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LAVENDER RHINOCEROS



Victoria's Premiere Lesbian & Gay Magazine
Volume One Number Four
May 1999
\$4.00

— What's Inside —

**Melaney Takes Us to
The Movies
Those Hot Winter
Nights...**

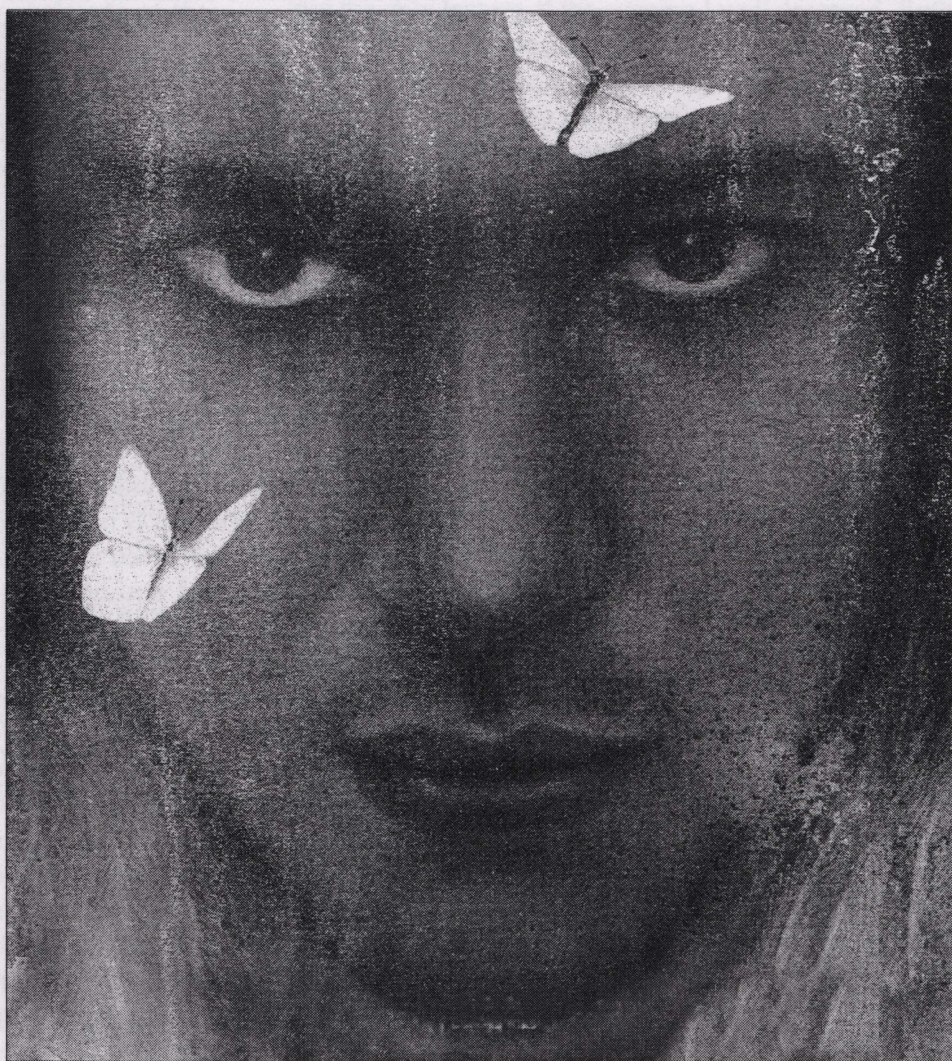
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And Much More...



As the Butterfly Unfolds into Life, so the artist grows. Artist Miles Lowry talks of mystics, movements and motion in "Metamorphosis." See story page 14



We've borrowed from someone's adage: put 12 gays and lesbians in a room and you'll get 13 opinions. Letters to the editor are a dream come true. To have so many, reflecting so many opinions, is great. Some of the letters cut close to the bone, nearly getting into personalities. My hat is off to John for stating his: it's off, too, to all those of you who responded with yours. Opinions don't always represent the truth. More often they represent the truth as we see it. They are based on fact, feeling, idea, perception, personal experience. That's what makes them so wonderful and, sometimes, dangerous. The Religious Right, for example, has so many opinions about gays and lesbians that are based on sophistry and misguided perceptions. Some of what John says is based on personal experience and known quantities. Dances with bars are prohibited to the under 19 group. The Pride Dance has a bar. We all know men who have preferences for young men. There is a wariness. When I turned 30, it was the worst birthday of all. It meant I had reached that age where I could no longer be trusted. I think gay youth are reverting to many of the ideas and beliefs we held in the 50's and 60's. I'll let John respond to the letters on his own in the next issue. I do defend my writer's rights to their opinions as I will always print yours. Keep those letters coming. Hopefully, John's article and Gerald's opinion piece will open up more discussion. That's what the magazine is for: generating discussion; it's a forum.

Now there's the issue of community. We all have places in our society where we hang our hats. The gay men I know lament the lack of community—that incredible tangible which women have

created. The men who disagree with me on what "community" is argue that two men meeting together is "community." From a discussion I had with Stacy Leblanc the other day, I note that the women have banded together with an incredible network, a number of organizations, etc., to combat the patriarchy. (This, for purposes of argument.) According to Stacy, and I am writing from memory here, the gays, some of whom do not identify as men, combat the patriarchy by not grouping together in clubs, teams et al. It seems to boil down to opinion again. I define my community as the big group of lesbians I can find at the G-Spot or dances or my writing group, or both the gays and lesbians I meet at mixed events like Mosaic and dances; the smaller numbers of women with whom I habitually meet, I call my support team. Those who would take me to task for my non-defining of the men's community are quite right. In her article on community in the April Rhino Volume One Number Three, Rowan Percy writes: Notice the difference between "community" as a thing in flux and "The Community" as if it were one entity, which it is not. When the community is perceived as exclusive, monolithic and authoritarian, those who think this way are disempowered. It is worth finding and looking at again. Certainly, it was useful for me to look at again. I needed to. However, I only hear the complaints. I know that my friend Joe and his cohorts have a grand time with Prime Timers. It is the slightly younger gay men who come to me lamenting the lack of a men's community. There is a community of sorts to be found among those concerned with HIV/AIDS. But not all gay men have interest in that area. I can only urge the men who want to have clubs and other organizations to initiate. Take responsibility for building what it is you want. It isn't that hard these days to find gay men. I find you all the time. You are quite wonderful and I call you part of my community. I'm looking forward to coffee with Gerald next week. BMcL

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

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

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My Education in Women's Music

By Theresa Newhouse

As a young woman coming out in the 90's, the name Cris Williamson has only vague historical weight, conjuring up images of the 70's feminist music scene. The stereotypes I have despite (or perhaps because of) having studied some feminist theory of that era braced me for a night of lectures and rhetoric. Cris's concert at UVic March 13 made mockery of these fears, and instead gave me new appreciation for our musical elders.

Cris Williamson, joined by her partner Tret Fure and guest June Millington, performed to a near capacity crowd at UVic's David Lam Auditorium. For those of you who, like me, don't know of Cris, suffice it to say she's one of the legends of the lesbian music scene, performing since her first recording, *The Changer*, in 1975. June and Tret are also important long time members of the women's music community.

From the beginning of the night, it was a high-energy audience. Before Cris, Tret and June came on stage, the sound of greetings and laughter was deafening.

The stage itself was small and cluttered. Cris came out looking very informal - T-shirt and leggings. (I would, too, if I'd just driven in from Portland as they had.)

From the first song I knew her soft rock/folk style was not my favourite genre. Also, I'm a bit of a purist. I hate pre-programmed synthesizer music and canned drum tracks. In folk, I am a much bigger fan of acoustical guitar than the electric guitar which characterized their first song, the title track from their new album *Radio Quiet*.

But Cris's incredible stage presence and warmth won me over quickly. Their third song, *The Tents of the Bedouin*, written from an article describing one western woman's rather homo-erotic experience in the women's tent at a Bedouin gathering, was presented and performed with such incredible good humour that all of my misgivings about set and drum tracks disappeared.

The stories and on stage banter enriched the music. I really loved Cris' story of display window test driving a John Deere riding lawn mower and the accompanying song. All in all, the night's music was wonderful. I especially liked Tret's rich alto voice and June's guitar and percussion accompaniment.

After the intermission our own hilarious and outrageous Sue Hallat auctioned off posters, guitar picks, headbands, and even a bikini bottom, donated by the performers. I have to admit, at some \$95.00, bikini bottoms of the gorgeous June seemed a bargain.

And the only lecture of the evening I well deserved. Both Cris and June made a pitch for the revival and support of the women's music community. June is involved in The Institute for the Musical Arts, a non-profit teaching, performing and recording facility for women in California. All three talked about the sharp decline in audience sizes over the past 10 years.

Congratulations to the co-sponsors/organizers of the night, the UVic Women's Centre and Honeypot Productions, for helping create women's culture and supporting women's music.

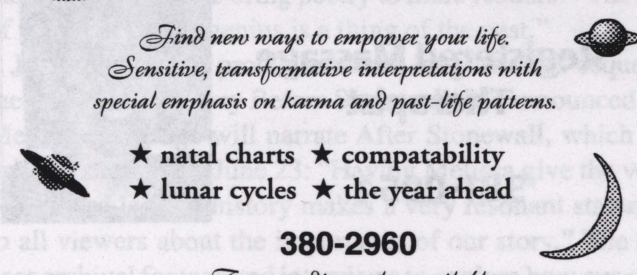
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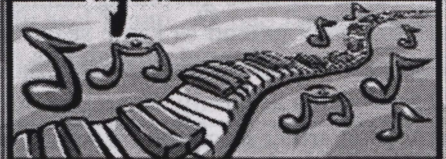
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RAINBOW BC Sees Equality

by *Lawrence Aronovitch*

British Columbia Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh announced on March 28 he'll be introducing measures in the next provincial legislative session to recognize the rights of gays and lesbians who outlive their partners, the Canadian Press reported. He's targeted four laws which currently recognize only surviving opposite-sex spouses, children and in some cases parents: the Cemetery and Funeral Services Act governing the disposal of remains; the Estate Administration Act governing the handling of the estates of those who die intestate (without leaving a will); the Wills Variance Act governing amendments survivors may wish to make to a will; and the Family Compensation Act governing collection of damages and benefits in event of a death through negligence.

Speaking at a lesbian and transgender community center in Vancouver, Dosanjh said, "This would be a huge step to bring about equality for same-sex couples." Openly gay Member of the BC Legislative Assembly Tim Stevenson (NDP) did not foresee much resistance in the legislature, since BC has already been a leader in legal recognition of gay and lesbian families.

And ...

Finally: a template for equality of families, I thought, reading the release of the study by the BC Law Institute of laws which affect family rights. I was reading on behalf of Rainbow BC a provincial coalition of groups supporting equality

for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people in BC. (See separate story on Rainbow, page 17)

The comprehensive report released late March recommends that provisions in the laws governing family be made consistent and that they extend to same sex relationships and also to relationships between people who, though not sexual partners, live together as family. The report also recommends that a Domestic Partner Registration Act be enacted, which would permit the registration of same-sex and non-sexual family relationships. Upon registration the partners in those relationships would have the same rights and responsibilities as married people.

