

VNEWS

2016-048
HQ75.5
L38

BC's Premiere Lesbian Magazine

What's Inside

Lesbian Families:

The first in a series of profiles examining our community's "family values."

A Meditation to Change the World

Vic High Students learning about homophobia

Lesbian Herstory

Hollywood Northwest

Quotes & Queries

Brainfever

Hunnisett on Cats

Reviews and much more...



Profiling Lesbian Families: Victoria family from left Chantal Brodeur, Kristin Hopper, Karen Morton.

February 1997

Vol. 8 Issue 5

Price: \$3.50



Each New Year begins with such promise. As I look over the achievements of our community in 1996, I look forward with enthusiasm, and considerable glee, to a community that continues to aspire to wholeness. Oh, there will be glitches and controversies; we aren't lesbians if there aren't. But, hopefully, those controversies will be places from which we can grow.

The 1996 highlights have to include the Dykonography exhibit and the formation of the Lesbian Art Collective who earned one of the last of the Canada Council's Explorations grants. The Lesbian Seniors Care Society established itself and continues to grow. Some UVic students held what I hope is the first of a series of "young and old" lesbian bridge-buildings. Our Pride Parade grew to huge proportions with people actually out to see us this year. And what a party we threw for ourselves at Fisherman's Wharf! That event showed that we (gays and lesbians) really can work together. We got the first of our Pink Pages Directories and the new Pink Pages calendar. Musaïc filled the Royal Theatre and proved it can sing as well as the choir from the big city. Joyce Pate faced her demons and Suzanne Westenhoefer tickled us, at the David Lam Theatre. We had some fantastic coffee houses and poetry readings, celebrated with a grand Gala, found the G-Spot, and built a Women's Shelter (Sandy Merriman House), and danced with The Muff Divers (don't stop! girls).

Already our poets and writers are gearing up for a series of Loose Tongues (poetry and prose readings at the G-Spot Jan 26 at 7 p.m.) and Wild Tongue March 15. You'll read LNews plans for the year and year's ahead on one of the supplements, and the Pride Society is working toward determining the need for a gay and lesbian centre. We know that all of you are filled with ideas to

generate and promote a strong and healthy community. There is lots to be done. You can get involved (the best way to meet girls) under the aegis of the Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society, The Victoria Lesbian Art Collective, The Women's Creative Network, or The Victoria Lesbian Community Connections. Just look at all the societies our community has formed and is forming! That's visibility!

I look forward in 1997 to seeing LNews grow with your help. Community building is the focus and that's generally, I believe, what all our activities are about.

As Suzanne Westenhoefer said in an interview: "Nobody cares what the lesbian population thinks about Canada's political situation, or anything else; they don't know we are here". Well, the more visible we become, the more the world is going to have to care what we think. After all, it is our dykely duty to change the world. We are.

Special thanks to Lee Boychuk of Computers In Distress who spent hours with me trying to find the LNews I lost on the computer. And to Diane Barnes for 11th hour photography. And to many friends who have just been there for laughs, tears, swims, bridge, walks, snow times, show times, and everything in between. I think we are all truly blessed. Hope you do, too.

LNews was founded September 1988.

It is LNews effective Vol. 8 Issue 5.

Logo designed by Patrice Snopkowski of Out West Design

LNews Team:

Editor: Barbara McLaughlin

Production & DeskTop: Theresa Newhouse

Paste-up: Leigh Walters

Artist: Barb Csinos

Photographer: Diane Barnes. Gaze Out

Right Arm: Marti Carr-Harris

Subscription Mailing List: Lahl SarDyke

Treasurer: Sally Hamill

Columnists and Contributors: Karey Perks, Rowena Hunnisett, Jan Trainor, Vera, Mary Lasovich, Judy Lightwater, B. McLaughlin, Patricia Lane, Jennifer Charles, Kelevelyn Hurley, Jennifer Charles.

Subscription sales and advertising:

Colleen Craig 598-3127

All requests for advertising, subscriptions and gift certificates to this number, please.

Editor can be reached directly at 598-6490

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

Deadline for advertising, editorial copy and notices is the 10th of the month prior to publication.

LNews is a division of Victoria Lesbian Community Connections. Its mandate is to provide a monthly written forum for lesbians, bi-sexuals, transgendered lesbians and allies that celebrates all aspects of lesbian life, to promote a healthy, visible lesbian community by giving voice to and honoring diverse and common interests and to promote dialogue on issues such as class, culture, racial differences and disabilities.

LNews is sold at Everywomans Books on Johnson Street for \$3.50 per issue.

A subscription is \$25 per year. Cheques are payable to S. Hamill.

LNews mailing address is P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4

Family Portraits

by Gay Toner

Welcome to the family. This article is the first in a series about lesbian parents.

lisa j. lander, an openly out and politically active lesbian parent, will be 41 this July. Her daughter, Nat, is ten. A full time honours student in UVic's Women's Studies program where she's working on her B.A., lisa has lived in Victoria for three years now. She lives as a single parent, but for the last three months has been involved with her lover, Ruthann.

Nat is the product of the time lisa was "still sleeping with men." The father is not involved in their lives at all. He left when Nat was three months old and they haven't seen him since. She realizes that not having a father to deal with has made a big difference in their lives: "I don't know what it would be like (to have the father around) because I've always had complete control, all along. That's been really nice." She feels that her family, aside from Nat, are individual women in the community. Although she's never realized before "how great it is to have someone who wants to co-parent—who wants to take on that role," until her most recent relationship.

As a political organizer in the dyke community she is interviewed often in the press. Her being so out, and so political, makes Nat out. As she said, "Everybody in Nat's school knows who I am and she gets to carry that. She's the kid of the dyke. So, I think it makes her life a lot harder; she struggles with that." When I asked how the school dealt with it, lisa said, "They don't... It depends on the individual teacher. I always go in at the beginning of the year and say, 'I'm a lesbian. I think you need to know that because Nat doesn't see Mom, Dad and the kids. She's totally immersed in the dyke community. And then she comes to school and she

doesn't see who she is at all. So you need to know that, and you need to work with that.' ...Some teachers have been great, but her teacher last year couldn't even look at me..."

Similar to the teachers, some of the parents are great and some of them are extremely homophobic. Lisa said one of Nat's friend's mothers will not even come to the door or look lisa in the face, although she doesn't prohibit her child's friendship with Nat. Although she knows it happens, lisa has never experienced a parent refusing to allow their child to associate with the 'dyke's kid.'

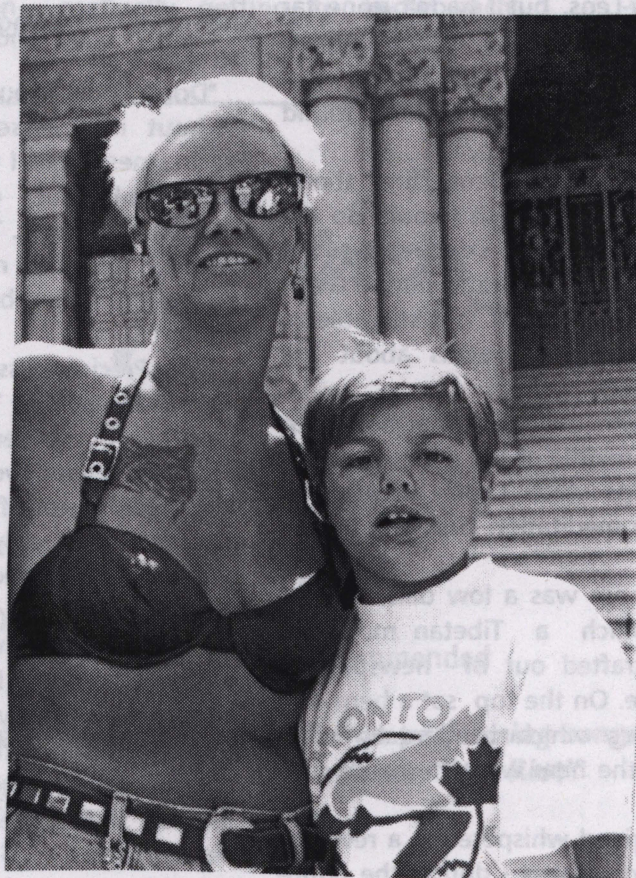
Parenting within the lesbian community is also interesting, lisa says. As an organizer she makes sure events have child care and she organizes non-alcoholic dances so that other parents can come and bring their children. She admits, though, that sometimes it's not that comfortable. "Often it's not taken into consideration that lesbians might have kids." Even though children aren't generally welcomed she thinks it's a question of "Taking up space. Saying, 'No.

This is my community. I'm going to bring my child and you deal with it. I will decide what is appropriate for my child to go to, and if you don't like it, that's your problem.' I'm really clear about taking up space as a lesbian and as a dyke mother. Because it's Nat's community, too."

When Nat came home we invited her to join us. lisa explained what we were talking about and asked if it mattered to Nat that she had a lesbian mom. "No. I like it," she said. "My friends don't care, it's my friends' parents that care. In fact the girls like it, because it has nothing to do with boys."

Nat's comment seems like the perfect place to stop. If adults could be as accepting as children we'd all be so much better off.

"Everybody in Nat's school knows who I am and she gets to carry that. She's the kid of the dyke. So, I think it makes her life a lot harder; she struggles with that."



Questions? Comments? Want to introduce your family?

BRAIN FEVER

by Karey Perks

It isn't every day that the founder of an obscure neo-Tibetan-Texada Island cult comes to town, and I was lucky (!) enough to attend this remarkable event through circumstances which couldn't possibly have been related but which nevertheless seemed destined to occur.

On the day in question I was suffering that nagging fear I always get when I fall in love, that the spell would wear off and my beloved would be revealed as an alien from the planet of giant spongeoid life forms. I went to a bookstore in search of some cheap distraction, but all I could find on the shelves was "Co-dependent And Loving It!" I also didn't want to read, "Women Who Write Too Much (and the Women Who Publish Them)" by the same author. On my way out I accidentally (!) stumbled against a Tarot display and something (!) fell and knocked off my glasses, which broke.

