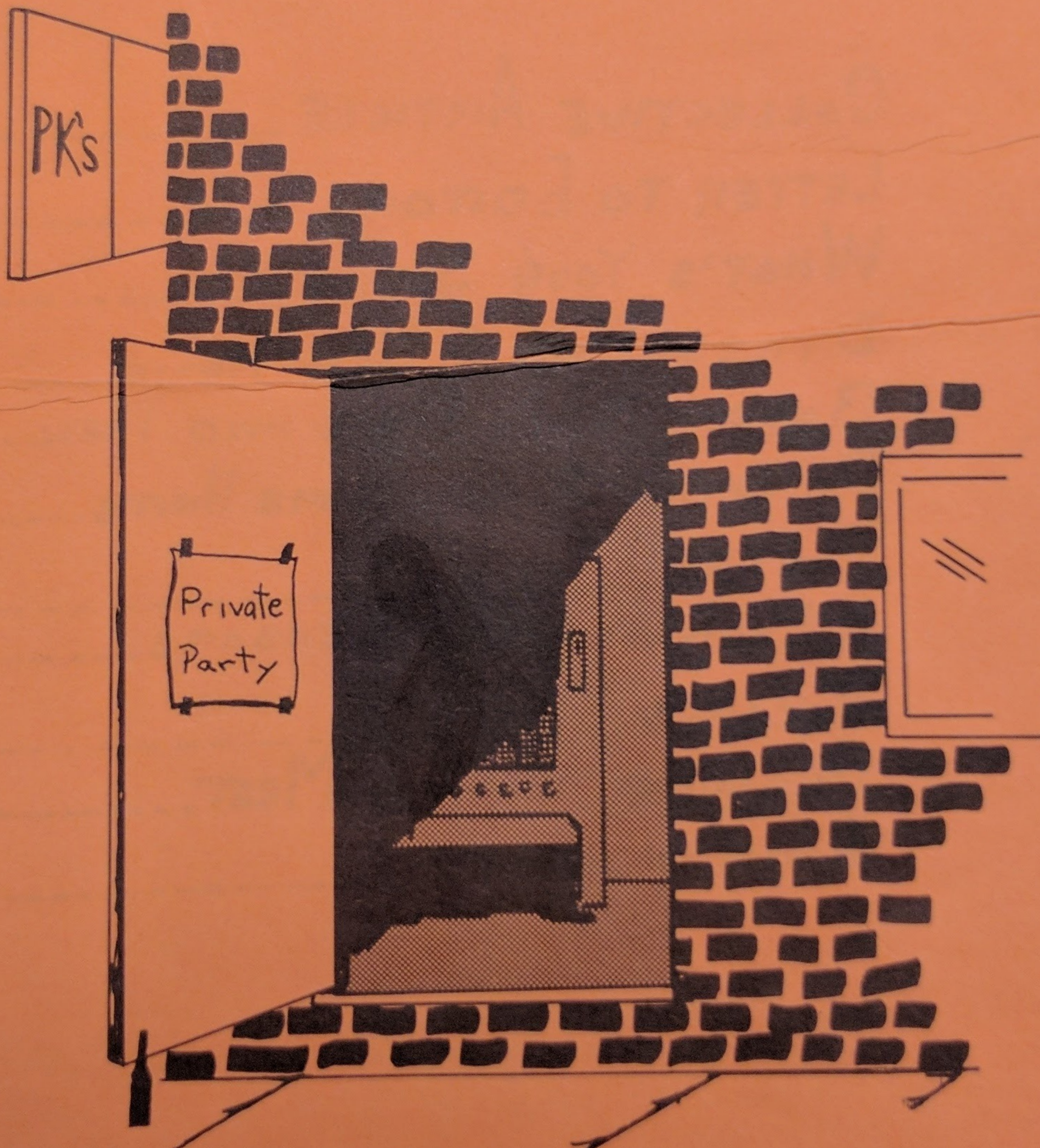


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# MOONSTORM

50¢



Volume 1 ISSUE

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## COLLECTIVE ARTICLE

For years gay bars have been the most accessible places where lesbians could meet other lesbians. And the only place where many isolated gay women could feel something akin to a lesbian community. In the bars, we are the ones who are normal; straight people are the outsiders. The Moonstorm staff feels that taking a closer look at these traditional lesbian hangouts will help us to understand our lesbian heritage.

So this issue of Moonstorm and the next are devoted primarily to the bars. We thought the best place to start was to talk about our own feelings and experiences with the bars. So for several hours one evening we discussed what the bars meant to us. Despite all the negative attitudes we expressed in the Corner Bars article in the last issue, we do have a lot of positive feelings towards the bars. All of us go to bars occasionally and some of us regularly. We've talked, drank, and danced together there. What we decided was that we could not come up with a collective statement about the bars that would be more specific. So we've decided to write individual articles about our experiences.

If you read through this issue you can get an idea of various women's impressions and feelings about the bar. Women's feelings or experiences about the bars are encouraged and welcomed for our next issue.



## Letter to Editor

What troubles me about MOONSTORM is the sense that it's closed, that it's not open to differences of opinion, attitude, etc.-- that it doesn't really seek an open dialogue with the rest of the lesbian community. I have no real proof of this; it's just a feeling I have from reading the magazine and talking to people. When I read it, everything sounds alike to me. There's a tonelessness, a lack of spirit and vitality, a lack of intellectual and emotional excitement. And by this I don't mean a lack of "professionalism," for I know that's a loaded word to many people. And I don't urge professionalism--whatever that is. What I do urge is a sense of joy in the writing, a sense of seeking and openness, a commitment to exploring issues of concern to the lesbian community, a real desire--felt in the pages of the magazine, not simply stated on p. 1--that you want dialogue from all segments of our varied group, that you encourage differences as well as togetherness. The two aren't incompatible--in fact, I would argue that the first is necessary if the second is to be more than a kind of group sleep-walking.

This is not a wholesale condemnation of MOONSTORM. It's merely a wish that it could become even more for all of us than it is. And the wish is expressed in a spirit of love, not anger or resentment.

## Replies

One of the important things MOONSTORM does for me is open a feeling of sharing feelings and knowledge. MOONSTORM helps me to acknowledge emotional needs that most heterosexual people I am around won't acknowledge. It encourages me to be myself--all myself.

At the same time I, too, feel a "tonelessness" in the magazine. I, too, have sensed a trace of a lack of "joy in the writing, a sense of seeking and openness, a commitment to exploring issues of concern to the lesbian community." I attribute this recurring tone in our magazine not to a closed group of people who have found their happy niche and feel everyone else's is irrelevant, but I attribute it to a negative feeling

that lesbians sometimes understandably believe: people are keeping us from exercising our rights--or, in this case, from exercising our right to explore and express ourselves in MOONSTORM. Accepting this negative outlook, we may end up putting energy only into a box of negativism.

I would like people in our lesbian community--both who are writing for our magazine and who are reading our magazine to accept that our magazine is new--that the people who have found energy to put it together feel inadequate to encourage and to stimulate all writers who can reflect the growth that is going on in our community. It is with the hope of stimulating more unpublished writers that we wanted the above letter to be printed. It takes courage to express your feelings and it takes energy to interreact with people's responses. Agreeing or disagreeing, we must exercise our right to grow with each other.



I sit here at my kitchen table rereading your letter and old Moonstorms, trying to understand your criticisms. I feel like we have stated and encouraged many times in articles that we are definitely open to all women--that the direction of Moonstorm depends largely on what material we receive from the community. So far we have mainly received poetry. I think more of an effort could be made to get out and talk to women about writing, but right now we are limited in our energy and time. Your criticisms of Moonstorm leaves me with a negative feeling, 'cause it is vague and general. I do not know where to take it. You imply that we don't care about it or the women who read it. Putting the magazine together is a lot of work, which people continue because of an emotional commitment to have some means for communication among women. Women the staff are not paid or seeking fame for their contributions. If Moonstorm is to survive and grow, we must support it in every way we can. The possibilities for growth are unlimited. The actual limits that exist come from how much energy we on the staff and other women will contribute in terms of time, energy, and money.

Diana, Sunshine, Sue

# what's your story

AN INTERVIEW WITH

PHYLLIS KITCHEN

One Thursday evening four friends from Lesbian Alliance and I sat around a table at P.K.'s, a predominantly lesbian bar in East St. Louis, talking with Phyllis Kitchen, the owner of the bar. We covered a lot of topics and had a pretty good time. But due to the lack of a tape recorder and quite a few beers I'm afraid I can't present the conversation verbatim. What follows, instead, are some of my impressions of the interview.

