



WOMONSPACE NEWS

our voice in the lesbian community



In This Issue:

Womonspace Dances

June 1995

Editorial

Dance History

Lindy Pratch

The history of Womonspace is closely tied to community hall dance events held in Edmonton. The dream of having a safe, social space exclusively for women came into reality with the first dance held in September of 1981. Those of you who attended will likely remember the wonderful feeling of walking into that little hall and seeing only women there.

In the beginning, the money required to put on the dances came out of women's pockets, and they were repaid with the proceeds. The profits eventually became the coffers of the newly-formed Womonspace organization. After months of meetings and legal paperwork—the stuff that's required to register as a non-profit society—a liquor permit for official Womonspace dances was obtained in October of 1982. That landmark dance was held at Hazeldean Hall. It cost \$6 to get in, and Ann and Sheila were the DJs.

At the earlier dances, I remember that fighting was sometimes a problem.

Later, the idea of having strippers at the dances was a hotly-debated topic.

With dances being held every month, except for July and August, volunteer burn-out was a problem, and a number of ideas were tried to spread the work load around. In 1984, volunteers who worked a two-hour shift were admitted into the dance free. This plan is still in effect.

As you can see, much has stayed the same over the last 13 years of Womonspace dances. The dances are still the primary source of funding for *Womonspace News* and for all of the other activities that Womonspace undertakes. The most important thing is that they are there; safe, women-only social events.

Womonspace is grateful to everyone who attends the dances, making them a success every month. The women who have worked through the years to make these dances happen have a right to feel proud of their accomplishments. You know who you are. Thank you from the rest of us.



Womonspace News is a publication of Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton. We are a nonprofit organization. The newsletter is produced by, for, and about lesbians in Edmonton and the surrounding areas. Our purpose is to inform and entertain our members and any other interested lesbians. The opinions expressed in any issue of *Womonspace News* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Directors or the Newsletter Committee. The events, organizations and establishments publicized are not necessarily supported by Womonspace. *Womonspace News* is produced on a volunteer basis by the Newsletter Committee. We welcome submissions. Material submitted becomes the property of Womonspace. We reserve the right to edit for length and content, and to refuse publication. Articles or letters to the editor may be sent to: Womonspace, #30-9930-106 Street, Edmonton, AB T5K 1C7. *Womonspace News* seeks advertising that is lesbian-positive to help defer publications costs. Womonspace does not necessarily endorse products or services offered. We reserve the right to refuse ads. For rate information, and to place an ad, please leave a message on the Lesbian Life Line: 425-0511.

At Womonspace: News Bits from the Board

The annual membership fee has been reviewed, and it was decided to keep the price at \$15. The cost of producing and mailing each member's newsletter cost \$16.80 (per person) last year, however. Two women have offered to donate their services for the desktop publishing and this will result in the annual cost dropping to \$11.64 per member. Thank you to our generous volunteers!

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton has approached us about consolidating our libraries into their location. Details are yet to be worked out, but the plan would make the books currently in the Womonspace office much more accessible. If you have items from our library at home, please remember to return them to a Womonspace dance, or to our next general meeting.

Sylvia is organizing this year's Take Back the Night march. She has asked Womonspace to help promote the event in our newsletter. At her suggestion, the theme of the September issue will be on violence against women.

The idea of a Womonspace craft show and sale has been discussed. This event would possibly take place on the same day as our November dance, and be held in the Bonnie Doon Hall earlier in the day. If you have an interest in helping to organize something like this, please contact Womonspace.

First Impressions

L.J.D.

New Year's Eve
My first womyn's dance
I've been told
by my lover
what they are like.

She didn't tell me
they all go to the same
hairstresser!
Short hair
everywhere.

Little or no makeup
Shirts and jeans
A community of womyn
I don't look like
at all
But I feel more
comfortable
walking in here
than I did the last 5 years
walking into church...

And suddenly I feel free.

Country vs Technobeat: Comments on the Dances

Sheelagh Caygill



To some out-and-about dykes, a Womonspace dance is a tired affair. For others, including out-of-town women, a dance is full of promise.

The loud music, a hall full of women, and a cool brew or a cooler all help create an immediate sense of community. And this is true for first-time dance dykes as well as for those who have been going for years. That sense of comfort is something that, unfortunately, the majority of dykes still don't find in every aspect of daily life is one thing that most women appreciate about the dances.

