

# **V**NEWS

BC's Premiere Lesbian Magazine

## **What's Inside**

### **Pride Week 98**

Carol Pope comes to town for Pride!  
Your complete schedule.

### **Indigo Girls Canned**

Three southern U.S. highschoools cancel concerts due to concerns over their sexual preference.

### **Quotes & Queries**

Your sneak preview of what is by no means the first lesbian *soap*-opera, but is the first lesbian opera. What it means when you find out your date doesn't know lesbians desire women.

and much  
more ...



### **Loving Her, Loving Her Art**

Rebecca Van Skyver and friend  
(photo by Michele Moses).





Lesbian News was founded  
September 1988.

It is LNews effective Vol. 8 Issue 5  
Logo designed by Patrice Snopkowski of  
Out West Design

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be edited for space and clarity. Copy is  
considered to be the property of LNews.  
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nied by address and telephone. Only under  
extraordinary circumstances, discussed with  
you, will unsigned articles/letters be printed.

**Deadline for advertising and for written  
submissions is the 1st of the month  
prior to publication.**

While LNews is a lesbian publication it  
should not be assumed that all advertisers,  
contributors, letter-writers are lesbian. All  
may assumed to be lesbian-positive  
or allies.

LNews is a division of the Lesbian  
Community Connections Foundation. The  
LCC mandate is to provide a monthly  
written forum for lesbians and allies that  
celebrates all aspects of lesbian, bisexual  
lives, to promote a healthy, visible  
community by giving voice to and honoring  
diverse and common interests and to  
promote dialogue on such issues as class,  
culture, racial differences  
and disabilities.

LNews is sold individually at Bolen Books at  
Hillside Mall for \$3.50 per issue.

A subscription is \$25. per year. Cheques are  
payable to LNews. LNews mailing address is  
P.O. Box 5339, Station B. Victoria, B.C.  
V8R 6S4

We are just about to celebrate our  
Pride in being who we are as lesbians  
and gays in a community and a  
province that seems to celebrate with  
us. It is interesting that we used to ask  
for tolerance. We moved on to carry  
placards asking for acceptance, not  
tolerance. Now, I hope, we are all  
asking simply that others celebrate  
with us: join us in honoring the  
diversity that makes us all  
community.

It is a tall order to ask for that same  
acceptance amongst ourselves. We are  
so different. We are gay, we are  
lesbian, we are bisexual and  
transgendered, transsexual. We are  
young; we are old; we are new to  
community; we are new to our  
sexual preference. We are passionate  
people with passionate opinions on so  
many different things, depending  
upon our newness, our outness, our  
age and our experience.

Pride Day, and surrounding events  
during Pride Week, is our chance to  
show our talents, our sense of fun,  
our sense of celebration and, above  
all, our sense of pride (not  
acceptance) in who we are; to  
celebrate that diversity expressed in  
our experience of living in the life.

A small committee has formed  
itself out of the old Pride Society to  
create these events. I honour their  
commitment and hard work; I think  
they go overboard with the activities  
post parade. Others don't agree with  
me, but I'd be happy with a picnic,  
hot dogs supplied by the Society. To  
me, that's a fine representation of

family values and a good way to  
celebrate our various communities,  
families, etc. within the broader  
community. Right now the set-up  
tends to divide our interests between  
the stage and the stalls. Those of us  
interested in the stalls a raucous  
attempt to entertain. A dance with  
Carol Pope might prove one way to  
get the gals and guys out together en  
masse.

Whatever my opinion, and  
however we choose to celebrate, let  
us remember that oneness and being  
out there celebrating like mad is what  
it's all about. Until the time comes  
when we don't need a parade, we  
need to parade. Come. Be a part of.  
See you there.

I was sad to note the decision to  
cease publishing by Angles Magazine  
in Vancouver. The little paper  
provided another look at our lives,  
often editorially different in  
perspective from the more powerful  
and commercial Xtra West. Darn, it  
also gave us Alison Bechdel cartoons.  
We join in sending best wishes to all  
who worked so hard to make Angles  
another voice in our divergent  
community.

**Please note this is the  
July/August issue. Next deadline  
is August 1 for September.**

BMcL



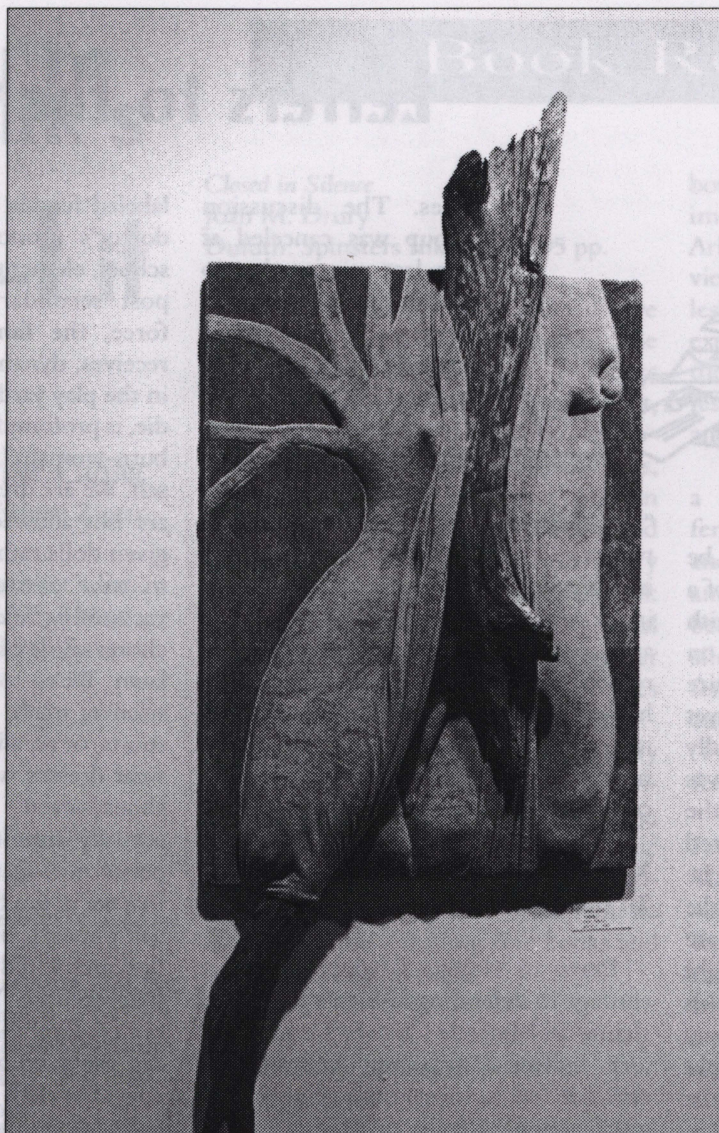
by Barbara McLaughlin

Yes, Virginia there is dyke art. We have seen so much of it lately. It doesn't have to be dyke-ish on canvas, or dyke-ish in form. It's dyke-ish in its wonderful, deep, adoring, love of women: in the way it looks at women. Here's one show that I'll hold in visual memory for a long, long time.

You know when you see a Volkswagen made entirely of fabric in the window of an art gallery, what's inside is going to be fun. What the window doesn't prepare the viewer for is the all the other emotions evoked by fabric sculptor Rebecca Van Skyver in her show, *Emergence*. Bec marked 25 years since her first one-person show in Saskatoon, 1973, at Martin Batchelor Gallery on Cormorant St. May 14.

