

# LESBIAN NEWS \$2

**VANCOUVER ISLAND 'S MONTHLY LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER**

**VOL.2 ISSUE 5**

**JANUARY 1991**



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

The First Great LesbianNews  
Crossword Puzzle

Jackie Crossland and Nora D. Randall in *Coffeebreak Characters*.

# EDITORIAL

BY DEBBY GREGORY

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Here's to those who made it through another one and to those who didn't. Regular readers will notice some changes in the format, thanks to Patrice's snazzy computer-magic. [At least I think so - production this month is a bit dicey so I can't make firm predictions.] One of the advantages to desktop publishing is that we can get more words on the page, meaning lower printing and postal costs. Let us know if the print gets too small to be easily readable: we seem to be an increasingly bifocaled community!

The masthead now refers not just to Victoria's Lesbian Feminist Community but to Vancouver Island. In fact, nearly half of our subscribers live outside Victoria, either up-Island, on the Gulf Islands, on the Lower Mainland, or across the country. The subscription list is up around the 100 mark and we're very nearly solvent.

Which reminds me. I've been burned a couple of times by women not paying for their classified ads. It's not only a question of principle, I need the money to keep the newsletter going. So I'm going to be more strict about insisisting on receiving payment **BEFORE** I run the ad instead of after.

On the bright side of money, I want to thank several donors, who have requested anonymity, for their contributions to LN. I also want to thank Hot Flashes Coffee House for their donation to help cover the losses from the Faith Nolan concert. Bless you all.

Money is the theme of this month's newsletter. Next month it's Lesbians and Cats. In March the theme is Work, in April it's Lesbian Humour. May looks at Health, June tackles Aging. We've been getting material from readers - and we need more. Don't worry about the quality of your writing or drawing, or the profundity of your thoughts: just worry about getting it to us by the 15th of each month for inclusion the following month. Suggestions for future themes are always welcome.

Dear Gertrude and I have had a chat about the empty state of her "in" tray, and we've decided to surrender to the indisputable. There doesn't seem to be a need for a Lesbian Advice column in this newsletter, so we'll give it a rest.

If anybody wants to initiate another regular or occasional feature, be our guest. Make yourself at home and write about whatever interests you.

Hoping to hear from many of you in the coming year: and don't forget, I'm looking for somebody else to take over the editorship in the next year. A community-based newsletter should have a rotating editor, and I'll have done 2 years by September. Donna and I are going to France for a well-deserved month's holiday in September, so there will definitely have to be another editor for the October issue. You need access to a computer, a bit of extra time, some writing and/or editing experience, an interest in people, and the ability to front the monthly bills, around \$250. If you think you might be interested, please let me know ASAP so we can start working you in. If you have all the requisites except the money, we can probably do something about that.

Finally, write in your new 1991 Calendars and Date Books **SATURDAY NIGHT JUNE 8, 8PM AT NORWAY HOUSE: LESBIAN TALENT NIGHT "HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU!"** This promises to be a hilarious evening of Lesbian creativity: music, drama, narrative, comedy, song, dance, and whatever else we all come up with. If you want to be part of the show, write **LesbianNews** or phone Maureen and Karey at 592-7546. Dust off your tap shoes, oil your vocal chords, shake off your writer's cramp, maybe get together with some friends, and just let your little light shine.

Have a good year, everyone.

## WHO ARE WE?

Editor & Data Entry: *Debby Gregory*  
Distribution: *Marti Carr-Harris*  
Layout & Paste-up: *Lisette Cook,*  
*Kelevelyn Hurley & OUT WEST DESIGN*  
Contributors This Issue:

"Disappointed"

Alisa Gordoneer

Debby Gregory

Heather Gibson

Kelevelyn Hurley

Margie Pringle

Susanna Sturgis

Bonnie Waterstone

*Welcome home all you holiday travellers! Thanks for all your cards and greetings!*

*LESBIANNEWS IS PUBLISHED BY, FOR AND ABOUT LESBIAN FEMINISTS AND ALLIES. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT SUBSCRIPTIONS ACCORDINGLY.*

### LESBIANNEWS

is published by Debby Gregory, PO Box 5339, Station B., Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4.

Subscriptions are \$18/year, cheque or money order payable to D. Gregory at the above address.

Individual copies sell for \$2 at Everywomans Books, 641 Johnson Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1M7.

