



September 1992

lesbian uprisings!

Two Dollars

LU! Events

Wednesday, September 16 - Book group discusses The Beauty Myth by Naomi Wolf -- how images of beauty are used against women. Now out in paperback and a Quality Paperback Book Club selection too. Meet at Gail's, 1835 Clay (buzzer #19) in SF. 6:30 socialize; 7 pm discussion begins. Info call 441-6238. (The group meets one week later this month to avoid conflicts with the previous long weekend.)

Tuesday, September 22 - Political group considers Lesbians and Electoral Politics: What's in it for us? Why participate? To vote or not to vote? What about third party initiatives? At Marianne's, 120 Clipper in SF. 6:30 socialize; 7 pm discussion. Call 695-2863.

Wednesday October 14 - Book group will discuss Lillian Faderman's Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers (also recently released in paperback). Begin now to read this exciting herstory of 20th century US Lesbian life; there's a lot in it. Stay tuned for details on location or call Rochelle at 664-3240. Discussion will begin at 7 pm (after social time at 6:30).

Also of Interest

Addresses and phone numbers of most calendar resources are listed at the end of this section.

September is Latina/Latino Heritage Month.

Thru Sunday, September 13 - "Pasion por Frida," photographs, memorabilia and art works by Frida Kahlo and other artists inspired by her work. Mexican Museum, Building D, Fort Mason Center in SF. Call 441-0445.

Thru Saturday, September 26 - 111th Annual Exhibition featuring nine Bay Area women artists at SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut. Reception for the artists on September 9 from 5:30-7:30 pm. 771-7020.

Thru Sunday, September 27 - Holly Near's "Fire in the Rain...Singer in the Storm" at MarkTaperForum in LA. Tickets 213/365-3500 or 714/740-2000.



Thru Friday, October 2 - "Paper Trails," works on and of paper at SF Women Artists Gallery, 370 Hayes in SF. Tue-Sat 11-6; Thur 11-8. 552-7392.

Thru October 10 - "Living With the Enemy," Donna Ferrato's photographic investigation of domestic violence in the US will be displayed along with the Claiborne bus shelter posters at Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission in SF. Call 431-6911. (See Lesbi-End Notes for more details.)

Thru Sunday, November 1 - Faith Ringgold, a 25-year survey of quilt making and other fabric works at Mills College Art Gallery, 5000 MacArthur in Oakland. 510/430-2164. (Faith Ringgold is one of my personal faves; I think she's one of the most innovative, delightful and exciting artists working today. If you're not familiar with her wonderful art, this should be a great opportunity.)

Wednesday, September 9 - Gloria Steinem and Cesar Chavez host a benefit for the Pesticide Education Center at Herbst Theatre, Van Ness at McAllister in SF. 7:30 pm. General admission tickets are \$15; call City Box Office at 392-4400.

Wednesday, September 9 - Joan Armatrading in concert at Berkeley Community Theater, 8 pm. Tickets 510/762-BASS.

Wednesday, September 9 - Midlife Lesbian Support Group facilitated by Lee Bowman, LCSW, begins for Lesbians over 40. Focus on personal issues; midlife transitions, sex, relationships, health, aging and change. Eight-week group, Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8 pm. Low cost. To register call OPTIONS for Women Over Forty at 431-6405.

Thursday, September 10 - Demonstrate for environmental justice; fight against Chevron's toxic racism and support Richmond (Chevron continues to dump toxins into this low income community of color). Rally at noon at Chevron headquarters, 555 Market at Second (near Montgomery BART). Info call 510/232-3427.

Thursday, September 10 - 500 Years of Resistance Through Women's Eyes: Building Community. Speakers Judy Talaugon, American Indian Movement and Gloria Alonzo of National Committee to Free Puerto

Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners; video footage from Mothering Earth by local video producers Patsy Northcutt, Kristin Rains and Ellen Goodman. All at New College, 777 Valencia, Room 12, at 7:30 pm. Women Against Imperialism at 995-4735.

Thursday, September 10 - Cynthia Kadohata, author of The Floating World, will read from her new novel, In the Heart of the Valley of Love, a stark vision of a new world order set in the Los Angeles of 2052. Free at Modern Times, 7:30 pm.

Thursday, September 10 - "Creating Our Own Mythology," a women's reading and discussion group, will meet to discuss Clarissa Pinkola Estes' book, Women Who Run with the Wolves: Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype. The group will discuss the first seven stories and will meet at the home of Hazel Payne and Linda Schomaker, 429 Lincoln Way, SF. Please RSVP at 753-6733.

Thursday, September 10 - "Tellin' It Like It Tis," the long-awaited Lesbian of color issue of Sinister Wisdom has its debut at Old Wives Tales with local contributors reading and discussing their lives. \$3-10; 8 pm.

Thursday, September 10 thru Saturday, October 17 - Theatre Rhino opens its 15th season with "Bent," by Martin Sherman. The play deals with Nazi persecution of gays and its shocking relevance to today's political climate. Call 861-5079 for info.

Thursday, September 10 - Book reading and signing of Loss of the Ground-Note: Women Writing About the Loss of Their Mothers, edited by Helen Vozenilek, at Different Light, 7:30 pm. Free.

Friday, September 11 - Early registration deadline for National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's fifth annual Creating Change Conference to be held at the LA Airport Hilton from November 13-15, 1992. Costs will range from \$45-190 depending on time and type of registration. Contact Catherine Carter, NGLTF Policy Institute, 1734 14th Street NW Washington DC 20009. 202/332-6483.

Friday, September 11 - Mimi Fox treats us to jazz and blues with guitar and vocals at Mama Bears. 8 pm; \$8-10.

Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12 (and September 18-19) - Footwork/Dancer's Group presents "Overlapping Clothes," dances exploring

passion, intimacy and desire between women. Choreographed by Jill Togawa with the Purple Moon Dance Project. At Footwork, 3221 22nd Street (near Mission) in SF. 8:30 pm; \$10. Reservations and info 824-5044.

Saturday, September 12 - The Rainbow of Sisterhood 13th Annual "Git Together" from 11 til 7 pm at Pinewood Site in Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland. Bring stuff to BBQ, a shared item for 8-10 people, \$2-4 donation, games, blankets, music tapes (no alcohol). Sponsored by Aché. Call Sandra at 510/273-2421.

Saturday, September 12 - "Dancing With the Dark: The Dark Goddesses as Healing Allies," improvisational dance and intuitive process for womyn. 551 Mandana Street in Oakland from 10 am - 1:30 pm. \$5-15 with preregistration required. Call Calite Mathis at 510/452-1906.

Saturday, September 12 - Wilderness Women announces a full-moon hike in the East Bay to welcome the coming of Fall. Call Suz at 510/547-6909 for details.

Saturday, September 12 - Woman in the Moon Publications, a Black-woman-owned specialty press announces a gala fundraising event, "Kiss and Tell," to raise funds for the company and for publication of The Lesbian and Gay Wedding Album. Featuring a down-home, but elegant, dinner, dancing, performance by SDiane Bogus, slide show and more. \$20 adv/\$25 at door. Hattie Porter Hall, First Unitarian Church, 106 Third Avenue in San Jose.

Sunday, September 13 - Share with other women in a book reading/signing of Loss of the Ground-Note: Women Writing About the Loss of Their Mothers, edited by Helen Vozenilek at Mama Bears from 3-5 pm.

Sunday, September 13 - Sweet Honey in the Rock performs at Zellerbach Auditorium, UC Berkeley at 7:00 pm. Tickets \$21 and \$18 through BASS and Cal Performances Box Office, 510/642-9988.

Monday, September 14 - Susan Sontag returns to Black Oak Books to read from her new novel, The Volcano Lover at 7:30. (Even Sontag herself says this is the best book she has ever written. Come see for yourself.)

Tuesday, September 15 - "Dance!" an evening with Gabrielle Roth, artistic creator of various musical

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recordings. Featuring conga drummers and other special music and sponsored by GAIA. St. John's Hunter Hall, 2727 College Avenue in Berkeley. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$22 adv; \$25 at the door.

Tuesday, September 15 - Margie Adam performs in a benefit for Women's Cancer Resource Center at Mama Bears. 8 pm. \$15.

Wednesday, September 16 - Dorothy Allison reads from Bastard out of Carolina at Black Oak Books, 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, September 16 - Lucha Corpi will read from her new mystery novel, Eulogy for a Brown Angel, which introduces Gloria Damasco, a young Chicana activist, who unravels a trail of murder set against the Chicano movement in LA. Free at Modern Times, 7:30.

Thursday, September 17 - Techniques and Topics in Witchcraft, Dark Goddesses Series Part 2, "The Three Faces of Black Anna." Chris Rossi at Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph in Oakland. 7:30 pm. \$10. Call 510/653-3244.

Thursday, September 17 - Carolyn Merchant, author of The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and Scientific Revolution, discusses her new work, Radical Ecology: The Search for a Livable World. 7:30 at Black Oak Books.

Thursday, September 17 - Cathy Gonzalez and others of Nicaragua Network give observations of their recent trip to Nicaragua at La Peña. 7:30; donations requested.

Thursday, September 17 - Margaret Cruikshank discusses her new book, The Gay and Lesbian Liberation Movement. Free at Modern Times, 7:30 pm.