Inside, my eyes were drawn to "Implant" and "Transplant" two fabric pieces depicting women's torsos with pieces of driftwood running through the centre and off to the side. Wince. There's too much of that going on right now. It's painful to watch, painful to be reminded that we live in a time when women are having to deal with missing parts, death, pain and limited time. As a piece of art, however, I can only thank Bec for making the statement, for being so much a part of where she lives in her own woman heart.

The work, all of it, demands, begs, to be touched. It is



# Bec Emerges and We Remember

sensuous. I want to climb in and be a part of it. I want to have the moon in my bedroom—moon mirror, moon chest of drawers, moon chair. I want to drag in the moments when the sea lifts itself off the walls and climbs into my spirit. The earth supporting woman. The woman being wanton.

"I don't work with an idea, I am totally right brain," Bec explained to me. "I just feel it and do it and then, afterwards, I name them [finished product]."

For example, she explained as we stood before the arbutus-filled bodies of the women in *Implant* and *Transplant*, nature and human form merged. The idea of pain came later with the titles.

Bec likes to play. The idea of making human forms to look like something else is a big part of that fun. For example: there was a chair built like a woman, embracing her own knees. She begged for climbing into, or onto; I did. And there was the tie rack that looked like an arm. And the leg just standing there. I lost it. Goofy. Wonderful.

There was marvelous play on the dressmaker's dummy. Where does the dummy begin and the dressmaker start?

Bec, we want more of this. We need more of this. Please, do it again.

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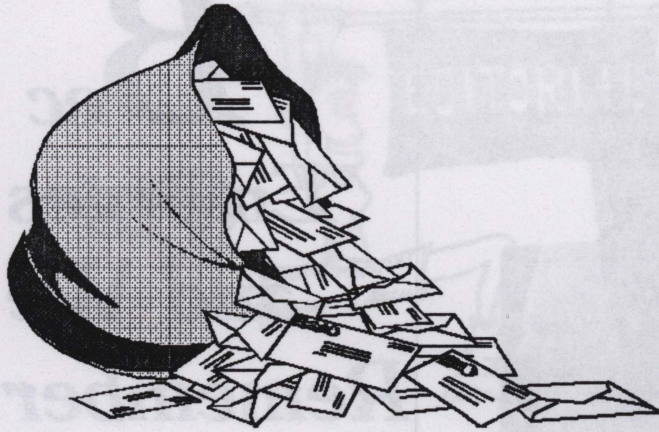
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# Letters to the Editor



**Hi Barbara,**

I was wondering if you would be interested in publishing the full text of a letter that I wrote to *Xtra West* along with the background to the letter. You see, on publication *Xtra West* left out the entire second to last paragraph of the letter, yet is this paragraph that most profoundly speaks to the issue which I was addressing. Legal issues aside, it is the crux of women born women shared characteristics that I had hoped would be made apparent to readers. I would like for people to appreciate that issues are rarely as black and white as they might first seem. Perhaps, if you publish this background information and my complete letter, our community might have some valuable insight around the gray areas of life.

It all started with an *Xtra West* editorial accusing lesbians of discriminating against transgendered women. Basically, Lesbians were said to have become the privileged oppressor of an even more oppressed group. The events cited as evidence of this discrimination were threefold. Firstly, a Lesbian Coming Out group had voted not to admit a transgendered woman now identifying as a lesbian. In a nut shell, the group felt that their issues around coming out as women loving women were different from those of a person raised as a man but identifying as a woman, going through the transgendered process and now identifying as a Lesbian. The group wanted to keep the focus on their shared issues. Secondly, a discussion group organized around International Women's Day had invited "women born women" to meet to discuss what that phrase meant to them and how it affected their

lives. The discussion group was canceled at the last minute due to hostile phone calls and protests of those identifying themselves as speaking on behalf of transgendered women. Finally, an anonymous writer had stuffed an "anti-transgendered" flyer into at least two copies of *Xtra West*. This last incident was undoubtedly discriminatory in content, however, it was an anonymous note and so there was no reasonable basis to conclude that lesbians had either written the note or supported its content. Accordingly, it was with respect to the first two events that my comments were addressed as follows:

**Xtra West  
To the Editor:**

Bravo to Nadine Chambers for her courage in defending lesbian's rights and shame on Michelle Clancey for her knee jerk editorial placing unwarranted criticism on various lesbian community organizations. I refer, of course, to *Xtra West*'s editorial logic that to host a women-born women meeting or discussion group equates to discrimination against transgendered women. This equation does not hold up to critical scrutiny.

Yes, our Charter of Rights contains the section 15 right to equality protection without discrimination. An indisputable fundamental right that should not be denied to any identifiable group. The mere fact of forming a group based on common characteristics and thus are precluded from the group. In section 2 of the Charter, the right of citizens to form groups based on common characteristics is recognized: "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms... freedom of association." The freedom of such association is as fundamental to the human condition as is the right to equality.

The experience of being born and

labeled female from the moment of the doctor's pronouncement through play school, elementary and secondary school, post secondary education, the work force, the family, the parenting one receives, dynamics between siblings and in the play yard, aging, and to the day we die, is profoundly important to a woman-born-woman Lesbian's inner and outer self. We are dressed in pink, told that we are not allowed to play with the boys, given dolls rather than Tonka toys, made to wear dresses, assigned the laundry, vacuuming, and other household tasks as chores while our brothers get to mow the lawn. We're told that we can't excel in science, math, woodwork, automobiles, sports, or parallel parking. We're made to wear dresses with open toe high-heeled shoes—even in the winter. We're sexually assaulted, abused, battered and penetrated against our will. We're told that we're too fat, our hair's not long and full enough, our tits are too small, our lips aren't red enough, our legs aren't long enough. We're taught to focus on our cooking and cleaning skills so that we can grow up and catch a husband. Sex education tells that we should only fuck to conceive. Fake orgasm if you have to, but make sure that you service your man. Our gynecological concerns are treated with indifference. Provided we've borne sufficient children, our wombs are cut out without a second thought. We're advised to fight at all costs to save our breasts, even at the risk of our lives. Better to die full-breasted than to live flat chested. When we age, we live in poverty. Without a man, we are second class citizens. "Menopause" and "widow" are dirty words.

While only a partial list, these factors just might contribute to a desire to associate with other's with the same life experiences. To commensurate, to console, to support. Such a desire is founded on the freedom of association, not on discrimination. To equate this desire with denial of equality is tenuous at best.

Janna L. Sylvest



# Nik's Chick-Lit

## *Ransacking the Closet*

By Yvonne Zipter

Duluth: Spinster's Inc.,  
1995, 210 pp.,  
\$9.95US paper

by Nikki Tate-Stratton

Zipter says of her collection of lesbian life essays that she is attempting to explore "what a normal, regular, and yet goofy and wonderful thing it is to be a part of the diverse and incredible culture constructed by lesbians." Yes, she's quirky, and, yes, she's funny.

And, she covers a whole lot of territory. She provides guidance on clothing choices for lesbians based on particular community affiliations (i.e. 'leather dykes' most certainly do not shop at the same place as 'crunchy dykes' or 'Brand X Lesbians') and painfully does NOT talk about her sex life (she mumbles a lot in print about, you know, 'down there'). Zipter's zany observations about lesbian life are dreadfully perceptive. Being someone who occasionally bolts wide awake at 3AM to ponder questions like, "What the heck does a real lesbian look like?" or, "Why am I perpetually late?" or, as Neil Sadaka claimed, "Is breaking up always hard to do?" I must say I appreciated this handy dandy field guide to lesbian living. Chuckling away certainly distracted me from my more serious (and terribly boring) musings on life!

