



Building Community

by Cathy Siemens

"Building Community, Common Ground for the Future," is the theme of Portland's first lesbian conference to be held at Portland State University Nov. 8 and 9. The event is co-sponsored by PSU Women's Studies, PSU Women's Union and the Lesbian Community Project. The conference goals are:

1. to affirm the relevance and vigor of lesbian community
2. to generate energy and commitment toward strengthening lesbian community
3. to take the first step on action plans for community development
4. to include all interested lesbians.

The conference will be an opportunity for Portland lesbians from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to come together for two days and develop the kind of dialogue that

will expand our understanding and appreciation of one another.

Community Development

The conference will also focus on planning for a better future. Three proposals for action will be submitted to the group for discussion, development and possible adoption:

1. to commission a task force to study the feasibility of a self-sustaining Lesbian Community Center within guidelines set by the conference, develop a plan, and make a progress report and recommendation in six months.
2. to establish a Lesbian Community Coordinating Committee that will be responsible for disseminating information, mobilizing community response to issues, developing a progressive lesbian political presence empowering spokeswomen/contact women
3. to establish a Lesbian Resource Committee to develop and manage a system of community tithing and fundraising to be used by and for the Lesbian Community.

These proposals were developed from survey data collected from the Portland lesbian community. They respond to the frequently expressed desires for a community that is both more socially and politically active and financially empowered.

These proposals are only suggestions. They need all of our good thinking, creativity, and support if they are to manifest successfully. What do you think? How can you help?

Workshops & Networking

In addition to work sessions on the proposals a wide variety of workshops will be offered from "Women and Computers" to "Artificial Insemination."

Besides the structured workshops, conference goers will have an opportunity to call an impromptu rap group, caucus, or network-

ing session on any issue or area of interest.

The conference is designed to provide both structure and flexibility.

The Blues Sisters will play their hard-hitting dance music for an evening of partying and celebration, place to be announced.

Surprise & Guests

Expect the unexpected. We're not giving away all our secrets about the conference. Aisha Masakella, co-director of the Lesbian Resource Center in Seattle and Carmen Vasquez, director of the San Francisco Women's Building, will be on hand. They'll be joined by Z. Budapest with her lively look at the goddess.

The Conference — A Note

This conference is a first for Portland. In spite of our careful planning it is inevitable that we will make mistakes. Each day has a built-in evaluation session so that you can help us learn from our mistakes and point out our successes. Your participation and feedback is important.

Margo Adair workshop due

Margo Adair, author, teacher and activist, will be in Portland Oct. 18, 19 for a discussion of her new book and will facilitate a workshop on spirituality and politics. Ms. Adair is author of *Working Inside Out: Tolls for Change*.

The Lesbian Community Project and PSU Women's Studies will host Ms. Adair in a reading from her book and discussion on Sat., Oct. 18 at 8:30 p.m. On Sun., Oct. 19, Ms. Adair will lead an intensive workshop focused on bringing the human element into politics and political awareness into spiritual practice.

The workshop will run from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring a floor cushion, sack lunch and snacks, and plan to work through lunch. Both events

are wheelchair accessible and childcare will be provided. Reservations for childcare must be made by Oct. 10th. Contact LCP to reserve space.

Sat., Oct. 8, Discussion/reading, \$5-\$10.
Sun., Oct. 9 Workshop, \$10-\$15, Sliding Scale, \$8 PSU Students.

Both events will be held at PSU, Smith Center.

Ms. Adair's book is available at A Woman's Place Bookstore.

Softball a success

The Lesbian Community Project Invitational Softball Tournament was a great success. Five teams — Primary Domain Furies, Darcelles, Circle Chiropractic Adjusters, 927 Thunderbirds and Helen's Pacific Costumers all played good games.

First place trophy went to Helen's Pacific Costumers, second place to the 927 Thunderbirds. Play started at 10:00 a.m. and the championship game ended about 6:30 p.m. Throughout the day an estimated 100 fans consumed 15 watermelons. A good time was had by all — the players, the fans, the kids, and the dogs.

Special thanks goes to BJ for her excellent organizing and to Dionne for hours of watermelon cutting.

For information
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236-1252

IS IT SAFE TO HAVE UNSAFE SEX WITH YOUR LOVER?

Many men have the mistaken idea that Unsafe Sex with a lover is safe, especially if the relationship is monogamous.

That is rarely true. For more of us, there is no safe way to have Unsafe Sex during the AIDS epidemic.

Nearly all of the publicity about AIDS has focused on avoiding Unsafe Sex with multiple partners. That is because from an epidemiological point of view, Unsafe Sex with multiple partners spreads AIDS far more widely than Unsafe Sex with a single partner.

Monogamous relationships do cut down on the spread of AIDS, but they don't guarantee the safety of the men in the relationships.

No one knows for certain just how much re-exposure to the virus is

required for the disease to result. The body's defenses may be able to resist some quantity of the virus, but at some point, if you continue to be exposed (even to viruses from the same person), your body's defenses may be overcome.

It is not safe to have Unsafe Sex with your lover (or anyone else), UNLESS:

1. You have BOTH been in an EXCLUSIVELY monogamous relationship with each other for at least seven years AND neither of you has shared IV needles, had transfusions, or used other blood products; OR

2. You have both been tested for HTLV-3 antibodies twice over a six-month period and have both received negative test results and

haven't since been exposed.

Hardly anyone qualifies! Caring about your partner these days means protecting one another from re-exposure to the virus. Try new and safer ways of sexual expression. Use condoms if you have anal sex. **Avoid Unsafe Sex.**

Take care of one another. Take care of the community. There is nothing you can do about the past. There is a great deal you can do about the future.

If you would like more information or assistance, help is available. The Cascade AIDS Project, 223-5907 can provide the latest information on AIDS-risk and AIDS-prevention, as well as other referrals. CAP's "New Attitudes" sessions, held monthly,

are safer sex workshops that give you the opportunity to learn about and discuss your safer sex concerns in a comfortable, supportive atmosphere.



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Call for more information.

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