

April 1993



lesbian uprisings



Two Dollars

LU! Calendar/ Newsletter
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\$20 per year (11 issues)
 Make checks to LESBIAN UPRISINGS!

✧ LU! Events ✧

All telephone numbers are within area code 415 unless otherwise noted.

►►► **Wednesday, April 7** - Meeting of LESBIANS interested in working on the Newsletter. To continue publication, we need new vision, new insights, new energy, new ideas...new women. If you, too, don't think feminism is dead, and that we can still have fun and be political, join us at Red Dora's, the Bearded Lady at 6 pm for a bite (very tasty vegetarian soups!); begin brainstorming work promptly at 7 pm (finished by 9). If you can't attend but want to convey your thoughts, call Gail at 441-6238.

Wednesday, April 14 - Book group reads The Issue is Power: Essays on Women, Jews, Violence and Resistance by Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz. At Lea's, 950 Pine, #102 (at Mason). Call 567-6590 for more details.

Tuesday, April 20 - For information on the political meeting, call Anne or Lisa at 661-3886.

Wednesday, May 12 - Book group will discuss Lives of Courage: Women for a New South Africa by Diana Russell. Meet at Ann's/Rochelle's, 2149 48th Avenue in SF at 6:30 to socialize. Discussion begins at 7 pm. For more info call 664-3240.

✧ Also of Interest ✧

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

Thru Sunday, April 4 (and again Friday April 9 and Saturday, April 10) - The Medea Project's "Food Taboos

in the Land of the Dead," a theatrical collaboration of SF's multicultural women's community and women inmates at San Bruno County Jail, conceived and directed by Rhodessa Jones. Lorraine Hansberry Theater, 620 Sutter (near Mason) in SF. Tickets \$10-15. Call 474-8800.

Thru Sunday, April 11 - The Five Lesbian Brothers in "Brave Smiles...Another Lesbian Tragedy," an erotic, neurotic, tongue-in-cheek send up of Lesbian stereotypes from classic film, plays and history, at the Studio Rhino, 2926 16th Street. Fridays at 8:30; Sat and Sun at 6 and 9. Tickets \$10-12; call 861-5079. [Ed note: If you see only one piece of theater this year, you must check out these insanely hilarious women from New York. It will be hard to top the show they brought last year, but I'm eager to see what they've thought up. The play follows five orphaned girls from their days in an all-girl school through their lives. FLB is absolutely the funniest, most irreverent, most entertaining group you'll ever be subjected to...and, they're not nice! I give them a Triple Don't Miss!!!]

Thru Friday, April 30 - "Feminism: What Kind?" group exhibition at Women's Art Project in the Women's Building.

Thru Saturday, May 1 - Theater Rhino presents "Livin' on Salvation Street," Terry Garner's comedy about an eventful week in the lives of three generations of an all-women family living in Kentucky in 1958. Wed-Sun at 8; Sat at 5; Sun at 3. Tickets \$11-17. Call 861-5079. [Ed note: A well-designed set, complete with five tvs, can't rescue the weak, rambling plot and make us care about the poorly developed characters in this Rhino attempt. And, if you're looking for Lesbian theater, you'll have to look elsewhere. Sorry.]

Friday evening, April 2 thru Monday afternoon, April 5 - Women Making Music Retreat at Bishop Ranch near Healdsburg CA. Join Judy Fjell, Crystal Reeves and 60 other women for a weekend of making music together. Bring your acoustic instruments, favorite songs, dancing shoes for 3 days and 3 nights at this beautiful location. All women, including absolute beginners, are welcome to join in creating this weekend musical community. \$150-250. Info from Sue Dolf and Lynne Pethel at 503/482-9122.

Friday, April 2 thru Sunday, April 4 - Shakiri (who plays the nutcracker in the Dance Brigade's "Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie") and Rootworkers, local artists, actors, dancers and writers involved in their communities' experiences perform as part of Talking Dance Project and Bay Area Dance Series "Body Politics." Laney College Theater, 9th and Fallon in Oakland. Fri-Sat at 8 pm; Sun at 3 pm. Tickets \$14 at the door. 510/464-3540.

Saturday, April 3 - "Celebrating the Vision of Jean Weisinger," a private fundraising dinner to benefit production costs of Jean's upcoming photo exhibit, "100 Women of Color in the Bay Area, 1988-1993." Featuring music by Melanie DeMore and Joy Gamble, poetry by Imani Harrington and others. 7 pm; donations \$10-50; women only; call 695-2980. Also see Gail's interview with Jean on page 15 which has further details.

Saturday, April 3 - Monica Grant sings at Mama Bears. 8 pm; women only; \$7-9; reservations suggested.

Saturday, April 3 - Mothertongue Feminist Reader's Theater performs their script, "Speaking of Aging," at Sisterspirit, 175 Stockton Avenue in San Jose. 408/293-9372.

Saturday, April 3 - Victoria Bond, one of America's most exciting conductors conducts a dazzling concert of treasures with the Women's Philharmonic, including her own composition for saxophone and a gem from folk scholar Ruth Crawford Seeger. At First Congregational Church, Post and Mason Streets in SF. 8 pm. Tickets \$19 in advance from Women's Philharmonic (543-2297) or \$21 at the door.

Sunday, April 4 - Manifesting the Goddess as a personal and political action. Join this group of women for free goddess-making workshop at a Berkeley location. Open to all women; beginning at Noon. Call 510/655-2179 for more details.

Sunday, April 4 - Attention Oakland Lesbians! If you live between Telegraph, Broadway, 40th and 51st Streets, come and meet your Lesbian neighbors at today's backyard grill thing from 2-5 pm. Call 510/655-8792 for info or to get on the mailing list.

Sunday, April 4 - Linda Tillery in concert for an African American Folk Perspective. 4 pm. Tickets \$6 general, \$4 seniors and students at First Presbyterian Church, 27th and Broadway, Oakland. 510/644-0116 for tickets and information.

Sunday, April 4 - Cruise into Spring at the Old Lesbians Dance. Come as your fantasy lover! 3-6 pm at Lake Merritt Sailboat Clubhouse in Oakland with DJ Lori Z. 3-6 pm. Tickets \$7.50 in advance; \$10 at the door. Women of all ages welcome; wheelchair accessible; no scents please. Sponsored by GLOE. 626-7000 for details.

Sunday, April 4 - Suzanne Sherman book party. The author of Lesbian and Gay Marriage: Private

Commitments, Public Ceremonies discusses the issue, pro and con, at Mama Bears. 3-5 pm; free.

Tuesday, April 6 - Benefit dinner for Legacy Oral History Project. Legacy was formed in 1988 to preserve the artistic legacies of SF Bay Area dance community members who are at risk -- elders and those with life-threatening illnesses. At Acorn Tea and Griddle, 1256 Folsom in SF (between 8th and 9th). Seatings at 6 and 8 pm. \$36 tickets with \$12 donated to Legacy. Dinner reservations at 863-2469. Or to view Legacy's collection of taped audio interviews and bound transcripts contact 255-4800.

Tuesday, April 6 - Lesbian singer/songwriter Mary Ann Vorasky performs at Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison in Berkeley, 9:30 pm. \$3 admission.

Wednesday, April 7 - Jean Shinoda Bolen, author of Goddesses in Everywoman, reads from Ring of Power: The Abandoned Child, the Authoritarian Father and the Disempowered Feminine. Noon - 2 pm at Toland Hall, UCSF, 533 Parnassas, SF; free.

Wednesday, April 7 - "Cuban Women Today" Elsa Agramonte, member of the Federation of Cuban Women, speaks on the gains and challenges facing Cuban women. Agramonte is an Afro-Cuban lawyer, working with the UN and Non-Aligned Movement on women's issues, and writing a book on Black women in Cuba. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission in SF at 7 pm. Also on Friday, April 9 at 7:30, Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley. 621-6966 for more info.

Wednesday, April 7 - A showing of "Troubled Paradise," video on Hawai'i and readings by a number of Hawai'ian poets. Benefit for Daughters of the First People, an organization of indigenous women of Turtle Island and the Pacific Islands. 7:30 pm at La Peña, \$5-8.

Wednesday, April 7 thru Sunday, April 11 - The Fifth Gulf Coast Women's Festival in Gulfport Mississippi. RV, tents, community tents/cabins, concerts, workshops, night stage events, health fair, speakers, child care. For more info contact 601/896-3196.

Thursday, April 8 - "Out at UC" a gay, lesbian and bisexual group at UC San Francisco is sponsoring a public forum on "Domestic Partner Benefits for Staff, Faculty and Students at UC", from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Langley Porter Auditorium, 401 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco. Speakers will include Nancy Stoller, Professor, UC Santa Cruz, Board of Community Studies. She is co-author of the Subcommittee's current proposal for domestic partner benefits, developed in conjunction with the ACLU. For

more information, contact Cheryl Christensen at (415) 333-9204.

