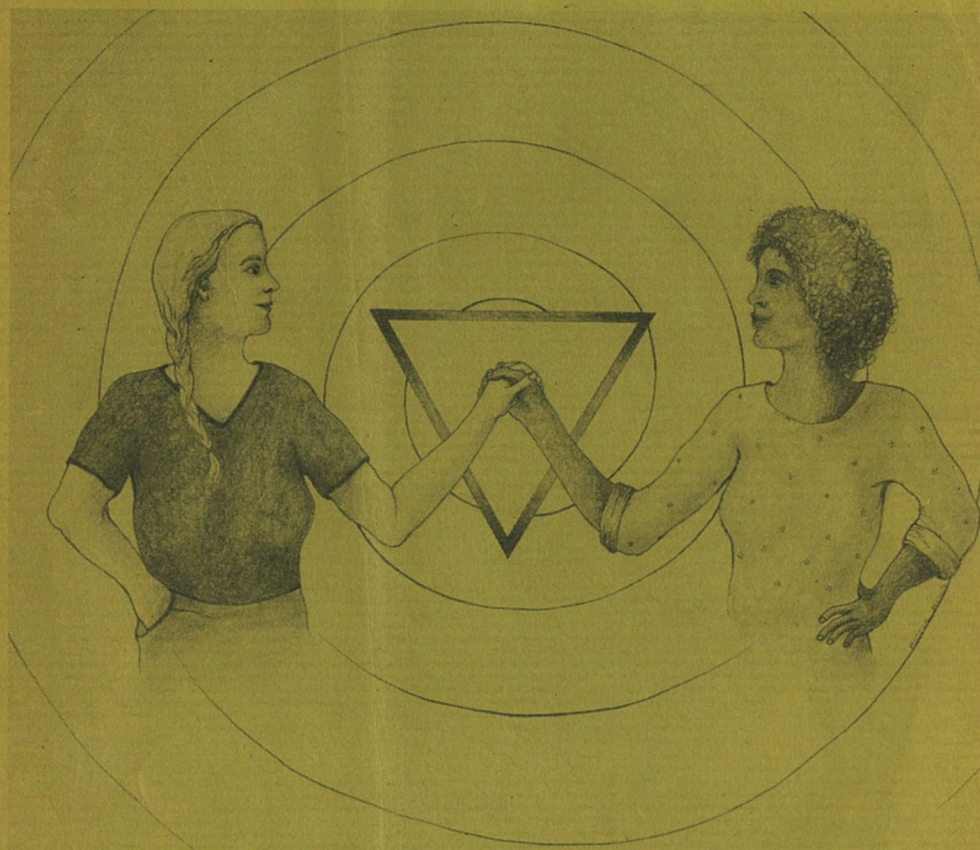


# 1981 LESBIAN CONFERENCE

## LESBIAN POWER: ORGANIZING FOR THE 80's

MAY 16, 17, 18 — LANGARA COLLEGE  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

## CONFERENCE BROCHURE





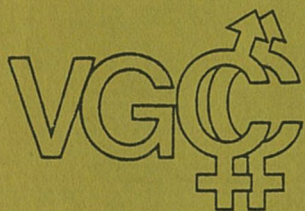
# Lesbian Information Line

734-1016



7-10 pm

thursday & sunday



**WELCOMES  
LESBIAN CONFERENCE  
VANCOUVER**

**The Vancouver Gay Community  
Center Society**

P.O. Box 2259 (temp. phone # 253-1258)

*SERVING THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITIES  
DEDICATED TO A UNITED COMMUNITY OF  
LESBIANS AND GAY MEN —*

**WORKING TOGETHER**



## TAKING POWER IN THE EIGHTIES

It's been almost a year now since the Vancouver Organizing Committee took on hosting this Conference. From the beginning it was planned as a focus for lesbians to present who and what we are, and to help build a stronger movement. In the last year it's become even more clear to us how important this Conference can be.

With an unending economic slump, where we as women bear much of the brunt, and a turn in many areas to ultra conservatism, we have a lot to discuss. We continue to face all kinds of discrimination and harassment, from the loss of our children, our jobs, isolation from our families and friends to harassment by the psychiatric and medical institutions. But thousands of us are taking that risk and refusing the straitjacket of heterosexuality.

