



Lesbian Quarterly

Unfashionably Lesbian Focused

September 1 2005

Issue 7

Autumn Edition

Autumn is a time to consider the past, and to decide what to compost and what to keep of the years offerings. Ever seasonally appropriate, this quarter LQ profiles lesbian archaeologist Bonnie Campbell, who preserves and document the history of BC's first peoples. From lesbians unearthing history to lesbians making history, LQ also speaks to Vancouver city councillor Ellen Woodsworth, a champion of Vancouver's groundbreaking municipal gender equity policy, and who will be considered for re-election this fall. On the compost end of things, we also unearth the dirty secrets of Re-evaluation Counselling, also known as co-counselling, a secular peer counselling group. Derived from Dianetics/ Scientology, this group claims to be progressive and anti-homophobic, but has a policy of trying to convince members once indoctrinated that their homosexuality is irrational and can and should be 'cured'.

Falling for Lesbians



Spring into fall by Bonnie Young

Inside this issue:

Ellen Woodsworth	1
Ex-Gays, Lies and Co-Counselling	2
The Lesbian Agenda	4
Lesbian Resources	6
Bonnie Campbell, Archeologist	7
About LQ	8

Ellen Woodsworth—Lesbian City Councillor

As co-chair of the Vancouver Women's Task Force, she got a Gender Equality Strategy for the City of Vancouver passed and funded.

Ellen Woodsworth comes by it honestly. Growing up in an activist family, she learned early that it was possible to get in there and make a difference. She was born in Toronto and attended high school in Japan, where her father was born and raised.

In 2002, Ellen was elected as one of two women city councillors for the city of Vancouver, and one of the first, if not the first, out lesbians elected in Canada. Now nearing the end of her first term in office, and preparing to run for re-election this fall, LQ was able to speak with her before the August recess.



One of Ellen's main achievements for her lesbian constituents is her work as co-chair and prime motivator behind the Women's Task Force, a group that spent more than a year studying the effect of provincial and federal cuts on women, reviewing principles operating procedures and funding within the city and coming up with recommendations. This diverse group of women met and researched beginning in December 2003 to prepare a report and recommendations, which were accepted for implementation by City council on July 12th of this year.

(Continued on page 3)

Ex-Gay Recruiters in Progressive Clothing—

It used to be that we knew who our opponents were.

Religious and political groups that think we're evil or sinful tend to be up front about it. Those who are more tolerant have a policy of 'love the sinner hate the sin' which sugar-coats it a bit, but carries the same message. I think they're entitled to their position—I don't really approve of their lifestyle choices either.

However, some organizations that oppose lesbians and gays are not so honest. LQ has recently discovered a fairly successful homophobic psychotherapy cult operating in Vancouver, one that claims to be 'against the oppression of homosexual peoples' but in fact is trying to lure us in and straighten us all out.

I use the word cult consciously. Re-evaluation Counselling (RC), also called Co-counseling, is a rigidly hierarchical organization originally founded as a branch of Dianetics/Scientology in 1952¹, with a charismatic founder who has been multiply accused of sexually exploiting his female followers. Harvey Jackins, the self-styled "greatest counsellor in the world" has written that with enough of his type of counselling a person could become physically immortal. It has been documented by researchers that RC employs established cult techniques of 'love bombing', group humiliation, and mind control². The group is very open about specifically recruiting progressive activists and seeking to infiltrate activist organizations.

In the mid 1970's a specifically anti-gay policy was introduced by Jackins. A lot of double-speak surrounds this policy. The first part sounds fine. Reevaluation Counseling endorses "principled and deep opposition to any oppression of people who practice sex with people of their own gender or of people who identify themselves as Gay men, as Lesbians, or as 'bisexuals'."³ The second half of this official policy, sometimes called a 'draft' policy, but still in place and unrevised since 1995, says something quite different. "Participation in sex with a human of your own gender is based on distress. It arises only out of distress experiences in the past. The distress out of which it arises can become unoccluded, (if it has been occluded) and can be completely discharged."³ The organization asserts that people are only gay because of some past hurt, and if they don't remember any such trauma they must be encouraged to 'remember', often in highly charged group encounter sessions. No critical discussion of any of the 'draft' policies occurs in any of the organizations publications.

After public allegations surfaced in the early 1970's that "the worlds greatest counsellor" had been sexually assaulting his women and girl clients for decades, the organization officially forbid it's members from 'attacking' or criticizing Jackins or other leaders in 1988. This policy is available for review on the organizations' website³ along with a statement that those who criticize leaders should be 'interrupted'. At least two teachers were de-certified (removed from teaching) for telling their classes about the abuse allegations³. Today, ex-members report that when questioned, leaders will say that Jackins is dead and imply that the policies are no longer in effect. True to policy, they avoid denouncing his abuse or directly renouncing the gay policy, however.

