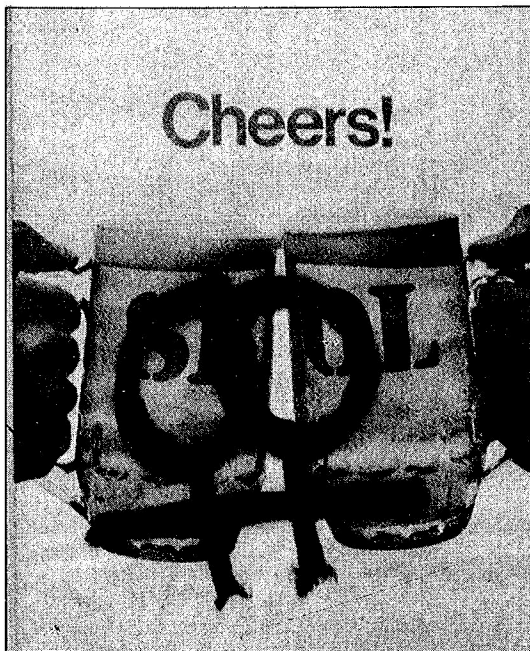
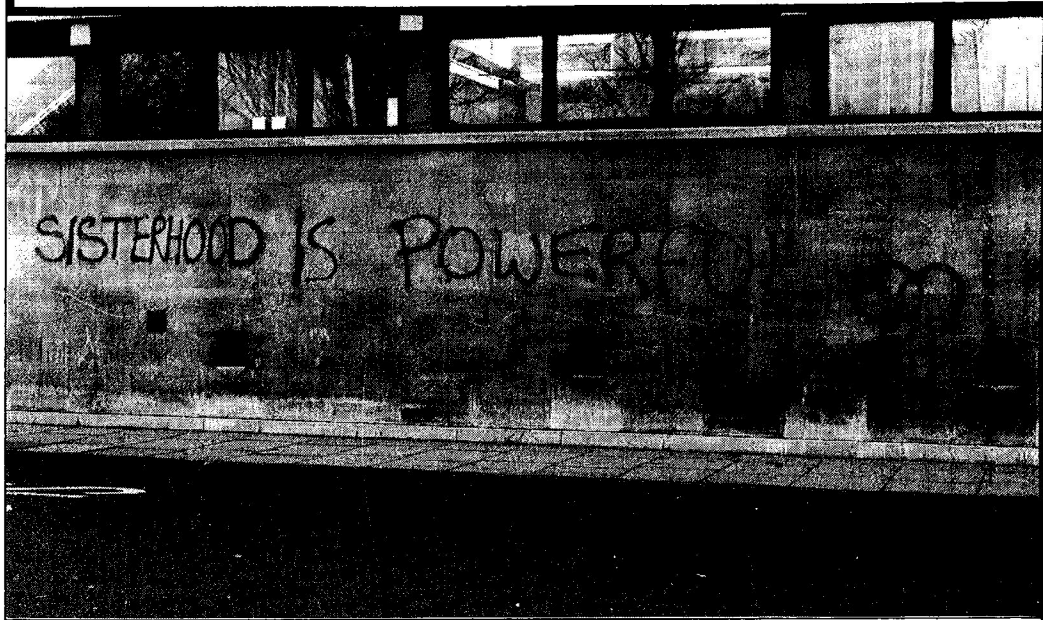
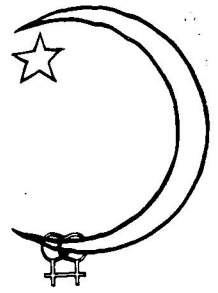


WOMONSPACE

The voice of Womonspace to the lesbian community of Edmonton



Photographs taken

from the book

"SPRAY IT LOUD"

by Jill Posener (1982).

NEWS

Aug. 84
Vol. 2
No. 8

Editorial ~

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If we had an editor, we would have had an editorial in this space. Please let us know if you are interested in writing a guest editorial. Read on; maybe we'll convince you to be our new editor!