The province does not have the authority to extend the right to marry, which is a federal responsibility, but can govern the effect of registration of relationships.

Gail Owen of the Canadian Task Force for Transgender Law Reform, states, "We are very pleased that transgendered

people will be able to take advantage of this proposed legislation along with lesbian and gay families, and chosen families, and chosen partnerships which are not sexual in nature."

Asked whether he thought that the proposed legislation would be politically saleable, Craig Maynard of the December 9 Coalition said that he was confident that it would be. "In BC this government has already taken the first giant steps toward legislated equality for lesbians and gay men within their families, with changes to adoption laws and the Family Relations Act. So the most controversial work has already been done."

"Domestic partnership" was the term favoured by those few members of the legislature who voted against the changes to the Family Relations Act, and seems to be politically acceptable even in Alberta, which is perhaps the most homophobic jurisdiction in the country.

"We are especially pleased that the BC Law Institute has not restricted itself to relationships of people who are sexually involved. Our coalition has always called for equality among all forms of chosen family, including those of lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people. And these recommendations go past form to the substance of equality for all

families," added barbara findlay of the December 9 Coalition,

For further information: Lawrence Aronovitch, (250) 475-0811, Craig Maynard, (604) 831-5664 Gail Owen, (250) 213-5263 or barbara findlay, (604) 687-4635

The comprehensive report released late March recommends that provisions in the laws governing family be made consistent and that they extend to same sex relationships and also to relationships between people who, though not sexual partners, live together as family.

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Quotes & Queeries:

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

By Mary Lasovich

Sherri Williams, who sells sex toys at stores in Alabama, recently went to court with five other women — and “succeeded in kicking the government out of [our] bedroom.” They challenged a little-noticed 1998 state ban on devices marketed as useful primarily for the stimulation of human genital organs,” and won their case when a federal judge ruled the law was “overly broad” and bore no “rational relation to a legitimate state interest.” The women argued that their rights were violated—either because they were retailers of sex toys or because vibrators provide the gratification they can’t get otherwise. And they were piqued when government lawyers pointed out that women who want sex toys could go to neighbouring Tennessee, buy them where it’s legal, and bring back their contraband. The plaintiffs pointed out Tennessee is a long way to travel for an orgasm.

Carmen Vazquez, one of 11 lesbian health educators and activists from various fields interviewed in *The Advocate* (April 2) about the controversy over bareback sex, touched on two recurring themes—frustration and despair at the extent of denial about the consequences of unprotected sex, and heartfelt compassion and love. “I have many friends who have had horrible reactions to the drugs,” she said. “It’s not a picnic, and some of the drugs are failing now. I think people need to see that. I [also] understand some of the frustrations. A friend said to me, ‘I have fought my whole life, and to think that every time I go into the bedroom I have to cover myself—I feel dirty. I never feel free from it.’ But I said to him, ‘I still want you here. I want you on this earth.’” Thoughtful responses, all.

Carol Ann Duffy, who is reportedly the frontrunner for the job of poet laureate of Great Britain, is a lesbian who was inspired to become a poet after she “fell madly in love” at the age of 11 with another girl at her convent school. “I wrote her 312 poems. Well, I may be exaggerating a bit, but there is no doubt that I was moved by love to art,” said Duffy (*London Sunday Times*, March 23). Duffy, who lives with her young daughter and poet Jackie Kay, believes the 10-year post (by appointment of the Queen) must become “much more democratic” to bring poetry to more readers. “The idea of the great poetic genius is a thing of the past.”

John Scagliotti, producer of the long-awaited sequel to the 1984 documentary *Before Stonewall*, has announced that Melissa Etheridge will narrate *After Stonewall*, which airs on PBS stations on June 23: “Having Melissa give the voice of gay and lesbian history makes a very resonant statement to all viewers about the importance of our story.” The film uses archival footage and interviews to explore how our com-

munity has evolved—from the historic 1969 Stonewall riots to glimpses of last year’s Gay Games in Amsterdam. “People must be educated about the profound effect and change gays and lesbians have had on the shaping of the 20th century,” said Scagliotti. “These people and their stories prompted our country to question its own fundamental values with regards to family, work, religion and relationships.”

Gwyneth Paltrow, who nabbed the “best actress” Oscar for cross-dressing with grace and humour in *Shakespeare in Love*, will star as a web-footed, cross-dressing lesbian in an adaptation of the novel *The Passion* by brilliant British writer and outspoken dyke Jeanette Winterson. Here’s a second-hand summary of the plot (as much as Winterson can be summarized!): Villanelle, the Paltrow role, is a croupier (works a gaming table) and pickpocket with webbed feet, who dresses as a man and falls in love with a beautiful woman. Villanelle (who makes the heart of Henri, Napoleon’s cook, do flip flops) is the daughter of a Venetian gondolier. Sounds lush and lively, don’t ya think?

Alan Roy Scott, who founded a unique non-profit called *Music Bridges...Over Troubled Waters*, organized a visit to Cuba by 48 U.S. artists from a range of popular music genres—who spent a week collaborating with 45 Cuban stars, culminating in a concert in the Karl Marx Theatre in Havana. Scott is obviously a guy who doesn’t take no for an answer. The 37-year-old U.S. embargo of Cuba has nearly eliminated cross-border cultural exchanges. The last live performance by Americans was the 1979 Havana Jams concert by Billy Joel and Rita Coolidge. Among those participating in the recent visit to Cuba, which Scott describes as “a spiritual destination,” were the Indigo Girls, Joan Osborne, Bonnie Raitt, Peter Dinklage and James Taylor. And who were the Cubans most excited to see? Montell Jordan and Spearhead’s Michael Franti. As one fan enthused: “Everybody here lives and dies for hip-hop!”

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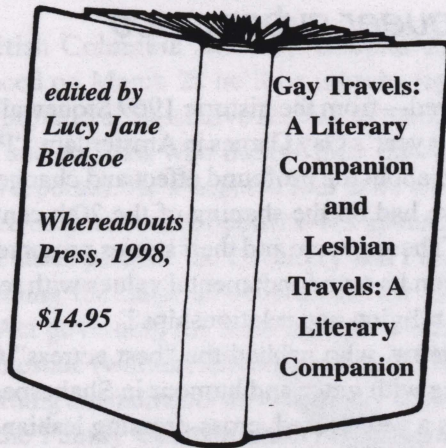
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Journeys Within, Without and All About

by Maddy Aramis



Good literary travel writing takes the reader beyond the images featured in glitzy brochures. Journeys described are as often about exploring the hinterlands of the Self as they are about roaming the far-flung corners of the globe. Two new collections of literary travel writing, both edited by Lucy Jane Bledsoe, add another dimension to this genre. Each author whose work is included writes from a gay or lesbian perspective and, as a result, a fascinating juxtaposition occurs as we read simultaneously about the strangeness of foreign lands and the universality of gay culture.

Initially, Bledsoe had planned to create a single anthology of travel writing from a homosexual perspective. Overwhelmed with the volume of quality submissions, the project became two separate volumes. What a shame the men's and women's voices were segregated! Both volumes feature strong, evocative writing, and glimpses of a wide range of cultures and geographic locations. From a Chinese bathhouse described in "Invading Their Space," a story by Philip Gambone, to Sonja Franeta's "Amazon Sisters on the Trans-Siberian Railroad," the desire for making contact with our own crosses gender boundaries. The differences in the ways men and women travel are just as interesting as the commonality of experience.

"We went to the Alhambra for dinner.... I sat next to a rather stuffy American tourist and his disapproving wife. They listened to our conversation and I, realizing this, began to exaggerate the content. 'He took me right up the arse,' I said, 'and afterwards he thanked me for giving him such a good fucking...' The American and his wife hardly moved a muscle. 'We've got a leopard-skin rug in the flat and he wanted me to fuck him on that,' I said in an undertone that was perfectly audible to the next table. 'Only I'm afraid of the spunk, you see, it might adversely affect the spots of the leopard.' ... And then with excitement I said, "He might bite a hole in the rug. It's the writhing he does, you see, when my prick is up him that might grievously damage the rug, and I can't ask him to control his excitement. It wouldn't be natural when

you're six inches up the bum, would it?' The American couple frigidly paid for their coffee and moved away."

From *Tangier Diary* by Joe Orton

Where the men's descriptions often walk the razor's edge between exotic and anonymous physical pleasure-seeking and the fear (or reality) of death and dying, the women are consumed with the desire to 'communicate' and connect' one soul sister to another.

"And I write to her, 'I wish I could send you a hazelnut torte or a tarte au citron. I wish I could send you the way the sunlight falls on the baskets of women in town, or make a gift of the sound of bells on dimanche.' I tremble when I hear a bit of Spanish, the language she still speaks in her sleep. Or when I see a cat that reminds me of our cat. To touch a cat. She will bring the cat, of course. And the absentee ballots... I miss her. I am acutely lonely here without her. I am the American woman, toute seule, in the Chinese hat."

From *The American Woman in the Chinese Hat* by Carole Maso

This is certainly not to say the men's writing is without soul. Achim Nowak's story, *Jungle Fever* speaks volumes of the hugeness and the terrors of falling in love. By the same token, there is certainly spice in the grrrlz' writing—Audre Lourde's description of making love to a woman called Eudora in Mexico in her story, *Zami* is rather delightful.

Both the men's and the women's work accomplished exactly what I look for in travel literature—a clear image in my mind of a place beyond my realm of experience, and the stimulation of an intense desire to pack my bags and go somewhere. Unfortunately, since the books are clearly being target marketed along gender lines, the lesbians are likely to miss out on the experiences of their traveling gay counterparts and the men will never know how lesbian couples get around the problem of two single beds in a foreign hotel room...

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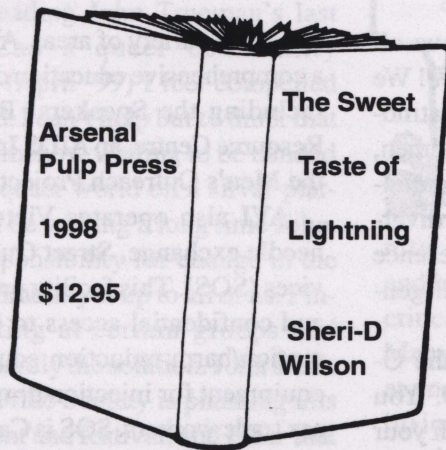
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Journeys...



Poetry is the ultimate in mind travel and Sheri-D Wilson's latest collection certainly took me to some interesting places. By turn political, sensual, sarcastic, hilarious and seriously sinister, Wilson cruises through a plethora of life experiences with her characteristically cacophonous, jazz-induced tumbling tempos and chock-a-block fulla' hot shock word collages. She entertains even as she challenges, complains, rhapsodizes and cajoles, all the while merrily clashing up against any stereotypes and preconceived notions one might have of poetry as being stultified or stuffily dignified.

