



WOMONSPACE NEWS

our voice in the lesbian community



In This Issue:

Role Models

November 1995

Dear Editor,

Last month's issue of *Womonspace News* had a nifty picture of a figure emerging from a doorway. Beneath it were the words: National Coming Out Day ... October 11. What was that all about?

Signed,
Just curious.

Dear Curious,

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, in Washington, D.C., organizes many educational outreach events. The National Coming Out Project culminates each year on October 11, with Coming Out Day.

The logo that you admired was designed in 1988 by artist Keith Haring (now deceased).

The HRCF encourages people to be honest about their sexual orientation to family members, friends, and co-workers all year long. Why? Because statistics show that those who know someone gay are more likely to support equal rights for gays and lesbians.

Submissions Wanted!

Letters to the editor, reviews of books, movies, or music, artwork, poetry, cartoons, and any other writing of interest to local lesbians are all welcomed. Topics for coming issues: December—Community; January—Lesbians in Film; February—Relationships.

Send your submissions to
Womonspace News, #30-9930-106
Street, Edmonton AB T5K 1C7.

Contributors this issue:

'Just Curious', Lindy Pratch, Catherine Gutwin, Laurie, Roz Ostendorf, Karen, Shelly Roberts

Quote:

Heroism, I believe, is a trait that does not know race, color, creed, sex, or sexual orientation.

Dianne Feinstein,
on why the ban on lesbians and gay men in
the military should be lifted.
The Advocate, April 6, 1993

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 members may submit classified advertising—up to 3 lines free—at any time. *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. The editor is Lindy Pratch.

Hero Worship

by Catharine Gutwin

I went to see Baryshnikov dance last month. I've wanted to see him since I was a teenager—the greatest dancer alive, maybe the greatest dancer ever. My other dance heroes include Rudolph Nureyev, Fred Astaire, and Gregory Hines—all men. I certainly admire Karen Kain, Veronica Tennant, Martha Graham, and Isadora Duncan, but somehow they don't hold the same aura of greatness for me. What makes the men attractive as heroes? Is their strength more apparent (instead of masked)? Is their grace more unusual (instead of expected)? Is their creativity more applauded (instead of discounted)?

It was strange to feel my admiration and awe shape itself into words of love: I'm in love with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Not exactly your typical lesbian icon...or is he?

My hero-worship started with my father. He was the actor, my mother the observer. Their relationship played out this dynamic: he was forceful, independent, admired, capable, strong; she was servile, weak, non-resourceful, unskilled, ignorant. I wanted to be a winner, so I learned to be intellectual, misogynist (while also a feminist—quite a trick), and an emotional cripple just like my dad. Eventually, however, I also found the limits of my honorary manhood: I would never have the



power, the confidence, or the affirmation straight men generally receive simply for being men. I could never be Mikhail Baryshnikov, and so instead I must love him, imagining that being next to power could lend me self-worth. Enacting this dynamic with boyfriends as a teenager in fact only highlighted my inborn "deficiency" of being female.

Certainly, not all my heroes are male ... far from it; but often what I admire about my female heroes are typically masculine qualities—Melissa Ethridge, Amy Rae, Martina, Ferron, to name a few. Which is not to say that such qualities are bad, but where is my admiration for typically feminine qualities—say, empathy or grace—in *women*? (I sometimes do fall into the double standard where men are lauded for displaying some—not too many—feminine qualities while women are derogated for displaying them.)

What I suspect is that my choice of heroes has less intrinsically to do with their sex or even their masculinity/femininity than with what hero worship is about for me: not identification, but envy; not reaching after a goal, but forever wanting what I believe I can never have. I will never win this way. Somehow my hero-worship must become self-love and empowerment. I must become my own hero ... the protagonist in my own life; but without omitting what is emotional, soft, curved, or graceful in me.

