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LAVENDER RHINOCEROS

Victoria's Premiere Lesbian & Gay Magazine
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This is a walk-about editorial.

Well, another AIDS walk has gone by and once again it was obvious there were few lesbians joining the 1,000 or so persons who walked along. What's the matter, girls? It isn't just a guy thing, or a gay thing. It is a human problem, this ever-increasing disease. Stats show that more and more straight men and women are succumbing. We can guess why. But also, more women are showing up HIV positive. It is as necessary as ever for lesbians to be involved—even if many of you feel you've already walked that walk.

It was a neat day for those of us who did walk. There was a merry band of people from Musaic who gave me a shirt and dubbed me honorary member for the day—with the proviso that I could sing if I really wanted to. No one sang, but there was lots of happy chatter and bantering.

Because I hadn't met him, I moved back to walk and talk with Victoria Aids Respite Care Society prez Art Holbrook. Turns out he's into film and the study of the on-going and still-existing slave trade. I chattered about opera and costuming with VARCS' program co-ordinator, Michael Yoder, who doubles as co-editor here, and as arts co-enthusiast and friend from a long time past. The walking time flew by. It's the easiest feel-good thing I've done in a long time. Why not join us next year? You can talk about whatever you want. Food is plentiful and good, too.

There didn't seem to be as much hoopla and stage stuff as previous years

have offered. I, for one, was glad. Fisherman's Wharf park doesn't lend itself to that sort of thing. I'm content with a good picnic and a lot of happy yak.

Only nine opposition Liberals voted against the bill to include same-gender partners in the Estates Administration Act and Wills Variation Act. The up-to-date act allows the court to award money to a dependent if their dead partner did not leave them an adequate sum in their will. At the same time the province also amended the Family Compensation Act, which awards damages to relatives of someone killed by negligence. And the Cemeteries and Funeral Service Act and the Coroner's Act now include same-gender partners.

Pretty soon we're going to be downright equal. For all our sakes, however, let's not go mainstream. Equality is fine. Remember the responsibilities that go with it. And please, study our own history, learn from the past, and avoid the assimilation which could cost us a wonderful heritage, our own senses of responsibility and needs, and our own culture. Lesbians in particular have seen needs and made changes. We stand out in shadows still. Gay men have more money, often, and more clout too. It would serve us well to get together to see just how powerful and wonderful we can be together. Why? We still have issues of safety; human rights violations occur still in the schools; the right wing is a threat to further positive legislation; there are still hate-filled Christian (and other) fundamentalists preaching to the masses.

Walter Meyer zu Epern is running as Victoria City Councillor November 20. He needs and deserves our vote. Get out there, Victoria. 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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Our First Openly Gay Candidate

By Barbara McLaughlin

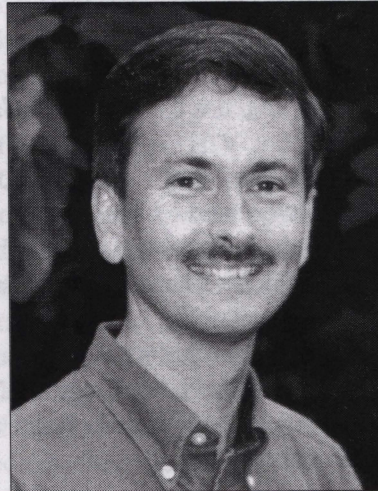
It's possible to interview a campaigner without ever meeting personally. Generally, people running for office have said it all on paper in their nomination talk. But when one sits down with a campaigner it is possible to get the feel of the person, the sense that when the word "integrity" is used, it might not be necessary to set one's eyes on roller-coaster mode.

So, lunch with Victoria City council candidate Walter Meyer zu Epern became an affirmation. Not only that, Walter is our first out gay candidate.

He was prompted to run by the present council's handling of the multiplex. For Walter, the arena was way too large, not economically viable—a potential huge burden on the taxpayer. One has only to look at Montreal or the Toronto Sky Dome to see how wonderful huge sports complexes really are. "There are all kinds of examples," he added. Council's handling of social issues downtown, he feels, didn't address underlying issues—in particular, city council's handling of panhandlers. What would Walter support? A no-fee license for panhandlers who aren't rich kids out for a lark or anyone who can find other legitimate support.

We get personal for a moment over rich German cooking at the Rathskeller. Walter's current day job is information management for BC Archives and the Court Services Branch. He'll take a leave without pay to campaign and work only part-time when elected. He'd give City Manager Don Roughley a year's notice, and the gay community respect. He wants to be seen as caring, warm and accessible. He'd plunk arena deal money into social programmes and the arts.

Should, or when, Walter wins, he could be working with Mayor Bob Friedland. How would he work with a well-intended but volatile person?



"I'm a very frank and direct person. If I have issues I'll talk to the individual. No two people are ever going to agree on everything. On council I will be a team player."

Friedland's platform includes some wonderful prospects for the arts. How does Walter feel about our arts community? He'd support more funding for theatre. He recognises the opportunities for employment, the advantages the arts bring to a city, particularly in making a community more attractive to businesspeople moving here.

He questioned some members of the community about gay issues. Most seemed to want a safe meeting place for gay youth. He wants to hear from all of us if we can identify other concerns.

Walter's background includes time as an activist at UBC, when Tim Stevenson was a student there. In the years 1979-82, he played an "instrumental role in organizing Gay Pride Week on campus. Twenty years later he is organizing archival material to send to the Gay Archives in Toronto. (*Rhino will be discussing this anniversary next issue.*)

Walter has lived with his partner, Michael Thomson, for 12 years. They built their Fernwood home together.

Walter believes in the potential of people and their communities working together. Vote for Walter on the VCE/Green Party ticket November 20.

Walter's political platform contains more detail than I've offered here. Telephone 381-8683 to discuss issues, assist with the campaign, or for a ride to the polling station. You can read general campaign platform stuff on Walter's website www.islandnet.com/votegreen or you can e-mail him wmze@islandnet.com

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Janis Mullan and J. McLaughlin Spark November Fun

Here's a thought. Why not have Janis Mullan sing in a concert which features her extraordinary voice? Why not open the show with a huge hunk of fun with comic J McLaughlin. Seems like a good idea?

So we did it.

Janis Mullan will sing at the David Lam auditorium November 26 at 8 p.m. And J. McLaughlin will get those pig-tails of hers starched and ready to open things up in much the same goofy way she did for the Corn Sisters a while back. What a hoot!

Janis' passion for music and versatile vocal ability has led her on a 15-year musical journey. Her gutsy lead vocals and persuasive percussion playing have inspired work from one end of the country to another. She has per-

formed R & B classics, country swing or hard-edged rock 'n' roll. She's done it all.

Janis was part of the popular Vancouver band Mistress who opened for such diverse artists as Thomas Dolby, The Northern Pikes and the Pursuit of Happiness.

As a vocalist Janis has lent her voice on commercials for Eaton's Centre, Expo 86 and on various radio advertisements.

Janis has spent the last few years working on her craft as a singer songwriter. She was chosen to perform on The Nashville Network's (TNN) popular talent showcase, *Be A Star*, taped at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Also a fixture on the Victoria music scene, she has opened for some

major stars, has played lead vocal at the Blues Club with Gary Preston and is a regular at the George and Dragon Wednesday nights.

As a songwriter, Janis is putting together an acoustic project that blends soulful harmonies with an infectious groove in a CD of her own. It's about time. This gal is going places besides the Dogs Day Bakery. You won't want to miss this great evening of music and humour presented and sponsored by Lavender Rhinoceros and University of Victoria Women's Centre.

Tickets are \$10 and babysitting is free. You can get tickets at Munro's or call 598-6490 and we'll mail them out with your December issue of the Rhino. Mail cheque to P.O. Box 5339 Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4.

Victoria PWA Society Facing Challenges

By Michael Yoder

A small group of members and supporters attended the annual general meeting of the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society.

Board Chairperson Jackson Myers noted that the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society has in the past year faced many challenges and growth. The society faced what could have been a disruptive move from AIDS Vancouver Island's space on Johnson Street to their present location at 541 Herald Street. Myers stated that even with this move "we have maintained our programmes and continue to seek direction from our membership."

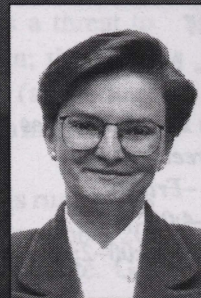
The peer support programme is undergoing a redefinition "of what peer support is and how to use it more effectively."

"We have a great deal of work ahead of us as we try to gain the trust of more of our members who are street-involved" executive director Charlotte Kinzie told the meeting, adding that the society will be looking for new ideas and direction.

Members of the Board are confident that the society will continue to maintain its peer-directed and delivered programmes, holding fast to their philosophy of people living with HIV helping each other to live healthy, productive lives.

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VARCS Still Needed

One factor facing AIDS service organisations (ASOs) is what has become known as the "changing face" of the disease. As more street persons, needle users, heterosexuals and women, get sick the more ASOs have to look at the new stew pot of sexuality, discrimination, different needs and—well, the list is pretty endless.

Victoria Aids Respite Care Society started last year to challenge its own purpose and did so publicly at its last AGM and a follow-up meeting this spring. This year's reports indicate that VARCS has met some, if not all, of its challenges and is working on what's left.

