

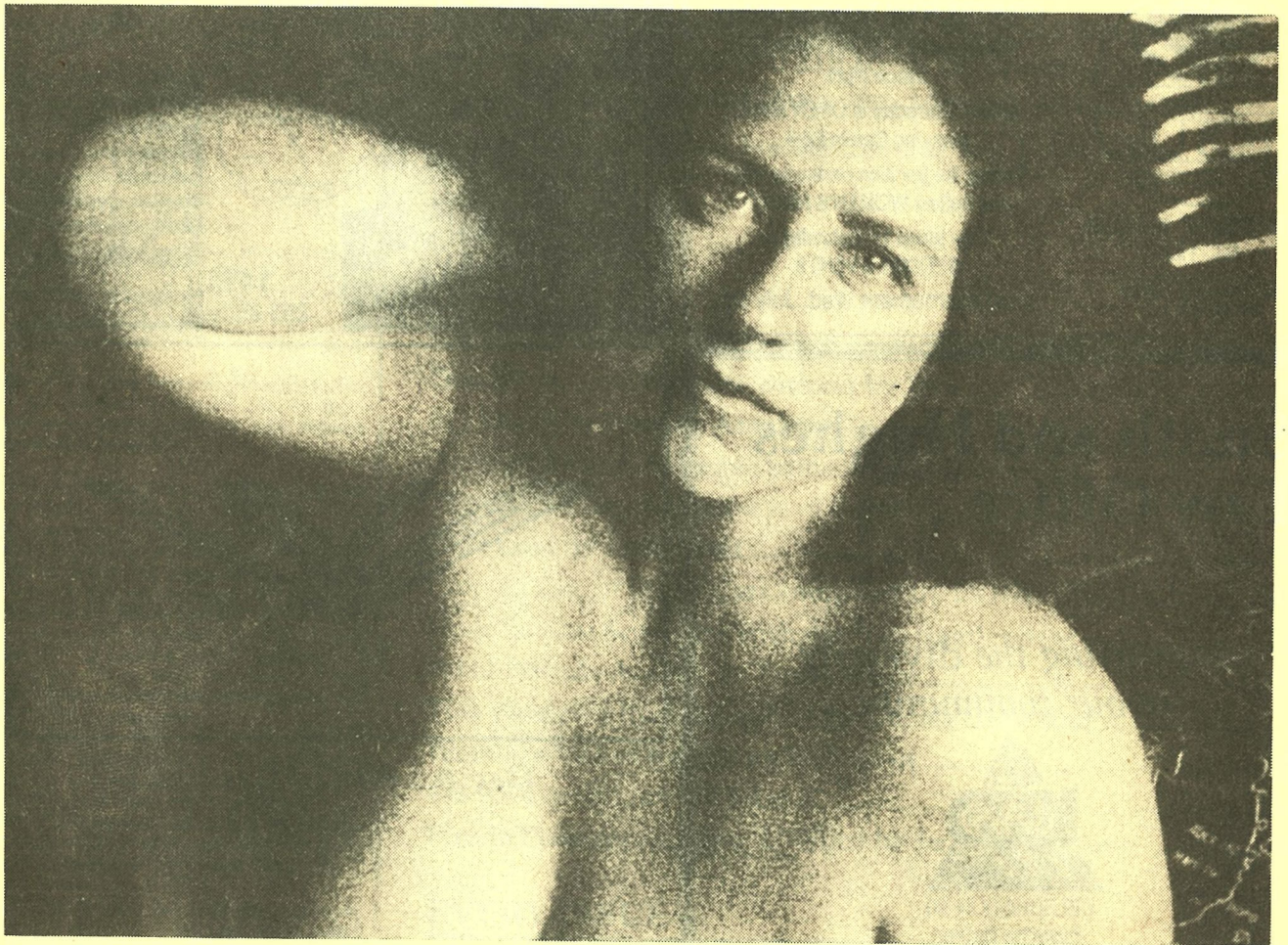
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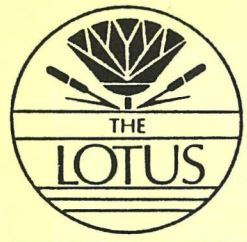
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# DIVERSITY

*The Lesbian Rag*



**coming out of Emily Carr**



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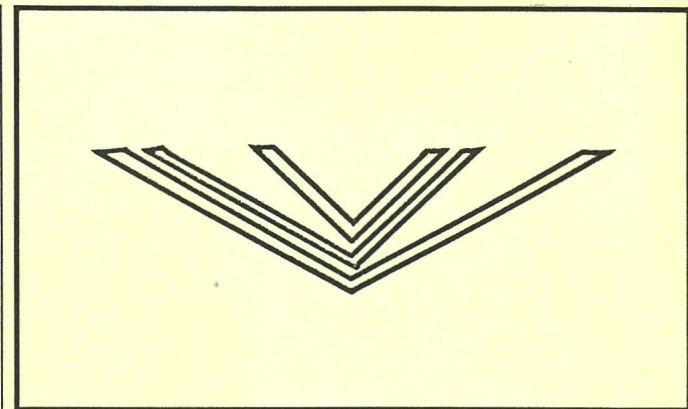
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### Diversity: The Lesbian Rag

*Rag: An extensive display of disorderly conduct, carried on in defiance of authority or discipline.*  
 —Oxford English Dictionary

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Diversity is a rag by, for and about lesbians. Our aim is to celebrate lesbian diversity. We especially encourage submissions from lesbians traditionally denied voice.

Submissions should be typed (or hand-written very neatly) and double-spaced with your name, address and phone number attached. We will withhold your name at your request. Submission does not guarantee publication or that your material will be returned. Don't send us your only copy! Please do not send more than three items per submission. Include a short description of yourself, under 25 words, for publication with your work. We reserve the right to edit material for length and clarity. Send SASE for contributors' guidelines.

Deadlines: Submissions for the August 19 issue must be received by July 15. Ads must be booked no later than three weeks prior to publication. Camera-ready ad copy is due no later than two weeks prior to publication. Next production weekend will be August 12 and 13.

The Diversity collective does not necessarily share the views contained in any article, even if the byline belongs to a collective member. Views of the collective are expressed only in editorials and material signed by the collective. Publication of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by the collective.

Mailing address:  
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 Vancouver, BC V5N 5L4  
 Phone messages: (604) 254-8458

## These boots are made for...

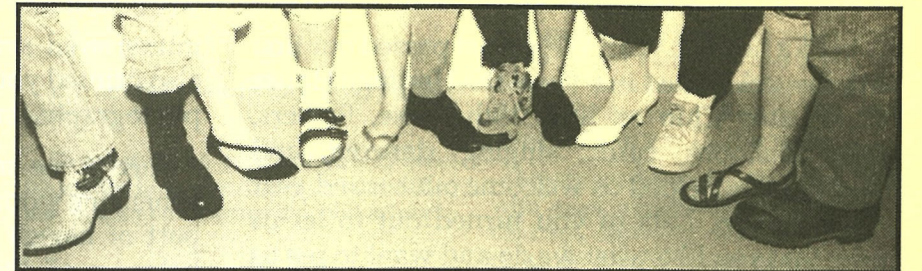


photo by Daphne Hnatiuk

Opera boots... appease Mom shoes... hot shit dyke shoes... folk fest shoes... passing for straight shoes... street smart shoes...

What do your shoes say about you? What do you say about your shoes? What do you say about *her* shoes? And which one of these shoes says "fuck me" to you? Name these shoes!

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Front cover: still from "Butch/Femme in Paradise," a video by Lorna Boschman

# To our Readers

It's been a hell of a year! We've just passed our first birthday, celebrated in style at the Heritage House Hotel/Lotus Club on May 13th. Cake, flowers, rattles, balloons, cards, singing, dancing, and friendly faces helped us welcome our second year in publication. Lots of you turned out to let us know that you like what we do and want to see us continue. Many thanks to: performers Sue McGowan and Maureen Field, organizer and D.J. extraordinaire Elaine Arrowsmith, volunteers for the evening, and celebrants. Your support has brought our dream of a computer of our very own many steps closer to reality. Just a little more, folks, that's all we need, so keep it coming!

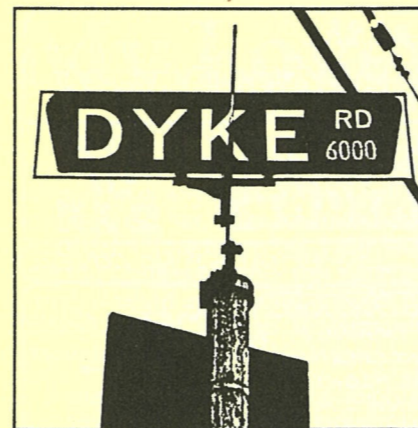
In the past year, we've gone from an idea to an actuality. We've weathered more than one controversy, suffered the vandalism of our office (see Brush Cuts, this issue), seen people move on, and welcomed women with fresh energy and ideas into "the glamorous world of lesbian rag publishing." We've featured such diverse issues as fat oppression, artificial insemination, AIDS, censorship and lesbian theory, to name a few. We've

interviewed several "lesbians of note." We have also printed your stories, poems, cartoons, erotica, photographs, and art.

This is the most exciting aspect of our work. When one woman digs in her drawers to send us a part of herself to share with other lesbians, she helps us all know and understand each other a little better. When we get a cover letter saying "I'm not really a writer/artist, I can't believe I'm sending this" etc., we rub our hands together in glee and dig in. These are the things other lesbians can most identify with. Write us about a day in your life. What's it like being a dyke in Moose Jaw? New York City? Johannesburg? Draw us a picture of your favourite amazon tree. Take a picture of your lover. Cartoon your favourite fantasy. Don't be shy, send it all! See our masthead for instructions.

As we begin our second year, we are older, more organized, and we hope, wiser, but we still intend to have lots of fun, shock a few people, and reflect the diversity of lesbian lives.

**The Diversity Collective**



*Dyke Road is a Letters to Everyone column. Use it to speak your mind. We invite thoughts, feelings, new ideas, humour or questions about whatever matters to you, and we welcome replies to what you read here. This is a place to make contact, to share experience, to argue passionately and to explore all sides.*

*Please keep your letters under 300 words and remember that we may have to edit for length and clarity. Include your name, address and phone number in case we need to get in touch with you. If you don't want your full name printed, be sure to say so. Send letters to: Dyke Road, c/o The Rag, Box 66106, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5L4.*

## Myrtle One

March 21, 1989

Hi!

My guilty conscience finally got the better of me.

For months I have been reading borrowed copies of *Diversity*, and finally I have decided that unless I get with it and subscribe, there may come a day that my favourite Rag will disappear forever.

Moral support is great, but it certainly won't help to pay the bills at month end.

