



June 1979

an Organization of Toronto
342 Jarvis St. Toronto, Ont.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

960-3249

Lesbian Newsmagazine

One of the most exciting and concrete ideas which came out of the May 19-21 Bi-National Lesbian Conference is a first time ever sea-to-sea all-lesbian newsmagazine. It is exciting because there are endless possibilities for how it can be used for information and idea exchange and it is concrete because "we're going to do it"!

From a small core of women, already involved with publications in the southern Ontario area, the scope and reality quickly grew from committed and enthusiastic women from Halifax to Victoria, and as many centres as possible in between. These women, and more we expect, have agreed to be come contact people for their various areas. This means that not only will they write and edit so it will truly be a wide spread collective product, but will seek out women to submit articles and report events from everywhere.

Editorial content will focus on the political, and controversial copy is encouraged. Although it is not a cultural magazine, poetry is in order if it has political (in a widespread definition of the word) content, that is, lesbian/feminist politics as opposed to partisan. The magazine, to be called *Lesbian/Lesbienne*, will take and print articles in English or French, with translations to be submitted by the writer if desired. However, most women who discussed this felt that many of us can read in either language or know of someone who can translate for them. Thus translations are not really necessary.

Money for the first issue (writing deadline is June 15) was gathered from the two plenaries on Monday (over \$200) so that the first issue is covered. The newsmagazine will be 16 pages with facilities available at Dumont Press and Graphix in Kitchener,

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bigger and better newsletter

What do you think? Is Toronto ready for a bigger and better newsletter? It has been one long progression, taking one step at a time, from the founding of LOOT when our only source of information was one gestetnered sheet to its present form. It is now a totally lesbian product from writing, typesetting, layout, printing and mailing. This alone speaks to the emergence of a supportive lesbian community in the city.

A bigger newsletter means added expenses but, equally important, added space for content: copy on reviews, political debates, etc.; graphics; poetry; and any way in which we, as lesbians, need to express ourselves. With the new energy entering LOOT, sparked by the lesbian conference, we expect there will be enough enthusiasm to share our vision. Only lesbians are in a position to speak for lesbians and we have a lot of talking to do.

Come to the meeting at the house on Sunday, June 10, at 2 o'clock p.m. to evaluate past newsletters and share its future with others. Bring your ideas — more pages, different format, more artwork, everything for a bigger and better newsletter.

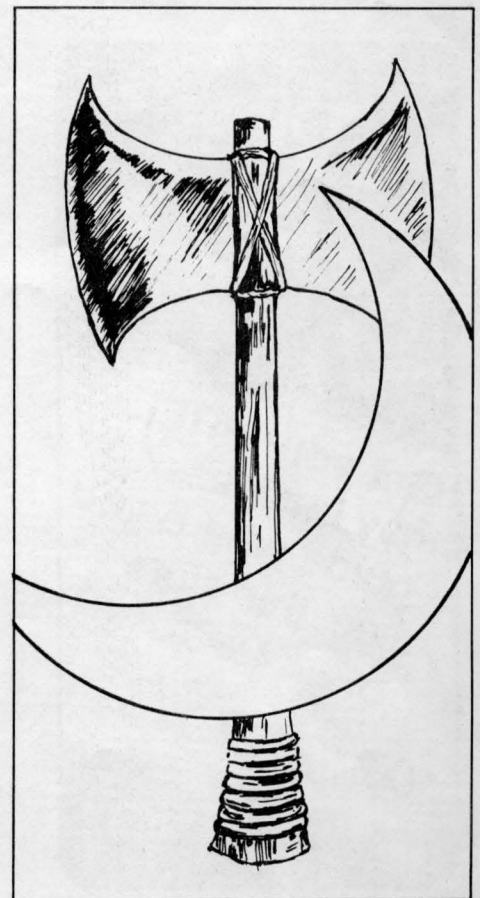
—from the newsletter collective

LOOT CHANGES

"I want to create a place that belongs to all lesbians where we can affirm our strength as *lesbians*." This was one woman's dream for the lesbian centre in Toronto, expressed at the open meeting held several days after the lesbian conference.

When LOOT started, everyone focussed their energy on keeping the house going. But that died down and in the absence of any regenerating influence, there had been a slow deterioration. There was a lack of definition or direction with a structure to hold it together.