Display Ads are \$5/month for business card size and \$5/month for each additional chunk of business card-size space. Send camera-ready copy with your cheque to our PO Box address. Deadline is the 15th of each month for the following month.

Classified Ads are \$5/month for up to 25 words and 50c for each word thereafter. If you want us to hold and forward replies to Personals, add \$2. We reserve the right to refuse any ad that might create legal difficulties or that offends our highly developed sensibilities (see note below). Ads and payment must be received by the 15th of each month for inclusion the following month.

Submissions are welcome. Send your letters, questions, comments, stories, poems, articles, ideas, cartoons, drawings, news items, calendar items, grocery lists and doodle-pads to the PO Box address, typed double spaced, very neatly written, or on IBM-compatible disk. We edit for space and clarity. We'll print it as long as it's not sexist-racist-homophobic-antisemitic-ageist-classist-ablebodyist-personal attackist or boringist.

# THE FIRST GREAT LESBIANEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY MARGIE PRINGLE

We got this great packet in the post office box last month.

Dear LesbiaNewswomen:

Hi! I had an irresistible urge to create a crossword puzzle for *LesbiaNews*. After many hours of head-scratching, puzzle-scrapping effort, this is the one I'm happiest with. I don't know any *LesbiaNews* readers in Vancouver, though, so I haven't been able to test it. I've gone cross-eyed looking at it, so I don't trust my own perceptions of it.

Please try it out. If it's too difficult, an insult to a normal woman's intelligence, offensive or stupid, or otherwise unfit to print, I welcome your feedback. If you want to print it, feel free to edit the cues for clarity, and if you want to identify the creator you may use my whole name.

Like I said, I don't really know how simple or difficult this puzzle is to solve. If hints are needed, may I suggest starting with 26 Across, 13 Down, and 19 Down. Have fun!

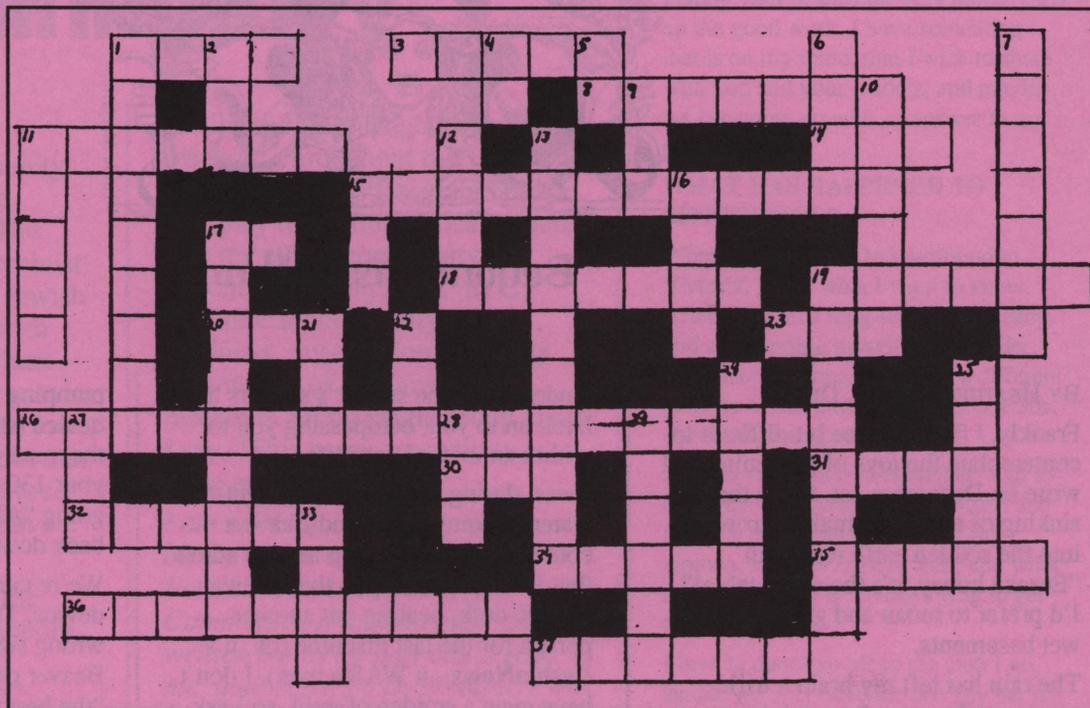
I hope that I've prepared this stuff so it can be published with not very much effort on your part.