"It appears that, for some people, the promise of the protease inhibitor drugs has not been fulfilled. The need for dedicated volunteers and for respite homes remains very real," noted President Art Holbrook in his notes to the meeting. "We have not changed what we do, but we have changed how we do it," he noted, adding the sad note that in recent months, "even as we experiment with our new directions, we have found the call for VARCS' services beginning to grow."

VARCS operating budget is based on grants of \$146,800, fund-raising and training fees and came out this year with a surplus of \$27,272.

Issues facing VARCS and all agencies, according to program co-ordinator Michael Yoder, include providing ac-

cess to treatments, appropriate medical care, healthy promotion and illness prevention, dealing with the multiply-diagnosed persons, care and treatment for co-infected persons (HIV and HepC). VARCS also provides access to respite services for street-involved people and people who use injection drugs; timely provision of healthy goods; access to culturally sensitive and culturally-based services for aboriginal people.

In his report president Holbrook called 1999 a year of change and reflection noting the society had also moved twice before finding its present location at 2002 Fernwood Avenue.

He reminded members of the consultant's report prepared by Marianne Alto on how—and whether—VARCS should continue its work. Slowly a new mandate for VARCS has emerged, he reported. Recognising the shifts in the demographics of the population of persons with HIV/AIDS, we have reached out to form new partnerships in the community and have found many individuals and agencies keen to discover what VARCS has to offer. "Preliminary indications are the evaluation will show we have been quite successful in finding a new approach to our service delivery. We believe we have found our way through a difficult time and can now look forward to the future with renewed commitment."

BMCL from reports provided

Lesbian/Gay Group at UVic

by Chris Thomas

The group at UVic for queer faculty, staff, alumni, graduate and mature students meets one Thursday a month over lunch-hour for informal chat and socializing. In between, we plan to meet in a less structured way for brown-bag lunch in the Graduate Centre. We want as little structure—translate work—as possible since most of us are already over-taxed. We simply want a group of friends to meet and enjoy ourselves with. The group began last February and has begun to meet again this fall. There is a rough balance of men and women covering a wide span of ages. For more information, contact Chris Thomas at 721-6301.

Lavender Rhinoceros is pleased to announce Val Utman is selling advertising for Lavender Rhinoceros. You can contact Val at 380-6991.

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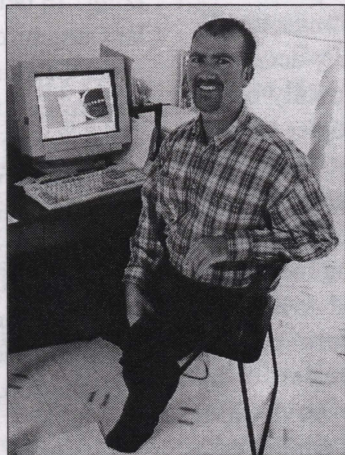
Photo and Story by Heather Lynn Brown

Who would have thought that a career in the military would lead to organizing alternative health expos and co-producing Victoria's first Conference for Queer Youth? For thirty-five-year-old Geoff Gosson, that kind of adaptability and flexibility is just part of being an entrepreneur.

What does Geoff do?

For starters, this spring he helped produce the overwhelmingly successful "Check Your Booty" conference for Queer Youth, at UVIC May 22nd and 23rd. The conference was the brainchild of friend and co-coordinator Dennis Davey. Geoff designed the logo, the brochures, and the over all image

for the conference literature. Geoff also helped with administration and raised \$18,000 from corporate and government agencies to pay for the conference and help sponsor the youth.



The conference was attended by youths province-wide and supported by then education minister Paul Ramsey. Although *Check Your Booty* was considered a success, the financial report is not in yet. There may not be a *Check Your Booty 2*.

Like many small business people, Geoff works on a project basis. As a desktop publisher he designs the layout of manuals and reports. He also creates logos and graphic images for clients. Geoff likes to work with first-time and

small-business owners to help them create a professional image. Having a logo can make business cards and brochures stand out and give them a professional look.

What personal qualities does Geoff Gosson bring to his work?

He is creative, intuitive and able to translate what clients want into dynamic graphics.

Geoff Gosson is an entrepreneur in spirit. He is open to new ideas and can see new ways for folks to do business. He believes in organic partnerships where people come together to work on projects they enjoy and to use the skills they have. Geoff recognizes home-based- businesses offer something to the environment and that by promoting each other as a small- business community we cut out the middle man, the excess advertising and waste.

Geoff can be reached at 381-4766 or gosson@home.com.

It isn't easy for a lot of dykes to shop Chez Value Village or WIN – especially those voluptuously fat dyke goddesses we all know and

love. So, this could be a good time to park all phobias regarding fashion shows and head down to the Princess Mary Restaurant on Harbour Road November 14. At 5 p.m. **Addition-Elle** will display sport and lingerie wear and some neat stuff by Cotton Ginny. One of the sponsors is *Focus on Women* and all proceeds go to Victoria Women's Transition House.

There's a \$25 ticket charge. Save the stub and receive a \$25 discount on your next clothing purchase of \$100 or more.

Organizer Karen Lonsdale, whom Lee Porteous notes is a hoot and a great entertainer, is also providing a buffet. As Lee notes, "well, we *are* plus sizes, after all." There will be a bit of enter-

Biz Buzz

tainment, too. For more information call Addition-Elle (250) 598-0400.

My favourite purveyors of doggie delights have finally found a permanent hydrant—er home for **Dog's Day Bakery**. Janis Mulan and Penny Nine-nails Stone have set up shop next to the former Java coffee house at 543 Johnson Street. The gals can cook right there. You can visit with your dog while you pick up some tasty treats for your favourite canine. My favourite, Basil the Poodle, loved his; they came with tennis ball and frisbee. The store opens November 1st with a grand opening December 4. Especially, bring your dog.

Michael Losier is also busy with his business. You can check it out on the web <http://www.islandnet.com/coach> for personal and business coaching.

Communication Counsellor **Linda Storey** has joined Michael for some coaching sessions. Both are Neuro Linguistic Program (NLP) practitioners and have experience in the art of reframing meaning for themselves and others. Both are asked often to help others to "re-frame and experience." Sounds like good folks to get in touch with. If only to get rid of the woulda coulda shoulda's in your business and personal life. You can contact Michael or Linda at 382-5535 if you missed the October 23 session on Lemons and Lemonade. TeleClasses are also available.

Visit <http://www.islandnet.com/coach/classes.htm> for more information. There is a long-distance charge to a Florida telephone number (approximately \$6.00). TeleClasses are on <http://www.TeleClass4u.com> and <http://www.TeleClass.com>

BMcL

Why Not Send Cookies Instead?

By Kristen Elder

Debra Hendricks had a sweet surprise arrive at her workplace the other day. Leah Kulas came by with a delivery of freshly baked cookies for Debra, sent anonymously by a friend. Debra was honoured by this touching gesture, and tears welled up in her eyes. "The whole experience touched me deeply," she said later. "Cookies are a trigger for happiness in our society, and they say it much better than flowers can," she said.

Delivering cookies on behalf of people who want to enliven someone's day is what Random Acts of Kindness Cookie Co. is all about. Marcia Hewett-Hicks and Leah Kulas started their business (RAK) out of the need for kindness in the world. They are learning how to live their dreams and inspire people to practice random acts of kindness in their every-day lives. Marcia and Leah encourage people to give anonymously in the true spirit of giving, without pressure for reciprocation.

Oprah Winfrey inspired their business concept, as she encourages people to nurture their spirit and practice generosity. Leah believes initiating random giving challenges the institution of gift-giving which traditionally revolves around birthdays and Christmas. "Moving away from scheduled times of giving gifts, and being more spontaneous is an exciting innovation to be part of," says Leah.

Between the two of them, they do it all. Marcia and Leah complement each other with the varied skills they bring to the business. A certified baker, Marcia creates the cookies from all-natural ingredients. She designs brochures and graphics in between batches. Along with tending to administrative details, Leah has the pleasure of hand-delivering cookies to people.



From left Marcia Hewett-Hicks, Ingrid Jarisz and Leah Kulas

She enjoys sharing their surprise and excitement. "On the day of deliveries, the scent of freshly baked cookies conjures up a memory of your mom baking," says Leah.

Both women are ecstatic about their venture into a new avenue with RAK. "I've created the most perfect job for myself, where I get to make people happy," Leah says. Marcia is delighted to have found a market for her baking which is far less commercial and more rewarding than traditional bakeries. "Owning my own business has been my dream job since day one," says Marcia.

The business took flight in May with its first delivery. "So far the feedback we have received from people has been really positive," says Marcia. Leah feels encouraged overall about the synergy that has developed between her life and business. "I see my dreams becoming reality. I want to tell the world that, by taking action, they too can live their dreams," she says.

Leah and Marcia's future plans for the business include product diversification within the realm of sweet treats. They have just introduced a selection of mini cookies, which are perfect gifts for groups to share. Recently, they decided to usher in each month by offer-

ing a unique new cookie. The most recent cookie of the month that I sampled was the Chocolate Cheesecake Swirl. It was the most amazing and luscious cookie I've tried, and hopefully as a bestseller it will become regularly available as part of RAK's top five. These top five include Cranberry Ginger Snap, Westcoast Carob Cluster (vegan), and Double Chocolate Espresso Crunch. Yum!

