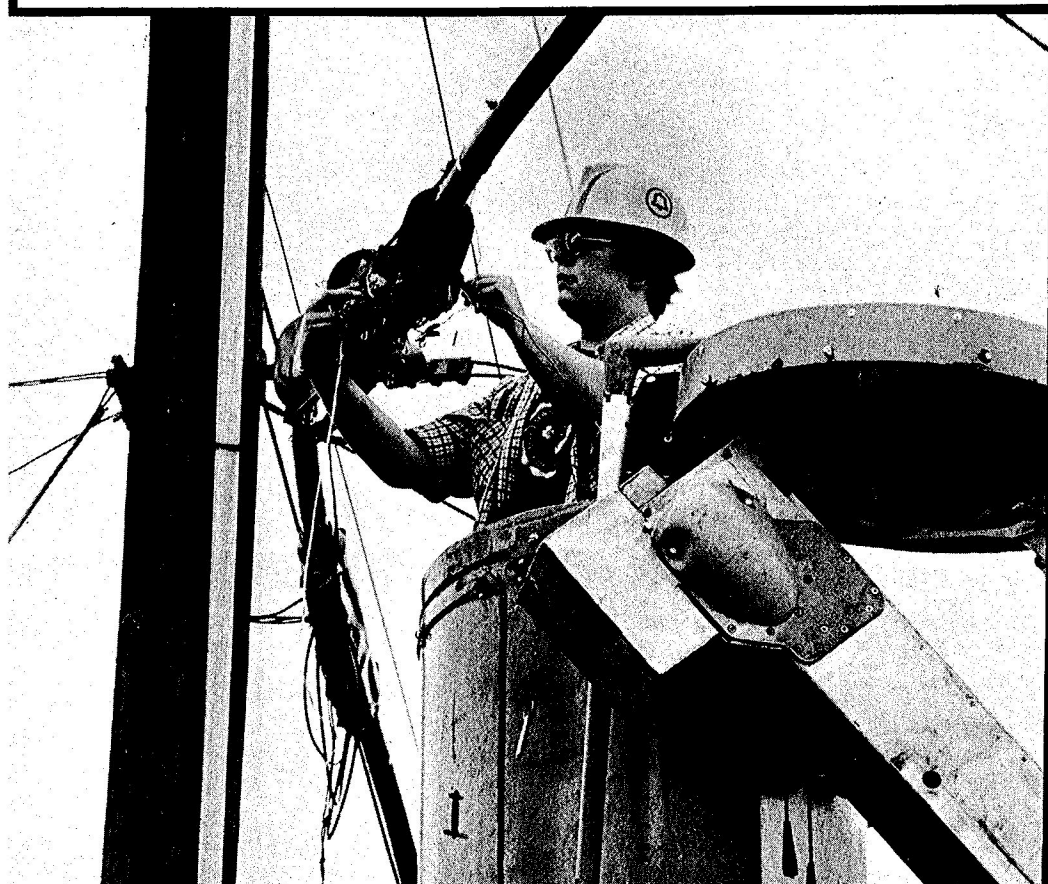
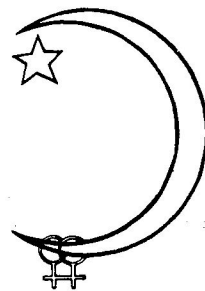


WOMONSPACE

The voice of Womonspace to the lesbian community of Edmonton



NEWS

July 84
Vol. 2
No. 7

"Some days things go so badly, you feel like you're going to cry. The other days, it's a great feeling, being different. It might not take being a Lesbian, but it certainly takes being independent and assertive to do this kind of work. Otherwise you won't last through the comments, the snide remarks and the crude jokes. For me, it almost becomes revenge; I'll never quit.

- Joan Fortney

Photograph by JEB taken from Eye to eye: Portraits of Lesbians, 1979.

IF ONE IS CHEATED,
WE ALL SUFFER!

"No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother." Margaret Sanger, 1920

This is perhaps one of the most challenging editorials I will have ever written for WOMONSPACE NEWS; it is also going to be my last. After this issue, I will no longer be working as editor of this newsletter. I feel my reasons were expressed quite adequately in the June editorial, but I would like to expand on them again here. Also, I feel a need to look at the recent rejection of Planned Parenthood's application for membership in the United Way in an attempt to further explain why I am leaving Womonspace.

