

Lesbiannews

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The Band Plays On

by Barbara McLauchlin



They were dancing: Queens in high drag... two women, presumably straight, in floral print dresses... two dykes... a dyke with a gay... a gay MLA, who's a reverend in his day job, with a guy...the usual mix of men and women— on a fashion ramp in the main conference room of the Victoria Conference Centre.

Thanks to Kevin Doyle, LesbianNews

was represented at Victoria Cares the high fashion romp and swamp fund-raiser with the town's elite, at the Centre post Pride week. Host and prime organizer, Jamie Crouch, a.k.a. Jodi James, was delightfully butch up there in blue jeans, introducing the evening with CHEK TV's Colleen Christie. There were some great video presentations by various corporate sponsors and an elegant, and, delicious, (for a change) Empress dinner before the jazziest, classiest, dazzle-ing-est fashion show Victoria has ever seen! I sat through the show with lisa j. lander. Together we were blown apart by the opening spectacle: You know that red dress in the ads? The gown was actually tatty, but somehow appropriate for an AIDS benefit. After it came the the boys and the girls in a parade of russet.. gowns to sci-fi splendid. One of the men was adorned in ab-framed football pads, matching helmet and briefs. Startling.

Especially when he fixed his eyes, opened his mouth, hissed, and held it. He was a great contrast to the later flouncing fairies from the forest who sashayed down the aisle to represent the swishy and the dishy part of camping gay.

And the bands, taped but well-amped, played on, through an incredible array by 18 Fashion

designers, contributed by six stores, and two shoe stores. At the end, Jamie Crouch came back as Jodi James, endearing, in above-basic butterfly with moveable wings; just so we didn't forget.

Is dyke and fashion an oxymoron? lisa and I were wondering. I mean, there we were, full tux me, including purple vest, and lisa in leather mini and boots, and not one item representing us in that panoply of gay and het pulchritude. We got into it for a moment when we heard the word Diesel coming up. Not even close!! Would it have hurt to have one or two items of gender-bending, updyke, intense leather, purple, crinoline...? When I think of it, lisa and I were the only dykes in drag. That's not to knock the delectable Stephanie Boyd and her double-breasted pant and vest ensemble, or the terminally regal Shirley Avril, or the First Nations dyke whose name I didn't get. Where were the lesbians? I just listed all five of us. For those who can afford the \$150 admission, it was a wonderful opportunity to be really out with the city's finest, to be out with the movers and shakers and to support a supportable cause. Oh, I did get up and dance, when I stopped gawking, with the handsome (straight) Peter Nordlinger. Just to keep to the trend. Valerie Utman of Aids Respite Care reports the event broke even.



It takes what it takes to make change—and double standards. Jan & Otter (dba Womyn'sWare Inc.) are suing The Georgia Straight regarding a joint advertisement they wanted to run in that paper. The ad, produced in partnership with The Grape Escape, features a really attractive dyke "dressed" in studied leather loin cloth and bra, and high boots; she's standing and sipping wine. Kneeling before her, another dyke with pierced breasts and leather harness, appears to be (camera tricks) whirling her arm towards the, er, belt-line of her partner. The caption at top and bottom reads: "We can Make You Wine.....One Way Or Another."

As usual, there are sufficient numbers of lesbians, young and old, travelling through here to make a survey. Even my goal-setting group got involved! Almost all of us saw huge humour in the postcard version sent to me by Janna and Otter. (I have asked them to develop a story about their struggle with Georgia Straight and the court system). As usual, lesbians are being caught up in the anal retentiveness of a heterosexual society that Jane Rule told us recently, "will fault us no matter what we do." The Vancouver Sun did a feature on "In Your Face" advertising, read, shock value stuff, that sells (by the carload) jeans, runners, prozac and perfume via sexual imagery. Their target audience, often male teens, are not bothered. Their parents, however, are. It brings up an interesting point. Womyn'sWare target

audience isn't offended. The ad is startling. Take the time to look, however, and the visual pun against all that leather is really rather funny. It is much more offensive to me as a lesbian, a woman and a human being, that Benetton would trivialize the plight of starving children, and those who are HIV positive, with their phony altruism. And what about Calvin Klein and his subliminal paedophilia? And Nike's outrageous ads at the Olympics that make winning the exclusive goal and the only reason for competing. (See How Come page 5).

Meantime, Womyn'sWare is fighting their battle to gain equal access to advertising. Their ad may offend those who won't look beyond the leather and the piercing. But it doesn't attack women or make them wrong. Looking at the common denominator only, if shock value sells ads, why shouldn't dyke ads have equal access? And shame on Georgia Straight, which, in the 60s as I recall, was the vanguard of liberal thought. Further shame on them for their advertising a local gym with the image of a 17-year-old girl in a tight-fitting T-Shirt under the heading: "We're stacked to the rafters." That does hurt. That is offensive. I congratulate Janna and Otter for their courage, for standing up for all of us, and our right to express who we are. Whether we agree with the style, the method, or the sexual activity implicit in the ad, it sure is less offensive (to all women) than most advertising since Odorono first attacked women's armpits in 1919. BMCL

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

LesbiaNews is published 10 times per year and serves lesbians, bisexuals and allies. LesbiaNews celebrates all aspects of lesbian life.

We encourage lesbian artists, writers, designers to contribute. Copy deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity and readability.

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We reserve the right to refuse any ad that might create legal difficulties or that offends our highly developed sensibilities. We reserve advertising space for lesbians and allies only.

Gift Certificates are available for those wanting to present LNews as a gift to discerning friends. Call Barbara for ads or certificates at 598-6490 up to 7 p.m. Messages will be returned.

Quotes & Queries:

News & views from the lesbian & gay press,

compiled by the truly literate and ravenously single Mary Lasovich.

Kiki Carr, the 27-year-old founder of the San Francisco Pervert Scouts, is following in her mother's footsteps (kinda): "I was a Girl Scout, back in Macon, Georgia. That's why, when I came out into S/M, I thought it would be so neat to have the Pervert Scouts." Kiki's Scouts are irreverent and fun, self-described "boy dykes" who meet bi-weekly to hone their skills at knot tying, boot polishing, and making whips out of bicycle inner tubes. *Out* magazine reports that while they don't yet have merit badges, they do sell cookies. It's a lot of hard work, sighs Kiki, who explains that being Head Scout means "having social hostess skills, being friendly, helping people be comfortable. My mom was a den leader. I definitely learned it from her."

Helen Mirren, the fabulously talented and tough-minded stage, film and TV actor (she's committed to one final *Prime Suspect* miniseries as homicide detective Jane Tennison), plays the title character in *Losing Chase*, an upcoming Showtime movie about a woman who drops out of her own life and marriage, and into a calculated nervous breakdown. Chase is most definitely lost - until she meets Elizabeth (Kyra Sedgwick) and finds the healing power of love. Alas, no steamy sex. Mirren told *The Advocate* (July 23) she "would have found that troublesome [because] one of the biggest turn-ons for men is to see two women having sex together. I know people will disagree, but I would feel very uncomfortable in a situation where, in the name of sexual liberation, I was actually being used for the opposite."

Judith Light, veteran actor of daytime and prime-time TV and one of Hollywood's most outspoken straight allies of the lesbian and gay community, is the first heterosexual member of the board of Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

Interviewed by *The Advocate* (July 9) for a cover story on whether straight allies help or hurt the cause, Light said: "Quite frankly, I don't know that you need us. I think you are a very powerful community unto yourselves, and certainly you can speak beautifully and articulately for yourselves. I think in a sense we need you more than you need us because, for me, you are our teachers. When gays and lesbians come out of the closet, they change the face of the world. It is a true political and spiritual act that requires tremendous courage and self-esteem. It strengthens and inspires us all."

