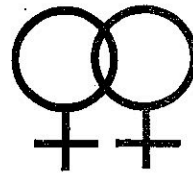


WOMONSPACE NEWS



Vol. 1

No. 1

The voice of Womonspace to the lesbian community of Edmonton

Jan. & Feb.

All of us in Wonderland:

How Local Lesbians Hit The Big Time

Chapter One

"Sure, I Can guide you ladies around San Fransisco, " I assure my friends, "I've been there once".

Perusing our handy-dandy Guide to Women's Clubs we decide to make the first stop Peg's Place; "cozy, neighbourhood atmosphere", the book says.

I trace my finger along the map. "An easy walk from here", I say. "You won't even need a coat."

Several blistered, rain soaked miles later my lover dashes behind a bus shelter and signals me over. "Where's the cozy neighbourhood?", she hisses.

"Ok, so there are a few tough characters around . . . "

"A few!!"

"We're just not used to black neighbourhoods . . . "

She grabs my arm. "Black is fine. It's the knives and the corpses that are worrying me." She hails a cab.

On the road to Peg's, the cab driver turns to us and winks. "You gotta be careful in this town, girls." We smile and tip her a lot. She has a tattoo on a sixteen inch bicept that proclaims, "Mother F-----".

Finally we arrive at Peg's and our entrance causes quite a stir. All five patrons instantly make us the floor show. Two of them stop dead in the middle of playing "Caps". The shock makes one ruin a perfect label peel. And the other two shift from one elbow to another. We wake the bartender up and order a beer.

"A real hot spot alright." My lover gives me one of her long looks.

"Hey," I say, "I know where the action is . . I've been here once."

Karen

NEXT CHAPTER: We hit the hot stuff - Leather Weather!



HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY TO WOMONSPACE !!

Showcase

*Venus of the Month

* Venus governs love, harmony, artistry, feminine sexuality, attraction, and the ability to integrate existing influences into a unified whole.

This month, we are pleased to honor Bonnie M., as Venus of the Month.

After training to be a counsellor, Bonnie was an active counsellor with GATE for about two years. She also helped to train other groups of counselors as well. During this time, for approximately one year, she helped to organize the volunteers for the food at the GATE dances.

Then, when Jeanne and Ann started organizing the first women's dances in Sept. 1981, Bonnie was there to organize the food.

Since then, she has been quite an influence ... she served on the board of Womonspace as Vice-President, on an interim basis, for three months. Bonnie also spent many, many hours every week, writing up the constitution for Womonspace, with the other members of the constitution committee. She also helped Jeanne with the first couple of newsletters for Womonspace.

Through all of this, Bonnie has faithfully organized volunteers and the preparation of the food, for every monthly Womonspace dance.

Thank-you, Bonnie, for your time and effort, and continued support, from all of us!!

Shane

Activities ~

Ski Trip: Sorry, but the ski trip has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Dances: The November dance was another full house. Let's hear it for sell outs! Again, many thanks to all those who made it happen.

Next Dance - February 19/83

Hazeldean Hall

9630 - 66 Avenue

8:30 - 1:00 a.m.

Hot and Cold Buffet

Admission: \$6.00

Music by Ann & Sheila



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

Softball Team: Here's the pitch. If you're looking for some hard hitting action, then softball is right in your league. All you have to do is co-mitt yourself and sign up - at the next Womonspace General Meeting.

Gym Night: Hold it! Don't nuke your Nikes. It's true, Gym night is cancelled on February 24 and March 31 due to school activities. But that doesn't mean you can't jog on over all other Thursday nights. From 8:30 to 10:30 it's all ours at Westminster Junior High, 13712 - 104 Avenue. The sad news is that is you don't start showing up, just to have a good time, the gym won't be ours for long. So slip on those sweats and come play your favourite game.

Hayride: All "roll-in-the-hay" jokes aside, this one is going to be a goody! March 12, 8 p.m., Womospace hits the hay and you can be in on it (or under it). For tickets see Pat at the next general meeting.

Rollerskating: Get Valentine's Day rolling. Start going around with your favourite sweetie. February 14 from 8 until 9 p.m. we have Wheelies Roller Skating Rink in Sherwood Park. Come skate for just \$3.50.



"Actually, there are only twenty lesbisns in Edmonton. It's all done with mirrors."

*Different
Strokes!*

Ph. 421-1594

Because we are...

10244 106 STREET Next door to Boots & Saddle

Food for Thought ~

Dear L.,

Thanks for a wonderful time... I thoroughly enjoyed myself! I must admit, though, that the transition I had to go through when I got home was pretty depressing. The cultural differences between Vancouver and Edmonton are staggering! It took me just about a week to accept the fact that Edmonton just doesn't live up to any of my expectations!

