

# lesbian uprisings!

October/November 1993  
 LU! Calendar/Newsletter  
 Post Office Box 423555  
 San Francisco, CA 94142

Editorial Collective: Ann M., Ann S., Anne P., Dana,  
 Deborah, Elizabeth, Gail, Genny, Jill, Karen, Kate, Lee,  
 Lisa, Rochelle, Ruth, Sharon.

\$20 for 11 issues. (For now, we're publishing every  
 two months.) Make checks to LESBIAN UPRISINGS!

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.

Special expressions of gratitude this month to the women  
 at Zestop Publishing for their help in translating our PC disk to  
 Macintosh.

We're now publishing as a collective and are looking for  
 new members — other Lesbians interested in writing articles,  
 typing, editing, fundraising and other tasks to keep Lesbian Upris-  
 ings! going. Since San Francisco's "Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual" news-  
 paper, Bay Times, now rarely carries Lesbian columnists, keeping  
 LU! as the Voice of Lesbian Feminism seems more important than  
 ever. Interested in getting involved? Call Ann M. at 664-3240 or  
 Gail at 441-6238.

## RAFFLE\*\*\*PRIZES\*\*\*RAFFLE\*\*\*PRIZES\*\* \*RAFFLE\*\*\*PRIZES\*\*\*RAFFLE\*\*\*

Help LU! raise badly needed funds to keep our newsletter  
 going and at the same time give yourself a chance to win some  
 fabulous prizes!!! We've included ten raffle tickets for you to buy  
 yourself and/or to sell to friends, \$2.00 per ticket, only \$15 for ten  
 tickets. Prizes include:

**First prize:** Two nights (mid-week) for two at Sallie and Eileen's  
 Place in Mendocino, a wonderful women's resort

**Other prizes:** *Necklace and earrings set* from the Moon Empo-  
 rium; *\$100 worth of free legal services* from the Law Offices of  
 Ann Menasche; *\$25 gift certificate* from Mama Bears; a *set of*  
*tapes* from Truthsayer-Woman Alive (harp) and *We Are One*  
 (piano) describing the rebirthing of woman spirit individually and  
 collectively; a *double woman Wall Clock* by Spiral Woman;  
*Sterling Silver hand engraved Dyke Tag with silver chain* valued  
 at \$40 by Diana Manley Custom Jewelry; and more. Prizes still  
 coming in! Drawing will take place at the LU! social on November  
 13. See calendar listing. You do not have to be present to win. SO  
 GET THOSE RAFFLE TICKETS IN! If you'd like more raffle  
 tickets, contact Ann at 664-3240.

We do very little editing, except for length. We encour-  
 age 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 us and we'll

see if we can fill the gaps.

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; Dif-  
 ferent Light, SF Castro; Lioness, Sacramento; Mama Bears, Oak-  
 land; Modern Times, SF; Old Wives Tales, SF; Paradigm, San  
 Diego; and Sisterhood, Los Angeles,

## Bay Area Women's Resources

WA: wheelchair accessible; NS: no smoking.

**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 Pena Cultural Center**, 3105 Shattuck Avenue (near Ashby  
 BART), Berkeley. 510/849-2568/2572. WA, NS (except 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

**Whiptail Women's Lounge**, 4035 18th Street (near Castro), SF.  
 267-6979. NS (WA with assistance).

**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.

## Calendar

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month  
 Lesbian Uprising! Events:

**Tuesday, October 26** - Reading group discusses Stone  
 Butch Blues. 7 pm at Gail's. 1835 Clay (buzzer 19) in SF. Call  
 441-6238.

**Tuesday, November 2** - LU Newsletter collective meet-  
 ing. We'll order pizza, eat at 6:30 and meet at 7 pm. Ann and  
 Rochelle's, 2149 48th Avenue (near Rivera). We encourage new  
 volunteers to attend. Call 664-3240 for more information.

