

Lesbianews

Vancouver Island's Monthly Lesbian Newsletter

Reclaiming the Crone

By Emma Joy Crone



The word OLD is being used by many women who are actively engaged in fighting ageism. I am

both old and fighting. At 49 I found my post-menopausal zest a stepping stone to a new life force that surged within me, nine years after the divorce I thought had ended my life, but which had in fact set me on the road to freedom. This meant not only freedom of movement, to travel and find the self that was not evident in my teens in post-war England, but also freedom to express myself as a feminist and, now, as an old lesbian.

In my 40s, when I first found feminism and went to conferences, meetings, consciousness-raising groups and women's dances, I was unaware that old women were not represented in any area of the women's movement. I was full of my new experiences, up to my eyeballs in

issues, learning about the oppression which had been part of my life, and of course totally idealistic about everything going on around me. I was often the token older woman, for what I was 'doing at my age'.

My identity and self concept have continued to change drastically during my aging process. This is a continual source of amazement and wonder for me and those who know me. As I evolve, so does my view of society and the stereotypes directed at older women.

As I age, I find the hardest thing to accept is the growing indifference and stereotyping in society of the old woman and her place in it. I have come to understand that a woman's aging process is quickened if she is of low- or fixed-income; or working in a demanding physical job such as waitressing, factory work or single motherhood. This woman's reality is very different from her more affluent, better-educated sisters'. The stress of work takes its toll on all of us, but some have the advantage of a comfortable home,

respite from the children, amenable surroundings and peers who are in a similar situation (an old girls' network, if you will). Poor or low-income women have a harder time maintaining good health and generally keeping their act together.

Now, at 64, I look at my mother and I am saddened by her diseased body, the result of a lifetime of hard work - she began washing windows in her mother's boarding house when she was five.

Even the language is derogatory. Society calls us 'old' behind our backs, while calling us older, senior, golden age to our faces. People use the term 'little old lady' to trivialize the fact that women do have a tendency to shrink as we age. We are also called 'feisty' if we are outspoken or told that 'we look good for our age'. Mainstream media rarely portray old women positively. I wonder how many old women are part of the editorial staff of newspapers, periodicals and magazines.

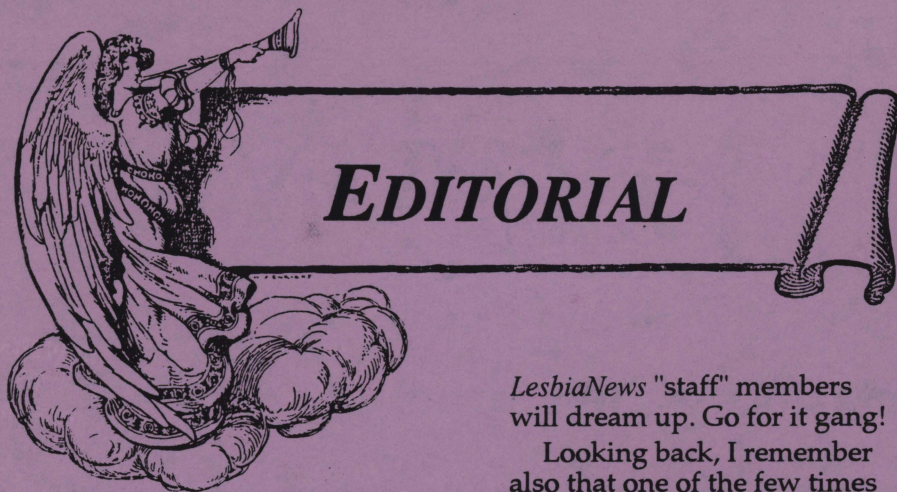
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and more!!!



EDITORIAL

This is a reminder that the July/August issue is combined. The next issue will appear at the beginning of September. We encourage writers and women with announcements to have copy in our post office box by August 15 for inclusion in the September issue.

This is my final turn as editor, although I hope to contribute to the newsletter from time to time. I've enjoyed working with the group which so generously gives time, imagination and energy every month to ensure that the newsletter goes out. Some memories of our working together are, of course, more treasured than others! I smile whenever I think of the frivolity/insanity of the Saturday morning meeting to plan the April Fool's issue of 1992. My wish for those who continue to work on the newsletter is to have more meetings like that one! What with hurrying to meet deadlines and trying to find computer programmes that are compatible with the one that produces the final copy, sometimes we have forgotten to have fun with it.

While on the subject of frivolity, why wait 'til April? How about an impromptu reappearance of the writings of Gertrude Steinway, Krep Er-saky, Al-Herlaun-Dry, Alice B. Tolltaker, Ann T.I.P. O'Dean, Auntie Aytoldu Tso, and Camelia Airhead? And who knows what the more recent

LesbianNews "staff" members will dream up. Go for it gang!

