

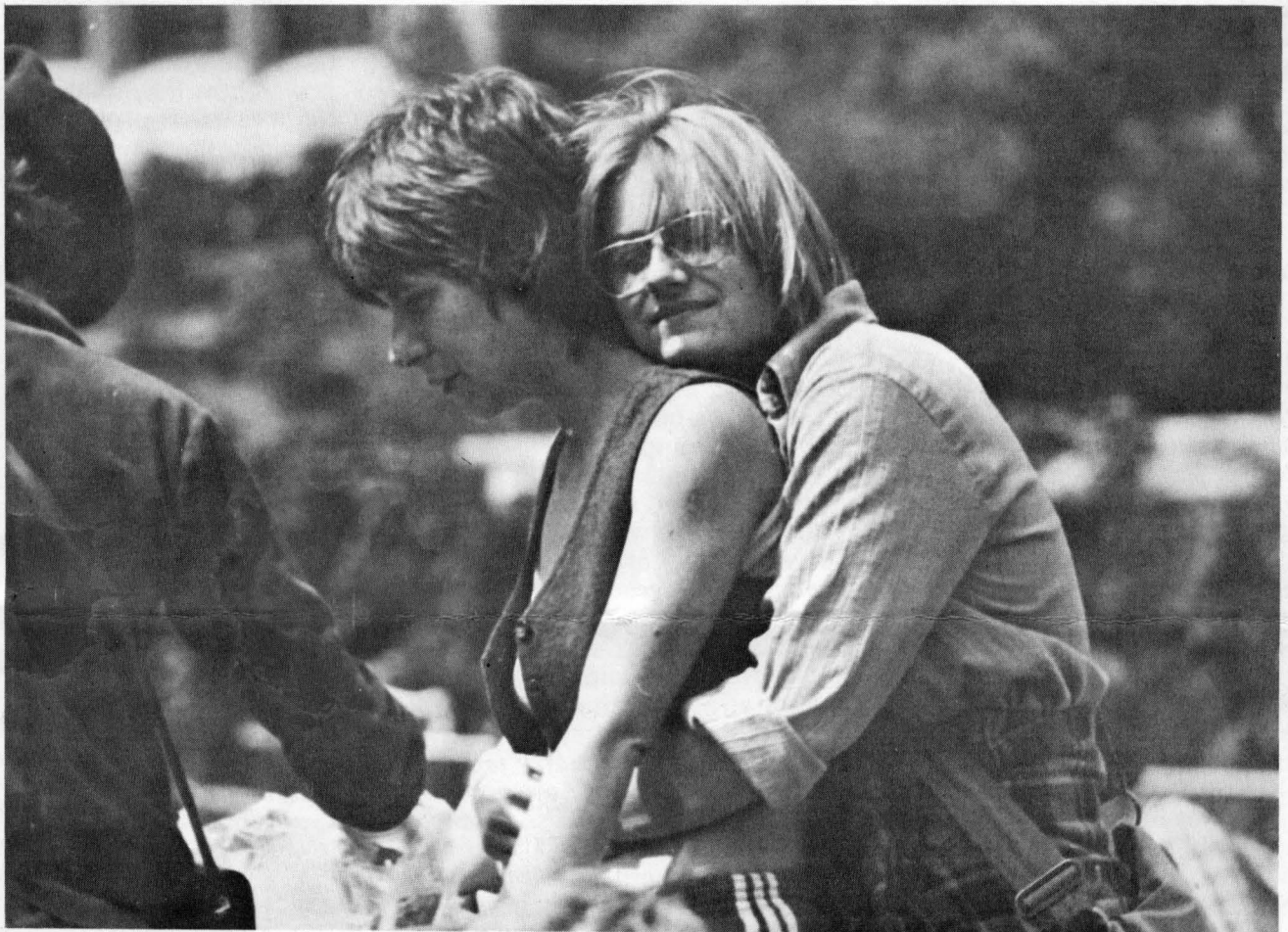
**Lesbian** August 1979  
**Perspective**

**Lesbian Organization of Toronto**

**342 Jarvis St., Toronto, Ont.  
960-3249**

**Tuesday and Friday evenings**

**We have a Name!**



**THE DEADLINE** for the September Newsletter is August 30th. To submit a classified ad, (please enclose \$2.), announcements or articles, call Pat at 489-3153, or leave it at the LOOT office. Do consider writing for us. We also still need more womyn power for layout etc. Again, call Pat.