Thursday, September 17 - Berkeley writer Linnea Due reads from her third novel, Life Savings, a story revolving around the lives of a group of 40-something Lesbian tradeswomen. Old Wives Tales at 8 pm. Admission \$3-10 benefits Women's Voices but no one turned away.

Friday, September 18 - Celebrate and support the Women's Building renovation at "Building a Room of Our Own." They're throwing a building-wide party to show off their snazzy new second floor and honor the tradeswomen who helped with the renovation. The event is further brightened by Mary Watkins, Jo Ann

Loulan, Chris Welch (KPFA), Aileen Hernandez, Carmen de Monteflores, Rashida Oji and many others, as well as fabulous finger foods, desserts, wines and other beverages. \$10 in advance; \$12 at door. From 6-9 pm at the Women's Building. Info call 431-1180.

Friday, September 18 - Celebrate Visionary Voices with Penny Rosenwasser and others at the book party at Mama Bears. 8 pm; no cover charge.

Friday, September 18 thru Sunday, September 20 - Lavender Life Support; Visioning Alternatives for Assisted Living and Dignified Death at Mercy Medical Center Community Education Building in Roseburg Oregon. Sponsored by Womansource. If you'd like more information about this event (enrollment limited to 100 women), contact LLS/Womansource, PO Box 335, Ashland OR 97520.

Saturday, September 19 - Gay sports day on Angel Island. Run, hike, bicycle around the island, play softball, football, volleyball, croquet. Co-ed; bring food to share. Sponsored by Wilderness Women. Call 546-2896 for ferry info.

Saturday, September 19 - BACW presents an event for women, "Motown: Blast from Your Past; a Supreme Temptation." Dance from 8:30 to 1 am at Olive Oil's on Pier 50, 295 China Basin (off Third) in SF. Surprise DJ, no host bar. \$10 in advance; \$13 at the door. 495-5393.

Saturday, September 19 - Over Our Heads, improv comedy and music at Mama Bears. 8 pm; women only; \$7-9. Reservations suggested.

Saturday, September 19 - The Women's Philharmonic sponsors a country western dance benefit from 7 pm to midnight. First Unitarian Church, Geary and Franklin in SF. Tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Call 543-2297 to charge by phone.

Saturday, September 19 - Rep. Nancy Pelosi sponsors two neighborhood meetings focusing on women's health issues. 10 am at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street and at 1 pm at Marina Middle School Auditorium, 3500 Fillmore. 556-4862.

Saturday, September 19 - Lesbian/Gay Benefit Honoring 500 Years of Resistance with Lea DeLaria, Midgett the Sexpert, and comedian Tom Ammiano. Music by Debbie Fier with Carolyn Brandy. Also

featuring poetry and drumming with Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien and Kyos Featherdancing and Vicki Dello Joio; belly dancers Happy Hyder and Sharon Page Ritchie; special guest Patrick Hooty Croy (Norma Jean's brother). 7 pm at SF Women's Building. \$10-15 suggested but no one turned away. Proceeds to Norma Jean Croy, Native American Lesbian political cultural prisoner and the International Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples and Oppressed Nations organized by AIM. Sponsored by LAGAI, Revolting Lesbians and others. To reserve childcare or for info call 285-1340.

Sunday, September 20 - Tradeswomen sponsors a women's day at the Ft. Miley Ropes Course. Spend an exhilarating all day adventure combining individual challenges of climbing, balance and agility with group collaboration and support. All skill levels welcome. Cost is \$40. Call Helen to reserve at 510/652-0715.

Sunday, September 20 - "How to Stay Healthy Longer" presented by Judith Martin, M.D. and sponsored by GLOE and OLOC. Addressing questions about the positive measures old women can take to decrease or prevent the loss of functioning. Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero in SF at 3 pm. Info call GLOE at 626-7000, ext. 137.

Sunday, September 20 - Tracy Johnston, who rafted down Borneo's treacherous (and never previously fully navigated) Boh River and lived to write about it, discusses Shooting the Boh: A Woman's Voyage Down the Wildest River in Borneo. 7:30 at Black Oak Books.

Sunday, September 20 - Lesbian Town Meeting to create, design, plan, promote, incite, project, activate, conspire, expedite, further, devise and implement Lesbian Visibility at the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. Mama Bears from 3-5 pm. All women welcome. Info call 510/655-4486.

**Queers are revolting!
It's about time.**

**APRIL 25
1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON
for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights & Liberation**

Phone: SF Bay Area 510/655-4486 • Sacramento 916/251-0582 • San Jose 408/293-AGAY

Monday, September 21 - Career Support Group begins for midlife Lesbians who are unemployed, changing careers, newly employed or under-employed. Eight-week group facilitated by Lloyd French, M.S. career counselor. Mondays from 6-8 pm. Low cost. To register, call Options for Women Over 40 at 431-6405.

Tuesday, September 22 - Celebrate the Autumn Equinox.

Wednesday, September 23 - Tracy Chapman performs at the Warfield Theater, 982 Market Street (between 5th and 6th) in SF, at 8 pm. Tickets through BASS. (She's also at Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa on September 21 in case you can't make the Wednesday concert.)

Wednesday, September 23 thru Sunday September 27 - Asian American Dance Performances presents "West Coast Sweep," commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Japanese-American internment. Unbound Spirit's Repertory Concert with guest choreographer, Jill Togawa, the poetry of Janice Mirikatani and many other artists. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida Street (between 17th and Mariposa) in SF. Wed-Sat at 8; Sun at 2 pm. Tickets \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Charge by phone at 621-7797.

Thursday, September 24 - Janet Turner Hospital will read from her new novel, The Last Magician, about sexual obsession and social ostracism. Free at Modern Times, 7:30 pm.

Thursday, September 24 - Margaret Cruikshank reads from The Gay and Lesbian Liberation Movement at Old Wives Tales. 8 pm; \$3-10.

Friday, September 25 - Sarah Waddington (attorney of Roe v. Wade fame) discusses her new book, A Question of Choice, her personal struggles for women's reproductive rights, at Cody's, 2454 Telegraph in Berkeley. Free at 8 pm. (Arrive early as seating is limited.) 510/845-7852.

Friday, September 25 - Gloria Naylor (Women of Brewster Place and Linden Hills) reads from her newest novel, Bailey's Cafe, at Black Oak Books, 7:30 pm.

Friday, September 25 - Feminist sci-fi fantasy fan night at Mama Bears with panel and open discussions by both authors and enthusiasts on what we do and don't like, what patterns we see in books by women sci-fi

Art Group
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fantasy writers. With Laurie Edison, Debbie Notkin, Alta Brewer, Cynthia McQuillin and others. 8 pm for \$5. Women only; reservations suggested.

Friday, September 25 thru Sunday, October 4 - Backpack in the Grand Canyon with Wilderness Women. Call Jennifer at 510/653-1695.

Friday, September 25 thru Sunday, September 27 - Women's Weekend 2 on the Russian River. Fifes will have country/western dance lessons and a crafts fair all day Saturday. The Woods will feature Over Our Heads and dancing Friday with Melanie DeMore on Saturday. Sunday's Day on the Green Concert at 1 pm. highlights Rhiannon and Thelma Houston. Tickets are available at the door or at Clairelight or Headlines. Reservations for camping and lodging should be made through the various resorts or campgrounds themselves.

Saturday, September 26 - "Organizing Across the Color Line: Lesson from South Central" coffeehouse, multiracial panel of activists in dialog on what caused the LA rebellion and how we can organize across race, gender and sexual preference lines. At Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia Street. Sponsored by Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women. Call 864-1278 for time and other details.

Saturday, September 26 - Linda Tillery, vocals and Susan Muscarella, keyboards get down with rhythm and blues, jazz, gospel, and African-American folk songs. 8 pm at Mama Bears. \$9 with reservations suggested. Women only.

Sunday, September 27 - Second Annual Volunteer Fair will be held at the Women's Building in SF. 12:30-3:30 pm. Co-sponsored by Bay Area Career Women and the Women's Building. Reps from approximately 30 community organizations serving Lesbians and other women will be on hand to talk with women about volunteer opportunities. A great way to contribute to a cause you believe in and meet some new people as well as find out more about the community. Admission is free with entertainment by local musicians and comics. Food and beverages will be sold. Call Elizabeth Burton at 474-7919.

Sunday, September 27 - Jill Knight plays original acoustic rock at The Tea Spot Cafe, 2072 San Pablo at Addison. 7-9 pm, \$8. 510/848-7376.

Wednesday, September 30 - Susan Griffin reads from her newest book, A Chorus of Stones: The Private

Life of War. Many years in the writing, this is a radical rethinking of the nature of war and gender. Black Oak Books at 7:30 pm.

Thursday, October 1 thru Sunday, October 11 - Brava! for Women in the Arts presents Jamaican-born poet, playwright and director, Ahdri Zhina Mandiela, fresh from Toronto with a new solo stage experience - Dub Theatre, featuring her original rap poetry of word, sound and movement. "Dark Diaspora - In Dub," at 2180 Bryant in SF. Thur-Sun at 8 pm; Sun at 3 pm. Tickets \$10-12 at 641-7657.