## *Closed in Silence*

Joan M. Drury

Duluth: Spinsters Ink, 1998, 195 pp.

*Closed in Silence* has received rave reviews from seemingly everyone. The Library Journal says "Drury . . . offers seductive prose, a caring protagonist, wonderful scenery, and small-town idiosyncrasies." The New York Times says, "What this introspective novel lacks in urgency it makes up in character and atmosphere." Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine declares: "This book has it all: a mature and engaging protagonist, local color and suspense, all woven together with a fascinating backstory that makes this one impossible to put down."

All this hype about a lesbian mystery novel which has been described variously as 'unforgettable, mesmerizing, provocative and deliciously tantalizing' has put it at the top of my summer reading list. I'll let you know what I think. Ah, what a job - reading fine books and spouting off about them!

## **What's New In Gender Construction?**

Looking for new reading about gender construction and identity? The Women's Review of Books (April, 1998) offers a couple of intriguing possibilities.

## *Sex and Sensibility: Stories of a Lesbian Generation*

Arlene Stein

Berkley: University of California Press,  
1997, 250 pp.,  
\$16.95 paper, \$45.00 hardcover

## *Femme: Feminists, Lesbians, and Bad Girls.*

Edited by Laura Harris and Elizabeth Crocker

New York: Routledge, 1997, 222 pp.,  
\$17.95 paper

Described by reviewer Karen Kahn as, "lively and well-written," Kahn promises

both titles will "feed our intellectual imaginations." In *Sex and Sensibility*, Arlene Stein relates the findings of interviews she conducted with 30 baby-boom lesbians. Through these women, Stein explores the legacy of lesbian feminists, the politics of lesbianism, sexual desire, lesbian consciousness, class privilege, androgyny, and cultural differences.

Fifteen women contributed to *Femme*, a collection "about the meaning of femme identity in the context of feminist and queer politics." The editors, Harris and Crocker, argue that feminism, because of its rejection of femininity, silenced femmes." Are femmes "real feminists? real lesbians?" The theme of authenticity is one which runs through "Femmes," a book trying to shed light on femme identity.

Julia Query's review of *Every Woman I've Ever Loved: Lesbian Writers on Their Mothers* (also in the April issue of WRB) states several times that the thoughts and feelings shared by lesbian contributors to this anthology could have been written by anyone. Lesbians do not, after all, have a monopoly on mothers. Query is generally pleased with this collection edited by Catherine Reid and Holly Iglesias and published in 1997 by Cleis Press in San Francisco (\$16.95 paper). Strong writing by well-established writers (e.g. Audre Lorde, Joan Nestle) and newcomers is what makes this honest and

insightful anthology worth hunting down.

## **Call For Submissions**

For those of you with a pen in hand and a story about your aging parents to tell, *An Anthology of Writing by the Daughters of Aging Parents* is looking for personal essays 3500-8000 words in length. Deadline is August 1, 1998. For more details, send a SAE and an IRC (or sufficient US postage) to:

Jean Gould/Daughters,  
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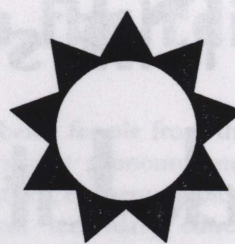
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# Sue's Sun Signs



## ARIES

Red tape. Have-to-dos. Impending, unfamiliar surroundings. Check your attitude, then you'll appreciate what you've got, or about to get. It's a bit scary, but use baby steps. The old thought processes must go, as new door's open all around. Keeping stuck does nothing for your future so go through the doors of life expressively. A good dose of sex at home can be a good antidote, as too can social visits, short or long haul. Well it is holiday time. Communication is very important for you this month. The seeds you sow now will reflect on the future. Make time to holiday and give yourself a break. You deserve it.

understanding. Back stabbers should be avoided, or put straight. Shine through, exude, express true feelings.



## GEMINI

Problems on the home front knock you back. There's confusion about desires; why suffer in silence. Do something unusual, something you've wanted to do that will make you feel good. Get in touch with those you love, or have not seen for a while. You can take any situation and turn it to your advantage. So how about a candlelit dinner for two at home! A break is as good as a rest. Open up a line of communicative reasoning, without risking your neck. You're doing fine, so give yourself a pat on the back. Untouchable originality prevails. One main deal comes to a conclusion and burdens lift.



## TAURUS

Personal relations are heavily marked this month for Taureans and can be quite heart wrenching at times. Where seriousness versus friendliness is concerned once an end has been put to an affair, you can take control of your feelings once more. You can create love and wealth when you put your mind to it, so have fun at social events, just watch getting involved. Things on all sorts of levels will be thrown in your path which are not good for the future—somebody may just be riding you! Aptly take the bit in your teeth, use your brain and "Talk". This will give you greater



## CANCER

Brainstorms—the time is looming for the end of solace. Once past, you'll breathe again. Your position (& you are the pivot) stems the future of someone else. It's a hard one for them to swallow too. Just keep to the facts; no side-stepping. Who's looking after you? You Are - Its your future too. Any sexual encounters keep hush about. The less people know the better as your social circle is separate from your personal life. There's a line between fun and



fantasy. One step back, two forward. If you have to, call a lawyer. A fresh start will be yours. Life will ease. A new affair on the horizon.



### LEO

People can really be hurtful. No moping. Get out and about anyway and you'll be surprised at what there is to offer! LOTS. So one set up did not work, well they don't know what they're missing out on that's for sure. Remember the cash reserves, you're very busy so be prepared to move if you have to. Become the life of the party. The pleasure and the pain. No pain no gain. Vanity is my favorite sin. Failure is not an option either. Am I getting through?!



### VIRGO

Watch becoming demonstrative at work. Actions speak louder than words. It's time to holiday. Where the "other" is concerned, the idea of what's to come is quite exciting. All work and no play makes for a very dull day; so ease up, relax, get a nice massage. Get work and play into balance. Enjoy people. Flattery and promises have great benefits. Get all the papers signed, deals completed, finalize, buy the tickets & set sail to HONOLULU. If you're thinking of getting serious, timing is of the essence, just check the stability of the situation. Fun is one thing U-haul is another. Relaxation is the order of the day.



### LIBRA

Not all affairs work out. So! There's plenty more to play with out there. Luck's on your side and you're making all the right 'wiggles'. Just beware putting your foot in it (sorry for the pun, Barbara, hope you're better soon). If you want to feel better connect yourself to the doers of the world, becoming what you aspire to, and not what others think you should be. Do it!!

If someone makes you an offer, take it. The weirdest things can turn out to be the greatest fun; it doesn't have to be serious you know. Sometimes it's good to let yourself make mistakes. Growth. Experience. Naughty but nice!!



### SCORPIO

Pink is the color of passion! There's a lot you want to do, and with the right kind of help, anything's possible. You may well be seen as some sort of sex maniac - GREAT - (Lucky sod) to those who count your good. Short term affairs, what ever, enjoy it. You pick your long term partner. So Flirt; you know where your heart lies. If you can't find the right response in one place, you're in the wrong place—it's waiting for you. A new house, car, pick what suites you. You want to heal then get real; get serious will you - be like me I bought a Pink & Purple Tuck!!! Hey.