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

TORONTO 922-8744

WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

85 Harbord Street
 Toronto, Ontario

On Lies, Secrets and Silence — Selected Prose, 1966 - 1978.

Adrienne Rich \$17.05

A Woman's Guide to Therapy

S.S. Friedman \$5.35

Shower of Summer Days

May Sarton \$4.95

I Knew A Phoenix

May Sarton (autobiog.) \$3.55



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Lesbian Conference

This first national lesbian conference to take place in 2-1/2 years came to a successful end on May 21st with over 400 women in attendance. The Organizing Committee is taking a holiday to recuperate but watch your mail in the next couple of months for your postconference mailing. There is a very good possibility that next year's conference may be held in one of the prairie conferences.

For those who did not attend the last plenary on Monday, the conference summed up its concrete achievements: our magazine, Lesbian/Lesbienne; a Lesbian Bill of Rights; 12 page feature in the October issue of The Body Politic; the Québécoises used the event to organize a meeting in Montreal; and LOOT itself is still feeling the effects of the energy created by the conference.

Announcements

WE ARE starting a self-help group for wimmin who are interested in open and honest interactions. Interested wimmin call Sharon 483-9449 or leave a message at LOOT.

RAP SESSIONS are being held at 8:00 the last Tuesday of every month led by one or more of the Counselling Collective. Purpose: to introduce women to the house at 342 and each other, encouraging more women to come to LOOT.

AMETHYST is a group of women committed to living alcohol-free lifestyles. We meet every Tuesday evening at 7:30 to talk about ourselves and alcohol-related problems. All welcome.

MAGAZINE

Ontario for women to send photographs and art work, or even ideas for a graphic that might go with your article which one of the Dumont women could follow through for you. Cost and labour are inexpensive or free at Dumont and hence Kitchener seemed to be the place to start. It was suggested that different centres might take over this function at future points.

The first issue will be free and sent to all who gave a mailing address at the conference and others who were on the list of Dyke Daily, the newsletter originating from the Ontario Conference last spring. After that, we will establish a subscription cost, see if centres can help

COMING OUT GROUPS. Are you just coming out in the lesbian community and wondering where you fit into the social life, whether to tell your non-gay friends, or what to do at work? Would you like a chance to talk about these questions with other women in the same position? If so, the LOOT Counselling Collective is organizing groups to discuss coming out. Call the LOOT phoneline 960-3249 Tuesday, Thursday or Friday night, 7-11 p.m.

Set Aside July 7th. Mid-summer dance with live entertainment. Details to be announced later.

raise more money and think about advertising. Women left the conference with commitments for articles for the first issue, but we need many writers, photographers, graphic artists and others to help keep up with our present aim of publishing four times a year.

Contact people will be listed in the first issue, but for now Toronto area women can contact me, Karen, 363-4549, or send something to me care of LOOT, 342 Jarvis St., Toronto M4Y 2G6. We need people to go to Kitchener for meetings and layout times too. Or you can mail directly, care of L.O.O.K., Box 2531, Station B, Kitchener, Ont. N2H 6M3.

Yes, we're going to do it, but we need your help!

—by Karen Henderson

FLY BY NIGHT LOUNGE

A BAR CATERING TO WOMEN

Available now: good food at reasonable prices. Noon to closing.

Featuring: pool table, munchies dance floor, big TV screen, backgammon.

Open: Mon to Sat: noon to 1 a.m.

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

Summer Coffeehouses Return

There will be coffeehouses at 342 Jarvis this June, July and August!

Come and enjoy Women's Music, Women Entertainers, New Friends and Good Conversation.

The June Coffeehouse will be on **Thursday, June 21**. The July coffeehouse will be on **Saturday, July 14**. The August date will be decided later. Starting time — 8:00 p.m.

Anyone who is interested in helping produce these coffeehouses is welcome to come to a meeting on June 14, 7:30 pm at 342.

We expect there will be a small admission price to help pay expenses. We plan to serve interesting (non-alcoholic) beverages and goodies.

See you there!

IT'S A . . . THEATRE!

Kate, Keltie, Lyne, Marcia, Sharon, Sheila, Shelagh and Shelagh (yes, it's true) announce the birth of their daughter Atthis Theatre.

