

L NEWS

BC's Premiere Lesbian Magazine

What's Inside

Dreaming of Victoria

Gay Toner continues her profiles of local lesbian families

Lesbians at Work

Careers & jobs: working women talk about getting their start.

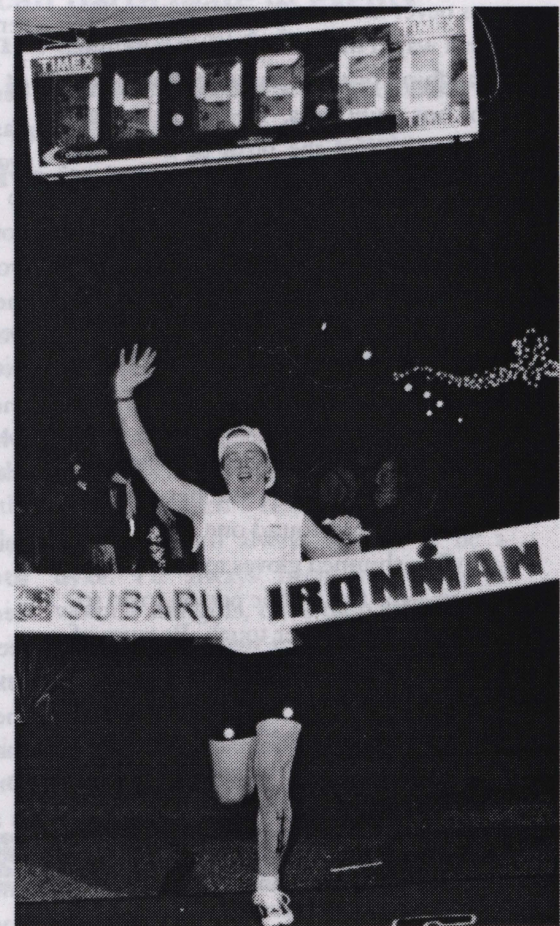
Quotes and Queries

Lesbian author denies prowling for pots, Australian police playing footsie & the definitive guide to telling which Indigo girl you actually have a crush on.

Films to warm fall nights

Your map to the lesbians lurking on local video store shelves.

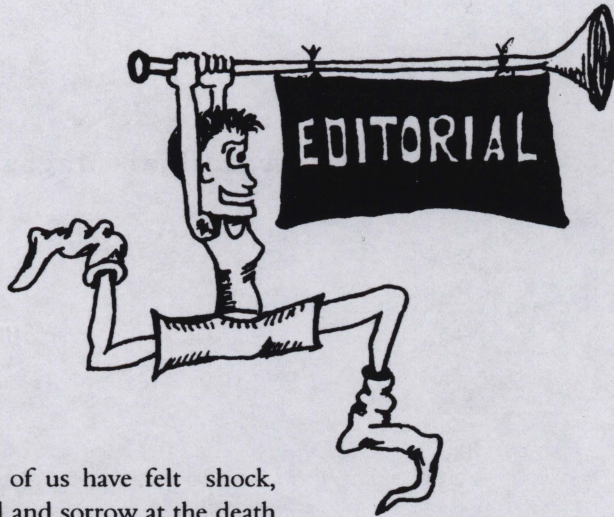
and much more ...



Suzie Cutt crosses the finish line

-Iron Man Triathlon in Penticton.

Lesbian News was founded
September 1988.



So many of us have felt shock, anger, denial and sorrow at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Most of us never met her. But we all knew her in a way. That beautiful face, smiling, laughing or tearful was almost a part of our daily lives. We lived through her wedding, the birth of her sons, her bulimia and her conquering of that terrible disease, her divorce, her romances. It was like hearing at last the "ever after" part of the stories of Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty. More important, our sorrow stems from the abrupt passing of a life that mattered. She lived and acted from her heart. She was a hero to a generation that had lost its heroes and thought it had found one.

She shunned gloves to touch a gay man—the first public person to do so. Lepers also felt her touch. Because of Diana, use of land mines may be curtailed. So many children, old folks, artists and canvassers for good causes were cheered or succeeded because of Diana's participation in their lives and their causes. She brightened rooms as she brightened people's lives. A future king of England may have more of the human qualities we would like royalty to express because of Diana's loving interest in Prince William's life. It is possible Diana's death will be a positive force for change in the world. Personally, I need it to be. A senseless death for a

remarkable woman just doesn't fit.

As I write this I hear that Mother Teresa, a long-time friend of Diana, has also died. The work both women accomplished caused them to admire each other as we admired both of them. Let us hope that the work of both can continue and that the legacy left by these very special women touches our own hearts and lives—love and respect for one another—love for human beings who need to know desperately that they matter.

I've been saddened to realize that some lesbians don't allow themselves to take part in community life because they are "different". They feel because of race, colour and other sexual preference and agenda that they stick out, and thus, feel automatically apart from the rest of us. One is bisexual, two are trannies, one is a woman of colour. They have all talked to me about this feeling different this past month. A letter writer has bluntly stated this month that we all have places where we hurt one another. She's right. Maybe we can, like Mother Teresa, like Diana, treat each other with love and respect no matter who or what we are. Maybe, true acceptance of diversity can be a part of our daily lives. BMcL

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

LNews Team:

Editor: Barbara McLaughlin
Production & Desktop: Theresa Newhouse
Paste-Up: Leigh Walters
Staff Photographer: Heather Brown
Subscription Mailing List: Lahl SarDyke
Treasurer: Sally Hamill
**Display Advertising Sales: Colleen
Craig (250)598-3127**

Columnists and Contributors: Anne
Richmond, Barbara McLaughlin, Sharon
Dale Stone, Melaney Black, Quill, Babe,
Gay Toner, Melanie Waite, Betty Shriver K.,
Patti Aldridge & Mary Lasovich.

Editor can be reached directly at (250)598-
6490 or by e-mail barbmcl@coastnet.com

Letters to the editor and submissions will
be edited for space and clarity. Letters and
submissions must be accompanied 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, &
transgendered lesbian 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 Everywomans
Books, 645 Johnson Street, Bolen Books at
Hillside Mall and at the Romance Shop,
2202 Douglas Street, for \$3.50 per issue.

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

Family Portraits: 5

by Gay Toner

Rebecca Van Sciver is 52 and her children Alex and Jennifer are 22 and 26 respectively. While Alex has just moved out after having lived with his mother for the past year, Jennifer has just moved back in—a break from university courses in California. Rebecca is a visual and performance artist; she's been in relationship with Jennie for the past two years, although the two have decided not to live together.

Rebecca grew up and was graduated from high school in the San Francisco Bay area. She married Mike in 1966; he's the father of her two children. The couple moved to Saskatoon in 1970. In 1978 Rebecca had her first relationship with a woman. Seven-year-old Jennifer and three-year-old Alex stayed with their father and visited her and her girlfriend occasionally.

"After a year, she left me for a man. I was pretty devastated. I guess, being my first attempt [lesbian relationship], I thought, maybe it's me. Maybe, I'm not a lesbian. I'd always gotten along with men, so I wound up living with another guy, Michael, for eight years.

Hostile while she lived with a woman, her ex-husband was able to work out a joint custody arrangement with her while she lived with Michael. The kids were with her for five months of the school year, half of Christmas holidays and half the summer. After seven and a half years with Michael she realized she was "basically interested in women. In January, 1987, I told him to leave and by the summer of that year, I officially came out."

In 1987 Rebecca met and began a relationship with Lahl. Lahl, however, lived in Winnipeg. For a year Rebecca stayed in Saskatoon and the joint custody arrangement was maintained. Alex, who was

then 13, had a difficult time adjusting to having a dyke mom. "Alex would come to stay with me for his proscribed times, and Lahl would come visit, too. He wouldn't speak to Lahl for about three months. Anything that looked like dyke stuff...he would hide. He was embarrassed and he was afraid his friends would find out. Whereas Jennifer was thinking it was extremely cool to have a dyke Mom. I talked to Alex about it a lot. I think if he'd been raised in a dyke home from the time he was little, it would have been a different story.

But, this was imposed on him at a later time in his life. I felt had to respect his feelings."

The following year, Rebecca moved to Winnipeg to live with Lahl and the kids both decided to stay in Saskatoon with their father. The kids visited occasionally.

"Jennifer can participate in events even if she isn't a dyke because she is female," Rebecca noted. "But Alex is unable to participate. So he and I live in two different worlds.

"There's a lot of negative stuff said about men. It must be difficult for them to not take that on and feel that we as dykes or feminists are talking about them as individuals. I've always tried to make that very clear to him. I'd like to see more activities for people with male children. I don't

know how many other lesbians there are with male children, but that's because [as far as she knows] there's nowhere to get together."

Rebecca and Lahl moved to Victoria in 1993. Rebecca is happy that her father bought the house that she now lives in and put it in the children's names. As she said, "it's been a way to provide a home

"Jennifer can participate in events even if she isn't a dyke because she is female," Rebecca noted. "But Alex is unable to participate. So he and I live in two different worlds."

for my children."

Rebecca reminisced about her coming out process. "I had been married; I had kids. I asked myself, my friends, am I or aren't I? Finally, I had to say, I am what I am. It was such a relief after 10 years of wondering. I'd always wanted to be a dyke. I'd always been interested in women and girls, but I didn't think that was lucky enough to have been born a dyke. My dreams in life had been to be a dyke and live in Victoria.

She spread her arms wide and laughed and said: "I'm here!"

