



Lesbian Perspective

Lesbian Organization of Toronto

342 Jarvis St., Toronto, Ont.

960-3249

Tuesday evenings

October 1979

NOV 26 1979

HOLLY NEAR: NON-NUCLEAR POWER SUPREME

No Holly, "we won't go easy" about these treacherous nuclear killers they are building all around us. We will spread the word one-to-one, in groups, through our various arts or our special talents. Somehow we won't let them "go easy", not this time, not any more.

This fabulous trio of Holly Near (vocals), J.T. Thomas (piano) and Susan Freundlich (signing for the hearing impaired) gave us a concert to always carry within us on Sept. 8th at the old Faculty of Education Building in Toronto.

Yes, I saw them at Michigan and loved them, but in Toronto it really came together for me: Holly, J.T. and Susan were more in sync than an isosceles triangle. They perform together at every point. They aren't just three women who share a good time, though they do that too, but they believe and work to make us believe. If we can't fight the world with music, it won't be because these three beautiful and original women didn't give it their best.

Many of Holly's songs talked about today's and tomorrow's pains ("the children of sorrow to

keep on singing"). She herself admits many changes, being absolutely sure of herself for a year, then finding from other women that she's been wrong. One of the biggest indications of this would be exemplified by her song "Imagine My Surprise". To wake up to your identity as a lesbian is often difficult, but, oh, what a nice surprise in the end!

Holly's concerns in song are many: she writes about the disabled, those with drug (alcohol) problems, whoever special is on her mind (or yours) to the problems of women political prisoners in Chile who have disappeared. Holly Near is no Ostrich!

I have to say that I much preferred the make-up of the Michigan audience — all women or women-children and mostly all —

LOOT Phone Line

As of September 25th, the LOOT Phone Line will be operating on Tuesdays only. Due to several resignations at the last counselling collective meeting, there are no longer enough members left to staff the phone lines more than once a week.

lesbian. It felt more right for me and I know for others.

The fact that we are *one* of Holly's twenty-two city tour of anti-nuclear concerts shows that the anti-nuke movement is rising above the rest for her.

Both N.N.N. (Non-Nuclear Network) and W.A.N.T. (Women Against Nuclear Technology) brought Holly here, but it is evident that the feminists ran the show, made the party, did most of the work - would you expect otherwise? And whether these feminists continue to play down their lesbianism, they still are, almost to a one.

But I won't object to what hat you wore what night this time; I'll save that for later. Holly certainly never avoids or plays down her lesbianism for her cause. I admire that in her.

Holly knows a world without men and loves it, she knows how to find her solace in other women and she knows how to fend for those weaker and more afraid. This strength comes through her high, clear, beautifully harmonizing voice and there is no question Holly

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SIZZLE CITY REVIEW

Sizzle City is an appropriate name for the skit by Witches Ant (Witches Against Nuclear Technology). It was shown as part of the Sept. 9th WANT nuclear educational following Holly Near's concert.

The troupe of 8 players satirized almost every possible angle of the nuclear question. The troupe gave out pills in case things got out of hand (smarties — if only those in power had a few!), let us know how to protect ourselves (is it possible?) and showed fallacy after fallacy about what the governments and mining companies are doing.

Lilith Finkler was "only a student". Catherine Brown showed Jimmy Carter's power "conversation" address filling its already-flawed content with larger ones. Jacqueline Frewin tried to be an intelligent reporter and Margaret Moores, Kari Reynolds and Marcia Cannon kept up an appropriate chorus when such punctuation was effective. They lit up our lives, playing everything from light-bulbs to coalminers and Joe Clark made it as nuclear pimp.

Holly Near from page 1

means it all!

She has a sense of humour and an infectious laugh — sure, she admits, obviously one can change, that we learn from our own experience.

But the laughter is gone when she talks in anger to stop rape and battery of all kinds. "A body don't go out at night — fight back" and we are all ready to fight with her and even ask where is Karen Silkwood and why she died? What nuclear horror story did they stop her from revealing? Yes, it is scary.

And Holly is serious when she talks to us in Toronto about the border hassles women had when going to Michigan. She's

The script was a combination of monologue or dialogue using rhythm and rhyme. The technology in the stage props (TV, clocks, vacuumers, phone, etc.) kept us aware of the present-day atmosphere.

After Margaret gave up on a 1984 nuclear-view of life, Kari sang "Power to the Witch and to the Woman in Me", the latter a great favourite among women. And everyone remembers the old "Down by the Bay" choruses? Well, that's where the reactor

wastes go, don't you know? Where the heavy waters flow, too!

If someone doesn't stop this "nuclear madness", we will sizzle along with good old Ontario Hydro. No amount of facts and figures can persuade Hydro — they are great buck-passers any way. Improper welding? Don't be silly.

But — beware — have that pill ready.

by Karen Henderson

Grandmother's Song

by Heather Bishop
Available at
Toronto Women's Bookstore

Although the record was enjoyable overall, I felt a tinge of disappointment. This was partly due to the fact that I felt Bishop was too uptight to give her voice full range, to experiment and try herself out. Also, two of the songs on the album are by Nina Simone and having heard her rendition of "Sugar In My Bowl" and "Blues for Mama", I couldn't help but make a comparison. Unfortunately, Bishop is unable to evoke the same earthiness and depth of feeling that Simone does and is required by the songs. Bishop didn't shake me up — she was almost "matter of fact" in her delivery to do that and instead, I shrugged my shoulders having hoped for more.

