

I KNOW YOU KNOW

lesbian views & news

A National Monthly Magazine

January 1985 • \$3.50



VACANCY

Resorts
Outdoor Adventure
Womentours

Alive!



PHOTOGRAPH BY IRENE YOUNG

Left to right: Rhiannon (vocals), Janet Small (piano),
Barbara Borden (drummer), Stacy Rolls (horns)
Susanne Vincenza (bass)

See page 41 for an interview with Rhiannon and Janet Small

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Join Us



as we travel throughout the United States

There is NO single state, city, town or county in the United States where our sisters can't be found — and now, at last, there is a magazine devoted to learning from the most interesting of them. A magazine written for lesbians by professionals in their field. A magazine designed to meet lesbian needs not currently being filled by any one publication and to address the particular concerns of lesbians.

We've called it *I KNOW YOU KNOW: lesbian views & news*, if you've been looking for good, solid newsstand-quality articles and features, I KNOW YOU KNOW is the logical magazine for you. One of the biggest parts of our job is to help you keep your career dreams and aspirations alive, to know there are those of us who share these dreams and have had them come true.

Our enthusiasm for the continuing quality of professional content, look and appeal goes well beyond that of any covert printed piece. I KNOW YOU KNOW is 'out' for you.

Many of us fashioned our grown lives in isolation without benefit of good, positive reinforcement of our beautiful lifestyle. I KNOW YOU KNOW reinforces the positive of 'youness' and alienates the offensive.

And we are networking throughout the United States to search out and present articles and features to you on a professional level covering our past, present and future. I KNOW YOU KNOW (IKYK) is strictly a 'lifestyle' publication designed to help women get the most out of their lives.



I KNOW YOU KNOW

lesbian views & news

A National Monthly Magazine

January 1985

Volume 1 / Number 2

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Ellie's Nest

Special Section

ALTERNATIVE VACATIONS

Resorts

18

A mix of lesbian and gay/lesbian resorts.

Where the freedom to be yourself, with your loved one, is the norm rather than the exception. *by Albright Communications*

Ellie's Nest... a self interview, with Judie one of the two owners of Ellie's Nest, dealing with the business of owning and managing a women only guest house in Key West, Florida. *by Judie*

Outdoor Adventure

27

For those of you looking for - a challenge - the call of the wild - or being one with the land.

Talking With Woodswomen... "Woodswomen" is an outdoor adventure program for adult women; they teach canoeing, rockclimbing, skiing and backpacking. *by Judith Niemi*

Womentours

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Travel Agencies... Women owned and operated travel agencies that cater especially to women.

The Way To Independent Travel for Women... "It may be circumstance, personal decision, or job obligation, but sooner or later you might find yourself having to travel independently."

by Jacqui Aquilino

I KNOW YOU KNOW

lesbian views & news



A National Monthly Magazine

Take advantage of our subscription only special limited time introductory offer rate of \$24.00 for a year and receive twelve monthly issues. Also take advantage of our special six month gift certificate subscription for a friend at the rate of \$12.00 when you sign up as a one-year subscriber. Both one-year introductory subscription and six-month gift certificate subscription offer good until January 31, 1985. Full subscription price of \$27.00 goes into effect on February 1, 1985. Mailed in white 9 x 12 sealed envelope with only your name and Jernan Ltd. Inc., publication on outside of envelope.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL OFFER... subscriptions that reach us on or before December 31, 1984 will be eligible to be placed in the drawing for: **FREE 5 DAY / NIGHT** stay at **ELLIE'S NEST**, an exclusive lesbian resort in Key West, Florida, for you and a female friend. See page 45 for subscription blank.

• LETTERS •

Dear IKYK,

Got my first issue...

I was overwhelmed. You women did it. I couldn't believe that we have our very own beautiful magazine. The format is great and the articles are great. I read it cover to cover — couldn't put it down. Can't wait to get all future issues. Enclosed please find a check to cover five new subscriptions. Also please send article submission information. Once again, thank you — we certainly needed a quality magazine.

S.C. - IL

To the Editor:

Give me an I
Give me a K
Give me a Y
Give me a K
Give me IKYK everyday.

We love it, love it, love it. Want more, more, more. Keep it up.

M.S. - WS

Women:

I can't begin to tell you how long I've longed for a publication that I could be proud to display in my home. Your magazine is tops. Proud to be a charter subscriber.

L.A. - OH

IKYK

GREAT! Really great. What else can I say - except Fantastic.

Max, IN

IKYK:

Just to borrow a line from "My Fair Lady,"

You've done it, you've done it. I can't believe you've done it. They said you couldn't do it and you did, did, did. Wow!

Phil, CA

I'm impressed. Great job. Loved all of it. Festival section blew me away. I'm going to get my bike in shape for the Motorcycle Festival. In fact I just might ride to as many as I can afford to get to.

Biker, MI

Dr. Sage's article on Toxic Shock Syndrome really opened my eyes. What a risk I've been taking. I don't exactly know what I'll do, but I'll certainly be more careful doing it.

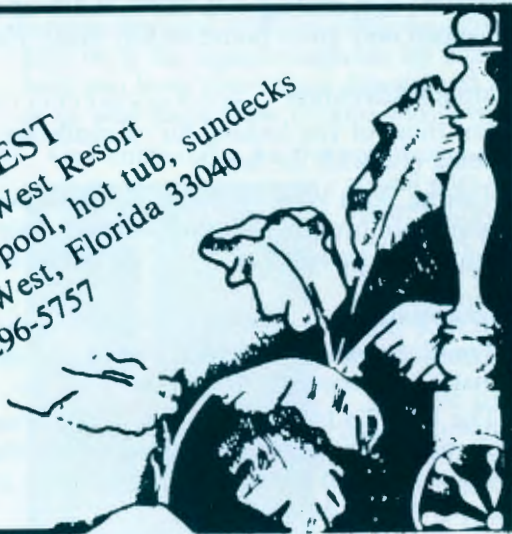
B.P. - NY



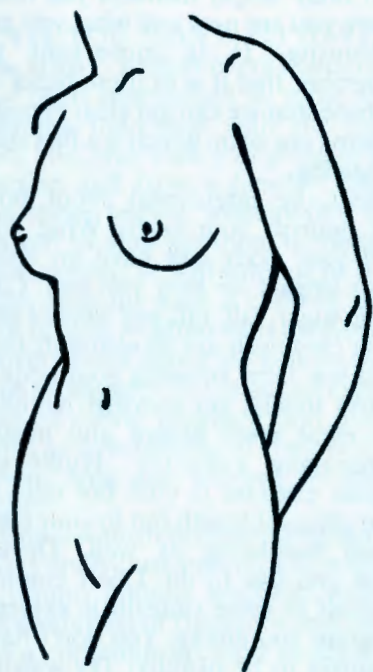
ELLIE'S NEST

A Woman's Key West Resort

AC and TV in each room, pool, hot tub, sundecks
1414 Newton, Key West, Florida 33040
305-296-5757



• OUR SELVES •



On Becoming

THE BODY AS A METAPHOR. One of the rites of passage in the Lesbian lifestyle, it seems, is to grow up being a tomboy — climbing trees, playing cowboys and football with all the boys in the neighborhood. One woman I know says she was so attached to her Hopalong Cassidy suit, her mother resorted to bribery in order to get her daughter to remove the cherished outfit long enough for it to be laundered. Shocking as it may seem, not all of us grew up in this free, risk-taking, push-your-body-to-the-limits manner. Some of us (although few are willing to admit to it) grew up playing with dolls, having tea parties, playing house and getting cleaned up for Daddy. We were told not to get dirty, or go outside the yard, and playing anything more strenuous than hide-and-seek was absolutely out of the question.

So each of us will have very different answers to the question: What do you know about your body — really know about it? Ask yourself: Am I proud of my body? Do I like the way I look? the way I move? Do I move easily? rigidly? Do I compare my body to others? Do I judge it? What

do I know about the feelings I lock inside it? What parts of my body do I associate with pain? with pleasure? What areas have I disowned? Why? When? Take some time to reflect on these questions, for how we feel about our bodies, how much we claim our freedom, how we've experienced our bodies in the past — all these issues have everything to do with how we perceive ourselves as women.

In order to get to know our bodies more intimately, let's explore four pathways.

First, how do you see yourself — or do you see yourself at all? A woman told me recently that unless she applies at least minimal make-up (mascara, eye-brow pencil) she feels totally unseen, invisible. I invite you then, to take some time to look at yourself. Allowing plenty of time and privacy, remove your clothes, jewelry and make-up and stand before a full-length mirror. Notice what you're feeling right now. Comfortable? Uneasy? Embarrassed? Take your time. Starting with the top of your head and, *without judging*, see yourself. Moving down your body to your toes, turning from side to side and noticing your backside as well, look at you. Notice what areas are pleasurable to see, what places do you simply glance at or ignore? Simply notice the attitudes you hold about your body.

Do this exercise periodically, noticing how/if your attitudes vary or change.

Now that you know how you see yourself, let's explore your sense of touch. Repeat the above exercise, this time closing your eyes, and simply touch your body. From your head to your toes, touch your body, noticing what parts feel pleasurable, uncomfortable, sensitive, numb. Again, simply notice, don't judge.

Now that you've shown such restraint on your self-criticism, let yourself know what you do say to yourself about your body. Are your statements positive? self-deprecating? Where do those words come from? parents? society? yourself?

As I reflect on these exercises, I'm again reminded how I've disowned my legs. Having very large ankles may not seem monumental to some folks, but at a very early age, I decided I would deal with the ugliness of my legs by simply pretending they did not exist. I did not see them. I did not use them, except minimally/awkwardly. Further, they have become a source of pain resulting in several surgeries (they would be noticed!). While I told myself their solidness kept me well grounded, I was nevertheless hooked by "well-meaning" therapists who noted my legs look like "stumps" and "piano legs." Since these statements concurred with my own image, I simply swallowed those words along with my own, responding in anger only after I was well into my reclaiming process.

So now let's explore the fourth pathway toward reclamation: What is your body telling you? Once you've decided to see your body, to touch your body and to acknowledge what you say to it, you're available to knowing what your body has to say to you. Many people simply assess themselves on their outer appearance. I suggest to you that that is only a beginning. Self-knowing comes from getting in touch with your inner self — attuned to yourself from the inside out, so to speak.

A simple method is to sit or lie comfortably in a quiet place. Close your eyes and relax. Breathe easily and gently. Attend to the inside of your body, noticing any tightness, tension or movement in your body. Simply breathe into those spaces and, staying with your breathing, notice what that tension or movement means for you. What images emerge as you attend to your body?

Let me give you some examples of what can happen here. Some time ago, I awoke one morning with severe lower back pain (a favorite place my anger often chooses to reside) and as I attended to this pain and breathed into it, I noticed an image of a tight-fisted iron hand. I was holding tightly onto my anger. My

Continued page 8

choice was clear: I could continue holding onto this or I could let it go. I chose the latter. Amazingly, as I discussed the issue with my partner and shared my anger, I could feel that fist releasing its grip on me.

Recently, a woman was telling me about a severe skin allergy she'd had some years ago. For three years, she'd struggled with a constant itching rash on her arms. None of the several physicians and allergists she consulted could give her relief. During this time she made the decision to leave an unhappy marriage, and the rash cleared immediately. So what was her body saying? On some level, she had been "itching" to get out. Her body knew this before she was ready to know on a conscious level.

Susan was recently referred to me by her physician who was frustrated in her efforts to find physiological reasons for her patient's severe headaches. In relating her symptoms to me, she described not only shooting pains in her head, but throbbing and sharp pains in her arms and hands. Upon further exploration of her stressful work situation, she said, "I feel as though I'm beating my head against a brick wall" and "My hands are tied." Clearly, this woman's sense of powerlessness is making her sick.

And finally, a woman telling her story in our women's group described 45 years of illness, accidents, physical and verbal abuse. Having borne five children and reared three foster children as well, she told of being taken advantage of, having to always be available for her family. She presented herself as a truly loving, caring, warm and nurturing woman. Does she ever complain or express anger or say no? Her physical body is in almost constant pain, which is focused primarily in her gastrointestinal area. She swallows everything — what people ask, what they say and of course, nearly all her feelings and most particularly her anger.

As you can see, and perhaps have experienced for yourself, many of us have disowned parts or all of our bodies. Folks who have experienced intellectual success often find it much less risky to rely on their brains

and so deny their entire physical bodies. So how do we go about the vital process of reclaiming our own bodies? There are at least four steps to this process.

First, become a member of a support group in which you can share this process, for it's not an easy one. Share your fears, what your journey has been that has caused you to disown your body. If a group isn't available, start one, or at least share with a trusted friend.

Secondly, educate yourself. I'm always amazed at how little we women know about our own bodies. And since fear is bred in ignorance, make a commitment to becoming

*“...self-knowing
come from getting
in touch with
your
inner self-
attuned to
yourself from
the inside
out.”*

more knowledgeable. There are many books on the market. My favorites are: "Woman's Body: An Owner's Manual" by the Diagram Group; "Getting Clear" by Anne Kent Rush; and "Our Bodies, Ourselves" by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective.

Thirdly, spend time with yourself — time to attend to your body by doing some of the suggested exercises or some of your own choosing. You need to take time in order to know what it is your body has to tell you. And take time to affirm your body. Your body, as it is now, is a gift.

Spending time and energy negating your body simply distracts you from where you are now and what you are becoming. It is important to remember that it is in these times of solitude that we can get clear enough to name our pain, which is a first step to healing.

Next, be intentional about how you nourish your body. What you feed your body can have an enormous impact on how you feel. Caffeine, sugar, salt, fat, and alcohol and other chemicals are all elements that keep you from knowing your body.

And finally, get moving! Nothing can elicit more groans and moans suggesting exercise. However, regular exercise is vital not only to your physical health but to your emotional well-being as well. Decide what you *like* to do. Don't commit yourself to some unrealistic exercise program you dislike. You don't have to suffer to be healthy! Try walking or bike-riding. Any aerobic exercise is great. No need to overdo — the aerobic benefit can be achieved when you perspire moderately and you find yourself mouth-breathing. Some experts suggest exercising 3-4 times a week for 20-30 minute periods. Or you might want to experiment with a T'ai Chi class (an ancient Chinese gentle exercise) or try Aikido (a Japanese art for self-defense and centering). Or simply turn on the radio and dance. Of course, if you're over 35, check with your physician before beginning any exercise program.

The reality is we cannot heal emotionally without attending to ourselves physically. And, all you need to know about yourself is available to you when you honestly attend to your body. Becoming whole and healthy is a process of integrating the body and mind, one's feelings with one's actions.

—NANCY VAN ARSDALL JONES

Nancy is a feminist therapist in private practice, trained in Gestalt and process therapy and is a clinical member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. She has had over twenty years experience working with women.

Doctor's Comments: 1st of two parts

SO YOU WANT TO HAVE A BABY. Almost every lesbian has been approached by some well-meaning individual with the question, "So, when are you going to get married and have a family?" More and more lesbian women find the answer to this question is, despite their obvious lack of interest in marriage, they do want a child of their own to raise — often with the help of a lover. Some may even look forward with excitement to the actual experience of being pregnant and giving birth, as a reclaiming of their female power, long ago usurped by patriarchy.

How a lesbian becomes pregnant is a very individual matter. Knowledge of various options available, with a full awareness of their pros and cons, and a conscious decision in advance of conception are vital for a woman's owning of her power in this process. The three basic methods available are sexual intercourse, artificial insemination, and the much discussed, but questionably efficacious, parthenogenesis.

Sexual intercourse with a man as an option for starting a new life is a very individual, emotional matter. Certainly, many separatists, dykes find such contact unacceptable under any circumstances, and other women find it simply repulsive on a "gut level." However, there are lesbians among my acquaintances, who occasionally have casual sexual relations with men, despite their primary sexual activity and emotional bonding being with women. I am aware of several unplanned children resulting from these casual relationships.

If a lesbian engages in sexual intercourse with the intent of becoming pregnant, she must decide how open she will be about her plans. Some women have chosen a casual acquaintance, declined to discuss their intent to conceive, and never notified the child's father. This could be called the "caveat emptor" approach. Others have chosen a trusted friend and agreed in advance on his degree of involvement with the child.

Regardless of the arrangement with the father, a working knowledge of the time of ovulation, and the days when conception can occur, is important. Frequent, randomly-timed intercourse, such as married couples may engage in, often results in pregnancy within two to six months if the couple is fertile. Although effective in that setting, it is highly inefficient. Timing is crucial to increase the chance of success with a limited number of attempts. Books and classes on the rhythm method or natural family planning, despite their focus on how to avoid pregnancy, prove to be an excellent source of information on identifying the time of ovulation.

It is also crucial that the man be fertile. Slightly greater than five percent of the male population have inadequate sperm counts and are sterile. Also, increasing numbers of

may have some regular fresh sperm donors — often paid medical students — or order frozen semen from banks such as Idant in New York City or Southern California Cryobank in Los Angeles. There are several disadvantages to this route. You must rely upon whatever limited information is available on physical characteristics, intelligence and genetic disorders of the donor. Also, the cost is high — often several thousand dollars, which may not be covered by insurance.

An alternative is do-it-yourself artificial insemination. Obtaining the semen and determining the day of ovulation then becomes the individual's responsibility and are the most difficult parts of the procedure. A male must be found to serve as the genetic father who is willing to donate semen. This can be done with the help of a trusted third party acting as a go-between to preserve the anonymity of both donor and recipient, or by making a direct agreement with a chosen donor. Once arrangements have been made to obtain the semen, the actual technique of artificial insemination is quite simple. The procedure accomplishes what sexual intercourse does, i.e., the placement of fresh semen deep in the vagina, but without the direct use of a penis.

