

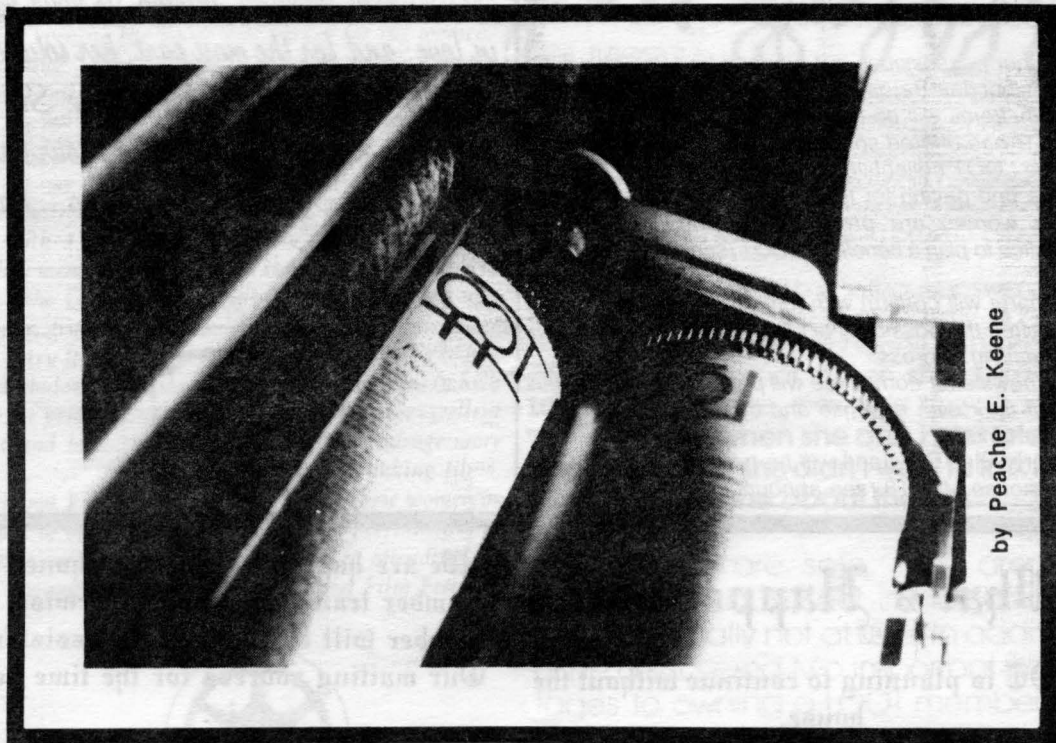
MAY
1980

RESOURCE CENTRE
**Lavender
Sheets
Lavender
Sheets**

960-3249

LOOT

Lesbian Organization of Toronto
P.O. Box 70, Station F
Toronto, Ontario M4X 2L4



by Peache E. Keene

*With Mixed
Emotion*

"LOOT's very existence is a political act in itself. Two years ago, we defined ourselves as lesbians. Without this definition, without this house, both the gay movement and the women's movement in this city would lack strength." — *Lesbian Organization of Toronto*

General Meeting April 27

Twelve women attended this meeting which made the final decision to give notice that LOOT will be moving the end of May.

LOOT bank account has approximately \$547.30 with bills and rent outstanding. It is estimated that LOOT may be \$500. in debt after all expenses are paid.

Broadside has offered to move and keep some furniture for LOOT. Alex M., recognizing the importance of access to a printing press, has offered to move it at her own expense. She will set the press up in her basement and it will be available for community use. Margaret M. will store the sound equipment which will also be available for dances etc. Various other women have offered to store books, pictures, etc.

- All other possessions not claimed by May 24, will be sold on that day. Bargain hunters should come to LOOT at 1 pm. Items will go to the highest bidder.
- WREC has offered space for the phone line provided that the LOOT collective is committed to continuing the service and paying for the phone.
- Nine women are presently working on a dance committee to plan a benefit for LOOT (see announcement).
- ts).
- Margaret will confirm with International Womens Day Committee the possibility of LOOT sharing their PO box for a mailing address.
- The newsletter committee will publish May issue (this one) at their own expense and be repaid when LOOT has the funds.
- Beverly Glen Copeland will be performing at a LOOT coffeeshouse May 18 (see announcements for details).