Thursday, October 1 - "Images of Sappho," very special slide show/lecture presentation about the greatest of Greek lyric poets by Joan Capra at Mama Bears, 7:30 pm; \$7. Reservations suggested

Thursday, October 1 thru Sunday, October 4 - "Put Columbus on Trial" - Join International Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples and Oppressed Nations in the US as well as Women Against Imperialism and other groups at Mission High School for the International Tribunal. Make women's struggles seen and heard. Call 552-1992 for further info.

Friday, October 2 thru Monday, October 12 - Action to Stop Nuclear Testing on the Shoshone people's land in Nevada. Contact Women of the Earth, PO Box 364, Nevada City CA 95959. (Part of Healing Global Wounds: Indigenous Forum and Ceremony called by Western Shoshone Nation and Global Anti-Nuclear Alliance. 510/839-5877.)

Friday, October 2 - Book party for the Lesbians of color issue of Sinister Wisdom "Tellin' It Like It Tis," at Mama Bears. 8 pm; no cover charge but reservations suggested.

Saturday, October 3 - Opening night of the Women's Philharmonic with Eugenia Zuckerman on flute, playing a world premiere by Libby Larsen and other fine music. 8 pm at First Congregational Church, Post and Mason Streets in SF. Individual tickets by calling 543-2297 (or subscribe to the entire series).

Sunday, October 4 - Koko Motion plays erotic dance music at Tea Spot Cafe, 2072 San Pablo at Addison. 7-9 pm; women only; \$10. Call 510/848-7376.

Thursday, October 8 - Elizabeth Pincus, an ex-private eye who now lives in SF, reads from her first full-length

novel, Two-Bit Tango, a feminist mystery at Old Wives Tales. 8 pm. \$3-10 benefits Women's Voices.

Friday night, October 9 thru Monday afternoon, October 12 - Northern California Women Making Music Retreat with singer-songwriters Judy Fjell, Crystal Reeves, other musicians, and local northern California women. Workshops, song circles and dancing in a supportive atmosphere for all levels of musicianship. At Valley of the Moon Camp, Glen Ellen (near Sonoma). Cost for the entire 3-day weekend is \$200-250 sliding scale. Send \$50 or full amount (checks payable to Sue Dolf) to Judy Fjell, PO Box 2001, Yountville CA 94599. Call 707/944-2420 for more details.

Women's Resources:

Black Oak Books, 1491 Shattuck at Vine in Berkeley. 510/486-0698.

ClaireLight Bookstore, 1110 Petaluma Hill Road, #5, Santa Rosa. 707/575-8879.

Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, SF. 431-0891.

Gaia Bookstore, 1400 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 510/548-9541

Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 3583 16th (near Market), SF. 861-7933.

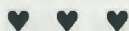
Mama Bears Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 6536 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland. 510/428-9684

Modern Times, 888 Valencia, SF, 282-9246.

Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia Street (at 21st) in SF. 821-4675

La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue (near Ashby BART), Berkeley. 510/849-2568

The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street (between Guerrero and Valencia) in SF. 431-1180.



♀♀♀**Lesbian Uprising!** is a feminist political, educational, and cultural group of Bay Area Lesbians who envision a return to the radical ideals of women's liberation. We work to build cooperation and community among all women by educating and encouraging ourselves, other Lesbians, and other women in this vision and strive to be a group through which Lesbians may work in coalition with other feminist and peace organizations.

If the front of your newsletter is stamped "**Time to Renew Your SUBSCRIPTION**," and/or the date beside your name is more than a year ago (e.g. 5/91), that means please renew right now by using the form at the

end of the newsletter. If we haven't heard from you after three months, we'll regretfully drop your name from the mailing list. Your renewal is crucial, because without your backing, we cannot continue to publish this newsletter. The **ONLY** financial support we have is from you, our readers, so please give generously.

We do very little editing, except occasionally for length. We encourage debate and discussion, but we do not print articles we consider oppressive or demeaning toward ourselves or other women. And just because we run a piece does not mean that we all, or any of us, agree with the thoughts set forth therein. This is a forum for our community, so send us your articles, poems, analysis, thoughts and **especially calendar listings**.

The clothing, furniture and household items you no longer want may be just what somebody else is looking for. Next time you clean out your closet, take the items to **Community Thrift**, allocate the money to Lesbian Uprising! (Account No. 159), and we'll get part of the proceeds. They're at 625 Valencia in SF (861-4910). Thanks to everyone who has donated; we're getting a very good response!

LUI Calendar/ Newsletter
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Recommended subscription
\$20 for one year (12 issues) --
More if you can; less if you can't.

Letters from Lesbians

Women's Choice Health Clinic staff sends this special note - A belated thank you for your contribution to our fundraiser on July 8. Including our flier and calendar announcement in your newsletter was greatly appreciated. The money raised (over \$600) pulled us through a critical time. The best part though was feeling

From ya name use

the incredible support of yourselves and all the other women in the community who helped us out. Our heartfelt thanks for your political work.

[Ed: We appreciate your work in the community as well!]

* * *

Ruston writes: Here is a renewal subscription for one year. Thank you for your continued hard work on this very valuable publication -- it's a very useful calendar, has lots of vital news, and there are also good articles. Definitely the best in the Bay Area! I was very pleased to see LU! on sale at Mama Bears recently, in her beautiful colored covers, especially with those vital, revolutionary words FOR LESBIANS ONLY right on the cover -- indeed, a rare sight these days. I also appreciate your policy of not editing submissions, and not printing oppressive material. Because you have, unfortunately, printed some anti-Butch/Old Dyke/Life-Long Dyke material in the past, I hope you will add these very serious destructive and dangerous oppressions to the list of other oppressions you reject in LU! Thanks again for all your work, in international separatist strength.

* * *

Barbara Hannafan says: Have been reading and enjoying my girlfriend's copy of LU! and finally got around to sending you some money for my own. Since I live in Concord, I can't get to too many of the events, but am glad to know about them. I am on the Human Relations Commission here in Concord, and very active in the feminist community and the gay and Lesbian community -- there are a lot of good things going on and, of course, horrible things such the Traditional Values Coalition -- so strong here. Oh, also, I am involved with BANGLE (Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators) and have been involved in the Book Project and the Scholarship (Bobby Griffith Memorial). Keep up the good work. I do like hearing about the Lesbian Separatists - I am going to write them for more info. Thanks.

* * *

Mary d'Avanzo sends this: Hi remember me? I called you when I was visiting SF from Atlanta. I'm now on a Lesbian-owned organic vegetable farm where I'll be working for the summer.... The farm is owned (actually rented) by two dykes, and it's about two hours outside

Madison WI. It's really beautiful and peaceful here and there are quite a few dykes in the area. It's a very "alternative" part of the country with lots of hippies and pagans. Most of what I've been doing is planting, weeding and harvesting all kinds of organic vegetables. They have about three acres or so, all kinds of veggies and herbs. I'm apprenticing for the summer -- they give me room, board and education and I give them work three days a week (four off). I hope to get a part-time job picking apples for extra money. The womyn here are mostly vegetarian but there don't seem to be many vegans around. They say that's because people here know what's going into their cheese and milk.... I'll be here until October and am still considering moving to SF in the fall.

Announcements

Fat Fridays - End of the week, life in the fat lane, schmoozing at Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission, every first and third Friday from 6-8 pm. All fat dykes and fat queer womyn welcome. For info call Susan at 510/658-3300.

Classism group for middle-class Lesbians seeks new members for discussions, studying, challenging each other about our privilege. Meets every three weeks on Sunday evenings. Call 654-3235 or 763-3305.

Co-Housing from Women Calling all women investors!! We are a group of women with a view toward purchasing property to develop into a women's co-housing community. We have been meeting monthly since March 1991 and have finally found a site with enormous potential and have made a bid. For years we've talked about how we would really like to live safely, in a space we have created, closer to ourselves and each other. Because of the hectic way we live, we are physically and emotionally isolated. Co-housing seems to be a way to achieve the social interactions of village life while still allowing for our needs for privacy. Centralizing and sharing expensive household items is a way to economize and conserve our dwindling resources. We need your help to make our dream of a women's housing community in Berkeley a reality. If you're interested, or want more info, call Denah at 510/254-6610 or Laura and Diana at 510/237-6070.

L.I.P.S. wants other Lesbian artists to help work on ongoing workshops in different media in their studio space. Eat, drink and be creative; just bring your good vibes and cooperative spirit every third Sunday. Registration is a must, so call Pamela at 510/222-4552.

Women's Action Coalition is an open alliance of women committed to direct action on issues affecting the rights of all women. We are witnesses to the current economic, cultural and political pressures that limit women's lives and to the horrifying effect of these limitations. As current legislation fails to support the immediate enactment of an ERA initiative, WAC insists on economic parity and representation for all women and an end to homophobia, racism, religious prejudice and violence against women. We insist on every woman's right to quality health care, child care and reproductive freedom. We will exercise our full creative power to launch a visible and remarkable resistance. WAC is watching. We will take action. WAC women have been meeting in weekly in a variety of SF locations for about a month, usually with several hundred women present. To get involved or to get details, call the WAC hotline at 510/869-2584.

