

LAVENDER RHINOCEROS

Victoria's Premiere Lesbian & Gay Magazine
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What's Inside

A Minister Listens

Spider Lines

Love at First Night

News from Nanaimo

What a Word's Worth

...and more



UP FRONT

What's Love Got to Do With It?

When I was in my late teens I hung about with an artist colony. One of the members of the colony was a highschool chum, Sandy. Her mother was a wonderful artist as were the rest of the colony. Despite our youth, we, Sandy and I, drank and talked



**Barbara
McLauchlin**

with artists, and her mother, as one does. One night we talked of love and what it meant. And I remember Sandy's mom telling us "love is the complete subjugation of one human being to

another." My impressionable young mind believed her. Totally.

One's definitions of love grow with experience. Love, for most of my life, at least until the 1980s, was largely about subjugation, power, seeking nurture, seeking mummy, or the grand fuck. I wasn't ready for the parallel exchanges that love entails. When I was open to growth and willing to change, love came slowly in. It moved about me, no longer dazzling me, nor a fantasy in a romance novel come to life. For 15 years love was about growth, caring, rediscovering myself and laughing and laughing and laughing.

There are no reasons for love to change from romance to deep and abiding friendship. It simply happens if the love is there and deep enough. We were both willing to go through anything to keep it between us, share it with our friends, through the blessing that we were together. And we still are that. Deep love, the kind that lets another go in joy and peace, is always that. Love has changed and grown for me again. I have grown up to discover that love is so light it tickles. It is so heavy it holds me rooted to the ground. It is a middle ground where things move together and beyond. It is uninhibited and open, carefree, willing. When love is in control, and the participants play in its rich fields, anything can happen. When love is in charge, there is no subjugation. There is surrender. The

surrender is to love itself.

Before I go on and on and turn an editorial into poetry...I am thinking about my community and the work we have all done together, separately and apart, together and in joy. I think of the uniqueness we bring to one another. And I think of the times we struggle. We are required to invent ourselves, our lives, our way of being in the world. We are required to remain true to our selves. We are trying to be the best of ourselves. We are learning, through the fights and efforts of others, to be our uniqueness and our diverseness. We are learning to accept one another for who we are. To value one another for what we are doing and how we are, each of us, as queer folk, moving ourselves forward. How rich we would really be if love were in charge of everything and we let it rule. How wonderful to be subjected to love every day! We can start by looking in the mirror and from there to the mirror that we are to one another.

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Cripple of Inishmaan Funny and Forceful

By Barbara McLauchlin

The images I have pulled away with me are stark. The feeling: one of great isolation. And yet, against a background of plebeian language, beautifully executed by a fine assortment of actors, *The Cripple Of Inishmaan* has moments which are hysterically funny. The play is like the Gestalt's "same stream one can never enter twice." As fast as the water tumbles and changes its structure so does this masterpiece of construction by playwright Martin McDonagh.

At one point, when we were guessing the "truth" of the action at the end of the first act, my friend and I debated the outcome. We might have debated the outcome at any point and found ourselves right: Sort of.

The plot turns and rolls like the Irish Sea itself bashing against an ordinary people on a small Island using ordinary language in extraordinary ways.

We are at any moment laughing, howling with laughter, sighing, shocked, pitying, and marvelling. It's all so stark; so complicated; so in and out of tune with itself. Like the sea. Like the Irish of the Aran Islands.

The cripple, Billy, is played unflinchingly by Stephen Holmes who never lets us pity a boy trapped in a distorted body and jailed by the love of two overly-doting aunts who inherited him when he was small. How and why he became an orphan you'll have to discover for yourself.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Barbara:

I read your article on the matter of Rape Relief and Kimberley [Nixon]. I am in complete support of Kimberley's application to become a part of Rape Relief.

As someone who worked for the old Rape/Assault Centre from 1977-1980, and for the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre from 1983-1984, I will readily admit that I probably would have taken the same stand as Rape Relief just did, had I been in the position to do so back then. But my experience of working with transsexuals as a therapist completely changed my perceptions. A transsexual is almost by definition someone who internally has lived as the opposite sex to their biological one. The oppression a transsexual experiences is horrendous and almost inexpressible; to compare it to the oppression of biological women is about as smart as comparing the effects of racism to the effects of homophobia - let's just not go there. A transsexual certainly is capable of empathizing with the experience of a woman who has been raped or assaulted - she has lived with that fear every moment of her life. Furthermore her fear of murder is ever present. To think that such a person requires the history of a biological woman is to utterly miss the whole meaning of what it is to be transsexual.

Sincerely,

Rowan Percy



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the Arts

Nicola Lipman is Aunt Kate. She over-eats the sweets daily sought with patience-trying eagerness by Bartley whose red-haired self gets egg-zactly what he deserves from his sister Helen. She's dangerously tempered and free with the eggs she's supposed to deliver. Helen alternately kisses the lips or kicks the balls of the various priests and other men who hound her. Bartley is skilfully naïve and daft as played by Matthew Hoos and Jody-Kay Marklew's Helen is as deep as she is desirable. While Aunt Kate fuels her sorrows and rounds her body with sweets she could sell, Meredith Bain Woodward (Aunt Eileen) talks to rocks and ravages the small shop with her endless repetitions ("not a word"). While these three live together, Bernard Cuffling's interloping Johnnypateenmike, a walking newspaper of mundane information, is a marvellous character trying hard to force his mother (Margaret Martin) to an early death through whisky while acting as foil and catalyst. We have a love-hate relationship with him throughout the play. And yet... The Belfry, under the more than capable direction of Roy Surette, has pulled itself back to professionalism with *Cripple of Inishmaan*. Reminds me why season's tickets are such a grand idea. Get some. The next series, performed in the studio and advertised this issue, promises much. Don't miss.

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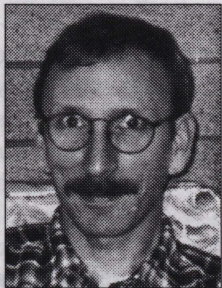
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Jumping Off the Roof

"Learn to wish that everything should come to pass exactly as it does." Epictetus

I think that I'm beginning to understand the above quote. My version runs: "the Universe will unfold exactly as it will." It's not just about "letting go, and letting God(dess)", and "going with the flow" and all those other old saws that seem to permeate the self-help, "I'm okay you're okay" philosophies. To me it's about understanding the underlying uselessness of my attempt to control – everything, and simply allow what will be to be just like Doris said. If I can manage to simply be here – where I am in this moment, then the rest of the other moments will take care of themselves. Yesterday already happened (can't go back there), and tomorrow – I dunno... it'll happen whether I'm for or against it.



**Michael
Yoder**

So when I think about the struggles we face as gays and lesbians in a culture which is slowly beginning to see us as human, I think it might serve us well to realize that if gay marriages and gay rights happen, they happen. And if gay marriages don't happen, they don't. Railing against the world won't change what's happening in this moment, and *wishing* things were different surely won't. The best we can do is to move forward in whatever way we do. We'll make the choice to marry or not to marry, to have children or not, to protest or not.

When I was a child, I would try jumping off the garage roof into the grass clippings until I hurt something, and, if I didn't, I'd keep jumping. So it is with everything else in life: we keep jumping off the roof until we get hurt. Even then, we may try to jump in a new and different way, and perhaps *this* time we won't get hurt. Or maybe we will. Either way, something will happen.