**Saturday, November 13** - LU! party with drawing for  
 raffle prizes. Bring food or drinks to share. Come to Ann and

Rochelle's, 2149 48th Avenue (near Rivera) in SF. Call 664-3240 for more details. Come for a fun evening with other dykes and bring a friend or two!

**Tuesday, November 16** - LU! meets at Sharon's, 659 Connecticut (at 20th) in SF, to examine Ronnie Gilbert's book on Mother Jones (may include some discussion of class and women's labor organizing issues). 7 pm.

#### Also of Interest:

**Every Sunday** - Open meeting Whiptail Lizard Womyn's Collective's dyke space 7 pm. Or come any time to this drug/alcohol/smoke free Lesbian community center and bring your ideas. 267-6979. Open noon-11pm, Saturdays; noon-9pm, Sundays.

**Every Monday at 7 pm** - Open Lesbian AVENGERS Meeting at the Women's Building. Info call 267-6195.

**First Tuesday of each month** - Boadecia's Stitch & Bitch meets. If you knit, crochet, quilt ... whatever, come on down for our Stitch & Bitch. Gay Men are welcome. Boadecia's Books. 7 to 9 pm.

**Friday, October 1 thru Sunday, October 31** - On View: Mixed Media Art Works by Virginia Bowen at Josie's Cabaret, 9 -6 pm.

**Mondays, October 11, 18, 25** - Gay Comedy Open Mike. MC is Suzy Berger. \$5. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint. 8 pm

**Wednesday, October 6-Sunday, October 10** - Benefit for Women's Cancer Resource Center and others. Purple Moon Dance Project presents "Overlapping Clothes" explores passion, intimacy and desire between women. 8:30 pm at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St., SF \$25.

**Thursday, October 7** - Joint program by the Committees supporting Sylvia Baraldini and the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, award-winning film Through the Wire. Narrated by Susan Sarandon. ATA, 992 Valencia Street (at 21st). Donation \$5 - \$15.

**Thursday, October 7** - Films: Home Alone: The Dishes. Premier, Mindy Faber's film Delirium, plus works by Heather Oaksen, Annette Barbier, Cecilia Condit and Mattias Mueller. Domesticity, once an unquestioned destiny, has for many women become the mother of all misfortune. Pacific Film Archive, 2825 Durant in Berkeley at 7:30 pm. 510/642-1412.

**Thursday-Sundays only, October 7-17th** - Coming Into Passion: Song for a Sansei. Written and performed by Jude Narita at Bayfront Theatre, Fort Mason. Call 974-9725 for tickets and reservations.

**Friday, October 8** - Lesbian comic Marilyn Pittman in "Thank You For Sharing." Solo stand-up comedy show. Pittman's show is an edgy 70-minute romp through life in the 90s: love, sex, politics, the New Age and the media. \$10 and \$12 at Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint. 8 pm

**Friday, October 8** - Lucille Clifton reads at her only Bay Area appearance, Alexander Book Company, 50 Second Street in SF. 6 pm. Arrive early to hear this powerful poet read from her new book, The Book of Light. 495-2992.

**Friday, October 8** - Comics Suzy Berger and Karen Ripley, two of the Bay Area's smartest Lesbian comics seem to be teaming up a lot more frequently lately. They perform in their own unique stand-up styles as well as in brilliant comedy improv routines. \$10, Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 10 pm.

**Saturday, October 9** - Gay Comedy Night with comics Marga Gomez, Amy Boyd and Liz Olsen at Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint. \$10, 10 pm

**Saturday, October 9 thru Sunday, October 24** - ARTSPAN

presents 1993 San Francisco Open Studios. 18th Annual Event features 640 visual artists. Opening Reception for the Artists, Wednesday, October 6, 6:30-9:30 pm, SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan Street (between 8th and 9th St.), SF. For info 861-9838.