Margie Pringle

*Being a fanatic crossword puzzle-solver, I immediately set about solving Margie's creation. It works! It's not going to replace the New York Times weekend puzzle or the Atlantic's double crostic in my affections, but I'm dazzlingly impressed and flattered. Margie, you're brilliant. Your creativity and perseverance are amazing. Thanks for following through with your inspiration. And now, get to work y'all. Answers in the back.*

## ACROSS

1. Dyke's pets; theme of Feb LN
3. Female people
8. Ann \_\_\_\_, occasional LN contributor
11. With 11 Down, a lively and lovely all-women C&W band



14. What 6 Down is to some
15. A suggested item for submission to LN
17. "To \_\_\_\_, or not to be..."
18. Discussions between readers of LN's hottest topics
19. Ours is the feminine
20. A \_\_\_\_ of sunshine, what LN brings us each month!
23. Feminine possessive
26. Heather's horticultural wisdom
30. Re-\_\_\_\_, one of the three environmentally correct R's
31. \_\_\_\_ for improvement
32. Theme of December LN
34. Tale
35. LN's audience
36. \_\_\_\_ Panic
37. Method used by Margot and Christine to gather information

## DOWN

1. A topic of debate in LN over the summer of '90
2. What you get 'all-over' at Wreck Beach

4. 1st person possessive
5. A negative answer
6. An early stage in many relationships
7. Hot \_\_\_\_ Coffee House
9. Another way to say 5 Down
10. To some, another dyke
11. See 11 Across
12. Hundreds of these in every issue of LN [No, NOT typos! - ed.]
13. Inspirer of this puzzle
15. \_\_\_\_ Games '90
16. Untruths
17. One kind of article you won't find in LN
19. Dear \_\_\_\_ LN's very own advice columnist
21. How to respond to a woman who offers adventure and excitement!
22. Found on the back pages of LN
24. Yours \_\_\_\_
25. Butch's partner
27. \_\_\_\_ and flow, movements of the tides
28. A LN gift suggestion
29. An essential part of life
33. A local and vocal feminist group



## Beyond Sissinghurst

BY HEATHER GIBSON, DIPL.T.

Frankly, I find it a wee bit difficult to contemplate the joys of gardening as I write on December 1st. Since the sinking of even the smallest trowel into the sodden earth results in "Eureka honey, it's the water table!" I'd prefer to moan and groan about wet basements.

The rain has left my brain a trifle soggy, so these tender reminiscences will be in no particular order.

Yup, we moved into our new (1912) abode on November 1st, and planned a lovely get-away long weekend for Memorial Day to relax after the stresses and strains of moving. Nope, it was not to be, because we discovered our little problem - the leaky basement.

My partner and I have had the joy of renting, on 3 occasions, a carpet shampooer to suck water. For those of you who've not experienced the thrill of using the beast, let me point out that this machine was designed by the Marquis de Sade. There are 18 cables, hoses, switches, tanks, wands and other bits all guaranteed to snarl, twist, tangle and wrap around your ankles.

Keep in mind that this water-sucking business is not conveniently done mid-afternoon after a lazy brunch, coffee, read the paper. No. It's done frantically at 12:30 in the morning after driving like a maniac through blinding rain to Safeway, which closes at midnight. Not just any Safeway, but the one you guess might still have a machine to rent. The resulting state of exhaustion tends to exacerbate the

tendency for the sucker's suckers to latch on to you, octopussing you to within an inch of your life.

I was, during flood #1, the go-get-the-water-sucker person, and I have a confession to make. I'm here to admit that I literally ran up to the Safeway service desk, beating out another person for the last machine (ok, it's **LesbiaNews** - it WAS a man). I don't have even a smidge of guilt, so I ask you - have my morals gone down the drain? Ha ha, trick question - I've got no drains for them to go down anyway.

Back to gardening, briefly. I have indeed discovered that bamboo does have the world's toughest root system. A clump was a) directly underneath the worst torrential overflow from the gutters and b) directly in the path of a trench I was trying to dig at 2:30am (first flood) and proved impossible to budge, come sledge, come pick, come spade and shovel.