I challenge you to get through the poems in this collection without starting to tap your foot and read aloud. Wilson's talents as a performance poet resonate despite the restrictions and limitations of the printed page.

"I'm sick of being a sex trainer
teaching new dogs old dog tricks
if you gotta get whipped into shape
you got the wrong girl at the right gym
no more backwoods sex-lug hicks
no way
not in this girl's lucid love life
I swear, I'm not goin' there
if you don't have the goods
and throw them down right here
you can forget it
I'm movin' onto happier hormones
from I'm Sick of Being a Sex Trainer

There is a directness, immediacy and irreverence in this collection. Reading it is a bit like being swept along a stretch of whitewater without a paddle—you really can't control what's coming at you around the next bend—and that's what makes it worth navigating!

Whether thrilling, a bit scary or purely amusing, each image is bright with the kind of intensity that comes from living on the edge.

"There's Mother un-nerving neighbour
the size of a candy bar machine
with pencil thin lips and a three-tooth smile
a well-armoured oral compulsive
bag of chips in her mouth all the while—crunching
always followed by a slurping sound
no underwear—drip marks on the floor
catch the occasional off-putting flash
the periodical whiff, what panties are for"

from *The De Sade Family Escapes Saltana Research Site*
and *They Move in Next Door*"

Though Wilson's comedic pieces are as strong as ever, the real growth this collection is in the more serious poems. Tackling topics like stalking in *Zebra Faces of Men Who Have Escaped From the Zoo* and domestic violence in *He Was A Hothead*, Wilson demonstrates a potency, complexity and maturity not fully realized in earlier collections.

For those who have not had the pleasure of seeing Wilson in performance, check out <http://www.banffcentre.ab.ca/CFA/Cascade/del2.htm> where Sheri-D communes with crowd imagery in front of a waterfall.

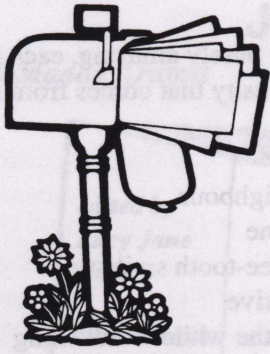
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Letters to the Editors

Totally Everybody

Dear Barb:

I would like to respond to your article "Spotlight on the Spot," specifically the lines One of the great places to meet is our own clubhouse. "It is free of any outside influences—totally lesbian."

I would like to inform your readership that although it is true the WCN/G-Spot was founded by three women who identify as lesbian, and my perception is that the majority of women who frequent the Spot are indeed lesbian, (whose company and friendship I love and enjoy), there are some women who are not, who fall all along the whole continuum of sexual orientation. All women are welcome. I think unity in diversity means exactly that.

May I quote from the Women's Creative Network (at the G-Spot), membership form? It states Our Purpose: To establish a place which will provide support, safety and affinity to our community. Our community is all women along the continuum of diversity, whether they identify as lesbian, dyke, gay, bisexual, straight or otherwise, as well as all transsexual and

transgendered individuals. Above all else, the G-Spot is *women's space!* We aim to cultivate an empowering atmosphere for women who love women, where enterprise, creativity and enthusiasm abound, while celebrating diversity, including the occasional presence of respectful men at designated all-gender events.

I am glad that you consider the G-Spot your clubhouse, me too. You brighten my life and the Spot with your presence and I want you to know how thankful I am for you!

I remain yours most sincerely,
Karen Wreggitt
Regular Events Co-Ordinator
WCN/G-Spot

Must Watch My "Shorthand" (Parentheses in Zorya's story mine).

Dear Barbara and Michael:

In a recent article in the Lavender Rhinoceros, "VARCS Looks at Future of AIDS Care" (April '99), it was stated that VARCS was concerned with caregiving to the sick and that AVI was concerned with information and prevention. This statement is not quite accurate. The mission of AIDS Vancouver Island is to confront Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), prevent its spread through education, support all those affected by the disease, and advocate on their behalf.

AIDS Vancouver Island offers ser-

vices in a variety of areas. AVI features a comprehensive education department, including the Speakers' Bureau, the Resource Centre, an AIDS Infoline, and the Men's Outreach Project.

AVI also operates Victoria's only needle exchange, Street Outreach Services (SOS). This facility provides free and confidential access to health promotion/harm reduction education and equipment for injection drug users and sex trade workers. SOS is Canada's first needle exchange and one of the most successful. SOS also houses a CHR Health Street Nurse three days per week to do HIV testing and a variety of health promotion initiatives. AIDS Vancouver Island's Client Services department is actively involved in issues related to those living with HIV/AIDS.

Client Services offers short-term solution-focused counseling, advocacy, referral services and meal services. The meal services program at AIDS Vancouver Island serves more than 500 lunches every month. The department is also in the process of establishing the Food Store program, a project that will provide bulk food products, paper products, shampoo and laundry products to people who are HIV positive and are living on a low fixed income.

As you can see AIDS Vancouver Island is concerned with more than just information and prevention.

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Ruthann Tucker, Exec. Director

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More On John's Views

To the Editors:

After reading John Trueman's last piece "Can a queer community change?" (April '99) I feel compelled to respond. I can't help but to think that John is somehow waiting to be handed a perfect queer world on a silver platter. You'll be waiting a long time John.

The responsibility for change in the queer community is up to all of us. Finger pointing at certain groups and events is hardly the solution. John states that "the Pride Society is planning this year's event and festival, and I fear that the dance won't be all ages." For your information John the dance was all ages and it was in fact advertised as such.

As for your statement "less than quarter of pride events are held outside bars. We need to do better." That's right John WE need to do better, and that includes YOU. If you don't like the way pride is being run, then get involved. I have been actively involved for three years, along with a handful of others. We're tired, we're cranky and we're fed up with being told we're not doing enough. We happen to be doing what we can with what resources (time, money and energy) we have. As far as saying "As always, VYPS is told that we are more than welcome to organise our own event. Not good enough, I say." What is good enough for you? Should we ask your personal opinion, consult with you and then implement a plan? I can assure you that the Pride Society does not sit around contemplating ways to exclude and stigmatise gay youth. Quite the opposite actually.

I can't help but to think that many of the issues you raise in your article are issues related to you personally. Your statements about gay youth fearing and distrusting older community members, and seeing older gay men only as predatory are based on fear and ignorance. YOUR fear and ignorance. You state unequivocally that the queer community can't expect to be accepted by society if we aren't accepting of our own diversity and then you turn around and



Letters

categorise older gay men as predators. Say it with me John—Hypocrite.

The reality is that the queer community is not perfect. We have a long and bumpy road ahead of us. Armchair critics pointing fingers are not helping. Many people in the queer community at one time or another have been disillusioned or even suicidal, not just youth. Take a long hard look at the big picture and remember that you have a very important role, as we all do, in developing the future of the queer community.

**Sincerely,
Stacy Leblanc**

And More...

As a political activist & organizer in Victoria's queer community for the past six years i felt compelled to respond to John Trueman's article "Can a queer community change". i beg to differ with Truman's experience—many of us have been putting on events for youth for years. As coordinator & chair of UVics LGBA for 3 years, *Everything* (except for the one dance) we did was for all ages—we had coming out groups, coffee houses, dances, lectures, movie nights, socials, etc.—which Trueman full knows since he was part of this group during my last year @ UVic (the same year that the dance was first done). Interesting that i was the outspoken person that year regarding the dance (being all of 40 years old!) the dance seemed to be something that (i felt) the 'younger' ones wanted, even though it was the first event that my daughter wouldn't be allowed at. My point is that many people @ UVic were putting on events for all ages. As for the Pride Society—again i have been involved for over 5 years & all ages inclusively is the reason that we had the coffee house @ Java every year & that the dance was

all ages (& will be again this year) & that there is no beer garden on Pride Day & that there is bowling & volleyball & baseball & many more things to do that all ages can go to. Yes the bars do many events for Pride & yes the Pride Society is involved in some of them but our focus has never been to "exclude" youth—in fact i would say that it has been the total opposite. i know that the majority of events that i have been involved with in Victoria for the last 6 years have been for all ages—& how do i know that? Because i have taken my daughter to them who is much younger than Trueman. But i grow weary of all this back stabbing & complaining—when are we going to learn to stop eating our own? i am not saying that as queers we can't criticize each other, but i am tired of that being the constant focus & energy between various groups. The Pride Society & us old dykes & fags are not your enemy, Trueman, & maybe if you came to a meeting sometime you would find that out.

lisaj lander

And More...

I am writing this letter on behalf of the 1999 GrooveFest Organization Committee in response to concerns regarding this year's festival which was mentioned in the article by John Trueman, April, 1999. We are sorry to hear that you are, once again, disappointed with the GrooveFest committee.

However, I think this letter will clarify some serious misunderstandings and possibly suggest a suitable remedy for your concerns.

First and foremost, it is crucial to realize that in no way have the GrooveFest organizers misled your organization as to the intention of this event. Ultimately, the GrooveFest is a fund-raiser that focuses its attention on raising money for groups that are in desperate need of funding such as the Women of Our People Native Sexual Assault Centre.

Cont'd next page

Therefore, in keeping this motive in mind, we have done our most to make sure that these organizations receive as much funding as we can possibly acquire. Of course, the show is directed at all members of the community in order to contest mainstream conventions and stereotypes. Furthermore, the GrooveFest is a celebration of the diversity and beauty within us all. We do realize that there are shortage of events that have this direction and provide a comfortable place for queer youth yet, the GrooveFest is not "a dance" created for the sole reason of accommodating youth.



Ideally, we would have liked the GrooveFest to be open to all members of the community, regardless of their age however, with an event such as this it is not possible. The GrooveFest is somewhat of a sex-oriented show which features nudity, obscenity, sexually suggestive content, and where alcohol is served. I am sure that you will agree that this material may not be suitable for an all ages arena, especially when parental/authoritative concerns come into play. If we had chosen to place no restrictions on the event than we would be allowing ourselves to be liable for any concerns that were raised as to the inappropriateness of such an event for all ages. In any case, I do not want you to be under the impression that your issues were not addressed as once again, the organization committee decided that it would not be a viable option for an event of this kind.

Perhaps, if your organization feels so strongly about the apparent exclusion of queer youth from the GrooveFest your organization committee could plan an event similar to ours. The UVic Women's Centre would be willing to offer volunteers and organizational assistance if you choose to do this. It seems that VYPS feels really strongly about the need for an event catered to the members of your group and therefore, you should take some strong ac-

Letters...

tion to provide such an event. I cannot conceive of any reason why this initiative could not be acted upon.

It is my understanding that representatives of the Women's Centre have in fact made a serious effort to work in coalition with your organization but there has been a lack of initiative on your part. You may have forgotten that the GrooveFest 98 Committee asked for VYPS involvement, to which your organization agreed to and a coffeehouse was held in conjunction with the Emily newspaper. Therefore, VYPS and GrooveFest has had prior involvement although this event was not well attended and did not generate significant funds. The GrooveFest Committee nevertheless, fulfilled their obligation as they provided sponsorship and considerable promotions regarding the coffeehouse. Specifically, there has been a prior conversation between Uvic Women's Centre Coordinator Shawannah Farkas and John Trueman as to involvement from your group yet, there was no follow up measures or subsequent initiative taken. The GrooveFest organizers have responded repeatedly to your requests, offered support, space and assistance.