Bio of the Month

Lezzy is a lesbian columnist who can solve any problem you have.

She considers herself a psychic and has some experience with the occult, tarot cards, tea leaves and she can even give you advice about your herb garden.

Her specialty, though, is your problems in love; and for the most part, her solutions are derived from personal experiences. So, if you have any unsolvable traumas in your love-life, please write Dear Lezzy c/o Lavender Sheets.



What's Happening?

LOOT is planning to continue without the house.

There will be continuing discussions on the future of **LOOT** at general meetings 'til the end of May. A new space at this time is not financially feasible, but it is definitely discussable.

We are hoping to have the phone line number transferred but ,otherwise, the number will be in directory assistance. Our mailing address for the time being is:

P.O. Box 70, Station J, Toronto.
R.S.N.P.

SUMMER DANCE

LOOT BENEFIT

Boogie on à la Amazon

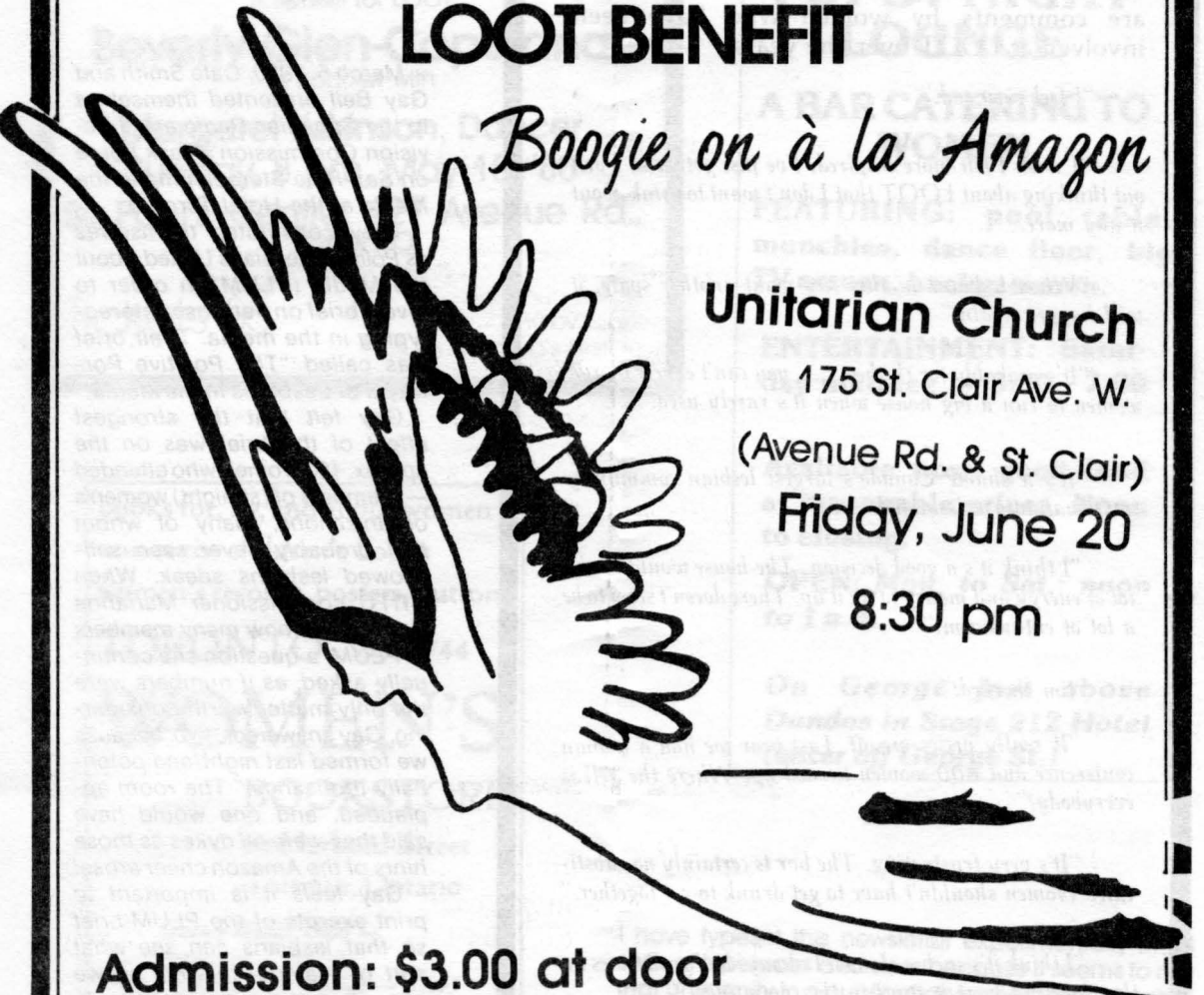
Unitarian Church

175 St. Clair Ave. W.

(Avenue Rd. & St. Clair)

Friday, June 20

8:30 pm



Admission: \$3.00 at door

(a bargain in these days of 'budgetary restraint'!!)