(Please note that an official Newsletter Policy is now being prepared. The editor's responsibilities will be more clearly outlined in the policy, and so will the entire focus of WOMONSPACE NEWS.)

HELP! WE NEED AN EDITOR!

As you can see, we are in desperate need of an editor! The job basically entails ensuring that WOMONSPACE NEWS is published and distributed every month. In more detail, the editor:

- * prepares an editorial
- * picks up all mail addressed to WOMONSPACE NEWS
- * covers the monthly general business meetings to keep informed of what is happening
- * follows up to get full details of all Womonspace events
- * ensures that all submissions are given to the typist
- * ensures that all material, photographs, graphics, and the cover design are given to the lay-out and paste-up technician
- * distributes the newsletter after it is printed

At this point, she will rest for about a week before she begins work on the next month's issue. Needless to say, she does not do this by herself. She works with the newsletter committee (a marvelous group of hard-working, bright and extremely talented good-looking womyn) and meets with them at least once a month to see that all the necessary work is completed on schedule.

If anyone is interested in assuming the position of editor, or would like to work on the committee, they can contact Lindy at 469-2143, Jean at 424-4635, or any Womonspace board member, as quickly as possible. Experience is not necessary; we provide on the job training! It is also not required that you be a member of Womonspace to contribute to the newsletter.

The Newsletter Committee

Dear Womospace:

I write for two reasons. The first is to thank the organizers of Gala. The events provided a fine balance of the things we all need: affirmation, celebration, and provocation.

The second is to comment on Chris Bearchell's position in the panel "Gay Perspectives on Pornography." Chris was neatly rebutted by Coreen Douglas and Mair Smith (the other panelists). Each exposed aspects of the issues of pornography and prostitution that Chris seems to ignore, like the fact that organized crime controls the production and distribution of pornography and that the sale of pornographic material earns in the billions of dollars each year, or that pornography is produced almost exclusively by men for men using women. Mair's definition of pornography seemed especially useful. As I recall, she said pornography uses images of unequal power to provide sexual arousal. As Coreen pointed out, those images reflect the real power imbalance between men and women. As you see, Chris's pro-pornography position met substantial criticism.

However, some of the underlying assumptions and assertions in Chris's presentation do, I think, need more examination. I object most strenuously to Chris's view that "sex industry workers" (i.e. prostitutes and/or those who appear in pornographic photos or flics) are simply providing a service, a necessary personal service, like workers in health care. This view is wrong: not because the working conditions are different, and not because society sees the one as respectable and the other as shameful, but because this view supports the tired old lie that men must have a sex outlet and that women

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are on earth to provide it. That our culture maintains a sub-group of individual women for this purpose ("throwaway women", Kathleen Barry calls them) suggests that Chris's view is shared by the established power structure she pretends to challenge. Will legalization change that assumption? Hardly.*

As well, many women in the audience objected to Chris's contention that "sex industry workers" chose that life, freely and thoughtfully. The logic (why would anyone choose a despised, violent life?) and the evidence (the majority of prostitutes were sexually abused as children) work against the image of free choice that Chris constructed.

Few of us reacted to the continual imputation that to be anti-pornography is to be "squeamish", that only prudes feel that an alliance of sex and love (or affection, respect, mutual pleasure, comfort) is important and that the moral majority and feminist anti-pornography types share a fear and loathing of sex. It is far more accurate to say that the moral majority fundamentalist and the pornographer have a common value and a common goal. Both believe that women must conform to men's wishes and needs; both have a horror of independent women.

Chris has missed the point: independent women have a pride and pleasure in their bodies that excludes any exploitation and any external control.

*See K. Barry, Female Sex Slavery, 1979, pp 124-137. "The State as Pimp" for information on and discussion of legalized or tolerated prostitution.

Jeanne Peneault

Dear Madam President:

I am writing to completely support Mary Hughes in her effort to gain a meaningful boycott of Steppin' Out.