We are faced every day with a thousand possibilities and we will choose the one we do and what happens will happen. What I do with what happens is where I find meaning in the experience. The experience itself has no meaning: It is what it is. And so it is that we can move forward and stop expecting that what we want will be what we get. Because in the end the only thing that matters is that we get something – anything.

And everything will come to pass exactly as it does.

But I will remember that I am loved and cared for by these people as much as I love and care deeply for them, and that ultimately there is goodness in the world. Despite the treachery of some, there is goodness. And I must never, ever forget that.

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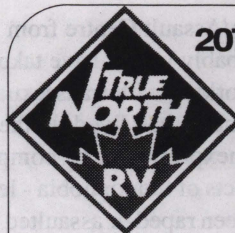
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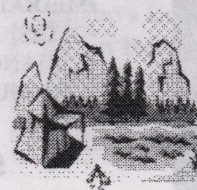
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*Linda Fraser who is definitely
cuddly*

News Flashes *from* Nanaimo

Beware the Ides of March some weirdo in a toga might be hazardous to your health! Up here in the Arctic wastes of Nanaimo things have been pretty quiet. The Rhino is now officially available at the *Malaspina College Bookstore*

(our local bastion of learning and civility for those unfamiliar with Nanaimo) Yee hah – we've hit the big time – when Musaïc visits in June we'll really be on the map.

Speaking of things Musaïcal, I've had my first response to the *Find a Use For February* contest. My dear friend Lee Porteus writes, "I see by the Rhino that you don't know about the best use for February which is Musaïc's Valentine Concert and Dance." She then proceeded to invite me to same. Well, if the contest brings me nothing but that invitation – it was still worth running it.

I went to the January Women's dance here and it was quiet although I had a pretty good time. After Christmas/New Years it seems to take a while to get the old party spirit going again. The secretary for VILIPS – Renee, (hope I spelled your name correctly) introduced herself to me at the dance and said she liked my column (of course after that I knew she was a charming, intelligent woman). I was wondering how she knew who I was then I remembered that there is a picture of me in the Rhino. With the Rhino on sale at Malaspina now I'm going to have to go around in dark glasses and hire a taster in case of assassination attempts...

Heeeeeeelp! My cats have decided that I can't accomplish anything without their assistance which, of course, means that I can't accomplish anything at all – anyone want a couple of extra fluffy office cats – cheap?

I am on the Rainbow B.C. mailing list and I am the sort of person who usually gets around to reading the list items at the earliest a couple of weeks after I receive them. I started to read an article by a woman called



*Linda
Fraser*

Michele Landsberg about the Kimberley Nixon case. The article was from a December issue of *The Toronto Star*, a publication with which I am not very familiar. But, if this article is any example of the quality of journalism they generally purvey, my ignorance certainly was bliss.

The author took the tone that Kim Nixon was just another man trying to destroy another wonderful women's institution – *Rape Relief*. Landsberg was careful to point out all the wonderful contributions Lee Lakeman and the Rape Relief collective have made to Women's Rights in Canada, and rightly so. *Rape Relief* has done some great things and fought some hard fights and deserves to have that recognized. But, to award it infallibility on that basis is to fossilize it. Saints are saints and martyrs are martyrs because they're dead and can't make any more mistakes. Landsberg wants us to accept the persecution of another human being at the hands of the Rape Relief collective because they're the good guys. As a former rape crisis worker I am familiar to the point of nausea with the argument that some guy couldn't be a rapist, child abuser, etc. because he's a great teacher, or a pillar of the community and a nice, church-going family man. Thus it must be that vindictive child or that deranged woman's imagination that such a hero abused or battered her.

At the beginning of the article Landsberg asks the reader "What makes a woman? If a man cuts off his penis, pumps himself full of hormones, gets silicone breasts and electrolysis and stuffs his feet into high heels, is he/she a woman?" I have seldom in my life seen anyone miss the point so breathtakingly. If I were not so furious at her I would be stunned with admiration. As it is I am forced to wonder what cave she has been living in. Without exception, all of her references to transsexual women are equally ignorant and inflammatory. She doesn't hesitate to confuse TS women with transvestites, drag queens and any other transgender individuals whom she can use to arouse the public's ignorance and contempt. I must say here that I am not trying to belittle

anyone who is gender busting in this society because I have tremendous respect for their courage. I am merely commenting on Landsberg's deliberate arousal of society's fears when confronted with the possibility that gender might not be as simple and monolithic as our need for security would have it be.

Blaming the victim has traditionally been the technique those with power use to protect themselves from the truth and consequences of their actions. Feminism has made this point repeatedly and has tried to combat blatant power abuses, both individual and systemic. Indeed, Rape Relief itself has often been the spearhead of such social reform. What I don't comprehend is how such an intelligent and committed group of women can fail to see that they are doing the same thing for which they have criticized the greater society. First, they are discriminating against a member of another marginalized group. Then, they make "villain" the individual they've offended against simply because she chose to speak out about her experience.

As for Michele Landsberg, I would tell her to get her facts straight.

That's all for this month folks - happy Valentines Day.



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The Business Block

The Sally Cafe

By Cheryl Macpherson

Tucked in the 700 block of Cormorant Street, just up from Douglas you will find the *Sally Cafe*. As I stepped through the door from the grey January day outside, I was struck by the vibrant colour in the decor and the friendly atmosphere. Booths line the wall and tables of varying sizes are arranged throughout the room. Art on loan to the restaurant is displayed on the walls. Although it was mid-afternoon, there were several customers enjoying coffee and sampling food. As we chatted, partners and owners Chrystine and Doreh Mohsenzadeh-Green took turns attending to the running of the business. Their aim is to provide excellent food at reasonable prices.

Five months ago, Doreh, Chrystine and their now almost-four-year old daughter Cetare, arrived in Victoria from Saskatoon via Saltspring Island. They went to Saltspring to buy a business and settle, but ran into problems with the business deal. As they had both left well-paying jobs, they had to find an alternative source of income. Doreh happened to see the Sally Cafe advertised for sale on the Internet.

They came over to Victoria to look, and decided that this was the place for them. "The energy was just what we would've created," Doreh told me.

Before Chrystine and Doreh, Sally Cafe had already attracted customers from our community. During negotiations, the previous owners asked them whether they were gay and lesbian friendly. Doreh said "Chrystine and I just looked at each other and laughed. We want to be a place that is welcoming to the community."

Doreh describes the first few weeks as a trial by fire. Chrystine said there wasn't one day without a minor or major crisis to deal with. Such as the refrigerator, with all the lunch preparations inside, being accidentally unplugged two hours before lunch, forcing

them to scramble frantically to prepare for the lunch rush. At first it was a 23-hour job.

Cetare considers the cafe her second home; she even has a bed in the back for those early-morning and late-evening hours. She likes to make a playhouse in the Monday magazine box and enjoys doing the ring-out at the end of the day.

Having survived the early days, they are looking forward to future plans. Doreh talks about the business growing into toddler-hood where up to now it has been like nursing a newborn. After Christmas, they introduced a new menu which the women feel is more their own. A big favourite with the clientele is spinach and cheese pie, which you can have combined with Caesar salad or a cup of soup for only \$6.95/\$6.25 respectively.

All the food is made on the premises, including the delicious baking. Doreh hopes that they will become known for the desserts, as they are her specialty. There are plans to do some redecorating by adding some new colour and putting some patio doors at the front of the store to allow more access to the sunlight. In the future they hope to add a delicatessen featuring Middle Eastern foods. They would like to rotate the art and invite artists from the community to talk to them about having their work displayed in the Cafe.