"You don't have to pretend or hide at the dances. You can hold your girlfriend's hand, dance together, be affectionate. It's an open and accepting environment," says one woman who doesn't feel it's safe to have her name printed in *Womonspace News*.

Another woman, Karen, says: "The first time I went to a dance, I felt overwhelmed and happy. Being surrounded by lesbians in one room, I felt very at home."

While some lesbians complain that the dances are boring, Karen says she always has a good time. "I go with the attitude that it's going to be fun... I've never had a bad time there. Although I do realize that to go alone would be difficult; it certainly makes a difference if you're with a group of friends."

Diana, who regularly goes to dances, says she appreciates seeing women from all walks of life there. "A lot of women still aren't out. But at the dances, that doesn't matter. It's an open and fun environment. You see your friends, along with other people you don't see on a regular basis."

That dances appeal to dykes living out-of-town is no surprise. "In Vegreville there's really nothing," says an anonymous civil servant. "So the dances are something we really look forward to. We can't make it to every dance, but when we do we have a great time."

But for women who want to converse and connect, a Womonspace dance can be disappointing and sometimes even frustrating. An Edmonton artist says she's bored with the dances. "It's really impossible to have stimulating conversation there. You can connect with a few friends, but it's not very fulfilling. I think that the energy is boring at the dances, and sometimes it's a bit of a meat market."

What changes would she make? "Well, I've been to dances in other cities. In Saskatoon, for example, they

played phenomenal women's music; the energy was fantastic and other women were really drawn to that. That kind of energy really draws people out."

The issue of music is an ongoing debate. Country or pop? Country or technobeat? Both the Edmonton artist and Diana say the dances feature too much country music.

"Part of the problem," says Diana "is that it's such an eclectic group that goes to dances. The DJ has to cater to a broad crowd. The older people over 35 seem to want more country and the young women want dance music. Even so, I still think there's too much country music."

Perhaps the apathy felt by some Edmonton dykes towards the dances is partly due to the fact that the dances have changed very little in recent years. Some womyn say the venue is dull and boring, while others express tiredness with the same themes: Valentines, Halloween, and New Year's.

"I think it would be fun to have a different kind of dance, one that has a theme, something totally wild, or with certain kinds of music... what about some worldbeat stuff? There's some fantastic music out there but I just hear the same old stuff at the dances," says one womon. "I'm a bit tired of the same thing every month, though I usually have a good time there."

So, producing the perfect dance is an impossible task. But lots of womyn

have ideas for different types of dances, and different themes. Womonspace wants your input. Do you want a dance with all women's music, a reggae theme, or a worldbeat affair? Call Womonspace at 425-0511 and let us know.



You Can Dance

Let the music take control
Find a groove and let yourself go
Let the D.J. shake you
Let the music take you

From the song "Everybody" by Madonna, 1982.

Quote:

If there's no dancing,
count me out [of the
Russian revolution].

Emma Goldman,
quoted in *The New
Statesman*, March 1, 1985.



Dance Complaints

Amy Lee Cardufian

It's soapbox time again. I just had to get in my two cents' worth on the topic of Womonspace dances, because I'm tired of hearing nothing but complaints about these monthly socials. If people aren't griping about the admission price, they're whining about the music or the food.

I've been attending these dances for 10 years (remember the Hazeldean and Highlands community halls?) and when it comes to complaining, the song is always the same.

So let's look at the major bones of contention:

1. The Admission Price.

Anyone who balks at paying \$8 per dance should maybe consider purchasing a yearly membership. A non-member attending all 10 dances will shell out \$80 at the door. But if you invest \$15 in an annual Womonspace membership, you'll pay an admission fee of \$4 per dance, which amounts to a yearly total of \$55 (including the initial cost of the membership) to attend those same dances. That is an annual saving of \$25. And you only have to attend four dances for the membership to pay for itself.

Interestingly, when this is pointed out to the people who do the most complaining about the admission price, the response tends to be, "Why would I want to join Womonspace? What has it ever done for me? I don't need to be a

member. I can get into the dances without being a member, and I can pick up the newsletter free at the dances ... so what's the point of becoming a member?"

