

Lesbiannews

OCTOBER 1994 VOL. 6 ISSUE 2 \$2.50

Michigan Music

By Nancy Poole

"Michigan." A contemporary womyn's village and festival, built lovingly each summer by lesbian energies on a square mile of Michigan forest. It is the gathering of 7,000 womyn in a dizzying celebration of womyn's music, dance, theatre, crafts and teachings, followed by the departure of these campers, the complete dismantling of the village, and the nostalgia held in our hearts until the next August.

It is a unique and powerful place – the only place I know where lesbian culture is dominant. Of course, what is lesbian culture is in a constant flux of definition – but this (dare I say process?) is just one of the main joys/teachings of Michigan.

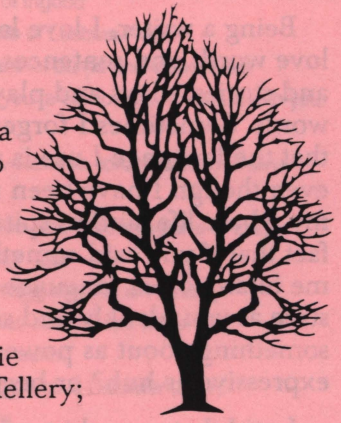
Imagine the music! Jazz, funk, folk, salsa, new age, gospel, rock, reggae, classical, blues and punk – Hawaiian, Zulu, Appalachian, Puerto Rican...It can't be captured in words, only experienced in the beauty of the meadows, in the safety of the mass of womyn and children, in the extravagance of great sound and lighting systems.

The music that challenged many of us this year was that of Tribe 8, who describe themselves as "San Francisco's own all-dyke, all-out, in-your-face, blade brandishing, gang-castrating, dildo-swingin', bullshit-detecting, aurally pornographic, Neanderthal-pervert band of patriarchy-smashing snatchlikers." You can imagine the flurry of moshing (by some), ear plug inserting (by others) and debate (by all) these gals evoked!

The performances that made me weep with jubilation for our creativity were:

- ✱ a night stage presentation with Rhiannon on voice, Mary Watkins on piano and an amazing trapeze artist "dancing" in the pool of a spotlight;
- ✱ the cool jazz of trumpeter Rebecca Coupe Frank and her excellent band The Mashed Potatoes;

- ✱ a performance by a huge gospel choir (no mention of the big J) led by two musicians who must have the most luscious deep voices on the planet – Melanie DeMore and Unda Tellery;



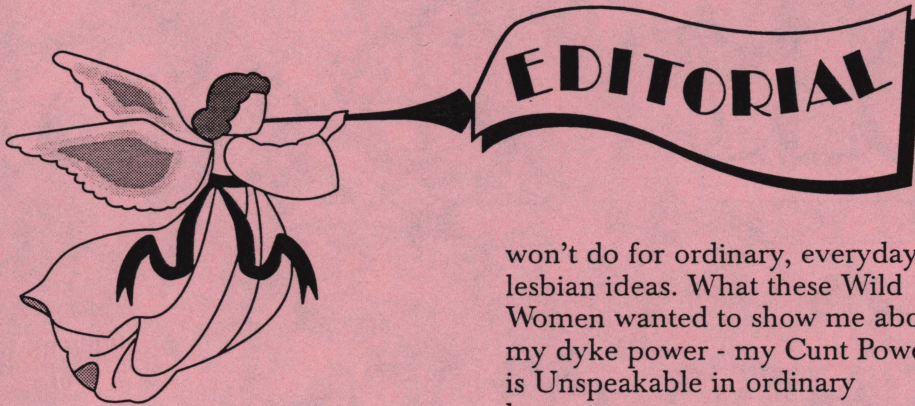
- ✱ a wild presentation by Girls in the Nose (including Getchen Phillips of Two Nice Girls on insane guitar) of the song "Breast Exam," complete with go-go dancers in fright wigs illustrating the correct method of same!

There is the possibility in the Michigan village to spark one's growth on any issue. After attending/working for 17 of the festival's 19 years, I still haven't begun to experience it all. Some aspects which might peak your interest are: the quiet camping in Jupiter Jumpoff, the happiness of the sober support tent, the fun of the Saturday morning Lois Lane run, the peace of Dreamwalker's quilting bee, the inspiration of the women of colour poetry salon, the giggling in the parade of the redheads, the impressive film/video programme, the stunning work of the artisans, the intensity of the support to those with disabilities, the synchronization of the salsa dancers, the wildly varied workshops, the buzz of just being with 7,000 others.

And, where else can one meet a sister on the path sporting a bare breast, work boots and tights held in place by an empty dildo holder? I ask you?

See you next August at the 20th anniversary?

To contact the festival write WwTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, Michigan 49458. Craft booth applications are available by December 1, audition tapes and materials are due by November 1, intensive workshop proposals are due by November 1, festival work crew applications are due by January 1 and the festival dates are August 8-13, 1995.



won't do for ordinary, everyday lesbian ideas. What these Wild Women wanted to show me about my dyke power - my Cunt Power - is Unspeakable in ordinary language.

Being a writer, I love language. I love words and sentences, poems and stories, plays and plays on words. Sometimes I forget, though, that the language I use is not mine, even though I have been using it my whole life, and in spite of the fact that if you said something to me in any other language I would stare at you blankly and say something about as powerful and expressive as huh? or beg pardon?

I said that very thing at the Victoria Fringe Festival recently, because I didn't understand the language of the play I was watching, at least not at first. I went to see it strictly on the basis of the title, "The Happy Cunt." The description in the Fringe flyer gave the actors' last names without mentioning if they were women, but it did mention something about "witches incanting Germaine Greer," which was close enough.

"The Happy Cunt" turned out to be based on the works of Mary Daly. The play wasn't about an erotic sex-tease kind of cunt, it was political. I wondered who in the audience would be disappointed about that and briefly hoped they would be offended instead. If you didn't get to see the play, imagine two Wild Women putting the patriarchy on trial while climbing up and down a ladder.

At first, not having read Mary Daly, I wondered why they were talking funny. It's *avant garde*, I thought. Then I caught on. Ordinary, everyday language just

Is it even possible to discover the possibilities of Lesbian Being without talking funny? Ordinary language is such a pervasive program. "Frankenstein's Mothers," for example, was a moving play at the Fringe about the life of Mary Shelley written in ordinary language, maybe a little stagey, but it was a stage play, after all. Possibly it was too analytical, in an externalised-dysfunctional-animus-as-fictional-monster kind of way, but it was still moving.

Except that it seemed so *heterosexually predictable*. Here she is in the play, a writer herself, the daughter of a writer, and she's followed this poet to Italy (is anyone besides me thinking Sylvia Plath here?). She's just lost one child and she's about to give birth to another, so maybe she's a little temperamental, and what does Hubby The Great Poet do but go haring off on a sailboat to visit friends and come back three weeks later as a corpse? If your lover was in that condition, would you go out for a jolly little sail?