Incredibly True Role Models?

by Laurie

Evie Roy and Randy Dean as role models? It may be a stretch for some cynics who've lived through the political turbulence of the '60's, the disco-glamour heyday of the pre-AIDS '70's and the safe-sex panic of the '80's. But for teens growing up gay in the '90's—who already have Melissa, k.d. and Martina as celebrity role models—I think Randy and Evie's coming-out story in *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love* could have a profoundly positive effect. I'm sure I'm not the only viewer who found myself wishing this movie had been around in the mid-70's—when I was in high school—as cinematic proof that I wasn't the only one “like that.”

This is a feel-good film (for dykes, anyway) about two young women whose first-love experience transcends not only homophobia but racial and class differences. Randy's the stereotypical short-haired, working-class jock dyke who listens to hard rock and pumps gas at her lesbian aunt's garage while struggling to get enough credits to graduate. Evie is the black, wealthy, upper-class, academically gifted daughter of divorced parents who listens to opera on her Walkman. Her initial encounter with Randy involves asking her to fix a noise coming from

somewhere within the posh Range Rover bought for her by her absentee father. White Knight Randy pretends to put air in a not-so-soft tire ... Evie introduces Randy to the poetry of Walt Whitman ... and romance is born!

Okay, maybe it does all sound too good to be true. But I don't think *The Incredibly True Adventure* is any less believable than some of the more commercially safe (i.e. heterosexist) romantic offerings from Hollywood, like *'Sleepless in Seattle'* or *'It Could Happen To You.'* Still, for the hard-core realists in the crowd, I'd like to present a scenario that may seem a little more credible than Randy and Evie's adventure. We'll call it “*The Incredibly Blue Adventures of Two Girls in Love*”—based on a screenplay played out in 1974:

Lauren and Carol are sitting side by side in the school cafeteria. They're both in Grade 12, and they both have a third period spare. Carol is feverishly trying to finish last night's homework while Lauren is doodling in her art sketchbook. Between doodles, Lauren frequently nudges Carol with her elbow, shows her the drawings she's been working on, writes fragments of goofy poems on the pages in Carol's duo-tang folder. As they sit there, heads bent together laughing over something stupid a teacher said the day before, they are oblivious to the group of Grade 10 students a few tables away. Suddenly, a dog-eared paper airplane lands on the table beside them. It is

clearly meant for them, so Lauren reaches over and grabs the missive, unaware that her life is about to change—forever—in the next few seconds. In childish handwriting on one side of the scrap of paper are the words: “We were just sitting here ... wondering if you two girls have anything in common ... like LEZZIES.”

Lauren has an urge to throw up. Suddenly something she found in her room at home the night before makes sense. She had discovered a small piece of paper left on her desk by her younger brother. On it, he had written: “Lauren—Don’t do it in school. It doesn’t look good.”

The warning had made little sense to her then, but now—hands crumpling up the paper airplane—she understands what he was trying to tell her. She and Carol, their friendship, their closeness, the incredible, intimate bond they shared ... people had noticed ... and they had the wrong idea. They thought she and Carol were queer.

“What does it say, Lauren?” Carol is reaching for the note. “Let me see it.”

Lauren mashes what’s left of the paper airplane into a little ball.

“Nothing. It’s just stupid. You don’t need to see it.”

“C’mon, what does it say?” Carol grabs for the paper, smooths it out and reads. At first her eyebrows wrinkle up, then her face turns white.

“I told you it was stupid,” Lauren says. “Don’t pay any attention to it. They’re just a bunch of dumb kids. Kids

who don’t know anything.”

The bell sounds to end the period. Carol has an English class to attend, and Lauren has World History. They stand up, look at each other with sad, wondering eyes.

“Shit. I feel sick,” Lauren whispers.

“Me too,” Carol moans. “But this is just between us and those jerks at that table, right? I mean, nobody else is gonna say anything. Let’s just forget about it.”

Lauren then tells Carol about her brother’s note. So much for forgetting about it. They numbly agree to just try and get through the next class.