There's very few social places gay women can go to here and be accepted. There's no such thing as a Women's Hot Tub; even the one and only steam bath for men is now no more!

I feel like I'm in a social and cultural vacuum! What am I supposed to do? Give up the fact that I'm a sexual human being and only be celibate and political? Or do I break the mold and be a sleaze, like my friends here would probably end up calling me?

Your troubled friend,

S.

Editor's Note: For more "Food for Thought", read "My Body or My Politics", by Sharon McDonald in issue #357 of the Advocate.

Coming Events ~ Other Organizations

Wen-Do Workshop: The art of women's self defense, Wen-Do, will be taught during a workshop held on February 19th and 20th. You don't have to be athletic, fit, or anything but eager to learn this. If you are interested please contact Anne at 424-3321.

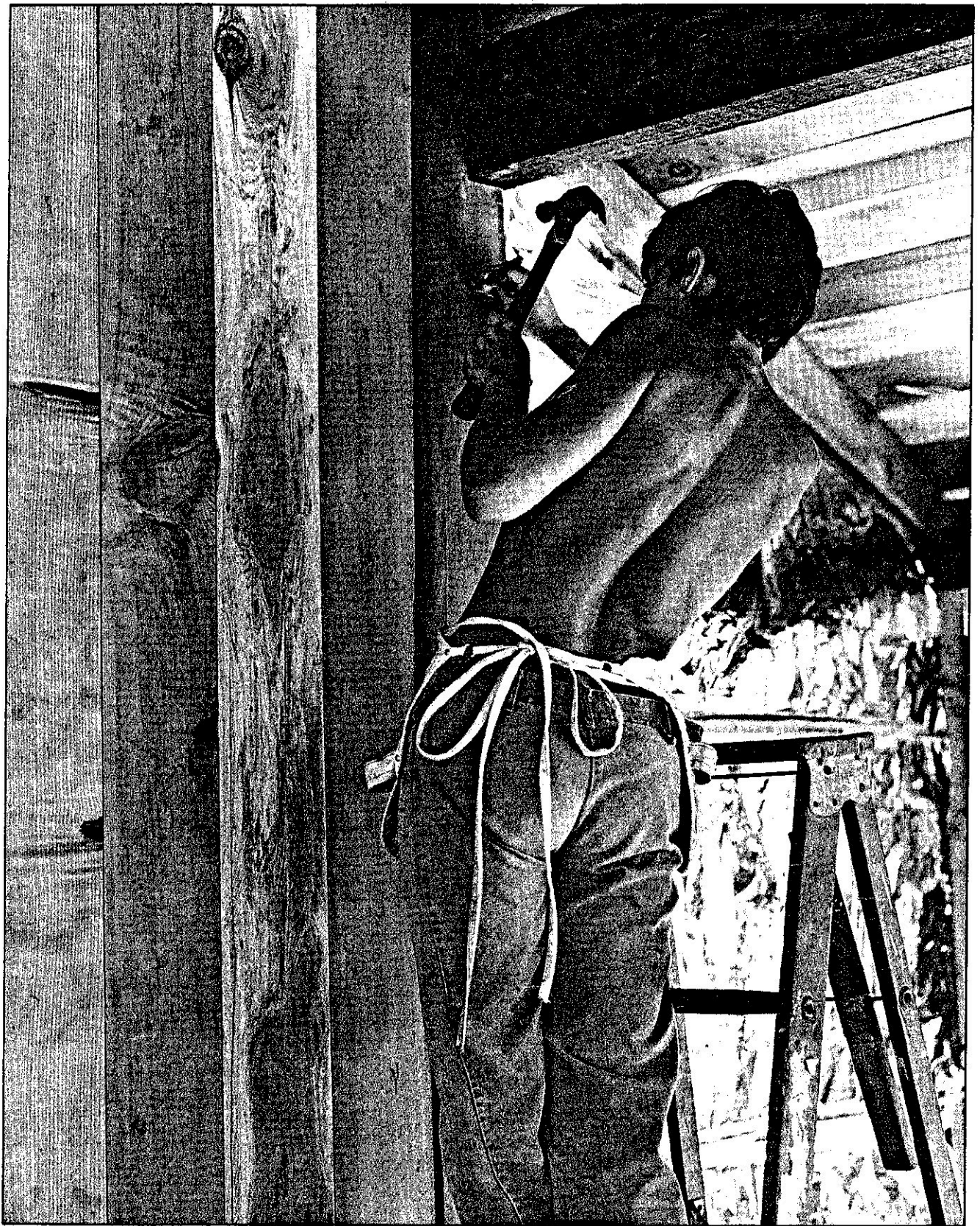
WEN-DO: The Edmonton area will soon have someone certified to instruct the basic Wen-do course to any women who are interested in learning women's self-defense. If you have a group of women (approximately 20) who would be interested in a course, please contact Kris Kosteck at 962-6522 to make arrangements or ask any questions. We could arrange a weekend course or perhaps a course consisting of 2 to 3 hours, one night a week for six weeks.