The semen sample should initially be deposited in a clean, soap-free container at room temperature and used as soon as possible, generally within one to two hours. It is drawn up into any convenient device, such as a turkey baster or small syringe, which can then be inserted to about the full depth of the vagina, and the semen is then deposited. The woman should continue to lie on her back for at least one-half hour after the procedure to prevent the sample from oozing out before sperm can move into the cervix or mouth of the uterus. Although sexual stimulation and orgasm reportedly do not increase the chance of impregnation, a woman is free to choose how to spend this time in a home setting.

Continued page 38

*“ . . . whatever
basic choice . . .
there are
various risks.”*

men are having vasectomies. The scar from this procedure is subtle, and inquiry is generally necessary to determine whether the procedure has been performed.

For the lesbian who desires artificial insemination, several options exist. One is to have the procedure performed by a physician with either fresh or frozen semen. Many physicians refuse to artificially inseminate single or lesbian women, but in a large city, diligent search will generally turn up a willing gynecologist or family practitioner. Locating such a physician eliminates the need to find your own semen source. The doctor

For Your Information

THE BOSTON WOMEN'S Health Book Collective (the publishers of "Our Bodies Our Selves") is asking women's help to get the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to require uniform absorbency labeling on tampon boxes. This will enable consumers to compare one brand with another. If you use tampons, you need accurate information about absorbency to control your flow. This will reduce your risk of getting toxic shock syndrome (TSS). Unfortunately, thirty women each month are still getting TSS, and three percent of them are dying from it.

An absorbency-disclosure system must be simple, straightforward, and non-contradictory. Currently, the terms "regular", "super," etc., are of no use when comparing one brand with another. Products labeled with particular absorbency must be comparable. The FDA will not make this happen unless women insist on it.

The FDA would like to use a number rating system, with the current absorbency terms. If its present plan is put into effect, you will have to read some fine print to know that "Playtex Regular 13" is more absorbent than "Tampax Super 9." A further problem with a number system is that it may encourage women to use higher absorbency tampons,

since the tampon companies advertise their products based on greater absorbency giving greater protection.

Writing the FDA helps. Consumer letters have forced the FDA to take tampons seriously, to classify them as a medical device rather than a cosmetic. Recently, other letters have gotten the agency to propose required absorbency labeling. Now we need letters so the FDA will institute a system that is best for consumers. Even if your letter just says, "As a consumer, I support standardized absorbency terms on tampon boxes," it still is important, because the FDA acts when it knows someone is paying attention to an issue.

The FDA address is:

John C. Villforth, Director
NCDRH, Food and Drug
Administration
HFX-1 5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective asks you to send a copy of your letter to them and to write if you want more information on the consumer position. Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Inc., Box 192, West Somerville, MA 02144. (Editor's Note: Toxic Shock Syndrome, its cause and symptoms, was dealt with in an article by Dr. Diana Sage in the December 1984 issue.)

Tampon absorbency

Figures are grams of saline solution absorbed by tampons in standardized tests

Brand/Style	Grams
Tampax Junior	5.18
Tampax Original Regular	6.82
Tampax Slender Regular	6.97
Kotex Stick Regular	8.17
Kotex Security Regular	9.13
Tampax Super	9.30
Pursettes Regular	10.28
OB Regular	10.69
Kotex Stick Super	10.92
Pursettes Super	12.09
Kotex Security Super	12.12
Playtex Deod. Regular	12.61
OB Super	12.84
Playtex Non Deod. Regular	13.16
Playtex Non Deod. Super	15.66
Playtex Deod. Super	15.78
Tampax Super Plus	15.93
OB Super Plus	16.71
Playtex Non Deod. Super Plus	17.05
Playtex Deod. Super Plus	17.40

Source: Manufacturer's test results presented to the Tampons Task Force of the American Society for Testing and Materials

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

NOW YOU HAVE A chance to save on a popular vacation and make a substantial donation to a worthwhile cause. N.C.L.'s October 6, 1985, seven-day sailing of the Southward visiting Puerto Plata, St. Thomas, San Juan, and Nassau, has been designated a special fund-raising cruise for the A.I.D.S. Foundation. Five percent of the 10 percent discount will be a tax-deductible donation from the participant to the A.I.D.S. Foundation. The special reduced rate includes the seven-night cruise, port

taxes, airfare from most cities (West Coast passengers will receive an extra night in Miami), transfers from the airport to the pier, and baggage handling. Cocktail parties and special events are planned during the cruise. Prices start from \$951.00 per person with an additional \$50.00 savings for reservations received before January 1, 1985.

There are added incentives for groups wishing to help promote this very special fund-raiser. For further information, contact David at St. Claire Travel, 369 Town and Country Village, San Jose, CA 95128, (408) 249-4142.

Parent's viewpoint

MOTHER, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU. "I was absolutely devastated when I found out," said 42-year-old Sarah, mother of a gay daughter. "Strangely enough, I had many gay friends all through my life. I don't know why I was so revolted when Laura told me she was a lesbian. I guess it was because my gay friends were all male. Somehow I was never revolted or offended by them. In fact, I was in awe of them. These guys were extremely charming, intelligent, well-dressed, and lots of fun to be with. But lesbians that I've met through the years seemed slovenly, not very well educated. They made me feel very uncomfortable. I guess I just found it difficult to put my daughter in this category. We used to call them 'dykes' or 'bull-dykes.' Even my gay male friends couldn't stand them. To think that my daughter was one of those... Well, anyway, that was my initial reaction — not a very good one."

"You give birth to a baby girl. You dress her up in little pink dresses and pink booties. You buy her dolls to play with and then one day you find out you were doing all the wrong things. You feel as though you've been cheated," said 39-year-old Marion, mother of a lesbian. The 41-year-old father, Howard, was also present. He went on to say that his initial reaction was one of sadness. "It was the first time I cried in many years," he said. "To make things doubly hard, her lover is black. I mean I was brought up as a southern Baptist; how in the hell am I supposed to handle all this?"

"So what," said another father of a lesbian. The man, Stephen, was in his late fifties, brought up in New York City. "So she's gay, so what, isn't it better than her having cancer or leukemia? I just want her to be happy. I love my daughter, and that's all that matters. The unfortunate thing is society. Society will not allow her to express herself openly and that's what hurts me and it will hurt her."

"It's just a phase my daughter is

going through; she's just angry with men. You know, she's had bad luck with men. She'll get over it. I know she will." These statements were made by 56-year-old Martha, brought up in Tennessee, and the mother of a lesbian.

"The devil got into her," said 36-year-old Ruby. "I threw her out. I don't want to see her anymore. She's got the devil in her." Ruby was a devout Seventh Day Adventist from Maryland.

"I felt guilty," said 46-year-old Susan, the mother of a 23-year-old lesbian. "I really believed I was the



cause of her being gay. I was divorced when she was 15, and I started seeing a lot of men. I mean I was frustrated because my husband left me for another woman. I wanted to prove something. I wanted to prove that I could attract men. And I did — a different one every weekend. Yep, Janice would see me with a different man every weekend. She would see them love me and leave me. I was sure this was what caused her to be a lesbian."

These are typical reactions that parents express when they discover their daughter's homosexuality. Environmental and educational factors do seem to influence these attitudes.

Of course there are exceptions to every rule, and I don't mean to generalize, but out of all the parents whom I have known and interviewed, those brought up in big cities found their daughter's homosexuality easier to accept and were less stymied by it. Also, those with college degrees or educational and cultural equivalents were more accepting. Less accepting were those parents with strong religious backgrounds, less education or cultural interests, and those brought up in small towns. For some reason, I have also discovered that parents of gay sons cope better than parents of gay daughters. Perhaps because in this society we tend to worry more about our daughters than our sons. One mother I met had a gay son and a gay daughter. She first found out about her son and seemed to be fairly complacent and accepting, but when told about her daughter being gay, she became depressed and withdrawn and refused to discuss it.

The best therapy for this woman, and all parents who become upset and depressed about their child's homosexuality, is for them to become involved in parent support groups. Groups like these exist under the umbrella of the National Federation of Parents and Friends of Gays. In a support group, a parent who has come to terms with his child's gayness can offer advice and support to a parent who might have difficulty coping.

In next month's column we will discuss how these parents are helped and how they help each other.

— HELAINE MICHAELS-KLEIN

Helaine Michaels-Klein is a free-lance writer and also employed as an editorial assistant at a government agency in Washington, D.C. She has interviewed many parents of gays and has attended workshops and meetings of the National Federation of Parents and Friends of Gays. She has had articles published in "Single Parent Magazine" and "The Washington Post."

• DOLLARS AND SENSE •

Financial

PROSPERITY IS POSSIBLE for all people. It is not reserved for a chosen few. But a pernicious myth persists that prosperity is like the proverbial pie. If I take a large piece, then your piece of pie will have to be smaller. Women, in particular, have been taught from infancy to allow others' needs to come before our own. This type of thinking is worse than a myth; it is a bald-faced lie. First, it sets up a scarcity model, i.e., there is very little available abundance, therefore we must not take too much. Secondly, it presumes that another's needs can be met if we deny our own.

There is not ONE pie. There are millions of pies in the world. Why not want a whole pie, or two pies, or 131 pies? Why do we as women settle for less than what is our inheritance?

How can you receive 131 pies? By BELIEVING that you will receive 131 pies. As an example, teachers were told that a certain group of students scored above average in IQ when, in fact, the students had quite average IQs. By the end of the semester, that particular group of students showed above average grades. The teachers believed, and they held "optimistic expectancies" for that particular group of students. Holding fast to this concept with regard to personal prosperity is a cornerstone for building abundance. I have never known anyone to be prosperous who did not look forward to the next moment in their lives with optimistic expectancy.

How can this be accomplished? Last month we developed the Checking Account Analysis that showed where money was being spent. We also studied our Buried Treasure Accounts, those sensitive areas where we hide from ourselves the amount of money we are spending. We also learned that total fixed spending should probably not exceed one-half the total monthly income. This allows the other half to be spent on groceries, clothing, planned purchases and fetishes.

Now the time has come to play "Corporate Treasurer" and set spending goals for the future by constructing a month-by-month Budget Sheet. The primary key to goal setting is to make the goals realistic, all-inclusive, individualistic, and optimistic.

As Corporate Treasurer of your life, you'll need another large accounting work sheet and the Checking Account Analysis that you prepared last month. On the left side of this sheet, write in the name of each *spending area* you identified on your

There is not ONE pie.

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what is our inheritance?*

Checking Account Analysis. It is imperative to include the often-forgotten items, such as gifts, car license plates, insurance and any other infrequent expenses that will happen during the year. In addition, don't fail to include a budgeted amount for savings. Even if you only budget \$5.00 per month, you will find that starting the savings habit, is one of the most important steps you can take towards your own prosperity. It is infinitely more important to save any amount of money on a regular basis than to worry about the amount of money you are saving. In the next column, *monthly budget*, write the amount of money you wish to spend

in this area. The amount of money you are budgeting for each area should be derived as a compromise among the following:

- historical data, as ascertained through your Checking Account Analysis
- constraints applied by outside sources (you can't lower your rent, even though you might like to do so)
- what you wish to spend in this area in the future
- what "feels" right to spend in this area
- optimistic expectancy in your thinking

Finally, place the months across the tops of the remaining columns. At the end of each month, write in the actual amount spent in each spending area. Then you can compare that amount with your budget estimate. You will find that the amount of some budgeted items is too large. That is, you rarely spend that amount of money for that particular area each month. Therefore, you should lower your budget in that area to a more realistic amount. Likewise, you will find some budgeted amounts too low. You'll note that you tend to spend more than the budgeted amount every month. You need to reassess the budgeted amount. Remember, budgets should never be cast in stone, but should have the flexibility to reflect your changing world.

If you find that you are spending too much money in one certain area, try one of these tricks. First, decide how much you feel that you should be spending in that area every month. Then divide the monthly budget into weeks. When you receive your next paycheck, place the amount of money you wish to spend in this "trouble area" in a white envelope. The money in that envelope may buy anything you wish to buy in that area, but when the money is gone, it is gone. You make a

Continued page 13

• DOLLARS AND SENSE •

Financial (Con't)

contract with yourself that you'll wait until next week and the next white envelope of cash to make any more purchases in this area.

If you are spending too much on charge cards, take your charge cards out of your wallet and put them in a safe place. Cash a check for the amount of money you believe you should be able to live on for one week, and buy everything that week with cash only.

We began by discussing prosperity and the concept of optimistic expectancy. Planned purchases are an excellent method of obtaining exactly what you want. Have you ever noticed that you buy more groceries when you go to the grocery store hungry?

Have you noticed that your grocery bill is higher when you buy groceries without a list? Researchers tell us that this is true of all people. Therefore, if we take the positive points of this research and extend it, we create a rich and abundant environment and save money at the same time. Let's suppose that you need some new work clothes, but don't really feel that you can afford them right now. First, make a list of all the clothes that you feel you must have. Now go back to each item on the list and be specific. That is, don't just list a "blue blouse" but visualize it, and list precisely what that blue blouse will look like. The more detail that you see and list, the better. Having made this list, you won't be as tempted to purchase just any blue blouse,

but will tend to wait until you find exactly what you visualized. This protects you against purchasing something less than what you really want—a costly mistake. And you have also set up the prosperity vibrations of belief and optimistic expectancy. Your subconscious mind understands perfectly well that you intend to have this precise list of items and it will work with you in achieving them.

Next month we'll discuss credit, borrowing money, and thinking yourself into prosperity.

—ESTHER A. FULLER

Esther has an M.A. in Business Administration and has been a financial consultant to women and small businesses for over ten years.

“...as Corporate Treasurer, you'll need another large accounting worksheet and last month's Checking Account Analysis.”

MONTH-BY-MONTH BUDGET SHEET													
SPENDING AREA	BUDGET	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Rent	\$220												
Utilities	70												
Phone	50												
Groceries	180												
Car Payment	130												
Gas	60												
Car Insurance	—												
Car Plates	—												
CHARGE CARD													
Jo's Gifts	125												
Clothing	75												
Eating Out	25												
Entertainment	60												
X'Mas Gifts	—												
Savings	5												
	\$1000												

• THE ARENA •

Political

THE GIPPER WINS ONE AGAIN. November 6, 1984-- Ronald Reagan has won his "four more years." Despite all the efforts of feminists, black activists, gay and lesbian activists and many others, Ronald Reagan's personal popularity overrode consideration of the issues for the majority of American voters. We now must look ahead to four more years--what will they mean to us as lesbians and as women in the United States?

To understand the task ahead of us we have to look at the election results: who really won; were Reagan's coattails very long; and what was the role of women in the campaign? Reagan won because of his own popularity and because he was able to maintain his nice-guy image even in the face of his and the GOP's disastrous economic and social agenda. Reagan was able to soft-pedal the GOP policies on women's rights by taking credit for Geraldine Ferraro's pension reform bill and Barbara Kennelly's child support bill, by letting his appointees attack pay equity while he kept quiet, and by showcasing token women appointees. Reagan talked about equal rights for women, despite the fact that his actions belie any such commitment.

While Reagan was riding a landslide across the country, it was clearly not a mandate for conservative GOP policies, but only a personal victory. The Republicans lost two Senate seats, including that of Family Protection Act author Roger Jepson in Iowa. They made only modest gains in the House of Representatives. These victories can give us some hope that more moderate voices in the Congress will be able to block some of the right-wing agenda for the next four years.

Voting patterns were also predictable this time around. The gender gap was there at all levels: Reagan got 8% fewer votes from women than he did from men and in the state and local races the gender gap was even

stronger. In several races--including Carl Levin's victory in Michigan and Madeline Kunin's victory in Vermont--the gender gap was the key to their success. The groups that apparently voted most strongly for the Mondale/Ferraro ticket were black people and feminists. According to exit polls, more than 80% of the black community supported the Democrat ticket, while close to 80% of feminists did also.

Those exit polls don't look at the lesbian and gay vote - not this year at least but preliminary surveys by gay

*“ . . . the list of
issues of concern
to us as
lesbians - as women
and simply as
citizens of the
United States--
is long”*

newspapers and political groups in Chicago, Washington, San Francisco and Dallas, suggest that the lesbian and gay community also strongly supported the Mondale/Ferraro ticket. Close to two-thirds of the gay voters in each of these areas indicated they supported the ticket and more than 80% of the lesbian voters also stated support for Mondale/Ferraro. Openly gay candidates for office also won election in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and California. Gerry Studds' victory

returns to Congress the first openly gay member there.

The down side of this increased involvement of the lesbian and gay community in electoral politics, and in Democrat party politics in particular, is the increase in the use of anti-gay tactics by the right wing. In several key races in North Carolina, Texas, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, anti-gay scare tactics were particularly vicious. Days before the election an ad hoc group in North Carolina ran an ad accusing the Democrat party and Senate candidate Jim Hunt of promoting evil and illicit sexual activities. Hunt's opponent, right-wing 'Prince of Darkness' Jesse Helms, has long been a staunch opponent of gay and lesbian rights. In Texas right-winger Phil Gramm defeated Lloyd Doggett in an equally nasty campaign.

Beyond the specifically anti-lesbian and gay tactics used by the right wing, the rhetoric of the locker room also evidenced a backlash against feminist gains. The charges that Mondale was a 'wimp' while Reagan has made American 'stand tall again' has striking anti-feminist and anti-woman connotations. In the vice-presidential debate, one reporter asked Geraldine Ferraro if the Russians would take advantage of her because she's a woman. One was left time and again with the impression that the Ferraro candidacy represented a real threat to male politicians across the country.

