

# Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF THE LESBIAN MOTHERS' DEFENCE FUND    SUMMER 1982  
TORONTO, CALGARY & VANCOUVER, CANADA

## Two Canadian Mothers Need Your Help Toronto

Alice W, 31, has been separated from her husband for two and a half years. Because her son, then ten years old, wanted to live with his father, Alice didn't fight for custody when she left. Her husband agreed initially to generous visiting rights.

Shortly after leaving, Alice began a relationship with a woman with whom she's been living ever since.

"As soon as he found out, my husband stopped the visits. He moved and wouldn't tell me where in the city he was. I hired a lawyer right away, but then because of my job I couldn't qualify for Legal Aid, and because of some debts I couldn't afford to pay him. I haven't seen my son for a whole year."

In early May Alice was served with a divorce petition which included a request that she be formally denied access to her son, because of her lesbianism.

Her new lawyer, Alison Fraser, is hopeful that Alice can win visiting rights immediately, through a court order.

"We've written to his lawyer," said Fraser, "asking for a visit right away and for regular access. If they refuse, we'll make a motion for access to get a court order. If that motion succeeds, we shouldn't have trouble getting a permanent order for good visiting rights."

"But if it fails we could be in for a two-year battle. The husband is claiming that Alice's lesbianism makes contact with her harmful to their son. Our position is that the only harm being done is in this forced separation, and in the pain caused by the father's attitude toward lesbianism, his treatment of the issue."

"In a case like this, where access is being denied, the onus is on the parent who slams the door to show why the other shouldn't be with the child. These two positions could be the terms of a very long, expensive fight."

Alice needs financial help to cover her legal costs. We see her case as typical, in the sense that many lesbians are short-changed when it comes to visitation, child support, custody or maintenance. Ex-husbands often assume that when lesbianism is a factor the courts will back them up in denying the mother any sort of fair treatment. And the mothers

themselves are unsure of their rights, justifiably afraid to take a stand for fear of exposing themselves or their lovers, risking jobs and family ties.

The abuse of a parent's right to see her child is something we are fairly confident no Toronto judge will tolerate. (In courts outside the bigger Canadian cities lesbianism might be considered sufficient grounds for banishment.)

Help Alice prove the point. Please send a note with your donation saying it is for Alice W. Make your cheque or money order payable to the LMDF and mail it to PO Box 38, Station E, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4E1, Canada.

Quigley, Toronto



## St. John

Jane T, 34, lives in St. John, New Brunswick with her 7- and 11-year-old sons and her lover Kate. Jane's husband is living with another woman and her two children. He recently sued for divorce and custody, on the grounds of Jane's lesbianism.

Since their separation a year ago he has had the children every other weekend. The children are happy with their mother and don't want to leave.

Her lawyer is counter-petitioning for divorce and custody, and hopes this may be a strong enough measure to dissuade Jane's husband from carrying through his threat.

*continued on the next page*

*The Lesbian Mothers' Defence Fund was set up four years ago to provide a permanent resource for mothers who are fighting for child custody. We can offer:*

- \*Pre-legal advice and info on successful cases*
- \*Referrals to sympathetic, expert lawyers*
- \*Financial help in building a strong court case*
- \*Personal and emotional support*

## Canadian Mothers (continued from page 1)

"I desperately want to keep the kids," Jane says. "But the pressure is getting worse and worse. Now my ex-husband won't discuss any of this with me. He has become very hostile. And I keep wondering: Am I financially able to go ahead? Will I have to stop because there's just no more money? The psychological assessment my lawyer wants me and the kids to have will cost something. And the kids have already been through so much with the separation. Can they take it? Can I keep calm, for them? My oldest is getting near puberty. Will the judge give him to his dad, and leave the youngest with me? I can't see them separated ...

"And then I stop wondering and I know we'll make it. Somehow! Kate's firm. We've got something special -- we're going to keep it all together. My lawyer is really good. He says this is going to be the first lesbian custody case in New Brunswick, and he's ready to fight it all the way if we have to. He tells me to stop worrying. I say 'sure'."

Send any size donation, earmarked for Jane T., payable to the LMDF, to PO Box 38, Station E, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4E1, Canada.