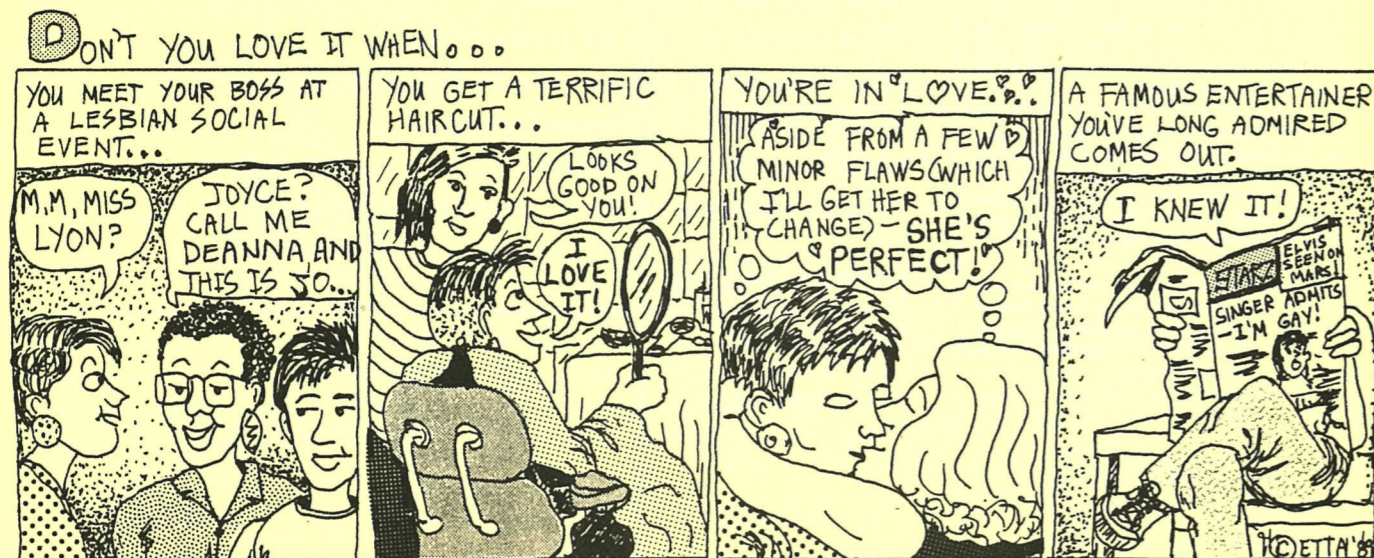
Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy reading *The Rag*, the articles, the poetry, the fiction... Everything that's in it. I may not always agree with what is said, but that's okay. It's what we are all about... diversity.

We all need to be challenged in our thinking, and you are providing the means for that challenge.

Wish I could be of assistance in a more practical way, But I live too far

P.S. We have some swell party pictures, but not enough room. Watch for them next issue!

To those of you who began your subscription to **The Rag** with our first issue, a reminder: this issue will be your last unless you renew your sub. Many thanks.



away (West Kootenays) to be of much use to all of you in Vancouver.

Or do I??

If I can help out in any way, I'd be happy to do so.

*Diversity* is an excellent publication no matter how disorderly or how defiant, this is good journalism. Not a "rag" at all.

My thanks & appreciation to those who have survived the "birth." I know it isn't easy, but their untiring efforts are very much appreciated especially by womyn like me who live in communities where there is no lesbian "community" so to speak.

My thanks, again, and I look forward to receiving my subscription.

Keep up the good work!

—Myrtle Desireau  
Montrose, B.C.

## Myrtle Too

April 24, 1989

Dear *Diversity* Collective:

It annoys me to see *The Rag* refer to womyn as womyn of colour, white lesbians, lesbians of colour etc. If indeed the collective is into Unlearning Racism, then perhaps they'd better re-think their vocabulary.

Segregating womyn and lesbians by skin tone is not acceptable, and is in fact racism itself. Let's dispense with the descriptive phrases, please.

Some of us are lesbians, and all of us are womyn. Let's leave it at that. Regardless of the colour of our skin, we are all the same. Let's celebrate our "diversity" rather than separate us into descriptive categories.

Sincerely,  
—Myrtle H. Desireau  
Montrose, B.C.

## Tips for T's

Dear *Diversity*,

While i don't want to get into the pro's and con's of being a weighty dyke, i do wish to share information, or rather a discovery, with other lesbians who may have a problem with "X large fits all." My *Diversity* XL 100% cotton

T-shirt fits my large frame (60" chest last time i measured) because it is 100% cotton, and can be stretched when wet. I don't dry my cotton T's in a dryer. I s-t-r-e-t-c-h them as far as they will go and drape them over a chair to dry. With most 100% cotton T's this works.

I agree we should be able to purchase, with ease, comfortable, proper sized clothing. However while working to raise the conciousness of the fashion industry (on this subject i believe they are unconcious) perhaps this will help.

Thanks for the support.  
—Shirley Lamb  
Vancouver, B.C.

## Wedding with a twist

*Dedicated to all those dykes who are going to attend mixed marriages this summer! Have fun, however you can!*

Excerpted from a letter to B from N:

"...The highlight of early September was my sister's grand heterosexual privilege and validation display. I think I told you some of it by phone. It was truly a pleasure for me — the grandest coming out party a girl could ever have. Susan and I waltzed and polka'd and hora'd and rock and rolled our way to public notoriety. We were darling in our gowns. We sat at the head table and graciously entertained the guests. I asked my mother's friends to dance with me as their husbands sat in awe at the spectacle. I insisted on Susan's presence in the wedding pictures. In general, I was the most strident and obnoxious, yet delightful maid of honour you can imagine. No stone was left unturned in the quest for visibility. I think some of the guests became confused as to whose party it was. We were, after all, more novel and interesting to the het masses in attendance, than were the totally predictable rites of the bride and groom.

And now, onto other less flamboyant events..."

Thanks B and N for passing this on to *Diversity*—Eds.

continued next page

# XOXOXOXO

Dear Diversities:  
Are you feeling love's unity thru Diversity?

XOXOXO to Sweet Es, JoAnn Picard ("Shattered" meet "Devastated"), E. Scott and a whole lot more XOXO's for Emma Joy Crone...

—goddesses uprising  
self-identifying  
Prince George  
& New Westminster, B.C.

## Birthday Greetings

For the gals at Diversity:  
Thanks for one year of relevant publishing.

Best wishes for many more! Happy Birthday!

—Alleson Kase  
Vancouver, B.C.  
P.S. Enclosed please find a little something for the only 1 year old I know who wants a computer.

Thanks to everyone who wished us a happy first birthday, and to Svend Robinson for his letter of support—Eds.



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NO! NO! NO!... BORING! NOT CREATIVE! SHE MIGHT THINK I'M SOME KIND OF AIRHEAD!

HI—HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE??

OH, BROTHER! THE WORST LINE EVER!

**LAST SONG OF THE NIGHT!**

OH, NO!!—LAST SONG—LAST CHANCE!

HI—MY NAME'S UM-M—UM-M—ER—ER—? AH-H??!

FOOL, FOOL!!! I BLEW IT—I LOST IT!!! I'M GONNA DIE!!

HM-M-M

LAST SONG'S OVER!! AAHGGK!! MY LIFE IS OVER!

HI!—MY NAME'S VAL!—WHAT'S YOURS??!—HOW 'BOUT A DANCE! SAY NEXT TUESDAY NITE?!

HUH??!

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# My Lover

by Luanne Armstrong

My lover is a large woman, but not a stereotype of any kind. When I put my arms around her, I can hear the world breathing through her. My lover looks like the Goddess as she was once pictured, straight and sturdy, breasts like pillows, warm enough to warm me through our distances.

Sometimes, she is so silly, giggling, lies down and laughs with me, strokes, comforts, holds me. I feel her when she moves, when she begins to feel herself, coming towards me, when I begin to feel her, coming towards me, and when she comes, she comes laughing, or crying, comes to me, to my fingers and mouth, demanding, she comes, with all of her, heart and body together. And then when I touch her ever so gently, I can feel the delicate self, the soft and gentle and protected self she keeps hidden, the self that can feel every touch, every scratch across a nerve, the self that flinches.

Once I stood in a circle of women. It was sunny and hot. We stood in a circle and danced; we were in a meadow above a river swollen with spring run off. An osprey circled overhead and watched us, curious. There we were, all of us, all ordinary common women, dancing, with our lumpy bodies and unHollywood selves. Our breasts pendulous, our thighs quivering as we pounded the ground beside the river pounding rocks into gravel on its way to the sea. All of us were too big and not the right shape, too skinny, too fat, breasts too big, swollen with stretch marks from children, and we forgot it all, danced it into the sun and let it go, as if it had never been and never would again.

Not our self hatred, not for now, we forgot that someone hates us, hates our shapes and our large ripe full bodies: my lovers are women of all sizes and shapes. Their bodies are strong but not athletic, they are not athletes or blond warriors or bronzed amazons, no one's picture of who they should be, but women with warm round bodies meant for, comforting each other, meant for

running the world, meant for working, hauling, bending, stooping, bearing children, dancing, running, swimming, riding horses, lying in the sun, caressing each other, meant for pleasure, for ourselves and each other. For we are women whose bodies gleam languages, who shake when we come, who taste ourselves on each other's lips, who laugh and pillow and comfort one another in a rough and ungentle world.

My lovers are women of all sizes, but my lover is a large woman whose body is full of life, my own sweet laughing goddess/woman. When she comes, she comes laughing, full of life, and the sunlight lies across our bed where we lie together, curled safely around each other, protected and fragile, and newly reborn again.

*I am a rural woman, grew up in the Kootenays, have written and published poems and short stories, was previously a researcher for a feminist organization in Alberta, have taught writing for women, and am editor of a publication for women's writing called "Other Voices," which is published in Edmonton—Luanne Armstrong*

# Sweet Esmeralda

Sweet Esmeralda is a wise Lesbian who has many years of experience under her skirts. Have a problem? Chances are, she has been through it too. She can answer all your questions, serious or frivolous, and if she doesn't know, she'll find out. Cry on her shoulder, wail and moan, tell her your secrets—she's used to it, and she LOVES to help! Send questions to Sweet Esmeralda, c/o The Rag, PO Box 66106, Station F, Vancouver BC V5N 5L4.

Dearest Wise Es,  
I just can't figure it out, maybe you can help. When I see a dyke on the street, I am as pleased as punch and almost always smile and/or say hi. More often than not, my harmless, friendly greeting is reciprocated by a blank stare or eyes downcast, completely avoiding any contact at all.

Am I a kook? An overly friendly kook? Is it too much to ask for even a little eye contact? A little acknowledgement? "It takes one to know one" sort of thing? A grin? A smirk? ANYTHING? Why aren't dykes friendlier with their peers? I just don't get it. I don't want to be in their lives forever or anything like that—just a little greeting does it for me.

I'm not really creepy, icky, or obnoxious; not a lech or a hustler, just a rea-

sonably attractive, hip, snappy dressin' dyke who likes to say hello.

Ah well—I tell ya I'm gonna keep it up. Smiling doesn't hurt. Saying hi is painless. Together in one fell swoop a smile and hello warms your heart, acknowledges your existence and often makes you feel good all under. Try it. It might make a difference.

All the Best,  
—One of the friendly BAD girls!

Dear Bad girl,  
I too have noticed this phenomenon, being a friendly dyke myself. I think you've said it all. Maybe they've got a case of the old "internalized homophobia," and if we don't start breaking down those barriers, no one's gonna do it for us!

Anyway, you can be sure of getting a grin and a wave from me, should our paths ever cross. Keep on truckin' girl, I like your style!

