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Lesbiannews

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Lesbian Art Show Opens

By Barbara McLaughlin

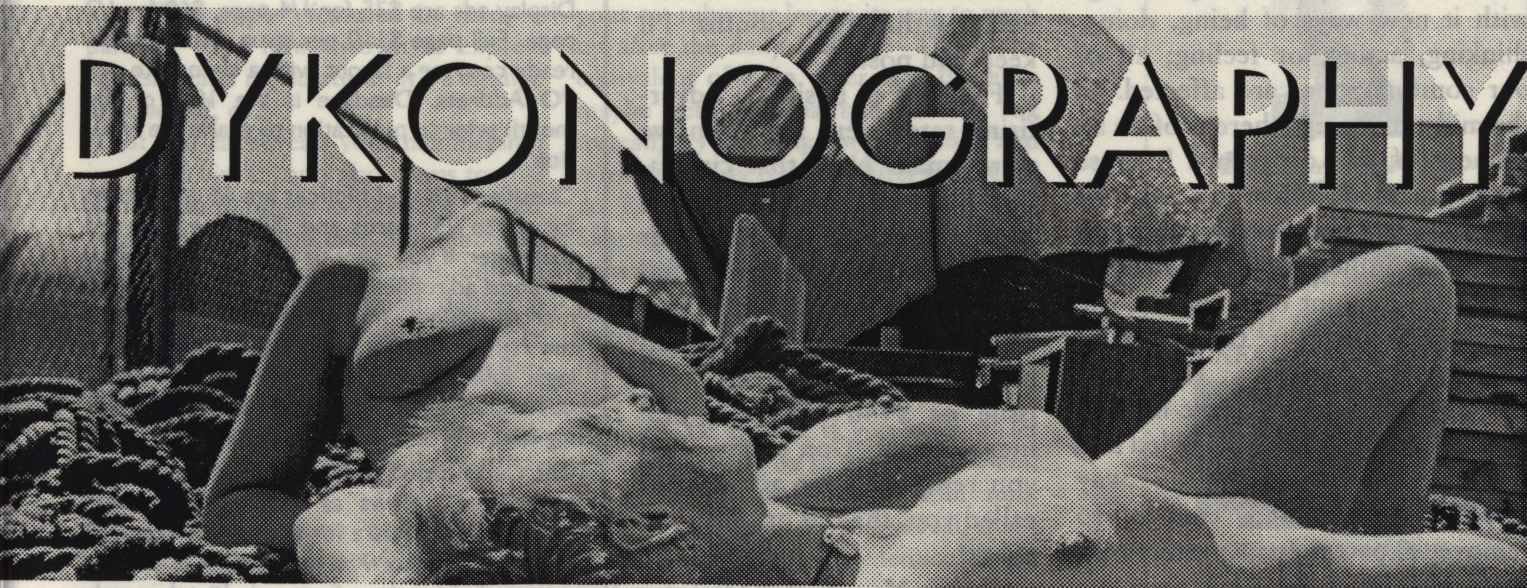
The biggest, the bestest, the Out-est lesbian Art Show ever opens February 9 at 8 p.m. in the 4th Floor Gallery of the Victoria Eaton's Centre.

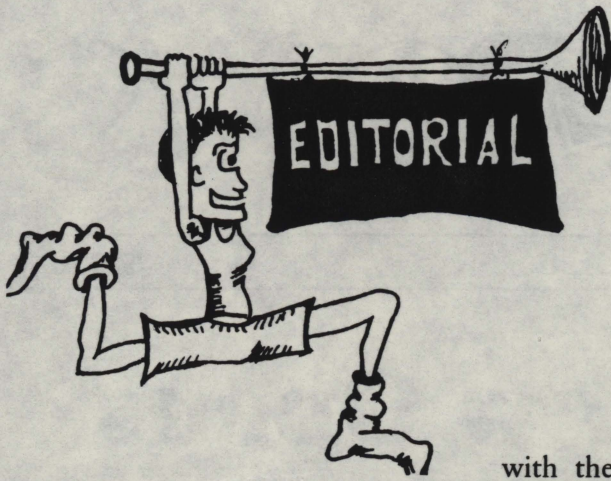
The Victoria Lesbian Art Collective who have put together the first Dykonography exhibit promises real food and no booze at the opening and urge all Island dykes to attend. Organizer Dawn Heiden explained one of the purposes of the event is to build community, "so we definitely will not be serving alcohol. Our other objective is to build dyke culture. We really want to make lesbian artists more visible in the arts community, the lesbian community and the community at large, says Dawn."

Seventeen artists are represented in the show and the only common theme is, the artists are les-

bian, she explained. "It's basically dyke culture for dykes!" Dykonography is funded by the Canada Council through its Explorations Programme, a grant from the LesbiAntics Committee, and by the collective's own fund-raising efforts. You can still get Tee Shirts and the popular art cards which are selling here, in Vancouver, Kamloops and Toronto. Lots of people have helped out, and this group has been totally successful in its internal PR, recognizing all who helped all along the way. Congratulations to Margot Johnston, Dawn, Rebecca Van Sciver, Eva Cegiela, Lahl Sardyke, and Sue Ondre, who is co-ordinating and building the necessary set or setting. For details see ads inside. Be there, gang, it's the event of the pre-season!

DYKONOGRAPHY





Happy New Year! It seems there is an aura of excitement in community. There's the art show, Focus on Women, dances and events, new things happening. And an excitement that seems like an oxymoron plied against the word partnership. A lot of partnerships of various duratio ended in the old year. But I have noticed more excitement than hostility or angst in the persons affected, myself included. New Years can happen at any time: new energies and commitments; changes in lifestyle; changes in goals and changes in partners; changes from being two to one. Next to Dobson, (Focus on the Family), Change is the scariest word in our vocabulary. When we're in the midst of it, it can be so hard. Often change brings with it new ways of being, doing, thinking, acting, or feeling; all of our comfort zones are affected. In the midst of change there is often an element of pain. It's hard because the first person to have to accept the change, is the person going through it. We can inflict upon ourselves an incredible amount of nonsense. We project into the future the gloomiest pictures for ourselves. Here's to One Day At A Time. I have learned over the years, as I have crawled and scratched and kicked my way through change after change, to remove expectations, predictions, projected outcomes, and just go

with the flow. Several of my friends have been given the challenge of change this past six months. We have all noted that our community is with us. Dyke energy is pretty powerful. It is so very full of love. For me, learning to accept that love from community has been the first gift of change. Whatever change brings you this New Year, I wish you the ability to accept it well and gladly, knowing that the outcome will be, as Aristotle said, to the (your) ultimate good.

Further to last month's comment. The adoption bill has still not been proclaimed. I called the Social Services Ministry and was told that nothing would or could be done while parliament was recessed. So much for the idea of "soon" being within two months. I'll keep you posted.

Final bit of business. Advertising rates were set when we were small. Now that circulation and size of LesbianNews have increased, as have our expenses, so do our rates. A full page is now \$110. Half is now \$60. Quarter is now \$35. Business Cards are now \$15 per issue or \$140 per year. Still inexpensive! Don't panic! If you renewed your ads when I called you, the old prices are in effect!

Happy New Year. BMCL

LesbianNews was founded September 1988.

LNews Team:

Editor: Barbara McLauchlin

Sports: Jan Trainor

Artists: Shannon Oliffe, Barb Csinos

Right Arm: Marti Carr-Harris

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

LesbianNews is published 10 times per year and serves lesbians, bisexuals and allies primarily on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Its goal is to celebrate all aspects of lesbian life. We encourage all lesbian writers, artists, designers to contribute. Copy deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Copy on floppy disk or typed double-spaced preferred. Let us know of your interest in covering local events. We reserve the right to edit for space and readability.