Thursday, April 8 - Sunflower, a new quarterly literary publication is celebrating its first issue with a reading at Boadecia's, 7:30. (For submission and subscription information, 1678 Shattuck Avenue, Box 90, Berkeley 94709.)

Friday, April 9 - Tribad presents "Cinderella...the Real True Story," by Cheryl Moch. Don't miss this delightful dyke twist to the old fairy tale. Thurs-Sat through May 8 at Five Corners Theater in Petaluma (corner of English and Western). Curtain at 8 pm. Tickets from \$8 (Thursday is bargain night) to \$15 at the door. 707/545-9806 for reservations.

Saturday, April 10 - Kaboom! Ten stories from Dorothy Allison's writing for performance workshop. At the Lab, 1807 Divisadero, 7:30 pm. Suggested donation \$3 but no one turned away for lack of funds. Readers include Laura Moxie, Nao Bustamante, Katia Noyes and Albert Park.

Saturday, April 10 - Over Our Heads, improv comedy and music with Karen Ripley, Teresa Chandler, Annie Larson, Marian Damon at Mama Bears. 8 pm, women only, \$8-10, reservations suggested.

Monday, April 12 - "The Home Girl and the Shane Maidele," a poetry reading by African-American feminist editor/writer/poet/political activist Denise Harvey, and Jewish Lesbian activist/writer/perinatal social worker Karen Erlichman. \$3-10 at Old Wives Tales; 8 pm.

Monday, April 12 - Terry McMillan, author of Waiting to Exhale, Mama, and Disappearing Acts speaks at Herbst Theatre as part of On Art & Politics for the benefit of The Women's Foundation. 8 pm, Van Ness near McAllister. Tickets \$14 from City Box Office, 141 Kearny Street in SF. 392-4400.

Tuesday, April 13 - Breakthrough, the political journal of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, will celebrate its special issue on Lesbian and gay politics with contributions by Jewelle Gomez, Suzanne Pharr, Crystos and others. Modern Times hosts a short poetry presentation and refreshments to celebrate. Free at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 14 thru Sunday, May 2 - Magic Theatre production of "Why We Have A Body," a contemporary comedy by Claire Chafee which explores female myths and relationships. Lili, a private investigator, is having an affair with a married woman.

Wed-Sat at 8:30 pm; Sat. at 8:30; Sun at 2 pm. Tickets \$12-21 from 441-8822.

Thursday, April 15 - Pam Pierce, author of Golden Gate Gardening: The Complete Guide to Year-Round Food Gardening in the SF Bay Area and Coastal California presents a spring planting slide show and talk as well as recipes for edible weeds. \$3-10 benefits Women's Voices of Old Wives Tales. 8 pm at OWT.

Thursday, April 15 - Come celebrate the 13th Birthday of Oseto Women's Bath House, 955 Valencia from 8:30 pm. 282-6333 for more details.

Friday, April 16 - Jennifer Berezan celebrates the release of her long-awaited recording, "Borderlines." Berezan's music combines a political bite with a blend of folk, rock and urban country. 8 pm at La Peña, \$9.

Saturday, April 17 - Alberta Jackson, beloved mainstay of women's music, and Charlesetta Turner bring their years of singing and playing the blues to Mama Bears. 8 pm, women only, \$8-10, reservations suggested.

Saturday, April 17 - Teresa Trull and special guest Nina Gerber appear in concert at the Institute for the Musical Arts in Bodega. 8 pm. Tickets are \$12. Call 707/876-3004 to reserve.

Saturday, April 17 - Lesbian Installation Projects (L.I.P.S.) is working on a community-based installation with Pamela, a practicing artist with an MFA from Slade School of Fine Art in London. The workshop will be held at Laney College (plenty of free parking but registration is necessary). Call 510/222-4552.

Sunday, April 18 - Mothertongue Feminist Theater presents "Lesbian Erotica," at Josie's. 5 pm; \$6-10.

Tuesday, April 20 - Sue Grafton, the "alphabetical" mystery writer, reads from her latest, J Is for Judgment, at Black Oak Books, 7:30 pm. Get there early, though, as lots of other fans will be eager to hear this popular writer.

Wednesday, April 21 - Gerda Lerner, author of The Creation of Patriarchy will discuss The Creation of Feminist Consciousness: From the Middle Ages to 1870. Lerner is a founding member of NOW and a foremost scholar on women's history. 7:30 pm at Black Oak Books.

Opening Wednesday, April 21 - "Bubbe Meises: A Granddaughter's Musical Journey," opens at the Hansberry Theater, 620 Sutter (at Mason) in SF. A loving tribute to

immigrant grandmothers -- their humor and wit. Ticket prices, info and purchase at 433-9500.

Wednesday, April 21 - Marcia Stark, author of The Dark Goddess: Dancing with the Shadow discusses the powerful goddesses Pele, Kali, Sekhmet, Medusa, Hecate, Lilith and Eveshkgial. At GAIA, 7:30 pm. \$3 without purchase.

Thursday, April 22 - Naomi Lowinsky, author of The Motherline: Everywoman's Journey to Find Her Female Roots, offers timeless wisdom from the stories of our mothers and grandmothers. 7:30 pm at GAIA. \$3 or free with purchase.

Friday, April 23 - D'Cuckoo plays The Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell in SF at 9 pm; tickets \$12. 885-0750.

Saturday, April 24 - March on DC Dance at Olive Oyl's. Show your sisterhood and solidarity by being visible on the eve of the largest civil rights march in history. If you can't be in DC, be at Olive Oyl's, 295 China Basin off Third at Pier 50 from 8 to 1 am. BACW sponsored event. \$10 in advance; \$15 at door.

Saturday, April 24 - Jamie Sams, co-author of Medicine Cards and The Sacred Path Cards, discusses cultivating the feminine power from the teachings passed to her from her two Kiowa grandmothers. 7:30 at GAIA. \$3 or free with purchase.

Sunday, April 25 - *Official March on Washington. Consult enclosed flier for a complete listing of all events. Hope to see you there!! Lesbian visibility on women's issues is extremely vital. Washington DC is a whole new town when the queers take over. Be a part of the excitement.*

Sunday, April 25 - If you can't be in DC you can join some of the local activities in support of the March. For instance, Contra Costa NOW will meet at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek at 12:30 to show support for the civil rights of Lesbians and gay men.

Monday, April 26 - Marion Woodman, author of Leaving My Father's House: The Journey to Conscious Feminine, explores how to bring feminine wisdom to consciousness in a patriarchal culture. \$3 with purchase of featured book, \$6 w/out book purchase. Sponsored by GAIA and held at St. John's Church, 2727 College at Forest in Berkeley. 7:30 pm. Contact GAIA for more details.

Tuesday, April 27 - Rita Mae Brown, author of Rubyfruit Jungle and other novels of Lesbian life, reads from her

latest, Venus Envy, at Black Oak Books. Arrive well before the reading begins at 7:30 if you want a seat.

Tuesday, April 27 - Beth Hedva, author of Journey from Betrayal to Trust: A Universal Rite of Passage discusses her book at GAIA. 7:30 pm. \$3 without book purchase.

Tuesday, April 27 - Leslea Newman talks about her new anthology Eating Our Hearts Out: Personal Accounts of Women's Relationship to Food. \$3-10 benefits Women's Voices of Old Wives Tales. 8 pm at Old Wives Tales.

Tuesday, April 27 - Chilean poet, filmmaker, performance artist and sculptor Cecilia Vicuna will perform works from the bilingual collection of her poetry Unraveling Words & the Weaving of Water. Suzanne Jill Levine, one of Vicuna's translators and author of The Subversive Scribe will read from the English version. Free at Modern Times, 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 28 - Modern Times' monthly open readings of Lesbian and gay poetry and prose. All are encouraged to attend. Free at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 28 - Dena Taylor and Amber Sumerall, who wrote The Times of Our Lives: Women Write on Sex After 40, and a panel of the contributors, tell the stories of women who awaken sexually later in life, take younger partners, or "come out" at midlife. At GAIA, 7:30 pm. \$3 without purchase.

Thursday, April 29 - Red Dora's hosts Constant Craving Coffee House for Lesbian and bi women under 23 with music, entertainment, food and more. From 7 pm.

Thursday, April 29 - Barbara Hazard will discuss Off Nevsky Prospekt: Life Among Leningrad's Unofficial Artists. Although Hazard lives in Berkeley, she spends several months every year in Leningrad. This book takes the reader into the world of Leningrad's dissident artists under Gorbachev and brings to life the struggles of the unofficial artists to lead creative and meaningful lives in times of upheaval. 7:30 at Black Oak Books.

Saturday, May 1 - "Celebrating Women's Resilience," with Maya Angelou. A special forum in which the unique strengths and resourcefulness of women will be highlighted. Speakers include Dr. Emily Lyon, Janice Mirikitani and others. Dinkelspiel Auditorium of Stanford University. 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. 856-4121.