History class is a blur. Mr. Powell is writing something on the chalkboard about the Industrial Revolution. Lauren is staring out the window. She could’ve sworn she heard her name being mentioned in the halls on the way to this class. “One of them’s names is...” She had definitely heard that, from a skinny kid she had never seen before. “How does he know me?” she wonders. She still feels like puking.

Halfway through English class, Carol grabs her books and runs out the door. She races through the hall to the guidance office, where she seeks out kindly Mrs. Lake—who both Lauren and Carol had as a gym teacher two years earlier—and tells her about the paper airplane. Mrs. Lake calmly tells Carol that some of her best friends are women in relationships with other women ... “Oh, but that’s probably not what you want to hear right now, is it,

dear." She suggests Carol check out some books on homosexuality from the school library. Carol blanches. "Hmm, right, perhaps I should get the books for you," Mrs. Lake offers.

By the end of the day, Carol has twelve sociology books on homosexuality crammed in her locker. One of them is called *One in Twenty*. She hopes nobody saw her carrying them from Mrs. Lake's office, and prays none drops out when she opens the door.

Lauren, meanwhile, manages to make it through history class without vomiting and begins the five-minute daily stroll home for lunch. For the first time in her life, she steps off the curb into the street without looking both ways. She silently hopes a car will come speeding along and strike her from behind, leaving nothing but a splat on the pavement, so she won't have to deal with this "lezzie" bullshit any further.

Lauren doesn't mention the cafeteria incident to her mom over lunch. (She doesn't talk to her mom about much of anything—certainly not about something as weird and frightening as this.) Back at school, she meets up with Carol, hoping like hell she was just imagining that that girl deliberately opened her car door into Lauren's leg as she walked past; hoping that she hadn't really heard that boy sneer, "Look, it's one of the lezzies," and spit in her direction as

she walked through the parking lot. Hoping this whole thing was all a bad dream.

You may be recognizing certain parts of this movie by now, so I'll skip to the end of the reel. As you have probably figured out, Lauren and Carol were two incredibly real girls who didn't realize they were in love until long after the abusive treatment by their classmates made their feelings for each other irrelevant. Three months after their adventure with the paper airplane, Lauren announced that she didn't care how much name-calling they'd had to endure from their unenlightened peers. She'd do it all again, knowing the ostracizing that would result, because her relationship with Carol meant that much to her.

Carol said she'd do the same, but six months later she got married in the church across the road from the park where she and Lauren had spent two summers becoming one person. Lauren wasn't invited to the wedding, but she did crash the ceremony, and then got very, very drunk. She was gently coaxed out of the closet four years later by a softball teammate who, ironically, looked a lot like Randy Dean.

Lauren now writes for *Womonspace News* ... and wishes she'd had somebody like Randy and Evie to hang out with 20 years ago.

Unsung Heroines and Unwitting Role Models

by Roz Ostendorf

It's been a difficult summer, and in the past few days I've had reason to take stock of what I've accomplished and of how well I've managed to stay true to the kind of person I want to be.

In the midst of some painful self-assessment, I was asked if I had any heroines or role models and my immediate answer was, "Yes, piles of them." And it got me thinking about the qualities inherent in those people.

Most have not changed the course of history through their brave actions, although some have powerfully influenced herstory. Many of their acts of courage or bravery have gone largely unnoticed. And yet they've imparted a spark that keeps me going, and honest, and believing.

Being a heroine means having the courage to be true to yourself, to find power within yourself instead of over others. It requires strength of character, faith, and conviction of personal responsibility to make the world a better place for everyone.

Rather than celebrate heroic acts that defeat violence with violence, or bring peace awareness by the ability to do something faster or stronger or better than anyone else in the world, we need to consider celebrating the courage it takes to be true to ourselves.

I'm not interested in untouchable heroines—although I can celebrate

their accomplishments—or role models I don't know. I prefer to take my strength and encouragement from the growth I see in my friends as they challenge the circumstances in their lives and continue to make themselves vulnerable and honest, touching the lives around them.

So, my heroine list wouldn't make many people's top 10. Many of my role models probably wouldn't consider themselves to be such. Nevertheless, they have enriched my life immensely. They challenge me to reach inside and allow myself the freedom to be who I want to be.