On stage Mary is doing a weepy Percy-don't-leave-me routine. I am looking at the dates on the program and wondering whose money they are living on, and if it might be what she made from the publication of "Frankenstein." Meanwhile I wait in vain for a Wild Woman to appear and straighten her out. In the play, such a Woman doesn't come, but maybe in life she did. Maybe

Continued on page 14

LesbiaNews was founded September 1988. It is staffed entirely by volunteers as follows:

Editors: Sheilagh Plunkett, Karey Perks

Artists: Shannon Olliffe, Barb Csinos

Editorial Assistant: Theresa Newhouse, Aizha

Production Co-ordinators: Barb Csinos

Design & Production: Zorya Plaskin

Advertising Sales & Subscriptions: B. McLaughlin

Treasurer: Sally Hamill

LesbiaNews 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 13th 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, or fax copy to 384-4060.

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

Individual copies are \$2.50 on sale at Everywomans Books, 635 Johnson Street.

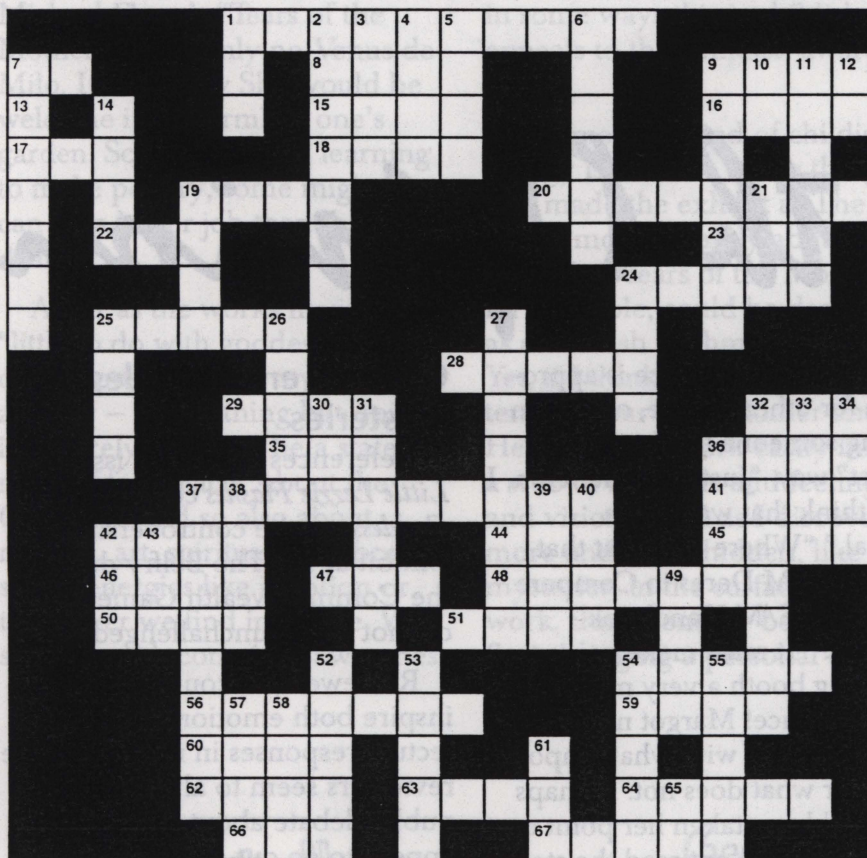
Advertising: Business cards \$11 per issue, \$50 for 5 issues and \$90 for 10 issues.

Display ads are \$20 for 1/4 page, \$40 for 1/2 page. Full page \$80 per issue. Send camera ready copy or a layout with a cheque to our PO Address. **Deadline is the 15th** of the month prior to publication to guarantee inclusion.

Classified Ads and Notices are \$5/ 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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



6. cartoon character with great lamps
7. war axe of the Goddess
9. plain sex, no topping
10. third person of "to be"
11. woman of great strength and courage
12. twelve-step folks
14. copulate in the 16th century
19. a Lesbian
21. high school equiv. test
24. retardation due to friction
25. ____ pro quom
26. patterns of behavior
27. Sarah's lover
30. in poetry, anything round
31. opposite of trigood
32. official herb of Lesbian Nation
33. useful plant for burns and insect bites
34. do this, if you're competing for status with your cat
36. grapes, avacadoes, tomatoes and onions (abbr.)
37. a Lesbian lover is a cunning one of these
38. German for "eat"
39. where to hang Martina or Amelia
40. what comes out of a spit valve
42. follower (n. suffix)
43. Seasonal Affective Disorder (abbr)
49. threesome
52. differently butched
53. dyke with attitude
54. to cause to come
55. ran over 67 across
57. Lesbian with a pocket protector
58. Ancient Earth Mother
61. mythical burial ground of Lesbian relationships
65. sound of universal creation

(answers on page 12)

CLUES

Across:

1. advocate of lesbian autonomy
8. Regrets (v.)
7. ___ and behold
9. Hurray! (Sp.)
15. Oranges, Rutabagas, Apricots and Apples (abbr.)
16. where Asian Lesbians live
17. one Gay and Lesbian social hub
18. put on the style or sleep in a tent
19. what a desert Lesbian eats
20. Nashville for dykes
22. festive
23. fills the space between foot and hip
24. not a flightless bird
25. delightfully different
28. Latin lips
29. girl meets girl, girl loses girl, girl gets girl, etc.
32. put or place
35. it's human
36. The Big Do
37. Western Canada's only Lesbian-speaking newsletter
41. to declare openly and without shame, as in "I am a dyke!"

42. name of The Goddess
44. cat-sized sleep portion
45. an adolescent
46. what California girls have more of, under their T-shirts
47. Lesbian Nation's pet of choice
48. the Yanks wish Kate was President!
50. boundary
51. what to do when a woman warms your heart
54. dykes ride these
56. K.D.'s latest
59. "I am woman, hear me ____"
60. thing inside your pants leg
62. decorative edging
63. arrive, among other things
64. Lesbian wanderer
66. do, in Scotland
67. run over by 55 down

Down:

1. so ___ me
2. best saved for cheese
3. energy field
4. 20 quires — yes, quires
5. As Soon as Possible (abbr.)

Camellia House



*Traditional Bed & Breakfast
at its finest.*

Prepare to be pampered.

Jo & Jo
Victoria, B.C. Canada V8R 1N6
(604) 370-2816

The Thirteenth Opinion

Lesbian S/M...

I am writing in response to the letter written by Margot K. Louis, published in the September issue of *LesbiaNews*, who wrote in response to my (fantasy story) "The Heat of the Island Sun."

First of all, this was my first attempt at writing a short story, (not an excuse) and I had absolutely no intention of leaving out any consent given by myself or the other woman. I was simply caught up in the excitement of the situation and failed to "check back in" as the author and had assumed consent was understood. For the record however, I am saying it now. "Yes Baby. Yes!"

Secondly, I do not understand Margot's need to bring politics into the bedroom? I would like it understood that at no time was I trying to make any "political statement." Just as I am certain that Lesbianism has existed on this planet since the beginning of time, so have Lesbians who practise S/M. Why must I also hand over my sexual identity and power to a patriarchal society which has already claimed too much?