Saturday, May 1 - Eighth "Empowering Women of Color Conference" at Boalt Hall of UC Berkeley. 8 am-5:30 pm. Keynote speakers: Barbara Christian, writer and teacher;

and Cherrie Moraga, activist, playwright and writer. Many workshops as well. Sliding scale \$5-10. More info call 510/549-9931.

Sunday, May 2 "There's a Tree Whistling Its Message Through the Kettle," a women's tea party and storytelling ceremony in Codornices Park (Euclid Avenue across from Berkeley Rose Garden). Special guests: Awele Makeba (Oakland) and Kham Saengsourith (Laos). Bring a warm wrap, a teacup and a story to tell of a woman who influences her own life. Open to women of all ages and girls over 8 years old. \$10-35 per person. Info: 510/841-6612.

Saturday, May 1 - Kaboom! Ten stories from Dorothy Allison's writing for performance workshop. At the Lab, 1807 Divisadero, 7:30 pm. Suggested donation \$3 but no one turned away for lack of funds. Readers include Chelsea Bonacello, Shea Dean, Mitchell Tanner, Uthra and Rene Yung.

Sunday, May 2 - Celebrate Options' 15th Anniversary of service to midlife women at a Comedy Gala from 2-5 pm at the Women's Building. The event will feature the comedy of Marilyn Pittman, a performance by Terry Sendgraff and "Women Walking Tall," as well as music and skits...and a dessert buffet. Wheelchair access. Tickets \$25 and up. 431-6405 for financial assistance, info.

Friday, May 7 - Margie Adam celebrates the release of her new album at James Moore Theatre, Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak Street (between 10th and 12th). 8 pm. Tickets \$15 with SASE by 4/28 to JR Productions, 433 Town Center #604, Corte Madera CA 94925 (no service charge) or from BASS.

Saturday, May 8 - Different Spokes and AIDS Service Providers Association present AIDS bike-a-thon 9. For more information, or to get a pledge form, call 575-1800.

Saturday, May 8 - Singer/songwriter Monica Grant appears with Dos Fallopia (the wacky duo from Seattle) at Sisterspirit, 175 Stockton Avenue in San Jose. 8:30 pm. 408/293-9372.

Tuesday, May 11 - Anna Quindlen, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the New York Times and author of Object Lessons and Living Out Loud will appear in conversation with Cynthia Gorney at 8 pm. Herbst Theatre, Van Ness near McAllister in SF. Tickets are \$14 from City Box Office, 141 Kearny Street, SF. 392-4400. Part of the "On Art & Politics" series which benefits the Women's Foundation.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

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PTM

**3rd Annual
All Women Are At Risk
Mothers' Day Rally at the Capitol
in Sacramento**

**Breast Cancer Prevention
Call 916/334-2273**

One in eight women in the United States will get breast cancer in her lifetime. Funding for research is inadequate and denial of the disease is killing women every day.

Wednesday, May 12 - Join Ronnie Gilbert and the Women's Building in celebrating the premier performance of "Mother Jones, The Most Dangerous Woman in America," a one-woman musical play by Ronnie Gilbert, music by Si Kahn. Zellerbach Playhouse on UC Campus. 7 pm curtain, 9 pm reception with Ronnie. Tickets and further information on this performance 431-1180.

Wednesday, May 12 - Singer/songwriter Monica Grant appears with Dos Fallopia (comics from Seattle) at Freight and Salvage, 1111 Addison in Berkeley. 8 pm. 510/548-1761.

Saturday, May 22 - Women and Cancer Walk For Our Lives. 5K route in Golden Gate Park. Info call 487-6224.

Bay Area

⊛ **Women's Resources** ⊛

WA: wheelchair accessible; NS: no smoking. (*Caution: you may be exposed to incense or other scents.)

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

Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Avenue, Kensington CA 94707. 510/559-9184. WA, NS

ClaireLight Bookstore, 519 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. 707/575-8879?. WA, NS

Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, SF. 431-0891. Restricted interior, front entrance accessible. NS

The Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission, SF. 431-6911. WA but someone must get attendant to activate rear elevator, NS

Gaia Bookstore, 1400 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 510/549-4172 or 848-4242. Wheelchair accessible through back (let store know so they can unlock door); NS;*

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

Lesbian and Gay Switchboard at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph in Berkeley. 510/841-6224. WA, NS

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

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

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

La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue (near Ashby BART), Berkeley. 510/849-2568/2572. WA, NS (except area in cafe)

Red Dora's, The Bearded Lady, dyke cabaret and coffee house, 485 14th Street (near Guerrero), SF. 626-2805.

Tea Spot Cafe, 2072 San Pablo at Addison in Berkeley. 510/848-7376. WA, NS

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

Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 510/548-9272.

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♀♀♀**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.

We do very little editing, except 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.

Some back issues are available for \$3.00 each. If you've missed a few months, contact me and we'll see if we can fill the gaps. We are now accepting advertisements for your business or service. Since we're still working on a rate schedule and policy, call Gail at 441-6238.

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.

The following bookstores carry LU!: Boadecia's Books, Kensington; Bookshop Santa Cruz; Clairelight, Santa Rosa; Different Light, SF Castro; Lioness, Sacramento; Mama Bears, Oakland; Modern Times, SF; Old Wives Tales, SF; Paradigm, San Diego; and Sisterhood, Los Angeles,

✧ Letters and Announcements ✧

Celia Wildroot sends this from Arkansas: I am writing to request a free sample copy of your newsletter. I don't live in the area, so I hope it's more than a calendar. I was so hopeful by the wording of your ad "The voice of lesbian feminism" because I'm tired of so much lesbian without the feminism... In publications, in the bars/events, and even at the festivals.

Being a feminist is a big part of my lesbian identity - and it truly saddens me to see so many of our species these days just "fitting into the system." "Let's get married, have babies, and show the world we are not any different than them." I have always been so grateful and honored to be of the species which is on the cutting edge of philosophy/ethics, social change - etc. So - I'm hoping to find some validation and celebration of who I am and who we are collectively within the pages of "Lesbian Uprising!"

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GLAAD reports that on Monday, February 1, their 21st Lesbian Traditional Family billboard went up at Stockton and Taylor streets in San Jose. On Tuesday, the battery shop below the billboard reported a bomb threat, and on Wednesday, Patrick Media, the outdoor advertising firm that provided the billboard space, ordered the sign covered because of safety. The covered billboard now stands as a stark symbol of invisibility. However, the Lesbian Visibility Task Force used the bomb threat to increase lesbian visibility! Leslie Brinkley from KGO-Channel 7 featured the billboard as the lead story in the 11 p.m. report, referring to the bomb threat as a "hate-crime," and allowing us to discuss homophobia and our efforts to counter it. Numerous other broadcast and print media covered the story. The project is an overall success. Another billboard is still up in San Jose, and there are now three in Oakland. The Lesbian Visibility Task Force meets at the GLAAD office at 7 p.m., on the third Sunday of every month. (Excerpted from GLAAD/SFBA newsletter)



Join the Lesbian Health Brigade during the March on Washington. Saturday, April 24, "Celebration and Remembrance," for Lesbians organizing around cancer from 12:30-2:30. Sign painting party from 3-5 pm at Whitman Walker Clinic conference center, 1734 14th Street NW. More info call WCRC at 510/548-9272.

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Women's Computer Literacy Center (a project of Options for Women Over 40) has a schedule of classes on WordPerfect 5.1, Lotus and general computer competency. Costs from \$70-195. Call 677-9101 for more details about these beginning and intermediate classes.

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The National Council for Research on Women has an ambitious publications list (just received at LU!) on topics such as sexual harassment, current research on adolescent girls, women in academe and the declining federal commitment to research about women. To see what they offer, contact them at NCRW, 530 Broadway, 10th Floor, NY 10012. Call 212/274-0730.

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Global Africa 1993 International Film and Video Festival: Peralta College Television, an award-winning nationally-recognized cable network, seeks works that capture the experiences of people of African descent on an international level. 3/4" (1/2" VHS possible) NTSC only, exhibition quality video cassette. Selected entries will have the option of a cablecast presentation on the PCTV network in greater SF Bay area. Entry fee: \$20 (although the deadline was March 15, you can enter late for an extra \$10.) 510/464-3253.

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La Mujer Luchando El Mundo Va Formando: Celebrating Three Years of Struggle. On January 16, 1990, 1,150 workers from Levi Strauss & Company's South Zarzamora Street plant in San Antonio, Texas were given the devastating news that Levi was shutting down operations and moving to Costa Rica. In the aftermath of the closure, the laid-off workers, after finding out that their plant was the 26th one Levi had shut down since 1985,

decided to organize themselves to fight against Levi's plant closing policies. Without any organizing experience and knowing little or no English, they formed Fuerza Unida.