**Sunday, October 10** - Patricia Evens, author of The Verbally Abusive Relationship, will read from her new book, Verbal Abuse Survivors Speak Out at Boadecia's Books. 3 pm

**Sunday, October 10** - Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCRC) picnic. Codornices Park in Berkeley (on Euclid across from Berkeley Rose Garden) Time to socialize, softballize, welcome in the fall. Meet the new director, board members, other volunteers. Bring food, friends, family, bats, gloves, balls, frisbees, stories. Beverages and desserts provided. 12-4 pm.

**Sunday, October 10** - Bharati Mukherjee, The Holder of the World. A woman born in contemporary New England uncovers the scattered record of the life of Hannah Enston, a woman born into the Puritan society of New England in 1670. Takes place in New England and India. Black Oak Books, 7:30 pm, free.

**Sunday, October 10** - Elaine Mikels, Just Lucky I Guess: From Closet Lesbian to Radical Dyke, reading, signing and discussion of her book of memoirs. 3 pm at Mama Bears.

**Monday, October 11** - Berkeley resident, Brenda Webster, has published her first novel Sins of the Mothers, set in Berkeley in the mid-1970s. Webster's novel centers on Connie, a middle-aged woman who knows a great deal about literature and psychology but very little about herself. Black Oak Books, 7:30 pm, free.

**Monday, October 11** - A Virginia judge decided it was in the "best interest" of two year old Tyler Doustou to take him away from his mother, Sharon Bottoms, simply because she's a Lesbian. Mass Leafletting. National Coming Out Day Action at BART Stations throughout the Bay Area to raise awareness about this case. Gathering Points: 24th Mission BART, SF and Ashby BART, East Bay. Sponsored by Women Against Imperialism, 995-4735. 7:30 am.

**Beginning Monday, October 11** - "Challenging White Supremacy: A Workshop for Activists" — this is a grassroots anti-racist training project, no registration fee. 7 pm Call 552-0389 for info and SF location.

**Tuesday, October 12** - Harriett Doerr, author of Stones for Ibarra, reads from her long-awaited second novel, Consider This, Senora. Once again Doerr writes of Mexico and weaves a spellbinding tale of Americans living in a foreign land. Black Oak. 7:30 pm (numbers handed out at 6:30 pm). Free.

**Wednesday, October 13** - Reading and book signing by Elaine Mikels, old Lesbian and author of Just Lucky, I Guess: From Closet Lesbian to Radical Dyke, 145 Guerrero, 7 pm.

**Wednesday, October 13** - Barbara Hammer's film Ni-trate Kisses, her feature-length debut, which explores Lesbian and gay culture through a graphic look at film representations of the past and present. Plus short: Standard of Living, featuring Barbara Hammer. UC Theatre 4:00, 5:40, 7:20, 9:00 pm.

**Thursday, October 14** - "The Courage to Heal" with Ellen Bass. In a rare public appearance, she will discuss The Power of Creativity in Healing, exploring the use of writing, drawing, and other forms of creativity in healing from child sexual abuse. UCSF, Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. \$15-\$20. For info 476-5222.

**Thursday, October 14** - Trina Robbins, A Century of Women Cartoonists. Come celebrate the release of her new book at this slideshow presentation/book party: Old Wives Tales, 8 pm.

**Thursday, October 14** - Bobbie Ann Mason, author of In Country and Shiloh and Other Stories, reads from her latest

novel Feather Crowns. Set at the turn of the century in rural Kentucky, it tells the story of struggling tobacco farmers Christianna and James Wheeler, parents of three young children, whose lives are forever altered by the birth of quintuplets, the first recorded in North America. Black Oak Books, 7:30 pm, free.

**Friday, October 15** - Film Thank God I'm a Lesbian is an uplifting and entertaining documentary about the diversity of Lesbian identities. Issues ranging from coming out, racism, bisexuality, and SM, to the evolution of the feminist and Lesbian movements, outing, compulsory heterosexuality, and Lesbian literature. Plus: Rosebud and Came Out. It Rained. Went Back in Again. Castro Theater, 6:30, 10:15 pm.