Rowena Hunnisett M.A.

Psychotherapy for Individuals, Couples & Groups

54 GOVERNMENT STREET TELEPHONE 384-2833

Matching Her Time— Suzie Comes Home a Winner

by Barbara McLaughlin

New Thought, Zen, Shakti Gawain—all talk of the value of creative visualization and positive thinking. It's great to actually meet one of our own who not only practices the art, but proves its worth. Suzie Cutt has just completed her second Iron Man Triathlon in Penticton in almost exactly the time she projected and envisioned for herself. She swam, biked and ran the event in 14 hours, 45 minutes and 58 seconds to arrive at her 14:45 time within the minute. Wow!

"I was willing to accept another time," the 29-year-old massage therapist admits. "But that time is what I was shooting for, and it's that time I visualized for completing the run."

Suzie trained for the event for 18 months: 20 hours per week of running, swimming, biking, each three times per week. She got to accept a 100 mile bike ride as a normal day trip and was ready to bike 112 miles, swim two and a half miles and run the marathon 26 miles in Penticton this August.

Why? "I like to physically challenge myself. It keeps me motivated and consistent. There's no better feeling than in the last two miles of the run when the entire watching crowd gets into it. And the massage afterward..." her eyes turn dreamy.

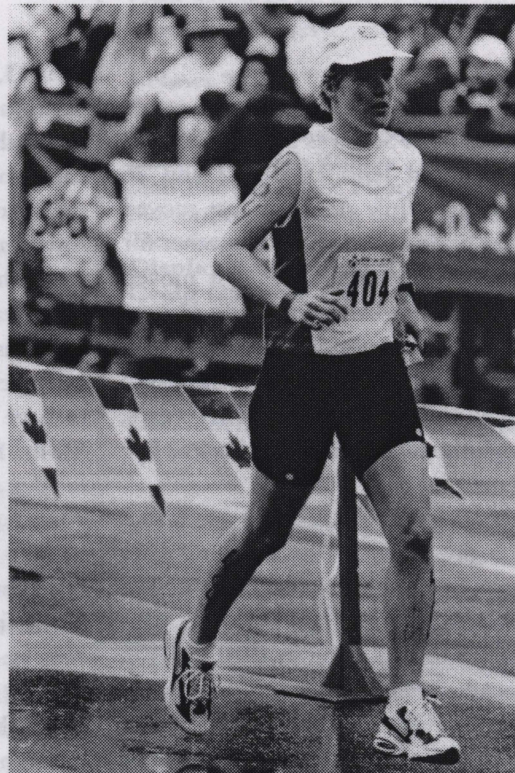
Suzie's car had 14:45 taped all over the dash board. Little signs with the same time dot her apartment. There are even signs in her workplace in Brentwood. Her Penticton hotel room was dotted with lit-

tle colored paste notes. While training, the posted times, and visualizing herself completing the run before a rooting crowd, kept her going towards her goal. Support from her mom and dad, partner Karen Morton, and a couple of friends were of vital importance — a big part of her success..

While she was running Suzie kept focus on her body, totally focused on the event she was in, not thinking of swimming while she was biking, or running while she was biking. "Otherwise each event would be overwhelming. I kept telling myself I feel relaxed, I feel my support (volunteer and family) and just before the event I read Greg Lougainas' book in which he said, 'I believe'. It kept going through my own head, *I believe*." A veteran of 14 triathlons, Suzie has learned to focus. She marks time in eight measures as she runs, bikes, or walks.

Completing the triathlon is a personal triumph. Professionals finish six or seven hours earlier and for that they get paid. For Suzie another big bonus is the people she meets as she competes. Men and women from 37 countries come to Penticton for the Iron Man each year. Of the 1,651 persons who started, 1,584 completed the events. Seventeen per cent of competitors are women.

The city of Penticton really gets into the event. Volunteers are all along the routes cheering competitors. Volunteers are a big part of various Aid Stations who feed and water the athletes at appropriate times and places during the 17-hour event. There are profes-



sionals. Medical teams are available for those in need and professional massages are available in a huge tent where 40 to 50 tables are set up—a goal to keep in mind! Participants each have a number and their corresponding names are listed in a programme held by watchers. It helps to keep going when total strangers are shouting "go Suzie!"

A healthy body and a keen interest in how muscles and tissues work have inspired Suzie to keep herself in trim. Her interest led her to her career as a massage therapist—even though her other interest—children, has taken her back to university to complete studies in early childhood education. She continues to practice massage therapy and is moving part of her practice to her home in James Bay. For now, Suzie is taking a week off to relax before easing herself back into training. After all, there are other triathlons, other marathons and all sorts of good cause fund-raisers for which to run, walk and bike.



**Colleen
& Grant**

Reservations:

1-250-384-9419

**Cambridge
Bed &
Breakfast**

39 Cambridge ST.
Victoria, BC V8V 4A7

1/2 Block from the Ocean

Cell: 480-9456

Working Women 2: Getting started in the job

by Anne Richmond

Perhaps one characteristic of lesbians that links back over the past century or so is that lesbian women expect to work for their lifetime, rather than get married as a career. True, most women today expect to work, and working class women have always expected to work, but lesbians may have thought about their work as a lifetime commitment more often than their sisters.

Lynn Sloane, "Sara Bellum", Kim Ball, Janet Dwyer and Judith Morton have all been employed in their chosen careers since the 1970's, in some cases as pioneers in their fields: one of the first women managers in the insurance industry (Kim Ball); an early computer software designer (Judith Morton) or helping to create the curriculum and standards for English as a Second Language training at the post secondary level ("Sara Bellum").

Although some women (Jen Charles, Lynn Sloane) identified their career interests early, even in high school, other women have come to their present jobs through exploration, the suggestions of friends and what sometimes seems like accident.

Sharon Ellingsen, currently pursuing a degree in electrical engineering in

Calgary, started out in the 1970's looking for a job where she "didn't have to dress up" and didn't have to work for the government. She got her first job doing printing and layout in a print shop. Her interest in layout led her to take a drafting course, and the next work she did was for an electronics company who needed someone with layout and darkroom experience—what Sharon describes as "and this magical combination of experience was me!". When Sharon started in the electronic industry, circuits were laid manually, and were just moving into being laid out photographically. As the industry developed to greater and greater levels of sophistication (and smaller and smaller scale) Sharon learned along with the industry, and ended up using computers as a printed circuit designer. Her interest in knowing the theory behind how the circuits she designs work has led

her to more training, this time as an engineer.

Not all jobs are careers, and a career isn't necessarily what's right for a woman at any one time. Judith Hyder is currently a sales clerk in a toy store. "I'd be called a sales associate at Wal-Mart" she comments, and has worked in retail on and off since she was in her 20's. She says she works in the field because these are jobs she can get - she got her present job through an ad in the paper. Retail work suits her because she doesn't have to sit down, and it's a job that she can go home from. For retail work, it's the attitude of the manager and the coworkers who make or break the job—and her current job is wonderful, with "outstanding" ethics in the owner and a very positive, supportive atmosphere for the staff.

Melaney Black describes herself as a musician — who just happens to have a day job writing and editing. She has always written, making contributions to her school papers from grade 3 onwards, and working for regional and weekly newspapers as a journalist since then. About 5 years ago she began working for Hansard—the official record of the BC Legislature—as transcriber. Her skills and the experience over time have helped her become an editor at Hansard - along with quite a few other women in our community. Melaney likes the work because although it's intense when the Legislature is in session, it is seasonal and she has the opportunity to pursue her real career (music) outside of the usual March-July session.

Like Sharon, "Sara Bellum" had her field grow up around her. She first applied for work in the early 1970's, while a student, in the just-emerging field of English as a Second Language (ESL), and got the job because she had "a clear voice and good enunciation". Since then she's moved to several provinces, worked for colleges and government, and helped to establish the new field even as she continued to work in it.

There are clearly many routes to employment — whether you invent your own job, like the self-employed women in the last edition, start with something you're interested in and have a career and

an industry grow up around you, like Sharon and "Sara", or work at a job which supports your other interests, like Melaney and Judith Hyder.

Next month: Women in "men's" jobs??? If you want to talk to Anne about your job, give her a call at (250) 384-3619. Long distance? Call me (collect) at 598-6490 and I'll arrange for Anne to contact you.

Nancy Nigro

Psychotherapist ♦ M.S.W.



relationship issues ♦ sexuality ♦ depression

Individuals/couples/groups

20 years experience

250-480-0080 ♦ Victoria, B.C.



BRENDA HOPPER
Real Estate Sales

Business (604) 384-8124 24 hours

Toll Free 1-800-665-5303

Fax (604) 380-6355

**THE ISLAND'S 1st
REAL ESTATE TEAM**

**PEMBERTON
HOLMES**

ESTABLISHED 1887

1000 Government Street
Victoria, B.C., Canada V8W 1X8

Notes from Kelowna: — on Marriage

by Sharon Dale Stone

The B.C. government seems eager to grant our couplehood the same status as that of heterosexuals. The right to legally marry seems a long way off, though I suspect it will come eventually, especially since the state of Hawaii appears on the verge of legalizing same-sex marriage. Nevertheless, we in B.C. are getting almost everything but the right to legally marry. Why?