Sally's menu is available for take-out and telephone orders are accepted. The restaurant is licensed for 65 people and is available for private functions such as office parties, birthdays and other special occasions. Call Doreh and Chrystine for your catering needs. As their ad in *Lavender Rhinoceros* says "Great food and Great prices." Whether you want a cozy spot for two or a dinner for six, you'll find something to suit your palate. You can find the Sally Cafe at 714 Cormorant Street in Victoria. Telephone 381-1431. The restaurant opens at 6:30 in the morning. Give Sally's a call.



Doreh, Chrystine and Cetare with Santa Joe at Christmas



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Getting Complete

"I will not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum." - Frances Elizabeth

Why is it that many people put off completing things?



**Joy
Kirstin**

You know you should make that one phone call to a business contact, but instead you fill the time with administrative tasks. You wish you could clear the air with that co-worker you had a misunderstanding with, but instead you convince yourself that there is nothing you can do with that sinking feeling you get in the pit of your stomach every time you cross paths with them. You wish that you could find a way to take that dream vacation, but it slips away year after year as you spend the money on other things.

Staying incomplete with things is a way to try to prevent change. Getting complete with something means that you must and you will change, because with every pile of clutter you do away with and every old hurt you manage to let go of, you are opening yourself up to a more full experience of truly living.

And for most of us that is scary - even if it sounds appealing. Unfortunately, this is a pretty self-damaging way to exercise control. Incomplete things will drain the lifeblood from you more effectively than anything else ever will. They will permeate every

intention you have and undermine it, all the time sending a steady and ongoing message to your subconscious that you are powerless to have what you want. Because, like it or not, change happens anyway. And when your available energy is mostly tied up with "old stuff," you do not have any reserves to deal with those pesky curve balls life sometimes throws.

If you are getting tired of the number of curve balls coming your way, practice doing what it takes to resolve issues when they come up, and finish what is on your plate before it cools and congeals. See if you can identify one thing this week and wrap it up so it won't come back to haunt you again the next time you turn around.

Tips For Taking Action

(1) Accept what is. Stop trying to deny it, resist it, beat yourself up for it or fast-forward it. It is what it is, even if you don't like it. Acceptance is the first step to figuring out the best way to deal. Remember, you don't have to like it to accept it - really!

(2) Make a list of 5 things that you are either putting off doing or wishing would disappear so you would no longer have to deal with them.

(3) Pick one thing this week to get rid of. Take one step each day towards dealing with it so it will not come back to haunt you.

Do it now! Life is too precious to spend it wishing things would get better all on their own. When you take care of the things you can control, the things you cannot control become much easier to navigate.

Joy Kirstin is a life and business coach who supports professionals, entrepreneurs and artists to make career transitions, increase business profitability, and live fulfilling lives. She coaches local and international clients over the phone, individually or in groups. Contact her to find out more or to book a free introductory session: joylifecoach@canada.com or (250)

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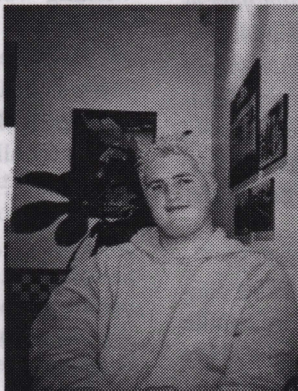
Youth Need Volunteers, More Lesbians

By Barbara McLaughlin

Warren Scott is looking for queer youth to help him and other youth keep Victoria Youth Pride Society alive. At the moment, he tells me, the youth group is suffering from age — in this case that means, a lot of regular VYPS members have had to move on. Once you've hit 25 years, you are no longer considered a queer youth. So, eight volunteers between the ages of 13 and 25 are needed to fill vital roles in the meetings held four Wednesdays a month. There will be two volunteers in charge of each meeting.

I met with the handsome Warren at a coffee shop close to our Pride meeting which was to happen one hour later. Warren doesn't let his service to his community stop at youth. Instead, he finds himself trying to actuate, validate, and recognize the importance of queer youth to the bigger picture. I got to know VYPS through John Trueman who has moved on to Vancouver to head up Youth Quest, an organization with which VYPS is affiliated. My role had been to act as speaker, at regular meetings in the old building on Fairfield Road which houses the Fairfield Community Centre. I wound up being pivotal to some interesting and heady discussions. I remember the group being outraged at one exchange between me and a young woman in the room. "Hey, I feel really left out. I'm straight and I don't feel included at all," she said. I replied without missing a beat, "Good. Now you know how it feels." I learned right then that the youth in that room, at that time, were much more

tolerant and sensitive to the individual, regardless of age or sexual identity, than I was/am in that situation. Even if I didn't think anyone got the point. Now, I'm seated across from this handsome young man who earnestly wants Victoria's gay youth to be full of pride, to act in community, to act on their own behalf, to be there for other gay youth. Like VYPS was there for him when at 19 he found himself thrust into gay awareness and a strange country. When Warren was 14 years old his father, no longer feeling safe in the uprisings of a South Africa determined to self-destruct, (happily the reverse may have happened) moved Mom, then the kids, then himself to Canada.



In South Africa the Scotts were upper middle class. They moved, fled maybe, to Portugal, each carrying two suitcases. Had they not gone to Portugal first, they had to face a seven-year waiting list to get to Canada. As it was, Warren told me, the family members each went through a five-minute interview. There's no presto! involved however. "It was really stressful. Dad stayed because he had to sell his business." There's a lot of complicated stuff that went on. It wasn't

that Warren didn't want to tell more, it was more like he was saying: This time now is what is important. "I came out when I was 19, when I left school. I started going to VYPS. I was petrified. But the kids at VYPS were all normal. Now I go every week. The youth group is my life. I love it." Warren has been running the youth group for 15 months. It isn't so much that he wants to lose the group. He wants to see it grow, change, become responsible to itself. Hence the cry for more members and volunteers. "I think it's kind of hard going into a community so separated. There are so many gaps: Men, women, age, and transgendered — so many different sections to this community. Youth are more open to working as a community than the older people are," he said. "The Pride Society is an appropriate place for me to put energy. Pride Week is community event time. At first the only place we found to link with was within AIDS organizations," Warren said, noting that through Nanaimo the group did and does do classroom presentations around homophobia. Happily, the group here works extensively with P-FLAG — a group Warren obviously feels good about. "I love P-FLAG," he grinned. So what about those new volunteers? What are they supposed to do? Well, Warren wants to bring the community to VYPS. He wants to make connections with Prime Timers, for example, a group of older men who are active in having fun and enjoying their senior years. Oh, really? For years there were huge concerns about the so-called "older gay" and the so-called "chickens" VYPS represents. Not in Warren's world. He is truly committed to developing a generation of queer youth that will —and want to

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– take responsibility for themselves and each other. They will do that only by reaching out.

So those new volunteers will find guest speakers, queer persons who have interesting stories to tell. The folk at Prime Timers, in particular will help to “heal a generation gap thing.”

Warren wants members who are interested in working on improving the drop-in, restarting Sunday drop-ins, facilitating discussions. “Once we get more people I hope we can get a Saturday drop-in going.”

Meantime the youth are planning dances with UVic Pride Society and SEXY (not an acronym) the other youth group run under the auspices of the YM/YWCA. So where are the youth? Do queer youth feel a part of the community? “Well, it seems we always tread lightly. We are trying to find out what we want to do. VYPS is separate from everything else. But we are beginning to incorporate more community outreach through going to other group meetings, selling hot dogs at the ball game, holding dances around Pride. And what do Victoria’s queer youth have to offer us? Warren responds, “I think the older community is tied up with stereotypes. I hope we can create more interactions within gay and lesbian youth.”