Lavender Languages and Linguistics are centre stage at the 4th American University Conference in Washington, DC in late September. Here's a sampling from the lengthy speakers' list: Independent San Francisco scholar Ellen Lewin (Language of lesbian/gay commitment ceremonies); Riki Anne Wilchins of Transsexual Menace in New York City (The erotic construction of your genitals and other linguistic illusions); Suzanna Walters (From here to queer: Radical feminism, postmodernism and the lesbian menace - or why can't a woman be more like a fag?); performance artist Bonnie Morris (A lexicon of "festivalese" - the language of women's music festivals). And for those who think these academic talk-fests are only for the tenured... conference registration is \$10 at the door, with a sliding scale for students, unemployed and low-income folks.

Kate Clinton has forsaken her usual summer standup gig in Provincetown in order to write for Rosie O'Donnell's new daytime talk show. "Moving to

New York is truly exciting," says Clinton. "It's the little things you notice. For instance, the only time I've walked in Central Park before is in June with a million people carrying rainbow flags and chanting. Now when I go there, I keep thinking, Where is everyone?"

Pat Califia and co-editor Robin Sweeney have produced a sequel to their landmark 1981 tome *Coming to Power: Writings and Graphics on Lesbian S/M*, the book that carved deep divisions in the feminist-lesbian community with its assertion that women could get off on violence. *The Second Coming* (reviewed in the July 23 issue of *The Advocate*) is described as an omnibus volume (46 contributors) that "displays a spectacular range of attitude, atmosphere and ability" in fiction, poetry, nonfiction and photographs: "Naturally, the book's core audience - women into leather and heavy sex games - will scoop up copies like manna. The surprise is how much of the book is valuable and fascinating to anyone who isn't a member of that group, whether because of basic plumbing or for less integral faults."

Lea DeLaria is, well, the eminently quotable Lea DeLaria. Here's what she had to say to *Curve* magazine on her sexual appetite - "I've got a vagina from the *Little Shop of Horrors*: It's going 'Feed me, feed me, feed me!'"

Rouvena Hunnisett M.A.

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How Come I Don't Like My Body?

By Susan-Rose Slatkoff

Most dykes don't like their bodies. It's almost an epidemic of self-hate. It's not an accident. A dyke doesn't come into the world, look down at her little female self and say, "I'm a girl, and I don't like my body." I think it is vital to ask ourselves why dykes, women in general, are at war with our physical selves.

Advertising is a powerful socializing force. It's inescapable. We see at least 500 ads a day. We will see 50 million by the time we are 60. Ads sell images, values, popularity, normalcy, sexuality and romance. They shape our attitudes and those attitudes shape our behaviour. Advertising not only reflects society, it also molds it.

We are told that if we don't measure up to the standards the ads set for our bodies, we must fear the consequences, thus prodding strong emotions which can interfere with reasoning. Most ads are directed at straight women, but dykes feel the hit. Read most Naiad romance and mystery novels and check out the physical descriptions of the characters.

Ad psychology takes two forms. First, the positive appeal leading to envy, insecurity, and emulation. Some-viewing the two incredibly beautiful air-brushed lesbians who just bought the new Mazda, could be made to feel all of the above. The second is the negative image. Women are seen as ignorant, uncaring, (letting yourself go), slovenly, etc.

These ads engender shame, with small mistakes seeming like huge gaffs (static cling). Mercy! They create the illusion of watchful eyes, judging. This leads to self-watching (internalized negative judgements) a possible contributor to internalized homophobia. The overall idea is to undermine women's self-confidence in order to sell goods. The latest, and most frightening trend, is to use health as the come-on.

Advertisers create an ideal, and then create a need to look like that ideal—an unattainable flawlessness (no lines, wrinkles, scars, blemishes, pores). Perfect-looking models are a product of lighting, cosmetics, air-brushing. (Many models suffer from eating disorders). The message

is clear — women's bodies are not acceptable the way they are. After all, the more parts that need to be fixed, the more goods can be sold.

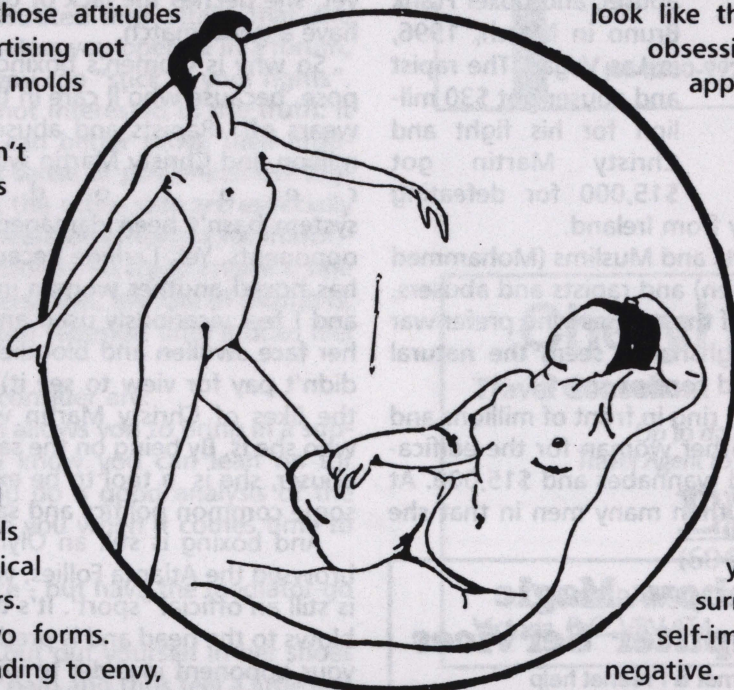
The ideal is white, thin, young. Women who are old, fat, non-white are particularly vulnerable. Also, women are encouraged to compete with each other. We compare ourselves to every other woman we see on the street. If we judge ourselves "better" we are relieved. If we are "worse", we are filled with self-doubt.

The message is that to be loved we have to look like the ideal. Only women with obsessive interest in their appearance are rewarded.

Like it or not, dykes take in these values. Dykes, seeming oblivious, still have to deal with partners, friends, family who accept these images and encourage: "do something with yourself."

What to do? First, become aware of all the influences operating to make you dissatisfied with your body. Secondly, surround yourself with positive self-images to counter the negative. Search out pictures of women/dykes you think are beautiful, but who don't fit the ideal. Use affirmations—even if you don't believe them at first. Just try it on. You can learn to like your body without changing it. I have, others have. It's enormously liberating.

Susan-Rose is a therapist who specializes in body image.



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Babe Notes

The new cover girl for Sports Illustrated's April, non-swimsuit edition, is a woman called Christy Martin who out-boxed another woman in one of the warm-up acts leading to the main bout featuring Mike Tyson, rapist and abuser, and boxer Frank Bruno in March, 1996, in Las Vegas. The rapist and abuser got \$30 million for his fight and Christy Martin got \$15,000 for defeating

uses correct techniques: quick jabs and rib blows while waiting to land a knock-out punch. She has 25 Knock Outs, 14 of which have happened in the first round. Her opponents suffered head trauma in all of these Knock Out fights.