Let me repeat; at the very least, you'll save \$25 a year on the dance admission price. You'll also be supporting a vital part of the women's community in this city. So what part don't you understand?

2. The Music.

Complaints about the music typically fall into two categories. Either it's too loud and club-like, or it's too slow and country-like. Well, guess what folks, you can't please 'em all. Alternating the disc jockeys each month provides a little variety so that the dance committee can at least try to please as many people as possible. If you want nothing but bar music, go to the damn bar (and don't forget to whine about the \$5 cover charge). If you want to hear country and western tunes exclusively, go to Cook County Saloon. Again, what part don't you understand?

Womonspace can't be all things to all women, and it certainly can't please everyone who patronizes the dances. But the organization must be doing something right to consistently get 200 to 300 women out on the third Saturday of each month—in spite of the music, the admission price, and the food (which people seem to either not want or not like). There's a need in this community that's being served by these events.

Consider: what other women-only social events exist for lesbians in

Edmonton? How much of a void would there be if these dances weren't offered? Granted, compared to 10 years ago, there are plenty more options available now to the average dyke-about-town. Boystown, Jazzberrys, the Roost, SOLO, bowling and badminton groups, and other social and recreational activities. But even in these Gay '90's, not everyone feels comfortable going out to the bar, or to a public cafe.

Many see the dances as a non-threatening, low-profile alternative to the more visible bar scene. Saturday night at the bar is fine if you're in the mood for a smoky, cramped, loud nightclub full of bored heterosexual teens flicking ashes on people's clothes and spilling drinks on the dance floor ... but I, like many older dykes, would rather have diphtheria than try to find a spot to shake my bootie on a Saturday night upstairs at the Roost.

Womonspace dances provide a less frantic alternative, particularly for those members of the women's community who feel they can't be seen entering a "public" gay establishment. If you don't appreciate them, tell us constructively how we can make them better ... or suffer in silence!

Quote:

Every self-respecting, right-thinking, politically correct lesbian must know how to dance.

Jay Thorne, in
Guide to Gracious Lesbian Living, 1989.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Groups and Weekly Events:

GLCCE (Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton), 104-11745 Jasper Avenue is open Monday to Friday from 7-10 pm and Mondays and Wednesday from 1-4 pm. Peer support counselling, drop-in, lesbian coming out group and library. Phone 488-3234.

OUTreach social & political student group on the University of Alberta campus: 988-4166.

Adamant Eve feminist radio program broadcast on CJSR, FM 88.5, at the University of Alberta. Thursdays from 5-6 pm.

Gaywire A lesbian and gay radio show on FM 88.5. Thursdays from 6-7 pm.

Lesbian and Gay Badminton Thursdays, 7-9 pm at Oliver School, 10210-117 St.; \$1.

Northern Titans (bowling for lesbians and gays) Saturdays, 5:15 pm at Lynnwood Bowl, 16127-118 Ave.

Pink Triangle Youth Group meets every Saturday, 8-10 pm at GLCCE. For lesbians and gays 16 to 21 years old.

Edmonton Frontrunners Meet in Van Vliet Centre (U of A) outside the locker rooms every Sunday at 9 am sharp, and run through the river valley trails. Jeff: 439-9803.

Lambda Christian Community
Welcoming members of the lesbian/gay community; worship 7 pm Sundays, 104-11745 Jasper Ave. (Please note that the location might change.) Phone 988-3913.

Weekly Events

Continued from previous page

Metropolitan Community Church
Weekly worship, 10086 MacDonald Drive,
Sundays at 7:15 pm.

SOLO Social club for lesbians and bisexual women (over 18) meets every week for a variety of social functions. The monthly country jamborees will be suspended during the summer months. Call Linda at 447-4776.

Liatris Society Queer-positive outdoor and gardening group organizes fun events every month which are open to everyone. \$5/year gets you on the mailing list to stay informed about the many activities. Brent: 497-7059.

OUT & Out (O²) An outdoor and recreation group for Edmonton's gays, lesbians & bisexuals and their friends. All activities are self-funded and many are free. \$5 membership covers newsletter cost. Darren: 489-1339.

Gay & Lesbian Infoline: 988-4018.

Lesbian Life Line: 425-0511.

