



May 1979

Lesbian Organization of Toronto

342 Jarvis St. Toronto, Ont.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

960-3249

## WCREC: Funds and Volunteers Needed

For those of you who were involved with or saw the information put out by the International Women's Day Coalition, you will remember that one of the four major issues of concern to all women was government cutbacks in funding social services. And if you were having a great time April 21 at St. Paul's you'd know that you were spending your money to raise funds for one such service, the Women's Counselling Referral and Education Centre, familiarly called WCREC.

To quote from the WCREC pamphlet, it "is a service which was developed to create more choices for women who are seeking counselling. WCREC attempts to provide women with referrals to therapists who are aware of the present struggles that women are going through in redefining themselves."

WCREC began on a three year government grant which ended last November. On the initial grant it was able to rent space on Bathurst St. and pay five full-time staff members, although volunteers worked with them. While scrambling for funds before the grant ran out, the WCREC staff spent hours overtime to keep the service itself.

The lobbying for funds included circulating many petitions then sent to Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Health, talking to politicians, government officials, seeing Timbrell etc. The result was a bridge grant of \$19,200 for six months, taking WCREC to the end of May. This meant cutting paid staff to one full-time counsellor (Sue Yvonne) and one 1/2-time fund-raiser (Darlene Lawson).

Free Space was provided through David Fisher of Doctor's Hospital so WCREC is now at 348 College St. The latter hospital is the only private one which tries hard to get into the community and to house other services as well.

The Benefit Dance provided \$1,100, a drop in the proverbial bucket. At present WCREC can run for another three months basically from the dance, private donations, The Women's Fund-Raising

Coalition, Gay Days, The United Church Women's Group etc. One hope is that The United Way will come through for them, but many more contributions are needed.

WCREC also needs more volunteers since they are now the backbone of the organization. Qualifications for this are more attitudinal than social work experience. That is, openness, flexibility, good communication skills, being able to empathize and like working with

other women. Some training programs go on to teach listening skills, full knowledge of community resources, different kinds of therapy, and a real basic understanding of issues pertinent to women. Working at WCREC as a volunteer can be a good reference for getting jobs in the women's community.

WCREC is now more wide-open, in need of a lot of in-put and ideas from women who can carry out their own

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## WHAT LOOT CAN DO FOR YOU!

A couple of weeks ago, while talking with a group of women about LOOT, I was asked, "What does LOOT offer me?" My initial response was to explain the philosophy of LOOT and 342 Jarvis Street.

342 Jarvis Street was envisaged as a house for lesbians: a place where lesbians from all ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds could congregate; a place in which to socialize other than the bars or clubs; and a forum for women to express their various and diverse viewpoints. The women who come to LOOT, initially, have only one thing in common — their lesbianism.

To the newcomer, the philosophy of LOOT is sometimes overwhelming, for she could hear and see things with which she does not agree, approve or understand. I sympathize, because these were my feelings upon first coming to LOOT. Now, I see this diversity of behaviour and viewpoints as a strength, for reasons that follow.

One of the most important things I have learned from LOOT is that every time I state an opinion, someone will disagree; however, someone else will always agree. This may not seem a revelation to some, but for me, this realization has resulted in a great increase in my own self-confidence. For a long time I was afraid to voice my opinion for fear of being criticized, laughed at, or ridiculed. The year and a half that I have been at LOOT, I have slowly evolved to the point where I feel my opinions are as valuable and as important as the next person's. Furthermore, it has become obvious to me that total agreement is not always needed in order for a group to work together effectively. I do not necessarily agree with all the viewpoints expressed around LOOT, but I have enough confidence now to take from them what I feel is worthwhile, and to express my own in rebuttal.

LOOT has also presented me with an experience that will serve me well for the rest of my life: the experience of chairing a meeting, guiding the discussion, and speaking out in public. These skills are invaluable and definitely an asset to any woman who is career-oriented.