*We are holding a women's dance on July 17 to raise money for Alice and Jane. (See our ad on page 4.) Join us there for a wonderful party and an update on these two cases.*

*Francie Wyland*

## Calgary, Alberta

Everything's going really well in the LMDF here. We're having regular monthly meetings and several new women have joined the group. We've been invited to be part of a speakers night organized by the Calgary Metropolitan Community Church.

Then, later in the summer we're hoping to have a picnic with the local gay fathers' group and all our kids. We're also working on a grant proposal to the Alberta Law Foundation for money to pay a full-time staff person.

In short, we're in a starting-up period, concentrating on building a group and getting ready to handle the cases that could start coming in any time.

To find out about our meetings, call (403) 264-6328 or write to the LMDF c/o Room 314, The Old Y, 223 12th Avenue SW, Calgary Alberta.

*Lynn Fraser*

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*Other publications are welcome to reprint articles or excerpts, with acknowledgement*

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*Distribution co-ordinator: Helen*

*People who worked on this issue: Connie, Edna, Francie, Helen, Jeanne, Kathleen, Lynda, Marina and Melanie*

## Vancouver, BC

The Vancouver LMDF is still small; we've been focusing on contacting volunteers and lawyers who are interested in lesbian custody. One lawyer is particularly keen and will be very useful as we become more active. We're not sorry we're not swamped with emergencies right now. It's giving us time to look for people who want to work with the LMDF.

We've gotten several calls from mothers with questions and we've been able to help just by sharing experiences and referring them to good lawyers.

Our book on mothering, children and the feminist movement is being typeset now. We're pleased that *Isis: Women's International Bulletin* which is based in Switzerland and Italy will be reviewing it! In the next *Grapevine* we'll be ready to advertise it.

For now all our progress seems slow, but we're getting there!

If you would like information, or if you'd like to help build the Vancouver LMDF write to us c/o PO Box 65563, Station F, Vancouver BC, or call (604) 876-0953.

*Mary*

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**In eastern Canada, call:  
Lesbian Mothers' Defence  
Fund (Toronto) 416 465-6822**

**In western Canada:  
Alberta LMDF 403 264-6328**

**Vancouver LMDF  
604 876-0953**

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## For Women In Montreal

There are picnics for women every Sunday when the weather is nice, from May to the end of August -- beginning at noon, in Jeanne Mance Park.

You can find us by finding the angel at the corner of Park Avenue and Rachel. Climb the stairs at her back and you see the apple red banner of "La cercle des vieilles filles" (Old maids' circle). Bring your lunch, your ball and frisbie, your musical instruments and your gaiety...

It is a party in a women's space, from babes to crones. For info call Marie-Michele at (514) 288-4749. The phone answering machine speaks French, but your 30-second message can be in English.

Our first LESBIAN MOTHERS' MEETING will take place on the 13th of June, in the afternoon. For info call Anne at (514) 288-4749. This meeting is only for lesbians who are mothers - and their kids!

# Custody round-up US news

On November 19, 1981, the Colorado Court of Appeals in *M. v. M.*, affirmed the denial of custody to C.M., a lesbian mother. In its decision, the court relied on the finding of the trial court that the children could experience difficulties in their "peer relationships" if the mother's sexual preference becomes known. Lambda Legal Defence & Education Fund, Inc., file an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief in this case.

"Although the Appellate Court stated that the trial judge relied on evidence in the record in reaching his decision, this is simply not the case," stated Rosalyn Richter, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defence. "Neither the trial judge nor the Appellate Court were able to point to any specific reference in the record to indicate that the children were not well adjusted or were experiencing peer pressure. The Appellate Court simply affirmed the judgment of the trial court without seriously examining the evidence in the case," noted Ms. Richter.

Lambda and the attorney representing the mother had argued that the judge denied the mother custody solely because she was a lesbian. The case is critical since Colorado has adopted the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act which prohibits a court from considering the conduct of a parent which does not affect the parent's relationship with the child. The effect of the Colorado decision is that a parent's lesbianism can be considered even if there is no evidence to show that it has an actual impact upon the children.

Is the court "punishing the victim" when it takes children away from a lesbian parent because they may bare the brunt of some anti-lesbian sentiment? Richter said that she believes "there is an unwillingness on the part of the courts to listen to the changing view of lesbian and gay parenting. Experts from the medical establishment testify that (a parent's lesbianism or gayness) has no impact on the child, that they won't all grow up being gay." An appeal of this decision is being considered.