June Events:

Saturday, June 3
Japanese Garden Tour
Everyone is welcome to join the Liatris Society outdoor & gardening group on a guided tour at Kurimoto Japanese Garden, at the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden near Edmonton. Meet at the main gate at 10 am for a one hour tour. \$5 admission includes access to the entire garden, so plan to stay on afterwards. Phone 987-3054 for directions to the garden.

Sunday, June 4

Womonspace News Meeting

Boystown, 10116-124 Street, at noon. Deadline for submissions for July issue on the topic "Sports Dykes."

Friends 4 Phair

Brunch benefit for Michael Phair, 10:30 am-1 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 10140-119 Street. Tickets until June 1, \$15, available at The Front Page and Orlando Books.

Tuesday, June 6

Lorelei Loveridge at Boystown

Advance tickets only. Dinner show \$11; Desert show \$9; Both shows \$17.

Wednesday, June 7

Womonspace General Meeting

#30-9930-106 Street, 7:30 pm. Womonspace members encouraged to attend, in order to have a say in how our society operates.

June 9

Queer Academy at Orlando Books

Members of Queer Academy will be presenting readings of their favourite fiction. 7:30 pm at 10640 Whyte Ave. 10% of proceeds from book sales on this night will go to GLCCE for their library.

June 12-16

Women's Words

Summer Writing Institute offered by the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta. Di Brandt, Clara Hare, Ruth Krahn, Mary McNamee, Gloria Sawai and Eunice Scarfe will be instructing. Register early to ensure a spot. Deadline is June 5. Phone 492-3093 for info.

Thursday, June 15

Di Brandt Reading

A Women's Words event, open to the public. Buffet dinner at the U of A Faculty Club, 6:30 pm, followed by reading at 8 pm. Cost is \$20. Phone 492-3093 for info.

Saturday, June 17

Womonspace Mixed Dance

Women, bring your gay men friends!
Bonnie Doon Hall, 9240-93 Street,
8 pm-1 am. Admission is \$4 for members and
\$8 for non-members. Co-sponsored by GLCCE.

June 19-24

**National Campus and Community
Radio Association Conference**

Hosted by CJSR; Women's Radio Conference
(Monday, June 19) and Anti-Oppression Day
(June 21) in keeping with the theme, "Now
Tuning into Strength in Diversity." Call 492-
5244 or fax 492-3121 for more info.

Wednesday, June 21

Pride Week Tour at Botanic Garden

Meet at entrance gate at 6 pm; admission is \$5.
Tour takes 2 hours, and the garden will remain
open until 9 pm for this special Liatris Society
event. Free refreshments will be available.
Phone 987-3054 for directions to the U of A
Devonian Botanic Garden.

Thursday, June 22

Wayward Daughters

An interfaith group of MCC welcomes women
wishing to share their faith experience and
spirituality within a supportive group. Our
next celebration is centered around the theme
of Mother. 7 pm; phone Karen for location and
further info 431-2128.

Saturday, June 24

Pride Parade

Gather at 12:30 near the Gazebo in old
Strathcona. March starts at 1:30; Rally
afterwards. Phone 988-4018 for details.

Voices of Pride Concert

Edmonton Vocal Minority in concert at
Convocation Hall, U of A. 8 pm. Lorelei
Loveridge is a special guest performer. Advance
tickets \$10(\$8) at Orlando Books, The Bagel
Tree, and The Front Page; \$12 at the door.

June 25-30

Sappho Lesbian Witchcamp in BC

Workshops, rituals, drumming, chanting.
Brochure: Box 21510, 1850 Commercial
Drive, Vancouver BC V5N 4A0.

Saturday, June 24

Women's Solstice Dance

at Riverdale Hall, 9231-100 Avenue,
8:30 pm-1 am. Smoke-free and alcohol-free.

Wednesday, June 28

Sacred Circle Dancing

Open to any woman who wants to dance.
Riverdale Hall, 9231-100 Ave, 7 (sharp)-9
pm. Donations toward hall rental are
welcomed.

Wednesday, July 5

Womonspace General Meeting

7:30 pm at #30-9930-106 Street. If you are
interested in becoming involved with our
organization, come on down!

Thursday, July 6

Wagner Natural Area Walk

Join the Liatris Society at a unique bog west of
Edmonton. Meet at 6 pm. For more info,
phone Richard, 454-2480.