**NEWSLETTER COLLECTIVE:**

Karen Henderson, Ruth Holmes, Pat Leslie, Maureen McReavy, Sharon Stone.

photo by Bernice Bradshaw

## What is a Lesbian

The dictionary tells me that a lesbian is a woman sexually attracted to her own sex. That's all it says. It's perfectly correct, but to my mind, it tells only half of the story. No mention is made of love or even empathy.

In my humble opinion, being a lesbian means a hell of a lot more than sexual attraction. It also means rejecting the patriarchal dogma that says women were created to please men.

Being lesbian does not necessarily mean hating all men. But it does mean hating what they represent.

Being lesbian doesn't mean going to a gay bar just because that's where you're most likely to find a sexual partner. It also means going to a gay bar because that's where you can relax with women who think and feel the same as you.

Being lesbian doesn't mean loving women just for their bodies. It also means loving them for themselves, because they have the ability to stand up for themselves. It means rejoicing in the fact that their destiny is your destiny.

And being lesbian means countless other things too.

So don't give me that bullshit that any woman sexually attracted to another woman is a lesbian. Being lesbian isn't an on again, off again, sexual pastime. It is a fulltime belief.

by Sharon Stone

1 August 1979

The Business and Professional Woman

796 Carlaw Avenue, Apt. 18  
Toronto, Ont. M4K 3L2

Attention: Ms. Valerie Dunn,  
Editor

Dear Ms. Dunn:

**RE: The Business and Professional Woman Magazine Mar./Apr. 1979 Edition Front Cover**

The Lesbian Organization of Toronto was very impressed by your interest in using a photograph of the International Women's Day March on March 11th. Yes, it is time that we women stood up for equal rights and our place in the world.

This is why our group, representing 400 lesbians, must write a letter of protest over your unreasonable need to maintain our invisibility as lesbians. The daily Toronto newspaper, in which Frank Rooney's photograph appeared, certainly showed no hesitation in printing the entire content of the photograph. Unfortunately, you, as editor, felt that your readers were neither sophisticated enough to accept the word 'lesbian' nor sophisticated enough to feel outrage at your censorship.

The Lesbian Organization of Toronto carried its banner in the march because we support rights for **all** women and because the march organizers were also supportive of rights for lesbians. You will also find, in almost every other group participating in the demonstration, that lesbians were prevalent; that lesbians **are** active in the women's movement and no amount of censorship will make us suddenly disappear.

We will expect this letter to be printed in your forthcoming issue along with an apology from the official publication of The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Yours truly,



## Discussion Groups Continue

Last month's group discussion on Personal Life Goals seems to have been a successful beginning at getting some good dialogue occurring among women with different ideas although similar lifestyles. It was stimulating and thought-provoking and most women got something out of participating or even just listening. At least 12 women took part and we believe that this is a sign for further discussion topics to be arranged on a monthly basis.

Hence, the next discussion will take place on Thursday, August 16th at 7:30 p.m. at 342 Jarvis. The topic will be "Power — It's Use and Abuse!" with possible areas of concentration centering around the way women who have power use it, how more women can get power, how they might find it difficult to use well (eg. combatting manipulation) and how women use power to gain and keep control in relationships. There is a lot to discuss in this whole area so come and join us and air your views.

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# Montréal during the Fête Ste-Jeanne Baptiste

Two women went to Montreal over the June 24 weekend. One was named Lucy and the other, Gay.

Gay loves the way French women say Lucy — *loo-SIE* — or Lucille.

They are lovers and they went to Montréal during the Québec national celebrations. Where did they go in Montréal? Where do lesbians go in Montréal?

