



December 1993 *The Newsletter of Womyn for Womyn, the Lesbian Resource Centre* Vol. 4, No. 10

A FEW THOUGHTS

by **Ann, LRC President**

The Lesbian Resource Centre has begun to make major liaisons with the larger Dallas Lesbian and Gay community. We continue to cherish and protect the woman space of the LRC. To use a line from a song, "There's something about the women." The new women, women who are returning, and the women who have been at the LRC all along make the Centre what is it. You are needed to get involved with one of our committees:

- EDUCATION** Chair: **Jeanne** The Education Committee is responsible for the publication of educational literature, brochures and informational tracts. The Corporation lending library, Womyn for Womyn University, and Speakers Bureau are also part of this committee.
- FACILITIES** Chair: **Diane** The Facilities Committee maintains the building and grounds, and makes recommendations to the Board for necessary improvements.
- FUND-RAISING** Chair: **Ila** The Fund-raising Committee develops fund-raising plans and implements them.
- GRANTS/FOUNDATIONS** Chair: **Carolyn** The Grants and Foundations Committee researches sources of grants and foundation monies that the Centre may wish to apply for.
- MEMBERSHIP** Chair: **Ann** The Membership Committee is responsible for obtaining new members through membership drives, solicitation and other recruitment methods.
- NEW BUILDING** Chair: **Mary** The New Building Task Force is collecting information regarding the logistics, finances, availability, etc of the LRC relocating to a larger, more physically stable facility.
- NEWSLETTER** Chairs: **Mary and Carolyn** The Newsletter Committee is responsible for the layout, publication, and mailing of the Corporation Newsletter.
- POLICY & PROCEDURE** Chair: **Mariza** The Policy and Procedure Task Force is collecting information regarding on the policies and operations of the Centre in order to develop a manual that can be used by the Board of Directors, committees, and members. The manual will serve as a resource and guidebook to insure consistent procedures.
- SPECIAL EVENTS** Chair: **Judy** The Chair of the Special Events Committee updates the Corporation calendar, denoting when the facilities will be available for Corporation activities and for use by other organizations or individuals, subject to approval by the Board. The Special Events Committee is responsible for community dances, programs, and other events specifically held by the corporation.
- SUPPORT GROUPS** Chair: **Janice** The Support Groups Committee members serve as liaisons to the Friday Night Dinner, Wednesday Night Discussion, Umoja Hermanas, Women en Cambio, Womyn of Color Poetry, etc.

Please leave a message for any of these women at 821-3999 to join their committee.

Wherever you are, whatever you do . . . I encourage you to be good to yourself and all other women.

THE LEGAL STUFF

The lesbian Resource Centre exists to create physical space where lesbians are valued for themselves. This space, committed to a feminist philosophy will offer resources to all lesbians. The LRC Newsletter is published monthly. Our address is: LRC, P.O. Box 180446, Dallas TX 75218-0446.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Brown, President
Dawynn Edwards, Vice-President
Lurese Terrell, Treasurer
Pam Tise, Secretary
Vicki Harris

Rosa Lopez
Mary Ortega
Carolyn Rowley
Lori Strong

TAX INFO

Womyn for Womyn, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible. All information provided to Womyn for Womyn is kept strictly confidential. For more information, please call: (214) 821-3999.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We welcome your comments, news, suggestions, and contributions. All material is due in Newsletter box at the LRC on the 2nd Friday of the month, by 6:00 p.m. All submissions must include name, address, and phone number; however, names will be withheld upon request. Submissions are limited to 750 words per printing and should be made on diskette, in any PC readable format. Please call the LRC to schedule time on the computer, if needed. If unable to utilize a computer, any legible single-sheet format is acceptable. Tapes will be accepted from print-impaired women. Name, address, and phone number must be included on each page of all submissions, as well as on tapes. Graphic art should be submitted in camera-ready form. Submissions are printed on a "space available" basis, in the following order of priority:

1. The Legal Stuff & Membership Application
2. News about the Centre
3. Calendar
4. Paid Ads
5. Letters to the Editor
6. Misc. Articles, Art, Personals, Classified

THE DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors of the separate articles and letters. These views are not necessarily those of the LRC or its Board or of the editor.