Sump pumps. We now have two. Deciding that the Safeway sucker was too expensive and annoying for words, I set about smashing holes in the basement floor. Try this sometime when 2 inches of water are lying on the floor - you get very wet, as does any object within 25 feet. The dictionary defines a sump as "a pit, well, or the like in which water or other liquid is collected." My emergency sumps were of the "or the like" variety, jagged craters just wide enough to squeeze the pump in, just deep enough to stem the flow. They worked, but I re-discovered that when

pumping water uphill, a backflow device is required. This prevents all the murky goo you've pumped into your 130 feet of 1" pipe from simply going "ABOUT FACE!" and sliding back down into your sump.

We're currently on our 3rd backflow device. The first was too chintzy, the wrong size but all that was available at Beaver on Sunday. The second was "the best you can buy" but fell apart anyway, so we're pinning our hopes on number three.

It's been too cold and oh yes, WET, to silicone caulk my new garage gutters, so the joints are currently patched with plasticene. I wonder how that will hold up to freezing?

I'm in the running for the world's longest downspout competition. At one point I had a 48-footer running out into the back yard. Impressed? I thought you would be.

My little truck thinks that there are only two places to go - the dump and the gravel yard. She has assumed this stance: front wheels off the ground, tailgate bulging, bumper dragging, steering questionable, you know the "oops, I think this load could be a little over half a ton" look. Special features include the ripped off mirror - too tight a squeeze between the trees in the alley - and sexy splashes of cement all over the place.

Several of my pals have blisters, aches, pains and hangovers from helping us dig, shovel and pour concrete, all well lubricated with beer.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

# Still Musing on Community

BY DEBBY GREGORY

The Victoria Jewish Community Centre recently sponsored a showing of the film "Half The Kingdom," about current feminist encounters with traditional Jewish practice. I invited a few Jewish lesbian friends over for potluck supper before attending the movie. The kitchen overflowed with food, talk, argument and laughter in that particular Jewish way that I love.

"This is my community, these are my people," I thought.

Entering the Centre - from the outside a low, grey, determinedly discreet building, the words "Jewish Community Centre" invisible past a three-foot distance - one enters a Jewish space. The older women and men always remind me of my relatives. I am immediately attuned to people's ways of speaking, the genteel middle-class poor taste of the decor, the rhythms of the evening. "This is my community, these are my people," I thought.

The film chronicles the struggles of feminist women to transform Jewish practice to make it more inclusive of women. Seeing the many different kinds of women exhibit many different kinds of strength, passion, intelligence and beauty was exceptionally moving: I cried through the entire film. "This is my community, these are my people," I thought.

Most of the audience were from the Jewish community. A substantial minority were feminists, both Jewish and gentile. In the discussion after the film, some of the Jewish men made typically uncomprehending, patronising statements. Each time, the

feminists would laugh, or groan, or respond. Throughout the discussion, I was fascinated by the interplay of "communities." There was my ethnic community of Eastern European Jews, my ideological community of feminists, my emotional-kinship community of lesbians and bisexuals. Of no single group could I say, "This is my community, these are my people."

*I am working on a research paper on the theme of Jewish Lesbian Feminism and the Search for Community. If anybody has any written material they could lend me until April I'd be grateful. I will keep a lenders' log of materials and will take loving care of them. If you would rather photocopy something, I do have a limited budget for that. If you would like to participate in a couple of discussions around my material, get in touch via LNews. Thanks in advance.*



## FROM A READER

Hi there LesbianNews

I enjoy your newsletter very much, keep up the good work. I have something that is on my mind, that I wish to share with you and your readers, and maybe we can come up with an answer to my problem.

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SISTERHOOD?

What has happened to sisterhood in Victoria, that's what I want to know. After being in a long-term relationship, and now finding myself single, older, and wiser, the single scene is a different place to be for a woman in her late 30s, and intimidating.

As a social drinker non smoker, I go to every dance, coffee house, concert and the club to find and meet new gay women, to make friends with, and what a hard time one is having trying to get to know people.

I love to dance so off to the club I go, shame we only have the one gay bar in town, but it's a little world unto itself down there. You are either in, or you are out, you are judged by your own kind, regarding your dress, job, the way you dance, tan or no tan, what has happened to the lesbians in this town, that's what I want to know.

When you try to talk with the so-called cool people, you get the cold shoulder, and dirty looks, like you are talking to me, gag me. I was born female then gay, why in this world of hate, do our sisters treat each other this way, why are there so many women who are just so unapproachable, why can't they be kind and friendly to new people, being single is no fun.

From a disappointed Lesbian.