Warren envisions a growing spiral of sorts where involved youth become involved adults who enjoy interaction and community involvement and service on a lot of levels.

“Right now we really need more lesbians in VYPS. And the guys need more community support.”

Warren and VYPS can use us. Sounds like we could use them, too. Call or email (250) 413-3177 or vyys@writeme.com and find out how.

Love at First Night: Or Blame it on the Oxytocin

By Geneva Jones

“If you stay and love me till the morning, maybe we won’t ever say good-bye.”

Jane Olivor: *Stay the Night*

Q: What did the dyke bring on the first date?

A: Flowers

Q: What did the dyke bring on the second date?

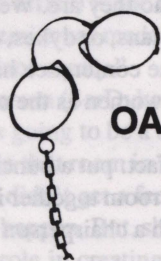
A: A U-Haul

It’s a well-known phenomenon in the lesbian community; no sooner have two women “consummated” their relationship than they’re moving in with one another. Is it economics? Most of us can’t afford a place of our own. Are we so desperate for someone to share the rent that we imagine ourselves in love at the drop of a hat? Maybe it’s what is sometimes referred to as “people addiction.” Are we afraid to be alone, so afraid of facing our inner demons that we latch onto the first available warm body that comes our way? Take heart, Fair Sisters, I have an answer to this age-old question and the explanation is hormones! Or one hormone, to be specific – oxytocin. Oxytocin is produced during childbirth, lactation and orgasm. The “official” functions of oxytocin according to most textbooks are to promote contraction of the uterus after childbirth and the secretion of milk from

the mammary glands. The effect not always mentioned is that oxytocin makes us feel all warm and cuddly; it promotes bonding between mother and child.

Okay, that explains why it’s produced during childbirth and lactation, but what about orgasm? Well, oxytocin also promotes pair bonding – otherwise known as falling in love. Let’s face it, we don’t all have orgasms at the drop of a hat. If we find someone that can get us there the first or second or third night, that’s pretty special. Maybe oxytocin is Mother Nature’s way of saying, “Hey don’t let this one get away.” And because Mother Nature doesn’t discriminate between straight and lesbo orgasms we lesbians are treated to a double dose of it.

So, that’s my theory. Double the pleasure, double the fun, double the oxytocin. Thirty-six hours and several dozen orgasms later, who wouldn’t want to move in together? Sure, you can fall in love without having an orgasm, and you can have an orgasm without falling in love, but as someone who has experienced love at first night more than once in my life, I say, Honey, when it all falls into place, it’s pretty hard to resist. Change of address cards, anyone?



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Dykes Talk And Listen

By Barbara McLaughlin

"I've been confronted by my own white middle class-ness," an NDP cabinet member told me earlier this month.

Our latest Minister of Women's Equality Evelyn Gillespie has been touring smaller BC communities, visiting and talking with women of many shapes, sizes, colours, and concerns. I met with the minister in one of the rooms of the Coast Harbour Hotel after a half-day session the minister and her staff spent with 40 dykes from around the province. The goal was to try to determine cause, effect, and solution to problems faced by dykes and how they fit into a ministry's discussion paper on Women's Economic Security and Pay Equity.

A resident of Comox, the minister wanted to reach women in smaller communities. But she found the forums "have been a huge assault." As if looking for the positive in looking at herself in relation to other women, and facing her own values, she added, "being uncomfortable makes you move. Every woman's journey has to be valued."



The minister had no idea how complicated things could get in our lives: no idea it would be as difficult to even find a universally suitable *name* or label for the women in the hotel ballroom. That and a variety of concerns faced by queer women on so many levels, financial, class and otherwise, resulted in the coining of the word, "intersectionality." Oh, well, another buzz word.

The minister and the queer women gathered here to discuss queer women's economic security and pay equity as part of a provincial investigation launched by the ministry to give voice to women's concerns: chiefly about women's work and workplaces, pay and financial security. Jannit Rabinovitch organized the meeting. Connie Carter co-chaired.

"The work the ministry has done has put flesh on the bones of dry discussions. The stories will go to cabinet colleagues. Voice will be given to women's concerns. Hopefully things will change," she told me when I asked what was the aim of all this travel and talk.

"It was tough to sit and listen to what I heard," she said, "and tough too, to realize that things the government has done, seem not to be known or recognized." The minister referred to the attention government has brought to violence against women, for example. The crown has to lay the charge against the violent (male) person now. And the government has taken an active stance in the pursuit of the right of gays/lesbians to marry.

Ms Gillespie feels certain that when the government turns its attention to the issue of queer women and economics, there will be change. But, she added, "When have you ever seen a revolution led by the government? Government," she continued, "is interested in entrenching the world order, not upsetting it." So, taking government out to the people, in this case queer women, creates a way of having a revolution in a civilized manner, perhaps?

Gillespie feels that the NDP government will listen and will make change where women's need for economic security is concerned.

This tour has brought awareness to the powers that be in the Women's Equality Ministry. The first thing the ministry learned on the road is that not all women are the same, not all women face the same concerns. Some women of colour, some white women, some disabled women, some dykes, find it impossible in different ways to succeed in a world that tramples them, rather than supports them.

What the minister heard about queer women is that they have to make decisions about going to work that most women don't. Whether or not to wear lipstick, a dress, how butch, how femme, how many men will she have to fend off or deal with. One dyke told her about waving a big hammer and telling the men with whom she worked "if you want to touch my ass you better think again." It worked. "She has had no trouble," the minister laughed.

But not all queer women are that tough. Nor are they talented in the trades where big tools are as good a defence as the ability to use them.

"Most queer women don't know how to work the system; they don't grow up necessarily filled with self-esteem and autonomy. They lack support from family and friends. They are female. They often take meaningless jobs because they don't get hassled," one member of the community told me. This forum for queer women offered the minister some perspectives we take for granted. Dykes assembled to talk about anything, need first to sort out who they are. We don't all identify as lesbians, or dykes, or queer, etc. As a result, the conference had first to settle on queer women as the overall identifier.

Then there's this fact: put a bunch of queer women in a room together in a formal setting with a chairperson and

and A Minister Learns A Lot

we'll spend the first full part of that gathering telling each other who we are: then, and only then, will queer women settle down to finding solutions.

Thus it was the queers participating in the event that felt short-changed by the time constraints.

The minister has promised to schedule another meeting here to work on the solutions.

Ms Gillespie also acknowledges growth and changes in her own feminism since she took on this job. "It's my awakening to our art and architecture. In my late teens I didn't see women respected in our environment. It's so male. It set me on a path for representing myself. I find myself in fibre and clay. [The materials] are so me, so us."

When I asked about our Victoria Lesbian Senior's Care Society, she told me she was going to hear a proposal from the society and "we can work together. The work of my ministry is to link a project like this (VLSCS) with ministry of health."

I asked some dykes what they thought of the forum when they poured out of the room. Others I called. Cynthia Callahan said, "wild, intense, the government got a real raw, gut level look at the everyday reality of people's lives. Others, concerned that the NDP isn't going to last, admitted to feeling depressed. "The kind of change needed isn't going to happen."

One of the things the minister told me about was the Women's Workplace Equity Office. Being one of the dykes who usually knows about this sort of stuff, I looked up with a question. "Well, it's (the office) in the development stage. The Premier has made a commitment to workplace equity."

Lahl Sarson (SarDyke) wants to know "if there is going to be a difference for the dykes in that room in two years. "Basically, I didn't get a feeling that anything would happen. But, she (minister) could take a role in creating the consciousness needed to generate change in the consciousness [of government.]"