Dear Esmeralda,  
My lover and I have an unusual problem we were hoping you could help us with. We live in a tiny two room apartment. The bathroom is off the kitchen, and we took the door off because it bugged us. We figured, dykes don't care, right? However, a non-dyke, namely my Granny, is coming to visit. Do we leave the door off, letting it all hang out, showing her how we really live, and maybe making it impossible for her to pee, or do we put the door back on, respecting her modesty but denying our own lifestyle?

Hoping you can help,  
—Dykes in a Dilemma

Dear Dykes,  
As I see it, you have two options. If your Granny is a reasonably cool type, you could simply ask her what she would prefer. If, on the other hand, you KNOW she would be horrified, I would pay her the courtesy of putting the door back on. I mean, is peeing in public an important enough political issue to you to risk making the visit a disaster?

# Girls Who Don't Change Partners

## A True Story

by Evie Mandel

Looking through the spring community centre course schedules, my lover and I came across a dance class just for Jive. Jive Only, it said.

Jive is second only to tapdance on my short list of must-learn dances. And Richelle is a frequent taker of dance classes.

We enroll.

**Class #1:** We approach the community centre nervously—the class we enrolled in so blithely a few weeks ago looms large and frightening. We have realized that there will be men in it, that most of the class will likely be heterosexual, that women dance with men, one of each together in a pair.

We have agreed that Richelle will lead and I will follow. She's the better and more experienced dancer, and a little bit taller than I am, though I am perhaps more butch, if that matters; but I never wear a dress to dance in, while Richelle often does. As we approach the door to the class, all I can think about is that I may be asked to dance with men. We worry that we will be ridiculed, stared at, or asked to leave. We worry that Richelle will also be asked to dance with men, even though she will be learning to lead. I decide that I am not going to dance with a man.

We go through the door and the gym is full of heterosexuals. Our eyes scan the forty or so other people in the room, and—could it be?—those two women looking at us.... They stare, we stare, they smile, we smile—we've never seen

each other before but it's instant recognition. We rush over and all four of us talk at once. "Hello!" "Is it ever great to see you here," "Oh, I've been really worried about this class," "What are you going to do if they ask us to dance with the men?"

Our teacher calls us together. He's a tall white man with a European accent, graying hair, gray flannel pants, soft grey leather dancing shoes, a gold pendant of a kingfisher nestled in the open throat of his dress shirt. His name is Alex, and he gives us a little speech on leading and following—"men" lead, "girls" follow. Helen and Shirley, who are the other two dykes, and Richelle and I mutter and giggle a little nervously. Immediately he asks the "men" to line up on his left and the "girls" on his right. It's not hard for me to join the women, but as I watch Richelle and Shirley take their place among the men, I realize that, though Richelle as a leader may escape having to dance with the men, she is taking a big risk too, by being one of the men. We look at each other across the gym. Somehow the four of us have ended up at the very end of the two lines—too nervous to be in the middle of things—and Helen looks at Shirley, leans over to me and says, in best girl-at-dance-class fashion, "You know, those two 'guys' on the end there are pretty cute." I grin across at Richelle and agree.

We learn some steps, and practise them in our lines, and then we join our partners. We practise some more in a big circle. Then Alex explains that when he calls "Girls down one!" each girl is to

move on to the next man over. He says it's important for us to learn to dance with new partners, and besides, there aren't enough girls to go around and this way all the men will get a chance.

The four of us confer again—I won't do it. Shirley and Helen hesitate for a moment, wanting to co-operate, but.... I want their support in this, and urge them not to give in. We decide we'll only switch with each other. Alex calls out "Girls down one," I dance with Shirley, Helen dances with Richelle, the men near us start to look confused, and the women near us sort out where the next man is to go down to. Alex notices, and for the first time seems to see that we're women dancing together. He calls out to us, "You there, you, ah, you girls who don't change partners, could you move out of the circle so the others are not confused about who their next partner is?" We do so.

**Class #2:** Shirley comes up to us at the beginning of class and says she doesn't want to hear this "men" and "girls" stuff anymore. As the class begins she speaks to Alex in front of everyone.

"Would you mind referring to us as "leaders" and "followers" instead of men and girls?" she asks.

Alex immediately says no, and begins to explain that it is traditional, and anyway, he's been teaching for years and he'll never break the habit now.

**Class #3:** Alex finishes demonstrating a new turn, and is about to tell us to start practising it in a particular way.

"Okay," he calls "Men and girls, ah, er, um, that is, or your partner..."

At the break one of the men comes up to Richelle and asks her to demonstrate a particular step. He says he's been watching all the men as they do it and Richelle is the best. He wonders if she'll help him? She does.

**Class #4:** During each class, as the group practises new steps, Alex goes round from couple to couple giving tips, helping us work out the trickier moves, noting problems. He usually dances with each woman to demonstrate how it should be done. He has never approached us "girls who don't change partners," and though we're not finding the dancing difficult, we feel neglected, and we want to improve. We speculate. Is he too embarrassed to dance with us? Does he think we won't dance with him? Do I want to anyway?

This class we encounter a step we are having trouble with—the Kick Step. During the break Richelle asks Alex how it goes. He hesitates, flushes, looks at both of us and says, "who is the, ah, the...?"

I answer with heavy irony, "I'm the girl."



Alex grins suddenly, and as he takes me in his arms and dances off with me he says, "You're the follower. Leaders and followers."

**Class #5:** During the practice round Alex comes over to us and, for the first time, watches to see how we're doing.

He explains a better way to do the Change of Hands and, after asking once more if I'm the follower, he dances with me. He seems perfectly at ease. I feel pretty good too.

**Class #6:** Although there are two more classes, work and life mean we won't be able to make them. We find we're disappointed that this is our last. Before class begins I ask Alex if he'll be teaching Jive Level II, and apologize for not being able to come to the last two evenings. After class we go up to say good-bye. Alex is complimentary about our skill and motivation, and urges us to come back again. Suddenly he leans over and gives Richelle a little hug.

As we're leaving, Richelle's fan from class #3 tells her she's still the best.

I think we'll be taking another dance class soon. If Alex doesn't teach Jive Level II, maybe it'll be Ballroom Dancing, and I'll finally learn how to waltz. There's a place for "girls who don't change partners" in the straight dance world, and less to be afraid of there than I thought.

*I'm white, jewish, nearsighted and not always a follower. I like dancing a lot more than I used to, but sex is still more fun—*  
Evie Mandel

## The Continuing Adventures of SuperHo





photo by Chris Coutts

Lorna Boschman

Lesbian artists are reshaping exploring exploding our reality. Lorna Boschman, Wendy Louise Davis, Janet, and Sheila Smart each graduated this year from a different department of the four year diploma program of the Emily Carr College of Art and Design (ECCAD). Some of their work was on display from May 6 to May 28 at the Emily Carr Grad Show on Granville Island. Here they describe their work and their experiences at Emily Carr.

Still from "Orpheus Awakening"

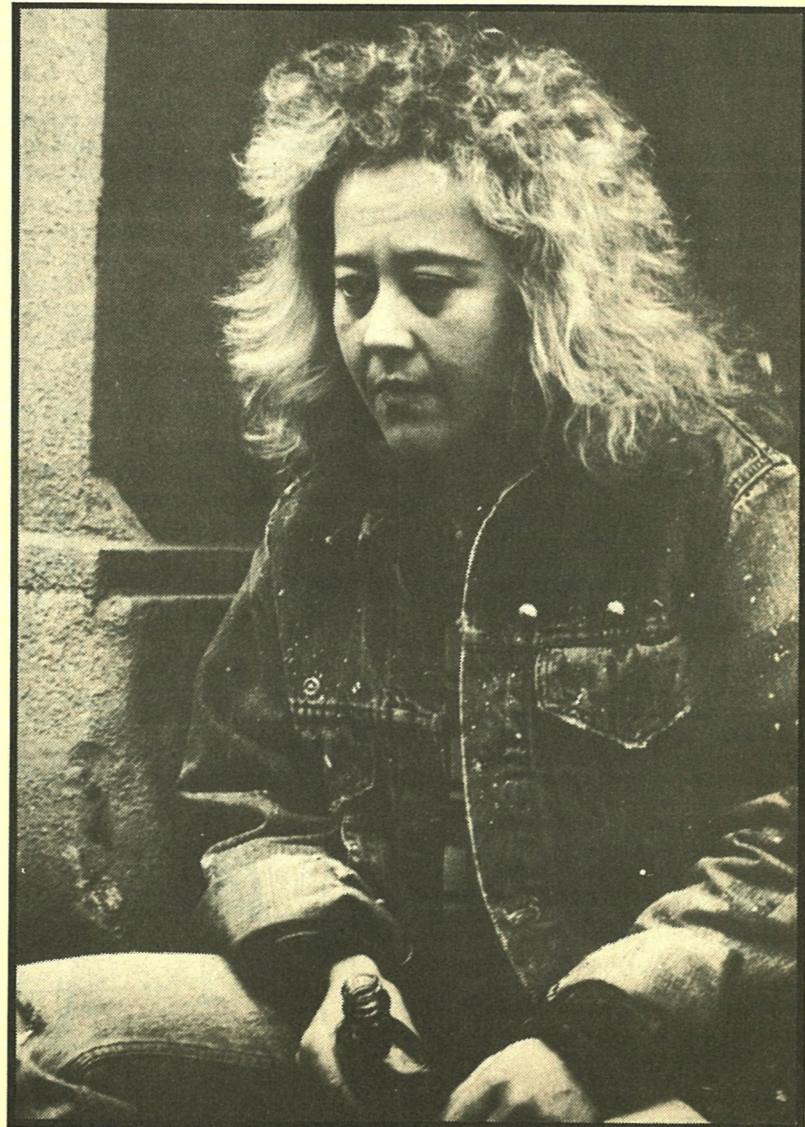


photo by Shaira Holman

I started back to school when I was 29. All I remembered from high school was the sad fat teenager who I was then. If Art School was going to be that pathetic, I wasn't sure how I'd last for four years!

But maybe lesbians aren't as scarce in Art School as they are in high school. In my work though, I had a conflict between the private and public sides of my life. Was I going to reveal myself through my work or was I going to hide? Not just being a lesbian, but all the other strange things about me.

It came to a crisis after about two years of camouflage. My instructors asked me why I did my most interesting work away from school. I guess the reason I went there to learn was so I could break into a wider audience. Learn to live and work among straight people.

In my third year, I accepted their challenge. "Butch/Femme in Paradise," a lesbian sex film, and "Our Normal Childhood," a video on childhood abuse, were the result.

I learned to feel more comfortable about just being myself. I try to put the truth of how I see things into my videos and films. Because every project takes six months to a year or more of my life, I try to select work that fits with what I am doing personally as well. I feel very fortunate that I can do what I want.