THE RATES

| | 1 mo. | 6 mos. | 12 mos. |
|---------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Business Card | 15 | 76 | 144 |
| 1/4 page | 25 | 127 | 240 |
| 1/2 page | 40 | 204 | 384 |
| Full page | 75 | 382 | 720 |

Personals/Classified \$1 per line per month

Dear LRC friends:

I would like to thank you all and tell you collectively how appreciative I am for your strengths and weaknesses, for it is all important and instrumentally vital to inner growth.

My hope is that your organization will grow as you do individually. To reach out and expand, not to a level of tolerance, but rather wholistically with universal acceptance based on genuine love for the miracle of life.

We daily have opportunity to motivate ourselves with the simple acknowledgment that we are, we live.

I personally do not see "eye to eye" with many of you - but I feel "heart to heart" with all of you.

May we recall and develop the "increasing susceptibility to love extended by others", ALL OTHERS, "as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it".

Be well.
Rayva Sorrells

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BOARD NOTES

The November 1st Board Meeting convened with a full agenda for its first session since the October 24th Annual Membership Meeting. We welcome our newest member Mary Ortega, who was voted in by the membership to replace outgoing board member Jeanne Rubin. Many thanks to Jeanne for all her hard work, and a hearty Welcome Aboard to Mary! Also on the agenda was the signing of the new By Laws amendments (which incidentally are available at the Centre to all interested women) and the selection of members and chairpersons to committees and task forces. Board meetings are open to all women and we encourage you to come and share your ideas, sign up for a committee, volunteer your time, or just listen and observe. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. here at the Centre. Come be a part!

Education Committee Meeting

Come One Come All! Topics to be discussed, explored, etc... Womyn for Womyn University Winter Term, Library, Speakers Bureau, and Lesbian Herstory Archives Project. Women with an interest in Public Relations and advertising are especially needed. Call Jeanne for more information.

Need Money

All LRC members are eligible to join the Women's Southwest Federal Credit Union. New car loans are available for 6.75%. Share secured signature loans are 6%. Mastercards are available for members, so go ahead and apply! Call Mary Deskins at 368-4466 at the credit union office. Open Tues-Thurs and Saturdays.

How to Buy a New Car

If you are thinking about buying a car soon, attend this workshop on November 20 from 10 am. to 12 noon at the Women's SW Credit Union, 6300 N. Central, #100. Taught by Jan Knowles, voted Best Car Salesperson in Dallas. Call 368-4466 for more information.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to deliver gifts on December 5. Everyone will meet at 1:00 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center on the corner of Brown and Reagan. Contact Jeanne Reyer at 528-4878 for more info.

Readings at the LRC

Marlena and Astrid Mora, friends through many lifetimes, come to share their insights with you through:

Rainbow Readings

Palmistry

Vibrational Attunement

They will be at the LRC on some Friday evenings and some Sundays during library hours beginning December.

Did You Know

by Lori Strong

On October 19th, the Womyn Against Racism group took a field trip to Arlington to be a part of the Change of Heart Dialogue series sponsored by the Tarrant County Institute for the Healing of Racism. The purpose of the series is "to acknowledge and to foster the essential oneness of the human race. . . and to agree that the struggle against racism must, first and foremost, be waged in the human heart." The Womyn Against Racism group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the LRC. We provide a safe, informal atmosphere in which to discuss, explore and dialogue about the crippling disease of racism. All womyn are invited to join us with special outreach encouraged to my white-skinned sisters. Let's all make a commitment to become part of the solution - come join us! And let the healing begin. . .

Group for Latina Lesbians Forming

A newly-formed support group for Latina Lesbians is seeking community involvement. The mission of the group is to advocate for the emotional, social, political and educational progress of Latina Lesbians. In order to identify the basic need of Latina Lesbians in the Dallas Metro area, this organization is conducting a survey of Latinas and they need your help. In the coming weeks the survey will be distributed to churches, local business, community centers and educational institutions. For more information contact Josi Mata (946-7108) or Rosa Lopez (320-6074).