I could barely see the floor, much less read Tarot cards. I stumbled (!) off to Hasty-Lens, but I hadn't gone far when unexpectedly I bumped (!) into a friend who invited me to her place for a little off-beat medication.

At least I thought that's what she said. Until I found myself in an unfamiliar warehouse.

I love it when people in stories suddenly "find" themselves at a convenient plot point. I wish I could do the same in real life, as I am about to do by skipping over the illogical segment in which I am too blind to realize that I am not going to my friend's apartment, but still able to provide interesting and descriptive details about the events which followed.

The warehouse glowed with old wood that had been sanded and polished. In the middle of the floor was a circle of large black buffalo chips which I soon learned - by tripping (!) over one - were meditation cushions. A few had people sitting on them.

Along one side of the room was a low dais covered with fresh flowers from which a Tibetan mountain emerged. It was cleverly crafted out of newspapers, chicken wire, and flour paste. On the top sat a bent and silent figure in white robes which incidentally were embroidered prettily along the hem with the name of a local downtown hotel.

"The Preciousness," my friend whispered in a reverential tone of voice. The Preciousness - during the entire evening nobody there said She or He - looked anywhere from 40 to 60 years old, and had a shaved head and skin like the parchment of an ancient scripture, or fraudulent

treasure map.

A gong sounded. An earnest woman with unfinished hair gave a welcoming speech in a very soft voice which was easy to tune out. The Preciousness was on his way to inaugurate a new meditation hut at the Texada Island Centre. I wondered if there was room in the hut for the follower whom I had myopically assumed to be an exceedingly hairy student, but who turned out to be a yak. My friend elbowed me in the ribs and told me it was time for first-timers to raise their hands. I did so. The yak didn't lift a hoof.

"Let us begin the meditation," announced the gentle Voice of the Preciousness. "Let us meditate on the empty and meaningless Void, into which my luggage has disappeared."

He giggled and flashed a beatific smile. Everyone but me (!) seemed to know what that meant, because the room quieted and all I could hear was the rhythmic sound of breathing. I took the opportunity to meditate on what the hell I was doing contemplating the Void in the company of a yak.

"Don't look around," said a deep voice my head. Without my glasses I could barely make out the Preciousness, but I would swear The Precious Eyes were closed in blissful, or at least drowsy meditation. I glanced at the yak. Then The Preciousness. Then the yak who, in that blurry room, was crystalline. I could distinguish each shining black hair, every striation of its incurving horns.

"The Preciousness has a brain the size of a lentil, but a heart as big as K2." The voice had a muffled quality, as if large but easily dented words were packed in cotton wool. "Keep your eyes on the floor and I'll see what I can do about the rest of your vision. I'm not an ophthalmologist, of course, only a miracle worker, but I think they'll maintain this correction. Please don't talk to anyone about this."

I was getting my vision corrected by a telepathic yak. "I value my freedom," I replied.

"Very wise," the yak rumbled as once more the gong sounded. People stirred. A soft, cascading plop was soon followed by a pungent smell. The Preciousness giggled. "Tee-hee. Shit happens." My friend scurried off to locate the dustpan.

And I went outside to count the streetlights one at a time, followed by the stars and then the pores in the faces of all the spongeoid life-forms I happened (!) to meet in the street.

DEAR VERA

Dear Vera,

Why is it that as soon as I start living with a woman her interest in sex wanes rapidly? I mean, the sex is hot while we're dating, but as soon as that lease is signed it all goes away.

JM

Dear JM,

While I understand that this is very frustrating, take heart that the no-sex state of affairs is quite common. Moving in together too soon may trigger the fear of loss and betrayal and cause people to reduce their vulnerability by limiting sexual openness. Statistics on sexual assault on

girls and women show that there's a one in four chance that any woman you meet has been sexually victimized at some point in her life. In addition to the devastating effects these violations have on the bodies and emotions of the victims at the time of the abuse, there can be long-term scarring. Love and sex become separated—even oppositional—so the only way to keep loving someone is to not be sexual with them. If this seems complicated, it is. Overcoming this situation will take lots of patience and compassion on both your parts, hopefully, with the support of a good therapist.

It's a standard joke that the second lesbian date involves a U-Haul. How long do you date someone before suggesting you move in together? Could you consider maintaining separate residences for a while? That way, you each have your own safe space, and meeting for trysts can be an adventure. Building intimacy with each other over time, slowly and gradually getting to know each other—these are vital steps in

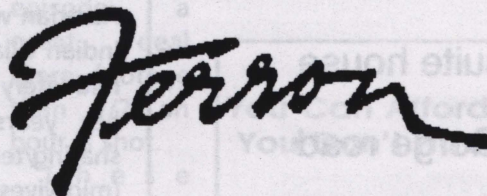
creating trust in each other that people often try to skip over by moving in together in that first heady flush of lust. My advice to you is to slow down the whole process, keep your own place, and really get to know each other first before you start house-hunting together.

Good luck. Vera.

Vera loves to get your letters, which are kept strictly confidential. Please address your questions and comments to Dear Vera c/o the LNews address.

"I have found that my ad in LNews has really showed results. People I didn't know say: I saw your ad in LNews. It's worth it."
- Brenda Hopper, realtor.

**Vancouver Islanders,
come to the early show
and catch the
late ferry home!**



Saturday Feb. 22nd

**Beaver Point Hall
Saltspring Island**

Two shows

5:30 p.m. (doors @ 5:00)

8:30 p.m. (Doors @ 8:00)

Advance Tickets recommended

***Don't miss this intimate show, with Ferron performing songs from her
new Warner Bros. release "Still Riot"***

Tickets: \$17.00 on sale Feb 1st

At Rare Find - Ganges

Zydeco - Victoria

Info: 653-2046

DYKEWRITES —Subscribers write from other places

As the letter from this remote spot in India is long, I have edited it: apologies to Diane.

Letter from Dharamsala & Diane Smith

I knew I wanted to work within another culture to broaden my (midwifery) skills and deepen my understanding of our human condition. I ...wanted to find answers to questions about childbirth. Why are we mechanizing the birth process and is faith in the female form being lost? I've been here for four months now.

My visions for women have been based on an idealistic heart...I am in the classic undoing that shapeshifts a westerner in India. My dedication to improving women's lives remains my reason for midwifing.

I'm honoured to be helping out in both the Hindi and Tibetan communities. I am witnessing in both a strength in religious faith, and a dedication to family. These last few weeks, drumming throughout the night has been keeping the bears at bay while we celebrate the corn harvest. A 13-

week dirge amongst grieving women marks the loss of a loved one. Tibetan monks send the resonance of their chanting clear across the valley. The smiles that occur in a simple greeting seem to speak of a reverence for human kind. Midway through the Monsoons, I had a private audience with His Holiness (The Dalai Lama). Here is a man who practices non-violence in solving his culture's alarming dilemma. With three others I sat speechless in His presence — a rare silence. I assimilated that kindness toward one another is our only way to proceed. I began my volunteer work shortly after arriving at the Dispenser Clinic in McLeod Ganji. Separate from the hospital, I was asked to do their antenatals on Wednesday afternoons. Eager to attend births as well, I've made myself available to the women birthing at home. Most are using the hospital — a movement that has sprung up in the last few years. Western volunteer doctors, often fresh out of medical school, attend to the women. I observed that what I could best offer was midwifery care which focuses on a familiar continuity of care with the same caregiver. My proposal

challenged an existing system. I have been carving out a role where I am providing care that surprises me. I teach midwifery care and skills in prenatal classes, to health care workers and nurses. I help an Austrian woman, Dr. Barbara, in her clinic in a small Indian village down the road. She is tapping me for midwifery care knowledge that she didn't receive in her years of training. I take part in group sharing/teaching sessions with local village dai's (midwives). These Indian women are having their traditional methods diminished and demeaned by modern medicine. I'm sharing my practical skills and learning about their developed methods. Tibetan women walk the town, mothers to the culture. Their shapes are defined by dress, and tradition is vogue. Across the valley from my front stoop a flaming pink figure appears in the street. She is a village woman gathering grasses for her animals. Eyes downcast, watching for loose stones, cow dung, slippery garbage, wet spots or a patch of pavement. She wears a mod-sari in perfectly garish accents of gold. She has married pink lips and a bindi. These women dazzle the scenery.

I survived the monsoons which last for 10 weeks. They have led us into an exquisite autumn. A tree in bloom resembles a Victorian spring Japanese Plum blossom.

Namaste, Tashi Delek and Good-bye for now.

FOR SALE

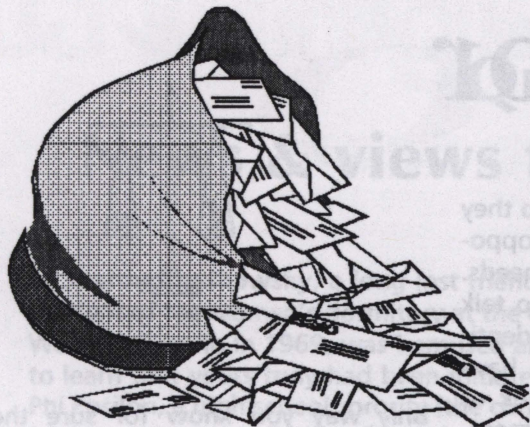
1/2 equity in 2 suite house
on a
quiet street off Gorge road

Buy out our equity and live in your own
home for less than the cost of rent!

WATCH YOUR EQUITY GROW EACH
AND EVERY MONTH!!!

Mortgage already in place at a very low rate
makes payments very affordable!!
This is an opportunity to own your
own home (at half the cost!)

Please give us a call.....
Sharon or Jenny
478-5907



Dear Editor:

I took exception to the Dear Vera advice issued to "Di Lemma" Dec/Jan. Di said she had 'ample reason' to consider that her romantic interest was mutual. But Vera contradicted Di and inquired whether she was just 'starved for some romantic fantasy.' I'd much rather give Di credit for her intuition. Vera also undermined "Wilting's" instincts by suggesting that she may be deluding herself about 'suspecting' the woman she loves finds her appealing. Wilting was further advised not to disclose her feelings which I found rather sad. I've heard a lot of women say they never tell the women they love that they love them. And love is too rare and precious a gift to be wasted. Love is powerful and takes one by surprise. And it doesn't always happen while one is in a state of single blessedness.