P: I read the article you had in the last issue of Moonstorm about bars and I don't agree with it. (said pleasantly) I don't think women come to taverns to start relationships. I mean I've never started any of mine in a tavern. I go to a tavern to have fun, drink a little, have a good time.

Me: Yea, I think that last article was pretty negative. I think we were trying to make a point about the limitations of bars--but we didn't say enough about why we do all go to bars. I mean the four of us who wrote the article are often here every weekend.

Q: Give us a little history of this place and what you were doing before you bought P.K.'s.

P: I used to work at Carter Carburetor. I worked there for a long time. But then I knew the woman who was selling this place. My mother loaned me the money and I bought it. I wanted to make the place a place where my friends and I and other gay people could be comfortable. Basically I make enough money to cover my bills and have

some pocket money left over. I don't expect much more than that. It costs me \$2500 per month just in overhead. Then there's taxes-about \$120 per month more.

Q. We hear you've bought a new place.  
P: Yea. It's down the block. It's bigger than this place. I haven't decided what to do with this place yet-maybe turn it into a coffee shop or let the guys take it over for drag shows. I don't know yet, but the new place should be open by August 1st.

Q: How do you feel about the kinds of people who come into P.K.'s?

P: I think it's important that gay people don't get hassled here. I'll tell straight guys and couples that we're having a private party-unless I know them. I know that the coffee-house is an all woman thing. That's o.k., but I don't really understand it. I have a lot of friends who are gay guys. I feel comfortable around them and I don't see any reason to keep them out of this tavern. Personally straight men around don't bother me either. If that's how they get their kicks, that's their problem. But if any girls get hassled by some strange men in here let me know right away and I'll get rid of them. I won't let some guy get away with that just to keep things quiet. I also don't allow any drugs or prostitution in this place. I don't care if it goes on out on the street-but it matters how the public sees this tavern. It's complicated enough with this place being known as a gay bar. Who needs prostitution and drugs? One thing I don't like that some girls do in here is write on the walls in the john. You know, stuff like "lesbians unite." I think that's bullshit. Why destroy the place.

Q: Have there been many legal problems since you've owned P.K.'s?

P: Not really. We periodically get questioned about the fact that the walls are solid brick. There's a law about bars having to have glass windows in order to be visible from the street. But I've told the police that unless they're willing to

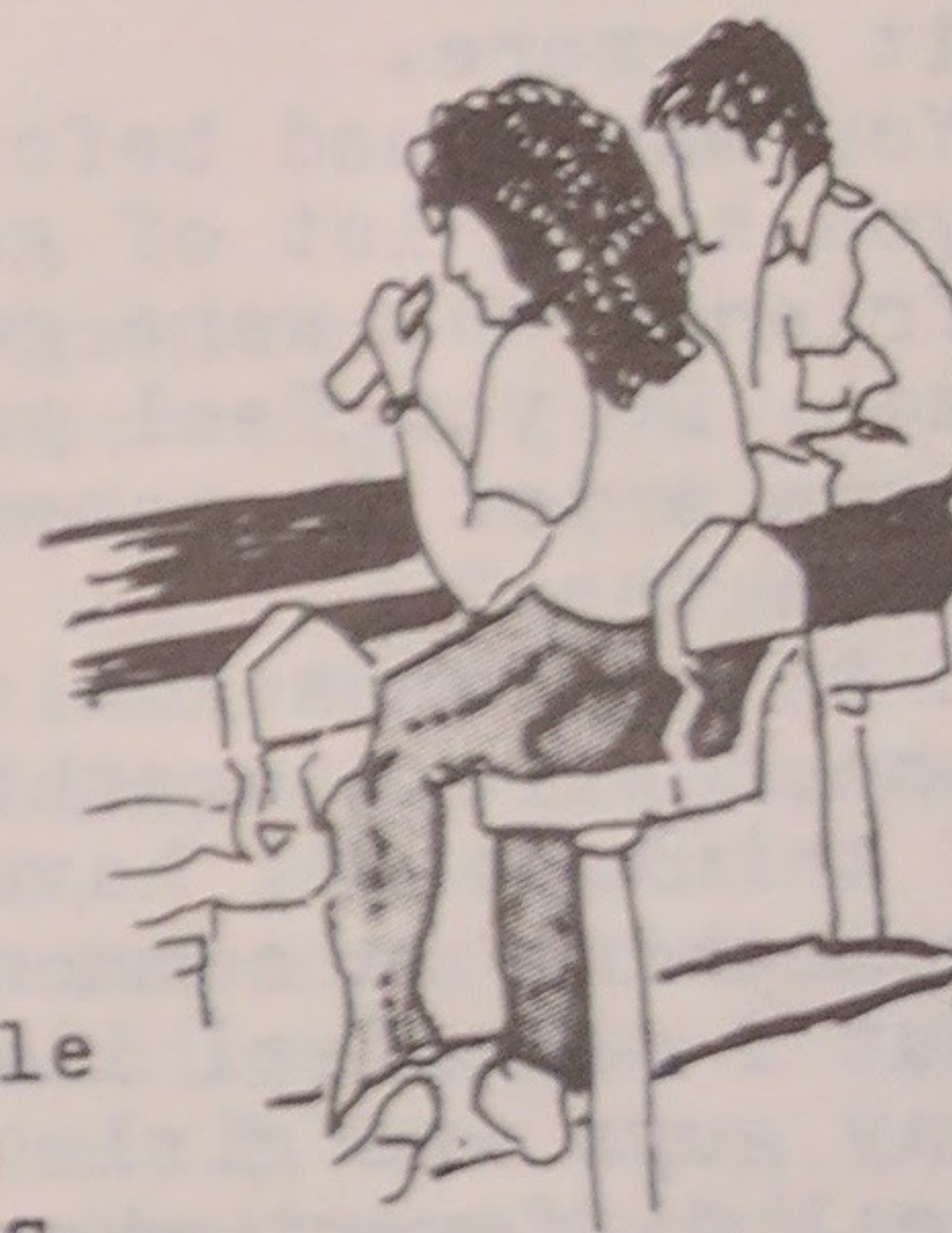
protect this place from people breaking in through the glass, the brick is going to stay there. Also, the owner of the Bull, the gay guys bar down the street, and I split the cost of hiring two off-duty policeman to patrol the area every ten minutes on weekends. There hasn't been a lot of problems.

Q. How do you get along with the owners of other gay bars?

P. Pretty good. There's not really a lot of competition between us. Like the owner of the Bull, down the street, is buying the shirts for the baseball team from here. He's just a nice guy. One thing I don't like much is when gay bars are owned by straight men-or a place like the side door where gay people are kept out of the straight bar downstairs, but straights can go into the gay bar pretty easily. That got me angry.

Q. To get more personal, how and when did you come out?

P. Well, I knew I was a lesbian when I was about 16 or 17-but I didn't know what to do about it. So, I didn't come out until I was 21. I had to wait until I was old enough to go to the bars. My family's known all along about me being gay. I used to date boys a lot and then when I turned 21 I suddenly stopped. It was pretty obvious. Also, I used to get dressed up now and then-you



know like a tough dyke. One day my mother saw me coming down the stairs and said "look at you. You look like a boy." Well, I thought about it and decided for me to dress like a man was like saying something was lacking and I didn't need to do that. And I just don't do it anymore.

Q. You mentioned before you had a lot of good friends who were gay men. Do you feel you have a lot in common with them?

P. I think homosexuals should stick together. I think we all have something in common. But I also feel like gay guys and girls are real different when it comes to relationships and sexuality. Like when you look at the taverns. Gay guys tend to party a lot. They're good business and pretty dependable. Whether they have a lover or not, gay men often go to bars, drink a lot, and pick up somebody. Lesbians, on the other hand, often get into a relationship and stay home. They seem to have better rela-



tionships. As a bar owner it's not so great, but somehow the way the girls relate makes more sense to me.

Q: What do you think about gay liberation in general?

P: I think it's an important thing. I feel like gay people should feel good about being gay.

## THE WOMAN BEHIND PK'S

A while back I helped try to organize a Gay Pride Week. But people didn't seem really interested. I think a lot of gay people are worried about being that public. But I think it's great the way young women are coming out. Now it's not unusual to see two girls with long hair together and I really think that's great. I went back to my high school recently and saw these two girls walking down the halls holding hands. I wish it had been like that when I went to school. Being that open and comfortable about being a lesbian makes it easier for the older lesbians, too.

