

LESBIAN ORGANIZATION OF TORONTO  
342 JARVIS STREET  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4Y 2G6  
960-3249 (TUESDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS)

SEPTEMBER, 1978

## LOOT takes stock of finances

For once the newsletter committee will skip the pep talk and get right down to brass tacks. We need money to put out a typeset newsletter on a monthly basis. For a year and a half we have absorbed mailing costs, with a growing mailing list and higher postal rates. LOOT is shelling out \$75 a month to keep you in touch with the community. It costs an additional \$90 a month to have the newsletter typeset and printed. While advertising helps defray these expenses, LOOT is still having difficulty keeping the newsletter afloat. The upshot of this is that we have decided to introduce a subscription policy. For \$5, you can replace your old supporter card for a new one so beautiful it will melt the plastic in your credit card holder. That same \$5 will give you a 12 month subscription to the LOOT newsletter. Please send a cheque payable to LOOT to: The Newsletter Committee  
342 Jarvis St.,  
Toronto, Ontario

Include your name and address as it appears on your envelop, so we can check you off our mailing list. Also, there will be a large subscription / supporter box at the LOOT benefit dance (September 15) if you wish to pay in person. Thank you for your continuing support!

## Potluck suppers

General meetings provide good opportunities for meeting new people or visiting old friends. Now, with pot luck suppers following the meeting (which starts at 4 pm), you can get to know everyone a little better. Bring a salad, cheese, cold cuts, or whatever, and have a ball.

## Task Force looking for new focus

The Loot Task Force has asked for this space in the newsletter to send a special message to Loot members. First of all, we hope you have had a terrific summer and that you plan to spend some of your time this fall with LOOT. There has been much new energy at 342 Jarvis and many new members over the past couple of months. The task Force's activities are somewhat low profile, which may mean that the Task Force is a mystery to you. We want to tell you who we are and what we do.

The Task Force was originally set up 2 years ago to find space for a women's centre. When we found 342 Jarvis St. our activities expanded to administering the house and coordinating LOOT activities. Both of these often boil down to financial responsibilities. Task Force members make sure that the rent is paid and the utility bills covered. We deal with the landlord and see that the house is being maintained.

We also try to coordinate LOOT'S activities. Most Task Force members were on the original task force. This provides an historical perspective that helps new committees avoid old mistakes. Some members have ties with other gay and /or feminist organizations and they keep LOOT in touch with the political currents in the gay and women's communities. Together we try to come up with new ideas for the organization.

Because much of our work goes on behind the scene, many LOOT members think the committee is closed. This is simply not true, our meetings are open to all lesbians. We meet every second Wednesday night at 342 Jarvis St. We are looking for new faces and fresh input. See you at the next meeting.

Rosemary, Darlene, Val, Susan, Brenda, and Jeanne

## October 1 General meeting decisive Lesbian conference for 1979?

At the general meeting on Sunday, October 1, we are going to take a look at the feasibility of Toronto hosting the next national lesbian conference. Thanksgiving 1979 the most probable date. These events take a lot of time and energy, planning must begin soon. Several women have already expressed interest in organizing the conference; more are needed to fill out what could be the most talented and committed lesbian collective ever formed for a one-shot project.

Other ideas for the fall (not so grandiose, but intriguing nonetheless) include a series educational workshops. They could deal with a variety of issues, political and cultural, and may be of particular interest to LOOT's newer members. Finally, LOOT is taking to the stage! The social planning committee is producing a play this November at St Paul's Church.



We ARE the  
**Pinktype**

Amy Gottlieb, lesbian feminist, typeset this newsletter at **pink-type**, a gay typesetting collective. Call (416) 863-6320 for quality typesetting and friendly service at reasonable rates.

## Women's concert

Toronto's music-starved lesbian community enjoyed its first women's concert in many months on August 25, when the American women's group **Izquierda** (Spanish for "left") and the Torontonians April Kassirer and Arlene Mantle performed at Innis College.