It's a little-known fact, but for several years now the B.C. Ministry of Social Services has deemed that one can have a same-sex "spouse". Whatever the reason for the obscurity of this little piece of information, I think we have to recognize that by acknowledging same-sex relationships, the government conveniently denies social assistance payments to anyone living in an intimate relationship with someone else, regardless of the sex of the two. And you thought that women just weren't allowed to live with men to get welfare? Think again, you can't live with a woman either.

Now the B.C. government has come out into the open in terms of recognizing same-sex relationships. In July, an overwhelming majority in the legislature voted to change the Family Relations Act to include same-sex partners (and other changes to recognize same-sex "spouses" are apparently in the works). It seems we have a lot of people on our side. Even the MLAs from ultra-right-wing Kelowna voted in favour of the change. This is progress, isn't it? Shouldn't we be over-

joyed that the government is eager to loudly proclaim recognition of our same-sex relationships?

I have to admit that I'm a cynic. I have to wonder why B.C. is leading the rest of the country, especially when we haven't been notably obstreperous in demanding these particular rights. I suspect it's related to wanting to ward off Charter challenges (the Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes sexual orientation as a ground on which discrimination is illegal). It's a whole lot easier for the government to change regulations while things are relatively quiet. It gets them points with politically progressive people. Still, I'm not convinced that this is the whole story.

What, after all, have we "won" in B.C.? We can call our partner "spouse," but that legal right brings with it obligations and responsibilities. In particular, it means that we are financially responsible for our partners. One partner, for example, cannot collect social assistance while the other works for wages. This regulation has hurt countless heterosexual women. Why should we be pleased that lesbians now have the right to be hurt on an equal basis?

To my mind, the primary significance of these legislative changes lies in the realm of finances. Those living on the edge of poverty just got pushed even closer to the edge, while those already living in poverty just got pushed even deeper into the hole. Sure, these measures are on the face of it are about ameliorating discrimination, but when you look closer,

you can see that the changes save the government from being responsible for the well-being of lots of people. And when you put this in the larger context of ever-deeper cutbacks in health, education and other social welfare programs, it begins to look like the government just found a new way to

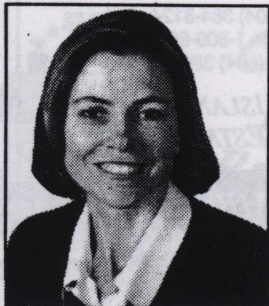
get rid of some more responsibility.

This is one of the biggest reasons the government encourages people to get married: it lets the state off the hook in terms of responsibility for people's well-being. Marriage has always been primarily about contractual responsibilities between spouses. It's about property and ownership and obligations. Historically, it's been an oppressive institution for women.

These days, most people think marriage is about love, and getting married is supposed to be the way to show the world that you're in love. Generally, a wedding is a joyous occasion involving parents, other relatives and friends. You get presents and heaps of social approval for getting married. Most people don't stop to think beyond these superficial trappings. Yet, it remains the case that when people get married, the state is off the hook for all kinds of financial responsibilities. Financially, marriage benefits rich people, but it penalizes poor people. And this is why I think that I'm going to live to see same-sex marriage legalized in Canada.

I'm ambivalent about whether this would ultimately be positive or negative for lesbians. On the one hand, I think the whole idea of state-sanctioned coupledom is oppressive because it defines some of us as acceptable and others as not acceptable. On the other hand, I don't think the institution of marriage is going to disappear any time soon, and lots of people *want* to get married. Besides, I got all kinds of goodies when I married a man, but I got zip when I made a commitment to my woman lover. Money and approval can be useful.

I'm a believer in the value of incremental reforms on the way to revolution. Same-sex marriage may benefit the government, but it may also let a lot of lesbians feel better about themselves. Marriage may be an inherently oppressive institution, but if the ability to get married allows more lesbians to come out, then I think that's positive.



PATRICIA LANE

Lawyer*/Mediator

I Can Help You With:

- ◆ MEDIATED AGREEMENTS
- ◆ DECISION PLANNING
- ◆ ENHANCED COMMUNICATION

598-3992

*denotes Law Corporation

Meeting

by Melanie Waite

Kaye rose early as she knew that today was going to be a long work day. She moved quietly around the small basement apartment, making her coffee and toast. Her anticipation of the gardening work ahead was tempered by her sore ankles and knees. She had flown to the coast three days ago and already the arthritis was evident by the increased pain and fatigue.

She had returned to the island to sell her home. This had been a long and anguished decision. This past year she had moved into the interior where it was dryer, hoping that the pain, discomfort, and fatigue that had been her daily companions, would lessen; this had happened over the past few months. With it had come a renewed sense of life and vitality.

Today, a gardener was coming to help her clear the flower beds of winter leaves and resilient quack grass and chick weed. Kaye donned well-worn work pants, boots and shirt and began the morning's work. The ponderosa pines, although lovely, had continued to shed enormous amounts of needles that came down with wind and rain storms. As she worked, Kaye was aware of her changing feelings: some sadness, some relief, and awareness of a life transition. This had been where she and her children had lived these past years, and she reflected on the hopes and dreams they had all had when they moved to the Island years before. This home had represented their family home; finally a place to put down roots after many years and many moves.

In their first year, they had all worked, planting the hedge of cedar trees that now stood thick and full, providing privacy and a sense of boundary. As she laboured in the early morning air, she passed the many shrubs, tulips, roses and clematis she had lovingly planted. How hard it is to give this up, she thought. Yet, there was the realization that the hard work was just too much now.

Kaye looked up to the sound of a vehicle pulling into the driveway. This must be the gardener. She rose from her knees, glad of a short break, and went to wel-

come Joan, who had been recommended by a friend. After exchanging pleasantries, both women began to work. Kaye resumed digging with Joan engaged at the other end of the large flower garden. Kaye found herself enjoying the rhythm of quietly working with the soil and she enjoyed the warmth of the sun. The solitude was broken only by the chirping birds. It was a truly lovely morning.

"Many times, I have dug these beds and pulled weeds," she mused, "much like my mother had done most of her life." Her thoughts took her to the grief and sadness of her mother's passing this past year. Never again would they sit together enjoying a cup of tea, passing the day together. The love of gardening, growing beautiful flowers, she had learned at her mother's side.

As she worked quietly in her garden, Kaye was aware of the warm feelings of sharing this work with another woman just as she had as a young girl. She was aware of enjoying sharing the solitude.

By mid-morning, both women had moved closer to each other in the garden so conversation was possible. Kaye found herself engaged in quite enjoyable exchanges with Joan. As the conversation explored aspects of their lives, Kaye found herself sharing her feelings about participating in a gay/lesbian choir—the

first time for her when she had identified herself to the community as a lesbian. Joan shared her own experience of coming out, coming to know herself as gay. She laughed, "I still have trouble with the L word!" The more they talked, the more conscious Kaye was of Joan; aware of her gentle nature, her humour, her smile. There was a playfulness, a light-hearted-

By mid-morning, both women had moved closer to each other in the garden so conversation was possible.

ness in Joan even when she spoke of her loneliness. She seemed aware that the loneliness was distilling her understanding of herself and laying a foundation for new growth.

By midday, with the gardening completed, they stood by Joan's van continuing to talk as heavy rain clouds gathered and the wind chilled both. Kaye realized she really liked this woman. She enjoyed her open heart, her steadiness, her gentle manner, her very being. After Joan had gone, Kaye stayed a few minutes to ponder her feelings and to pick up the remaining garden tools. She found herself smiling at the coincidences of life; the bountifulness of life.

When one least expects it, a gift is given. All one has to do is to be open to receive the gift.

WOMEN'S NIGHT EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

**GAY
RUMORS
BAR**

**1325 GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.
WOMAN • LESBIAN • LESBIGAY • WOMAN • LESBIAN • LESBIGAY • WOMAN**

Feminist bookstore closing

by Theresa Newhouse

Victoria is about to lose a feminist landmark. After over two decades, Everywomans Books is preparing to close its doors for good.

Everywomans is the last non-profit feminist bookstore run by an all volunteer women's collective in Canada.

The collective which runs Everywomans has wrestled with possible solutions to their mounting debt for months, according to collective member Theresa Hurtubise.

"A lot of women's bookstores aren't doing well right now," said Theresa. "The Vancouver women's bookstore closed and so is Nanaimo."

Theresa believes there are many causes for the bookstore's financial problems, mainly rooted in the poor economy.

"The price of books has doubled in the last five years, even I don't buy as many books as I used to," she said.

Theresa also said fewer members of their collective are unemployed - economic realities and changing E.I. policies don't allow it.

In order to pay their creditors and close down with integrity, the bookstore will hold a fundraising auction on October 28. Donations are being accepted for the auction, already Jane Rule has contributed a first edition signed copy of her novel *Desert of the Heart*.

The collective has issued an appeal to the feminist community for help in making the event a success.

The collective is also planning a "last hurrah" for November 28. It will be a book launch and farewell party featuring Sheila Norgate, Persimmon Blackbridge and Sheila Baxter.

The final closure of the store is expected in late November. Everywomans Bookstore will be much missed.

Feminists to the Rescue Auction

Tuesday October 28
St. John the Divine Hall,
1611 Quadra St.

Viewing at 7 p.m.
Auction begins at 7:30 p.m.

Before October 10,
Everywomans will be
accepting donations for
the auction.

Call Kyle Mitchell
at 598-9034.

Timely response is crucial
to building community
interest.

Sandy Slovack, M.A.