"According to Michelle (last name withheld by request), a lesbian ex-Regional Reference Person who was active in the group for 10 years, once the gay policy was put in all teachers were required to support the organization's policy on homosexuality in order to be allowed to teach. She herself was removed from her position soon after the policy was announced. The organizations' website now instructs teachers to evade disclosing their own views on the policy."

Reevaluation Counseling, otherwise known as Co-counseling, is active in East Vancouver and other places in BC. There are introduction classes, support groups and workshops for children and adults being offered in Vancouver. According to ex-participants, weekend workshops are held periodically in space rented from Vancouver's Kiwassa Neighbourhood House. So-called 'naturalized' groups (which operate on RC principles while concealing their connection to the cult) are encouraged by the organization as well, primarily for recruiting purposes. Members are forbidden to socialize with one another outside formal counselling sessions, forbidden to discuss any concerns they have about the group with anyone but the leaders and forbidden to contact existing members if they leave.

(Continued on page 5)

Ellen Woodsworth—Lesbian City Councillor

(Continued from page 1)

The situation of women in Canada is worsening as federal and provincial programs known to affect women more than men are being cut. In Vancouver, women's wages are 72% of men's wages and 50% of senior women living alone live under the poverty line. Woodsworth notes that even though women make up 52% of Vancouver's population, we are "are not as involved in the municipal process, even though we are affected by decisions including housing, safety, education, transportation, design of neighbourhoods, funding for child care and more." Women use city services differently. For example, women are the main users of transit but it is not designed to meet our needs. The task force found that women have multiple transit trips (children to child care, groceries on the way home etc..) not direct trips like male commuters, and therefore our routes are not as predictable. We also have increased needs for safety on the transit system especially when riding at night. They recommend transit be improved for women by doing safety audits and changing the planning process to more easily involve women.

Woodsworth notes that women volunteer and run local community organizations, but are not running for elected office. We are also underrepresented in city staff. In Vancouver, "some city departments have no women workers, and in others the overwhelming majority of the workers are men."

This newly passed gender equity strategy is promoted as making sure that a "gender lens will be put on all our work" at the city. What that means in a concrete sense is a two year full time consultant position has been created, along with a an advisory committee on women's issues, and that city departments will be required to report yearly on their progress in improving gender equity. One of the new programs will assist aboriginal girls. The consultant will work with all of the city departments to help them build on existing gender equity strategies and liaise between the newly created advisory committee, city staff and the general public.

In her address before City Council July 12th, Councillor Anne Roberts, the only other woman on the 11-member city council and the other co-chair of the task

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The Lesbian Agenda—Places to Go, Women to See...



A Little Mouse by lesbian artist Bonnie Young—
to purchase visit www.lavenderdoor.com

September 10, October 8, November 12— Women's Dance Party—DJ Susan Yeager—50's Burger & Pizza - 10028 King George Hwy , Surrey near King George Skytrain Station 9pm-1am \$5 cover. (Newly lesbian-owned location. Women's 2nd Saturday of the month, Gay/Lesbian other Saturdays.)

September 8-12—West Coast Canadian Women's 50+ Gathering—First ever gathering for lesbians 50+ Coast Plaza Hotel, Vanc. www.soundsandfuries.com

October 7-10—Womenfriends Creativity Camp—Ioco, BC (near Vancouver) \$260-400 sliding scale www.womenfriends.com

Oct 15 - 29 Women's Tour in Greece: Athens, The Peloponessus, Isles of Santorini and Aegina www.soundsandfuries.com 604-253-7189

October 1 Research Grant Deadline for Lesbian Health Fund www.glma.org/programs/lhf/guidelines

October 26—Ferron & Band—Victoria Conservatory of Music \$25adv, \$28/door soundsandfuries.com

October 27—Ferron & Band—Van East Cultural Centre \$25adv/\$28/door soundsandfuries.com

October 28—Ferron & Band—The Club, Gibsons Landing \$25adv/\$28 door soundsandfuries.com

November 25—Women's Arts & Crafts Faire—Some of BC's finest women artisans, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main St. Vanc, www.soundsandfuries.com

Healthy Same Sex Relationships for Women Group in Mission — Free Register with Tania Zulkoskey MSW., RSW., CTS 604-505-4907 In partnership with Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley.