Originally intended as a women's only event, the organizers opened up the ticket sales to men as well, in order to break even on the expenses of the concert. The pub afterwards was maintained as an exclusively lesbian event. Many gay male activists were in attendance, curious to see for themselves the women's music they had only heard about. Gaydays in general had the healthy effect of exposing gay men to the vitality of lesbian-feminist culture. The audience was appreciative of Izquierda and Izquierda felt afterwards very warm towards the audience.

The concert began with an easy-going enjoyable set by our own Arlene Mantle, followed by April Kassirer, whose fine guitar work continues to delight and amaze the multitudes. The women from Olivia will doubtlessly snap her up soon and snatch her from among us. Izquierda, a group of four women whose forte is vocal harmonies, gave a strong performance. Their repertoire consists mostly of original up-front feminist material, together with some Latin American songs.

The women of Sappho Sound should also be thanked for the music at the concert and at the fair the next day; they are learning their trade but not at our expense. The evening concluded with hordes of happy lesbians dancing in the aisles at the Innis Pub, the liveliest bunch which this popular cafeteria for academics has probably seen in years.

by Lorna Weir

## dear libby

yesterday my lover and i returned from the women's music festival in michigan. the problem is that while we were there she got involved with another woman. now, i don't consider myself to be particularly possessive or jealous, but i'm starting to get worried. since we got back, she has spent hours on the phone talking to this woman and has written her four letters, but that isn't what worries me. she says she wants to fly to colorado to visit this woman and she won't tell me when she's coming back. libby, how should i deal with this situation.

— hurt and confused

dear confused,

there is no real way of "dealing with" your situation, only of surviving it. there are however, two alternative ways of handling it. the first, and easiest method if by screaming, crying, and threatening suicide if she leaves. i would not use this method unless you want her to leave permanently. the other way is to sit down and talk with her. find out what her expectations of you are, and what she wants from your present relationship. let her know how you feel and what your worries and expectations are. try discussing sanely and reasonably how she sees this "other woman" fitting in. try not to make any rash statements like "it's either her or me". if all rational seduction and discussion fails, grit your teeth and help her pack.

*the loot newsletter is pleased to present the first in a series of syndicated advice columns by a noted woman about town, liberated beans. we are told she has assembled a panel of lay experts which include an eminent psychologist, a creative communications facilitator, a sexual advisor, an above-average woman of the streets, and an outstanding authority on political correctness. dear libby herself is particularly qualified to answer any heart-felt query, personal or political, that you might have as she has amorously and arduously studied and experienced the collective dance of lesbian love. send all letters to dear libby, c/o loot, 342 jarvis, toronto, ont. all letters will be confidential.*

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## Three of Cups planning fall comeback Lesbian culture thriving

Are you just coming down from the high you felt at the Michigan Women's Music Festival? Don't despair! Toronto has its own vibrant lesbian culture. Witness the fabulous music of April Kassirer at the Gaydays concert, or the solid line-up of musicians; and artists art the fair in Queen's Park three weeks ago. And what about the upcoming Fireweed Festival at Harbourfront? The women's community in Toronto is a veritable ocean of talent. The 3 of Cups has been instrumental in developing that talent by providing a forum for cultural expression in the collective's coffeehouses and brunches. Giving women the chance to sing or read their poetry in the warm atmosphere at 342 Jarvis is unbelievably gratifying for us at the 3 of Cups. Granted it takes work, but work can be so much fun when you know you are providing an invaluable service to a lot of good women. We need people to join the 3 of Cups Collective who will do such things as: Set up tables, sell refreshments, design posters, contact musicians, and most importantly, will help in the planning of 3 of Cups activities. We can put to use whatever abilities you have and together we will help build an even better lesbian community in Toronto. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 7:30 at 342 Jarvis St. Bring yourself, your energy, your friends. Good times guaranteed.