Counsellor and Consultant

Specializing with

▽ lesbian and gay issues

▽ relationship issues

▽ sexual abuse issues

▽ adoption issues

Call in confidence:

381-1268

▽▽▽

PAINTED WORDS

ART SUPPLIES & BOOKS LTD
2238 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria, British Columbia V8R 1G5

(604) 370-1366

Victoria's only combination
Art Supply & Book Store.
Special orders welcome



Quotes & Queries:

News & views from the lesbian & gay press and queer cyberspace

Jeanette Winterson became a lesbian celebrity in 1985 with her autobiographical novel *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* — and has been burdened every since with the Brits' fascination for her love life. Despite her eight-year relationship with Peggy Reynolds, the tabloids constantly claim that she's having affairs with famous married women. "I suppose the view that I've settled down and made a success of something doesn't suit my image as the bad girl of English letters," says Winterson, who concedes that her "early buccaneering self" comes back to haunt her. As for reports that she worked as a lesbian prostitute — and bartered her services for Le Creuset cookware — she told *The Advocate* (June 24) that she arrived in London as a penniless teenager and hung out at the Gateways bar, a fixture of the '50s dyke scene, filled with respectable married women on the prowl for sweet young things. "Of course they'd pet me and buy me things. But for heaven's sake, I wasn't trolling up and down the streets for saucepans."

Ellen Goodman needles Hollywood film producers for their silly panic that the public won't accept an Anne Heche-Harrison Ford screen romance (even though the rumour mill says the effervescent Heche broke up with Ellen over the summer). Writing in the *Boston Globe* (August 3), Goodman points out that actors act — a fact that the entertainment industry's financiers seem not to grasp: "The way they figure it, the audience could imagine Anne Heche with lava rolling across Los Angeles but couldn't imagine her necking with Harrison Ford. We could fantasize Ford as president of the U.S. slugging it out with airborne terrorists, but not romancing Heche."

New South Wales state police in Australia have placed several ads in gay

and lesbian publications in hope of recruiting more queer officers. *Curve* (September) reports that one ad reads: "Join the NSW Police. We guarantee you'll get sensible shoes."

Joan Garry, executive director of GLAAD, has announced the theme of this month's 4th annual U.S. celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History — *Charting the Future, Reclaiming the Past*. Said Garry: "It provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the distance we have travelled as a community and to honour the stewards of that journey." Co-sponsored by a number of national organizations (with corporate support by American Express) queer history month grew out of a grassroots campaign launched in 1994 by Missouri high school teacher Rodney Wilson. History Month updates are online at GLAAD's web site (<http://www.glaad.org>). October was chosen to commemorate the first two lesbian and gay marches on Washington in October 1979 and 1987.

Ellen Ach, spokeswoman for the Girl Scouts of America, explicitly rejects the Boy Scouts' ban on participation by gay men (Scouts' policy also excludes atheists and women) as "limiting" and "discriminatory," reports *The Advocate* (July 8). She said that the Girl Scouts have "strict standards about how adults conduct themselves when they are in the presence of girls. But we welcome everyone regardless of their sexual orientation to be Girl Scout leaders." The Boy Scouts' discriminatory practices are being disputed in lawsuits across the U.S.

k.d. lang ain't finding life a Drag (her new collection of reinterpreted classics about love and cigarettes) since she hooked up with musician Leisha Hailey of The Murmurs, her girlfriend of one

year. *Out* (August) magazine reports on the love struck duo and friends who dropped by the glitzy record release party: "I'm feeling settled right now," lang says, briefly breaking eye contact with Hailey. "And that really enables me to focus, to just put all my energy into the creative thing. Because when I'm single, I'm a bit scattered — I'm always doing an interview with one eye on the waitress." On her guest appearance on gal pal Ellen's coming out, lang had two roles, including playing herself in a supermarket dream sequence, standing under a "10 Lesbians or Less" sign. "I was holding a turkey baster, but that got cut out," she reveals. "I guess it was too deep."

Indigo Girls, my absolutely favourite performance at Lillith Fair, have been hot copy over the past few months with profiles and reviews of Shaming of the Sun in mags that will soon be on the racks at the G-Spot. So I'll just give you a taste of the dish: No, they've never been lovers, but they've been friends and singing partners since meeting in their high school choir. Amy Ray is the very cute, tall, dark-haired rocker, and Emily Saliers is the very cute, blond, folkier one (in case you, too, have had trouble figuring out who is who).

Shelly Roberts, author of *Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Breakups* (Spinsters Ink) offers a light-hearted perspective to coax a smile from the most lovelorn. Included are such pithy truisms as: "You don't mourn the relationship you had...you mourn the relationship you hoped you'd have and "There is no such thing as lesbian divorce. There is only thermonuclear war...and then best friends." Sometimes.

- compiled by MARY LASOVICH

Finding More Flicks for Fall

by Melaney Black

Here's some more of what I've found, listed by genre. Some will be well-known to readers. Find them at Pic-a-Flic in Victoria. Ask for them at your local video store if you cannot find them.

Coming Out, Coming of Age.

The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love—This is still one of my favourites. It's a coming out and coming of age romance between two young women in high school, one white from the wrong side of the tracks, and the other black from an affluent neighbourhood. The chemistry between the two leads is very believable. In fact, various rumours have surfaced about the real-life emerging sexuality of Randi's character, Laurel Holloman. It's a lot of fun.

Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit—The first of Jeanette Winterton's novels to be adapted to film, this is an excellent British production of one young woman's coming out under the repressive influence of her religious fanatic mother. The performances are typically rich, the material well played. Theatrically satisfying, emotionally bittersweet.

Only the Brave—Melodramatic and disturbing, this is an Australian story of the relationship between two young women, one who has dreams of being a writer, the other restless and noticeably emotionally disturbed: why, exactly, makes for hard watching. If you're in a stable frame of mind, this film will get you thinking.

All Over Me—Actually, you probably know that this isn't out in video yet. But, I'm sure that when it is released, video stores will get it. Two best friends, one playing hide from herself, and the other playing seek, cope with the ambivalence of adolescence in a tough area of town. See it; it more than lives up to its press about complexity and sensitivity. A bit of trivia—I can't

remember where I heard the rumour; the jello-pink-haired punk bassist in this film is apparently dating k.d. That's the buzz.

Documentary

Celluloid Closet—An enlightening and at times hilarious examination of the portrayal of gays and lesbians in the media up to the early 1990s. See who really are/were the allies in the industry before a lot of people started coming out.

Forbidden Love—Well, I really don't know anyone who hasn't seen this award-winning NFB documentary, but it is most often found in the Canadian section. It's loads of fun to see your friends and acquaintances talking about their lives again. The subplot device of weaving old B-novel depictions into the monologues of the women profiled was really inspired.

Company of Strangers—Another popular choice, although there's really only one known lesbian in this delightful story of stranded strangers and how they survive. Personally, I think the nun who fixes the bus probably is too. This is also in the Canadian section.

Out: Stories of Gay and Lesbian Youth—One more from the dependable NFB studios, the stories of these young men and women and their families are quite inspiring.

Chestnuts

These aren't necessarily good movies, but they were here first: From France, *Entre Nous* and *Therese and Isabelle*; from Great Britain, *The Killing of Sister George*, another dark and sleazy depiction, and *Quest for Love*, based on Gertrude Stein's Q.E.D.—a good story, but the sex scenes were totally unbelievable; reaching way back, *The Children's Hour*, and from Germany *Scrubbers*, about two young women in prison and how they are victimized by lesbians who control the prison. Doesn't sound attractive.

Messages from Michael and Guides

Dear Quill:

Sometimes I wonder where I am going. Am I pursuing the right career choice?

Answer: Yes, you are very good at your

work. You may look to other avenues of expression, such as working for a magazine or newspaper, or editing books for a publisher. You enjoy this and it is always positive to follow what you like to do. You may also think about writing a novel or a short story.

Dear Quill:

I have not seen or talked to my ex for some time. I miss her. My question: Is it time to contact my ex? If so, by what method?

Answer: She will most likely contact you,

rather than the other way around. She has been thinking about you as well. You are good friends who will remain so for many years. It may not develop into a relationship again. The time for that has passed. But friendship remains. She will likely use the telephone to contact you.

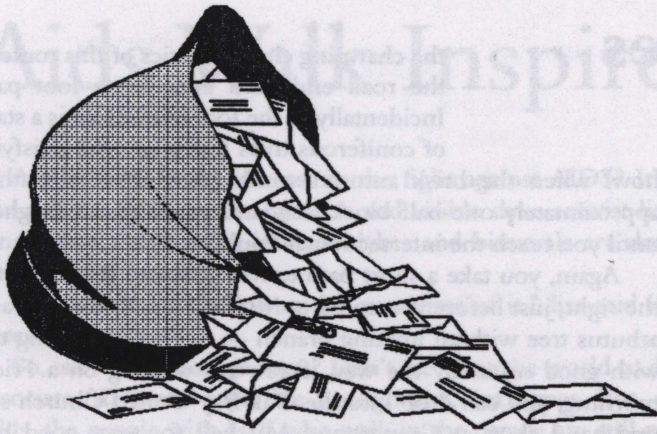
Be aware of the next two weeks. This will be an opportune time for you in many ways. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities in the social realm as well as with your work.

Quill writes guided responses to questions from readers. Answers are channeled from Michael and five other guides. You can send your questions, confidentiality assured, to Quill, c/o LNews, P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4 from any part of the country, or world.

