

the **Bridge**

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St. Louis, Mo.

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Gay Women Gather

Lesbians in St. Louis have begun getting together as a group to create positive alternatives to our common problems as gay women. We feel that as lesbians we have very few resources that are in support of our lifestyles. We realize that we must create our own lesbian-identified structures to replace the destructive and distorted ways in which institutional mental health has "helped" us and to augment the very limited amount of places that we can go to express ourselves openly and to meet other gay women.

One of the first things we have done as a group is to start potluck dinners to get to know each other better. Any women who feel that they might be gay or definitely know that they are gay are invited to our monthly "new people" potluck dinners, set up to enhance meeting each other in a comfortable and unthreatening way. The next potluck will be on Sunday, March 11 at 7:00 pm.

Another project that women in our group have worked on is a women's coffeehouse. The opening night is Friday, March 2. The door is open from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am and will be open at those hours on every Friday thereafter. We are asking a donation of \$.50 to cover rent and bills. There will be refreshments and entertainment as well as a "library" of books by, for, and about women.

Some women have begun a rap group referral service for gay women. A list of interested women is kept and when there are enough for a comfortable-sized group (usually six to eight women), a rap group meeting is set up. Gay women who want to talk to other gay women in a semi-organized group can call the number given below this article.

We have also begun working on other projects, such as a lesbian counseling and counseling referral service, a lesbian newsletter, and a lesbian band. These projects have begun out of needs of women who have been meeting so far. Many other projects are possible — limited only by the imagination and desires of the women who get involved.

We have lived divided and hassled and bored for too long! If you are a gay woman who feels at all this way, you should get in touch with us.

For information on the women's coffeehouse and the potluck information on the gay women's rap groups, call 862-0811.