



OCTOBER, 1978

342 Jarvis St. Toronto, Ont.

960-3249 Tuesday and Friday evenings.

General Meeting

Transsexual Issue

A transsexual woman has asked one of our members whether or not she would be welcome at LOOT. This question inspired enough debate that the general meeting decided that it merited a more thorough discussion throughout our community before a decision was reached. Therefore a special meeting will be held before the next general meeting. Those interested are encouraged to come to 342 at 2:00 Oct. 29 (the general meeting will be that same day at 4:00).

To answer the obvious questions, so you can give the issue some intelligent thought, the person in question was born an anatomical male and underwent treatment to become a female. The surgery has been completed; she is now anatomically a female and identifies herself as a lesbian.

Lesbian Conference

A group of women proposed that LOOT organize a bi-national lesbian conference for the spring. After much discussion we voted to support this proposal, and an organizing committee was started. The date for the conference is set tentatively for Easter. Anyone interested in being on the organizing committee, or helping out in any capacity may contact Naomi Brooks at 929-5761. Keep an eye out for more information on the LOOT bulletin board. This constitutes a major undertaking for LOOT and we will all have to pitch in if we are to make the conference a success.

DAY OF SOLIDARITY — It was announced that Oct. 21 has been set aside as a day of solidarity against political repression by a coalition from Montreal known as Opération Libéré. In Toronto a rally is being organized by Operation Liberty Support Group. The main issues will be the repeal of the War Measures Act and against political repression of the Québécois, gays, women, immigrants and the labour movement. For more information call Gene 862-8240.

LOOT Takes Stock

LOOT is about two years old now and many members feel the time has come to sit back and take a look at ourselves: our original purpose, our present goals, our organization, and our potentials. To accomplish this we are going to have a brunch/workshop Nov. 5 around noon at 342. One topic to be discussed is the possibility of having monthly workshops in which we get together to discuss the issues that concern us. We should all be involved in this self-evaluation so please try to attend. Since the exact time and the cost of the brunch have not yet been decided, please call 923-GAYS (Gay Community Calendar) or watch the LOOT bulletin board for more information.

YUSA STRIKE — LOOT voted to support the strike by the York University Staff Association. Approximately 85% of the union members are women. Loot members planned to carry the LOOT banner at the mass picket on Wed. Oct. 4 at York University.

TASK FORCE — The task force is still encouraging "new faces and fresh input" at their meetings every second Tuesday night at 342. Meetings are open to all lesbians.

NEW YEAR'S DANCE

PLANS — Plans are in the works for the big dance on New Year's eve. St. Paul's is being considered as a possible location. The music will be provided by "the band" (the same group we all enjoyed at the Sept. benefit dance).

The Social Planning Committee
Presents

REVUE REVUE REVUE

*It's no use sitting alone in your closet,
Come hear the music play,
LOOT is a cabaret tonight,
So "Come to the Gay-Bar-Eh!"*

Saturday, November 25, 8:30 pm
at 342 Jarvis Street

Admission \$2.00
Watch for further details in November
Newsletter.

BUY YOUR LOOT SUPPORTER CARDS!

While we have had an enthusiastic response to the new supporter cards, many members have not yet made their contribution. As we pointed out last month, it costs LOOT \$75 a month just for mailing out the newsletter, and another \$90 to have it typeset and printed. Advertising alone simply cannot defray the whole cost. To keep the newsletter afloat, we are having to ask for subscriptions. For \$5, you will get a 12-month subscription to the LOOT Newsletter, and a beautiful new supporter card (which will make you an official card carrying lesbian). Please send a cheque payable to LOOT to:

The Newsletter Committee
342 Jarvis St.

Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2G6

Include your name and address as it appears on your envelope so we can check you off on our mailing list. Many thanks to all of you who have already sent in your money!

LOOT Benefit Dance Success

LOOT greeted the new fall season Sept. 15 with a benefit dance at the 519. The dance was a success from both a financial and morale point of view. After expenses (not including liquor and beer, which still have to be paid), we cleared \$901! In addition, we received \$130 from the sale of supporter cards. Many bills have to be paid from this money (rent, hydro, etc.) so we are not yet out of the woods, but our financial situation has definitely improved.