Ongoing Events:

Tuesdays: Surrey Coffee Group 7PM @ Java Hut @ 64th Ave & 152nd

1st Wednesday of the Month: Vancouver Outdoor Club Monthly Meetings 7:30 pm, common room of the Sitka Women's Housing Coop at 1550 Woodland St. Vanc. Event planning, presentations , socializing and meeting new members. www.outdoorwomen.ca

Wednesdays: Mildred Women's Volleyball League—6060 Marlborough, Burnaby (look for open door in gym off the parking lot) 7 pm. (Late Sept to Feb) 604-684-9872, Ext. 2002

Last Friday of the Month: Queer Women on the Drive 7-9 pm Seniors Lounge of Britannia Community Centre. All ages, including children supervised by an adult. 604-684-5307

Second Saturday of the Month—Women's Dance Party—DJ Susan Yeager—50's Burger & Pizza - 10028 King George Hwy , Surrey near King George Skytrain Station 9pm-1am \$5 cover

LQ Events listings are free, and must be submitted by email. Events anywhere in BC are welcome. See back page for deadline. Priority is given to events organized by &/or for lesbians. Editor reserves the right to post or not post anything she wants for any reason. Club-crowd and mixed queer listings are more reliably found at www.superdyke.com or Xtra West



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Anti-Lesbian Cults—

(Continued from page 2)

“Make a clear distinction between Community members and people who are just Co-Counselors”— RC.org Website⁴

Some members spend many hours a week in counselling sessions or teaching or organizing on behalf of the organization, while others are ‘just co-counselors’ who counsel periodically with only one or two others and may not yet be involved deeply enough to be harmed by or even aware of the structure and policies of the organization, including the anti-gay policies. This article is an attempt to make lesbians aware of the facts so they can make their own choices based on their own values and on verifiable information including sources outside the group. A list of references is included at the end of this article.

“Recruit one friend a year and follow them through. Stay close. Recruit young adults because they don't have established priorities...Try to recruit people every day and then discharge about it. ...Must challenge the idea that someone doesn't want RC just because they left. Must also go back and get those folks.” — Advice to members on Re-evaluation Counselling official website⁵

References and More Information

Official Re-evaluation Counseling Site

⁵http://www.rc.org/publications/guidelines_97/commentary_goals/goal_5_commentary.html

³http://www.rc.org/publications/present_time/pt101/pt101_35_hj.html

Ex-Lesbian Testimonials: http://www.rc.org/publications/present_time/pt120/pt120_16_fb.html http://www.rc.org/publications/present_time/pt102/pt102_51_hg.html

Gay member's letter to Jackins, Jackins' response: http://www.rc.org/publications/present_time/pt110/pt110_78_d.html

Non-Re-evaluation Counselling References about Reevaluation Counseling / Co-Counseling:

<http://www.freedomofmind.com/resourcecenter/groups/r/reevaluation/sexandrc.htm>

<http://www.cocowebs.com/liberaterc/glb.htm>

⁴<http://www.peerlisteners.com/liberaterc/sexlies.htm>

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/RecoveryRC/>

¹ <http://www.cocowebs.com/liberaterc/>

² <http://www.ex-iwp.org/docs/Cults/Group%20Influence.htm>

Lesbian Quote: "It's a lot easier being black than gay. At least if you're black you don't have to tell your parents" -Judy Carter

10 Points to look out for in a groups members.

It's not just for religions anymore— political groups, therapy / support groups or feminist collectives can all function as abusive cults.

1. Obsession about group or the leader putting it above most other considerations.
2. Member's individual identity becomes increasingly fused with the group, the leader and/or God followed by the group. Cloning of the group members or leader's personal behaviors.
3. Emotional overreaction when the group or leader is criticized. Seen as evil persecution.
4. Belief that the group is "THE WAY" and they have a mission
5. Increasing dependency upon the group or leader for problem solving, explanations, definitions and analysis, and corresponding decline in real, independent thought.
6. Excessive hyperactivity and work for the group or leader, at the expense of private or family interests. Drifting away from family and old friends
7. Preparedness to blindly follow the group or leader and defend actions or statements without seeking independent verification.
8. Demonization of former members or members of alternative groups.
9. Desire to be praised for doing the right thing and fear of public rebuke
10. Unhealthy wish to be seen with or aligned publicly with the leader(s) of the group.

Source: www.sosbehindbars.com/cult.htm

Resources for Lesbians

Greater Vancouver

Health: BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health - Lesbian Health Information & Research www.bccewh.bc.ca/Pages/pubspdflist2.htm

New Dawn Recovery House for Women 604-325-0576 lesbian-friendly supportive recovery houses for women with addictions.