Saturday, July 8

Womonspace Golf Tournament

9-hole just-for-fun tournament at Terrae
Pines (N of St Albert on Hwy 2). Golfing starts
at 3:15, followed by dinner at Jazzberrys. Sign
up and get details at the June dance, or
contact Laurie at 468-0987.

Friday, July 9

Womonspace News Meeting

Jazzberrys, 9965 82 Ave, at 7:30 pm.
Submissions deadline for the August issue on
the topic "Gay Shame: Internalized
Homophobia."

Jazz Up Your Day At JAZZBERRYS

Marcie



The coffee's freshly brewed, the atmosphere's gay positive, and the menu is a

work in progress. Those are all things that combine to make each visit to Jazzberrys a unique and enjoyable experience.

Owners Kevin and Dallas are constantly providing new and innovative choices to the patrons who have become regulars at the 9965 82 Avenue establishment.

"Come on in and give us a try. Suggestions are always welcome," says Dallas. "It's good food, it's all homemade—and made with a little bit of love."

It's also made with consideration for the health-conscious. Low-fat and vegetarian dishes have recently been added to the weekly menu, which so far has revolved around a daily lunch special.

"We hope to eventually expand into a supper menu," says Dallas, "and we're adding more salads and things for the summer."

In addition to providing quality meals at reasonable prices, (not to mention desserts to die for!) the staff at

Jazzberrys are committed to providing a safe haven for lesbians and gays to drop in and hang around—trendiness not required.

"I think there was a need for a more positive, less dark area for gays," Dallas explains. "Anywhere else that's convenient, gay-friendly, and safe, seems to be all black. The walls are painted black, and the staff and customers dress from head to toe in black. We want the atmosphere in our place to be cheery, and positive—not just for gays, but for everyone. We think it's important for people to be able to hold hands with their girlfriend or boyfriend without feeling uncomfortable."

"A number of our straight regulars who never had any real contact with gays before are realizing it's a gay-positive place, and they keep coming back because it's comfortable for both."

It's also more than just another coffee bar. Jazzberrys has already successfully hosted Scrabble and cribbage tournaments, with other recreational events in the works. Construction has begun on a patio out back that will be completed by the end of May, and bookings for private functions are welcome.

The cozy eatery has also proven to be popular with the brunch crowd on Sundays, where from 11 am to 3 pm DR's Special Omelette is the best deal in town.

Slice of Mice

Rosa

I have a lover! Me, whose circle of lesbian friends was no more than an arc when I first came out.

Of course that was understandable. Fifteen or so months ago I was Miss Dyke Neophyte. I wanted to meet other lesbians but didn't really know how to go about it. I tried everything, or so it seemed. I danced at *all* the gay night clubs in Edmonton, I ran and weight trained at the Kinsmen, and I even shopped for cat food at Hull's Foods downtown. I was desperate; I don't even *own* a cat.

For all my efforts in these activities, I was rewarded with a Pillsbury Doughboy-like beer belly, two sports injuries, and 329 tins of diet Slice of Mice cat food.

I sat down one day amidst the piles of cat food littering my living room and looked at my options. There had to be some way of meeting other lesbians in a way that was nonthreatening, fun, and (as I glanced at my \$543 worth of cat food) inexpensive.

Actually there was one option that I hadn't considered right away. Volunteer work! But where? Where would I have exposure to hundreds of lesbians and where could I expose myself to them as well? As I undressed that evening to get ready for bed, the answer finally came to me. Why had it taken so long to think of such a simple solution?

I began to volunteer at all the Womonspace Dances. As volunteer coordinator, I was able to make contact with many womyn as I sought volunteers for each dance. I was able to indulge my taste for physical activity by helping to set up for the dances and during the dances, I tried to get around to each volunteer to meet them and to thank them for helping out.

Over the course of the year, I discovered that womyn volunteer for a variety reasons. For some, it is a way of getting into the dances for either half price or even free. For womyn who are just coming out or who are just out of a relationship, it is way of meeting new womyn and every dance-related volunteer duty provides opportunities to meet other womyn. Even clean-up!