Whiptails are calling for collaborators -- women's collectives uniting to establish a women's space. We are looking for groups interested in joining forces and opening an active community-based operation. We want anything, both big and small commitments from big and small collectives. Call the Whiptail at 267-6979 or Lee at 905-8814.

The **June L. Mazer Lesbian Collection** in West Hollywood is seeking photographs, flyers or other memorabilia related to LA Lesbian events or organizations from 1970-90 for a special LA Lesbian chronology that will appear in the Collection's newsletter. Documents, personal stories, anecdotes are all welcome. Deadline is September 21. Send materials to 626 North Robertson Boulevard in West Hollywood 90069. Info call 310/659-2478.

Taste of Latex editor Lily Braindrop and Girljock editor Roxxie are requesting "butch positive fiction, non-fiction, graphics and photos" for an anthology entitled, Dagger. Deadline is September 15. Info write Dagger, PO Box 2587, Berkeley CA 94702.

April Quaker is putting together an anthology of "dyke dramas." Contributions can deal with any type of drama but must be limited to 1,000 words. Writers will not be paid, but part of the profits will be donated to funding a support network in LA for battered Lesbians. Info from 213/871-033346 or c/o Mayan Quake Productions, 836 N. McCadden Place, Hollywood 90038.



Essays, articles, and a few personal stories about **alternatives that women with cancer** and their women friends have found or created are sought for an anthology titled, Alternatives for Women with Cancer. Deadline is October 15. Write Third Side Press, WCFP Series, 2250 W. Farragus, Chicago 60625.

Cold Iron, an anthology of writing and art by and about **Lesbian, gay and queer prisoners**, is seeking submissions by December 31. Any work reflecting the experience and concerns of Lesbian and gay prisoners, their lovers, families or friends will be considered -- fiction, non-fiction, poetry and letters. Submissions should be 3,000 words or less. Info contact Lin Elliot, c/o Indigenous Thought, 6802 SW 13th Street, Gainesville FL 32608.

Personal narratives and photographs from women who are or have been in relationships with a woman 15 or more years older or younger are being sought for an anthology about intergenerational Lesbian relationships. Deadline is September 30. Contact Pat Rutherford/Stacy Saetta, 3060 Porter Street, Soquel CA 95073.

Old Lesbian Organizing Committee has published its first edition of The Facilitator's Handbook: Confronting Ageism for Lesbians 60 and Older. Regular, braille, tape or large print editions all cost \$12 plus \$3 postage and handling. PO Box 980422, Houston TX 77098.

The Office of the Women's Studies Librarian at University of Wisconsin announces the publication of Women, Race and Ethnicity: A Bibliography, available for \$7.00 from Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison WI 53706. It cites audiovisual as well as print materials and covers Black, Latina, Asian/Pacific, American Indian, Jewish and Euro-American women, including over 2400 annotated entries indexed by subject.

Clothespin Fever Press has taken over the excellent **women's history postcard catalog** from defunct Helaine Victoria Press. The cards celebrate famous women artists and activists from Sojourner Truth and Jane Addams to Rosa Luxemburg and Gertrude Stein. You can get a flier or order cards from them at 5529 North Figueroa Street, LA CA 90042.

The **Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund** is seeking interns to work in its Washington DC office or in the campaigns of recommended openly Lesbian and gay candidates around the US. Send a resume, writing sample, dates of availability, areas of special interest and geographical

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requests. The fund is a donor network of members who agree to join the fund for \$100 or more and pledge to give contributions of \$100 or more to at least two recommended candidates. Info from 202/842-8679.

Astraea Lesbian Foundation awarded Gloria Anzaldúa, Lesbian-feminist poet, the 1992 Sappho Award of Distinction and \$5,000. They also awarded \$11,000 grants to five emerging Lesbian writers: Ruth L. Schwartz, Linda Morganstein, Janice M. Gould, Kelley Eskridge and Kyna Janine Taylor. Astraea is the only national grants program for Lesbian writers in the country and was started last year with a grant from Joan Drury.

Articles

Whatever LOLA Wants... (Nancy Michalos) LOLA stands for the League of Lesbian Actors, the newest addition to Sonoma County's growing theatre community. LOLA, an actor-owned company, has as its goal the development of a semi-professional touring company which will bring quality Lesbian-feminist theatre to communities in Northern California and the Bay Area. Breaking away from the "edifice complex," LOLA plans to market the touring shows for house concerts and fundraising events for organizations.

A second goal of LOLA is Lesbian visibility and viability. With this in mind, LOLA has booked the first three of its productions into the Luther Burbank Performing Arts Center in Santa Rosa. The first offering, the electrifying one-woman show, *The Second Coming of Joan of Arc*, will open in the Concert Chamber on Hallowe'en for a special weekend to commemorate one of the greatest witch hunts in history. The award winning show is performed by playwright-performer, Carolyn Gage, who is back on the West Coast after a year of touring to NY, Atlanta, Toronto, Minneapolis and Madison with the play.

The second show, All Passion Unspent, will highlight the Lesbian relationship between Vita Sackville-West and Violet Trufusis and will join Joan of Arc as repertory shows in LOLA's touring program.

LOLA is open to any woman interested in Lesbian feminist theatre. Meetings are open to all, and LOLA is currently organizing committees for script selection, publicity, and fundraising -- as well as putting together production crews for the season. LOLA offers apprenticeships for women who want to learn the business of theatre. For information about auditions,

apprenticeships or meetings write LOLA at PO Box 15001, Santa Rosa CA 95402 or call Nancy at 707/545-7720.

* * *

Armed and Dangerous (Gail de Rita) - Alex Takaoka, of the UC Berkeley police force, is still on the job. He has sexually assaulted at least one woman by grabbing her crotch and jamming his finger up her vagina while she was handcuffed. He bashed another woman's head against a concrete wall in a holding cell, and harassed another woman with suggestive language...all while in uniform.

His trial is scheduled to open on October 6. Women are requested to picket or attend in large numbers. You can also call Chief of UCPD Victoria Harrison (510/642-1133), UC Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien (510/642-7464), or Vice Chancellor Daniel Boggan (642-3100) and tell them to fire this man. Send letters to "Fire Takaoka!" c/o Community Defense Inc., 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley CA 94705. For more information call 510-644-2606.

* * *

No on Proposition 165 - We Need Your Help (article and accompanying letter from Christine Saulnier) - Prop 165 encompasses a series of budget cuts aimed at the poorest in our state. The measure would reduce AFDC benefits by ten percent, followed by an additional 15 percent cut after six months if an able-bodied adult recipient is not employed. It would also penalize the working poor, teenage parents, SSI recipients, General Assistance recipients, aged and disabled participants in the Medically Needy program, among others. Were Prop 165 to become law, the governor would have "emergency" authority over the budget when revenues fall more than three percent below projection. In the midst of California's worst budget crisis in history, one could only imagine the havoc such authority would play on the budget process.

Christine writes: This was in the September 1992 National Association of Social Workers California News. I want to pass it on to LU! to see what members think. I hope you have space to run it. The cuts to the most needy people in the state are so disturbing. I would like to see LU! get involved in opposition to Prop 165. As a former AFDC recipient, it frightens me to think about the reduction in checks. It gets harder and harder for poor women to survive. My daughter is now on AFDC. Every day she faces a new battle to get and keep

childcare, to get financial assistance to pay her Community College tuition so she can get off AFDC. Imagine women in her situation losing the means of getting educated and then having checks cut because they aren't doing anything to get off AFDC! That's the double bind so familiar to all oppressed people. My daughter deserves better, as does my granddaughter...and ALL poor women. C'mon LU! let's DO something!

* * *

Fundie Hate Initiative Updates (Gail de Rita) - I talked to Bobbie McCallum of the Equal Protection Campaign or EPOC Colorado (see last month's LU! for more details) and she says that Kevin Tebedo (Coloradans for Family Values) one of the promoters of this anti-gay amendment and his cohorts are "revving up with more scare tactics" such as publicly reading biblical passages which denounce homosexuals as "evil" and contending that gays are "speaking words of the demon" in various church services, public meetings, etc. The fact that the religious right has such a great influence in the national republican campaign adds a new wrinkle. They really need our financial support. Send your checks to EPOCColorado, Box 300476, Denver Co 80203.

And to our north, where Oregon Citizens Alliance is spreading its nasty words and violent deeds of hate against gays, Sky, who lives on the land in southern Oregon, says "We're in some deep shit up here..." She's referring to ballot measure No. 9, the state constitutional amendment that, in her words, would "make us second class citizens and turn this into something out of the last century." (For more details refer to the past three issues of LU!)

Somebody broke into and trashed the print shop directly below "Just Out" (the statewide gay and Lesbian newspaper and Oregon's equivalent to Bay Times). The vandals thought they had Just Out, but they didn't. There are two very similar printing operations, and the burglars missed. They also stole all of the files from an HIV day treatment center in June. There have been other break-ins as well. Random anonymous threatening phone calls to many of the people found on the rolodexes stolen during these raids have increased. A cross was burned on the lawn of a bi-racial Lesbian couple in Portland (we're talking major cities now, not just the countryside). The incidence and severity of violence against gays has increased tremendously and includes numerous firebombings. There's even a move

afoot to recall Governor Barbara Roberts who recently came out adamantly against the hate campaign. According to Sappho (E-mail connections), political analysts expect the repressive measure to pass.