Q: What do you think about Lesbian Alliance?

P: I like what you're doing. At least what I know of it. But I think a lot of the girls who come here don't know what you are about. You don't seem to like the bars, yet you come here all the time. And some people have the idea from the way you look and dress that you are sort of riff-raff-if you know what I mean. I don't really think appearances matter that much. It would probably be good to have some get-together where you can explain what your group is about. If you want to you can do it here-some Sunday afternoon-I'll provide the food.

US: That sounds great!

# DYKES FIND A NEW HOME

Two years ago a fledgling Lesbian Alliance found a home for it's coffeehouse and business meetings in a Soulard back alley apartment.

Since, these early days the group grew in both number and activities, untill the little Soulard apartment was bursting at the seams. The search began for a new home in Nov., but no one wanted a group of homeless Lesbians. Finally, in March our search was ended, and a building in South St. Louis became our home. Now after much work fixing up the joint, the building is jumping with old activities and lots of new stuff.

The new place was an old bar, with an apt. upstairs. The bar room provides lots of space for Friday night coffeehouse. There's plenty of room for dancing, talking, as well as space for playing music, and films. We also just got a ping pong table, and hope soon to get a pool table.

The coffeehouse is open 9pm to 1am to all women. Entertainment is scheduled for every Friday night in August and September. Friday, Aug. 30, a talent show is being held. Everyone is encouraged to perform their secret talent, bird calls, tap dancing, comb playing, etc. Any woman interested in participating in the talent show and/or entertaining any Friday night, contact Janice at : 1-327-4285.

The newest L.A. committee is the Support Group. This group focuses on creating a supportive environment for women. The group will do what it can to provide temporary housing, transportation to LA events, and transportation in emergencies. Also the support group wants to get women together to talk, work, and play. To do this the support group is planning many new activities at the center - including workshops

where women share their skills and interest, rap groups where women talk about their lives and interests, regular movies at the center, softball games on Sunday afternoons, and soon other sports and games! Some ideas for workshops are : yoga, photography, music, carpentry, communication skills, movement improvisations, electricity, auto mechanics and more. Anyone interested contact Anne at: 1-327-4285. In 2 weeks a schedule of these activities will be posted at the Lesbian Alliance Center.

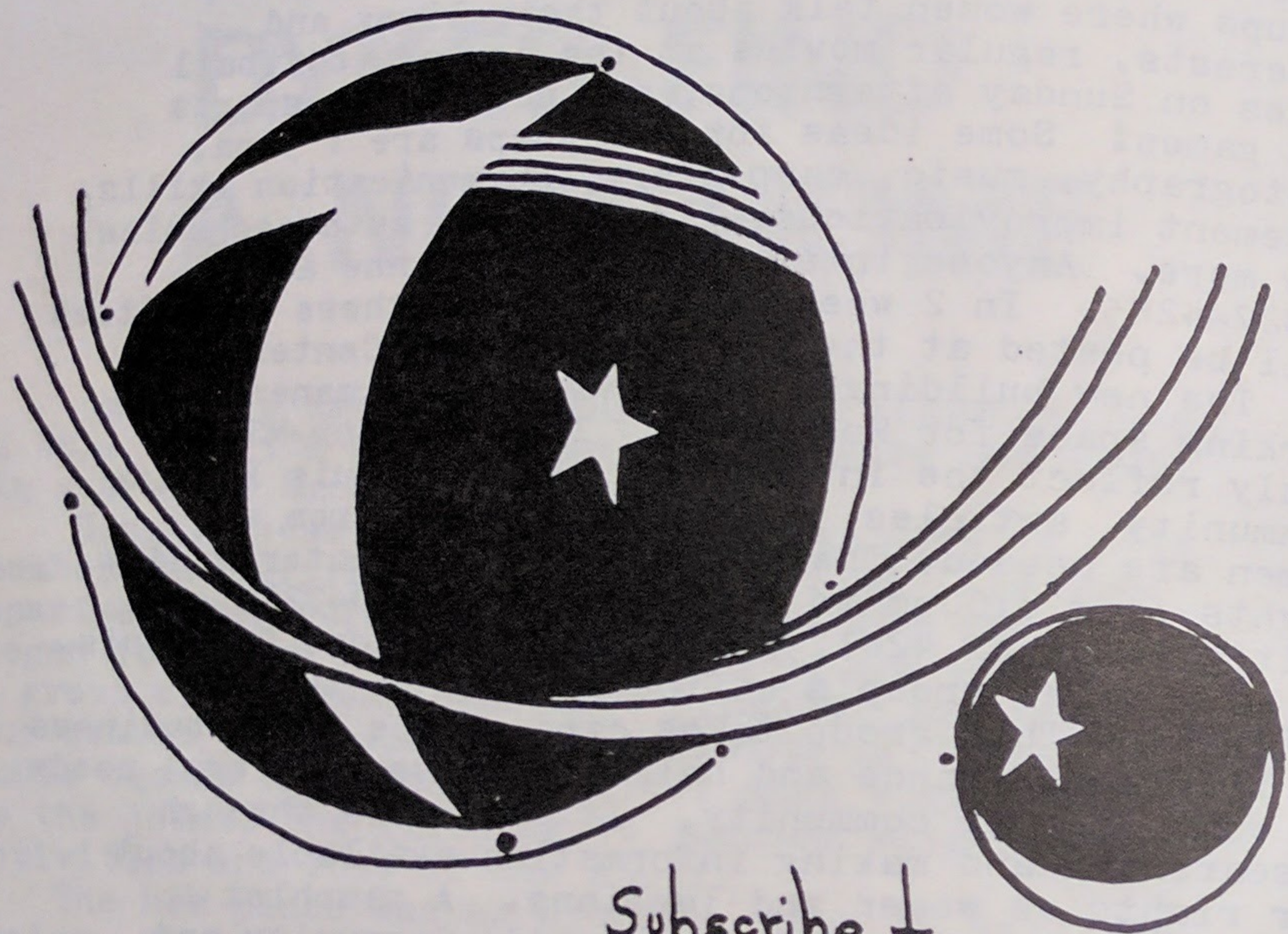
The new building also provides a permanent working space for Moonstorm. In order for MS to truly reflect the interest of the St. Louis Lesbian community, articles, letters and poems from all women are needed. The staff is at the center Monday nights from 8:00pm to 10:30pm. Call 664-7249 or write: P.O. Box 4201, Tower Grove Station, St. Louis.

The legal group's office is also in the new building. This group takes care of the legal business of Lesbian Alliance and helps to serve the legal needs of women in the community. It does this through researching and making information available about our rights as women and lesbians. A pamphlet they put together called Homophile Community and the Law, has been available at bookstores, bars and women's events in the area for almost a year now. Also this group has information about legal resources in the area. People from the legal group can also be contacted at the center and the group is open to any women interested.

The business meetings take place on Sunday at 6 pm. They concern themselves with the maintenance of the building, and the coordination of all its activities and also provides a place for women to discuss issues that affect us all. The meetings are open to all women.

To find out about all LA activities the phone number at the center is 664-7249 and the P.O. box # is: P.O. Box 4201, Tower Grove Station, St. Louis.





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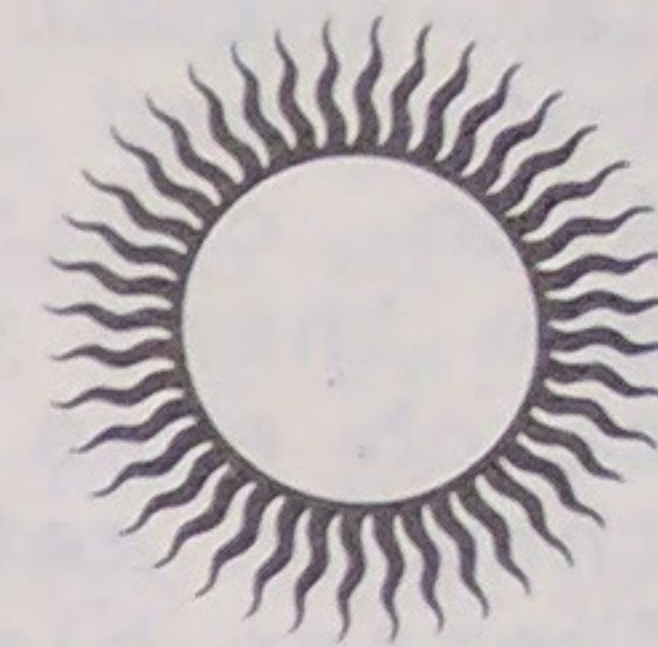
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Wellston Station  
St. Louis, Missouri 63112

Six Issues  
\$3.00

## BOOGIE PLACES

now and then



My first experience with gay bars was in January, 1971. I was a sociology student then and married to a man. This bar was the same bar people go to now around St. Louis, but the name was different. At that time, it was called the "Refugee". I remember being impressed with the appropriateness of the name. And, from my safe straight life, I decided a lesbian bar would be a great topic for a sociology paper on deviance.