## Lorna Boschman

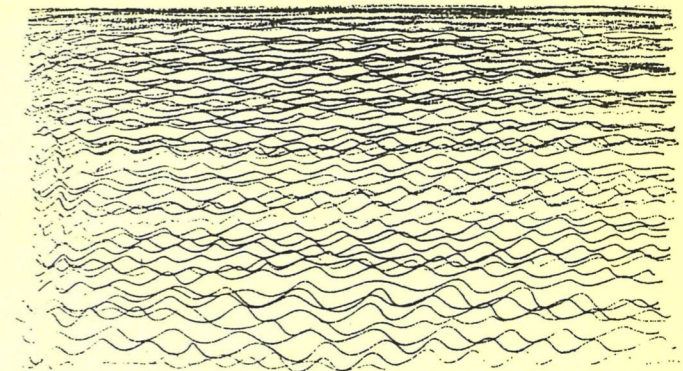
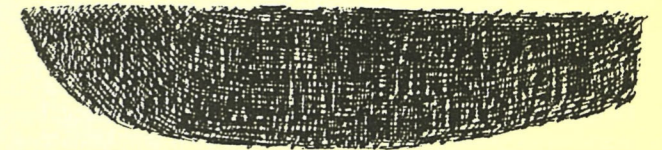
# coming out of Emily Carr

compiled by DONIMO

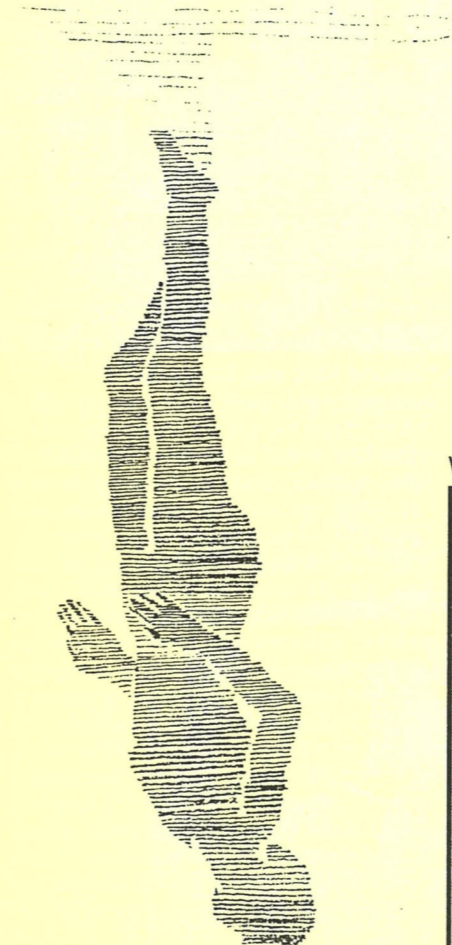
I would describe most of my work as autobiographical—a continuing process of coming out of silence and inarticulation, and of making my inner world visible and interactive. Working as a visual artist is a very basic activity for me. Many aspects of my life as lesbian, artist, yoga teacher, feminist, are of a marginalized position. Whether I work with clay or with pencil I am sorting through the patterns of my reality, hopefully towards a developed sense of my own power and also of responsibility.

My studies at Emily Carr College of Art and Design offered a studio envi-

ronment within a community of other artists—which is enormously important in a society that alienates artists—and a duration of time to focus and improve my visual skills. In regard to the issues of feminism and sexuality, I feel the college moves like a slug considering the dominant ideology is that of male privilege and heterosexism and the majority of students is female. In the past year I attended two new seminar courses in feminist perspective led by Landon Mackenzie, painting instructor, and Sara Diamond, video instructor, respectively. These courses represent a major breakthrough in the history of the



"Anger"



"Submersion"

Wendy Louise Davis and "High Tide"

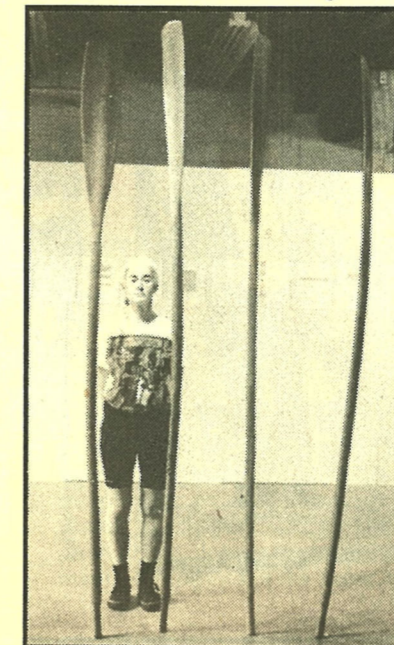


photo by Daphne Hnatiuk

college, and it is important to know that these courses will continue only through persistent vigilance and pressure from the students.

My graduation show was an installation involving clay sculpture and a series of drawings done much like a diary. This exploration began from a childhood photograph taken on Saltspring Island, and took the form of large eight-foot-long oars in clay. These in turn became a means to explore my struggles around solitude and independence. In this process I rediscovered the power of drawing to take me to new places within myself. Currently, another series of drawings is forming the base of my next body of work.

## Wendy Louise Davis

## Janet

I entered Emily Carr College of Art and Design as a third year student. Although it was difficult breaking into the pre-made cliques of a new school, I eventually found a great deal of support within my department. Additionally, Karen, in the audio-visual crib, has been extremely encouraging.

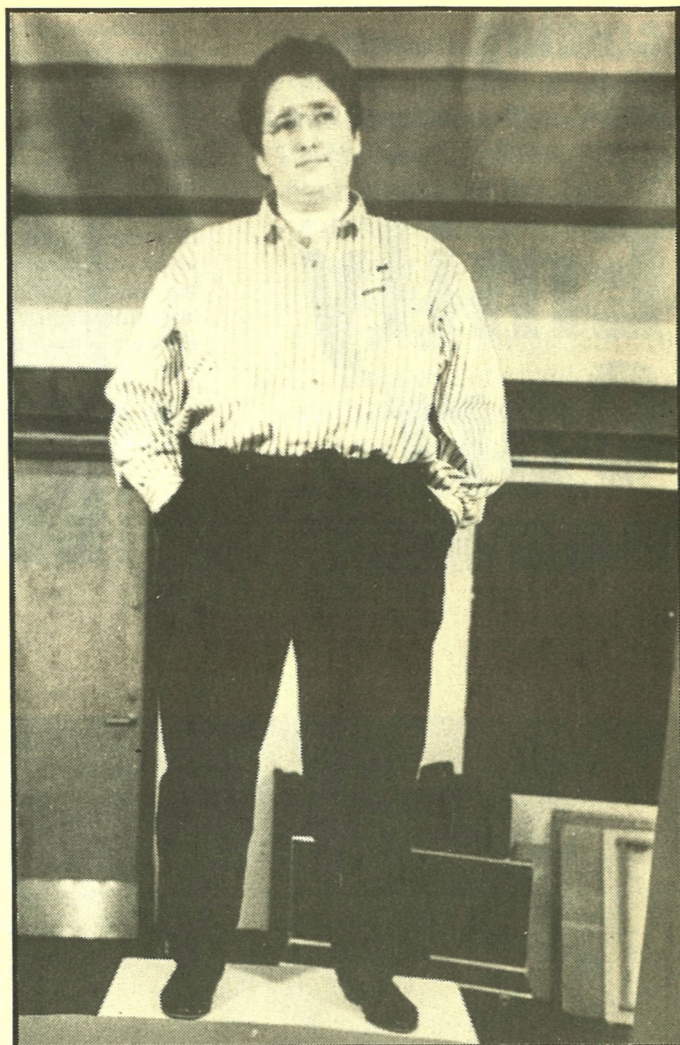
It takes a lot of time and patience to discover kindred spirits. Emily Carr has no women's centre and although as lesbian students, we have been able to find each other and support each other's work, it is still imperative that a women-only space be created.

My grad project at ECCAD is a photographic installation called "Second Row with Suspenders." The idea came out of my experiences at my ten year high school reunion. After being around all the people I went through school with and wondering why I had ever thought I would have a good time at such a gathering, I decided to photograph the event and then manipulate the images as a future class project.

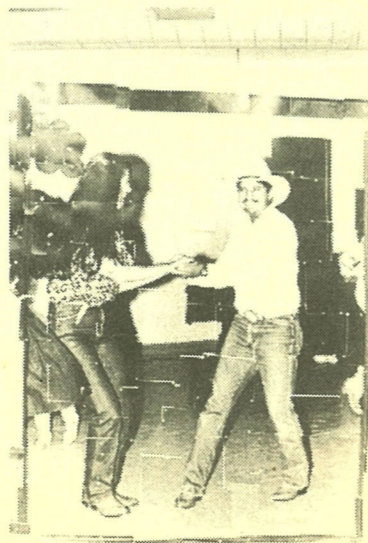
As the project evolved, I was no longer looking at something small but rather a project of massive proportions. More than once I thought that the people in my photographs, images I controlled, were in fact controlling me.

I chose to fragment my classmates by printing their images on small sheets of photo paper. The pieces then fit together like a puzzle to form an image. In this way, I was able to display fragmented lifesized pictures of former classmates. I pieced them together with gaps and lined the wall with their images. I placed a single unfragmented photo of myself, wearing a labrys, on the fourth wall. I feel that, finally, I have boldly come out to my past and I now fit together as a whole woman, and as a lesbian.

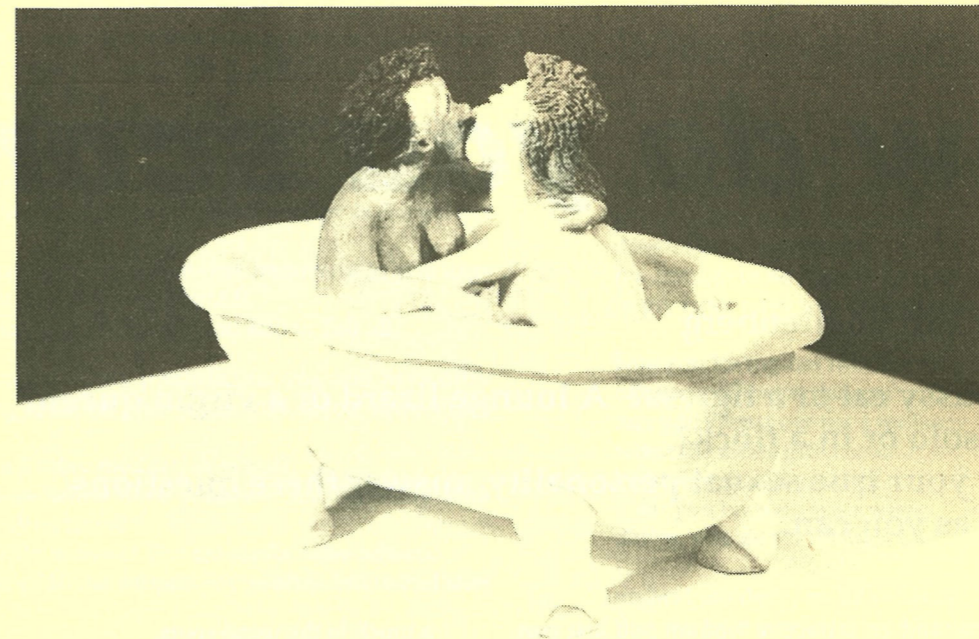
P.S. The job offers aren't rolling in...



From the installation, "Second Row with Suspenders."



photos by Janet



"Bathtub"

## Sheila Smart

Creating lesbian imagery, in my case building ceramic sculpture depicting lesbian lovers, within a very public studio space within a very heterosexual institution proved to be quite a stressful endeavour. But, in the end, a very empowering one.

