

LESBIAN ORGANIZATION OF TORONTO (LOOT)
342 JARVIS ST.
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4Y 2G6
960-3249 (Tuesday and Friday Evenings)

NEWSLETTER: JULY 1977

LOOT is an umbrella organization for lesbians. It serves social, recreational, personal, cultural, political, and educational purposes for the women involved. Mostly, it simply allows a lesbian to meet and get together with other lesbians who share her interests.

All lesbians are welcome. To help make decisions about LOOT, you just have to come to meetings. We do not exclude anyone on the basis of her race, religion, politics, economic status, occupation, or degree of openness.

Relate to LOOT in any way you wish. The organization is new and can become whatever you want to make it. The LOOT general meeting is on the last Sunday of every month (except for August, see below) at 4:00. Drop-ins are held on Tuesday (with supper) and Friday evenings, when the phone-line is also open.

THE AUGUST GENERAL MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED! Because a lot of women will be out of town on August 28th (at the Mt. Pleasant Music Festival), the August meeting will be held oneweek early on Sunday, August 21, at the usual time of 4 p.m. All other meetings will be held as usual, on the last Sunday of every month.

If the weather permits, LOOT will try again to host a picnic at Hanlin's Point on Sunday, July 17, starting at 1 p.m. Brings your own food, frisbees, softballs, etc.

At LOOT's June general meeting a great deal of discussion centred around LOOT's involvement in opposing Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign. On Saturday, June 25th, Toronto's Ad Hoc Committee to Stop Anita Bryant staged the largest gay demonstration held in the city and burned Anita in effigy. LOOT has decided to endorse this Ad Hoc Committee, and will be formulating a position paper on the feminist and lesbian issues involved. A discussion about LOOT's position will be held on Tuesday, July 12th, at 342 Jarvis at 8 p.m. (you can get dinner at the drop-in at 7 p.m.), and everyone is urged to come. Info about future meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee and planned activities are available from the LOOT phone-line (960-3249 on Tuesday and Friday nights).

Two American studies on female sexuality found that of two groups of women, 162 lesbians and 100 randomly selected women, only 18 % of the random sample almost always experienced orgasm during lovemaking as opposed to 87 % of the lesbians surveyed. (info from the Advocate)

LOOT has become a member of the National Gay Rights Coalition (NGRC) which is committed to achieving civil rights for gay people. Chris Bearchell is attending their national conference in Saskatoon (July 1-4) and will give us a full report in the next newsletter.

LOOT'S MONEY

As of the June 26 general meeting LOOT has a bank balance of about \$315. We received \$150 from the Women's Counseeling, Referral and Education Centre (WCREC) for the participation of LOOT members in a workshop on lesbians in therapy. Also, LOOT made \$77 on the last LotoLesbian drawing (an equal amount went to the lucky winner at the June 18 benefit dance). Women continue to buy supporter cards and t-shirts, and we have made about \$160 from these sales in the last two months. Thanks for your support!

Our major expense has been rent and utilities for the house, especially since LOOT and the 3 of Cups were the only house tenants in June. However, the June 18 benefit dance was quite successful in paying house bills, and LOOT will have to pay little if any rent in July. Our other ongoing expenses are phone bills and mailing costs for the newsletter.

---Rosemary Barnes

The July/August Body Politic has several articles of interest to lesbians. Interviews with Barbara Thornborrow, a lesbian in the Candian armed forces, and Rosemary Barnes, a member of LOOT's task force, are main features. Also included is an analysis "Dykes and the Ontario Election" by Chris Bearchell.

Friday night drop-ins have now become the responsibility of the Counselling Committee. Both the Counselling Committee and the general meeting agreed that there should be no liquor at these drop-ins. More volunteers are needed to help organize this activity and to staff the phone-line. If you're interested, call the phone-line on Tuesday or Friday or come to the next Counselling Committee meeting on July 14, at 8 p.m. (at 342 Jarvis).

As you have probably noticed, the LOOT Newsletter is now being mailed with the 3 of Cups newsletter. This saves both organizationstime and money, while also giving us wider circulation.

Ambitious Amazons are a collective of lesbians in Michigan who put out Lesbian Connection about eight times a year. Included are articles, news, reviews, announcements on lesbian happenings, ads, letters, and a listing of 'contact dykes' in towns across the continent. These women offer Lesbian Connection free to all lesbians, although they ask for an \$8 donation (more if you can, less if you can't), and require \$3 to cover excessive postage to Canada (also \$4 for extra postage and supplies if you want it sent in an envelope). It's a great source of lesbian news and thought, and can be read at the LOOT office or ordered by writing: Ambitious Amazons, P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, U.S.A.