Sounds to me like Vera might be supporting monogamy at any price. And though I also aspire to monogamy, one vital aspect of this

controversy generally excludes any mention of love. Another difficulty I have with monogamy is that I fail to see what one relationship has to do with any other.

Furthermore, there may be a good possibility that these very two women are struggling against a pile of lesbian social taboos in an effort to reach each other's hearts. Fortunately, love generally finds a way. My advice would be to forget about the dishes and the sublimation and get right to the heart of the matter.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Kahn, hopeless romantic.

Dear Editor:

After reading the Mave's review in December of the new CBC sitcom "The Newsroom" I just had to throw in my .02\$.

It is one of the only shows on television right now that I really like. True, it does not conform to the traditional sitcom rules: for example, it has no laugh track, much of it is relatively unscripted, and for each episode a great deal more footage than 1/2 an hour is shot.

These anomalies are what enables the show to be full of the dry, witty humour

which only improv can produce.

I also love that this sitcom pokes fun at p.c. "liberal" yuppies. The do-gooders who think they have gotten rid of their prejudices. It portrays the sexist, racist, homophobic (not to mention egotistic) attitudes of some of the "liberal" media very accurately.

Sometimes realism is the best comedy of all.

Sincerely, Theresa Newhouse

To the Stubborn and Magnanimous, Literate and Ravenous Mary Lasovich

I'd write you a poem
But I haven't the time
But why do you pine
'Neath the bald headlines --
Am I just Island Swine?
Show me your font
And I'll show you mine!
Or just what the hell is it you want?
I've been here all along
Could be yours for a song--
Or at least a couple of good lines.

**You Can Afford To Pay Extra Income Tax!
You Don't Have To Plan For Your Future!**

You must be that exotic sought after creature
- the lesbian heiress. Read no further,
this ad will be of no interest to you.

As for everyone else in our community, call me.
Let's work together on your financial plan with:



RRSPs
Insurance
Mutual Funds
Guaranteed Investment Funds

Tanya Anderson
Women's Financial Planning Centre
Imperial Financial Services
472-1319 or 472-1331

JENNIFER CHARLES DESIGN

B.E.D.S. B.Sc. C.A.S. Dipl. T.

Residential Design
Additions - Renovations

Ph./Fax: 652-7072 Computer Drafting Services

Ask a Mediator

by Patricia Lane

Dear Patricia:

I see that a good listener pays close attention. But when will it be my turn? He/she never listens to me. They always get to do the talking! I am tired of being second! I won't be a doormat any longer!

Signed "all ears"

Dear All:

Yes- we all share two common fears. In any conflict we assume we will lose if they win and we also assume we are alone in this one. Good listeners know that if they can make their opponent their partner they will benefit from having two heads working on coming up with the creative solution together. They also know that making sure their opponent gets a hearing is the first step to earning themselves a hearing. And finally they are genuinely curious. They know that their opponent will work better with them if they can see that there just might be a solution

which works for both parties. So they work hard to find out their opponent's hopes, fears, wants and needs. It's only by getting the other to talk that we can get them to really identify their interests. Once they have done this we can begin to think of ways to problem solve around meeting both their needs and ours. People will shut down if they don't feel heard. We can't help solve their problem if they shut down because we won't find out about it.

So the next skill of a good listener is to communicate that they are paying attention.

How do we do that? Try this exercise. Turn on a tape recorder and say the following words: "I feel happy when the moon is full." Now turn off the tape recorder. How do you know it "listened"? Well, you got some signs...the red taping light was on - you could see or hear the reel turning...when you did this in the past it worked. But the only way you really know is to play it back and hear it say "I feel happy when the moon is full."

And that's what happens when a person listens. You get some signs - they make eye contact, you can see they are paying attention, maybe you can hear encouraging grunts..but the



only way you know for sure they heard you is if they say "I heard you say that you are happy when the moon is full."

Good listeners communicate that they are paying attention by their body language, their facial expression and the words they use. Their verbal response reflects back both the content and the feeling of what you have been saying. This is called "responding with empathy."

People often fear they will sound like parrots if they do this. I can assure you that for most people, the experience of being really heard is such a joyful one that they will not notice if you use even their exact words - providing you also communicate respect, genuine curiosity and providing you use appropriate levels of intensity. More next time.

Patricia Lane is a lawyer, mediator, and teacher in private practice. She has a special interest in matters of concern to the lesbian community.



DOVETAIL *ent.*
Home Improvements
727-0968
MEG HERWEIER
•Carpenter•Painter•

Rouvena Hunnisett M.A.

Psychotherapy for Individuals, Couples & Groups

54 GOVERNMENT STREET TELEPHONE 384-2833

Cheryl McGarrigle

Travel Consultant Home: 388-9974

- ◆ Travel Agent to the Gay/Lesbian Community
- ◆ Up to date on Olivia Cruises

ENSIGN
TRAVEL LTD.

(604) 386-8427

James Bay Square, 3C - 435 Simcoe St.
 Victoria, B.C. V8V 4T4 Fax: (604) 361-2662

Quotes & Queries:

News & views from the lesbian & gay press,

Sharon Bonikowsky, a long-lost friend and fellow resident of the women's dormitory at the University of Western Ontario in 1969, was bemused and intrigued to learn that yours truly had been initiated into Delta Phi Epsilon, a high school sorority (the consequence of having grown up 18 miles from the U.S. border in a small town where teenaged rebellion meant underage drinking and fiery hot Buffalo chicken wings). For some unfathomable reason, however, she could never remember the three letters of the Greek alphabet that adorned my altogether cool sorority jacket, and my chanting of that ancient alphabet (committed to memory as a rite of initiation) invariably provoked fits of giggles. Hence, Sharon, in a roundabout way, introduces **lambda**, the lowercase Greek letter which has come to symbolize gay and lesbian liberation. More precisely, author Joseph Goodwin ("More man than you'll ever be: Gay folklore and acculturation in Middle America") notes that to the Greeks, lambda represented scales, and thus balance. The hook at the bottom of the right leg of the lambda represents the action required to reach and maintain balance. To the Spartans, lambda meant unity. They felt that society should never infringe on anyone's individuality and freedom. The Romans adopted the letter to represent the light of knowledge shed into the darkness of ignorance. In physics, the symbol designates energy exchange. Thus, writes Goodwin, the lambda, with all its meanings, is an especially apt symbol for a movement "which energetically seeks a balance in society and which strives through enlightenment to secure equal rights for homosexual people."

Ellen DeGeneres continues to play coy about whether Ellen Morgan will come out of the bookstore closet, so the only fun is watching Disney and advertisers squirm. Will 1997 be the big event? Heck, who knows. (See the Updates column for more on this.) But the best bump yet on the ramifications of introducing a lesbian lead character in a top-rated TV comedy has already been written by *Advocate* columnist Bruce Vilanch: "No matter what happens, the fact that DeGeneres felt comfortable publicly suggesting the move means that the world has changed a little. This is not Dennis Miller, the hound of controversy. This is Ellen, who does an entire episode about how her driver's license picture turned out. Of course, having the lead character in a comedy series announce that she is a lesbian means that sooner or later she's going to have to have an encounter with — guess what —

another lesbian. This may not be as earth-

shattering as we think, since it is well known that there are only five lesbians in the world: two couples and the woman who breaks them up. So there won't be a lot of those episodes."

Helen Durie, the unofficial quotes & queries brain trust, routinely e-mails tidbits on homosexual seagulls and other wonders of the natural world, for example: What was pioneering transsexual Renee Richards' occupation before joining the professional tennis tour? (An eye surgeon named Richard Raskin). Many thanks for the following e-mail dialogue, titled lesbian brain research. Veronique posted a request for information on "the biological basis of lesbianism," noting that she'd found information on men but little on lesbians. Maria is also quite curious, and possibly a sheep farmer. In reply, she wrote: "I read in a standard intro psych textbook that if you inject a pregnant sheep with testosterone and the foetus is a female, the baby sheep will be a lesbian. Which of course leads to the question — which body part would it shave?" If you want time to ponder, please lift your eyes from the page. Otherwise, the final word belongs to Carolyn: "A friend of mine raises sheep and she shaves the rear ends of the females in December, so that they can tell how cold it is and come indoors to have their babies (which are all born in December). But a lesbian sheep is unlikely to get herself pregnant, and so the answer is that the lesbian sheep could go unshorn. Except, of course, those who feel it to their advantage to pass."

Sue Wandell has joined the legions of San Francisco shoppers collecting anti-Barbies, an eclectic assortment of unauthorized, retooled versions of Barbie, including Trailer Trash Barbie (on back order with a waiting list), who resembles her anatomically impossible namesake — but a cigarette dangles from her lips, her platinum hair shows black roots, and she comes with a baby slung over her hip and a quote bubble that says: "My Daddy Swears I'm the Best Kisser in the Country." Anti-Barbies will also appeal to femmes and queens. Big Dyke Barbie sports a pierced nose and the quote bubble: "Want to shoot some pool?" and Drag Queen Barbie is actually a refurbished Ken doll, resplendent in evening gown and wig. As for Sue Wandell, she takes pride in her new collection. "I'm in good company," she told the Associated Press. "Lots of people have this obsession with torturing Barbie."

- compiled by mary lasovich

A Meditation to

Denise Davies and I discussed being lesbian in a heterosexual world with a class of 16 girls in a Vic High Women's Studies Class. A teacher by profession, Denise organized a lesson plan which, she and I

agreed, would likely cover all questions and avoid our having to be specimens under a teen question "microscope".

To end the session, we led the students in a guided meditation, prepared for a homophobia workshop by therapist Mary Wilkie and modified slightly by Denise, and which Ms. Wilkie has given us permission to print as it is good enough to share. Remember it is directed to "straight" people. Here it is:

I'd like you to imagine that you are living in a very different world than ours. You have the same sexual orientation as you now have, but in this new world homosexual people are in the majority. Their ways are the accepted, every day, institutionalized ways the society is run. Men love and live with men; women love and live with women. Heterosexuals are a mere minority—somewhere between 8 to 12 %. They are known as the mixed-sexuals.