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books for, by, and about women  
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TORONTO 922-8744

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a protest on June 2nd at the site of a nuclear power plant at Darlington, near Bowmanville. Greenpeace is going to occupy the site and the meeting endorsed the action and voted unanimously to carry the LOOT banner in the demonstration. A woman is going to be contacted who will organize and hold civil disobedience classes for us.

The meeting also endorsed action being taken against the Manpower Retraining Cutbacks. On May 14th at Ryerson, representatives from the three major political parties, Monique Begin, Kay MacPherson and Flora MacDonald, will speak to the issue. The discussion is being sponsored by the Canadian Committee on Learning Opportunities for Women.

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

The National Women's Music Festival in Champaign, Illinois, is being held from May 30th-June 2nd. There will be daytime workshops, jam sessions, open mikes and work exchanges available. Performers include excellent local talent from the area like Christian Lems to more well-known (and well-loved) performers such as Holly Near, Ginni Clemmens, Kay Gardner, Izquierda and the Berkeley Women's Music Collective.

### LOOT

Another aspect of the influence of LOOT is that when I first came to 342 Jarvis I was not an active feminist, and I still am not. However, I am much more aware of myself as a woman, of my rights, and of my place in society. I am conscious of the stereotyping, the roleplaying, and the put-downs that women are subject to, and I now frequently find myself as the "feminist" among my co-workers. It is frustrating to see women sit in the background, content to be followers, when they have the capabilities to be leaders.

However, LOOT is not all work and seriousness. I came to LOOT mainly as the result of the prompting of a friend, a "straight" friend, who felt it was time I got to know other lesbians. This is one of LOOT's greatest assets: providing a facility for women to meet and make friends in an atmosphere that is not as "forbidding and threatening" as a bar. Through LOOT functions I have learned to socialize and to dance (a major accomplishment!). I have met some very interesting women, and made several friends. From the stage where I had little social life, I am now struggling to keep some time for myself. Thus what LOOT has given me really cannot be measured. The inner strength I have gained, and the public skills I have honed, permit me to face the world with more confidence.

The benefits I have received from LOOT are offered, in varying degrees, to any woman who wants to get involved. Being a part of the running of LOOT could mean as little as one or two evenings a month, or, with the example of some of our now worn-out volunteers, it could become almost a full-time job. The latter commitment is not really recommended, but at times it has been necessary because of the shortage of volunteers.

SO, COME OUT! GET INVOLVED! Think of what LOOT can do for you!

by Rosalyn Rodgers

## GENERAL MEETING

Sixteen women attended the April 29th General Meeting to discuss LOOT's role and community needs, house clean up, Conference Committee report and announcements.

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial problems have really hit hard and the committee has drawn up names of individuals and groups they will be asking for donations. If you can afford to give something extra towards the conference, please do so and if you know of someone who could help, please approach them.

### PARTICIPATION IN LOOT

The April 19th meeting of the LOOT committees was the starting point of this discussion. Some women feel burnt out and tired, others frustrated at somehow being unable to break through feeling that participation is restricted. These questions of lack of support and isolation have prompted the need for a discussion and the use of the conference as a starting point. A flyer is being written up for the cause and a motion was passed to hold a discussion at Hart House Farm the weekend before the July 1st weekend. It was decided that if not enough women could or wanted to go, that we could always cancel the rental plan and hold our meeting in the city.

### WCREC

projects (eg. a newspaper file, a better filing system).

There is often a lack of consciousness and sensitivity about women's issues in many social service agencies because of cultural conditioning. This is true of individual therapists also. Hence WCREC provides opportunity to get into feminist therapy study and support groups to help overcome this gap. One such group is beginning mid-May so if you're interested, check it out with Sue.