Contest for Logo and Newsletter Name

The Newsletter Committee is conducting a contest for a name and logo for the LRC newsletter. Any logos submitted must be black and white only. Entries may be mailed to the LRC Newsletter committee at P.O. Box 180446, Dallas TX 75218-0446 by January 4, 1994.

ANGEL OF THE MONTH

A big bouquet of lavender orchids to the following members for agreeing to chair committees for the next year: Diane, Ila, Janice, Jeanne, Judy, Mariza, Polly. They make the centre!

WORLD AIDS DAY

Date: Wednesday, December 1
Place: East Grand Recreation Center
Time: 3:00-8:00 p.m.

We encourage you all to attend. Call Tracee with any questions call 819-1900.

The LRC also salutes Deb Trott, Director of Clinic & Client Services and Jamie Shield, Director of Community Services & Education at the AIDS Resource Centre, Nelson Tebedo Clinic (528-2336) for their recent program, "Lesbianism is No Condom Against AIDS" and their continuing work. The Women's Health Program can be reached at 521-5131.

SILVERTHORN

A monthly discussion group for women only who are interested in leather, etc. All orientations are welcome. The next meeting will be December 15, 8:00 p.m. at the Desert Moon.

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Adoption As An Option

by Alpha Thomas

Two years ago I decided I wanted to be a parent. I had a great desire to become pregnant. The fear of HIV infection, however, caused me to abandon the thought. I began to explore other options with my partner.

One day my partner came home from work with an African American newspaper which featured adoption as its main story. As I read the article I also saw pictures of beautiful children who were in need of a home. My partner was so excited about the article that she insisted I call the contact agency the following day. I was somewhat apprehensive about doing so because I feared being rejected due to homophobia. I decided to go ahead and make the call and was connected with a community organization that assists African Americans with the adoption process.

I found out about the community organization's next meeting by making the call. I attended the meeting and met some wonderful people who were involved with the group. There I was connected with an adoption agency that had children waiting to be adopted. I began to interface with this agency and worked to complete all the requirements and challenges I faced with them.

During this process the issue of my sexuality surfaced. I was faced with the challenge of lying or "coming out". I decided it was best to be honest, so I came out. In the long run my sexuality wasn't an issue and a child was placed in my home. After eleven months, I was able to legally adopt the child and we are a proud and happy family today.

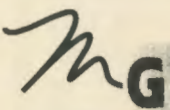
Historically, we as lesbians, bisexual, and gays have assisted in the child-rearing process within our families in numerous ways.* Today, we no longer have to remain silenced and closeted about who we are.

WE TOO CAN ADOPT. WON'T YOU HELP? A CHILD IS WAITING!

* There is no law that prohibits gays, lesbians, or bisexuals from adopting in the state of Texas.

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FACILITATOR / WORKSHOP INFORMATION SHEET

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE NUMBERS _____

Workshop Category: _____

Description of workshop content, please describe what process your workshop will follow:

- 1) group discussion, panel discussion, lecture, physical interaction
- 2) what is expected of participants
- 3) what you'd like to see come out of the workshop

Group Affiliations: _____

History of working with this issue: _____

Will materials will be necessary for the workshop (slide projectors, microphones, etc.): _____

Best time to reach me: _____

Newsletter Subscription Form

Please keep me on the mailing list for the Womyn for Womyn Newsletter! I understand my subscription will run for one year from the next issue following receipt of my check or money order.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Date: _____ Telephone: _____

Return to LRC, P.O. Box 180446, Dallas TX 75218-0446

TLC '94 Needs Workshops

The Texas Lesbian Conference TLC '94 workshop committee is distributing the first call for workshop Proposals for interested presenters. The 7th annual TLC entitled *Salud! Celebrating Our Community, Celebrating Ourselves* will be held in San Antonio on May 13 to 15 at the Wyndham Hotel.