After a neighbour told police that pornographic films were being shown at the gay men's centre in Boston, Mass, police raided the place. What they found, however, was a screening of the Judy Garland film, A Star is Born. Members of the centre offered to put the police on the mailing list announcing future films. (Info from Lesbian Connection)

LOOT is now exchanging newsletters with other Canadian and U.S. gay organizations. Drop by the LOOT office and read them (they are kept in the 'newsletter' file drawer).

If you are moving this summer, please get your change of address to us, so your newsletters won't go astray!

The Music Festival at Mt. Pleasant is definitely on again for this year. Dates are 25-28 August. Anyone wanting to contribute to the planning or wanting to order tickets (also available from 3 of Cups) can write: WWTMC, 1501 Lyons St, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48848, U.S.A.

After a discussion at July's general meeting, LOOT endorsed the following statement and action:

More and more women are losing custody of their children, both in and outside the courts--to husbands, relatives, and the Children's Aid Society. When we are without money or a 'stable' relationship with a man, we are especially vulnerable to the threat of losing our children--if we are lesbians, single mothers, immigrants, in prison, ill--mentally or physically, or prostitutes.

Wages Due Lesbians is organizing a picket in front of the Supreme Court of Ontario to protest these injustices and the forced invisibility of our fight to have and keep the children we want.

Bring your friends. Placards will be available or bring your own.

Wednesday, July 13, 12:30 p.m.

Supreme Court of Ontario

145 Queen St. W. (at University Ave)

For more information, call Francie or Ellen at 921-9091 or 465-6822.

A policy on LOOT endorsement has been formulated. All organizations seeking endorsements for briefs or actions must first submit their proposals to the Political Action Committee (headed by Chris Bearchell). This committee will summarize and criticize this request, and make a recommendation to the LOOT general meeting. The endorsement will be discussed and decided upon by the general meeting.

A copy of Francie Wyland's Motherhood, Lesbianism, and Child Custody is available in the LOOT office.

Boycott Florida citrus products in protest against Anita Bryant! And write the Florida Citrus Commission, Box 148, Lakeland, Florida, 33802 U.S.A. and tell them that Bryant's activities have made you stop buying their products.

THE NEXT LOOT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON JULY 31 AT 4 P.M. AT 342 JARVIS

JULY AND AUGUST CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
*3	*4	*5	*6	*7	*8	*9
*	*	LOOT	*	*	LOOT	3 of
*	*	POTLUCK	*	*	DROPIN	CUPS
*	*	SUPPER	*	*	*	Poetry
*	*	& TASK	*	*	*	Reading
*	*	FORCE	*	*	*	*
*	*	MEETING	*	*CHAT DANCE*	*	*
*10	*11	*12	*13	*14	*15	*16
*	*	LOOT	LESBIAN	*	LOOT	3 of
*	*	POTLUCK	MOTHERS	*	DROP-IN	CUPS
*	*	SUPPER	PICKET	*	*	Presents
*	*	ANITA	*	*	*	Liz and
*	*	BRYANT	*	*	*	Mich
*	*	MEETING	*	*CHAT DANCE*	*	*
*17	*18	*19	*20	*21	*22	*23
LOOT	*	LOOT	*	*	LOOT	3 of
PICNIC	*	POTLUCK	*	*	Drop-In	CUPS
*	*	SUPPER	*	*	*	Disco
*	*	*	*	*	*	GATE
*	*	*	*	*CHAT DANCE*	*	DANCE
*24	*25	*26	*27	*28	*29	*30
*	*	LOOT	*	*	*	3 of
*	*	POTLUCK	*	*	*	CUPS
*	*	SUPPER	*	*	*	Presents
*	*	*	*	*	*	Susan
*	*	*	*	*CHAT DANCE*	*	Turner
*31	*1	*2	*3	*4	*5	*6
LOOT	*	LOOT	*	*	*	*
GENERAL	*	POTLUCK	*	*	*	*
MEETING	*	SUPPER	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*CHAT DANCE*	*	*
*7	*8	*9	*10	*11	*12	*13
*	*	LOOT	*	*	*	3 of
*	*	POTLUCK	*	*	*	CUPS
*	*	SUPPER	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	GATE
*	*	*	*	*CHAT DANCE*	*	DANCE
*14	*15	*16	*17	*18	*19	*20
*	*	LOOT	*	*	*	3 of
*	*	POTLUCK	*	*	*	CUPS
*	*	SUPPER	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*CHAT DANCE*	*	*
*21	*22	*23	*24	*25	*26	*27
*	*	*	*	MT. PLEAS-	*	*
*	*	*	*	ANT MUSIC	*	*
*	*	*	*	FESTIVAL	*	*
*	*	*	*	BEGINS	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*