First night they got a copy of *virus*, the hip Montréal mag. that tells you everything going on in town, *in political terms!* There's a whole page on gay stuff and an excerpt on the fact that sexual orientation is *included* in the Human Rights Code in Quebec.

"And besides the graphics in this mag. are so appealing; although you do get some pix in which womens' bodies are passive — distorted in the violence — against women genre", said Gay, always interested in the connections between graphics and politics.

"You're such a sweetheart," Gay said to Lucy, "I love you in those shorts". Lucy was delighted and her freckles popped out in appreciation. "Where'll we go tonight to snuggle and huzzle?" she inquired. "Let's call the gay-line."

Lucy returns from the phone to the café table. "It says there's a lesbian bar on St. Denis just opened. Let's try that."

They went to **Babyface** and danced to a juke box. Very sexy-and-tough-we-can-handle-the-urban-war kind of music. It made Gay think of the movie *Rubber Gun* and pretend she was smuggling heroin into the revolutionaries (that's heroin, not heroine). The lady Babyface who guards the door is so well suited she resembles Quentin Crisp. Gay took it all in, especially the one or two guys in tolerated attendance. Evidently, they get off on us: the feeling is, of course, *not* mutual.

The next day the two women found Co-op Femmes. "What's

that?" you ask. "Some kinda food co-op for women?" We'll get to that.

The way they found it was by going to **Haut Pluriel** for breakfast because a woman at Babyface had said that's a feminist café-restaurant. It's run by an irresistible older woman and caters to a mixed clientèle for daytime meals.

It's lucky that loving you makes me so healthy," said Luce to Gay.

"How cum?"

"Cause then I can afford to splurge on something unhealthy and have croissants and a bowl of café-au-lait about noon after making love all morning. Good kinda holiday, eh?"

"A feminine sort of symbol, a croissant," said, Gay holding hers up. "That's a nice little guest house we're staying in on that square, the Carré St. Louis," she continued, mouth full of croissant."

Lucy soon struck up a conversation with a woman at the next table who obviously was a lesbian and she found out about Co-op Femmes on St. Laurent near Prince Arthur.

"We shoulda brought our bikes," said Gay, "around here you could just ride from lesbian place to lesbian place."

Just near Haut Pluriel, they stopped off at a woman shoemaker. Her name is Claire and she makes elegant and comfortable shoes.

"Let's give Black-eyed Susan a call now that we're established."

"She says she only lives a few blocks away and to come on over." We do. Hanging out right in the *centre* of this town.

She makes a yummy vegetarian supper, entertains us with a woman from Belgium — where the law saying that it isn't rape if it happens between husband and wife has just been repealed — and then we take off.

At **Co-op Femmes**, a studio/bar/dance/performance space, it seems there's usually some-

thing going on 'til late coz the liquor laws don't put a lid on it at 1 a.m. That night, Arc-en-Son, an all women Québec band, was playing its last gig. "Very far out," said Gay and they danced and met very forward and yet self-sufficient French women.

Black-eyed Susan said, "most anglophone lesbians here have learned to speak French. It gives them more access to the political and cultural climate here and it gives them more interesting friends. You notice how lesbians really develop their personalities when they come out? Well, same with Québécoises when they become politicized around being French in an anglo-dominated country. Because anglo-domination is named and resisted, they have a sense of creating their own Québec-nation. They have a culture of resistance which is focused around language. Speaking French is an acknowledgement, on our part, of that culture of resistance, resistance basically to the same sorts of patriarchal values which we resist. In Canada, "speak English," "speak male", "speak white" have a lot in common." Gay said: "but I am worried that many anglophone lesbians will avoid Québec because of the different language."

"The main thing is attitude — they should try out whatever few words they may know", said Susan. It's more important to try than to be aloof from franco-phone lesbians: they already feel alienated enough. Again, being Québécoise is the same as being lesbian — while it's a drag to be oppressed, there's also a great culture of resistance to belong to!