With these stats, we can assume that she's fighting less-skilled women boxers and is better trained. Yet, I can't figure it out. Interviews with her in Sports Illustrated, and on television sports programmes, show that she does not consider herself a role model for women in boxing and yet, she decries the lack of good competition so she can have a good match.

So why is women's boxing important? It's not, I suppose, because who'll care in three years when the novelty wears off? Rapists and abusers will still be earning \$30 million and Christy Martin will probably be a mom if her reproductive system hasn't been damaged by the body blows of her opponents. Yet, I cringe because Christy Martin exists and has boxed another woman in front of the howling mob, and I feel vicariously used and exploited. The pictures of her face swollen and bloodied linger in my mind. (And I didn't pay for view to see it). I am appalled. I grieve for the likes of Christy Martin who has zilch awareness of who she is. By being on the same card as Tyson, rapist and abuser, she is a tool to be exploited. Stop it Christy! Get some common politics and save what brains remain.

And boxing is still an Olympic "sport", and, if you've browsed the Atlanta Follies, you must wonder why boxing is still an official "sport". It's the only "sport" that permits blows to the head and is predicated on hurting or injuring your opponent in order to win a medal. Boxing is a cruel activity; it encourages thuggery and protects its goons (Tyson, rapist and abuser) and I wish it didn't exist.

Play hard. Use a hand lotion.

Babe

"Dangerous" Deirdre Gogarty from Ireland.

Guys box, including pacifists and Muslims (Mohammed Ali), Swedes (Ingmar Johanssen) and rapists and abusers, (Tyson). Somehow, that half of the species who prefer war to peace, and guns to ploughshares, seem the natural participants in this violent and corrupt sport.

Yet, Christy Martin gets in a ring in front of millions and punches the heck out of another woman for the edification of thugs, dilettantes and wannabes and \$15,000. At age 27, she's a better boxer than many men in that she



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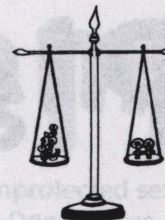
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Ask a Mediator

by Patricia Lane



My ex and I are splitting up. I want to avoid nasty court stuff and try this mediation thing, but I am afraid that I won't get a word in edgewise. She is very good at manipulating and distorting things; I get so mad I can't see straight and I end up in tears and emotionally drained. Is mediation a good idea when we can't talk to each other?
Signed: Silenced.

Dear Silenced: Mediation is a particularly good idea when people are too hostile to talk with each other alone. It sounds as if you feel frustrated and afraid that she might get the better of you unless you operate in a forum, like the legal system, where you can "stick to your rights".

The adversarial system is not interested in the truth: it is interested in which party can better prove their argument. People who have their sense of powerlessness triggered by confrontation with the other side are especially vulnerable in the courts. A mediator is really a facilitator - she works with the people involved to try to create a safe place to have a difficult conversation. My rule of thumb is: If it doesn't feel safe, stop! and redesign until it does feel safe.

Some options you might consider are:

- (1) Design a process which allows you to bring in a support person - someone you know you can lean on for advice but who will help you do a good analysis of the options you have available to you when it comes time to reach agreement.
- (2) Don't meet face to face - but have the mediator go between you.
- (3) Role-play the conflict, but put yourself in her shoes - so you can feel some of her pain and thus feel a little less alone in the pain you feel.
- (4) Work with a therapist to equip you to be articulate in the face of all the things she does which trigger you.
- (5) Tell the mediator the problem and let her help you design a process which will allow you to feel safe and in control.

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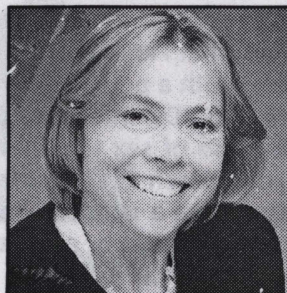
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Playing safer -

by Taylor Margo

Lesbians are looking at sexually transmitted diseases and safer sex practices as something to concern us. Here are some of the STDs most likely to affect us, and from which we need to protect ourselves and each other.

HIV: Woman-to-woman transmission is considered to be low risk. However, women who, in the past, have had or who now have male partners, have used drugs, have had sex to become pregnant, or have had artificial insemination with unscreened semen or donor, may have become infected with HIV, which can make it risky to have contact with blood or vaginal secretions.

Prevention: The past of your sex partners - even ten years in the past, may be a risk for you now, today. A direct question does not always guarantee a true answer. Often, women infected with HIV do not know it themselves. Even if they think they may have been at risk, they may not be comfortable talking about it. The safest route to go is with "safer sex" but it is up to you to decide what level of risk and what sexual activities are right for you. HIV is passed directly from one woman to another via blood or vaginal fluids. Most women have heard about dental dams and latex gloves, but few (that I know of) are taking these precautions. After talking with a public health nurse at the Capital Regional District's (CRDs) Infectious Disease Clinic, I was advised that any use of sex toys should be safe-guarded by using one part bleach to ten parts water to sterilize them. Either that, or use a condom. In short, every time you have unprotected vaginal or anal sex on a casual basis, you are putting yourself at risk.

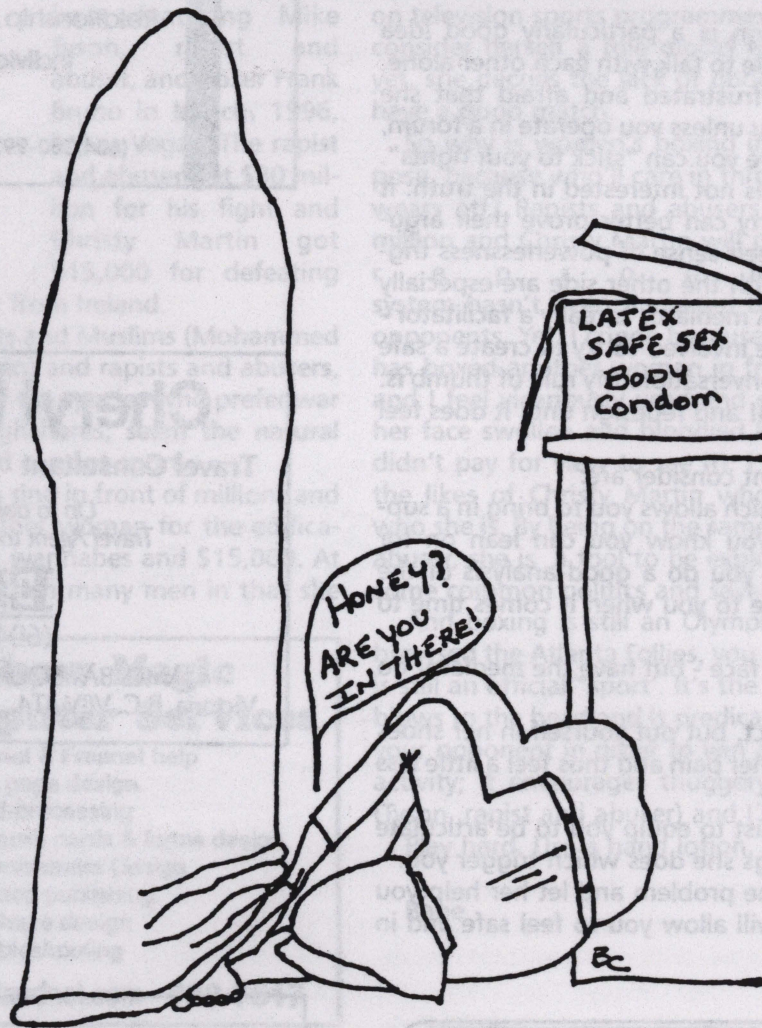
Herpes Simplex Virus: There are two herpes simplex viruses - herpes simplex type 1 and herpes simplex type 2. These viruses are very similar and either type can infect the mouth or genitals. Most commonly though, HSV-1 occurs above the waist and HSV 2 below. I wanted to make this distinction because many women are unaware that cold sores on the mouth are actually oral herpes.