So, I took with me to the bar on a Saturday night, a "straight" woman friend of mine whom I had been sleeping with for about a year. We were both real closet cases. Anyway, we went there to check out the natives.

I didn't know anything about homosexuals or lesbians, so I looked up homosexual in the dictionary and found this definition; for lesbian I found that the word originated from an island on ancient Greece on which lived a talented poetess who enjoyed sexual pleasures with women and who also wrote poetry for and about women. Her name was Sappho and she lived on the island of Lesbos.

The gay bar is on another island, however, the slums. And, since that time, I have noted in other cities that lesbians bars are tucked-away in the most dangerous and crime-ridden areas of cities. But still, lesbians go to them to experience each other and to know that there are others like themselves, like me. This lends credence, I think to our powerful need for each other and for sisterhood experiences.

Anyway, it wasn't really necessary to visit any other bar as there were none for lesbians. Argh, no alternatives!

Looking back, I can see that the first thing I noticed about the bar in 1971 was the two main soc-



ial-sexual roles acted out in the bar; that of butch and fem. The lines were really drawn then. Also, cruising, i.e., the activity of seeing someone there your're attracted to and attempting to catch eyes with your own in order to interest them in getting to know you, was blatant. Oh well, "better blatant than latent." Anyway, I caught on that there was definitely predator and prey in the bar. I was supposed to be prey because my hair was long.

After I met Bonnie and began to go into my gay crisis, i.e., feeling absolutely distinct from the straight world and so very "different" and at the same time deliriously happy, I needed the bar people to really know that I wasn't the only person who was a dyke. I found, however, that these people did not trust one another, that they related to one another by their clothes, by whether they were butch or fem, some of them by how tough they were and if they conformed in dance-style. And, it seemed as though a lot of people were confused about their roles and confused about the game of predator and prey. This game is still observable at the bar. The relationships seemed so superficial and if people were not lovers with one another, many relationships were not carried out of the bar setting. Distrust was evident and intensified by the straight people, especially the men who come to see the freak show. "Don't lesbians own their own bars for themselves," I asked myself.

I knew these were supposed to be my people but were they? Bonnie and I were getting a whole lot of hostility from people because we both looked fem. On one occasion we were followed to our car by a couple of women who were very into the tough roles. They taunted us with a "goodnight ladies." I knew



Butch or Femme?

then I had to cut my hair, so I did. Conformity was the name of the game inside the bar. And, it was the only game in town. So, I tried to look like a butch.

After giving up having anything in common with any other gay women, other than being gay, the coffee-house women happened and the Lesbian Alliance. Like splashes of new color a new kind of chemistry visited the bar. And, for me, lesbians came out of the cave. Having long since gone native, I welcomed this with open arms. About the new color, women began saying, "ignore the roles" game, it's bullshit, dance the way you feel, own your own movements, and don't depend on black-light images in a bar for your womanhood."

Then why the bar? Consciousness-raising is not an activity found often at the bar, except perhaps for the few straights who recognize women really getting into one another in a physical way. That's it! Lesbians can be physical with one another there. They can be sexual, not necessarily in a sexual way. And, we can be open about being gay within the bar setting. The bar serves as a place for gay women to meet other gay women. It isn't ideal and now because of the coffeehouse, it isn't the only alternative but sometimes it allows dykes to block out to some extent the straight world and to see a lot of women who are into one another. It has an anonymity. lly, the women who go only to the bar will join Lesbian Alliance and join in giving each other the community support I need and you must need.

Billie



# Dr. DYKE

## SUMMERTIME HINTS

The best way to handle poison ivy and poison oak is to know what it looks like and stay away from it. The plants are somewhat hard to spot because they vary so much in size, color, texture, and location. They are found as erect woody shrubs growing close to the ground and as woody vines clinging to trees. They grow everywhere--in the shade, in moist, humus soil as well as on sunny hillsides in sandy soil. The leaves are composed of 3 smooth leaflets, and the stems and twigs are thornless. Individual leaves can be from 4 to 14 inches long, and each leaflet may measure 2 to 7 inches in length and 3 in. wide. They may be stiff and leathery or paper thin. The leaflets may be smooth toothed or have wavy edges. In midsummer they are a shiny deep-green, in spring and fall reddish. The seeds and flowers are whitish and shiny and grow in clusters above the juncture of the leaf and stem. Poison oak has all these characteristics, but the leaflets are invariably notched.

The irritant is present in almost all parts of the plant and is most pungent in the spring, decreasing steadily through the summer. Direct or indirect contact (from clothes, animals, tools, etc.) sets off a skin eruption varying from simple itching to watery blisters depending on the sensitivity of the individual. We've heard that women are more susceptible than men 'cause of their softer skin. A good thing has its bad points!

The reaction can occur anywhere between 1 day to 2 weeks after contact. If you take a hot bath with an alka-



POISON IVY

line soap (felsnaptha is one) immediately after exposure you can prevent irritation. After you have it, calomine lotion sometimes helps the itching, but stronger prescription drugs are sometimes necessary. You should avoid touching yourself with affected areas to keep it from spreading. Sometimes dry cleaning is necessary to get it out of your clothes.

### Summertime Hints

#### KEEPING COOL

Run wrists or feet under cold water. It makes your whole body feel cooler . . . for a minute.

Contrary to popular belief, a hot shower is better than a cold one. The heat seems less hot afterwards.

Loose light colored clothes are better than tight dark ones.

When you're really hot, open up a fire hydrant and jump through the water. Occasionally the police department opens them for you.

For alleviating sunburn, rub aloe vera leaf or baking soda on it. Another method is to rub sour cream or pet milk on burn. Leave 20 minutes and wash off.

Wear a wet bandana on your head.


Cut your hair.

#### BUGS

Meat tenderizer is good for mosquito bites. It breaks down the proteins, which is what mosquito poison is made of.

If you make a sachet of sulphur and carry it on you it will keep ticks away.

# Publications for Women



Amazon quarterly  
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Oakland, California 94610  
\$4.00 within U.S.  
\$5.00 outside U.S. or plain  
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★ Lavender Woman  
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back issues - 50¢ a piece.

PO box 60206  
1723 W. Devon / Chicago, Ill. 60660  
free to sisters in prison or mental hospitals

## ★ (C) Flashes

<p>service interactive repair reasonable contact. L.A. Moore 664-6442</p>	<p>Look for posting of workshops &amp; films at the Women's Coffee house. Call 664-7249 or write Box 4201 Tower Groves Station, St. Louis</p>	<p>music Lavender Jane Loves Women Lesbian Musical Adventure L.P. \$5.25 Women's Music Network 215 West 92nd St. N.Y., N.Y. 10025</p>
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# WOMEN'S PLACES

WOMEN'S  
**COFFEEHOUSE**  
FRIDAYS 9 PM - 1 AM  
FOR INFORMATION CALL  
664-7249.

ST. LOUIS  
**LESBIAN ALLIANCE  
MEETINGS**  
TIME: 5:30 P.M. SUNDAYS  
LOCATION: WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE  
EVERYONE WELCOME  
FOR INFORMATION CALL - 664-7249

WOMEN'S  
**COUNSELING CENTER**  
6808 Washington  
725-9158  
INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING  
GROUP COUNSELING - RAP GROUPS  
WORKSHOPS - SEVERAL GAY COUNSELORS  
HOURS: MON, TUES, THURS, FRI 9-12  
WED 5-8

To remove ticks, stick a hot match on the villain's ass. Sometimes it will back out. If it doesn't, try tweezers. Most ticks don't do any harm. There is a tick in Mo. which gives you "Mountain fever." Symptoms are a fever and ass itching, go to a doctor.