Let yourself experience this scenario as fully as possible as I guide you through this fantasy experience.

Imagine yourself as a small child of three or four. Your parents are both of the same sex...some kids have two Moms...some two Dads. Which might you have? What's that like for you?

Your parents tell you the story of how lovingly your birth was planned...how much you were wanted...how carefully they selected the

"donor" parent for the best qualities. They tell you that they would never let you be one of those thoughtless accidents that the mixed-sexuals have for children. Everyone knows that those children aren't going to grow up right.

If your lover is the same sex as you are you can meet, hang out together, hold hands in public, meet their parents, go on dates...but if your first love is of the opposite sex, you go through the terrifying process of not knowing how to approach them.

As you grow to school age you either sense that you'll be O.K. out there because you too like your own gender best, or you begin to fear that you may be scorned for being one of those rare inferior ones who like the opposite sex best.

Your parents take you to Sunday School. They are religious, spiritual people. You learn that homosexuals are chosen and approved of by God. Mixed-sexuals are an abomination to God. You are not sure what a b o m i n a t i o n means, but it clear from the adults around you that it's not good to be that!

Last year the people who moved in next door had a child the same age as you. The kid had neat stuff and was fun to play with. It was hard to understand why you were suddenly

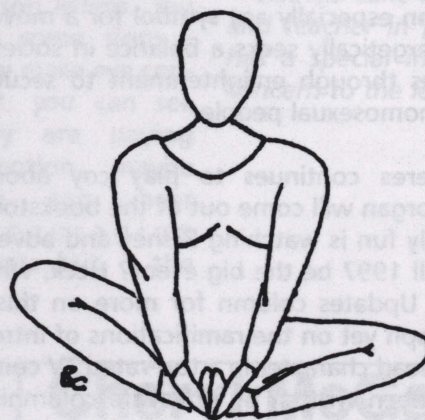
not allowed to go over and play or even talk to them. Your parents, normally open, friendly, neighborly people, got stiff and bristly. They wouldn't talk to these neighbors. They had a hard time explaining to you that "those people" were mixed-sexuals, even though they tried to hide it. No child of theirs was going to hang out with "perverts". When the mixed-sexuals moved everyone was so relieved, especially when two nice men and their children moved in.

At school you learn that if you really want to insult someone on the playground, you call them "mixed-up" or "crossed-over". The teasing is bad. If you are a girl that likes boys and anyone finds out, the other girls won't play with you or talk to you. If you are a boy who likes girls, it can be even worse as others will gang up on you, beat you up. If you are a homosexual, you are so happy to fit in, to belong, to be safe. You are beginning to hate and to fear the

"odd" ones. If you are mixed-sexual you are scared it will show. You are scared about being socially out-cast or even physically hurt. You are beginning to hate and fear yourself.

The most popular programs are *My Two Moms* and *Bart and Barry Simpson*. No mixed-sexual couples are shown on

TV. It is considered very damaging for children to see. Occasionally, a mixed-sexual person is shown—usually unhappy, unsuccessful or alone. Sometimes, on late night programs or in pornographic movies, an



Change the World

"exotic" or "foreign" pair might be shown.

Now you are ready for high school. Boys to boys only schools and girls to girls only schools so that normal same sex friendships and identities will develop and mixed-sexuals are less likely to meet. It is O.K. for girls and boys to be friends, but God help you if there is any hint of romance or sexuality. Your friends would turn on you and your parents would pack you off to a strict same sex boarding school to make a "real man" or "real woman" out of you.

You are older now—your desires are not simply for playmates. You want to touch and be touched. You want to be sexual. You watch your friends pair up... Is this exciting or frightening? What will you do? What do you want? If your lover is the same sex as you are you can meet, hang out together, hold hands in public, meet their parents, go on dates...but if your first love is of the opposite sex, you go through the terrifying process of not knowing how to approach them. How can you tell whether they like you? Can you take that chance of saying something and possibly facing their scorn and the ridicule of others as they expose your shameful, secret desires to the world? What if you did by chance connect with a male mixed-sexual? You could never publicly display affection for each other, meeting each other's families would be out of the question. It is all too dangerous. Maybe, if you try hard enough, or meet the right same sex person, it will be O.K. — you'll be normal. You try very hard for years and years.

Because news of mixed-sexual people is rarely reported in the media homosexuals have little idea of the violence directed against the mixed-sexual. The mixed-sexuals, at least those brave enough to be identified as such, print their own

papers and magazines. It is very frightening and sad to read about assaults on others like yourself by homosexuals who hate you. A friend of yours was beaten up for walking down the street with her boyfriend. She was a beautiful girl, but the knife scars will forever mark her face.

You are in your late twenties now. You are wanting to make a public commitment with your loved one. If you are homosexual your family and friends will be so excited for you. It's great fun planning parties and the wedding—what to wear, what to eat, the honeymoon. If you are a mixed-sexual, it's impossible.

There are no recognized rituals. Neither church nor state would dream of condoning such an unhealthy alliance. Your parents now know your sexual orientation. One has disowned you completely, the other sneaks out to have lunch with you every two weeks or so. Both would die if you had a public service and invited them or old family friends. They still hope that you are mistaken; that you are going through some immature phase and will someday see the true way. There is no blessing from your families, no joy in gathering, no celebration of your love.

You have lived many years with your beloved. You are informed that they are dying. If you are a married homosexual, you receive the love and support of family and friends. You spend all the time you can at the bedside. Together you decided on medical treatment. Sadly, but

lovingly, you spend those last days and nights together as the couple you have always been. You hold them as they pass away. After their death, you have the satisfaction of following all their wishes about the funeral and the burial. You know that you fulfilled their fondest wishes and beliefs.

If you are a mixed-sexual you are not allowed into the intensive care unit... "family" only allowed. Your partner's sister, who has always hated you for corrupting her sibling, takes over all care. You are frantic to reach your beloved. You feel hopeless. You will be haunted by not being present when your beloved dies. Your partner's family chooses a very traditional funeral in a church that denied and scorned you and your partner's love and sexuality for years. Your partner would be horrified. There is nothing that you can do. Mixed-sexuals have no rights under the law. Homosexuals wish that mixed-sexuals would just disappear. They are non-persons.

When the meditation was over, we asked the students to breathe and to take a moment to come back to the present. They were asked to slowly open their eyes when ready. And they were asked to notice how they were feeling. The discussion that followed brought up feelings of anger, shame, powerlessness, distress, sadness, injustice, repression, feelings of being trapped, physically sick. In a small way, maybe, those students will contribute to changing the world.

BMCL

Maybe, if you try hard enough, or meet the right same sex person, it will be O.K. — you'll be normal. You try very hard for years and years.

Going To Wingfield Farm With the Mave

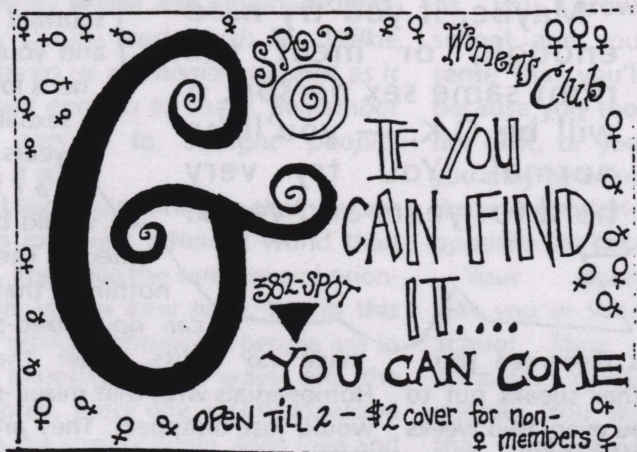
I have been a fan of *Wingfield Farm* since I heard the first part of the theatrical trilogy, *Letter from Wingfield Farm* on the CBC's *Morningside*. I subsequently heard or saw on video, *Wingfield's Progress*, and *Wingfield's Foll*. Each is a one-man performance which chronicles day-to-day adventures of Walt Wingfield, who has escaped from the city rat-race and his calling as a stockbroker, and is now settled in a mythical Ontario village called Larkspur. Rod Beattie, one of Canada's most respected actors, plays Walt, Walt's rustic neighbours, unique yet universally rural characters, conceived by playwright Dan Needles. The format of the plays is based on a series of letters from Walt to the editor of the local paper, Ed. As Walt narrates the story, Beattie assumes the manner and speech of the local characters about whom he's writing. The magic of Beattie's performance is his ability to mimic rural Canadian

speech patterns and cadences, and to physically assume the mien of a number of characters while switching back to his own voice as the narrator. Beattie is a born raconteur who takes Needles' stories about orchards to be reclaimed, or mill stones to be moved, or being snowed in with the boys who've had too much liquor and gives them a spell-binding, lyrical spin. There's a country kitchen feeling as you "read" Walt's letters to Ed who, I'm sure, is sitting at his news desk laughing his head off.

Wingfield Unbound, the fourth part of the (now misnamed) *Wingfield Trilogy*, premiered at the Belfry, showcasing Dan Needles' insight into contemporary rural Ontario and the changes which are inexorably creeping into that society. In *Wingfield Unbound* change is coming to Persephone and Demeter Counties and the villages of Larkspur and Hollyhock: regional government means road names are chang-

Freddie, Maggie (now Walt's wife) Don, the chicken farmer, an aging Squire, and Willie and Dave who are now more sophisticated in their attempts at turning a quick buck. Beattie transforms himself through voice and body language into the male characters with ease; Squire's limp and stoop, Freddie's twitching and stutter, and Willie's guffaws. Beattie's rendering of Maggie is absolutely charming as his resonant voice softens, his gaze becomes more direct and his body language subtly proclaims a woman who is no-nonsense, feminine and capable. This is a fine play that celebrates someplace we all know and characters we've met and don't want to forget.