After an incident at the bar one evening, my friend and I had a very unpleasant conversation with Paul Middleweek. His comments about women frequenting his establishment and women in general are hardly worth repeating. In my opinion, he showed his true colors as to what gender he wants patronizing the club. Mary Hughes' examples of discriminatory service must certainly be a reflection of all of the owners' attitudes and they are not the first examples I've heard about.

So why would they be so co-operative in offering Steppin' Out for Womanspace dances? They know they can fill the club on those evenings and business definitely needs a boost. Those of us who frequent Steppin' Out know that at least half if not more of the patrons are women. For us to boycott it would give the owners a clearer picture of our contribution to keeping their doors open. They're in business to make money - but this attitude makes it very difficult to give them any of mine.

I urge the Womanspace executive to reconsider using the facilities of this club for dances this summer. I will personally be enlisting the support of women whose initials appear below not to attend these functions.

Sincerely, G.G.

(D.B., D.H., P.B., L.P., J.R.,
D.B., S.P., V.L., V.A., L.K., V.B.,
C.C., D.R., B.V., L.M., J.D., G.B.,
P.P., B.H., D.L., D.P., E.P., A.R.,
K.C., R.D., K.H., M.L., S.R., D.S.,
J.B., M.D., C.T., G.D., D.T., S.W.,
C.R., M.C., C.N., B.B.)



WEREWOLF!

I've just had a news flash while typing this issue of WOMON-SPACE NEWS. David Berrette, who is 4½ years old, announced that Micheal Jackson turned into a werewolf at Metamorphosis! If you haven't been to Saskatoon for Metamorphosis yet, you are really missing out on something.

Lindy



COMMON WOMAN BOOKS

Alberta's Only Feminist Bookstore

non-sexist children's books
records * jewelry * t-shirts
fiction * feminist theory
overcoming male & female stereotypes
a good selection of lesbian literature

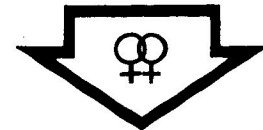
Tuesday & Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday & Friday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8208 - 104 Street 432-9344

NOTE



NO SUMMER DANCES

The board of Womanspace would like to express sincere apologies to anyone who showed up at Steppin' Out on July 21 for the Womanspace Dance that had been planned. It was cancelled because Steppin' Out found that their liquor license did not allow them to close their doors for a private function.

There will be no dance in August, but our regular monthly dances will start again in September back at Hazeldean Hall.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

Summer is the time to enjoy outdoor music. The 9th Michigan Womyn's Music Festival will be held August 9-12 this year. Call Lindy for details if you are planning to attend : 469-2143.

The Edmonton Folk Music Festival will happen again this year at Gallagher Park from August 10-12. Some of the women performing include Margaret Christl and Joan MacIsaac, Ginni Clemmens, Cathy Fink, the Robin Flower Band, Marie-Lynn Hammond, K.D. Lang, Denise Larson, Rita MacNeil and Sylvia Tyson. For more information phone 465-1405.



The Canadian Women's Music and Cultural Festival at Kildonan Park in Winnipeg will take place on September 1 and 2. Tickets and information are available from 745 Westminster Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 1A5 or by phoning 204-786-1921.



LESBIANS' PICNIC

(Sung to the tune of "Teddy Bears' Picnic")

If you go down in the woods today
You're sure of a big surprise.
If you go down in the woods today
You'd better go in disguise.
For every dyke that ever there was
Will gather there for certain because
Today's the day the lesbians have
their picnic.

Every lesbian who's been good is
sure of a treat today.

There's lots of marvelous things
to eat

And some wonderful games to play.

*Beneath the trees where nobody sees
They'll hide and seek as long as
they please

'Cause that's the way the lesbians
have their picnic.

Picnic time for lesbians;
The little lesbians are having a
wonderful time today.

Watch them, catch them unaware
And see them picnic on their holiday.

See them gaily gad about;
They love to play and shout;

They never have any cares.