Herpes is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact. So, if you have a cold sore and kiss someone, you can transfer the virus from your mouth to hers. Similarly, if you have active genital herpes, and your partner goes down on you, or there is direct genital to genital contact, you can transfer the virus. The same is true if you have a cold sore and you go down on your partner.

Herpes is most easily spread when a sore is present, but it is often spread at other times, too. Sometimes, small amounts of the virus may be present on the skin without causing any recognizable symptoms. This is called "asymptomatic shedding". Many genital her-

pes infections are spread from persons who have no symptoms at a given time but are "shedding" the virus. This virus can also be spread by people who simply don't know they are infected. I know many women with herpes who seem to always be aware of their symptoms and refrain from sexual activity, but, I've known others who unknowingly infect others with the virus because they didn't experience their usual symptoms.

Prevention: (a) Don't have sex. (b) have sex only with a



STD's and women

non-infected partner who has sex only with you—in other words avoid casual sex or play it safe. (c) In any relationship where one partner has herpes either orally or genitally, refrain from sexual contact the moment symptoms first appear. Some people notice itching, tingling, or other sensations before they see any changes on their skin. Herpes is most likely to be spread from the time these first symptoms are noticed until the area is completely healed and the skin looks normal again. (e) use a rubber dam and latex gloves if you have any doubts at all.

Hepatitis C: is one of several viruses that can cause hepatitis. It is responsible for the majority of cases of what used to be called non-A or non-B hepatitis. It is spread mostly through blood contact. Sharing needles is high risk. Before the availability of testing for Hep C there was also a risk from blood transfusions. There is also evidence for low level sexual transmission. The risk of passing it from oral sex is unknown but probably low. In general, the risk of transmitting this virus sexually is low compared to other agents such as Hep B or HIV. It is, however, diagnosed as frequently as Hep A or B. There is a test which can detect antibody to Hepatitis C virus in your blood. This test is capable of telling you if you have been infected by the virus. Unfortunately, it cannot tell you whether you are still infected and carrying the virus or whether you have cleared the virus from your system. At present, if you test Hep C antibody positive, it is best to assume that you could be a source of infection for others and to follow these precautions: Don't donate blood or organs. Never share needles with others. Discuss the matter with your sexual partner. While risk of transmission is low it is not absent. It may be best for them to be tested for Hepatitis C. If they are also positive and you are in a long-term, one-on-one relationship, it may not be necessary to change your habits. If your relationship is casual, use barrier methods of contraception, or practice lower risk activities such as oral sex and fingers. Ask your doctor for follow-up testing for signs of liver disease. Inform health care practitioners and workers. Avoid alcohol. Eat well.

Prevention: Don't have unprotected sex with your partner if she's menstruating. Don't share razor blades or toothbrushes or scissors. Don't get tattoos or pierce your body under less than sterile conditions. If you find you have Hep C, you will be one of tens of thousands of Canadians who have the virus. Remember you should feel no shame. Take precautions, see your doc and take good care of yourself.

Safe Sex Equipment

The Rubber Rainbow in Market Square sells rubber dams that fit in your wallet and taste good, too! They come in vanilla or strawberry flavours.

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The 18th Annual National Lesbian and Gay Health Association Conference in Seattle showed clearly that we know little about lesbian health issues. For instance: Sixteen years into the HIV/AIDS pandemic and we are still under the delusion that lesbians are not living and dying with HIV/AIDS. We are discounting not only woman-to-woman transmission, but also needle-sharing during injection drug use, tattooing and piercing, artificial insemination, and sex with men. (Numerous studies at this July 1st conference found that a lot of women who have sex with women also have sex with men).

We must remember it is not who we are, but what we do, that puts us at risk.

A highlight for me was a pre-conference institute on lesbian and health research. This institute was led by a dozen dykes with PhDs and the audience was packed with smart, dedicated, dyke researchers. I've never been in a room with so many out, proud, over-educated lesbians!

These lesbians are doing research on many important health issues facing our community including breast and cervical cancer, lesbian-related

violence, drug and alcohol misuse, and, of course, HIV/AIDS. They are concerned that lesbians get good information and that we are able to access "culturally competent" physical and mental health care. The past year, the

Lesbian Health Fund gave out 20 grants for studies such as the following five: Effect of Stigmatization on the Children of Lesbian Mothers; a comparison of alternative insemination methods used by lesbians; understanding abuse in lesbian relationships; improving access to gynecological services for lesbian and bisexual women; lesbians and bisexual women with chronic illness

and disability, family identity and health care experiences. It sounds stuffy, but this is stuff we surely need to know.

I came away

with a ton of information about research methodology, and about a range of lesbian health issues. Also, I learned of associations such as the Lesbian Research Network, the Lesbian Health Fund, the Lesbian Health Advocacy Network, the Association for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Counseling and the National Lesbian & Gay Health Association.

A study underway in Seattle is investigating the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and abnormal cervical cells in lesbians. The message which is arising from this study is that lesbians need to have pap tests just as often (at least annually) as other women.

So: Get regular pap tests done, do regular breast self-exams, practice safe sex. Take Care.

If anyone is interested in the information regarding lesbian health issues and wants to know more, and wants to know how to get copies of pamphlets, papers and such, e-mail me at npoole@w.womenhosp.bc.ca

It sounds stuffy, but
this is stuff we
surely need to
know.

Subscribers Write from Other Places

Untitled

by Star Maass

Quathiaski Cove, B.C.

Just a rural grrrl, with the best of intentions, I glisten by independence; flesh as tender as spring's growth, with arms and shoulders moulded by the labour of this life-land. My love as clear and precious as water. Energetic and graceful as the butterfly moves. A dyke as sure and solid as a rock basking in the sun all day...hot and radiating warmth. As the day wanes, I let water wash over my body...cold, it trickles from my nipples...riverlets run down my thigh. The moon rising and with the pond still, the sight of myself is reflected.

From above, the keen eye of the butch eagle spirals down on me. I reach out and stretch up one hand while the other slides down my body to the place that is still warm, like that penetrating heat of the rock. I drape my body in soft dark cloth, dreaming of feather caresses and the pulsating beat of those eagles' wings. The quietest moan escapes my lips, knowing one day she'll spiral down and enfold me in her wings.

A Soul's Journey

by Joy Lennox, Terrace, B.C.

Self-improvement and self-awareness has interested me since the early 70s. Affirmations had proved a successful tool for improving my cynicism. But it wasn't until 1984, when I began to live a nightmare of weakened muscles and unrelenting fatigue, that I began to take self-improvement seriously. Health problems usurped ordinary reality.

While I lost much of my physical mobility, I gained an ability to sense and access a space where I was able to hear a still, small voice. It was not an actual voice; rather, it was a clear sense of communication with a source of knowing/wisdom not readily accessible to my usual mind set. I didn't hear an actual voice, but sensed one. This Inner Teacher spoke. I listened, recording our communication in spiral notebooks.

Almost six years later, I started attending classes at Nirvana Metaphysics and Healing Centre. What a treat it was to join with others who were choosing to cultivate a spiritual dimension in their lives! It felt like coming home.