I am simply talking about a sexual act and preference between, yes, two consenting adult Lesbians. Tongues, bondage, kissing, sucking, licking, stroking, spanking, fingers, fists, coming and nothing more. I need not consult the S/M sex manual to determine if my sexual

needs and performance is appropriate for other people, or if I am fucking someone the "politically correct" way. "Just a minute Hon, I don't think that was in the manual." "Where did I put that 'Lesbian S/M Dares to Compare Patriarchal S/M Handbook' anyways?" It must make going to the voting booth a very memorable experience! Margot need not concern herself with what empowers me or what does not. Perhaps she could have taken her point one step further and not read the story?

Connie Hunt

♀ ♀ ♀

...the debate continues

"The Heat of the Island Sun" is an S\M fantasy – not to be confused with reality as at least one of your readers did. There is no consent when you are being sexually served by the lust goddess. When the lust goddess asks "Is this what you want?" it is a pointless question because she already knows what you want, where, when, how long and how hard. There are no safe words because none are needed. She shows up when your sexual need commands her appearance. She is not politically correct. There is no such thing as really hot politically correct literature. I challenge *LesbiaNews* readers to prove me wrong.

Dawn Heiden

Childish energy hides mysteries

References in the last issue's *Little Lezzie Flashes* column to *Goddesses* – the controversial art exhibit at the The Belfry during the Commonwealth Games – cannot go by unchallenged.

Reviewers, of course, often inspire both emotional and intellectual responses in readers. Some reviewers seem to always inspire public debate about art. Some appear to go out of the way to be controversial; like one local reviewer whom many artists would like to give the pink slip. Usually, debate is sparked by conflicting opinions or, at least, different opinions. What is art? What is good art? What IS bad art? What's the title of that book – I wanna read it. Assume Colville's near-photos are art. So what's Rembrandt's work? How about Delavignie's stuff? And what do you think about the stripe in the National Gallery?

Part of what irks about the review of *Goddesses* is that it isn't a review. So ideas are presented as observations, not opinions. And, since it's not a review, there's not need to elaborate. Thus, on the assumption those ideas were meant as opinion rather than fact, here are some alternate opinions.

It's hard to debate how childish the works were without having some definition of what that term

means – What’s the name of that book again? The Goddess in Michael Flynn’s “Tears of the Mother” is certainly no Venus de Milo. It’s unlikely She would be welcome in the armless one’s garden. School children learning to make pottery, some might say, can do a better job than that, dear.

As far as the works having “little to do with goddesses,” this cannot possibly – in my reality, anyway – be anything but opinion. Surely it cannot be a statement of fact? Fact? About the Goddess? And so also about religion, art, spirituality, subconscious energies like intuition or the power we find in trance. We start life with conscious awareness

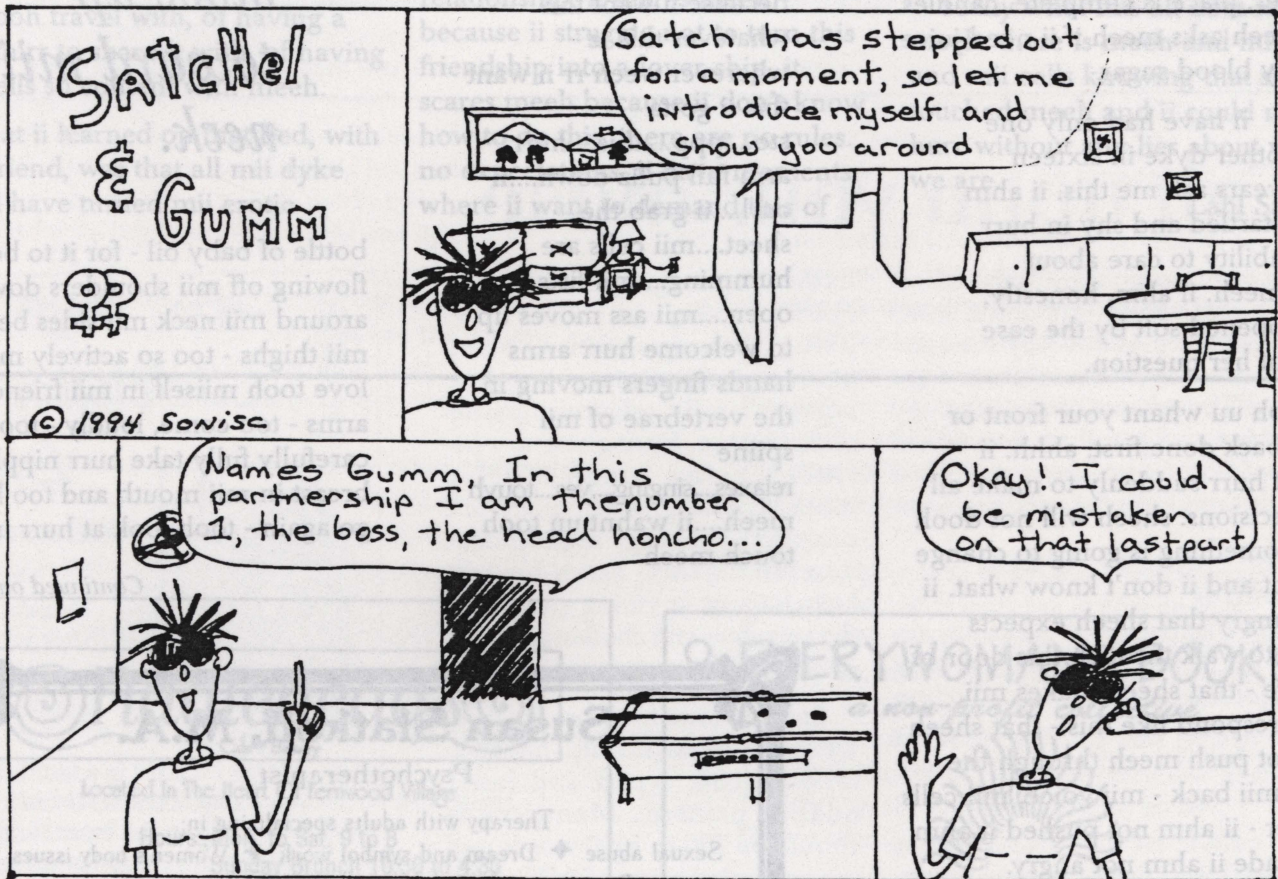
of this power but, it’s driven out of us when we’re still children. So, in some ways this is childish art; it appeals to that childish awareness.

For me, this kind of childish energy is just one of the things that made the exhibit at The Belfry most certainly about the goddess. “Tears of the Mother,” for example, could be described as a childish mishmash of clay. Yet, if I think of the figures in terms of our First Mother and Her child, the work easily inspires a web of thoughts and feelings and visions. And as I discover more and more hidden, like mysteries, in the surface of the work, trance energy begins to flow, bringing a personal connec-

tion to the Goddess. And then there’s “Mondschiiff,” one of the vessels by Gudrun Klix, its entrancing cobalt blue interior as powerful a tool for trance work as the amethyst sphere on my altar. Better than a whole table of tea leaves!