**Friday, October 15** - Comics Mimi Freed and Doug Holsclaw. Two of Josie's Gay Comedy Night favorites team up for one night. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 10 pm.

**Saturday, October 16** - Judy Fjell with Crystal Reeves, album release concert at Freight and Salvage, Berkeley at 8:30 pm. For info 510/548-1761.

**Saturday, October 16** - Maria Morales, Salvadoran legislative candidate, will discuss the participation of women and the FMLN in El Salvador's upcoming general elections. Buffet 6 pm; program 6:30 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, SF. Admission: \$3 to \$5. No one turned away for lack of funds.

**Saturday, October 16** - Out of the Closet. Into the Classroom? A workshop for Lesbian, gay and bisexual parents on coming out at your child's school. Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood Street, \$5 (no one turned away). For registration info: 824-2313. 9 am-3 pm.

**Saturday, October 16** - Gay Comedy Night with comics Karen Ripley, Karla Camony and Scott Silverman. \$10. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint. 10 pm.

**Monday, October 18** - Nicole Conn's film Claire of the Moon, a wild and uninhibited satirist and a reserved Lesbian therapist play a veritable "odd couple" in this woman's journey. 3:20, 7:00. Also Paris Poirier's Last Call at Maud's, a lively tour of California's Lesbian bar scene from WWII to "last call" at SF's landmark, Maud's. UC Theatre 5:25, 9:10.

**Mondays, October 18** - Ongoing Women Writers Group at Operation Concern, 1853 Market, 6-9 pm. Led by Martha Courtot, who has published her writings in Lesbian and feminist journals for twenty+ years. For info call Pat at 626-7000 ext 135.

**Monday, October 18** - Films: Claire of the Moon 7 pm; with Desert Hearts, 9 pm at the Castro.

**Tuesday, October 19** - Bonnie Friedman discusses "Writing Past Dark: Envy, Fear, Distractions, and Other Dilemmas in the Writer's Life." A writing companion to reach for when you feel lost, and as a tool to regain access to images, ideas and memories. Black Oak Books, 7:30 pm, free.

**Tuesday, October 19** - Judith Butler, "Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex." In her new book, she further develops her distinctive theory of gender by examining the workings of power upon the most material dimensions of sex and sexuality. Modern Times. 7:30 pm.

**Thursday, October 21** - Creativity and Conversation - Breast Cancer Forum, 11am - 2pm, Embarcadero Hyatt. Free. Call 394-7100 for information.

**Thursday, October 21** - Cultural event to benefit the Nia Collective which produces an annual gathering for Lesbians of African Descent. Several writers and poets will perform. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Modern Times. 7:30 pm.

**Thursday, October 21** - Shakti Gawain, Path of Transformation: How We Can Change the World. One of the founders of the human potential movement and author of Creative Visualization and Living in the Light brings us a specific plan for living in the 90s. Gaia Bookstore 7:30 pm Free with book purchase, \$3 without book.

**Friday, October 22** - Tear gas certification/personal defense workshop presented by Judith Fein of Worthington-Fein Self-Protection Services. Book reading and signing 7:30 pm; workshop 8:30-10:30 pm. To register call 821-4675. Book reading is \$3-10 donation (no one turned away due to lack of funds); tear gas certification \$25 (including the donation); optional \$9.50 State license fee; tear gas and personal safety items will be available in class. Old Wives Tales.

**Friday, October 22** - Sandy Boucher, Turning the Wheel: American Women Creating the New Buddhism. Gaia Bookstore 7:30 pm. Free with book purchase, \$3 without book.

**Friday, October 22** - Maya Angelou will sign copies of her new book Lessons in Living. This will be a book signing only, allowing Ms. Angelou to meet as many of her readers as possible. 5:30 to 7 pm.