Don't try to pull leeches off. Rub salt on them and they'll stop hanging on.

Rubbing alcohol keeps chigger bites from itching.

Take a bath in felsnaptha soap before spending time outside. It helps keep bugs away.

Cigarette or fire smoke also wards off bugs.

A bee's stinger has its poison sack attached to it and acts like a hypodermic needle. The longer it stays in, the more poison gets pumped into you. So--brush it out as soon as possible after the sting. Dab on some honey, mud, amonia, or a soda and water mixture to alleviate pain.

Eucalyptus and pennyroyal oils are natural insect repellents.

### CAMPING

Keep canteen covers wet to keep drink cold.

Sneakers are very useful for wading in the rocky rivers of Missouri.

Hang your food from a tree if you don't want the raccoons to get it.

Tarps are a good thing to have for sitting and sleeping on, tying food in a tree, getting under when it rains.

For diarrhea eat a little burnt food.

Keep matches in film cans to keep them dry.

Carla says from her experience that if a skunk stamps its feet, it's going to spray. This is not a document of fact as far as we know.

Small fires are more efficient, use less wood, and are less dangerous than big ones.

If you forget a toothbrush, eat an apple or an orange.

### THINGS YOU CAN DO TO CONSOLIDATE YOUR CAMPING GEAR:

Use salt instead of toothpaste.

Mix powdered milk with granola or other cereal before you leave. All you have to do is mix in water for a regular bowl of full or cereal.

Bring a natural foods book and hunt for your food instead of carrying it.

Wash frying pans with gravel or sand and you won't need to bring soap and washclothes.

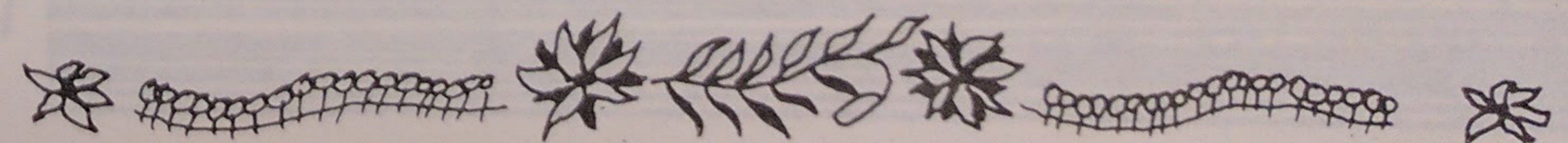
### WHILE HIKING

Don't sit down to rest unless you plan to sit for a long time. It's better to just stop and lean over for a minute. You won't get as fatigued as fast.

Also don't take big drinks while hiking unless you plan to rest for a while. Just swish some water around in your mouth and spit it out. This will keep you from getting sick to your stomach.

Drinking very cold water on a hot day can give you stomach cramps.

To purify water boil for 5 minutes. Pour back and forth between two containers. Boiling kills bacteria and pouring puts back air in the water keeping it from tasting flat.



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I was alone, down, and depressed  
you came bold but soft. You made me  
feel loved, needed and wanted.

Whispers behind our backs, still no shame  
Like an unwanted birth they came, people  
of whom have said to love me most  
they lash out with their pigish-  
moral prejudice.

Lesbian bitch, stud, dyke  
they call you  
With pride you tried, I tried,  
we tried

You left, I cried  
Alone

Sherry V

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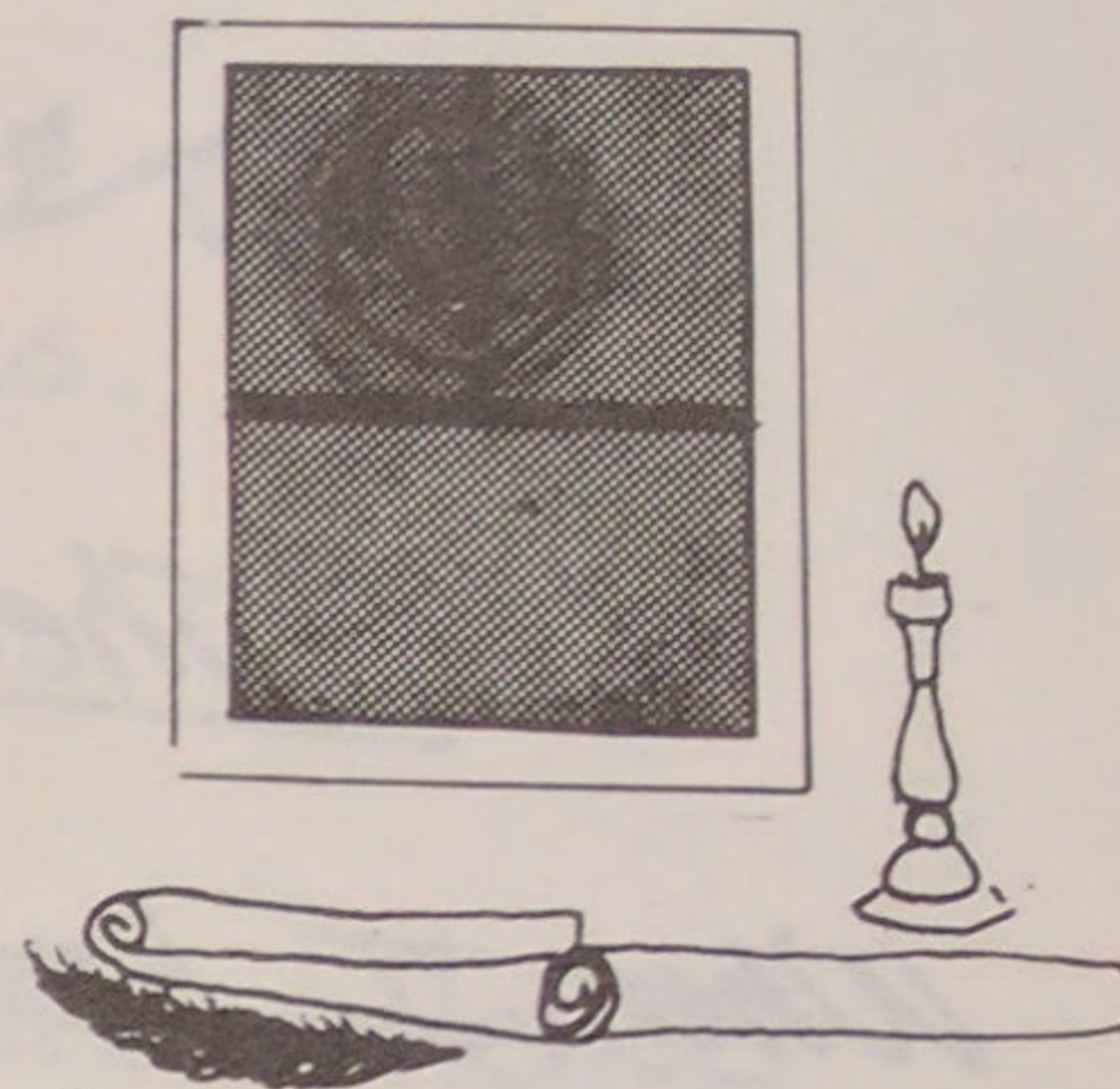
i have been where  
the rivers edge  
meets the hollow reed

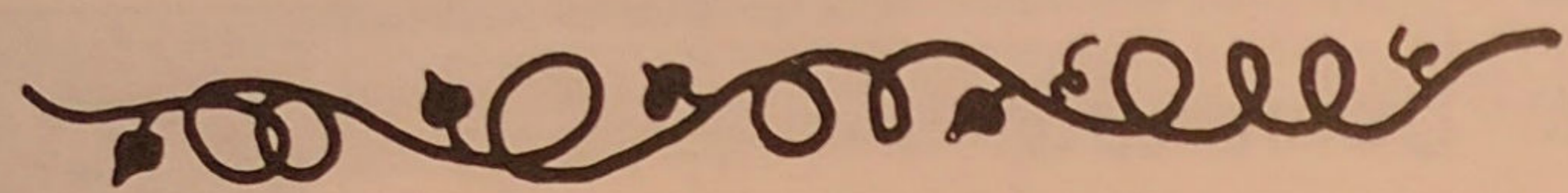
and i have been where  
the candle burns  
and the nites turn into weeks

i have been where  
the meadows grass still blows  
/with lavender flowers  
and the Swiss snow leaves no room for doubt

and I have been in a city  
full of aching sisters  
where screams were disguised as empty  
laughter

and I have climbed mountains  
to look out to see all of womankind,  
yet the only one I see is you——  
Carla brewington





Sherry

When I had the blues  
you were the good news  
Telling me I didn't need no shoes.  
A blossoming flower teeming with desire  
A lantern out of the fog  
Were your eyes telling me to fly,  
Get out my disguise!  
Give up despise,  
Come into your eyes.