We look to 1985 with a very large agenda in front of us. We must continue to work toward parity for women in elected office and we must hold accountable all our elected officials. We must move to counteract the anti-gay activities of the right wing and begin to actively search out openly lesbian and gay candidates to run for office at all levels. We must continue to work within the Democrat Party to ensure that the gains of the 1984 platform and rules reports are honored.

Continued page 38

• LEISURE •

Sports

TOTAL FITNESS - A WAY OF LIFE. Greetings from Indianapolis, home of the 1987 Pan-American Games. Yes, old "Naptown" is rapidly becoming a sports-oriented city. Over the past few years, the city has hosted such events as the National Sports Festival, NORCECA International Volleyball competition, Olympic trials in swimming, diving and synchronized swimming, national ice skating championships, and many others too numerous to mention. If you're into sports, this is the place to be.

My topic for this month's column is the development of a total fitness program for the average female whose desire is to start and maintain a regular program of exercise. Before beginning any exercise program, it is suggested that the participant have a physical check-up by a physician. If there is a sports medicine center in your city, have the check-up there and inform the doctor of your proposed program.

This is the actual program in which I currently participate. Some form of exercise is necessary for my over-all well being, and when I can't be active, I become depressed. There's no better pick-up for feeling low than a good physical workout.

The Program

- A. Jogging
- B. Weight Training
- C. Walking
- D. Aerobics Class
- E. Bicycling
- F. Swimming

How can the ordinary working woman fit in all those activities? Cycling and swimming are seasonal activities, of course. I am very fortunate in that I work in an environment where there is an outdoor track, limited indoor track, swimming pool and a weight room. But, you don't need special facilities to walk, jog or participate in aerobics.

Establishing a routine of exercise is crucial. I have found through per-

sonal experience that *before* the work day is the best time for my jogging. It's too easy to postpone my own activity because of scheduled events in the evening; therefore, I jog and weight-train three mornings a week from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m. I have aerobics class two afternoons a week at my work, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with a visiting instructor. My swimming, walking and cycling are used as alternate activities, either for a change of routine, or in addition to the jogging, weight training and aerobics.

*“ . . . exercise
helps me to
relieve stress
and allows me
to feel better
about myself.”*

It's important for you to structure the activities of your program around the various components of physical fitness. These components are: cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and muscle tone (strength). Remember each component must be specifically emphasized.

Let's consider *cardiovascular endurance*. To improve your endurance, you must perform an activity that raises the heartrate above resting level and keeps it at that rate for several minutes. My cardiovascular activities include: jogging, 20-30 minutes, three times per week; swimming, 20-30 minutes, two times per week; aerobics, 30-40 minutes, two times per week.

Flexibility exercises may be included either as a warm-up for jogging or aerobics, or done separately. These exercises consist of stretching major muscle groups to prepare for exercise

and prevent muscle strain. The flexibility exercises that I perform are: toe touches for hamstring flexibility (with bent knee); heel to buttocks for quadricep flexibility; toe raises below a step for calf flexibility. I also work on upper body flexibility with side bends and trunk rotations.

Muscle Tone exercises may include using external weights or your own body weight as resistance. Weight training should be done with a resistance that you can lift approximately 15 times. An example of using your own body resistance is a sit-up, where your upper body is the load. Any form of resistance training will tone muscles and increase strength. I perform a circuit weight training program three days a week. I use a multi-station program, utilizing 15-20 repetitions at each station. These stations are on a Paramount multi-station weight machine.

Overall conditioning *must* include the components of cardiovascular endurance, flexibility and muscle tone. Each component must be emphasized and developed specifically. Above all, you must be disciplined and consistent with your program. All exercises must be done on a regular basis and your program must become a part of your lifestyle. My job involves stress. Exercising helps to relieve this pressure and allows me to feel better about myself. That alone makes my activity worthwhile. Make your activity fit your own schedule, but be active. Physical fitness is a way of life — start today to improve your fitness!

— BETH PATRICK

Beth is an athletic administrator and volleyball coach with over twenty years experience. She has coached six different sports, all with winning seasons. Her teams have won numerous county, sectional, regional and semi-state titles as well as the state championship. She is well known as a clinician, speaker, tournament director and administrator.

Portrait of a Recovering Runner

Before we go any further, there's something I need to tell you about myself. Maybe it isn't really so important for most of you to hear this, but I know it's very important for me — and thousands like me — to say it.

My name is Julia, and I'm a runner. I can say this to you now because now I'm a recovering runner. And this is my story.

Up until a few years ago, I'd never gone running in my life. I'd always walked, even as a child. But suddenly, everyone around me was running — my friends, my co-workers, even my parents. Everybody was doing it. One day, a friend of mine — someone I'd known in college — asked me to go running with her. And I did, just to see what it was like. Well, it made me dizzy, and short of breath, but it was... exhilarating. I'd never felt anything like it.

It wasn't long before I was running on my own... alone. I began with a mile or two after work, just to relax. Pretty soon I was running on my lunch hour too. Maybe I overdid it once or twice on weekends, but that

wasn't unusual. Anybody could do that. Then one morning I woke up and wanted to run before breakfast.

I began to enter marathons, and I met a lot of runners just like me. All we talked about was running: how far we could go, what warm-ups we did, what shoes we wore. It was so... socially acceptable.

I told myself I could stop whenever I wanted to.

But then I began to find myself in strange neighborhoods, miles from home, and not knowing how I got there.

I was out in all kinds of weather — in the rain, in the heat, in the snow. I was running through rush hour traffic, inhaling carbon monoxide, pounding my legs into the pavement, putting an undue strain on my heart and my respiratory system. But I still tried to convince myself that people who didn't run were the ones who were *really* abusing their bodies.

Once (this isn't easy for me to talk about). Once I sprained my ankle in a pile of dogdung and I still continued to run 15 miles a day on crutches.

Finally... finally I went out one day. I'd promised some friends I'd meet them later. I said that I'd turn around as soon as I got to the 128 Beltway right outside of Boston. But I didn't. I couldn't stop. I just couldn't. Two days later I was hospitalized after I collapsed while crossing the Canadian border.

Well, I had a lot of time to think while I was lying there in that hospital bed in Montreal. I realized I had a problem, so I got help.

It hasn't been easy, but I haven't run in almost three months now. I drive everywhere, I walk only when I have to, and I spend most of my spare time lying on a sofa with my feet up, eating candy bars and watching television.

I didn't run today, and... I hope... that I'll never run again. Thank you.

— JULIA WILLIS

Julia bills herself as "Comedienne of Unknown Origin" and a stand-up writer.



A photograph of two people sitting in deck chairs outdoors at dusk. The person on the left is wearing a striped shirt and a white towel is draped over their chair. The person on the right is wearing a blue shirt. They are sitting on a small round table with a drink on it. The background shows a forest of evergreen trees and mountains under a sunset sky. The scene is framed by tree branches at the top.

ALTERNATIVE VACATIONS

**Resorts
Outdoor Adventure
Womentours**

Resorts

Resorts catering to specific groups of the population have flourished for centuries. There have been resorts for families, for heterosexuals, for men only, for hunters, for fitness freaks, for various sports and hobby enthusiasts. But resorts created by women for women are a relatively recent development. (SEE "Ellie's Nest," page 19)

The resorts listed in this directory are a mix--some cater exclusively to women, some do not. All responded to our IKYK questionnaire. Any requests for more information about any of the vacation spots listed should be directed to the individual resorts.

CALIFORNIA

PEPPERLAND. For women only; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$35 per night In Season (May to October); \$25 per night Off Season. Housing and breakfast for 1 or 2 persons. No other meals provided; veggie breakfast available. Nearest airport, S.F., 3½ hours away. Brochure available. One cottage. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy. No planned social events. Pets allowed. Remote, private country location on California's rugged Mendocino coast in a redwood forest. Private shower, sun deck, radio, wood burning stove, linens, flush toilet, queen-size bed, cottage furnished in blue and white calico. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, sauna/hot tub, pool, weight room, tennis, golf, beach, boat and bike rental, fishing, rafting and canoeing, horseback riding and shopping. Main tourist attractions: the Victorian town of Mendocino and the Pacific Ocean. Woman built and owned since 1973. "A perfect getaway for San Francisco Bay area women. A jewel in a perfect setting. Women who come here wish they never had to leave!" For more information, contact Sally Silvering, Pepperland, Box 464, Albion, CA 95410, 707/937-0020.

THE RANCH. For women and children only (boys to age 10); owned by lesbian. Rates: \$5 per night per person for campsite. Must arrange own transportation to area (bus from Ukiah). Brochure available. Over thirty campsites. Planned social



Judie and Martha owners of Ellie's Nest in Key West, Florida.

activities: parties, dances, contests. Pets allowed. Country location. Water, outhouses, campfire wood. Located nearby: restaurants, bar, groceries, fishing, canoeing. Hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails and horseback riding at the site. Main tourist attractions: Hopland and the California Wine Country. 500 acres of women-owned land with a woman caretaker. "Safe, private country space for women's camping. Peace, serenity, beautiful land. The Ranch is a working ranch with animals and crops. Interested women can help with the chores or relax in privacy." For more information, contact Helen Wagner, The Ranch, 430 Holladay, San Francisco, CA 94110, 415/824-5352.

WILLOW. For women only; owned by women; open to everyone, or groups if they reserve the entire facility. Rates: \$25 per night per person for housing only plus use of all facilities. Meals not provided for individuals; meals provided for groups by

prior arrangement; veggie meals available. Brochure available. Nine private rooms with 1, 2, or 3 beds. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy and social interaction. Private country location in hills and forest 1½ hours from Bay Area. Pets allowed only with special permission; babes in arms allowed, other children on special children's weekends only; nudity optional. Kitchen facilities and privileges, private rooms, shared baths, sun deck, lobby TV, wood burning stoves, linens, flush toilets, solar heated pool and hot tub, tennis court with ball machine, indoor sauna, wheelchair accessible, stereo and records, books, magazines, games. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, golf, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails, fishing, shopping. Main tourist attractions: hot air ballooning; Napa & Sonoma Valley wineries and tours; Yountville boutiques; Jack London State Park. In operation for over 10 years; 95% of guests are

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Ellie's Nest

Martha was born in Houston and I (Judie) was born in Boston. We met in Jacksonville. I seduced her, which is not germane to the story, but it's interesting. I'm the trick that came for dinner and stayed for 11 years.

A very dear friend of Martha's at that time was Eleanor, a straight lady and a widow. Her story is fascinating and this is germane! Eleanor was one of the first women in the Coast Guard in World War II working in the decoding room. She'd studied at the Berlitz in Paris and also taught there.

The three of us got to be very close friends. One evening one of us said, "Why is it that only two weeks out of the year we are where we want to be, in Key West?" The corporate life was becoming a drag for Martha and me (we both worked for the same company). We decided to move down to Key West and get whatever kind of a job we could.

One day we were discussing this in front of Eleanor. (We'd gotten into the habit of calling her honey and dear, in case we slipped. It was never discussed that we were gay.) While we were discussing this, Eleanor said, "Honeys, can I come with you?" We knew she had cancer, but we immediately said, "Sure, why not?"

She packed up her things, sold her house, and the three of us moved down to Key West. Eleanor bought a duplex and rented out one side to us.

We cared for and tended to Eleanor. Martha and I both went through several different jobs in Key West.

Eleanor had the audacity to die on us. We had very little time with her in Key West, about six months. But she was with her family, us. And she wanted to be in Key West. She left us a bit of money. Martha and I agreed that whatever we would do with the money, we would name it after Eleanor. We decided on a little sailboat and we'd name it. . . Ellie's Delight.

One of our dear friends, Bob, had a small restaurant in town, and he and Martha went out one night and got a little toasted. Bob had said to Martha that the best investment would be real estate. . . a guest house for gay women. There were about 40 guest houses in Key West for men, but there were only one or two that accepted women. They came home had another cognac, and said to me, "How about a guest house for women?" My reply was, "We don't even make our own bed!"

We bought the house that's now Ellie's Nest in 1978. We named it after Eleanor and, because of her love of birds, our logo is a female frigate bird flying into the sunset. When we bought it, we put in totally new plumbing, and a totally new electrical set-up. Part of my job was to crawl underneath the house and clear out 50 years of debris.

It has grown from the original one bath and two bedrooms to six rooms. We started out with just the hot tub, and Bob built the deck. We had a pool installed about a year later. There were three trees when we bought it, and now we've got a jungle — three thousand dollars worth of plantings in five years of business.

We opened with two rooms within three months once we had the hot tub on the deck. All the rooms in Ellie's Nest are named after different famous women. The Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas Rooms share a bath (of course Gertrude and Alice would share the bath!). Now we've got the Talullah Bankhead, Patience and Sarah, and George Sand Rooms. The pioneer woman's room has half a bath, a sink and a toilet with the use of the outside shower, which is about 20 feet away from the pool. All rooms have air conditioning and television.

When we started the business, the men gradually came to us and gave us sound advice as to where to make the best buys for our business needs.

We went to the gay celebrations, and saw women with money. Women are spending more money — we're earning more. And now there are more guest houses that welcome women.

At first, some people thought we were being very separatist, that we didn't like men. We just want a space for ourselves.

Business Tips: It's very important to identify a market; this is standard for any kind of business. Obviously, you've got to take some training. And don't be undercapitalized. That's one of the reasons so many businesses are here today and gone tomorrow. You've got to have that nest egg set aside. If business is bad for a while, and everybody stays home, you need that nest egg to pay the bills.

One of the most important investments you can make is a good lawyer and an accountant. The other thing is to be professional, even if it's a small business. If you can't afford to have stationery, invoices or whatever printed, at least walking in the door with a business card shows some degree of professionalism.

Lastly, run your business as a business — not a cause. So many guest houses and other businesses have a sliding scale. You can't do that. It's a business.

Martha and I don't live on the premises. You can't work any job 24 hours a day. You have to remain pleasant. People are paying for their vacation. When they walk in the door, they're spending their money and they couldn't care less if your feet hurt or if you've got a headache. People expect the same thing when they go into a store or a restaurant.

With two people like us, it's hard enough to make a decision. I would never, if I could avoid it, have partners. It's like having a committee. The only way we would ever possibly conceive of having partners would be if they were silent — and I mean very silent — partners.

Unless you're very, very close, and thank god we are, a business can kill you. What you need to do is have some separate time. You can be too close when you work day by day, side by side. (That sounds like the title of a song.) When business is bad, you'll find you take things out on each other. You have to be able to communicate. You don't always do it obviously, and anybody who says they don't fight is a liar. But we try to warn each other. It's like water seeking its level. You've got to find which jobs you do better.

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Photography by L. Jan Hunt



Photography by L. Jan Hunt



Photography by Jeri Edwards



Photography by Lisa Scott



Photography by Lisa Scott



Photography by Jeri Edwards

Resorts (Con't)

lesbian. "Located on 40 beautiful acres in the hills above the Napa Valley. We offer seclusion, easy access, beauty, well-cared-for grounds and rooms, casual atmosphere and low cost." For more information, contact Elizabeth Luster, Willow, 6517 Dry Creek Road, Napa Valley, CA 94558, 707/944-8173.

CONNECTICUT

THE INN. For women only; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$35 per night double occupancy; \$20 per night single occupancy; \$15 per person after 2 in a room. Fix-your-own breakfast free; vegie available. Brochure available. Three bedrooms: one sleeps one person; one sleeps two persons; one sleeps three persons. Located by water. Linens provided. Restaurant and bookstore. For more information, contact Bloodroot, The Inn, 85 Ferris Street, Bridgeport, CT 06605, 203/576-9168.

FLORIDA

COLOURS-KEY WEST. For gay men and lesbians. Rates: \$50-\$99 per night In Season (11/15-5/15); \$35-\$79 Off Season. Per week and per month rates available on request. Rate includes housing and continental breakfast plus impromptu social hours. Occasionally special meals are prepared at extra cost for house guests. Transportation provided from airport. Brochure available. Twelve rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy and social interaction. Planned social events include sailing, snorkeling, parties. Located by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Kitchen facilities, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun deck, entertainment lounge with TV, linens, pool, weight room. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, sauna/hot tub, tennis, golf, beach, water skiing, boat and bike rental, fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping, seaplane rides, sailing and parasailing, windsurfing. Main tourist attractions: Old Towne Key West. Originally operated as the Victorian House, Colours-Key West came into being in August 1983. "We have a classic Victorian mansion dating from the 1880s, and have retained the architectural detail with 14-foot ceilings, chandeliers, polished hard-

wood floors and spacious rooms. We specialize in personal service and cater to men and women. We are an Inn for the Avant Garde—people who are ahead of their time." For more information, contact Jim Remes, Colours-Key West, 410 Fleming Street, Key West, FL 33040, 305/294-6977.

ELLIE'S NEST. For lesbians and understanding women only; owned by women and lesbians. Rates: \$35-\$53 per night In Season; \$28-\$43 per night Off Season; weekly rate discount. Per person, double occupancy, continental breakfast. Brochure available. Seven rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy, social interaction. Planned social events include free holiday parties. No pets or children. Located on the Atlantic and the Gulf. Air conditioning, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun deck, TV/radio, lobby, flush toilets, sauna/hot tub, pool. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, weight room, tennis, golf, water skiing, boat and bike rental, fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping. For more information, contact Ellie's Nest, 1414 Newton St., Key West, FL 33040, 305/296-5757

PAGODA. For women only; owned by lesbians. Registration in writing only; \$10-\$20 per person, per month, prepaid membership only. Members may bring guests. Brochure available. Four rooms. Girl children only. Located by water. Kitchen privileges, air conditioning, private rooms, shared baths, TV/radio, use of neighborhood pool (men allowed), beach. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, tennis, bike rental, fishing, shopping. Main tourist attractions: oldest city in the U.S. Established in 1977 as a women's community/resort, Pagoda became residential in 1981. "We are a membership-only community cultural center, located in a quiet area by the ocean." For more information, contact Pagoda, 207 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine, FL 32084, 904/824-2970.