At six o'clock the friends and
lovers will all go home to bed
Because they're tired little
lesbians. #

If you go down in the woods today
You'd better not go alone.
It's lovely down in the woods today
But safer to stay at home.

(Repeat from * to #)

THOUGHTS ON WOMYN'S SPIRITUALITY...

I was fortunate enough within the last few weeks to watch one of my favourite non-human friends ('Scrapper') give birth to five lovely little kittens. Watching her not only give birth, but take care of her offspring has been a very enlightening experience. It has also spurred me into thinking more about the patriarchal definition of the "maternal instinct" and about the spiritual and healing power womyn possess.

The nurturing, protective warm feelings incorrectly labeled as the "maternal instinct" is merely the tip of the spiritual iceberg; and I suspect at the core of every womyn is a vast keg of spirituality we are only now re-learning to tap in spite of the many centuries of degradation, denial and death. An average dictionary would define spirituality as 1) of the spirit or soul; or 2) of or consisting of spirit; not corporeal (of or for the body). I would further venture to guess that spirituality to the average non-feminist or non-pro womyn person would mean religion and/or God in the patriarchal and Christian sense of the word; ask them about womyn's spirituality and they may conjure up images of wild witches burned alive as manifestations of the DEVIL many centuries ago in Salem. However, there is of late a new resurgence of the energy and power of female spirituality. In my search for words to describe this force I found an article titled "The Politics of Feminist Spirituality" by Anna Kent Rush (in The Politics of Women's Spirituality, ed. by Charlene Spretnak) which gave me a temporary satisfactory description..."the renaissance of female spirituality...of the ultimate holiness or life-sacredness of



women and the female creative process." Rush goes on to describe witches as "women who dare to worship their own power". Well over 300,000 of these incredibly powerful womyn were burned alive, not because they were part of the so-called DEVIL, but rather because they dared to be strong, self-loving womyn who resisted the patriarchal definitions of womyn and thereby defied the patriarchal God and establishment. And as Rush so clearly emphasizes, "with so many centuries of brutal religious persecution, [it stands to reason] that women today should have a deep fear of ...our own spirituality."

Part of developing or uncovering our spiritualness lies, I believe, in re-connecting; too much of our day to day lives are segregated and separated. Womyn have been separated from each other for thousands of years; our 'paid' work is separate from our unpaid 'fun' work; our physiological and internal cycles are separate from our external cycles; at times, our emotional beliefs and needs are isolated from our practical needs; the personal is deemed separate or different from the political; even the way children learn in school is separated--they study math for one hour over here and then they leave it completely and study history for another hour over there. And most definitely our daily and monthly rhythms as womyn are separated from the earth's and moon's cycles. The most dangerous result of this isolation and compartmentalizing of our lives is numbness. We learn as womyn to shut emotions and needs off and put them away on a little shelf somewhere. In effect, we learn not to feel; we learn to use denial (i.e. the very real

threat of annihilation by the superpowers that most people ignore) and we learn to feel only very safe emotions (i.e. fear or sadness only at the movies)...

This is why discovering our spirituality (or re-connecting) can be such a powerful healing force; and this is also why feminism cannot succeed without the crucial development of the spiritual in each one of us. Womyns experience is the antecedent of feminist theory; it is the re-connecting of the human with nature; and most definitely the re-connecting of the female with the female. And as Rush again emphasizes "...it is a collective, non-hierarchical, nonsegmented, experience-based, ecological, evolutionary process". Feminism can initially be quite painful--seeing and feeling the non-sensical institutionalized violence against womyn and against our environment is a very difficult process to endure. Very few of us have escaped the manifestations of this violence in our own lives either as children or as adult womyn. Decompartmentalizing our lives can be painful as well, but re-connecting with other womyn, and with the 'natural' cannot help but be healing as well. Womyn have the innate ability to be warm, compassionate, nurturing and affectionate towards each other and this is what heals the pain created by the violence of men.