The exhibit, alas, has departed. So, if this were a review it’s too late for anyone who missed the show. And in any case, what *Goddesses* needs is a preview, a primer to help some understand mythological metaphors and the ancient symbolisms of the Goddess. Exhibit organizers, by the way, cannot be faulted for failing to provide any level of explaining aspects of Her Mysteries. The

Continued on page 14



My erotic friendship

Editor's note: This story/essay is an entrant in LesbiaNew's first essay contest, announced back in May. Last month we published a delicious poem, 'Pre-literate Food Gatherers of the Loire Valley: A Short Treatise by an Expert', and next month we hope to run more contenders for the book prize. Although the deadline has passed, we are running on pagan time and continue to accept essays up to 1000 words for the contest.

i looked around the house for the candles. it was so long since ii had used them. back of the kitchen drawer. beeswax candles. musty and sweet. dooh ii smell them rub them or eat them. mii friend is here. arranging. making. moving. knowing what sheeh wants to create. pillows stacked out of the way. things folded and tucked and placed. ii put the white cotton sheet on the futon. the flannel folded to the side. two pink pillows from my bed. when ii come back from my shower, place is complete. candles lit. sheeh asks meeh if ii need juice for my blood sugar.

ii have had only one other dyke in sixteen years ask me this. ii ahm startled and shy in hurr ability to care about meeh. ii ahm, honestly, opened soft by the ease of her question.

dooh uu want your front or your back done first. ahhh. ii want hurr suddenly to make all the decisions. sheeh will not dooh this. something is going to change tonight and ii don't know what. ii ahm angry that sheeh expects meeh to walk through this door of change - that sheeh makes mii body respond like this - that sheeh will not push meeh through the door. mii back - mii voice, mii cells answer - ii ahm not pushed ii ahm not made ii ahm not angry.

sheeh unbuttons hurr shirt and drops it from hurr shoulders. the black non-bra is off. hurr pants

underwear black sneakers gone. ii want to stare to look hard. ii continue mii own circle till ii am laying on the cool white sheet mii fingers spread out trying not too grasp in mii fear of just where are we going with each othurr please tell meeh

ahhu. the drops of oil start at my waist and move up toward mii neck. cool. exact. exploding. afraid because ii want this whatever this iz wherever weeh rr ii want this ii gotta sto....ppp....this....hurr arm full pullz down....ii curl....ii grab the sheet....mii cells are humming....mii fists open....mii ass moves up to welcome hurr arms hands fingers moving in the vertebrae of mii spiine relaxes....singing....yes....touvh meeh....ii wahnt uu tooh touch meeh

ii walked into that massage like no massage before. ii chose too accept the touch of this, mii friend. ii didn't expect hurr to use a whole

ahhu. the drops of oil start at my waist and move up toward mii neck.

bottle of baby oil - for it to be flowing off mii shoulders down around mii neck mii sides between mii thighs - too so actively make love tooh miiself in mii friends arms - too come, loudly - tooh carefully fully take hurr nipple hurr breast in mii mouth and too let it go again - tooh look at hurr in the

Continued on page 7

Susan Slatkoff, M.A.

Psychotherapist

Therapy with adults specializing in:

Sexual abuse ♦ Dream and symbol work ♦ Women's body issues
Depression ♦ Substance abuse ♦ Relationships

1422 Wende Road, Victoria ♦ 477-8385

middle of the night mii cells fat full content and tooh feel privileged to be in this place with hurr - tooh know that we, meeh, i came to this place with hurr.

what surprizes meeh most. ii don't feel guilty.

because ii ahm so conditioned to believe ii should feel guilty, ii keep looking for it. ii never find it. ii never find it because ii don't have any, ii don't have any because ii didn't cross any boundaries - not mine, not mii friendz, and not mii love-hurrz.

ii try to understand this non-guilt feeling. as a rite-hurr - tooh put words tooh it. it's an energy. this physical feeling ii have in mii cells - this sense of celebration of openness to miiself to mii desires to naming what iz really happening what ii am really doing. it's the pure ecstasy of having a friend liike this tooh travel with, of having a love-hurr to share it with, of having mii cells so content with meeh.

what ii learned on that bed, with that friend, was that all mii dyke liife ii have turned mii erotic

experiences with mii friends into something they wre not. ii have turned mii friends into lovehurrs, as though ii couldn't have erotic friendz, as though it were impossible to have an erotic-friend, even through ii have had many.

This is the first time ii have had an erotic friend, and known that ii do not want hurr to be mii lovehurr. ii want hurr to beeh mii friend.

ii make mii erotic friends into lovers is because ii know how to do that - there are certain ways to interact with lovers, certain expectations, certain desires that are acceptable, encouraged, there is some language.

mii erotic friendship scares meeh, it scares meeh because there is no language to describe this relationship, it scares meeh because ii struggle not to turn this friendship into a lover-ship, it scares meeh because ii don't know how to do this. there are no rules. no expectations. ii have moments where ii want to demand this of

hurr, resent hurr relationship with hurr love-hurr, feel ii have purchased some kind of rights over hurr needs. times where ii want to do things we don't do as friends, but ii see hurr dooh with hurr love-hurr. ii want to do those things with hurr because ii ahm afraid to have a friend rather than a love-hurr with whom ii create this contentedness.

ii know that if ii start treating hurr like a lover, ii will loose mii friend and ii will loose mii love-hurr. then ii will loose miiself. ii will loose us, not because ii have an erotic friend and all of us know this, but because no relationship worth anything can survive on a lie. mis-naming something because ii ahm afraid tooh live mii own truth will kill it. not be-ing miiself because ii ahm afraid will kill meeh.

really what this all does is excite meeh. there is meeh and mii friend and mii cells knowing that sheeh touched meeh and ii could meet hurr without any lies about where we are.