Films: The Women's Centre at the University of Alberta will be presenting two films at the Multi Media Centre, 2-115 Education Building, U. of A.

February 3 - "Women and Work" at 7 P.M.
March 3 - "International Women's Day".
Show time 7 P.M.

Discussion will follow.

Dance: GATE Pink Triangle Dance
February 12
Phoenix Hall - 10852-98 Street
Time - 8:00 - 1:00 a.m.
GATE members - \$5.00
Non-members - \$6.00
Tickets at the door.



“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less important whether or not I am unafraid.”

Audre Lorde

Resale Clothing: A second time around clothing sale for Women ONLY is held on the last Sunday of every month from 2 to 4 p.m. at Every Women's Place, 9926 - 112 Street. Items include nostalgia pieces and some REALLY good buys. Next sale is on January 30.

Pub Night: February 12 is Pub night at Every Woman's Place, 9926 - 112 Street, starting at 8 p.m. Come on down for some laughs and very nice company. Beer and Wine. No Admission!

Gay Chorus: If you are gay or gay sympathetic and feel that a choral society would be a worthwhile and timely addition to the Edmonton Gay scene, we would like to hear from you! We are looking for men and women interested in singing, conducting and for those interested in contributing as administrators, accompanists and music arrangers. The inaugural meeting for the Edmonton Gay Chorus and Friends is set for Monday, February 14, 7:30 P.M., at 11303 - 102 Avenue. Contacts: Herbert or Michael, at 426-1516.

Dancing: Monday nights you can dance and exercise your way to fitness. Open to gay women and men and their friends. Sign up at the GATE office or at the first session.
Place: Rm 12, Art Administration Resource Centre 10645 - 63 Avenue
When: Monday evenings, February 7 thru April 11.
Time: 7 - 9 P.M.
Instructor: Salvador Rosales
Director of a local dance company
Cost: \$30.00 per person for ten sessions.
Contact: Salvador at 488-5928 (evenings)
Michael at 426-1516

Further Info :

Women's Night: Every Thursday night is women's night at GATE. 7 - 10 P.M. 10173 - 104 Street. Everyone is welcome.

Metropolitan Community Church: M.C.C. Edmonton is a Christian community welcoming lesbians and gay men to worship God and celebrate life in Christ's example. We worship in the Unitarian Church building at 126 Street and 110 Avenue every Sunday at 7:30 P.M. For personal contact, call 421-8552.

Casino Night: One of the best money makers around is Lady Luck. And we'd like to put her to work for us. In order to raise a building fund so that we can have a place of our very own, Womonspace is considering holding a Casino night. However, because the operating of such involves a good deal of money, we cannot leave the decision and the details to chance. We need a Quorum; that is 22 Womonspace members to vote on the presentation. Please, if you're a member, come to the next General Meeting, February 8/83, 7:30 P.M. at Every Woman's Place 9926 - 112 Street and **VOTE!**

Membership Fees: And while we're at it, we also need a Quorum (22 or more Womonspace members) to vote on the question of membership fees. Two amounts have been suggested: \$10.00 and \$12.00. Please come to the next General Meeting of Womonspace, Feb. 8/83, 7:30 P.M., at Every Woman's Place 9926 - 112 Street and cast your **VOTE.**

Articles: Take a look at the article on Lesbian Sexuality called, "My Body or My Politics" in issue #357 of the Advocate. Very thought provoking.

Special Thanks: Goes to Marg for donating the ice bucket used at our dances - a little class for our glass.

Logo: We have it! At the last Volunteer's dance, everyone gave us their best effort at designing a symbol for Womonspace. The decision was tough, but we finally settled on the one created by Linda W. All efforts were greatly appreciated. Thanks everyone. Now we're really ready to make our mark on the world.

General Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at Every Woman's Place. The next one is February 8/83

WOMONSPACE NEWS is available at Flashback GATE, Every Woman's Place, Common Woman Books and at Different Strokes.

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QUOTATION

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* MANN, A.T. *The round art: the
astrology of time and space.*
Edited by Donald Lehmkuhl and
Mary Flanagan. Cheltenham, Gos.:
Paper Tiger, 1979.

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