This political activity is not only depleting the money and energy of the equal rights people, but even if the initiative is defeated, they'll come out only right where they started, having accomplished nothing positive except to keep the right-wing from winning. For the other side, it's a win-win measure -- they'll be ahead even if their measure loses, because the progressive/gay community will be exhausted and depleted when the ballot fight is over.

The good news from all this is that Citizens for a Hate-free Oregon has pulled together a human rights alliance of about 75 citizens working really hard to defeat this measure -- gays, Lesbians and straights are working shoulder to shoulder to defeat the ballot initiative. Many recognize that this is a direct attack on all civil rights. It's really galvanizing the gay and Lesbian community in the state. "We're pulling together harder than I've ever seen," says Sky. Citizens working against OCA are sponsoring house parties, leafletting at fairs, speaking wherever possible and, in Sky's words, "coming out, coming out, coming out." That part is tremendously exhilarating and affirming.

Supporting civil rights in Oregon is as important as it is scary. California could be next in this fascist "ethnic cleansing" (that's a direct right-wing quote). Our friends in Oregon need money, volunteers and other backing. Here are some places you can contact if you'd like to help:

Campaign for a Hate-Free Oregon
4424 NE Glisan Avenue
Portland OR 97215
503/232-4501

No on Hate
PO Box 6611
Portland OR 97229

No on 9
PO Box 3343
Portland OR 97208

Lesbian Community Project
PO Box 6931
Portland OR 97228
503/321-6184 or 223-0071



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Shocking Facts about Electroshock (Kris Yates) -

When I mention to people that electroconvulsive therapy (aka electroshock or ECT) is being used a lot these days, many folks are surprised and think it is an outmoded treatment that is no longer administered. Quite the contrary. Older depressed women are the main recipients of shock and plenty of it is being done right here at Herrick Hospital in Berkeley.

Psychiatry is moving in the conservative direction everything else is going in this country. Not that it was ever progressive. With the development of all the new psychotropic drugs, doctors can simply give people chemical lobotomies to control them without performing psychosurgery.

In February of this year, the now-head of the National Institute of Mental Health, Fred Goodwin, compared the inner city to a jungle and said the people who live there are like Rhesus monkeys who only want to kill each other, have sex, and reproduce. There is a federally-funded program in the works to deal with these monkey folks. The "Violence Initiative" is an ongoing mental health program based on biological and genetic theories, and aimed at the control of violence within the inner city. A conference funded by the National Institutes of Health, taking place in October, is titled "Genetic Factors in Crime: Findings, Uses and Implications." This is very scary stuff, but it is really happening right now. This approach to "mental health" completely ignores the social factors and is very dangerous thinking.

As women and Lesbians, we have been oppressed by the mental health system for a long time. It wasn't that long ago that homosexuality was considered an illness and a legitimate diagnostic category. Although not the "official reason," we are still locked up because we make people uncomfortable.

My interest in this is personal because, a number of years ago, I was hospitalized and given shock treatment. I am now working on a Master's degree in counseling psychology. The mental health system perpetuates the racism, classism, and sexism of the society we live in by saying the client is responsible for her troubles, while ignoring social factors.

Next spring, the American Psychiatric Association is having their meeting in San Francisco. I plan to help organize a large demonstration to publicize what is going on in "mental health." In the meantime, I would like to

hear from others who are interested in this issue. If you are interested in learning more about the "Violence Initiative" and what you can do to help stop it, please call me at 510/548-7314. I would also like to hear from other psychiatric survivors or dissident mental health workers or just anyone who is interested in this subject.

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Election Year Blues - or Can We Build an Alternative? (Ann Menasche) -

Again, in this supposed "Year of the Women," we Lesbians are presented with two white male tickets for President/Vice-President. The "lesser-evil" this year, the Clinton-Gore "team," represents the mainstream Democratic Leadership Council which is thoroughly pro-big business (supporting "free trade" which will mean loss of jobs at home, more environmental catastrophes in Mexico and along the border -- more babies born without brains -- and the super-exploitation of our sisters working in the *maquiladoras* in Mexico); completely militaristic and pro-war (supporting Bush's war last year against Iraq and recent moves to start it up again and emphasizing the importance of staying number one militarily); and leaves the most downtrodden of us high and dry -- the homeless, those rotting in the inner cities, etc. --in order to appeal to white male middle-class voters. Rather than talk of affirmative action and massive funding for the cities, Clinton emphasizes "personal responsibility" -- a buzz word for further weakening of the "safety net" and misogynist scapegoating of welfare mothers. Even the much mentioned Clinton/Gore "pro-choice" position applies only if you are over eighteen and have the money to pay for an abortion. (As governor of Arkansas, Clinton signed parental consent legislation.)

What about lesbian/gay rights? Despite Roberta Actenberg's appearance at the Democratic National Convention as the "token Dyke," there is little being said by the Democrats about our issues as Lesbians, even though the Republicans have turned gays and Lesbians into the new "Willie Horton." The silence from the Democratic camp is not surprising. Clinton, as governor, did nothing to support efforts to repeal sodomy laws in his state and not much to help the AIDs epidemic either.

It appears that, since the 1984 and 1988 election campaigns, the Democratic party has moved further to the Right in many respects. The Rainbow Coalition of Jesse Jackson that provided a voice for the disenfranchised has been totally marginalized within the Democratic Party this time around. And so has

feminism in any meaningful sense of the term. Even a woman Vice-Presidential candidate is too radical an "experiment" for the DP these days. Despite a few women candidates for Congress, it would be more accurate to describe this as the "Year of the White Male."

So what's a Dyke to do?? Are we to follow the rightward course of the two major parties -- the Republicans in the front cozy-ing up to the religious fundamentalists and its "traditional family values," while the Democratic Party sheds more and more of its welfare state liberalism, closing in at its heels? How evil does the "lesser evil" have to get before we say "enough!?" Aren't we fed up with our role as cheerleaders and tokens for the wealthy white male representatives of the patriarchal capitalistic establishment that is destroying the planet? -- Are we to sit passively by while a conservative Perot-type candidate takes advantage of the unprecedented dissatisfaction of the American public with the two-party system? Or can we begin moving the public dialogue in our direction for a change??

Fortunately, some important efforts are now being made to build an independent pro-women anti-racist progressive politics in this country, efforts that merit the close attention of radical feminists. Here are some of them:

(1) Campaign For A New Tomorrow is the name of the independent campaign of Ron Daniels and Asiba Tupahache for President/Vice-President. Daniels is an African-American who was deputy director of Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign. He explains his campaign strategy this way: "Black people are suffering as never before but the establishment parties -- the Democrats and Republicans -- see Black issues, Black concerns and the Black agenda as a liability...Our challenge is not to beg the Democrats or Republicans to consider the Black agenda in '92. Our challenge is to pose the vital alternative to the establishment parties. That is precisely the meaning of my independent presidential crusade in '92: to forge a formidable mass-based democratic, independent, progressive movement that can compete for the power to govern in the interests of the vast majority of Black people, minorities, women, and poor and working people."

His running mate, Tupahache, is a Native American woman from Great Neck, New York indigenous to a Nation called Matinecoc. She is an activist and a founder and publisher of "The Spirit of January Monthly" a newsletter that deals with issues confronting

oppressed people. The Campaign is now seeking ballot status in Washington state, Utah, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Maryland, Wash. D.C., New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and California (through California's Peace & Freedom Party.)

(2) 21st Century Party, "the nation's equality party" initiated by NOW, had its founding meeting on August 29 and 30 in Washington, D.C. The Party calls for constitutional guarantees against discrimination based on sex, race, sexual orientation, religion, age, and disability; gender and racial balance in elected office; and supports funded and available birth control, abortion and pregnancy care. They pledge to "promote U.S. policies to eliminate hunger and achieve social and economic justice throughout the world," and to work for a healthy environment and for freedom from violence and war. The initial founders include Dolores Huerta (United Farm Workers), Mel King (co-founder, Rainbow Coalition), Ellie Smeal (Fund for the Feminist Majority), NOW President Patricia Ireland, and Monica Faith Stewart (Black Women's Network). Annual dues is .0005 x annual income. (For more info or to join this new party call 800/394 21ST.)

(3) Similar efforts include Labor Party Advocates (organized out of the labor movement); the Greens (who recently won ballot status in California); Labor-Farm Party of Wisconsin; Oregon's Pacific Party; the Vermont Organizing Committee; and "the New Party" in New Jersey. In 1990, Bernie Sanders from Vermont was elected to Congress in a three-way race, the first independent to be elected in forty years, proving that it can be done.

What do readers think? Come to the LU discussion on the elections with your thoughts.

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Help Ellen Peell (Gail de Rita) - I was so moved when I read the following letter from Ellen Peel in a recent issue of Cauldron that I wrote her in response (sending an LU! under separate cover):

"Dear Gentlepersons: I am a battered woman who survived an abusive relationship. I am also a prisoner of the State of California, serving a sentence of seven years to life for my involvement in the conspiracy to kill my husband. I have been in prison 16 years. When I went to trial in 1977, Battered Woman Syndrome was not

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recognized, and I was not allowed to tell my complete story to the jury.