Looking back, I remember also that one of the few times this newsletter sparked controversy was around the subject of cats. What can I tell you? I still long for letters and articles passionately for or against something. Since I cannot resist the attempt to stir up some response, I pass on to you some thoughts of Marilyn Murphy, a contributor to the September/December, 1990 issue of *Resources for Feminist Research*, "Thinking About Bisexuality":

"When I think, talk, write about women who are not lesbians, I try to use the terms "non-lesbian," "pre-lesbian," "women who live heterosexual lives." I try to avoid saying "heterosexual woman," and this is not a bit of lesbian cleverness on my part. Instead, it is an attempt at clear thinking...I think we err when we label a woman "heterosexual," in a world where all women are presumed, expected, and mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and economically coerced into living heterosexual lives, where compulsory heterosexuality is the principal organizing institution of personal life ... and where living outside of the institution of heterosexuality is either unthinkable or, if thought of at all, is taught to be disgusting, sinful...

"Given this enormous pressure on women to live heterosexual lives, we cannot say "most women are heterosexual," and mean anything comparable to saying "some women are lesbians." ...Heterosexuality is not a sexual preference for most women. ...

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WHO ARE WE?

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Lesbiannews IS A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PRIMARILY SERVING VANCOUVER ISLAND AND THE GULF ISLANDS. ITS AIM IS TO PROVIDE CONTENT THAT INSPIRES, EMPOWERS, AND PROMOTES LESBIANS. IT IS PUBLISHED BY, FOR AND ABOUT LESBIANS, BI-SEXUAL WOMEN AND THEIR ALLIES. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT ACCORDINGLY.

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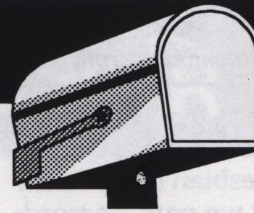
Business card ads are \$11 per issue, \$50 for 5 issues, and \$90 for 10 issues. **Display ads** are \$20 for 1/4 page, \$40 for 1/2 page; for larger sizes, please enquire with *Lesbiannews* for costs. Send camera-ready copy or a layout with your cheque to our PO Box address. Deadline is the 15th of each month for the following month.

Classified Ads are \$5/month for up to 25 words and 50c for each word thereafter. If you want us to hold and forward replies to Personals, add \$2. We reserve the right to refuse any ad that might create legal difficulties or that offends our highly developed sensibilities

Ads and payment must be received by the 15th of each month for inclusion the following month.

Submissions are welcome from all lesbians and allies; this is an open community newsletter. Send your letters, questions, comments, stories, poems, articles, ideas, cartoons, drawings, news items, calendar items, and dreams of the week to the PO Box address above, typed double spaced, very neatly written, or on IBM-compatible 3.5" disk. We edit for space and clarity. Please limit submissions to 800 words.

LETTERS



Dear LesbiaNews:

I have a rather unusual request, and I wonder if you can help me. I am from Lancaster, Pennsylvania and I will be on vacation in Vancouver from July 24 through August 7. In looking for a place to stay, I have found that the prices are very high. What I would like to do is find someone who would be interested in having a visitor. I am willing to pay \$20 per night. All I really need is a bed and shower. Anyone who is interested may contact me either by writing to me: Ricci M. Dehl, 916 Hager Street, Lancaster, PA 17603, or by phone: 1-717-295-1909. (Collect call is OK. I also have a machine should I not be in.)

I found your address in the gay yellow pages and I am trying to write to women only (just in case

you are wondering why I am contacting you). I would be most grateful to you if you could post my request, or if you have a better source, please forward this information.

Thank you for your assistance.

In Sisterhood,

Ricci M. Dehl

P.S. some basic info. about me: I am 34 years old, disease free, vegetarian, don't smoke, love animals.

(Editor's Note: Anyone who answers this request should perhaps clarify for Ricci that Vancouver and Vancouver Island are not the same place.)



The Editor,
Lesbian News

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful women who helped

us with our recent move. Combining two households and blending "four-footed families" is difficult at best, but was made easier and even fun at times with the generous support of our friends.

Thank you again Caroline, Linda, Jenny, Sharon, Toni, Marion, Suzanne, Kelevelyn, Katrina, Melanie, Cindy and Chris. Our "Amazon Brigade" certainly outworked the male "professional movers" and they did it all for beer and pizza! We were proud of your efforts and we couldn't have done it without you.

We look forward to hosting a garden party once we get settled in.
Cheryl and Jeanette

Lesbiantics

In last month's editorial, Karey Perks recalls Lesbiantics as "a splendid, intense, and hectic weekend of lesbian affirmation." We agree. It was splendid that some 75 women volunteered to help stage the variety show, dance and fashion show – and equally as splendid that some 400 women enjoyed the events. It was intense for the small number of planners who met more often than any of us care to remember. And it was hectic for the performers, models, set-up and technical crews, truck drivers, photographers, bakers and bottle washers, and the steadfast movers of our stage and sound systems.

The first annual Lesbiantics was conceived by two desires: to help build positive images of our diverse lesbian community, and to have fun together. We began last October when Melaney Black raised the idea of staging an event that showed off the abundance of talented dykes in our midst. From a hitherto

untapped desire to co-ordinate the speech and dress of friends, Mary Lasovich volunteered to write the script for "Dykes Thru the Ages" – a kind of *Coles* notes on lesbians from pre-Sappho to the 1990s. Sandwiched in between was the Saturday night dance.

Ticket policies were designed to reflect our budget and SWAG's commitment to making events affordable and accessible. We established a sliding scale with no limit on the proportion of "unwaged" tickets. Ten per cent of all tickets were made available, on request, for women who could not afford to pay any price. We discussed at length the role of volunteers and their entitlement, if any, to free admission. We asked ourselves: If the women who can afford to pay admission do not, who will support our community?