### SAGITTARIUS

When are you going sex aid shopping? What are you going to get this time? It really would help to perk things up with partners, even if they're absent! You really do want to see someone—so what's stopping you? Everything; only if you let it. You have to make the effort to make positive gains. Rule your own path, let go and move on to the future as there's a lot to be had. Get on your horse. If the mundane things of life rule you, it's your own doing—you'll be stuck in your own rut. Think you can handle it? Wrong. There's someone special just loving & lusting over you. Serious stuff. A new life experience so let them in.



### CAPRICORN

On your own in your ideals? Feel you're not getting your fair share? Then apply yourself. Settle affairs. You look as though you about to take the

plunge. You want things done the right way and you have "creative ways" with your partner but, beware getting shirty. Your partner will show she's complimentary to your character. Give her grace as she grants you dignity. Setting the rules between you is important, as is good judgement and understanding. Then celebrate. It's fun when dreams come true. Its worth it. What more can one say?



### AQUARIUS

Acquaintances come thick and fast to your attractive honey pot. You'll have a lot of fun at work doing what comes naturally; just make sure you don't lose your keys, or leave dirty underwear hanging about for that unexpected home visit. Others may feel left out, so include those potential beauties in what you're doing. Have fun with family and friends, No aloof coldness; warm heart's the trick. Your personal life is extremely busy - onward and upward. Its Hols time. A family vacation is a must so sort out bills before you go—don't worry they'll still be there when you get back if you forget any!!



### PISCES

Are you really carrying the world on your shoulders? Does your partner really not care? Look again. Inner adjustment means outer adjustment means manifestation. Come on lets go down the sex shop! There's a cozy little nest waiting for you, and fun too. O.K. Work's a drudge, so be creative, Failure is not an option. Enjoy. Joint pleasure, joint work. A trouble shared is a trouble halved. Get deals set up. Work hard, play hard, set ground rules, business. Then make moves. A nice holiday away from it all is what's needed here. A brand new world, so out of the doldrums, the wind is up, set sail. Talk to your partner they can be quite helpful. Open up. You're in demand for all sorts of reasons. Enjoy life.



# Peas, Sweet Peas

Anna introduced me to the garden.

(Show me, my beloved,  
the hallowed simplicities  
of planting, tending, harvesting.)

My education began by accident. I had arrived for tea in her walled garden just outside Paris to find her kneeling at the edge of a bare patch of dirt. At least, that's how I saw it at the time. Little did I know the secrets, the complex answers that lie in the rich soil of a well-loved garden. So engaged! was she in her task, she didn't notice me slip in through her gate, pause to watch, drink her in.

(Such a marvelous strong back,  
arms gentle but firm  
dig and push, respond to rhythms  
echoing through the cords of her lithe  
body, echoing time-honoured ritual  
and habit.)

Her long hair was tucked up under her big floppy sun hat, the brim of which bobbed up and down with each motion backwards and forwards. She told me later she was preparing a bed for peas.

At the end of our tea, she asked if I would like to help her plant the peas. To me, her invitation was an enchanted request; I was compelled to agree and joined her in the sun. Working side by side, we levelled and smoothed, crumbling the largest clumps of dirt through our fingers, pulling out any small weeds she had missed earlier.

The ease with which we slipped into a shared and familiar rhythm caught us both by surprise. Anna poked holes at regular intervals, I dropped a dry, hard pea into each. We took turns patting dirt back over those little buried treasures, rocked back on our heels and admired our work.

When next I came to visit, the pea plants were nearly six inches tall and bursting with the excitement of early

potential. I had never seen such a delicate green, or tendrils so fine and determined, the first already embracing the lowest edge of the trellis. Anna informed me we needed to weed. Happily, I took my place at her side and began to work. Once, as I reached for a stray dandelion, my forearm brushed against hers. The current that passed between us was immense—a moment fully shared, a moment which, had it been ignored, might soon have been forgotten. Ignoring such moments is not one of my particular talents. It wasn't long before I was checking up on those peas nearly every day. Anna joked that I would move in when the vigorous stalks bore fruit. I didn't think I could wait that long.

We tended our babies with excessive devotion. Splashed each other with rain-water from the barrel, giggled like girls as we moved our chairs closer to the pea patch so we could dig our bare toes into the warm soil. We talked and talked and talked of all those things marvelous and gentle that fill the hearts and minds of women falling in love.

I knew something significant had happened when, one day, Anna met me on the street as I rode up on my bicycle.

"Simone!" she cried, her dark eyes sparkling. "You must come quickly!"

She took both my hands in hers and ran backwards, tugging at me to hurry.

"Close your eyes," she said. Faithfully I followed her as she led the way across the garden. "Now, my darling, open your mouth."

I did and I felt a tiny, round morsel dropping onto my tongue. A pea, still warm from the sun.

I said that which didn't need to be said. "Mmmmm, Anna. Delicious."

Yes, delicious. I opened my eyes.

"Sit down," she said, patting the grass beside her. She took my hand and squeezed it gently. "The pleasure of celebration," she said like a solemn pronouncement. And then she reached back to pluck, oh, so casually, a full and

swollen pod from the vine.

In that languorous reach, that slow stretch, her long, sure fingers knowing just the pressure to apply to retrieve the precious green package without breaking the vine—in that moment of contact—we completed some sort of ancient, mystic circle—Anna's other hand still held in mine, her reach back behind her into a moment which was hers alone and which she chose to share—in that moment I saw within her that remarkable ability of someone who allows life energy to flow through her, unchanged—in that moment I felt a connection beyond that of friendship, one of splendor, of balance, of finding myself suspended in the infinite wisdom of the most pure kind of love.

"Here," Anna murmured, "allow me, my sweet." I watched, entranced, those talented fingers stripping the little green thread off the spine of the pod, her thumbs pressing along either side of the emergent split, pulling back the cupped, protective sides of the pod, opening my heart, my spirit escaping to mingle with hers as she rolled the tiny, delicate peas ahead of her nudging thumb, dropped those plump, fragile pearls into my cupped hand.

My spine dissolved. I could do nothing else but succumb to the welcoming embrace of Mother Earth, conspiratrice, sink back and receive the gift of each pea presented with such reverent grace by Anna who placed first one in my mouth, and then one in her own before leaning forward and brushing my cheek with her soft, full lips.

(I consumed your teachings,  
bit into your textbook apple,  
sun-warmed and golden,  
dribbled sweet juices down my chin.)

Each year at this time I think of Anna's walled garden, and the simple discoveries we made there together. And, I look out into my own carefully tended garden, the sweet peas climbing along the fence, and I am comforted by the rich possibilities out there, the gifts which await.



off the Net via N T-S

The most controversial music group in the country this month was not a gangsta rap or shock rock band, but the Indigo Girls, the politically and ecologically minded, Grammy-winning female guitar duo. A spokeswoman for the band's label, Epic, said no one was more surprised than the Indigo Girls themselves when three of five performances on a tour of high schools this spring were canceled by school administrators.

Officials at the high school in Irmo, S.C., were so serious about the cancellation that when students protested their decision, five of them were suspended for eight days. It didn't stop the students from protesting, however: they have filed a lawsuit seeking damages from the school superintendent and principal. Schools in Germantown and Knoxville, Tenn., also backed out of scheduled concerts by the band.