Another told me, "We are way over-represented in service and care-giving industries. We give a lot to our society. Partly that comes out of a view of not being sovereign. We are different. We aren't the people for whom this whole mess (system) was designed. It comes out of a sense of our own difference. We know what hurts."

Another participant felt the ministry staff "who were present for the entire workshop clearly were interested in what we had to say."

Janet Weigelt dropped by to pay for her advertising for *The End Result*. "I left the forum feeling pretty unhopeful. I heard and saw that the minister, when she spoke, felt that her hands were tied. She really dodged how she was going to solve this pay equity issue. If she's the minister she should be able to do what she can. It's a start, however."

Janet gave her business card to the minister with a list of six things she wanted to see happen. These "things" include training programmes offered without need for bank loans and payback. Her list included a need for courses in how to self heal and to develop self esteem. Courses need to lead directly to jobs.

Janet, who has a 12 year-old daughter, is currently working on a project via her course at Camosun College. As she has a lot of experience, the 14 men and two other women on the project value her and ask her for advice.

Janet's course, however, is below her skill level. She is taking the course anyway, and paying for it without complaint. But it isn't the route she sees as useful or necessary for dykes entering the trades in the future. We'll wait and see. The current opposition has vowed to keep alive the Ministry of Women's Equality should it be elected.

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Business News post Valentine Delights

Jude Angione has opened a new cottage industry called *Lavender Hill Designs*. She has developed a series of pins to promote same-gender marriage in rainbow hearts and triangles with intertwined gold or silver rings. As well as rainbows there are smaller pink and lavender triangles with intertwined gold rings. You can find Lavender Hill products at Bleeding Rose Books and Multimedia on Yates Street. Affordable.

Happy Hikers are offering gourmet picnic lunches with guided hikes based on your energy and desire. Call for a customized walk (250) 652-3818.

Lynn Kirk offers Shiatsu at affordable prices at *Chrysalis Shiatsu* in the Yarrow Building on Fort Street. Great way to relax, renew and recharge those personal batteries that wore down a bit over winter. Heck, you'd do it for your car.

Starhawk, a well-known feminist, peace activist, and part of the Reclaiming movement, will be in Victoria the first weekend in April. On Friday, April 6, she will speak at David Lam Auditorium on the University of Victoria campus. On Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, she will present a workshop on magical activism. Admission for the Friday evening lecture will be charged and used to defray the costs of the workshop, for which donations will be requested. The location for the workshop had not been set, but may be at James Bay New Horizon's Centre. Starhawk is one of the foremost voices of ecofeminism. She travels widely in North America and Europe giving lectures and workshops, drawing on her twenty-five years of research and experience in the Goddess movement.

Alison Campbell

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Tree will be missed like crazy.

Our community has been shaken by the sudden death of a dear friend. Theresa Newhouse, aged 28, was in the Bahamas when she suffered a seizure and later "just stopped breathing." Most of us learned from her partner Kitt, via e-mail, that the cause is not yet known. "We are working our best to determine what happened though she died in peace." Her death occurred February 11.

I just looked at these messages from "Theresa Newhouse" for a long time before the mist cleared and I remembered a tall, laughing girl on our writers' retreat. So tall and willowy, so full of fun, wrote Margaret Dymont who was part of our writer's group and a retreat that brought us all so close together.

Tree was tall, laughing, beautiful and intelligent. Tree worked with me on *LesbianNews* and *LNews* before she decided to explore the bigger world and its seas and skies. She would then return to law school. I'm going to miss her like crazy. We all will.

Softball Players Celebrate

The San Francisco Gay Softball League announced today it will host the 25th Silver Anniversary of the Gay Softball World Series. The Series will take place in San Francisco August 11-18, 2001 and marks the fourth time in 25 years San Francisco has hosted the World Series.

The Gay Softball World Series was conceived in San Francisco in 1977 and had eight teams participating from all over the United States. One of the founders of the Gay Softball World Series was Dr. Tom Waddell. In addition to the World Series, Waddell founded the Gay Games with Sara Lewinstein. This year, there are 150 teams expected from across the United States and Canada for the Silver Anniversary of the games.

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Some Safety Tips For Self-Protection

for women, for transnies, for anyone

Thanks to Paul Jenns

The person offering these points has a female friend who was attacked in the parking garage. As a result he started a women's group and began teaching classes soon after. Tips were based on interviews with a number of rapists and date rapists in prison on what they look for.

The Facts

The first thing men look for in a potential victim is hairstyle. They are most likely to go after a woman with a ponytail, bun, braid or other hairstyle that can easily be grabbed. They are also likely to go after woman with long hair. Women with short hair are not common targets.

The second thing men look for is clothing. They will look for women whose clothing is easy to remove quickly. The #1 outfit they look for is overalls because many rapists carry scissors around to cut clothing and on overalls the straps can be easily cut. They also look for women on their cell phones, searching through their purses or doing other activities while walking because they are off guard and can be easily overpowered.

The time of day men are most likely to attack and rape a woman is in the early morning, between 5 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

The number one place women are abducted from/attacked at is grocery store parking lots. Number two is office parking lots/garages. Number three is public restrooms. The thing about these men is that they are looking to grab a woman and quickly move her to a second location where they don't have to worry about getting caught. Only 2% said they carried weapons because rape carries a 3 to 5 year sentence but rape with a weapon is 15-20 years. If you put up any kind of a fight at all, they get discouraged because it only takes a

minute or two for them to realize that going after you isn't worth it because it will be time consuming. These men said they would not pick on women who have umbrellas, or other similar objects that can be used from distance, in their hands. Keys are not a deterrent because you have to get really close to the attacker to use them as a weapon. So, the idea is to convince these guys you're not worth it. Several defense mechanisms he taught include: If someone is following behind you on a street or in a garage or with you in an elevator or stairwell, look them in the face and ask them a question, like what time is it, or make general small talk, I can't believe it is so cold out here, we're in for a bad winter. Now you've seen their face and could identify them in a lineup, you lose appeal as a target. If someone is coming toward you, hold out your hands in front of you and yell Stop or Stay back! Most of the rapists this man talked to said they'd leave a woman alone if she yelled or showed that she would not be afraid to fight back. Again, they are looking for an EASY target. If you carry pepper spray (this instructor was a huge advocate of it and carries it with him wherever he goes), yelling "I have pepper spray" and holding it out will be a deterrent. If someone grabs you, you can't beat them with strength but you can by outsmarting them. If they grab your wrist, pull your wrist back so your hand is in waving position (palm facing forward) and twist it toward yourself and pull your arm away. It is hard to hold onto wrist bones that are moving in that way. They stumble toward you and you stumble back, so you can use that momentum to bring the same out and backhand them with your knuckles in the forehead, nose or teeth.

If you are grabbed around the waist from behind, pinch the attacker either under the arm between the elbow and armpit or in the upper inner thigh. hard. One woman in a class this guy taught told him she used the underarm pinch on a guy who was trying to date rape her and was so upset she broke through the skin and tore out muscle strands - the guy needed stitches. Try pinching yourself in those places as hard as you can stand it. It hurts.

After the initial hit, always go for the groin. I know from a particularly unfortunate experience that if you slap a guy's balls (sorry to be graphic) it is extremely painful. You might think that you'll anger the guy and make him want to hurt you more, but the thing these rapists told our instructor is that they want a woman who will not cause a lot of trouble. Start causing trouble and he's out of there.