Therefore, I think that you are somewhat confused by suggesting that the Women's Centre and the GrooveFest has not addressed your concerns.

Furthermore, as you can imagine that in organizing an event of this magnitude the organization committees attention has been focused on concerns pertaining to the actual event and thus, it should have been the responsibility of your members to take an active part in becoming involved in the planning of the event.

Finally, the GrooveFest is established to enhance inclusion of various groups and people within our community and for this reason an advisory committee was created to oversee the planning of the event. Your members were invited to participate on this committee.

Moreover, it is unfortunate that you find the Women's Centre to have "failed in our responsibility to be open and accessible to all members of the community" because we believe that we are doing all we can in terms of reaching out to a diverse range of people. At the risk of sounding repetitive, it must be noted once again that nowhere in the GrooveFest mandate does it say, or even suggest, that this event is directed towards all ages. I am sorry that you find this event fails to meet the goals of your organization. Furthermore, it must be understood that the Women's Centre can similarly state that we find your organization to fail to take significant action to enforce your goals. In other words, it seems to be an easier task to blame and be held unaccountable for the shortcomings of your own behavior.

I am also angered by the fact that you see the GrooveFest as an act of intentional exclusion of certain groups of the community, namely youth. I am sure that a calm and rational examination of this situation will show otherwise. It is absurd to claim that all events that only permit people of legal age, especially in the cases of alcohol being served, as intentional acts of exclusion. If this were the case you should also be attacking various venues like gay night clubs and so forth.

In conclusion, I feel that your disappointment as to the exclusion of gay youth from numerous areas of the community is valid and understandable.

However, I do not feel that being angry with the GrooveFest committee is an appropriate way to solve this problem. We have never stated or even implied that this issue is "the burden" of VYPS alone and if this is how your chair members feel than you have problems that extend beyond the scope of this letter.

**Sincerely, Amana Manori,
Events, Co-ordinator and
Shawannah Farkas Uvic
Women's Centre Coordinator**

There Is A Men's Community...

Opinion

by Gerald Walton

Although we have never met, Barbara, I wanted to drop a line about a particular issue. Before I specify that issue, I would also like to say that I respect the fact that you are very "out" in the community, and are working very hard in community activism in ways that the grand majority of LGBTQ people do not. That said, I have also heard various grumblings about your perception of gay men in Victoria, specifically that gay men tend not to be involved in "community building" or political activism.

While I do not want to appear confrontational, I feel, nevertheless, compelled to ask: How would you know? You are not a gay man, and therefore

you have a very limited view of what being a gay man in this city is all about (I myself don't identify with the word "man", but that's a topic for another time). Just as I have a very limited view of the various lesbian communities (because there is no such thing as a singular "community"), and resist making broad generalizations, you, too, should be aware of your limitations when it comes to making statements about gay men in Victoria and elsewhere.

My hope is that you won't take this personally because we have never met and I don't know you personally. It is my hope that you will, in the future, draw less on inaccurate dualities (lesbian "community building" vs. gay men's lack thereof) and more on diversity.

My own experience in this city is a case in point. I have never affiliated myself with any particular LGBTQ group (for reasons that aren't relevant here), but I have been very

politically active in this city nonetheless. I am as "out" as one can possibly be. I could send you a resume detailing my political activism, including newspaper articles, radio interviews, public speaking, and networking (such as forming opposition against Kari Simpson).

I am researching and writing a masters thesis on identity politics, Christianity, and homosexuality. I have an intricate

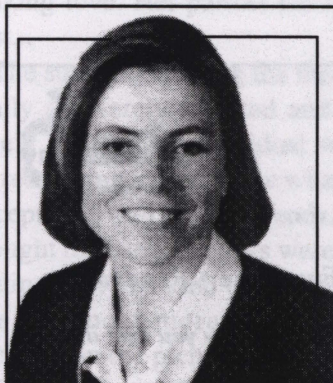
web of gay male friends and acquaintances throughout Victoria—a diverse crowd indeed. When I walk through James Bay or the Cook St. Village, inevitably I run into a fellow fag, or more, in the hood, and we chat about our lives, our work, and our relationships. Such informal

meetings are part of "community building". Such networks would largely go unnoticed by other people, such as yourself, who are not gay men. Most of the ways in which we "build communities" are not formalized or reflected through group representation (such as Pride, for example). My partner of almost three years, who lives in Vancouver, is also very politically active. In spite of my networking, community-building, and political activism, you have never called me up to ask about my political work and political perspectives, probably because I am not a "member" of a formalized group, and therefore go unnoticed.

My point here is not to toot my own horn, but rather to point out that, as a non-gay man, you have a limited view of what goes on among gay men. I am hoping that you will respect such limitations when it comes to writing or talking about gay men in the future.



I have also heard various grumblings about your perception of gay men in Victoria, specifically that gay men tend not to be involved in "community building" or political activism.



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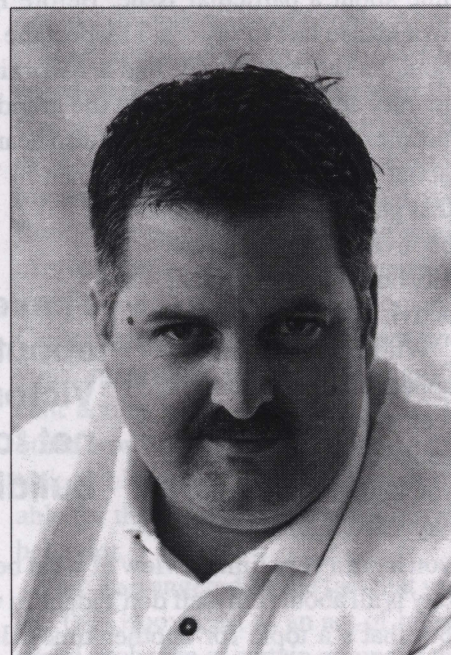
Who are his clients?

Michael assists entrepreneurs and people in career transitions. He has found that "because a lot of small business owners work alone, they need to talk about their goals/visions, and get and share ideas with another person."

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What has contributed to Michael's success?

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whatever I say I want, comes to me quickly and easily." Michael also recognizes his incredible support network. Michael's unique style and his attention to spiritual principles and practices makes him stand out as a coach.

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Viewing The Movies

By Melaney Black

First, a little update. Pic-A-Flic now has Glenn Close and Judi Davis in the Streisand-produced docudrama *To Serve in Silence*. The story is interesting and apparently accurately told, but as a portrayal of a lesbian relationship it's somewhat lacking. Mind you, the focus was Margarethe's life as a whole, not just the relationship that proved her integrity.

Your Friends and Neighbours (S) for lesbian/gay subplot. This is a commercial release featuring a very Woody Allenesque Ben Stiller. It was written and directed by Neil LaBute, previously of *In The Company of Men*, and uses a similarly cold treatment of human relationships.

The plot, such as it is, revolves around the sexual neuroses of five friends, all of whom are so fundamentally emotionally disconnected that their intimate relationships are in shambles. Told mostly from the men's points of view, the somewhat predictable and somewhat pathetic consequences of lusting outside an established relationship ensue.

The lesbian relationship is between Jerry Stiller's erstwhile partner, played by Catherine Keener, and Nastassia Kinski. The best said about it is that it still exists by the end of the movie, the only relationship that does—after a fashion. It works because Kinski apparently doesn't make a lot of noise when making love. Her partner really hates that...

The superstud among the men is actually a severely closeted and explosively misogynist individual who has no redeeming human value whatsoever except his loyalty to his friends. Sigh. I thought mainstream flicks were finally getting past this kind of portrayal. He has the most morally ambivalent speeches in the picture.

Stiller sleeps with the wife of his impotent jock best friend and another

relationship bites the dust. The wife, who jilts Stiller and leaves her husband, sleeps with Superstud because she feels so badly. He, an amoral cretin in a compassionless sexual wasteland, makes her feel worse.

In short, this was someone's idea for a slice-of-life urban 90s drama that will put you to sleep before it entertains or enlightens you. No one is likable, no one grows, and love is a word you say to keep your sex partner available. Yawn. See what I mean.

Of Love and Human Remains (S) for lesbian/gay subplot. In contrast, this Canadian flick has shades of heart. Typical of Brad Fraser scripts, the heart is perpetually kinked and makes for occasional great wit and interesting viewing as a variety of people try to figure out who's where on the sexual continuum. David's a professional fag, Candy his lonely but loving het roommate, Bernie his moody friend. Benita's the neighbourhood psychic dom, Kane the underage busboy in love with David, and both married bartender/philanderer Robert and lesbian jock Jerri are after Candy. If it isn't twisted, it isn't alive.

Everyone has their moments from flip to frightening as life at its most embarrassing competes with secrets we'd rather not see. Quibbles include the serial murderer subplot, a waste of film that cast shadows without true purpose. This film did not need a melodramatic device to justify itself cinematically because the whole human relationship dynamic is ultimately melodramatic. And there were certainly conflicts enough to satisfy. That aside, *Remains* was well-filmed, and despite the numerous subplots very clear in execution. Knock out the serial murderer and it would be a good compendium of emotional self-discoveries.

Another Way: Hungary (L) - foreign films section, won the Cannes Festival Critic's Prize in 1982, and for good reason. The movie is gripping and humane in its portrayal of the many shades of repression in a culture yearning for freedom. Set in Hungary in the late 1950s and early 60s, it chronicles the growing relationship between two women and the consequences of such a liaison.

Eva is a young, brash journalist whose drive to report the truth keeps her newspaper boss on his toes and her on professional probation. Truth is a very relative and dangerous thing in Budapest. Livia, who works at the same paper in a clerical capacity, is the wife of a loyal communist army officer.

At first resistant to her interest in the more aggressive Eva, Livia comes to realize that what she feels is real and significant to her.

Another Way is moving and startling, sensual and poignant. Its intensity is unrelenting and the performances of both Jadwiga Jankowska-Cieslak as Eva and Grazyna Szapolowska as Livia are excellent.

It's a good reminder of how lucky we are in this country to have the freedoms we do, and how we must fight for those who don't.