(Evening before solstice! and Ste. Jeanne Baptiste au Québec)

With Mixed Emotion

It was with mixed emotions that the news of the house closing was received. The following are comments by women who have been involved at LOOT over the years:

"I feel very sad."

"I wish I felt more inspired. I've just gotten so worn out thinking about LOOT that I don't want to think about it any more."

"When lesbians in this city want another space, it will happen again."

"It's probably for the best — you can't expect 6 or 7 women to run a big house when it's rarely used."

"It's a shame Canada's largest lesbian community can't maintain a lesbian house."

"I think it's a good decision. The house would need a lot of energy and money to fix it up. There doesn't seem to be a lot of enthusiasm."

"I'm shocked!"

"It really pisses me off. Last year we had a lesbian conference and 600 women turned up. Where the hell is everybody?"

"It's very frustrating. The bar is certainly no substitute. Women shouldn't have to get drunk to get together."

"I think it's such a shame. I always had good times in that house. I hope it stays in the community."

"What's everyone getting sentimental about? All you need to do is take a couple of pictures, keep them on file and find a new place."

PLUM's brief

March 5, 1980, Cate Smith and Gay Bell presented themselves to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission's Task Force on Sex-Role Stereotyping in the Media at the Hotel Toronto.

They constituted themselves as Political Lesbians United About the Media (PLUM) in order to give a brief on heterosex stereotyping in the media. Their brief was called "The Positive Portrayal of Lesbians in the Media."

Gay felt that the strongest effect of the brief was on the approx. 100 women who attended — members of (straight) women's organizations, many of whom had probably never seen self-avowed lesbians speak. When CRTC commissioner Marianne Barry asked how many members in PLUM, a question she continually asked, as if numbers were the only matter worth considering, Gay answered, "two, because we formed last night/and potentially thousands." The room applauded, and one would have said they were all dykes as those hints of the Amazon cheer arose!

Gay feels it is important to print **exerpts** of the PLUM brief so that lesbians can see what sort of material to write so we can all make presentations to public bodies such as government, unions, associations. After all, it's just detailing the basic stuff we say all the time when we're on the defensive/offensive.

The two points which are important to our presentation are **heterosexism and choice.**

Heterosexism is the assumption that everyone's sexual orientation is towards the opposite sex, the assumption that women need men. (*The guys in the audience had their danders up by then!*)

The heterosexist bias of the media perpetuates discrimination against lesbians and gays and helps make our lives very dangerous and miserable: because those who rely on the media for their depiction of reality see us as sick or non-existent and therefore as people to be hurt and destroyed.

The nuclear family is not representative of how children are raised: there are lesbian mothers, single mothers, collective childrearing, as well as gay and single fathers. It is important that people see positive media depictions of what *are* positive childrearing patterns.

Furthermore, the nuclear family has always been limiting to women and it has been a system to reinforce heterosexuality. (It's pretty hard to grow up lesbian in a milieu where, not only is there no one else who is lesbian but everyone says you've got to raise a family when you grow up — even if you feel no attraction to men.)

Besides the constant barrage of nuclear families, there is the job stereotyping of women — which is very unrealistic to lesbians. One of our major struggles has been to break into non-traditional jobs for women — to prove that we are capable of doing things besides being secretaries and teachers. Not every woman wants to be a mother, nor aspires to be some man's bride. Lots of women want to

spend their lives with women as much as possible, in women's bars, in women's cooperative living arrangements, taking care of girl children and so on in women-identified activities.

When I told my mother "I am lesbian", she said, "Oh, don't be silly", as if there were no such thing. Invisibility is another problem we encounter. How are gay people ever going to be able to develop positive images of ourselves if the media gives us the impression that we don't exist? We must be presented positively and realistically — duly noting that we are oppressed.