Planned Parenthood is an organization in Edmonton which provides information upon request about abortion, about avoiding unwanted pregnancies and venereal disease, and about birth control. It applied to become a member of the United Way to help fund a \$13,000 education program. Even though Planned Parenthood met United Way membership criteria, their application was rejected due solely to the threat that Catholic organizations and the Catholic community in general (who oppose birth control and abortion) may possibly withhold funds and support from the United Way if Planned Parenthood was accepted.

At first glance, it might seem that this issue has absolutely nothing to do with lesbians. For obvious reasons birth control and abortion seem like issues that do not touch our lives and are immediate concerns for non-lesbian womyn only.

But if we take this issue one step farther, we can see that they are concerns that do affect us and are not so far removed from our own day to day struggle.

But first, let's consider why lesbianism is so frowned upon in society. All the reasons in their complete depth are out of the range of one editorial, but we can still briefly look at a couple of them. One of the main instigators of our oppression is the church. Most organized religions still maintain we have been condemned in the eyes of "god" more so than all other "sinners" in the world, and we will suffer a worse punishment (worse than non-lesbian sinners) if we don't "repent" and change our evil ways. It is this very same church that has condemned abortion and birth control, thereby eliminating for womyn the right to choose to be a mother or to be childless, to be sexually active or celibate, and given the discrepancies in the labour force between men and womyn, to be economically dependent or independent. In both cases, our right to choose our own lifestyle has been taken away by a male-dominated, and male-benefitting institution. If any womyn in our society cannot freely choose to use birth control or choose to have a safe abortion, than she certainly will not be able to choose another womyn as her sexual, emotional and spiritual partner either.

One of the other main institutions which oppresses lesbians is the institution of heterosexuality and heterosexism. Our society (created by men for men) is founded on the nuclear family; attitudes and structures within that "family ideology" mirror those within the larger society as a whole. 'Women' are supposed to get married, take their husbands' name, bear and raise his children, and meet all of

his sexual and physical needs without expecting the same in return.

'Woman' is not to have any other role nor should she desire to have any other role. Lesbians are womyn who step away from that ideology and live a lifestyle which is almost in total opposition to the ideal nuclear family. In order to keep womyn from straying from men, lesbianism is degraded and shunned, and as a result is eliminated as a viable and legitimate alternative or choice. Womyn who are sexually active and who consciously choose not to be mothers (either through birth control or abortion) are also stepping outside of what is considered womyn's only occupation. In my opinion, that is why safe, effective birth control and abortions are the issues that they are. (Betty Freidan, author of The Feminine Mystique and The Second Stage, has some interesting ideas about abortion. She says being for abortion is like being for tonsillectomies - it is just a medical procedure. The real issue is womyn's right to choose and to have control of her own body and life.) Non-lesbian womyn are fighting for the right to be independent and self-determining. And is that not the same thing lesbian womyn are demanding? To freely decide how we want to live our lives as womyn and to be unharrassed while doing it?!

So the United Way's rejection of Planned Parenthood is not as isolated an issue as it first may appear to be. It is an assault on all womyn, not just those who need birth control or abortion. At least in my opinion it is - some lesbians may not agree with me and may not feel it is a relevant issue for them. And this brings me back to the reasons I am leaving WOMONSPACE.

My involvement with this newsletter has been very valuable for me. It has helped me to better understand



and prioritize my commitments; I am a womyn and a feminist first, a lesbian second, and I truly believe that when the violence against us as womyn ends, so will the violence against us as lesbians. I feel it is impossible to actively separate struggles into lesbian and non-lesbian. We are all fighting the same problem that only manifests itself differently in different womyn's lives. And I cannot isolate myself and my energies solely within any one of those struggles. As I said earlier, my experience within Womospace has been very valuable and useful for me, but I feel it is time to move on. Thanx to those of you who've given me support! Good luck!!

In solidarity,

Jean Noble



Please Note: The opinions expressed in this editorial are solely those of its author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, attitudes and/or policies of Womospace.

Editor



(P.S. Keep those questionnaires and letters rolling in!! We need to know what you think!)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Jean,

We feel a need to take issue with your editorial in the June 84 issue of WOMONSPACE NEWS.

We protest your suggestions that we refuse to recognize the politicalness of our actions, that we are right wing, non-lesbian feminist, that we are not connecting the effects of issues such as pornography with our lives as lesbians and that we as a group, do not consider the political impact of organizing as a lesbian group.

There are many possible reasons for taking such a stance as an editor: an effort to provoke a response to the issue; simple lack of information regarding the activities of our group; a difference in the use of the term "political". We are not sure which of these was your motivating factor; it may have been something totally unrelated, or all of these factors.