SPINDRIFT MOTEL. For gay men and lesbians, and friendly straights; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$47-\$96 per night, single or double occupancy In Season (12/21-4/15); \$32-\$56 Off Season. Housing and coffee. Sandwich and deli bar with some hot dishes open 12 hours daily

some hot dishes open 12 hours daily on the premises. Brochure available. Twenty-one rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy, social interaction. Planned social events include cocktail parties, etc., during special events. Pets and children allowed. Urban location. Kitchen facilities, air conditioning, private rooms, private baths, sun deck, TV/radio, parking, tropical gardens, wall-to-wall carpeting, patios, restaurant, bar (wine and beer), groceries, largest hydrospa pool in Key West. Located nearby: restaurants and bars, entertainment, golf, beach, tennis, water skiing, boat rental, fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping. Main tourist attractions: gay beach, bars, discos, tea dances; one block from Duval Street; adjacent to Buttery Restaurant. Owned by lesbians since 1978; largest lodging catering to lesbians. Established as a motel-resort offering private poolside and room entrances with no central corridors, private baths, TV, air conditioning, and soundproof rooms. "We offer camaraderie if you desire, privacy if you prefer. Spindrift is structured to permit congenial mingling between the sexes with privacy for all. We have an excellent following of gay men and lesbians who enjoy one another and the beauty of the tropical surroundings." For more information, contact Helen Schwartz, Spindrift Motel, 1212 Simonton Street, Key West, FL 33040, 305/296-3432

HAWAII

HOTEL HONOLULU. For gay men and lesbians; owned by three gay men. Rates: \$39-\$70 per night; double and single occupancies. Transportation arranged from airport. Brochure available. Eighteen suites. Caters to singles, couples, personal privacy, social interaction. Children allowed. A private, urban location. Kitchen facilities, air conditioning, private rooms, private baths, sun deck, radio, lobby TV, linens, weight room, free bike rental. Sauna/hot tub planned. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, pool, tennis, beach, snorkeling and diving, shopping. Main tourist attractions: the beaches located just two blocks away. "Since opening this

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Resorts (Con't)

hotel a year and four months ago, I've been shocked and surprised to find that women are not welcome in many 'gay' establishments. We are ashamed and angry that this should happen under any circumstances, especially in what should be an area devoid of discrimination. We have gone to great lengths to make our growing list of lesbian guests feel welcome here." For more information, contact Richard Minnick, Hotel Honolulu, 376 Kaiolu Street, Honolulu, HA 96815, 808/926-2766.

MAINE

SEAFAIR INN-OGUNQUIT. For gay men and lesbians. Rates: \$35-\$55 per night per couple for room and breakfast. In Season (June 31 - September 2); \$60-\$75 per night for apartment; \$25-\$50 Off Season. Special cab rates from airport. Brochure available. Twenty rooms and apartments. Pets and children allowed under special circumstances. Located by water. Some apartments with kitchenettes, air conditioning, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun garden, lobby TV, central heating, linens, glass-enclosed sun porch, landscaped garden, living room with baby grand piano and fireplace, library. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, weight room, tennis, golf, beach, boat and bike rental, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails, deep sea and other fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping, horseback riding, sailing, lobster cruises, whale watch cruises. Main tourist attractions: A coastal footpath along one of the most picturesque parts of the Maine Coast; one of the ten best beaches in the U.S. according to "Playboy" and "Good Housekeeping" magazines. Prior to its establishment as an inn in the 1930s, the main house served as a summer residence for several different wealthy families from the 1800s. The two buildings behind the main house date back to the colonial period, and all buildings have been restored over the past four years. "Ogunquit is a microcosm of the entire Maine Coast. In just four miles, there is a beach, fishing village, walking areas and breathtaking views. There are over thirty fine restaurants, a summer playhouse, dozens of art galleries and antique shops.

Ogunquit has been an active artists colony for decades and hence has a very accepting attitude toward gays and lesbians. There are two predominantly gay bars in town — one piano bar and one disco club. Lesbians are especially welcome at Seafair Inn." For more information, contact Jeff Walker & Bill Perkins, Seafair Inn, 24 Shore Road, P.O. Box 1221-L, Ogunquit, ME 03907, 207/646-2181.

SEA GNOMES' HOME. For women only; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$26.25 per night, per couple; \$157.50 per week. Brochure available. Four rooms. Caters to couples, singles. Located in a small town by water. Kitchen privileges, private rooms, shared baths, linens. Located nearby: restaurant, groceries, water skiing, hiking/backpacking. Main tourist attractions: Bar Harbor; Acadia National Park; Isle au Haut. "A place where women can relax, retreat, get away from it all. A quiet, peaceful, beautiful 'home' where women can meet each other or keep to themselves." For more information, contact Robin Fre, Sea Gnomes' Home, P.O. Box 33, Stonington, ME 04681.

MASSACHUSETTS

CHECK'ER INN & APARTMENTS. For women only; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$30-\$40 per night in the guest house, double occupancy for housing, morning coffee and parking; \$350-\$400 per week for apartments. Transportation arranged from airport. Brochure available. Five rooms plus three apartments. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy, social interaction. Children allowed. A private seaside resort. Kitchen privileges, private baths in apartments, shared baths in guest house, sun deck, lobby TV, fireplace in common room, central heating, linens. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, sauna/hot tub, pool, weight room, tennis, beach, water skiing, boat and bike rental, outdoor trails, fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping, horseback riding. Main tourist attractions: Cape Cod beaches and dunes. "We have a friendly ambiance welcoming all women. Our guest house and apartments are located in a quiet side street where parking, a large yard and

deck with barbecue grill are available. It's only a few minutes' walk to all the hot spots." For more information, contact Diane Bains and Dotty Mulcahy, Check'er Inn & Apartments, 25 Winthrop Street, P.O. Box 822, Provincetown, MA 02657, 617/487-9029.

THE GREENHOUSE. For women only, owned by lesbians. Rates: \$25 per night single; \$36 per night double. Housing and continental breakfast. Brochure available. Five rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy and social interaction. Located in a seaside town on a quiet side street. Shared baths, sun deck, lobby TV, linens, back yard and barbecue grill, parking. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, sauna/hot tub, pool, weight room, tennis, golf, beach, boat and bike rental, outdoor trails, fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping, horseback riding. Main tourist attractions: Cape Cod National Sea Shore; historic areas of Cape Cod; many art galleries. The Greenhouse was started in 1982, its name borrowed from Chinese mythology wherein guesthouses were always green to symbolize health and welcome. "Provincetown is a beautiful fishing village, rich in history and tradition. It is a happy mix of the native and gay communities, interwoven with many artists, writers, musicians and nature lovers who now call it home." For more information, contact Karen Harding and Jackie Kelly, The Greenhouse, 18 Pearl Street, Box 22, Provincetown, MA 02657, 617/487-2210.

LAND'S END INN. For gay men and lesbians. Rates: \$43-\$75 per night In Season (May 15 - September 15); \$36-\$65 per night Off Season; \$287-\$500 per week In Season; \$242-\$407 per week Off Season. Housing and breakfast. Brochure available. Fifteen rooms. Caters to singles, couples, personal privacy, social interaction. Young children discouraged. An urban setting by the water. Kitchen facilities, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun deck, central heating, linens. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, beach, water skiing, boat rental, outdoor

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Ellie's Nest (Con't)

Like in any business, I think we've got something unique at Ellie's Nest. Martha and I are a little nutsy. We like to have fun. We meet some people who don't understand Key West, manana land, or la-la land... and they don't understand us. We love to have fun. They come in from New York, Chicago, wherever, it takes them a couple of days to unwind, and then they see that they can have fun. Part of the problem is many women don't understand what a guest house is. They want it to be more like a Holiday Inn, they want a restaurant right on the premises, they want a bar. A guest house is where you feel at home, where you're a name not a number. A guest house has the little amenities, the personal extras.

We've had women here from Canada, Finland, England, Scotland, France and many, many repeat visitors. When they like what you're doing, they'll tell their friends. The comraderie of the women is another aspect. You'll have some gals that are staying here and then new ones check in. And the older ones will take the newer ones under their wings. They'll end up going out together. We have had some straight women stay here which is great, as long as they understand that we are gay. Even with these straight women, we'll find they end up going out with the other gals. It's a comraderie that we nurture. We've had gals stay here from 18 years old to 70 years old.

One of the things we have dealt with is nudity. We allow sun bathing outside. Some women feel that it's offensive so we don't allow it inside.

On the first New Year's Eve, Martha said, "let's set up a full bar." I said, "honey, everybody's going to want to go out to celebrate." About 8 o'clock on New Year's Eve, the gals came over and said, "Do you mind if we stay home tonight?" That was the first time we had heard them use that phrase which we've heard so many times now. It still gives us a thrill. We said, "Sure you can stay home." We went out and I got all the booze and everything and set up a bar, invited some friends over and it was this wonderful, wonderful New Year's Eve. It was all women, all secluded. If anyone got a little bit tipsy, they could just walk to their room. It was a safe, happy New Year's Eve.

That's what we do for many holidays. On July 4th, there's hot dogs and red, white, and blue beer. On Thanksgiving, we make a full dinner with a turkey. We make it a Key West Thanksgiving! There might be stone crab claws, conch salad and shrimp, along with the traditional Thanksgiving turkey. Also we try to have vegetarian food like pasta salads.

We've had several weddings or unions or whatever you want to call them here and anniversary parties.

I think I would epitomize the "Nest," as warmth. We are warm to our customers and remember the little things. Every morning we put a basket in front of the door with sweet rolls, coffee and a banana. It's the little things that all of us appreciate. So whatever business you're going to do, whether it's metal sculpture, selling books, cleaning peoples' houses, just do what you would like them to do for you.



Resorts (Con't)

trails, fishing, shopping, horseback riding. Main tourist attractions: beaches, nature trails, pilgrim history, American contemporary art, sea and fishing history. "We are a Victorian summer place converted to an Inn in a beautiful, quiet natural area close by a small New England tourist town." For more information, contact David Schoolman, Land's End Inn, 22 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657, 617/487-0706.

RAVENWOOD INN. For women only; owned by lesbians and women. Rates: \$400 per week for full apartment with water view; \$350 for cottage with private yard; double occupancy. New England style breakfast (coffee and homemade baked goods) available at extra cost. Brochure available. Four guest-rooms, two apartments. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy. Planned social events include involvement in Gay and Lesbian Carnival Week with open house, barbecue and party, and breakfasts together in country kitchen. A private location by the water. Kitchen facilities, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun deck, linens, Casablanca fans, wall-to-wall carpeting, beamed ceilings, antique furnishings, located in gallery district, private yard, picnic table, lawn chairs, flower gardens, games for rainy afternoons, beach. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, tennis, golf, water skiing, boat and bike rental, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails, fishing, snorkeling and diving, rafting and canoeing, shopping, horseback riding. Main tourist attractions: gay-lesbian resort area; whale-watching; people-watching; hiking. "Ravenwood was originally a sea captain's house built in the 1830s. The house has been passed down to artists until two years ago, when we bought it with a dream to have a guest house with luxury and charm, giving women a pampered feeling. It's been too long that women traveling together, going to a restaurant, bar, etc., have gotten the worst accommodations. Our aim was to change that. Ours is a vacation place with good memories, a private place where women can meet, relax or spend

private time celebrating special time together. We cater to special dates, birthday celebrations, anniversaries, etc., in our private yard. We care about women who stay with us. We help them with connections in travel and guide them to the best places in town." For more information, contact Diane Corbo, Ravenwood Inn, 462 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657, 617/487-3203.

WATERSHIP INN. For gay men and lesbians; owned by gay men. Rates: \$25-\$49 per night, double occupancy In Season (June 22 -September 4); \$18-\$37 per night Off Season; \$164-\$372 per week In Season; \$60-\$234 per week Off Season. Brochure available. Fifteen rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy, social interaction. Located by the water. Private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun deck, wood burning stoves, linens. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, pool, weight room, tennis, golf, beach, water skiing, boat and bike rental, outdoor trails, fishing, shopping, horseback riding. Main tourist attractions: the forty miles of sand beaches and the whale-watching fleet. Watership Inn has been a gay vacation spot since 1947. "Provincetown is the largest and oldest gay-oriented resort spot in the country. We have more live entertainment and restaurants than any other spot." For more information, contact James F. Foss, Watership Inn, 7 Winthrop Street, P.O. Box 918, Provincetown, MA 02657, 617/487-0094.

MONTANA

NORTH CROW VACATION RANCH. For gay men and lesbians; owned by lesbians. Rates: campsites -\$7 per night, \$42 per week, \$155 per month; teepees - \$11 per night, \$70 per week, \$260 per month. Includes dinner and breakfast; additional meals provided at additional cost; vegie available. Transportation available from Missoula airport for groups. Brochure available. Campsites, three sleeping teepees, one large teepee. Caters to singles, couples, personal privacy, social interaction. Pets and children allowed. Located in the country, private, near mountains at the edge of a forest by a stream. Outdoor cooking equipment,

hot tub, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails, fishing, rafting and canoeing. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, pool, weight room, tennis, golf, beach, water skiing, boat rental, snorkeling and diving, shopping, horseback riding. Main tourist attractions: Glacier National Park; Flathead Lake; natural bison range; St. Ignatius Mission. One of the owners grew up on the ranch; it has been operated as a resort since 1980. "We have very well-appointed and comfortable teepees and homecooked food. We specialize in fresh mountain trout amandine, and fresh baked bread and pastries. We offer great canyon and valley views. Our guests find the place to be warm and friendly. A person coming alone can actually meet and get to know people here." For more information, contact Tary Mocabee and Carolyn Beecher, North Crow Vacation Ranch, R.R. 1, Box 62-A, Ronan, MT 59864, 406/676-5169.

NEW JERSEY

KEY WEST HOTEL. For gay men and lesbians; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$40 per night, double occupancy In Season (Memorial Day to Labor Day); \$30 per night, double occupancy Off Season; \$200 per week In Season; \$150 per week Off Season. Meals available at additional cost; vegie offered. Brochure available. Ninety-eight rooms. Caters to couples and singles. Planned social events include holiday parties, dinner and disco dances. Children allowed. Located on the ocean. Kitchen facilities in 2- and 4-room suites, private rooms, private baths, central heating, linen, restaurant, disco, bar, entertainment, pool, beach. Located nearby: groceries, tennis, golf, water skiing, boat and bike rental, fishing, shopping, horseback riding. Main tourist attractions: beach, ocean, racetrack, Atlantic City casinos. The Key West is one-half block from the beach and most rooms have an ocean view. Total renovation since 1981 included adding a disco, a 300-seat banquet room and a restaurant. "The Key West is a complete resort for lesbians. There are four bars on the premises. Our rates are reasonable, and the hotel accommodates overnight guests as well as year-round

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Resorts (Con't)

residents in the 17 apartments in the hotel." For more information, contact Carol, Camille and Kay, Key West Hotel, 109 Second Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712, (201) 988-7979.

NEW MEXICO

WILLOW SOUTHWEST RETREAT. For gay men and lesbians; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$35-\$95 per night per person, single occupancy; \$15 each additional person. Housing and breakfast; other meals available at additional cost; vegie available. Brochure available. Nine bedrooms. Caters to singles, couples, personal privacy. A remote location in the country. Private rooms, private baths, shared baths, lobby TV, fireplaces in some rooms, central heating, linens, flush toilets, restaurant, sauna/hot tub, pool, weight room, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails. Located nearby: bar, snow skiing, fishing, shopping. Main tourist attractions: Santa Fe; Taos; Native American culture (Pueblo). The main building is over 250 years old. Retreat is situated on eight picturesque acres with pond, pastures and huge cottonwood trees. The historic village of Galisteo is located 25 miles southeast. "Willow Southwest combines a homey atmosphere in the old southwest tradition with modern retreat facilities. It is a peaceful, relaxing environment and wheelchair accessible." For more information, contact Sue Schultz, Willow Southwest Retreat, Box 4, Galisteo, NM 87540, 505/982-1506.

NEW YORK

INCENTRA VILLAGE HOUSE. For gay men and lesbians. Rates: \$60 plus tax per night, single occupancy; \$70 plus tax per night, double occupancy. Brochure available. Ten rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy. Pets and children allowed. Urban location. Kitchen facilities, air conditioning, private rooms, private baths, TV/Radio, fireplaces in most rooms, central heating, flush toilets, linens. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, bike rental. Main tourist attractions: New York City. "We are located in Greenwich Village and are the only guest house in the city." For more information,

contact Incentra Village House, 32 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10014, 212/206-0007.

