

Where Have All the Lesbians Gone?

Meg Torwl, 2000

Singer 0:00

[To the tune of "Where have all the flowers gone?"] Where have all the lesbians gone, a long time passing? Where have all the lesbians gone a long time ago? Where have all the lesbians gone, Vancouver, Island and everyone. When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?

Speaker 1 0:31

Out on Screen? The queer film festival? It started out as the Lesbian Film Festival. What's up with that? Does anybody remember? When lesbian week, international lesbian week was for lesbians? Post Modernism, New Age breakfast cereal, get your day off to a liberal start. I can't stand it.

Speaker 2 0:56

You know, I really think that the didactic discourse of post modernism has rendered the identity of lesbian redundant.

Speaker 1 1:04

Bullshit! First, there was lesbian chic. Remember that in the late 80s, early 90s. It was very, very cool. Everybody wanted to be a lesbian. Well, what's up with that? And now, now! you don't hear about lesbians at all. Remember when we had a lesbian center? Remember collectives? Working in a collective or that consensus decision making, trying to change the world changed the way we work together? It wasn't all fun. But it was ours. This is where the Vancouver Lesbian Center used to be. But where have all the political lesbians gone? They moved to the burbs? Are they having babies?

Speaker 2 2:02

[Approaches woman on a scooter on the street as she opens the entrance door to an LGBTQ centre, revealing a flight of steep stairs] So, do you think there's any lesbians in the gay lesbian bisexual transsexual center?

Speaker 3 2:08

How should I know? I can't get up. There's all these stairs!

Speaker 4 2:10

[] in Vancouver. It has a lot to do with age. If you're a little bit different if you're not you know, into S&M that maybe you're not as good a dyke as somebody else. I like who I am. I like my body. I like myself. I like the way I have sex. I like the women I have sex with. I like my relationship. I'm really happy being me. But I'm also pretty lonely being me in Vancouver. And that was a surprise. I mean, back in Ottawa, where we heard about Trout Lake in Vancouver. And we heard about this amazing dyke land. So, to come here, and quite part of it was a little bit strange. But that's not to insult all the wonderful people who did take me in and give me a house and a home. Not feel welcome, because my jeans are too ripped or too old. We could be having a lot more fun out here. No, I don't think the same thing. I was smiling at another woman because you have something in common or because she's worth getting to know, on any level. And now that I'm in a smaller city, I do feel those connections again. That's a nice thing.

Speaker 5 3:25

[Footage of the ferry] And we heard there might be some lesbians in Roberts Creek. So, we went to see. [POV view of a person searching in the forest]. But we couldn't find any there either.

Radio Announcer 3:35

[A woman is lounging in a yard listening to the radio] In the news today. Two lesbians in Uganda have been arrested at a gay and lesbian organization meeting they have been imprisoned and are awaiting trial. Here in Vancouver police report a poster campaign against lesbians. These posters include threats of rape and death. The police are treating it as a hate crime. All women in Afghanistan cannot leave their homes unless accompanied by a male relative and every part of their bodies is covered by clothing. Women are forbidden to work to seek medical care, education or to speak in public. Over the past 10 years, more than 100 women have gone missing from the downtown east side of Vancouver. These women are assumed dead. Many of these women are from the First Nations and police have no leads and no ongoing investigations.

[Images of protesters at a Take Back the Night rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery.]

First Nations activist, Viola Thomas 4:49

[Addressing the protesters from the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery] Thank you to the Coast Salish people for your kindness and your generosity for allowing us to be in their territory. We are honoured. We stand here tonight to take back the night. Can you imagine waking up in a world where there is no such thing as violence? Can you imagine in a world, such as Vancouver, that there could be no violence? Could you ever imagine, Canada, even thinking of helping our women who are dying on the streets of violence? I ask you to remember the 128 missing women in the Downtown Eastside? I asked you to think about that the fact is that the majority of those women are Aboriginal women who have gone

missing and who have died brutal deaths. I ask you to remember, in whichever way that you pray, that you think of those women so that we can find justice for those women.

[Night shots of protesters marching in the street]

Crowd chanting:

Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Patriarchy has got to go!

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

K. Knights, VIVO Media Arts Centre

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