When the guy puts his hands up to you, grab his first two fingers and bend them back as far as possible with as much pressure pushing down on them as possible. The instructor did it to me without using much pressure and I ended up on my knees and both knuckles cracked audibly.

Of course the things we always hear still apply. Always be aware of your surroundings, take someone with you if you can and if you see any odd behavior, don't dismiss it, go with your instincts. You may feel a little silly at the time, but you'd feel much worse if the guy really was trouble.

Another one I learned was that if an attacker came at you from behind, go for the ears....it doesn't take much pressure to rip an ear off.

Whatever you do, be safe.

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I felt the unordinary romance of women who love women as if for the first time.

Dionne Brand, "Hard Against the Soul" (1990)



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What's A Word's Worth

by Maddy Aramis

Is the Pope Catholic? A Woman Confronts Her Church

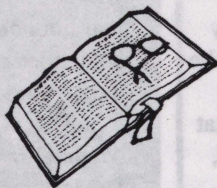
By Joanna Manning Malcolm Lester Books, 1999

"That man has a lot to answer for," was one of the phrases my mother is fond of using whenever anyone mentioned the Pope. She feels it is the height of irresponsibility to tell women that their sole purpose on the planet is to reproduce, regardless of whether or not they have the means to provide for those children. My mother is a staunch agnostic who feels organized religious structures like the Catholic Church are wonderful ways to control and manipulate the masses and to line the pockets of the men who run these institutions. "What does all that wealth in the Vatican have to do with God, anyway?" she likes to ask.

Imagine my surprise to hear these questions being asked by a Catholic religious teacher, a woman who refuses to leave the church she loves, and who has written her book, *Is the Pope Catholic?* in an effort to further the goal of the feminist movement within the church. Rather than throwing the Church baby out with the hierarchical bath water (my mother's strategy), Manning describes her ideal Catholic church as an egalitarian institution where women are ordained as priests; they have control over reproductive decisions, and who are respected as equals both in the eyes of God and those of church officials. Her church would return to the most fundamental teachings of Jesus where the poor are not marginalized, but become our teachers, where women are not second-class citizens to be controlled and reviled but are full partners in all aspects of society (including all aspects of church life), and where all people respect and live in harmony with the natural world.

I wish her luck in her quest for a better world! Reading page after page describing the deeply rooted misogyny of the Vatican-based church, the influence of the Vatican at the UN, the systematic undermining of feminist teachings within the church, the punitive, controlling, and downright nasty attitudes towards women, homosexuals, and other "marginalized" groups, I was soon seething. Right up there with my feelings of fury were waves of hopelessness – how on earth does one effect change in an institution so steeped in misogynist tradition? And, I take the threat to my freedoms quite personally, even though the Catholic Church is not my church. The influence of the Vatican spreads throughout the world; it affects the kinds of healthcare I might receive (good luck to me if I wanted to receive an abortion in a community serviced only by a Catholic hospital). It affects, also, the impact I might be able to have should I decide to work in a developing nation where women are routinely refused the right to self-determination.

Those who are working to improve the lot of women around the world are branded by the church as "cultural imperialists" seeking to spread the evil word of feminism, undermine the family, and threaten the natural order of things. According to church doctrine, men (created in the image of God) have every right to control their women by whatever means are deemed necessary. And if their behavior is, at times, less than exemplary, Pope John Paul II asks, "Don't you think that the irresponsible behavior of men is caused by women?" Puh-lease.



Needless to say, any desire for equal rights for homosexuals within the church is met with overt hostility from within the hallowed halls of the Vatican. After all, according to the Pope, "Homosexuals and lesbians are not families." And worse – recognizing homosexuals as legitimate human life forms would open the door to the acceptance of pedophilia, necrophilia, and bestiality. Hmmm.

Unfortunately, Manning's academic background at times results in some dry writing and at various places in the book she repeats herself. Rather than more fully developing her arguments, her repetitions and frequent referring to other places in the text sometimes make the prose read like relentless harping. The most moving and telling moments in the book are when Manning relates personal accounts, either of her own spiritual journey or when she describes some of the experiences she has had as a teacher of theology in the Catholic high school system. These anecdotes are deeply moving; they illuminate more clearly than all the statistics, quotes, and carefully constructed theological arguments, just what is wrong with the current structure of the Catholic Church as well as the places wherein lie hope for a better future.

A must-read for all Catholics, this is a book well worth looking at for anyone interested in current feminist thinking.

The term "feminist Catholic" is no longer an oxymoron in my mind and I wish all the best to Ms Manning and the others who have chosen to fight the good fight from within.

From the Lambda Book Report December 2000

Books Women Like

1. The Wild One	Lyn Denison
2. Death Understood	Claire McNab
3. Treasured Past	Linda Hill
4. Shy Girl	Elizabeth Stark
5. Dykes with Baggage	Riggin Waugh
6. Best Lesbian Erotica 2001	Tristan Taormino
7. By the Seas Shore	Sandra Morris
8. Calm Before the Storm	Peggy J. Herring
9. When Evil Changes Face	T. Szymanski
10. Tipping the Velvet	Sarah Waters

Books Everyone Likes

1. Merrick	Anne Rice
2. Everything Here is Mine	Nicole Hollander
3. The Villagers	Edward Field
4. Losing Matt Shepard	Beth Loffreda
5. The Other Side of Ethel Mertz	F. Castelluccio
6. What the Bible Really Says	Daniel Helminiak
7. All about Me	Philip Keel
8. The Trouble With Normal	Michael Warner
9. Mother	Judy Olausen
10. Word of Mouth	ed. Timothy Liu

Some Fun for You

From Karen Wreggitt

He said, She didn't—Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

Going out proud—An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

Big Mama—A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He said, "Call for backup."

Out of the Mouths of Babes—A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

*A laugh's the wisest, easiest answer
to all that's queer.*

Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851)

GAY GAMES UPDATE

Australia 2002

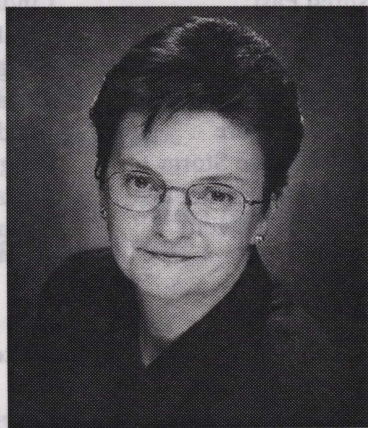
We at Team Victoria would like to share some of our thoughts and ideas with fellow enthusiasts out there. To this end we will be writing about a particular event in which some of the members will be competing. For this issue we'll be talking with a marathoner - a brave soul indeed! We hope our stories give you some idea of what's entailed in the training and preparation for an event. And if you think it's the event for you we encourage you to join us at Team Victoria.

Michael

I'm looking forward to competing at the Gay Games - a first for me. I started running two years ago, because I came to dislike diets intensely, yet I needed to keep my weight down or risk getting traded in by my partner for something younger and slimmer. Since then, I've become addicted to sport. I've trained for, and participated in, two marathons so far, and I am taking up swimming again in September. Jocks don't intimidate me the way they used to when I was in high school, and being fit has increased my energy levels enormously.