-Billie



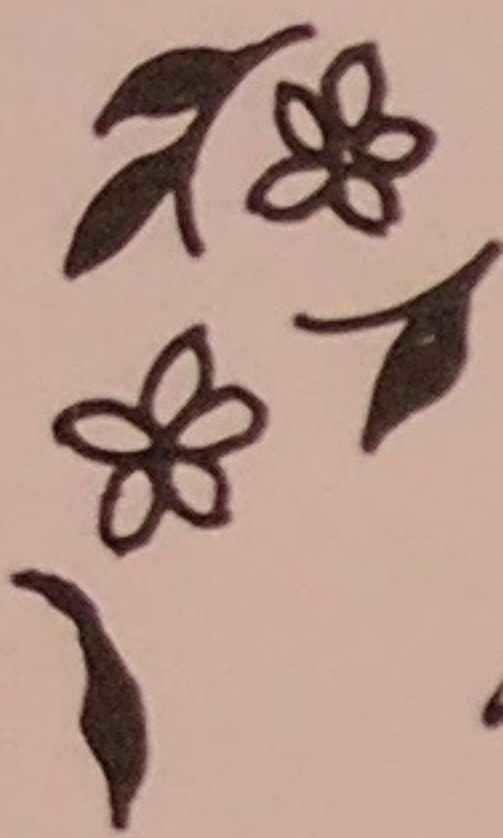
People Are Accidents.  
My mother  
My father  
A night of inexplicable silence

-Denise



caustic vultures  
opening pandora's box  
letting loose the horrible hope  
tumult falling over itself in the void  
tell me, where is the gentle .....

-Carla B.



## Woman - Woman Time

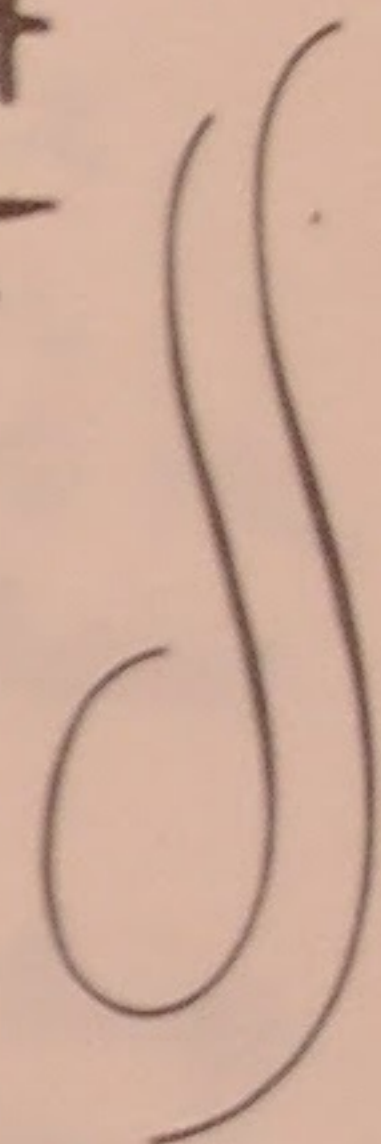
Woman! you like to hear me  
 call you that. Woman!  
 Switched-on woman, mellow woman.  
 You are my high.  
 Together we don't sing no lesbian blues  
 We're too busy gettin into Sappho's  
 Suite.  
 Too long we have had only a  
 nocturnal love. Let our woman-love  
 shine, shimmer and be day!



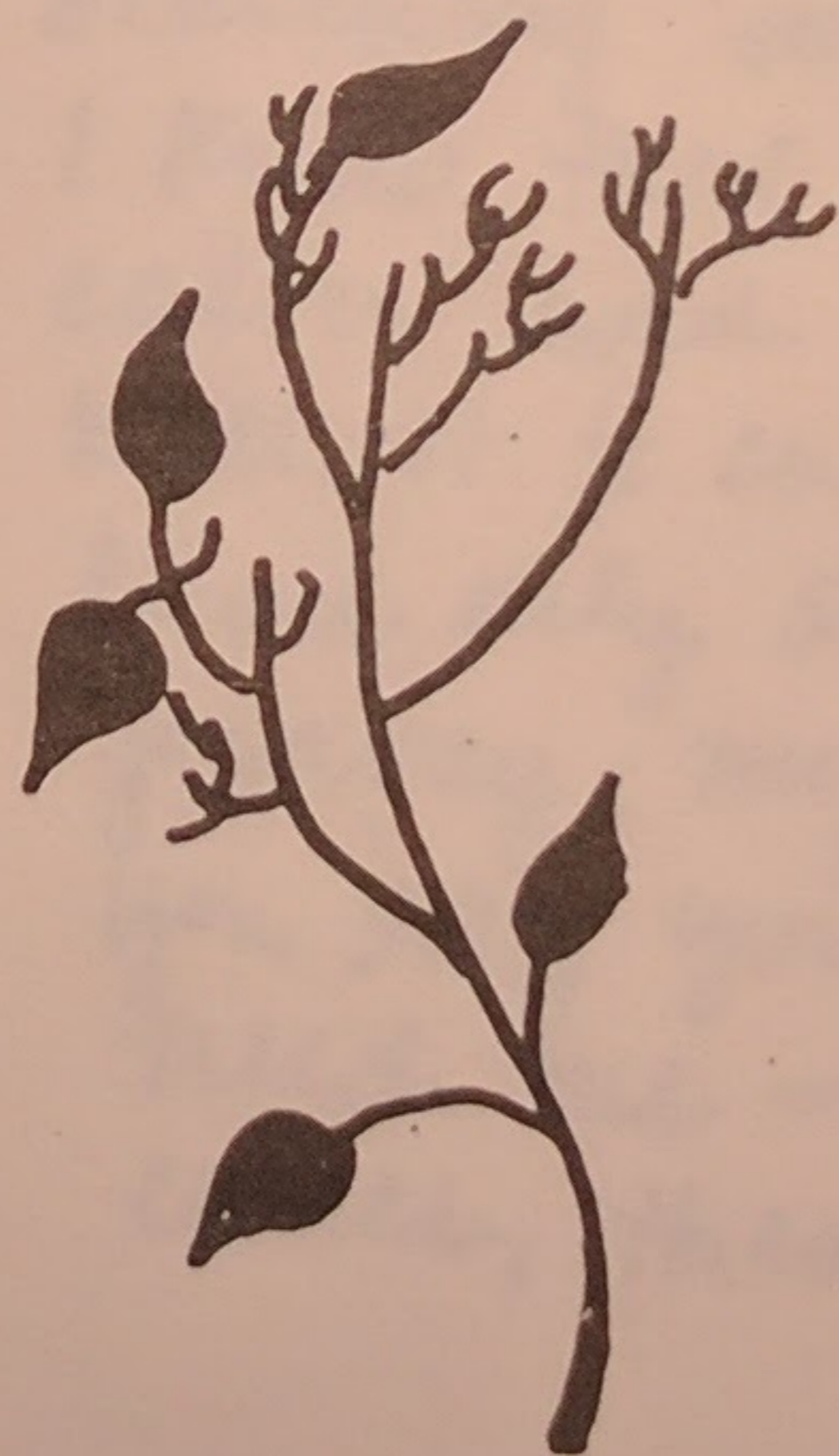
- Billie K.

I come to you atraid, confused,  
 strong, free and alone. I re-  
 member feeling at one with all  
 of you and an amazing togeth-  
 ness and supportiveness. I  
 wanted to touch each of you and  
 tell you the importance of what  
 you have given to me - and I  
 will, someday soon.