Leah is excited that people think that RAK is a good idea. She hopes that RAK will last, dependent on the continued support of those who appreciate its intention for kindness.

If you would like more information on RAK, or would like to get on the mailing list for the newsletter, give Marcia and Leah a call, or send them an e-mail. They also have a web-site which features news, order forms, and responses and photos from people who have received RAK cookies.

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Quotes & Queeries (cont'd)

profile woman is judged on her appearance and labelled mother, good girl, good for anything, lesbian tart," the women wrote. "We've had enough!"

And finally, an open letter that breaks my heart...

Victoria Brownworth is very ill and in desperate need of support, both financial or emotional. For nearly 30 years her books and magazine columns have explored queer lives, earning her a Pulitzer Prize nomination and the respect of generations of readers. Her latest book, written with Susan Raffo, is "*Restricted Access: Lesbians on Disability*." Now, a heart-rending letter from Brownworth is circulating in the lesbian press and e-mail lists. Isolated and terrified, mired in poverty, emotionally exhausted and overwhelmed by the physical pain of multiple sclerosis (she's dependent on friends for the most basic needs and looking at a two-year wait for a wheelchair ramp that would enable her to leave her home), Brownworth contemplates suicide. She feels terribly alone after the sudden departure of her partner of more than 12 years. Her letter is a plea for help, written at the urging of friends. Thankfully, a growing number of lesbian writers and publishers across the U.S. are coming together to publicize her plight. Surely, their caring will keep her with us.

To send contributions and good wishes, write: Victoria Brownworth, c/o Hazel McPhee, 311 W. Seymour Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144. Or simply think of Victoria, and tell someone you know, anyone in our own community who is weighted down by his or her own sorrows, that you care. Then help, and organize others to care, each in our own way for one another. "I know I cannot be the only dyke out there experiencing this," writes Brownworth. "So in some way, I'm hoping this will also raise awareness about how easily this could happen to any of us."

**Janis Mullan in concert
with
Comic J. McLaughlin**

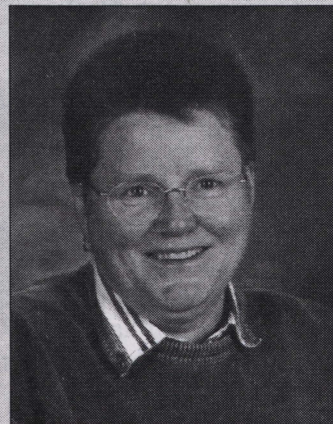
Nov. 26, 8 pm
David Lam Auditorium

Tickets \$10 at Munro's

Ruth Phillips "So into life"

A great many people will miss Ruth Phillips. She was a dear, valued and respected friend to many.

She served her broader community well, too. As a teacher she fought for same-sex recognition and benefits at the district and regional levels, as a woman of faith she



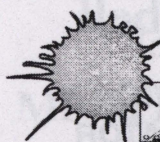
was at the helm of discussions on diversity and inclusiveness in her beloved St. Aidan's United Church.

While issues of sexuality weren't her focus for her work in the arts, Ruth was instrumental in choosing some of the best seasons Victoria Theatre Guild presented—including the controversial, *The Club*, a play other Victoria groups of the day wouldn't touch. It sold out. Backstage she was one of the best of stage managers and for at least one season she held an Equity card for her work.

Her partner, Joy Johnston, remembers her as "lover of life, little miss organizer and peace-maker, believer in people, devil's advocate, listener and talker, contributor of great peaceful love and happiness to all of us who were fortunate to cross Ruth's gentle path."

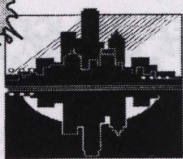
To a nearly packed church, Rev. Karen Dickey remarked continually how "into life" Ruth was. "So forgiving and generous."

Ruth's ashes were placed just outside the church she loved so much—a fitting tribute indeed. We send you on your next journey, Ruth, with much love.



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Health How to Get Healthy...And Stay That Way!

It seems that every time we turn around, some new study is being published that tells us about the latest and greatest things we can do to be healthier. While information does change from day to day, there are several basics fundamental to your health. These basics never change, and they are easy to incorporate into your daily routine.



*Dr. Misty
Watson*

Water consumption

It is likely your body needs more water to drink than it is telling you. Drinking water only when you are thirsty isn't enough. The body needs a minimum of eight glasses of water per day just to keep up with the regular demands of going about your life. If you are more active, then you need more water. Water is crucial for keeping all systems of your body running smoothly. If your body doesn't get enough, it will not function at 100 percent. Natural fruit juices (naturally sweetened with no added sugar), herbal teas and milk may also be incorporated into your daily fluid intake.

Sleep

Most of us do not get enough sleep. Sleep is the body's chance to recuperate from all the trials of your day.

Muscles, ligaments and organ systems all repair and regenerate during this time. If you aren't getting enough rest, your body is constantly running at a loss and you are more likely to become injured, sick or fatigued. All of us require a different amount of shut-eye, but anywhere from six to ten hours is ideal. The other important detail to consider is your sleeping position. Lying on your back with your knees supported or on your side is best, while stomach sleeping is the worst.

Exercise

This is another area where many of us fall short. Opinions on this subject differ, but 30 minutes of aerobic activity three days a week is the bare minimum. The good news is that many studies are showing that the 30 minutes do not have to be done all at the same time. Two or three different sessions during the day that elevate heart rate to target levels are just as effective as a single 30 minute session. This means that walking to the store instead of taking your car, or climbing the stairs instead of taking the elevator can have tremendous health benefits.

Stress Management


Most of us have some sort of stress in our lives on a daily basis. There are good stresses, which actually have a positive effect on the body, and bad ones, which do not. Bad stresses can be lumped into three categories: physi-

cal, emotional and chemical. Physical and emotional stresses are things that we often take the time to reduce or eliminate, but many people are not aware of the impact that chemical stresses such as caffeine, nicotine, alcohol and other chemicals can have on the body. An excess of stress in any of these areas has will build up over time and impact negatively on your health. Recognizing and reducing stress through exercise, proper diet and adequate sleep will reap great benefits for your health in the long run.

Stretching

Stretching is another area that is overlooked by the majority of our population. Muscles that are stretched on a regular basis are less susceptible to injury, retain their flexibility better with age, and also do not tend to develop imbalances that predispose to injury. There are many different stretching methods and techniques. The best way to find an approach which works for you is to consult with a trainer at your gym or recreation centre, or to find a book on stretching that has an approach that will work for you. For stretching the lower body, The Stark Reality of Stretching by Dr. Steven D. Stark is an excellent reference.

Dr. Misty Watson is a Chiropractor in private practice in Saanichton

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An Old Fuddy Duddy

By Michael Yoder

I was talking with a friend a while ago about the whole piercing thing and that I don't understand it. She said, "Well, that's because you're just an old fuddy duddy."

I thought about this for a while and realized that she's right. I am (in my 39th year) an old, fuddy duddy. I don't like groups of teens roaming down my street at 11pm. I don't understand the desire for piercing. I don't get the (my experience here) confusing ideologies of gender and gender identity, or "questioning" sexual orientation, or that youth are pretty much anyone from 14 years old to whenever (I thought by 30 you really were an adult). From my "fuddy-duddiness" I know there are many people who would just love for me to shut up and go away - I clearly don't get it.

And the odd thing is, I didn't used to be this way. In my late teens and early twenties, I became deeply involved in trying to build a gay/lesbian community through MCC Church (short-lived as it was) and a gay/lesbian coffee house. In my late twenties, I volunteered and worked in the AIDS movement because so many gay men were dying. I advocated for change in the community with the zeal of every young person who's angry.

So I wonder, for myself, from where this newly acquired conservatism came. I think it comes with age. I see baby-boomers who have gone from hippy to home-owner, from

on the street to corporate executive, buying into everything that exclusive world has to offer. I never wanted that. I still don't really, although I realise that I do want comfort and stability. I want things not to change so much or be complicated. Not that I think or want things to be "black and white", but I want to be able to understand the shades of grey in a

I want things not to change so much or be complicated. Not that I think or want things to be "black and white", but I want to be able to understand the shades of grey in a simpler way.

simpler way. At 38, I don't want to work really hard to make sense of the complicated simplicity of the world - I did that when I was 17.

I think that as I grew older, and watched the apathy of others,

I began to question the purpose of social action. Not that social action isn't necessary, but as my perspective on it changed and grew, I think I started to wonder about the bigger picture. That's something that in my youth I never thought about - I was too busy then being angry and rebelling (while my adult friends watched me spinning my tires and rolled their eyes).

Now, in my "advanced years", I suppose I should leave the world well enough alone and be content and quiet from my middle-class background. I am an old dog, not learning new tricks. And yet, if there are no fuddy duddies, who will those 29 year old "youth" complain about? If there are no small "c" conservative voices that ask, perhaps "stupid", questions about the purpose and meaning of what we do and think in the bigger and smaller pictures, what challenge is there? If there is no challenge to our sub-culture, there's nothing to discuss. And when the discussion stops, we stagnate and die.

No, I'm not going to shut up and go away. And from my cranky, old, middle-class saturated, overly critical brain, I'll continue to challenge myself about why it is that I do and think what I do and why it is the world is the way it is. Some may agree with me (the other fuddy duddies) and others will not. But if we can't have a world with a range of opinions, "politically sensitive" and otherwise, then we live in a place that seems, to me, uninhabitable.