The reason, school administrators say, is the band's offensive lyrics and complaints from parents. Though Amy

Ray of the Indigo Girls called the principals of these schools and promised not to play any songs with profanity, the administrators refused to back down. Students as well as the Epic label say the concerts were canceled because the band members are openly gay, but principals, among them Edwin Hedgepath of Knoxville, maintain that there was no way to make sure the band wouldn't use profanity in front of students. He cited a previous Indigo Girls performance at a high school in which a song with a curse word was used.

Scouring albums by the Indigo Girls for dirty lyrics, however, is like watching "Barney" for signs of intelligence: they are few and far between. That isn't to say, however, that the Indigo Girls don't have their crude moments.

Here are four of their more subversive lyrics, so you can decide for yourself if this is the sort of thing young people should be exposed to: they Advocate Cutting Classes—"I remember the time when I came so close with you/Sent me skipping my class and running from school/And I bought you that ring cause

# Indigo Girl Power is Squelched

I was never cool" (from *Least Complicated*).

They Worship Pagan Religions – "You had to bring up reincarnation over a couple of beers the other night?/Now I'm serving time for mistakes made by another in another lifetime/How long till my soul gets it right?" (from *Galileo*).

They Employ Unorthodox Methods of Teaching History—"Europe shed the blood of Indians/Here I sit in the land of plenty/Crying about my own virginity"

(from *Scooter Boys*). They Encourage Acceptance of Alternative Life Styles—"Hate me cause I'm different, hate me cause I'm gay/Truth of the matter come around one day" (from *It's All right*).

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# Quotes & Queries: News & views from

**Margarethe Cammermeyer**, one of three out lesbians running for U.S. Congress, continues to inspire awe—as well as “homosexual panic” on the campaign trail (Out, May 1998). Cammermeyer, who was thrust into the public spotlight when her courageous legal battle over her military discharge was turned into a successful made-for-TV movie, is understandably disgruntled by her single-issue profile: “How long will it be before that isn’t the adjective, the descriptive term? How about retired military officer? How about retired nurse? How about, you know, human being, mother, grandmother? How about just my name?”. Cammermeyer and her partner of 10 years, artist Diane Divelbess, are planning on an Olivia cruise vacation after the election—win or lose. Joining thousands of dykes on deck is “the only time that I can truly remember feeling relaxed and just enjoying being,” said Cammermeyer, a skilled guitarist who entertained passengers on

her last cruise by joining Tret Fure and Cris Williamson onstage.

**Victoria Brownworth**, whose regular column in Curve is one of my favourite reads, comments on the Anne Heche phenomenon (“the girl everybody loves to hate”) in the May issue. She notes that “the vitriol now surrounding Heche is shocking, even by Hollywood standards, where dishing is high art.” Queers and straights alike impunge her “motives” for hooking up with Ellen DeGeneres — both finding Heche “too het to be lesbian,” writes Brownworth. Here’s her thought-provoking conclusion: “When we trash Heche for leaving men to be with a smart, funny woman like DeGeneres, we expose our own internalized homophobia. We say no woman like Heche — attractive, sexy, on Mr. Blackwell’s best-dressed list—would leave men for one of us unless there was something in it for her. What does that

say about us?”

**Amy Ray** has issued a press release on the cancellation of Indigo Girls concerts in Tennessee and South Carolina: “The idea of a high school tour came about after Emily and I were judges in a student lyric writing content sponsored by *Scholastic Magazine*. The words we read begged for and exalted in the chance to be expressed. The broad range of topics included: political activism, love, sonnets, sexual abuse and alienation. We were struck by the students’ energy and willingness to engage in and question life. The intent of this tour was apolitical. After carefully reading and approving our lyrical content six high schools agreed to host a free show which included a question and answer session. The expenses were to be covered by the Indigo Girls. We have had three shows cancelled, citing reasons such as profanity and most importantly sexual preference. The profanity issue is an obvious red herring—the irony being that we have more often been accused of being too spiritual and “clean.” A minority composed of homophobic, narrow minded parents and weak-kneed principals and school boards have successfully enforced a policy of hate. Our public schools should be a safe environment for an open exchange of ideas and chance to explore one’s own individuality. The impossibility and hypocrisy of a situation where kids are expected to be honest but are judged and alienated from their community because of it should not escape us. In response to these circumstances, we are playing alternate shows — alcohol free, all ages, after school. Thanks to the kids who are standing by us..”

**Wendy Persons** knew 17 years ago that she would create the first lesbian-themed opera—based on Isabel Miller’s classic 1972 novel *Patience & Sarah*. She turned a crush on a certain soprano into

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# the lesbian & gay press, and queer cyberspace

a creative frenzy: "To impress her I finished the first draft in three weeks," Persons told *The Advocate* (May 12). Alas, it wasn't a reciprocal attraction, so the libretto was shelved until 1989 when Persons fell in love with composer Paula Kimper. They persuaded the reclusive Miller to grant the rights to her novel. Person recalls: "Isabel Miller wasn't an opera lover, but both her ex-lover and her lover were. 'This is all a bit much for me, but my friends tell me it's very good'" said Miller, who died three years ago. The enduring love portrayed in *Patience & Sarah* isn't the stuff of real life, in this romantic story. The opera became the focus for a transition from lovers to friends when Persons and Kimper broke up in 1996. Its world premiere is set for New York in July as part of Lincoln Center Festival 98.

**Chai Feldblum**, writing in *Circles Magazine* (March-April '98) — a new lesbian mag (\$5.95 at Bolen Books) effectively challenges the "status-conduct distinction" that's being argued in U.S. courts. Judges and plaintiffs for same-sex rights often separate being queer from having queer sex. Feldblum writes: "I've never understood the logic of an argument that assumes that, when I tell you 'I am a lesbian,' you can deduce nothing about whether I might have some desire or yearning to have sex and physical intimacy with a woman. (Gee, if you don't get that, this date is going really badly.) And I have had serious questions about the integrity of such an argument for our community." She argues persuasively that "unless we deal positively with the moral legitimacy of desiring and engaging in such sex, we may win a few battles along the way to gay equality, but we will lose the ultimate war of complete and true equality."

**PS:** Well, it's summer and socializing is right up there on my agenda. So if you know Emily's last name and you're single, and the following intrigues you, suggest a time and place for a walk and a talk (if email is your medium, it's mlasovich@tinet.net). Sorry, Barb, this is a totally unauthorized taking advantage of my column sidestep of the classified...but you forgive me, right? Ohmygod but this is nervy, so it must be my mid-life, edging toward menopause shift or at least that's what I'll say when I look back in five years or 10 and laugh. I'm doing a lot of laughing right now, so I'll modestly describe myself as good company, a conversationalist and reader with eclectic tastes, endless curiosity, a risk-taker with common sense. I have a road-worthy van and a map—seeking a buddy for a road trip on the mainland for a week or so in early August.

- by mary lasovich

Q

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# blood letting

by Jill Goodacre

maybe it's  
'you're too understanding'  
or maybe  
i don't wanna let you in  
i've kind got this  
through thick and thin thing  
this all or nothing  
leaves me for broke when I empty my pockets  
then jump ship for southeast asia

i'm like an orchid  
won't be picked  
i think you're gonna put me in water  
use that red vase  
with the narrowing nec  
the one you got for valentine's  
but not from me  
—that x-lover who hovers over yesterday—  
i think this even when it's not so

then in my wildest dreams  
i see you hanging  
from a banana tree  
in some frighteningly well-ordered jungle  
you—as macbeth—

and a bunch of hairy suits  
do shakespeare in monkey language  
— chatter, then let blood—  
poison souls who considered  
sending  
roots  
into  
flesh

i might be one of those souls  
or maybe I'm just  
a drop of blood you let  
the red shed by mistake  
from your brush  
that day you painted my jungle dream  
that day it hung on your wall still  
wet  
that canvas like my white flesh  
you'd longed to cover

*Ed note: Ms Goodacre, aka Betty Crocker, has just been awarded a scholarship to study poetry with Patrick Lane. No wonder we like her stuff.*

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offnet thanks Jeanne Rioux

**SUMMARY:** The first Canadian province to grant employee pensions to same-sex partners did so without waiting for a pending federal appeal on the definition of "spouse".