This Conference is an opportunity for us to come out as a movement. It's a chance for lesbians from all across the country and from many different backgrounds to exchange information and skills and to take away some important organizing ideas, contacts and networks. It is also an opportunity for us to give recognition to the artists and performers among us who are developing a positive lesbian image, and to present that image to the general public. And, of course it's a time for us to meet informally and have fun!

We took on an ambitious project for a small group, and there are ways that we have worked together that we want to share. From the beginning the Conference has been planned to represent the interest of all of us, especially the least powerful. Our meetings have been open to all women, and we have distributed three national mailings to get more input. We have included a large number of workshops from these requests, several of which are entirely new to most of us. Never before have we had such a good opportunity to discuss the ef-

fects of our lesbianism on every part of our lives. We have also invited our media and the establishment media to cover this event so that we can begin to counter the myths and stereotypes about us.

### **What happens after the conference?**

Three days is a very short time, so we hope that every workshop and plenary session will present some practical suggestions for the future, for each of us to take away. We are going to publish the proceedings, including reports and resolutions from the workshops, a Plenary, photos of performances and art work, and what we have learned in organizing.

Too often in the past we have seen premature attempts to form a national organization and newsletter, without enough assurances of experienced women with time, resources and regional representation. We would like to propose that national networking continue on a more informal basis, with annual or bi-annual conferences based on links between women working on the same issues, for example, lesbian mothers and custody, lesbian health workers and lesbians in unionized and non-unionized workplaces.

Our experience has shown the value of a conference as a focus for all the myriad ways lesbian groups and individuals are organizing. We would hope that another centre, with sufficient resources and interested women could take on the next conference. From these smaller, but more practical beginnings we can begin to take our power as lesbians in the eighties!

In sisterhood,

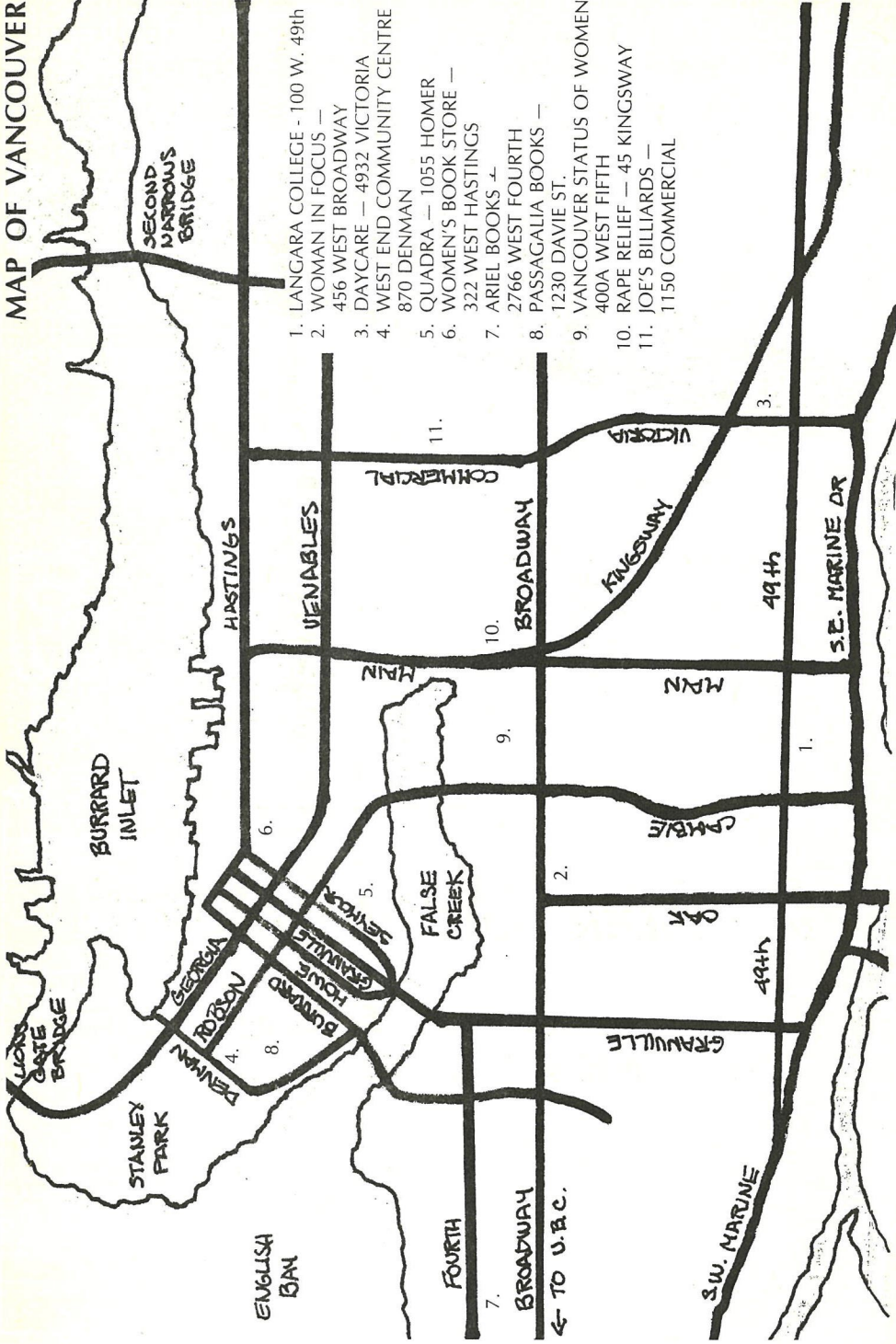
Lesbian Conference 1981 Organizing Committee