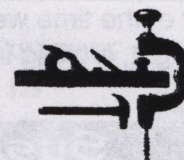
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Polyfidelity Can Work

By Lahl SarDyke

In contrast to the often whispered or screaming debates of the late 70s, a civilized and open discussion and reading about polyamory recently took place in the crowded basement of the G-Spot.

Gathered to hear Joanne Hetherington, Catherine Fisher, K.Linda Kivi and Lyn Merryfeather, all from Nelson, launch their new book, *Fidelity*, the crowd of 45 ranged in age from 20 - 55, in self-definition from queer to bi to dyke and in relationship choice from single to monogamous to wishful and actual practitioners of non-monogamy.

When they began writing three years ago, Jo and K.Linda had been lovers for six years, K.Linda and Catherine for one year. Lyn joined the circle a few months after it started, when she and Jo became lovers. They wrote, not with the original intention of publication, but as a way to support one another in their practice of non-monogamy. Passing the dog-eared pages from one to another, each would either continue the discussion or start a new trail of thought. It wasn't until community members requested copies of the entries that a decision was made to publish the "wad of installments" as a book.

Jo started the 15-minute reading. She is a self-defined lifetime dyke of 53 who deals with life as "an environment of experiments."

No rulebook has been provided on developing relationship patterns based on passionate freedoms. Her firm belief that she owns her own body and her sexual feelings creates a place where she can emerge as an individual, blow societal control apart and redefine reality. As "travelling friends" practicing non-monogamy, they create "a sense of joint venture in the spontaneous imaginative life of us all."

For Catherine, who is 33 and bi, some of non-monogamy's most interesting moments occur in situations where people in monogamous relationships pair off. Standing at a dance,



Catherine, Lyn and a friend watched K.Linda and Jo dance. That evening, Catherine didn't worry about who would go home with whom, or not, for the night. She felt the rightness of this "non-monogamy moment" and believed the more she loved, the more love found her.

K.Linda, 37, defines herself as a bi-dyke. She yearns to experience rushes of lust on a regular basis - to live as a slut, not just think like one. But what, she wonders, prevents her from getting what she wants? Fear? Lack of persistent desire? The infiltration of her parents' security values in spite of the fact she struggles to keep them at bay? Whatever the challenges, K.Linda wants to live her passions to their fullest. As the four friends and lovers settle in with one another, she doesn't believe they will "happily wander off into the sunset of polyamory, supremely contented."

From the last entry in the book, Lyn, also 53 and a dyke, reads about jealousy. As she stood and watched a lover cruise, she felt like throwing up, like the bottom had fallen out of her gut. Jo, not yet her lover, encouraged Lyn to feel her jealousy, to go through it. Believing that practitioners of polyfidelity had evolved beyond jealousy Lyn was surprised that Jo understood and accepted her feelings. It was later than Lyn came to understand polyamory not as a cure for jealousy but as an opportunity to experience a basic human emotion.

In the discussion following the readings, jealousy took on other dimensions. K.Linda has experienced counter-balances to jealousy. A "partner with a new partner" is very geared up." She said. They can bring new sexual techniques, new discussions about sex and a new kind of fire to the relationship. Jealousy is not an either or proposition. Jo sometimes slides into jealousy and feeling left out. Reprogramming the tapes in her head, she can act on her belief that she and her lover can love more than one lover at a time.

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

Swami Radha

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Polyfidelity (cont'd)

In answering a question from the audience, it became clear there are many reasons for practicing non-monogamy. After leaving a heterosexual marriage, Lyn never wanted to feel owned or trapped again. For K.Linda, living polyamorously is who she is. Jo didn't want to lose a lover and a home again in a break-up. She and her lover could have lives that didn't always include each other but included another lover.

Though none of these dykes share a home, they live together in a small community. When it became public knowledge that a group of women were practicing non-monogamy, members of the community acted as though new dykes had no power and could easily be "lead down the garden path." Lyn was warned away from "falling into the lair." There was little support for a woman's right to choose or not choose her relationship style. Over time, the community has changed, become more supportive. The book has created a bridge for dialogue and understanding.

The relationships between the four women have developed and changed. K.Linda and Catherine no longer have a sexual connection. Lyn and K.Linda feel a support and connected-

ness between them, a-knowing-what-the-other-feels. With no model, K.Linda referred to them as co-wives. They share a commitment to each other, a knowing that they may struggle, but their connection with each other is not erased.

There exists no single ethical approach that makes polyamory possible. For K.Linda, honesty with herself, not protecting or care-taking the other person, and a commitment to remembering they are friends first and lovers second makes polyfidelity possible. Lyn lives from honesty, kindness, integrity and humour, wanting to create a place where no one has to run away. In transitioning from the theory to practice of non-monogamy, Jo wants everyone to keep talking as a way to feel included. Catherine reminds herself, and the audience, that love is not divided in half if you have two lovers. There is enough love for everyone to receive their 100%.

Order Fidelity from the University bookstore or purchase from Bolen Books in Hillside Mall. For further information contact Maa Press, RR#2, S-19, C-14, Nelson, B.C., V1L 5P5, e-mail klk@netidea.com

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Meet the Wild & Yummy 'Shroom

By Marcia Hicks *The Bakerwench*

Here on the wet coast, we are lucky. Every year about this time we are blessed with the type of rain that some refer to as 'endless'. Many of you out there might be reluctant to acknowledge the blessing in this, but clearly you do not see the world through the eyes of a mushroom. Yes, a mushroom. Those adorable little umbrellas that dot our forests at the first sign of rain, making them seem all the more enchanted. They conjure up images of fairies and gnomes dancing around, as well as a bounty of other mystical creatures living beneath them. Ah, but before you can accuse me of eating strange and illicit mushrooms myself, let me explain. Mushrooms are the main dish in Mother Nature's magical menu.

Wild mushrooms though have been given a rather bad reputation. Partly this comes from folklore, but mainly it comes from the few infamous varieties whose deadly poisonous natures have scared people off eating any wild mushroom. In fact, the great majority of mushrooms here in BC are classified as between 'partly edible' and 'inedible', depending on preference. There are only a few who fall in either the 'poisonous' or 'preferred' categories. Yet the treasures to be found

among the 'preferred' are profound and it is well worth familiarizing yourself with them. But let me emphasize, mushrooming is a dangerous sport, and like other dangerous sports, one must educate oneself to eliminate risk. So, before you start playing Russian Roulette and boasting to your heli-skiing and sky-diving friends about how you 'haven't died yet', let me give you a few pointers.

First off, get yourself as many books on the subject as you can find. Trying to find one at the library at this time of year is impossible, so investigate several bookstores including the second-hand ones. Next, stick to those easily distinguished varieties. The rule of thumb is 1. Don't eat anything that looks like the ever-so-innocent-looking white parasol mushroom, there are too many deadly varieties here. 2. Don't eat any LBMs (Little Brown Mushrooms), many poisonous varieties lurk here also. 3. Don't eat anything that your mushroom book says could be mistaken for a deadly one. With names such as Death Cap and Destroying Angel, there really does give credence to the saying, 'All mushrooms are edible, once.'

Of the edible varieties in our area, the three I would recommend collecting as a novice are chanterelles, oyster and elf saddle mushrooms. They are all easily distinguished and are very

yummy. For those of you who seek a 'higher' meaning in mushrooming, and desire the more magic properties that some local 'shrooms provide, I would suggest befriending a very knowledgeable forager. The chances of mistaking them for their fatal cousin is very high—no pun intended.

The following recipe is a simple yet wonderful one, which truly takes advantage of the natural flavour of the mushroom.

Warm and Wild Mushroom Salad

Serves 4

4 tbsp. butter or extra virgin olive oil
2 lbs. of mixed wild mushrooms, slice all but the smallest varieties
2 cloves of garlic, pressed
1 tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped finely
1/2 lemon, juiced
salt and pepper to taste
1 tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped as desired

Heat the butter or olive oil in a heavy skillet over medium heat. Add mushrooms, garlic and thyme and cook, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms begin to release their juices. (about 3-4 minutes) Transfer to serving dishes, pouring the pan juice over top. Sprinkle with lemon juice, and season with salt and pepper. Garnish with parsley and eat immediately.

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Passing It On Sometimes Hard

By Linda Boulter

Just as I struggled recently with my identity as a lesbian, so does my almost 12-year-old daughter struggle with my lesbianism now. I came out to myself in my late 30s. When I came out to my eldest daughter, her first response was, "So, what?" Later she commented that some day she would have two mommies. It was too easy. She soon found her acceptance is not reflected in the attitudes of society as a whole or in those of her schoolmates. In her openness to share with a friend, she was humiliated. I heard about the incident months later and my heart ached for her hurt and loss of innocence. Innocence, because she accepted me for who I was, her mother, not for my lifestyle or preference of partner or lover. Now, older and wiser, She doesn't share her secret. And sadly, it is a secret. When friends come over she asks Deb and I not to display affection in front of her guests. She pointedly introduces my partner as mom's friend.

At 12 years she's not yet a woman, but not a little girl; she struggles with her own identity. I believe, although, she has not yet spoken of it, that she fears she may be lesbian. No wonder it is a fear—her first open experience was negative. And she is reminded that her Dad is no longer in her day-to-day life. She talks about how life would be perfect if he and I were together again. She asks me if I love him. I tell her, yes, I did love him. Together we made three

beautiful expressions of our love, her and her sister and brother. But, I tell her there is no going back. I talk about being honest with myself.