Nova Scotia announced May 25 that it will pay pension benefits to surviving same-gender partners of its government employees beginning July 1, becoming the first Canadian province to do so. The benefits had already been available to unmarried heterosexual survivors. The decision came as the province settled complaints to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission brought by two gay men in 1995, and followed last month's ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeals striking down the Income Tax Act's exclusively heterosexual definition of "spouse" as unconstitutional. Other provinces have been waiting to see whether the federal government will act before its June 22 deadline to appeal the Ontario ruling, which found that a private pension fund should be allowed to extend pension benefits to same-gender domestic partners without losing its tax-exempt status. Nova Scotia has ordered benefits to be paid directly from the civil service and Nova Scotia Teacher Union pension plans, but if the federal government appeals the Ontario decision, Nova Scotia will pay the benefits from its own government funds. A Nova Scotia Finance Department spokesperson said that expanding the new benefits to the province's entire public service is "just a matter of crossing t's and dotting i's" and will cost relatively little.

The Nova Scotia Human Rights

Commission hailed the settlement it helped to mediate, confident that both Nova Scotia's private sector and other provincial governments will follow suit. A New Brunswick government spokesperson said his province will "automatically" extend pension benefits to same-gender partners if the Income Tax Law changes; currently, NB pays them vested contributions in lump sums.

Some other provinces, such as Ontario, and a number of private firms, have arranged for so-called "offside plans" separate from their main pension funds, in order to be able to make payments to same-gender partners without losing the tax exemption for others' contributions.

While pleased by the outcome as an advance for human rights in Nova Scotia, complainant William Hodder emphasized the emotional challenge of the lengthy lawsuit, saying, "When you're in hearings and you hear arguments why discrimination should be continued, or arguments to justify discrimination, that's embarrassing — to the people of Nova Scotia and certainly to me.." Complainant Paul Boulais had found the need to justify his relationship with Grant MacNeil particu-

# Nova Scotia to Pay Pensions

larly disturbing, saying, "Not being considered his spouse was upsetting."

In addition to future pension payments, Hodder will receive \$30,540 in retroactive benefits and Boulais will receive \$35,670 in retroactive payments plus \$1,680 in reimbursements of medical costs. Other gay and lesbian survivors of partners employed by the province will have any retroactive payments determined on a case-by-case basis.

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# Diet Can Influence Skin Cancer

*thanks Jeanne Rioux from the net*

Skin cancer should be added to the list of diseases that can be prevented or lessened by eating a low-fat, vitamin-rich diet, researchers have learned.

Dermatologists have been too slow to join the legion of medical specialists who offer nutritional counseling, Dr. Harvey Arbesman, a professor of dermatology at the University of Buffalo, said at the annual meeting of the American Academy of

Dermatology meeting in April. "People who sunburn easily—fair-skinned people, blondes, redheads—and people who are out in the sun a lot should be especially conscious of diet," Arbesman said.

About one million new skin cancers are diagnosed each year, and 96 percent are the kind that could be influenced by proper diet, researchers said.

The diet is no different than that suggested by other cancer specialists. But Arbesman and others warned that dermatologists have been slow to recognize its importance, despite some 50 studies pointing to a link between diet and cancer.

In essence, at-risk patients and those already diagnosed with skin cancer should lower their fat intake, experts said. Typically, North Americans get about 40 percent of their calories from fat. The target should be 20 percent. At the same time, people should consume more antioxidants—fruits and vegetables rich in selenium, beta carotene and vit-

amin C. Beta carotene can be found in carrots, broccoli and spinach.

Whole wheat flour, mushrooms, tuna are rich in selenium. And red and green peppers, oranges and cranberries are good sources of vitamin C, researchers said. Consult a doctor before taking Vitamin E supplements as an aid to prevent cancer.

## WYRD And (Mostly) Wonderful

*by Linda Boulter*

*An Evening With The Wyrd Sisters* certainly seemed to be the dyke call-out of the year. From where I sat, I got this warm, fuzzy feeling of being a part of a growing phenomena of weird groupies. Vocalist and the most vocal Wyrd Sister is Kim Baryluk. She certainly kept the audience titillated with sexual innuendo and a participation chant that asked us to whine out, on several occasions: "What about me? What about my needs?"

The question to the question though was were our musical needs filled up? Were we satiated aurally? I would say yes and no.

There was no lack of spit and polish to the performance. No doubt about it, vocally and instrumentally the group shone. The playing was tight and seamless and it was obvious that sisters and band were solid.

That said though, more than half of their songs grabbed me by the ears and set my heart afire. I especially enjoyed the ballads and the a cappella songs. The tribute to the women murdered in Montreal brought tears to my eyes. And *The Faucet Song* was a rollicking bit of bawdy fun.

All in all *An Evening With The Wyrd Sisters* made me feel good all night. And even if I didn't experience the big "oh" there definitely were some very satisfying moments.



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By Linda Boulter

Three and half months after we connected, my girlfriend and I saw and held each other for the first time. Our Internet relationship was seeded with a Matchmaker service, grew through e-mail, hours in chat and on the phone. We courted with words, poetry, e-flowers and cards.

We never exchanged pictures. Instead we chose to explore a different kind of intimacy. Unhampered by physical looks or desires we fell in love through open, honest communication. We talked values and goals, issues and experiences. We shared sorrows and joys. We supported each other.

We worked through angry places. We often typed 'lol' which in computerese means laughing out loud. We laughed and cried and found our hearts closer than we could ever imagine in a long distance relationship.

It wasn't always easy. That desire for physical presence, at times, became overwhelming. Not being able to touch or look into each other's eyes would create the tears of anger and frustration at the distance between us. She, a big city girl in Dallas, and I, a small town girl in the Northwestern corner of British Columbia, had somehow made a connection that probably would never have happened without the miracle of technology.

Through technology we found each other. With communication we fell in love. Our cyber relationship grew because the words we spoke came from our hearts. Yes, there were times when

Lynn called me on what we affectionately called text book talk or 'tbt' but it was a great lesson in talking from the heart.

There is no room for poignant silences in chat. We learned that we had to be clear, that when we misunderstood one another we had to work through it with words and patience. In our love story of words we found that the jokes were as important as the serious sharing, that the anger as vital as the agreements.

In the past, my fear of intimacy had always led me to jump into bed before I explored my partner's mind and feelings. With thousands of miles separating us there was no chance of this; if our relationship was going to work it was going to have to start with finding the right words to share our feelings.

In a sense we go into an Internet relationship with a clean slate. It is up to us what we write there. We are not judged by our looks, by the clothes we wear, the colour of our skin, our social or economic status—the words we write are the only link to who we are.