Kudos to the set designer whose multi-purpose set (kitchen, barn, community hall and hospital) works very well for Walt and his friends. *Wingfield Unbound* runs at The Belfry until February 8. Don't miss it.



ing and the weekly newspaper has dropped its "100 years ago" column. Change has happened to Walt, too. He's had to return to his city job part-time because his farm has yet to turn a profit, and Walt has married. Old friends return—there's

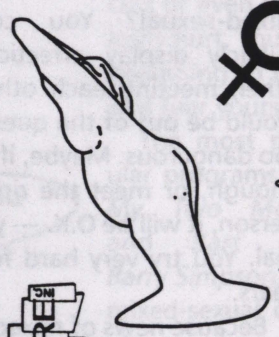
"My clients saw me in LNews. It keeps my presence in people's minds."
- Rowena Hunnisett, therapist.

WOMEN'S NIGHT EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

GAY RUMORS BAR

1325 GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.
WOMAN • LESBIAN • LESBIGAY • WOMAN • LESBIAN • LESBIGAY • WOMAN

Celebration & Empowerment of
of
Sexuality: VIBES, PILLS, LUBES, LATEX & more...



WOMYN'S WARE

896 Commercial Dr.
(at Venables)
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V5L 3Y5

Tel: (604) 254-2543
Fax: (604) 254-5472

Providing an Environment, Services and Products for the

www.womynsware.com

Updates and Hot Flashes

SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED IN VANCOUVER

Karen X. Tulchinsky of Arsenal Pulp Press is accepting a spectrum of stories for two anthologies of queer sex/desire-driven "short" short fiction. *Hot & Bothered* is the lesbian version to be published in spring of '98. Stories must be 1,000 words or less and can be funny, sad, hot, complicated, poignant, tragic, ridiculous, hilarious, lyrical, sensual, romantic, and/or steamy. Deadline is April 30, 1997. For full guideline send SASE with an International Reply Coupon to *Hot & Bothered* by Karen X. Tulchinsky, c/o P.O.100, 1036 Odium Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3L6 or e-mail kst@aol.com.

MOVING OUT SKOKE IN NOVA SCOTIA

A poignant note from EGALÉ's Jane Morrison writing from her home in the constituency of Liberal MP Roseanne Skoke, who has made Jane aware of "the single-minded zeal of those Canadians who are so intent on perpetrating discrimination that they are willing to trample on the civil rights of others." Homophobes like Skoke, Reformers Paul Forset and Bob Ringma, fellow Liberals Tom Wappel and Myron Thompson, "hold positions of power precisely because they were elected by Canadians." She reminds us that Skoke-speak engenders hate letters in the newspaper—and that's dangerous for all of us. Support the work done by EGALÉ. Send cheques to EGALÉ, 177 Nepean Street, Suite 306, Ottawa, Ontario. K2P 9Z9.

WED-ABLE IN HAWAII?

Fox radio in Hawaii reports that Judge Kevin Chang has ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in the same-sex marriage case (*Baehr v. Miike*). It is further reported that the Director of the Department of Health has been ordered by Judge Chang to cease and desist from his refusal to issue licenses to three same-sex couples. It is expected that an injunction will be filed against such a move.

BEAT THE RIGHT BACKLASH

The Hawaii Governor's office has been flooded with calls and letters from vacationers to this state saying if same-sex marriage is legalized we won't come back. Counteract by saying how much you'd love to visit if the same-sex marriage law goes through. Or thank them for broad mindedness. Or whatever. Thanks Jeanne for this e-mail and the address to send your notes: Chamber of

Commerce, Hawaii, 1132 Bishop St. #200, Honolulu HI 96813 or e-mail Chamber@hula.net. Also e-mail Hawaii Visitors and Convention bureau at info@hvb.org or Governor Benjamin Cayetano, State Office Tower, 235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu HI 96813.

BUSTING LOOSE IN ONT.

We keep getting some legal changes through the back door. Peggy Maher sends us this one concerning the Gwen Jacob vs Ontario and the right to go topless—a case won by Jacob who had been charged with committing an indecent act. Her lawyer, improbably called Margaret Buist, said the ruling means there could be more bare breasts on the streets: "There could be thousands of women who will do it, there may be just one. It's up to the individual." Well, we shall see—maybe double.

MORE ON ELLEN

From the world of e-mail comes more news about lesbian comedian Ellen DeGeneres's character (Ellen Morgan) on the sitcom *Ellen*. GLAAD reports that Ellen Morgan sings "I'm gay, It's okay" during an episode that was taped January 10. The song is a rock 'n' roll fantasy camp entitled "So Afraid." It also ends with the refrain "I'm Gay, I'm Gay." A spokesperson for DeGeneres indicated that the take was unscripted.

We've waited for the "coming out" episode all season; the real question is, will it air? A January 10 Associated Press story quoted ABC entertainment President Jamie Tarses as wavering on whether a "lesbian episode" would air, and announced ABC was pulling *Ellen* from their lineup during March and April to showcase a new sitcom starring Arsenio Hall.

BMcL

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

Swami Radha

Susan-Rose
Slatkoff

M.A., R.C.C.

Psychotherapist

1422 Wende Road, Victoria, B.C. V8P 3T5 250-477-8385

HOLLYWOOD NORTHWEST

by Kelevelyn Hurley



Welcome to 1997! How was your movie-viewing over the holidays? Not being too great around kids, I did an unwise thing by going to see the Saturday matinee showing of **101 Dalmations** at the Caprice with 1001 children...Glenn Close is a wonderful villainess—her naturally craggy features become perfectly hideous with heavy pancake makeup and loads of eyeliner and red lipstick. Even her fingernails (somehow always on the outside of her gloves) changed from red to black to match her outrageous outfits. If you're a dog-lover, this is your movie—the canines battle crime to save the humans. An odd inconsistency in the film—the heroine balks at killing dalmations for clothing, yet has been earning her living using the skins of all sorts of other unfortunate critters in her dress designing career. Who's the real "bad guy" here, one wonders.

One of my favourite flicks of all time is *The Bishop's Wife* with David Niven as the bishop, Cary Grant as the Angel Dudley, and Loretta Young in the title role. Unfortunately, the current remake, *The Preacher's Wife*, is a disappointment. In the original movie, it was Grant's recognition of a kindred spirit in Young and her ability to truly love life, that gave their relationship its innocent sexuality. Grant's angelic presence and power became real as we saw him save a runaway baby carriage from an oncoming car, lead a bunch of

bored altar boys in a

choral arrangement that brings tears to your eyes, help a kindly old professor to realize his life's work, and generally stimulate everyone he meets into believing in their own beauty and value. Sweet, funny and full of magic in its first version, the premise became coarse, trite and dull despite the talents of **Denzel Washington** and **Whitney Houston**. As my movie-going partner observed, these folks were too well-heeled to be believable as poor church folks just making it in the Black inner city. Houston is derisive with her husband, resentful of her mother, and sarcastic with the parishioners. Sorry, Hollywood, a nice body, pretty face and a soaring voice do not angel-bait make.

I caught *Michael* the other night, starring **John Travolta** as a beer-bellied, cereal-guzzling, randy and ragged angel whose final earthly task before heading back upstairs is to soften the heart of William Hurt. Having read that Mr. Hurt is a wife-beater, it's impossible for me to want to see anything but extreme bodily harm come to him. The girl interest is **Andie McDowell**, who seems fated to play very stupid women (remember her as the dull-witted wife who doesn't seem to notice that there are four versions of her husband hanging around in *Multiplicity*?). As flat as its endless stretches of mid-western scenery, this movie fails as a love story, a road trip flic or a fantasy.

WALTER & HUMPHREY COUNSELLING SERVICES LTD.

Helen Walter PhD
Pat Humphrey MSW RSW

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1978
WELCOMING E.A.P. AND PRIVATE CLIENTS

1480 LANDS END RD. SIDNEY **656-5611**
#101-1175 COOK ST., VICTORIA

Victoria Women's Counselling Services

Georgia A. Brown, M. S. W., R. S. W.
Registered Clinical Social Worker

Suite 202 3 Fan Tan Alley
Victoria, BC V8V 3G9 Tel: (604) 380-9924

Alison Campbell

Barrister & Solicitor

824 FORT STREET, VICTORIA, B.C. CANADA V8W 1H8
TELEPHONE: (604) 380-6688

PAINTED WORDS

ART SUPPLIES & BOOKS LTD.
2238 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria, British Columbia V8R 1G5

(604) 370-1366

Special orders our forté



Missing the Best of Being Grinch-y

by Judy Lightwater

Every year I swear I'll move to Hawaii or the desert for the winter. All I have to do is get off my ass, stop whining, and I could be sundrenched and sublime.

I'd rent my house out and live in a yurt; pay my way from working in a bookstore in Morocco or squeezing fresh juice in Greece. When I return I could take up life where I left it.

I wrote this column because the weather was worse than usual, real slit-your-wrist stuff no matter how many hours a day I masturbated, or stood under full spectrum lights. My business was slow as molasses, and I was too depressed to do anything about it. A women's humour book showed up on my desk, and a little ray of sun came through: the career I'd been searching for? I could write it from the sands of Mexico or the cafes of Paris. I could write it from Bagga Pasta. It could save me from killing myself between now and when the daffodils come up. (During which time my ex-husband's parents will be visiting for three weeks).

"Though I'm Jewish I've celebrate Yuletide with a number of partners over the years. I still hat the music and can't get with the symbols. (I figure if Christ had delivered us, we wouldn't be in the mess we are in now). Hanukkah

works only somewhat better because of the food, the company at our annual Hanukkah party, the food and Donna Murray playing the accordion. No lighting candles for me, this year; or even one latke drenched in sour cream and apple sauce, because I had the flu and bronchitis when the annual party came down.

Solstice was, thankfully, non-sectarian, and full of bare breasts and candles I wasn't too sick to enjoy. I did an evening of it, circling and singing on the night the days finally begin to lengthen.

It's my due, I suppose, that my lover decided to decorate the house within an inch of its life. Indoor lights, outdoor lights, Santas on the door knobs, a little town on the mantel, and streamers duct-taped to every inch of the ceiling and walls. We had Christmas carols playing all day from the three new CDs she purchased, including a Motown rendition of Deck the Halls I hummed for a week.