Bernie Bradshaw  
Dorothy Kidd  
Gael Koeb  
Rachael Langford  
Linda Ruedrich

Anne Russell  
Sky  
Sunshine  
Ellen Woodsworth



# MAP OF VANCOUVER





# WOMAN TO WOMAN

ARTWORK IN CELEBRATION OF LESBIANS

Women in Focus Gallery  
204 - 456 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C.  
(604) 872-2250

Opening Party with music and food  
May 18 4:00 - 10:00  
Performance  
May 29 8:00 - 10:00

May 18 - 30  
Wed. - Sun. 4:00 - 8:00  
Sat. 12:00 - 4:00

Sponsored by Woman to Woman  
Organizing Committee for the  
1981 Lesbian Conference  
Box 65563, Station F  
Vancouver, B.C.

## *Uprising Breads Bakery*

Worker Controlled & Managed  
1697 Venables St., Vancouver, 254-5635

We sell a variety of whole grain breads as well as  
pastries & sandwiches.

A collective of  
CRS Workers Co-op







# WORKSHOPS

## SATURDAY

11:00 - 1:30

**LESBIAN MOTHERS AND PARENTING** — *facilitated by the Lesbian and Feminist Mothers Political Action Group (Vancouver)*

Feelings around parenting and non-parenting. Making the decision.

**UNORGANIZED WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS** — *facilitated by women from SORWUC (Vancouver), CUPE (Saskatoon) and unionized places (Toronto)*

A workshop to discuss sexual orientation and the unions, lesbians in the trades, and where to go from here.

**LESBIAN STUDENTS** — *facilitated by students from Winnipeg and Vancouver*

How to organize on the campus to break our isolation and work with other women. What's going on in Lesbian Studies (and research).

**LESBIANS IN QUEBEC/FRANCOPHONE LESBIANS OUT OF QUEBEC** — *unfacilitated*

**WOMEN IN PRISONS** — *facilitated by Women in Prisons Group (Vancouver)*

We have many sisters inside prisons, locked away behind bars and walls, trying to survive the most unfreedom and injustice. Women Against Prisons will have a slide show and discussion about prison life — conditions inside, lesbian relations, and our connection to the anti-prison struggle.

**LESBIAN MANUAL: FROM THEORY TO ACTION** — *facilitated by authors of Lesbian Workshop Manual*

Organizing to fight lesbian oppression using a workshop on lesbianism/feminism as a catalyst. We will use this time to share our experiences facilitating workshops in B.C. and in working with women from other parts of Canada to plan a workshop and book introduction tour for the fall of this year. If you're interested in the book, in facilitating workshops, in having us come and present a workshop in your community, or in effective tactics for confronting homophobic attitudes and working together to create change, come talk with us.