I'll be eternally thankful to those women who have had the courage to allow themselves to be vulnerable, which is—as far as I'm concerned—the ultimate act of bravery and courage.

Quote:

If just one lesbian, hidden in her hole somewhere in the deepest provinces, finds out through me that one can be a lesbian and still be happy, that there is neither shame, nor anguish, nor despair in our condition, then I will have won my challenge.

Elula Perrin
Women Prefer Women, 1979

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Groups and Weekly Events:

GLCCE (Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton) is located in the basement below Boystown Cafe, 10112-124 Street. It is open Monday to Friday from 7-10 pm and Mondays and Wednesday from 1-4 pm. Peer support counselling, lesbian coming out group, drop-in, and library. 488-3234.

OUTreach social & political student group at 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, gay & bisexual radio show on FM 88.5. Thursdays from 6-7 pm.

L'Amazon Recreation Night Wednesdays, 7-9 pm at McCauley Community League, 96 st -108 Ave. Drop in basketball, volleyball, soccer, dancing. All welcome: \$2. Roz, 468-2579.

Lambda Christian Community
Welcomes members of the lesbigay community; worship 7 pm Sundays, 10876-97 Street. Phone 988-3913.

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

SOLO Social club for lesbians and bisexual women (over 18) gets together every week for a wide variety of public events and social functions. Join the fun! Linda at 447-4776.

November Events:

Tuesday, October 31

Wayward Daughters

Interfaith group welcomes women wishing to share their spirituality. October's celebration is centered on the theme of the crone. Contact Karen at 431-2128 for further info.

Wednesday, November 1

Womonspace General Meeting

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

Saturday, November 4

Your Lesbian Self—How Visible?

Please come to aid this research project by lesbians, for lesbians. Discussion at Unitarian church, 12530-110 Ave. 11 am-1 pm. Light refreshments. RSVP Cheryl McInnis; 454-8031 or Liz Massiah; 489-7998.

A Dance for Ladies Only

Shakespear's Darts & Rumpus Room, 2nd Floor-10306 112 Street. Details: 429-7234.

Sunday, November 5

Womonspace News Meeting

Boystown, 10116-124 Street, at noon. Submissions deadline for December issue on the topic "Community." New volunteers are always welcome.

Monday, November 6

Sacred Circle Dancing

Open to all women who want to come dance; no experience or expertise required. \$4 admission. 7-9 pm, Riverdale Hall, 9231-100 Ave. Call Mair, 433-1661 for details.

Your Lesbian Self—How Visible?

Same details as November 4, except the time is 7-9 pm. (This time slot is an alternate for those who cannot come to the Saturday session.)

Friday to Sunday, November 10 to 12

Northern Titans

Ice Breaker Bowling Tournament

Registration deadline is November 3; 454-1458

Sunday, November 12

Womonspace

Volunteer Appreciation Social

An evening of music, food, door prizes, dancing & drinking. Each volunteer will receive a Womonspace t-shirt. 6 pm at Shakespear's, 2nd floor, 10306 112 St. If you have volunteered for Womonspace in the past year, you are entitled to entry for yourself and a guest. If you haven't received your tickets in the mail by November 3, please leave a message on the Lesbian Life Line: 425-0511.

Saturday, November 17

Liatris Society Slide Show

Forget about winter as you view slides of flowers and gardens. Everyone is welcome at this queer-positive, free event. 8 pm at GMCC City Centre Campus, Room 7-327.

Saturday, November 18

Womonspace Craft Fair

Bonnie Doon Community Hall, 9240-93 St, 11 am-4 pm. Free admission. Support local artists: come do some browsing and gift buying!

Womonspace Dance

Catering by Jazzberrys, low-cost drinks, no cost beverages for non-drinkers and designated drivers and LOTS OF DANCING! Bonnie Doon Community Hall, 9240-93 St, 8 pm-1 am. Womonspace members \$4, non-members \$8. Dance volunteers get reduced price—or free—admission; if you are interested, call 425-0511.