I know now I did the right thing. I created a relationship, had children and tried to play perfect mommy. I have no regrets. But more than anything, I need to be true to myself. That, I believe, is the pain of coming out. It is clearing the social debris and expectations. It is finding a pure heart with which we are able to express the truth.

Relationships are about healing and growth. I learn that daily with my partner Deb. I experience it with my children as they try to understand themselves and how they fit into the world around them.

As I write, the nine-year-old doesn't seem to have a problem with Deb and I together. She teases us about being in love. She is more or less neutral about our relationship. The little guy, the only boy in our combined five-child, two-Mom family, tells his teacher he has two mommies. He sometimes calls Deb Mom. He snuggles between us to share his stories. Hopefully, since he is so young, he will grow up seeing a two-mommy family as natural—a different take on family life. The younger two will find their own struggles as they grow and mature. To me, life is about finding your own truth, keeping your own heart pure and open.

Open Letter To Readers

Lavender Rhinoceros has so far been able to cover its expenses. At its fiscal year-end in June it had a surplus of \$289. However, it is just barely making it. You don't have to attend a fund-raiser, go to one more event, hear a speaker, eat, or do any of those time-consuming things to help.

With the co-operation of Revenue Canada and Victoria Aids Respite Care Society (VARCS), Lavender Rhinoceros has the use of a tax number. When you donate \$10 or more to Lavender Rhinoceros you will receive a receipt bearing a number for income tax purposes.

Please send your donation by cheque or money order to Lavender Rhinoceros, P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4.

The Rhinoceros has had no seed money, no sugar mommies or daddies, or any other kind of assistance, is supported by advertising and subscription only. The Rhino will continue to serve you, but it is a heavy load to carry financially on our own.

With its own fund-raising events, subscriptions, advertising sales and cash forward from last year, the Rhino brought in \$13,058.21. It costs in printing, honoraria, postage, desktop, supplies and sales commissions, \$12,768.50, leaving a profit of \$289.71 at the end of June. Wild Tongue brought in a net profit of \$1,864.

Without some seed money it is hard to keep the Rhinoceros going. If you can help, we will be delighted to send you a receipt right away.

Sincerely, Barbara McLaughlin, Co-Editor and Publisher

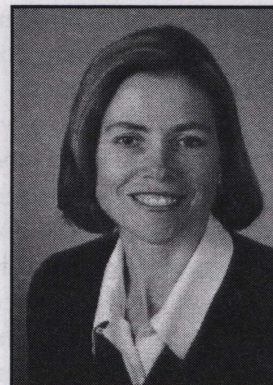
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The Subject is *Yours* – The Opinion Pages For The Community

By Dr. Laura Schlessinger

In a New York Times Special Feature Dr. Laura Schlessinger argues “the celebration of homosexuality sacrifices the welfare of our children.”

We have a really serious issue in this country, and most of you are scared to address it because when you do, you are made to feel evil and bad. I know. I am routinely excoriated for having a different opinion. So I understand how difficult it is to stand up for heterosexual marriage. But if we don't, pretty soon what we commonly understand and cherish as “family” will be gone.

There are two events I want to bring to your attention. One involves president [Clinton], who proclaimed June the month of “celebrating homosexuality.” I think he must be nuts. He designated a whole month to celebrate this? You only get a day if you're Irish. Right? Do we have a month to celebrate heterosexuality?

President Clinton's proclamation said businesses, families and all of us should “celebrate” the fact that some people cannot or will not mate with members of the opposite sex, be married and have children. In my opinion, that is not something to celebrate. It's very sad, and I have great compassion for homosexuals.

So that's number one—this astonishing proclamation that directs Americans not to accept homosexuality, not to tolerate it, but rather to celebrate it. Here comes number two: Human rights campaign leader Elizabeth Birch and her partner, Hilary Rosen, who is a lobbyist for the Recording Industry Association of America, recently adopted boy and girl twins born Jan. 7 in Texas. There is no specific legislation in the state of Maryland, where they live, that prohibits placing children in homosexual households. The two women have announced that the children will be raised by nannies.

Do we not have sufficient empirical evidence that fatherless homes are not the best environment for raising children? And these particular babies aren't even going to have an attentive mother, either. How could any adoption agency give twins to two lesbians who don't even want to care for them when there are heterosexual, committed couples waiting for babies to adopt and dying to stay home and parent them?

Talk about the power of ideology run amok. That the government permits a child to be robbed of a father to satisfy the political demands of gay activists is an outrage. Since when do people have a “right” to practice deviant sexual behavior and bring innocent children into their homes? The answer is that “rights” are not involved here. There is only the rhetoric of rights and the cover of tolerance that sends everyone, including the president of the United States, running for cover, uncaring that our children are paying the price for our cow-

ardice.

These actions by adoption agencies, politicians, even clergy, advance the activists' goal of changing the definition of marriage from a man and a woman in the sight of God to any sort of arrangement between any two people.

Are we going to just let these events go by and not fight to preserve traditional families, which are the foundation of our civilization and our society?

We all just want to put gas in the car, go to work, see a movie, get some sleep. We worship convenience and self-gratification, so America has a million and a half abortions each year. And we sit by and allow this to happen in the name of freedom of choice. What about responsibility?

If the welfare of our children is not the number one priority, ideal and goal of this nation (the USA), then the nation will disintegrate. I talk to a lot of people in government, psychology and psychiatry every day who are afraid to stand up for the importance of the traditional family to the welfare of children.

They are silent not because they agree with the homosexual agenda, but because they are afraid of the militant activists among homosexuals.

And the irony is that the activists use their so-called fear—“Everyone is out to kill us”—when it's those opposed to homosexual marriage and adoption who live in fear. This includes numbers of non-activist homosexuals who write to let me know they agree with many of the things I say, but beg me not to use their names on the air for fear of retaliation of some kind.

This has gone too far. We cannot continue to sacrifice our children on the altar of “freedom” and “diversity,” no matter what the president of the United States proclaims.

Ed Note: Seems Dr. L. thinks it's okay for hetero couples to have children raised by a nanny, or day care, or whoever else, while both parents work. Why don't we all write to her and tell her she CAN use our names.

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A Pleasure to Meet You

By Barbara McLaughlin

When Michel Tremblay sat down to write *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*, he surely had his own mother in mind. The play, Belfry's season opener, is a tribute to Everymother, the heroine who darned socks cooked meals, fretted, told amazing stories and tried to deal with a task she was eminently not trained to do.

Tremblay's mother supported her child's dreams, refused to censor his reading, and tried to answer his interminable questions—questions beyond her limited range. Well, intellectual range. Answers came easily to a woman who allowed her imagination and story-telling ability full-range.

The team of Nicola Cavendish and Dennis O'Connor honour the play.

O'Connor's easy grace as narrator, protagonist, and child nearly overwhelmed by his mother's spitfire dialogue and over-the-top imagination, leant a credibility to the mom-son relationship that took us out of the theatre and into the special place good acting can create.

At the same time, Cavendish bounces off this grace with her customary zeal and comic timing; she challenges the play's rhythms with her rubber face, malleable lips and energetic gesture. Perhaps it happened only the first Sunday

afternoon, but when Cavendish, at the end of the play, is required to be serious, she seemed to go over the top. Or, perhaps, I found her pain too painful, her anguish too real.

I could feel the mother's in the audience identifying with the imagination of a mother confronted with a policeman in her living room. I could feel it, in her son's tribute: "If I make it, I will owe it all to you." And the mother's reply: "And if you fail?"

Her questions about the theatre and its protagonists are child-like, allowing Tremblay to remark upon the subtle exchange of power and knowledge the near-adult child and mother must embrace. "Do we exist for one another?" she asks of actors who perform for her on television and radio. On her own performances she claims: "If I didn't exaggerate so much, I was going to die of boredom."

Linda Gaboriau translates the play. She never lets us forget the Quebec flavour or why Tremblay is more than a Quebecois treasure. He is ours through her translation.

Until now, too, I was enchanted with the simplicity of the Belfry set designed this time by John C. Dinning. It was lit by Louise Guinand in royal purple, colouring two simple plastic runner "legs" in the same hue and leant splendour to a never-used handsome tri-light suspended from the "ceiling". The black cyclorama was creased sufficiently to add an interesting texture to what we might have taken for a backstage wall. We should know the Belfry better. The play will be just over as you read this so I spoil nothing by noting the usual cleverness of the Belfry craftsmen. Cyclorama gave way to scrim, which gave way to a heaven that was Saskatchewan replete with Hollywood versionings of views beyond St. Peter's gates. This was Mama's dream. This, we are aware, is the final salute, the finishing touch to mama's dream, the answer to her many questions about the theatre, the final tribute to the Everymother that Everyman or Everywoman ever knew. Besides, with a mother like that—a death like that—where else could the playwright take us?

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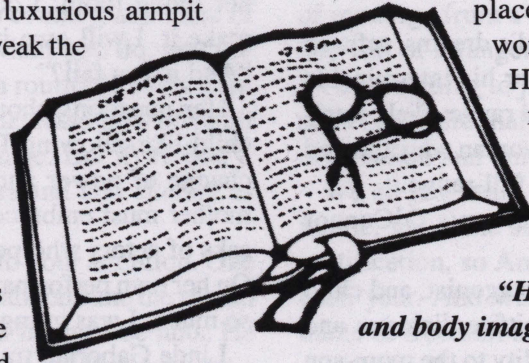
What's A Word's Worth?