We'd like to share with you our first process performance — a staged reading of Jane Chamber's **A Late Snow**, on Friday and Saturday **June 8, 9**, at 9 p.m. at St. Paul's (front), 121 Avenue Rd.,

We have chosen **A Late Snow** for our "maiden performance" because it is the **only** all woman script written by a woman with positive lesbian images that has been published and is available in Canada.

It is a **process** performance because it is our aim to develop theatre skills and awareness in order to create our own woman-identified theatre. There will be two parts to the evening — performance of the play and discussion/workshop afterwards of what was and was not dealt with in the play. This form will hold for future productions as well.

We invite **all** women, especially those interested in theatre or writing, to partake in the second part to give us feedback or, hopefully, to join us in developing viable theatre by, from, about and for all of us. Tell us what you want to see; use us as a writing tool.

There is no admission charge, but donations are welcomed as rehearsal space, royalties, scenery, lighting etc. are costing roughly \$600.00.

THERE IS AN APPEAL for women who have construction and/or maintenance skills to call us at LOOT because we're fixing the house and would like to use this opportunity to share skills with as many women as possible. Call the answering service: **960-3249**. We'd like to start building our community, literally, now! Also tools are needed, donation or loan, plus information.

Social announcements

Feature Length movies the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the 342 drop-ins, except when it falls on a long weekend. Featuring women such as Kate Hepburn and Ingrid Bergman. Title of the movie should be available through the phone-line one week ahead.

ANYONE interested in organizing lesbian bike tours in the city and country in July or August, contact Denise 922-9501. Under the auspices of the new "production affinity group." First trip July 22nd at 11 a.m. to the Beaches and back. Meet at 342 Jarvis with your bike and a lunch.

WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL for fun? Any-woman and everywoman interested in playing ball for fun should come out to Lord Dufferin School, off Parliament St., between Gerrard and Dundas any Thursday night at 6:45 pm. If you've never played before, now is a good time to learn. For more information, call Darlene or Libby at 923-3155.

All those lesbians involved with informal baseball teams, please send in your schedules to Rosalyn Rogers at the LOOT office.

3rd ANNUAL LOOT PICNIC

This fun event will take place on the island in the Hanlon's Point area. Bring all the necessary ingredients to make another superb picnic! Don't forget the sun-tan lotion. (Is Bernice offering to apply it for all of us? . . .Ed.) **June 17th.**, 12 noon until we drift away. Remember last year's picnic — let's enjoy again. Who you don't run into at a LOOT picnic!

The graphic on the first page is a double-edged axe which is the labyris — the symbol of Amazons. The axe and half-moon together comprise the power and spirituality of lesbians.



Butchford and Bulldyke are lesbians who will commyt on womyn interest stuff.

Bulldyke here . . . Hi everywomyn! I just want to write a few words about how exciting it is to be working with old butchie-coo on thys report. I remember the first time we met . . . I got coerced into carrying her out of a public washroom where she had broken a beer bottle and wasn't wearing any shoes. I won't womynition how drunk she was because it was a WAVAW party and everywomyn has to let go sometime . . . (besides, we gotta work together). Now for our first report . . . Here's Butchford.

Well Bulldyke, there sure have been some exciting things happening in the old town this month — like the Bi-Lesbian National Conference! What an excellent opportunity to share ideas and spread news, info, mono and ringworm from coast to coast!

The workshops were held in Hart House where four years ago womyn were not allowed to enter the hallowed halls. A het. wedding coincided with the start of the workshops. As the beautiful bride passed an audience of 20 smiling dykes on the lawn, she thanked them for coming. An interesting dyke-caught-me, if you know what I mean.

The dance and the banquet were held in the War Amputees building, which was originally erected as a monument to soldiers whose memberships were cut off in the war.

(Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the seven armed policeboys who came to check out the womyn and the wine).

Speaking of disarmament, the "Dykes against Nukes" had a civil disobedience training workshop on Saturday, May 26. I thought it was going to be about abolishing the nuclear family,

but lo! nuclear reactionaries are getting out of control on many levels! Remember: "Heating water for power with nuclear energy is like cutting butter with a chainsaw". It's shocking mutation of "Power to the People".