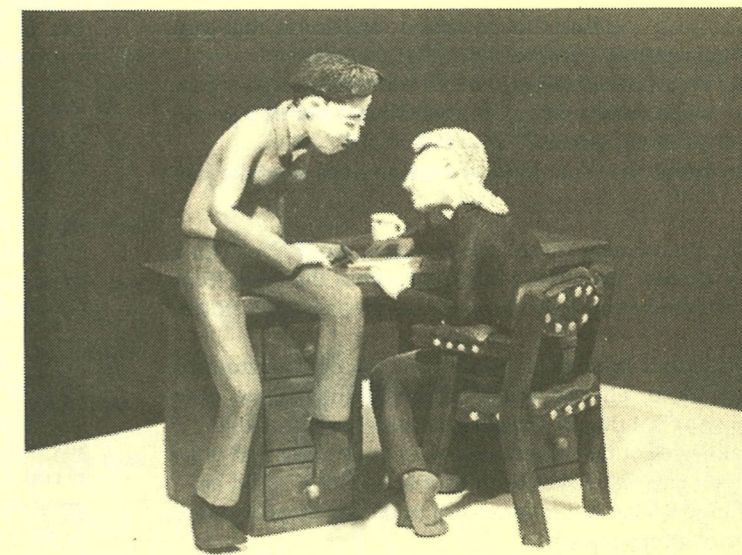
For years I have been depicting lesbian experience in my artwork, but I had always worked at home and only shared my work in "safe" lesbian venues, either with friends or, more recently, by submitting stuff to *The Rag*. But, in choosing to "go public" at Emily Carr, that safety net was ripped out from under me. During the hours that I worked in the studio creating lesbian scenarios in clay, I was constantly coming out to whoever happened to walk by, whether I liked it or not. And as my work table was situated on a major pedestrian route, people constantly trooped by. Daily I'd have fellow students, some that I knew, some that I didn't, as well as Granville Island tourists, approach me and ask "what was I trying to say" through my sculpture.

Some days, when I was feeling strong and gregarious, I'd enthusiastically hop onto my soapbox and give a spiel about validating lesbian experience, fighting societally enforced invisibility, and

challenging homophobia. And on days when I felt insecure and vulnerable, I'd mumble that my work reflected my lifestyle and then do my best to hide behind a lump of clay until they went away.

But it didn't matter really, what I did or didn't say. The pieces spoke for themselves and, for the most part, people seemed to be listening. I put the pieces on display during the Graduation Show along with a book for comments. By the end of the Show, the book

was completely filled. I was expecting lots of outraged homophobic snarling and biting. But that wasn't the case at all. By far the majority of the comments were thoughtful, warm, and supportive. Dozens of women and men, friends and strangers took the time to tell me that they felt the love and caring I was conveying in my sculpture and thanked me for the experience. And that, for me, was just the response I had hoped for, both as an artist and as a lesbian.



"Term Papers"

photos by Karen Fredrickson

# How do you score?

by Richelle Van Snellenberg

**Are you a pussy cat or a tigress? A lounge lizard or a virgin queen?  
Do you fly solo or in a flock?**

**To discover your true sexual personality, answer these questions  
as honestly as you can.**

- 1) You're at the bar and an attractive woman you just met invites you back to her place for a drink. It's 1 a.m. You  
a) accept. The broad studded leather bands on her wrists intrigue you.  
b) graciously decline the invitation explaining that you must get up early the next morning to bake bread.  
c) take her phone number. You're sure she and your best friend Mona (who just split up with her lover of 3 years) would get along great.  
d) feel offended. What kind of woman does she take you for?
- 2) You and your current lover are at your parents' house for a family dinner. Your lover is sitting across the table from you. Suddenly you feel a bare foot caressing your crotch. You  
a) swiftly and skillfully remove your lover's foot from its resting place, all the while following the debate over whether or not the cat should get treats from the table.  
b) make eye contact alternately with your lover and your brother's girlfriend to determine whose foot it could be.  
c) arrange so that her foot can slip in the leg of your shorts for more direct contact.  
d) say, "Nancy, get your foot out of my crotch."
- 3) One day you receive a catalogue from Good Vibrations in the mail.  
a) Great! Now you can plan your dyke tupperware party.  
b) You wonder how a sex shop got your address.  
c) You suspect your new lover gave them your address on a recent trip to San Francisco. You're excited about the possibilities.  
d) You unplug the phone, lock the door, get into bed and start reading.
- 4) You're at a Turkish bath and an Amazon offers to scrub your back. You  
a) say yes and do your best to stay cool.  
b) say yes and lose your cool completely. You've always been able to come at the drop of a hat or a hint, never mind a touch in the usual spots.  
c) say no. You've already had one fight with your lover today.  
d) pass her a sponge and begin to imagine you're on the Isle of Lesbos being courted by Sappho herself. Every word she utters is poetry...
- 5) You pick up a copy of a new SM Safe Sex Manual lying around at a friend's house. You  
a) can't understand it. Do women really do this stuff?  
b) are disgusted and decide not to mention it to your friend. Return later to torch the house.  
c) decide to take safe sex more seriously.  
d) go out and buy the book ASAP. It's about time that info was widely available.
- 6) You're on a lesbian pride march and you notice that one of your ex's is marching arm in arm with, and occasionally fondling the ass of, a woman you've been having casual sex with lately. You  
a) run right up to them both and give them big kisses. It's a great day for celebration.  
b) go directly to your friends and ask them to shield you. You don't want either of the "love birds" to know you've spotted them.  
c) vow never to talk to either of them again. How could they do this to you?  
d) shrug, chuckle, and look around for someone else to spend the evening with.
- 7) One day you and a friend are walking in the woods, when you happen to notice two women about 50 metres off the main path. One has her face in the other's cunt. You  
a) are mortified and try to ignore them. Maybe your companion won't notice.  
b) keep walking with your friend but embark immediately on an open discussion about lesbian exhibitionism.  
c) discuss whether or not the two of you would rather watch, or join them.  
d) make a note of their location and plan to return later.

- 8) You and your lover of six years have not had sex for ten months, nor have you been able to talk about it. You have to do something. You  
a) secretly place a personal ad in your local paper and wait for the responses.  
b) suggest to her that you both go for relationship counselling, while upholding your public image as the perfect couple.  
c) decide that sex hasn't been that important to you anyway. Vow to stop thinking about it.  
d) Seek advice from everyone you know. Tell all.
- 9) Your horoscope for July predicts that you will have difficulty coming to terms with your wild sexual attractions. You  
a) schedule a 31 day meditation retreat.  
b) laugh. Since when have you ever had difficulty with wild sexual attractions?  
c) quickly write to Sweet Esmeralda for wise advice.  
d) make a list of all the women you're attracted to and start phoning.
- 10) Your idea of a romantic evening involves:  
a) relaxing with a vibrator and a copy of *On Our Backs*.  
b) going to bed with a lover at 8 p.m. but not going to sleep until 3 a.m.  
c) phone sex with your lover who's in Montreal for her sister's wedding. (You were not invited and wouldn't have gone even if you had been.)  
d) you and your current lover inviting your ex-lover and her new lover over to watch videos.
- 11) You haven't had sex with another woman for 3 years. You  
a) have never been happier.  
b) have three part-time jobs, are writing a novel, go to a guilt recovery group once a week, make your own jam, do regular childcare for two of your friends, are in training for the water polo team at the Gay Games, fund raise for your lesbian community group, and take yoga and cold showers.  
c) have discovered twelve different erogenous zones that no lover ever found for you.  
d) have taught yourself how to have an orgasm—at last!
- 12) The woman you are having sex with has been touching your breasts for twenty minutes. You would like her to go further. You say  
a) "Fuck me deep and hard!"  
b) nothing, but you moan a little and hope she gets the right idea.  
c) "You have such beautiful fingers....would you please, uh, put them...down there."  
d) "Little bitty furry poohkins wants to be patted now, sweetums..."

**To learn the truth about yourself, turn to  
page 21 and score your answers to this quiz.**

## What Friends Are For

by Jenna White

lay your hands on my shoulder, darlin  
that's what friends are for  
in my eyes you do no wrong  
doesn't hurt anymore  
it's enough to be here, to be near  
in my eyes, baby you do no wrong

Saw you loving her the other night  
one more time for the road  
tear your heart out for a memory  
when the ashes grow cold  
I'll be here to lift you up,  
set you back on your way  
darlin, you do no wrong

no hurt too deep, no lie so black  
that my love (my love) won't take it back  
no heart so cold on a bitter night  
that my love (my love) can't make it right  
that's what friends are for

*I am a single welfare mother whose main activities are  
volunteering at the Nelson Women's Centre and sorting  
out my daycare hassles. I adore what is gentle and am in  
love with life—Jenna White*



drawing by Mēgan Weekes



# diversions

The Rag wants to know what you like. Please send us short opinions (no more than 100 words) of books, movies, theatre, art, concerts and records. Include complete information on what you are reviewing (title, author, publisher and price for books; title, artist and recording company for records, etc.) and your name, address and phone number. We will try to print as many short reviews as we receive. The Rag also welcomes longer reviews but we may have to edit for length and clarity. Send reviews to: Diversions, c/o The Rag, Box 66106, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5L4.

## This Woman's Eyes

### Talking With Heather Bishop

interview by Donna Dykeman

Heather is a well-known singer songwriter who stopped ever-so-briefly in Vancouver during her April tour in support of her seventh album *Walk That Edge*. Donna Dykeman was able to catch up with her before her concert at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre.

**Donna:** Does *Walk That Edge* reflect a new musical direction for you?

**Heather:** I don't know that I would say I clearly chose a new musical direction. Always when I write, the best I hope for is that when the muse comes, I listen. So I pay attention and stop whatever else it is I'm doing and let it come through me and write the songs. But when it came to producing the album, I've just been feeling a lot lately that I really like the return to a natural sound. As much as it's been fun to play with a lot of synthesized sound and all the amazing new technology that's available, what we chose to do this time was to use that technology in order to create just the cleanest, best recorded product we could—with a lot more acoustic everything. This album to me is a lot more down-home, and it's mostly my own songs, which I haven't done since *I Love Women Who Laugh*.

**Donna:** One reviewer, perhaps tongue-in-cheek, described your music as "not untinged by politics." How do you see your role as a musician?

**Heather:** There's no doubt that politics has always been a part of my music,

simply because politics has always been a part of my life. In wanting to be a musician, I wanted to be like the people I admired. Those people, to me, were people who got on a stage and simply talked about the truth. They do it with skill and they do it in an entertaining way, but nonetheless they tell the truth. That's political. There's a lot of things I want to talk about, and it's all political—even the love songs.

**Donna:** You work a lot with children. Are you able to address feminism and lesbianism directly with the kids, or does your work with them have a different focus?

**Heather:** The focus with the children first of all, I think, is to help them love themselves and help them understand that music is not something you can only get by turning on a radio or a record-player, but that music is in them, that each of them has this gift. One of my main functions with them, through humour and giving them a great deal of respect which they don't get in this world, is to help them feel okay about themselves.