Six months ago, I never would have even read an article like this; today I not only believe it but I try to actualize it wherever possible. And that is because of the healing (and spiritual) process of bringing my life together with other womyn. "Witches Heal!" They really do-- and there is one in each one of us.



She's just been silenced by too many centuries of lies.

Jean Noble

(The Politics of Women's Spirituality, Charlene Spretnak, editor, Anchor Press/Doubleday, New York, 1982. Available at Common Woman Books.)

... And Brings Peace

Shh...a whisper
Soft sound but He sleeps.
Oh! so clear Truth flows
She speaks From his lips,
Daily rhythms "Violence masks my
Stop, listen Weakness.
Instinctively Violence hides and
To be nurtured; Creates my shame."

My Mother. A flicker of light...
My Sister, A tear? A Smile?
My Self: She knows and brings
A Divine Woman. Peace.

Whe entered
The universe and
Made it whole:
Spiritual Wisdom.

"Damn!" he said,
"Spirit be gone!
Fulfil only my
Violent needs:

Cook and clean,
Don't be seen;
And lie, and love
Me only."

Jay Bird
in "Reweaving The Web
of Life. Feminism and
Nonviolence"
Pam McAllister, ed. 1982



Celebration of Women and
The Earth Being Planned

Coronation- Sunday morning. First up. Oh well. Someone's got to get us moving. Great Day! Surrounded by warm breezes, the sun, the trees, the birds, and dogs. Sitting on the porch of this wonderful, under-construction house that is a work of art.

And feeling awed by the enormity of this task before us. Wondering if Gladys Creasy, on whose land we're planning this Women's Festival knows what she's getting into. Has she ever been to one? Does she want up to 100 women (mostly dykes) tramping around her land, extolling the virtues of being alive and female?

I'm fervently hoping that holding it the same weekend as the Edmonton Folk Festival on August 11 won't cut into attendance too badly. Gladys said to tell you that this is the first Folk Fest she's ever missed. She's always been there, in the crafts tent, selling her glass art.

But we'll get a chance to buy her work, and that of other artists, at the crafts area that's planned for here. And we've been known to make some mighty fine music to boot.

With a locale equidistant from Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatoon, it's hoped that many women and their children will be able to come and make it all happen. It's also hoped that some women who attended the recent women's conference of peace will be here too. After all, it was there that the seed of the idea to have another women's country festival germinated.

An information and registration sheet will be available in Edmonton from the usual places: the ASWAC office; Every Woman's Place; Common Woman Books, Sexual Assault Centre; and the Roost on Wednesday nights, (see Marilyn).



Pre-registration is requested, please, so that we have some idea of the numbers to expect. (Refunds will be given to those who pay in advance but can't make it.)

And of course, volunteers are needed to help with the planning stages and the festival itself. A sense of urgency has been thrown in with the time factor, which is running short.

See you there! -Linda Fontaine

CAR RALLY

The car rally was a real gas. Boy did we burn a lot of it! (All those U-turns, up curbs and around traffic circles...)

Perhaps my first clue that this wasn't going to be a good day for me to solve mysteries was when I left my partner's house and walked to the wrong car. (All those red Camaros look the same.) And then we forgot to leave the traffic circle at the right exit to get to the starting point at Southgate.

A few cars were there before us. Norma asked us to line up our vehicles two by two. My driver jumped in her car and raced to the front of the line to be in "pull position". This didn't seem to help us much.

The first clue went something like this: "From this spot where three may stop, take the exit and drive past where the Arabs gain." (In plain language: "Go to the stop sign, turn left, turn right at the exit and drive past the gas stations.")

There were 22 questions to answer. It would have helped us greatly if I could read better. One riddle read "Take the turn away from Mr. Cosby's trademark.." and being the numbnuts that I am,

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I read "Take the turn away from Mr. Crosby's trademark..." My partner thought she should be able to get this one, saying "I've been to the Bing Crosby Hall of Fame." We looked for pipes, somebody singing "White Christmas", and for Minute Maid orange juice. After a frustrating 10 minutes of driving in circles, my partner grabbed the riddle sheet and yelled "You idiot! Cosby, not Crosby. Bill Cosby." So we immediately turned left at the Coke sign.