**DISABLED LESBIANS** — *unfacilitated*

**ANTI-NUKE** — *facilitated by Merlin*

A discussion on the nuclear mentality. A feminist analysis of the current nuclear situation.

*B. lesbians & music*

2:30 - 5:00

**LESBIANS AND MUSIC** — *facilitated by Eileen Brown & Torie Osborne*

Chanting and song sharing and if desired a discussion about issues concerning lesbians making music.



**SELF-DEFENSE** — *facilitated by Marsha Abowitz*  
Introduction to self-defense. Wear loose clothing.

 **HOW WE CAN ORGANIZE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE RISING RIGHT: WE FOUGHT BACK IN THE PAST AND WE ARE FIGHTING BACK NOW**  
*facilitated by Frances, Helen and Sara*

Using the experience of our own lives in the larger world, we will talk about the current political and economic crisis as it affects us and our work, the problems we face in being lesbian in these times, and ways of finding individual and organizational solutions.

**LESBIANS AND WELFARE** — *facilitated by women from the Welfare Action Coalition (Vancouver)* A discussion of how to organize to extend our rights.

**MATRIARCHAL SPIRITUALITY** — *facilitated by Cherbeau*  
Discussion and exchange of ideas on the roots and the present day realities of matriarchal spirituality.

**LESBIANS AND THE MEDIA** — *facilitated by women from "The Lesbian Show", the "Coming Out Show" and "Womanvision" of Vancouver Co-operative Radio, and Gayblevision (Vancouver)*  
The experience of lesbians in our own media and the establishment media. How to promote a positive image of ourselves and our organizing.

**VISUAL ARTS** — *facilitated by Persimmon Blackridge (Vancouver "Woman to Woman Art Show")*  
Slide show of lesbian artists of past and present followed by a discussion about the relevance of Lesbianism to our work.


**POLITICS OF MADNESS** — *facilitated by Kristen Penn, Portland Frank*  
Discussion with former mental patients on the dynamics of psychiatric oppression. Experience of lesbians in institutions. Presentation and discussion.

**YOUNGER LESBIANS** — *facilitated by Younger Lesbian Association (Vancouver)*

**SUNDAY 10:30 - 12:30**

**WRITING** — *facilitated by Anne Cameron*  
Discussion of lesbian writing. If you have poetry, short stories, bring them along.

**LESBIAN MOTHERS AND CUSTODY** — *facilitated by the Lesbian Mother's Defence Fund (Toronto)*  
Discussion of their work in disseminating legal information about custody cases, and in advocacy on behalf of lesbian mothers. How to deal with custody and set up defence.

 **LESBIANS AND HEALTH CARE** — *facilitated by the Women's Health Collective*  
A workshop to discuss how we, as lesbians, can take better care (physically and emotionally) of ourselves and each other in a society whose healthcare system does not meet our needs.

# WORKSHOPS

## Saturday

**11:00 - 1:30**

Lesbian Mothers & Parenting  
Unorganized Workers and Trade Unions  
Students  
Francophones and Lesbians in Quebec  
Women and Prisons  
Lesbian Manual  
Disabled Lesbians  
Anti-Nuke

**2:30 - 5:00**

Music  
Self Defence  
Lesbians Organizing Against the Right  
Lesbians and Welfare  
Matriarchal Spirituality  
Media  
Visual Arts  
Politics of Madness  
Younger Lesbians

## Sunday

**10:30 - 12:30**

Writing  
Lesbian Mothers and Custody  
Healing Reality  
Lesbians and Health Care  
Sports  
Monogamy  
Non Monogamy  
Celibacy

**1:30 - 3:30**

Lesbians of Colour  
Lesbians Working Within the Gay Movement  
The Left  
Separatism  
Lesbians and the Women's Movement  
Support Systems in the Women's Movement  
Alcoholism  
Coming Out Stories

**3:30 - 5:30**

Rural Lesbians  
Alternative Fertilization  
Lesbian Sex  
Traditional Religion  
Incest Survivors  
Self-Healing  
Violence in Relationships  
Bisexuality  
Coming Out Stories