OHIO

SPRINGHILL FARM. For gays (99% lesbian); owned by lesbians. Rates: \$30 per night per couple. Also available, cabins with kitchen facilities and fireplaces. Brochure available. Two cabins, four campsites, 4 double-occupancy rooms to be added in 1985. Caters to couples and personal privacy. A private location in a wooded hilly area in the country with a pond and springs on the property and a lake 15 minutes away. Kitchen facilities, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, fireplaces in rooms, central heating, linens, camping, flush toilets, waterbed, skylight, ceiling fans, handicapped-accessible, picnic tables, outdoor grills, hot tub, cross country skiing, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails, fishing, shopping, berry and apple picking, a pool planned for 1985. Located nearby: restaurant, groceries, entertainment, golf, boat rental. Main tourist attractions: Indian mounds; Dawes Arboretum; Black Hand Gorge; Ohio State Fair. Springhill Farm began in 1983 with the opening of a primitive campground. In January 1984, the cabins opened, and a luxurious spa was added by April of this year. Current projects involve the restoration and renovation of a barn, which will be opened in the summer of 1985 as a combination recreation barn and lodge facility. "Everything is provided for the convenience of our guests — dishes, linens, firewood, complimentary Asti Spumante and mints. Guests' luggage and supplies are taken to cabins and campsites by the management. Torches are lit around the pond in the evening. Our resort is small and friendly. Guests feel as if they are away from it all, as the population is controlled for privacy. We are located just nine miles off of I-70, so we are ideal as an overnight stop for east-west travelers." For more information, contact Springhill Farm, 5704 Highpoint Road, Glenford, OH 43739, 614/659-2364.

PENNSYLVANIA

BLUEBERRY RIDGE. For women

only; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$35 per night, double occupancy; \$400 whole house per week. Housing and breakfast. Brochure available. Six rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy, social interaction. Planned social events include hiking weekends, New Year's celebration. Children allowed. Located in a forest in the mountains. Kitchen privileges, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun deck, TV/radio, wood burning stoves, central heating, linens, bicycles, outdoor trails. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, tennis, golf, water, snow and water skiing, boat rental, hiking/backpacking, fishing, rafting and canoeing, horseback riding, shopping. Main tourist attractions: Delaware Water Gap, Bushkill Falls, Camelback Ski Area; Alpine Slide. "We have a private women's atmosphere, and year-round things to do." For more information, contact Greta Moran and P. McCarrick, Box 67, Scotrun, PA 18533, 717/629-5036.

THE SPRINGHOUSE. For lesbians only; owned by lesbians and women. Rates: \$45-\$75 per night per couple, housing and breakfast. Gourmet dinners by reservation at additional cost. Transportation from bus or train station provided. Brochure available. Six rooms. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy, social interaction. Occasional planned social events. Pets allowed under individual consideration. Located at a private wooded site. Air conditioning, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun patios, TV/radio, fireplaces in rooms, wood burning stoves, central heating, linens, flush toilets, ducks, geese, chickens, pond, springhouse, pool. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, tennis, golf, water, snow and water skiing, boat and bike rental, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails, fishing, rafting and canoeing, shopping, horseback riding. Located in the midst of historical area: pre-American Revolution; Civil War; American Victorian. Main tourist attractions: New Hope; Lahaska; Flemington. The Springhouse opened officially in September 1983 in a 300-year-old farmhouse in

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Resorts (Con't)

the heart of Bucks County, and is decorated with antiques and Early American furniture. "We are the only resort in the area catering to lesbian women only." For more information, contact Patricia and Lois, The Springhouse, P.O. Box 1234, Doylestown, PA 18901, 215/774-7718

PUERTO RICO

LUTECE ON THE BEACH/EL PRADO. For gay men and lesbians, and straights; owned by women. Rates: \$30-\$75 per night In Season (December 16 - April 30); \$25-\$50 Off Season. Housing and continental breakfast. Meals available at additional cost. Brochure available. Forty rooms, twenty efficiency apartments. Caters to couples, singles, personal privacy, social interaction. Located in a private urban setting two blocks from the beach. Kitchen facilities, air conditioning, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, sun deck, TV/radio, linens, flush toilets, restaurant, bar, pool, beach. Located nearby: groceries, entertainment, sauna/hot tub, weight room, tennis, golf, water skiing, boat and bike ren-

tal, hiking/backpacking, fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping, horseback riding, wind surfing. Main tourist attractions: Old San Juan; the beach; shopping. Both guesthouses have been in business for twenty years or more. "Our guests have the choice of two places and the use of both facilities — and both facilities are unique." For more information, contact Lutece on the Beach, One Atlantic Place, San Juan, PR 00911, 809/728-0855, or El Prado, 1350 Luchetti Street, San Juan, PR 00907, 805/728-5925.

RHODE ISLAND

BRINLEY VICTORIAN INN. For gay men and lesbians, and others; owned by lesbians. Rates: \$50-\$65 per couple per night In Season (June 1 - October 12); \$40-\$55 Off Season. Housing and breakfast. Brochure available. Seventeen rooms. Caters to couples and personal privacy. Children over 12 allowed. Located in an urban setting by water. Refrigerator privileges, private rooms, private baths, shared baths, central heating, linens, parking, library with old-

fashioned game table, two Victorian parlors with lots of books and magazines available for guests' use. Located nearby: restaurant, bar, groceries, entertainment, tennis, golf, bay and ocean beaches, water skiing, boat and bike rental, hiking/backpacking, outdoor trails, fishing, snorkeling and diving, shopping, horseback riding, sailing, antique-ing, historical sightseeing, jazz and classical music festivals. Main tourist attractions: The city of Newport; Narragansett Bay; Touro Synagogue; Trinity Church; magnificent restored colonial and Victorian mansions; cliff walks; bike trails; wharf areas; gay bars. "We have tried to create a romantic getaway for our guests. There are mints on the pillow and attention to detail. Although the Brinley is opened to all guests, we enjoy making women traveling together feel especially welcome and safe." For more information, contact Amy Weintraub and Edwina Sebest, Brinley Victorian Inn, 23 Brinley Street, Newport, RI 02840, 401/849-7645.

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 . . . Barnett-Brown (December 1982)

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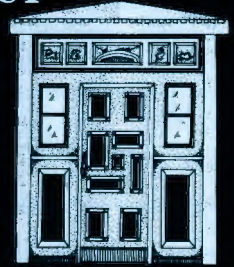
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KEY WEST HOTEL

OWL & PUSSYCAT LOUNGE
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Outdoor Adventure

NOT EVERYONE LONGS for the life of leisure and attention offered by luxury resorts. For some women, relaxation means pounding along trails, fighting to keep a boat upright, cautiously finding a toehold in the side of a rocky cliff.

The challenge from these women has been met by several outfits who specialize in creating outdoor environment designed to teach and encourage women to know and love the land. (See "Talking With Woodswomen," this page)

Outdoor adventures for beginners are also offered. For those of you whose idea of roughing it is pulling a Winnebago into a Holiday Inn parking lot, these vacation options will help you develop skills and talents you may not realize you possess.

ARTEMIS WILDERNESS TOURS. Since 1977. Almost all trips for women only; large percentage lesbian. Offers outdoor adventures for women interested in exploring the mountains and rivers of the Southwest. No prior experience necessary; every outing designed to teach all skills needed. Bring only personal gear. Singles and couples trips possi-

ble. Groups sized to maintain wilderness quality and minimal environmental impact, as well as to ensure personalized instruction. Meals prepared on the river or the trail are delicious and nutritious, with emphasis on fresh foods and whole grains. Future trips include Baja Whale-watching, Big Bend Canoeing and Rafting, cross country skiing. For more information, contact Artemis Wilderness Tours, Box 1178, Taos, NM 87571, 505/758-9522 or 505/758-3433.

TURTLE RIVER RAFTING CO. Since 1979. Exclusively for and guided by women. Offers unique journey into the magic and power of rivers. Everyone is involved in paddling, boat preparation and camping activities. Group size is limited. Wholesome creative meals are provided, including fruit, vegetables, meat and fresh-ground coffee. Vegetarians welcome. Group rates and discounts are available, as well as special trips for children, senior citizens, women's groups and disabled people. Flexible schedule allowing participants to create own trips on rivers and dates of their choice. Trips are one to five days in length on various California

ivers. For more information, contact Turtle River Rafting Co., 507 McCloud Avenue, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067, 916/926-3233.

WOODSWOMEN. Since 1977. Owned by women, for adult women. Offers an opportunity to participate in decision-making and self-directed learning, to develop an individual style of leadership free of traditional gender roles and expectations, and to handle stress constructively in a supportive setting. Challenging trips providing the opportunity to understand fears and inhibitions that can mask strengths. Also, one and two-day workshops on leadership designed for both men and women useful in corporate, academic and organization settings. Special programs for disabled women. Winter camping, cross country skiing, Everglades canoeing, river rafting, horsepacking, weekend campouts with children, llama packing, trekking in Nepal, rock climbing, mountain climbing, bike tours, whitewater canoeing, etc. Scholarships available, Newsletter available for members. For more information, contact Woodswomen, 2550 Pillsbury Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404, 812/870-8291.

Talking With Woodswomen

Woodswomen is an outdoor adventure program for adult women; they teach canoeing, rockclimbing, skiing, backpacking. They are also a national network of outdoorswomen. Program directors Denise Mitten and Judith Niemi talk about the organization's history, goals, style and about women in the outdoors.

We didn't start Woodswomen with a theory about how our trips would work. Outdoor life had been important to each of us since childhood, and we just wanted to share our skills and perceptions with other women. But as we got together and had more experience in leading trips, we could see more clearly just how different our trips actually were from those of mixed groups we'd been involved with, and from some of our own training as kids. So the "Woodswomen philosophy" developed, a way of traveling and a style of leadership that suits women's wishes for personal freedom and having a good time together.

We started in 1977 with a few canoe trips, then added some biking, skiing and children's trips. The organization survived the early years because we were stubborn and willing to work other free-lance jobs in the winter. It's been full-time work for several of us for

a while now, and there are a dozen or more women who guide part-time. As we've made contacts with other outdoorswomen around the country and increased our experience, we've been able to add new programs: skiing or llama packing in Colorado; climbing in the Pacific Northwest; canoeing in Alaska; trekking in Nepal. It's just grown naturally.

It was after so many women had asked "How do I join?," that we started a membership organization. A volunteer group puts out a 16-page newsletter with stories of women's trips, how-to information and book reviews. A members directory helps a national network grow.

One of the most important things we try to do on our trips, and in our brochures, is to dispell the Amazon of the Woods mystique — the attitude that women don't really belong in the outdoors, so any women who do go canoeing, or climbing must be exceptional.

It's boring to be asked things like, "Oh, you're trying to prove that you women can do anything men can do, right?" No. We're living our own way, which is very different. We do some exciting and strenuous trips, but those don't have any more "status" than our weekend trips with children. And most of our trips are open to

Continued page 28

Talking With Woodswomen (Con't)

women of any age, no experience required. There are some typical aspects of a Woodswomen trip: schedules are pretty flexible, and women make a lot of individual decisions about how to use their time. There are good talks around the campfire and women trying new things they never thought they'd do. We even joke about "the usual number of life changes." And we laugh a lot.

But we — the guides — don't orchestrate these things happening, we don't set the agenda for someone else's growth. We do consciously create a setting for this to happen. Mostly, that means clarifying how our trips won't be: that we don't have to compete with each other or nature; that the fastest don't have to set the pace; that we don't all need to have the same goals; that we're not playing farther-and-fastest; and that it's OK to make mistakes, that's how learning happens.

Once we've de-established the military model for how to travel outdoors, the women just take over and create the kind of trip they want. We can predict a cooperative, playful spirit on these trips. And not because that's our Rule, but because that's how a lot of women have chosen to do it — on our trips, and in history.

We think a lot about skills instruction; we put together workshops on advanced skiing and how to teach skiing. But it's also important for women to realize how many outdoors skills they already have: like how to organize possessions and keep track of them; how to pay attention to detail; how to listen to feelings; how to talk things through in a group.

There's a way of talking about skills as if they were possessions to be acquired — things someone else knows and you don't. Camping isn't a collection of rules and techniques, the 1001 things you must know before you set foot outdoors. It's a new orientation of attention.

When you're learning skills, the really important learning is how to be more attentive to your body, to your common sense, to the land and the weather. Then you can teach yourself how to paddle well and how to avoid hypothermia.

Who comes on our trips? That's one of the real joys — the great diversity. Mostly, it's women from about 25 to 60, many with no previous camping experience.

Most could call themselves feminists, if asked, though that includes quite a range: suburban married women, radical lesbian activists, women who don't talk much about their personal choices. We've always taken a lot of care to create an open atmosphere where women of different age, affectional preference and class background will feel welcome. For example, sometimes nonlesbian women will find it startling to be among lesbians who are so relaxed and open. We may need to remind them that they don't need to keep their husbands in the closet either, that there's no need for a party line or political sameness in the woods.

We've found that women are very sane and generally comfortable about all that. Differences don't seem to be so threatening in the woods, away from the audi-

ence. Women who wouldn't otherwise ever meet end up having a lot of fun together, and learning from each other.

Women come on our trips for a variety of reasons: to take a new kind of vacation; to learn the skills to do more trips on their own; to see a part of the country that they feel drawn to; to spend time with women. What's true of just about everyone is that they are very open — to new experience, to other people, to seeing themselves in new ways. Being around women who are liking themselves, and on a natural high with clean air all around — that's an ideal way to live.

People we meet along the way often find the enthusiasm contagious. Waitresses come over to find out where we've been. The clerk in a small town grocery watched bike trippers picking up food for dinner and said, "If I weren't working right now I'd come with you." Sometimes we do get that silly "Are you girls out here all alone?" stuff from men, but usually someone has a smart answer like, "No, our foremothers are with us."

Oh, and food. No freeze-dried! It's unnecessary, expensive, full of chemicals, and a lot of it tastes bad. Mostly we use easy-to-fix wholegrain dishes and a lot of ethnic foods, hearty and simple. Then one night we'll have been catching fish, or picking berries, or just be in the mood for a feast. Then we could have fondue, or fresh-baked cinnamon rolls, or a multi-pot meal with everyone improvising some dish.

One great thing about working with women is that we don't meet equipment-and-technique freaks. New gadgets are fun and useful, but it's more important to start with what you have, to know safety and principles, and to be able to improvise. We keep a few ancient canoes and packs around out of sentiment, and to illustrate the point. Recently we sponsored a slide program, where several women talked about their experiences in canoeing in the subarctic, and opened up to questions about whether they all got along, and what it means to spend two months together and share this intense experience. And for the first question, some man asked, "How much gasoline did you bring?"

We started a leadership training program in 1980 because we needed more guides for our trips. It's grown into one of the programs that we spend a lot of time and attention on — this year we'll do a 10-day and a 4-week course. Some women want to work for us or some other program, some just want to build more outdoor confidence for their own trips, some want a chance to practice and grow in leadership and they find the outdoors a good practical place to experience that.

Women do, of course, develop a lot of outdoor skills on our leadership courses — map-reading, route-planning, weather-reading, handling or preventing emergencies. But the emphasis isn't on technique. It's on evaluating your own skills and abilities, learning how to use your power effectively, and how to bring out the power of everyone else in the group. "Strong leadership" doesn't have to be invested all in one person. There are a lot of women learning and teaching about

Continued page 38

Womentours

Travel Agencies

The following travel agencies cater especially to women:

QUI TRAVEL

64 Vermilyea Avenue, Suite 2B, New York, NY 10034, 212/567-6711, Jacqui Aquilino, Director. Women owned and operated. Caters to both women and lesbians. Business travel. Conference arrangements and planning, meetings and seminars. Special consultation on locations for women to travel alone or with a friend and/or lover. Group weekends for women only. Tours, cruises and vacations spots with a focus on women's needs for comfort and privacy. Cultural outings — art, opera, theatre, literature — with discussions on the feminist perspective of art. Representative for the Rainbow Mountain Resort (women-owned gay Pocono resort and restaurant) and many other gay hotels from Provincetown to Key West. "The travel agency with a feminist consciousness serving the women's community." Brochure available.

WOMENTREK

P.O. Box 1765, Olympia, WA 98507, 206/357-4477, Bonnie Bordas, Director. Women owned and operated; for women only. Offers both national and international travel adventure packages for all kinds of women. Active and nonactive travel packages are available. Caters to women of all ages and backgrounds. 1985 tours include bicycle and van tours of New Zealand, bicycling excursions through Inner Mongolia and China, skiing and rafting treks, 1 week in Cancun and 2 weeks in Egypt. Director Bordas has over 10 years teaching wilderness and outdoor skills in Outbound Bound and other programs. She successfully organized and led the first China Passage Women's Bicycle Tour to East China in May 1983. "Womantrek is the ultimate in outdoor travel adventure...designed for all women who enjoy this spectacular earth." Brochure available.



Photo Courtesy of North Crow Vacation Ranch, MT



Photo Courtesy of North Crow Vacation Ranch, MT

The Way to Independent Travel for Women

IT MAY BE circumstance, personal decision, or job obligation, but sooner or later you might find yourself having to travel independently.

To many women this is a frightening thought, to others just a bit scary, but most of us feel somewhat “funny” about traveling alone.

This fear is not unlike many other fears. It is grounded on myths around the dependence of women. We live in a society that frowns on women being independent. We are told over and over that we need someone, and the thought of ourselves *not* needing anyone is a very frightening one. It is letting go of an image that suits the society around us, but does not necessarily fit any longer into the lifestyle of today's woman.

A newly-divorced or widowed woman, a rookie female executive, a single woman who is tired of waiting for her friends to make up their minds about a trip, a woman bored about the thought of a “singles” style vacation — we all could learn to be on our own, to break the old image of ourselves. Traveling independently is a good way to accomplish this.

After you have made the decision, there are several ways to make your trip as comfortable as possible. First, pick a travel agent who is sympathetic to your needs — a person who will understand that you may be anxious and/or that you are not necessarily looking to “connect.” Find an agent who understands that a woman might just want to get away from it *all*. Give yourself a choice by working with someone who respects your desire to be independent.