Monday, November 20

Sacred Circle Dancing

Same details as on November 6.

Wednesday Nov. 22 - Sunday Nov. 26

Loud 'N Queer Festival

Explicitly gay & lesbian scripts, poetry, music, short stories, cabaret pieces, & performance art showcase. Catalyst Theatre, 10943-84 Ave. 431-1750 for scoops & info.

Friday, November 24

Queer View Mirror Readings

Lesbian & gay short story fiction: 101 captivating snapshots of queer life by lesbian & gay writers. Readers include Edmonton contributors Graham Watts & Daniel Cunningham. 7:30 pm at Orlando Books, 10640 Whyte Ave. 432-7633.

Saturday, November 25

Vocal Minority Concert

Season-opening performance: 'Songs for Us,' which was written especially for the EVM choir. It sings of pain & loss, spiritual love & the celebration of life. 8 pm at Convocation Hall, University of Alberta. Tickets \$10 in advance (\$8 low income), or \$12 at the door. 486-9661 (ext 14).

Saturday, December 2

A Dance for Ladies Only

Shakespear's Darts & Rumpus Room, 2nd floor-10306 112 Street. Details: 429-7234.

Sunday, December 3

Womonspace News Meeting

Boystown, 10116-124 Street, at noon. Submissions deadline for January issue on the topic "Lesbians in Film" New volunteers are always welcome.



Gay & Lesbian Infoline:
988-4018

Lesbian Life Line: 425-0511

Your Lesbian Self: How Visible or Invisible Is She?

When are you more visible, and when are you less visible as a lesbian?
How do you decide?

What does it mean to you to be visible as a lesbian?

What does it mean to you to be invisible as a lesbian?

Research Project by Lesbians, with Lesbians, for Lesbians.

Come and join the discussion.

Saturday, November 4, 11 am - 1 pm OR Monday, November 6, 7 - 9 pm.

Light refreshments available. Unitarian Church, 12530 110 Avenue, Edmonton

Questions and RSVP to:

Cheryl McInnes, MA Grad Student: 454-8031/Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW: 489-7998

(Note: this is not intended to be a coming out group.)

ORLANDO
BOOKS

*Good selection
of lesbian books*

*Friday night
reading series*

10640 WHYTE AVENUE

432-7633

Women's Program

University of Alberta

Menopause and Osteoporosis: The Bare Bone Facts (6373)

Wed., Nov. 8, 7-9:30 pm

Resource fair opens at 6 pm

Bernard Snell Hall, U of A Hospital

No fee, but pre-registration is required to ensure a place. 492-3092.

The Way of the Goddess (6353)

Gita Das, presenter

Wed., Nov. 22, 7:30 pm

Rm 3-52, University Extension Centre

No fee, but pre-registration is required to ensure a place. 492-3092.

Promoting interfaith education, this talk features a slide-show of icons of goddesses in museums and temples and an examination of the role of the feminine principle in the great world religions.

You Beautiful Baby!

from Shelly Roberts, via e-mail

A new book, *Baby Dykes*, is scheduled to be published in November 1996. It will feature all manner of under-three-year-old lesbians captured on their ponies, in their tutus, with their frills or cowgirl outfits.



There will also be a baby picture of one woman who grew up to be a confirmed heterosexual. Her presence will be announced in the introduction. Her identity and page place will never be revealed.

If you are a lesbian, I would like to have your baby picture (8x10 or smaller) for consideration in this book. You don't have to have your name published if you don't want to.

I consider this a lesbian visibility project, and hope you do too. If you see this as a grand opportunity to contribute a record of your personal enlistment in the lesbian army, as well as another opportunity to show the folks that not only are we not so different from them, even in our diversity, but that even as babies, you can't tell us from the next little thumb sucker, then head for the family albums.

Submit your best under-3-years old baby picture. All photos returned on project completion. You will receive one US dollar or a special discount on a hardback keepsake copy.