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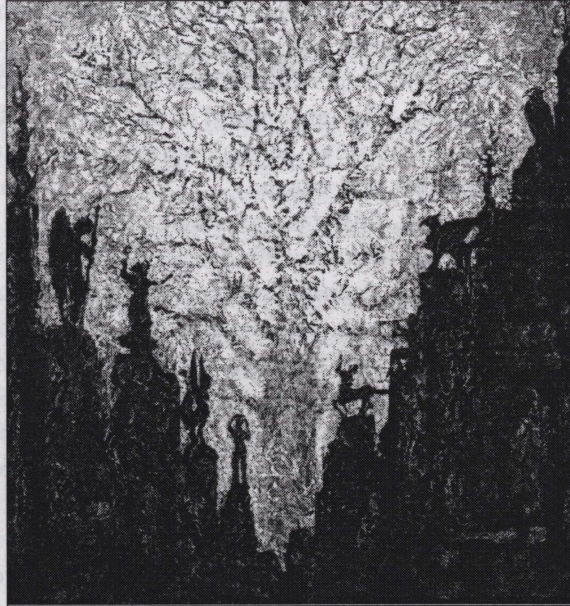


Salt Spring Island

Metamorphosis - an interview with Miles Lowry

by Michael Yoder

I met Miles in his studio apartment, a working space full of images and colour and the smells of art, where he lives with his partner David Ferguson, "the Knower of Everything," as Miles calls him. The space is cluttered with half completed projects and show pieces. A full-sized torso of a woman who seems to be transforming into some kind of tree, New Guinea Tribesmen painted and fierce alongside Celtic Warrior women and tattooed male figures. We know Miles for his sculpture and mask work, but there are other media he works with as well.



Miles is working on pieces for a show called Breathing Spaces. The show will be one of landscapes. "When I'm travelling," he explains, "places interest me. Here (in Victoria) I can go to places in my head," but when he travels it is the mystical in the landscapes which attracts him. His medium of choice for his paintings of late is rice paper.

"It's easy to travel with, light and durable." The effect in the technique of crumpling the rice paper, section by section, and then applying paint, gives the work depth and texture. Miles has been using Chinese brushes and

We sat on a sofa by a window and Miles began to tell me about his work. The way he talks about his art is the way his art seems to unfold—a fascinating story which evolves through time. Before embarking on a month long trip to Ireland to work at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, a centre where artists of all kinds live and work in the green countryside,

is striving to create "brush strokes that are organic—the technique is intentional, but gives the effect of being not intentional. You have to really know the paper."

Another project on which Lowry is working is a 10' X 20' painting called The Taking of Ireland. This work is inspired by the Celtic mythology which runs throughout his work, and depicts a battle between the invading Celts and the Spirit Beings who inhabited Ireland before them. He explained that he wanted the challenge of this kind of "epic" painting. And the theme, a battle scene with horses and bodies in conflict, and people changing into birds is new territory for Miles. The painting makes a statement about the war-like qualities of people, that it is human nature to be "aggressive and vicious, as well as being beautiful, loving and caring. It brings together the ideas of the Spirit and the Flesh in conflict."

Themes for Miles evolve through the art and develop gradually into something more substantial. While he has been influenced by artists such as Jack Wise and Chin Chek, the depth of Lowry's work and the spirituality and discovery which shape it continues. In his words, "I have to rely on the whole body of my work to say who I am."

And for those who admire his art and find the same discovery, we learn a little more with each show.

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The Tiny Perfect Festival

by Geneva Jones

The day dawned bright and sunny; the garden beckoned. The Roxy, however, beckoned more. How could I miss Victoria's First International Lesbian & Feminist Film Festival?

First up, *I The Worst of All*, the story of Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, 17th century Mexican nun, celebrated poet of the Spanish golden age.

Sor Juana chose the convent over a traditional life in order to pursue her scientific and literary studies. She brought glory to the convent and was allowed to write and study, and given free reign to entertain her friends and patrons, the vicereine and vicereine.

Her intense friendship with the vicereine is the source of the sexual tension in the film. Alas, a slight loosening of the vicereine's bodice and a chaste kiss were about it for the promised "Lesbian passion seething behind convent walls..." Set almost entirely within cloister walls, the film instilled a feeling of claustrophobia in this intrepid reporter. A difficult but worthwhile film.

Watermelon Woman definitely delivered on the lesbian passion. Cheryl Dunye's film-within-a-film follows our protagonist through several weeks of research into the life of a black actress billed simply as Watermelon Woman in a number of "race films" in the 30's and 40's.

Cheryl and most of her friends are black; her new girlfriend is white. She discovers that the Watermelon Woman also had a white lover. Cheryl's best friend objects to the new white girlfriend. When Cheryl finally meets friends and family of the Watermelon Woman and her lover, no one wants to talk about the 50-year-old affair. The more things change, the more they remain the same. An enjoyable film.

It's In The Water was the crowd favourite, but I found it contrived and over-the-top in its stereotypical portrayal of ... heterosexuals! The gays are all sensitive, helpful types and most of the straights are idiots and/or bigots. But hey, you don't have to take my word

for it. It's in the Water is available on video; you can judge for yourself.

The last was a Korean film *Hot Roof*, in which a group of women accidentally kill an abusive husband on the hottest day of the century. The women take refuge on the roof of an apartment building and manage to hold the police at bay for days. Thanks to a female television reporter the women become a national cause célèbre.

Meanwhile, the women bicker with each other and complain about the heat and their lives. One woman is an outcast simply because she is single and lives alone, apparently still a rarity in Korea. Another woman is an outcast for quite a different reason. Eventually, the women bond and find an honourable solution to their predicament. *Hot Roof* was my favourite of the festival.

Congratulations and thanks to festival organizers Jannit Rabinovitch, Cynthia Callahan, Lee Ker, Judy Lightwater and Mary Jane Thibeault. Plans are already underway for the Second Annual Victoria International Lesbian & Feminist Festival. Contact the committee if you'd like to get involved.

Talent Show To Raise Rhino Funds

From poetry to Boogaloo, *Sweet Dreams Are Made Of You* is one event you won't want to miss. Carolina Choy promises a grand finale for her farewell concert and dance at UVic's SUB in the All-Purpose Room. (Carolina is moving to Vancouver.) The event is all-gender with host Joe Carlson. Curtain is at 8 p.m. and this event is a fund-raiser for the Lavender Rhinoceros. Guys, this is a fun chance to see lesbian humour and dance in action. And Youth, there will be no booze at this event.

Tickets at \$12 are at Munro's and include entertainment, catered snacks and dancing. A bargoon!! Recording artist Jackie Washington is featured.

Talent for the event includes: Lyn Davis is busy transplanting herself from Tallahassee, Florida, to Vancouver Island. A life-long lesbian terrorist, she

has spent most of her days writing legislation, program evaluations, and audits, and most of her nights writing autobiographical poetry and short fiction. At 50, she is smack in the midst of a mid-life correction — she refuses to call it a mid-life crisis—and hopes Canadian immigration will receive her with the same degree of graciousness as has the Victoria lesbian community.

Meredith McLeod has a twisted way of looking at things, especially womanly things. After somewhere near 37 years, she has finally figured out the mind/body connection—"Yes, necking is the answer! Oh, yes, that and, ...you know, I got in touch with my body. I mean, I really started feeling myself, ...you know, on a truly deep level." Shy, and a nymphomaniac, Meredith has had to develop socially

accepted coping skills including shared joyful arousal and group fun love. "I enjoy singing and making people laugh and think... before, during, and after sex." She looks forward to further developing her techniques with you. "Stand-up techniques are definitely the most challenging," she admits.

Betty Krawczyk has been dancing the Bayou Boogaloo ever since she can remember. This wild, body-jiggling dance was born of two cultures—African and Cajun and Betty discovered it growing up in Louisiana. Normally she dances The Bayou Boogaloo with her daughters, but this time she's found a sidekick who has discovered the joys of shaking it up with Betty on Tuesday afternoons. Co-founder of the Canadian Party of Women and author of *Clayoquot*, *Song of My Heart*, Betty has been a real mover and shaker within our own community. Let 'er rip.

Oven Lovin'

By chef Marcia Hicks

It doesn't matter what type of dyke you are, butch, diesel or femme, we all like our tools. God help the car full of lesbians who get a flat tire as they fight over who gets to change it.

So, I'm right aren't I? I can see you all knowingly nodding your heads, as you reminisce about that belt of gadgets that you lovingly sport around your waist. Or perhaps it's how you ritualistically shine up your toolbox on Sunday afternoons. Maybe you're an artistic dyke and love nothing better than an evening of welding up some concoction outta treasures found at the junk yard, or building a useless piece of furniture with the scraps from your last project, just so you could use your tools.

Well, I'm no different. I just trade my drill for a mixer, my chisel for a spatula. When it comes to me and cooking, it is really only an excuse to use my tools. I can putter about all day, creating crazed conglomerations. And much to the horror of my dear girlfriend, I generally

end up using every tool and implement in the house.

If I could make one recommendation to the kitchen-illiterate about tools, it is this. PLEASE get some proper knives! By this, I do not mean the K-Mart special grab bin variety, nor (shock of all shocks) the ever-sharp ones either. These are all essentially not worth the \$2.99 that you spent, unless of course you believe in disposable knives. Spend the extra money and get a decent one, one with a good weight and a guarantee, and you'll be rewarded with many years of fine service. And if you invest in a sharpening steel, you'll have loads of fun, and maybe even impress your dates when you use it!

Another recommendation would be to use the right knife for the job. You wouldn't use a Phillips screwdriver on a Robertson screw, now would ya? Well, why the heck do you chop herbs with a paring knife, or cut bread with a filet knife? I see this so often I want to

cry. Even if you are the type who would rather get the bags of pre-cut salad mixes, you can still benefit from a range, albeit small, of knives. The utter basics are as follows: a paring knife, large enough to cut through cheese, but small enough to maneuver when peeling: a large serrated knife, not too flexible or slicing anything more substantial than Wonder Bread will be annoying and only render sizes unfitting to the average toaster. The all versatile cook's knife, also known as the French blade, needs a good curve on it so one can get a fair rocking motion when chopping onions, as well as a wide enough blade so that your fingers don't get crunched on the down stroke.

So have I changed your mind? Are you now thinking bad thoughts about those knives you only minutes ago thought to be your friends, and are now wondering what you will do with them? Well, I have the answer. You need not feel bad about abandoning them as I hear they make great gardening tools!

Any questions or comments? E-mail me at bakerwench@hotmail.com

Med Grill Rarely Empty....and For Good Reason

by Gary Murphy

It is quite beautiful to walk into this more Mediterranean than Mediterranean foyer to such a haute grandeur style. Upon entering the open foyer you are pleasantly greeted and taken to your table. I suggest a reservation be in order as I dine early and the place was beginning to fill. I have passed by the Med Grill on many an occasion and at different times of the day and have yet to find it empty, and I now know why this is so. Besides the opulent décor, ceramic tile floors, fountain and an abundance of flora, it's the food. The food is prepared in a faggot oven (now, now) and the flavour that imparts to the food is particular to Mediterranean cuisine and unobtainable through any other means but the oven.

We were ushered to the balcony overlooking the entire restaurant and the kitchen, being open to view, was easily seen from our vantage point. The ambiance was warm and friendly; the space was open and airy; but, the noise and music seemed to echo a little too loudly for my taste and it was a little too brightly lit for dinner. As well, heat rises, and the balcony was a tad warm. However, the food made me forget about these small matters.

For starters we ordered the Med Bread Special, hot foccacia with three wonderful spreads; the basil dip was out of this world. I confess I have never tasted anything quite so exciting to my taste-buds.