The red plastic candles outside never captured my heart, but the tree was so beautiful, that I secretly turned it on during the day. Carolers came to our door one night, and yes, I cried.

So this is column One. Hope you had a great holidays, and there's to a peaceful 1997 for the whole planet.

Creative Art Experiences for Women

Safe supportive downtown art studio environment

Focus on *process* not *technique*

with Margo Farr

No Artistic Experience Required

Financing Available

Individual Sessions By Arrangement

Phone for schedule of weekend
and eight week courses: 388-0929



COMPUTERS IN DISTRESS

544-1431

Special orders our forte

Computer and printer repair, equipment upgrades,
software courses, consultation...



SHARON WILKINSON

Sales Associate

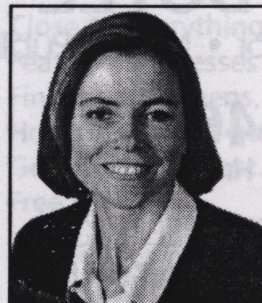
Bus: (604) 474-3344 (24 Hrs.)

E-Mail: swilksn@IslandNet.com

OCEAN CITY REALTY LTD.



754 GOLDSTREAM AVE., VICTORIA, B.C. V9B 2X3 FAX: (604) 474-6221



PATRICIA LANE

Lawyer*/Mediator

I Can Help You With:

- ◆ MEDIATED AGREEMENTS
- ◆ DECISION PLANNING
- ◆ ENHANCED COMMUNICATION

598-3992

*denotes Law Corporation

Cat and Lesbian

by Rowena Hunnisett

An occupational hazard of being a therapist is the compulsion to see patterns in all life's events. Also, it is well-known that lesbians are frequently adopted by cats. I would like to explore the relationship between the personality of the Lesbian/ Human and the Cat. The way to pursue this idea is to note - through careful and objective observation - the rules and values by which your cat lives and then see how they match yours. You can get your friends and intimates to help you with the objective part.

I shall start by giving a concrete example of the Cat that lives with me and the relationship of our personalities. My cat's name is Squidge. She is grey, has four white paws and a white bib. She looks very tidy. These are Squidge's personal rules and values, as observed by myself, my partner and other Cat observers:

- when guilty run in the other direction with ears back, denoting denial of all wrong-doing,

- when coming in from muddy weather find a clean, absorbent spot to dry off. The in-basket is best. Let the mud dry first; it will drop off in chunks which the Lesbian will eventually remove,

- Humans are not to be trusted. One: they are not necessarily available according to the whim of Cat. Two: they disappear. It is better to trust and give affection to stationary things such as corners of walls,

chair legs, the fridge (a very good friend),

- to set paw on a Human is perverted. Do not sit on Humans or use them as bridges to other destinations,

- being picked up is an indignity: only tolerate this if there is something more interesting than the Lesbian, e.g. birds or Crunchies,

- be cute when Lesbians leave the house by rolling adorably in the front yard: this ensures their return before the next meal.

Now - to the correlation of Lesbian to Cat. I am said to be - by my partner and friends - excellent at fending off accusations; fastidious but inattentive to where I leave my mess; mistrustful unless friends stick around a long time; shy about intimacy, except when diverted by other amusements; cute, which ensures my friends will not forget me.

My partner's cat's rules are quite different. A small sample follows (so as not to embarrass Cat too much). His name is Julien.

- complain whenever intimacy is denied,

- strike poses that attract attention,

- be conversational whenever Human is present,

- cuddle at all opportunities,



- imply guilt when feeling deprived,

- jump on anything small that moves. (I am small)

It is risky to draw parallels, other than the obvious ones, between Julien and the characteristics of his charge, my partner, so I shall leave the rest to the imagination of the reader.

Readers are invited to send comments from their own observations to *LesbiaNews*. Thank you for letting me share.

Rowena Hunnisett is a therapist in private practice in Victoria.

"I definitely have had response from my ad in LNews. It's a productive place to advertise."

- Sharon Wilkinson, realtor

KEVIN DOYLE

Barrister • Solicitor • Notary Public

384-4648

(24 Hrs.)

SERVING DIVERSIFIED LEGAL
NEEDS SINCE STONEWALL

CHRYSLIS SHIATSU



Lynn Kirk, CST

128 - 645 Fort Street
The Yarrow Building
Phone: 384-2001

Myth Missed in the Predictables

Review by Judy Lightwater

It's wonderful to see women playwrights again featured at The Belfry this year. First the adaptation of Adele Weisman's *Crackpot* by Rachel Wyatt and now *Atlantis* my Maureen Hunter to come are *Wingfield Unbound* and *Threepenny Opera* and the Studio Festival series starting in February.

First, let me admit that I'm not a Greek myth lover. It all smacks too loudly of women dying for the love of men, "though thank goodness there are goddesses who reap their revenge or arrange for their children to do so. Still, too many women are confined, violated, or forever doomed to live in places they haven't chosen for me to pay it much mind. I want new stories.

The myth of Atlantis - was it a myth? Was there a civilization buried by earthquake and drowned by the sea? If Plato didn't invent the story, it may reflect ancient Egyptian tales of an eruption on the island of Thera in 1500 B.C. Many authors have portrayed Atlantis as a lost utopian world. The theatre program tells us that Riane Eisler, in her book "The Chalice and the Blade," supports the

theory that this natural disaster did occur. Atlantis was a place revolving around natural cycles and fertility.

Many ancient symbols appear in Hunter's *Atlantis*. Unfortunately, the main story, that of an attraction between a Greek woman and a Canadian man, brought together on the island of Santorini, didn't

First, let me admit that I'm not a Greek myth lover.

hold together. The female lead, Seana McKenna, is Mircea, an unmarried woman living with her mother. She is the seer of the village and adored by all. McKenna is a fabulous actress, and her movements, features and delivery carry the production when nothing else does. Miles Potter, the Canadian, Ben, who has exiled himself from we don't know what, is an unconvincing whiny sort of guy. His part is scripted poorly as well, for we are never sure if he is self-deprecating or aggravating. The two characters, Mircea and Ben, never speak. Their innocent meeting, sweet lovemaking, and conflict with the villagers is all related by the two in narrative and monologue. In the end, they are parted. It's too predictable, however, that Mircea's sexuality is the issue around which the men in the village rally and wail.



BRENDA HOPPER
Real Estate Sales

Business (604) 384-8124 24 hours
Toll Free 1-800-665-5303
Fax (604) 380-6355

**THE ISLAND'S 1st
REAL ESTATE TEAM**

**PEMBERTON
HOLMES**

ESTABLISHED 1887

1000 Government Street
Victoria, B.C., Canada V8W 1X8

Nancy Nigro

Psychotherapist ♦ M.S.W.



relationship issues ♦ sexuality ♦ depression

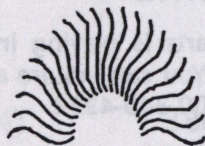
Individuals/couples/groups

20 years experience

250-480-0080 ♦ Victoria, B.C.

♀ EVERYWOMANS BOOKS ♀

a non-profit collective



...poetry...feminist theory...travel...biography...

635 Johnson Street

388-9411

ALBION GUEST HOUSE

Vancouver Lesbian and Gay Bed and breakfast.

Close to everything.

Feather mattresses available.

Fine, cotton linens, down-filled duvets.

Hot tub. Lots of quiet and privacy.

Gourmet Breakfast.

Free Parking.

Call Collect for Reservations: (604) 873-2287

FAX (604) 879-5682

e-mail hle@bht.com

A Lesbian Herstory: Rosa Bonheur

The French artist was born March 16, 1822. By her early twenties, Rosa Bonheur had established herself, both in Europe and abroad, as a brilliant painter of animals. The most famous of her works, *The Horse Fair*, was purchased by Cornelius Vanderbilt in 1887 for the then record sum of \$55,000. It now hangs in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A forceful, strongly unconventional woman, Bonheur lived with her female companion, Nathalie Micas, for over forty years. Bonheur tried to discourage speculation that this was a lesbian relationship, but both contemporaries (including early gay pioneer Magnus Hirschfeld) and modern historians believe otherwise. Bonheur was also involved with the American painter Anna Klumpke,

whom she made her sole heir.

In 1857, the secretary general of France issued a permit allowing Bonheur to wear men's clothing—at a time when it was considered indecent to do so—ostensibly so that she could more conveniently wander through farms and slaughterhouses to research and sketch animal anatomy. Chided by a male acquaintance one evening for frequenting such places, Bonheur retorted, "Oh, my dear sir, if you knew how little I care for your sex, you wouldn't get any ideas in your head. The fact is, in the way of males, I like only the bulls I paint"

Reprinted from The Alyson Almanac 1994-95 edition.

Tips On House Inspections

by Jennifer Charles

With mortgage rates so low it is a good time to buy a home. Financing aside, there is much to be considered. For example, if you have spent your limit on the mortgage, your dream home could quickly become a nightmare as you come to terms with the myriad costly problems that can arise with home ownership. Do have your prospective house inspected. You can even make it a condition of sale. For those who already have homes,

here's a list of items to check out.

1. ROT: Very common in this climate, it leads to wood-boring insect problems. Generally speaking, if you remove the rot problem, you remove the insect problem. Main area—where the ground touches the house outside—if you can see six inches of concrete, great; if not, check inside sill plates. Solution is to lower the grade around the house and replace rotted wood where necessary.

2. ROOF: If yours is an older house, and the roof needs to be replaced, and it's been reroofed three times already, all the layers must be removed: this is costly for disposal. You can check this by carefully lifting the material up at the eaves and counting the layers. Signs for roof replacement: lots of moss, shingles

warped or missing, considerable degeneration (finish gone) of asphalt shingles.

3. CHIMNEY: Again, in older houses, many chimneys are not lined, and frequently do not have dampers: it's like a big open window in the middle of your house. If you plan to install a wood stove, the chimney will need a liner or may have to be entirely replaced. So, look down the chimney, a liner usually is clay, but sometimes it is another layer of brick.

Admittedly, this is a short list. If you would like more information, call Jen @ 652-7072.