By Maddy Aramis

Lesbians, Gay Men and The Beauty Myth

What is it in a partner that makes you swoon, sigh and gush, 'My, my—you look beautiful!' Is it clothes, hair, makeup, muscles, a cheeky grin? What do you do to make yourself feel beautiful? Do you shave, dab on a touch of blush, run your fingers through your luxurious armpit hair, change into baggy sweat pants, tweak the lapels of your tuxedo, or slide into your little black number or out of your leather jacket?

For both men and women, the media and pop culture abound with images of beauty, unreal standards against which we compare our potential lovers and ourselves. For all genders, the beauty trap is complex, pervasive and seductive. Sexual orientation offers little protection from standards of beauty imposed from outside, a finding which is explored in these two books.



Lesbians, Levis, and Lipstick: The Meaning of Beauty in Our Lives Edited by Jeanine C. Cogan and Joanie M. Erickson The Haworth Press, 1999

One of my pet peeves is when someone insults my intelligence by trying to put one over on me. *Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick* looks like a real book, the jacket blurb makes it sound like a real book, but lo and behold, the innards are actually a reprint of the beauty issue of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. Wading through soft science studies which present fascinating information in the most boring format imaginable is not my idea of a good read. Likewise, the poems and first-person anecdotal accounts of women deciding to grow their hair long or battling with eating disorders are likely to irritate academics who dismiss first-person accounts as being irrelevant and resistant to replication.

The sad result is that though the subject matter in this book is intriguing, relevant and important, the presentation is neither fish nor fowl—likely to alienate both academics and

lay audiences. That said, few among us are unaffected by the issues presented and so, though labouring through this mish-mash is an unpleasant task, the effort is not without its rewards. For me, the trick was finding all the places in the book where flesh-and-blood women spoke directly to the topic at hand. Here, in their honest words and reflections, much is revealed about lesbian reactions to mainstream beauty standards, as well as the effect of fairly rigid ideas of appropriate appearance within the lesbian community.

“How can I know so much about women and body image and still have so much loathing for my own body?”

The book includes an article which concludes tension may be caused by an intellectual/feminist rejection of body image expectations, which in turn drives eating disorders underground. Other articles suggest that without certain beauty norms (short hair, piercings, and dress codes) lesbians would never find each other. One writer asks, “how can lesbians honour individual styles and expressions yet maintain the functional role beauty markers serve?”

While some rail against prevailing norms within the subculture and insist on the right to long hair, for example, others rejoice in the freedom from dominant culture beauty norms after coming out.

“I don’t want the mainstream culture telling me how to look, and I don’t want the alternative culture telling me how to look either.”

In the end, *Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick* asks lots of questions and makes a few interesting observations. But the book left me unsatisfied. The authors do not try to synthesize the information they have gathered and offer no solid conclusions, no plans for action, and no practical advice on matters pertaining to beauty standards for lesbians.

Behold the Man: The Hype and Selling of Male Beauty in Media and Culture Edisol Wayne Dotson Harrington Park Press, 1999

“When beauty becomes paramount in a culture or society, it becomes a tool of discrimination and a reason for segregation.”

A much better book in terms of readability, *Behold the Man* takes a look at the phenomenon of rigid imposition of beauty standards on men. Essentially a warning cry, Dotson implores us to read Naomi Wolf’s, *The Beauty Myth* and (cont’d page 19)

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A simple line drawing of a dog and a cat. The dog is on the left, looking forward, and the cat is on the right, looking towards the dog. They are both drawn in a friendly, cartoonish style.

Pride Board Looks Ahead

By Barbara McLaughlin

The Victoria Pride Society met at the G-Spot on a sunny Sunday afternoon. For all 15 of us, it appeared to be a fun meeting. There was great food to nibble on, the atmosphere was relaxed, and there was some good and honest sharing—it could have on longer and it leads me to wonder if the community and the newly-elected Pride board might want to consider a vision day. It worked well for the Lesbian Senior Care Society with community members outnumbering the board.

Newly elected board members are Kevin Barnard, Gail Owen, Darlene Bowm, Ellen Hines, Bryan Hoekstra and René Hope.

It was clear that boards in the past had not attracted most volunteers until the day of the event—a situation that is stressful, it was acknowledged. So, one of the first efforts of the new board will be the promotion of a volunteer base. And right now community members can take their pick.

Remember, as a volunteer you are not bottom-line-responsible for things going wrong. That's what boards are for.

Areas of interest might include: choosing and auditioning talent; finding and setting up the stage; organizing one or more fund-raisers like a poetry night, or a dance; leading a merry band of volunteers; publicity; making sure there's lots of food on site; arranging tables and co-ordinating advertisers and sale booths at Fisherman's Wharf; organizing the youth groups and helping them to set up for their own dance; helping youth organize hotdogs and pop and chips at the ball game; popcorn?

There's lots of things to do and a remarkable and easy way to develop and/or explore new talent. This board is fun. Get involved so we can keep them fun and happy. Pride Day doesn't happen without input from all of us. You can reach the board through Kevin Barnard at 385-3806. Or e-mail Kevin irmaladouche@home.com

What's A Word's Worth (cont'd)

heed the message therein before men become victims of the same destructive patterns already experienced by their female counterparts.

Exploring images of male beauty in film, fiction, television, advertising, and art, Dotson demonstrates how limited the vision of the desirable man has become. Chapters on dieting and eating disorders, cosmetic surgery, and obsessive iron-pumping illustrate the ways in which men are struggling to meet perceived standards of the sculpted, well-toned body portrayed (and worshipped) in popular culture.

Dotson's discussion of the role of male beauty standards in gay culture is one of the most fascinating in the book.

"...when heterosexuals stereotype gays it is called oppression or homophobia, but when gay men stereotype gay men, it is considered a celebration and recognition of an alternate lifestyle."

Suggesting that gay men have lost their ability to determine their own ideas of beauty and instead rely on cultural interpretations of attractiveness when choosing their partners, Dotson's blunt account of men and their pursuit of sex, love, and happiness is both revealing and disturbing.

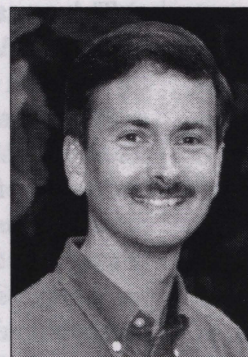
The final chapter in the book, *Where Do We Go From Here?* challenges the reader not only to critically examine the effect of idealizing the male body type, but also to examine the underlying role of power in the dynamics between men and women, as well as the role of the individual in changing the mores of society.



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A Real Hero

By Michael F. H. Halleran

The man who started gay liberation, in the legal sense, is now living in Victoria.

In the mid-1950s, Peter Wildeblood was arrested in England for consensual sex, in private, with a man in his 20s. Unlike most of his contemporaries, he did not quietly plead guilty and skulk away into the night. He tried to fight it in court. The result was, I believe—I am writing this from memory—a sentence of 18 months in prison. Upon his release, he wrote a book, *Against the Law*, based on the case and against the Criminal Code prohibitions of the day. Copies were sent to the Queen and members of Parliament. The Wolfenden Report resulted, which led to the decriminalization of male homosexual relations in England, and ultimately

the decriminalization of both male and female homosexual relations in this country. (Some might not know that like most Commonwealth countries, we used the 1885 English law as a model to draw up a Criminal Code section that applied to both genders. Legend has it that Queen Victoria had objected to including women in the English law on the grounds that “women can’t do that in bed.”)

At any rate, Peter Wildeblood eventually emigrated to British Columbia. He is currently bed-ridden at the Gorge Road Hospital. A tablecloth-sized card for him was available at the Pride Picnic for signatures by the community as a mark of our appreciation for someone who really made it all possible 10 years before Stonewall.

Walt Winfield is Back

By Barbara McLaughlin with Marc Dusseault

All of the *Winfield* series, the *Letter*, *Progress*, *Folly* and *Unbound* return to the Belfry from December 1 to 19. Rod Beattie is amazing and Dan Needles’ script is wonderful.

In the meantime, from October 26 to November 14, there’s Jason Sherman’s *Patience*—a smart, gritty and passionate play with a cinematic feel. Roy Surette directs this Canadian play that promises good post-theatre conversation.

I love A.R. Gurney and this gentle comedy, *Sylvia*, is about a man, a dog, the man’s wife and—well, it’s about the dog. A gorgeous woman plays that role. Well, that’s what the press release says. And Martha Henry, sigh, is in this one.

From March 7 to 26 the Belfry presents *Coronation Voyage* in play by Michel Marc Bouchard and translated by the amazing Linda Gaboriau. This

is a powerful, social and political allegory set on a luxury ocean liner bound for the coronation of Elizabeth II. There are 14 characters, dear knows how many actors—but it promises to be funny, touching and completely engrossing.

The annual Festival includes *15 Seconds*, *Red Mango* and *Blind Dancers* by our own Charles Tidler.

To celebrate Black History Month the Belfry has added *Je me souviens*” memories of an expatriate Anglophone Montrealaise, Quebecoise exiled in Canada. In both languages, this is a powerful story of a young black anglophone woman growing up in Montreal. Performed and written by Lorena Gale. February 15 to February 27.