Gosh, Butchford, we're running out of room in this column, and we haven't womynitioned the exciting and controversial new womyn's newspaper BROADSIDE yet. Perhaps we should let the paper speak for itself — as it does, most forthrightly. Suffice it to say that it's well worth a buck (subscription rates are super-cheap!).

Also, everywomyn is still enjoying the opening of the very successful 'Fly By Night' bar (which the Toronto Stun newspaper scooped). Come and enjoy!

That wraps up just a few of the highlights of the last month. Stay tuned for more reports from the Dykenamic Duo!

Gay Resort Extradordinaire

Summer is rapidly approaching and you may be getting restless, planning a vacation or long weekends away from home. Perhaps you'd like a different, relaxing atmosphere away from the big cities, with an enjoyable nightlife where one can be openly gay, with or without a lover.

Consider Provincetown, an old fishing and whaling town on the tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, over 250 years old, full of quaint New England clapboard houses, and surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic Ocean. Although still an artists' colony, it is now also a gay resort especially for nearer cities as Boston or New York. Walking around Provincetown to see the sights hand in hand with a special friend does not elicit the usual verbal abuse. It is casual and friendly where friendships can move from the bars to the beaches.

Provincetown can be reached by plane, bus or car, as well as the fun-filled ferry trip from Boston Harbour.

Where does one stay? Largely in guesthouses with rooms or apartments, usually with shared

bathrooms. Many provide breakfast and are clean, neat and reasonably priced. Many are gay-owned and thus can provide input on where to go. There are two campgrounds, but reservations are necessary as space is limited.

Some suggestions on what to do: sailing, swimming, fishing, bicycling, horse-back riding and more. This town sports two spectacular beaches, Race Point, near the tip of the Cape and Herring Cove, and entirely gay, south of the changing rooms. Paths laid out for bikers and walkers meander through the dunes which are nearly unspoiled and bathers sun topless etc. . . , not typical of the straight community.

There are quite a few good restaurants which are often cheaper than dining out in Toronto, especially the fresh seafood ones. I recommend the Clambake, Café Edwige, Front Street Restaurant, Poor Richard's Buttery and for late night coffees, Café Blasé, outdoors with umbrella-shaded tables and colored paper lanterns waving gently in the ocean breeze.

There are plenty of giftshops where one can purchase souvenirs of any sort. Visit ISIS Books, owned by two lesbians (one from Canada), which offers an excellent selection of gay and feminist literature. And for those interested in "unusual feminist gifts and beautiful hand-crafts by women", there is Womencrafts, operated by two lesbian seperatists.

For live entertainment there is the Pilgrim House, Post Office Cabaret and the Back Room Bar, the latter a place where Craig Russell frequently performs along with other up-and-coming Big City talents. Three movie theatres show art and foreign film all summer.

As for the bar scene, there are several good ones, casual and friendlier than most in Toronto. But don't go expecting to find the love of your life, just go to have fun and meet people. During the season they're open from noon to 1 a.m. and often serve food. The Pied Piper is the most established women's bar, with live and recorded music, dancing, and a refreshing sun-

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Gay Resort

deck. The mixed gay Back Room Bar has a wild crowd with dancing, an outdoor patio around a pool, as well as the cabaret acts. The Boat Slip boasts an outdoor pool, lots of sundecks stretching out to a large, cruisy beach, and tea dances from about 3 pm. to the latest music from New York.

Using Provincetown as a base one can explore all the scenery of Cape Cod. (an experience which one should try once, at least.) Some cautionary info. about travel: book well in advance; don't take anything gay, feminist or remotely political across the border since U.S. Customs and Immigration can legally bar an "avowed homosexual" keeping one's name on file at all crossings; since the legal drinking age in Mass. is 20, photo I.D., such as the LCBO age of majority card, can avoid problems.

Ed. note: A list of accommodation, bars, book and gift shops, counselling and info. organizations, can be obtained from the back of Gay Community News from Boston or Gaia's Guide available from your women's bookstore.

by Ilona Laney

Dykes Against Nukes

On May 26, a civil disobedience workshop was held at LOOT for those women interested in participating in the Darlington nuclear demonstration. The next Saturday, June 2nd, six women were arrested (along with 60 others) for attempting to occupy the nuclear plant site. All 14 women, including the 8 supporters who waited five hours in the police station, found it to be an education in both direct action and sisterhood.