Lahl SarDyke


Cafe • Bakery

Located In The Heart Of Fernwood Village

Hours: Mon. to Sat. 9 to 8
Sunday Brunch 10:30 to 4:30

1284D Gladstone Street
Victoria, B.C. V8T 1C6

Telephone
(604) 386-1199

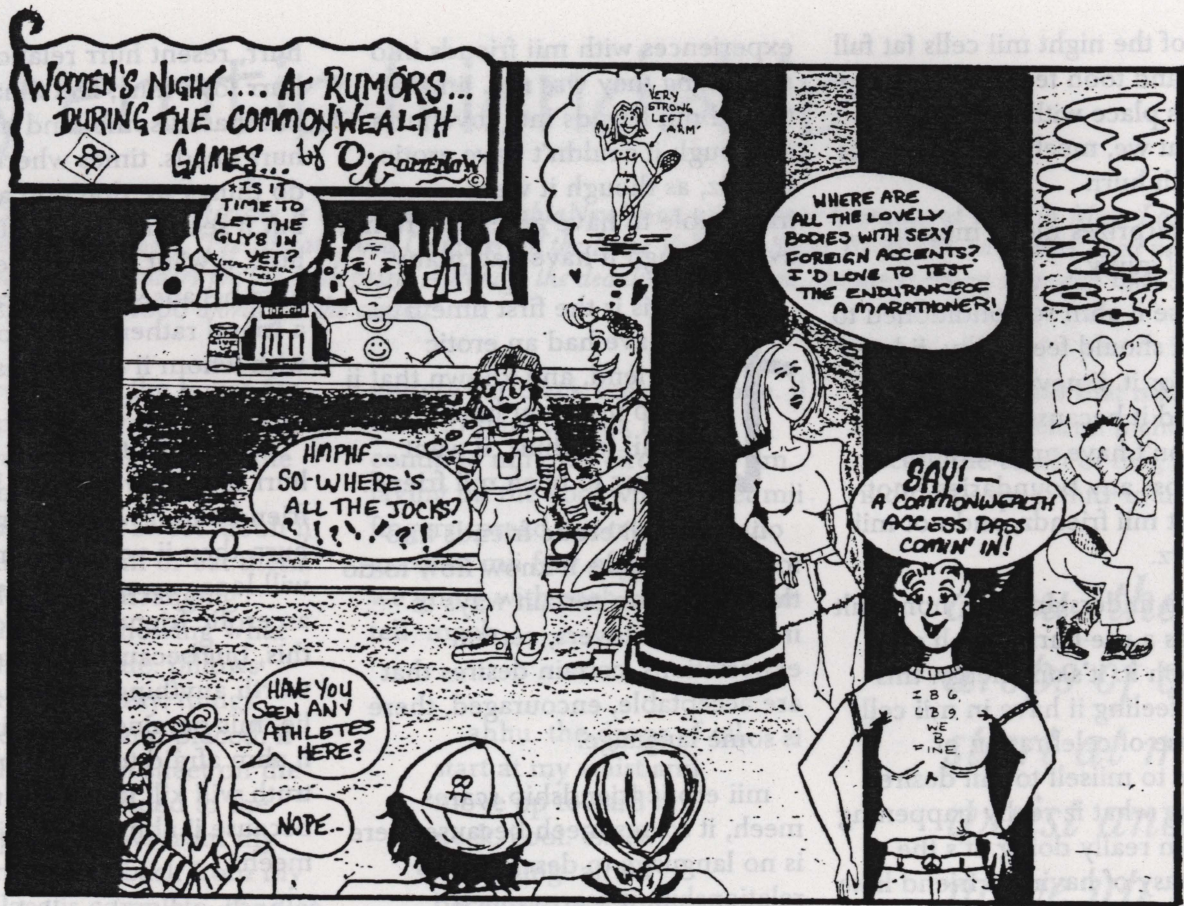
♀ EVERYWOMANS BOOKS ♀
a non-profit collective



...poetry...feminist theory...travel...biography...

635 Johnson Street

388-9411



Call upon your muse

Get out your pens, pencils or keyboards, call upon your muse, exercise your voice and haul your creative spirit out of the closet – get writing! The editors of an anthology of lesbian and gay short fiction and those of *West Coast Women and Words* have put out calls for submissions.

Queer Glances, Queer Moments

Queer Glances, Queer Moments, co-edited by Karen X. Tulchinsky and James Johnstone, will be a collection of “snapshots that reflect the spectrum of lesbian and gay life experience.”

The editors are looking for stories and anecdotes, funny, sad or poignant, about “being queer on the job, being politically active, being

bashed, fighting back, being Two Spirited, living with AIDS/HIV, living with disabilities, being poor, co-parenting, moving, dealing with family, relationships, negotiating sex, having sex, dry periods, being single, being married, dating, stolen moments, cruising, tricking, monogamy, non-monogamy, butch-femme, bear-boy, or anything else about the wonders and challenges, tragedies and triumphs of queer life.

Submissions to *Queer Glances, Queer Moments* should be double-spaced, typed and letter quality printed. Manuscripts should be 700 to 1000 words and accompanied by two SASEs (self-addressed stamped envelope – one if you don’t want your manu-

Continued on page 10



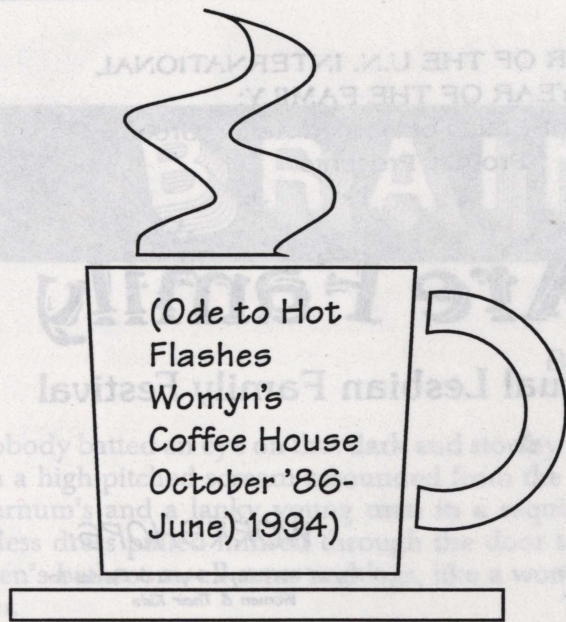
Lavender Link



Accommodations
 136 Medana St.
 Victoria, B.C.
 V8V 2H5
 (604) 380-7098
 Gloro & Pearl

Enjoy comfort in a tastefully renovated character home only minutes from the Inner Harbour and downtown, and two blocks from the ocean.

(604) 380-7098



'TWAS THE NITE OF THE COFFEE HOUSE

By Wendy Anthony

(with apologies and thanx to Clement C. Moore)

'Twas the night of the coffee house, while, around town
All the womyn were stirring, ready to head down'
The tables were set up in the Church Lounge with care,
In hopes that many womyn soon would be there.

Cups and candles were nestled all snug in their crate;
Collective members rush to avoid being late,
By auto and by bus, by foot and by byke,
Gathering together, womyn, child and dyke.

Then, out on the street, there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my car to see what was the matter.
Away to the back door I flew like a flash,
I opened the doors up, and brought in the cash.

The moon was shining bright on the ocean that night;
Lent the air a touch of majik that felt just right.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a large, purple van, full of womyn and gear.

With a strong womyn driver, so lively and gay,
I knew in a moment, surely this was the way.
More rapid than eagles, their autos they came;
They waved, and they hugged, and they called them by name:

"Now Sheila, now Sandy, now Sharon and Sherri,
Elizabeth, Wendy, whoever will carry;
To the top of the stairs, to the end of the hall!
Now come on out! come on out! come on out ALL!

The water is heating, the tablecloths are clean,
And the fire is crackling behind the hearth screen;

Delicious desserts await nibbles and delight;
Fresh coffees, juice, teas, served up just as you like.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard out by the door,
The voices and chuckles of womyn, with more
Character, and charm, variety and wit;
The evening had started; the candles were lit.

One dressed all in leather, from her head to her toe,
Another one in silks, and one with a big bow,
a packsack, a helmet and comfortable shoes,
With work clothes, and best clothes, and old denim blues.

Her eyes — how they twinkled! her dimples how merry!
Her cheeks were like roses, her lips like a cherry!
Her cute little mouth was drawn up in a smile;
She knew in her heart she would stay for awhile.

Games to play or to watch, cozy fireside chats,
With an auction, or craft fair, or time to relax,
Eating potluck, with dancing, or singing with friends;
Lots of fun, lots of years; she hopes it never ends.