*Editorial wondering: Does anybody have a good answer to this sister's questions? Does anybody have some good questions to add to hers? I think it is really important for all of us to be responsive to the social needs of single women in the community. I also think that when I go out to the coffee house or elsewhere, I go to relax with my friends and don't always feel like extending myself to strangers. Maybe somebody should make up some buttons: "I'm not cool, I'm shy." What would be a better way to help everyone feel part of the lesbian community?*

# M\$O\$N\$E\$Y M\$O\$N\$E\$Y

BY BONNIE WATERSTONE

I have been trying to develop a feminist perspective on money. There is not a lot of theory, poetry, or even solid political discussion about money. Money buys privilege, money confers power. It's remarkable that we have not, as lesbians, come up with some lesbian ways to use money, to distribute the power equally, and to challenge the privileges of money.

We live under capitalism, and as feminists, to whom the personal is political, questioning the principles of capitalism in our lives is important. Some lesbians argue that "you can't be a feminist if you are a practising capitalist."\* Freeing ourselves from capitalist attitudes can be difficult, however.

To begin with, let's look at the concept of equality as it applies to money: the radical idea that any one woman's time and energy is equal in value to any other woman's time and energy. Using the principle of equality, a customer would pay the same rate for a job as is equivalent to the income she receives. A doctor who has a housekeeper would pay the housekeeper the hourly rate she makes as a doctor, with considerations to be made to this general rule depending on who has children, whether maintenance is paid by someone else, whether either party has inherited wealth, etc. This idea could be implemented in sliding scales as well, for example the fees that therapists charge.

The idea of valuing the skill and labour of another woman as equal to one's own goes against one of the basic tenets of capitalism. Ranking of occupations is essential to capitalism's hierarchy.

Professionals learn, however, that their hourly rate shows how much they value

themselves, and also how much people value their skills. The attitude is "I'm worth \$50 an hour." Or, in a real double bind: "If she pays \$50 an hour for something for herself, like therapy, then she is showing that she values herself that much."

Money doesn't give a woman worth, although how much of it we have often seems to define us. Even though we live in a world where money is power, we can challenge these attitudes.

**A. earns \$20 an hour, and pays B. \$10 an hour. In what circumstances is this fair?**

1. Under capitalism
2. If A. had an expensive college education and B. did not
3. If B. doesn't ask for more
4. Never

\*THIS INSERT AND OTHER STARRED REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM AN ARTICLE IN OFF OUR BACKS, V. XIX, NO. 7, JULY 1989, ENTITLED "MONEY TALKS - BUT WE DON'T" BY BARBARA JONES.

Acknowledging and addressing the balance of privilege of race, class, disability is something we are familiar with. Money's privileges are not so commonly acknowledged.

The privilege of coming from a family that has money, even if you never ask them for money, does give security. It is a privilege never to have to be too worried about being in or going into debt, because "daddy" will bail you out. Having access to extended and interest-free loans, or the down payment for a house, or rights to an inheritance is a privilege. Having a university education or other training paid or partially paid

for is a privilege. The list goes on: paid-for holidays, the parents' old car, clothes for the children, gift cheques, etc.

Everyone needs money, but no one likes to admit how much they have. It's more acceptable to be "broke" than to admit to having money. Being broke can mean different things to different lesbians. To a single mother on a low or fixed income, it might mean not having money to buy groceries this week.

Literally having zero in the bank, under the mattress, or in the wallet. To a single lesbian with a job, it might mean not having been to the bank machine lately, or being overdrawn on her line of credit, or charging beyond her credit card limit.

On one side there's not having enough for necessities like bread and milk, always having to buy second-hand clothes and furniture, not going on holiday, living in insecure rented housing. On the other side there's the lesbian who spends a lot of her money on entertainment, paying the mortgage, or new car payment, buying new clothes, renovating the house, getting educational toys for the kids, etc. How you spend your money can mean more than how much you have at any given moment.

These days a lot of lesbians are "making it," getting better jobs, buying houses, getting comfortable, and enjoying material goodies. The usual (defensive) justification is "I've worked hard with no money for years to get where I am today," or "I put a lot of effort into my training. I've earned it." Relaxing into capitalism like an old friend, we hardly notice how it is separating the haves from the have nots.

How do we use our money? Most often we use it to buy greater freedom of choice in our own lives. This choice is usually a set of consumer options,

# M\$O\$N\$E\$Y M\$O\$N\$E\$Y

# M\$O\$N\$E\$Y M\$O\$N\$E\$Y

ready-made for us. What would a feminist use of money look like?