Jennifer Charles is a designer specializing in residential design, additions renovations, and computer drafting services.



Babe Memo

Remember the Scott Tournament of Hearts is playing in Vancouver at the Agrodome February 22 to March 22, 1997. You can inquire about tickets to this Canadian Ladies Curling Event by calling 1-800-349-4338.



LITTLE LEZZIE FLASHES

Tongue...Prior to Christmas there was a great coffee house at the Red Cross Building co-sponsored by Hot Flashes and The Lesbian Seniors Care Society. Interesting, powerful poetry by Nikki Tate-Stratton and her precocious and cute daughter Danielle. Actually, the poetry was so powerful we were grateful for the balance of Karey Perk's and Kelevelyn's parody of Barry Manilow's Pina Collada song. It deserves to be heard before a wider audience. At Wild Tongue II maybe? Also at the Red Cross building was Musaic's dance—a quiet affair until Theresa Newhouse, Leigh Walters and Karen Ferguson arrived to bounce the dance floor into a state of alert. We understand that Karen is still recovering and wish her well. Oh, not from dancing, but for dancing that much, too soon after a battle with double petunia... Most dykes enjoyed staying cozied up through the bleak mid-winter. Not Pat Ford and Lee Porteous. In a gay parody of Wenceslas they trod their way to my place from their place in one, long, puffing hour, bearing gifts of shortbread and chocolate and laughter. The laughter lingered and Judy Bell and I lived on shortbread and chocolate while she holed up here during the snow. Jenny W-squared deserves a medal for patience with the Lez. I had her car while she was cruising the Nile. One of the last things I said to her was: If it snows I'll put the car in your garage. When she came home, I had to admit that not only was the car buried in five feet of snow, I didn't know which one it was!... Denise and Marti gave the Lez a book for Christmas. It's Roberts Rules of Lesbian Living. Every page is a hoot, but this one is a real gem: Dangling earrings are not illegal, although in some communities they are considered a misdemeanor. Happy New Year. BMcL

One of my favorite holiday stories comes from darkest Sooke. That community's original lesbian mutt and Jeff, Frankie O'Donovan and Kelevelyn Hurley, spent New Years integrating the Legion out there. They rocked 'n' rolled on the dance floor with reckless abandon. The most controversial turned out to be Kelev's black hat. Friends mistook it for a rat and rudely bunted it off a counter top. At the legion, the hat was banned outright. Kelev and Frankie could have been glued together; the hat, however, had to come off... Unfortunately, prior to Christmas dinner with friends, the Lez was asked to keep everything off the record. Oh, the pain. But, if you want any private commentary on how the Lez got the matches to light the candles, or more particularly, where the matches were stored, or about the vibrator that came to dinner with its own Wild

Gaze Out

*Creative Photography
In the Moment*

Diane Barnes
592-0210 (604)

Gloro Levitt
380-7098 (604)

Swap 'Til You Drop

This column is for bartering, lesbian style. Goods for services and services for goods. Call Barb at 598-6490 to place your swap and seek items.

To Swap: Hockey Gear (age 9), bike, ironing board and iron, lots of dishes. **Seeking:** laser printer, fish tank filter pump and gardening work. Call Judy at 595-7949.

To Swap: Electric chain saw, 12 inch bar, as new. Will swap for gas-powered same. Also, adult mountain bike with crossbar. **Seeking:** piano keyboard. Call Judy Bell at 474-4934. Or 389-2403 at work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS AND SERVICES

Please mail items to us at P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4. Or Call Barbara 598-6490. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of month prior to publication.

NOTICES

LOOSE TONGUES: Pull out your pencils gals, it's time to get ready for a new monthly at the G-Spot. It's the Womens's Reading Series. Starts Sunday January 26 at 7 p.m. with featured reader Margot Lewis, UVic English Lit prof. Open Mic @ 7 and later. Cover charge \$2. Refreshments available. Wheelchair accessible. Info call 472-1944.

OPEN HOUSE ART SHOW: Gloro Levitt is displaying her current work (MIXED MEDIA) at 136 Medana Street, Saturday February 22, 11a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 23 from 1 to 4 p.m.

REEL CHICK FLICKS: Film-makers and film-maker wannabees. Reel Chick Flicks is a festival of short films and videos by and about women—lesbian, bi, straight, transgendered and queer. Whether you are a first-time film-maker or an accomplished cinematographer we want to show your work this spring. Deadline for submission and expression of interest: February 15. For information call Pam at 592-3103.

Gay-Lesbian Hotline Toll Free: Province-Wide Resource Mon.-Sat 1-4 p.m. Mon. Wed. Fri. 7 - 10 p.m. Trained vols. willing to listen, refer, offer peer support. 1-800-566-1170

WILD TONGUE II: March 15 at David Lam Theatre. Accepting ideas for lesbian comedy routines now. Also, sound, lights, production crew. Call Barbara at 598-6490.

BASKETBALL: at Fernwood Community Centre Sundays 5:45 to 6:45. Jahnet 380-6617

SUPPORT GROUP: for lesbians with disabilities. Meet in comfortable setting, second Thurs. of month 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Reva 388-4161/Sandy 656-2772.

QUEER SURVIVOR GROUP: No leader or professional person involved. Intention is to share experience; hopefully some of you will have done some counselling work and we'll meet at each other's homes. Call Jenn at 472-3789. Issues around sexuality, current experience, self image, relationships.

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

JUST OUT? If you've just discovered you're a lesbian and need help dealing with all the issues: career directions, life changes, transition, education, coming out to friends, parents, children, husband? Weekly support group. Call Sandra 656-0520 or Ann 383-5677.

LESBIAN SOBRIETY GROUP: feminist support group for lesbians dealing with substance abuse, food, body image and survivor issues. An alternative to 12-steps. Based on steps created for women by Charlotte Davis Kasl. Weds. 7 p.m. 3200, 506 Fort St. Cindy at 995-2567.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PRE-MILLENNIUM PERSONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES: For Gays, Lesbians and Bi-Sexuals. Anger Management 101, The Zen of Parenting, Grassroots Co-Counsellors' Training, From Betrayal to Belonging (in-depth healing for sexual abuse survivors). Integrating feminist, Buddhist and creative arts therapies. Call Esther (250) 537-4286.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING: Of newsletters, booklets, etc. including writing, editing, photo services. Laser Printing. Camera ready. Low rates. And MAC SE for sale. 100 meg hard drive, 4 meg RAM. \$350. Call Marion 598-1257.

SAXE POINT BEAUTY: Well, the owner's cute, but the room is what we mean. Master bedroom with walk-in closet, half bath, share washer-dryer and half hydro, close to bus and park. \$350 and half the hydro. Call Stephanie at 381-6813.

LOOKING FOR APT: ASAP need perfect apartment that is roomy and clean. Two bedrooms-Plus. As close to Cook St. village as possible. By March 1. Call 356-8130 or fax 356-0310.

LAUNCHING THE PINK PAGES: at Milky Way Cafe February 2 at 8 p.m. Admission \$10. Great prizes, lots of fun, lots of good folks. And first peek at the new Pink Pages for 1997. Sorry for inconvenience of date change. Call 727-6669 for further info.

CALLING THE SHOTS: A hands-on media literacy workshop to help you understand, critique and change media images of women. 9:30 to 4:30 Saturday February 15, 1997. Lunch included. Waged \$40, unwaged \$20. Registration deadline Feb. 10. For more info call Pamela Miller 592-3103.

MOVEABLE FEAST: Too busy to cook? Too tired to go out? Have the Moveable Feast cook delicious meals for you to come home to. Catering for all budgets. Phone 592-3103.

A GOOD PSYCHOTHERAPIST: has extensive Clinical Training & Supervision & has undergone her own personal analysis.

Nancy Nigro M.S. W. with 20 years Clinical Training & Experience has recently relocated & now offers her services in Victoria. 480-0080.

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

PERSONAL ADS

I am writing in hopes of locating the woman that first brought me to the realization that I am a lesbian. December 19th, 1995, around 10 p.m. at night in Starbuck's, Fort and Blanshard. You walked in with your partner and you looked at me as I looked at you. I could tell we both felt that look. You sat next to me and I hoped we would speak. Your partner sat on the other side of you, grabbed you by the knee, swung you around so that we could not talk. I have come out to my parents, given up booze, made lots of friends. But I cannot forget the lovely brunette who first looked at me. Write LNews label #22.

SERVICES ACTIVITIES CONTACTS

Victoria Lesbian Art Collective: Dawn 595-7179 or Rebecca at 386-2550

Bridge for Dykes: Marion S., 598-1257, Barbara 598-6490.

Dyke Basketball: Jahnett 380-6617

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

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

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

Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society: Sally, 388-6036

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


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

P-FLAG: Information, 642-5171

PINK UMBRELLA: fax/phone 727-6669

If you have a red sticker in this spot, your subscription is up with this issue!



 **10% OFF**


your food bill with this coupon
Not valid with any other offer or
Feb 14/97. Expires March 10/97.

Dorothy's
C · A · F · E

615 Johnson St. Victoria 381-2277
Whatever your taste!

♀ **EVERYWOMANS BOOKS** ♀
a non-profit collective

10% off all
books in stock
with this
coupon



Good until
March 31st
1997


...poetry...feminist theory...travel...biography...

635 Johnson Street 388-9411

PAINTED WORDS
ART SUPPLIES & BOOKS LTD
2238 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria, British Columbia, V8R 1G5

(604) 370-1366

10% OFF



LNews SUBSCRIPTION FORM


Subscribe now to LNews. Only \$25 per year.

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

Name

Address

City Postal Code



**Buy a gift for a friend.
Second subscription is \$20
with this coupon.**

Please send me _____ gift subscription(s) of **LNews**
starting with _____ (month).