However, in "One For My Baby" and "Lady Sings The Blues, the real force of Bishop's voice is shown and here is the emotion she had withheld in the other songs. "Prove It On Me" is the "lesbian" song on the album and Bishop's voice rises to the occasion accompanied by some

terrific clarinet work. It's a spirited and bubbly song, ideal for a party. "The Old Boys", both sad and funny, made me think of the Fly By Night and womyn gathering there. Listen for yourself! "Guilty" is another favourite. The voice is strong and tough accompanied by backing vocals, harmonica and piano creating an effective plea for love and understanding. Folksongs like "Grandmother's Song" and "Prairie Wind" is the type of material that Bishop feels most confident and at ease with, for real conviction is present in them.

"Prairie Wind" has to be one of the finest songs on the album. Here is a meditative voice that made me long for the serenity of the countryside. Bishop's voice rings out to her Grandmother's spirit and the incessant beating of the drum indicates not only the journey of the soul but that life never stops — her Grandmother is as much a force or presence to her "dead" as in life. It is a beautiful, tender song of love and of tribute.

by Maureen

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

Toronto Women's Bookstore

85 Harbord Street
Toronto, Ontario
922-8744

Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians, photographs
by Jeb.....\$9.95

**Sunday's Women — A Report on Lesbian Life
Today**, Sasha Gregory Lewis.....\$14.25

Rape — Power of Consciousness by Susan
Griffin.....\$3.75

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
to 1 a.m.**

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

announcements

GENERAL MEETING

Six womyn attended the Sep-
tember 30th General Meeting and,
aside from the issue of apathy,
the October 6th dance was plan-
ned. The question of LOOT funds
and delegating a new treasurer to
open another account were also
discussed.

APATHY

We discussed the October 7th
Seminar and decided that, re-
gardless of the outcome of these

discussions, the newsletter
would always continue to func-
tion as a source of information.

LOOT FUNDS

A new account was opened
with the money remaining in
the lesbian conference account
as there were several outstanding
bills which LOOT was unable to
pay such as the rent. The October
6th benefit dance raised a profit
of \$265.00.

LOOT SEMINAR

About 25 women attended the
October 7th assessment of LOOT.
The third general evaluation of
LOOT and 342 Jarvis St. made its
way through some initial confu-
sion to a proposal for another
meeting at the end of the month
where an attempt will be made to
reach all lesbians in Toronto.

LOOT is dying. Those of us at
the meeting did not want to see

it whither away. Toronto is not
Armpit, New Jersey. It is a big city
which should be able to support
a lesbian group. How do we solve
the problem of: political lesbians
staying away from LOOT because
it is not "political" and/or other
lesbians finding their support at
the women's bar? Come and find
out.

THE DEADLINE for the October
Newsletter is October 28th.
To submit a classified ad, (please
enclose \$2.), announcements or
articles, call Karen at 363-4549, or
leave it at the LOOT office. Do
consider writing for us. We also
still need more womyn power for
layout, etc. Again, call Karen.

NEWSLETTER COLLECTIVE:

Karen Hendersen, Pat leslie and
Maureen McReavy

**Note: The newsletter collective
offers our apology to all those
who felt offended at the
business like subscription
reminder inserted in our last
issue.**

Holly Near from page 2

embarrassed: it was her govern-
ment — she's also appalled since
none of us did anything wrong.
The Nukes get away with atroc-
ities and we can't cross a border
'cause we're going (maybe) to
Michigan and (maybe) we're
"leapin' lesbians".

Holly reaches you for sure,
but more importantly she makes
you reach each other. She gets

singalongs going that are haunt-
ingly beautiful and whether
we're singing out, or just pulsat-
ing "Spillin' up and fillin' over"
from "Waterfall" or helping to
stroke each other, "Oh, won't
you harbour me, won't you har-
bour me, harbour me, harbour
me", we are women together,
loving, sharing, and ready to
fight back together.

Holly, it was a beautiful con-
cert - thank you.

by Karen Henderson

HERE & NOW

Get your **FREE** gay business guide where you see this sign.

Sponsored by Toronto Lambda Business Council.

Classifieds

VITAMINS FROM NATURAL SOURCES

Mtg. at LOOT at 2pm, Oct. 21 Payment in Advance by cheque is necessary in order to secure the products.

INTERESTED IN FORMING a self-help group around "Fat is a Feminist Issue"? Call Sharon at 483-9449.

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.

PROFESSIONAL Hair Styling done by Karen \$5. Call 961-1768, a 24-hour answering service.

DELI-OUT

INTRODUCES
YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD
DELI. WITH
THOSE
FRIENDLY
HOME-COOKED
GOODIES...

964-1931

7 Walker Avenue
(across from the Ports)

October/November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16 DROP-IN *	17	18	19	20
VITAMIN 21 * MTG 4PM	22	DROP-IN * 23	24	25	MOVIE * 26	27
LOOT * 28 PUBLIC MTG. 4PM	29	30 * RAP SESSION	31	1	2	3 ROBIN TYLER
4	5	6 DROP-IN *	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 DROP-IN *	14	15	16	17

*Events occurring at 342 Jarvis St.