\$\$\$

**Any one woman's time and energy is equal in value to any other woman's time and energy**

\$\$\$

Using money for positive change has a lot of possibilities. Here are some starting points:

1. HOUSING. We can recognize the privilege that ownership of property gives, and without giving up our own security, act in a spirit of sharing rather than possession. Setting up a fund to help working class lesbians come up with the capital to buy houses would be one example.

2. INHERITANCE. Giving anonymous gifts, informally or through charitable trusts, would be one way to avoid using inherited wealth to enhance one's own power and status. By leaving a will a lesbian can avoid having her property going to the next of kin, and leave it to a trust for an "old dykes' home," etc.

3. INCOME SHARING. Lesbians with a higher income or greater wealth can pay more toward the cost of shared meals, shared transport, shared holidays, shared houses, etc. This could become accepted practice. One way to remove

the link between the woman and "her" money would be for a group to decide on an acceptable income, and all those who earn or receive less would take an income out of the fund, to redistribute one woman's salary to others.

4. SLIDING SCALES. The breadth of the scale must be increased in order to be more effective: to expect a lesbian who has an income of \$200 per week to pay \$20, or 10 per cent of her income, is not the same as expecting a woman with an income of \$600 per week to pay \$20, only 3 per cent of her income. Usually the poorer you are the more proportionately you have to pay in sliding scales.

5. SKILL EXCHANGE. Whatever skill a lesbian has - mending, massage, accounting, child care, masonry - can be exchanged on an equal basis, hour for hour. An extension of this would be for lesbians who are benefiting from a training course which they are able to

as well, so that it is not always only privileged women who can gain skills.

6. HOUSE PROFITS. If you own a house and charge rent to another lesbian to live there, then you can make a contract so that when the house is sold, the lesbian who helped you pay your mortgage by paying rent also benefits from the profit of the sale of the house. A similar contract could be made for a lesbian who does work to your house or property. This would distribute the profit, which is due to privilege, more fairly. Another possibility would be to not charge rent at all, to ask only that maintenance costs be shared.

These are some ideas for using money positively, to promote and support feminist goals. Even if we just start talking about money, that would be an improvement. Let's get it out in the open.

Ask yourself these questions: would you be happy to let anyone see your bank balance or savings account book? Would you pay another woman who looks after your children or cleans your house less than what you yourself earn each hour? Do you think that professional skills are worth more - are more important - than other skills? If you inherited \$50,000 how much would you spend on yourself? Do you think these questions are impertinent?

---

*Editorial comment: I'll bet any amount of money Bonnie's article will touch some nerves and push some buttons. Don't just cheer or grumble, put your responses on paper and send them in.*

\$\$\$  
**Would you be happy to let anyone see your bank balance or savings account book?**  
\$\$\$

pay for can set up a fund to enable women without resources to get training

# M\$O\$N\$E\$Y M\$O\$N\$E\$Y

# M\$O\$N\$E\$Y M\$O\$N\$E\$Y

## ANOTHER SIDE OF MONEY

BY SUSANNA STURGIS

It is easy to get sucked into a relentless guilt by what has been, is being, done in one's name. I have been waiting for years for feminist from privileged backgrounds — including myself — to begin speaking about their/our specific experiences. Few of us have spoken. Certainly it isn't that there is a shortage of feminists from the upper-middle and upper classes. It isn't that we are inarticulate, illiterate, or unable to get our work published in the feminist and lesbian-feminist press; our lifelong training in 'standard' English may be, for us as a group, our single most important privilege, the one we can rely on regardless of our income level.

Nevertheless, and ironically, some of the deepest, most powerful insights about privilege have come from women of color and/or working-class women who have discussed the relative privilege of lighter skin color, being able to 'pass'; of being the first in one's family to go to college or to be a writer; of not having to be on welfare. I should not be surprised: was sexism first exposed by men, or homophobia by heterosexuals? Yet I have waited for other women of privilege to explore their own experiences, using these insights and adding their own — I have been waiting *for other women*. I have waited, who am in the habit of writing. Why?