I had a very good cream of aspara-

gus soup and a small Greek Salad, which I thoroughly enjoyed. My dining partner that evening ordered the Smoked chicken Penné with Gorgonzola Cream Sauce. The smoked chicken was quite a strong flavour, which balanced nicely with the tang of the Gorgonzola. I had to try some of his meal, of course; the pasta was al dente, and the sauce was exquisite.

For Desert a light cheesecake served with a fresh strawberry coulis.

I would rate this restaurant highly: certainly a five. Over all the food is rich and authentic in its preparation and taste and the pricing is moderate with appetizers ranging from \$5 to \$8 and the Entrées from \$9.95 to about \$18.00. They also have Daily Special.

Island Rainbow

By Zorya Plaskin

Last year's (EGALE) bash was commonly referred to as a Faggoty Dress-Up Party, an allusion to some nasty/stupid comment by a judge back East. This year, the party doesn't have a name yet, at least not at deadline. But the group organising it does now.

Since "The No-Name Group" has been two years in the making, this year's bash is a Second Birthday Party. And, since it's taken two years for it to find its direction and momentum—and now, a name—the May dinner-dance fling is Island Rainbow's coming-out party, too. It's May 15th, at the Fairfield Community Place—the same venue as last year's festivities, same wonderful caterers. Dancing and door prizes. All for \$20. Call Lee Fuge at 385-7974 or Lawrence Aronovitch at 475-0811.

Island Rainbow is a local/regional manifestation which is finding itself under the umbrella of Rainbow BC, an assemblage of existing groups across the province. Rainbow BC came together at a conference in Kelowna about three years ago. "Lately, it's been a forum for discussions about where we are—politically, and otherwise—and where we are going in BC," says Lawrence Aronovitch, who's pretty much been the focal point so far of Island Rainbow. As well as looking at provincial issues, Island Rainbow is also concerned about local affairs, and may find itself working in rainbow fashion with other collectivities in the future, such as on Pacific Northwest matters if the need arises.

Readers are allowed to be confused about Island Rainbow's origins, particularly if they've thought the things the Rainbow has been working on were really EGALE activities. Aronovitch traces Island Rainbow's roots back to May 28, 1997—hence the second-birthday aspect of this year's fund-raising bash—when the Pride Society and EGALE called a special meeting at the James Bay Community Centre. From that came a working group, which considered itself at the time to be doing EGALE's business on the local level by alerting the Victoria community to the impending visit by

family values extremist Kari Simpson, and organising an impressive reception for her when she brought her venomous road show to the Princess Mary Restaurant.

The group continued meeting after the Simpson encounter, and for awhile considered itself to be somehow part of an EGALE network. Truth be told, though, that connection "was more a matter of convenience," partly if not primarily because Aronovitch was "also wearing an EGALE hat" at the time, and partly because there was no formal alternative group then.

If it were not for the debacle over the national survey of lesbians, gays and bisexuals, "it might not have come around to asking, 'What are we going to call ourselves now?'" But that's just a labelling thing," Aronovitch says. "EGALE doesn't really have local chapters," so Island Rainbow was in a way an entity in its own right, right from the very start. Interestingly, many of those under the Rainbow were EGALE members before the survey project went sour; few if any hold membership in the national organisation today. And Island Rainbow's most recent project has been the draw for a weekend at The Blue EWE, as a fund-raiser to save the survey.

This month's dinner-dance is more formally a fund-raiser for Island Rainbow, although helping to achieve completion of the survey is high on the Rainbow's priority list. The coming-out aspect of it is also important, though, since this is the Rainbow's public debut, as it were.

"I think one of the difficulties we've had," Aronovitch says, "is getting enough people together in the same place at the same time. We need to somehow galvanise people, to get together and contribute to Island Rainbow's evolution." Today, there are more than 30 people on the Rainbow's telephone tree, with a core group of more than a dozen who make most of the monthly meetings. The group hopes the Rainbow will expand from now on, and evolve into an important and effective community forum.

The Rainbow is accessible at ila@islandnet.com. Queries about meetings, the Blue EWE draw, the dinner-dance fund-raiser, or other relevant matters can also be directed to Lawrence at 475-8011, or Audrey at 598-9711.

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Journal For A Death

By Rowan J. Percy

February 3, 1964

The doctors say Daddy has anaemia. I can't stop thinking that he is dying. How can I know this? I remember how he looked when we hung the decorations just this Christmas: healthy and handsome as always, even though he's 62. He's my anchor; I can talk to him. Fathers aren't supposed to die when you're only 15. I think he was pretending to feel better than he was when my mother and I visited him today. His face looked greenish like his hospital pyjamas. He said he was feeling better. Why can't I believe him?

February 12, 1964, 2.30 p.m.

My mind will not stop stating "your father is dying." On an impulse I leave the classroom between lessons and go to the headmistress's office. When I have told Miss Hibbert that Daddy is dying and I want to see him, she says, "Rowena, this is nonsense. There is nothing wrong with your father. It is time for you to set your priorities straight. Now go back to your studies." How can she say no? She should know I don't make up stories to get out of boarding-school. I resign myself to the classroom.

February 23, 1964

I'm on a visit at home; one of the three allotted per term. My mother says, "I have something I must tell you, Rowena. Your father has leukemia. He doesn't know dear. I keep telling him our plans for the summer, as if he will be better." I don't tell her I already know he is dying. Now that she has declared the truth—and the lie we are to uphold - it all seems harder to comprehend.

March 17, 1964. 11.35 a.m.

I am called down to Central Hall. Miss Hibbert requires me to enter her office. My Uncle Theo is sitting on a chair

close by her bureau. She informs me my father is very ill; I am to leave with my uncle. Our footsteps echo on the worn black and white marble floor of the high ceilinged hall: Uncle's shoes of polished brown leather, just like Daddy's shoes; the clip-clip of Miss Hibbert's shoes as she escorts us to the main school entrance. As she holds the big oak door to the outside world, I look straight up at her long enough for her to know I hate her.

Daddy is dying. Daddy is dying. Now the words resemble a skipping-rope rhyme, its purpose being to keep the rope going around—until someone is tripped. I am relieved Uncle Theo came alone to get me. His presence is gentle. He is driving us home along the cliff top of Bournemouth through

Westbourne, where I go window-shopping and meet my friends in the school holidays, to Canford Cliffs where the roads are wide and quiet and the houses set back from the road. We turn onto Lawrence Drive. I am full of dread. Past

the bigger houses to our semi-bungalow at the end of the asphalt driveway, rows of pansies in the beds either side, small rhododendron bushes planted by my parents in these three years of my father's early retirement; stands of pine trees in the sandy soil. The wisteria is blooming over the front porch. How can life go on, I think numbly.

My father is dying. I know he is lying in the single bed by the window. I thought I wanted to see him, but now I am shaking and my heart is pounding at my chest.

My mother opens the front door. I have never seen her look so defeated. She grasps me silently, briefly, then lets me go. The house smells of antiseptic fluids. "Now, dear, you must realise, he has changed a lot. You can go and see

Cont'd page 19

“Daddy is dying. Daddy is dying. Now the words resemble a skipping-rope rhyme, its purpose being to keep the rope going around—until someone is tripped.”

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Journal For A Death

Cont'd from page 18

him if you like. The nurse says he is in a coma now. He won't be able to talk to you." A solitary tear rolls down her healthy cheek.

In the kitchen my Aunt Hildegard is making lunch. I get myself a glass of fizzy orange. My father is dying, says my mind again. The kitchen cupboards are very red. Daddy's blood is not red enough... "Vell, Rovená", it annoys me that she still cannot pronounce W's, "you are a very good girl to come home and see your Daddy.

I am sure he would be very pleased to know you are here. Now, your mother is perhaps too upset to tell you, so I will tell you, he does not look as he did the last time you saw him. He is much thinner and he has bigger bumps on his face." I wish she would go away.

I walk back into the hallway and cross to the pinkish door of their bedroom. How strange it is that the mahogany furniture, the net curtains, the dressing table set are all in their proper place, familiar and wrong. I must look at him. Now. I see that his body barely shows as a long hump under the blankets. Look at his face, says my mind. Now.

This is not my father. This is the face of death. His cheek and jaw bones protrude under the sallow, grey skin. His breath is rasping. I take in a sharp breath that stabs at my heart. His sunken cheeks have three huge growths on them and his beard is still growing on the growths. His eyes are like caves where corpses are left. I walk to the window on his left to gaze in horror and confusion upon this body. "Hello, Daddy" I say quietly, terrified. My body is quaking now.

There is movement under the bedclothes. It startles me. A thin yellowish stick of an arm draped in pyjama material comes out. His left hand searches down the blanket reminding me of a spider. Frightened, I make myself sit on the bed.

My mind tells me again, this is your father, this is Daddy. He does not look anything like Percy John Hunnisett, my father who makes me laugh, who tells me I am intelligent, who teases me, who discusses important life decisions with me, who is the only person that seems to want me to be who I am, whatever that is. How can he be a skeleton before he is dead? I was supposed to see Daddy, not this.

Feeling his need to touch me, I let his fleshless hand end its search and find mine. I try to accept this small embrace. His mouth is working now to say something. "Rowena," his voice is hoarse but is recognisably Daddy's voice. I keep holding his hand for an eternity of seconds. Suddenly my throat bursts with more pain than I can bear. I pull my hand from his and run, silently crying, from the room.

March 19, 1964, 1.20 a.m.

I am in the kitchen. My aunt has come in to tell me. I already know. I heard the wind carry his moaning spirit away as it howled around the house and through the pine trees that Daddy saved, for our garden, and for his love of the dawn song of the birds, and so he could enjoy complaining about raking the pine needles from the lawn. "Rovena, now your father is passed away, you must look after your mother. She needs you now."

Lesbian Seniors Care Society Discussion Group

At: Fairfield Community Centre, 1330 Fairfield Rd. From: 2 to 5:00p.m. on Sunday. Call Elizabeth Duff to pre-register (a must) FREE
May 16: Building a Community Support Network with Elizabeth Duff. Is there a need for special groups to help us with our common problems, etc?



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Su's Sun Signs

May 1999

Aries: You'll start the month with Great Expectations. You may not be able to push the point over, but if your initial energy is shown, as time goes on, with the necessary control, you'll receive the backing needed. Partnerships become clear around the 25th. A pledge or a deal, replacement of something old that needs to go. There will be cause for celebration by the end of the month. Home objects, love and money communications are all under the hammer. The implausible becomes plausible and manifests. Wild extravagance.

Taurus: Life starts here! You'll probably start doing things you shouldn't at the onset of the month. You'll become more directed now towards your personal future and once you know your game plan start by keeping plans close to your heart, then by the latter part of the month you'll score. When Taurus wants something, they get it, even after personal sacrifice. Start living by taking control. Party time on the 8th. Check on the family. And Happy 40th B'day to Me!!