Shortly after meeting with the owner/operator, Laurel Gregg Msc.D.Ph.D., I showed her my notebooks containing the communication from the Inner Teacher. She suggested I share my experience with other members of the centre emphasizing that the lessons contained are universal—not applicable only to me.

I was startled when I attended my first class, however, because Laurel channelled the classes.

This winter the group was given information about the 12 Dimensions from a guide, Lantez, channelled by Laurel. He explained that each soul has to pass through all of the 12 dimensions as part of the soul's evolution. It is not necessary to pass through all 12 in preparation for each lifetime. More likely, the soul will be at the stage where it can only process a few of the dimensions per lifetime.

In a class discussion with Lantez, I asked him a number of questions about the process of a soul as it incarnates into the physical body. His instruction was, that in the 5th dimension, each soul formulates a thought form regarding the body it wishes to inhabit. Then, in the 4th dimension, the actual body is chosen.

Our generally accepted viewpoint seems to be that gender is determined by the number of x and y chromosomes in the body. That is true in a limited way. However, I was instructed, the choice of the incarnating soul dictates gender. There is no random choice; the soul selects the body it will inhabit: period.

I then asked Lantez whether homosexuality were a choice. To my surprise, Lantez explained that each soul chooses (in the 5th dimension) the gender of the mate they will have—for karmic reasons. It is a way to balance knowledge that the soul requires. It is no different for heterosexuals. Everyone incarnates for the purpose of their soul's evolution. Everyone chooses their individual experiences.

Lantez's explanation made sense to me. Homosexuality is not proved to be a behavioural system or a chemical difference in the brain; nor can it be dismissed as a mental aberration. Lantez explained how, historically, homosexuality was accepted as a natural form of expression. It is unfortunate that the mass consciousness of our present age is in a judgement state. Regrettably, what is not understood is often deemed wrong. According to Lantez, there is no such thing as right or wrong, there just is. Also, according to Lantez, the old mass consciousness, with its state of mind of judgement, has no place in the coming age.

I'll resume my classes in September. For me, following the soul's path is a natural form of expression, too.

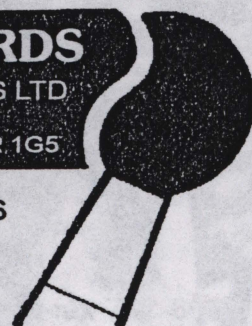
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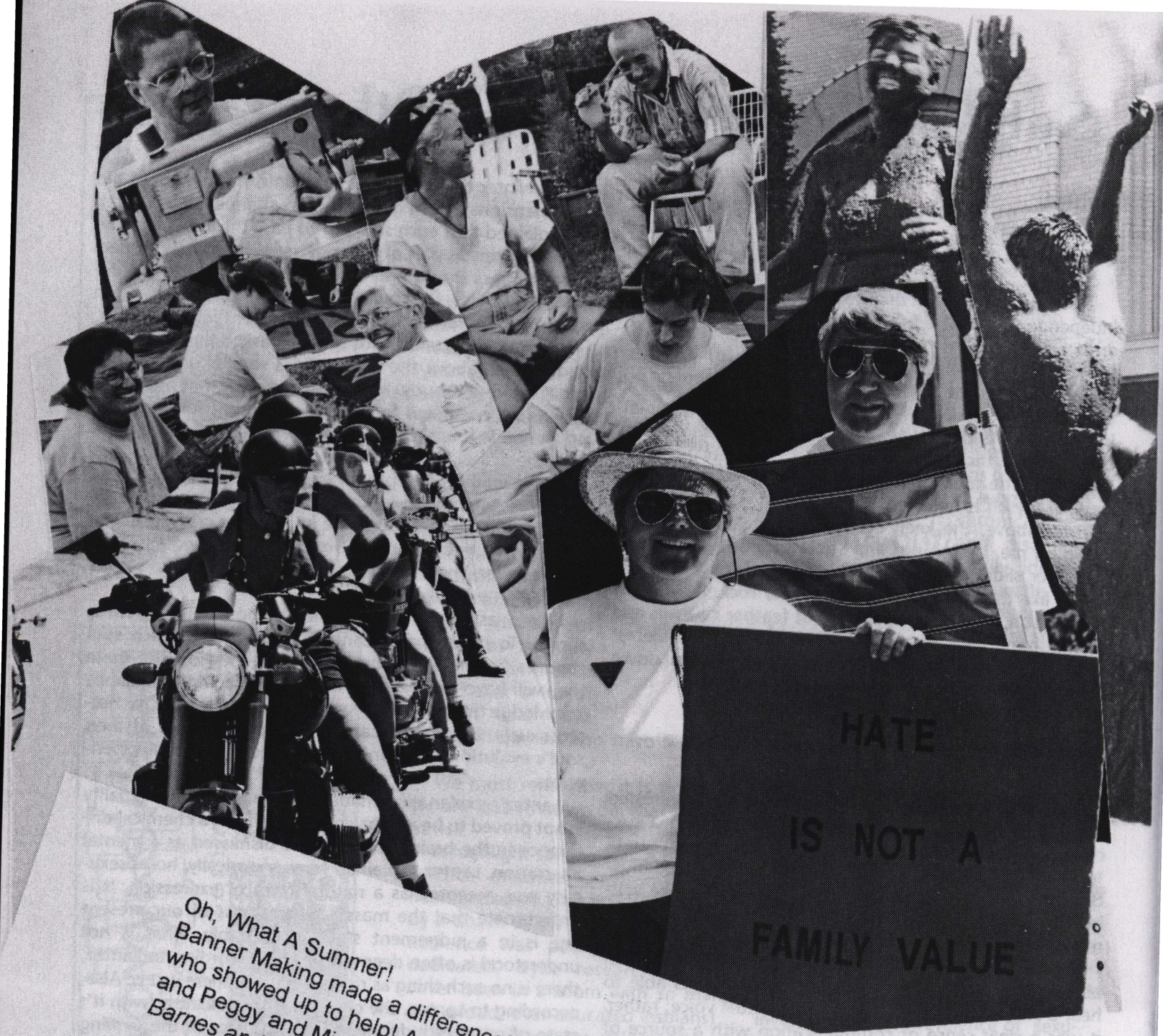
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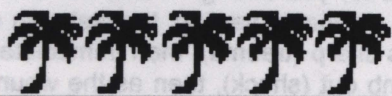


Oh, What A Summer!
Banner Making made a difference! Thanks to the Lesbian Art Collective and all
who showed up to help! And then the parade. Dykes on Bikes, Muckmuffers
and Peggy and Michele, saying it all. Some highlights discovered by Diane
Barnes and Marion Stoodley.



HOLLYWOOD NORTHWEST

Kelevelyn Hurley



I find the whole process of selecting, watching and discussing movies with other people quite fascinating. People's tastes and reactions are very unique, and sometimes you find out things about yourself and about your film companions with the celluloid vector that might have never otherwise come up.

The other day, for example, a new friend and I decided to get a video to watch together. We did the usual dance that people do in video stores, traipsing up and down the aisles making comments like "What about this one?" "Oh, that one was great!" "Oh, you've seen it, eh?" "Yeah, but I'd see it again." "Oh, you don't have to watch something you've already seen. Let's get something neither of us have seen." "Okay. What kind of movies do you like?" and so on and so on.