Cyber dating seems to teach us to communicate in more effective ways. We

# An Uncommon Courtship

found we needed to stretch our skills as communicators: learn to read between the lines, learn to find common understandings in our communication. We start by asking the right questions, by using intuition, trusting our feelings and by being alert to discrepancy.

**There is no room for  
poignant silences in chat.  
We learned that we had to be clear,  
that when we misunderstood one another  
we had to work through it  
with words and patience.**

A common fear of the Internet and World Wide Web is that it will isolate us in our homes, shut us down from the rest of humanity. And while this could be true, most likely for those who are inclined to isolation anyway, I believe it also opens us up to a greater spirit. The spirit of creating and growing relationships in a different way.

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MEDITATION 7:30 - 9 pm	COFFEE TALK & Brown bag lunch 9:30 - to 2 pm YOGA 6:30 pm & 7:30 pm	Writers Group 7 pm	G SPOT 8:30 pm	WISEWOMEN 7:30 - 11 pm Over 40s Now with Su! Starting in Aug, Wisewomen will move to the 4th Saturday, no bar
MEDITATION 7:30 - 9 pm	COFFEE TALK & Brown bag lunch 9:30 - to 2 pm YOGA 6:30 pm & 7:30 pm	>Starting June 25th... sappho's salon 7:30 pm \$2 with Tathra, Jannit & Betty You bring a hot topic for discussion and we'll provide the refreshments!	QUEER YOUTH DROP-IN 8 pm	SCRABBLE & GAMES NIGHT Is cancelled for the summer... >Special event in June: Celebrate Women's Sensuality in the Sacred Gynaeceum Doors open 8 pm \$6 mem \$8 non Shows at 9:30 & midnight. Licensed. To perform or reserve tickets, leave a message - limited to 50 seats only! Fundraiser for the G-Spot rent fund.

July 4 Pride Day Dnce Leonardo da Vinci Centre. Featuring Carol Pope.  
 July 25 The Dating Game at the Spot.



# Pope Pops In for Pride

By lisa j. lander

The Pride Society is thrilled to bring Carol Pope up to Victoria to perform for us. Pope, who was the former lead singer for the 80's hit group *Rough Trade* (remember *High School Confidential* and *She Makes Me Cream My Jeans?* YEAH!) has been busy writing music for TV, film and theatre, and in 1995, released her five song EP *Radiate*. She is also a three time Canadian Grammy winner for Best Female Vocalist, won the Canadian equivalent to the Oscar for her *One Night Stand* film score, has two Platinum & four Gold Albums; has written and performed with Grace Jones and David Bowie, to just name a few. Having said all the correct 'bio' stuff, she is also one hot, bad babe that is sure to knock our socks off.

Pope will be doing a set during the Pride and G-Spot dance on Saturday, July 5th, at the Da Vinci Centre and will be the main performer for the entertainment on Pride Day (there are many other great performers for the Festival so watch for more details) The dance is the main fund raiser for Pride this year. We encourage everyone to come out and dance and hear Pope and just have a great time (the



**CAROLE POPE**

dance is open to all ages and all genders). Tickets available from the G-Spot and Pride Board Members for a price of \$10.00 to \$15.00 sliding scale (some scholarship tickets available - contact the Pride Society, 995-2393 for more information)

## PRIDE WEEK ACTIVITIES

### June 27 - July 4: A Prelude To Pride

#### Saturday June 27

**Queer Art '98 Opening Reception** (A Visual Celebration of Pride) Produced by the Lesbian Art Collective 7 - 11pm, Martin Bachelor Studio (712 Cormorant St., 385-7919) Free, donations and Canadian Tire money gratefully accepted, wheelchair accessible, everyone welcome.

#### Monday June 29

**EGALE Pride Proclamation:** A Royal Proclamation by our very own Queen Victoria. 6 pm, BC Legislature Free, open to all, press coverage expected.

#### AVI Women's Forum

A facilitated forum for lesbian and bisexual women to discuss sexuality. 7pm, AIDS Vancouver Island (304-733 Johnson St., 384-2366, x.304) Free, wheelchair accessible, all women welcome.

### Wednesday July 1

**Dragball '98** The annual tradition returns! Afternoon (exact time to be announced), Beacon Hill Park ball-fields. All welcome.

**Late Bloomers:** Cinecenta presents a slyly engaging film about love between two unglamorous, fortyish women. 7:10pm and 9:15pm, University of Victoria Cinecenta (721-8972). Call for prices.

### Friday July 3

**Pride Society Coffeehouse:** A solid mix of community musicians in a relaxed venue. Exact time and location to be announced (360-2393) Cover charge by donation, everyone welcome.

### Saturday July 4

**Tattoo and Piercation:** Urge Studios will offer free pride tattoos and select piercings for donations to AIDS Vancouver Island. Noon - 7pm, Urge Studios (586 Johnson St., 380-2989) By donation, everyone welcome.





# LITTLE LEZZIE FLASHES

or who work at regular jobs. Bring your brown bag lunch and I'll make the coffee. Great spot to network...Fun to run into **Alma** and **Lou** which made an arduous task much nicer ... a wonderful collection of us at **Mary Lasovich's** Gemini B'Day party for the Geminis and the passing on of **Bus**...Great mix of people and another of **Mary's** wonderful parties...I didn't realize so many dykes were so willing to drop into bean bags

already occupied by the Lez...Here's to bean bags!...Great to see **Hannah Hoffmann** out and about despite her health challenges...Art shows are becoming lesbian de rigeur. Ran into some old friends at **Rebecca Van Skyver's** opening including **Michele Moses**, ally **Joan Looy** of Camosun's EOW (Employment Opportunities for Women) programme...**Wendy Schultz** told me a joke that left me speechless: Why can't a lesbian diet and wear makeup at the same time? Answer: It's hard to eat **Jenny Craig** when you're face is covered with **Mary K**...Understand, that the **June Middleton** concert and the **Sooke** dance event for our Gay Games dance competitors, **Tanis Doe** and **Andrea Hill**, were both big successes. **Middleton** does come from a time when lyrics were a little tooty frooty, as I recall... We sure do know how to cram a lot of living into a short time frame...Reminds me that **Rebecca van Skyver** wants me to funnel all info through my home offices. I am off to get a big white calendar...Ran into **Leslie Robinson**. Her *Women of Size* directory is amply wonderful. It's a tiny little book and I recommend it to anyone. The time has come, the book says, for every woman in Canada to accept her shape

and form regardless of her size. *Ample Opportunities* "recognizes the powerful presence of large women and joins them to develop and celebrate size acceptance in Canada." Way to go. Right on. Wow! This little book has everything the big gal wants and needs. Except maybe another woman. But then....In my perusals through the T/C and the Vancouver Sun I have noted that the CBC is offering us *In Thru the Out Door* starting Monday June 22 at 9 p.m. It's described as "The Worlds' first openly gay and lesbian sketch comedy." Whoopee!...on the other hand... there's a Free-Speech group decision to back an anti-gay pamphlet that the Citizens Research Institute has put out to "support family values." **The BC Civil Liberties Association** can't find anything wrong with it. Hmmmm...and I cannot support the need to get uptight about transsexuals in the women's jane at B.J.s. I know there's a (finger-wagging and I agree) history of drag queens using the womens' loo in the old days. But, really. ...BC Anglicans have decided to approve same-sex unions. It's a "cautious thumbs up"—that's for sure. 179 to 170 was the pro vote and it is still to be decided by New Westminster bishop **Michael Ingham**, the top dog Anglican in BC. Gosh. I hope he has a good chat with his "real" boss... Finally, **Kristin Hopper** has taken me to task for not getting it right. So what else is new, Kris. Anyway, She wants all of you to know that she read *Jessa Be Nimble* etc. in two hours, not two days. Shucks! It took me two days!...Finally, special love and salutes of courage to **Sandy** and **Val** in Brantford and to our own dear **Ruth** and **Joy** here. Have a joyous summer, all of us. BMC