Gemini: Beauty, love and intelligence ooze from you. You're bursting to tell people about your secret—this could ruin everything, so if you keep a lid on it, you may find that this relationship turns into something more solid. Then, you can be totally upfront. An exchange of gifts to another later in the month shows sincerity. This inspires your faith. Enjoy life, forgive and forget. Get rid of the clutter and pain in your grain to make way for the love which flows through your heart.

Cancer: Trying to impress people really doesn't do you any favours. In fact you could appear overbearing. So have fun in the privacy of your own home by minimising your social expenditure. By the 25th, home improvements will be possible, making everyday life



a lot easier for you. It is, after all, your sanctuary. So, commemorate the occasion. Those bills will be behind you. Onto the next set of blueprints. Whatever your fertile mind dictates.

Leo: Just when a relationship looks as though it's crashed and burned, the Phoenix rises from the ashes. You'll receive an invite which holds the key to great potential of love and fun. Networking is high on your list of priorities. You're not boring, so show it to the public. No more sour puss. Make a pact with yourself to be the entrepreneur that you are. You'll sure turn some heads, yours too will be turned when your eye is caught. By the end of this month you'll change your mind about what is really possible.

Virgo: Life may seem uninspiring at first, so take stock, take a break and Get Happy. Do something about it. Go get some new appliances for the home and deal with financial investments. Get laid—you'll feel better. Try out some new extracurricular activities. Action now gives guarantees, so sign on the dotted line. Keep a grip on your imagination—as the month progresses you'll realise your brain was in warp drive and you've been over stressing. (Your sign is prone to worry.)

Libra: At the beginning of the month you may well be a little dictatorial on the way the future will go. It may have something to do with your inflated ego which, I might add, is quite appropriate at this time. Relationships can be

all that you wanted. It looks like you're about to prove how serious you are. All those worries disappear, so why not strip off on a little jaunt together later this month. If you're single—when you meet the potential goody, don't go planning your wedding after the first date.

Scorpio: Your partner may well cause chaos at home when you thought everything was running smoothly. It's because they want something, so find out what it is—you'll find you are quite agreeable. Single? Then there's a void in your life; fill it, make your home an inviting place, spruce up the car, get responsible. Show that you are indeed a good catch. If you want to be caught, or let go, you will be. Someone has serious intentions about you. You'll see by the end of the month.

Sagittarius: If you have a fling at the beginning of the month, someone may well stir it up and mess up things. In a partnership notoriety is yours. Who's the boss? Do not worry, the power is yours. Whatever happens, by the end of the month you'll come out on top with a good deal and a prosperous future. Your 7th House is full of positive activity (House of Partnership). At last, stress dissipates. You have a foundation and a future. Stability has been lacking in your life. Well, its here and very real. A lot of offers are coming your way.

Capricorn: House parties are imminent at the beginning of the month. You'll like meeting all these Bods as a matter of social standing. Pomposity will not be accepted by you or others. As the month moves on, romance and good feelings re-enter your life, giving new meaning to your relationships. Decisions will be made resulting in a new routine; this makes for a much better atmosphere all round. De-stress. By month's end your faith will be renewed. It was the right move after all.

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CPOW Takes On Crime, Xenoestrogen

by Betty Krawczyk

The Canadian Party of Women learned how the justice system might be changed to reflect a more integrated and co-operative approach when the group met recently. Penny Joy, local film maker and student of restorative justice, suggested what works best is having criminals face their victims, acknowledge their crimes and attempt a personal restitution. This method has been tried, and proven to work in areas as diverse as Saskatchewan, Australia and Colwood, BC, she told CPOW members attending.

Another speaker discussed the dangers of xenoestrogen (chemical compounds that mimic estrogen) in our everyday environment. Reading from her master's thesis, the speaker, who prefers to be anonymous because of her job, said the compounds have links to the astronomical rise in breast cancer, prostate cancer, the drop in male sperm counts, and reproductive malformations in humans, fish, mammals and birds.

The speaker listed some of the products which contain these commercial compounds, but noted confrontation is difficult as the chemical companies don't have to identify which of the compounds in their products contain or may contain xenoestrogen. The job of forcing governments to force companies to identify these poisonous chemical compounds seems to be insurmountable. However, I believe women can do just about anything we set our minds to.

CPOW meets the last Friday of every month. Our aim is to explore, celebrate, and impose on a world gone mad with testosterone, an order of cooperation, peace, non-violence, equality and a place where safety, education and happiness of all children are a priority.

For more information call Betty at 382-6378.

Betty is the author of Clayoquot Song of My Heart, Orca.

There's an International Party for Women

Former NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin hasn't disappeared into the woodwork. Among other national and international duties, as representative for the True North, she is until November, President of Socialist International Women, the world's largest women's political organisation.

Socialist International, more than 100 years old, is made up of 140 social democratic, socialist and labour parties from around the world. It is little known by people in North America. In an interview with the Vancouver Sun April 3, McLaughlin said the organisation works on "enhancing the participation of women in politics...and women's perspective on all international issues.

"A lot of the thrust that we have is to bring groups together," she told the Sun. Both Shimon Peres of Israel's Labour Party and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of the Fatah Party, attended the Socialist International last meeting.

Sue's Sun Signs

Aquarius: Want to go somewhere and have fun? Well, you're not too popular at home, so to go to the ball. What did Cinderella do? The Chores. Then her friends, different as they were, helped her out. And what did she find at the "Ball?" Well, the rest is up to you. By the end of the month, you'll be in full swing with new friends, new social scene—you'll love it. Multiple choice is the pleasure of creating any situation your mind desires. Patience.

Pisces: Purposefully or not, you can put your foot in your mouth. This will pass. Where luck is concerned, keep talking finances. The future looks even more rosy. A lot of work from your home base is approaching, or possibly from a new base, to fulfill your objectives. Sex, fun, and new business. A love affair moves to a new level, as does work. It seems the two are intertwined somehow. The outcome—worries are thrown off—just take care not to slip a disc when trying out new positions at the end of the month.

Rowan J. Percy M.A.

(formerly Rowena Hunnisett)

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Little Lezzie Flashes



Well, that was some concert **Cris Williamson** and **Tret Fure** put on. **June Millington**, too. The gals graciously allowed **Su Hallatt** to insert a fund-raising auction into the midst of their concert. Unheard of!!! Well, our intrepid Su went for it all. She mooched a pair of bikini swim pants off June and announcing: "We've bought the building!" managed to wrest \$90 for the bottoms from our own **Lyn Davis**. Returning to the stage, Cris said: "I was riveted. She (Su) is the G-Spot. Shameless. I don't know what it's worth to you, a whole lot, I hope," she said, nodding to Lyn. Some of the best times are the unplanned ones...Very much planned and despite some heart surgical interruptions, the wedding of **Willie Vaneyk** and **Jane McCullough** will go ahead May 1. Congratulations, gals...The latest issue of the artsy Boulevard features its award-winning cover for graphic design. The cover features our own **Les Chan**, an entrepreneur extraordinaire... A note from **John O'Brien** advises he'll be in Atlanta and then Saskatoon where he is speaking. Modestly, he doesn't say about what, but he promises to be at the helm of his *Interactive Strategies* when he returns to wrap up graduate studies in May...By the way, readers in Courtenay, you can pick up copies of your Rhino at Headquarters Grocery from **Vern**...**Stacy Leblanc** assures me

that Pride will be the grand deal we've come to expect. The Pride Week activities should be initiated by us. **Les Chan** has his Chinatown tour; **Lawrence Aronovitch** has already invited **Queen Victoria** and **Prince Albert** (munchkin variety) to perch on the steps of the Ledge to proclaim the week. So, poets, dancers, artisans, craftspersons, dance organisers and all, get in gear and let the committee know your plans. BJs will probably come up with something and its about that great ball game!!... **Val Utman's** hard work for Valu 1 Productions paid off. The Spring Fling, one of the best dances I've ever been to, thanks to the band and lead singer, was a huge success and earned \$800 for the Rhino. Thank you, Val. And thanks to the band who are some of the greatest guys I've ever met—and they're straight! And, not so straight, utterly gorgeous and slightly crazy, **Janis Mulan** can sing me to sleep anytime!!! Her Dogs Day Bakery is doing great, too. And so it should. Pride Society better grab her (and the band?) for the park festivities after the parade...**Zorya Plaskin** and **Melissa** had a go at horoscopes and tarots at Coffee Talk recently. Now that's a powerful duo. Zorya better pack her cards with her next time so she can read Melissa's horoscope. Zorya does these wonderfully packaged and detailed horoscopes with tapes. A recommend...The new afternoon delight at the G-Spot is a going concern. It's from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays with **Andrea Hill**. Coffee Talk is now from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. Tuesday April 12 is a soup and a movie to revive the popular comfy cozy night...G-Spot board member **Karen Wreggitt**, my big-bosomed buddy, offers this tidbit: A doctor made it his regular habit to stop off at a bar for a hazelnut daiquiri on his way home. The

bartender knew of his habit, and would always have the drink waiting at precisely 5:03 p.m. One afternoon, as the end of the work day approached, the bartender was dismayed to find that he was out of hazelnut extract. Thinking quickly, he threw together a daiquiri made with hickory nuts and set it on the bar. The doctor came in at his regular time, took one sip of the drink and exclaimed, "This isn't a hazelnut daiquiri!" "No, I'm sorry," replied the bartender, "it's a hickory daiquiri, doc." I'm leaving the last word to **Karen Fergusson**—it's about me and I promised not to censor. "Our own Beloved Editrix, **The Lez**, has proven the theory once again 'women don't get older, they simply get better'. At the Spring Fling I took notes: The Lez had a total of nine different women dance partners in a row—some slow, some fast—and lots of greetings (one including an interesting rear approach) from lots of Grrls in the mere flash of 40 minutes. Barb was lookin' her inimitable, cute, fab self, as always. Save one for me next time, eh Barb!"...Blushing til next time. BMcL

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COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

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

CHINATOWN TOUR: During Pride Week join Les Chan on a tour of our historical Chinatown with proceeds over expenses going to AVI. \$10 includes lunch. Call Les at 383-7317

DOGLESS DYKE CAMPOUT AND DANCE: at Ruckle Provincial Park, group site, Saltspring, May 21-24, 1999. Cost: before May 15; \$12/person. After May 15; \$15/person. Register early as we can only accomodate 50 campers this year. Children are welcome free of charge, sliding scale and subsidized ferry tickets available, bring your own gear, food, stove but please leave your dogs at home. For registration call: 920-0275. Organized by the Queer Art Guild.

BEAVER FEVER QUEER DANCE: at Beaver Point Hall, Saltspring, May 23rd, 1999, 8pm-1am. The dance is open to all Lesbians, Gays, Bi-sexuals, Transgendered, Transsexuals, Two-Spirited people, etc. and friends. Tickets: \$5-\$8/person available at the Dyke Camp Out and at the door. Information: Call the G-Spot 382-SPOT. Sponsored by the Women's Creative Network

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

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

CPOW: The Canadian Party of Women meets last Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Call Betty, 598-6379 or e-mail Jannit,jrabino@ampsc.com

(Ads cont'd next page)

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

AIDS Vancouver Island: 384-2366 304-733 Johnson St. V8W 3C7

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

Camosun College Lesbian Collective. Alt Weeks. 370-3484

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

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

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

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

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

P-Flag: Information, 642-5171.