From then on it was smooth sailing through to the University, down to the riding stables, and over to West Edmonton Mall, which was the finish point. Then we raced out to Spruce Grove, only to find we were not the first ones there at the barbeque. Other cars trickled in after us. We heard their horror tales about getting lost. Everyone laughed as we exchanged stories. Two couples did not show up at all. (We figured they were on their way to divorce court, arguing whether it should have been a left or a right turn.)

Norma tallied up our points, based on speed and number of correct answers. Darlene and Kathy smoked us all, winning a trophy and a bottle of champagne. Naomi and Martine got away with the booby prize. My partner and I didn't win anything except a good time.

Many thanks to Gill and Kathi for having us all at their place for the barbeque. Thanks also to Norma, Betty and Gina for the excellent job they did in organizing the car rally. Hope there'll be more of you out for the rally next time!

Mary T. Hughes

WOMONSPACE AND WOMONSPACE NEWS

Womonspace is its members. You are Womonspace. Your participation directs what happens in the group.

WOMONSPACE NEWS is the voice of Womonspace. It is your voice only if you are there to speak at meetings and/or if you are writing contributions to the newsletter.

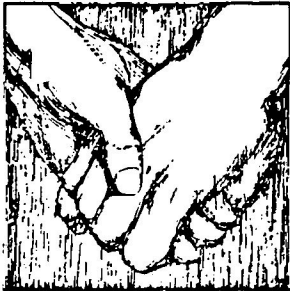
Submissions of interest to lesbian women are welcome from both members and non-members. Our deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Please mail your submissions to WOMONSPACE NEWS, c/o E.W.P., 9926 - 112 St. T5K 1L7.

GATE NEWS

Women's night at GATE has been changed to Wednesdays. Drop-in at 10173 - 104 St. between 7 and 10 pm.

GATE

GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY



10173-104 St. EDMONTON (403)424-8361

- DROP-IN CENTRE
- PEER COUNSELLING
- SPEAKERS' BUREAU
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- SOCIAL EVENTS
- LIBRARY



SUPPORT GROUP FOR LESBIAN MOMS

I would like to start a support group for Lesbian Moms. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the group. My number is 475-5650. Claire Berrette.

LESBIAN DROP-IN

Every Thursday is drop-in night from 7 - 9 at Every Woman's Place. (9926 - 112 Street) All women are welcome.

LESBIAN TALK NIGHT

Last Thursday night of each month 7 - 9 p.m. (or later)

Every Woman's Place

Gather for an evening to discuss issues of lesbianism/feminism. Bring your suggestions for topics (ideas, articles, books to read, etc) At the end of each evening we choose our topic for the next Lesbian Talk Night and decide if we need to distribute reading materials.

FILM NIGHT

On August 16, two films will be shown at the drop-in.

"Children of Alcohol" is about a program for children of alcoholic parents. "Turnaround" is a highly recommended documentary on the feminist addiction recovery centre in Vancouver.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

The Oil City Jaycees is organizing a two day symposium entitled 'Women in Politics - Politics Isn't Just a Man's Game.' The objectives of the symposium are:

- i) to familiarize women with the Canadian political system
- ii) to inform women of channels through which to become actively involved
- iii) to create a forum for discussion between women who hold political office and those who are interested in developing a deeper understanding of what political involvement means for women.

Several women politicians from the municipal, provincial and national scenes and representing all three major parties will be participating in these sessions.

The symposium will be held September 21 - 23, at the University of Alberta. A registration fee of \$25.00 will include a wine and cheese on the Friday evening.

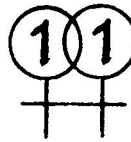
Anyone interested in attending should contact Reva Joshee at 434-5489 or Barb Sacrey at 439-7903 for further information.