Support Groups -

Les/Bi Cancer Support Group—Patient & Family Counselling, BC Cancer Agency Info Sarah Sample or Sydney Foran 604-877-6098

North Shore Women's Centre (www.vcn.bc.ca/nswc) Resource centre, drop-in group for lesbians and bi women Free/confidential. 944 W 16th Street (Hamilton Ave) N Van 604-984-6009

Women's (lbtq) Coming Out Groups Free @ the Centre 604-684-5307 www.lgtbcentrevancouver.com

Social / Recreational / Sports—

Menopausal Old Bitches (MOB) lesbians over forty 604-684-9872 ext 2118

Vancouver Women's Outdoor Club—See article in LQ3 & Lesbian Agenda for monthly meetings.

Mildred Women's Volleyball League 604-684-9872 x2002

Mabel League Women's Fast Pitch Softball League www.mabelleague.com (season runs April-August, with new players accepted till Mid-May)

Gazebo Connection- professional lesbians social group. 604-438-5442

In the Company of Womyn Lesbian social group with monthly meetings. Surrey/Langley -activities extended to the Fraser Valley. Jill: 604-881-2155

Lesbi Friends Support & social group for lesbians in the Fraser Valley c/o Women's Place 604-536-9611

Not So Strictly Ballroom www.gayvancouver.bc.ca/nssb Same-sex couples dancing. Partners not necessary.

Thompson-Okanagan

Rainbow Womyn's Group sher19992003@yahoo.ca email list: lj@dignatis.com www.noglo.com

Vancouver Island

Vancouver Island Lesbians In Progress Society—social, support vilipsnews@hotmail.com 250-756-0769

Hill House Transition House Temporary safe place for women and children leaving abusive relationships. Lesbians welcome. 250-479-3963

Know of other lesbian-operated or lesbian oriented resources in or outside of the lower mainland? Send a brief description to lq@sophiakelly.ca (publication subject to editorial discretion)

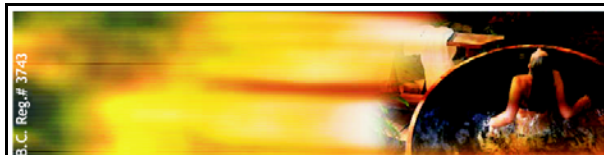
Lesbian Resource Profile—Lesbians of Vancouver Island on LoVI.ca Interactive web site for women who love women on Vancouver Island. Community Resource listings includes the Victoria Lesbian Senior Care Society and Spinstervale (a women's short or long term 'home in the country') and listings of Vancouver Island dances and events. www.LoVI.ca

Networking & Announcements Free space is available in LQ for notices and announcements by / for lesbians. Housing? garage sale items? Birth or wedding announcements? Send to lq@sophiakelly.ca

Tania Zulkoskey Counselling MSW., RSW., CTS
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tel: 604:505-4907 www.tzcounselling.ca

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Honoring BC's First People's History— Lesbian Archeologist Bonnie Campbell



Archeology in BC: It's not about dinosaurs. Instead archeologist Bonnie Campbell is hired when mining or other development is happening to assess areas for archeological sites, so that roads or other development can steer clear. If that's not possible, she consults with the local first nation bands to determine what is to be done.

How do you discover if there's something of significance in a particular area? "They provide me with maps ahead of time and I do a background check to see if there are any recorded sites in the area. And I'll check with the local band to see if they have any information. Lots of time sites are known about but not recorded, because who is going to go do it except an archeologist? I'm basically going on the premise that human beings don't behave in a random fashion over the landscape. They need water and places to stay. So we go along areas that we believe have the highest potential to have sites, near a river, creek, level areas with outlooks." What kinds of things she looks for depends what part of BC she's in. "There are a multitude of cultures in BC with their own differences, particularly between the coast and interior BC... First people in the interior of BC are said to have been nomadic, which isn't quite correct, it's more that they had a seasonal round, but they were still based in an area. They used to have large villages that could hold up to several thousand people in some places."

When she finds a likely place she begins digging, with the help of people she hires from local first nations bands. "We dig holes in the ground 30 cm by 30 cm and as deep as we can and sift the dirt with a hand screen and look for artifacts. If we find anything I do a recording and assess the site. Most times the client will just change the boundary of their road or project they were going to do to avoid the site. If not I'll do a mitigation for them which is what most people think of as archeology, where we remove the site in a systematic fashion so we can get the information out of it. Once a site has been disturbed, a lot of the ability to interpret the information is gone."