The other dynamic of that, which follows as a matter of course, is that, yes, I am an out lesbian. And so these children are growing up with me as a role model. In the long run then, it does have the effect of changing how these children view sexual preference, just because they've grown up with me. I now have kids coming to my shows who aren't kids any more—they're adults. But they grew up on my music, and that really blows me away. You know, they're in their early twenties and they come up and say "Hey, I used to sing your songs when I was in public school" and I feel, oh, 8,000 years old...but there you have it. And I think it's a good thing that we can be role models and the kids grow up thinking

there's nothing wrong with the choices we make in our lives.

**Donna:** I'm curious as to what the term "women's music" means to you now.

**Heather:** I get asked that question a lot, especially by the mainstream media. My answer, when people say "You do women's music—what is that?" would be the same to everybody: It's me talking about the world through this woman's eyes, describing the truth that I see through this woman's eyes. So of course I'm going to sing about the things in my life. I don't sing about something like child abuse or racism because I read a book about it. I sing about what I



Heather Bishop

grew up with, what I've seen, what I know is true, because we need to talk about these things and heal. And I don't write a song like "I'm Not the One" because I think "Oh gee, I better write about abuse, it's an issue now," I write it because it's one of the ways I can deal with my own pain and my own healing in my life.

One of the things I've learned about music is that it will heal me. It happens that in this life that's one of the ways I can work out my own stuff, and it's taken a lot of years for me to know that other people can relate to that. Before, when I wrote the songs like that I thought I was the only one in the world that would understand them. Now, with all of these years behind me, I've come to know that the songs that are closest to your heart, that perhaps you are most vulnerable in writing and producing, are the songs that are really going to touch a lot of people. That in fact, your experience is like so many

# diversions

others' and we all need to know that we're in this life together.

**Donna:** You've talked about necessary healing—are there any issues you feel are particularly pressing at this time?

**Heather:** I think we need to do a lot of healing around racism. We in Canada have given ourselves a lot of false credit for not being a racist country, or we'll say we're a "subtly" racist country. Only if you're a privileged white person could you even say something like that. Racism is racism. And for those of us who are white and feel helpless and say "Well, what can I do about it, it's not my fault"—what you need to understand is your privilege. That's a big step in the right direction, because then you can begin to level things out.

**Donna:** What are your future plans? Is there a goal on the horizon for you?

**Heather:** It's been so many years of working so hard to get to a place of even making a living. The goal I would talk about right now would be to be able to maintain without working quite so hard, and to have a little more time for my actual life. The road being your life is a very difficult one, and not particularly one I would choose. So I'm going to try to get more of a balance, just for me.

Heather Bishop is returning to Vancouver in July to appear at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival.

## WOMEN'S VOICES

### The 12th Annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival

by Donna Dykeman

I love the Folk Festival. I love the park. I love the pizza. I love seeing women I know there, on-stage and off, working together to make the festival a safe and peaceful place for lesbians. And I love the challenge of words and music I don't know, of voices that push my boundaries of familiarity. Most of all, I

love the quirky combination of it all that makes for so many enjoyable connections—expected or spontaneous.

Great, but what about the dykes, you ask. Well, go say hello to Security Team D...and for those of you not familiar with the music of Heather Bishop, Judy Small, and Lucie Blue Tremblay, now's your chance. Heather is taking a break from touring this summer, but has found time for the Vancouver festival—her favourite in North America, she says. Judy, an incredible songwriter who never fails to move me, is returning as part of the festival's offering of contemporary Australian music. The first time I heard Lucie Blue, I laughed out loud—in sheer disbelief at her amazing whistling technique. I'm going back to try and see how she does it, and to hear her rich, soaring version of Ferron's "Ain't Life a Brook"—truly magnifique. I've never heard of New Zealand's Mahinaarangi Tocker, but anyone who bills herself as a "half Jewish, half Maori, feminist political singer songwriter" is someone I'm definitely checking out.

Canadian voices at the festival include that of dub-poet Lillian Allen, now at work on a children's album, and Suzanne Bird, a Métis singer songwriter from Winnipeg making her first appearance here. Also making their debut are Tisa Farrel, Thando Hyman, and M.C. Motion with D.J. Power, a group of three young black women and one black man who will bring from Toronto the politics of rap music. Coming as part of this year's Canadian Celtic theme are Loreena McKennitt, who continues that tradition in song and harp music, and Teresa Doyle, the first performer from P.E.I. to appear at the festival.

Those of you who know of Barbara Higbie's fiddling and piano abilities from her work with Teresa Trull and Montreux, take note that she'll be here as a solo artist. Hazel Dickens returns to head up the only bluegrass band appearing this year, and England's Frankie Armstrong is once again bringing us the glorious power of her voice. Marie-Lynn Hammond is back to performing, teaming up for the festival with the jazzy keyboard talents of Marilyn Lerner. A simply great new singer songwriter, Mae Moore, is travelling here all the way from West Vancouver. Also appearing is another local talent,

Jennifer West, usually heard in the group Natural Elements.

As lesbians, we are of course part of the continuum of women's cultures which range back over centuries. This year, look for Zina Bacar, singer, songwriter, and leader of the Mozambican group Eyuphuru, and the women of the Folk Artists of Shaanxi, coming from north-central China. And don't miss the Inuit Throat Singers coming from the Northwest Territories. I can't even begin to explain how they sound—just go. I'm hoping to see these women in combination with the three Bissarov Sisters, who sing in the incomparable Bulgarian women's vocal tradition. Their style is rougher than that of the State Choir you may have already heard, but the sound is just as haunting and lovely.

Country music is another tradition which has enjoyed a consistently strong women's presence. Although I've never been a fan of the weepin' and wailin' variety, I plan to check out a nifty "cowgirl connection" that's happening this year. The festival is matching up locals Terilyn Ryan, who you might know from her "Feathered Pen" showcases at the Railway Club, the up-and-coming Sue Medley, and rockabilly delights The Dots with Women In The Round, four singer songwriters from Nashville. We'll see what happens when these country women get together and let 'er rip.

So, if the preview of the festival grabs you like it always seems to grab me, maybe I'll see you there with your beach chair. And when it's all over for another year, we can share the memory of strength and celebration—of women's voice in all its facets.

The Vancouver Folk Music Festival will be held this year at Jericho Beach Park on July 14th, 15th, and 16th. For ticket information or anything else you'd like to know, call (604) 879-2931 or write: Vancouver Folk Music Festival, 3271 Main St., Vancouver, B.C. V5V 3M6.

Yeah, that's my real name. I'm white, middle-class, and turning 30 very, very soon—AT LAST! I love all kinds of music and all kinds of women—Donna Dykeman

**A Mistress Moderately Fair**

by Katherine Sturtevant, Alyson Publications, 1988, \$10.95

reviewed by m. alto

This is a book you'd pick up when in the mood for an elegantly written, historically accurate, thoroughly satisfying trashy dyke novel. While waiting for the "good parts" you *know* will come eventually (pp.98-101), the reader is drawn contentedly into a rather pleasant romp through London's 17th century theatre scene. Our heroine, actress Amy Dudley, is sponsored by a notable (if only for her gender) playwright, Margaret Featherstone. Amy and Margaret fence about through a cast of characters reminiscent of any good gothic romance, ending up where we want them to be—in bed.

Katherine Sturtevant tries (occasionally with success) to distract her readers with quite fascinating insights into the lives of professional women in pre-industrial England, but the novel is best when being content to tell its spare, straightforward story. *A Mistress Moderately Fair* is a very entertaining bit of dyke trash, most rewarding when taken with a slab of chocolate cake and a cup of tea on the side of a hot, steamy bath.

**Heavy Gilt**

by Dolores Klaich, Naiad Press, 1988, \$8.95 U.S.

reviewed by Sherry McCarnan

Picture an east coast American resort town in the winter of 1975 full of closeted queers pretending to be straight, even with each other. This is the setting for *Heavy Gilt*, the latest offering from Dolores Klaich, author of *Woman + Woman* (1974).

Hillary Hope James and Drusilla Marx are having a dinner party and have invited a few of their friends, neighbours and relatives. During the treasure hunt, Malcolm James, homophobic brother of Hillary, disappears. When he fails to return the next morning everyone who knows him either assumes or hopes that he's dead. Enter detective Tyler Divine whose job is to piece together what happened. During the course of the investigation, she and we get to know each of the guests and their little secrets.

In spite of the many overdone and dated aspects of the book, I enjoyed it and would recommend it as a night's easy escape into an over-privileged and closeted world of 1975.

**diversions**



Just neighbours?

**WE ALL LOVED LUCY**

by Julie

Lucille Ball, the uncontested Queen of Comedy, died last month at the age of 77. Although best known for her role as scatterbrained Lucy Ricardo, she began her show biz career as a Hollywood showgirl in the 1930s. She appeared in over seventy movies before the 1951 series *I Love Lucy*, which ran for six years, and was TV's most popular comedy show throughout the fifties. She became TV's first female executive, forming Desilu Productions in 1950. *The Lucy Show* and *Here's Lucy* ran another twelve years, and all three shows have been in syndication ever since, making Lucille Ball one of the world's most recognized and beloved entertainers. Her last professional appearance was during the Academy Awards, where she delighted an audience of over one billion! Stunningly dressed in a black sequined gown slit to the thigh, she was every inch the star and legend that we'd all come to love.

Thanks, Lucy!



**diversions**

**PUZZLE PLEASURE with the "L" Word**

Find all the hidden words that are conjured up when hearing "LESBIAN" by looking forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally.

R Y H A I R D O O P U M P S R  
 E X E S N A G I H C I M I O E  
 H F R V I L S E V L C V N H D  
 C S I B E U E L G E E S K C N  
 A **B** L L T R Q A C L R S T A E  
 E I B O M T Y A T E A S R M V  
 T K L O O F L W O H C T I W A  
 M E C I O T E C H A E R A T L  
 Y **S** T A P T R S T E V R N O Y  
 G O D D E S S E T O R E G U S  
 E H T S O R T E W I M E L G E  
 N P R I D E S I D O M B E H K  
 O P B R E E U Q C M P L O A Y  
 R A I B U T C H E K M K R Y D  
 C S D N E I R F E B S T E L P

- BIKES
- BOOTS
- BUTCH
- CRONE
- DIVERSITY
- EVERYWHERE
- FEMME
- FILM FEST
- GAY
- GODDESS
- GYM TEACHER
- HAIRDO
- HER
- LACE
- LAVENDER
- LEATHER
- LET'S BE FRIENDS
- LEVIS
- LIPSTICK
- LOTUS
- MACHO
- ME
- MICHIGAN
- MS
- PINK TRIANGLE
- POWER TOOLS
- PRIDE
- QUEER
- SAPPHO
- SEX
- SIR
- TOMBOY
- TOUGH
- VLC
- WITCH