## Upcoming Events:

### LOOT Benefit Dance FRI. Sept. 15

Whoop it up to the 50's rock 'n roll music of Susan Cole and Linda Robitaille at the Church St. Community Centre. There will be a fully licensed bar and fantastic dancing music following the live entertainment. The show starts at 8:30 pm. 519 Church St. Admission \$2.50 (Please note: the dance is on Friday September 15 and **not** September 16 as reported in last month's newsletter.)

### Fireweed Festival Sept. 22-24

Fireweed, A Journal of Women's Culture written from a feminist perspective will be out September 22. This is also the date for the Fireweed Festival, a benefit for the

journal featuring music, poetry, and dance with Beverley Glenn-Copeland, April Kassirer, Arlene Mantle, Linda Robitaille, Lorraine Sejato, Heather Bishop, Carol Bolt, Bambi Kennedy and more. It's \$7.50 for the weekend, or \$3.00 for 3 days at **Harbourfront**. Watch for posters and call LOOT 960-3249. Tickets from Bass.

### Children's Party Sun., Sept. 17

Mothers, come on down to 342 Jarvis and **bring your children** for a day of clowns, games and fun starting at noon. There will be hot dogs, ice cream, and lemonade. Those planning to attend should call Linda or Sheryl at 363-0870 before Friday Sept. 15. **Adults not admitted unless accompanied by a child!**

The Body Politic  
is pleased to announce

# The Great Canadian Lesbian Fiction Contest

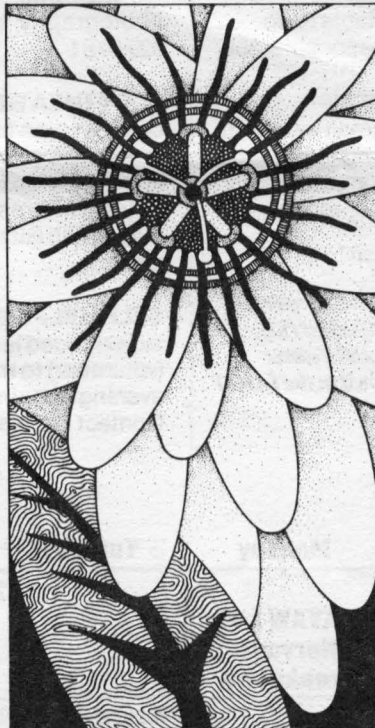
1st prize \$400  
2nd prize \$200, 3rd prize \$100  
Judges: Jane Rule & Marie-Claire Blais

#### How it came to be

"I don't know any other Canadian lesbian writers," Jane Rule said when she was interviewed by TBP a couple of years ago. Then, just recently, after talking with Marie-Claire Blais, Jane wrote and proposed a fiction contest for Canadian lesbian writers. She and Marie-Claire offered to judge the entries. And we would publish the winners. We leapt at the chance, of course. So, The Body Politic is pleased to announce the first Great Canadian Lesbian Fiction Contest.

#### Who can enter

Entrants must be citizens or residents of Canada. Stories must be submitted over author's real names, but winning stories may be published over pseudonyms if necessary. The Body Politic will retain the option on first North American publication rights, but final copyright will remain with the authors.



#### What to write

The contest will be for short fiction by lesbians and with lesbian-relevant themes. (No poetry please.) Stories should be between 2500 and 3000 words. Manuscripts must be type-written, double-spaced, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Two copies of each manuscript will be required. Stories cannot be returned, so please keep a copy for yourself.

#### When does it all happen

Entry deadline is December 31, 1978. Results will be announced in the April issue of **The Body Politic**. The winning story will be published in May and the runners-up at any time after that. If entries are of sufficient quality and quantity, Pink Triangle Press may publish an anthology of the best short fiction.

#### What you can win

Fame and fortune can be yours. First prize is \$400 and publication in **The Body Politic**. Second prize is \$200 and Third is \$100.