Submissions to: P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4.

Subscriptions are \$20 per year. Cheque or money order to S. Hamill at above post office.

Individual copies are \$2.50 on sale at Every-womans Books, 635 Johnson St.

Advertising: Business cards \$20 per issue or \$150 per year.

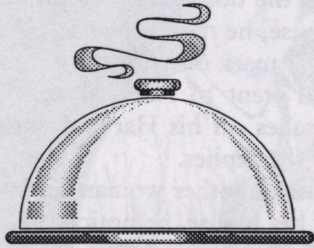
Display ads are \$35 for 1/4 page, \$60 for 1/2 page. Full page \$110 per issue. Send camera ready copy or a layout with a cheque to our PO Address. Deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication to guarantee inclusion.

Classified Ads and Notices are \$5 per month for up to 25 words and .50 for each word thereafter. If you want us to hold and forward personal ad replies, add \$2. We run non-commercial notices, free of charge. We reserve the right to refuse any ad that might create legal difficulties or that offends our highly developed sensibilities. We reserve advertising space for lesbians and allies only.

Gift Certificates: Available for those wanting to present LNews as a gift to discerning friends. Call Barbara for ads or certificates at 479-2445 up to 7 p.m. Messages will be returned.

Pave the Gorge?

The time of feasting, nay, gorging, has come and gone - but hopefully you have some beautiful memories of steaming



repasts, shining glasses and silverware, candlelight, and the happy faces of friends as you sweat over your exercise bike.

Unlike the rest of Nature, for whom the pursuit of enough to eat is lifelong and may end when you yourself become a meal, food (amongst those humans lucky enough to live above a subsistence level) is really a social thing. As a social artifact, the meanings associated with food have shifted over the centuries as well. For example, one of the main public arbiters of one's social standing used to be the possession of salt. "Above the salt" folks wore the fancy clothes and titles, while the rest of the rabble had to fight some pretty competitive mongrels for bland fare. Nowadays we're divided between the ashtrayed and "clean-air" folks, and everyone knows your cholesterol will shoot through the roof if you salt your food. Tomatoes - the 12th century "love apple" featured in many a painting - are now thrown to express revulsion and repudiation. It's a strange little world, eh?

What you eat reveals your membership in certain circles, and also seems to give permission to others to interfere in your business. Have you ever been about to bite into a big juicy hamburger, only to have your lunch companion deliver a lecture on the evils of veal and battery eggs, the destruction of the Amazon jungle, and bowel toxicity? If you're not as emaciated as a Vogue model, the clerk will give you the hairy eyeball for ordering that sundae.

Nobody but truckers order "coffee" anymore, didn't ya know? If you can't demand a "Lah - tay" with lidded eyes

and an offhandedly bored voice, you're not cool. And how many of us are truly sure of what we're doing when the wine steward, who looks like one of those conceited know-it-all English butlers, offers up the cork? And what is PC for potluck these days? Notecards in front of every dish are a must - and make sure you list every ingredient and how it was grown, where it was harvested, whether it has been sprayed, and whether you practiced safe sex before handling the zucchini.

Upon reflection, it may be true that human and beast are not so different after all. Consider the trapdoor spider and the Venus flytrap: have you ever given someone a chocolate truffle in hopes that all that sugar and cocoa will stun her slightly? And while in that state, perhaps you and the chocolate will become twinned in her mind, she will move in your direction for more, and...? We use food to reward others, as a shorthand for demonstrating our affection. Why else would someone spend three hours mucking around with hot splattery stuff and sharp knives, all for 20 minutes of consumption? The payoff (barring your guest having an allergic reaction or food poisoning) is becoming linked in your guest's mind with nurturance. Feed them, they'll come back. It's like feeding animals - three quarters of your pet's love for you has to do with your ability to open a can. And does your cat rub your leg on its way to wash up after the daily feeding? This is the equivalent of a tip, after all. If you're maybe getting a hairball on the rug instead, try washing the food dish and moving it away from the litter box. Cats are finicky, like us, after all.

Sharing a meal with somebody is also conventionally taken as a gesture of good will - probably a hold-over from bygone eras when having your hands too busy and greasy for combat meant you had to be able to trust your companions. Of course, if you want to let someone know you're angry with them, burn the macaroni, pour skim milk powder and water on their cereal, don't rinse off the dirt from the lettuce leaves, and make sure that the only chocolates

left in the box are the ones she hates. If any of these things have happened to you recently, you've either met someone who suffers from culinary ineptitude or you need to have a heart-to-heart with your beloved. Preferably in a restaurant where she isn't close with the cook.

sWhich brings me to the phenomenon of eating out (I mean with forks and knives, you dirty girls). For about ten bucks, most folks want a dose of mother-love - "wait on me, bring me what I like, clean up after me, spend time with me when I want you, leave me alone when I don't, be a mindreader, and be damn grateful I left you a loonie." I tend to associate poor restaurant service and bad food with hostility from the servers and the kitchen. Irrational, isn't it? I mean, none of these people has had the time or opportunity to form an opinion of me, yet on some deep inner level, I react as though the nipple was just rudely pulled away. Waaaah!!! I want my dinner! I want a refill! I want this table wiped off now! I didn't order this - why is it on my bill? I told you I wanted Ranch dressing!. Besides being tedious, annoying and infantile, this type of behavior is so very "problems of the First World." Makes you want a laté, eh?



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Quotes 'n Queries

News and views from the lesbian and gay press, compiled by the truly literate and sublimely single Mary Lasovich.

Deneuve magazine, the glossy San Francisco-based lesbian monthly, has offered to change its name to head off a court battle with French actress Catherine Deneuve, who claims sole rights to the moniker. Homophobia, n'est-ce pas? Publisher Frances Stevens has repeatedly explained that she named the mag "after my first young love. Sorry, Catherine, it ain't you." In an editorial in the December issue, Stevens writes that "although we believe the [law]suit to be without merit, in lieu of pricey litigation, we have offered to settle..." Send your ideas and comments on a new name for the all-lesbian magazine to: Deneuve Magazine, 2336 Market St. #15, San Francisco CA 94114.

kd lang spills the beans on her seventh record, All You Can Eat, in a lengthy interview in Out magazine: "My criteria to make a good record is something you can fuck to, something you can cook to, something you can listen to in the morning, and something you can drive to. If you can do all those things to an album, it's a good album." And no, I don't moonlight as an Out publicist, but I figure one or two readers may be interested to know that the Dec/Jan 1996 issue features kd as cover girl, plus six photos inside.

Dykes, Dykes Everywhere and Not a Place to Party!

Well, have I got a plan for us.

With the help of the lesbian community in the Victoria area, I would like to propose and promote a club just for us! A place secure and without prying eyes. Dining, dancing, partying, and just spending leisure time in an environment designed with our needs in mind. Your membership and participation can make "SAPPHO'S a reality.

I can envision a huge dance floor, full service bar, and a dining room that would put major hotels to shame. Access would be by security card only, with unlimited guest privileges.

This kind of club is badly needed in our area. I would feel privileged if I could supply a facility like this for our mutual pleasure. If you would like to hear more about this exciting concept and purchase a membership card, please call Shauneen at 360-1336.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

February blahs got you? Here's a joke that came my way by e-mail:

A woman goes into the doctor's office for a check-up. As she takes off her blouse, he notices a red "H" on her chest. "How did you get that mark on your chest?" asks the doctor. "Oh, my boyfriend went to Harvard and he's so proud of it that he never takes off his Harvard sweatshirt, even when we make love," she replies.