Alison Campbell

Barrister & Solicitor
Family Law Mediator

824 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. Canada V8W 1H8
Telephone: (250) 380-6688



Dear Editor:

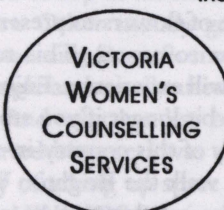
In response to Sept. 97 letter to the editor: Physically challenged, mentally challenged, emotionally challenged. To provide access to "the life" is to realize we are all handicapped in our own ways. Casper asks why do they pick on me, why do they not care? What she doesn't realize is that "they" pick on everyone and care about no one. It's not her personally. It's us all and what we do or fail to do for each other. My advice to Casper: don't take it so hard. Keep going out there. Look on the bright side. There must be some women who would be nice to know if you gave them a chance. Like "water off a duck's back" or "don't let the bastards get you down?" Realize that people that hurt other people are themselves challenged. Forgive others' sins as you would have them forgive yours.

Laurie Potvin.

Hi, Barb—

I was in Victoria for over a month and I'm heading back to Korea today. It's been wonderful to breathe the fresh air and experience the SPACE that Canada has to offer. I'm afraid I didn't do much with the dyke community here this summer. I was busy running errands (buying stuff I can't get in Korea) and seeing old friends. I went to the G Spot one night — nice place; nice atmosphere; it will definitely be a haven if and when I return to Canada some day. I don't have much to report on Sappho Korea. As a group, we seem to be falling apart somewhat. Well, "falling apart" is probably too strong a word, but we're definitely in flux — something to be expected, I suppose, when the community is [expatriate]; it's membership is so transient. I've only been in Sappho for two years, and I find myself longing for the "good old days" of two years ago... (Am I getting old or what?) Also, Barb, please note my home mailing address as listed below on my signature and send future LNews there. I love receiving it — it's a touch of home when I'm away from home. Thanks again for LNews—you're doing a great job and I really appreciate it.

Pauline Mellegers, Korea



Individual, couple & group counselling for women, short & long term.

Specializing in grief work; separation & loss; trauma and sexual abuse recovery; anger, depression & self-esteem.

Ongoing treatment groups for women sexually abused as children.

Margaret Stephens and Georgia Brown,
Registered Clinical Social Workers
For further information: (250) 380-9924
202-3 Fan Tan Alley, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3G9

"Most of the time we stand with our backs to our own Light, looking into the shadows."
Swami Radha

Susan-Rose Slatkoff

M.A., R.C.C.

Psychotherapist

1422 Wende Road, Victoria, B.C. V8P 3T5 250-477-8385

Suzie Cutt R.M.T.

Registered Massage Therapist

381-0954

NANCY ISSENMAN

L.Ac., Dipl. Ac. (NCCA)

- Acupuncture
- Chinese Herbs
- Acupressure

226 -733 JOHNSON STREET
VICTORIA, BC V8W 3C7
(250) 361-9313



Babe Notes



This month I'd like to suggest a romantic route for a healthy walk with your sweetie — it's a city walk I call Brighton Walk; it will take you through the heart of Oak Bay, down to Windsor Park and a great brunch pour deux at the Windsor Tea Room. Pick up your sweetie and transport her by car or via the Oak Bay # 1 or the Willows #2 to the corner of Richmond and Oak Bay Avenue. Walk one block south on Richmond to Brighton;

turn left and be prepared for a walk through any small village in Sussex, England.

The first part of the stroll is along Brighton Street and you'll pass some interesting olde towne architecture dating back to 1900 or thereabouts. The trees are mature and majestic. If you want to see a fabulous annual garden, detour down Bank Street to the northwest corner of Quamichan and Bank to behold some exotic and fabulous plants. Return to Brighton via Wilmer or Madison and at Brighton and Redfern you'll come to one of

the charming characteristics of this route — the road ends and becomes a foot path. Incidentally, at the foot of Redfern is a stand of coniferous trees that give off a satisfying

howl when the brisk autumn winds blow. The footpath is approximately one-half block long and you'll rejoin Brighton until you reach the intersection at Foul Bay Road.

Again, you take a short path to Mitchell and Brighton. On the right, just before you come to Mitchell you'll notice a large arbutus tree with an inviting branch — in short, a kissing tree with good seats. By the way, if you are walking on a Friday morning, you can drop into the Oak Bay United Church second-hand shop at Granite and Mitchell for very good bargoonies on good quality used clothes. Brighton carries on until you cross Victoria and then the walk gets interesting as you go down a narrow, staired path thick with shrubs and blackberry bushes that will drop you out on lovely Hampshire Avenue. Here, half-way down the stairs, is a conveniently placed rock in a grove on the left — this is a lovely spot for a box of orange juice and a spell of hand-holding. We cross Hampshire and stroll under a magnificent canopy of chestnut trees to Monterey.

When you reach Oliver (the sign was missing on August 31, 1997) then deke right and continue past St. Patrick and St. David's to an ivy-flanked, pathway (no stairs, good shoes recommended) which descends to Transit.

This path is surprising as you realize that this is a perfect place for yet another, deep-dish kiss. Perhaps it's just me and English Ivy but this is my fave snoggle spot. Be strong as you deke right to St. Denis and enjoy the typical inner Oak Bay architecture on this narrow road to Windsor Park. By then you've worked up a little appetite and can stop at the Windsor Tea Room for a traditional tea.

(This is where you excuse yourself and rush next door to the flower shop for a 'spontaneous' bundle of flowers to present to your PerfectPartner and celebrate your romance). This route has many kissing stops as I'm sure you will experience. Enjoy — this walk takes about 40 minutes and a bit longer if you stop to admire the sights and savour the beauty of this country-in-the-city walk. The Fall is a perfect time to walk the Brighton Walk as the berries blaze into colour and the oak leaves turn rusty brown.

Write me or E-Mail at: npoole@islandnet.com about your favourite romantic walk and why you like it.

Play hard, use a hand lotion!

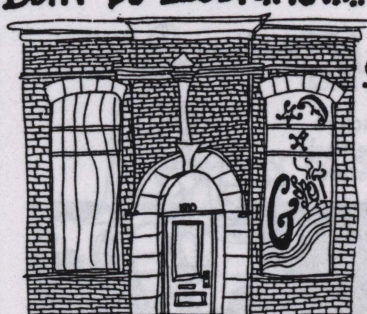
Fiddleheads

Cafe Bakery Catering

Fresh Muffins Daily, Delicious Salads, Light Lunches,
Daily Dinner Specials, Great Coffee, and Tasty Desserts.
Summer Hours now in effect. Open Sundays and until
9:00 p.m. Mon-Sat.

Located in the Heart of Fernwood Village
E.1284 Gladstone Ave, Victoria B.C., (250)386-1199


Built by Lesbians.....



the SPOT

1910 STORE ST.
VICTORIA B.C.
V8T-4R4
250-382-SPOT (7766)

For Women who love Women



CARMIE VERDONE

REIKI

456 MOSS ST. VICTORIA BC
V8V 4N4 604-385-0266

Aids Walk Inspires lisa and LNews

Are lesbians losing interest in the fight against AIDS? It's a concern for AIDS walk organizer and visible dyke activist lisa j lander that numbers of lesbians dykes and bisexuals are down from the first parade.

"I'm worried we're losing the queerness of it," lisa said in a recent interview.

So, isn't that what we want? Don't we want the world to disassociate AIDS and gays? It's a tough one, lisa agrees. But, she adds, the people with HIV who walk in the parade are still predominately gay men. "We don't want them to feel alone, surrounded only by straight women, mostly, and a few straight men."

Lisa feels it would be a huge shame if the walk became more "white bread." And as one wag put it recently, a lot of lesbians are making good money out of AIDS — particularly on the island. And that brings up other key thoughts running around: Aids Vancouver Island is heavily funded. The disease is coming under some control in community. It isn't perceived as a lesbian disease. Why parade at all?

Well, the reality is, that while not many lesbians are HIV in Victoria, an increasing number of women are: needle users, wives of bisexuals, bisexual women, wives of those who got caught in the tainted blood scandal. Most of all, however, is that funding from government and foundation sources is geared to specific items. These funds cannot be deviated into some financial direct or discretionary support. Research, education, communication, prevention gets the bulk of government money. Money raised through public support is discretionary and can be used to top of incomes of sufferers who have lost financial support. Other money goes to such helpful support as the AIV restaurant, Bean Scene, which feeds many — a lot them street people and needle users now living with AIDS.

And why has lisa been so actively involved in the walk? "I started because I was asked. It's part of my political work. It's a day of taking up space and creating visibility that is still needed for HIV/AIDS. My interest was cemented when a man, obviously not doing well (in his living with AIDS) said: "We need this, thanks!"

AVI, Persons With Aids (PWA) and Victoria Aids Respite Care

Society (VARCS) are now under one roof at the Yates Street Offices. All money raised goes to help all three organizations. BMcL

Parade Details

Your LNews editor, Barbara McLaughlin, will walk with lisa. You can join me or pledge your support by calling me with your donation at 598-6490. We'll meet Sunday September 28 at Fisherman's Wharf Park. Register at 9 a.m. Walk starts at 10 a.m. Donations above \$20 are tax deductible. For more information, for pledge books, to register, etc. call AVI 384-2366. All of Canada is marching on the same day. See you there, Victoria!

ALBION GUEST HOUSE

Vancouver Lesbian and Gay Bed and breakfast.

Close to everything.

Feather mattresses available.

Fine, cotton linens, down-filled duvets.