Fuerza Unida women will travel from San Antonio to San Francisco from April 26 to May 2 to demand justice from Levi Strauss. They are taking their struggle to the very doorstep of the Haas family. They want also to express their position regarding NAFTA, which will only serve to exploit sisters and brothers in Third World countries as well as the environment. Greedy corporations such as Levi Strauss enrich themselves even further with the suffering of these workers. There is a tremendous amount of support in San Francisco as well as all over the nation for the workers. They say they will no longer tolerate irresponsible behavior toward workers and ask you to join them in the protest.

This is their tentative itinerary for San Francisco: Monday-Tuesday, April 26 and 27 - Protest march at Levi Headquarters; Wednesday-Thursday, April 28-29 - Protest march at Levi Foundation; Friday, April 30 - Protest march at home of Bob Haas or Oakland A's Stadium; Saturday, May 1 - Banquet celebration. Presentation of appreciation awards to supporters, followed by dance. For more information call (512) 229-1318 or write to 1305 N. Flores Street, San Antonio, TX 78212.

What you can do: boycott stores that sell Levi's; collect and return Levi's labels to headquarters; encourage global and local political action; write letters of support; hold press conferences at Levi's offices and plants; send money; organize your group to demand negotiations and to keep Fuerza Unida's issues ongoing; or fax a message to Levi Strauss headquarters in San Francisco at 1-415-544-3939.

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Rainbow Clinic for Gay/Lesbian Families is now open at UCSF. On March 1, the first pediatric clinic in the US for children of Lesbian and gay parents celebrated its grand opening at UCSF Med Center. The staff of 3 physicians and a nurse practitioner is committed to providing health care in an accepting and supportive environment. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call the Rainbow Clinic at 476-6410.

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As part of an ongoing effort to raise awareness of women's contributions to science and mathematics, the National Women's History Project has issued a new full-color poster, "Women in Science and Mathematics." The 22x27" multicultural poster features 20 historic and

contemporary women who have shaped the worlds of science and math. \$8 plus \$2 s/h. Only one of hundreds of women's history materials available from NWHP, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492 (707/838-6000). Complete catalog for only one dollar.



Hurricane Alice, a feminist quarterly, seeks essays, reviews, poems, short stories, personal experience and art work on the theme "Land and Landscape" for their summer '93 issue. They are interested in women's perspectives on the uses of land, and on its conservation, on the natural beauty of land, on recreation for which it is a setting, on the aesthetics of land in terms of gardening, landscaping. Deadline April 15, 1993. Length 3,000 words max. Send to Hurricane Alice, 207 Lind Hall, 207 Church Street SE, Minneapolis MN 55455.



Sexual Harassment Project - The San Francisco NOW office currently receives thousands of calls from women seeking assistance with sexual harassment problems. The sexual harassment project will have four main elements: hotline staffed by trained staff and volunteers, ongoing support groups, legal referral and assistance, and a sexual harassment library. The scope of the program will initially focus on San Francisco, but will ultimately be regional and perhaps statewide. Multi-lingual services will be provided. A secondary benefit of the program will be information gathering and disseminating on sexual harassment in our community.

Sexual Harassment Hotline - This confidential service will be a resource for people who are sexually harassed or who are interested in stopping and preventing sexual harassment in their work or academic environment. Information will include services that are available, assistance that government agencies provide, legal options, and steps that companies and schools can take to create positive environments. The hotline will also gather confidential information on sexual harassment in the San Francisco area.

Funding - We are seeking initial funding through foundation and corporate grants, private donations, and government funds. Resources for this project will be stretched by extensive use of trained volunteers, pro-bono legal assistance, and public service advertising. We are also seeking in-kind donations for computer and phone equipment, printing, research resources, and training materials. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to: S.F. NOW Education Fund.

Education Fund - This project is sponsored by the SF NOW Education Fund. We are seeking input and collaboration from the women's community. For further information, or if you are interested in working on this project, please contact: Dorka Keehn, Project Coordinator, 861-8880.

✻ Articles ✻

And Now, Murder (Ann Menasche) - Finally, it has come to this. Cold-blooded murder. Shot in the back. Dr. David Gunn killed on March 11 during a anti-abortion demonstration at a women's clinic in Pensacola, Florida. The christian right, following the logic of its own rhetoric - that fetal cells are "human beings;" that doctors performing abortions are "mass murderers;" that what happens in women's wombs is a "holocaust" morally equivalent to the horror of six million Jewish men, women and children slaughtered by the Nazis - decided to carry out its own "divine justice."

And let us not be fooled into believing that this was the act of a single crazy man - a wife batterer who once threatened to kill all his children if he was ever denied custody of them. No, Michael Griffin did not act alone. The day before, he had announced his intentions at his Assembly of God Church, according to his close associate, Rev. John Burt, of the radical right group, Rescue America. Burt said, "He [Griffin] asked the congregation to pray, and asked that we would agree with him that Dr. Gunn would give his life to Jesus Christ." Burt, a former member of the KKK, had also been the "spiritual advisor" of two men who were arrested in 1985 for the bombings of three abortion clinics. The March 17 edition of San Francisco Weekly reported that in the late 1980's a woman had overheard two Rescue America leaders (one of whom, Ed Martin, helped Burt organize the Pensacola chapter) discussing strategy to stop abortions. "Someone has to die," both had agreed.

So when it finally happened, those of us active in the pro-choice movement were horrified but not really surprised. After all the "pro-life" movement has been terrorizing women's clinics for more than a decade - 1107 incidents of violence in 1992 alone - with almost no arrests and no serious government investigation. And even with this murder, Clinton's new Attorney General Janet Reno, according to the March 24 San Francisco Chronicle, sees no need for the Justice Department's involvement.

Funny thing: The FBI, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms folks can function when the terrorist bombers and murderers are purported to be Muslims; they can function with guns blazing when the fanatics are a tiny cult led by

a former rock star who thinks he's Jesus. They have functioned quite effectively to spy on, harass, and disrupt every progressive movement. But, for some reason, the forces of "law and order" have been unable to function when called upon to protect clinics against the violence and terrorism of the most powerful and dangerous group of extremists in this country - our own "home-grown" fascists -- the christian right.

And it is not simply federal and state law enforcement that has handled these people with kid gloves, giving them free rein to terrorize us. It's the Supreme Court as well. As NOW President Patricia Ireland stated at a press conference at the U.S. Supreme Court steps the day after the murder, "When the Supreme Court decision in *Bray, Operation Rescue, et al. vs. Alexandria Women's Health Center, NOW, et al.* was handed down on January 13, it gave the green light to anti-abortion vigilantes and affirmed their terrorist tactics." That decision ruled that there was no legal grounds to protect women from clinic blockades under Federal Civil Rights law. U.S. Marshalls and federal injunctions could thus no longer be used to stop blockades.

In response to the murder, national pro-choice groups have increased their efforts on behalf of passage of H.R. 796, the "Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1993." The Act, if passed by Congress, would make it a Federal criminal offense to physically obstruct, impede, or hinder access to a reproductive health facility. The bill also provides for civil suits for damages and for injunctive relief to terminate current or prevent threatened blockades.

The pro-choice response has been swift in the Bay Area as well. The San Francisco Area Pro-Choice Coalition held a Press Conference here the day of the murder and a demonstration of 200 people took place the following day. Our petition campaign to demand an investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of clinic violence has gained new momentum - already thousands of signatures have been collected. Plans are being made to present the petitions to Attorney General Reno, along with other state and federal officials.

In addition, the Coalition is making plans to support a clinic under siege in our own backyard - "Choice Medical Group" in Redwood City. There, anti-choice people have just filed suit against the clinic and have subjected the clinic to increased harassment. Clinic workers have been specifically targeted, along with escorts who have been stalked and followed to their jobs. A demonstration is tentatively planned for Redwood City for sometime later this spring.

So how do we stop the bombings, the blockades, the "wanted" posters of doctors and clinic workers? How do we turn around the decreasing availability of abortion? (Already 20 percent of women who want abortions are unable to get them.) And how do we prevent more murders like Dr. Gunn's? It would do us well to remember the lessons of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. At that time, civil rights workers were being murdered in the south, churches were being firebombed, demonstrators were being set upon by police dogs and firehoses; segregationists were using terrorist tactics to preserve American apartheid similar to those used by the christian right today to preserve patriarchal control of women's wombs. Local authorities were either actively on the wrong side or else did nothing at all. Only a mobilized civil rights movement loudly demanding that the federal government step in was able to begin turning things around. We have to do the same today - be loud, vehement, and mobilized - until justice is done.

To help with the petition drive, the defense of the Redwood City clinic, and to work for the passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinics Act, contact the Pro-Choice Coalition at (415) 255-1989.



Oregon Organizes! (Sky) - As the Far Wrong continues to attack Lesbians and gays in Oregon, Oregon queers pull together to set the foundation of a powerful civil rights movement. Emerging from the chaos of post-Nine, are The Rural Organizing Project, the Oregon Speak-Out Project and numerous Political Action Committees.