*Jil Clark, Gay Community News (Boston) and New Women's Times  
February 27, 1982*

On December 4, 1981, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that being a lesbian or gay man is insufficient basis to take legal parenthood away. This was a landmark decision.

The five-to-two decision reversed a decision from a lower court denying an Ohio woman all contact with her 11-year-old son three years earlier, when the father's new wife legally adopted the child. (See *Grapevine*, Fall 1980.)

In other recent rulings considered to be victories for lesbian mothers, the courts have said that a woman's lesbianism does not render her unfit to be a parent. In the case of this Ohio mother, the dispute was over whether a court could decide that her son is no longer her son in the eyes of the law. According to lawyers from the Children's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has represented the mother, the ruling is the first in the nation to uphold the basic parental rights of

lesbian and gay parents.

The court ruled that the father and stepmother will retain custody, but that the boy will be allowed to spend eight weeks during the summer with his natural mother, as well as alternate Christmas and Easter vacations.

*Jil Clark, Gay Community News  
December 19, 1981*

In Nashville, Tennessee on November 25, 1981, the court of appeals upheld a trial court decision to remove custody of a young boy from his mother who is a lesbian. The court also halved the amount of visitation granted to the mother, Sable Daily, by the original trial court. She will appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Abby Rubinfeld, Sable Daily's attorney, assailed the court for having "gone beyond the bounds of precedent and decency."

The court held that the visitation order "should prohibit the respondent from having the child in the presence of Peggy Maynard, (Sable Daily's lover), or any other homosexual with whom the respondent may have a lesbian relationship."

Last March Bradley County Circuit Court Judge Earle Murphy set a Tennessee-wide precedent holding that lesbianism alone is not sufficient reason to remove children from their mothers' care. But Murphy then took custody away from Daily on the grounds that her recent move to her lover's home in Nashville removed her son from the love and affection of his extended family in Cleveland, TN. (See *Grapevine*, Fall 1981.)

Daily believes this move was in her son's best interests as the child has cerebral palsy and could obtain better schooling in Nashville than in the small town of Cleveland.

Rubinfeld says she has "high hopes" that the State Supreme Court will accept the case, "if only because the appeals court was so grossly unfair, especially in its decision to restrict visitation."

*Jil Clark, Gay Community News  
December 19, 1981*

After losing custody of her two and a half year old son in the Oklahoma Supreme Court on February 2,

*continued on next page*

**ATTENTION!**  
**All Sole Support Parents**

*Frank Drea, Ontario's Minister of Social Services is planning to transfer all Family Benefits recipients to Welfare. This means we will lose \$100.00 from our cheques and we will be forced to start looking for jobs.*

**Rally at Queen's Park**

*Wednesday June 9th 11:30 A.M.  
Workshops 1-3 P.M. 25 Cecil St.  
For more information call  
Family Benefits Work Group  
960-0258  
free child-care*

## US news *continued from page 3*

Martha Potter, 25, denounced lesbianism, married a man and moved out of the state, leaving no forwarding address, according to her lover of three years, Lana Hartig, a 34-year-old musician.

The high court upheld the ruling of the Tulsa County District Court, in which Judge David Winslow took custody of the toddler away from his mother because, he said, a youngster growing up in such an environment would be "confused" about whether to accept society's rules or his mother's.

The judge, a part-time fundamentalist minister, first granted custody to the mother, then reversed his decision after receiving a raft of letters from local members of the Church of Christ, a fundamentalist sect to which the father belongs, said Hartig. District judges in Oklahoma are elected officials.

The boy's father sued for custody "purely to punish Marty for being in a relationship with me," said Hartig. The boy spends most of his time with his paternal grandparents now, she added. Martha Potter was besieged by anti-lesbian propagandizing from her fundamentalist family throughout the trial. Her sister, a missionary, pleaded with her to leave "that phase" behind.

Hartig, who had lived with Joey since he was born, says "I miss Joey awfully - as if he were my own child." The boy's father does allow Hartig's 12-year-old son, Chad, to visit Joey, however.

*Jil Clark, Gay Community News  
March 6, 1982*

One week after the Potter decision, another Tulsa County district judge awarded custody of two young children to their mother, Linda Duck, ending a 3-year battle during which the 32-year-old woman consistently maintained that she is not a lesbian. In court she described her alleged lover as a "very close friend."