Directions: Lightly, in pencil, write your name, address, and age at the time of the photo on the back. Mark envelope "Photos. Do Not Bend." Pad or protect the picture with cardboard or thin bubble wrap. Copy out, sign and include the photo release below, keeping a copy for your own records. All photographs will be returned. Naturally, not all can be used. Early submissions get first consideration. Send to: Baby Pix, 3405 Robbins Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 USA.

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Signed _____

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City _____

Prov & Postal Code _____

Witnessed by _____

Date _____

Between the Covers

At Edmonton Public Library

by Lindy Pratch

Role models are especially important to young people, looking for guidance in life. One literary anthology covers the experience of gays and lesbians growing up in almost every decade of this century: *Growing Up Gay/ Growing Up Lesbian* (1994).

Editor Bennett Singer has included excerpts from Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*, Quentin Crisp's *The Naked Civil Servant*, Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, and Rita Mae Brown's *Rubyfruit Jungle*. There are 55 entries, most of them by known writers—and some by teenagers. Each piece is brief; usually two to five pages long.

Although this book is aimed at young adults, it is a collection to be enjoyed by anyone interested in the vibrant literary array of gay and lesbian experience. The library has indeed catalogued it as an adult title.

Margaret Erhart has written a sensual coming-of-age novel set in 1963. *Augusta Cotton* (1992) is told from an eleven year old girl's viewpoint.

Augusta's best friend, Helen, is suffering from lupus. She calls her

mother by her first name—Jordan. Jordan shares her room with another woman, Joan, who obviously loves Helen and her brother Harry very much. They make an unusual, but warmly real, family.

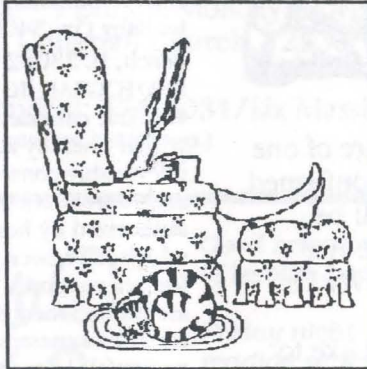
At one point, they are discussing heroes. Harry is brain-damaged. His hero is "the man who ate the car." Helen's changes from week to week: Amelia Earhart or Valentina Tereshkova (the cosmonaut). Jordan's hero is Dag Hammarskjöld.

Jordan asks Augusta about her hero.

The truth was that I had no idea. There were things about heroes that made me uncomfortable. Did they have to be dead? Did they have to be brave? Did they have to be old? I shook my head sadly. "A hero is one thing I never had."

The plot develops in a meandering, unhurried way, as we learn of the circumstances surrounding Helen's father's death. Helen and Harry were somehow involved. The main story is of the two girls, their friendship, and finding meaning in their existence.

Augusta is looking out at the night, waiting for her father to come home. *I knew so little about the world. I knew more about the sky than I did about the world, yet I believed that life was precious, that it was worth something,*



that it might make sense someday and even if it didn't I couldn't possibly go away empty-handed. I had never thought about things like this before, and it startled me.

Augusta's philosophical contemplations and the vivid images of childhood brought Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye* to mind, but Erhart's writing is more gentle and buoyant.

Fans of magic realism have a Jewish lesbian version to read in *Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound* (1992), by Judith Katz. This novel won a Lambda Literary Award in 1993.

It is about a family of three sisters, two of whom are dykes. The central figure is Nadine—who had an insane fire in her eyes from the beginning—and ended up cut off from her family. Although the narrator changes with the chapters, they all serve to describe the life experiences of a woman who's brain doesn't function in the usual way.

Nadine makes an amazing journey into another dimension where historical events merge in the present tense. Her lover, Rose, tries to find her, as does her sister Jane. Will she attend her sister Electa's wedding—to which she wasn't invited? Will she find a place in her family after all? Most important, will she find peace within herself?

In spite of the serious themes in the book, the author has taken a light, very readable approach.