A couple of days later, another woman comes in for a checkup. As she takes off her blouse, he notices a blue "Y" on her chest. "How did you get that mark on your chest?" asks the doctor. "Oh, my boyfriend went to Yale and he's so proud of it that he never takes off his Yale sweatshirt, even when we make love," she replies.

The next day, another woman comes in for a check-up. As she takes off her blouse, he notices a green "M" on her chest. "Do you have a boyfriend at Michigan?" asks the doctor. "No, but I have a girlfriend at Wisconsin. Why do you ask?"

Jennifer Lewis (who launched her film career playing Tina Turner's mother in What's Love Got to Do With It?) joins the cast of CBS's Courthouse as Judge Rosetta Reid, a lesbian and mother of an eight-year-old. Although the pilot excised a kiss between Rosetta and her lover, Danny, the producers insist the scene will make the airwaves. Lewis predicts that her role has enough integrity and style to attract both black viewers and lesbians: "The sisters will tune in to see what I'm wearing. The lesbians will tune in to see who I'm looking at up and down the hallway." Sorry, no info available on when Courthouse is coming to the small screen. I'll keep you posted.

Cheryl Phillips, a reporter at the Great Falls (Montana) Tribune, told a Washington gathering of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association that the "educational process" in her newsroom started when she was being interviewed for the job. She had dinner with an editor, who told her that because he was a vegetarian in a meat-eating state, he could relate to how she felt as a lesbian. Phillips said she gently explained that it was a little different. On her first day in the newsroom, the editor asked Phillips if she'd like him to make an announcement about her sexuality. She asked him if he would make an announcement that he was dating a woman.

Ann Bancroft, the first woman to make the arduous journey to both the North and South poles, has become the only openly lesbian member of the elite National Women's Hall of Fame, which has immortalized 125 American women. The 40-year-old polar explorer attended the induction ceremony with her partner of six years, but nearly all of the dozens of newspapers that covered the event skipped over her sexual orientation. Bancroft knows that being out has cost her corporate sponsorships, but she continues to address the issue of her sexuality on the lecture tour. "It's worth it, because I become a better person by being out."

Meet the Pink Umbrella



It's hard to be alive and not know the name *Pink Umbrella*. This incredible group of lesbians and gays is up to lots of good. Pink Umbrella represents a broad cross-section of community groups and service agencies, business, and individuals drawn from within the gay/lesbian/bisexual community, and from its supporters on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. "We have come together out of a shared need for improved communications and cooperation between the diverse elements of our community, as well as for better dissemination of information within and outside the community," states the Umbrella blurb.

Objectives include: publishing a comprehensive directory of lesbian/gay/bisexual and gay friendly business organizations and support services on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands; publishing a monthly events newsflyer of ongoing and special events/activities of interest to us; to act as a clearing house for information exchange, to provide a public voice for members on issues on which the umbrella organization feels it has the knowledge, ability, and credibility to speak. No one is excluded. The Pink Umbrella launches its 1996-7 directory Feb. 4 from 8 to 10 p.m. at Milky Way Cafe, 128-560 Johnson St. (Market Square). \$10 admission is fund-raiser and there's real cool prizes and live entertainment.

To reach Pink Umbrella send mail to P.O. Box 45030 Mayfair Postal Outlet, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 7G9. Tel/FAX 727-6669. E-mail: jrdrdt@islandnet.com BMCL

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BRAIN FEVER

By Karey Perks

The angry feet stomped around and around, weaving a path from the TV at the far end of the room, past the scuffed coffee tables piled with coverless magazines, to the deep chair in which Flossie had been waiting diligently ever since afternoon Group, in case the door of sleep opened on something nice.

The feet stopped. "Get up! It's time for your walk!"

Backwards Woman's yelling wasn't nearly so bad, now that she was on medication. Her clothes were still turned around, with the buttons and zippers in back. As a result, she had a jerky, stiff-legged walk and carried her arms straight out from her sides. Her loud, demanding voice made Flossie's ears hurt all the way inside her head. She growled.

"You don't scare me," said Backwards Woman. "Your tail is wagging."

"My tail? It's there?" Flossie jumped out of the chair and craned her neck as far as she could, but there was no familiar golden sweep behind her. Disappointment dragged her down into the chair again. Backwards Woman caught her by the arm and hauled her up. They stopped in front of the glassed-in office. With a furtive movement of her eyes her captor indicated a nurse taking notes on the other side of the big window.

The nurse looked up from her clipboard and saluted them with her pencil. Flossie smiled back. "Is my tail wagging now?" she whispered.

"The aura cannot lie. Your tail is wagging, but it's a pointless exercise." Backwards Woman's whisper was like a snake crawling through dry leaves. "She can't see it. None of them can; the medical staff here don't know what they're doing. I'm the only one who knows about things like that." They walked on. Steering Flossie by the ears, Backwards

Woman guided her toward a small group of patients who were watching TV in the midst of a dirty, dark cloud. Most of the other patients gave Flossie the shivers. She never looked at them if she could help it, but she was afraid of being bumped into something so she had her eyes open. She happened to notice a big blue chair.

"There's a cat!" she said, excitedly.

Backwards Woman clapped her hand over Flossie's mouth. "Keep your voice down...ow!"

"Never put your hand in a strange dog's mouth." Unfortunately, the satisfaction of making Backwards Woman let go didn't last long. The cat was gone. There was only a small, dark woman staring out the window, folded in on herself.

"It's a good job I've been on medication or a week," Backwards Woman said, massaging her finger. "I might have killed you. You saw the cat?"

"She must have run under the chair."

"You got excited and lost your psychic balance and your vision went kablooe; that's what happened. Calm down and keep looking."

Flossie didn't like her bossy tone. She pretended not to be listening and fixed her attention on the occupant of the blue chair, who seemed, confusingly, to be a woman, or a cat, or both.

"Can she see my tail?"

"If she could, she'd be under the chair. Don't stare."

"But who let her in?"

"Who let you in?"

It was hard to think and be pulled along by the arm at the same time. Flossie frowned, digging at her buried recollections. Unlike the doctors, Backwards Woman listened sympathetically to them, up to the part where she discovered she wasn't a dog any more. "He

put you into a machine and did that? That's psychic warfare? I believe your man Schmeleng is working for the CIA..."

"The seeing-eye what?" Flossie asked.

Backwards Woman turned on her, eyes flashing. "You've been sent to spy on me, that's why you made me show you the cat!" Fiery black smoke roiled around her, so thick that Flossie could barely see Backwards Woman at all, even though they were standing nose to nose. A growl started, deep in her chest. If Backwards Woman had ideas about a two-dog pack with herself as Packleader, she had another think coming. Flossie turned a fierce eye and bared her teeth. "You look like a fire in a rubbish barrel," she snarled.

Instantly, the fire died. The smoke dwindled to a few wispy streamers. Flossie could see two of Backwards Woman. "You are backwards!"

Backwards Woman's shoulders sagged. "I hate being angry all the time," she said. Her voice was full of ashes. She let her arms drop about halfway and resumed walking with Flossie at her heels. A grey mist thickened around them, muzzling sounds, while they completed the circuit of the room. Flossie shook herself all over, as if she had been out in the rain, and flopped into her favourite chair. She watched Backwards Woman walk away. The frontwards version had backwards clothes and the slightly dimmer backwards version had them on frontwards. For the first time in a long time, Flossie's nose felt alive. If the door of sleep had opened at that moment on a bright orange Frisbee sailing through the park, she would not have gone after it.

TO BE CONTINUED.