There's more to this Lesbian than those few words—like my girl—Jo'Anne Lambert

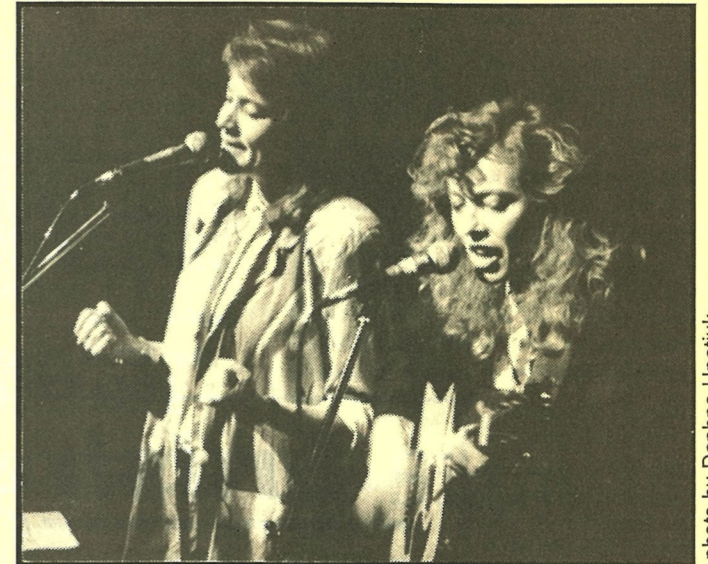
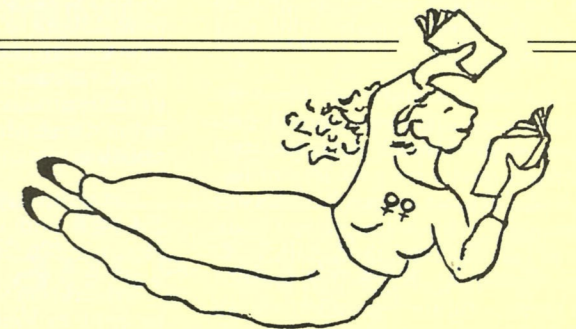


photo by Daphne Hnatuk

Cris Williamson and Teresa Trull appeared together at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre on May 14. We've heard mixed reviews of the concert and of the attitudes of the two performers. What really happened? We would like to hear the story from any woman who was there. Please send a letter to Dyke Road c/o The Rag, PO Box 66106, Station F, Vancouver B.C. V5N 5L4.



ariel books  
for women

2766 w.4th ave.

733-3511

Happy Diversiday  
Happy Anniversary

# VLC May Close

The Vancouver Lesbian Centre may close its doors after five years of operating. Vancouver Lesbian Connection fundraising dances sustained us until now, but recently the dances have not been consistently financially successful. We are now at the point where we must create another reliable source of funds if we are to continue.

Sage's restaurant, an eventual source of funds, will not be able to contribute to the operating expenses for several more years, and our local government has consistently refused to give us operating funds. If the centre closes, lesbians will lose the most visible and accessible place from which to organize to educate others, to support ourselves and to work for the basic human rights that lesbians are denied.

As part of our work we have responded to requests from schools, universities, social service agencies, and mainstream media on a variety of lesbian issues. We are currently involved in organizing with a couple to obtain same sex benefits from the federal government which, if successful, would affect human rights legislation on all levels.

If the centre closes, we will also lose its support services. Our *Coming Out Groups* provide 15 to 20 women three times a year with the information and support they need to feel positive about their sexuality, and our counselling provides support for lesbians who are isolated, have alcohol or drug problems, or are in abusive relationships. Many women feel much safer contacting us than trying to set up support through social service agencies which sometimes can be homophobic.

We have a library, housing and job boards, and a phone line where lesbians can access information about other women's groups, social service agencies, and upcoming social events. The centre is also used by other groups, from ACOA (Adult Children of Alco-

holics) support groups, to women's theatre. We also serve as a contact point for other groups who do not have space of their own.

As you can see, Vancouver will lose a lot. The women of VLC are committed to continuing but we need financial support from you. What we need is \$1,100 per month to maintain the centre. We are asking you to send \$5.00 to \$10.00 per month through 12 post dated cheques or we can make other arrangements such as the withdrawal of funds directly from your bank account on a monthly basis.

The VLC has enough money to oper-

## brush cuts

The Rag wants news from anywhere a Lesbian calls home, and that's everywhere. Please send us short clips about your community, group or event, or about local happenings as they affect lesbians. Tell us how you live...and who gets in your hair. Send news to: Brush Cuts, c/o The Rag, Box 66106, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5L4.

ate the Centre until the end of July. We now need your help. We are holding an Open House on Wednesday, June 28 from 7:30pm to 10:00pm. If the Centre is new to you, come to see what we have to offer. Come if you have ideas to help us solve our current financial crisis and help us make this the best lesbian centre possible.

For more information, contact us at 254-8458 and drop by for the Open House at 876 Commercial Drive.

Celebration 90 (the Gay Games) will be held in Vancouver B.C. in August 1990. A major goal is to make the games accessible and affordable to as many people as possible. In order to achieve this, we at the VLC are currently raising money to provide financial assistance for those individuals who would otherwise be unable to attend.

We are organizing this subsidy fund by asking groups and businesses to order Celebration 90 lapel pins at a cost of \$3.00 each for distribution or sale to their members and customers.

Please help us raise money by sending in your order for the lapel pin soon—and later, bookmarks and keychains. Donations are always gladly accepted. For more information, contact the VLC.

—the women of the VLC

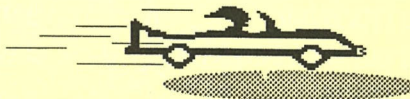
# Office Hotwired

On Saturday May 6th, Diversity's office (otherwise known as Marlene's car) was hotwired and taken for a joy ride. Marlene noticed it missing from its East End location the following morning. The police left a message on her answering machine that it had been broken into. Two days later, after finally getting the location of the office from the police, Marlene went down to the lot on the corner of Carrall and Cordova to check out the damage. When questioned about the condition of the office all she said was, "it was just freshly tuned up." After some investigation into the damage done, it was found that some carparts and a jean jacket were stolen. Diversity files and

papers were ransacked and some defaced, but none were taken. Obviously the culprits were not after valuable back issues to be sold on the black market.

After checking out what would be needed to get the office on the road again, Marlene and her brother went off to get the parts. To their amazement they returned just in time to watch Unitow and the office pass them by. After a high speed chase, they caught up with the tow truck and requested the release of the office. This necessitated proving ownership of the vehicle, and calling the police. At the corner of Main and Union they were at last able to install the battery and get mobile.

It cost about \$100 to get the office in running condition. The collective moved swiftly to approve the purchasing of theft and vandalism insurance to cover any future episodes.



# Stitch in Time

The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, an international commemoration of those who have died of AIDS, will be on display at the Vancouver Art Gallery July 12th to 16th, 1989.

Begun in San Francisco in 1987, the quilt is the largest piece of folk art in the world. By the time it reaches Vancouver, it is expected to contain over 10,000 3' x 6' handmade panels, each in memory of a woman, child or man who has died of AIDS. It represents the global scope of the AIDS epidemic and provides an educational forum for community awareness and response based on compassion and concern. Donations raised during the exhibit will provide funds for local direct services to persons with AIDS and their families.

The quilt is a positive and creative means of expression for those whose lives have been touched by the epidemic. The display will be open to the public free of charge.

# AIDS Audio Update

To meet the need for timely, accessible information on all aspects of the growing AIDS crisis, AIDS Audio Update will be releasing monthly audio cassette

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After many hours of heated debate the Diversity collective was unable to come to a consensus on how to score this quiz or even whether scoring is appropriate. We regret any inconvenience this may cause our readers. In lieu of our providing a scoring system for you, you could

- get together with your friends and work out a system that accounts for all your individual proclivities.
- make up a scoring system to suit yourself.
- discuss your answers with your therapist/naturopath/astrologer.
- smile and turn the page.

Richelle is working on some fancy new steps and hopes to be able to give jive dance classes for dykes soon.

tapes on issues important to all persons living with AIDS and all others concerned about the disease.

July's issue will feature Michael Gottlieb, M.D., immunologist and pioneering physician in the AIDS epidemic, in *Conversations With Long Term Survivors of AIDS*. Each month a new tape will cover similar important issues associated with the AIDS crisis. Tapes are \$10 each or an annual subscription of 12 tapes is available for \$99. Tapes may be ordered from the following address: AIDS Audio Update, P.O. Box 461370, Los Angeles, CA.

# Women Silenced

The *Broadside* collective, for the first time in ten years, has missed a publishing deadline. Due to a severe cutback in its Ontario Arts Council grant and the fatigue of volunteers and collective members, the March issue was never published. Before they had even applied, *Broadside* was also refused a Secretary of State grant which was to be used for their tenth anniversary issue.

The collective hopes that another group of feminists who would like to continue to publish *Broadside* will come forth. The collective would do whatever they could to make a smooth transition

to a new group of women. In the meantime, the Ontario Directorate has granted money to meet the costs of publishing the tenth anniversary issue, due out in June.

If a new *Broadside* collective is not formed during the publication of the anniversary issue, it will become the goodbye issue. The current collective is preparing for that event. They are contacting other Canadian feminist periodicals to see whether some might honour *Broadside's* subscriptions. For those of you who have a subscription, the paper will be in contact with you soon with details.

Diversity receives no grants or government funding—Eds.

# in-Sight 89

IN-Sight 89 organizers have begun their search for the best in Canadian film and video, produced, directed or written by women. The second annual Women's Film and Video Festival will be held in Edmonton, Oct.12-15.

Organizers have now placed their call for submissions in search of work that provides regional perspectives of Canadian women or which offers insight into the lives of "marginalized" women from ethnic, cultural or social minorities. For further information contact Anne Lynagh, (403) 424-0724.

# Applause VideO'S

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For a selection  
that will blow you away!  
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NOW AVAILABLE: Bagdad Cafe • Babettes Feast • Dead Ringers  
• Another Woman • Maeduchen nin Uniform •

# CALENDAR

The Rag invites individuals and groups to help keep our readers up-to-date on events of interest to lesbians. We will accept written submissions for our Calendar of Events no later than the last day of the month before publication (next deadline is July 31). Priority will be given to lesbian events and will depend on space.

**Women's Water Polo:** Looking for an exhilarating way to spend a Sunday evening? Well look no further. We are hoping to put together a women-only water polo team for 1990. Practices will be held at Britannia Pool (1661 Napier Street), Sunday evenings starting June 4th 8-9 pm. All abilities are welcome. There will be a \$3.00 charge requested to help cover the cost of the pool rental. For more info contact Gina 254-6298 or Karen 251-2854 (days).

**Battered Women's Support Services** offers counselling, information, referral and support groups for lesbians who are, or have been in abusive relationships. Lesbian counsellors available. Confidentiality assured: Call 734-1574.

**Recovering Catholics Unite.** It's summer, time to disrobe and shed unwanted conditioning. Anyone interested in joining a group please call Anne at 253-5455 or Marie 255-3412. Other recovering denominations welcome.

**David Sereda and Lynn Lavner** will be performing at the Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard Street, Mon. June 19, at 8pm. David Sereda has a powerful, versatile voice and is the most expressive gay lyricist on the continent. Lynn Lavner, comedian and singer, combines camp and consciousness. Lavner performs a compelling cabaret. Tickets are \$13 - \$15 and available at Ariel Books, Little Sisters's and the Vancouver Lesbian Connection. Child-care will be provided on site. The hall is wheelchair accessible. This concert is being organized as a benefit for Sage's Restaurant. For more information, contact the VLC at 254-8458.