As an organization we are a little over two years old. The effect of this is that we are still in the process of establishing ourselves as a group, or sorting out our priorities and seeing what needs we can most effectively meet. We hope that this process will never end and that our focus can shift and change with the needs of the organization. Otherwise we will die.

Womonspace was formed to meet the social and recreational needs of lesbians in Edmonton. To create a space for the lesbians in this area to meet for social contact and to feel a sense of belongingness to a community. This is an essential and basic need for all human beings, and as we in our community know only too well, one

of the hardest for us to fill. Many of us have experienced the horror of being isolated as a lesbian.

It seems that we meet this need well. Potentially, at least 2500 of us could attend our dances in a year. We know that roughly a third of the women at the dances are not "regulars" - they come only occasionally to have a social contact and that seems to be all that those 850 or so people seem to need from us.

A serendipitous by-product of the dances is that Womonspace is financially in reasonable condition. This is unusual for any volunteer group; for a lesbian group it is indeed rare. Given women's incomes and our poor economy in Alberta, we have done something right for sure.

If we assume that the article comes at least in part from lack of information, it would be useful to list some of the activities we have held in the past that we consider lesbian/feminist political:

- *held a benefit to help establish Every Woman's Place
- *film - 'Killing Us Softly' (sexism in advertising)
- *workshops - Lesbian sexuality
- Contracting/Legal issues in Lesbian relationships
- *radio interviews
- *newspaper interviews
- *membership on G.A.L.A. Steering Committee
- *participation in G.A.L.A. events
- *International Women's Day - marched, carrying our banner
- *I.W.D. - workshop in foyer of Edmonton Public Library on lesbianism feminism that ended by our joining hands and singing
- *monthly lesbianism/feminism discussion group at which any issue may be discussed if the group agrees
- *production of a lesbian newsletter
- *production and distribution of a

brochure throughout the Edmonton community and beyond



No, we do not have a group or committee labelled "political action" or some such title. You can see that we do put energy into many issues that touch our lives as lesbians and as women. Nor, to our knowledge, has anyone ever been stopped from expressing this sort of a need and from finding other women who are also interested, and in acting to channel some of Womonspace's energy in this area.

A basic issue here seems to be the need for traditional labels to be applied, and for our activities to take the form of those traditionally labelled as political. If one accepts that premise, then one can accept your stance that Womonspace is indeed not political. We do not feel the need for denying the political impact of these actions simply because they were not given the label of political from the outset.

Should there be women who feel the need for the label, and for the traditionally political, or who would like our energies to be put into different areas, then they are encouraged to approach the membership in an effort to create such a focus for Womonspace. Surely there is space for all of us in Womonspace.

If you were simply trying to create a reaction, you were very effective, but perhaps not fully aware of the ongoing activities of our organization.

Donna Reed
Marilyn Neudorff
Liz Massiah
Jeanne Rioux
Linda Mueller

For Public Relations Directions
Committee

Dear Editor,

While realizing that the frustrations you are experiencing as an active member in the Womonspace organization may be partially justified, the appropriateness and fairness of some of your statements within the June editorial is rather questionable. Given that I personally do not feel that I can participate in Womonspace due to my own principles, I can empathize with how you feel. There is, however, a fine line between constructive and destructive criticism.

Granted you did recognize the building efforts of the women who have laboured so that the organization could achieve its current state and rightly praise them for their efforts. You additionally note the need for Womonspace - to realize that feminism must have its rightful expression as a basic principle in a lesbian organization. It is from this last point on in your editorial, however, that I found highly objectionable.

Feminism and lesbianism are, contrary to your statements, quite separable. One can be a lesbian and not a feminist. Furthermore, even the lesbian who is a feminist, as is the case with myself, can and does maintain both as separate parts of their own identity. Lesbianism is the expression of one's lifestyle and sexual preference, whereas feminism is one's ideological beliefs. Womonspace, as with all lesbian organizations, should provide the opportunities for expressing the former in a supportive environment. Ideally, it should also provide

activities which are directed toward the latter for those womyn who wish to participate. First and foremost, however, it is a lesbian organization which must see that this need is filled first as this is the primary bond which draws such a diversity of womyn together.

To view Womonspace as a right-wing organization is completely unjust to the womyn who have worked so hard to build and maintain it. Groups such as the Klu Klux Klan, Renaissance Canada (the traditional pro-family organization which funded Anita Bryant's trips to Canada), and many other fundamentalist groups are right-wing. Placing Womonspace in the same category as these groups is slanderous and false. As you recognized the differences among the womyn in the community, why do you fail to tolerate and understand the perspectives of the active womyn in the organization and mislabel what you disagree with?