Secondly, find a destination not only acceptable to your financial needs, but also one that offers an environment acceptable to women alone. There are certain parts of the world that I do not recommend, others that I do. Try to find an agent who knows, for example, that there are certain destinations that have a very bad reputation as far as single women are concerned. It is best to stay away from these areas. However, in most places around the world this

is not a problem and you can feel very good about being on your own.

Thirdly, choose the type of accommodation that will suit your situation. I recommend smaller more intimate hotels over large ones. Large hotels can be intimidating; you can get “lost in the shuffle.” Also, the large dining areas and cocktail lounges can be very uncomfortable. Small hotel personnel tend to know their clients by name even before they check in. The guests at these smaller facilities are apt to be more friendly and open, and you will experience more individual attention. Ask for recommendations about restaurants. Tell the hotel people, cab drivers, etc. the type of place you are looking for. If you do find a restaurant you like, frequent it as much as you can. If you are intimidated about dining alone, choose a facility that features efficiency apartments or rent a condominium for your stay. Your travel agent can help you with this. This type of accommodation is very comfortable and meals can be kept very simple.

If the lounge shows or cocktail bars bother you, look to the many activities that are going on in the community in which you are staying. Find out what is happening at the local theatre. There may be plays, concerts, or lectures that you are interested in. Sports, or special events at the museums are always available. On the smallest island you can find something interesting going on.

Sightseeing is available wherever you go. This is an excellent way not only to broaden your knowledge, but to help build your confidence. Many sightseeing tours feature luncheons or cocktail parties. These usually turn out to be friendly social events that you will not otherwise experience. Fishing trips, day cruises, water sports, horseback riding, tennis — these are all activities that will keep you busy, afford you the opportunity to meet other people, and help you spend a few hours being good to yourself.

If there are things you do with the family or friends — hiking, camping,

whitewater rafting, sailing — there is no reason you can't do these things independently. In fact, this type of vacation is usually very relaxed and informal. Meals are taken in a communal atmosphere and it's easy to feel a part of the group. Don't be afraid to seek out this type of travel. If it is what you like to do, it can be very satisfying.

And you don't have to stay away from cruises, either. If the thought of a conventional style cruise makes you cringe, then try the private schooner (*Windjammer*) or small yacht cruise. These are much more relaxed and tend to include everyone on board.

Another type of vacation I recommend is the group or escorted tour. Here, from the very first day, you are sure to find friendly people easy to mingle with.

Once you've chosen your vacation spot and you are ready to leave, try to get to the airport on your own. Hire a cab or take the local airport service. Do not have a friend or relative take you. Also, leave some time before your flight to browse around the airport, have a coffee or cocktail, read a magazine, try to get in touch with the feeling of being with yourself. You will be surprised how this will help when you find yourself alone in your hotel room. You won't be a stranger to yourself, and you will have already had time to get acquainted with this new independent traveller, YOU!

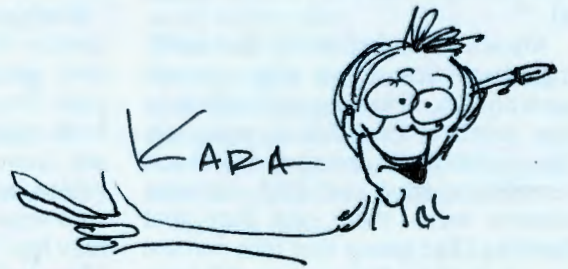
— JACQUI AQUILINO
QUI Travel

Jacqui Aquilino has arranged travel and worked in the travel industry for 14 years. She began her own travel agency, “Qui Travel,” in 1981. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe, Mexico, the Caribbean and the United States.



"IT'S DIKE WITH AN 'I' DUMMY!"

Kara Barnard studied fine arts at Indiana University. She has been a professional cartoonist for the last ten years. She owned and operated a shop in Nashville, Indiana, where she specialized in caricatures.



• HEART TO HEART •

Her-Stories

NO NAMES, PLEASE. It was January 10, 1975 — just a short ten years ago. History was being birthed. Eight lesbian women met that night, as they had for several years. They were blue collar workers, and none had attended college. Their ages ranged from thirty to fifty-two, with five of them over forty-five. They were role-playing homosexual women, and all were involved in long-term relationships.

Generally, they preferred to be called “homosexual,” rather than lesbian or gay. They were beginning to evolve from the years of oppression in the homosexual community; and they would tell you, gay or not, they thought “labels” were ridiculous. These women were powerful women, but none of them really knew that.

This night was not like any other night. They talked about how gays and lesbians did not know each other. They wondered about the alternatives for the homosexuals, and wanted better for their sisters and brothers. They discussed how very little communication was encouraged in our community. They decided that it was impossible to talk in a bar or at a party. Before this night was over, they had decided to attempt to begin a rap/discussion group where the homosexuals could talk in a safe environment. Now remember, this was a new idea to these women. They had not read about it in any homosexual literature, for they had none. They had not read about it in any humanistic periodicals, for such periodicals were not a part of their lives. They had not decided to do it because their church was doing it, for these women were not welcome in a church (and knew it).

Already, even before the first meeting, there were those who opposed such an idea. “Homosexuals talking to one another? For Christ’s sake, you have to be mad!” one close friend was reported to have said. Still, eighteen women were there for that first meeting. The group that they formed was their city’s first open public outreach to homosexuals. They had com-

mitted to be open about their intention to be identified as “homosexuals.” Their decision was new in their city, and no one had been so brave before.

Within its first two years of meetings, 500 lesbians and gays had attended at least one meeting. By the end of this time, approximately 75 core members remained. Those who remained knew what pioneering efforts were being undertaken, but the others call them “crazy.”

Now, ten years later, the group that these women pioneered is still surviving. It is very different than the original group, but is their state’s oldest surviving homosexual group. Yet, these women’s names are not known, and their stories almost forgotten. From this group of brave women, only one knows how important their story really is. Only one would come to learn the difference between the “old” homosexual world, and the new horizon offered by feminism. Only one would become acquainted with the new women pioneers that came after these wonderful women. Only one would trust a therapist, and find healing for her wounded spirit. Only one would attend a music festival, and stand in awe of the collective strength that she would see. Only one would be held and comforted by her younger sisters, those who could only sense that her trip had not been an easy one. The other seven would never know the joy of community that awaited them. Even though they had been pioneers that were successful enough to form a group that lasted the years, they would not discover the “promised land” that awaited them.

I can understand why they became “group shy.” Their efforts with their own group brought them intense pain. They suffered break-ups in long-term relationships, because they did not know that they could get so involved with the group that their relationships would suffer. The task that they had volunteered for was gigantic. Their lack of skills splintered them individually and collectively. They were

conned by those who wanted to cause division, by the desperate who detoured their own pain by inflicting it on them, and by the dishonest who wanted to steal from them. They lived in the midwest, and had no concept of the conservatism that they would encounter in their own community. Eventually, the males of their group assumed leadership. Although this was historic among groups that tried to mix male and female, they did not know this. For them, it was their own personal failure. One by one, they separated from each other and the group. One by one, they left, lost in deep grief over the separation that they were experiencing. One by one, they lost sight of the significant historical goal they accomplished. Yet, I think that each of these brave women would say, “If I had to do it all over again, I would.”

Their monument is that older members still remember the “good days” of the group process, and are very nostalgic when they speak of those days — when these women were in leadership, collectively working without competition to accomplish the tasks that had to be done.

Still, they prefer to be remembered with “No Names, Please.” Perhaps, because of their background, they have discovered the true Aquarian spirituality that is yet to come. I do not know. A few months ago, I was approached by a younger woman. “How did YOU make it from the old homosexual world into the world of feminism?”

I answered simply, “It wasn’t easy,” and I saw a scene of seven ballerinas dancing to a sorrowful song in my mind.

Perhaps the seven women did not have the energy to learn the new dance, but I really don’t know. To those women who prefer “No Names, Please,” I honor you anyway. I have told your stories, without telling your names. You are lesbian history, past and present. You are strong and gentle women.

— THE OLD SALT

To joke or not to joke that is the question

Dear Butch: I'm having one --- of a time at work. Since I am a secretary and I dress for the job, no one has any idea I'm a lesbian. I don't want to come out to them, but I am having a severe problem with their off-handed comments and jokes about gays. Got any suggestions? — Straight during the day

DEAR STRAIGHT: off-handed comments and jokes about gays hit a nerve because you, indirectly, are the butt of the joke. Therefore, the more offensive the joke becomes and the more hostile you react to those telling and participating positively to the joke.

If you can truthfully say that you have not been party to the telling and laughing at jokes told about other minority or ethnic groups, then in fact you can announce to the group that you find jokes and off-handed comments about minority or ethnic groups to be offensive and would rather not be party to such.

If on the other hand, you are a joke joiner or teller - take your licks.

★

DEAR BUTCH: I am a second semester college sophomore and I have already declared my major. I have wanted to be an English teacher since grade school. Last semester I took a computer class as an elective and just loved it. I'm starting to see a whole new world now and a much different future. How does one go about deciding what they want to do career wise? — Split Decision

DEAR SPLIT: Many times future goal decisions made during adolescence are pursued into adulthood and are usually based on someone or something; a special person, an adult-directed goal, a family tradition. The goal, referenced to over time, becomes deeply embedded and can result in a belief. Beliefs are difficult to dispel. From the tone of your question it appears that you are beginning to question your belief. That's a good start. Weigh the pros and cons in both areas, try to be objective. The more objectivity you can bring to the situation the clearer your assessment will be. Take advantage

of your school's vocational counseling department. Vocational, aptitude and preference test results could give you some direction which may aid in your decision making process.

★

DEAR BUTCH: My love and I have been together for awhile -- and doing well. We talk and normally work things out. Lately she's been kind of distant and I have this overwhelming feeling like she's falling in love with someone else? Should I bring the subject up? Do I confront the situation? What if I'm wrong? — Out on a Limb

DEAR LIMB: You've indicated that you're uncertain about the quality and/or longevity of your relationship. Are you certain that you're not reading your own fears into her body language? It appears that you both need to talk again. A gentle approach to the situation (her being distant) would be better than a full blown accusation based only on your feelings.

Send all questions to:

JERNAN Ltd., Inc./Butch
5199 N. Keystone Avenue
Suite 104, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Poetry

After New Years

La La Beep Beep Cheep pop
sssuurrffff

After New Years

a silver balloon jumped
onto an ice flow in the Hudson.

Half bloated

like a sunfish in the summer heat
it defied the gulls.

Its loose skin bounced back from
the wind,

and it rolled under the Washington
Bridge.

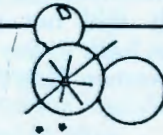
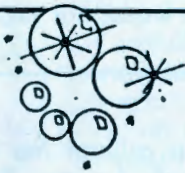
The balloon was an Eskimo
grandmother
walking out on the ice,
letting go of its breath,
growing wrinkles in cold,
preparing to die bravely
with the out-going tide,
steering away from the intake
for Manhattan sewers.

But a bag lady was fishing near
the park
and followed it downstream for
a ways.
Scooped it up in her net made of
panty hose and twine.
Invited it to dinner under an arch
in the park.
And sang with it

until the wind whispered stop.
They both dreamed.
Shimmering snow fields and ice
bound limbs
called them and they came.

A young girl and her bouncing
silver balloon
went out to play.
White on white on silver
flashing light and crystal beacons
took them home
flaming past the moon.
And no one saw them drifting past
like silver shadows fading in the
coming light.

— L. JAN HUNT



Your-Stories

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS asking, "When did you come out?" I never know whether they want to know when I had my first crush on a woman, when I first touched a woman, when I first thought I might not be heterosexual, when I first made love to a woman, when I first talked to even a lover about our relationship, when I thought of myself as being "gay," when I first orgasmed, when I told my parents, when I became politically active, or when I saw myself as LESBIAN.

All of these were parts of my "coming out" — the physical, the personal, the interpersonal, to myself, to my parents, to my employer, and to my friends. I have always felt that the most important "coming out" was the "coming into" a community, the finding of a group of women who reflected my same values and lifestyle. This was also the hardest part of coming out, because it seemed not to depend on me, but on the openness of other women to include me into their circle, into their lives.

To tell you the truth, I had a terrible time finding these women. I tried and tried. I went to these bi-weekly pitch-ins with my Woman Friend. We went for months. After one pitch-in, I finally told her that I wasn't going to go back to any more of them. Those women didn't seem

to even know we were there. They could have cared less about us. **THEY DIDN'T WANT TO GET TO KNOW US.** and I wasn't going to go through it any more. She replied that the next pitch-in was going to be at a woman's house that we sort of knew and that we should go one more time, so I said okay. After that pitch-in, it was my Woman Friend who said that she didn't want to go back to any more pitch-ins, that those women were just stuck up and didn't care who we were. I replied that the next one was to be at so-and-so's house, and that it might be a possibility to meet some women *there*. So we went and we kept going and we kept struggling to find **FRIENDS**.

After about 9 months of "I don't want to go anymore" and "just one more," we attended a concert (wonderful Maxine Feldman). Afterwards, a couple of the women that we had seen so many times at those pitch-ins asked us if we would like to come over to their house to play ping-pong. And that was it. That was what it took. Someone had finally asked us into their life. We got to know those two women and then two of their friends and then four of their friends and it just kept on snowballing into knowing many, many women.

I realized that none of those women at the pitch-ins knew that my Woman Friend and I felt isolated. They didn't know we wanted/needed friends. They didn't know to include us in their plans. They didn't want to infringe or assume. It was really up to us to let them know, and we never did.

Continued page 46

THE LOVE OF my life had been out of town for a week. I had really missed her. We were just getting to know each other when she went on vacation. The phone rang and my heart leaped. "Hi honey, I'm back. Let's go to (straight) 'fancy restaurant' for your favorite pizza." I hurriedly jumped into the shower, put on my finery and waited nervously for my yet to be lover to arrive. I almost freaked when I saw her standing there in her three-piece suit and tie. Oh my god how can I be seen in public with her? The world will know what we are. I told her how fabulous she looked, almost choking out the words. I tried to beg off going out, but she insisted she was going to show her 'honey' off. As the evening wore on I got over my initial shock, and gave all my attention to my impressive dyke. She had't dressed for the world, but just for me.

— T.B. - IA



Photography by Lisa Scott

This column has been designed expressly for you. You are the writer. Everyone of us has a story to tell; coming out, humorous, sad, first date, etc. Share your experiences with women throughout the world. You do not have to hold a degree in journalism to write for this column. Our articles editor will keep the essence of your story and put it in good grammatical form. You may elect to use your own name, pseudonym or initials. (please follow writers guidelines on page 42 when submitting your copy).

*Please send Your Stories to:
JERNAN, Ltd., Inc./Your-Stories,
5199 North Keystone, Suite 104, Indianapolis, IN 46205.*

• HOW TO DO IT •

Electric Plugs

Repairing and replacing

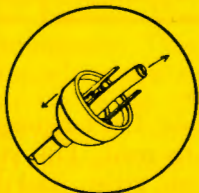
Your Problem: Lamps or appliances have frayed wiring or damaged prongs.

Consequences: A damaged plug can be dangerous. It's expensive to hire help for small repairs.

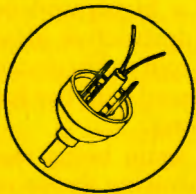
What you need: New plug if old one cannot be used (buy one with a UL label)
Straight head screwdriver
Knife



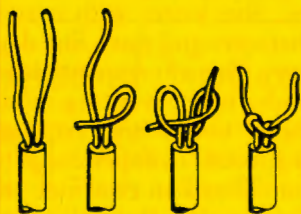
Step 1
Cut cord off above damaged part. Remove insulation cover and bad wire from plug.



Step 2
Insert the remaining good cord into plug. Leave approximately 1½" of wire.



Step 3
Carefully strip outside insulation away from the two wires. If you cut into wires, cut off bad section and repeat this step. Separate wires. **DO NOT STRIP INSULATION ON WIRES.**



Step 4
Tie Underwriters' knot. (as shown in illustration)



Step 5
Carefully remove ½" of insulation from end of each wire. **DO NOT CUT ANY SMALL WIRES.**



Step 6
Twist small wires together in a clockwise direction from each section of wire.



Step 7
Pull knot down firmly into plug.



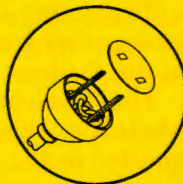
Step 8
Pull one wire around a terminal to a screw. Repeat same procedure with other wire.



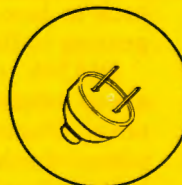
Step 9
Wrap the twisted bare wire around the screw in a clockwise direction. Repeat same procedure with other wire.



Step 10
Tighten the wire under each screw. **DO NOT PUT INSULATION UNDER SCREW.**



Step 11
Replace insulation cover over end of plug.



Your Reward: Your lamp or appliance is back in working order. You have eliminated a possible cause of fire or shock. And you have saved money by doing the repair yourself.

—JOY BLAIR

Joy began her career in construction at an early age working with her father and brothers. She graduated from Purdue with a degree in art education. In 1979 she began her own construction company and is currently involved with historical restoration on Victorian period houses as well as framing for residential contractors.