Judge Hopper granted the mother custody of her daughter (7) and son (4) with the stipulation that she is not to live with Marilyn.

In a telephone interview with *Gay Community News* (Boston, MA) Linda said, "I had to establish my priorities, and my children are number one. I'm sad that I can't be who I am and have my children, too ..."

She is hoping to persuade her ex-husband to allow her to live with Marilyn, now that the case is over. Her children do not understand why Marilyn, "who spends 99.9% of her time here, does not move in. I had to explain that their father doesn't want that right now."

Linda speculated that Judge Hopper had not believed that she and Marilyn are not lovers, "but I had to play the game." Nor, from the judge's remarks, did he listen to expert testimony from Dr. Benjamin Spock who told the court that a parent's sexual preference is irrelevant.

*Jil Clark, Gay Community News  
March 6, 1982*

Dear Friends,  
My lover and I are both school psychologists, In March, 1981, after a three week trial (in name only) custody was officially removed from my lover as a consequence of our lesbian relationship.

Since that time, visitation has been continuously

eroded and unusually high support payments have been awarded to the ex-husband (25% of her NET income). Our legal costs since 1980 have exceeded \$19,000 and future legal fees are estimated at \$10,000.

Despite our depression and sometimes overwhelming desolation, we have somehow managed to survive by making payment deals with our lawyers and borrowing money from family and friends.

It is now time to pay for the transcript for the Appeal which will be in August. Our lawyers say our chances of winning at the Appeal level are "as close to a sure thing as possible," but we find we are no longer able to continue alone.

Is it possible that the readers of this newsletter might be able to help? Your gift, however small or large, would help provide us with the opportunity to be re-united as a lesbian family unit.

Letters can be sent and income tax deductible contributions can be made through the Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund (LMNDF - Eric), PO Box 21567, Seattle WA 98111.

Thank you for your help.

Geraldine W.  
Michigan

## Benefit Dance & Celebration!

**Saturday, July 17**

**9 pm - 1 am**

**519 Church Street  
Community Centre**

Sponsored by the Lesbian Mothers' Defence Fund

**Tickets \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door**  
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babysitting expenses**

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Proceeds from this dance will help two lesbian mothers, from Toronto and St. John, New Brunswick. One is fighting for custody of her 7- and 11-year old children. The other is fighting for visiting rights. Both need your support to help cover legal costs.

Our cross-country bike-a-thoners — Carol and Cheryl — will be in Toronto in time for the dance. They'll have ridden all the way from Vancouver, and be getting set to pedal on to Newfoundland, raising money for all three Canadian Lesbian Mothers' Defence Funds. But before they move on, they'll be ready to party — join us!

# Toronto Area Gays (TAG)

TAG is a collective of concerned lesbians and gay men who are conducting:

- \* Telephone counselling and information for lesbians and gay men  
Monday-Saturday 7PM-10:30PM
- \* Monthly discussion groups
- \* A weekly lesbian support and awareness group
- \* A weekly gay men's coming-out group