Ask A Mediator

by Patricia Lane

Dear Patricia:

I belong to a small non-profit. We are having trouble with our staff person who seems to feel that the board is not doing its job. We use the consensus model, but, lately, some of us feel that things happen too slowly. We also feel there is a lack of accountability. What could we do about this? We don't want to fire anyone or lose our staff person; she works very hard for too little money and we need her.

Signed Broken Board.


Dear Broken Board:

You are to be commended for seeing the signs of strength in a tough time. It might be that things do need to change. However, a safe place needs to be created in order to have some difficult conversations with each other. Using an experienced outside facilitator can help to do this. An outsider with views about process which we respect and can live with may help us talk more meaningfully with each other about changes in content.

Consensus is a much misunderstood word. If your group is using it to mean complete agreement it may be unhelpful, and, as you say, may be slowing you down. Consensus, meaning complete agreement, may also be preventing you from innovating — an essential for group survival. Consensus is that level of agreement we are not prepared to organize against. Even defining it as an agreement we can live with is unhelpful, because we all have different definitions of what we can live with. If we have to implement an idea, we will need a much higher level of agreement in order for all to live with it than if we have no stake at all in the outcome. You may want to revisit your process and have a conversation about what your goals are in picking one decision-making system over another. Finally, you may need to have a conversation about what your organization wants to get done and who is going to do what to make that happen. This way you can evaluate both the staff and board's performance over time in a collaborative, respectful way which sees all of you as contributors to a common goal. Such a conversation will also clarify expectations about roles and responsibilities which is an important part of supporting staff as they try to do the best they can with too few resources, too little time and too much to do. Let me know if I can help!

Patricia Lane is a mediator with interests in issues of concern to the lesbian community.

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Art Therapy Survey

ART THERAPY is an expressive counselling service using the creative process to: develop awareness, enhance self-esteem, gain insight, change behavior, recover memories, etc.

Do you know what art therapy is Yes No

Circle which of the following you would be interested in:

One on one sessions for: adult or childhood issues. Sliding scale available Yes No

Support group: the expressive process revolves around stories and tales, images and archetypes (aspects of the female nature) in roles of adult and child. Weekly sessions, \$18 per session (sliding scale available), four week units. Yes No

You don't have to be an artist or have ever done art. Art therapy uses simple media: pencil crayons, pastels, tempera paint, masks, clay. The point isn't to create "Art", but the creation that comes out of the process is beautiful because it reflects the struggle to grow and change, and the courage to live creatively.

THIS SURVEY IS TO HELP ME DETERMINE IF THERE IS A NEED FOR ART THERAPY. Clip and mail to: JUNE WATERS, 920-5524, 1333 Richardson St., Victoria, V8S 3P6.

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Michael Musto of the New York Daily News

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Produced by Nancy Poole and Ruth Simkin, Co-sponsored by UVic Women's Studies Department
Call 370-1197 (Victoria) or 537-1996 (Salt Spring) for further info

Crone Lets Her Wild Heart Dance

by Emma Joy Crone

How many times in a lifetime does one come out of one's various closets - especially if one did not even know, or think, they existed?

It seems to be taking a while to become the 'real' me. *Wild Heart Dancing*, a slim volume by Elliot Sobel, helped me have some fun and enjoy those hidden parts of myself; singer, dancer, artist playing with watercolours, or whatever came to hand. I recommend this one day, personal, at home quest to liberate the artist and lover within. The book led me to take the plunge (into my own musical self) and to join others at the first annual Womenfriends Music Camp at Crescent Beach outside Vancouver. Held at Camp Alexander, the camp offered excellent food and accom-

modations. Women brought their instruments, their stories, their songs, their poetry and music. Everyone was a "Star". The fun, laughter, drumming, massage and general atmosphere was a delight. We created a concert and some of the women gave solo performances.

The camp was set up by Penny Sidor in an "aware" way. Wise Women were available for anyone 'feeling funny'. These women volunteered to listen and encourage. Incidentally, they wore a purple ribbon.

I nearly forgot the hot tub - delightful!

I shyly sang my one song, and, as usual, received support as the oldest woman there. I hope you'll be there next year. Oh, and not to forget some

'stars' did come. Ladies Don't Drum, a women's drum group from Seattle wrapped up the concert and led us into a jam and dance.

We gave our own volunteer workshops - amazing! If you are interested in being on the waiting list for next year's camp, write to: Penny Sidor, 311-1771 East Georgia St., Vancouver, B.C. V5L 2B3.

Sounds and Furies Productions, P.O. Box 21510, 1850 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 4A0 also has a mailing list for those wishing to "go out of town" for some fun.

ed note: Emma Joy Crone is featured lesbian in the latest issue of The Open Door.

Stuff we Found In the Mail

Call For Submissions

Karen X. Tulchinsky is asking you for your stories:

Queer View Mirror II: Lesbian and Gay Short Short Fiction with the Co-editors. Deadline April 30. Get your fingers moving. On the keyboard, that is. Submission cover should read: Queer View Mirror II.

Hot and Bothered. Submit 1,000 words of erotica to Hot & Bothered. by August 31, 1996.

All Submissions to 1036 Odium Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3L6 or E-mail: kxt@descon.mlnet.com

For full guidelines send SASE to above address. Or E-mail.

Other Stuff: L/GHEI stands for Lesbian & Gay Hospitality Exchange International has sent a pamphlet outlining how to join and all that jazz. There's a membership form on the back of the brochure. Founded in 1991 L/GHEI is a growing network of lesbians and gay men from around the world who are willing to offer their hospitality to other members at no charge. These hosts, in turn, are received when they travel. There are listings in 40 countries, (Australia to Zimbabwe) the brochure notes. You can find out who your potential hostesses are in a directory provided to members. You can count on a guest bedroom, a sofa, a foam mattress for a sleeping bag. No bed sharing. Not a dating service. Membership fees start at \$25 in Canada or \$25 in USA. Deadline for each directory is Jan.31 of each year and supplementary list for July 31st. Personal cheque does it in Canada and U.S.A. If

you want more information and your personal brochure, write L/GHEI c/o Garnet Colly, P.O. Box 612, Stn. "C" Montreal, PQ H2L 4K5. Or FAX (514) 523-1559.

A number of new books have been released by publishers of both Cds and Books.

First up. **Streeter Productions** has released its new CD for Christmas called *Winter Moon*, the first ever seasonal compilation of Gay and Lesbian performers. It's Volume #2 in Streeter Record Series and features Cris Williamson, Holly Near, Lea DeLaria, The Flirtations, etc. You can get *Winter Moon* and volume #1 *A Love Worth Waiting For*, which we particularly enjoyed, by writing direct to Streeter Productions P.O. Box 1118 Ansonia Station, New York City, NY 10023. Speed up the process by 'phoning Mitch Gallob in New York at 212 595-8932. There will be Customs to pay. But it's worth it. Try A&B Sound first.

Now to books. **Alyson Publications** new releases include *Who Framed Lorenzo Garcia*, the first book in a series featuring the Pride Pack, a group of teens who meet at a local gay and lesbian centre and find themselves drawn into mysterious events in their community. Add *The Case of the Missing Mother*. Great reading for gay kids and the young at heart. Out in *The Workplace* is 26 stories including that of U.S. congressman Barney Frank.

This happy little book bounced through the front door some time ago. What a delightful read is *Happily Ever After* by Stacy Chandler. It's available through Speculators, Inc. P.O. Box 99038, Troy, MI 48099. Or telephone

(810)879-9772. This book didn't always relate to me directly, but most of the insights did. And there are lots of reasons for gentle laughs and guffaws in every chapter. If Everywoman doesn't have it, ask them for it. A bit of sunshine for the rainy months ahead. Even the back cover is a hoot. Hardly the typical vanity press.