I personally felt additional slants against educated "middle class" womyn in your editorial. This is yet another difference that should be recognized as an aspect of the lesbian community. Even though I cannot claim the "middle-class" status, I would rightly defend myself and other womyn who choose to pursue and achieve academic endeavors just as I would defend other womyn's choices to take non-academic routes. (Which is probably a more practical alternative given today's economy.)

That you're leaving the newsletter because of the "unresolvable" differences in your ideology and Womonspace's will be a terrible loss to all of the womyn in this community. Since you've been the editor, you have provided the beginnings of the foundations for feminist perspective to operate within the organization. In fact, I would think that as the number and quality of feminist

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articles and editorials has substantially increased since you've been contributing, this would be an indication that you can operate and provide opportunities for the expression of these ideas within Womonspace.

Two of the pieces in the same edition as your editorial seem particularly relevant here. The letter to you from Jude praising your work and Womonspace should indicate how much you are appreciated. (I must, however, differ with her opinion that infighting is minimal in Womonspace.) The excellent article by Laura Lee titled "How We Deal With Our Differences" should also demonstrate how much Womonspace needs the expression of individual and group differences to make it a vital and growing group.

Even though I cannot agree with every point you wrote, I do recognize that womyn such as yourself are very much needed in Womonspace and can see that your quitting will only weaken the possibility of one aspect of feminism being expressed.

Sincerely,
Bev



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

TWO HUNDRED WOMYN WALK
TO RECLAIM THE NIGHT

Over 200 womyn - mothers and daughters - 'took back the night' with song and celebration last May 25. Our lively and energetic walk was followed by an entertaining and emotionally powerful performance by the Hecate Players. (My favourite skit was "The Sex Life of Spiders. He fucks her, she bites his head off!") There were speeches by representatives at the Sexual Assault Centre, Wen-do (Womyn's self-defense) and Every Woman's Place, and also songs, candles and sparklers. The event ended quite symbolically with the spinning of a human web which bonded all of us that night in our struggle to end the senseless violence against our bodies, minds and spirits.

Thank to E.W.P., the Social/Political Action Committee, and the many other womyn who spent long hours organizing the walk and celebration. It was a night both myself and my mother will remember for many nights to come.

Jean Noble



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PR/DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

The next meeting of this committee will be on July 4 at 5:30 pm. It will take place at Linda's - 11128 125 Street. Call in advance: 454-0588.

WHAT IS THE "PR DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE" ANYWAY?

We are and always were a committee working with the Public Relations Director. We originally called ourselves the "Women's Issues Committee". Our group formed as a result of a resolution, at the Annual General Meeting, that just such a group form to study and address women's issues, and that that group should be under the PR Director.

It was also decided at the AGM that the PR person should have a committee to help direct and carry out the PR workload. Therefore, the two jobs have come together in this one group.

In light of this fact, we felt that calling ourselves "Women's Issues" was too limiting, so the name "Directions" came about. In our most recent meeting on Monday, 4-June-84, we extended the name to "PR Directions Committee" to avoid any possible confusion.

We have compiled and distributed a brochure describing Womospace. We are working with the Newsletter Committee to formulate Newsletter policy.

We are planning to establish a Speaker's Bureau. We are looking at further distribution of the brochure.

We have very loosely structured and casual meetings and are prepared to look at anything related to public relations for Womospace.

Generally, Linda Mueller, Laura Lee, Liz Massiah, Donna Reed and Jeanne Rioux have been involved in the discussions. If you are interested contact any one of us.



7th Annual
Metamorphosis

 A
 PRAIRIE
 CELEBRATION
 OF
 LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

Saskatoon
 Oct. 5th - 8th, '84

THE WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES (Oct. 5 - 8)

OCT. 5 (FRIDAY NIGHT) -dance
 OCT. 6 (SATURDAY)
 day: workshops (Womyn's, Men's & Children's)
 evening: womyn's supper
 men's supper
 womyn's coffee house
 men's coffee house
 night: mixed dance
 OCT. 7 (SUNDAY)
 day: workshops (womyn's, men's, & children's)
 evening: -concert
 night: non-alcohol gathering
 OCT 8 (Monday)
 day: -Thanksgiving Feast

- * A weekend pass includes all these activities.
- * Childcare is available during activities.
- * Mail information and request to: Box 7508, Saskatoon, Sask.