Clean-up is the least-favoured dance duty. Most volunteers prefer working the bar, the door, or selling drink tickets. Setting-up is favoured by lesbians who want to get in free and want to dance the night away uninterrupted. Believe it or not, however, cleaning-up probably provides the *most* opportunities to single out womyn that you might want to coffee with. With a couple of empty beer cases under your arm, your safari for empties can lead you to jungles thick with lesbians and you can indulge in some low-key cruising!

A Clean-up Crew is not half as much fun as a Clean-up Cruise. In fact

that's how I met my present lover. I was behind the closed bar when a blood-covered figure walked in. I promptly screamed, then fainted. How could I have known that she was covered with ketchup from cleaning up? It was love at first fright!

Oh and guess what? My lover has a cat. We opened up one of the 329 tins of diet Slice of Mice cat food for her and do you know what? She hates it! She's a New Age vegetarian cat and will only eat tofu mice. Perhaps we should have a Womonspace Cat Dance. I can easily supply the food!



Editor's Note: Womonspace is currently in need of a Volunteer Co-ordinator, because Rosa has now taken on the responsibilities of Public Relations Director.

Quote:

So when approaching a woman... march right up to her and say, "Would you like to dance?" If she says no, then say, "Well then, I guess a fuck is out of the question."

Lea DeLaria, in *Out, Loud, & Laughing: A Collection of Gay & Lesbian Humour*, Charles Flowers, ed., Doubleday, 1995.

Between the Covers At Edmonton Public Library

Lindy Pratch

Trouble and her Friends, Melissa Scott, 1994.

Red Azalca, Anchee Min, 1994.

The Serpent's Gift, Helen Elaine Lee, 1994.

Coffee Will Make You Black, April Sinclair, 1994.

One thing I like about science fiction and fantasy is that lesbians and gays can be depicted in societies which accept them as a matter of course. This can be a given of the world that is the setting. Melissa Scott's previous books have all centered on a lesbian central character whose sexual orientation is pretty much incidental to the story.

Trouble and her Friends is different. It's much more of a same-sex sociological novel. It is set on Earth in about 2080. Gays and lesbians are still on the fringes of society. Cyberspace has become highly regulated and many of the code-cracking, underworld netwalkers—like *Trouble*—have turned to legitimate computer work.

When someone starts to use her old name for criminal activities online, the real *Trouble* comes out of retirement. It's a dangerous world, both on and off the nets. The law is after her. *Trouble* has no choice but to get in back in touch with her old gay and lesbian friends. She has missed them, but she doesn't know how to face her ex-lover. *Trouble* had walked out on Cerise a few years earlier, leaving without even a note. Now, she needs her help.

The relationship between these two women keeps sizzling in this fast-paced story. It's Melissa Scott's best writing yet.

The next three books do not have lesbianism as a central theme, although it is prominent in each one.

Red Azalca reminded me of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. It is an autobiographical account of a young woman growing up during the last years of Mao Tse-Tung's China. She was born in 1957 in Shanghai and was a member of the Little Red Guards. At seventeen, she was sent to work on a collective farm along with thousands of other young people. Anchee Min's affair with another woman helped to keep her emotionally strong during this harsh time.

Later, Anchee is chosen to be a finalist in the competition for a role in one of Madame Mao's political operas. When Chairman Mao dies, her life changes once again.

Anchee Min's beautiful prose paints a poignant picture of Mao's China.

The *Serpent's Gift* goes farther back in history. In Helen Elaine Lee's first novel, two black families unite through circumstance. LaRue Smalls is a baby when his father dies in an accident. At the close of the story, seventy years later, he has seen many changes in the lives of African-Americans.

Ruby Staples takes Eula Smalls and her two children into her home. Vesta Smalls and Ouida Staples are almost the same age, and are raised like sisters. Vesta's heart is broken at a young age, and spends her life caring for her

unusual family.

Ouida is strikingly beautiful, and she is a lesbian. She lives with another woman for forty years. This aspect of the story is very well portrayed. The way Ouida's family comes to terms with her relationship, against the backdrop of the conventions of the era, is heartwarming and believable.

LaRue is a lifelong storyteller. Miss Snake is one of his favourite characters, always having new adventures. Her ability to shed her skin and start over is a good model for coping with hard times. There are plenty of hard times, but the Smalls and Staples always manage to emerge triumphant.

