, 480-0024

P-FLAG: Information, 642-5171

PINK UMBRELLA: fax/phone 727-6669

University of Victoria: Jenny Waelti-Walters of Women's Studies can arrange meeting rooms under department. Call her, 721-6157

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please send me 10 issues of *LesbiaNews* starting with _____ (month).

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I enclose cheque or money order, payable to S. Hamill, P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6S4, for _____ subs at \$20.00 each.

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Needs Assessment Survey for all Lesbians

Sponsored by the Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society

We need your help so that we can plan for the future. In order for this survey to be as comprehensive as possible please do pass it on to all your lesbian friends living in this area.

This survey is to be completed by lesbians ONLY. The content is considered PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL.

Please indicate your age category.

1. Under 20 ☐ 21-30 ☐ 31-40 ☐ 41-50 ☐
51-60 ☐ 61-70 ☐ 71-80 ☐ 81+ ☐

2. Lesbians, as they age, face a number of important issues. Please check those which could affect you personally.

inadequate government pensions ☐

income ☐

physical, mental, emotional abuse of older adults ☐

social isolation ☐

loneliness ☐

effect of government cutbacks on health care dollars ☐

lack of affordable housing ☐

lack of programs/information on financial planning ☐

being primary caregiver for parents, spouse, kids ☐

difficulty obtaining employment because of age ☐

lack of job training programs ☐

technological advancements in the workplace ☐

fear of fraud and exploitation ☐

feelings of vulnerability ☐

crime ☐

health issues ☐

transportation ☐

nutrition ☐

fear of death and dying ☐

other (specify) _____

3. How would you feel about living in each of the following?

(Circle a number for each item)

	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neutral	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Lesbian only retirement community	1	2	3	4	5
Women only retirement community	1	2	3	4	5
Heterosexual retirement community	1	2	3	4	5
Lesbian only nursing home	1	2	3	4	5
Women only nursing home	1	2	3	4	5
Heterosexual nursing home	1	2	3	4	5
Lesbian community housing	1	2	3	4	5

4. Do you have any health problems that could affect your quality of life?

(Circle) YES NO

Specify your problems [Optional]

5. To whom would you go to seek help with emotional health problems? (Mark all items that would apply)

Therapist ☐
 Physician ☐
 Religious counsellor ☐
 Partner/lover ☐
 Friend ☐
 Family member ☐
 Crisis Line ☐
 Other (specify) _____

6. If the following services were available would you make use of them?

Lesbian Crisis Line	YES	NO
Lesbian Community Centre	YES	NO
Lesbian Social Activities	YES	NO
Lesbian Day Care for Seniors (respite for caregivers)	YES	NO
Lesbian Home Stay Program (allows lesbians to stay in their own home)	YES	NO

7. As a lesbian have you experienced discrimination in the areas of:

Housing	YES	NO
Health services	YES	NO
Government benefits for same sex partners	YES	NO
Employment	YES	NO
Employment benefits	YES	NO
Legal services	YES	NO
Your personal life	YES	NO
Your social life	YES	NO

Other (specify) _____

8. If you have experienced discrimination as a lesbian, what was the effect on your life?

9. What health or other services do you anticipate needing for the future?

10. What services could the Lesbian Seniors Care Society provide that would benefit the Lesbian Community?

11. Are there any areas that have not been addressed?

Housing	Yes	No
Health services	Yes	No
Government benefits for same sex partners	Yes	No
Employment	Yes	No
Employment benefits	Yes	No
Legal services	Yes	No
Your personal life	Yes	No
Your social life	Yes	No
Other (specify)	Yes	No

The Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society thanks you for completing this needs assessment survey.

Additional copies may be picked up from:

Everywomans Bookstore
635 Johnson Street

or

SWAG
200 - 506 Fort Street

Please mail completed surveys by **June 30, 1996** to:

Lesbian Seniors Care Society
Box 39022
James Bay Postal Outlet
Victoria, BC, V8V 4X8

Name (optional): _____ Phone (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Lesbian Crisis Line	Yes	No
Lesbian Community Centre	Yes	No
Lesbian Social Activities	Yes	No
Lesbian Day Care	Yes	No
Lesbian Health Services	Yes	No
Lesbian Legal Services	Yes	No