**VLC's Summer Dance** July 28th, 1989, at the Capri Hall, 3925 Fraser St., Vancouver starting at 8 pm. Wheelchair accessible and child-care will be provided. Tickets are \$4 - \$6 and available at the VLC, Ariel Books, Women's Bookstore.

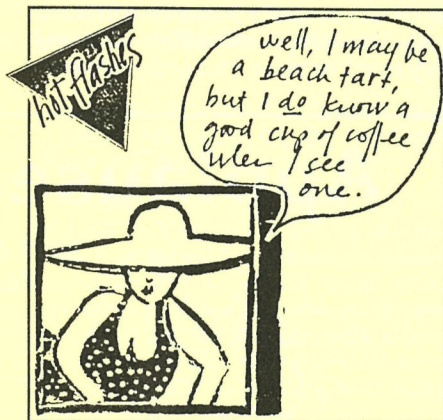
**The Vancouver Lesbian Connection,** 876 Commercial Drive is open Monday -

Friday from 11 - 4pm, Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 9:30 and the first and third Saturday of the month from 11am - 4pm. Drop by the centre for more information, or call us at 254-8458. The next **VLC Coming-Out** group will be starting in September. Call for further information.

**Lesbian Ethics:** Spend an evening at VLC with author Sarah Hoagland. Sat. July 8th 8-10pm. Sliding scale \$2-\$5, pay at the door. Proceeds to support VLC, 876 Commercial Drive.

**Attention all writers:** Like to spell in your own way? Is your form against the norm? Have you no time for punctuation? The Weird Writing Collective wants your: fiction/theory/graphics/rap/dub/poetry/prose/photo/text/cross/multi/sub/counter/cultural/views/reviews/translations for the *Fireweed* Special Innovative Writing Issue. Deadline: June 30, 1989. Send your submission with a SASE to: *Fireweed*, P.O. Box 279, Station B, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2W2.

**Hot Flashes Women's Cafe:** Friday June 23rd and Friday July 21st, 8-11pm, 106 Superior Street, Victoria, B.C., \$2.



**The 1989 Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival** takes place in Seattle, July 1-4. This multi-sport event is held annually except the years of the Gay Games. This year there are 14 events at various locations around Seattle including running, swimming, tennis and bowling. For more info contact Team Seattle, 1206 E. Pike St. #515, Seattle WA. 98122 or call (206) 322-2777.

The Names Project's **AIDS Memorial Quilt**, the international commemoration of those who have died of AIDS, will be

on display at the Vancouver Art Gallery, free of charge July 12th-16th.

**Stonewall Weekend:** A benefit for the Gay and Lesbian Centre will be held June 23-25. The events are: Fri. June 23rd, "The Prom You Never Had," a mixed dance for gays and lesbians held at the West End Community Centre. Tickets are \$4-6 sliding scale. Sat. June 24th, *The Stonewall Revue* at the Arts Club Theatre. Tix are \$15. Sunday June 25th, The **GLC Annual Awards Banquet** will be held at The Dance Studio (Main & 30th) tickets \$20. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the GLC or at the door. Special package price of \$35 for all events can also be bought now at the Centre, 1170 Bute St. Child-care can be arranged for the event. For more info call 684-6869.

**A Lesbian Interest Group** is meeting once a month at the Port Coquitlam Women's Centre. For date and time of next meeting call the Centre, 941-6311.

The fourth annual **Women's Baseball Tournament** will be held June 17 & 18 (June 24 & 25 if it rains) at Britannia School, Napier and Commercial. All teams welcome. Registration is \$20. Volunteers and umpires are needed. Come out and cheer for your favourite team. To sign up or to volunteer call Kate at 732-0786 or call the VLC at 254-8458.

**GALA**, The Gay and Lesbian Association of Simon Fraser University, has a part-time, temporary office on campus at TC 303, Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 - 4:30 pm. They are looking for new members to become involved in the organization, which holds social events and works on political activities. For more information, contact them c/o S.F.S.S., Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6.

The 14th annual **Michigan Womyn's Music Festival** will be held August 9-13th. Everyone stays on site, camping in tents and RV's. Concerts, workshops, food, childcare, healthcare, coffee-houses, dances and loads of other activities are provided in the general admission. Ticket prices are \$150-\$175 (US) for advance purchase and \$175 at the gate for the full 5 days. A limited amount of subsidies are available and

continued next page

# CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are \$5.00 for the first 75 words or portion thereof and \$1.50 for each additional 25 words. Please indicate which category you would like your ad to appear under. Classified ads should be received no later than the last day of the month preceding publication at **Diversity: PO Box 66106, Stn. F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5L4.** Please make your cheque or money order payable to **Diversity: The Lesbian Rag.** Confidential reply drawers available for \$2.00.

## □ SERVICES

**LUXURIOUS OCEANFRONT** retreat on Gabriola Island. \$350/wk. or \$50/night. Sleeps six. Bedding, utensils, full kitchen, fireplaces and more. Phone Judith (evenings) 248-5742, or write J.Quinlan, C 87, Site 248, RR 2, Parksville.

**COUNSELLING** My specializations include: coming out issues, self-esteem, stress reduction, childhood trauma, physical illness, anger, depression, and changing negative thought/behaviour patterns. I work using cognitive therapy, visualization, hypnosis, gestalt, focusing, higher self connection and other humanistic/transpersonal approaches. Sliding Fee Scale. Alice Fraser, B.A., Therapist Graduate C.T.E.T. 737-0531.

continued from previous page

womyn over 65 or under 16 who are on fixed or no income are admitted free. For more information send a SASE to W.W.T.M.C., Box 22, Walhulla, MI 49458, U.S.A., or call (616) 757-4766.

**The West Kootenay Women's Annual Festival** will be held Aug. 12 & 13. There will be workshops, music, dance and many other events. For more info contact the Nelson Women's Centre, 601 D Front St. Nelson B.C. V1L 4B6 or call 352-9916.

**Bisexual Women Wanted:** Bi-focus is a support group and social network for women and men. We are dedicated to providing emotional and social support for women and men exploring bisexual issues. If you would like to be interviewed for the group or just want to talk to someone who shares a similar sexuality, please call 737-0513.

## □ EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Women seeking employment may place ads free of charge.

## □ PRISONERS' CONTACT

Ads are free of charge.

## □ PERSONAL

**TIRED OF BARS?** Woman, early 40's, attractive, in good shape would like to meet single lesbians who like films, theatre, comedy, art, camping, animals, picnics and a warm friendship with view to possible relationship. Any race, prefer late 20 to 45. Please reply to Drawer 111.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY** Love ya—Megan

## □ HOUSING

**CHARLESSQUARE HOUSING CO-OP** Apply now! Short waiting list. 36 unit co-op at Charles and Cotton (East Van). 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units at \$475, \$575, and \$705 per month. Refundable share purchase \$1000/unit. Women and Men welcome. Send large SASE to "MEMBERSHIP" #112-1555 Charles St. Van. B.C. V5L 2T2

**SITKA WOMEN'S HOUSING CO-OP** Now accepting applications for all size suites (1-4 bedrooms). Some suites are designed for women with environmental allergies. No suites are available now but waitlists are short. For application please send SASE to 1550 Woodland Drive, Vancouver BC V5L 5A5.

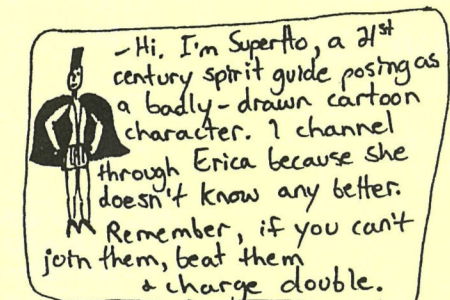
**WOMAN FROM OUT OF TOWN** wanting to sublet "a place" in Vancouver for the months of July and August. Interested? Call collect (604) 423-3868.

## □ FOR SALE

**MISSED DIVERSITY'S FIRST Birthday?** Fake it! Send NOW for special, in demand commemorative souvenirs. They're going fast. Only \$2.00. Write to **Diversity: The Lesbian Rag** PO Box 66106 Station F, Vancouver B.C. Canada V5N 5L4

**COLLECTORS' ITEM** Diversity then and now. One year's worth! Complete set, numbered limited edition, including rare first issue. Comes to you personally autographed by the current exciting collective! In brown paper envelope. Only \$12-\$20 sliding scale. Includes handling. **Diversity: The Lesbian Rag** PO Box 66106 Station F, Vancouver V5N 5L4.

## ☆ visual artists

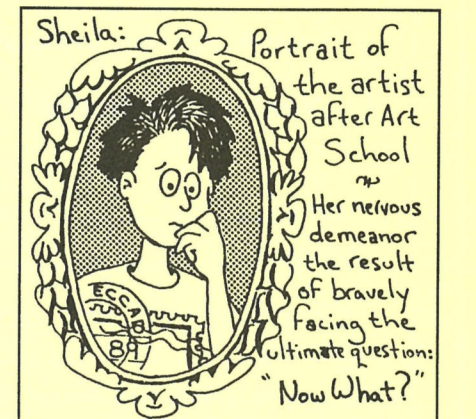


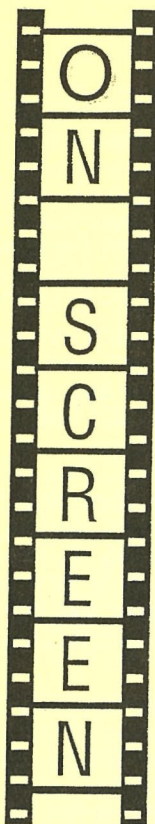
Hmmm...Bios...I hate this part. I'd rather just be taking pictures—**Daphne**

**Janet** is currently preparing for a one woman show at the Photographers' Gallery in Saskatoon this coming October.

**Etta** knows she is a real cartoonist now because she has black ink blotches on all her pants.

**Lorna Boschman** graduated this year from Emily Carr College of Art and Design as a media major(ette).





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# The First Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

## August 4th-7th

at  
Pacific Cinematheque  
1131 Howe Street

Shows at 7:30pm & 9:30pm • Midnight shows Friday and Saturday  
\$5 per show • \$25 for a festival pass  
\$.50 membership fee

For more information, call: 684-2787

Programmes will be available at: Videomatica, Octopus Books East,  
Little Sisters, Vancouver East Cinema and The Ridge.

**Yes! I want to make a donation to the computer fund**

**Yes! I want a subscription**

**Subscriptions**

For six issues, sent to you in a plain envelope, send \$12 - \$15 in Canada (1st Class); \$15 - \$18 to U.S. (1st Class); or \$18 - \$20 to Overseas.

If you cannot afford this, contact us.

**Yes! It's a renewal**

**Yes! I want a T-shirt**

White on black

Black on white

- S
- M
- L
- XL
- 5XL

- S 34"
- M 36"
- L 40"
- XL 44"
- 5XL 62-64"

**T-shirts**

100% cotton, with **Diversity** banner on front, available in sizes as above (5XL available in 50/50 poly/cotton only). Send \$14 plus \$2 for shipping to the address below or phone (604) 254-8458 to place your order.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your request to: Diversity: The Lesbian Rag, PO Box 66106, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5L4. Cheque or money order in Canadian funds payable to Diversity.