The Rural Organizing Project, designed by Marcy Westerling, outgoing board president of Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, provides assistance to rural communities in creating and maintaining human dignity groups. Westerling has structured this group with local activities at the heart of the operations.

The Oregon Speak-Out Project, underwritten by the Equity Foundation, provides educational outreach throughout the state at a grassroots level. Oregon Speak-Out organizers also recognize the Far Wrong's strategy is rooted in support from rural areas. OSOP has set in place an ambitious outreach training program to assist activists outside Portland.

Augmenting OSOP and ROP is Support our Communities Political Action Committee (SOCPAC). Some names, huh? SOCPAC is using Portland as base for resources especially money and, to some extent, skills. They make money and resources available to targeted rural communities.

Groups in existence before Measure Nine, such as Lesbian Community Project in Portland, which is headed by Donna Red Wing, continue with key support programs such as LCP's hate crimes reporting hotline. LCP's hotline provided data to help Governor Roberts create her proposed Bias Crime Commission (OSB 128).

Meanwhile, the Oregon Citizens' Alliance continues to spew its toxic lies about the countryside with its 25 city and eight county initiatives. As public opposition continues to grow against the OCA, the OCA becomes more vitriolic in attacking Lesbians and gays. A losing Far Wronger is scary to witness, as was seen at a local city board meeting where the OCA attacked and threatened individual board members for their support of Oregon Senate Bill 34, which provides equal employment and housing opportunities for all citizens of Oregon regardless of sexual orientation.

In closing, seen at our local post office is the new OCA symbol: A big pink triangle on a black background with a diagonal line through it. Hah! That's downright unpatriotic!



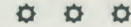
Bosnia (Rochelle Glickman) - While thousands of women have been and are still being raped in Bosnia, there is movement underway to help them. First, from a group of Croatian feminists -- these women have guts. When they condemned the action of their own men as well as the Serbians, they were viciously attacked in their local press as "witches" and "little girls of communism." There is nothing like feminist solidarity to bring out the misogyny in men. French women are also trying to help out. France's Minister of European Affairs Elisabeth Guigou and Simon Veil have launched a national fundraising campaign for the rape victims.

Here in the US, American women haven't been silent either. Many feminists groups like MADRE and Speak-Out are trying to get rape considered a war crime and form of torture (even when committed in times of "peace"). The Center for Women's Global Leadership has been pressuring the UN to establish a tribunal to prosecute war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Catherine MacKinnon and several other lawyers are suing Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, on behalf of the Croatian rape victims.

At home in the Bay Area, a group of Muslim women called the Islamic Jerrahi Order of California has set up the Balkan Women's Relief Project. The project was started by Dr. Irene Lazarus, a family therapist who led a mission to Bosnia to train refugee women as counselors to work with rape victims. They would eventually like to start

bringing some of the survivors here to the US, claiming their families won't take them back.

In times like these when torture has become eroticized and Camille Paglia (whose response to rape is "it's a jungle out there, get used to it") has also become fashionable, it's good to see women helping women. Give me that old-fashioned feminism!

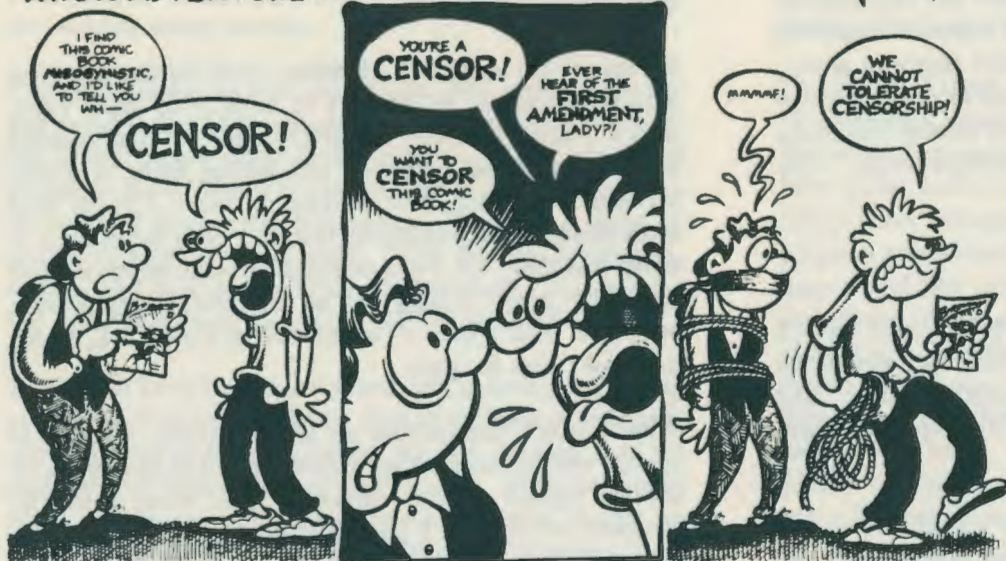


Feminism, Pornography and Hate Speech (Melissa Farley) - The first weekend in March, 1993, I attended a conference on feminist legal perspectives on pornography and hate propaganda in Chicago. Many of us who were at a conference five years ago called "Sexual liberals and the attack on feminism" returned for this one. The conference brought together lawyers who address racism in law, constitutional scholars, feminist legal scholars, and antipornography and antiracism activists. Laura Lederer deserves much credit for organizing the conference.

Speakers addressed the political dynamic at work in interpretations of the First Amendment ("Free Speech") and the Fourteenth Amendment ("Equality"). As Mari Matsuda said, "We [lawyers] analyze First Amendment problems as if blood is not on our hands." She pointed out the connection between pornography as sexist speech and hate speech which is racist as central to her oppression as a woman of color. Those who argue in favor of "freedom of speech" when people are referring to the freedom to use pornography and racist hate speech, are essentially arguing in favor of people's rights to be racist and to lynch; and for the rights of people to be sexist and to rape. (Charles Lawrence) When it comes to equality, the distinction between "speech" and "acts" makes no sense. The location of the harm done to a person is in the act of speech itself. Hate speech limits a person's ability to participate equally and freely in a society.

Here in the Bay Area, feminists are guiltily silenced by charges of "censorship" when we talk about the harm which is done to women -- physically and psychologically by pornography. But do you know how much "speech" is in fact limited by law in the US? There are limitations on commercial speech if it lies, obscene phone calls, ads for segregated housing, telling a dog to "kill," price fixing, proper decorum in a courtroom, conspiracy, certain liquor advertisements, bribes, threats, perjury, unlicensed medical advice, and on and on. First Amendment Fundamentalists call us prudes (I've been called worse!) and censors if we describe the harm to girls and women in pornography. First Amendment Fundies include Feminists Against Censorship, pro-pornography sex workers who proclaim

NINA'S ADVENTURES



rape, pornography, sadomasochism, and prostitution to be "sexual liberation" for women; pornographers; the A.C.L.U; leftish men who enjoy their Playboy Playmate while dedicating themselves to work on "Central American issues." As John Stoltenberg pointed out, these First Amendment absolutists are as dangerous as any other kind of fundamentalist. They have tunnel vision on the issue of speech and carefully ignore the complex web of oppressions which cage us in.

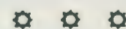
I gained a new level of understanding of the feminist legal thinking that went into the Dworkin-MacKinnon ordinance under which pornographers can be prosecuted if it can be shown in court that harm resulted from the pornography. As Evelina Giobbe puts it: "Pornography is pictures of prostitution. Pornography is: 'See this, do that, bitch.'" Pornography uses the bodies of women as its language. The ordinance gives power to those who don't have it and takes it away from the pornographers -- those in power. The location of the harm done in racist/hate speech and in pornography is in the act of speech. Speech is the violence; it is the harm. "Speech acts. Acts speak." (Catharine A. MacKinnon) The unhindered "marketplace of ideas" allows some people the freedom to exploit women and people of color. Ads for segregated housing are words which imply action, and similarly, pornography is words and pictures which cause women harm. Pornography is evidence of abuse just like the Rodney King beating videotape is evidence of abuse (Meg Baldwin).

Kathleen Mahoney, a Canadian lawyer who argued in favor of a Canadian version of the Ordinance, pointed out that the Canadian court actively prosecutes messages which inhibit social inequality. Mahoney described the Canadian Charter as a "seamless web of interdependent rights -

speech as well as the right to physical integrity and social equality." Every case brought before the court is context-based, that is to say the person must show that they are disadvantaged by race, gender, religion, ethnicity, age, sexual preference, disability, etc. Then the event of harm [involving pornography] must be shown to increase that disadvantage. I was interested to hear that there is no legislative distinction made in Canada between child and adult pornography.