Lesbians are invited to share their experiences, knowledge, expertise and vision for the empowerment of our community is approximately 26 conference workshops. Conference fees will be waived to two presenters per workshop.

All interested presenters should submit a workshop proposal of 100 words or less by December 6 to: TLC '94 Workshop Committee, P.O. Box 12327, San Antonio TX 78212 or call during the evenings at (210) 626-1617 or (210) 656-0375.

A one hour session that is interactive and sensitive to a diverse multicultural audience is encouraged. Some committee suggestions for workshop topics include (but are not limited to): Relationships, Legal Issues, Lesbians in Business, Health Issues, and Multicultural Issues.

A Dallas planning group for TLC met for the first meeting in November. Possible workshops suggestions were discussed. They include: Wellness, Lesbian Parenting, Coming Out, Intimacy, Spirituality, Leather Awareness, Cultural Diversity, Butch/Fem Identity, Oppression, Recovery, and many more.

Please complete the Facilitator/Workshop Information form enclosed in this issue of the LRC newsletter if you are interested in presenting. We would like to have a significant contingent of Dallas women involved in the Texas Lesbian Conference. More information will be forthcoming regarding housing, registration, scholarships, etc.

Josi Mata serves as the coordinator for the Dallas group. You may leave a message for her at 821-3999. The next meeting will be 2:00, December 4 at the LRC. **We encourage you to come and participate.**

Womyn for Womyn Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Womyn for Womyn, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible. All information provided to Womyn for Womyn is kept strictly confidential. For more information, please call: (214) 821-3999. Mail your completed form along with your payment to:
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PLEASE CHECK A MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

FOUNDING MOTHER _____
(10\$ PER MONTH)

CONTRIBUTING MEMBER _____
(40\$ PER YEAR)

PARTICIPATING/VOTING MEMBER _____
(40\$ PER YEAR)

BENEFACTOR AMOUNT _____
(250\$ - 500\$ PER YEAR)

CORPORATE MEMBER _____
(200\$ PER YEAR)

“I like butch . . .”

IN PRAISE OF PURPLE WOMEN

by Beverly Bennett

I've notice a nasty trend lately. I call it "butch backlash." I wonder if I'm the only femme left on the face of the earth who is not afraid to say "I want a butch." I keep running into women at parties who say things like "I'm 'out' now. I can't afford to take a dykey woman home to Mother." "Butch women turn me off. I want a lipstick lesbian." "Butch women are just like me. If I wanted a man, I'd get a real one."

I've been told I'm a lipstick lesbian - you know, that chic darling of the media. For years I thought I was femme. Now I learn I'm the latest trend in lesbianville.

Well, I think it's time to give butches a little affirmation. Our community is quick to forget that the butch women and nellie queens fought our battles at Stonewall. I'm not advocating going back to the restrictive days of the 1950s and '60s stereotypes. But neither do I want to see us throw away our heritage. The butch-femme couple is a long tradition. They are our history -- our foremothers. They were our Patiences and Sarahs, our Gertrudes and Alices, our passing women and their "wives."

Most of us who fall into the butch-femme couple category have subtler distinctions today. Today's butch can be found in corporate drag. Our femme women are lawyers and doctors. I've been known to ear a tie, and I doubt anyone would call me "passive." Still, most of us instinctively know who leads on the dance floor.

From the time I was a little girl I've loved androgynous women. Over the years, all my long-term lovers have been butch. Some didn't claim the title, but I knew who they were.

Butch goes a lot deeper than how one dresses. I know a lot of butch women who wear corporate drag to work everyday, but that doesn't make them less butch. Butch is an attitude. It's the way one carries herself. It is an unmistakable air of androgyny any femme lesbian can identify blindfolded at 100 paces! It is an unspoken erotic energy that has to do with power on many levels. Butches are the women you meet in public who you don't have to ask "Are you gay?" You just know.