Variety show participants were asked to purchase a dance ticket for \$7.50 (half the waged price for the evening). Most did.

We were surprised, however, to learn that Karey and "some of the other volunteers" regard the request as "an insult to both performers and crew." The authors of insult are described as "the greedy-needies at SWAG."

We felt it was an impossible task to determine a level of volunteering that warrants free admission. Women participated in Lesbiantics in countless ways. A few individuals contributed scores of hours; others volunteered for last-minute tasks, picking up ice or moving equipment. Where do you draw the line? Is performing somehow more worthy of compensation than baking cookies, for example?

We decided that Lesbiantics volunteers included everyone who performed any task required to stage the weekend events – and who did so without expectation of being compensated. If all volunteers had been exempted from pur-

(continued on page four)

LESBIANTICS. . .

(continued from page 3)

chasing tickets, the lost revenue would have exceeded \$1,000.

Building lesbian community requires that we pay according to our different abilities. All SWAG-sponsored events rely on the honour system for sliding scale prices and free tickets for financial hardship. We believe that it must be that way.

Lesbian Issues Committee:

Melaney Black,
Mary Lasovich, Barb van'tSlot,
Lori Wanamaker.

ShOut

When asked to write about coming out, I pondered over its meaning. I concluded that coming out is different for everyone. Mine has been a lifelong, evolutionary process of coming to myself – splashed with my own style.

It began in far north Queensland at recess time, "little lunch" it was called, when we girls were playing house. I was in Grade 5, and well into my tomboy phase. Naturally boys were too busy to be concerned with mundane games like playing house, so some of us had to role play. I was paired with Judy Hocking, the loveliest girl in school, I thought. She and I were "married" and lived under the slippery slide. When I came home from work, as the husbands seemed to do, I was met by my loving wife Judy, who, in her authentic make-believe way, kissed me! (On the cheek!) We lingered in the pose. My heart beating wildly in my throat, I placed my trembling hands on her waist as she flung her arms around my neck and chattered on about her day with the children! We were, apparently, the only ones who took our roles

seriously – I knew only that I never wanted that moment to end!

Looking back, it was probably that moment under the slide when I first realized that I was different. I always was of course, but never had occasion to notice. Predictably the crush was on after our "marriage". In Grades 5 and 6 there weren't many boys so in dance class we doubled up, and Judy and I became quite an item. We were an example to the class of how to waltz and fox trot. And I loved it. Until Paddy McGelligot! The teacher (perhaps noticing my ease in the male role) thought that we really should have boy partners. So, we took turns dancing with boys, none of whom could dance as well as me mind you. My beloved Judy became the class example with Paddy! I was heartbroken – but resilient. I had a taste of what life really could be like. Somehow I knew that I would lead the dance, and never play wife to any boy!

When I was stricken with the periodic-puberty blues and 'becoming a woman', I was a voracious reader. While reading the 'what is sex' pamphlets Mum gave me and at the same time the adventurous, exotic James Bond novels, I put them together and began fantasizing about "being" with women, (in that kind of way). Though I had no idea what I would ever do with one! I didn't have one of those *things* that the pamphlet said I needed to be with a woman!

Unfortunately I left my north to grow up in Canada. Life was changing around me. My girlfriends seemed more interested in talking to me about boys! I was bored. I also knew I had to be on guard since I was in love with several

girls! I wondered what sort of life I was doomed to, never realizing that there were more of "me" out there, just waiting to be met.

I had my first real, authentic, lover when I was 19. It was glorious – especially in her mother's bed! And better than James Bond! Our relationship was sensuous, exciting, fun, romantic, and scary (like when my roommate came home early one night). Expressing all the love and romance I had stored up all those years was wonderful. First loves can be special, and precious. I felt affirmed.

I also thought we'd be together forever. She claimed she wasn't like me and would eventually be with men. She's since had a change of heart!

I never thought I would meet another like me until I found her at work. She knew this lifestyle well – I was starry eyed and fascinated and drawn into another world where, over the years, I became more and more of who I am.

The scariest part of **being me** was not **hiding** me. At first, Mum took it hard, but she accepted my choice. We became close and more real together. Once I found her reading "out of the closet". She motioned to me to sit on the bed and said she finally understood what I was going through. I was nearly blown away when she said – "you know dear, if *they* were around when I was young, I might even have been like you too!"

Ever since first realizing my uniqueness under the slide with Judy, becoming me has been an adventure, laced with agony, ecstasy, and everything in between. The journey is far from over, and so far, I wouldn't trade a thing!

BRAIN FEVER

By Karey Perks

It seems right somehow that nobody knows where the Lesbian Stranger went because nobody knew where she came from in the first place. All we know for sure is, she's the one who opened up the Island Highway to Queer Traffic.

Not that we ever really believed it was closed to us, even though there's always someone to argue that the cops would rather ticket us for being gay than for other things. But that night - the night the Lesbian Stranger appeared out of nowhere - we just happened to be sitting at our regular table at Barnum's holding a wake for Laurie's VW which had developed a nagging cough on Malahat Summit and was being held for ransom by a vengeful tow-truck driver. Laurie's lover Lynne thought he was hostile because he'd figured out they were lesbians.