VAN TENDERS

We have been renting vans from Hertz or Budget to transport liquor for our Womospace dances. In an effort to keep our money within the lesbian community, Womospace is now accepting tenders for van or covered truck rentals. The woman and her vehicle must be available on the day of the dance to pick up the liquor and take it to the hall. After the dance the liquor returns will remain in her possession until the following Monday, when she will be responsible for returning them.

Send tenders to Womospace, c/o E.W.P., 9926 - 112 St. T5K 1L7

Activities~



SUPPORT GROUP FOR SINGLE WOMEN

I would like to start a support group for single women. If anyone is interested in being part of this group please call Donna Mumm at Every Woman's Place. The number is 488-2748.



CAMP OUT

A lesbian camp out is planned for the weekend of the 25th of August. Details on the back.

REFERRALS

Womospace is currently establishing a system of referrals to lesbian-positive service people, such as: lawyers, psychologists, doctors, and other service people. If you know anyone who you think should be on this list, please call Laura at 429-2355.

DANCE MEETING

On August 1st a meeting will be held to update the dance co-ordinators' books. Anyone who has co-ordinated any part of a dance is urged to participate. Be at E.W.P. at 6:30 pm.

BOARD MEETING

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. at E.W.P. Next one is on August 7th.

GENERAL MEETING

Womospace general meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at Every Woman's Place. The next one will be on August 14 at 7:30. The address is 9926-112 Street.

NEWSLETTER MEETING

Please, if you would like to help with the newsletter, then come to this meeting on Sunday, August 19 at 7 pm. It will be held at Jeanne's; #1, 10739-86 Ave.

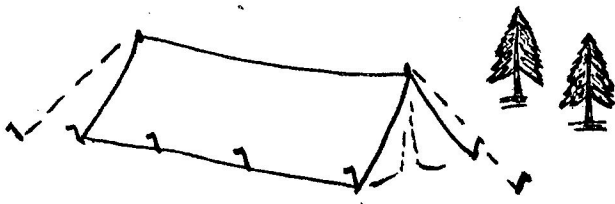
CARPOOLING

Will you be attending either the Canadian Women's Music and Cultural Festival in Winnipeg or Metamorphosis in Saskatoon? Leave a message on the Womospace line if you are interested in carpooling. (488-2918)



love is...

... Doing volunteer work.



FIRST ANNUAL CAMPOUT, MINNOW LAKE

There will be a Womospace Campout on August 24, 25, & 26 at Minnow Lake Campground, which is a 2 hour drive west of Edmonton.
--Bring food, tents, ballgloves, massage skills, etc.

Directions: On highway 16 west, pass Nojack, Carrot Creek, and the Peers turnoff. Then turn south (left) at the sign to Minnow Lake or Wolf Lake Campgrounds; it will take about 30 minutes to reach the Minnow Lake Campground. You've gone too far south if you reach the Wolf Lake Campground....You've also gone too far on the highway if you reach Edson.

Note: The campsite is free but the space is quite limited. If you are bringing a large tent or camper please plan to share it with friends, as we can't spread out too much. **IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER** by calling Womospace at 488-2918 or Laura Lee at 429-2355; leave your name, phone # and the number in your party. First come first serve, please call early to get your name on the list. Register by August 13, before the next General Mtg.

P.S. We are looking for someone who can go out early on Friday the 24th to pick up the gate key. So if you can leave the city by about 2 p.m. please call Laura at 429-2355.

N.B. Minnow Lake is a new camp ground so you probably won't find it on most roadmaps. Not to fear, it really is there! See you there!

--Laura Lee



PLEASE NOTE:

Articles published in Womospace News do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of Womospace.

Credits: Contributions by:
Jean Noble
Mary T. Hughes
Linda Fontaine

Jeanne Peneault
Laura Lee
G.G., Lindy

Organization & Typing: Lindy
Layout & Pasteup: L.K.R.