Hot tub. Lots of quiet and privacy.

Gourmet Breakfast.

Free Parking.

Call Collect for Reservations: (604) 873-2287

FAX (604) 879-5682

e-mail hle@bht.com

Richard Heiser
Barrister-Solicitor-Notary
303 Cook Street, Victoria, BC
Phone: 385-4544 Fax: 385-4533



**Full & Friendly
Legal Services**

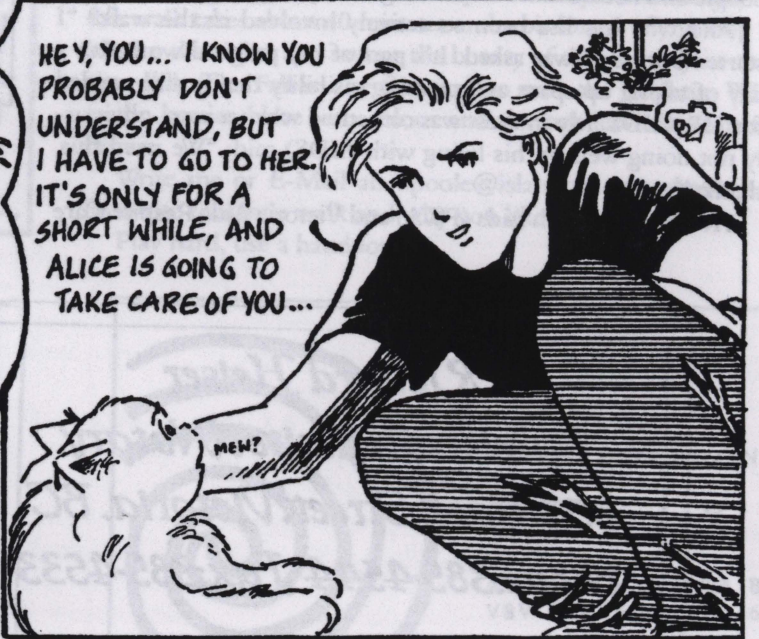
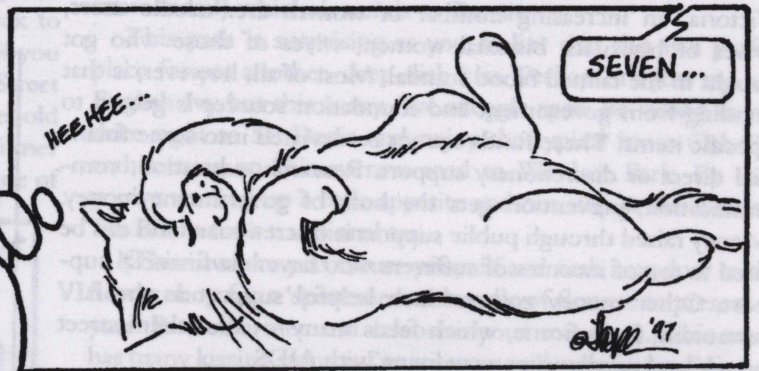
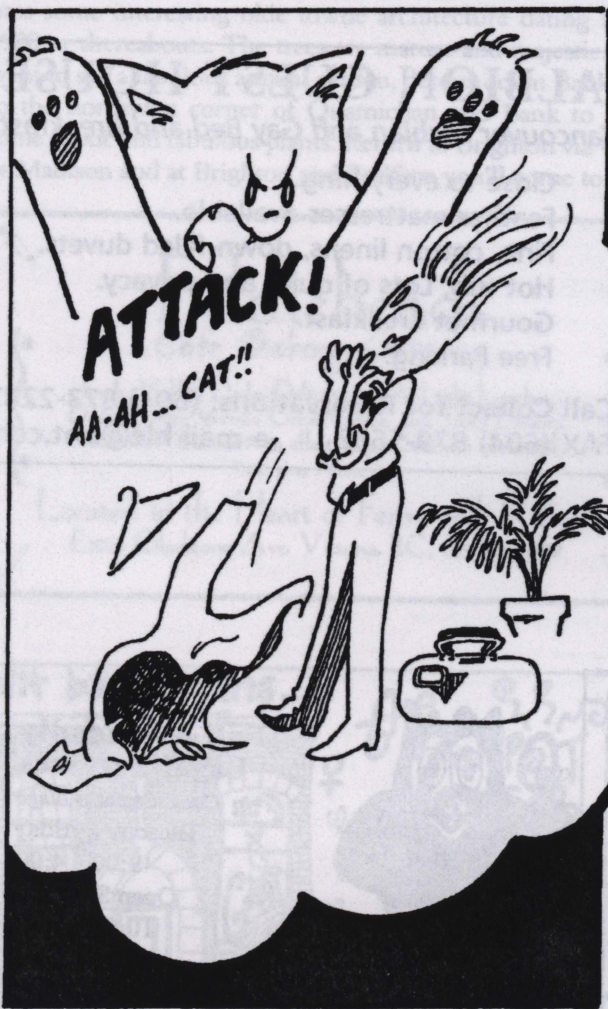
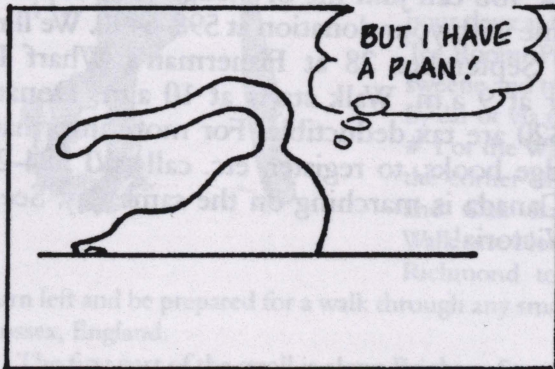
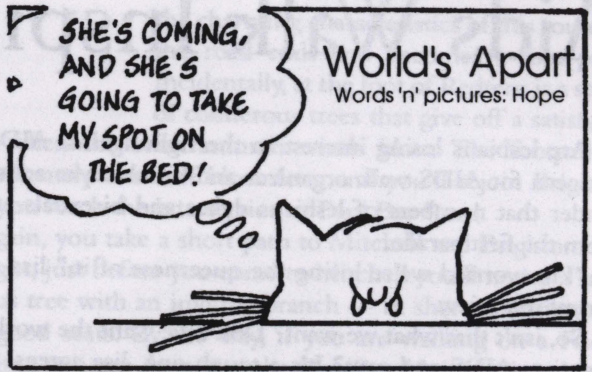
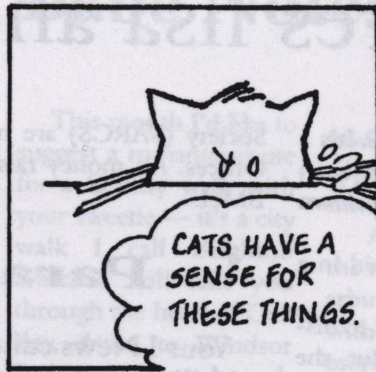
in Cook Street Village

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 - 4:00

Open Saturday

10:00 - 2:00



Poets Corner

Coming Out

By Betty Shriver K.

I know this man's world very well.
Better than most. I am older than most.
And I speak the language.
I can speak the language of men as smartly as you please...
The language of sexism and racism and rage.
But in my quiet times I am beginning to remember...

Yes, the faint echoes of another language
That I knew once or twice long ago
A language that only some women knew
A peculiar kind of women's language
Full of soft shadows and laughter, lots of laughter
Breathless, beautiful and compelling.

From Childhood I listened for this language
Tried to hear the whispered words
But before the words were fully formed,
Before even, the girl's body was fully formed
The world of men claimed them both,
Body and language.
And treason was not allowed.

But lately I have been hearing
the women's voices of old
The words they cry, freedom...
Freedom to say the words. Just to say the words.
And the words are formed again
as they tumble from my own lips,
leaping and dancing across all those scrambled years.
I was not made for men.
I am a lesbian.

*Betty is just out in her late mid 60s.
Her book Clayquot is in bookstores. Orca Press.*

Song of Sweet Songs

by Debby Foster in Mill Bay

Rise in the Pavilion from your sleep,
my Love. Kindle the fires and
fill the rooms with light. Open
the shutters to the morning sun.
Set flowers on the tables 'til
their perfumes infuse the air.
Then come, walk with me
through the gardens of the day.
Your lips sing sweet songs, your
kisses caress my belly, my breasts.
My hands draw you near to embrace you.
Your heart's firm pulse is my own.
Your beauty saturates the earth,
quenching my thirst, filling deserts
with streams from which creatures
drink and fertile fields form.
The strength of your body covering
mine, brings vitality, hope, desire.

Mind Storm

by Patti Arlidge

This storm is wild
Acting out parts in my head
Blowing, over extending
Branches swaying and bending
Like parts in my mind.

Open the blinds
To see the shadowy branches
Fight and hear the angry
Voices howl and scream.

Go outside to feel the rain
Let it wash off some of the pain
As it blows in the wind
To the surface of the skin.

When will the storm
Become calm?

*Patti lost her sexual assault case in court.
Now, perhaps, the storm is calmer?*



AVAILABLE IN VANCOUVER AT
LITTLE SISTERS, THE COMIC-
SHOP; AND IN VICTORIA AT
LEGENDS, AND CURIOUS ON
JOHNSON STREET.

NOT JUST A
COMIC...