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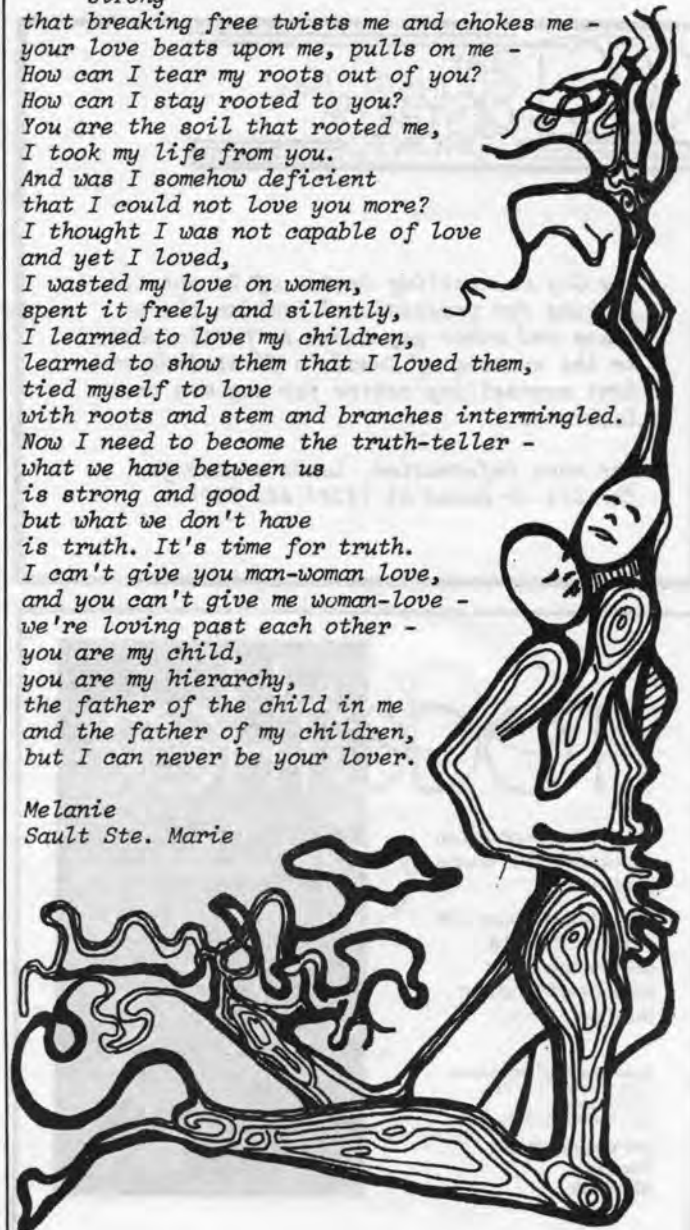
Interpreted for the hearing impaired

Wheelchair accessible

This event is part of the  
"REACHING OUT ON THE ENVIRONMENT"  
Series.

When I think of you  
I think of making soup together,  
simmering the bones,  
putting in onions and parsley and thyme,  
feeling your presence in the house,  
the knowledge of your company.  
When we were only friends  
you kissed me in the woods -  
gentlest of kisses -  
it seems that all we had together  
were kisses and children-  
your face radiated delight  
as you held each child in your arms,  
  
and now it seems  
that we should put our arms around each other  
and cry for what we had.  
For years I made an artifice  
of loving you,  
your love was real, but mine was only an attempt  
to love you back.  
And all the while the bonds between us grew so  
strong  
that breaking free twists me and chokes me -  
your love beats upon me, pulls on me -  
How can I tear my roots out of you?  
How can I stay rooted to you?  
You are the soil that rooted me,  
I took my life from you.  
And was I somehow deficient  
that I could not love you more?  
I thought I was not capable of love  
and yet I loved,  
I wasted my love on women,  
spent it freely and silently,  
I learned to love my children,  
learned to show them that I loved them,  
tied myself to love  
with roots and stem and branches intermingled.  
Now I need to become the truth-teller -  
what we have between us  
is strong and good  
but what we don't have  
is truth. It's time for truth.  
I can't give you man-woman love,  
and you can't give me woman-love -  
we're loving past each other -  
you are my child,  
you are my hierarchy,  
the father of the child in me  
and the father of my children,  
but I can never be your lover.

Melanie  
Sault Ste. Marie



*The ebony carvings  
we are going to carve  
you and I*

*Olivia I can only just  
see them. When will  
the world allow them  
into the world*

*Their moments together  
Crystal's laughter  
Olivia joking*

*and I'll look on*

*A blacklesbian and a whitelesbian  
together without children*

*I think I remember most  
her surprise at herself when  
she found how brave she was.  
She always shall be.*

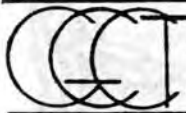
*Kathy Pickard*



Cheers,  
to you  
Oh beautiful one.  
You are a rare  
flutter  
In the lost passion  
of a  
Naked city.