Sherry

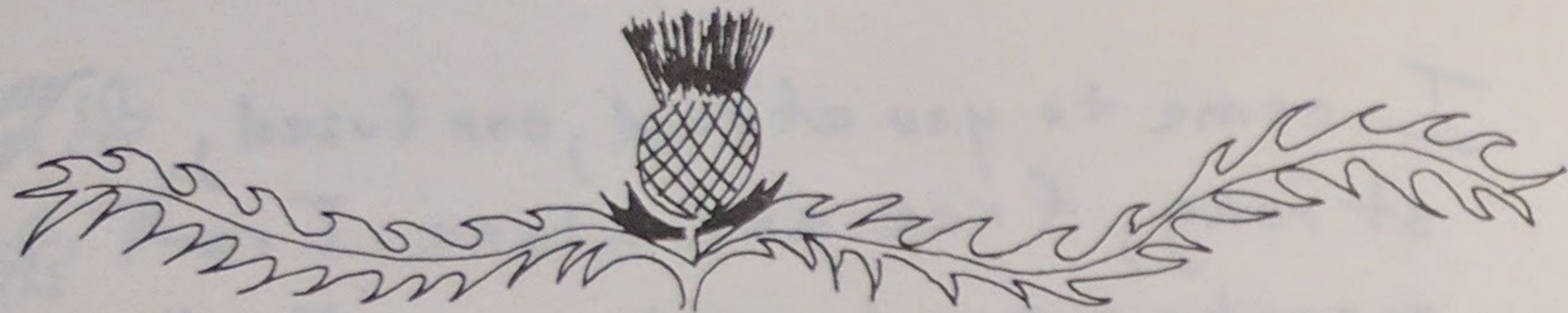


## After the Storm



I exist. I am me.  
 She is not all of me;  
 She is but a part of me.  
 She is gone. I still exist  
 And she has a part of me

psm



There is that sadness that comes to your eyes  
only when I talk of leaving;  
a sadness so heavy  
it could bend the trees.  
I rock you in my arms, like the child that you are  
for it is the child in your soul  
that first made me love you.  
I whisper to you  
of beginnings and growing,  
you weep to me of endings to come.

I should leave you,  
I know.  
You think I am essential.

But the sorrow in your eyes  
would strike much too deeply;  
like a knife in my heart,  
I'm not sure I could live past the pain.

You, who took me to the sunrise;  
and though I showed you the colours,  
you think that you need me  
to see them again.  
You, with the brilliance of Venus,  
you will find your own way.  
You confuse loving with me;  
that is your only mistake.

I will leave you,  
I know.  
You think I am essential.

Kalya L

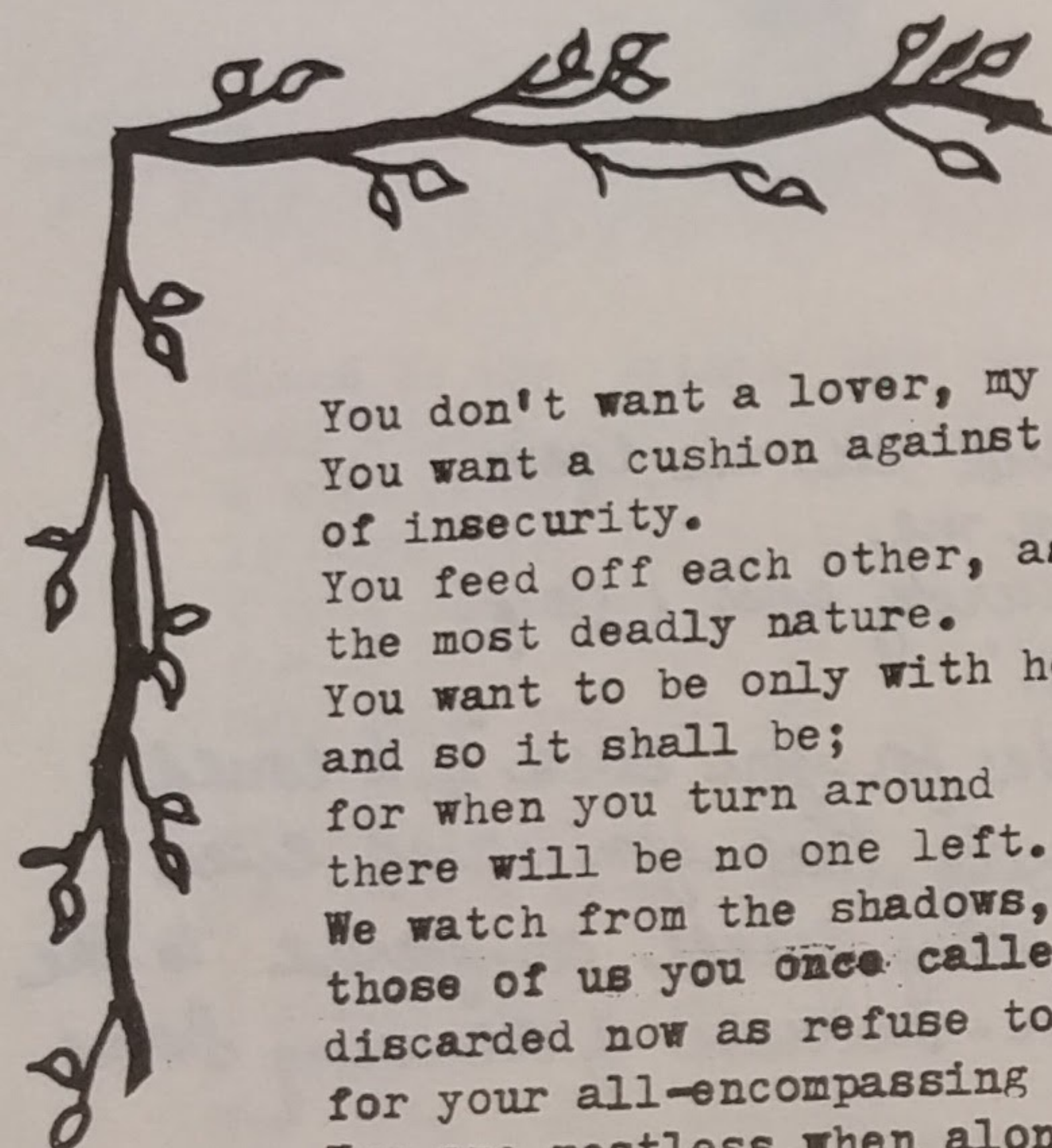
Look back into yourself and tell me again  
what it is you want from me.  
You think maybe it's security and I say,  
'I will not rip you off.'  
I would not fill your holes for you even if I could.  
Any false sense of security that you could ever  
draw from me stands very small compared to the  
much more intense far-outness of drawing from  
your own well.

You want a teacher - well the most valuable thing  
I have to offer you is the knowledge that you  
are beautiful and that most of what you're  
searching for is contained within yourself.  
I know that doesn't make the search any  
easier and that at times it seems endless -  
well, it is endless.

I can only share with you the trails of my own  
journey, my love, my support, and understanding.  
You say you want me to be there when you  
need me - well I'm here and when 'there'  
comes, then there'll be that.

- Shoery -





You don't want a lover, my friend.  
You want a cushion against the pain  
of insecurity.  
You feed off each other, as parasites of  
the most deadly nature.  
You want to be only with her,  
and so it shall be;  
for when you turn around  
there will be no one left.  
We watch from the shadows,  
those of us you once called friends,  
discarded now as refuse to make room  
for your all-encompassing love.  
You are restless when alone now;  
you can find no comfort in yourself.  
You cling to her, for you can no longer see  
beyond the corners of her universe.  
Blinded you are; dazzled by the promise  
of mutual sympathy.  
Stand aside, my friend, while you still  
have the strength;  
touch the discontent that simmers  
inside you.  
Now, my friend.  
Now, before your love collapses around you  
and you find yourself  
in a thousand shattered pieces  
for the wind to scatter at will

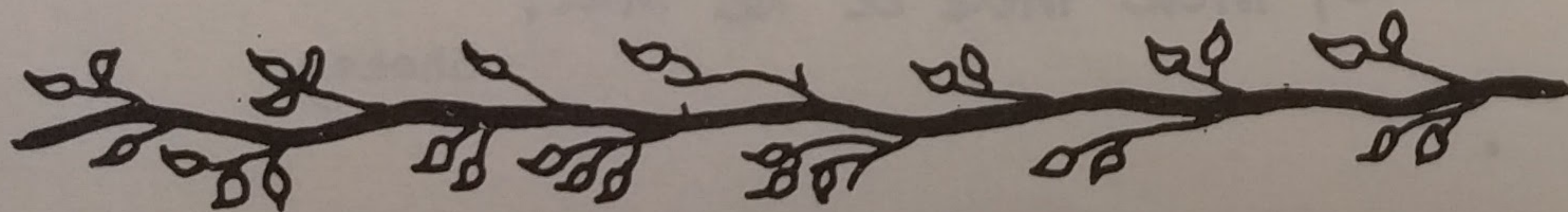
Kalya L



I really don't know what to say about the bar Little Caesars, - just thinking about it brings back all kinds of memories. You see, Caesars was this gay bar that up to about two years ago was the only Black gay bar in the city, but Caesars was more than a bar - it was a party. That party atmosphere is the thing I remember most about Caesars. I've been to other gay bars, but none of them seem to have the same I'm-here-to-have-a-good-time atmosphere. When you came to Caesars you didn't come to talk politics, you didn't really come there to meet a new lover; when you came to Caesars you were there to have a good time. You were ready to "get down".