"For 16 years, my husband punched, kicked, raped and stabbed me. I was beaten, assaulted with guns, thrown from moving cars and terrorized to the brink of insanity. I was so frightened of my husband that on one occasion, when I was hospitalized to recover from a beating, he walked into my room and I tried to jump out of a second-floor window.

"I lived like a tortured captive animal, but the real tragedy is not what was done to me, it was what was done to my three children. My husband physically, sexually and emotionally abused our son and daughters from their very birth. My inability to protect my children caused me greater anguish than any pain my husband could inflict on me. We ran away and hid from him many times, but he always found us.

"When my husband impregnated our 12-year-old daughter, the children and I could take no more. I was frantic; this atrocity, after years of unrelenting torment, drove me to make a horrible mistake. I offer no excuses for that mistake, and I live with the guilt every day. I do believe, however, that I have paid for it, not only with years in prison but with blood and broken bones, and the pain and fear that never leaves me. What my children endured is far beyond evaluation.

"I have written to Governor Wilson to ask that he review my case to consider granting me clemency or commutation of my sentence. The Governors of some states have freed a few women whose crimes arose from abusive relationships: it is my hope that Governor Wilson will do the same.

"I am not a threat to society nor a danger to the community, nor am I seeking an easy end to my years in prison. For someone like me, there can be no easy end, as I will carry both the scars on my body and grief in my heart to my grave.

"If you feel that it is possible for you to lend your support to my request for clemency, please write Governor Wilson on behalf of myself and other battered women. If you have any ideas or input that you wish to share, I would be pleased to hear from you."

Ellen wrote me in return in mid-August. Part of that letter follows: "Dear Gail, Thank you for your wonderful letter and your words of empathy and encouragement. I am both heartened and cheered by

your sympathy and kindness. Please feel free to reprint my letter in your publication. The more people that I can reach, the more likely it is that relief may be granted. If you know anyone else who might be interested in my letter, please feel free to share it with them.

"In my opinion the situation is totally political: if Governor Wilson believes it will be popular with the voters, he will grant clemency to battered women. If he feels that the move will damage him politically, he will never help anyone regardless of the justice of their cause. There are many women like me, who have been imprisoned for years, who were never allowed to present the evidence of abuse and battering to their juries. Under the laws of today, this evidence is admissible for consideration by the jury, but those laws came too late for people like me. My only hope of freedom is through public opinion and political action. Any ideas or thoughts that you might have concerning the most expeditious method by which this might be accomplished will be gratefully received.

"Again, I thank you for your compassion and understanding and I look forward to hearing from you again. Sincerely, Ellen Peel, W-12799, California Institution for Women, Emmons A 409L, Frontera CA 91720"

[Women interested in helping Ellen's case can spread the word to friends and can also contact Governor Pete Wilson at the State Capitol, Sacramento CA 95814. Telephone number is 916/445-2864; FAX 916/445-4633. She might be cheered by getting letters of support from us too.]

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Are you better off than you were four years ago?
(reprinted without permission from Mother Jones, Sept/Oct 1992):

- ▶ *National debt*: +\$1,377,000,000,000 ↑ 57%
- ▶ *Budget deficit*: +\$244,500,000,000 ↑ 157%
- ▶ *Americans unemployed for 6 months or longer*: +1,127,000 ↑ 133%
- ▶ *Mean annual income of the wealthiest 5 percent of US families*: +\$7,286 ↑ 5%
- ▶ *Mean annual income of the poorest one-fifth*: -\$54 ↓ 0.5%
- ▶ *Hourly earnings for blue-collar workers*: -\$1 ↓ 10%
- ▶ *Number of millionaires*: +28,100 ↑ 81%
- ▶ *Americans with no health insurance*: +4,600,000 ↑ 15%
- ▶ *Families receiving AFDC*: +944,000 ↑ 25%
- ▶ *Median monthly payment to those families*: -\$49.26 ↓ 12%

- ▶ *Children living in poverty:* +500,000 †4%
- ▶ *Violent crimes:* +95,278 †21%
- ▶ *Americans in prison:* +177,122 †28%
- ▶ *Americans on death row:* +464 †22%

And these figures from Report on the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide (US HHS, 1989): Suicide is the No. 1 cause of death among Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual teenagers. These teens try to kill themselves at a rate two to three times that of heterosexual youngsters and may comprise up to 30 percent of the teens who do kill themselves each year.

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Is It In Our Genes? (excerpted from a longer article by Jennifer Rycenga) - We risk getting bogged down in a narrow definition of who we are. I refer to the scientific speculation and research on a biological basis for homosexuality which is covered in an 8/12/92 LA Times article (see "Short Takes on the News" for synopsis of this article). To limit Lesbians and gays to our biology is to limit our creativity and to limit what is meant by freedom and liberation. I don't find it terribly liberating to be told that what was the most difficult and exhilarating life decision I ever made was somehow genetically inevitable. Then there is the ridiculous fact that this research doesn't even include women, "because of the difficulty of identifying Lesbians!" This is made even more absurd when one realizes that the reference is to cadavers! I prefer to recognize living Lesbians and consider their vital female energy to be an entirely adequate (nay, the finest) diagnostic field mark.

To this article's credit, it does cite numerous voices within the Lesbian and gay community that are suspicious of basing our freedom on the legalism of immutable characteristics. They note that it is a defensive posture, developed in response to right-wing attacks. But what is not stated is that, while many gay men and some Lesbians have the experience of feeling that their sexuality is not a matter of choice, others do sense an element of choice in what they have done. Therefore, any argument based on biological determinism can include only some of us in the community, and therefore provides a flimsy basis for legal rights. Plus, what will be done to prove our biological gayness? Will our brains be examined? Our hormones? Our genetic make-up? Will hetero parents select not to carry gay-positive babies to term? Will the government require abortion of gay-positive babies? (Remember, any government that can ban abortions also has, by clear implication, the ability to force them.) The right-wing is already preparing for our biological

defense, referring to gay-ness as "a natural defect, not benefit" (B4, emphasis mine). And, let us say for the sake of argument, that sixty percent of the Lesbians and gays are that way for immutable biological reasons -- if those people are eliminated or locked away in hospitals to be treated for their "defect," that will leave the other 40 percent to be branded as true deviants. We are setting ourselves up for a divide and conquer strategy on the part of our enemies with this one.

Overall, to utilize such a biological argument may be politically expedient, but it also is a highway to the denial of our own self-determination, our own affirmation of ourselves. Is it really this convenient, this compelling to limit ourselves simply in the hopes of stifling specific repressive arguments? I don't think so, especially since we are the ones who stand for love, joy, creativity, playfulness, caring, and respect for ourselves and others!

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Pagoda Temple of Love (Gail de Rita) - I can't believe that this time last week I was lounging around the pool at the Pagoda near St. Augustine Florida and eating homemade peach pancakes in the communal kitchen, meeting and exchanging ideas and life-stories with exciting dyke-activists from all over the US. Fulfilling a long-time dream, I visited there and got enough of a taste of the life it offers to want to go back soon and stay longer. Actually, I wanted to buy a house a settle in with neighbors like Marilyn Murphy, Irene Weiss and others...only steps from the Atlantic Ocean.

I'm telling you about the Pagoda not only because I loved being there and had a great time (thanks ♀♀ for your hospitality!), but also because keeping women's land in women's hands is extremely -- critically -- important. Pagoda is the longest continuously-owned women's land in the US, and we must keep her that way. This will happen only if we support the community: one way is by sending monthly donations (women who give \$15 per month for six months may stay for free up to 3 weeks cumulative within 3 months). They also appreciate our visiting them, and letting other dykes know they exist.

Pagoda just celebrated her 15th year as a spiritual/cultural home and retreat/guest house for Lesbians by paying off the mortgage and engaging in a \$30,000 renovation project including completion of a wheelchair accessible suite. The big kitchen has been completely redone, and the main house has new doors, windows and

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Some fresh paint. Their theater seats at least 50 and is the ideal spot to stage a Lesbian play, hold a workshop or give a dance or other cultural event. In addition there are over a dozen private cottages surrounding the main house, all dyke-owned, of course.

To contact the wonderful wimmin at Pagoda call 904/824-2970 or write them c/o 2854 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine FL 32095. (Conveniently located 25 miles from Jacksonville Airport.)



The funeral procession nears the Bohemian Club.

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The Furious Funeral From Hell (Gail de Rita) - On Monday August 17, about 40 creatively decorated cars left the Safeway parking lot to protest the gutting of Roe v. Wade and the entire spectrum of anti-woman legislation unfolding before us in this election year. Women Against Imperialism, WHAM and Act Up SF/Women sponsored the Furious Funeral from Hell procession down Market and through the financial district. And furious it was. And exhilarating, empowering and...fun.

By 12:30 about 15 cars had reached the Bohemian Club on Taylor near Post and unloaded at least 100 women, dressed in funereal costume, who screamed their anger, raised their banners, successfully padlocked the front doors to the Club and blockaded the entrance for over an hour. Their reasons for choosing this elite white male establishment were to turn the tables on the men who have for too long denied women access to abortion and reproductive health. BoHos are some of the most powerful (and elitist) men in the world. Bush, Reagan, Nixon and Ford are all members, as well as some of the supreme court, senators, congressmen, corporate moguls such as GE, media imagemakers, and high-priced lawyers.