I've tried dating femme women. I can't say they haven't turned my head, but neither do they light my fire. They rarely sustain my interest. Jo Ann Loulan, therapist and lesbian sexuality author, says we have our own erotic dance. We know and recognize each other. Her scale of one to nine defines one as extremely femme and nine as extremely butch. She says most women want to be in the middle, but our friends and lovers usually place us elsewhere along the scale. For instance, I see myself as a four who likes sixes and sevens. Loulan says few of us are ones and nines.

I don't know when this anti-butch trend started, but it is alive and well in the personals. Read them and you'll see ads that say "Femme woman seeks the same for romantic evenings and possible relationship. No butches please!" I realize not everyone's taste is the same. Some femme lesbians far prefer each other, but I can't help but wonder how many of these women simply don't want to be seen in public with a butch.

How often have you hear that old line, "If only we could all turn purple, the world would see our strength and number?" Butch women already are "purple." They don't hide. When a butch woman wears a dress and heels, she still bears that unmistakable air that says "lesbian" all over her person. No matter how much she tries to fool herself and others in her camouflage, deep down she knows that "they know." She knows even if no one talks about it or says the "L" word.

Perhaps this visibility is one of the things I have long admired. I've often taken a particular delight in being seen in public with butches. They help make my own lesbian identity visible. Together we look like lesbians. By myself, I get lost in the crowd of straight women.

I think it is time to stop "butch bashing." Our androgynous sisters fight battles for us daily just in their very existence. It is not easy living life "purple." It carries an emotional price tag. **If our lesbian community does not give each other validation who will?**

I never knew I was going to become a fashion trend. I always thought I dressed this way, wore my hair this way, wore my makeup this way to please myself, and because I wanted butch women to notice me. I wanted to please them.

I'm tired of hearing the phrase, "If I wanted a man, I'd get a real one." I know very few butch women who want to be men. I know no femmes who want to turn their lovers into men. We are not playing roles. This is my life. I am domestic because I like it. My lovers mowed my yard and fixed my sink because they felt they were contributing to our household. My first lover was a whiz in the kitchen. She taught me how to cook. I was always in charge of the finances. Our household duties were not set in cement. My lovers made love to me to please me. Men make love to women for their won gratification.

My butch lovers and friends are not pseudo men. They are strong women who live "purple" everyday of their lives while the rest of us pick and choose our visibility.

*With permission of Alliance News of the
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance*

28 Nov 1993 - 8 Jan 1994

WOMYN FOR WOMYN

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 28 1-5:00 Library Open | 29 | 30 | 1 7:30 Wed. Night Discussion Group WORLD AIDS DAY | 2 LRC BOARD MEETING, 7:30-9:30 | 3 7:30 Friday Night Dinner | 4 TLC Meeting 2:00 |
| 5 1-5:00 Library Open LRC Clean Up&Work Party 1:00 | 6 6:00 Domestic Violence Task Force | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 7:30 Friday Night Dinner Deadline-6 p.m. Editorial 6:00 | 11 7:00 p.m. Umoja Hermanas Meeting |
| 12 1-5:00 Library Open Womyn en Cambio Brunch &Meeting 10-12:30 | 13 | 14 7:30 Over 38's Group Meeting | 15 7:30 Wed. Night Discussion Group | 16 | 17 7:30 Friday Night Dinner | 18 GAME NIGHT-7:30 |
| 19 1-5:00 Library Open LRC Clean Up&Work Party 1:00 | 20 | 21 Women Against Racism 7-9:00 | 22 1ST DAY OF WINTER | 23 | 24 6 p.m. Newsletter Mailing Party 7:30 Friday Night Dinner | 25 CHRISTMAS |
| 26 1-5:00 Library Open Kwanzaa Begins | 27 | 28 7:30 Over 38's Group Meeting | 29 7:30 Wed. Night Discussion Group | 30 | 31 7:30 Friday Night Dinner | 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY |
| 2 1-5:00 Library Open LRC Clean Up&Work Party 1:00 | 3 6:00 Domestic Violence Task Force | 4 | 5 | 6 LRC BOARD MEETING, 7:30-9:30 | 7 7:30 Friday Night Dinner | 8 7:00 p.m. Umoja Hermanas Meeting |