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please send me 12 issues of Lavender Rhinoceros starting with _____ (month)

Name

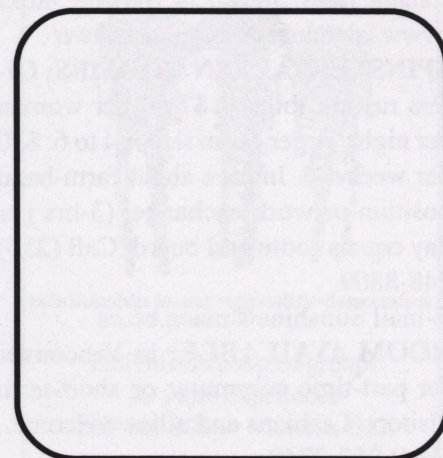
Address

City

Postal Code

Enclose cheque or money order for \$25 payable to Lavender Rhinoceros or LNews

Send to P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4



Our Advertising Sales Person in Vancouver, Michelle Clancy, would like to know more about us.

It would be a big help to the survival of the Rhino, too, if you would take the time to fill out this survey. You can leave it at the G-Spot addressed to Barbara McLauchlin; I'll pick it up personally—or mail it directly to Lavender Rhinoceros: PO Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4

Do you travel to Vancouver?
If yes, how often?
Do you Usually Travel by

Yes
Monthly
Ferry

No
Yearly
By Plane

For what purpose do you travel to Vancouver
Please check in order of usual e.g.
Bus. 1 Books 2 Arts 3 etc.

Business

Arts

Books

Shopping

Sex Toys

Visit Friends

Other Tell Us

Do you stay

In Hotel

B&B

Are you

Single

Partnered

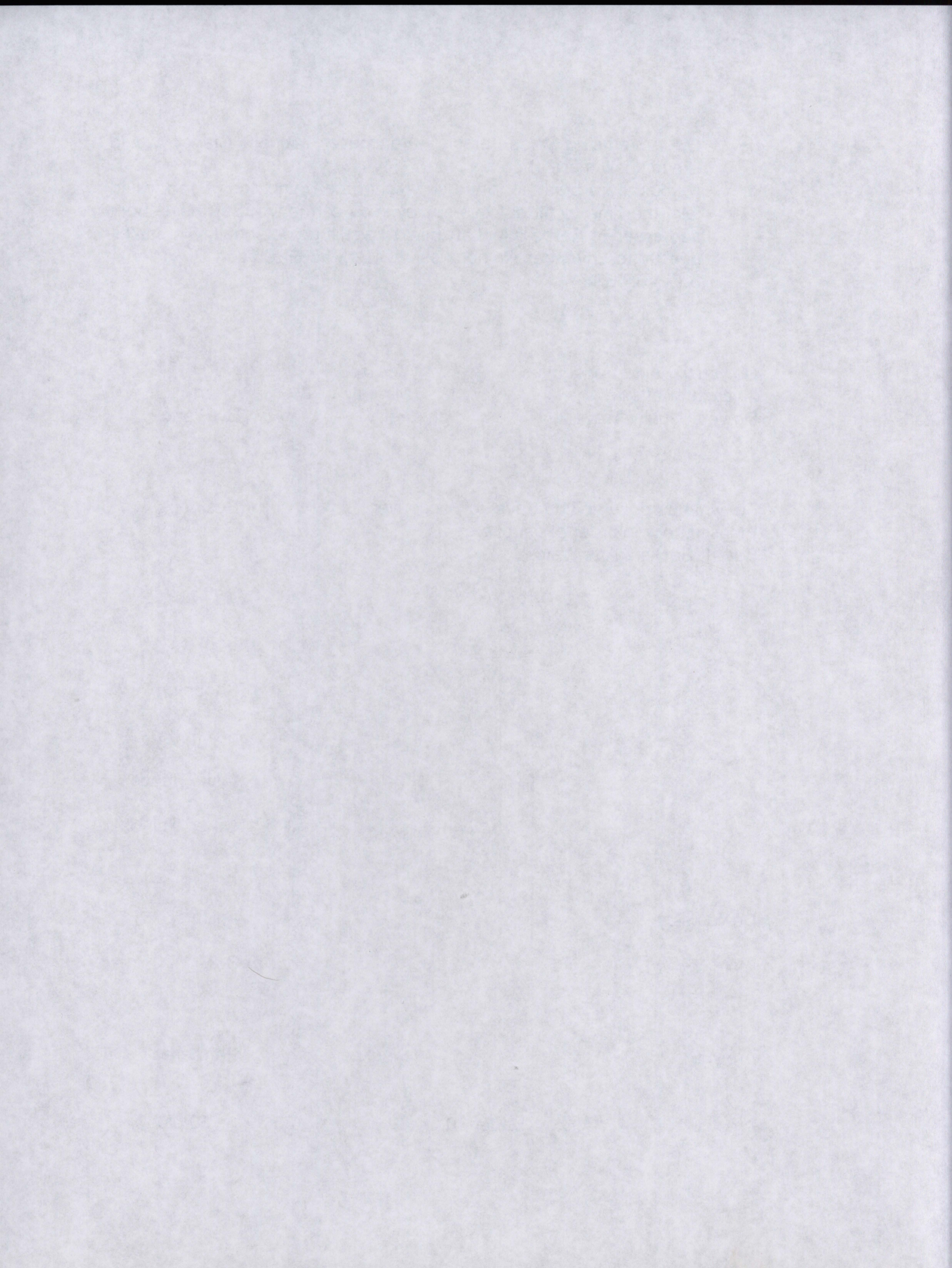
Are you

Under 30

30-35

35-50

50 plus



May Long Weekend

[May 21st - May 24th]

Events organized by the Queer Artist's Guild and the Women's Creative Network

Dogless Dyke Campout

when: May 21st-May 24th, 1999

where: Group Site at Ruckle Provincial Park, Saltspring Island.

who: Lesbian, bisexual women and their children (straight women friends also welcome)

cost: \$12 per person before May 15th, \$15 per person after May 15th. Children free. Sliding Scale available to women of low income (ask about subsidized ferry tickets)

registration: call 920-0275... register early as we are limited to 50 people this year, that's half of last year! (you may of course camp else where in the park, if spots are available) Bring your own camping gear and supplies.

ABSOLUTELY NO DOGS ALLOWED

Beaver Fever Queer Dance

when: Sunday May 23rd, 8pm-1am

where: Beaver Point Hall on Saltspring Island

who: lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals, transexuals, transgendered and two-spirited people and their friends

tickets: \$5-\$8 sliding scale at the campout and the door

information: call the G-Spot 382-SPOT (7768)

Forum on Diversity

May 15th 7:30-9:30pm

hosted by Ellen Hines and Michelle Steele.

Come and discuss what it means to you to be in a community full of women of diverse ages, races, religions and spiritual beliefs, physical abilities, sexual dimensions, finances, etc...

How can we learn, build, talk, love?

Problems? Concerns? Celebrations?

What do you want to talk about?

Please come with open hearts and minds and lots to say.

Calling All Would-be Volunteers!

Sunday May 16th from 10am until approximately noon

Volunteer training and orientation by Karen Wreggitt.

DJ Training and orientation by Michelle Steele.

This is your chance to learn the ropes and meet other volunteers!! Remember, the G-Spot is a volunteer run organization, and we need your help. If this time/day doesn't work out for you, and you still want to volunteer please call Karen @ 386-9530 and we can arrange an alternate time.

STRIP SHOW on june 12th

[2 shows 10pm and midnight!]

We promised it would be an annual event despite requests it happen monthly and its that time again!!! Anyone who would like to participate please contact Jannit at 388-0161. No experience necessary. Its a chance for anyone who has ever fantasized about undressing in public to try it out in front of the most supportive and appreciative audience imaginable. All shapes, ages and sizes welcome. We are also looking for donations for a Strip Show Paraphernalia Auction.

1910 store street, victoria, bc, v8t 4r4,

<http://victoria.tc.ca/Community/WCN/>

wcn_spot@yahoo.com, 382-SPOT(7768)

we apologize that the Spot is not fully accessible to women with disabilities, we are working on this problem

may@thespot

event information

see reverse for special events

may@thespot

women's creative network
it's small but if you can find it
you can come...

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

coffee talk:
10:30am-2pm wednesdays
\$2 for everyone hosted by Colleen, a friendly time to drop-in and chat, tarot and aura readings with Melissa and Jane.

afternoon delight:
3-5:30pm thursday with Andrea or Kanaice, herbal teas and conversation, \$2 for everyone

meditation:
7:30-9pm wednesdays call Maria at 595-0997 for more information

queer art guild meeting & slide show
all genders event
7:30-10pm, 3rd friday
call Rebecca 386-2550
\$3 for non-members of WCN
please note: NO MEETING IN MAY DUE TO CAMPOUT

comfy cozy
all genders event
6-9pm, 3rd tuesday with Pip,
\$5 for a bowl of vegetarian soup and a movie, \$4 for members

sappho's salon:
7:30-9pm 2nd and 4th thursdays with Jannit and Betty
bring a hot topic for discussion
\$3 for non-members

victoria women's outdoor and activity club (vwoac)
meets 1st sunday of the month
11am-noon for planning activities

						1 Closed
2 vwoac 11am-noon	3	4	5 coffee talk 10:30am-2pm meditation 7:30-9:00pm	6 afternoon delight 3-5:30pm	7 Closed	8 retro night 9pm-1am with Kathryn, Christina and DJ K-LA, all genders licensed
9	10	11	12 coffee talk 10:30am-2pm meditation 7:30-9:00pm	13 afternoon delight 3-5:30pm sappho's salon 7:30-9pm	14 Closed	15 forum on diversity 7:30-9:30pm games night with Karen until 11pm, licensed
16 volunteer training 10am-noon	17	18 comfy cozy 6-9pm all genders	19 coffee talk 10:30am-2pm meditation 7:30-9:00pm	20 afternoon delight 3-5:30pm	21 Closed	22 dogless dyke campout wise women over 40, 8-11pm licensed
23 BEAVER FEVER queer dance on saltspring	24	25	26 coffee talk 10:30am-2pm meditation 7:30-9:00pm	27 afternoon delight 3-5:30pm sappho's salon 7:30-9pm	28 Closed	29 Closed

Spot
Retro Night
'80's music, 9pm-1am licensed, all genders
Games Night
3rd Saturday, 8-11pm unlicensed, Women only
Wise Women (women 40+)
4th Saturday, 8-11pm licensed

Further information and events on reverse
all events are women-only unless indicated
this policy includes and welcomes transgendered and transsexual people

up-to-date information always available @ 382-SPOT (7768)
1910 store street
(just past Capital Iron)
wcn_spot@yahoo.com
http://victoria.tc.ca/
Community/WCN/