Two things made Caesars - the women who went there, and Bobbi, the woman who played the records. Bobbi was and is something else. She could control the whole feeling of the place just by the kinds of records she played. Bobbi would say something like "Everyone here seems to be feeling really funky. I guess I better get down and play some blues." But Bobbie was only half of Caesars, the women themselves were the other half. There was Alice who always wore a blond wig; Gigi, pretty Gigi, who looked like she stepped off the cover of Vogue; Jerrie, who was shot in the back; and Jenny who went to jail trying to keep Gigi in the pretty things that she liked.

I don't know, maybe there was sadness in Caesars, but it didn't come from the fact that the women were lesbians and felt oppressed by their lesbianism. No, the sadness in Caesars probably came from the fact that the women knew they had problems in their lives that were far worse than being a lesbian. In fact, being a lesbian was one of the good things about their lives. Maybe that is why Caesars had such a truly gay feeling about it. The women there loved women and being with other women really made them feel good. You see, the women who came to Caesars unconsciously knew they were on the right track in loving women. And coming to Caesars to be with other women whom they loved and whose company they enjoyed, just gave them the strength to keep on keeping on.





### Sweet Brown Bread

Makes 2 loaves  
 3C. buttermilk  
 1½C. brown sugar  
 2tbsps. baking soda  
 1tbsp. salt  
 4C. wholewheat flour  
 1½C. wheat germ

Combine in order, dissolving any sugar lumps. Bake 1 hour at 325.

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Linda and Nancy's and Sue's  
 Super-Duper Mighty Fantastic  
 Finger-lickin' good Real  
 Special Barbecue Sauce

MIX:  
 ketchup  
 beer  
 onion  
 molasses (dash)  
 tobasco (dash)  
 garlic salt  
 salt  
 worchestershire sauce

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## Midwest Women Meet

CUIVRE RIVER WOMEN WEEKEND  
 EAST LANSING LESBIAN CONFERENCE

The Midwestern Women's Festival was held at Cuivre River Park in the Missouri countryside, May 10 thru 15. Women from Kansas City, Chicago, and St. Louis came together to relax and regroup before heading back to the big city.

For some of the women the weekend started out with a jolt. The lesbian separatists held a workshop meeting-type get-together for other lesbian separatists. There seemed to be a misunderstanding with the majority of women upon a clear definition of what a lesbian separatist really is. We divided up into two groups to discuss the issue. A statement was made that being political does not mean being cold. An analogy was drawn between the women's movement now and the black movement in the 60's as far as splinter groups are concerned. Some women from Kansas City said that we must fight the oppression of ALL women which definitely includes lesbians, but that it does not exclude non-lesbians. Thoughts were thrown out on long-term political goals. The Chicago women made a statement that we all agreed on: "We should not be ASKING for our rights, but DEMANDING them." To most of the women, separatism NOW is not realistic, it is a utopian dream.

Workshops ranged from: the legal rights of women with attorney Diane Taylor from St. Louis, to yoga, tai chi, auto mechanics, lesbian arts and crafts, nature walks, lesbian songwriters and musicians, country skills (which involved visiting a dairy and farm run by a woman and knowledge of how to use a chainsaw and hand saw). The self-help workshop was extremely beneficial. We were taught the benefits of a plastic speculum and how to use one.

Thanks go out to Pat and the other country sisters who made the festival a reality. It was great sitting by the campfire at night listening to music, being mellow and getting to know the women from Kansas City and Chicago.

-----Carla B

## — EAST LANSING

Approximately 250 to 300 women from Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Tennessee, Ohio, and all parts of Michigan came together in East Lansing, Michigan, May 17-19. The conference was sponsored by the LALF (Lansing Area Lesbian Feminists) and headed up by Goldie and Margie. Lesbians (separatists, semi-separatists, and non-separatists), bisexuals and straight women all took part in the conference. The following comes from statements made during the workshop.

### BARS

This workshop consisted of about 25 to 30 women. Discussion rallied around finding alternatives to the bars. Women talked about almost all the bars that they go to as being dives and real rip-offs. The lesbian community is being ripped-off in all areas. The traditional myth handed down about all lesbians being drunk and living in isolation is not true. We perpetuate the use of alcohol b/c of this mentality. The bar is pretty much of an over-sized closet where women can retreat and be with other lesbians in a much less threatening atmosphere. We should be developing alternatives to the whole scene. (Here in St. Louis we have begun by attempting a coffeehouse where women can get together and have a good time, play music, and read poetry.)

The problem of alcohol is a major one in the lesbian community, throughout the country. Alcohol kills a lot of good experience. Many of our sisters are trapped in the liquor routine because they don't have any other place to put their energy . . . the dyke with the beer can is perpetually passed down from generation to generation. All we need is a little WOMANPOWER to create some explosive alternatives.

### MARGARET SLOAN

Well-known speaker and founder of the National Black Feminist Organization, Margaret Sloan, spoke to us on Saturday afternoon. She had women rolling in the aisles with her wit and sarcasm. Margaret said that the focus must be on planning ahead. "We must move away from the defensive position. Say, 'Yes, I'm crazy, and go ahead.'

Anyone who has had to grow up in a heterosexist, homophobic state or culture would make anyone crazy." Lesbianism doesn't make us crazy, homophobia does.

"We should stop peddling lesbianism like tacos on 5th Ave." Margaret came on strong and said that we must be honest about lesbianism. It is not utopia, there is still jealousy and there is still rage. But we are going to make it.

Margaret said we come out with a bunch of rhetoric that doesn't mean anything to anyone anymore. We must develop a sensitivity to those who won't come out... most women are only out to their little group. Then she asked, "What do we have to offer: a poem, therapy, a party, a hot softball game... the great god known as the COLLECTIVE?" She said that we're ripping each other off, emotionally, economically, physically. We must organize a network... encompassing all of the community throughout the country.

As far as role-playing goes, don't celebrate it, but don't come down so hard, because they were out before the movement got off its ass. Margaret got serious for a moment and said, "We must become political. Anything that helps all women, helps all women." She said, "I don't hate men, I just don't need them. But we have the right to hate men, because they have been raping us for centuries, although we do not celebrate midnight castration parties."

As a bit of practical advice she said the ability to be able to function through emotional trauma is extremely important. When your lover walks out the door that doesn't mean that your whole identity is gone. We can't be wiped out when the 2 of us grow away from each other. Margaret emphasized that we must get our identity from ourselves. We must put energy into things besides waiting for the mail. We women are warm, passionate, alive and vulnerable, and it shouldn't be used against us." Margaret ended by saying, "We must not create a false unity, but there's more to get together about than to separate... so, CELEBRATE!!!"

Carla B.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guitar and drum lessons in our home. Sliding scale fee. Call Sue or Sunshine 865-1675

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General home repairs & light carpentry work. Call Mary or Carol 231-7576

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Hauling, exterior and interior house painting, & furniture stripping & refinishing. Call Nancy 865-1675

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Wanted: poems, graphics, article letters for publication in Moonstorm send to Moonstorm, B.O. Box 4201, Tower Grove, Station

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If you have a couch, stove, chairs, etc. that you'll give up cheap- call Diana or Nancy 865-1675

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Starting this fall there will be a Women's night every week at the Peoples clinic. If you're interested in working on this call- Amy 725-4784

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Anyone interested in starting or getting together and talking 'bout a printing collective call Diana 865-1675.

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Anyone interested in playing soccer, football, or baseball call Diana 865-1675.

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Softball games are held every other week at Tower Grove park. Interested call Diana 865-1675

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Women auto mechanics looking for work-call Diana at 865-1675

FROM Bar to Bar to Bar to Bar to