Similar to the myth of invisibility is the myth of ugliness. (*At this point, Gay swaggers a bit and flirts only slightly.*) The few lesbians who are depicted in the media are presented as being ugly. We are not ugly: we are not necessarily butch, upper-class stuck-up, nor are we liable to bring out a switch blade when we're threatened. There are lesbians who are like that and there are many quite different. We are just as various as heterosexuals.

How often does a beer commercial depict women getting together for a beer after work? To combat heterosexism it is time that we saw women together (outside of being housewives, secretaries or laundresses talking shop) who enjoy each other's company for intellectual, spiritual, physical and romantic reasons. (*Ummmmm*)

There are a few exceptions such as the films *Julia* and *Girlfriends* and there is a billboard advertisement in the Toronto subway which depicts two women arm in arm who got their hair cut at some hair salon in town. It is a great pleasure to see these few examples of women being together — *not* for the titillation of men, but for their own pleasure.

Now come our suggestions for improvement — how do we get lesbian and gay content into advertising and programming?

Just as the struggle for the rights of lesbians must be carried on by lesbians, so it is we who know how to depict our own lives.

As artists and technical people, we have an enormous need to express, to externalize, our emotions and lifestyles. And those of us who have been "out" for several years are expert at it — because this is the very stuff of our lives, the meaning and content.

It is a matter of affirmative action which must be done to contact lesbian scriptwriters, actors, camerawomen and so on who can produce lesbian and non-heterosexist material.

We emphasize that the guidelines of the CRTC should be concerned with the rights of the public, not the growth of the ad industry at our expense.

Gay Bell □

CONTRIBUTORS

Gay Bell
Arlene McDonald

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS

Mary, Margaret,
Almerinda, Kari,
Judi P., Lynn,
Mimi.

Phone Line & Newsletter

by Arlene MacDonald

By calling LOOT on Tuesday evenings you can find out what is happening in Toronto for lesbians.

Information about bars, good doctors, etc. is available. The women answering the phone are also open to talking about concerns like coming out, lifestyles, and relationships. These women are all volunteers who meet collectively once a month. The phone line is an important link to the lesbian community.

The closing of the LOOT house could mean the end of the phone line. An arrangement with Womens Counselling and Referral Service is being considered. They have offered space for the phone line collective but the women must be prepared to continue beyond the short term and bear the financial responsibility. I feel both these responsibilities must go beyond the collective to all lesbians in Toronto. Lack of information keeps us isolated and weakened. It is in our best interests to ensure that the phone line continues and expands.

The newsletter is our most visible link with each other and to women beyond the lesbian community. There is also a very real possibility that the newsletter will not continue. The fact that you are reading this means women on the newsletter committee have used their own funds to have this printed. LOOT will reimburse these women after bills are paid through the funds raised by the dance and coffeehouse.

The cost including mailing ranges from \$100. to \$150. per issue. It is a seemingly small sum for some but it is an impossible amount for the women on the collective to donate every issue. A renewal of your subscription, attendance at the dance and/or coffeehouse are just three of the things you can do to help LOOT keep going.



au clair d'la lune

(ce poème est dédié au OUI dans la province du Québec et à la lutte francotarienne pour obtenir la justice dans l'éducation — plus précisément, à fêter qu'on a gagné, enfin, l'école française à Penetanguishene!)

(this poem is dedicated to the YES vote in Québec and to the struggle of Francotariennes to obtain their rights in education — specifically, in celebration of the French High School in Penetanguishene which has finally been won!)

Y'avait sept femmes qui dansaient sur la plage/seven women dancing on the beach skirts billowing/jupes flottantes dans l'air fraîche l'air marine/sea air I can smell the salt/images qui attirent l'eau/clouds drawing water/sur leurs bords la lumière éclate comme une petite bande de blanc/outlining the women from their beach women's hands touching palm on palm/paume sur paume une chaleur/mellow warmth/doights qui transmettent les lois de leur danse/pattern designed by fingers sliding down each other holding by inclination never by force /elle ne m'a jamais poignée/she never grabbed me by force/juste par le désir de me contacter

Gay Bell

**“It was like a party! You could v
with your friends, get angry and sho
— we should do that all the time.”**

**“Women who were just out walking
joined us —it was my first populist
movement!”**

L.O.O.T
Sat. 24

1 P.m

342 Jarvis

FLASH

WOMEN



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

You could visit
nearly and shout
the time."

st out walking
first populist

Over 600 women
took back the night
in the beaches area
Tues. May 6. Spirits
soared as women
poured onto Queen
St. stopping traffic
in both directions.