It all sounds like amazing fun.
See you at The Belfry.

Useful Phrases For All Occasions

From Robert Shields

- Thank you. We're all refreshed and challenged by your unique point of view.
- The fact that no one understands you doesn't mean you're an artist.
- I don't know what your problem is, but I'll bet it's hard to pronounce.
- Any connection between your reality and mine is purely coincidental.
- I have plenty of talent and vision. I just don't give a damn.
- I will always cherish the initial misconceptions I had about you.
- It's a thankless job, but I've got a lot of Karma to burn off.
- How about never? Is never good for you?
- Are you a ray of sunshine every damn day?
- I'll try being nicer if you'll try being smarter.
- I'm out of my mind, but feel free to leave a message...
- It might look like I'm doing nothing, but at the cellular level I'm really quite busy.
- At least I have a positive attitude about my destructive habits.



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Sue's Sun Signs

Aries: There's good and bad advice offered to you which can cost you dearly in the future. A good friend will help you by pointing out the reality of falsehoods. A wise advisor. Then by listening to your inner voice and acting on it, present and future plans can manifest into a reality. You may seem to be a social outcast, but to one person, you're special. Keep this person in your life. Clean up your image; tidy up your act. It's not easy. If you insist on blanking this special person, you'll lose them, forever.

Taurus : People may think you are "nuts" to an extreme, but this is your survival tactic to get what you want and you want a lot. Love will come through as a matter of course, maybe not from the direction you are anticipating. It's deep, so prepare for it. Open all lines of communication, from thought patterns to travel. Make a physical effort to step up your ladder. Oh, to be truly loved. Commitment or Committed!

Gemini: There are associates and then there are true friends. You'll find out who the backstabbers are this month so clear them out of your life. All they do is muck up your life anyway. Study hard. A relationship (if you haven't already got one) looks very promising and fits into your "ways". A replay with good results? Take on offers that are progressive, not the ones that burden you.

Cancer: Rely only on certainties. Be straight to the point, no "maybes" or "could bes." Send someone a special, loving, tender communiqué. Invite someone to come and stay. Intimacy is your strength. This month, don't be flippant; mean it. No side-stepping; use your pincers to seize that prize. Don your finery. Dress to kill in the best possible taste.

Leo: Someone really cheeses you off by their outrageous, uncaring manner, so let them know how unfair they are in a reasonable tone. Home and rou-



tine will run a lot smoother by using tact and diplomacy. Headway can then be made in any relationship. If you bring the wrong person home with you, you'll end up in trouble; so make all intentions crystal clear. If you love someone, let them know. Don't be put off if their response isn't perfect.

Virgo: You may muck up royally if you don't keep a grip on your manners.

People could turn against you, so try to be nice; stop picking holes. Promote your more positive characteristics. Create a pleasant atmosphere in your home. Try listening and help some one, not as a martyr, but as a true friend. To have a friend, be a friend.

Libra: Extend your love to those who are brutal. Forgive them. Fun plans may be thwarted so redirect your energy to what can be and get out of the stranglehold you are in. Persevere. It's not luck, but love, that's your strength this month. Venus is with you, so call the shots, enjoy life for what it is. Get on the phone/internet, find the ones whose company you enjoy; waste no more time on "negatives."

Scorpio: Trouble at home reflects on you and partnerships. The only way is to take positive action. Declare your love to the one it's meant for; they need this. You'll be amazed at the results. Someone has honorable designs on you, not just "friendship". Can you spot them? They'll let you know even if you're not single. Appreciate co-existence. Soul mates.

Sagittarius: Life hasn't looked this

good for ages. If you insist on acting like a brat, you'll be treated as such, so luxuriate in your newfound heaven while it lasts. Less talk, you don't know everything, and, more action. Live by the rules you've set. You're here now, so live it. Re-plan what has previously evaded you. So much will become dear. Open up so that positive energy flows through you into your world.

Capricorn: Feelings can be stomped on. Overboard attitude/dictatorship Isn't the way, either: Try empathy, understanding. Throw in some love and a treat. Then you'll be more content with the world, as the world will be with you. Communicate your true intent. Allow yourself some freedom. You'll achieve more security by being active in the community. A good month to promote business and career.

Aquarius: You'll have zany ideas on how love should be, and how to make money, but if you force the issues you'll come a cropper. Be the complement of that zany-ness and practice what you preach. Pace yourself for an onslaught of passion; then you'll be sought after and you will find what you desire. Not overnight, but step-by-step. You can see what others cannot or will not. Use this to your advantage.

Pisces: That arrogant attitude that's been driving you on bursts may have its dividends, but at what price? After you do some remodeling (yet again), you'll find a far more satisfactory way to proceed with your ambitions. "'Tis better to have loved and lost!" How about love and keep? Stick your neck out for somebody else. Get positive. Get happy. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and look around.

Better Than Chocolate

Comes to Star Theatre in Sidney early November. For details call Star info line at 655-1171.

Little Lezzie Flashes



Sometimes Victoria just doesn't seem like a thriving metropolis. Especially not if you're playing scrabble with **Jeanne Rioux** while six other dykes over 40 hover over a Chinese Checkerboard at Over 40 night. We were all engaged in our Saturday night revelry when a young and sprightly gang from Nanaimo poked their collective heads in the door. "This is not your idea of a wild night in the big city, is it?" flashed the Lez. Fortunately, Sandy, reading about nightlife in Victoria, was able to steer them to livelier events. Approached the spot one Wednesday for coffee talk observing in process a small coterie camped outside around a col-

lective fume of cigarettes. Later, **Joy Kirstin**, **Zorya Plaskin**, **Pat Ford**, aura reader **Jane** and her spouse, **Willie**, I, and my friend **Claire** joined in separate but parallel conversations. It was fun to spend time at the AIDS walk with **Robert Shields**, **Daphne Armstrong**, **Robin Durkin** and **Joanne Nicolson**... Coffee at Bean Around The World with **Marsha Mildon** had its moments. We were sitting outside when Marsha's eyes rolled and she said, "now that is one gorgeous cop!" I looked behind me and was making all the appropriate noises when I turned back to face the cops' male partner, also kinda cute. My red face lit up the block! Marsha choked on her coffee...**Gary Murphy** has been updating the Rhino website. **Pam** and **Beck** in Courtenay are responsible for new design. Rhino page <http://members.home.net/lavrhino/index.html> You can subscribe or renew your subscription right on site. I sure wish the web could figure out how to put money into my account and the

Rhino's. Maybe next year?...Had a fun lunch with **Walter Meyer zu Epern** who is running with **Art Vanden Berg** for November 20 Victoria elections. This little bit from Art's campaign blurb tickled me. He was talking about Information Technology (IT) workers, and how we need to attract same to the city. He notes: "I doubt many of the present councillors could often tell the difference between many a high-income IT worker and the persons whose presence offends them downtown." Right on! Don't forget to vote!...**Pat Ford** showed off a new shed with sink she and partner **Lee Porteous** have added to their ever-growing little house. It's the only shed I've seen with a working sink...**Stacy Leblanc** tells me he is pleased with the results of this year's AIDS walk. Funds raised were close to last year and the weather held and the walkers were there...Finally, our **Betty Krawczyk** is back in the hoosegow. Apparently, the activist and author is being held in the Burnaby jail. Perhaps she'll finish her next book. **BMcL**


Lavender Rhinoceros is pleased to announce Angela Young as new advertising manager for the Rhinoceros. You can contact Angela for sales at 475-2550.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS & SERVICES

Lavender Rhinoceros Web Page: <http://members.home.net/lavrhino/guestbook.html>

This is the Rhino's new website. Designed by With Pride Designs

ALL ads are \$5 first 25 words and .50/word thereafter. Call 598-6490.

Deadline the first of the month prior to publication.

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Woman, 48, n/s, n/d seeks quiet accommodation near UVic. Will work for rent reduction. Call 592-0976.

LOOKING FOR ROOMMATE:

and/or house sitter for three-bedroom house Nov. 1 to March 30. N/S cat lover. Call Melanie 383-9546.

GULF ISLANDS RETREAT: Cabin for rent by week or weekend on 23 acres of women-owned land. Total privacy. South facing ocean view. Call Susan (250) 539-9951.

GETAWAY: in Port Renfrew. Rent by night or week - three bedroom house, fully equipped, beach view, near Botanical Beach and West Coast Trail. Reasonable rates: 388-0754 Website: <http://www.islandnet.com/~gspot/wvr/>

SPINSTERVALE IN COOMBS: Offers rustic cabins at \$7.50 per woman per night. Larger cabin sleeps 4 to 6. \$30 per weekend. Inquire about farm-hand position or work exchange. (3-hrs per day equals room and board. Call (250) 248-8809. E-mail Sunshine@macn.bc.ca

COMMUTER ROOM: In Vancouver for parttime commuter or short-term visitors. Lesbian and allies welcome. (604) 253-3740

OFFICE OR STUDIO SPACE: Available in Fairfield Apt. Call Lyn 361-9691

CLASSIFIEDS

QI DONG: This powerful healing art consists of breathing, slow movements. Taught by Maria at the Spot on Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. \$5 fee goes to Spot. Sliding scale in effect.