**Saturday, October 23** - An Evening to Support Women with Cancer. Featuring Alive!, Axis Dance Troupe, June Jordan, Louise Renne, Melanie DeMore. 7:30 pm, Palace of Fine Arts, SF sliding scale \$15-75. (see enclosed flyer).

**Saturday, October 23** - Connie Porter will read from her new books, "Meet Addy: An American Girl," and "Addy Learns A Lesson: A School Story." From the American Girl Collection featuring young heroines in various historical periods. Addy is the series' first African American heroine. Cody's. 2-4 pm

**Sunday, October 24** - Tea Party and Reception for Alison Mierzykowski, whose watercolors and oils will be on display for several weeks. Boadecia's Books. 2 to 5 pm.

**Sunday, October 24** - Race For The Cure. Benefit 5K run starts at Sharon Meatlows. Proceeds go to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Entry fee \$18 before Oct. 15. For information call (800) 698-8699

**Sunday, October 24 thru Sunday, November 14** - Ruth Denison Women's Vipassana Meditation Retreat in Joshua Tree. Call Katherine at Dhamma Dena 619/362-4815 for more info.

**Monday, October 25** - Vicki Robin "Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence. A nine-step program for transforming the way we think about, earn and spend money. Gaia Bookstore 7:30 pm Free with book purchase, \$3 without book.

**Monday, October 25** - Film: Memories and Dreams by Melissa Llewelyn-Davies, 1992. An intimate portrait of the changing attitudes about sex, love and marriage during the past twenty years in the Maasai community of Kenya. Pacific Film Archive 9:25 pm.

**Monday, October 25** - Demonstration by CAN (Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Action Network) at the American Public Health Association National Convention to demand additional funding for research and treatment of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. At Moscone Center Plaza, 747 Howard Street, SF. 11:30 - 1:30 pm For further info call Ann 665-6746; evenings 664-3240.

**Tuesday, October 26** - Marilyn Yalom will discuss "Blood Sisters: The French Revolution in Women's Memory." This masterfully crafted work adds new dimensions to our understanding of the French Revolution . . . expanding our knowledge of the women involved beyond Marie-Antoinette and Madame Defarge. Black Oak 7:30 pm Free.

**Wednesday, October 27 thru Saturday, October 30** - Lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhoefer in "Nothing in My Closet But My Clothes." This Lesbian comic has been taking the comedy world by storm nationally. 8 pm, with an added 10 pm show on Friday. Tickets are \$10 Wed-Thu; \$12 Fri-Sat. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint.

**Wednesday, October 27** - Mary Mackey, "The Year the Horses Came." Set in 4300 B.C. Mackey's novel is a stunning recreation of Old Europe, inspired by the work of Marija Gimbutas. Gaia Bookstore 7:30 pm Free with book purchase, \$3 without.

**Thursday, October 28** - Melissa Kwasny, "Trees Call for What They Need." Narrated by Nettie, a mill worker and tenant farmer, the novel explores family and belonging, caring for the land, the roots you put down and leave behind. Old Wives Tales, 8pm.

**Thursday, October 28 - Saturday, October 30** - New York lesbian writer/performance artist, Marty Pottenger reads from her 'Construction Stories' and other works. She is a twenty year veteran carpenter, mason and construction worker. Life on the Water's new studio at 3435 Army Street (at Valencia) \$10. Call 824-9394 for ticket information.

**Friday, October 29** - Barsi Sidwa "An American Brat." She uses liberal doses of humor while exploring very serious themes including the ill effects of religious fundamentalism on her native Pakistan's social and political structures. Black Oak 7:30pm Free.