The next day they met other lesbians at Co-op Femmes and all went out on the streets to celebrate Ste-Jeanne. Out we trail a whole line of colourful lesbians because we have taken time to make ourselves up thanks to the artiste with sticks

continued on page 6

from page 3

of colours and phials of glitter-bits. KISS me, oh KISS me, crooned Lucy, imitating the popular band's fans.

Many people on the street were dressed in a carnivalesque manner with gypsy-like skirts and vests (adapted to the dyke, of course, by our friends who were clad in our version of the wandering-artist look). Everywhere deep purple, gold stars and shocking pink faces. Everywhere fleurs-de-lys, on children's faces, babys' prams, and vendors' buttons said "referendum: oui" with a big nationalist symbol, the fleur-de-lys.

(which is cordoned off from traffic) like all the festival areas where they can draw on heavy paper taped to the street; youths had someone working with them to help them make giant heads

"Imagine people going out on the street like this to dance and party in Ontario!" marvelled Gay. People of all colours, persuasions, orientations, classes and ages. Children are provided with a section of the street and coloured hats; and then a woman in yellow overalls led them all down the street in a magic parade.

Gay people have a big banner across rue Duluth saying "Salut Québec : Fête Gaie" and Androgeny Bookstore has a street stand with lesbian books on sale. There's lotsa gay people on the street. Fact is, around the Duluth area, you can't always tell the difference — it's like Queen Street in Toronto where most people can only be defined as "not straight." Lesbians, though, are quite distinctive. All over the city, Lucy and Gay kept giving each other "that look" when they saw definitive or likely lesbians winding in and out through the crowd.

The fête had gone on for a week. Lucy and Gay were there for the final three days. On their way back Gay said, "I am disappointed to leave such stimulating people; but excited to tell our friends at home. Let's write it up in the LOOT newsletter! Maybe we could show your slides sometime, Lucy."

by Gay Bell

**Co-op Femmes:**

3617 St. Laurent  
(843-8998);

**Babyface:**

rue St. Denis, below Sherbrooke

**Haut Pluriel:**

rue Duluth near Parc Lafontaine.

## MIDSUMMER MADNESS

What a hoot! In spite of the humidity, St. Paul's was packed with womyn eager to dance to Mad Mona's selections and be entertained by Sister Rain and Boo Watson.

The performance began later than most usually do, but was certainly worth waiting for. Sister Rain's voice had a loose, full sound that contrasted effectively with her cool jazz guitar. However, it was the guitar work that impressed me and I wished she'd done a few instrumental pieces.

Unlike Sister Rain, I'd seen Boo perform before, at the Anti-Anita Demo at St. Lawrence Hall, and her delivery has really changed. She is more confident, the piano really punctuating the emotional nature of her songs and complimenting her strong voice.

Later, the two performed together, voices harmonizing beautifully. Both womyn love to perform and the audience found it easy to be receptive to this talented duo.

by Maureen

## Una Sera Italiana

"Una Sera Italiana" — una presentazione del Angela e Eileen (Sunday, July 1st, at 342 Jarvis).

Angela and Eileen have long since departed — Angela to Milano, and Eileen westward-ho! — but the memory of their "Italian Evening" lingers on. I can't really tell you very much about the food itself, since I arrived late (as usual) and spent a lot of time out on the back porch (as usual,) but the "Patata Paesana" (Country-style Potatoes) must have been *great*, since I ate three heaping platefuls of them. (personally heaped by Angela) In other words, the best part of

the evening happened after the meal. Over a dozen of us sat scattered around the tables ("Do you mind if I eat while you smoke?") not quite sure of what to do next, when Angela (who speaks very little English) started singing an Italian melody in the kitchen. We invited her out for a repeat performance, and soon we were all singing together. Old favourites, feminist songs, lesbian "hits", songs no one could remember the words to — we sang (or hummed) them all. Eileen treated us to some songs she'd written for or learned from wimmin in Europe.