They spoke many words, while she went on with her work,
And filling the coffee cups, she turned with a jerk;
The clock on the wall was advancing at last;
Closing time was upon us; imagine how fast!

They gathered the coffee cups, and cleaned it all through;
Said last words, phone numbers, opportunities grew;
Then I heard them exclaim, 'ere she turned out the light,
"Thanx for coming to Hot Flashes; have a good night!"

script returned) and a short biography. The deadline is March 31, 1995.

Send your literary gem(s) to: Queer Glances, Queer Moments, #2002-1340 Burnaby St., Vancouver, BC, V6E 1R1.

West Coast Women and Words

As well, *West Coast Women and Words* is holding a poetry contest to celebrate more than ten years supporting women writers. Women are invited to submit entries on the theme of women moving (self or belongings in space or time). Poems must be in English, not previously published and postmarked no later than December 15 (faxes will not be accepted). They are to be typed, single-spaced with a maximum length (per poem) of 36 lines. Each poem should be on a separate sheet of paper and there should be no personal identification on the same page. Instead, put your name, address, telephone number and a one-paragraph biography on a separate page.

There is an entry fee for the contest - \$10 for Women and Words members and \$15 for non-members. An "entry" may include up to three poems and a maximum of two entries per woman will be accepted for judging. (In other words, up to six poems for two entry fees or three for one entry fee.) Manuscripts will not be returned, so don't waste the postage on an SASE.

First prize is \$150, second is \$75 and third prize is a book. The winners will be announced in the February 1995 issue of the newsletter and published in a special spring edition.

Mail your entries and fee (cheque or money order to West Coast Women & Words) to Women & Words Poetry Contest, #219-1675 West 8th, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1V2. And, while your pen is flying, don't forget us at *LesbiaNews*.

IN HONOUR OF THE U.N. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY:

The Victoria Status of Women Action Group Proudly Presents:

We Are Family

The 1st Annual Lesbian Family Festival

CONCERT:

An Evening of Special Events
Celebrating Family Diversity

Sat, October 1st
7:00pm

Video: "Kids' Eye View"

Folk Singer Peggy Ward
in Concert

Fisher Building
Room 100
Camosun College,
3100 Foul Bay Rd

Tix: \$10.00 adults \$5.00 for all children in family under 14yrs

SOME FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE TO WOMEN IN NEED. CALL SWAG FOR MORE INFO.
Workshop space limited: for info & pre-registration call SWAG at 381-1012.
Sponsored by: SWAG and Camosun College Women's Centre & Students' Society

WORKSHOPS:

A Day of Workshops, Music & Games for Women & Their Kids

Sun, October 2nd
9:00am-5:00pm

Registration 9:00-10:00am
Morning Workshops 10:00am
Brown Bag Lunch 12:00 noon
Afternoon Workshops 1:00pm
Blade Hockey & Softball 2:30pm

Fernwood Community Assn.
1923 Fernwood off Gladstone
Tix: \$10.00 adults \$5.00 for all children in family under 14yrs
(On-site childcare)

Cheryl McGarrigle

Travel Consultant Home: 388-9974

Up to date on Olivia Cruises
Travel Agent to the Lesbian Community

ENSIGN
TRAVEL LTD.

(604)-386-8427

JAMES BAY SQUARE, 3C - 435 Simcoe Street
Victoria, B.C., V8V 4T4 Fax: (604) 361-2662

BRAIN FEVER

By Karey Perks

Nobody batted an eye on that dark and stormy night when a high-pitched scream resounded from the back of Barnum's and a lanky young man in a sequined strapless dress pulled himself through the door to the women's bathroom, all arms and legs, like a wounded spider.

"There's somebody in there!" he wailed.

Since everybody knew Rupert, he was largely ignored, being the target of a certain amount of resentment about the boys' use of the women's facilities. A voice called out, "Use your own bathroom and you won't have to wait," which comment rekindled the perennial Bathroom Debate at several tables. Within a few moments it had spread to the bar.

Mal wiped her hands on her jeans and advanced on Rupert. He was swaying against the wall, his eyes rolled beseechingly toward the ceiling. Even with heels on he scarcely came up to her shoulder. In silence she loomed above him and wished for him to go away.

Rupert trembled and whispered, "I think they're dead or something."

Mal pushed past him into the bathroom and came out again. "Rupert, what is going on?"

"A dead body; I knew it!"

"Calm down." She held the bathroom door open for him to look through. "It's empty. See?"

He stared at the bare tile. "They never believe me", he moaned, his eyes wide with hurt.

Mal held back from saying what she thought. Rupert would take that all the way to a second curtain call, and she wanted him quiet and out of the way. A customer was waiting to use the bathroom. Mal reached across the snuffling Rupert to hold the bathroom door for her. The woman thanked her and went inside, leaving Mal's sleeve wet from her expensive raincoat.

The woman came out again. Gently she laid her gloved hand on Rupert's bare, white shoulder. "How long have you been standing outside this door?"

"An eternity," Rupert said, unhelpfully.

"Five minutes at the most," Mal said. "Why do you want to know?"

The woman lifted her face. Tiny droplets of rain glittered in her dark hair like distant suns in the midnight sky. She extended her hand and said "They call me Sam." Mal thought it was too bad you couldn't kiss a lady's hand; these days any woman who made her feel like that would take that sort of thing as an insult. She took the hand Sam offered and gave it a neutral shake. "Mal Hogan. I'm one of the owners."

"Could someone have gone through this door during those five minutes?"

Mal glanced up at the single bulb. There was only one reason to go along with this, and that was the fact that apart from

Rupert she was alone in the shadows with an attractive woman. She said, "So this imaginary dead body waits until Rupert's back is turned and then slips quietly down the darkened hallway and out the back door?"

Rupert looked injured. The woman they called Sam shrugged. "There's a waste basket knocked over in the corner and a mess of trampled tissue on the floor: it could point to a struggle. And I found this." She straightened a crumpled scrap of paper and held it under the light. The word "trap" was clearly visible in heavy pencil. She turned to Rupert. "This person you saw, can you show me where?"

"Oh, I couldn't bear to go in there again."

"Can you tell me?"

"Crumpled up on the floor, by the sink."

Sam gave Mal a keen look. "That back door you mentioned may be more important than you thought."

....TO BE CONTINUED.

"There's somebody in there!" he wailed... "I think they're dead or something."

LITTLE LEZZIE FLASHES



I am on holiday as most of *Lnews* goes through its many stages. But thinking of flashes — Is it hot or is it me? And **Marti** and I were talking about short-term what? My partner, **Judy Bell**, is happy that I can at least do mime for most of the things I cannot remember.

Got a note from **Jennifer Lord** of Intrepid Theatre Company to let us know that Intrepid, with Focus on Women, is producing Focus On Women Arts Festival. Entry forms are available through Intrepid and one should call 383-2663 for information. The festival is February 2 through 5, 1995. Its a multi-venue, multi-disciplinary event modelled on Vancouver's Women In View. There is a catch. The non-refundable processing fee is \$25 which you pay whether or not they "like" your work. At the August LesbiAntics committee meeting the festival was discussed in some depth as our **Melanie Black** is on the board of this festival. Concern was expressed around the \$25 entrance fee. Once again artists are obliged to subsidize their own festival whether or not they participate. I think it's time that artists, especially women and dyke artists, get uppity about this.