Edna

*(on the birth of Thane)*



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# Reviews Books

## ROCKING THE CRADLE

Lesbian Mothers: A Challenge in Family Living  
by Gillian Hanscombe and Jackie Forster  
Alyson Publications  
Glad Day Books \$7.95

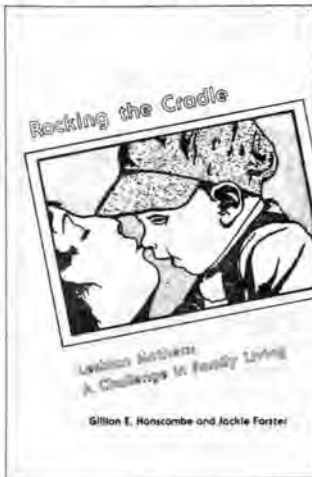
In this book the mothers and families who were interviewed live in a variety of different circumstances. Some are still married; some are divorced or separated, and some have never married. Some live with lesbian lovers and children, while others live alone with their children. Their jobs vary as do their lifestyles - full-time mothers, farmers, part-time students, nurses, journalists, teachers, a waitress, a cleaner. The oldest mother is in her fifties, the youngest twenty-three.

*Rocking the Cradle* is about lesbian mothers, their children, lovers, friends, families, opinions, hopes and fears. The book discusses how to get pregnant, how to cope with the law and how to live in new ways.

The children's feelings about growing up in a lesbian family are an important part of the book, too.

This book affirms that there is a place for all of us. *Rocking the Cradle* is well worth reading.

Connie



## LETTRE D'AMOURE DE FEMMES

Reina Ha-Milton  
Les éditions du remue-menage, Ottawa \$10

*Lettre d'amour de Femmes* est l'autobiographie d'une femme qui est "différente." Elle rejette les valeurs et même la langue de la phallogocratie dans laquelle nous, les femmes qui en aimons une autre, habitons toutes. En créant des mots qui sont les nôtres, elle affirme la valeur de notre "essence-femme" et de notre "amour," qu'elle appelle "l'essence d'aimer et de tout vivre pleinement."

Avec ces mots, nous souhaitons la bienvenue à nos amies francophones qui partagent notre "amour."

Lynda

## LESBIAN FICTION

edited by Elly Bulkin  
Persephone Press  
Toronto Women's Bookstore \$13.95  
Glad Day Books \$11.95

*Lesbian Fiction* includes twenty-eight stories as well as an historical review of lesbian fiction and an essay on teaching lesbian short fiction in the classroom.

One of the most appealing features of *Lesbian Fiction* is its complexity. Lesbianism and wommin-identification are taken for granted by the artists; they are therefore intellectually free to explore

the multi-faceted nature of living. They are without the debilitating self-consciousness of the fifties and sixties writers of popular lesbian fiction; and without the political zealotry which marred much of the lesbian fiction (and poetry) of the seventies. Loving women is a fact that is basic to these writers' lives and work. Their wommin-love inspires their concern with violence against wommin, and the triple horror of racism, poverty and drugs.

It is in its representation of different racial and class experiences that *Lesbian Fiction* excels. The majority of North American literature is of the white, male, middle class reality. *Lesbian Fiction* is concerned with the knowledge of the working class wommin, and those who live below the poverty line as well as the culture and traditions of wommin of all walks of life.

Connie

## FAULTLINE

Sheila Ortiz Taylor  
Naiad Press  
Toronto Women's Bookstore \$8.95

The San Andreas Fault runs beneath the San Fernando Valley, and overshadows the lives of all its inhabitants. Arden, a self-proclaimed mixture of Indian and Avon lady, and a direct emotional descendant of her famous Aunt Vi, grew up with the constant awareness that at any moment her world could shift and change. As one of the characters in the book says, "people who live along a faultline have an internal relationship with the earth - when she speaks they listen." In February 1971 the earth did speak, and brought together Arden and Alice, who became lovers, leaving behind their respective husbands, and going to live with Arden's six children and, eventually, three hundred rabbits. This is a tragi-comedy, with a large supporting cast of interesting personalities, each contributing to the flavour of the book. I enjoyed this book, laughed out loud in many places, and finished it with warm feelings towards Arden and all of her friends.

Melanie  
Sault Ste. Marie

# Movies

## PERSONAL BEST

The audience at the opening of *Personal Best* in Toronto was predominantly lesbian. The dykes I know were angry at the end of the flick. Robert Towne, the writer/director, had failed the test. Chris left Tory for a man!

But I was jubilant. Chris and Tory were both on the Olympic team - granted it was a team that went nowhere due to patriarchal politics - but they were both on it.

*Personal Best* is not a movie about lesbians. The fact that Tory and Chris were lovers is not central to the theme but only an extension of the kind of athletes they are. This film is a celebration of women's sports.