Don't forget **New Victoria Publishers, Inc.** who have published Marsha Mildon's *Fighting for Air*. **Gynergy Books** in Charlottetown, PEI, have produced the already mentioned *To Sappho, My Sister: Lesbian Sisters Write About Their Lives* which is edited by Lee Fleming. Once again, bug Everywoman's if its not on the shelves. Or phone me for details.

O, Canada! **Women's Press** in Toronto, has released ('ll bet rather quickly) *Tangled Sheets: Stories & Poems of Lesbian Lust* edited by Rosamund Elwin & Karen X. Tulchinsky. I can only guess what the X stands for. This steamy collection of erotica features Chrystos, Joan Nestle, Chea Villanueva, Jacquelyn Bishop, Sandra Haar and Ellen Flanders. Karen Tulchinsky is a Jewish lesbian writer who lives in Vancouver. Cost of this book is \$14.95. Check Everywoman's or give me a call.

Women's Press has also just released *In Her Nature*, short stories by Karen X Tulchinsky. apparently, according to review by Publisher's weekly, "...In Karen X. Tulchinsky's sweet, politically correct tale a Jewish mother learns from her daughter that lesbianism is just, "a different kind of love". Oh, how very sweet. Well, the promo also adds, Desire, love, hot sex, cool sex, grieving and thriving..... BMCL

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Campaigning from the Closet

Some people are just too darned active, politically and otherwise to stay in the closet for long. We are going to protect Margaret's identity in this story; but we predict she'll be out soon. This story is really an inducement for other older lesbians to contact Margaret as part of the establishment of an association for older lesbians in and/or out who want to meet privately to discuss common interests and concerns. By 'older' read 48-to ancient.

Margaret was happily married for 29 years until her husband's death in 1982. "I always knew I was a lesbian," she said in a recent interview; but like so many women of her generation, she got locked in marriage, isolated, and alone with feelings buried in companionship. When one of the women participants in a fitness class Margaret teaches requested an interview, Margaret obliged. This

woman related the story of grandson Michael's coming out to his parents, and the parent's subsequent terrible reaction. They disowned the child who subsequently appeared on grandma's doorstep. Margaret's sympathy and empathy for both grandma and Michael led her to the library for research on gays. "I read the books and journeyed down memory lane. It wasn't long before I had to come to terms with who I really am and come out to myself.

"Suddenly there's a spring in my step. Where have I been all my life?" she laughs. She attends Lesbian Outdoors Club meetings, Musaic (more later when she can) and Old Timer's Dances. She's out in community, but not yet out to the world.

The 67-year-old Margaret knows there are lots of women just like her who have, late or later in life, discovered that they are lesbian and are sitting at home alone, and very likely, fearful. She knows from her work with seniors, that older women are often invisible. Lots of them are fearful not only of their newfound selves but of persecution from family, perhaps denigration from

acquaintance, rejection from friends and people in their lives that matter to them.

As Margaret continues with her story, she talks of happy dinner times with Michael, his friend, and Granny. However, the persecution from family proved too much and Michael eventually committed suicide. "I can't understand how the state and the church can treat people like this," she sighs. "Those young men should not be abused, they should be cherished."

Like many of us who came out in the late 1950s and 60s Margaret is finding her way into lesbian life with support from intimate lesbian friends (in Colorado) and gay men like Joe Carlson, a.k.a. Queen Victoria, and Pink Umbrella folks like Rob Tornack with whom she has had coffee.

"I'd like to start a Prime Timers for women," Margaret says. "There are a lot of us who have faced the isolation and the lifetime of not being who we are. There is always the threat and the reality of family persecution. Older women who might sigh 'it's too late for me' are making a terrible mistake."

This is Margaret's message: "There is now the opportunity to meet and mingle without coming out of the closet. You will find a kind and sympathetic reception; an opportunity to meet in a safe and private home setting. You can share with others all of the concerns and anxieties of, perhaps, a lifetime of having to be who you are not. Let the real you out of the dusty closet. Do call Margaret, she is one of you, too. You can meet Margaret on a one-to-one basis first until you might be comfortable in a group. You won't be sorry you took this first step." Margaret's number is 384-6568.

By the way, Margaret is a wonderful portrait artist and cartoonist. We'll share the cartoons with you whenever we can and recommend you call her for portraits of those near and dear to you. Margaret seems able in her work, to capture on canvas, that essence of lesbian that seems to creep out of our pores. You've got her number! BMCL



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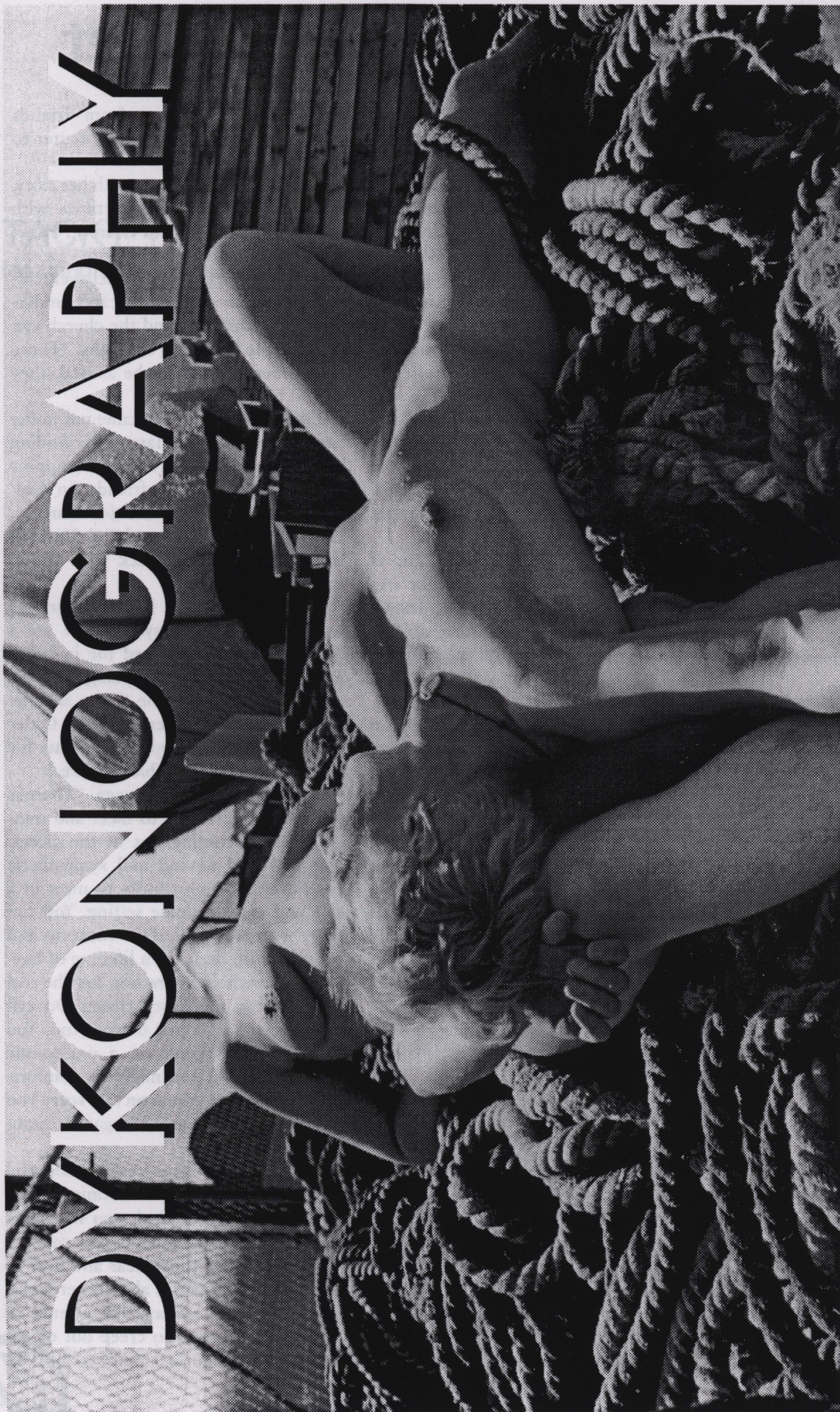
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Women's Shelter Opens

By Monica Kendall



The Sandy Merriman House, Victoria's first emergency shelter and drop-in centre for homeless women, opened at 809 Burdett Street, December 19. Several hundred people packed the house for the successful launching.