Eventually, our minds numb from too many and paradoxically, too few movie choices, we settled on 12 Monkeys. Normally I would never have watched this because the previews and box cover turned me off. I love science fiction stuff, but so many futuristic movies tend to paint the future as dark, dirty, dangerous and hopeless - and who wants to look forward to that?! However, she wanted to see it, and I decided to be brave, so we settled down in front of the electronic storyteller and hit **Play**.

Sure enough, it had a nightmarish 1984-ish post-Apocalyptic feel to it. However, I was soon caught up in the story of a prisoner (Bruce Willis) whose one chance of freedom lays in "volunteering" for research. In a miserable underground world whose surface is ravaged by weather extremes, genetic mutations and uncontrollable epidemics, Supreme Power is held by a cabal of scientists backed up by military force. (Like, where have I heard this before? 1996, maybe?) Determined to trace the original viral outbreak, these scientists use Willis as an intelligent, expend-

able to send back in time. His task - to uncover the secret of the 12 Monkeys, a possible codename for 1990's immunological terrorism.

Brutalized by the wrench of altered reality, Willis arrives in our present only to be locked up in a psych ward. Subjected to heavy drugs, beatings, restraints, and the manic explanations of fellow inmate Brad Pitt, Willis seems to have traded his first hell for one with slightly cleaner air. As the story unfolds, Willis's experiences highlight the relativity of freedom, sanity, and justice. I recommend it to any budding political scientist, criminologist or psych major.

Bonus - my friend and I both saw parallels with Marge Piercy's Woman On The Edge Of Time, and we had a really interesting talk the next day about the possible military connections to the rapid rise of viral illness. Pretty good value for the price of a video!

Enjoy your flicks, keep talking (after the movie, please), and see you next month.

Susan-Rose Slatkoff, M.A.; R.C.C.
Psychotherapist

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Dear Vera:

Dear Auntie Vera:

Since my lover and I broke up, she's been avoiding me. She started seeing someone else right away, and now if I see them at the club, my ex won't even say hi. It feels like a huge hollow space where I thought a friendship used to be - we were together 2 1/2 years. Is there anything I can do - I feel angry, hurt, frustrated, powerless to change the situation.

JL

Dear JL

It is really difficult to have a sense of closure or continuity when someone you've built into your sense of balance is suddenly no longer there. It's like a death, and the feel-

ings you're having are all part of your grieving and healing process. What makes this harder than a death, in a way, is that your ex is there in the room with you, but as a stranger.

The first major helper for you through this is the sheer passage of time. Like a cut that is healing, the first pain of the original wounding is sharp (trauma), then immediately the brain and body numb out (shock), then as the wound heals, it throbs, itches, is tender, scabs over. Eventually, it's healed. There may or may not be a scar, depending on how deep the original wound was, and how well you took care to let it heal naturally.

You are therefore in a partnership with time. Use the phenomenal healing power of visualization - imagine everytime you do something self-loving and nurturing, you are strengthening your white blood cells and assisting your invisible spirit guides. Cut back on stimulants and alcohol, eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, check out the health-food store for a daily vitamin supplement.

Accept and extend invitations to your friends for visits and meals. Spend more time out in Nature - I find it is both very humbling - and comforting - to realize that butterflies and hummingbirds and fish and plants and bees are all going on with their own affairs, despite whatever state mine are in. Consider doing something now that you've always wanted to try - maybe weightlifting or tai chi or woodworking. Give yourself more opportunities to meet people who share common interests with you.

That hollow feeling will slowly make room for confidence and self-loving. If you are having a really hard time and feel overwhelmed, a good counsellor can help to guide you safely through these waters. Sources of written support that I have used include Celeste West's Lesbian Love Advisor and the little book entitled How To Survive the Loss of a Love. Good luck.

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Anger, A Way Back to Safety

by Rowena Hunnisett

The purpose of anger is to protect us from getting hurt again. It is often motivated by a need to maintain a relationship with another person. We see anger being used destructively so often that we may become afraid of it or conclude that the emotion is bad. The emotion is actually healthy; it is angry behaviour that may be damaging or even abusive.

Fear of anger leads to self-censorship. When censorship is conscious, we can get very frustrated and resentful; when it is unconscious, we may feel like we are simply not angry at all. Sometimes the most long-suffering of people can have the greatest amount of anger simmering below the surface.

When we have needs we don't express, we can easily become irritable and unkind to those close to us. Anger can be expressed in harmful ways such as drug or alcohol abuse, or violent outbursts, such as throwing things, threatening to beat someone up or actually doing so.

Constructive ways of working with anger involve learning to recognize it before it gets out of hand. Sometimes anger erupts before we can rein ourselves in. At those times we need to stop ourselves and tell the other person we are feeling out of control and want to take space so we can reflect on what is happening inside.

Giving yourself space is a really good principle for working anger out. Go somewhere where you can freely ask yourself: "what am I feeling and thinking?" Instead of analyzing your anger, it is initially more useful to let off steam in any way that vents the anger without hurting yourself, anyone else or any thing.

Anger often starts out with confused and sometimes untrue thoughts. If we persist in venting, we will get underneath the eruption and see what is really there. Some ways to get through the venting phase are: go for a slow, safe drive and yell until you run out of things to yell about; write all you can with no censoring of your words; go for a walk alone and mutter to yourself; call a friend and ask her to listen while you rant; draw or paint your anger.

A way of working off the energy of anger is to hit something; that means hitting something soft like cushions, or kicking something resilient. Expressing it physically and vocally (in a safe way) is really helpful for people who feel violent and pent up.

It is important not to hurt yourself in the process of releasing angry energy. Such self-abuse is often a way of punishing yourself and it cannot help you work through your reactions.

When you understand what your anger is about and have released the charge of the anger, then you are preparing yourself to deal with it constructively.

There is never any need to be mean or destructive to yourself or others when you are angry. Remember: your anger wants to lead you back to safety in your relationships and within yourself.

Rowena Hunnisett is a therapist in private practice in Victoria.

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BRAIN FEVER

By Karey Perks

The praying mantises (manti?) are here again. All my life I have been treated, about once every ten years, to a new spate of nature films - lately videos - in which a female praying mantis finishes off her husband after a bit of preprandial procreation. I think I first witnessed this grisly rite at the age of eleven, and you'd think the act wouldn't change much over forty years, but it has. Gone is the popular totem of the giant, devouring female. Now she does it because she gets more fertiliser that way. Nothing personal; she's being eco-smart.

Ditto the Black Widow spider.

This comes as a relief to those of us who have been getting the feeling that extremely large devouring females were being maligned by educational programming, in an act of what I consider to be shocking unfairness, since it was educational programming that first introduced me to this novel aspect of the sexual act to begin with.

Although, as I say, I have been witnessing praying mantises procreate for years, it was only recently that I learned their peculiar form of sex has a name. It is called sexual cannibalism, and it has nothing whatsoever to do with the sort of seduce-and-consume of some relationships I could mention. They could have called it sexual snacking for example, or insectivorous husbandicide. But no, some mantis PR flack had to think up the kind of glamorous label hollywood loves, and hey presto, a lowly garden bug gets elevated to the "most favored" list, right up there with the People's Republic of China. Not to mention attracting the lion beetle's share of entomological prurience.

Only last week, as I was settling down to watch my favourite nature show, suddenly and without warning who should materialise between me

and the TV but my old friends the Tomboys from the Butch Planet. (If you think 'suddenly and without warning' is redundant, try suddenly and without warning being visited by seven identical tiny field naturalists - complete with pith helmets - all gazing in rapture at the current bug channel feature, "Mouthbreeders of The Amazon Basin."

