

Exclusive interview with Chukki, Donna, Skully, Frankie, Butchy, Renee Irenestein, and Patty O'Furniture.

the dyketones



by Renee LaChance

The moment they hit the stage you are transferred to the era of poodle skirts, and saddle shoes, bouffant hairdos and slicked-back DA's. A time of air raids and bomb shelters, Elvis Presley and sock hops. A time when it was politically incorrect for a lesbian to label herself anything other than butch or femme. Mixing music and theatre the Dyketones recreate the attitudes of the '50s.

Seven years ago the Dyketones started as a living room lark, and from there grew to be a musical institution in Portland. At their first concert New Year's Eve '77, they performed

their six song repertoire three times, including a song by one of their many personae Little Lila and the Lemmings singing "I will follow her."

"We weren't sure whether we would be accepted by those women or not," Chukki Linguini remembers. "Butch/femme was politically incorrect then, but fortunately we didn't have any negative reactions. In fact, we had women swooning and kissing our feet, being really crazy."

They were a success at that first event, and for the following year the Dyketones spent every Sunday afternoon rehearsing and brainstorming bits for their act in preparation for the Northwest Women's Music Festival that was held in Portland in '78. They per-