"The terrible thing about a liberal society is that they keep talking about changing consciousness. How do you change the consciousness of the rapist and the pimp?" (Andrea Dworkin)

I was moved by the respect and affection which was given Andrea Dworkin and Catharine A. MacKinnon by the scholars, activists, in all about 500 attending the conference. My words can't describe the brilliance and the tenderness of Dworkin's and MacKinnon's contributions to feminism. If you haven't read their books, get your book club to go for it. Audio cassettes can be ordered from Speech, Equality and Harm Conference, University of Chicago Law School, c/o 1255 West North Shore #2, Chicago, Illinois 60626. Papers presented at the conference will be published in the summer symposium issue of the U. of Chicago Law Review. An anthology will be published by Farrar, Strauss and Giroux in early 1994.



Tofu for Hot Flashes? (reprinted from "Nutrition Action Newsletter," March 1993) - Japanese women report fewer hot flashes and other symptoms of menopause than women in North America and elsewhere. That's not entirely due to cultural differences, say researchers. Soybeans may have something to do with it. Japanese women excrete 100 to 1,000 times more isoflavonoids in their urine than American or Finnish women, according to preliminary studies from the Tufts University School of Medicine and the University of Helsinki. That means they have higher levels of isoflavonoids in their blood.

Isoflavonoids are plant constituents that microorganisms in the gut can convert to substances that act like weak

estrogens. And estrogen can help prevent hot flashes. Why the big isoflavonoid gap? Because the Japanese eat about two ounces a day of soybeans or soybean-containing foods like tofu (soybean curd) and miso (soybean paste.) Soy sauce doesn't have enough soybeans to matter. These high amounts could have (estrogen-like) effects, especially in postmenopausal women with low estrogen levels. Tofu teriyaki, anyone?



Boycotting For Our Lives (Lee Lynch) - Last week I talked to a friend on the other side of America. She got an earful about our ongoing struggle in Oregon. "Still?" she asked. "We hear about Colorado, but bring up Oregon and all anybody talks about is trees."

Still. In Oregon, we've switched from a statewide war to hand-to-hand combat with the dying right wing, fending off city-by-city, county-by-county attacks that have continued unabated since the November defeat of Ballot Measure Nine. The local initiatives are unlovingly called "Son of Nine."

It's true too, about the trees. The same enemy is out to destroy old growth forests and wetlands by stripping from the government protections and turning them over to private, profit-hungry hands. I was walking some property with a realtor just yesterday. He stopped our little troupe in the snowy woods and looked up at a stately old pine. "A thousand dollar tree," he pronounced, turning majesty to market value without apology.

It takes a while to see the simple logic of the right. Gay is hardly the issue, though that's what all the noise is about. We're just a stepping stone, living beings no more worthy than that tree, on the way to the right's greater goal: profit. Fear is an excellent fundraiser. What is more frightening to Americans than commies? One thing: queers!

It seems fitting, then, that we queers use money to protect ourselves. Whether the strategy is called boycott, where we support gay-positive businesses, or boycott, where we refuse to deal with the enemy in its financial persona, hitting 'em in the pocketbooks is fair game these days for a besieged people who are being used to further a political agenda.

It wasn't hard for me to write my letters to Colorado politicians, or to send back promotional materials to companies trying to sell me stuff out of Colorado Springs. I haven't got the kind of money it would take to ski Aspen on gay ski week or any other. The only time I've ever even been in Colorado was the day some years ago when

I got stuck at Stapleton International Airport in a plane with hydraulic troubles.

It began to get more difficult when I realized that The New Yorker magazine, to which I've subscribed since 1963, uses a mailing company out of Colorado. I compromised by writing to the magazine and asking them to switch services. Any day now, without a doubt, I'll get their reply thanking me and saying that they're in the process of doing just that. Or I can compromise and accept the fact that The New Yorker is an extremely gay-positive periodical with a base of operations in New York, which has civil rights for gays.

What I won't compromise on is L.L. Bean. I admit to having yuppie genes on my father's side and absolutely no defense against a Bean catalog. Even when I had no prospects of money I'd pore over the catalogues with lust. I'd heard rumors that granddaughter Linda Lorraine Bean, large stockholder and one of the heirs to the Bean fortune, was all for nuclear energy, but my environmental passions found a shameful balance with my loyal customer passions. Then I saw the damning evidence in Au Courant, a gay paper out of Philadelphia.

The article stated that when Linda Bean tried for a congressional seat, Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum group contributed on a large scale. The state chair of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition was Bean's campaign manager. Although she lost that race, Linda Bean has, in turn, made "large contributions" to the Christian Coalition and to Jesse Helms' National Conservative Action Committee.

It was with feelings suitable to Greek tragedy that I wrote L.L. Bean, the company, and ended my twenty-year relationship with them. I got a response the other day, regretting my decision, but explaining that the company had a policy of non-intervention in its employees' politics. Laudable, but not the point. Not one cent of mine will knowingly go to despicable organizations or causes.

When I hear the strategy of boycotting attacked I always have qualms. I don't want to hurt the progressives, of Denver, for example, by closing even my thin wallet to them. Many of them have supported their gay neighbors. But I think back to the civil rights wars of the sixties, to the long hard work, the danger, the fulltime commitment made by blacks and whites. Have any of us really done enough? If we had, Son of Nine would have been legally aborted and the gays of Colorado would not be the walking wounded. Before the election when I masochistically attempted to imagine what it would feel like to lose in Oregon, I couldn't bear the emotional wasteland of despair

I discovered in myself. Gay Coloradans are living with that despair every minute.

I've got to make the best use of what little power I have in this society. Locally, progressive people share the word on this or that conservative-owned business. The Long Island Center in New York is in the process of putting together a directory of gay-positive businesses. Patagonia is using its profits to help save the earth. The Banana Republic is using a gay male couple in an advertisement. You can bet my Bean bucks will be buying Banana from now on.

Right now Lover and I are faced with a decision that may change the face of our world. Just as we went to refinance our home at a lower interest rate we learned that the undeveloped land next door was for sale. With the money we'd save on the refinance there's a very slim chance we could buy that piece. We'd be protecting ourselves from new hostile neighbors (like the John Birchers down the hill) and protecting the land and wildlife from timber harvesters. On the other hand, we'd be more deeply rooted in this hostile country.

Being gay in America today is a political experience. I feel as if I live in a voting booth. Stay or go? Buy or boycott? Compromise or martyr? The Son of Nine and his pesty brothers are everywhere, the inbred sons of a dying breed. Linda Bean may have lost her congressional race, but she's inherited Anita Bryant's talent for organizing the lesbians and gays of America. If we've got the strength to give up the L.L. Beans in our lives, we're invincible.



Skin Talk: Heartbeat of the Ancestors (Calvin Simmons Theater, March 13, 1993, reviewed by Gail de Rita) - On a stage so crammed with drums, other musical instruments and so much additional equipment that it was initially quite bewildering, Carolyn Brandy and Redwood Cultural Work presented the product of two years of creative work. Brandy had pulled together a wide assortment of superb talent from all over the United States to express the varied richness and beauty of women's lives. The lively audience was primed. Luminaries not on stage were in the house: Holly Near was on my immediate left; Melanie DeMore on the right (making concentration somewhat difficult at times!)

The stage was ornamented with two enormous macrame hangings: one with large mock eagle feathers, the other with cowrie shells. Lighting designs played against the backdrop. However, the flamboyant lighting which frequently changed colors almost detracted from the busy

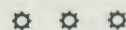
stage. In addition, the spot had trouble finding its mark, roved around, and sometimes came in late.

The lineup of talent read like something out of Who's Who in women's music: the incomparable drummer/dancer/performance artist, Edwina Lee Tyler, direct from New York; India Cook, absolutely brilliant on violin. Joy Harjo from Albuquerque not only read her poetry but played a pretty mean saxophone. Ellen Ureyvick made the harp sound like nothing I've ever heard (sporting a most remarkable black mini-dress and boots). Renaye Brown did her usual terrific job on congas and percussion. Gwen Jones' yidaki was intriguing: it sounds something like a didgeridoo. However, the presence of a male on stage was, to my mind, unnecessary. Really! Were there no female bass players to be found in all of the Bay Area to make this unique event women-only?

Accompanying herself with a sharp and definitive beat on the congas, Brandy told of her search for family; her long-lost Cherokee father, discovered after 30 years living only a few blocks away in Berkeley; her grandmother Belle and great grandmother Alpha and the Trail of Tears; Brandy's evolution as a drummer -- all movingly and poignantly recounted.

Interestingly, one of my favorite performers was not a drummer but Middle-Eastern dancer Susu Pampani, whose agile and provocative solo belly dance showcased her remarkable talents. The inimitable Faye Carol wooed the audience in song throughout the entire show, changing her outfits several times and, quite out of character, keeping her shoes on until well into the performance. It was an "outfit" kind of evening; women had put on their finest and there was no shortage of things to look at anywhere in the auditorium -- onstage and off.