Perhaps more important than the money raised was the spirit manifested by the more than 200 lesbians who attended. Things tend to slow down at LOOT during the summer with many lesbians out of town, or on vacation, and it was heartening to see so many women getting back into the swing of things. The band (with a little "b" so that you won't confuse them with that other group!) donated their music, highlighting the evening with a special song whose lyrics were adapted just for LOOT. We all sang along, danced and even cheered. If this dance was any indication, we have a great winter to look forward to!

RECORD REVIEW

Live Dream

By Cris Williamson with Jackie Robbins and June Millington
1978 LP Dream Machine Productions
distributed by Olivia Records.
Available at Toronto Women's Bookstore.

Cris Williamson is a musician with concerns, roots and a commitment to a strong and growing alternative women's culture. She is multi-talented: she plays piano and 12-string guitar, sings vocals, writes and arranges her own material, and produces most of her own albums. That she has had formal musical training and has professional experience shows in the quality of her endeavors.

This is Cris Williamson's second album. Her first was recorded in 1975 with Olivia Records, as one of Olivia's first projects. Called **The Changer and the Changed**, it was well received by those interested in alternative musical sources and good music. **Live Dream** was recorded differently — it is apparently a live concert at one or several locations — and is uneven in sound quality. In contrast to Olivia's crystal-clear studio recording, the sound on this record fades, distorts, becomes frequently fuzzy and even fails to convey the way the musician interacts with her audience by cutting away at the oddest moments.

Also on this album, there aren't any memorable songs. The only one that comes close is 'In the Best Interest' which is the opening song for the film on lesbian mothers and child custody, **In the Best Interests of the Children**. It's such a difference from her first, which contained such songs as 'Waterfall' or 'Sweet Woman', and it suffers badly from the comparison. Her songs seemed to suffer, too, from having only two musicians, who didn't seem to be particularly well-rehearsed and didn't draw any sort of spontaneous energy from each other either.

What I felt was disappointment at Williamson's second album — it was mediocre compared to her first. My recommendation is to invest in **The Changer and the Changed** and buy this album only if you're a die-hard fan.

by Ilona Laney

**DON'T FORGET OUR
REMEMBRANCE DAY WING-DING
LOOT COFFEEHOUSE/DANCE**
Saturday, November 11

Saturday, November 11

Get ready for another of LOOT's fabulous parties at 342 Jarvis St. (8:00 PM). We will have live entertainment followed by our usual selection of fine dancing music. Admission \$2.00. (Sponsored by the Newsletter Committee).

dear libby

dear libby;

i am young (mid-twenties) and fairly attractive. i seem to have a problem becoming involved with an other woman. it's been two years since my last relationship ended and i'm very lonely and starved for affection. i have lots of friends and everyone thinks i'm very nice, but i'm still alone. i dress well, use deodorant, shower every day and have impeccable manners. what's wrong with me? or is something wrong with those women out there?

clean but confused

dear c.b.c.;

i'm sure there is nothing wrong with either you or "those women out there". you did not mention whether there is one particular woman in whom you are interested. usually when energy is directed at a target, there is some form of feedback. whether it is positive or otherwise depends on the degree of attraction. she might reject you outright; on the other hand she might invite you home for hot cocoa. it seems to me that you are sitting back waiting for a "lady in amazon armour" to appear and carry you off. if perhaps you spent less time worrying about your personal hygiene and concentrated more on asserting yourself socially (and sexually), opportunities should come a knockin' your door down.

send all letters to dear libby, c/o loot, 342 jarvis, toronto, ont. all letters confidential.

i dream in candlelight/
your body/
smooth as
warm ashes/
dark as
moonshadows
i dream
i am
melting
into

your dusky world/
molding the lining
of my flesh
to fit yours/
i taste your
musk/salt
sweat/
return it to you
on my own
heated breasts/
greedy for your body
to quake and explode/
eager to witness
ebony glow/
in this playful halfflight
i find/ your lazy
black eyes wanting more/
i dream they are
wanting me
more

i dream in candlelight/
shadows of shades/
i dream in fire-light/
it compliments the dark

by Charlene Sheard
jan.278

**This Christmas
come to ANTIGUA with us
depart Dec 24/78
return Jan 1/79**

COST: Land Portion — \$217 US
includes:

8 nights hotel accommodation
(based on double occupancy)
hotel service charge & govt. tax
transfers from airport & return
welcome drink on arrival
(single supplement on request)