Therapists are thoroughly screened by WCREC before being asked to be added to their list and they welcome feedback or suggestions about new people. Therapists (from lay to psychiatrists) have to prove they are non-sexist, have positive attitudes in terms of class, race, lesbianism, dealing with rape and abortion etc. (They must fill out a fact sheet, a questionnaire, and be interviewed). They must be inexpensive and women referred are asked to view the therapist or counsellor as a consumer would. The first brand tried of any product might not suit a certain individual, so she should not continue to "buy it" but shop around for someone more suitable. It is better to take extra time to find the right kind of therapist for you and WCREC helps women to learn how to choose from the names given which seem to them to best suit an individual's needs. WCREC stresses women's rights to be treated as an equal, to ask about a therapist's availability outside the office, to challenge what is happening and to join a women's group in addition to therapy.

WCREC provides an excellent service to women, but without dedicated volunteers and continued new funds, this service may not last. If you can help in any way, contact Sue Yvonne at 924-0766.

by Karen Henderson

# FLY BY NIGHT LOUNGE

The newly opened Fly By Night Lounge has already become an institution in the lesbian community, or as one patron put it on the second night, "A community dyke bar."

Fly By Night (the collective is hoping for suggestions for a better name) came first out of the great and obvious need for a bar "catering to women" where women could feel at home, talk to and meet old and new friends. Thus Pat Murphy, a licensed bartender, with a group of enthusiastic supporters, negotiated a management contract for the room in Stage 212 Hotel, so that she could set her own prices and make the place a comfortable one for women, "A women's space and pub, as much as possible."

The bar, open Monday to Saturday, noon to one a.m., has "got to be a habit" for many women in one week, because the women feel that they do not have to put up with hassles from "a bunch of freaks." (interpret that comment as you want).

Considered the best place many have been to in a long time, it has been compared to "an impromptu party" with a "laid-back and friendly atmosphere." Some women have noted that it is the first bar where strangers approach just to talk, where they can come by themselves and not feel embarrassed, and wear whatever they want. They like

**"Want To Meet Some Dykes"**  
On May 12, 1 pm, 342 Jarvis St. is announcing its annual spring cleaning! Let's impress lesbians from across Canada with a beautiful house for the conference. We will provide the brooms and refreshments and you bring the energy. If you have not yet been to the house, here is your chance to meet LOOT and the people who make it the best place in town.

the lack of cover charge, the pool table, the big T.V. screen (for sports fans especially) and the fact that the dance music allows for talk without shouting.

Having been there five times myself with next to no money, I found that friends, acquaintances and even strangers made sure I always had a drink and refused to let me feel guilty about it. This is typical of the atmosphere in Fly By Night: warm, sharing, supportive.

The space itself is not very large, the dance floor small with a mirror, mirror-ball and varied music. All of the tables are round, with padded, solid arm-chairs, and table-hopping is rampant. On the walls, half red, half blue, separated by a silver stripe, are many pictures of women in the community, feminist posters, and such actors as Kate Hepburn, Lauren Bacall, and Marilyn Monroe. Food includes bagels or rolls with different fillings, chips etc. obtainable at the black padded bar. The women taking table orders are fast and friendly and the bar has many mixed drinks available (you know, like Brandy Alexandras), as well as draft, liquor, and bottled beer, once they get a cooler. Most

women have caught on to the diplomatic manner required with which to ask men who wander in, to respect the preference that the space be kept for women, and it usually works with no complaints.

The Fly By Night Lounge is definitely a community bar already, and whether you are talking, dancing, playing pool or backgammon, it is the place to go if you enjoy the company of women who truly like and respect other women.

by Karen Henderson

## OH NO, NOT ANOTHER ONE!

Yes — another LOOT Committee — for the Tuesday Night Drop-In. We even have a ping-pong table. If you've been around for a while but don't feel the house is offering you what you want, Tuesday nights are your opportunity to "do your thing" — with a little help from us. See you at 7:30.