The shelter will be operated by the Greater Victoria Women's Shelter Society with funding from the Ministry of Social Services. As many as 15 women are now able to stay for up to a month. Services offered include showers, laundry and kitchen facilities. Shelter staff includes a co-ordinator and six full-time support workers. The drop-in will be run by volunteers.

The building was gutted, renovated and created by 20 Victoria Women on income assistance who began four months of classroom training in life skills and construction last January. Eleven went on to complete seven months of on-site construction and renovation work in the former bed and breakfast. At least five of the women have found full-time jobs as a direct result of the program. Most of the others plan to continue pursuing their education, it was noted. Many of the women involved in teaching, training and co-ordinating are lesbians.

Attending the opening ceremony were Employment and Investment Minister Glen Clark, Women's Equality Minister Penny Priddy, Social Services Minister Joy MacPhail, Housing Minister Sue Hammell and the ubiquitous Victoria Beacon Hill MLA Gretchin Brewin.

"These women have created a safe, welcome place for women in need, and they've built the foundations of better lives for themselves through practical work experience and pre-apprenticeship training," Priddy said.

"This is a great example of government and the community working together to break the cycle of poverty," said MacPhail.

The shelter will meet the needs of between 50 and 250 women in Victoria's downtown core who spend

or have spent time living and/or working on Victoria's streets. Most housing services in Victoria are for men, it is noted.

What We Can Do

Help is urgently need for Volunteers, money, bedding, furniture, sofas, armchairs. If you can do anything to help, have any of the articles needed, or want any further information, contact Christine Downing at 480-1408.



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Surfing the Pink Highway

Have you been bitten by the electronic bug? Are you getting your Virtual highs from the web? Have you experienced the exhilaration of cruising the InterNet?

If you haven't ventured in cyberspace yet, let me introduce you to some "pink places" that might intrigue, inform or even titillate you.

With the recent explosion of information technology and the unprecedented growth in electronic communication, gay communities of the world now enjoy a unique opportunity for networking, education and commerce. The InterNet has become a place where information about and for gays and lesbians is welcomed without censure; individuals can communicate openly and without judgment or fear.

Over the next few issues of LNews, I will use this space to describe briefly some of the sites on the InterNet which provide information and services for gays and lesbians all over the world.

A useful site with which to start is the Canadian Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Resource Directory (<http://www.cglbrd.com/>). It includes:

- business directory
- electronic mall
- cities - information on where you live; where you might be going
- conferences - international events and conferences
- benefits - Canadian businesses which offer same-sex couple benefits
- University groups - support groups at universities and colleges
- web pages of readers
- guest book

As well, this site provides a link to related sites

- news groups
- other Canadian gay, lesbian bisexual sites
- other interesting gay, lesbian, bisexual sites
- information on other countries

Finally, the "cglbrd" offers Search capabilities. This means that you can type in key words to locate sites related to any quirky, kinky topic you can imagine!

To continue our trip, let's look at the site: **Other Interesting gay, lesbian bisexual sites:** (<http://www.cglbrd.com/other/links-oth.html>) Its table of contents includes:

Resource Directory

- Gay Resource pages at Yahoo
- Condom sense
- CyberQueer Lounge
- Deaf Queer Resources Directory
- International Assoc. of Lesbian; Gay pride Coordinators
- La femme for discriminating lesbians
- Pink pages for Amsterdam
- PrideNet - collection of groovy graphics
- Queer Info Servers
- Queer Resources Directory

It also includes :

Magazines

- FaT GiRL
- Gaysource
- Out.com
- OutNOW

As well it has one entry for:

Gay Art/Artists

- Foto Rick Wezenear Netherlands

Finally there are several curious sites listed under:

Miscellaneous Web Sites

- Q Mall on-line
- Film List
- "Gays"
- The Closet

This gives you an idea of just how vast is the range of topics and services available on the InterNet! Over the next few issues, I will focus such topics as Entertainment, Travel, Shopping and Events targeted at the gay crowd. For those of you who have InterNet access I will provide URL's of specific sites for quick access. For those of you who don't yet have access to this galaxy, contact me with specific requests and I will search for you. For those with home computers, I can also provide you with information on cheap access through inexpensive local InterNet Service Providers.

I hope you have found this new feature useful and informative. In the interest of brevity, I have assumed that readers have a basic knowledge of how to access the InterNet and are familiar with one of the popular web browsers such as Netscape.

If you have any questions, would like more information, or help or have your own favourite sites to share, contact me at: paalliso@cln.etc.bc.ca or at 655-1440.

Next week, I will focus on Travel sites.

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Babe Notes



The Return of the Rink Rat

Dateline Esquimalt:

I watched the Island Storm squeak out a 2-0 victory over the Ice Hawks, January 28, at the Archie Browning Sports Centre. It's been years since I've done the rink rat shuffle and I was surprised at how familiar it felt to be back in a rink watching a game.

Broomball is played on a regulation-sized hockey rink, and the rules essentially mimic those of hockey. There are no blue lines, so off-sides happen over the red (centre) line. Penalties are the usual: elbowing, tripping, etc. It's a game where strategy and skill complement the slower speed, although, to watch Jan Vallillee of Island Storm fly down the boards, while dodging checks and moving the ball from end to end, illustrates that there is speed in this game. Valerie Smith of the Ice Hawks demonstrated ably the skill of moving

the ball up ice with some very fine broom-handling. You can kick the ball as long as it is not directed toward the goal; you can knock a high ball down with your arm but you must direct it to yourself; there is no high-sticking allowed. The goalies have it tough as they must handle a bouncing, slick, ball which is shot at fairly high speeds. Deflections and rebounds are hard to control, especially in a crowded crease area. The key is to remain in the crease and standing as the net is tall and there's lots of scoring space if you are flat on your back. (Ahem)

Equipment is basic: all players wear a helmet with a face cage or visor. Shoes are specially designed to allow for traction on the ice. The "broom", which was actually a broom in the old days, is a thick rubber, hand-shaped disk on a shortened broomstick handle. Players wear shin guards and padded gloves.

Go out and watch these teams play entertaining, exhilarating broomball. Every Monday night at 10:00 p.m. you'll find a couple of teams playing with enthusiasm and skill at Archie Browning.

The provincials I hear are happening in Chilliwack and the s will be held in Victoria from November 4 to 9, 1996. I can't wait. Mark it down as a must-see women's sport. Some of the best broomballers in the country play here. So, support your local broomballers. See you at the rink.