What delighted me was the relaxed atmosphere, the spontaneity and lack of shyness of the evening. From sonorous strains to hoarse croaks (mine), we raised our voices and lilted and laughed loud and long. So long, in fact, that we were surprised to learn how late it was when someone finally thought to ask. "Una Sera Italiana" had started out as a motley crew who hardly knew each other, but we ended up feeling we had shared "Una Sera Speciale". Grazie, Angela e Eileen, wherever you may be.

by Mona

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**The Wanderground — Stores of the Hill Women** by Sally Miller Gearhardt. . . . . \$5.95

**A Woman's Touch — Lesbian Erotica and Fantasy** — from Amazon Reality. . . . . \$5.25

Coffeehouse Theatre

## PREPARING: One Woman's Anger

On Saturday, July 21st., the Loot Coffeehouse Collective brought us a second dramatic performance, the first being an informal reading of **A Late Snow** by Atthis Theatre members.

**Preparing** by Beverley Simons, is certainly a powerful one-act play. One act and one woman actor, Cathy Brown. The monologue of rhetorical questions, answers to self, regrets expressed, remembrances relived took us through the life of a woman from her teenage years to old age and death.

The vehicle for Cathy's performance was one familiar to most women, that of looking at oneself in the mirror and commenting, criticizing, questioning. However, Cathy used this technique in a practical manner as well; while combing hair and putting on make-up to go out, as women apparently still do, she changed her theatrical make-up, both facial and hair, in order to age herself. It was done so subtly and well that it did not in any way seem to distract the audience, but as one viewer said, "She didn't need to do it — her voice and her body movement conveyed everything about aging incredibly."

Most women found the performance quite powerful because of the actor's concentration and emotional intensity and the dynamics of the two. The impact was certainly there but there were a number of women besides myself who felt that something special had flashed by us too quickly and we needed to see it again (some had had this chance when it was on during the May Conference). There was so much packed into such a short time, that is, so much of life and feeling etc., that it was almost too much to assimilate, to synthesize, to relate to. I think that if it had been done at a slower pace, it would not have lost momentum or impact, but might have given more to hold on to.

In the play itself, we see the problems one woman has in dealing with all that life has thrown at her and how she changes or is changed. The actor wore a black body-suit with an off-white baggy jumper thing over it, a costume which worked for all ages because of the simplicity.

The character Jeannie is always "preparing" either to go to dinner or some other occasion equally superficial; and "hates the pseudo-bourgeois ethic of the middle-class", a prime example being how her father always insists on rejecting the first two bottles of wine in a French restaurant because he pretends to know something about 'bouquet.' She knows it is bullshit, that he knows nothing about wines. This type of phoniness angers and depresses her. About her mother, Jeannie says, "I've had more sex than my mother has had fantasies." Jeannie hates her family for the "guilt-tripping" they do to her, yet feels herself a "coward who 'can't stick it'" and keeps wondering and asking herself, "Why are you preparing?"

She shows anger, fear and frustration; she hated having babies; her husband's hands on her reminded her of a doctors; she feels she must play a role each day. As she ages, her children and grandchildren are more important. With husband dead (the children wouldn't go to his funeral) she talks more about drinking and taking pills, as though essential to her continuing existence.

She's been through the super-volunteer-woman trip (symphony, small "L" liberals etc.) and has received plaques in recognition, meaningless hunks of wood and metal. She refuses to see her offspring more than once in three months, and determines to leave her money to other than family. She reminds one of Hagar in Margaret Laurence's **The Stone Angel**, as she seems tenaciously and belligerently alive, just before

death. She wonders at her grandchildren's birth asking herself if she could really have been a foetus once herself.

She is still angry in old age, for she finds "preparing" wasteful and asks just what was she always late for? What did it matter? "I never cared much for establishment organizations but it seems I've spawned one." It is as though she has spent her whole life in preparation for different things but in fact only death is left and how does one prepare for that if not by living one's whole life for oneself in a way satisfactory to oneself. To me **Preparing** was saying: stop living so much for others and do things for yourself and for the moment, since the future is only tomorrow.