## YOU'LL BE HEARING MORE

An Arctic woman was recently convicted and sentenced to 10 years in Kingston Penitentiary for killing her husband who was in the habit of beating her in a drunken state. Yukon women are up in arms over the decision brought in by an all-male white jury and who know all too well the prevalence of the problem. A defense fund has been set up in the city by a male who also approached LOOT in terms of being a feminist coalition but we feel this case would be better handled by WAWAW and IWDC.

# FLY BY NIGHT LOUNGE

## A BAR CATERING TO WOMEN

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

Open: Mon to Sat: noon to 1 a.m.

On George just above Dundas in Stage 212 Hotel (enter off George)

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# Classifieds

**Lesbian writers** sought by **The Body Politic** to review theatre, novels, poetry and assorted events about town. Contributors are unpaid, but receive complimentary tickets and books. Pat Parker, Judy Grahn and Joanna Russ presently awaiting reviews. If interested, contact Lorna at 536-4813.

**Lesbian-feminist** wants to share living space with other womyn who have a similar political outlook. Would enjoy living with children. Call Liliith at 364-3465.

**Two women** seek a responsible third to share newly renovated house in the Annex. One or two rooms available; negotiable. Call Carol at 967-7118.

**Lost Slides** in yellow plastic case at dance at St. Paul's on March 10, after the International Woman's Day March. Desperately needed. Call Lorna at 536-4813.

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

**Precision** style haircuts at reasonable rates by Erving. Call 463-4322.

**What a bargain.** Brand new 1979 Nishiki "Olympia" touring bike, ridden twice since purchase Jan. '79. 23 inch frame, high quality components: Toshiba 555 double strength tubing, alloy parts (handle bars, tire rims, chain-derailer etc.) Shimano brake and derailer (gear change) unit. Excellent city or long distance riding bike. Sells for \$209 before tax. Asking \$185.00. For further info., call Nia 924-3123.

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**Professional** hair styling done by Karen \$5. Call 961-1768, a 24-hour answering service.

**Womyn carpenter** available. Quality work at a fair price. For a free estimate, call J. Kathleen at 368-4391.

**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? Would you like a chance to talk about these questions with other women in the same position? If so, the LOOT Counselling Collective is organizing groups to discuss coming out. Call the LOOT phonenumber 960-3249 Tuesday, Thursday or Friday night, 7-11 p.m.

**BOOKS** may be borrowed from the LOOT LIBRARY. Drop in Wednesday evenings, 7-10 p.m. Also, book donations willingly accepted.

**LESBIAN THEATRE: A LATE SNOW** will be presented in early June, probably June 7, 8, 9. For details, call 532-7963.

**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.

**THE DEADLINE** for the June Newsletter is May 27. To submit a classified ad (\$2), announcements or articles, call Karen at 363-4549 or leave it in the LOOT office.

## Announcements

**AMETHYST** is a group of women committed to living alcohol-free lifestyles. We meet every Tuesday evening at 7:30 to talk about ourselves and alcohol-related problems. All welcome.

## Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	7	Task Force 7:30* Drop-In 8:00*	9	10	11 Drop-In 8:00*	12 House Spring Cleaning 1:00*
13 Conf-Mtg. 1:00*	14	15 Drop-In 8:00*	16 Newsletter Mtg. 7:30*	17 Counselling Collective 8:00*	18 Lesbian Conf.	19 Lesbian Conf.
20 Lesbian Conf.	21 Lesbian Conf.	22 Task Force 7:30* Rap Session Drop-In 8:00*	23	24	25 Drop-In 8:00*	26
27 General Mtg. 4:00*	28	29 Drop-In 8:00*	30	31	1 Drop-In 8:00*	2
3	4	5 Task Force 7:30* Drop-In 8:00*	6	7	8 Drop-In 8:00*	9
10	11	12 Drop-In 8:00*	13	14 Counselling Collective 8:00*	15 Drop-In 8:00*	16

\*Events occurring at 342 Jarvis St.

Counselling Collective is now operating a phone-line on Thursday nights.