PHOTOS: All photographic needs—wedding, butch/femme/ display/ pride/ **Business cards and ads.** Call Heather 388-0754.

ART THERAPY FOR WOMEN: Healing Creatively from within. Private sessions to explore issues of self-esteem, mid-life, grief, loss, early trauma, abuse. Free initial consultation. Sliding scale. MARGO FARR, Registered Art Therapist. 388-0929

SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE WORKSHOPS: November 15, How Can I Help. For Partners and allies 6 to 8 p.m. \$5. Nov. 29, 6 to 8 p.m. Dealing with Panic and Anxiety. Free. Call 383-3232 for info and registration.

HOROSCOPE READINGS AND TAROT: Call Zorya to find out how your life is going and where you're at in life. Highly recommended. (250) 380-2960

TAROT AND RUNE: readings, spiritual guidance on how to face the challenges in your life. 10 years experience. \$40-50/hr sliding scale. Joy (a.k.a. Aurora) 361-4680.

TAROT AND DIVINATION WORKSHOP: October 24, 10 p.m. to 5 p.m. An experiential approach to working with tarot cards, suitable for beginners. For details call Aurora 361-4680. Space is limited. Register by October 10.

COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

MASQUERADE PARTY: (mixed queer community) Sat. Oct. 23 Native Son's Hall, Cliffe Ave., Courtenay 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$7 in advance, \$9 at the door Phone Julie (703-2591) or Em (334-1550 for info or tickets. Licensed

VWOAC Hike details for October 23: Meeting time: 10 am Roche Cove Park, meet in the main parking lot (it's also the lot for the Galloping Goose Trail) off Gillespie Road (which connects with Sooke Road) Please contact Sheryl at: sls@bc.sympatico.ca if you need more detailed instructions to get there, or if you're really stuck for a ride.

WOMEN'S AIKIDO in Vancouver: Sundays 11 a.m. to 12:30. On-going sessions resume September at Trout Lake Community Centre in Vancouver, #3-350 Victoria Drive, near Broadway Skytrain. Drop-in \$6. Plus tax. For information, registration, call (604) 739-4233.

ON SALT SPRING ISLAND Gays/Lesbians/Allies: meet on the third Sunday of the month, 2pm-4p 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.

PERSONAL

VICTORIA GAY man, well-bred but temporarily impoverished, wants to share living quarters with another. Must welcome visits from my children. Write Lavender Rhino Box 30.

NANCY NIGRO & Max Sucharov offer a user-friendly in-depth workshop for counsellors and therapists Sat. Nov. 20, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Goward House. Registration/info call Nancy 480-0080. \$95
(Ads cont'd next page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS & SERVICES

LESBIANS WHO HAVE USED AI to create their family are needed for research practicum - please contact Holly Smith (250) 245-2264.

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

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

SERVICES, ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS

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

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

Queerly Canadian: CFUV Radio 8:30-9:00 p.m. 101.9 or 104.3 cable

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

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

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

wcn_spot@yahoo.com

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

Camosun College Lesbian Collective. Alternate 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.

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

Outdoors Club: Sherry: norie@bc.sympatico.ca or tel. (250) 474-8159 Also Kanaice e-mail sls@bc.sympatico.ca

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

P-Flag: Information, 385-9462

The Victoria Status of Women Action Group: Services available: free use of computers, resource library; info on local events and organizations that work with and for women. 383-7322. 130-645 Fort St. (Yarrows Bldg.) Email swag@pacificcoast.net Fax 388-0100 UVIC Gay/Lesbian faculty and older students

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



Longtime activist and published author Betty Krawczyk is once again proving the courage of her convictions. Betty is in the BC Correctional Institute for Women after being arrested for road-blocking to prevent logging giant Interfor from clearcutting in the Stoltman Wilderness Valley.

Six years ago Betty spent 4 1/2 months in jail when she was arrested during the Clayoquot Sound protests. She later wrote a book on her experience and her life of activism, entitled *Clayoquot, The Sound of My Heart*.

According to her daughter, Marion, Betty is in good spirits and intends to provide her own counsel. Her pre-trial is set for Nov 2-4 and Marion said she may be in jail until late Dec.

To offer moral support to Betty write her at BCCW, 7900 Fraser Park Drive, Burnaby BC, V5J 5B9. She can receive faxes at 604-436-5302 and is able to make collect phone calls. To be placed on Betty's visitor list provide name, address, phone number and birthdate in advance (to above address or fax number, or phone prison at 604-436-5397). Also call several days ahead to set a visiting time.

Photo & story by Marion Stoodley

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event information

see reverse for special events

November@thespot

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

	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<p>Coffee talk 10:30am - 1:30pm Wednesdays \$2 for everyone hosted by Larrein, Kayshalee and Jo - a friendly time to drop in and chat - tarot and aura readings with Melissa and Jane.</p> <p>Sappho's salon 7:30-9pm 2nd and 4th thursdays with Cynthia. Bring a hot topic for discussion \$3 for non-members</p> <p>Writers' group Closed to New Members</p> <p>Wise women over 40 4th Saturday, 7:30-11pm unlicensed, Women only</p> <p>Drawing Classes with Marla Diploma in Fine Art Sunday's 11:30-1:30pm \$6 members, \$7 non members</p> <p>Meditation with Maria Sundays, 2-3:30pm by donation</p> <p>Qi Gong with Mariah, Tuesdays 6-7pm, by donation, sliding scale.</p> <p>Saturday morning coffee talk 10:30am - 1:30pm with Debbie & Fran - \$2 for everyone</p> <p>Butch Gathering Third Monday: hosted by Lyn Davis 7:00 until 9:30pm whatever-we-want-it-to-be group</p> <p>Victoria Women's Outdoor and Activity Club (vwoac) call Kanaice 474-8159 or email Sherry norie@bc.sympatico.ca for activities info, and to be added to the email list.</p> <p>Yoga with Gwynneth Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:45 pm \$ 2 members, \$ 4 nonmembers</p> <p>Drop in Jam with Michele 8:30-10:30pm 2nd & 4th Mondays</p>	<p>Drawing Classes 11:30-1:30</p> <p>Meditation 2-3:30pm</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Qi Gong 6-7pm, with Mariah Yoga 7:30-8:30pm</p> <p>drop in</p>	<p>3</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>wcn board meeting open to members 6:45 - 7:15pm</p> <p>writers group 7:30-9</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p> <p>Women's Creative Network AGM and Celebration</p>
	<p>Drawing Classes 11:30-1:30</p> <p>Meditation 2-3:30pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Drop in Jam with Michele 8:00 - 10:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Qi Gong 6-7pm, with Mariah Yoga 7:30-8:30pm</p> <p>drop in</p>	<p>10</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>sappho's salon with Cynthia 7:30pm-9pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p>
	<p>Drawing Classes 11:30-1:30</p> <p>Meditation 2-3:30pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Butch Gathering 7:00-9:30pm Whatever-we-want-it-to-be group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Qi Gong 6-7pm, with Mariah Yoga 7:30-8:30pm</p> <p>drop in</p>	<p>17</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>wcn board meeting open to members 6:45 - 7:15pm</p> <p>writers group 7:30-9</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p> <p>Come on down to the Hop 8:30 pm Cover \$3.00</p>
	<p>Drawing Classes 11:30-1:30</p> <p>Meditation 2-3:30pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Drop in Jam with Michele 8:00 - 10:30 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Qi Gong 6-7pm, with Mariah Yoga 7:30-8:30pm</p> <p>drop in</p>	<p>24</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>sappho's salon with Cynthia 7:30pm-9pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p> <p>wise women over 40 7:30-11pm with Elaine</p>
	<p>Drawing Classes 11:30-1:30</p> <p>Meditation 2-3:30pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Qi Gong 6-7pm, with Mariah Yoga 7:30-8:30pm</p> <p>drop in</p>	<p>1</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>wcn board meeting open to members 6:45 - 7:15pm</p> <p>writers group 7:30-9</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>coffee talk 10:30am-1:30pm</p>

Events at the Womens' Creative Network are:

• **WOMEN-ONLY** unless indicated
all genders. this policy includes and welcomes transgendered and transsexual people.

• ALWAYS available on a **SLIDING SCALE**. a sliding scale means that if you have more, you pay more, if you have less, you pay less: those with priviledge pay more so that those without priviledge can attend.

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/

Special Events

Lets all
go to the

Hop Keg Party

Lets all
go to the

With: Debbie, Pip, Sherry, Jeanne,

**Saturday November 20th
8:30 pm**

Cover \$3.00 + -
Beer \$2.00 a glass

DJ's: "DJ DEVOTION"

Alice and Allison

[fundrasier for the G-Spot and
Womens' Creative Network]
Come Out & Support YOUR Spot!!

1910 Store Street
(Just past Capital Iron)
Victoria, BC, V8T 4R4

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

HALLOWEEN BASH

October 30, 1999
9pm-1am

New For Sunday's
Drawing Classes with Marla Stevenson
Sundays 11:30 - 1:30pm

\$6 members, \$7 non members

Women's Creative Network AGM and Celebration

Come and support the WCN on November 6th
and celebrate the start of our 5th year of operation.

Coming in December

Phyllis Serota Visual Artist
Slide Show and Presentation
December 15th

Spot available for **RENTALS**
Most Friday nights and some weekdays
unless listed in the Calendar.
For details and pricing call the Spot at
382-7768