WOMONSPACE NEWS is published monthly by Womospace Social and Recreational society of Edmonton. Womospace is a non-profit, social, recreational and educational organization for lesbians in edmonton. Mailing address:

 488-2918

"WOMONSPACE NEWS"
c/o Every Woman's Place
9926 - 112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1L7

AIDS FORUM

*Dr. D. L. Tyrell
Infectious Diseases, U of A*

*Dr. Jerry Katz
General Practitioner*

AIDS Network

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1984

PLACE: PHOENIX THEATRE
10170 - 100 A STREET
4TH FLOOR

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Sponsored by: The AIDS NETWORK - A GATE Committee

*Date and time are tentative.
For confirmation, call:*

*WOMONSPACE PHONE LINE
488-2918*

No city hall recognition for gay awareness day

By CHRIS ZDEB
Journal Staff Writer

Edmonton's gay community will likely stage its week-long awareness festivities again this year without official recognition from city hall.

The mayor's office has already told the organizing committee of Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) '84 that it is not an event attracting broad public appeal, and therefore Mayor Laurence Decore would not be declaring June 27 gay and lesbian awareness day.

Some alderman are skittish, if not downright against it.

"I would never in one minute endorse such a thing," Ald. Julian Kinisky said Thursday. "Personally, I have no sympathy whatsoever for their cause.

"I don't understand gays and I don't want to understand them," he said.

"No way," echoed Ald. Lyall Roper. "It would serve no purpose. It's not our function."

But Liz, an organizing member of GALA, said the group is prepared to attract public attention to its cause if council turns down its request.

"We are prepared to make an issue, especially if other groups can just call up the city on the telephone to ask for a special day in recognition of something like diabetes and can get a warm welcome," she said.

Although the city has no written policy on declaring special days or weeks, Jim Ross, a spokesman for the city's Corporate Communications Department, said judgments are based on general community support for events such as Daffodil Day.

"We try to keep these to a minimum of four or five a year," he said.

Ald. Ed Ewasiuk said he will raise GALA's request at the June 19 council meeting, suggesting the matter be officially referred to the mayor's office or to council's public affairs committee for consideration.

Ald. Lillian Staroszik, a member of the public affairs committee, said she would

support a referral and would be glad to hear a presentation from GALA organizers.

"Under the human rights provisions there shouldn't be any discrimination under sexual orientation," Ewasiuk explained. "I personally wouldn't have any objection if the mayor declared an official day."

Ewasiuk, however, expected a declaration would get mixed public reaction.

The above article appeared in the early edition of the Edmonton Journal, June 8, 1984.

We hope you agree that the statements made by Alderman Julian Kinisky are appalling. We feel it is important that elected officials be taken to task when they blatantly put down a minority group. In this case, if Kinisky's remarks are allowed to go unchallenged, lesbians and gay men are belittled and their concerns are trivialized. Kinisky promotes and legitimizes intolerance and discrimination by such remarks.

Please take the time to do one or more of the following:

1. Write to the Mayor and Council expressing some form of disfavour (or abhorrence, alarm, disgust, etc.) with Alderman Kinisky's comments. Include some of the above arguments and/or some of your own. Keep your letter brief, three or four paragraphs at most. Omit any "Dear ..." in the letter and address the envelope and letter as shown below. When this format is used, the City Clerk automatically sends copies to the Aldermen and the letter is recorded in City Council minutes.

The Mayor and Council
The City of Edmonton
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7

2. Write a similar letter to the editor of the Edmonton Journal or the Edmonton Sun. Sign your name and include your address and phone number as otherwise your letter will probably not be published.

The Editor
The Edmonton Journal
10006 101 St.
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2S6

The Editor
The Edmonton Sun
9405 50 St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2T4

3. Write brief letters to Aldermen Ed Ewasiuk and Percy Wickman expressing thanks for their efforts to introduce the matter of a Gay and Lesbian Awareness Day at the June 19, 1984 City Council meeting. Use the mailing address in 1. (without the "Mayor and Council" heading)

If you can, please send copies of your letters to the G.A.L.A. '84 Steering Committee, Box 53, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2G9, or hand the copies to any committee member. Thanks!