First nations usually have a very close connection to the sites. "I work very closely with those communities in my work... I've met some amazingly wonderful people." She's learned sometimes things work very different up north and on reserves. "It's not only like an urban/rural think but it's like some of the guys explain to me 'it's like I live in a small town where I'm related to everybody.'" When asked if this is kind of like being a lesbian, she laughs; "Kind of, I guess so, although I'm not sure they'd characterize it that way... Generally my experience has been really good. The only downside is that I travel a lot, I live in Victoria and am gone from the beginning of May until it snows, which is usually in December. I'm on the road everywhere from the artic coast [on down]. I do a lot of diamond mine work, gold mine work. I inventory it, and if it's significant I'll make that assessment and in discussion with the first nation about how it's going to be managed. I try not to make any recommendations that anyone can't live with. It's a direct connection with their past and their culture and it's important that it be treated really respectfully."

Upcoming Events: West Coast Canadian Women's 50+ Gathering September 8-11 Coast Plaza Hotel

FERRON & Band: CD Release Concerts: "Turning into Beautiful": Wed October 26, Victoria, Conservatory of Music; Thurs October 27, Vancouver East Cultural Centre; Friday October 28, The Club, Gibsons Landing

More info at:
www.soundsandfuries.com

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There isn't a big visible lesbian community up north so it's harder to get connected when she's on the road, especially for a single gal. "I do feel kind of isolated, I've been able to make some friends in Kamloops and Vernon, and I'll go dances if I'm in the neighbourhood and it's happening at the same time, just to get a bit of an injection. And I'll ask people if they know anyone in the area... If they're there, they're very quiet about it... I'm not totally comfortable about being out up there. Some of the native folks and clients that I work with are conservative, and it's my personal life." The up side of being up north is "nobody's ever even questioned" whether she's gay, since there are a lot of rural straight women that look pretty dykey.

(Continued on page 8)



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Logo: Jayde Ly

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Lq@sophiakelly.ca

100% Lesbian.

LQ is a magazine about lesbians – our achievements, our knowledge, our events and interests.

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LQ is self supporting through advertising. Help us grow by advertising in LQ.

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Editorial Guidelines: LQ is committed to showcasing the knowledge and achievements of BC women who describe themselves as lesbian, and to being 100% lesbian written. Intended audience is lesbian-identified women over 30. Lesbians with professional or trade knowledge to share are encouraged to contact LQ for an interview at lq@sophiakelly.ca. Lesbian writers, artists or poets interested in contributing may contact the editor for more information.

The editor reserves the right to edit content, and to print or not print anything she wants.

A word about the 'L-Word': Dykes are debonair, bi's are beautiful, queer women are quirky and gay women are gorgeous. LQ is unfashionably lesbian-focused, but welcomes readers with other choices. LQ's use of 'lesbian' includes legally-identified women who label themselves lesbian.

Archeology in BC...

(Continued from page 7)

How does being a lesbian inform her work? "I'm more sensitive to where others are coming from. I'm an anthropologist equally as I'm a lesbian. I try and be as respectful as I can, just in terms of the language that I use and how I am in those communities." It's really important to her to be out, to provide strong role models for younger lesbians. This commitment is "inspired by what I've learned from friends I have made in First Nation communities that have been on a healing path (mostly recovery from addiction) about the importance of being honest with oneself and not being ashamed." - **Bonnie Campbell can be reached at maven@shaw.ca.**

Ellen Woodsworth...

(Continued from page 3)

force, said that "real credit goes to Ellen for having the determination and initiative to identify this area and to say indeed we can do something about this... She has been the person who saw the way forward and provided the clear leadership for all of us. The way she's persisted, not just here in council, but throughout her life, she's been a model to us all."

Although the position and strategy has been created, if the council and mayor elected this fall decide not to continue to support it, it's funding could be cut. By electing two strong feminists and enough of their allies so they could get something done, important work was started to improve life for Vancouver women. Let's see if this November, we can elect more women and more lesbians to office to continue with the good work Ellen Woodsworth and Anne Roberts have done. With 52% of the population in Canada being women, it is not good enough that only 21.7% of people elected to local government are women, placing Canada behind countries such as Costa Rica (73%), Chile (48%), Sweden (42%), Bolivia (34%), Finland (31%), Ghana (30%), South Africa (29%), and the United Kingdom (27%). Some ways to help lesbian and women politicians get elected are to:

- Become a member of a party that does things you believe in, and help them choose lesbian and women candidates.
- Sign up members for the party, prior to the nomination meetings who are likely to vote for candidates you support a few months in advance of the nomination meetings
- Invite your candidate to speak at events so she can garner support.
- Introduce her to community leaders and others who might support her.
- Get out and vote for women.