Write! **Karey** has created The 13th Opinion Page just for you! But don't stop with *Lnews*! Write. Protest! There are other papers and there is *Intrepid* and there is *Focus on Women*.

In my regular perusals of T/C I have noted in a tiny filler on the bottom corner of A12 August 18/94 that Gays are off Malaysian TV. Maybe the story would have made the around the world column as gay stuff often does if the Commonwealth Games weren't going to be in Malaysia next time. Malaise-sia? The item was so short it can be run thus: KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's state-run television network has banned gays and transvestities from appearing on its programs, the *Star* said. They didn't even tell us what the *Star* was — Toronto?

And Customs is continuing to prohibit naughty little books. *Belinda's Bouquet*, a children's book, a biography of Noel Coward and an exchange of letters between Romantic poets Byron and Shelley have all been deemed too sensitive for our sensibilities. The suspicion? They are obscene. And banned on suspicion. And convicted before proven. On the upside there have been some decent editorials regarding benefits and **Michael Yoda** and **Svend** didn't write them.

This column is supposed to be about good gossip. e.g. You won an award; you got your book to the publisher; you lost 10 pounds; you and your lover won lesbian couple of the year; you graduated — we don't care from what. You've got the idea. Spread the good news. Call me! My answering machine is on. BMcL

ANSWER'S TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across:

1. separatist
7. lo
8. rues
9. Viva
15. ORAA
16. Asia
17. bar
18. camp
19. date
20. Michigan
22. gay
23. leg
24. dildo
25. queer
28. labia
29. plot
32. lay
35. err
36. Gala
37. Lesbianews
41. avow
42. Isis
44. nap
45. teen
46. tans
47. cat
48. Clinton
50. edge
51. melt
54. bikes
56. Ingenue
59. roar
60. seam
62. trim
63. come
64. nomad
66. dae
67. dogma

Down:

1. sue
2. process
3. aura
4. ream
5. ASAP
6. Sylvia
7. labyris
9. vanilla
10. is
11. virago
12. AA
14. frig
19. dyke
21. GED
24. drag
25. quim
26. roles
27. Patience
30. orb
31. tribad
32. lavender
33. aloe
34. yawn
36. GATO
37. linguist
38. esse
39. wall
40. spit
42. ite
43. SAD
49. trio
52. femme
53. butch
54. bring
55. karma
57. nerd
58. Gaia
61. bed
65. om



ZORYA'S ASTRO PANORAMA



By Zorya Alexandra Plaskin

Mars moves through Leo from October 4 'til next May. Leo energy drives self-expression: it makes some noble, generous, creative; others are more autocratic than regal. As God of War, Mars channels Leo energy through Ego's most assertive aspects. Thus, Mars events in the area Leo rules on the natal chart measure matters of ego balance, hint at issues/attitudes which need work. A new Moon seven minutes after Mars hits Leo temporarily links emotional well-being to peace and balance. October 9's full Moon also has Mars qualities: some people we know are surprised at how warlike we can be about some things. To make the start of Mars' Leo transit more interesting, Mercury gets everything backward again October ~29: take special effort to be understood and, if it's important, get it in writing.



ARIES is the most likely to react to Mars by screaming "I am!" from the rooftops. Ego is measured at the new Moon by how individuals react to you. Full Moon events illuminate areas of self-identity. Mercury's scrambling effect challenges personal communications.



TAURUS must deal with unconscious manifestations of Mars energy: the first challenge is to recognize connections; don't argue, for example, until you've considered the roots of the conflict. New Moon energy focuses on responsibility, a confusing area while Mercury's retro'. Full Moon illuminates emotional secrets.



GEMINI gets a physical energy boost from Mars. New Moon energy lends a rare emotional depth to self-expression. Full Moon illuminates matters of ambition, the space you claim in group environments. Creative energies are abstracted while Mercury's retro'.



CANCER may overly identify with possessions since Mars channels Ego toward materialism. New Moon favours meditations on personal security needs, while full Moon illuminates image and challenges the balance between personal and private lives.



LEO has amazing power during this Mars transit and can accomplish much, unless Ego challenges generate insensitivity. Use the intellectual equanimity of the new Moon to consider how you develop perspectives, a process which can be short-circuited while Mercury's retro'. Full Moon challenges ideals, philosophical boundaries.



VIRGO needs to clean the subconscious basement during this Mars transit – get rid of old behaviours you'd forgotten or denied. New Moon favours new directions on matters of money and/or values, issues most affected by retro' Mercury: choices are tested at the full Moon.



LIBRA has special leadership during this Mars transit, which also enflames ambition: conflicts/

challenges are rooted in Ego. Meditate on self-identity at the new Moon; full Moon brings Cosmic measure, using those you relate to one-on-one as psychic mirrors. Mercury boosts mental processes into over-drive – you easily think too fast for some.



SCORPIO is driven to achieve by Mars; you may do best with projects which depend upon you in particular. New Moon favours mystic activity, introspective study. Full Moon energizes working environments, illuminates concepts of service. Retro' Mercury's riddles, clear as dreams, are subconscious messages about recent plans, intuitive hints about needed amendments.



SAGITTARIUS could channel Mars through the Higher Mind to create powerful expressions of intellectual concepts. Friends and group environments are highlighted at the new Moon. Full Moon challenges relate to self-expression; the energy can also stimulate impulsive romance.



CAPRICORN's ego balance during this Mars transit is measured by tension involving other people's money, values. Treat the new Moon as a starting point on career, image, governmental matte – remember retro' mercury makes these areas a little fuzzy. Full Moon energizes domestic environments, family matters.



AQUARIUS can credit/blame Ego for the tone of one-to-one relations during this Mars transit. New Moon is opportunity to expand philosophical horizons: Mercury helps reconsider the logic of old boundaries. Full Moon illuminates routine mental habits, challenges subjective thinking.



PISCES, with balance, is far more inclined to work than party during this Mars transit. Deals are best made by the new Moon since retro' Mercury obscures financial awareness, not the best time for financial negotiations. Full Moon illuminates material matters, may spotlight changes in financial structures.

Editorial

Continued from page 2

Mary Shelley realized there was an advantage to being the widow of Percy Bysshe Shelley, and not having to bear the burden of his insensitivity or his children. Who knows?

One evening during the Fringe Festival I turn on the TV and see a woman being interviewed about "filth" at the Fringe. She's talking about "The Happy Cunt", which she hasn't seen of course, and a few other plays with naughty words in the titles. The camera zooms in on her program, where she has circled the offending language and written: Filth! Obscene!

The real obscenity is that the story was broadcast at all, much less as news, but it's no news to Lesbians that Cunt is the Word That Kills. In common language, cunt is filth, but not so for us. We live the outside of common language. We have to speak of what is most precious and powerful in words borrowed from foreign speech. Fuck. Cunt. Pussy. Dyke. I love these numinous, mighty words, but I would love to have my own words. I love to think, if we had our own language, what stories we could tell.