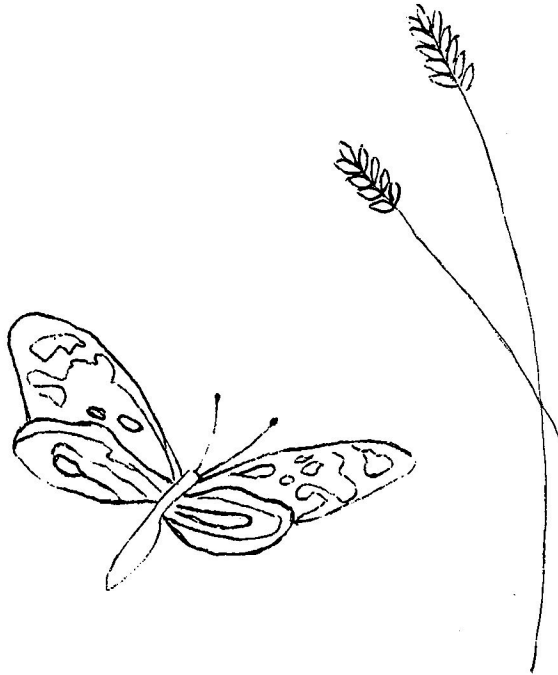
Note From the Planning Committee

We are looking forward to seeing you at another successful prairie celebration this year. Any input and energy you can offer METAMORPHOSIS now or during the weekend will make the weekend rich for you and others.



WHY METAMORPHOSIS?

Metamorphosis, according to one definition, is a change in form by magic or natural development perhaps best exemplified by the transition experienced in the development of butterflies. Saskatoon is looking forward to filling 1984's Thanksgiving weekend full of of prairie gay and lesbian celebrations.



METAMORPHOSIS is a weekend full of a variety of activities. We need people to participate in Met. by leading workshops, performing at the coffee houses and to display and sell crafts. The more people who put creative energy into Met., the more wholesome and joyous it is for us all.

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Mail registrations and/or requests for information to: Box 7508, Saskatoon, Sask.

Prices for individual events will be available at the door. A receipt, registration information and more detailed information about the weekend will be sent to all whose registrations have been received before Sept. 15/84. So please register early and send requests for information by Aug. 31/84.

The CRAFT FAIR has expanded every year in both variety and quantity. Culture is an essential part of our lives and the chance to see and purchase art work from our community on the prairies gives us all a sense of pride. Please bring your art work to Met. to display and/or sell. Let us know your art medium and the type of space you sell need for it.

During past Met. COFFEE HOUSES performers have spontaneously offered to entertain. However, not all coffee houses were long enough for this to happen. If you would like to perform or would like to have someone else perform, please inform us by June 30/84. We are especially interested in entertainment for the men's coffee house.

In past years we have had WORKSHOPS such as: sexuality, healing, self-defence, spirituality, weight lifting, clowning and alcohol and drug abuse in our community. There will be workshops for lesbians only, for gay men and also for mixed adults. If you have any topics you would like to discuss or activities you would like to do in a group of adults or with children, please let us know by Aug. 31/84.

judith

some of many facemasks

judith. a jewel. some call judea judas judex
and finally me in my own affectionate manner:
ju ju bead.my little candy.

most likely one would suspect I was just
sweet on her.juicy. not so. I have it for
her from every angle.shes the icing on my
cake. angel food.

i love her like the jews love the land
i love her like judas loved jesus.
oh dont be surprised.his mad love for our lord
it makes one dizzy dizzy dizzy dizzy
silver was mere glitter in the eye. it was the
kiss of death that was gold pure gold to him.
judas was the true diver.plunging into the
arms of gods fated son. illustrating the
drawback of homosexual love.

yet here I go gazing after a girl. ah spansule.
hollow pill. what's in it for me. perhaps the love
of judy.judy judy judy. punch punch punch

I love her like judex (the free lance magician)
loved the maid. the perfect image of a girl
kodak. the daughter of eve before she ate the
avocado.

yet green eyes golden hair she is not.
she is no angel baby. no candidate for a
glass slipper. she is not the kind of girl.
you'd find in an eyebrow pencil ad.
no jelly bitch.

but the girl I'd like to touch. we've shared
a bed but I could not touch her. she turned
on her side. I could not touch her.rustling
of new sheets.a very humid memory. but I
could not touch her.nor would she touch me.
plea plead pleading.

victims of the conceit that women were made for
men.radium.I turn out the light. I would not
touch her. after a while desire is overcome.
sooner of later desire hides behind the skin.
retracts.retreats.then sleeps and sleeps and
keeps on sleeping.