My training sessions run seven days a week, giving me the flexibility to skip those when Walter insists that I participate in some social event. I participate in a running clinic twice a week and run with friends on weekends. If you are interested in running, or are interested in finding out more about organizations that offer training, please send me an email at mthomsen@islandnet.com or contact Team Victoria by telephone at (250) 382 9700. Or email teamvictoria@gaycanada.com,

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Lyn Davis and Jannit Rabinovitch at the police ball in November 2000. They are standing with Victoria Police Chief Paul Battershill and his wife Brenda

Little Lezzie Flashes

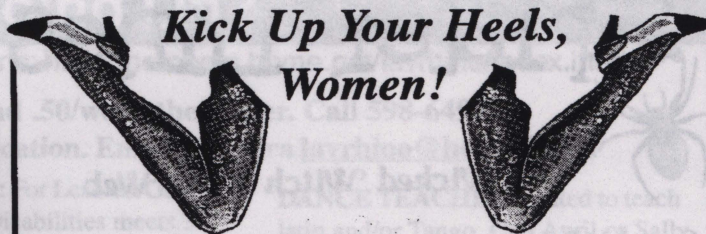


"Can you believe it?" writes **Reva Hutkin**. "I will be 65 next Saturday, and my daughter Pony Rainshadow (aka Shawne Hutkin) was married on May 8th to Shane, who also became a Rainshadow, and she is expecting a baby in early July.

All at once I am to become a senior citizen & a grandma too! Congratulations on all fronts, Reva ... While we're in the birthday department, **Monica Kendall** celebrated her 40th with a grand bash at the Gary Oak Room of the Blanshard Community Centre. Wonderful to see Su Hallatt there dancing her toes off and still sporting her smart new short hairstyle. In fact, Su looked terrific!

Debby Yaffee and **Donna Murray** danced and chatted it up as did **Mary Lasovich**, **Danielle Allen**, **River Chandler**, who is nervous as hell about her upcoming debut with "the band" and **Musaic**. **Connie Carter** was nearly back to her bouncy self after heroically leading 40 lesbians through a workshop with Women's Equality Minister **Evelyn Gillespie**. Connie tells me it was the worst flu on record. She didn't say that about the workshop. I danced my own tootsies off with the delectable **Linda Fraser** who, a few days later, joined me for dinner with the newly escaped **Betty Krawczyk**. Linda had such an intense conversation with Betty en route to Ucluelet the next day that her car blew up on the way home. But that's our Betty, not to

mention our Linda. At least Linda made it to Port Alberni en route home to Nanaimo before Betty enrolled her in some wild and woolly campaign in the forest... Out of the forest and into the city, city hall that is. It being the 100th anniversary of Queen Victoria's death, our fave hairdresser **Joe Carlson** and I donned our highest drag and visited **Mayor Lowe** in his official offices in his official capacity. His Worship even donned chain of office. I guess that's his high drag. Anyway, we were honoured and he had fun. The silly part of the affair was changing from civvies to high drag. Joe, all of him, and I, were squished into a tiny secret bathroom used rarely, and mostly for storage. Once Joe got me into my clothes and himself into his, he realized he had not got a bow tie. His solution was to take one blue pin from his lapel and use it to cover the tie place. Alas, Joe's neck, tight shirt, the kind of pin and my fingers couldn't quite navigate all that was required. After dropping it down his front and fishing for it for the third time, Joe quipped, "It's a good thing we're married." **Judy Bell** "attended us" to take pictures. We aren't sure what she got...I just looked up, as is my habit, to see a beautiful ink and water colour sketch painted by **Kate Boylan**. After **Indianna Matters** quizzed me on my choice of her work, printed in the Rhino, the luscious Kate presented me with the framed beach scene. It brings me great peace, reminds me of good friendships and how beautiful is the place I live. No matter how the Rhino goes, or anything else in my life, I have wonderful friends...Friends can extend to Nanaimo. I attended a VILIPS dance there and had a chance to meet some of the infamous crew one finds in Linda's column. Wonderful folk. Just as mad as Linda reports.



Just Another Dance Extravaganza -aka J.A.D.E.

presents

its second semi-annual dance

March 24th 8pm-12:30pm

at the DaVinci Centre

This dance promises to appeal to all women in our community. Come and see for yourself. All the profits from this and future dances will be put back into the women's community.

Tickets \$10-12 at Bleeding Rose, Zydeco or from

Diana Frizell @ 370-7765

and Patti Hupe @ 381-5041

DANCE...DANCE...DANCE...DANCE...DANCE...DANCE

Spider Lines



from the

Wicked Witch of the Web

Copyright Rules!

Remember Traverse City, the Michigan town that decided to plaster municipal vehicles with rainbow stickers to endorse diversity? And then scraped them off after they realized the rainbow is a Queer symbol?

One small problem...

The artist who designed the stickers retained the rights to the design. He's selling stickers to the public. A Queer rights group says several benefactors have helped them mass produce the stickers, and many city workers have bought them for their personal vehicles

Gay Motherhood

Japanese scientists think they've found a way for gay couples to become biological parents of their own children.

Technically, they think they've figured out how to grow sperm in a laboratory. They say this opens the possibility of redirecting the male cells into producing eggs. So far, they can clone embryo cells in mice and turn them into sperm. The researchers plan to experiment on human cells soon.

Japan outlaws cloning, but this process—if it works—would skirt the law because it doesn't produce a clone. It only produces an egg, which might be used to conceive.

Adoption Rights in Sweden

The Swedish government is expected to introduce legislation giving Queers the right to adopt. A parliamentary committee recommended at the end of January that Queer adoptions be allowed, since same-gender parents are just as capable as heterosexual ones of giving a child a balanced upbringing. Sweden's Justice Minister has already said he is in favour of changing the law and is expected to act upon the recommendation.

Is That a Fig Leaf?

Father Olan Rynn's tenure as a calendar model was short-lived. The Irish priest, the curate at Sacred Heart church in Galway, had posed sitting in a leather chair with his legs crossed, wearing only his clerical collar and holding a bible in his lap. He thought it was a good idea. The calendar was a fundraising project for cancer and cerebral palsy research.

The Bishop of Galway, Dr James McLoughlin, thought differently and persuaded the calendar company to replace the picture with someone else's. Now, no one will see the pictures Fr Rynn posed for. Some think that's a pity since he's said to be one of the most attractive of the models who took part in the fundraiser. Others included soccer stars and performers.

Is That Better Than Being an Abomination?

Transsexuality is "a fantasy and an illusion," according to a group which claims to represent at least one million British church-goers. The Evangelical Alliance was responding to the government's recent creation of a working group on "transsexuals" to identify relevant issues. British transsexuals have no civil status, even after surgery; non-operative transsexuals have no status at all. The "transsexual lifestyle is incompatible with God's will," the group says. It adds that "transsexuals" must be denied the right to get married, or even to have relationships "blessed." And of course they cannot hold any kind of leadership position within the church.

There is hope, though. People who think they're "transsexuals" can always "reorient their lifestyle in accordance with biblical principles and orthodox church teachings," the alliance notes.

Yeah, But Can They Get It Up In the Air?

History is about to be made at a Los Angeles airport by 20 men from Taiwan. The men, who practice the martial art of Chiu Chiu Sen Gong, will set a Guinness world record if their plan succeeds. Salon.com reported in January that the men will try to pull a Boeing 747 down the runway, using their penises. The plane will be wearing a harness, with 20 lines attached to it. Salon.com did not say what the men will be wearing.

International Women's Day March Forth and Be Proud

By Sheila Kingham

Take time to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) this year. Here is the latest from Status of Women Canada. Check out the media for events or just sit down with your favourite beverage to remember women's lives and experiences that are part of your life.