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Be Bold – Come Out

By Rowena Hunnisett

Being bolder about coming out is a powerful way of challenging and healing our own homophobia. Being out as lesbians in a non-defensive, open-hearted way strengthens our positive lesbian identity. When we decide that coming out is too risky, we need to give room to our fearful or angry reactions. Our emotional responses are necessary for staying healthy whether we come out or not.

When we mute our responses to homophobia, our confidence and strength as lesbians is sapped; we tend to become apathetic or cynical. For example: we may habitually fall into silencing ourselves, like when we avoid kissing a lover goodbye or won't let ourselves say "well, from my point of view as a lesbian...". We need to guard against becoming participants in our own wounding.

Our beliefs can get in the way of coming out and healing too. For example: when we assume we only deserve a tiny bit of lesbospace, so we try to make ourselves invisible or are careful not to touch each other in front of heterosexuals. A healthy contradiction to that negative belief system is: we deserve and have the right to take our place in the world. This means simply being ourselves: talking about what we did with our lesbian outdoor group or the great les-bi-gay film festival we went to; freely discussing our lesbian lives.

A way of challenging our own beliefs is to assume that others are not homophobic. Even when we turn out to be wrong,

the effect of the assumption on homophobic people will usually be to embarrass them into being cool about it. This of course saves responding to their wrong ideas and allows us to do some educating without having to justify or argue. Best of all: the burden is on the homophobe to speak, not on us to silence ourselves.

Some say: "well, I can't take the risk to be out". The risk really is sometimes too great and we each have to assess the potential negative repercussions of coming out. But how often do we assess the potential benefits? Is a fear-based relationship really better than an open, clear one? Do we just assume all heterosexuals are homophobic? Can we allow others the space to be supportive and respectful? If you are nervous about coming out "cold turkey", you could try the toe-in-the-water method: "So, did you hear the joke about how many lesbians it takes to change a lightbulb?" or – more subtle – "How did you like that Chatelaine article about k.d.?" Don't like those? Make up your own.

Assessing the benefits of being out involves a radical shift in our thinking about ourselves: from fear-based thinking to thinking in positive terms of what we offer ourselves and others through our lesbian lives. In a healthy lesbian belief system we know that lesbian existence is essentially good for us and for the world.

Rowena Hunnisett is a therapist in private practice in Victoria

** Along with all other life we are a part of the being of Earth. It is of deep importance at this time that we re-establish our spiritual/physical kinship within this being.*

Opening to Nature

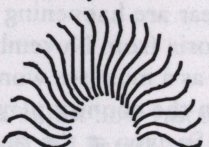
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PROSPERITY IS NOT A FOUR-LETTER WORD

By Tanya Anderson

Last December, I remarked to another lesbian that it had been tricky finding cards without references to the "holidays" for some of my clients as not everyone celebrates Christmas. Eventually I found cards wishing them a new year filled with health and prosperity. She responded that she didn't like the word prosperity because it made her think of capitalism. I replied that it was appropriate to wish them a prosperous 1996 as, after all, they had invested money with me. They're planning for their futures and I want them to do well.

What image does the word prosperity conjure up for you? For me, prosperity means flourishing, having a good life with a degree of comfort. It doesn't mean making a ton of money off the backs of the vulnerable. It does, however, mean making our money work for us so that we have choices about how we live, particularly later on as seniors. One of those choices can be sharing what we have with others less fortunate and financially supporting causes which are important to us. As for the comfort component, for some of us, that may mean a cosy apartment (complete with cat), owning our own home or going South for the coldest months. Prosperity equals opportunity and choices. How do we become those comfortable seniors? Planning. The difficulty for many lesbians is that we often earn our livings in unconventional ways winding up without a company pension at the

end of the day. This leads me to my next topic.

Three months ago, the retailers were bombarding you with messages to spend, spend, spend. Now the financial services industry is bombarding you with messages about another "season" - RRSP season. This season is actually good for your pocketbook. Unlike those commercials for the Shiatsu underpants or the combination rollerblades and pizza slicer, you are being asked to buy something that you really need. That something is a promise from the government that if you put money away to create an income for retirement and keep your hands off that money, Revenue Canada will charge you less tax and let your money grow tax free. That's a terrific deal! As usual, there are all kinds of rules covering how much you can put away and which financial products are eligible. The trick is just to do something. Make the largest RRSP contribution you can so that you pay the least amount of tax. Are you that happy with our government that you want to give Revenue Canada extra money? If I sound like I'm harping on this contribution business, I am! I am!

I've covered this before but it bears repeating: A 35 year old who contributes \$250 per month to a mutual fund, for example, which averages 9.5% compound interest per year will have \$472,000 by the time she's 65. If you're

longer in the tooth than our farsighted 35 year old, you have to put away much more each month to catch up but it can be done. Thirty years from now that amount might give you only \$3100 per month before the government takes its bite. Seem like a reasonable income? Not really. Thirty years ago, office workers were well paid if they earned \$350 per month. How far would that take you now?

Sometimes I visualize my own old age: Youngsters in their 60's and 70's drop by to see my partner and me. A long time ago, I set up plans for them and looked after their accounts until I finally retired myself. Each woman now has enough income without having to count on the government. They don't wake up each day faced with the chilling reality of a poverty line existence. That's my selfish daydream - that I will have earned a good living while helping others to empower themselves financially. (Notice my daydream does include my own financial empowerment. Gotta pay for those Olivia cruises.)

So my message is: take action now! Small or big steps, it doesn't matter. The deadline for your 1995 contribution is the end of February. I invite you to call me to discuss how I can help you meet that deadline and plan for the coming years. I look forward to hearing from you. Here's to prosperity!

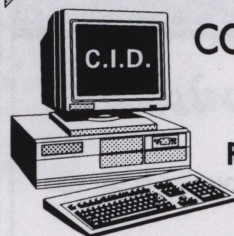
Ed. Note: Check Tanya's ad this issue for contact details.

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Let's Send Diane to Dharamsala

Diane Smith has been working toward her dream of serving women through her skills as a midwife for more than 20 years. The dream is about to come true, but not in ways she might have thought when first she witnessed a home birth on Hornby Island. Diane is currently raising funds to travel to Dharamsala, India to volunteer her midwifery care and service for a year to Tibetan women living in exile in that Northern Indian community.

Describing the past 20 years as a time for "wisening up", Diane has been "learning the depth of process that being born is." She attended home births on Hornby Island through the '80s; she has completed an apprenticeship with a senior midwife in Victoria providing comprehensive care to women choosing hospital births. She has had a small, supervised practice attending women in both the home and hospital. Just returned from El Paso Texas,

Diane completed the three-month intern program at Casa de Nacimiento. There she assisted Mexican women in their childbirth process.

"The interlacing of my practical midwifery skills is made strong by my faith and dedication to the female body and its ability to give birth naturally," Diane says in a handout she created for her fund-raising campaign. "The power that instinctively emerges and transforms each woman in her own time of giving birth, humbles me."

So why practice in a remote part of the world? Diane explains that she has come to recognize in her own culture a loss of faith that has been replaced by fear, especially as it relates to the way we view life and death. "Consequently, I have chosen to offer my skills to a community that embraces death as part of the life plan." Her own spiritual journey has led her to a study of Buddhism. And now she will travel to Dharamsala

where, in Diane's opinion, the exiled women have been living out their cultural horrors with dignity and compassion. "I have much to learn from them, and will give them my time, energy and skills," Diane writes.

Support for Diane seems worthwhile thing. A fine artist as well as belly dancer, yogi yoga instructor, and furniture upholsterer, Diane is also a gifted quilt maker. One of her quilts she will raffle off as a fund-raiser. The quilt is a seven by eight foot seascape made of cotton and faded denim. Tickets are only \$10. Draw is March 23. If you want information on how to buy a ticket, call Diane at 598-4052. Talk about a win-win!