Mal the bartender leaned over the bar and called out, "Queer paranoia!"

I was inclined to agree. Unless we drive and kiss at the same time, which isn't safe anyway, how can anybody tell?

That was when the Lesbian Stranger walked up to the bar and said something to Mal in a raspy but melodious voice that sounded like a soprano saxophone, the kind of voice that makes everyone in earshot quit what they're doing and listen. For some reason the music picked that moment to cut out too, leaving the dancers stranded in the flash of the disco lights, which illuminated one side of the Lesbian Stranger's face and then the other.

She was what writers of west-erns call raw-boned; her hands and her shoulders were wide and square, she was tall, and she had on jeans and a faded blue shirt. She reminded me of Clint Eastwood in *High Plains Drifter*, except there was no cigarette clinging to her lips.

"It ain't paranoia," we all heard her say, and then: "We've got to open the highway."

I won't say we understood what she said. But we did understand what she meant.

The music started up again and people danced and talked as if nothing had happened. Mal passed her a Corona. She wrapped it up in her long fingers and emptied it, while our four pairs of eyes watched the beer pulse down her throat. She lifted her elbow off the bar. It was like a signal for the four of us to follow her out of Barnum's and into the street.

She climbed into a red Toyota four-by that glittered like a bottle of wine under the street lights. She waved us into the back with a bronzed hand and drove to the edge of town, out beyond the lights of the last intersection. She pulled onto the shoulder and we got out. The night air was moist and sharp with the scent of fir. A car speeded by with a sound like ripping canvas, leaving behind the smell of exhaust.

"Good a place as any," the Lesbian Stranger said.

She pulled a gunny sack from under the front seat of the truck and silently handed out the contents. It wasn't until later, when we were talking it over back at Barnum's that we realized none

of us had said a word. We just took the candles and matches she handed out and did what she showed us, dripping hot wax on the asphalt and standing the candles in it. Then she handed Sandy a spool of wide yellow plastic ribbon, put the free end in my hand, and started me across the highway with it.

By the time I got to the other side there was a car stopped in the northbound lane with its engine running and the window rolled down. The Lesbian Stranger walked over.

"Road's closed," she said.

I let the ribbon droop into the headlights a little, so whoever was inside could see the line of black letters on it. "Police Line Do Not Cross." From one side of the road to the other. Lines of cars collected in both lanes, growling their impatience. The Lesbian Stranger didn't argue. She waited until the candles burned down to the final inch or so and then she took a pair of scissors to the ribbon.

"I hereby declare this highway open to lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals, and their allies," she said in that soprano-sax voice.

The ribbon drifted in the air for an instant and then the cars leaped ahead like horses out of a starting gate. They roared over the last of the candles and disappeared. We waited until the quiet and the sharp scent of the fir trees was restored, and then we climbed back into the red Toyota and drove back to Barnum's. But when we were standing at the bar, and Sandy turned around to ask the Lesbian Stranger if she wanted another Corona, she wasn't there.

Reclaiming the Crone *(continued from page one)*



Ageism is all around us and we must be careful not to internalize the language, or the attitudes that are so prevalent.

Old women are low-status, under employed, underpaid, underfinanced, underhoused, undervalued, and underloved. Many are put into 'old folks homes' where sedatives effectively prevent mental stimulation. I try to imagine myself in this type of setting, typewriter clattering away noisily, books filling every available space. But what about my cat, my garden, my peace of mind?

By the year 2000, there will be an estimated two million women over 65 in Canada. A few years ago, while involved in the fight over the Canadian government's intention to de-index pensions, I read in a Vancouver newspaper that in the first half of the next century, age could become a more divisive influence on the world than race, sex or class have ever been, because of the growing number of old people in today's rich countries. It went on to report "(the old) could be an invigorating source of output and ideas and tomorrow's elderly will be quite formidable as a political lobby."

Feminists of age will have an opportunity to make a considerable difference in the future, particularly if we want to take leadership roles.

At 56, I decided to find out who and where my peers were in the feminist world. Articles and a newsletter "A Web of Crones" (published from '85-'89) became my tools for increasing the visibility of old women. Crones gathered on the island

where I now live in British Columbia and I started to correspond with women in Germany, Brazil, England and Australia. I met old lesbians who share my politics.

I believe the answers to our questions and our politics are within us. We must create alternative lives for women as

*"By the year 2000,
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Canada."*

we age, using a more humane attitude and consciousness of our needs.

One practical step to consider is the preparation of a 'living will' to ensure that institutions will not artificially keep us alive against our wills. We can prepare a Power of Attorney so our loved ones will not be denied access or visiting rights. This was important to me, given that my lover is not legally recognized as next of kin or even recognized as a partner in our homophobic society.