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books for, by, and about women
non-sexist children's books
women's records, posters, buttons

TORONTO

WOMEN'S

BOOKSTORE

85 Harbord Street
Toronto, Ontario
922-8744

Six of One — Rita Mae Brown, \$11.65

Beauty Queen —
Patricia Nell Warren. \$11.65

Going Too Far —
Robin Morgan. \$5.35

1979 Herstory Calendars
now available. \$4.95

mail order catalogue available

Review

Fireweed. The word itself conjures up a strong, vibrant image. It is the name of a bright, pink flower that marks the first signs of healing after a forest fire has seared a hillside. It is also the name of a Toronto-based women's literary and cultural journal. It is the newest of a fine and growing family of such journals — produced by, for, and largely about women in Canada.

Fireweed was born out of the energy and commitment of: Charlene Sheard, Lynne Fernie, Gay Allison, and Hilda Kirkwood — the journal's collective. But it also depends on, and involves, many more women as advisors, editors, contributors, and other supporters. The journal was introduced to the world at a well-organized, well-attended festival of arts and music that took place from September 22nd to 24th at Harbourfront.

Fireweed was preceded by *Landscape*, an anthology of women's poetry published by The Women's Writing Collective. Fireweed collective member, Hilda Kirkwood, recounts in Volume One how that transition took place and gives readers a fascinating glimpse of the artistic, and especially literary, experiences and concerns of some of the women in our community.

WOMEN ARTISTS TOGETHER (WATER) provided great comic relief and wonderful therapy for those issuing forth from Brossard's and Guilbeault's *Some American Feminists* (including Betty Friedan, Rita Mae Brown, Kate Millett, and Ti-Grace Atkinson), having had a good whack of consciousness-raising. Providing piles of old dishes to later build into an art structure, members, dressed as drudgery housewives, encouraged all to release any aggressions. We gleefully (and often viciously) smashed each plate to pieces, symbolizing who knows what real frustrations (or persons)? A maze of S.O.S. pads, J-Cloths, rubber gloves, tablecloths etc, led to the structure and a chance to help create a unique work of art. **WATER** members video-taped the event. Will we get a chance to see how demoniac we became?

by Karen Henderson



COMPLETE ART SERVICE

Sandra Hellard,
T-Square Services,
474 Kingston Road,
Apartment 303,
Toronto, Ontario
698-8706

While Fireweed's roots are in poetry, and its limits are necessarily defined by the limitations of the printing press, it is truly a cultural journal. Audio and visual artists are treated as adequately as is possible in the media of print and photography. This first volume contains some fine examples of photography (in particular an impressive series by Deborah Samuel) and graphics, including drawings, lithographs, lino prints and a serigraph.

Video artist Vera Frankel and her work are carefully and articulately presented to us in an essay by Nancy Nicol, as are Beverly Glenn-Copeland and her music in an essay by Melody Wales. A thematic approach is taken to a whole range of fascinating artists in "A Renaissance of Goddess-Culture Art" by Gloria Feman Orenstein. Many of the works discussed are ably represented in photographs.

Literary criticism and commentary are very much a part of the Fireweed concept. "Traversing Fiction" by Nicole Brossard (translated by Barbara Godard) and "The Actualization of Emotional Realities in the Fiction of Anais Nin" by Erica Duncan appear in this issue, as do a number of book and film reviews. Political commentary is not absent, with a contribution on prostitution, by Margaret Dwight Spore, and one on Lesbian custody rights, by Ellen Agger.

Not surprisingly, a significant portion of the magazine is give over to poetry. Fifteen poems, and all worthy of this publication, are included. Some are published in Spanish and French as well as their English translation. Some, of course, are more outstanding than others, and those that come to my mind are: "I Met A Painter" by Dionne Brand, "Boarding House" by Maureen Paxton, and Charlene Sheard's "for beverly glenn-copeland".

Volume One of Fireweed is really a fine beginning. It would be exaggeration to say it was uniformly spectacular. (Mostly because it isn't uniform.) More short reviews of more appropriate books and films would be helpful. If explicit political contributions are to be included, they should be of a more original or innovative nature. There is only one work of fiction, "The Gift" by Susan Zimmerman. And though I thoroughly enjoyed it, I would like to have had more to compare it with.