On June 14th, Thursday, at 7:30, the group is calling a meeting at LOOT to discuss further strategy in relation to building support for the movement against nuclear energy from a woman's viewpoint and, specifically, to plan support for those arrested when they appear at Bowmanville court on June 26th.

General Meeting

The General Meeting on May 27th was mainly a follow-up to a discussion which took place at 342 on May 24th, concerning the reorganization of LOOT. For the thirty-two women present on Sunday, this was of great concern, as many had been unable to take part in Thursday's session and wanted to know what had transpired. The outcome of Thursday's meeting became the base of our discussion.

It was agreed that LOOT should be a political as well as a social institution and that, instead of having a Task Force, various committees would be formed which would bring ideas to the General Meeting where the decisions would be made. The role of the General Meeting was seen as very important in combatting the isolation of women in committees and in bringing together a larger membership to participate in decision-making policy.

LOOT

The Conference Committee realized that the organizing activity around the Conference, and the Conference itself, would provide the impetus for this direction. So, not only are the faces friendly but there are a lot more new faces and they are bringing newer and better ideas into the house at 342 Jarvis Street. The most exciting idea expressed at the meetings was to keep regular hours at the house — all day, every day — so that the house can be a *community centre* for all lesbians in a really practical way. The entire house will be repainted this summer; the backyard will become more than an easy exit to Carlton Street with summer barbecues being planned; and more casual social events will be taking place inside the house.

It is refreshing to see women taking the house seriously but, more important, we are asking ourselves what we personally

Women broke up into various groups to discuss the committee areas they were interested in and came up with the following: **Main Issues**, which would deal with the political, organizational issues; **Physical Space Management**, concerned with house maintenance and making the house more of a centre of information in the community; **Production**, which will be organizing social events and injecting more culture into our community; and a **Finance Committee**.

A student came to the meeting who is trying to set up a Liaison Committee for Gay students with the Board of Education. The committee would make recommendations and would work in a similar manner as a group dealing with ethnic harrasment.

THERE WILL BE a pre-general meeting discussion for continuing ideas for the reorganization of LOOT on June 24 at 2 pm at 342 Jarvis.

want from the house and what we are prepared to do. The more good energy and rewarding activities that take place through LOOT, the more it will have a ripple effect on the general lesbian community. When everyone on the LOOT mailing list (and those who are not yet there) realize that LOOT is not a closed group, that it is (and always was) meant to be a community house for use by lesbians in Toronto, people will begin to change their preconceived ideas of LOOT. It is neither political nor social; it is both. Even "political" lesbians need a social life; everybody likes a picnic. This is the house where all lesbians can come together to exchange ideas and share skills.

All meetings and all committees listed elsewhere in the newsletter are open. If you are lesbian artists, lesbian writers, and more, the house is here for you to use. Or if you like, just turn up at the baseball games being organized.

Classifieds

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Precision style haircuts at reasonable rates by Erving. Call 4634322.

Women Van available for moving, etc. at good rates. Call Karen at 961-1768, a 24-hour answering service.

THE DEADLINE for the July Newsletter is June 24. To submit a classified ad (please enclose \$2.) announcements or articles, call Karen at 363-4549 or leave it at the LOOT office.

The Newsletter Collective:
Val Edwards, Karen Henderson, Pat Leslie, Maureen.

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 *Big Newsletter Mtg. 2 pm	11	12 *Drop-in 8 pm	13	14 *Coffee House Mtg: 7:30 pm	15 *Drop-in 8 pm	16
17 LOOT PIC-NIC Hanlon's Point NOON	18	19 * Drop-in 8 pm	20	21 Counselling Collec. * 8 pm Coffeehouse	22 *Drop-in 8 pm movie	23
24 Discussion on LOOT: 2 pm General Mtg: * 4 pm	25	26 *Rap session: 7:30 pm Drop-in 8 pm	27	28	29 *Drop-in 8 pm	30
1	2	3 *Drop-in 8 pm	4	5	6 *Drop-in 8 pm	7
8	9	10 *Drop-in 8 pm	11	12	13 *Drop-in 8 pm movie	14
15	16	17 * Drop-in 8 pm	18	19 *Counselling Collective 8 pm	20	21

*Events occurring at 342 Jarvis St.

Counselling Collective is now operating a phone-line on Thursday nights.