After a full menu of dramatic theatrical storytelling and drumming, Faye Carol brought down the house and we all got religion as she closed the show with "Hang on to Life." One of our most amazing local talents, this delightful woman can really handle the tunes and hold the audience. It was a happy and breathless, albeit a little overwhelming, evening with a sumptuous array of talent. "*Poetry in motion, can raise a commotion. Skin on skin is definitely in!*"



On Camille Paglia and Her Head Trips (Mary "Germaine" Johnson) - Recently I've seen several interviews spotlighting Camille Paglia. I've also read enough of her writings to say, "Trust me on this one." When it comes to Ms. Paglia and her head trips, we have

here a clear action of dismissal needed of one who has purchased new patriarchal blinders, wearing them even in the dark. This writing questions her intent and sincerity. Ms. Paglia's head trips reflect her compulsion for power and anti-feminism. Her delivery is deceptively charismatic to some. She comes from ego and vendetta. Her covert sado-intellect distorts and twists pure feminist scholarship. Evident to me is her own Lesbian Contempt and Misogyny coupled with a fierce and ruthless abuse of power. She is an intelligentsia gone awry when she excuses rape as a permanent given in society and believes that men will always be men controlled by biology. She is a crusader of the sociopath when suggesting we turn over the feminist movement to pederasts, prostitutes, and sadomasochists. Her head trips reflect that of a "Coin-Operated Harpy" with a one-two punch to feminist thinkers. Unfortunately, for feminists, her head is her only home right now.

Ms. Paglia attempts to do to women what androcentric thinking failed to do, to conquer and destroy the feminist process rather than contribute to it, to pollute and divide, abuse and dominate the intellectual arena. Her head trips are a dangerous backlash and a blow to women which denies them access to real identity and choice. In her obsession for power and approval, she grabs indiscriminately for it, thus becoming the patriarchal darling. With male media backing, she executes venomous intellectual massacres on feminists' ideas. Extreme intellectual acting out is her performance. Her supposition that women would still be in grass huts if it were not for

men suggests a self-doubt in her own creative female powers.

Ms. Paglia identifies as an independent thinker; yet, I see her as allying with traditional patriarchal thinking. She continuously claims to be "In Process," yet I view her in contempt of that process. Her random attacks on feminist progress and bully-like ideas are unnecessary intellectual debris and a detour with a dead end. Ms. Paglia makes light of the wisdom of a Feminist Philosopher who once wrote, "Protect your process, it's sacred and vulnerable." Her head trips derail and pollute a feminist state of mind. We must get on with legitimate dialogue not one involved in ego-stroking but rather serious discussion/communication in honest scholarship which adds to the feminist process with a sense of responsibility to the kinship of power and process. In conclusion, to put it in contemporary humanitarian jargon: Camille, "Shake your bootie" and "Get with the program."



An Open Letter to Our Community (Lee Lynch, Tee Corinne, Jean Sirius, Cara Louise Vaughn, Barbara Grier, and Carol Seajay) - Valerie Taylor is one of our oldest living national treasures. Whether you bought Whisper Their Love from a drugstore rack in 1957 or Prism in a women's bookstore in 1981, or have just heard her name, the fact is, she has make a difference in your life. Valerie, now 79, was creating lesbian literature before most of us

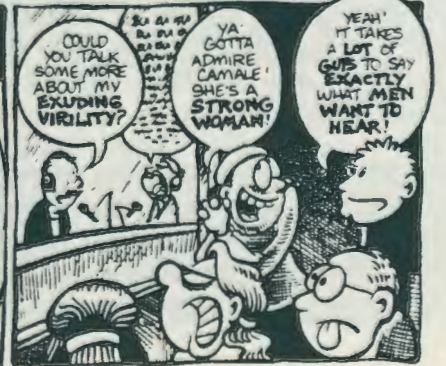
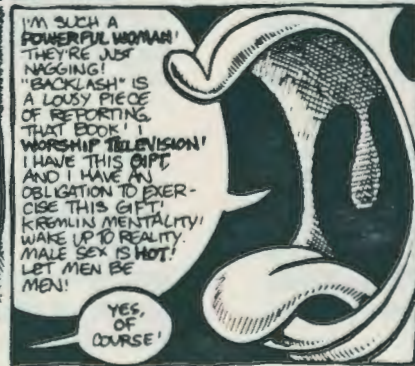
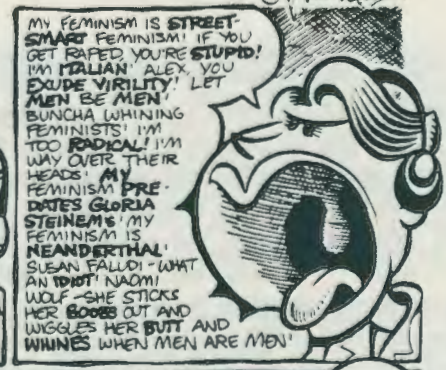
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"Rottweiler du Jour (politist)"



10-1-92 © Ann Pajon



came out. She writes with humor, hope and triumph about the struggle of old lesbians, poor lesbians, disabled lesbians and all gay people. Even in the early 1960s her Erica Fromm series dared happy endings. When Jeannette Foster, ground-breaking author of Sex Variant Women In Literature, was in a nursing home, Valerie was instrumental in creating the lesbian-supported fund which helped pay for Jeannette's care until her death.

Today, Valerie Taylor needs us to return some of the support and love she has given. She lives with a variety of medical problems. Because of nerve damage in a leg she uses her arms and a cane for balance. Now she has fractured a shoulder and cannot walk, write, or care for herself. Immediate special care is needed for about six weeks. Although Medicare and basic donated health insurance cover a portion of her needs, she has only a social security check to cover the rest. Arizona has no Medicaid and, low-income as Valerie is, she doesn't qualify for the state program. With your help we can insure that a pioneering lesbian writer gets the care she needs. Please make checks payable to Valerie Taylor. Mail contributions to Valerie Taylor Fund, c/o Antigone Books, 600 N. 4th Avenue, Tucson, AR 85705. If you can't afford to donate money, let Valerie know what her books have meant to you! Thank you for your generosity,



"Celebrating the Vision of Jean Weisinger (Gail de Rita interviews artist/photographer Jean Weisinger)

Gail: Jean, Thanks for loaning me Forbidden Subjects: Self Portraits by Lesbian Artists. I love the story of how you began your journey into photography that you told there. For the benefit of readers, will you tell again how this happened?

Jean: I'm firstborn of nine children. When I was small, growing up in Chicago, there were no photographs of me. So as soon as I got my hands on a camera I began taking images myself, my family, my little brothers and sisters, people in the community, writers and artists, beautiful common folks. I also took photographs of my mom and the other women as they sat around the kitchen table drinking coffee, laughing and telling their lives. Looking back on those photographs, I feel very sad because my mother and all her friends are gone. They all died before the age of 60. Some of the young teenagers that I photographed in Chicago are also gone, dead mostly by violence. I worked at a youth center so I took a lot of photographs of kids. For twelve years, from the time I was 14, I worked with the kids on the West Side teaching positive image and self-respect, developing educational

learning games, teaching them to say no to drugs and about birth control.

Gail: That's wonderful. I'll bet you're really really glad now that you have all these photos of your mother since you lost her a few years ago. You at least now have a really vivid photographic memory of her. I was enthusiastic to see those wonderful black and white photos at the CTWO (Center for Third World Organizing) conference last week. I immediately recognized the Cuban school children. I think I've seen some of your work, particularly the Audre Lorde ones, in other places. You have a real gift for capturing the feelings and personalities of those people you photograph. A real spiritual connection with the women. It brings to mind the quote from your Forbidden Subject book: "Sometimes when I'm photographing women, especially women of African descent, I feel like I'm under a spell. I feel like a spirit walking among the women unseen. This enables me to capture the true spirit of their hearts."

Jean: Yes! I really love photographing women, just out and doing whatever they're doing. I don't really like to tell someone to hold still because then they put on a face that's posed. I want to capture the true essence. Photographing is an act of love and a gift to others.

Gail: And you have done a splendid job. What are your plans for this body of work?

Jean: I've been working for over a year on a book called A Community of Women. In it, I have collected essays, poetry, songs and little statements that women have written about community, combined with black and white portraits of these beautiful women. Hopefully soon it will be published and out in the world. The book is dedicated to Audre Lorde because it was Audre in 1990 who really got me on the path of taking my work seriously. She said "You take beautiful positive and powerful images of women. You need to show your work so the world can see." [Ed note: Jean photographed the "I Am Your Sister" conference, dedicated to Audre.] Two publishers have already expressed interest and are just waiting for me!

Gail: Are you involved with other art forms as well?

Jean: I paint. I do a lot of that around the time I'm having PMS. [Laughter] That's my solution to PMS. I do healing trees and paintings. They're all over the house. Photography and art have helped me healing in many ways.