A smaller group
(100 ♀) continued
after the major
demo to a street
where a rapist is
believed to live.

They chanted loudly
up and down the
street and really
let the "bastard"
know the power of
women together.
As they returned
to Queen St. a car
driven by a gomer
accelerated through
the group. His number
was reported to the
cops.

The night was an
historic event for
Toronto women.
The Rape Crisis
Centre is to be
congratulated for
their fine work.

L.O.O.T loot on Sale
Sat. 24 May

1 P.m

342 Jarvis



organically typeset by
hand!

LARGE CROWD FOR ANTI-NUKE DEMO — 2 arrested

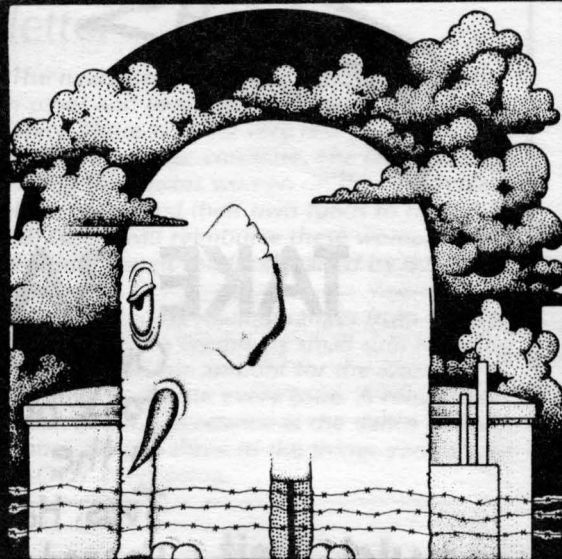
(LP) — All over the world on April 26 cries rang out against the nuclear industry. Toronto was no exception. After looking and gasping over the incredible visual drama, I found that the womyn's contingent was hating out under the IWD banner. Around me were 4 or ever 5000 people having a nice time in the warm sunny air.

It didn't last long (the warm sunny air); but we got bored shortly after 5 speakers saying the same things. And this went on for 2 long hours. Finally we walked defiantly up University Ave.

I must admit when I walked by the shiny plate glass Hydro building I fantasized about carrying a brick next year.

The rally at Queen's Park started at 3:00 o'clock and I was tired for working all night so I went home.

The two arrested were Pro-Nuclear gomers who planted a car in the middle of the crowd and heckled. The peaceful crowd stepped out of character long enough to throw decayed vegetable matter in their car. The driver was charged with criminal negligence and the other jerk with assault to cause bodily harm when they tried to run a woman over. — J.P.



DARLINGTON

ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATION & OCCUPATION

12 Noon · Saturday · June 7
Darlington Provincial Park

E. of Oshawa · S. of 401
at Courtice Rd.

FOR INFORMATION
civil disobedience workshop
wymins' affinity group
contact Pati at the Non-
Nuclear Network 968-3213,
121 Avenue Road, Toronto.

AUNTY NUKE WANTS YOU

—announcements—

A Benefit for LOOT

Beverly Glen-Copeland

in concert with

Margaret Atkinson, Dancer

Sunday, 8 pm, May 18, '80

St. Paul's Centre, 121 Avenue Rd.,
Toronto

light refreshments

Tickets \$5.

Advance tickets

Fly by Night

& Tor Women's Bkstore

FLY BY NIGHT LOUNGE

A BAR CATERING TO WOMEN!

FEATURING: pool table,
munchies, dance floor, big
TV screen, backgammon.