The Great Canadian Lesbian Fiction Contest,  
c/o The Body Politic, Box 7289, Stn A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1X9.

## LOOT Coffeehouse and Dance Fri. Sept. 29

The LOOT Social Committee is pleased to present Heather Bishop, a singer/songwriter from Winnipeg, in an evening of song and dance at 342 Jarvis starting at 8:30 pm. Heather's set will be followed by dance music. **Free.**

### Dykegraffiti a problem at 519 church St.

At the International Women's Day Celebration, lesbians covered the women's washroom with slogans and poems of varying degrees of humour. The laughter faded quickly, however, when cleaning women at the 519 Community Centre spent hours removing the graffiti. The next time it happens, it will be LOOT women who will have to attack the walls with SOS pads in an effort to leave the hall in the same shape we find it--surely a reasonable request on the part of the community centre. Please spare us a lot of extra work and refrain from writing on the walls at the LOOT benefit. We want to be able to use 519 again in the future; it is one of the few buildings of suitable size rented to lesbian or gay organizations.

## Classified Ads

- ☐ **Room to rent** in 2-bedroom house. Share facilities. Victoria Park and Dawes. Close to subway. Phone 759-2381
- ☐ **Massage** student seeking women clients. \$8/hr. Call Charlene 967-4660.
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **Responsible** fourth woman wanted to share quiet, smoke-free house at Yonge and Eglinton. Own bedroom, share cooking, cleaning and common spaces. Call 482-0291.

*The deadline for the October newsletter is October 1. To submit a classified ad (\$2), announcements, or articles, call Valerie Edwards at 482-0291, or leave it in the LOOT OFFICE.*

## Announcements

**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 929-5761

**LOOT THEATRE** How would you like to be a thespian for a night? The Social Planning Committee is putting on a play in mid-November at St. Paul's Church. Anyone interested and /or experienced please call Rita (368-4391) or Pat (967-4660)

**SELF-HELP GROUP** needs an experienced lesbian group facilitator (volunteer) to meet with us Thursday evenings beginning September 31. Contact Carole (evenings) 690-7789

**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, 7-11pm.

**FOUND:** one gold bracelet and one jean jacket at the Izquierda concert. Call Val 482-0291.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** Committee is holding its next meeting on September 13, at 7:30, at the University Settlement House.

**WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** will be meeting on September 11 at 7:30 at the International Students Centre, 33 St. George St., just north of College.

**WOMEN INTERESTED IN SINGING** rounds and songs are invited to 342 Jarvis on Tuesday September 19 at 5:30 pm. For more information call Otti at 531-3501.

## Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11 <b>WAWAW 7:30 Nervous Breakdown</b>	12	13 <b>Intern'l Women's Day Meeting 7:30</b>	14	15 <b>LOOT BENEFIT DANCE</b>	16
17 <b>*Children's Brunch</b>	18 <b>Nervous Breakdown</b>	19 <b>*Newsletter Meeting 7:30 3 of Cups</b>	20 <b>Task Force Mtg. 7:30</b>	21 <b>Counselling Collective Meeting*</b>	22 <b>Fireweed Festival Loot Drop-in</b>	23 <b>Fireweed Festival</b>
24 <b>Fireweed Festival</b>	25 <b>Nervous Breakdown</b>	26	27	28	29 <b>*Heather Bishop/ Loot Dance</b>	30
1 <b>General Meeting 4pm Pot Luck</b>	2 <b>Nervous Breakdown</b>	3	4 <b>Task Force Mtg. 7:30</b>	5	6	7
8	9 <b>Nervous Breakdown</b>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <b>Nervous Breakdown</b>	17	18	19 <b>*Counselling Collective Meeting</b>	20	21

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

\*Activities occurring at 342 Jarvis St.

Nervous Breakdown: Women's only coffeehouse, 200 Carleton, 8 pm.

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