The official wisdom is that men are jocks. Men compete. When women 'play' at sport, we are 'cute' in our colour-coordinated outfits. When we try to actually compete in this man's world we are absurd, small, weak, sweating substitutes who strive stupidly to achieve male-established standards.

continued on next page

## PERSONAL BEST (continued from page 7)

As a woman committed to women's sport, I've constantly been confronted with these two stereotypes. And yet women are beautiful. Women athletes are not comparable to men. They define themselves. They are strong, relaxed, unselfconscious and happy in their own bodies. If men come to this movie to jerk off, as has been said, at least they are no longer turned on only when we are tied and gagged.

I loved *Personal Best* because it makes concrete for me a feminist view of sport. Cooperation and competition are not opposite. Chris and Tory are both fierce competitors and yet they are not personifications of unleashed competitive aggression. They love and care for each other. They never own, or use each other. They do not view each other as obstacles.

The last race was run by their own rules...women's rules. Chris's strategy was not designed for personal success. It was a cooperative strategy designed to take advantage of both her dogged determination and Tory's final kick. In a man's movie, as suggested by the coach, Chris would have been humiliated/sacrificing herself, unrecognized and coming in last. In a woman's movie they are both winners, as they should be.

Lynda

## CYCLING FOR CUSTODY

How many of us have dreamt what we considered to be an impossible dream? Well, here's a progress report on just such an endeavor. Carol and Cheryl from Calgary, have started a Pacific to Atlantic bike ride that both of them have wanted to make for years. And they've turned it into a fund-raising instrument for the three Canadian LMDF's.

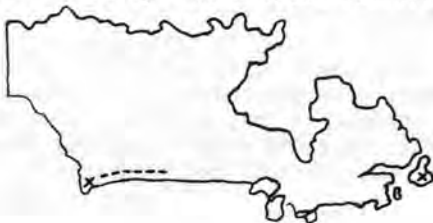
*May 3:* Two days out of Vancouver, riding through continuous rain. Night #1, writes Cheryl, was spent in a deserted old house - "spooky, but dry." "The mountains are killers," but they're moving forward, hoping for warmer weather...

*Mid-May:* Jubilation!!! The mountains are behind them. "We just flew into Fort Macleod with the wind behind us. We're sure hoping for wind like that right across the prairies." In Lethbridge they were met by Lynn and Vicki from the Calgary LMDF who gave them a warm welcome and a terrific boost.

By now they should be pedalling their way across Saskatchewan, and are due in Toronto in early July. The pledges made so far are encouragement for these two special ladies, so if by chance you haven't made yours yet, please do so now, no matter how small.

You can also show them your support in a more personal way by meeting them at the "Benefit Dance & Celebration" on July 17 (see our ad on page 4). With your encouragement and their determination, the thousands of miles yet to be travelled will quickly turn into hundreds, then into yards, feet and inches and finally into a dream fulfilled.

Kathleen



Please return this form to:

LMDF, PO Box 38, Station E, Toronto M6H 4E1 Ont. or  
LMDF c/o PO Box 65563, Stn. F, Vancouver BC, or  
LMDF c/o Women's Collective, Old Y, 223 12th Ave SW  
Room 314, Calgary ALTA, or

I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_ /province cycled

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

## Where we stand— What you can do

As you know, the LMDF has been raising money for lesbian women to fight custody cases for four years now. Our funds are very low, especially when you consider that we have two new cases to fight in the near future.

Our operating account stands at \$1881 and our reserve account (for cases) has \$1002 in it.

We have been publishing the *Grapevine* twice a year, mailing 1400 copies (within Canada, to the US and overseas), and distributing another 1600 copies locally. Postage alone, for the issue you are holding in your hands, is about \$500. Printing and envelopes will bring the whole bill to \$1000. So you see, the *Grapevine* is quite an expensive project.

With a lot of discussions among the women in the co-ordinating committee of the LMDF, we have decided to apply a subscription charge. Please send in your money. If you don't want to cut up your *Grapevine*, use a plain sheet of paper.

Thank you.

Helen

Send to: LMDF, PO Box 38, Station E, Toronto  
M6H 4E1, Ontario, Canada

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Students & unemployed        | \$2  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular subscription rate    | \$5  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining subscription rate | \$20 |

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_