Patti Smith
from "Babel"

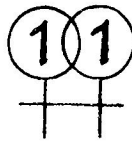
Land Marks:

Every Woman's Place



HORSE-BACK RIDING IN
WHITE COTTON PANTS??
GIVE ME A BREAK!

I don't know how most of you
feel but I think I've had just
about enough! It's that time of
the month, no not newsletter time,
but that other time, when you don't
leave the couch or your hot water
bottle for at least four days of
every month. And so what does one
do when one is laid up on the couch
suffering from PMS (Pre-Menstrual
Syndrome)? One watches the good
ole 'black and white fireplace'
(the T.V.) right? Now...it never
fails that as I'm sitting (pain-
fully sitting) on the couch,
wrapped up in as many blankets as
I can find, feeling as though I've
gained about 400 pounds of water,
clutching a hot water bottle to my
abdomen, what should come on
T.V. but one of those ridiculous
commercials for 'feminine products'
that offer supposed comfort and
security. We are led to believe



that by using those products, the womyn in the commercials can go horse-back riding (in their best white cotton pants) or play tennis (in white again) or do gymnastics or some other form of idiotic activity that I never even attempt on my very best days! Swimming? Well perhaps - after all, when I'm not greiving on the couch I'm usually soaking in a hot bath. Walking? Okay, realistically speaking, we all have to go to work, PMS or no PMS, so fine, I walk to the bus stop. BUT HORSE-BACK RIDING IN WHITE COTTON PANTS? Come on now! Let's be honest about this. How many of you ever put on your best white pants (I can't even fit into mine during that time of the month), jump on a horse and ride as if you were part of the pony express going for a new world record? I barely have enough energy to get off the couch and change the channel.

Those commercials make it seem like having your period is the most feminine, the most delicate, and certainly the most energetic time of a womyn's life. The womyn on T.V. never get grouchy, never cry, never throw up, and never ever do they have to change their pants more than once per day. And what about the countless thousands of womyn who are unfortunate enough to "be a womyn" (remember those silly maternal tears "Isn't it beautiful George? Our little girl is a grown-up womyn now.") during the same week that we have a full moon? I knew one once and my life has never been the same! (Neither has hers!)

Well...I'm proposing that we rewrite those stupid commercials and send them off to the appropriate (and obviously male) producers. Here's one that a few of us came up with:

"The camera closes in on a womyn sleeping restlessly. It's 3:00 am. Suddenly her eyes open. "Oh shit" she exclaims as she throws the covers off and dashes to the washroom. She emerges from the washroom a few minutes later wearing different pyjama bottoms. She returns to her bedroom, pulls the sheets off and throws them in the laundry hamper. Her roomates peer around the corner of her room and harmlessly enquire "What's up?" She turns and moans that they better just mind their own business and quit picking on her. Finally, she finishes cleaning the nasty stain off her futon, grabs a blanket and her trusty hot hot water bottle and mopes down the stairs to the living room couch... As she finally closes her eyes and falls peacefully back to sleep, the announcer (a womyn of course) ends the commercial by saying something like, "Tampons--the only one to use during those times when you despise being a womyn." Or "Maxi pads--to help make those monthly "yuks" a little less yukky!"

Somehow, birds or flowers or long, slow walks in a misty park with a horse just don't seem honest to me. (Call me crazy if you like but it's true! Stained blue jeans, ruined underwear, a bulging stomach and long afternoons moaning on the couch are the only reality I've ever known.) So please, don't be fooled and please, please, please, whatever you do, don't but on your best white pants and go horse-back riding! It is not a pleasant experience!!!

Jean Noble

Please keep in mind that the opinions in the following commentary are solely those of its author.

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STAYING OUT OF STEPPIN' OUT

Here are some of the reasons why I won't go to Steppin' Out:

- a) The first time I was there, I was amazed to be charged different prices each of the 3 times that I ordered the same drink.
- b) The second time, I was very sick after eating there, as was my partner.
- c) I ordered dinner and coffee the third time and was refused refills on the coffee. My repeated requests for club soda were ignored.
- d) The next time, I ordered a cheeseburger. A man who came in 10 minutes after me was served a cheeseburger 5 minutes after he sat down. I waited 25 minutes and still no burger, so I cancelled my order. The waiter was then very rude to me. A woman I was with ordered Kalua and coffee and was charged for the Kalua plus \$2.50 for the coffee and \$2.00 for each coffee refill. (She was informed that the reason for this high price is because Steppin' Out doesn't want people sitting in the place drinking non-alcoholic beverages.)
- e) A woman who joined a party of seven (all of them were eating and drinking) and asked for water was told, "We don't serve water here. If you only want water you can order club soda or leave."