Belly Dancing & Yoga

with

Midwife, Diane Smith

Saturday Mornings,
9 a.m.

also

complete
midwifery care
in the
childbearing year

598-4052

13th Opinion

Continued from page 5

printed statement at the door, the literature available in the gallery, the suggested reading list – they all did as much as any mortal could to provide information. Further inspiration was up to the artists.

Blessed Be,
Zorya

☯ ☯ ☯

Accusations of racism at Concordia Women's Centre

Recently *LesbiaNews* received a letter from women at the Concordia Women's Centre in Montreal.

The letter described a series of internal political issues which have led to the closing of the centre and firing of most of the workers. According to the letter, written by the workers, two women of colour at the centre quit because of racist attitudes and treatment at the centre.

The letter states, "white women's defensiveness, hostility, inability and unwillingness to critique racist articles" during a workshop on racism and sexism prompted the resignation of the workshop facilitator, a woman of colour and employee of the centre. According to the letter, the

full-time coordinator of the centre said the problems at this workshop were the result of the inexperienced and unrealistic expectations of the facilitator.

Two white employees (women) have spoken out about ongoing racism and held meetings with other women at the centre.

As a result, "women at the Centre have begun to accept some responsibility and to see the need for changes," states the letter. Later, during a meeting at the Centre, consensus was reached to request the resignation of the full-time Coordinator.

Representatives then met with the Coordinator and her supervisor and explained the request and other proposed changes for the Centre.

Each of the representatives then received a letter from the supervisor stating that "the centre was temporarily closed...all workers were fired, and the request for the full-time Coordinator's resignation was denied."

Women from the Centre are requesting that letters of protest against these actions be sent to the Vice-Rector of Services, Charles Bertrand, at the Sir George Williams Campus of Concordia University (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, H3G 1M8).

Before going to press, *LesbiaNews* was unable to receive any additional information about the situation. If anyone knows anything else, keep us posted.

ZORYA ALEXANDRA PLASKIN

Find new ways to empower your life.
Sensitive, transformative interpretations with
special emphasis on karma and past-life patterns.

- ★ natal charts ★ compatibility
- ★ lunar cycles ★ the year ahead

380-2960

Tarot readings also available



By Corrine Devison

These past few months Lesbians from Victoria and around the world marched forward in an ongoing struggle for personal discovery and diversity. From Stonewall 25 to the *Take Back the Night* march, Gays and Lesbians are seeking visibility, power and international recognition

from the ravages of AIDS and bigotry.

A shared legacy from the New York experience: walking within the thousands meant waking up, celebrating being alive and living within a rainbow of humanity. The million strong march on the United Nations and rally in Central Park gave way to a moment of silence, followed by a rallying cry, calling upon nations and people of the world to affirm the dignity, legitimacy of human rights of Lesbians and gays, bisexuals and transgendered people without distinction of any kind.

Did the Sports Dyke join the Sports section of the Stonewall 25 march? Sorry, I missed out on all those athletic bodies. I decided to join Canada's contingent instead.

LIFE AFTER THE GAY GAMES

So what did the Sports Dyke do to recover from this thought-provoking, spiritually-awakening extravaganza? Maybe shoot a few hoops, bat a few balls, go one on one with a New York sister? I don't think so!

The Sports Dyke was spotted by various members of the V.I. Sisters either sunning on Herring Beach, salivating over lobster or enjoying the sights and sounds of the Lesbian Lounge Lizards. With the constant flow of gorgeous women down Commercial Street and the revolving door of Lesbians at Women's Crafts, my eyes did receive a wee bit of a workout. The afternoon Lesbian Tea dances helped exercise the rest of me...sort of.

Yes, my post Gay Games/Stonewall 25 recoup and revive mission took place in Lesbianville, alias Provincetown, Mass. A place where the only question is "So, when are you coming back?"

Now back to another season of field hockey, ice hockey, soccer and flag football. Check out your local athletic parks and schools on the weekends. Why? Because we're everywhere.

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 \$20 each.

TOTAL \$ _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

Please put this name as gift giver:

(Back issues available for \$2.50 including postage)

ADS AND NOTICES

Items for this column must be submitted by the 15th of the month to appear in the following month's issue. Items may be mailed to us at P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, V8R 6S4 or submitted by phone to Barbara at 479-2445.

CALENDAR

September 27: Reading at 7:30 collected works by feminist author/poet Erin Moure, (Sheepish Beauty, Civilian Love) at Everywomans Books, 635 Johnson Street. Free. Call 388-9411

October 1 and 2: Lesbian Family Festival. Victoria SWAG presents this two-day event which will include workshops, music, dance, fun and games for women and their children. See ad inside for more information.

November 12: Blind Date Productions presents Sawagi Taiko (Vancouver women's drumming group) and Cate Friesen in concert. For information contact Nancy Poole, Blind Date Productions, 370-1197.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADS

Mosaic, Victoria's lesbian, gay and allies chorus, meets Wednesdays at Church of Truth end of Superior Street across from fisherman's Wharf and former Unitarian Church. If you love to sing, come join us. No musical background or audition required. For further info, call Helen 383-8613.

Lesbians Writing on Lesbians. Small, informal group playing with

writing. No experience necessary: simply the desire to explore through writing. Weekly meeting, Thursday evenings. For more info call Kim at 385-8292.

The Status of Women Action Group's **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Issues Committee** meets every other Friday at 1 pm at the SWAG Office. Call 381-1012 to confirm dates and times.

SOME VERY NICE DYKES is a way for women to meet, socialize, network, and have fun in a comfortable setting. We meet twice a month. New members are welcome. For info and details call April, 381-6585.

BI-WOMEN'S GROUP — We are a small group of women who meet every two weeks for support, discussion and friendship in a safe and cozy environment. If you would like to join us, or for more information, write: Women's Group, P.O. Box 8797, Victoria V8W 3S3.

Call for submissions: *Queer Glances*, *Queer Moments*, an anthology of lesbian and gay fiction, is looking for short stories. *West Coast Women and Words* is holding a poetry contest. For information and details on how to submit works to both these look inside.

SERVICES

Here is list of some of the services we offer each other.

You can help us complete, update, keep up this list. When it is complete we can make sure that it is available everywhere we go! Write our box # or call Barbara at 479-2445.

University of Victoria, Jenny Waelti Waters is with Women's Studies. She can arrange meeting rooms under banner of Women's Studies. Call her secretary Helen, 721-6157.

Very Nice Dykes—April, 381-6585.

Non-Violent Civil Disobedience Trainers— Alison Anderson, 598-8184.

Lesbian/Gay Provincial Employees Assoc. or funding via Womens Equality Ministry — Anne R., 953-4511.

Unitarian Church welcomes openly gay/lesbians. Call Lisa at 388-4910

SWAG Status of Women Action Group has a lesbian issues committee. Call 381-1012.

Lesbian Dog Walkers, Dogs Day Out - Marsha 721-4194 or Frankie, 642-2030.

LesbiaNews P.O. Box 5339 Station B, Victoria. V8R 6S4.

P-FLAG Information # is 642-5171 for those who are interested in Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.



DOVETAIL ent.
Home Improvements
727-0968
MEG HERWEIER
Carpenter Painter

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