**O
H** er-oglyphics

PO Box 41030
5134 Cordova Bay Rd
Victoria BC V8Y 2K0
CANADA

Subscription: US/CDN \$20 • \$35 overseas

Absolutely the End of the Fall Movie Browsers

Continuing on, Melaney Black writes of movies that are "great examples of truth being stranger and more emotionally challenging than fiction. Their tragedies cut deeper.

Docudramas or Dramas Based on Recorded Events

Heavenly Creatures—The film that launched Kate Winslet's stellar career, the story is based on the relationship of two lonely young girls Down Under in the fifties. Their intense and increasingly obsessive friendship was so unhealthy in the eyes of their families that the mother of one girl planned to separate them, with tragic consequences. This movie is both visually and emotionally stunning. The special effects that highlight the girls' fantasy lives are very effective. Altogether a haunting movie, and I recommend it.

I Shot Andy Warhol—Sorry, but I fell asleep in the middle of Lili Taylor's one-note portrayal of Valerie Salonas, the so-called raging feminist who shot Andy Warhol. A cult favourite, it's valuable for its historic perspective, although I am not sure how accurate it is. It didn't do much for me.

Sister, My Sister—This is by far the most shocking and truly pathetic story of the consequences of the abuse of innocence. Two sisters, employed by an incredible harridan played by Julie Walters, form an erotic attachment to each other in the absence of any human social contact whatsoever outside their place of employment and their visits

every payday to their mother, who takes all their wages. The performances by both Joely Richardson and Jodhi May are heart-rending. This is truly a tragic story, exquisitely portrayed.

Dyke Drama

Not surprisingly, this is the mother lode for both independent and mainstream portrayals of a variety of interpretations of lesbian lives; not surprisingly, few of them are positive as yet. Dysfunction reigns supreme in the genre, but so do the most stellar performances and the most original plot lines, if you are a true aficionado of the medium.

Bound—Well, girls, really; film noir redux. Once I got past Jennifer Tilly's voice—really, I did—I enjoyed her portrayal and all that dark chemistry. But working so hard to make all that blood and bloodless cruelty elegant, artful, and sexy "cinematographically" didn't do it for me. I can't say I liked it, but I definitely respected the craft of it.

Butterfly Kiss—Amanda Plummer and Saskia Reeves are both amazing in this. This is another story of twisted innocence, although fictionalized. You really have to watch this movie to understand what takes place in all its twisted purity. If you're feeling strong, watch this with compassion.

Desperate Remedies—Another artful film, this from New Zealand, but a very Felliniesque period piece, Gothic in

vibrant colour. This is the story of a woman who fights to keep her business, her sister's sanity and her true love in the nineteenth century while dealing with the limitations imposed on women in that time. Deserves a look.

Kamikaze Hearts—A difficult movie to watch. You'll probably find it in the cult section now. These two lovers are both drug addicts who work in the sex trade and produce porn flicks. Actually a documentary, it is moving and informative.

Wild Side—Before Anne Heche was swinging across the room on chandeliers to say hi to Ellen, she was doing Joan Chen under the creepy eye of Christopher Walken. This predates *Bound* by two years and has a similar concept; two women trying to get away from the bad guys. All these guys are sleazy and demeaning, and the sexual degradation is just hard to watch, but if you're curious about Anne Heche, here's her first lesbian effort.

Recent Mainstream Efforts

Losing Chase—This is the most recent release, starring Helen Mirren as an eccentric woman recovering from a nervous breakdown. The 'mother's helper' her earnest but narrow husband hires to assist her recovery awakens Mirren's heart. All principals give good performances, and Mirren outshines them all. I thoroughly enjoyed this. Other than the weak kissing scene, I have no complaints.

Now another brief list of releases over the past few years: **Boys On the Side**—fun but not a lesbian movie, no matter what you hear. **Basic Instinct**—Yu-uck; **Dangerous Minds**—cop out subplot mini-coming-of-age scenario; **French Twist**—French dubbed, very funny in spots; **Three of Hearts**—why did they make this?

WALTER & HUMPHREY COUNSELLING
SERVICES LTD.

Helen Walter PhD
Pat Humphrey MSW RSW

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1978
WELCOMING E.A.P. AND PRIVATE CLIENTS

1480 LANDS END RD. SIDNEY 656-5611

#110 - 1175 COOK ST., VICTORIA

LITTLE LEZZIE FLASHES



Mayne Ellis writes that **Patricia Lane**, conflict resolution specialist and advocate, has self-published two books: *For Your Children: Creating Your Own Co-Parenting Agreement* is a step-by-step guide to custom-writing a co-parenting agreement that serves the best interests of the children (which includes cordial relations between parents). *Conflict Competence* is a simple and practical book about how anybody can become more able to resolve conflict successfully – not through adversarial methods, but through working with one's opponent to solve a problem together. It includes exercises and examples and a section on some of the ways men and women communicate differently—and how to work with that. Books are at Munro's, Ivy's, Bolen's, Koinonia. Check Everywomans too. Just found out that Betty Shriver K. has won a B.C. book award for *Clayquot*. Glad she's part of our writer's group.

Potter **Mary Fox** has found in her work a "Career that brings me so much pleasure and challenges me daily." From her studio in Ladysmith Mary creates beautiful pottery, some decorative, others practical—all very beautiful with stunning, graceful lines.

Margaret Trenchard sends this little love-watch note by clinical counselors writing in *The Well Winter '97*: How can I get close to you without losing me? Love requires emotional maturity, good boundaries and self esteem in the face of another's humanity and imperfection. When you can be who you really are in

the presence of a partner who loves you and sees you clearly, then drama, deadness and hostility is replaced by passion, peace and fulfillment. And this gem by English lesbian poet **Tanya L. Barnes**: "If only I could be who I am and not yearn for the compassion of those who would drown my soul."

Kuumba, the poetry journal for black lesbians and gay men, has just come off the press. Kuumba publishes poetry and drawings dedicated to the celebration of the lives and experiences of black people "in the life" and expression that has been used to describe lesbians and gay men since the The Harlem Renaissance. Kuumba accepts ongoing submissions of poetry and artwork. Sample topics of interest include, but not limited to, coming out experiences, interactions with family and community, substance abuse and recovery, political activism, oral histories, and intimate relationships. Send your stuff to Blk Publishing Company, Box 83912, LA Cal., USA, 90083-0912. E-mail newsroom@blk.com...Also *Black Lace*, same address, features erotic poetry, short stories, fantasy letters to the editor, feature articles, art work and other items of interest to the African Canadian/American lesbian community. Needs writers and editors.

On the local scene, the Lez would like to thank **Colleen Craig**, **Pat Ford** and **Mary Lasovich** for helping to redecorate, assemble and move furniture in her spacious one-room abode...Colleen asks:

what do you call an Irish lesbian? Answer? Gaylick....**Peggy** and **Michele**, mostly Michele, gave birth to **Kira**, 71/2 pounds. **Joe** and I are debating which one is the aunt?..**Jan Trainor** and I almost beat **Alison Campbell** and **Sandy MacLellan** at bridge while **Pip van Nispen** and Jan's perfect partner **Nancy Poole** practiced yoga upstairs. Pip is a Yoga Walla in Parksville. Gals there can call her (250)248-3541...Singles party was a success. Here's to the gal who left her shorts behind. Great to meet so many new lesbians and equally great to discover how many are so, hmmm, single...Understand the dyke campout on Salt Spring was packed and that everyone had a good time. The dance was successful enough to pay the rent for the G-Spot for this month... Saw Life, Lies and Lesbians snippet from the Fringe at the Spot. What a hoot! Great to spend time with **Mariette Sluyterl**, **MJ McCann** and **Valerie Coombs**, mostly of Calgary. Mariette and MJ really know how to ride a vibe. Our **Leslie** won free tickets...Met the cutie who runs Bottom Line Hauling Co. Can't remember her name, just her bottom. But if you're bottoming out with a need to circulate—to the dump or anywhere else, give this dyke a call at pager #413-9279. If you have stuff you want Lezzie to flash in this column—I don't care where you live—write c/o

LNews. Duncan, Nanaimo, Korea. We want to know what you're up to. Good gossip only, please. E-mail barbmcl@coastnet.com



Elizabeth Cook

For All Real Estate & Family Law contact Elizabeth Cook

- Co-habitation Agreements
- Separation Agreements
- Aboriginal Family Agreements
- Divorce
- Power of Attorney/Committeeship
- Adoption
- Wills & Estates
- Conveyancing

Cook & Company

533 Harbinger Ave., Tel: 380-2913, Fax: 380-2937

Belfry Announces 97/98 Season

Opening September 30 with the Canadian professional premiere of Terrence McNally's comedy, **A Perfect Ganesh**. This show by the author of *Love, Valour, Compassion*, *Johnny in the Claire de Lune* (both became movies) and the book for the musical *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, bristles with humour. The play tracks the lives of Kitty and Margaret, two intrepid 50 something women from Connecticut, who travel to India because they "heard it could heal".

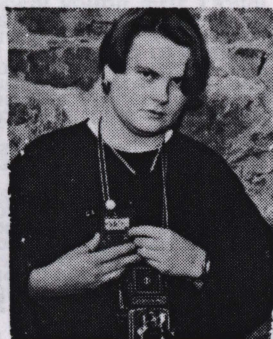
Guided on their magical quest by the cheerful Hindu elephant god, Ganesha, the two, filled with apprehension and excitement, are exposed to a very different culture—full of mystery, empathy and eroticism. A number of Canadian companies are doing this one this season. Watch for it, wherever you live. Worth traveling down the island for. **Sincerely, A Friend** has words and music by Leonard Cohen and is a co-production with Nanimo Festival Theatre. Runs

November 11-30.