Because privileged women have already done too much of the talking? Because everyone else has already heard, already knows, enough? Because when you identify yourself with an oppressor class, some people

will see nothing else about you? Because while you cannot disguise your white skin or your educated speech, no one knows the extent of your privilege until you claim it? Because exploring the details of your life is self-indulgence, and you were taught to deal in generalities? There are a hundred reasons/excuses, all of which can be at least partially refuted, most of which are at least partially true.

\$\$\$

**When you identify  
yourself with an  
oppressor class  
some people will  
see nothing else  
about you**

\$\$\$

For me, it was finally because I write that I had to write about and discuss my privileged background. As a proficient user of words, a committed radical feminist, and a woman from privilege, I live at the tense intersection of conflicting identities. Facility with the written or spoken language can be a source of great power, and power is something about which the feminist movement has had a sometimes healthy, destructive ambivalence. The writers develop theory — structure the way we see things — in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction; they interpret and communicate the essential and long-hidden knowledge of women. In local communities and in the national and international networks, it is often the writers who are the most widely known. Being known; being heard: these are the native privileges of our community, the roots of a possible feminist elite.

---

SUSANNA J. STURGIS, EXCERPT FROM "CLASS/ACT: BEGINNING A TRANSLATION FROM PRIVILEGE." PG. 7-12 IN CHRISTIAN McEWEN AND SUE O'SULLIVAN (EDS.), *OUT THE OTHER SIDE: CONTEMPORARY LESBIAN WRITING*. LONDON: VIRAGO PRESS.

# M\$O\$N\$E\$Y M\$O\$N\$E\$Y

## **BEWARE BUXOM B-BOGGIES**

Combining all the myriad facets together produces  
alternately rainbows and confusion.

Whirling within my vortex is my eye of calm - seeking,  
centering, questioning, ever alert to answers and  
revelations.

Where is the yellow brick road, Toto?  
Can we see the forest for the trees?  
How do I cross a bridge without burning it - how can I be  
free to travel the voyage of my heart?

I am a stranger in a strange land  
All around me are the sounds of voices, flashing neon signs,  
overwhelming buxom b-boggies bearing shaved advice...  
My knapsack contains some hope, some faith, a few balloons, a  
star, a favorite hat and t.p. my quest? To follow  
the right path - to safely travel through these unknown  
surroundings, believing to reach the right place that my  
heart searches for.

When the yearning within causes me to leave my home  
searching for happiness, I HAVE TO GO...  
Yet always do I FEAR quietly that  
PERHAPS HOME WILL NEVER BE SEEN AGAIN - yet -  
perhaps I can carry home inside - the 'sense' of home, like  
an ember from a fire guarded carefully in search of a new  
hearth.

My two selves offer advice one urges caution, careful  
planning, analysis, strategy, security, the safety of the  
tried and proven  
the other says Go! Search for your dream, pursue while it  
is in sight, GAMBLE that what you see in those brief glimpses  
are the real thing; the brass rail - seek alternate  
lifestyle, experiment, you have but this one lifetime to make  
it your fulfillment  
pick a card, any card...

What to do, what to do???

By  
Kelevelyn Hurley

# CALENDAR & NOTICES

FRIDAY JANUARY 25: HOT FLASHES COFFEE HOUSE, \$2, 106 Superior Street, 8-11pm

JANUARY 31 - FEB 3: RANDOM ACTS COME TO VICTORIA. Performing GREAT EXPLANATIONS, FOUR LESBIAN STORIES and COFFEE BREAK CHARACTERS at Open space, 510 Fort Street, by Nora D. Randall & Jackie Crossland. Performances start at 8pm. More info on this page.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

FEBRUARY 7 - 23: BED OF ROSES  
Photography exhibit on various forms of sexuality, including lesbian, at Open Space, 510 Fort Street, 383-8833