Name

Address

City Postal Code

Please put this name as gift giver:

I enclose cheque or money order, payable to:

S. Hamill,
P.O. Box 5339, Station B,
Victoria, B.C., V8R 6S4,

for _____ subs at \$25.00 each and _____ gift subs at \$20.00 each.
(Back issues available for \$3.00 including postage)

After the
Blizzard special

**10%
off
Pruning**

Offer expires
31 April 1997



**Earth Friendly
Gardening**

Karen Partridge
592-1029

AN WOMEN'S CREATIVE NETWORK
PRESENTS

Victoria's
ONLY
Women's Club

1910 STORE ST.
382-SPOT



**FREE GUEST
PASS**

hours of operation:
Every Friday & Sat.
8:30 pm to 2 a.m.



Brought to you by
LNews
P.O Box 5339 Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4



Brought to you by
LNews
P.O Box 5339 Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4



Brought to you by
LNews
P.O Box 5339 Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4



Brought to you by
LNews
P.O Box 5339 Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4



Brought to you by
LNews
P.O Box 5339 Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4



Brought to you by
LNews
P.O Box 5339 Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4

Dear Subscribers and Readers:

Since Debby Yaffe first started *LesbianNews* in 1988, the energetic little publication has been growing and changing. The first issue of 1997 sees a name and cover change for the following reasons: First, to get away from the idea that *LNews* is a newsletter: it is a magazine. Second, to promote a broader readership--*LNews* subscription list shows a growing national and international readership. (With the inclusion of a Web Page, currently being developed, *LNews* will be able to expand subscriptions and the information it brings to you). There aren't many totally lesbian content news publications being produced in Canada. *LNews* may be the only one with this diverse readership. The new logo was designed by Patrice Snopkowski who was the original "desk-topper" for *LesbianNews*.

Prices for *LNews* have risen to \$3.50 per issue and \$25 per year to reflect the added number of pages, postage increase, paper increase and printing costs. Advertising rates have also increased because of the increase in subscriptions and readership.

LNews continually tries to reflect the needs of a growing and diversified community. Looking at broader needs, I am forming a non-profit society, working title, *Victoria Lesbian Community Connections*. Its mandate includes publishing *LNews* to promote a healthy, visible community; providing outreach to lesbians isolated by geography or other reasons; and, from time to time, offering workshops on issues such as homophobia and safety. The new society will also produce arts and culture events to celebrate lesbian, bi-sexual lives, to further promote visibility, to educate and to build community. For all of the above, the society will draw on community resources. Agreeing to sit on the board are Jennifer Waelti-Walters, Sally Hamill and Jan Trainor. As subscribers to *LNews* you will automatically be members of the society with voting privileges. *LNews* and the proposed society will continue to cooperate with the other lesbian and gay organizations and societies in the larger community. What you want, your input and ideas, are needed to help create more awareness and to continue to build our wonderful community. Your financial support is also needed. If you support the goals and aims of the proposed *Victoria Lesbian Community Connections Society*, and chiefly *LNews*, please send your donations to *LNews* c/o the box office and with cheque payable to S. Hamill. Any donations are gratefully accepted.

Wild Tongue II at the David Lam Theatre UVic Campus March 15 8 p.m.

Pre-Show Market Place at 7:30 and during intermission

CoSponsored by UVic Women's Studies Department

The first event is the 2nd annual lesbian comedy night which features the talents of our own lesbian community including Judy Lightwater, Karey Perks, and Melissa V., some surprises, and guest comic Jackie Crossland. Hosted once again by the incomparable Jan Trainor. A fun-raiser and a fund-raiser for *LNews*, *Wild Tongue II* will also feature a market place for our local artisans, crafts persons, and businesses to sell and promote their wares. Order your table by filling out the form on the other side of this note and returning it to *LNews*.

Sincerely,

Barbara McLauchlin
Editor, Publisher *LNews*

LNews and UVic Dept. of Women's Studies presents

Wild Tongue II



the 2nd annual lesbian comedy night

David Lam Theatre, UVic campus

March 15, 1997, 8 p.m.

Pre-Show market begins 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$10. Call LNews for child care

TICKET ORDER FORM

Complete this order form and we'll mail tickets with your March LNews

Wild Tongue II A Night of Lesbian Comedy

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ No. of Tickets _____

Cheque enclosed to amount _____ payable to S. Hamill

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

I need child care _____ No. of Children _____

MARKET TABLE ORDER FORM

Wild Tongue II Lesbian Comedy Night

David Lam Theatre, UVic Campus

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Table Requested to display _____

of Tables ()

Company or business name or nature of business

Cheque for \$25 enclosed and payable to S. Hamill

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

Reader's Survey



In order to help us determine where to go in the future, we are interested to know what it is that turns you on in LNews. We're always adding things. This month we have included new humor, swap 'til you drop, theatre reviews and herstory, for example.

Completed reader surveys will be entered into a draw. To encourage your response we are offering a free sub to LNews (to commence on your next renewal date.)

Please check under the appropriate column and feel free to include comments.

I read	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
Editorial				
Little Lezzie Flashes				
Dear Vera				
Brainfever				
Ask A Mediator				
Hollywood Northwest				
Quotes & Queries				
Features / Profiles				
Ads and Notices				
Hunnisett Column				
13th Opinion (Letters to Ed.)				

Do you use services advertised in Lnews?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Why

What new features, reviews, columns would you like to read in LNews every month?

What would you like LNews to report on occasionally?

RECORDS & SURVEY

No.		Description		Amount	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					
31					
32					
33					
34					
35					
36					
37					
38					
39					
40					
41					
42					
43					
44					
45					
46					
47					
48					
49					
50					
51					
52					
53					
54					
55					
56					
57					
58					
59					
60					
61					
62					
63					
64					
65					
66					
67					
68					
69					
70					
71					
72					
73					
74					
75					
76					
77					
78					
79					
80					
81					
82					
83					
84					
85					
86					
87					
88					
89					
90					
91					
92					
93					
94					
95					
96					
97					
98					
99					
100					

A PRIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN VICTORIA???

COMMUNITY SURVEY

YOU DECIDE! The following is a questionnaire that will help determine if the much discussed centre for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons in our community goes beyond the survey stage and if **YOU**, as a member of the community, will support and participate in it.

PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY ONE QUESTIONNAIRE PER INDIVIDUAL
PHOTOCOPY ADDITIONAL COPIES IF REQUIRED

PLEASE MARK YOUR RESPONSES WITH A ✓ EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE INDICATED.

1. Do you think that Victoria would benefit from having a community centre for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community, established by and for these groups and their organizations?

YES ☐

NO ☐

DON'T KNOW ☐

2. A community centre in Victoria could provide many services and activities for the community. Please rank the following activities and services according to their importance to you using the following scale:

NOT IMPORTANT				VERY IMPORTANT		DON'T KNOW
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

A ___ Gay/Queer Information/Crisis Line

B ___ Drop-In Space/Lounge

C ___ Newsletter

D ___ Workshops/Classes (e.g. queer/gay issues, adult education and upgrading)

E ___ Recreational Activities (e.g. games, sports, special events)

F ___ Commercial Ventures (e.g. coffee shop, art gallery, book store)

G ___ Support Services (e.g. child care)

H ___ Resource Centre/Library

I ___ Internet Access

J ___ Socials (e.g. coffee houses, dances, socials)

K ___ Support/Advocacy Groups (e.g. youth, women, men, minorities, AA, NA)

L ___ Meeting Space For Community Groups and Organizations

M ___ Community Outreach (e.g. Speakers Bureau, street youth initiatives)

OTHER: Please identify other services and/or activities you think should be provided by the community centre:

3. (a) Would you participate in any of the above activities or make use of any of the above services?

YES ☐

NO ☐

DON'T KNOW ☐

(b) If YES, which ones (please provide **only the letter** beside the activity or service):

4. How should the centre be organized and administered?

___ Private Non-Profit Community Based Board of Directors

___ Private For Profit (Commercial Venture)

___ BOTH: Private Non Profit Community Based Board Of Directors with space available for private commercial activities

5. How should the centre be funded? You may ☒ more than one option.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rental fees/donations for meeting space and activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Newspaper (advertising fees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund-raisers (joint fund-raising, fund-raising by specific community groups) | <input type="checkbox"/> Donations from individuals and businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding from government/non-government sources | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail profits from commercial ventures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Dues | <input type="checkbox"/> Pay per use (instead of membership dues) |

OTHER: Please identify other means of funding the centre: _____

6.(a) Would you be willing to financially support the community centre?

YES ☐

NO ☐

DON'T KNOW ☐

(b) If YES, how much would you donate to help establish the centre (in dollars)?

☐ 1 - 50 ☐ 51 - 100 ☐ 101 - 250 ☐ 251 - 500 ☐ 501 - 750 ☐ 751 - 1000 ☐ More than 1,000

7.(a) Would you be willing to contribute money to the centre every year?

YES ☐

NO ☐

DON'T KNOW ☐

(b) If YES, how much? \$_____

(c) Would you contribute more money to the centre if you could receive a tax deductible receipt?

YES ☐

NO ☐

DON'T KNOW ☐

8.(a) Would you volunteer to work at the community centre?

YES ☐

NO ☐

DON'T KNOW ☐

(b) If YES, what would you be interested in doing? _____

9. Please provide any further comments you may have about the proposed community centre in the space provided: _____

10. The following demographic information about you will be very useful in the planning stage(s):

GENDER:	SEXUAL ORIENTATION:	AGE:	ANNUAL INCOME: \$	AREA OF RESIDENCE (e.g., Victoria, Saanich, Sooke, Esquimalt, etc.):
---------	---------------------	------	----------------------	--

EXTENDED

Thank you for your input! PLEASE DO 1, 2, 3, 4, OR 5 NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 1997:

1. **DROP OFF** the completed survey in drop-off boxes at:

AVI, BJ'S LOUNGE, EVERYWOMAN'S BOOKS, LBGA(UVic), RUMORS CABARET, or SWAG, or

2. **MAIL IT** to COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT, VICTORIA PRIDE SOCIETY, PO BOX 8016, STATION CENTRAL, VICTORIA, BC V8W 3R7, or

3. **ACCESS THE SURVEY** at www.islandnet.com/~ila/vicpride.htm, or

4. **FAX** the completed survey to COMMUNITY SURVEY, Attention: Ruthann Tucker @ 380-9411, or

5. **EMAIL** the completed survey to robbs@uvic.ca