The advice to pregnant black mothers that drinking coffee would make a baby's skin darker black was mentioned in *The Serpent's Gift*. It exemplifies the importance given to skin colour in North America. *Coffee Will Make You Black* is also the title of a coming of age story set in Chicago during the civil rights movement of the late 1960's.

Jean 'Stevie' Stevenson wants to fit in with the cool crowd, but struggles to be true to herself as well. She switches to an afro hairstyle as she becomes more politically aware. When she gets a crush on the white school nurse, racial prejudice and homophobia confuse and challenge her further.

April Sinclair has impressive talent and is currently writing a sequel.

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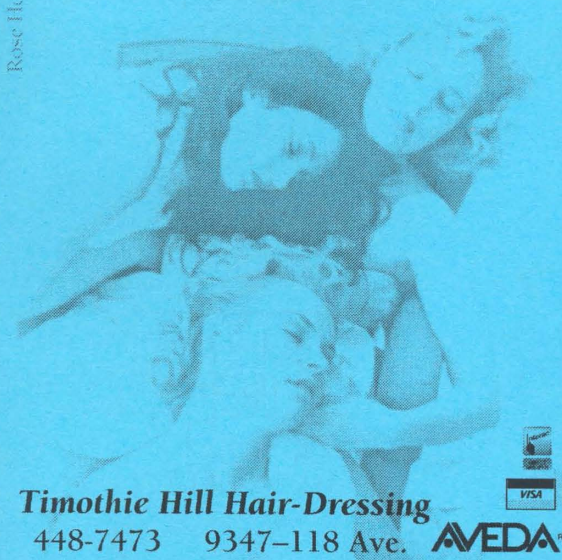


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Submissions Welcome

We are always seeking submissions of interest to local lesbians. Letters to the editor, book, concert and movie reviews, articles about lesbian-run businesses in Edmonton, political and social commentary, short fiction, poetry and artwork are among the items we look for. We especially need someone who is interested in compiling the calendar of events each month.

If you are interested in contributing, you may either write to Womonspace (#30-9930-106 St. Edmonton AB T5K 1C7), or attend our next newsletter meeting (see the calendar of events for locations and times).

Contributors this issue:

Lindy Pratch, L.J.D., Sheelagh Caygill, Amy Lee Cardufian, Marcie, and Rosa.

To Our Casual Readers:

Womonspace News is published by Womonspace for our members. Our aim is to entertain and to inform. A limited number of copies are distributed free of charge, with the intention of reaching as many *new* lesbians as possible. If you regularly pick up a free copy, please show your appreciation and support by becoming a Womonspace member or else by mailing a donation to the society. Thank you for your readership.

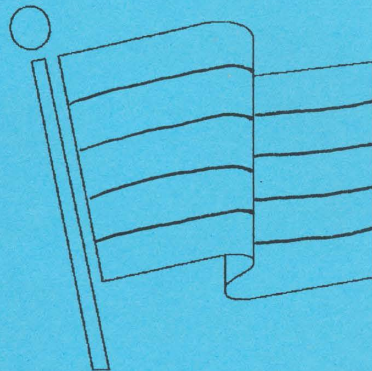
Remember that membership also entitles you also get a reduced admission rate to Womonspace events, one free business card-size ad each year in the newsletter, as well as unlimited classified advertising (up to 3 lines per ad). Most importantly, you will be entitled to a say in how Womonspace operates. Join us!

A Special Note:

Thank you for your patronage to all the loyal customers of Woman to Woman Books. You won't see our book table at community events anymore, but special order requests may still be accommodated. Try Orlando Books for a very good selection of lesbian fiction.

WOMONSPACE DANCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 17
8 PM TO 1 AM
BONNIE DOON HALL
9240-93 STREET



At our Pride Week Dance, both men and women are welcome.



WOMONSPACE 1995 MEMBERSHIP FORM

#30- 9930 106 Street Edmonton AB T5K 1C7 Phone: 425-0511

Confidentiality Assured

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE _____

Membership Fee: \$15/single; \$25/couple (with one newsletter)

Cheque or Money Order payable to Womonspace (low income available)

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ I would like to be a volunteer Yes ☐ No ☐

Please mail my newsletter to my home ☐

I will pick up the newsletter at dances/events ☐ Total enclosed \$ _____