Eleven women were arrested during the high spirited, visually powerful and very successful demonstration. They were later released without being charged.



Women blockade the main doors to Boho boys.



Always candid, Lisa Rudman tells it like it is.

(Photos by Gail de Rita)

Short Takes on the News

Excerpted by Anne Pagliarulo

Canada's Human Rights Act Must Protect Gays

(SF Chronicle) - A court ruled the Canadian Human Rights Act unconstitutional yesterday because it fails to protect gay men and lesbians from being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. The Ontario Court of Appeal added that from now until a new law is passed or the current law is amended, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation should be treated as if it were covered by Canadian law. The lawyer who argued the case said the ruling means that gays and lesbians who work in the federal sector can use the law to fight for spousal benefits or to fight discrimination, such as the military's ban on promoting gays.

Virginia School Board Prohibits Anti-Gay Harassment by Students

(NY Times) - A Virginia school board had decided that students who taunt others with anti-homosexual remarks will be punished, possibly by suspension from school. The Fairfax County School Board decision, believed to be one of the first of its kind, appears to defy a recent Supreme Court decision that ruled against "special prohibitions on those speakers who express views on disfavored subjects." The board's unanimous decision was folded into an existing clause in the student code of conduct that prohibits harassment on the basis of race, ethnicity, or gender. The US Supreme Court last month overturned a Minnesota ordinance that defined certain types of hateful speech or behavior as criminal. There is much disagreement on the effect the new Virginia rule will have. An ACLU representative said, "The school board has taken no consideration to what the First Amendment means. A student who decided to take action against a school board that suspended him on this one would easily win." The director of the Virginia National School Boards Association said, "I don't think a judge in his right mind would find this unconstitutional. It is to prevent people from hurting others emotionally, and that is it."

BART OKs Benefits for Gay Couples

(SF Chronicle) - By a one-vote majority, BART directors yesterday approved giving health benefits to partners of gay and lesbian employees. They excluded unmarried heterosexual couples from the package. The transit district estimated that 120 people will apply for the benefit package, which includes medical, dental, vision care, and bereavement pay. Unmarried heterosexual couples were excluded from the plan because, as one

director pointed out, they "had a choice" and could be married.

Born Gay? Many Cheer a Second Study

Suggesting that Homosexuality Has a Physical Cause (LA Times) - Teeshirts with "It's a brain thing" emblazoned across them are hot sellers in West Hollywood these days. Gay shoppers are saying "I knew it. I'm sending this to my mother" as they snap up the teeshirts in the wake of the second study in a little more than a year to find fundamental differences between the brains of homosexual and heterosexual men. The mounting evidence of a biological link to homosexuality has been welcomed by many gays and lesbians as a powerful piece of ammunition in their struggle for greater civil rights and acceptance - yet the research's impact on the courts of law and public opinion remains unclear.

In the most recent of the two studies, UCLA neuroscientists found that an important structure connecting the left and right sides of the brain - already known to be larger in women than in men - is larger still in homosexual men. Their findings follow by 13 months another study conducted in San Diego, which showed that a different part of the brain is smaller in gay men than in heterosexual men. Both studies examined brains taken from male cadavers. Researchers said they did not include women because of the difficulty of identifying lesbians, whereas men who had died from AIDS are often identified as homosexual on the death certificate. [The article makes no mention of the scientists checking the brains of women or straight men who had died of AIDS, so it is still unclear whether these brain differences are a result of AIDS or of something else.]

From a legal perspective, evidence that homosexuality is an inborn trait bolsters arguments that gays deserve protection against discrimination, since one of the criteria courts have looked at in granting civil rights protections is whether discrimination is based on a group characteristic that is unchangeable or "immutable," such as race. The first study was cited to no avail last year in Hawaii by gay plaintiffs in an equal protection case, now on appeal. In throwing out the case, the trial judge concluded that homosexuality is behavioral and can be changed, citing Christian "reparative therapy" to "cure" gays.

One New York writer pointed out that "It sounds like we're saying 'we can't help it,' which implies we would be something else if we could. It may be politic in the short run, but I don't think it's politic in the long run."

A spokesperson from the LA Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center agreed. Regardless of the cause of homosexuality, "there should be no discrimination. The gay movement needs to be careful to not rest our moral case on the genetic research."

Committees Approve Freedom of Choice Act But Floor Action Is Postponed. (Update on Women and Family Issues in Congress) - A day after the Supreme Court's Jun 29 decision in Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey upholding a Pennsylvania law that made it more difficult for women to obtain abortions, the House Judiciary Committee approved H.R. 25, the Freedom of Choice Act. The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee followed suit a day later. According to its supporters, H.R. 25 would simply codify Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. In an effort to blunt criticism that the Freedom of Choice Act goes beyond Roe in preventing states from enacting any type of abortion restrictions, an amendment was offered clarifying that states may adopt "parental involvement" laws for minors seeking abortions, as long as those laws contain some type of bypass mechanism, such as allowing pregnant teenagers to obtain the consent of a judge or a physician. Democratic leaders were unable to fulfill earlier plans to have the bill on the President's desk before Congress adjourned for its August recess.

Lawmakers Fear Amendments on Abortion Rights (NY Times) - Fearing amendments that would weaken abortion rights, lawmakers who oppose most state restrictions on abortion are growing uncertain about whether to push for Congressional action this year. They are nervously counting votes to see whether they can pass a measure that would send a clear message on abortion rights, even though they do not expect to override an expected veto by Bush. In the House and Senate alike, supporters of the legislation fear that the price of passage will be a bill that will permit states to enact restrictions on abortion like a mandatory waiting period or informed consent laws that require women wanting abortions to listen to arguments intended to dissuade them.

House Again Approves Overturning "Gag Rule" (Update on Women and Family Issues in Congress) - The House on August 6 easily approved, 251-144, the conference report for S. 323, legislation that would overturn the family planning "gag rule" and reauthorize the Title X family planning program. While signaling the House's strong support for ensuring that pregnant women receive complete information, the vote is not

sufficient to overturn and expected Presidential veto. The Senate will take up the conference report on S. 323 when it returns this month. Meanwhile, recent court action has cleared the way for implementation of the gag rule, which had been stayed by the Court of Appeals. A final order of implementation giving family planning clinics 30 days to comply is expected soon.

American Bar Association Backs Pro-Choice Resolution (SF Chronicle) - The ABA voted last month to end its neutrality and support a woman's right to abortion. After nearly two hours of debate, the ABA's policymaking house of delegates voted 276 to 168 to adopt an unequivocal pro-choice policy. The vote, clearly the key event at the ABA's week-long convention in San Francisco, resolves for the time being an issue that has long divided the nation's largest legal organization. The group has taken heat from many women's groups for waffling on whether to speak up or stay out of the fray.

Military Abortions (Update) - Congress took steps to permit abortions to be performed at a military hospitals, approving language that would overturn a 1988 ban against the procedure. The bill permits servicewomen or military dependents stationed overseas [not in this country?] to obtain abortions at military facilities, as long as the women pay for the abortion with their own money. [!] Bush has threatened to veto any bill that relaxes current abortion restrictions.

Committee Examines Impact of Import Ban on RU-486 (Update) - The explosive combination of abortion politics and scientific research came to Capitol Hill July 28, as a congressional committee continued its investigation of the Bush Administration's policy toward RU-486, the controversial French abortion pill that has shown promise for treating a number of debilitating or life-threatening illnesses, including endometriosis, Cushing's Syndrome, breast cancer, severe hypertension, and diabetes. According to one witness, "import alerts are typically placed on products that are found to be either useless or harmful for medical treatments. RU-486 has been found to be neither useless or harmful." Further, the "political climate in the US has forced pharmaceutical companies to strictly limit distribution for use in research in this country." Legislation is currently being drawn up that will direct the Department of Health and Human services to obtain the drug, test it in clinical trials under government auspices, and publish the results. The legislation is being opposed by the National Right to Life Committee, whose representative asserts

that "there is no scientific evidence showing that RU-486 has any proven use except abortion."

Lesbian Minister OK'd by Presbyterian Panel (SF Chronicle) - A presbyterian judicial commission affirmed the appointment of a lesbian minister from San Anselmo, California to a Rochester congregation. The appointment of the Rev. Jane Spahr as cop-pastor of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church had been challenged by 10 upstate New York churches. The churches brought their complaint to the 10 member Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Northeast in May. The commission ruled 9 to 1 in support of Spahr's appointment. The Rev. Rosemary Mitchell, a pastor at the Rochester church, said she was "very relieved" by the decision. Both sides have said they expect the commission's ruling to be appealed to the General Assembly.

Sex Harassment Reported in Courts (SF Chronicle) - In the first study on sex bias in the federal courts, most women lawyers reported widespread discrimination and sexual harassment on the job. The report, issued by a special task force appointed by the US Court of Appeals in San Francisco, found that women are vastly outnumbered by men in the federal courts of the Ninth Circuit's nine western states. Although women are roughly 40 percent of new lawyers, "the world of the federal courts is still predominantly male," said the report. Some 60 percent of women lawyers in the nine states reported that they have been the target of some form of sexual harassment from members of the legal community. Although women complain of gender bias in and out of the courtroom, many male lawyers - both young and old - say they are not aware that such behavior occurs, the report states.