**Friday, October 29** - Sparks Fly IV - 4th Annual International Day of Solidarity with Women Political Prisoners with Dorothy Allison, Crystos, Melanie DeMore. sliding scale \$7-25. Women's Bldg, SF 7:30 pm

**Friday, October 29** - "Fierce Sisters - Benefit for The Lesbian Avengers" with Kris Kovick and others. Party after performance. \$7-\$15 donation. The New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street, SF, 8 pm

**Saturday, October 30** - 10th Annual Women's Spiral Dance, Full Moon. Traditional ritual of introspection and rebirth. Pray for good health, luck and happiness. Z Budapest leads the ritual. Women's Building, SF, 7:00 pm to Midnight.

**Saturday, October 30** - Dorothy Allison, "Bastard Out of Carolina," author event. 7:30 pm Green Apple Books.

**Saturday, October 30** - Gay Comedy Night with comics Marilyn Pittman, Larry Havluck and Suzy Berger. \$10. 10 pm, Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint.

**Saturday and Sunday, October 30 & 31** - Tennis Tournament to benefit Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. Sense of humor mandatory and costumes encouraged to watch this butch-femme vs butch-femme tournament. JoAnn Loulan, judge & commentator. Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 9 to 4 pm Sliding scale \$10 per day, \$15 for both and up. For info 346-2336.

**Sunday, October 31** - Old Lesbian Halloween Dance (women of all ages welcome) sponsored by Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) Street John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College in Berkeley, 3-6 pm. \$7.50 admission at door; low income and 60+ \$5. For more info call Pat at 626-7000 ext 135.

**Monday, November 1** - Rose Glickman, "Daughters of Feminists." Author event at Cody's. 7 pm

**Monday, November 1** - Sunay, November 7 - Bank of the West Women's Tennis with Martina, Zina, Tracy and others. Oakland Coliseum. Call 296-7676 for tickets and info.

**Tuesday, November 2** - An evening with Susie Bright. A special benefit appearance by a leading exponent of the politically ambivalent sex positive ideology! At the Roxie; call 863-1087 for details.

**Thursday, November 4** - Lesbian Mystery Writers Night with Randye Lordon ("Brotherly Love"). Old Wives Tales.

**Thursday, November 4 thru Saturday, December 11** - A Hilarious Review: "Jumping the Broom." A look at how Lesbians and gay men choose to commemorate their unions as opposed to their straight counterparts. Theatre Rhinoceros. Call for more information 861-5079.

**Friday, November 5** - Lesbian Vampire Lovers - In this special presentation - part seminar, part clip show - Dr. Andrea Weiss will present the history of the Lesbian vampire in literature and film. \$7 Castro. Advance tickets available from A Different Light Bookstore after October 20.

**Friday, November 5** - Betty Friedan. Call Black Oak Books for details.

**Saturday, November 6** - "Women in East Europe say NO to Sexism and Capitalism!" An eyewitness account and slide show by Seattle Lesbian/ gay organizer Susan Docekal, recently returned from a 9-week tour of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Serbia, and the former Soviet Union. 7:30 pm, Women's Bldg. Eastern European buffet served at 6:30 pm for a \$9.50 donation. Sponsored by Radical Women 864-1278.

**Sunday, November 7** - Art & Politics of Midwifery. Join Susan Claypool in a discussion of midwife training, legal situation of midwives in California and the special affinity of Lesbians to midwifery. Great birth stories too. Old Wives Tales.

**Wednesday, November 9** - More Lesbian Mysteries with Joan M. Drury ("The Other Side of Silence"). Old Wives Tales.

**Thursday, November 11** - Jyl Lynn Feldman, "Hot Chicken Wings." Old Wives Tales.

**Thursday, November 11** - Film Safe Is Desire. Beautifully shot on the streets of San Francisco and in a Lesbian safer sex club, the film offers a provocative and educational look into Lesbian sex, 90's style. Lyon Martin's Safer Sex Sluts will demonstrate live their hottest techniques in safe sex ON STAGE and will pass out safer sex supplies. 7 and 9:30 pm Live on stage program at 7 pm show only; guest speakers at 9:30 pm show.