Gail: About the fundraising party [Saturday, April 3 at 7 pm; \$10-\$50]. First, I've got to say I love that it's women only. I think there's nothing more empowering than

women-only energy, nothing more beautiful and fulfilling. It's a really important thing to me. It looks like you have a very noteworthy guest list -- music by Melanie DeMore and Joy Gamble, poetry by Imani Harrington and Sauda Burch. I wish I could be there but it's the weekend of my birthday. Is it open to any women?

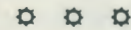
Jean: Oh yes. It's at 482-44th Street in Oakland. The dinner is to raise money for production costs on an upcoming photo exhibit that I've been wanting to do for a while: "One Hundred Women of Color in the Bay Area" of photographs that I've been taking and am taking. And I'm leaving April 16 for Cuba. [Ed. note: Jean is going with feminist-activist, writer, photographer Margaret Randall. This will be Jean's second trip to Cuba.]

Gail: You're in good hands with Margaret. I'm really looking forward to talking to you when you return from this trip to Cuba. I went about seven years ago. Even then it was very hard for the Cuban people. But they have so much life and so much vitality and were so warm and very wonderful to me. Do you speak Spanish?

Jean: I can cover the basics. But also, there's a universal language, an invisible energy that you can feel what someone else is saying to you. Sometimes words are not very important. It's the energy you have between you. During the ten days I was there in 1992, I took over 1500 photographs. I returned to the US overwhelmed with the unconditional love I had felt and received from the Cuban people, and the way in which the country puts "People Before Profit." I'm really looking forward to going back. On my last trip, people would come up to me and ask me to take their photographs. Kids would come to the hotel looking for the woman who wore the white turban wrap. I get letters constantly from people there talking about their feelings and mentioning things they lack: soap, blue jeans, things we take for granted. Also, I've never been to the southern US, so on my return trip from Cuba, I'm coming back through Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia taking photos of the women there. After which I'll revisit Chicago for more photographs of the young teenagers and their babies from the projects I started some time ago.

[Ed note: Clearly, Jean has no shortage of worthwhile endeavors in her life. She has also traveled to and photographed women in Bali, Australia, New Zealand and many other places as part of her work. At least half of the material for her book is already on computer; she needs help getting the rest onto a Mac. To make her trip a reality, she needs to get to Miami. Global Exchange will take care of the rest, in exchange for which she'll do an exhibit of photos. She could use Kodak T-Max 400 black and white film or Tri-X 400. For more details on any of

the above, contact Jean at 695-2980 or write her at 15 Hill Street, SF CA 94110.]



Book Review (People with Disabilities Explain It All for You: Your Guide to the Public Accommodations Requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act by Mary Johnson, ed., and the editors of The Disability Rag, Louisville, KY.: Avocado Press, 1992, 160 pages, \$15.95, paper (book review by Kathy Cone, The Workbook (Spring 1993))

The people who put together People with Disabilities Explain it All for You have adopted a collective voice for this friendly but firm guide to the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is a straight-talking book directed to businesses that must comply with the accommodations provisions of the ADA, which became mandatory in 1992.

The guide's message is simple: Businesses that serve the public must accommodate people with disabilities in an equal, not separate way; and to do so is easier than the businesses, especially small ones, think. For some small businesses, as this guide readily acknowledges, compliance with accommodation can seem complicated, costly, and intimidating. But the guide stresses that the law protects small businesses by being less stringent than with large businesses, and that complying does not necessarily mean "buying, installing or building anything." What is most often required, instead, is a change in attitude.

Several contributors share their experiences with various forms of discrimination that reflect the most common obstacles faced by people with disabilities trying to live full lives. The introduction cuts directly to the uncomfortable issue of discrimination. The answer: at bottom, we are people like you and we want to live normal lives, as fully as we can. The technology is available today to make our full participation in society possible, and we want you to use it. The law is needed and fair.

The early chapters work well to earn readers' attention and respect for people with disabilities as *people*, as they focus on particular real people's frustrations at how they are perceived and treated. A person who is blind is forced to ride in a wheelchair in an airport; "wheelchair accessible" means for someone else a basement room in a motel. Once inside, the person may be unable to use the telephone from her bed or use the shower. Another person must endure being carried into a restaurant that doesn't have a ramp, or spoil the plans of friends; someone else may be asked why he didn't use the bathroom before he arrived, since the building's only bathroom is down a flight of stairs. People

with a physical disability are often treated as if he or she were mentally disabled. These are some of the small - and often very large - indignities of everyday life for many.

The chapter "How to stop Discriminating - for Free" takes a good look at how people with disabilities are discriminated against and in doing so shows how easy it is to stop, by simple changes in attitude and by enlarged perception. The distinction between "special" and equal services, for instance, is lost on many business owners, but people with disabilities know the humiliations of "separate but equal" treatment, which often means they may have access to a restaurant but must sit only at a certain table - perhaps grouped with other tables of disabled people - or they may attend only certain performances of the theater, or at a movie, sit in the back.

The authors also remind us to think about how what we call people can consign them to facelessness. "The disabled" isn't much better a term than, and just as categorizing as, "handicapped," or even "crippled," a word most of us have abandoned long ago; "special" seems condescending to most and another label. "Confined to a wheelchair" is often maddening to people who use a wheelchair for mobility and freedom. And please don't say someone is a "victim" of cerebral palsy, or of a tragic car accident, or of blindness. Order from Avocado Press, P.O. Box 145, Louisville, KY 40201

✧ Lesbi-End Notes ✧
by Gail de Rita

A Call To All Lesbian Feminists!!! Although we believe it is clear from our editorial statement, we actively solicit your writing. Whether it's a book review, poetry, an essay on some aspect of feminist theory, or a humorous piece, we are open to publishing your work. One of my major responsibilities every month has been rounding up stories and articles that women may want to read. If you have something to share, send it along for publication. Wondering about a burning issue and want to say what's on your mind? We're the place to send those thoughts. Just back from Colorado, or Michigan, or DC, and want to recount your adventures and what's happening in those places? Call us. We're especially interested next month in hearing from women who attend the March on Washington.

If you can't write a story but have an idea for one, let us know. We'd like to air views on feminist topics from a wider range of the community. Do you know somebody with an album or book coming out? We'll interview her. Got the inside info on an exciting event? Send us word.

Every month, we need the services of good typists who can input articles on their own computers (IBM-compatible and fast turn around a must). Women to help with mailing are essential, and this is something you can do even if you have only one hour per month to dedicate to this cause.

Should we jazz up the format, possibly using desktop publishing programs? We slog along in boring old WP 5.1 now. Women with expertise in these matters are welcomed, as are graphic artists, cartoonists and women with layout and design skills. Possibly a different, more exciting look...with a little more pizzazz is in order.

As is the case with most women's and Lesbian projects, we also need regular financial support. Do you have fundraising or proposal writing skills? Ideas about how to approach foundations or individual donors who might like to contribute? Let us know!! Help organize a raffle or a benefit dance. The possibilities are endless. Even with our low overhead, it costs between \$500 and \$600 every month to produce and mail an issue to 400 subscribers and bookstores. Without financial support over and above subscriptions, we can't afford this.

The newsletter is an enormous amount of work every month for a very small "staff." It has consumed an ever increasing amount of my spare time over the past five years since I began it. We believe if we keep it alive, we should be having fun doing it. But we're at a critical crossroads. Has LU! outlived her usefulness? (I certainly feel these days like I'm putting in more and more energy and time and getting less back. It has lately been a drain and a struggle.) Or, possibly the most important question: do we need a change of direction? Certainly we need more help! These questions seem to pop up frequently in the "community" and should be discussed. Even the meaning of "community" seems clouded.

Partly because I'll be at the March on Washington and at the Lesbian Festival, and partly because I very much need to rethink my goals and aspirations in terms of LU!, I am taking at least a two-month break from all responsibilities concerning the Newsletter. This means if we do an issue for May and June, other(s) will have to do it. Or, it may mean we don't publish an issue for those months.

No matter what your abilities and resources, if you're interested, if you have fresh ideas, and if you have some time to devote, come to a Newsletter meeting at Red Dora's, April 7 at 7 pm (6 pm for food -- order your own from their menu). Spread the word. Bring a friend. If you can't come, but want to share something, write, or call me at 441-6238.

Nina Paley is a cartoonist living in San Francisco. She can be reached at PO Box 460736 SF 94146.

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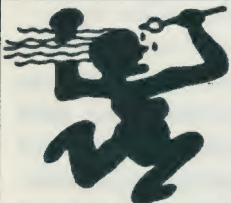
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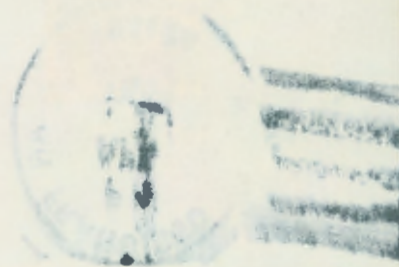


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