In December the **Number 14** returns to Victoria and the Belfry and is zany family fun. Takes place on a bus. In the Studio Theatre Dec. 3 to 21.

The need to understand choices and responsibilities in relationship is explored in **Skylight**, a new play by British playwright David Hare. Runs Jan 20 to Feb 8 1998.

The season continues with **Picasso at the Lapin Agile** Feb. 24 to March 15. This one's written by Steve Martin. That Steve Martin. Should be funny? **The Highlife**, March 17-28 and **Wines of Tuscany** begin Festival 98 and **The Opposite of Everything is True** April 14 to 25 winds things up—festival and all. This last is written and performed by Jan Derbyshire, one of Canada's funniest feminist performers. Described as being a bit like...*Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. BMcL



You oughta be in pictures...

with your sweetie,
your kids,
your parents,
your pet,
OR...

your Big Boots and shiny Harley

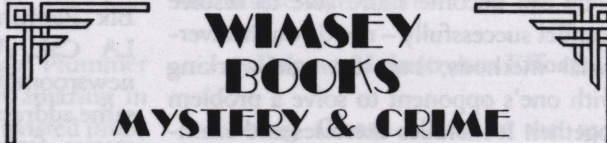
Photos by

Heather Lynn Brown (250) 388-0754

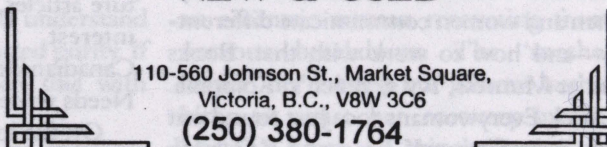


RRSPs
Insurance
Mutual Funds
Guaranteed Investment Funds

Tanya Anderson
Women's Financial Planning Centre
Imperial Financial Services
472-1319 or 472-1331



**WIMSEY
BOOKS**
MYSTERY & CRIME
NEW & USED



110-560 Johnson St., Market Square,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3C6
(250) 380-1764



The Romance Shop



Victoria's Home of Romantic and Erotic Adventures
Amazing and fun sex toys

Call 250-380-0069
Fax 250-380-0067

2022 Douglas Street,
Victoria, B.C. V8T 4L1

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

SPINTSTERVALE IN COOMBS: offers rustic cabins at \$7.50 per woman per nite, 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@mach.bc.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 (250)382-6686.

FOR RENT: Main floor of house in Highlands; deck, shared garden, one bedroom. \$750 plus low hydro if wood heated; choice is yours. **Also.** Studio apartment on 2nd floor, very bright, private. \$450 plus hydro. Property on 20 wooded acres in dyke-friendly community; 25 mins to downtown. Call Joan (250) 652-5434

LOOKING TO RENT: Woman with two dogs will be commuting to Victoria from Salt Spring one to three days per week. Needs a place of her own while working, studying. Place can be a room, part of house, or apartment. Call Ruth at (250) 537-1996.

CREATIVE ART EXPERIENCES AND ART THERAPY: With Margo Farr. Safe, supportive, therapeutic art studio environment to unravel beliefs about art and expression which keep us creatively blocked. Focus on process, not technique, can lead to increased self-esteem, artistic empowerment, resolution of inner conflict, and emotional healing. Phone 388-0929 for fall schedule of 10-week groups. Individual sessions and financing available.

PRIDE PIX: By Marion Stoodley & Heather Brown at G-Spot and Everywoman's and Kevin Doyle's at

Picture Framing Gallery on Cormorant (next to Sally's). Eat and get pictures.

GALA PIX: Photos of you and yours will be taken at the gala. See Marion Stoodley or Heather Brown and order from them.

NANIMO WOMEN'S CHOIR SOCIETY: Accepts new members, operates year-'round. A Non-traditional choir that may suit your spare time vocal needs. Call (250) 390-3267.

MAGICAL ART GROUP FOR WOMEN: drawing class with a twist evenings or weekends at the G-Spot. Includes some outdoor, some art therapy. Eight to 10 lessons for \$100. Evenings or weekends. Call Megh (250) 381-5242.

FUN: Sailing buddies & info re Pacific Rim Yachting Club. Wendy (250) 388-4317.

MORE FUN: Relaxed tennis and par 3 golf buddies. (250) 598-6034.

COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

GAMES NIGHT at the G-Spot. 1st Sunday in Oct., 7 p.m. Bring finger food. \$2.

PINK UMBRELLA: 1998 Directory coming out. Place your ad today. Call 727-6669.

VANCOUVER BOUND? Room is inexpensive. Parking avail. Call Sand (604)873-1125.

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. We're the place to go to strategies for the revolution, arrange a support group meeting or....it's up to you! VSWAG is here for all women Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 1:30, Suite 200, 506 Fort Street, or call 383-7322 for information to volunteer or/and become a member.

RE-CREATE! Supportive, accessible recreation group meets third Sunday of every month at noon, rain or shine, Starbucks on Cook. Activity decided by group that day. Look for Lynn, Jude, & Taylor. No 'phone calls, please. See you Aug. 17 and Sept. 21.

WISEWOMAN: Friendship group for women over 40 at G-Spot last Saturday every month 7 to 10 p.m. Call the Spot for details. 382-7768.

LOOSE TONGUES: Women's Reading Series at the G-Spot fourth Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. Open Mic and featured readers. Cover charge \$4. Refreshments available. Wheelchair accessible.

PINKLINE VOLUNTERS: Develop some helping skills and volunteer for a good cause. 920-6121.

TAROT READINGS: Puzzled by your girl's behaviour? Questioning your current job? Ask the cards and Melissa will translate at the G-Spot most Wednesday mornings at coffee time. Adds a new dimension to your morning coffee. \$10 To confirm she's there, call 598-6490.

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 Sandra 656-0520 or Ann at 383-5677.

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 10th of month prior to publication.

WRAG: Women's Racism Awareness Group meets last Saturday of each month. Call Helen 383-8613 or Debby Yaffe 598-9634 for info. Re-convening in September.

Pink Umbrella: fax/phone 727-6669

P-Flag: Information, 642-5171.

Some Very Nice Dykes: Lesbian social club for newcomers. Mary 595-6997

Celebration & Empowerment of Women's Sexuality

WOMYNWARE



52 page Sex Toy Guide \$5.00
 896 Commercial Dr.
 Vancouver, BC V5L 3Y5
 1(604)254-2543
 1-888-WYM-WARE
 www.womynsware.com

SERVICES ACTIVITIES CONTACTS

Dykes Bilingue: Meet at the G-Spot. Jenn 652-7072.

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

Gay & Lesbian Parenting Group: M.J. 383-2607.

Lesbian Art Collective: Don 595-7179 or Rebecca 386-2550.

Lesbian French Club: Meets G-Spot. Call Jenn 652-7072. \$2 cover non-mbrs.

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

Lesbian Writing Group: Serious writers meet bi-weekly. 598-6034.

Lesbian Writing Group 2: Meets G-Spot first and third Thursdays.

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

Pink Line: Gay & Lesbian Info and Peer Counselling, 920-6121 Tues-Sat. 7-10

"FEMINISTS TO THE RESCUE" AUCTION

Tuesday, October 28

St. John the Divine Hall, 1611 Quadra

An auction and raffle will be held to raise funds for EVERYWOMANS BOOKS, a volunteer, collectively run non-profit bookstore. A signed, first edition of Jane Rule's novel Desert of the Heart and many other goodies from local artists and businesses will be auctioned off starting at 7:30 p.m. Viewing begins at 7:00 p.m. The auction catalogue will be available beginning October 18 at EVERYWOMANS BOOKS, 635 Johnson St.

For more info call 388-4411. Visa & mastercard accepted

ALL BOOKS ON SALE NOW AT 25% OFF!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Name

Address

City Postal 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 \$25.00 each.

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

Name

Address

City Postal Code

Please put this name as gift giver:

TOTAL \$ _____ (Back issues available for \$3.50 including postage)

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



Sono Nis Press presents:

An Evening of Poetry

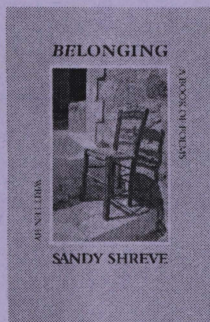
**PICKING WILD
RASPBERRIES**

*The Imaginary Love Poems of
GERTRUDE STEIN*



by Rosemary Aubert

Cover painting by Phyllis Serota



Rosemary Aubert will launch and read from:

Picking Wild Raspberries

The Imaginary Love Poems of Gertrude Stein

Rosemary is a Toronto-based writer and criminologist. She has won the Arthur Ellis Award for crime fiction and her romance novels have been translated into seven languages. This is her second poetry collection—and it is a stunning return to the genre!

Sandy Shreve will read from:

Belonging

Sandy lives and works in Vancouver, BC. Originally from the Maritimes, she is active in the literary community across Canada. This is her third book of poetry, released in Spring 1997.

Tuesday, October 14th, 1997

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

at

*The Graham Gallery of the
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria*

1040 Moss Street

Readings begin at 6:45 with refreshments and signing to follow.

**Sono
Nis
Press**

1725 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2J8

sononis@islandnet.com

<http://www.islandnet.com/~sononis/>