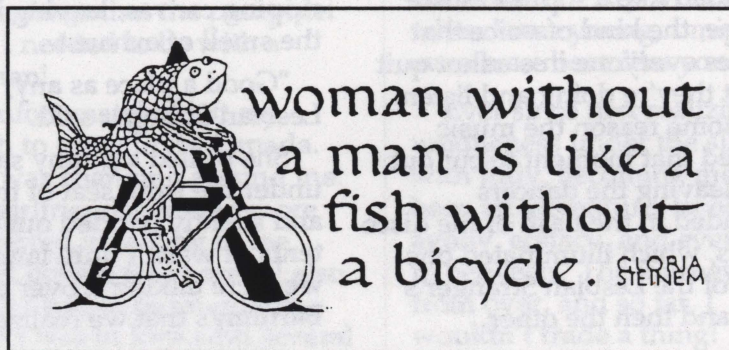
I believe that senility and many other so-called aging 'disorders' are due to segrega-

tion and/or isolation. We must contribute to the creation of resources (human and structural) to enable those who wish to live alone to be nurtured.

As old women, we must look for allies. I have been talking to friends about what I think my future needs will be. Establishing a type of caring network is important to me because I do not want to inflict total caregiving on my lover (who is 27 years younger than I am) or my land partners. I am excited to think of having many feminists as caregivers and of the stimulation this would bring to my life.

We need to attend to our fears around health and money and make our presence known in women's communities. We need to celebrate our differences, affirm the diversity of our backgrounds, and challenge the stereotypes and oppression that have been so destructive to our lives for generations upon generations. It is my hope that all old women will come out, be seen and raise their voices.

(Reprinted with author's permission from The Open Door, Spring Equinox, 1993. Emma Joy Crone has recently celebrated her 65th birthday. She lives on Cronehaven with her partner, land-sharing with other women. For a list of books and related information on lesbians and aging, write: RR #1, Hornby Island, B.C. V0R 1Z0.)



How About Passionate Retirement?

By She Wolf

Anyone really wanting to retire to better living and not less living? Any one wanting to go into a retirement that means more choices, greater pleasures, learning new things, interacting with quality people and passionate pursuits?

I'm interested in old lesbians who want to discuss an exciting retirement community future for old lesbians. My interest is in the 50+ population who want to band together to enjoy the fruits of our labours, the richness of diversity in mature women. The interesting stories we all have to tell, the joy of leaving cliches behind when we converse, etc. I have no aversion to young women, grandchildren, relatives, friends of other lifestyles, etc. I just want to gather with my people for some special rich friendships. What about dialogue on how to accomplish this in today's society!

I seek a space where extremely hard physical labour isn't necessary for survival yet daily physical activity is the order of the day for maintenance of the area. I long for the

community where older women are the majority, the ruling force, the breadwinners, the shakers and movers. My own passion is rural living but a few acres would be sufficient instead of the 100+ I presently caretake.

My energy soars when I am affirmed as a 60-year-old woman with something to contribute to the group of older women who take such pride in who they are. Seeing us doing things and being a part of the drive of our own lives fills me with such joy that I want to find a way to share this glory with other women who may be on the verge of forming community with single and coupled lesbians for the development of intentional families.

Where are there women formed into older lesbian communities or women looking to do so? So far my search has led only to women who have

made unsuccessful attempts at rural living, or women who have many needs and very few assets to contribute to the development of community. The assets I refer to are time, energy, talents, skills, patience, and a real interest in getting to know other women well enough to form close bonds beyond romantic attachments!!!! The latter seems to be the most difficult to find. As long as the possibility of romantic attachments looms in the wings it seems easy to attract takers for organizing and discussing future plans. However, when real friendships begin to develop most lesbians have turned their attentions towards greener fields.

Surely there are enough of us old lesbians who have learned: the way to live is to live our own lives and make our friends and the romantic adventures will come naturally. ...

(From *The OLOC Reporter* - News of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change - & of the Old Lesbian Organizing Committee, December, 1992, P.O. Box 980422, Houston, Texas 77098)

**Women
Don't have
hot flashes.
They have
POWER
SURGES!!!**

Are You Ageist?

1. Do you consider "young" to be a complimentary term and "old" a derogatory synonym for ugly, decrepit, out-of-date?
2. Why is it indelicate to ask a woman how old she is? Do you lie about your age? Are you into "passing" as young?
3. What is your reaction to phrases like "She is 70 years

- young" and "You don't look your age?"
4. How do you like being the age you are? Do you feel your age?
5. How do the images of women on TV and in films affect your self-image?
6. How do you feel about the way women fight obsolescence with cosmetics,

- surgery, clothes? Why aren't women's faces good enough as is?
7. When an old woman shows courage, do you trivialize her by calling her "feisty?" Would you call Superman "feisty?"
8. Why has this youth-oriented society developed at this time? Have women always had this terror of aging?

"Lesbian," on the other hand, is both a conscious sexual and affectional preference and an important component of the psychosocial identity of women who love other women. Lesbians know they can marry and live unhappily ever after as so many women do. Instead we choose to live outside compulsory heterosexuality because the desire to act upon our preference for women as love objects, sex partners and life companions is stronger than the fear of the negative social consequences of our actions...

"What are we to think, though, when (a woman says she is) "bisexual?" ...We think she is pre-lesbian, in transition, going through a bisexual phase on her journey to lesbianism. We think she is protecting herself from her lesbian fears. Most of us feel more or less protective of women we think are in this bisexual place, especially when we know they are not seeing men. All lesbians know women who used to be "bisexual," including, for some, themselves.