The next title is a sad story. I cried a lot when I read *Stone Butch Blues* (1993). Sometimes a good cry is just what is called for; this is a very good book. It is Leslie Feinberg's first novel, and it garnered both a Lambda Literary Award and an American Library Association Lesbian/Gay Book Award.

I didn't want to be different. I longed to be everything grownups wanted, so they would love me. I followed all their rules, tried my best to please. But there was something about me that made them knit their eyebrows and frown. No one ever offered a name for what was wrong with me. That's what made me afraid it was really bad. I only came to recognize its melody through this constant refrain: "Is that a boy or a girl?"

Jess came out as a butch before the Stonewall Riots. She and others like her, along with their femme lovers, were unwelcome in the lesbian feminist community of the '70's. Jobs were scarce, and so Jess passed as a man in order to survive. When she learned to love and respect herself, Jess finally experienced some of the rewards that life can hold.

Watch for the movie version of this poignant novel, currently being filmed.

Classified Ad:

Active woman in early 40's seeks a female companion for social & recreational activities during the week. Interests include x-country skiing, skating, theatre & the arts. Call Jane; 482-3809.

Splinters from the Womonspace Board

Turnout at the Annual General Meeting was very sparse. Only eleven women—out of a total membership of 153—showed up! Phone calls were made to round up three more members, so that we would have a quorum. Where was everybody? You missed a terrific meal prepared by Dallas—chicken, tender perogies, roasted potatoes, waldorf salad, quiche, green salad, chili and three tempting desserts.

A new board has been elected (all by acclamation):

Roz Ostendorf (formerly our Acting President) is now President.

Dallas is the only person new to the board. She will take on the Vice-President role.

Tina will be our Treasurer for another year.

Maureen Irwin will continue to serve as Membership Director.

Lindy Pratch will continue as Newsletter Director.

We have four vacant board positions: Secretary, Activities Director, Public Relations Director, and Volunteer Coordinator. We are also in dire need of dance coordinators. Please consider standing for one of these positions, because many hands make lighter work. If you think Womonspace is a worth a bit of effort, then come to our next meeting on November 1st to show your support.

Womonspace has had plenty to be proud of in the past year. The January mixed dance went well, and another will take place in 1996. The New Year's Eve dance will also be repeated this year.

The couples membership rate is popular; 34 couples have taken advantage of it. We sponsored two picnics in the summer and an excellent golf tournament. The craft fair is a first for Womonspace—we hope it is the start of an annual event. Our library will be combined with that of the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre in order to make it more accessible. We also donated rainbow stickers to the public library, for identification of gay and lesbian fiction titles.

Womonspace treated the board members to dinner at the Sidetrack Cafe, which was greatly appreciated. T-shirts will be given to our dance and newsletter volunteers, in a show of appreciation for their support.

The previous President (Heather), and Vice-President (Roz), kept the Womonspace organization visible in the gay and lesbian political community, by supporting GALA, the Police Liaison Committee, and the Gay Pride Committee.

We look forward to another vibrant year ahead, and hope to see more of you at next year's Annual General Meeting!


 Shakespeare's
Darts & Rumpus Room

LADIES ONLY
DANCES

No Cover Charge!!

COMFY

NOW
OPEN
SUNDAYS

 8
Pool

16 Dartboards

No Membership Required

W.V.
Lounge

 Music

2nd Floor, 13506 112 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta

Area Code 403
Call 429 7234

Dances Open
4:00 PM

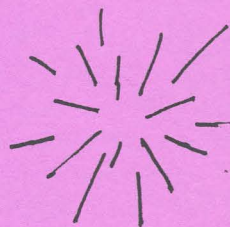
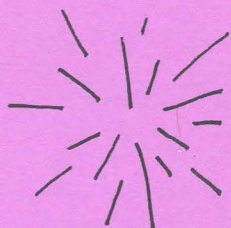
Womonspace Dance

Saturday, November 18

8 pm-1 am

Bonnie Doon Hall

9240-93 Street



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 \$ _____

2010.011/296