These are my direct experiences. I have also heard many grumblings about both the policies and the service at Steppin' Out.

Steppin' Out isn't the only bad one. Last year the owner of Boots & Saddle told an Edmonton Journal reporter that the reason dykes were not allowed in his club was because they got in fights. Women are now permitted to enter Boots if they are signed in, but why any gay woman would want to go there is beyond me.

Flashback held a special meeting in the fall to determine what exactly the women of Edmonton wanted. We asked for Friday nights to be restricted to women only. They told us then that it would be impossible, because they are a private club of mixed membership, to completely close the doors to one sex on a weekend. Three months later, Friday nights became men-only nights at Flashback.

I think it's sad that women continue to frequent these places where we are treated so poorly. But what is our alternative?

You might wonder why Womospace will lend its name to dances at Steppin' Out when the vice-president is so adamantly against it. I want people to know I was not a party to that decision. A special board meeting was held to discuss it and I was given 45 minutes notice. A board member had said earlier that day, "We already have quorum, so we don't need Mary [for the board to vote]."

One of my understandings of Womospace is that it was formed to provide an alternative to the club scene. Why is our name being lent to a profitable, private, male-owned business? The only benefit to Womospace is a profit of \$2.00 per person. I feel the soul of Womospace has been bought by private enterprise. The management of Steppin' Out is perfectly capable of providing women-only functions without the sponsorship of Womospace.

In writing this, I'm hoping to appeal to your political consciousness to join me in boycotting Steppin' Out and the Womospace dances there.

Mary T. Hughes
Vice-president of
Womospace

P.S. I also boycott Bata Shoes, Air Canada, California Lettuce, Kraft, Nestle, Alberta Report Magazine, Sid's, Prime Time nightclub, the Edmonton Sun and the Catholic Church. Ask me why.



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love is...

... Doing volunteer work.

Elizabeth Massiah, M.S.W.
Therapist



Privacy Assured; Fees Negotiable
986-0263(h)/422-3022(w - messages)

THE DANCE THAT DIED

The June Womospace dance came to a rather pathetic end when the power was cut at 12:30 a.m. In spite of the many butane lighters, dance staff were unable to find a breaker panel on the main floor. More than one woman got a large drink as the bar staff valiantly continued to pour in the dark. And lively musical entertainment was provided by unidentified "singers".

A slight damper was put on the fun when dance staff came across a vandalized office and had to call the police to report a possible break-in. We did make an official report of the incident and discovered the next day, when we finally got in contact with the community league, that the break-in had already been reported.

The dance organizers want to say a big thank you to all the womyn for their patience and for making such a speedy exit.

L.J.B.

QUOTE

"If you don't dare to dream,
you have no power to fight!"

The Green Movement
West Germany

WINDSURFING LESSONS

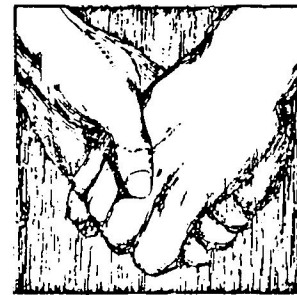
Lessons taught by a certified windsurfing instructor. All equipment supplied; cost is \$10/hour. Phone Karen for more info and to book the time of your choice. 466-4885.

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



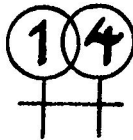
10173-104 St. EDMONTON (403)424-8361

- 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 TALK NIGHT

The last Thursday in May saw 15 of us meet for our monthly chats about lesbianism/feminism. This is a new event for Womonspace and we thought an appropriate way to start would be to discuss our own beginnings as lesbians - so we each had a chance to share "Our Own Coming Out Story".

We were 15 or so in number, and as we went around the circle, themes began to emerge - our feelings of isolation as we came out was a very strong theme - one after another, we talked of feeling alone, of not knowing where to look for others like ourselves, and of our determination to do so - even though we freely admitted we were scared of what we might or might not find! And of our relief to discover others like ourselves.

Another common theme was finding that many of those around us - parents, brothers/sisters, friends, husbands - were aware of our sexual preference long before we were; and that when we finally gathered every bit of our courage to come out to these people, they simply said - "we know" and we felt deflated, relieved and very surprised.

We talked about the support from other women we get along the way; and the support was very real in that room, as we listened, and sometimes held a nervous woman's hand as she talked; laughed a lot and learned a lot about ourselves and each other.