*Fighting the Right*



# TIMETABLE

## FRI. MAY 15

EVENING REGISTRATION — 3895 Quebec St. (Main & 20th)  
ROBIN TYLER AT THE QUADRA

## SAT. MAY 16

- 9:30 - 11:00 — KEYNOTE SPEAKER : ROBIN TYLER  
— REGIONAL REPORTS
- 11:00 - 1:30 — WORKSHOPS
- 1:30 - 2:30 — LUNCH
- 2:30 - 5:00 — WORKSHOPS
- 5:00 - 6:30 — DINNER
- 6:30 — LESBIAN PRIDE MARCH
- 9:00 — DANCE WITH MAMA QUILLA II

## SUN. MAY 17

- 9:00 - 10:30 — SPORTS
- 10:30 - 12:30 — WORKSHOPS
- 12:30 - 1:30 — LUNCH
- 1:30 - 3:30 — WORKSHOPS
- 3:30 - 5:30 — WORKSHOPS
- 5:30 - 7:30 — DINNER
- 7:30 - 11:00 — COFFEE HOUSE  
WITH CAROL STREET, DIANE  
LEVINGS, APRIL KASSIRER,  
EILLEN BROWN, CHANTALE,  
CYNDIA COLE

## MON. MAY 18

- 9:00 - 11:00 — B.C.F.W. BRUNCH
- 1:00 - 4:00 — PLENARY
- 4:00 — PRESS CONFERENCE

**HEALING REALITY** — *facilitated by Pasha and Donna*

For women newly discovering magic.

**LESBIANS AND SPORTS** — *facilitated by women from team sports, individual sports and outdoor sports (Vancouver)*

How lesbianism is used to divide women in sports and how we can overcome that; our experiences on the playfields, the tracks and in the outdoors.

**MONOGAMY** — *facilitated by Stephanie*

Discussion of definition of terms. Is it a personal or political issue. Focus on personal experience.

**NON-MONOGAMY** — *facilitated by Gillean Chase*

"Without self-knowledge we can have dreams but no art." Intimate relationships of all sorts contain the creative of being honest and of communicating our needs/fears. Contribute your ideas and let's make this more than a re-hash of what's PC and PI in the monogamy debate.

**CELIBACY** — *facilitated by Marg Verrall*

A state inflicted on us by circumstances or a positive choice?

**1:30 - 3:30**

**LESBIANS OF COLOUR** — *unfacilitated*

**LESBIANS WORKING WITHIN THE GAY MOVEMENT** — *facilitated by Clare (Alberta)*

Examination of the values, difficulties and importance of working within the gay movement.

**LESBIAN AND THE LEFT** — *facilitated by Sara Diamond*

A view of lesbian liberation from a socialist and feminist perspective. A discussion of the history of the oppression of lesbians and strategies and contribution of lesbians in the struggle against patriarchal capitalism.

**WHAT IS SEPARATISM** — *facilitated by Jesse McGregor*

Opportunity for women to come together and share ideas and question. Defining ourselves for ourselves.

**LESBIANS AND THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT** — *facilitated by Ellen Woodsworth*

A look at the historical place of lesbianism in the development of the women's movement.

**SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY** — *facilitated by Jyllian and Donna and Pashta and Jane (Victoria)*

Giving and getting support from your sisters.

**ALCOHOLISM AND ADDICTION** — *facilitated by Dottie Mercer, Mary Flynn, Karen Morgan and Martha Keaner.*

Workshop will be oriented from the point of view of the feminist organizations Women for Sobriety and Addicted Women's Self-Help Network.



**COMING OUT STORIES** — *facilitated by Michaela Johnson*

Coming out is a continual process that involves many aspects and layers of our being. In this workshop we'll use guided fantasy and group discussion to explore and share the many ways we haven't yet come out and what that means for us individually and collectively.

**3:30 - 5:30**

**RURAL LESBIANS: ENDING ISOLATION** — *facilitated by Rural Lesbian Association*

A chance for lesbians already living outside large urban areas to meet and talk together. What are our lives like? In small towns? On farms? Up north? What have we done to make contact with other lesbians? How can we support each other?

**ALTERNATIVE FERTILIZATION: SO YOU WANT TO HAVE A BABY** — *facilitated by Judy Ritter (Women's Health Collective)*

In this informal discussion, you'll have a chance to express your doubts and fears as well as have your questions and answers about fertility awareness and choices for pregnancy.