At a place and time to be announced Diane will also do a poetry reading entitled Birth, Love, Life, Death, Dance with Diane Smith. And she will be reading at the Everywomans Books 21st birthday party. BMCL



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NOTICES

GAY-LESBIAN HOTLINE TOLL FREE:

Province-Wide Resource Mon.-Fri. 1-4 p.m. 1-800-566-1170

ADOPTED women support group for those who have found their birth parents. Contact Trish Sharp at 389-1517.

AIDS VANCOUVER ISLAND - Launched 2nd Annual Artists for AIDS lottery at Fran Willis Gallery (North Park St.) Jan. 18. However, you can still see work on view and purchase \$10 lottery tickets and brochure order forms via Starbucks, Body Shop and Bolen Books. Do it by March 20, 1996. Can also order tickets by phoning 384-2366. Island wide number 1-800-665-2437.

BASKETBALL: Sundays 5:45 to 6:45 at Fernwood Community Centre. All levels welcome. Adults only. Call Jahnet 380-6617

BOWLING: Fridays 6:30 - 8:30, Town and Country Lanes. Dawn 595-7179.

OLDER LESBIANS: Those over 50 or 60 who want to get together for sharing, projects, conversation, fun and whatever the group determines, Margaret, 384-6568. See story this issue.

HOT FLASHES ANNOUNCEMENT: Coffee Houses sponsored by the Hot Flashes gang are discontinued until a suitable, accessible space can be found. The energetic collective wants time to rejuvenate as well. They'll be sending out a survey soon to determine what events to hold, and they are looking for fresh input. They thank us for our support and ask that we watch for future events. Check it out on these pages!

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEWS FLASH: Suzanne Westenhofer comes to town March 15. See ad this issue. This is a rare treat and an event you won't want to miss. Save your pennies; Nancy and Ruth are going on the wire for this one. Tickets \$15. Check details. Hey, this lesbian has her own HBO special!

FULL CIRCLE STUDIO: Creative Art Experiences for Women Margo. Farr. Phone 388-0929 for schedule of courses and workshops.

BELLY DANCING & YOGA: 9 - 10:30 a.m. Saturdays. Diane Smith, 598-4052

EVERYWOMANS BOOKS: Open mike reading celebrates this merry band's 21st Anniversary and some of Victoria's exciting emerging writers Sunday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m. at the bookstore, 635 Johnson St. Call 384-9411.

POETRY READING: Birth, Love, Life, Death, Dance Feb. 16 at Maynard Court, 733 Johnson St. Rm. 302 (above Ginger Group). Presented by Diane Smith who is raising funds to get herself to India. The quilt she built will be displayed for those of you buying raffle tickets. Details at 598-4052.

LESBIAN TANGO: Mireille Painchaud, Liliانا Kleiner are joined by Connie Cooke and Nicola Harwood in a classical Argentinian Tango. Performed in front of video images to become a Sapphic delight for women who love women. Feb. 1 9:00 p.m. Feb. 2, 7:00 p.m. Feb. 3, 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$10/\$8. Focus Hotline 383-2663.

TANGO LESSONS: for lesbians with Mireille and Lilianna have already been a smash hit. Catch 'em while you can. For details on how to dip and smooth around the dance floor, call 383-7183.

ROOMMATE WANTED: To share spacious house in quiet neighborhood. \$450/month includes everything. Available now. Call Jennie evenings 479-3423.

WANTED: One fabulous dyke to share large house with two other fabulous dykes. Feb. 1 to Sept. 1. Call Monica 361-4799.

WANTED: To meet with other women to share discoveries and difficulties in doing computer-based research. I'm learning my way around Netscape Navigator on the Internet, Eudora e-mail and Windows 95, using a Pentium computer (IBM). Interested in connecting with other researchers, maybe meeting as a group at each other's houses for hands-on demos of favorite web sites, search engines, mailing lists, tips and tricks, whatever? Call Mary at 598-8040.

SERVICES ACTIVITIES CONTACTS

Art Show Contact: Updates, donations, info Rebecca 595-7179 or Margot 380-6617.

Art Show Tee Shirts: Rebecca, 595-7179. Time is running out!

Blind Date Productions: Gwyneth Powell, 598-2327

Bowling: Dawn H., 595-7179

Bridge: Marion S., 472-6015

Dyke Basketball: Rebecca 595-7179

Dyke Dimensions Radio Show: Mondays 8:30 CFUV 104.3 FM Cable FM 101.9

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

Lesbian Drop-in Softball: Marion S. 472-6015 off for winter

Lesbianews: P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, V8R 6S4 Barbara, 479-2445

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

Lesbian Seniors Housing: Sally, 388-6036

Lesbian 12-Step Group: All recoveries. Tues. 7:30 Cindy, 370-1289

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

Musica: Lesbian and Gay Choir: Contact Toni, 474-1054

P-FLAG: Information, 642-5171

PINK UMBRELLA: fax/phone 727-6669

SWAG: Lesbian Issues Committee, Feminist activist Network for event planning. Call 383-7322 for calendar info.

University of Victoria: Jenny Waelti-Walters of Women's Studies can arrange meeting rooms under department. Call her, 721-6157



LITTLE LEZZIE FLASHES

There were grand parties over the holidays with hostesses supreme Denise and Marti and Peggy and Michele, Sally and Milnor and Jenny W2. At one, Phyllis Serota and Annie Weeks regaled all who would listen with tales of meeting Little Lezzie 20 years ago or so. I was, according to this long-together pair, reclining on a bed at the Empress Hotel, and wearing a tie with matching trousers. The real significance of the event was not my sartorial splendour but my lesbianism. Apparently, I was their first encounter of genus lesbian. At Jenny's, under the instigation of Daphne and Micki, and prodding by Judy, we raided the coat tree and giggled elegantly under an assortment of Jenny's treasured hats. She wasn't half as amused as we were, which, of course, made it all the more fun. Lahl reports she did a roaring Cho-clit business over the hols. These tasty little wonders are made for the diabetic and the calorie conscious and from real dried fruit. Well, what else? Went to church with Peggy Maher and Michele Gill (trying things out) and the minister at Pilgrim United in Colwood said: "Whether you be married or single, straight or gay..." I cried. It's the first time I have felt included in a church by more than a loving congregation. It matters to name it, claim it, OUT LOUD. I wish more ministers would get it. Speaking of things like that, Deborah Pearce's T/C story on me and LesbiaNews ran Tuesday. By Friday I had three requests for subscriptions and one let-

ter damning my soul to eternal hell. Gosh! At least the lesbians had the courage to sign their letters. Speaking of devilment, the post holiday season meant swimming and bridging again. As long as Jan Trainor doesn't drown me in the deep end of the kiddies pool, it's usually quite fun. Last time we were under the showers, comparing muscles and singing Bolero (la lala lala la la dum de dum) at the top our gorgeously exposed lungs, when in paraded the goddess of swimmers. As our humming got louder, the goddess grinned and said, "there is far too much hilarity going on under here." Not enuff, dear goddess, not enuff. WomynsWare offers a 10 per cent discount when you bring your ferry pass to the store. Until next time, keep those cards and letters

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Name

Address

CityPostal Code

I enclose cheque or money order, payable to S. Hamill, P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6S4, for _____ subs at \$20.00 each.

Please send me a gift subscription of *LesbiaNews* starting with _____ (month).

Name

Address

CityPostal Code

Please put this name as gift giver:

TOTAL \$ _____ (Back issues available for \$2.50 including postage)