Spent a delightful long weekend playing bridge while the rest of the dyke community was either tenting on Saltspring, or singing in Edmonton with **Musaic**. Our **Musaic**, I'm told, were adored hits. Conductor **Ian Riddell** even got to lead the mass choir of hundreds of voices at the end. Somehow, I knew he would. Congratulations, choir!...Back to the bridge table. It was a real weekend of going down for some of us who couldn't make a contract if we depended on it. Real lesbian bridge. Loved spending quality time with **Moir**a and **Shirley**, **Pat** and **Brenda**, **Alison**, **Julie**, **Sharon** and **Jenny**...Then home to trouble... Something's going on here with my understanding. My foot swelled up and I have been a layabout for a week. Thanks to **Janet Lironi** for minding **Coffee Talk** for me, to **Bobby Kovar** for returning the key, to **Karen**, **Kris** and **Jenny** for dinner, to the noble **Claire** who did my laundry, to **Monica Turner** who took me to X-Ray. And thanks to a whole lot of you who looked after me, especially my patient and gorgeous **Dr**....Who says we don't have community!.. Speaking of coffee, back there a bit, **The Coffee Talk** time is extended as of June to 2 p.m. to include lesbians and allies who work downtown,



# ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS AND SERVICES

Please mail items to us at P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4. Or Call Barbara 598-6490. Deadline for submissions is the **first** of month prior to publication. Classified ads are \$5. first 25 words and .50/word thereafter. Community notes etc. no charge unless money for service involved.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT:** One bedroom upper in Fairfield near Gonzales Beach. Quiet, great light. Available Sept. 1 or sooner. \$595 includes all util., laundry, and cable. 598-6034

**FOR RENT:** Large sunny room with dbl closet and separate bathroom. Overlooking garden in luxurious West Coast style chateau...(OK it's a duplex in Fernwood, but its quiet). N/S. \$350/mo + 1/3 util. Call Molly, 595-3073. E-mail m\_d\_kola@bc.sympatico.ca

**HOUSE FOR RENT:** In Port Renfrew village West Coast of VI. Stones throw to the ocean. Available by day, week, or month. Reasonable. Call, 388-0754.

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

**SKY RANCH:** Lesbian farmer on 140-acre ranch offers BC women guests "working" holidays. (not too much work). For company and help I offer free room and board. I have two guest rooms in comfortable old farmhouse. Sky Ranch is 100 km from Burns Lake, near the northern boundary of Tweedsmuir Park. Also seek land partners. Write Judith Quinlan, Sky Ranch, C4 S20 RR2, Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0. (250) 694-3738.

## COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** Lesbian Art Collective meets for its AGM at 2555 Graham Street July 9 at 7 p.m. Call Bec 386-2550.

**DYKE CAMPOUT:** The Art Collective sponsors yet another campout with dance over the Labour Day Weekend September 4 to 7. Call Bec 386-2550 for details.

**PHILOMELA:** Come listen to the incredible sounds of the university women's choir conducted by Susan Young. Lots of sisters sing. June 13, 8 p.m. at place tba. If you have some singing experience and want to join, call Jennifer 598-7984. Sopranos especially welcome.

**THE G-SPOT:** Board is working hard to make sure the space is available and accessible to the diversity of women's communities. Renew your membership or become a new member. If you have not received a renewal notice, or want to hold an event, volunteer your time, or just find out more call, 382-SPOT. If you want it to stay open you gotta support it!

**SOLSTICE CRAFT FAIR:** At G-Spot June 21 from 10 a.m. onwards. Call Spot and leave message to book table. The fair is your chance to purchase from our talented and creative community.

**PEEK BEHIND THE VEIL:** Stripping was never like this! For women only an event like no other Jun 27 Saturday 9:30 and midnight. Check it out. Call the Spot. Bar available. \$6 members, \$8 non-members. The board will definitely perform. A newer and better way to meet the board?

**READINGS:** Got a problem that's bugging you? Don't know which way to turn? Relationships, personal growth, health matters, metaphysical subjects. Call Quill (250) 658-3653. She's at the G-Spot for on the spot checks, Wednesdays.

**CHINESE ASTROLOGICAL CHARTS:** 16 pages in a booklet on compatibilities, career, future forecasts, understanding yourself. Individual Chart \$38. Partners \$68. Family \$100. Send name, birthdate, time (within the hour) to B. Publications, P.O. Box 41030, 5134 Cordova Bay Road, Victoria, BC V8Y 2K0

**ENERGY AND AURA READINGS:** Jane will tune your chakra, too. Fee, \$15 for 15 minutes. Wednesday mornings at the G-Spot. Come for coffee and tune in. Call, 652-9245 for home visits or to book a reading.

**TAROT READINGS:** Puzzled by your girlfriend's behaviour? Questioning your current job? Ask the cards and Melissa will translate at the G-Spot most Wednesdays at coffee time. Fee, \$10. Private Readings call, 598-8208.

**QUEER ART SHOW:** Victoria Lesbian Art Collective presents Queer Art '98, a visual art show held during Pride Week in July. Open to all queers of Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands. Deadline for submissions June 1, 1998. Registration forms and info at Martin Bachelor Gallery, 712 Cormorant St., Victoria, BC. Info Rebecca, 386-2550, Margot, 380-6617, Eva, 385-3399.



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**The Victoria Status of Women Action Group:** Services available include: free use of computers, an extensive resource library; lots of info on local events and organizations that work with and for women. VSWAG is here for all women Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 1:30. Call 383-7322. 130-645 Fort St. Victoria. (Yarrows Bldg). Email swag@pacificcoast.net Fax 388-0100.

**WISEWOMAN:** Friendship group for women over 40 and friends younger at G-Spot third Saturday every month 7:30 to 11 p.m. All ages welcome, 382-7768.

**LESBIAN FAMILY CONNEXION:** Nanaimo—Call Lorie, 758-8012 or Monica, 755-1503.

**VILIPS AGM:** Nanaimo gals vote on membership and annual general meeting. Call Info Line at 755-1023.

## SERVICES ACTIVITIES CONTACTS

**COMING OUT DISCUSSION GROUP:** Meet other women in similar situations to learn about ourselves, our sexuality and lesbian culture in a safe, supportive atmosphere. Call Tanya, 382-5868 or Kathryn, 592-9356.

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

**Gay & Lesbian Parenting Group:** Natasha at 384-6252

**G-Spot Writing Group:** Nikki, 658-5448. E-mail Nikki@fmamerica.com meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays

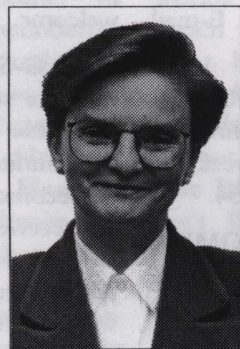
**Lesbian Art Collective:** Rebecca, 386-2550.

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

**Lesbian Seniors Care Society:** Sally, 388-6036.

**Musaic:** Lesbian & Gay Choir. Daphne, 480-0024.

**P-Flag:** Information, 642-5171.



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