 **SEXUALITY WORKSHOP** — *facilitated by Lorna Boschman & Johanna Clark*

This workshop is explicitly about lesbian sex and erotica: what feels good to you, what you like to do, the physiology of sex and sexual fantasies and fears. We want to create a safe environment to discuss this covert topic. To hear the sexual experiences of other lesbians is to better understand our own.

**LESBIANS IN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS** — *facilitated by Ann McMurtry*  
Should sexual liberation imply spiritual repression?

**INCEST SURVIVORS** — *facilitated by Sky & Lori*

We incest survivors must share our experiences name our experiences/lives with each other to see that we are not to blame and we are not alone. Together we can make things better for our younger sisters and the world.

**SELF-HEALING** — *facilitated by women experienced in healing*

In the first hour a discussion of the philosophy of natural healing; tarot, shiatsu, massage, bach-flowers, reiki, mental healing, rebirthing and herbs. The second hour will divide into smaller groups to pursue our interests.

**VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS** — *facilitated by Susan*

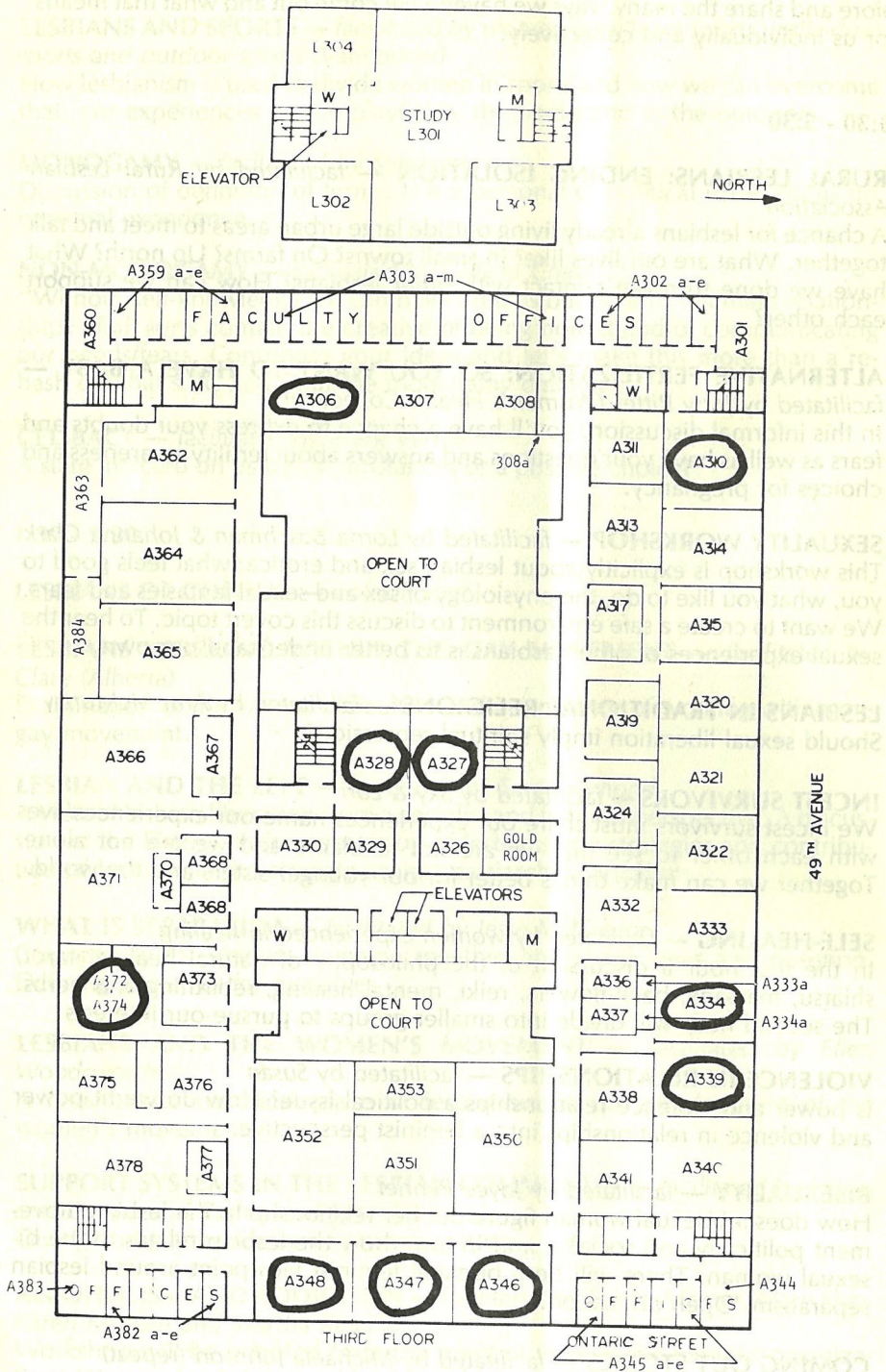
Is power and violence relationships a political issue? How do we fit power and violence in relationships into a feminist perspective.