Canada will celebrate International Women's Week (IWW) from March 4 to 10, 2001, with the highlight being International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8. The theme for International Women's Day/Week 2001 is: "Canadian Women: Raising Our Diverse Voices for Positive Change!" This theme was chosen to emphasize opportunities where women have raised their voices, have been heard and have made a visible impact. It acknowledges the influence of Canadian women to effect positive change for women in various aspects of life on the local, regional, national and/or international scenes - be it through paid or unpaid work - especially as the United Nations has declared 2001 the International Year of Volunteers.

Michele Robinson, RMT

- Stress Reduction
- Chronic & Acute Conditions
- Massage • Craniosacral

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382-5373

301-906 Gordon St.



What's Going On?

Rhino's Web Page designed by With Pride Designs: <http://members.home.net/lavrhino/index.html>

ALL notices are \$15 first 25 words and .50/word thereafter. Call 598-6490.

Deadline the first of the month prior to publication. Email Barbara lavrhino@home.com

LEARN TO MAKE EAST INDIAN:

Koo Parekh will teach you how to make two Indian veggie dishes also Roti and Raita and enjoy some Indian Chi. Please bring apron and a rolling pin. Classes will be at Fairfield Community Assoc. 1335 Thurlow in Coreen's Kitchen Saturday March 17. 10am-1pm \$25 Register at The Bleeding Rose on Yates St.

HAPPY HIKES: Guided day hikes for women on southern Vancouver Island. Gourmet picnic lunches provided. Hikes customized for clients. Call 652-3818. Website www.happyhikes.com

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

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH: 5575 West Saanich Road, welcomes all to worship together in an atmosphere of inclusiveness, acceptance, and respect on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Services of Union and other services supporting LGBT life in community are part of our Unitarian tradition. Phone 744-2665 for further information.

MATURE, personable gay man seeks room in house or apartment in Victoria with one or more compatible people, male and/or female, who will also welcome visits (sometimes overnight) from his two teenage sons. Call Chris, (604)-221-1241.

SPIKES VOLLEYBALL: meets Wednesdays, Lansdowne Jr. Secondary Sch 8:30pm

SUPPORT GROUP: For Lesbian/Gay/Trans women with Disabilities meets 3rd Sat. each month. Meet new friends and reconnect with old. Comfortable place to network and offer peer support. Call C-Jaye 383-2131

DINNER CLUB: Monthly potluck dinners to meet new women and get to meet old friends. Interested? Call C-Jaye 383-2131

ON SALT SPRING ISLAND Gays/Lesbians/Allies: meet on the third Sunday of the month, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Seniors for Seniors Building, 379 Lower Ganges Road (across from GVM). Plan social events; get involved in education, exploration and visibility projects. For more information call (250) 537-7773 or e-mail caffyn@saltspring.com.

LESBIAN COUPLES WORKSHOP: March 9-11 in Victoria. Presented by Shelley Gordon MSW, Imago Relationship Therapist: Enhance communication, renew romance, heal and grow with your partner. Call: (250) 381-7919

DREAMING THE NEW SACRED PLACE®: Dream Analysis, Consulting, Study Programs, Apprenticeships, Shamanic Dreamwork, with a Jungian framework. Dreamwork offers opportunities for spiritual growth, healing, release of old patterns, birthing new ones. Accesses personal Sacred Images and Allies for wisdom and life direction. Claire Turcotte, Keeper of the Dream, Reiki Master, Shamanic Practitioner, Crone. 595-0088.

DANCE TEACHER wanted to teach latin and/or Tango. Call April or Sally, 385-3099

SERVICES, ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS

AVI: 384-2366, 304-733 Johnson St. V8W 3C7

BJ'S Gay/Les etc. Bar: Broad Street at Johnson 388-0505

Bleeding Rose Books, Video: 764 Yates St. 385-3099. Mon-Sat 10 to 7, Some Sundays <http://www.bleedingrose.com>

Bus Stop Books: 2606 Quadra St. Mon-Sat 2-7

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

Camosun College Lesbian Collective. Alternate weeks. 370-3484

FTM (etc) Peer-run drop-in is the First Saturday of every month at AVI, 304-733 Johnson St. Transgender Resource Line at 413-3220.

Lesbian Seniors Care Society Victoria: Reva @ 250 388-4161 Mail P. O. Box 39022 James Bay Postal Outlet V8V 4X8
Musaic: Lesbian & Gay Choir. Box 8533 Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, 360-1966

Pink Pages: Community Resource Directory Box 5231 St. B, Victoria V8R 6N4 Email pinkpage@gayvictoria.com
P-Flag: Information, 385-9462

Prime Timers Victoria: email victoria@lasvegasnv.net

Restaurants Gay/Les Owned:
Rosie's Diner 615 Johnson St.

Sally Cafe 714 Cormorant St 381-1431

Steam Works: Health Club for Men 582 Johnson St. 383-6623

This Way Out: CFUV 10:00 to 1:30 p.m. Mondays 101.9 or Cable 104.3

VYPS: Victoria Youth Pride Society (14-25) 413-3177 vyyps@writeme.com

Women's Creative Network: 382-7768 www.victoria.tc.ca/community/wcn

Women's Outdoors Club: 474-8159 email Kanaice.sls@telus.net Sherry Norie s.norie@home.com

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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March at the Bleeding Rose

Vancouver Island's Only GLBT Book & Video Store!

102-764 Yates St., Victoria
250-385-3099 <http://www.bleedingrose.com>

Tuesday Game Nights

March 13 and 27

Come play Scrabble or cards, maybe other games. Have a suggestion for games night? Please call us.
6:30pm (date subject to change)

Xena Finale Party?

This is the final season of Xena: Warrior Princess. We would like to commemorate the final episode with a party befitting the Warrior Princess and her Battling Bard. If you have any suggestions or would like to participate, please e-mail bleedingrose@telus.net.

Wednesday Coffee Chat

11am-1pm

Come chat with old friends or meet some new ones. Coffee/tea/hot choc provided by donation.

Saturday Parent's Meeting

March 10 and 24, 11am

Bring the kids and come talk with other lesbian/gay parents and parents-to-be. Have fun and talk about the unique challenges and joys our families face.
Coffee/tea/snacks provided.

Sunday Brunch

Come and join us for brunch! Lots of fun and good conversation. Dessert and coffee served at the Bleeding Rose after. 12pm
Rosie's Diner

**If you don't see it on our shelves...
We will gladly order it for you!**

NEW ON THE SHELVES!

Now in the store....

Losing Matt Shepard - Biography of a hate crime

Body Alchemy - Transexual Portraits

Transmen and FTMs - Identities, Bodies, Sexualities and Genders

Dear Sir or Madam: Biography of an FTM - remarkable biography

Legend of Pope Joan - they didn't know she was a woman until she gave birth in the town square!

In the coming weeks....

New lesbian fiction: from Bella Books and Alyson Publications.

New Gay Fiction: from Alyson Publications and Millivres.

New Sex and Health books: for Gays and Lesbians from Alyson Publications.

NOW CARRYING MAGAZINES!

We now have the following magazines available to our customers:

Curve
Girlfriends
The Advocate
Out
Hero
Alternative Family
Bitch
The Gay and Lesbian Review
The Lambda Book Report

NEW VIDEOS!

Time Code - Ground breaking film shot on video in real time.

Execution of Justice - New movie based on the trial of the man who killed Harvey Milk

Fire - Taboo-breaking drama filmed in India. A beautiful film.

Two in Twenty - lesbian soap opera (even includes lesbian commercials!)

Beautiful Thing - Romeo & Juliet for the heterosexually impaired. Young gay men coming of age.