"Down in front," I said. I was being sarcastic. The Tomboys resemble those little chinless, orphan-eyed spacefolk that show up from time to time on the cover of The Star Weekly when they're not projecting themselves playfully into some new human appearance. Even then they don't go in much for tall. This time they looked like a one meter cross between Annie Lennox and Dr. David Suzuki. Times seven.

"Cool TV," they chirped in unison. "What's on?"

I started to explain to them about mouthbreeders - one of several species of cichlids found in South America and Africa in which the male fish incubate the young by mouth. I was smugly certain that these visitors from another planet would be greatly entertained by one of our gross and fascinating Earth nature shows, but the Tomboys only looked blank.

Perhaps they lacked context. I explained educational programming and tax-supported versus subscriber television while they stared back at me with all the attentiveness of a post-coital male Black Widow spider.

"What's mouth got to do with it again?" one of them asked, referring to the cichlids and stifling a yawn.

This time I tried another tack. I gave them the facts of life, up to and including the mommy mantis and the mommy black widow spider. The Tomboys looked more confused than ever. "Mommies? Daddies? Babies?"

"Bo-ring!" one of them said at last in a voice suspiciously reminiscent of the petulant tones of the male praying mantis.

"Yeah!" buzzed the rest, "Tell us about sexual cannibalism!" As if on cue, the TV presented showed a picture of an enormously large plate of pasta garnished with severed body parts, toes and other appendages still wiggling.

I said, "Cut that out," in a firm voice. The TV picture rejoined the regular programming in the middle of a kaleidoscopic cutaway of the Brazilian jungle as seen through the eyes of a foraging honey bee.

"Did you ever have a husband?" the Tomboys wanted to know. "Did you eat him?"

I couldn't help it; it's not every day I get to explain the facts of life to alien beings. I told them when a heterosexual woman wants a baby lesbian, she takes her husband to a potluck to be eaten by all her friends. So I went a little overboard. It didn't seem so outrageous compared to what the Tomboys told me about everybody on the Butch Planet having one sex and seventeen genders.

"If everybody is the same sex on your planet," I asked them, "then how do you reproduce?"

Seven pairs of eyes, right brown, left blue, stared up at me in disbelief. Seven pairs of lips curved around a single word, challenging me to read it: Zerox.

I don't say they're giving me the whole story. It doesn't sound nearly as colorful as oral incubation and sexual cannibalism, but I expect to get more details on their next visit. Oh, they'll be back all right. Right about the time they get around to checking the one I told them about where lesbians come from.



LITTLE LEZZIE FLASHES

and the Parade just the best ever. Wow! Jan admitted to tears as she saw us all coming around the corner and heading toward the park. Did you notice Gloro Levitt and Diane Barnes taking pictures? Check out their operations if you want studio portraits and photos of your longest or latest love. Kevin Doyle and others have lots of shots on display for order at Everywomans. Great souvenirs of a wonderful time. The T-Dance proved there's something quite nice about dancing while it's still daylight! Have you been listening to that sexy CBC announcer? The one who, in her own brand of sultry declared: "a frontal spread will move down to the

southern regions." Indeed! Finally, Mary Lasovich, the Lez and Marion Stoodley threw a singles bash at Mary's. 'Course Mary did most of the work. Two of the delightful singles singled out the Lez at the firepit. Suave as usual, the Lez looked at her feet to discover her shoes were on fire! Sorry Jan, but those new sneakers....For others the party was a great success! But you'll have to find out for yourself who is now with who. And, happy 50th birthday to Joe, a.k.a. Queen Victoria and nearly everydyke's hairperson.

Until next time.

New Reads And Old

by Barbara and Sally

There is value in the lesbian love-stories that Naiad and other publishers spew forth. Even though the word quality suffers next to quantity, these expensively produced reads give us validation; they encourage us to be adventurous; they encourage new ideas and methods; they hot us up in ways that Penthouse may not. But engross, delight, wrap up and totally consume? No way.

The first of the lesbian 'love' stories I have read that has actually taken me to another place is Jennifer Levin's *The Sea of Light*, published by a branch of Penguin Books, Plume, in 1994. It's a multi-level love story told from the point of view of as many protagonists as there are lovers. But it is much more than that. It is tightly and beautifully written. There's poetry in Levin's language that moves us through the pages as though we were floating through a dream-escape—or a seascape.

Written first by Levin is *Water Dancer*. It is no less absorbing, even more tense and suspenseful. This

writer creeps into the soul of her characters and bares their intensity for all to see. She writes with incredible imagery and an amazing understanding of the human psyche.

Sally Hamill went off to Denmark with Cheryl Hartman's *Well-Heeled Murders* in her pocket. This book is so new we got it pre-press and unproofed from Spinsters Ink.

Undaunted, Sally writes: This is an amusing and interesting first mystery by an author who has intimate knowledge of the subject of her mystery. She is a clinical social worker and has written several popular books such as: *The Fearless Flyer: How to Fly in Comfort and Without Trepidation*.

This first mystery deals with a clutch of therapists, who seem to proliferate in lesbian circles—not too surprisingly. Her plot is well-managed with sexually adventurous characters. It's a clever spoof of traditional whodunnits and the denouement is arrived at with despatch and humour. A good read

What a fanatastic summer! It all started with a party at Marti's and Denise's which they threw in grand style. In dyke talk that means they provided super food. Art instructor Margo Farr had the joke of the evening. A lesbian at her annual pap test and exploratory was told by her doctor: "Good for you. You certainly are clean up there!" To which the stirruped dyke replied: "Yes, I have a woman comes in twice a week." Penny Taylor was there with a survey asking questions about plumbing of another sort. Call Penny to plumb your bathroom needs at 920-4064. She says there's no job too small. Incidentally, if Jenny W-W is anyone to go by, Margo Farr's art classes are a definite win. You don't have to be an artist to start. Jenny is certainly having a good time with the results and the Lez has been with her on a few occasions when we've got downright dirty in clay. The Lez leans to the spiritual. Jenny sculpts women. The Lez had an opportunity to meet with and work with some incredible people during Pride Week. Now wasn't that just the best time ever! Our community of lesbians and gays have proved that we can work together. And the Lez dips her skirt in honor to Lisa J Lander, Nicola Harwood, Sue Ondre, Kyle, Monika Kendall, Terry Harrison, Stephanie Boyd, Nancy Poole, Jan Trainor, Dawn Heiden and the Lesbian Art Collective, Chris Shields and all the wonderful volunteers who contributed time and incredible energy to making the week

Three Gets Thumbs Up

A recording by the Flirtations, the world's first and only politically active, gender-blended gay/lesbian, a cappella vocal group.

A review by local producer/entrepreneur and music lover, Nancy Poole.

Three is a witty, proud, poignant, fabulous recording! The Flirtations (The Flirts as they are known to their fans) have had a sex change.

After the death of Michael Callen, this gay men's a cappella group have settled on Suede, a fave of lesbian music fans, as their tenor member. Suede says "It's time to build this last bridge" [between gay men and lesbians] — and this recording does. It opens this lesbian heart to hear Jon Artherton and Jimmy Rutland sing the words "sister" and "girlfriend" with such love and respect as happens here.

On *Three*, The Flirts cover songs written by composers as varied as Cindy Lauper, Brian Wilson, Shirley Eikkhard, Meg Christian, Judy Small and Aretha Franklin. The harmonies and arrangements of these songs are so stun-

ningly beautiful, I still find myself listening. The Flirts toss the lead vocal back and forth amongst each other with joyful ease. The harmonies, as The Village Voice declares, are "sumptuous." The songs evolve with effortlessness and often with mischievousness.