**BISEXUALITY** — *facilitated by Joyce Penner*

How does a bisexual woman figure out her relationship to the lesbian movement politically and socially, and in turn, how the lesbian relates to the bisexual woman. There will be a bisexual feminist viewpoint around lesbian separatism. Open discussion.

**COMING OUT STORIES** — *facilitated by Michaela Johnson (repeat)*

# LANGARA MAP





## **FOOD**

Saturday and Sunday morning — coffee and tea available free

Lunch: Sandwich and salad, coffee & tea

\$3.00 per meal, available Saturday and Sunday

Tickets at the registration desk.

Vending machines are on the campus.

## **CHILDCARE**

**SOUTH VANCOUVER FAMILY PLACE**

4932 VICTORIA

There are two kid care groups 0-6 years and 6 and up. Two of the coordinators working with the children are qualified pre-school teachers. We want to see quality, interesting and stimulating daycare for children. We are sorry that there is a lack of workshops but we had difficulty getting information and confirmation.

## **CONFERENCE EVALUATION**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th

BRITANNIA COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOM L2, L3, 1661 NAPIER, 253-4391

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE

P.O. BOX 65563, STATION F  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
254-1016

## **WOMAN TO WOMAN ART SHOW**

WOMEN IN FOCUS GALLERY  
456 WEST BROADWAY  
VANCOUVER 872-2250

WOMAN TO WOMAN, the first ever Canadian lesbian art show, opens in Vancouver on May 18th. This show is dedicated to the celebration of lesbian lives. It is sponsored by the Woman to Woman Art Collective and is exhibited in conjunction with the 1981 Lesbian Conference to be held in Vancouver at Langara College on May 16, 17 and 18th.

The official opening of the art exhibit will be held on Monday, May 18th from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. It will run until May 30th. Exhibit hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Friday May 29th at 8 p.m. there will be a special evening of performances featuring dance, video, poetry and a stand-up comic. Of particular interest will be a new film on lesbian lives.

The show represents the work of over thirty women artists. The mediums range from textiles, prints, oil paintings, Xerox, wood and clay sculpture, and photography.

**COFFEE HOUSE PERFORMERS**  
LANGARA COLLEGE CAFETERIA  
7:00 SUNDAY, MAY 17

—ANNE CAMERON  
—DIANE LEVINGS  
—BRENDA McINTYRE  
—CAROL STREET  
—CYNDIA COLE  
—EILEEN BROWN AND CHANTALE  
—CHERBEAU  
—APRIL KASSIRER

**PRESS CONFERENCE** — Lesbians are seldom represented in the establishment media in a positive light. We are holding a press conference to begin to change this — to speak about our situations and concerns and to tell the media how we are organizing a strong lesbian movement. At the press conference we will also announce the resolutions and plans from the workshops and the final plenary.

---

**VANCOUVER LESBIAN AND FEMINIST  
RESOURCE LIST**

The Lesbian Show  
337 Carrall Street  
Vancouver, B.C.

R.O.L.S.  
1730 Stephens Street  
Vancouver, B.C.

L.A.F.M.P.A.G.  
c/o Ariel Books  
2677 West 4th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

Young Lesbian Association  
1501 West Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C.

Lesbian Drop-In  
322 West Hastings St.  
Vancouver, B.C.

Lesbian Information Line  
1501 West Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C.

F.E.L.L.F.  
644 East 13th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

Richmond Women's Centre  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, B.C.

Quadra (bar)  
1055 Homer Street  
Vancouver, B.C.