...In my opinion, however, bisexuality cannot logically be called a sexual/affectual preference...

"Women who call themselves bisexual are the only women who are really heterosexual"

"I think that when a woman who calls herself "bisexual" goes to the movies and then to bed with a man for whom she feels lust and affection, a man whose company she enjoys, whose attention she hopes to encourage, with whom she is sharing life stories, dreams and aspirations, she is living a conscious heterosexual life. She may call herself "bisexual," but she is doing what she was socialized to do. ...

On the other hand, I think that when a woman who calls herself "bisexual" goes to the movies and then to bed with a woman for whom she feels lust and affection,

a woman whose company she enjoys, whose attention she hopes to encourage, with whom she is sharing life stories, dreams and aspirations, she is not living a lesbian life, nor does she have a lesbian consciousness of her experience. The experience of her chosen heterosexual yesterday and the possibility of a chosen heterosexual tomorrow keeps her always relating to lesbians and to lesbianism as a heterosexual woman who *sometimes* relates to or has sex with women. ...

"All of the above leaves us with a logical paradox. Women who call themselves "bisexual," not because they are in transition or are afraid of their lesbianism, but because they choose to relate sexually to both women and men, are the only women who are really heterosexual. *They are the only women who choose to relate to men after having known and experienced a non-compulsory alternative (italics are mine).*"

Au revoir. J.G.

Breast Cancer Action

The first issue of *Breast Cancer Action Newsletter* was published in Ottawa in April, 1993. The following is an excerpt:

Breast Cancer Action's most visible project has been the design of our Breast Cancer Symbol (reproduced below). It was conceived and designed

by a Breast Cancer patient and developed by the survivors in Breast Cancer Action. The

teardrop shape is for the tears shed at the time of diagnosis. The rose-pink ribbon is for the thousands of Canadian women who are diagnosed each year. The black lining is for the thousands who die.

When the deaths cease we will remove the black lining and wear the rose-pink ribbon in celebration.

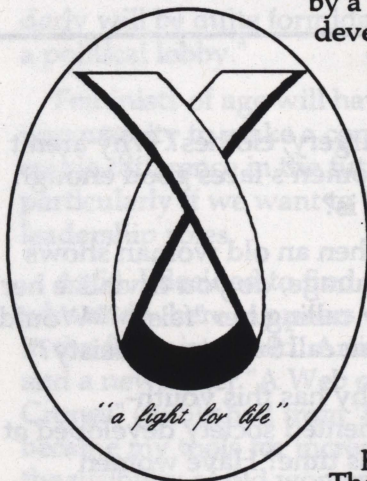
The Symbol was officially

launched during Breast Cancer Awareness Week in

Ottawa on October 29, 1992...It is our hope that women and men across Canada will wear the Symbol to show awareness of the scope of this disease and that it will become a Canadian Breast Cancer Awareness Symbol.

As we near a federal election,...make breast cancer an election issue. Ask your riding candidates what they plan to do to support the recommendations of the Sub-Committee Report (on breast cancer). Ask candidates what research efforts they will support and how they will work to bolster the groundswell of activity around this issue across the country. None of us can accomplish everything that needs to be done on our own, but together we can accomplish a great deal. Make breast cancer your issue for 1993 and for the years ahead.

We are invited to take up the cause, wear the Symbol, join the membership, and promote Breast Cancer Awareness. If you would like a Symbol, more information, or would like to contribute, please write to: Breast Cancer Action, Billings Bridge Plaza, P.O. Box 39041, Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 1A1. Tel: 613-731-6975 Fax: 521-9976.







ZORYA'S ASTRO PANORAMA





By Zorya Alexandra Plaskin


It would take pages to do even rough justice to the holistic impact of the major planetary aspects over this summer, and covering two months in one column doesn't help either. Suffice it to say, July and August are crammed with cosmic waves which will dissolve old boundaries, radically change structures of all sorts - resistance generates frustration and crisis -- highlight power aspects of one-to-one relationships, and present opportunities to release old fears and habits. Those most sensitive to these variations have natal-chart planets at 4 to 23 degrees in cardinal signs, 20 to 30 degrees in fixed signs, and 6 to 15 degrees in mutable signs. The biggest astro-event of the summer -and century! - is the Uranus-Neptune hit August 20, the second of three peaks - the others: Feb. 2, Oct. 25. This long-term wave started manifesting as long ago as the demolition of the Berlin wall: future historians will mark the period as we have the Industrial Revolution, or the end of the Inquisition, both of which also coincided with Uranus-Neptune conjunctions. The shortest explanation of it all is that the conjunction is the energy focus of a 172-year cycle of personal enlightenment and planetary evolution.


 **ARIES** faces what could be an increasingly creative summer, though some heed need be paid Saturn's gentle prodding to wrap up old projects: responsibilities can become burdensome after Aug. 24. Be aware, too, that Mars' entry to Libra on Aug. 13 starts a six-week cycle in which events test the success of past decisions: the potential spectrum of results ranges from triumphant success to furious conflicts with peers and partners.

 Summer's hedonistic invitations are almost irresistible for **TAURUS**. Enjoy, but expect work/service to impose after mid-August. The Aug. 2 full moon could set the course, with unexpected opportunities affecting career/status. Be careful, too, of spikes July 26-29 and Aug. 23-25 when energy and ego are more than you can handle: impure motives (subconscious drives) will do you wrong!