More Battle Training for Women Marines (Sacramento Bee) - All female Marine lieutenants will get full combat training, including live firings of M-16s and grenades, in classes with men starting in mid-August. A Marine spokesperson said that the change culminates a process under way for three years.

Opponents of Pentagon's Anti-Gay Policy Detect Harbingers of Change (LA Times) - Opponents of the military's ban on homosexuals and lesbians in uniform are more confident than ever that the prohibition will fall. It's just a matter of time, they say, pointing to a confluence of signs, including:

The introduction of legislation to kill the policy; release of a congressional study showing the high cost of

drumming gays out of the military; a promise Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton to repeal the ban if he is elected; and the scandal surrounding the Tailhook Association's 1991 convention. "The momentum is increasing as every gay service member and every lesbian soldier comes forward, and we believe more members of Congress are personally moved by their stories" said a spokesperson for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "It is imminent that this policy will fall."

Lesbi-End Notes

by Gail de Rita

Freedom Summer '92, a national youth voter registration campaign, made its Bay Area stop in mid-August. Thousands of voters were registered by the three busloads of young women and men, part of the Third Wave Feminist Movement, traveling to 20 cities in 23 days to register half a million new voters. Freedom Summer '92 and the Third Wave feminist movement are the brilliant ideas of Rebecca Walker (Alice's daughter) and Sharon Liss, both recent college graduates. The send-off rally at Glide Memorial Church was not to be missed with a surprise visit from Anita Hill and speeches by Alice Walker and Susan Faludi. If this is the next generation, we're in good company!

I am completely jazzed about a new magazine, Equal Means (Women Organizing Economic Solutions) coming out of Berkeley. With Ms Foundation support, they've done three issues so far. The magazine provides a forum for women to develop an analysis of the economy; to share women's models of leadership, training and organization building; to push forward effective strategies of development which empower communities and respect the environment. They cover strategies women are developing around economic justice, economic development and empowerment, and they stress a multi-cultural, multi-racial international perspective. Contact them at 2512 Ninth Street, Suite 3, Berkeley 94710 (510/549-9931). Four issues for \$24 (but only three issues per year). They request submissions too.

Another exciting publication that I glanced through while at the Pagoda is What Women Know About Cancer, published by Louder Than Words, PO Box 90934, Washington DC 20090. You'll have to contact them for prices and other details. I'll try to have more info next month.

promise
to repeat
the

The Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center in SF provides support to deaf Lesbians and gays, including PWAs...and sign language classes for all. Call 885-2341.

I heard bell hooks in person for the first time at the SF Art Institute last month. She used the topic "Art on My Mind," as a jumping-off point to voice feelings on many issues involving race, class, gender and feminism. Her mind is awesome (albeit "straight"), and she's an empathetic and intent listener. Although she delivered strong opinions, she came across as far less angry and strident in person than in her writings. I loved the way she'd listen closely to a question from the audience and then articulate exactly what she wanted to say without at all invalidating her questioner. Fascinating... and I'd say one of the most brilliant feminist thinkers alive today.

Be on the lookout for results of the **Lesbian Visibility Billboard Project**, whose theme is "Another Traditional Family." A photograph of local Lesbian activists Pat Norman and her pregnant partner, Karen Norman, will assert the validity of Lesbian relationships as family ties and eventually be displayed in 10-25 spots throughout the Bay Area. If you'd like to sponsor a billboard, call Trish McDermott at 552-9433 or Mary Ann Convento at 586-2626.

I did a double-take when I saw the billboard near Polk and Union with a very bold male arm and fist and a dynamic message against violence against women. It's only one of a series of billboards and bus kiosk posters paid for by **Liz Claiborne** (yes, the women's fashion tycoon!) in her innovative nationwide program employing artists for social change and focusing on women's issues. This public art doesn't have the exploitive and glamorized slant of, say, Benetton ads, yet it successfully combines retail advertising savvy and social message. The hard-hitting messages aimed at domestic violence will appear throughout the Bay Area until October 10.

All right **Mama Bears!** - for getting an 800 number to make it easier for women who want to mail order. 1-800-643-8629. Who knows, next we'll be FAXing in and out! And thanks for continuing to present wonderful womyn-only performances and stocking all the books we need to buy!

Good news for the West Coast! **Dr. Susan Love** (a Lesbian), one of the founders of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, former director of Faulkner Breast

Center in Boston, and a top surgeon, has joined the UCLA's School of Medicine and the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. She also authored Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book (Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1990).

Sorry to hear **Regina Gabrielle** has resigned as Executive Director of the Women's Building effective September 7. Regina has been devoted in her work at the building for the past six years and we wish her well.

Helena Nogueira, South Africa's first woman director has produced two films with anti-racist themes. Watch especially for "Quest for Love," which documents the struggle of a South African woman to cope with her country's racist policies and her love for another woman. Nogueira is now attempting to have this heroic film distributed in the US -- a difficult thing because of its inclusion of interracial and Lesbian love scenes.

The **Anita Hill Fund** has been established to endow a professorship at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. It will be dedicated to teaching, research and law reform efforts concerning equality in the work place. The fund's goal is to raise \$250,000 which will be matched by the State of Oklahoma.

When I called the 800 number that **Anita Bryant** (remember her gay bashing a number of years ago? well, she's now pushing her book and a show) advertised, I found it had been disconnected. Not enough support from American bigots, too much flack from Lesbians and gays, or both?? (The number was 1-800-42-ANITA if you'd like to try later.)

Sinead O'Connor releases a new album on September 22 entitled "Am I Not Your Girl?" What does that mean, Sinead?

There isn't even a word for "gay" in **Russian** that is not derogatory, but 20,000 people attended the First Moscow and St. Petersburg Lesbian/Gay Film Festival last summer.

According to **Off Our Backs** (via **Lesbian Connection**), **women-owned businesses**, not the Fortune 500, will be the source of new jobs in the US in the coming year, a recent study predicts. Cognetics, Inc., an economic research firm, analyzed data from 5.4 million women-owned businesses, and found that such businesses had been under-reported by 1.3 million. According to the National Foundation for Women Business Owners, women-owned businesses and the massive Fortune 500

companies now employ about the same number of workers -- 11.7 million. In the next year, jobs with the Fortune 500 companies are expected to drop by about 250,000, while women-owned businesses are expected to add 350,000 jobs.

Anybody have information on **Guffey, Colorado**? I hear the town's residents are all women...and the mayor is a cat. According to my map, it's near Colorado Springs. What about **Harmony Ranch** retreat space for women, also in Colorado? Any readers in that magnificent state have more particulars?

LU Wish List: We still desperately need an IBM-compatible **laptop** with WP 5.1 or money to purchase one ourselves. Not only would your \$\$ benefit the Lesbian community and support a worthwhile project, your gift is tax-deductible if the check is made to San Francisco Women's Centers.

In addition, we'd like:

(1) experienced, dedicated fundraising assistance on lots of levels;

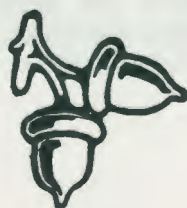
(2) regular access to **Sappho** (via E-Mail) or someone with computer capabilities who would faithfully report monthly their goings-on that we would all benefit from knowing...on a WP disk would be great;

(3) dykes who would make a commitment to **read and clip a major newspaper** (SF Chronicle, LA Times, NY Times etc.) daily and send me any articles of interest to Lesbians and other women for "Short Takes on the News";

(4) anyone with time once a month to word-process articles (on your own computer) and get them back to me on disk very fast. I need help with this; the monthly task is staggering!

And, of course, more articles!! For any or all of this, call Gail at 425/441-6238. Thanks for your support!!

Winter Calendar: We'll publish during the first weeks of October and November 1992, the middle of December, and again during the first week of February 1993, returning to our monthly format in March. Keep this in mind when preparing calendar notices. Don't forget to include us in press mailings.



LESBIAN

Town Meeting

A meeting to create, design, plan, promote, incite, project, activate, conspire, expedite, further, devise and implement Lesbian Visibility at the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bi Equal Rights and Liberation (to be held April 25, 1993).

September 20, 1992 • 3:00pm

Mama Bears

6536 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

for more info 510-655-4486

all women welcome





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LU! is a sponsored project of San Francisco Women's Centers, and checks to them for \$10 or more are tax deductible. All other checks should be made to **Lesbian Uprising!**

Enclosed is my check for \$ (\$20 or more) for one-year subscription to Lesbian Uprisings!
 New Subscription Renewal

I wish to become a member of LU! Enclosed is \$30 for a one-year membership which includes a subscription to Lesbian Uprisings! and a teeshirt.

I wish to become a member and Guardian Goddess of LU!. Enclosed is my donation of \$50 \$75
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You don't have to be a member to 'TGIF'. But you'll want to consider it when you experience the world's largest lesbian organization. More than 45 events monthly. Something for everyone.

Membership provides discounts to events, the monthly activity list *Coming Attractions* and our high quality newsletter *Uncommon Voices*. All are welcome. Discounts for seniors and students. Information sent to you in confidence. Call the number below to ask the location of the TGIF in your area.

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