Artemis Women's Centre  
c/o Raycam Centre  
920 East Hastings St.  
Vancouver, B.C.

U.B.C. Women's Committee  
S.U.B. Room 130, U.B.C.  
Vancouver, B.C.

S.F.U. Women's Centre  
c/o S.F.U. Student Society  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C.

KINESIS  
(feminist newspaper)  
400A West 5th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

Women In Focus  
456 West Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C.

Radical Reviewer  
(lesbian journal)  
c/o Ariel Books  
2766 West 4th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

B.C.F.W. Standing Committee  
45 Kingsway  
Vancouver, B.C.

Press Gang Publishers  
603 Powell Street  
Vancouver, B.C.

MAKARA Publishing & Design  
1011 Commercial Drive  
Vancouver, B.C.

Video Inn Women's Cte.  
261 Powell Street  
Vancouver, B.C.

Rape Relief  
45 Kingsway  
Vancouver, B.C.

W.A.V.A.W.  
45 Kingsway  
Vancouver, B.C.

C.C.C.A.  
115 North Kootenay St.  
Vancouver, B.C.

Women's Bookstore  
322 West Hastings  
Vancouver, B.C.

Ariel Books  
2766 West 4th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

SORWUC  
814 - 402 West Pender St.  
Vancouver, B.C.

Vancouver Status of Women  
400A West 5th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

Y.W.C.A.



1981 LESBIAN CONFERENCE

# LESBIAN PRIDE MARCH

LESBIAN POWER:  
ORGANIZING FOR THE 80'S

**SATURDAY, MAY 17**  
**6:30 PM**

Assemble at Robson Square  
March to Lesbian Conference Dance  
Rally with Speakers and Song

*For information & childcare  
call 734-1016 Wed/Thurs/Fri nights*

# PRESS GANG Benefit Dance



## MAMA QUILLA II

(a fabulous women's band from Toronto)

SAT. May 23 — 8:30 pm — UBC SUB Ballroom

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY: \$4.00, \$5.00

Available at: Press Gang, Ariel, Women's Bookstore &  
Octopus Books

*Childcare provided, phone 253-1224*

**MAKARA**  
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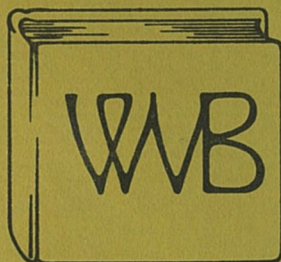
**1230 davie street**

**Ariel Books**



2766 w. 4th avenue  
vancouver b.c.  
v6k1r1 canada  
(604) 733-3511

a women's bookstore



**VANCOUVER WOMEN'S  
BOOKSTORE**

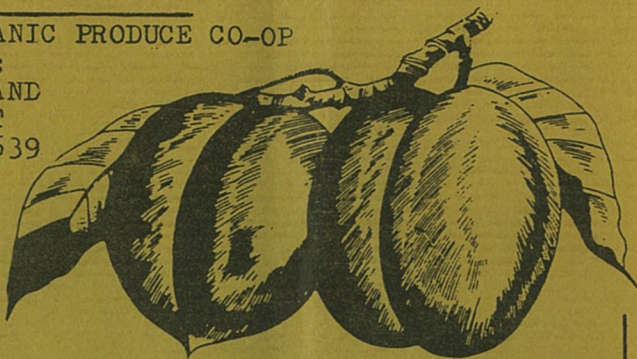
322 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1K6  
684-0523

Hours: Monday - Saturday 12:00-5:30 pm  
Thursday 12:00-9:00 pm



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PHONE: 685-6639

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AN ALL WOMAN COLLECTIVE

WORKER OWNED & OPERATED



## *The Queenshead in Victoria*

*Carlton Terrace  
(Esquimalt Road and Head Street)*

*Monday - Saturday  
from 9 p.m.*

## PRESS GANG PUBLISHERS

603 Powell St. Vancouver  
FEMINIST PRINTERS & PUBLISHERS

### OUR LATEST TITLES:

DAUGHTERS OF COPPERWOMAN  
Myths, legends, & tales of  
the native Women's Society  
of Vancouver Island, by  
CAM HUBERT

COMMON GROUND  
Stories by Women

Twelve new stories  
by Canadian women.

*Greetings & Solidarity*