ENTERTAINMENT: Satur-
day matinee — 3:30 - 7:00

**Available now: good food
at reasonable prices. Noon
to closing.**

**OPEN: Mon. to Sat.: noon
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**On George just above
Dundas in Stage 212 Hotel
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books for, by, and about women
non-sexist children's books
women's records, posters, buttons

TORONTO 922-8744

WOMEN'S

BOOKSTORE

85 Harbord Street
Toronto, Ontario

Gaia's Guide 1980 —
travel book, \$8.50

Coming Out Stories — \$7.95
foreword by Adrienne Rich

SALE
15-50% OFF
lesbian stickers &
rubber stamps

I have typeset this newsletter experimentally in all sorts of typefaces and sizes because it seems to me that uniformity in a publication is another patriarchal device to keep our imaginations in line. Also because I want to try out ideas but haven't much time at my job, this is sloppy, not really "professional." Keeping that in mind, please let me know how you react.

xox Gay Bell

I

In our matching p.j.s
We laugh
O what kids we are
Snuggled
Under our tent

Childhood slides away

II

We
like spoons
Table and tea
in a velvet
Box

bed
begin to stir

III

You like to sleep diagonal
Or curled like a cheezie
In the middle of the bed
After the news
I can neither rouse you
Nor arouse...
Sleepyhead

Margaret

l

lee wards along the coast
edging the line towards ward 2 weardes
how can i no words

rational spelling
strictly denotating lateral movement

i know no w's or d's
to know where you have focust
what you are reading
on the reeds
catch the silver salt in the sky

s

U

S

wing a single
bat a fire wink
fly laughing rarely

b

do i keep 2 wards

the beacon attracts
fireflies

be^{at} nite

phos for us

strativarius

various cloud strings tighten

come

babble the rhythm

lie among pebbles

the water & fireflies

n

lap our nipples bare skin

Ellen Quigley

At the Movies by Peach E. Keene

Toronto's first Feminist Film Festival at the Funnell Theatre was a wonderful event. On the weekend of April 19th women (and a few gomers) were treated to an amazing array of films. They ranged from extremely exciting to booooring, experimental, documentary and fiction.

There were films with budgets of over \$50,000, and others that cost less than \$10. to make. Silent and sound, colour, black and white, 16mm, Super-8, 90 minutes long and 2½ minutes long, from Québec and Ontario and one from the U.S. It was wonderful!

There was good attendance throughout the festival and on Sunday evening the house was packed for the women-only showing. There were workshops with women filmmakers and the discussions ranged from theory to street action against sexist films.

During the breaks there was coffee and wine, cheese and bread (donated by the Upper Crust).

The festival was organized by a group of 6 or 7 women, with 3 of them doing the key work in their spare time. They were able to get grants through the Secretary of State and the Ontario Arts Council, so fund-raising was not a major, draining task. Unlike most film festivals, there were no entry fees for films and the group is hoping to pay each contributor. There was also no judging of films (which was best) or prime viewing time. I think these were excellent decisions and hope that this festival will encourage more women to get involved in making films.

It is not known at this time whether these women or others will be organizing another festival. I certainly hope that next year we can all look forward to attending the second annual Fabulous Feminist Film Festival.



ON LISTS

"How do I know my name will be safe?" is not a question often found in "pulp" thrillers, but it is a real concern some wimmin have when they consider purchasing a LOOT membership and newsletter subscription. To find an answer (and an article), I called up a womyn (X) whom I knew to be in charge of the lists.

Her response left me without answer or article. She had carefully avoided my questions throughout the entire phone call. As I hung up, it occurred to me that if even **she** didn't know where the lists were, they must be very safe.

However, when she and I met later, she explained that she didn't want to talk to me on the telephone about the lists

(because she thought her telephone number might be tapped.)

The lists are safe. They aren't at someone's house nor in any office — and especially not at LOOT. In addition, I have discovered two important advantages to owning a LOOT membership: you will never get put on any junk-mail mailing lists, and with every membership you will receive a one-year subscription to Toronto's most exclusive wimmins newsletter.

Classifieds

Regal Cards & Stationery, monogrammed towels, place mats, party hats, pens and pencils, gift wrap, cooking utensils, and much much more. Phone Cathy at 537-5146 to request a free catalogue.





Handwriting analysis reveals your personality. For courses in this subject, personal or business analyses, call Linda Pitney at 233-1943.

Professional Hair Styling done by Karen \$7.50. Call 961-1768, a 24-hour answering service, or 469-4569.

Women Van available for moving, etc. at good rates. Call Karen at 961-1768, a 24-hour answering service, or 469-4569.

May

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

-  first quarter
-  new moon
-  full moon
-  last quarter

June

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Victoria Day,
Canada

RETREAT
Drop-in

D

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Drop-in*

Phone Line
Rings*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

C

* Events occurring at 342 Jarvis St

L.O.O.T.

P.O. Box 70, Station F
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