## YOU

Are Worthy of Recovery

## WE

Can Help

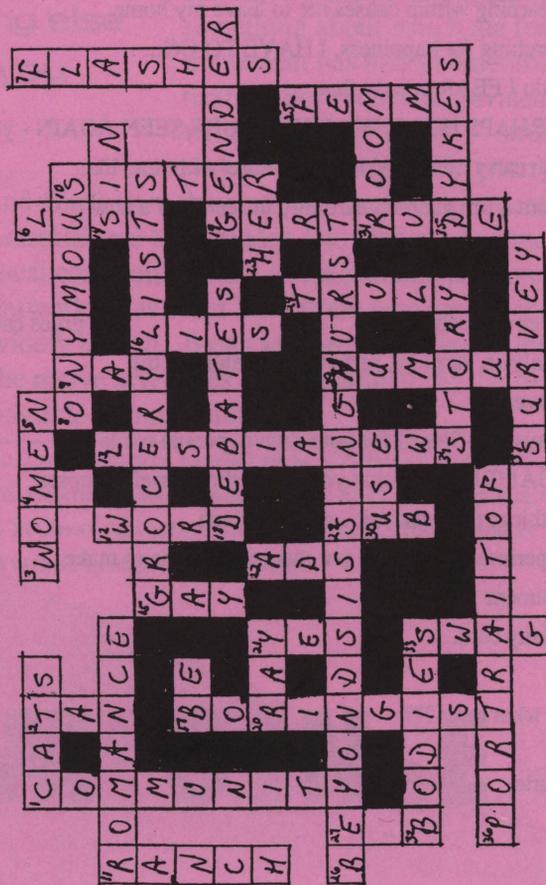


PARKSIDE Lodge-Westgate

4601 Interstate 35 North  
Denton, TX 76201  
817/565-8100  
METRO #214/434-3540

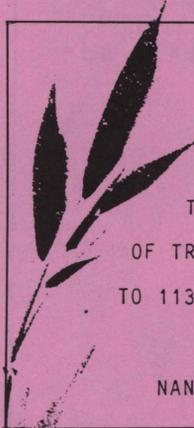
**SAFE-CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Chemical Dependency and**  
**Eating Disorders Treatment**  
**for Gay/Lesbian Individuals**

RANDOM ACTS is a collaboration between Jackie Crossland and Nora D. Randall. Jackie Crossland has been active in the Canadian theatre for many years as an actress, playwright and director. She has performed GREAT EXPLANATIONS - FOUR LESBIAN STORIES in Vancouver's 1990 Women in View Festival, and in Toronto's Queer Culture Festival. Nora D. Randall is a writer and performer. She wrote three of the four stories in GREAT EXPLANATIONS and directs it. Both women write and perform COFFEE BREAK CHARACTERS, a political cabaret about working women's lives. It's a changing show with interchangeable parts. Each part is a woman who comes on for 15 minutes (her coffee break) and talks about her work. Sometimes two of them get together for a break. Don't miss this great lesbian theatre.



# NOTICES & ADS

Personals cost \$5/month for 25 words, 50c per word thereafter. For mail forwarding, add \$2. G'wan, be brave.



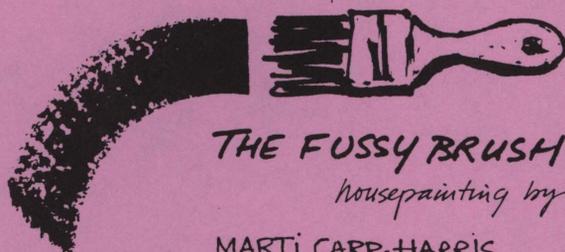
I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE  
THE RELOCATION OF MY PRACTICE  
OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE  
TO 1138A OXFORD ST. FAIRFIELD  
383-8440  
NANCY ISSENMAN Lic.Ac. (NCCA)

LOVE-SLEIGH. IT'S THE SEASON TO BE HORNY. Hot young rider in festive mood wants mistle-toe partner for spice 'n smiles. Reply this paper, Box A.

SATIN SHEETS, BOXER SHORTS, COWBOY boots, Obsession. Do you like complexity and contradiction? Let's s t r e t c h the butch/femme concept together! Reply this paper, Box B.



CARPENTRY  
PAINTING & DECORATING  
**MEG HERWEIER**  
727-0968



*THE FUSSY BRUSH*  
*housepainting by*  
MARTI CARR-HARRIS  
382-3981

\* TIME TO RENEW \* TIME TO RENEW \*  
If you have a purple sticker in this spot then your subscription is up with this issue

## Subscription Form

Send to: P.O. Box 5339, Stn. B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4

Please send me 12 issues of **NEWS** starting with \_\_\_\_\_ month.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... POSTAL CODE .....

Please send a gift subscription of **NEWS** to:

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... POSTAL CODE .....

*Please put this name as the gift giver* .....

I enclose cheque or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Subs at \$18 each TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Back issues available — \$2 including postage.

Cheques payable to D. Gregory

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

POST OFFICE BOX 5339  
STATION B  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

**P.O. Box 5339  
Stn. B  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8R 6S4**