 As Venus moves into **GEMINI** July 7, the world gets brighter and prettier, a perfect environment for love and creativity. Dark clouds echo issues which bring over-sensitivity, especially around July 23, Aug. 6, 20. Take advantage of a six-week Mars cycle, starting mid-August, bringing potential for great productivity. Financial/material matters are increasingly highlighted through August.


 **CANCER** benefits from selflessness through July, and may be required to nurse a loved one. The focus shifts to personal pleasures after Aug. 1, with new or renewed love interests. After Aug. 11, Mars generates tensions with others; be ready to demonstrate the justice and validity of motives and actions.


 This summer may be a last chance for **LEO** to wrap up unfinished partnership business. Vitality and leadership qualities increase by mid-August, with opportunities for success and advancement. Events from Aug. 26 onward highlight material issues, and are encouragements to reconsider values.


 Mid-July to early August brings **VIRGO'S** annual invitation to plumb subconscious caverns; a full-scale hermetic retreat may be


in order this year, especially Aug. 9-26. Pay attention after mid-August to ways in which you equate ego with your toys.


 **LIBRA** has favourable opportunities after July 5 in all areas of career and prestige. Be careful of material motivations in any new love interests. Resistance/denial can magnify the power of inevitable changes around Aug. 20; domestic and family matters are most susceptible.

 The revolutionary ideas and dream-borne messages vying for **SCORPIO'S** brain time these days deserve serious conscious consideration; metaphysical portals are wide open until late July, and you then have most of August to integrate potential lessons, to achieve new levels of consciousness. Professional activities deserve long-term planning after Aug. 9.

 July brings tension to **SAGITTARIUS'** one-to-one scenarios, perhaps requiring choices between a friend and a loved one. Mercury provides high creative potentials until Aug. 9, but then moves on to strew your path with endless opportunities to speak first, repent later.

 **CAPRICORN'S** personal world remains in flux, the acme of Uranus-Neptune restructuring. If nothing changes in any 15-minute period, check your pulse. If you are on top of things, combine initiative with aggressiveness after Aug. 11 to make great strides in areas of career, reputation, status.

 One-to-one relationships deserve **AQUARIUS'** top priority from July 22 to mid-August. The focus then narrows to matters of shared resources. Be open after Aug. 26 to events/encounters which offer consciousness of deep truths, new perspectives on mortality.

 Creativity is **PISCES'** forte through most of July. Work issues intrude by late in the month, though, and require special efforts to develop an uncharacteristic grip on reality: success can be measured by late August through the degree of conflict experienced with superiors, authority figures.

The Fallacies in Female Sports



The barriers and myths relating to women in sport have not been a gradual or accidental occurrence. Stereotypical philosophy and guidelines for female sport participation have been distributed in rule books and developed in societal institutions for women's sports. Certain misguided statements were emphasized: girls' and women's sport should be inclusive (not elitist or exclusive), sport should be in balance with other aspects of her life (not profit oriented), sport should be cooperative (not adventurous or risky). The philosophy referred to by Goldstein¹ rejected extrinsic motivations for athletic glory. The recreation administrator thought that "those motivations may rob participants of their pride in performance." The traditional philosophy for women's sports rejected specialization in a particular sport. It also rejected exploitation of the female athlete to the extent of denying scholarships to athletes.

Further myths for women in

sport include scientific and medical fears about the suitability of women for the sport; media disinterest in women's sport; socialization of the "true feminine female"; the masculinization of women who participate in sport; and women have a general inherent lack of interest in sport. May and Asken² stress that the major barrier to female participation in sport is the perception of gender role or conflict between the role of athlete and traditional women in society. If the strain is too great women may discontinue the sport, pursue feminine-appropriate sports or disregard the concern for traditional females in society. God forbid they be lesbians!

Women are driven to engage in leisure activities for a variety of reasons. The problem for recreation professionals is to become aware of the factors that motivate females to participate. Certain factors that may explain the pattern of female involvement or participation in sport are: continuing prejudices, taboos, and stereotypes that lead to sport being viewed as a male

preserve; the lack of power in gender relations; the strength of the "old boys network"; a lack of qualified female personnel to teach and administer athletes; unintended discrimination by males and females; failure of women to apply for vacancies in athletic careers (both due to lack of self esteem and male influences); time constraints imposed by marriage or family responsibilities; lack of female role models as participants and leaders; and a continuation of gender-role socialization processes that discourage females from sport. (Mcpherson³)

(Factors that may enhance female participation will be forthcoming. This article is a short excerpt from a paper I wrote on "The Effects of Motivation of Female Participants in Sport" CMD)

¹ *Sports, Games and Play* (1989).

² *Sport Psychology, Psychological Health of the Athlete* (1987).

³ *The Social Significance of Sport* (1989)

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ADS AND NOTICES

Items for this column must be submitted by the 15th of the month to appear in the following month's issue. Items may be mailed to us at P.O. Box 5339, Stn. B, Victoria, V8R 6S44, or submitted by phone to Karey at 380-7562.

CALENDAR

July 2,3,4. FOURTH ANNUAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST WOMEN'S MUSIC AND CULTURAL JAMBOREE.

Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. This year: Linda Tillery, Ferron, Lucy Blue Tremblay, JoAnn Loulan, and more. Cost \$95 at the Gate. Information: (503)223-7237.

July 9. SELF-ACCEPTANCE BEYOND SHAME --

topic of talk and discussion lead by lesbian therapist Sara Joy David at 7:30 behind library at Centre For Self Awareness, University Heights Plaza. Call 721-0405 (centre) or call Barbara McLaughlin, 479-2445. This is a Gay Positive Event for lesbians and gays seeking a spiritual place to express.

July 11. BRAINSTORMING SESSION

to discuss future events, including the 2ND LESBIANTICS FESTIVAL, will be held at 1975 Haultain Street at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call Mary 598-8040.

July 17-18. SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Yes, lesbians and lovers of, this is our summer to rejoice and acknowledge athletic women at VIC WEST PARK (behind the Davinci Centre on Bay Street). The Government League playoffs will be starring our two favourite lesbian ball teams: V.I. Sisters and Vicious Rumours. Of course, there are a substantial amount of sisters on the other teams, as well. But wait. If this weekend is not open on your love calendar, then you have one last chance....

July 18. GAY PRIDE "BRING-YOUR-OWN" PICNIC AT BEACON HILL PARK.

Hosted by the Victoria Gay/Lesbian Pride Society, this annual event is now in it's third year. Contact Colin at 598-4617.

July 23. WOMEN'S NIGHT --

Rumors, 7:30-11.

July 23. HOT FLASHES COFFEE

HOUSE. 8-11 p.m. 106 Superior St. \$2.00. Enjoy coffee, fun, delicious desserts. If you missed Lesbiantics, there will be a video of "Dykes thru the Ages Fashion Show" at 8:15.

July 30, 31 & August 1. September 3, 4 & 5. Lesbian Camp-out.

Camping facilities have been reserved on these

two weekends at Ruckle Provincial Park on Saltspring Island. Contact Pat Ford at 370-2964 for more information.

August 5-7. MORE SOFTBALL.

Don't miss out on THE weekend of wild women. We're talking about Victoria's 2nd Annual Lesbian Softball Tournament at McDonald Park in James Bay. So many women (possibly 16-20 teams), so little time, and yet so much to do. Any financial or physical assistance would be much appreciated. We are still looking for volunteers for the Ball Tournery and Dance. What lesbians should look out for on this weekend: Friday - Women's Night at Rumours, possibly a ball game. Saturday - too many wild women? NEVER! Cocktail Party at B.J.'s 4:00 p.m. - ? and Dance (location and time not yet available). Oh yes, and more softball. Sunday - more frenzied ball and the Finals. Come on down to McDonald Park and enjoy the festivities. This will be ONE WILD WEEKEND you will not soon forget. Contact Corinne at 380-0994 for more information.

August 20. HOT FLASHES COFFEE

HOUSE. Date and special events yet to be confirmed. For more info call Sheila, 386-2751, or Elizabeth, 384-1787.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADS

DUPLEX for rent: 3 BR, main floor, deck, laundry, etc. Esquimalt/Vic West area. \$1000 includes all. 384-3619.

SUBSCRIBE to *The Open Door*, a newsletter for rural feminists and lesbians. Subscription by donation. Submissions welcomed. **The Open Door, C4 Site 20 RR #2, Burns Lake, B.C. V0J 1E0.**

LINKING LESBIANS ACROSS CANADA Correspondence Club, privacy guaranteed, 18 years of age & over. Write: LYNX, P.O. Box 4759 Station E, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5H9.

LESBIAN SENIOR CARE SOCIETY. Our aim is to acquire a house for senior lesbians where we can provide care which recognizes our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs. We are a non-profit society whose philosophy is to empower senior lesbians needing

care. Send donations, ideas, contact names and addresses to Lesbian Seniors Care Society, P.O. Box 8552, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3S2 or phone 386-8380.

WOMEN'S REEL VISION is now accepting submissions for its non-juried Women's Film and Video Festival scheduled for this Fall, 1993.



Documentary, video art, animation, experimental and dramatic works by women are welcome. For a submission entry form, please write to: Women's Reel Vision, c/o Sandra MacDonald, 2040 Creighton Street, #3, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 3R2.

DROP-IN SOFTBALL -- Fisherman's Wharf Park, Sunday afternoons, 2:30.

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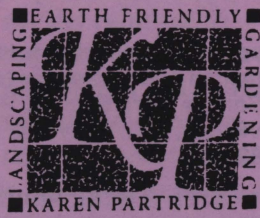
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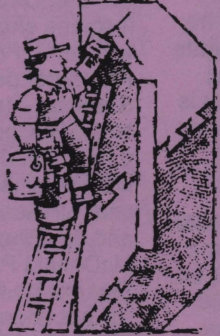


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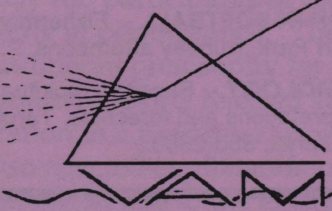
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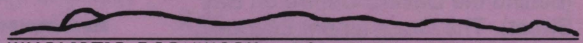


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