• BOOKS IN REVIEW •

Literally Speaking: New Titles

Tracking Our Way Through Time: A Lesbian Herstory Calendar/Journal

Janet S. Soule, Editor
260 pp. \$10.50

Distributed by Sandpiper Books,
P.O. Box 268139, Chicago, IL
60626-8139

After almost 5 years of research, reading, study and communication with nearly 200 Lesbians, past and present, Janet Soule has compiled Lesbian herstorical facts, photos, quotes and graphics into a wonderful calendar and/or journal. As Soule explains, the idea for something that Lesbians could use and read everyday for renewed Lesbian energy came, "in December of 1979. I looked up from my cataloging desk in Northwestern University's Library, and saw the latest *Ms.* flash by, clutched in a sister employee's hand as

she made her way back to her office after lunch. My heart stopped. Neophyte Lesbian that I was, that magazine (for years my *only* lifeline to *any* mention of Lesbianism) in another woman's hand had to mean something significant. Even though I had been out (outside of work, of course) for a year and had found my way to the the wonders of womyn and real lesbian literature, *Ms.* appearing in my office in the hands of *that* woman was enough for me to invent some reason to stroll by her desk. When my heart started beating again, stroll I did.

"To this day, I don't remember what we said in those first seconds, but I do remember the electrifying moment when we were paging through that magazine and came across *Ms.*'s review of all the women's calendars out that year. I casually (ha!) said, "Oh, I wonder if they have any calendars for

Lesbians." An eternal pause crawled by and she said, "Uh...no, there aren't." My life rushed before my eyes. I had Never said anything Lesbian to anyone that I wasn't 101% sure would respond with "Right on, Sister!" By this time, my heart had left my body and galloped from the scene. I mumbled something appropriately feminist and wobbled back to my desk to take my blood pressure.

"She probably recovered quite nicely, thank you, but I *still* feel faint every time I recall it. Be still, my heart. Fortunately, the seed that was planted that day made its way through the fear and trembling of that wretched coming out attempt to the flower, TRACKING OUR WAY THROUGH TIME: A LESBIAN HERSTORY CALENDAR/JOURNAL.

*****IKYK Rating

Continued page 37

Old, Rare & Out of Print

One of the most amazing things about DIANA, is that it was written in 1939. It was published by Dial Press and has a Grier rating of AB*** [major lesbian content or characters, quality much above average]. The author views her lesbianism with such honesty and candor, that I had to keep reminding myself that the book was forty-five years old. The novel, despite the fact that it gets overly psychological and wordy at times, is an excellent example in character studies.

Diana tells of her life, complete with the emotional rollercoaster she rides viewing her lesbianism. This woman speaks of her fears, denial and final acceptance. The book deals with her relationships with women, each one developing into a fuller, more mature one which reflected her own growing insight and acceptance of herself.

The psychological study of Jane, Diana's first serious lover, is set in Paris in the thirties. She and Diana have all the normal problems. Jane's

hatred of her own lesbianism and its effect on Diana causes her to make the transition to acceptance.

With the relationship with Jane over, Diana finds Leslie. They share a life together and grow, facing problems as they arise. But always lurking in the shadows is the ghost of Jane.

The development of Jane is overwhelming. Although the reader is interested in the changes occurring in Diana, the attention keeps coming back to Jane, just as she keeps reappearing in the story.

DIANA is a book that speaks to every woman. At the end of the novel Diana finally finds the happiness she had been seeking for so long. It is refreshing to find a novel written forty-five years ago that ends on an optimistic note.

WE TOO ARE DRIFTING by Gale Wilhelm, was published four years earlier in 1935. It has a Grier rating of A*** [major lesbian content or charactes, quality much above average].

This book is written in an excep-

tionally literary style. The language is a pure pleasure to read. The story deals with Jan, an artist, and her quest for personal happiness. She is portrayed as a highly independent woman. Her destructive affair with Madelaine is told with uncanny insight and balanced with her happy affair with Victoria.

Wilhelm is again being read, and gaining the following she so rightfully deserves. She writes with a style that has character and class. She does not fall prey to over-romanticizing and the reader is left wanting more.

Both these books are excellent choices for a reader to experience the time period. They can convince the greatest skeptic that the old novels have a place in the eighties.

DIANA and WE TOO ARE DRIFTING are available from Independent Woman Books, 63 Wopowog Trail, Shelton, Connecticut 06484.

—KATHLEEN S. KOCH,
Reviewer

• BOOKS IN REVIEW •

Literally Speaking (Con't)

So whether it's *Lesbian Herstory* you're after or an energizing calendar, you've got both with "Tracking Our Way Through Time."

The Sophie Horowitz Story

by Sarah Schulman
176 pp. ISBN 0-930044-54-1 \$7.95
Published by Naiad Press.

Radical feminist leaders Germaine Covington and Laura Wolfe have surfaced after years in hiding to rob a bank, and Germaine has been captured — but where is she? And where is Laura Wolfe? Sophie Horowitz, sometimes intrepid

reporter for the *Feminist News*, seeks answers, meeting in her travels: Melanie Chang, leader of the ambisexual rock 'n' roll band the Dogmatics; the mysterious and unsavory Seymour Epstein; Vivian Beck, who wears serving spoon earrings and tempts our heroine toward indiscretion; Mrs. Noseworthy, mystery writer par excellence; and many other denizens of lower eastside New York. Soon after Sophie and her lover Lillian invade a men's leather bar, Sophie finds herself up to her Jewish earlobes in murder and intrigue. But still, is there any doubt that Sophie will

eventually triumph over all? Yes, you bet there is. . .

Not since humorist Fran Lebowitz dazzled the literary scene with METROPOLITAN LIFE has there been a voice so fresh and sharply satiric as Sarah Schulman's. Never has there been a novel quite like the wonderfully funny THE SOPHIE HOROWITZ STORY.

***IKYK Rating.

Confusing plot in places. Lacks the depth of atmosphere and mystery to be a really good murder and intriguing novel.

IKYK ratings are based on a * to ***** scale.

PRESS RELEASE: Washington, D.C. The National Federation of Parents & Friends of Gays announces its first publishing venture: an informational handbook entitled "HOMOSEXUALITY, AS VIEWED FROM FIVE PERSPECTIVES"; *The Child, The Parents, The Family, The Counselor, The Community*. This book presents a uniquely-organized nontechnical overview of the difficulties and problems faced by homosexual persons as they interact with society.

The primary goal of this handbook is to help, at both functional and emotional levels, those persons who are attempting to understand non-heterosexual persons and deal with problematic issues related to homosexuality. It presents, in a concise manner, much factual information for all who are searching for an im-

proved understanding of homosexually-orientated persons, and provides an extremely helpful introductory exposure to the great amount of literature available for further investigation.

The author, Marcia Weitzman, M.A., M.F.C.C., is both a professional counselor and the sponsor of the PFOG Support Group in Woodland Hills, California. Originally written as her master's thesis, the book defines and discusses the various perspectives and problems experienced by homosexual persons, their parents, and their families. A most important component of this handbook focuses on contemporary attitudes and perspectives of homosexuality held by professional service providers and society at large.

An informal review of current literature and research is presented, in an

attempt to enlighten the reader regarding misconceptions, biases and fear of homosexuality. The author also discusses the positive progress being made today toward the improved understanding and acceptance of sexual minorities.

"Homosexuality, As Viewed From Five Perspectives" is offered and recommended as a prime resource, not only to parents and families who are concerned about a "loved one who is gay," but also as a training manual for counselors, service providers and others who have occasion to address the various problems associated with homosexuality.

Copies of this handbook are available from: NF/PFOG Library Service, 5715 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20011; Single Copies, \$2.75; 20% discount on 5-19 copies; 40% discount on 20 copies or more.

Special Notice

NATIONAL LESBIAN SLIDE SHOW AND COMPETITION. "Lesbian Sexuality" and "Lesbians In Action" are the competitive categories in the 3rd National Lesbian Slide Show and Competition scheduled for March 1985. The Show and competition, sponsored by Herizon, a women's social club in Binghamton, New York, will encourage the exploration of lesbian images and will offer cash prizes to lesbian photographers. The judging

will be done by lesbian audiences in several United States cities.

"We're focusing on sexuality for this Show because the national lesbian community seems ready to explore this area of our lives," said spokeswoman N. Meg Glaser. "We are also interested in seeing upbeat, 'action' shots of sports, protests, work, or play," she added.

The guide lines for the Show emphasize original color slides, not black and white slides, or reproductions of

other photographs or artwork. There is an entry fee of \$5 per slide (3 slides per category limit). Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, \$25 will be awarded to winners in each category. For complete guidelines, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to NLSSC, c/o Herizon, P.O. Box 1082, Binghamton, NY 13902. The deadline for entries is March 1, 1985.

For more information on the competition, contact N. Meg Glaser, (607) 724-9218 evenings.

One further option for the woman who wants to use artificial insemination in a home setting, has at least moderate funds available, but doesn't want to locate a donor, is to contact the Northern California Sperm Bank, a division of the Feminist Women's Health Center in Oakland, California. A woman spends several days there for initial exam, education, and donor selection. Then the center ships frozen semen at a fair price to her home for monthly inseminations.

Parthenogenesis is the third option. I am not aware of any well-documented parthenogenic births; however, there are women who strongly believe in this possibility and perform rituals to promote it. For those interested in pursuing this method I recommend further reading.

With either direct sexual contact or artificial insemination, it is important to know that repeated attempts may be necessary, despite good timing. Many women will be pregnant within the first three to four cycles, but six months to a year is frequently required. If a woman hasn't conceived after this time period, more careful identification of the time of ovulation and/or an infertility workup by a gynecologist may be helpful.

This is a basic summary of the methods a lesbian may choose from if she desires to conceive and have her own baby. Whatever basic choice she makes, there are various risks regarding child custody battles, contacting venereal disease and possible inherited genetic defects in the child. Beyond these worrisome considerations, there are a myriad of possible novel arrangements women may want to construct as they reclaim their reproductive powers and start moving towards new forms of social organization. Next month we'll take a look at these various aspects of the issue.

— DIANA SAGE, M.D.

Diana graduated from medical school in 1978, completed a residency and is board certified in Family Practice and has worked in Emergency Medicine for three years.

But we must also serve notice on Ronald Reagan and his right-wing allies that they can not continue to assault the laws that ban sex discrimination in this country. We must continue to work to broaden the protection of human rights to include all people--women, people of color, lesbians and gay men. We must work actively to protect human service programs and to prevent the administration from dismantling what remains of the safety net for the poor in this country.

The list of issues of concern to us as lesbians--as women and simply as citizens of the United States--is long, and we face an administration in Washington that so far has shown itself to be unconcerned about those issues. Topping the list are the issues of protection of our rights. Reagan and his Vice President, George Bush, both have expressed opposition to "codification of rights for homosexuals." Reagan has also said that he supports the "E and the R but not the A (of the Equal Rights Amendment)." His actions over the last year in gutting the Civil Rights Commission also clearly show that we can expect no support from the administration for even basic civil rights.

Because the task is great we must all rededicate ourselves to this effort. We still have a choice before us. It is no longer the choice between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale, but rather between allowing that loss to get the better of us and acting to build now for the four years ahead. Together we can still make a difference.

In coming issues of IKYK, I will explore more specifically the issues facing us--from lesbian and gay civil rights to pay equity to pension reform. I will also suggest ways that we can achieve our feminist and human rights goals.

—CHRISTINE R. RIDDIOUGH

Christine is Director of Lesbian Rights for the National Organization for Women. She has been a lesbian and feminist activist for more than a decade and has written extensively for lesbian, gay, feminist and left-wing publications.

non-oppressive, non-hierarchical leadership.

We've developed a two-day workshop, "Working Outdoors with Women," for both women and men who work with mixed groups. We offer it through colleges and other agencies. We may believe that women learn outdoor skills best from and with other women, but a lot of women participate in mixed programs where they are sometimes almost invisible. We believe that the "women's angle" on teaching, and attention to how women work and learn together, can benefit other programs.

We do some trips for adults and children. These aren't "family camping" — we invite women other than mothers to come, and try to find ways that all the adults can be connected with and responsible for all the children. Most children are six to ten years old. These trips are necessarily very child-oriented. The children have their own duties and activities and there is also some special adult time set aside.

We try to keep trip costs down — they are still more than many women can afford. Several friends and women from our trips have organized a scholarship fund. They raise quite a bit of money, and see that it gets to low-income women to pay up to half the trip fee. We really appreciate their work, since we don't want our trips to be limited to professional women and married women. And outdoor adventure programs are still mostly a white middle-class phenomenon. We'd like our trips to be available to more minority women.

The hardest thing about our trips? Coming back. Some woman is always threatening to stay in the woods, to send back a message to her family that she's wintering in the woods. After a long trip, the culture shock can be especially hard. We talk about how to keep alive in the city what we have learned from our lives in the outdoors.

— JUDITH NIEMI

Judith is a program director for Woodswomen.

• ENTERTAINMENT •

Art



...Untitled

— MARY F. ZRINY

Film Review: 2nd of series

THE REPLACEMENT of the 1930 Code with the rating system of 1968 allowed filmmakers to call a dyke a dyke. The explicitness of the post-Code films was mistaken for realism by unsophisticated, underexposed audiences, thus giving these films a damaging and unearned credibility. *The Fox* (1968) and *The Killing of Sister George* (1968) delved aggressively into the subject of lesbianism, but told the same old story; a lesbian was predatory, provisional and pathological.

Director Mark Rydell's *The Fox*, loosely adapted from D.H. Lawrence, starred Anne Heywood and Sandy Dennis as a pair of unhinged lesbian lovers. Dennis portrayed Jill Banford, the man-hating-but-feminine partner of the couple. Heywood's character, with her short hair and male mannerisms, is the "man" and surprisingly, it is she who acquiesces to the stranger (Keir Dullea) who wanders into their lives. While she is finding heterosexual fulfillment, Jill is killed when a tree, chopped down by Dullea's character, symbolically falls between her legs.

The Killing of Sister George, adapted from Frank Marcus' successful play, is one of the most recognized lesbian films. George, played by Beryl Reid, is a BBC actress and an aggressively butch lesbian. George has shared seven years of her life with Childie (Susannah York). Their relationship is altogether unattractive; George's antics, such as making Childie eat her cigar butt or her suggestion that Childie drink her bath water, exemplify their love. Into this bliss comes disaster. George has created another scandal at the BBC by assaulting a group of nuns. A slight slip in her ratings is excuse enough for the BBC to send out Mrs. Mercy Croft, a predatory lesbian herself, who not only fires George but steals Childie. George is the most decent human being in the film, and while we can admire her insistence on being who she is, the context of her relationship with Childie overwhelms the positive quality of her strength. George makes no apology for being a lesbian and rightly so, but

there's no excuse for the kind of human being she is.

The women in *The Fox* and *The Killing of Sister George* were among the first explicit lesbian characters on screen. To a general public without substantial exposure to lesbianism, these miserable role-bound women were representative of *all* lesbians. Even the lesbians of such highly respected directors as Chabrol, Bergman and Bertolucci did nothing to improve the popular conception of lesbianism as an anguished condition. These directors complimented us with intelligence, but consequently made us more threatening because our potential for psychological savagery was unlimited.

“...no apology
for being lesbian.”

Chabrol's *Les Biches* (1970) was a study of women's ability to torment each other. Frederique is the older established lesbian who meets "Y", a confused young artist. Together they drive themselves and everyone around them crazy. Frederique and "Y" engage in a contest to see who can thoroughly use the other — first. When Frederique seduces the man "Y" is infatuated with, it appears she's won, but her cruelty has pushed "Y" beyond reason. In a scene that justifies the title "Y" murders Frederique.

Bergman's first examination of lesbianism, *The Silence* (1963), presents Ester's attraction to Anna as sinister enough, but Anna is Ester's sister. Incest is an additional affront to even the sophisticated sensibility of a Bergman audience. Ester's desire was a capital offense. She got hers through a mysterious and disfiguring disease. In Bergman's *Cries and Whispers* (1972), Karin mutilates her genitals because she's sexually attracted to her sister, Maria. Sensing Karin's feelings, Maria encourages her, but only to make her inevitable rejection of Karin more humiliating. A virtually identical relationship existed between the two women in

Bergman's *Persona* (1966). When one woman makes herself vulnerable to another by admitting lesbian attraction, she leaves herself open to certain degradation. Bergman's subjects, like those of many directors, are bizarre. In the case of lesbian films, however, these characterizations are at our expense and determine what the public thinks and learns.

The Conformist (1970) is Bertolucci's story of Anna, a beautiful and intelligent woman played by Dominique Sanda. In the midst of an indifferent marriage, Anna experiences a sudden, consuming attraction to Guila, a flit. Guila is the wife of the assassin sent by the fascists to murder Anna's husband, an influential antifascist. Eventually Anna dies for neglecting her duties as wife and anti-fascist in order to pursue Guila. When her husband is gunned down by fascist assassins, Anna is murdered too. Ostensibly she died a political death, but her lesbianism was the true cause. Anna's blinding relationship could easily have been heterosexual, but wasn't.

The lesbian's threat to life as we know it was treated explicitly in Radley Metzger's *The Lickerish Quartet* (1970). This softcore film tells the pornographic story of a lesbian's sexual behavior with the three members of a nuclear family. Even Metzger's first lesbian film, *Therese and Isabel* (1968), does little to redeem *The Lickerish Quartet*, despite the earlier film's inoffensiveness. *Therese and Isabel* is adapted from Violet Le Duc's novel of the same title. Like Le Duc's lesbian classic, *La Batarde*, *Therese and Isabel* glorifies love between very young women. The film is explicit, as is the novel, but isn't typical of pornography in that the two school girls of the title are deeply in love with each other. From an older, heterosexual vantage point they recall their love affair as an important part of their lives. The disappointment of both film and novel is that *Therese and Isabel* don't remain woman-identified.