They do an hilarious rework of Fun, Fun, Fun in which a young man, initially frightened of the G-word, realizes, (while driving his daddy's T-bird), he is in love with the surfer boys—and comes out. They work the same zany sense of humour on Mr. Sandman (as performed for the soundtrack of the movie Philadelphia). In it, they wish that Mr. Sanderson will "turn his magic beam...and bring them a queen with a power stroke like Billie Jean King...."

They have also chosen to record a number of the most beautiful, tender songs from the women's music field; songs like Breaths, On Children, Life is Eternal, Can't Turn Back and Everything is Possible. These songs speak of hope, healing, and understanding death, in ways that take us through.

In *Everything is Possible*, Judy Small wrote: "...the only measure of your words and deeds will be the love you leave behind when you're gone." The Flirtations, through *Three*, definitely model this gay/lesbian golden rule.



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NOTICES

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: Postponed until March. Conflict with Gala. March is a crummy month anyway. Please, tho', let me know what you can do! 598-6490.

BASKETBALL: Temporarily suspended. Jahnet 380-6617

BOWLING: Once a month now. Dawn 595-7179 for info.

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LESBIAN MENOPAUSE: Interested in starting a support group? Call Gloro 380-7098.

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.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre is accepting applications for the next volunteer training for Crisis Line. Women interested in making a commitment to helping individuals affected by sexual assault and sexual abuse call 383-5545 to obtain an application and arrange an interview.

PINK UMBRELLA GARAGE SALE: Donations and Purchases Welcome. To donate call Scott 592-2115. Arrive to Spend (but not early) 1534 Vining Street, September 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds to support 1997 Pink Pages Directory.

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.

KASL IN VANCOUVER: Aurora Centre is

sponsoring a two-day workshop with Dr. Charlotte Davis Kasl entitled Healing from Addictions and Trauma with Empowerment and Joy. Kasl wrote Women, Sex and Addiction and Many Roads One Journey; Moving Beyond the 12 Steps. Sept. 19 & 20 at Aurora Centre, B.C. Women's Hospital in Vancouver. Registration \$100. Phone there at 875-2032, FAX: 875-2039 or e-mail: npoole@w.womenhosp.bc.ca

OVER 65?:- Lesbian PhD student is interviewing lesbians & bisexuals over 65 about their personal relationships and social life between 1914 & 1960. Should have lived in Ontario or B.C. for at least 10 years during that period. Emphasis on romance, dating, relationships and friendships. Confidentiality is guaranteed. Interviews will be conducted at your

convenience and in your locality. Contact Karen Duder, 598-4997.

Fourth Annual Wild Women Riding Adventure: Log cabin, 3 squares, horse, map, sauna, saloon, lake, company of other wild women. Appeal? Make your own booking (604)456-7717 (tell them you're a wild woman) with Flying U Ranch, Green Lake in the Cariboo or call Ann Richmond 384-3619 or email smoult@pinc.com

AMAZING GREYS IV: Celebrate the adventure of aging at Island Hall Beach Resort, Parksville, October 25,26,27. Workshops include The Affluent Baglady, Health Issues, Journal Writing, Creativity. You can be crowned if you wish. Call Shelagh Wilson in Parksville at (604) 954-2395. She'll fill you in. Or ask Barb for the brochure (598-6490).

hot flashes Women's Cafe presents the Ninth Annual Lesbian Dinner Dance

Saturday, October 19, 1996

Crystal Gardens

713 Douglas St., Victoria

Dinner Entertainment Featuring Comic Robin Tyler
"The first comic to bring 'gay' humor out of the closet, and brilliantly use it to both entertain and educate." Newsweek.

\$35.00 for Dinner & Dance
\$13.00 for Dance Only Tickets

Tickets available at:
Zydeco, 565 Johnson St., Victoria
(opposite Market Square)
Phone: 389-1877

Mail Order Tickets

Box 7336, Depot 4
Victoria, BC V9B 5B7
Phone: (604) 474-6085
Toll Free: 1-800-919-0032

Please make cheques payable to: Hot Flashes Coffee House

Doors: 6:00pm, Dinner: 7:00pm
Dance only admitted at 9:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS AND SERVICES

CLASSIFIED ADS

VICTORIA LESBIAN SENIORS CARE SOCIETY DANCE: Sept 7. Membership Drive and launch of new society. Music is Golden Oldies. Tickets at SWAG, Everywomans \$10 and at door (if available) \$12. At Cedar Hill Rec.Ctre. Memberships at \$24 (waged) \$12 (unwaged) will be sold and are good for 16 months. Come prepared to support this worthy cause. Who wants to grow old with grumpy old men?

FLYGIRLS: Dance at DaVinci Centre Sept. 28 from 8 to 1 am. Tickets at Zydeco \$8. At the door \$10. No minors. ID will be checked.

GALA STAFF NEEDED: Lesbians needed to work the ticket desk at the annual Gala October 19. If you are interested, call Tanya Anderson for details at 388-7456.

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.

ROOMMATE WANTED: for large, bright, quiet, 2 brm upper duplex in Fairfield. Sept. 1 \$360/mo. Call Bobbi at 381-5501.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: Small apt. or shared living arrangement by October 1. Call Taylor at 920-0086.

DYKE ROOMMATE: Wanted to share three-bedroom N/S house with two other dykes in quiet treed area. Convenient location for Camosun's Interurban campus student. \$395 inclusive. Available September 1. Call Jennie 479-3423.

HOUSE-SITTING WANTED: Recent lesbian immigrant, 30, from Oregon, seeks housesitting opportunities while in transition; local references; reliable, loving care for your pets, plants, house; non-smoker. Call Susan at 388-7490.

SMALLISH ROOM FOR RENT: In family housing at UVic with dyke and daughter. Must be dyke/queer, quiet, and smoke outside only. Everything else negotiable:

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



rental based on space requirements, utilities use, etc. Call lisa j. at 721-3083.

MAIN FLOOR OF HOUSE FOR RENT: Located on 10 acres; patio and garden. Friendly, lesbian-positive community. Available Oct. Rent \$750. Thirty-mins to downtown. Rent \$750. Further info and details call Joan 474-7369.

HOUSE FOR RENT: Vic West border, 3 Bedroom, five appliances, fenced yard. Gay/lesbian positive only. Available Sept. 1 \$950. Tel. 384-3619

APARTMENT TO SUBLET: James Bay, one block from ocean, 1 brm plus 18-yr-old cat. Nov. 1 to March 31. Rent \$575. Call Hannah 381-1065.

CAR FOR SALE: 82 Toyota Tercel. Automatic, 2-door, hatchback. In good condition and well-maintained. Info call Hannah 381-1065.

SERVICES ACTIVITIES CONTACTS

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

Blind Date Productions: Gwyneth Powell, 598-2327

Bowling: Dawn H., 595-7179

Bridge for Dykes:

continued from page 19

Marion S., 598-1257

Dyke Basketball: Off for now. Jahnnett 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

Lesbian Drop-in Softball: Marion, 598-1257

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

Lesbian Outdoor Club: 1st Thurs. every month 7 p.m. Lynn Kirk, 480-1560

Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society: Sally, 388-6036

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

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

P-FLAG: Information, 642-5171

PINK UMBRELLA: fax/phone 727-6669

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