Terrific way to live if you can do it!

by Karen Henderson

### DELI-OUT

### DELI-ISHES SANDWICHES

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**WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL** for fun? Any-woman and every-woman interested in playing ball for fun should come out to Lord Dufferin School, off Parliament St., between Gerrard and Dundas any Thursday night at 6:45 pm. If you've never played before, now is a good time to learn. For more information, call Darlene or Libby at 923-3135.

**RAP SESSIONS** are being held at 8:00 the last Tuesday of every month led by one or more of the Counselling Collective. Purpose: to introduce women to the house at 342 and each other, encouraging more women to come to LOOT.

**COMING OUT GROUPS.** Are you just coming out in the lesbian community and wondering where you fit into the social life, whether to tell your non-gay friends, or what to do at work?

**Meeting** to discuss formation of a **Wimmin's Vitamin and Food Supplement Cooperative**, Thurs. 16th August at Loot, 7:30 pm.

**FEATURE LENGTH MOVIES** the 2nd Friday of every month at the 342 drop-ins, except when it falls on a long weekend. Featuring women such as Kate Hepburn, Ingrid Bergman. Title available over the phone-line one week ahead.

**L'Étranger** requests submissions of poetry and prose for a fall anthology. Send material to **L'Étranger, Box 5426, Station A, Toronto.**

## MICHIGAN LESBIAN-PROOF YOUR CARS

In past years, lesbians wishing to attend the music festival have been turned back at the border when U.S. customs found lesbian literature, etc. in the automobiles, suitcases and wallets of women. Make sure you are "clean" when you cross. Don't even take a Festival brochure.

## List of Groups

### Co-op Radio

The Lesbian Show  
337 Carrall St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2J4

### Women's Bookstore

804 Richards  
Vancouver, B.C.

### Waves (Newsletter of FLAG)

Feminist Lesbian Action Group  
Box 237, Stn. E,  
Victoria, B.C.

### Saskatoon Lesbian Society

P.O. Box 4021  
Saskatoon, Sask.

### Women's Building

730 Alexander Ave.  
Winnipeg, Man.  
R3C 1H9

### L.O.O.K.

P.O. Box 2531, Stn. B,  
Kitchener, Ont. N2H 6M3

### Women's Information Centre

3585 St. Urbain  
Montreal, Que. H2X 2N6

### S.O.U.L.

P.O. Box 773  
Guelph, Ont. N1H 6L8

### Women's Homophile Assn. of Mtl.

c/o Susan Shea  
1967 Erie,  
Montreal, Que. H2K 2M5

### Coop Femme

3617 St. Laurent Blvd.  
Montreal, Que.  
(Francophone)

### APPLE

P.O. Box 3611  
Halifax South Postal Station,  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3K6

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## Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM †	8 MAIN ISSUES* 7:30 PM	9 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM	10 †	11 EXERCISE GROUP* 1:30 PM
12	13	14 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM †	15 NEWSLETTER MTG.* 7:00 PM MAIN ISSUES* 7:30 PM	16 COUNSELLING COLLECTIVE* EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM	17 MOVIE* †	18 EXERCISE GROUP* 1:30 PM
19	20	21 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM †	22 MAIN ISSUES* 7:30 PM	23 MICHIGAN	24 MICHIGAN	25 MICHIGAN
26 MICHIGAN	27	28 RAP SESSION 8:00 PM* EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM	29 MAIN ISSUES* 7:30 PM	30 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM GENERAL MTG.* 7:30 PM N.B.	31 †	1 EXERCISE GROUP* 1:30 PM
2	3	4 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM †	5 MAIN ISSUES* 7:30 PM	6 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM	7 †	8 EXERCISE GROUP* 1:30 PM HOLLY NEAR
9 ANTI-NUKE DISCUSSION*	10	11 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM †	12 MAIN ISSUES 7:30*	13 EXERCISE GROUP* 6:00 PM	14 †	15 EXERCISE GROUP* 1:30 PM

\*Events occurring at 342 Jarvis St.

† INDICATES DROP-INS TUESDAY & FRIDAY