We left, reluctantly that evening, feeling stronger, with great awe and respect for our caring, determination and courage. (And for sure, we got a new meaning of the word "pipe-fitter" that we'll never forget.)

Thanks to Womonspace for making this possible.

Liz Massiah

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.

In May we discussed 'Our Own Coming Out Stories'.

Thursday, June 28, our topic is 'Lifestyles as Lesbians'.

If women want to, we can adjourn this meeting early to see the Art Show at Flashback, followed by Rae Armour's performance.

Activities~

105
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WOMONSPACE and WOMONSPACE NEWS

Womospace is its members. You are Womospace. Your participation directs what happens in the group. If you say nothing and do nothing, who do you think is going to represent your point of view and ensure that your needs are met?

This newsletter is put together by Womospace members. Contributions of interest to lesbian women are also welcome from non-members. Mail your submissions to: WOMONSPACE NEWS, c/o E.W.P., 9926 - 112 St, Edmonton T5K 1L7.

PR/DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

The next meeting of this committee will be on July 4 at 5:30 pm. It will take place at Linda's - 11128 125 Street. Call in advance: 454-0588.



GENERAL MEETING

General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at E.W.P. at 7:30 pm. Next one is July 10.

REFERRALS

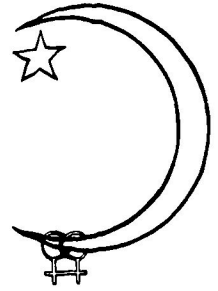
Womospace is currently establishing a system of referrals to lesbian-positive service people, such as: lawyers, psychologists, doctors, and other service people. If you know anyone who you think should be on this list, please call Laura at 429-2355.

THE 9TH MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL AUGUST 9-12, 1984

This is a music festival held on 651 acres of beautiful Michigan countryside. Womyn gather to share music, workshops, information, networking and fun. Alix Dobkin, Chris Williamson, Ferron, Mary Watkins and Teresa Trull are only a few of the musicians scheduled for this year. There are many things happening besides the wonderful music, too. So pack your camping gear and off you go!

Complete details, ticket information, and a map to the site are available from Lindy. Phone 469-2143.

WOMONSPACE DANCE



get
dancin'

10357-109 STREET
424-3155

JULY 21

Womonspace dances will be held at Steppin' Out on the 3rd Saturday of July and August. Doors open at 8 pm. - 2 am. Admission is \$5.00 per person, including a buffet dinner. We will need volunteers for the door; the Stepping Out staff will do the rest. Womonspace will keep the profits from the door, less the cost of the buffet.

Men will not be admitted. (There will be some male staff present, though. It's about the men waited on us!)

Liquor, beer and wine will be \$1.50.

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Credits: Jean, Lindy, L.J.B., Laura, L.K.R.

WOMONSPACE NEWS is published monthly by Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton. Womonspace 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

WOMONSPACE
membership application

Womonspace is a non-profit, social, recreational and educational resource group for the lesbian community of Edmonton and surrounding areas. As a self supporting organization, Womonspace is run by its volunteer members. **Womonspace** provides an opportunity to attend monthly dances, weekly drop-ins, and other lesbian activities. Members must be female, 18 years of age or more, and must pay the membership fee annually. All information that you entrust to Womonspace will be held in the strictest of confidence.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Are you over the age of 18 years? _____

I wish to apply for: (check one)

Active Membership

Active members are required to do 12 hours of volunteer work per year. These members have the right to one vote at any general or annual meeting, after having attended one general meeting.

Outreach Membership

Outreach members waive the right to vote. This membership is geared to facilitate those women who would find it difficult to be active members and are unable to volunteer the 12 hours/year.

ALL MEMBERS will receive the monthly newsletter, and will qualify for reduced rates at specified activities. All members may receive minutes of meetings upon request.

Enclosed is my \$10.00 registration fee.

I wish to apply to the Womonspace Board to waive the \$10.00 fee due to financial circumstances.

I understand that as a member of **Womonspace**, I am responsible for following the policies of the Womonspace Constitution, and declare that the above information, to the best of my knowledge is correct.

Signed _____

Date _____

Information regarding the Constitution is available from Womonspace, or from any board member.

Please complete reverse side...

What are your interests, hobbies, skills, and/or talents?

What activities would you like to see Womonspace involved in?

If you are applying for an Active membership, is there any specific area in which you would like to volunteer?

Dances

Drop In

Activities Committee

Newsletter Committee

P.R. Direction Committee

Please place me where I am needed the most.

Please Note: Attending meetings does not constitute volunteer services.
If paying by cheque, make payable to **WOMONSPACE** and mail applications to:

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