With a certain amount of pride, I think we can say that Fireweed reflects the diversity and the excitement of the women's community.

by Chris Bearchell



FIREWEED

Festival

The First Annual Fireweed Festival finally straggled to a start at Harbourfront on Sept. 22, with Gay Allison, one of the collective (the others: Lynne Fernie, Hilda Kirkwood, and Charlene Sheard), stated the journal's objectives: to have "all people supporting the women's movement"; to "cross all social and economic classes"; to have "work about and by women"; and "to bring all women together".

The weekend entertainment consisted of music, poetry, drama, dance, a film, and displays. Dionne Brand and Pat Kelly, both dynamic and gripping performers, were the most spell-binding poets, contrasted drastically by lighter veins of Janis Rapoport or Joe Rosenblatt. Gianna Patriarca was most impressive with her presentation of Italian ethnicity and children. In playreading and acting, playwrights Carol Bolt and Erika Ritter showed much talent, while actress Sandi Ross gave some superior acting, including some writings of black activist Sojourner Truth. Linda Butler and Jim Bearden's dramatic presentation promoting their biography of teacher, journalist and fighter for Black rights, Mary Shadd, was impressive, though long.

Musical highlights were the classical work of Rita Greer and Lorna Glover (who played to an enthralled 90 per cent lesbian audience), the jazz singing, piano playing and rhythmic drumming of Beverly Glenn-Copland, and the contemporary folk singing of composer-guitarist April Kassirer.

Such a huge amount of culture was packed into one weekend that it is impossible to mention even a quarter of the participants, but kudos are in order for most performers, and certainly much praise for the organizers of a festival so imbued with culture as to leave the full-time attendee inebriated on talent. The First Annual Fireweed Festival should not be the last!

by Karen Henderson

Announcements

GAYS AT U OF T is planning to have a DANCE late Oct. or early Nov., probably Sat. Nov. 11. For more information call 928-9187. When a date is decided, it will be posted on the LOOT bulletin board.

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 phone-line 960-3249 Tuesday or Friday night, 7-11 pm.

self-HELP GROUP NEEDS AN EXPERIENCED LESBIAN GROUP FACILITATOR (volunteer) to meet with us Thursday evenings beginning Sept. 31. Contact Carole (evenings) 690-7789.

GALA. Gay And Lesbian Artists getting together for discussion and promotion of the visual arts. For those interested contact Bolette after 9:30 pm 368-8235.

CAMERA CLUB! We are interested in starting a LOOT photography collective to teach lesbians how to develop and print film. Anyone interested in learning or teaching the ins and outs of photography should contact Naomi at 920-5761.

THE DEADLINE for the November Newsletter is Oct. 29. To submit a classified ad (\$2), announcements, or articles, call Karen at 363-4549, or leave it in the LOOT office.

The Nervous Breakdown is not women only on Monday nights, but does feature women entertainers (who at times have male back-ups). The LOOT Newsletter Committee apologizes for any disruptions or eruptions our error may have created.

Classified Ads

Dyke Do's Haircuts \$5 Call Karen 961-1768.

Dyke Van with driver for hire cheap. Call 961-1768.

Womyn Carpenter available to do renovations, painting. Reasonable. 368-4391.

Vegetarian and no-smoking co-op. One space available immediately. Rent: \$120/month. High Park area (near Roncesvalles. Close to TTC. Call 532-9047. Marcia, Gilleen or Trish.

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*Lesbian Conference Meeting 12:00 15	16	*Newsletter Meeting 7:30 17	*Task Force 7:30 18	*Counselling Collective Meeting 7:30 19	*LOOT Drop-in 7:00 20	21
22	23	24	25	26	*LOOT Drop-in 7:00 27	28
*Trans-sexuals General Mtg. 2:00 4:00 29	30	31	1	2	*LOOT Drop-in 7:00 3	4
*Brunch/Discussion 12:00-? 5	6	7	8	9	*LOOT Drop-in 7:00 10	*Coffeehouse Dance 11
12	13	*Newsletter Meeting 7:30 14	*Task Force 7:30 15	*Counselling Collective Meeting 7:30 16	*LOOT Drop-in 7:00 17	18
19	20	21	22	23	*LOOT Drop-in 7:00 24	*LOOT REVUE 25

†Alcohol group every Tuesday, 7:30 at 342 Jarvis St.

*Activities occurring at 342 Jarvis St.

Drop-in every Tuesday and Friday evening, 7-11.