Continued page 44



Photograph by Irene Young

Interview with ALIVE!

In jazz clubs, at music festivals, and on the FM air waves, ALIVE! is a band that sizzles with excitement. During their fall tour, IKYK staff interviewed them in Indianapolis. Band members Barbara Borden (drums), Rhiannon (vocals), Janet Small (piano), and Susanne Vincenza (bass) were joined by Stacy Rolls (horns) for this tour.

IKYK: *How and when did Alive! form?*

Alive!: Caroline Brandy, Suzanne Vincenza and myself (Rhiannon) met at a jazz workshop in San Francisco. We were really struck by one another's music. We started rehearsing together, and by January, eight years ago, we called ourselves a band. Julie Homie played with us for a year. Then we added Janet Small and Barbara Gorden who has been with us for six years. Stacy Rolls has been playing with us for a year playing trumpet and flugelhorn.

IKYK: *Is Caroline Brandy on sabbatical?*

Alive!: Caroline (congas and percussion) took a leave of absence for a year. She wanted to be home for a while with her son. She is doing a lot of

teaching and some freelance gigs. Traveling a lot is really hard in some ways. It is hard on your family life and your relationships at home. We try to keep it under control so that we will not be gone all the time. Then again, it is hard making a living if you don't travel. So it's a balance we have to work out.

IKYK: *How has your music-making evolved?*

Alive!: From the very beginning, we were so immersed in our original music we played only our own music. That was the reason we got together. We have all gotten more confident with one another's music over the years. Each of us has learned what our strengths are inside the band. Alive! is one of the most open relationships I have ever been in. We encourage one another to pursue the things that we love in our lives. If you want to deal with being intuitive about how another person plays, you have much better chance at it with musicians you play with consistently.

IKYK: *How have you seen women's music change? How has be-*

ing a jazz group affected the way people perceive you?

Alive!: We have asked women production companies to support us when we were going to play in a jazz club. We want to play our music out in the world. Producers have understood that and we feel good about it. In any movement, it's always hard to understand why people take different directions. It's very important for us to be recognized by the jazz community in order to progress and be with our peers. At the same time, we are this anomaly, this 5-piece all women's band going into a jazz club. Traditionally women, singers and piano players, have performed with all male bands and don't appear to pose a threat to audiences, but the fact that we are all women up there is very threatening to a lot of people. We go in there with such a positive message. It kind of blows their mind because they expect us to be militant or negative. Over the years, we have just gotten to feel really strong about what we are doing. So we come at it with a positive point of view. I have seen people's minds change while we are playing, you can see it in their eyes.

IKYK: *What is the political/spiritual message that you try to get across? Do you put that into some manifesto or does it evolve?*

Alive!: It evolves. We have a song that Janet wrote called "What Is Life But How You Live It?" Who you are and what your political beliefs are is mostly manifested in how you live. Action speaks louder than words. Remember that this is a group. There are always five minds, five hearts and five spirits working this out. Experience

Continued page 42

ALIVE! (Con't)

somebody else's experience. If you did, you probably would not be threatened so much by their points of view even if they are different.

IKYK: *Is that really the message of your music, the mode of your music and the way you operate as a group?*

Alive! At different points we have taken on particular issues as the world turns. We travel a lot, and as we are driving along we see certain parts of the country all dug up. We see cities becoming more beautiful or empty shells. We talk to people because we are always in people's homes. World peace is the huge issue on everybody's minds. There are these universal truths that connect us. And, it's those kinds of truths that we try to get to in our music. If it does come out in our music, it is because we try to get to it in our lives. I (Rhiannon) have a strong feeling to want to express my belief in a spirit or god that guides all of us. The candles and the stones on the stage are part of reflecting the beauty of that spirit. It does not matter so much what you call your spirit or god, as long as you direct your life toward that spirit. I have a desire to really open myself up more to that because I feel how profound it can be inside of the music.

IKYK: *Have you felt that women who have heard your albums for years put you on a pedestal as stars?*

Alive! When you hang out and do the dishes together it is harder for anybody to be on a pedestal. You know, this culture aims at doing that to people; and it is very self-destructive. Performers do not get anything back from it. I (Rhiannon) used to feel it some in the beginnings of

the band, where people sometimes wanted to focus the energy at the singer in the band as opposed to the band as a whole. We worked really hard at shifting that around because none of us wanted that. It's knowing that the music is going through you, that it's not you, that keeps us from getting involved in stardom.

IKYK: *What do you do besides play with Alive!?*

Alive! I have been teaching privately about ten years now and it is a real strong source of income and inspiration to me. I also teach workshops. I am working on a record of my own that I hope to have out within the next year. I am working more toward theater music presentations. I am really amazed at how Alive! keeps staying together and keeps being vital. As long as it is a vital entity I think we will stay. I (Janet) teach occasional lessons and do some solo gigs at after hours bars. I also work as a legal secretary to pay for my synthesizer and other equipment. Suzanne, the bass player, is a licensed electrical contractor. She can do freelance work on her own schedule. Barbara has done a lot of free-lance gigs playing the drums. She has done studio work and she has also been our booking agent.

IKYK: *What kind of thoughts and sensations do you have on stage?*

Alive! The technical side in me (Rhiannon) is aware of where the song is. That other side of me is able to fly right overhead and go for the first impulses so that I can really be creative. You've got to have those two things operating at the same time. My goal is to be in a meditative state where I am not thinking anything but just open.

IKYK: *More and more mainstream radio stations are playing your music. Have you received any good benefits shifting down from that?*

Alive! In this culture you have to work with advertising to constantly have the name out there. It may take fifteen, twenty, twenty-five times before somebody will take the next step, which is to buy the album or come to a concert. It is real important for us to be on the airwaves. We plan to cut another album this winter. Japan and Europe are really on our minds right now, because they are really major places where jazz is heard a lot. In Europe, there are really strong women's communities. It just seems like a natural place to be.

The women in Alive! are not all lesbians. If you look at the women in Alive!, the straight women and the gay women are totally indistinguishable from each other unless you happen to know who they are sleeping with. Not everybody in the band stays in her sexual preference corner.

ALIVE!, the band, is not to be put in any corners either. Their music cut across all varieties of jazz from blues to be-bop. Their sets contain original compositions, such as "Spirit Healer," as well as jazz standards like Miles Davis' "Four".

Cosmopolitan magazine says, "With zest and authority, five women musicians have formed a combo called ALIVE!... Their vibrant music--alternately spiraling and contemplative--defies rigid categorization."

Make room America, 'cause Alive! is kickin'!

— L. JAN HUNT

Round Robin Songshare

MY MAIN AIM while visiting different communities is to encourage and empower. Some of the ways I attempt this are by encouraging audience participation, and by singing “right on” songs — anything from new age/human potential to blues, from silly fun to serious fun.

Another option that excites me is conducting a Round Robin Songshare during concerts. Here’s how it works:

The first five people to sign up during intermission can sing or share some kind of artistic expression (not necessarily musical). This provides a space for the budding or amateur artist or professional to share on a simple non-threatening basis. These Songshares also generate additional interest in the concert event and provide support for the artists in their own town.

Songs need not be original. I find that acappella songs, or voice with one accompanying instrument, work best. An ensemble of instruments is too easy to hide behind, and the song and the person can easily get lost in fancy instrumentation.

Who can participate? Anyone who has a song in her heart! People at all levels of musical skill or interest, from nonsingers to closet shower singers to professional performers.

We may choose a focus or a theme for a round robin, emphasizing a specific kind of song: blues, chants, bluegrass, sing-alongs, children’s songs, etc. Or it could be a strum or lick swap. A round robin need not be limited to music; other possibilities are poetry, skits, dance, games, etc. A woman from Philadelphia told me she took this form back home and people would just share whatever. I once saw a group of women pass a rock around, and only the person holding the rock would talk.

The round robin format provides a nurturing space for beginners to try their wings, as well as a safe place for pros to try out new material. Everyone has an equal opportunity to share, which sometimes gives the least outgoing people just the nudge they need.



And I always enjoy it because it’s a way for me to hear the local talent and there really is an element of magic and surprise. For instance, just recently in my travels there was a woman who has played guitar and harmonica for years and is a mainstay in her community. But nobody other than her closest friends had heard her sing. So much to the delight and surprise of her friends, she signed up and sang a song for them.

I haven’t tried this year, but my fantasy is to have a round robin that will go on continuously throughout a women’s music festival with many people taking one-hour turns at facilitating.

I like to teach this form wherever I go, in the hope that women will continue to meet for a dialogue of song sharing. I also want to encourage other performers to try this style; it has a high energy return in proportion to the small amount of planning required to put it together.

Sometimes the stage is a lonesome place, especially when I’m traveling, so I like to do a round robin to give myself a time and place to really settle

in and spend some prime moments with my sisters. I enjoy this kind of musical sharing more than any other form I’ve come across — it’s a good way for me to feel like I know who I’m singing to.

— GINNI CLEMMENS
(Parts of this article were originally published in “Paid My Dues”© 1978.)

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Lopin Along Thru the Cosmos*, is a must for women. It is warm, relaxing, and totally wonderful music. It ranges from the up-beat, “I’m a Little Cookie” to the haunting sounds of “Subo”, a traditional Peruvian mountain climbing song. With her textured vocal styling, Ferron’s “Testimony” is a rich, beautiful anthem of womanness and wholeness. Among others, the credits include Margie Adam on piano, Kay Gardner on flute and Miss Saffman’s Ladies Choir. This album can be found at most Women’s Music outlets, or by ordering directly from Flying Fish Records, 1304 W. Schubert, Chicago, IL 60614 (Catalog # FF 320).

Film Review (Con't)

The Children's Hour (1963) is another film that struggles to treat lesbianism with some sensitivity. Based on Lillian Hellman's play, *The Children's Hour* explores the consequences of deception and in doing so, presents lesbianism as a horrifying revelation. The film tells the story of Martha Dobie (Shirley McClaine) and her discovery that she is a lesbian. A student at the girl's school Martha and her friend Karen have started tells her grandmother that she's heard the two teachers making "noises" together at night. This lie leads the adults surrounding the not-so-innocent little girl to conclude that Martha and Karen are lesbians. Enrollment suffers a sharp decline. Both women are innocent, and what a relief that is, but some-

thing tells Martha that there might be some truth to the accusation that she has unnatural feelings for her friend. When Martha can't deny the fact she's in love with Karen, she kills herself.

Like *Therese and Isabel* and *The Children's Hour*, *Girls in Uniform* (1931) is another reasonably positive film adapted from the work of a woman writer. This early German film, the bold effort of director Leontine Sagan, was based on the Christa Winsloe play *Yesterday and Today*. It tells the story of what happens to Manuela, a student at a Potsdam boarding school, when she declares her love for one of her teachers, Fraulein von Berberg. In the edited version of the film distributed in the U.S., Manuela's affection is to be in-

terpreted as daughterly. But, as in the original version, Manuela is severely punished by the stern headmistress for this attachment, though just what's so terrible about it remains unclear. Manuela even attempts suicide but is rescued by her classmates. Winsloe's play and Sagan's unedited film are sympathetic to Manuela and, as a result, lesbianism as well. Censors opposed lesbianism, but a screen treatment that threw sympathy to the side of "wrong-doing" was doubly objectionable.

—JEANNE HENRY

Jeanne is a Cincinnati-based freelance writer who has studied film-making and film as literature.

Second of three part series.

Record Review

ROBIN FLOWER: CLAIMING 1ST DIBS ON ANOTHER FANTASTIC ALBUM. One of the finest musicians to emerge within the women's music movement is Robin Flower, a young woman with a seemingly endless supply of creative musical energy. She began in 1979 with a distinctively bluegrass-flavored album entitled *More Than Friends*, the title song of which has become the source of a very popular lesbian T-shirt.

In 1982, she recorded *Green Sneakers*, a highly energetic upbeat album including "Lemonade Jane," probably the best non-apologetic celebration of lesbian lust yet recorded. By this time, Flower had established herself as a true pioneer in sophisticated woman-identified acoustic music.

Her new album *1st Dibs* continues the trend started early in Flower's career. There is traditional bluegrass music as always, but also some reggae, a little old-time country, and "new acoustic music," which is a style of music based on using traditional acoustic bluegrass instruments fused with contemporary jazz.

"Bullyrag" goes even further, fusing bluegrass and new wave. The result is — what else? — blue wavel! In this song, Flower plays mandolin

and guitar and is joined by Crystal Reeves on violin and Jan Martinelli on electric bass. While Flower is joined by other women performers on the album, her performances with Reeves and Martinelli provide the backbone of the creative musical energy.

The title song, "1st Dibs," is a highly stylized and well-constructed example of new acoustic music. Robin's superb mandolin playing here proves that the little eight-stringed wonder is *her* instrument. "Love Blooms" is a reggae song in which Alive! notable Carolyn Brandy gives her percussive support.

"Falls of Richmond" is pure traditional bluegrass, opening with a riveting guitar solo. The fiddles add to the fast-paced excitement, and Martinelli provides a wicked bass solo. Side One concludes with "Terrorist," an effective denouncement of United States involvement in Central America. The chorus of singers provide an irritating "la-la, la-la-la" refrain and a shouting "who are the terrorists" — both seeming to reflect Flower's feelings about U.S. involvement in these countries.

"Kitchen Girl/Cat at the Window" opens Side Two, and includes a highly infectious banjo solo by Debby Cotter that forces the feet

to tapping. Those of us who were weaned on traditional country music will find familiar themes in "Heartache of Losing You," with fiddle by Laurie Lewis and even a good ol' dobro by Sally Van Meter. Lest anyone think that Flower's musical abilities are confined to mandolin, fiddle, and acoustic guitar, "Two Years in Chicago" proves that she is an expert electric guitarist also.

The pace slows a bit in an Ilene Weiss song called "Woman of a Calm Heart," in which the singer futilely wishes that she could be a rational, calm, non-aggressive lover. "Retrogenetics" closes the album with more new acoustic music and sophisticated mandolin playing by Flower.

This collection of vocal and instrumental songs, with a range of styles that probably has never been heard on one single album before, demonstrates Flower's outstanding musical ability, and should be listened to by everyone who appreciates the best of women's music.

Robin Flower, *1st Dibs*, Flying Fish Records 326, 1984

— LINDA D. WINNINGHAM

Linda is a freelance writer with an enthusiasm for Women's Music and the Arts.


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LENGTH: 500-2500 words.

Your-Stories (Con't)

Thank the Goddess for the inadvertent invitation.

This part of my coming out process — my coming into a positive, supportive community of women/lesbians — was the most important part. It gave me the basis for knowing that what I had been taught about Lesbians and about myself was false. I began seeing myself in a healthy and positive light. These women, like myself, were professional women with high standards and values in their lives. They helped me break down my own stereotypes of who Lesbians are. And they gave me the base and the strength and the positiveness to let my family know who I really was. They made it important for me to use my strength and energy to work for change. Getting to know these women has made all the difference.

— M.B. - IN

WHAT'S HAPPENING

. . . . IN CHICAGO at Mt. Moving Coffeehouse, 1655 W. School, Chicago, IL (312) 769-6899.

Jan. 5: Ginni Clemmens plus special guest Merlie "The Pearl"

Jan. 12: Showing the 1982 lesbian film, LIANNE--a WICCA benefit.

Jan. 19: Deidre McCalla

Jan. 26: Jo Mednick introduces Trager Psychophysical Integration and Nemtastics.

Feb. 2: Tricia Alexander and Lori Noelle.

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FEATURES CALENDAR

MONTH	WRITERS DEADLINE	TOPICS AND ARTICLES
FEBRUARY	Past	RELATIONSHIPS AND ROMANCE
MARCH	January 15	WOMEN AND LAND: DREAM TO REALITY Building your own home; Women's communities on the land; Growing Herbs.
APRIL	February 1	SPIRITUALITY AND/OR RELIGION The impacts of organized religions on women, culture; Women in gay religious organizations; The Goddess; Spiritual growth and journeys.
MAY	March 1	SPORTS AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES Cycling: local and cross country; Water sports; the phenomina of women's softball; Enjoying camping; Outdoor cooking.
JUNE	April 1	WOMEN AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM/ GAY PRIDE WEEK Custody battles in different states; Sex discrimination cases; Women in the legal profession; Laws concerning discriminating, or affecting lesbians; Tax; Marriage; Co-buying; Inheritance.
JULY	May 1	WOMEN IN THE MILITARY Women and the draft; Lesbian "witch hunts"; The pros and cons of enlisting; Coping with in and succeeding in that system.
AUGUST	June 1	WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS Getting ahead in the "good-old-boys" network; Women and computers; Two careers in the house; Women breaking into the skilled trades; Lesbian owned businesses; Options for financing your own busines; Fashion for upward mobility.
SEPTEMBER	July 1	WOMEN AND CHILDREN Lesbian couples raising children; Child custody battles; "Coming out" to your children; To Have a baby or not-and how.
OCTOBER	August 1	WOMEN'S CULTURE Lesbian photographers - the need to capture and document our existance; Women authors poets; The effects of women's music on lesbiana; The growth/diversity of women's literature; Lesbian/women's fine arts; Dance; Theatre.
NOVEMBER	September 1	LESBIAN POLITICS Coping with the political system; 1 year after Reagan's re-election; P.C. vs P.I.
DECEMBER	October 1	LESBIAN LITERATURE Character development; The rise and fall of lesbian publishers; The growth in the selection; Reviews of books; Author interviews.

PHOTOS needed for Cover relating to Topics and Articles. Good color. Send photo and/or slide. Use 64 or 100 ASA low speed film. Prefer vertical format.

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