**Thursday, November 11** - Naomi Wolf, "Fire With Fire." Author event at Cody's. 7 pm

**Thursday, November 11** - Program: Women's Work - Negotiating a Fair Wage. Sponsor: Jewish Vocational Service, 77 Geary Street, #401, SF. 10 am to noon. Contact: Jane Field or Ruth Canada 391-3600. \$20.

**Sunday, November 14** - "The Women's Way," women and girls' run/walk to benefit 10 Bay Area nonprofit women's organizations. 9 am in Sharon Meadows. Call 431-6944.

**Sunday, November 14** - Writing for kids in Lesbian and gay families. A reading and discussion of current children's and teen books. Kids especially welcome. Special time 6-8 pm.

**Tuesday, November 16** - Judy Grahn, author of "Another Mother Tongue," reading from "Blood, Bread and Roses: How Menstruation Created the World." Old Wives Tales.

**Thursday, November 18** - Putting nine years into the research of the life of Marie LaVeau and the culture of 1800s New Orleans, Jewell Parker Rhodes brings us her first novel "Voodoo Dreams." Old Wives Tales.

**Friday, November 19** - Judy Fjell with Crystal Reeves, Album Release Concert. Mama Bears at 8 pm For info: (510)428-9684.

**Sunday, November 21** - Rethink those girlhood heroines of your favorite long-running series, Nancy Drew and Cherry Ames. Join Mabel Money in a reading of her Nancy Clue Mystery,

the case of the not-so-nice nurse. *Old Wives Tales*.

**Tuesday, November 23** - Peggy Sullivan, "Firestorm: The Story of the 1991 East Bay Fire." Author event at Cody's 7 pm

**Thursday, November 25 (or Friday) to Sunday, November 28** - Thanksgiving weekend at Jughandle Farm (Caspar - 4 miles north of Mendocino). \$37. Check reserves a space. Call Joan Waters for details 883-6016. Program of Wilderness Women.

**Monday, November 29** - Adrienne Rich. Call Black Oak Books for details.

**Tuesday, November 30** - Julia Penelope, co-editor of "Lesbian Culture, An Anthology" — the lives, works, ideas, art and visions of Lesbians past and present. Julia is the co-editor of other popular books including "Finding the Lesbians" and "For Lesbians Only." *Old Wives Tales*.

### Actions, Announcements, Classifieds

**Challenging White Supremacy: A Workshop for Activists** organized by Sharon Martinas (a white anti-racist activist) and sponsored by Open Forum, a school of collective learning. Fall session runs on Mondays from October 11 thru December 13, 1993. 7-9:30 pm. in SF. The sessions will meet at New College, 766 Valencia in room 22. Call Sharon for more information on this excellent and challenging series. 552-0389.

**Submissions and ideas** being sought for an anthology being produced on the issues facing Lesbian sexual abuse/incest survivors. Contact Lara Michelle at 165 Beaver Street #3 San Francisco, CA 94114 for more information.

**Lesbian seeks to share** 2 1/2 bedroom apartment in the East Bay. Quiet neighborhood, one block from Lake Merritt. Walk to Grand Lake Theater and Lakeshore shops. One block to bus; one mile to BART. Lovely deck; washer and dryer in basement. Fenced yard with palm and grapefruit trees. No indoor pets. Available bedroom is 8 x 13 with 7 x 8 room attached. \$400 per month includes all utilities. Woman only, with or without child. Call Christine before 9PM: 510/ 839-0779.

**Lesbians concerned about alcohol** use sought for FREE support group. You do not have to define yourself as "addicted," "alcoholic," or "chemically," etc. to participate. Focus on individual and social issues. UCB dissertation research. Call Christine before 9PM: (510) 839-0779.

**LU's friends in Brazil** report that they are now publishing a Portuguese language newsletter, "LESBERTARIA" (the word is a composition of concepts of Lesbians plus anarchists), inspired by LU. Send at least \$3.00 (more if you can) to receive the first sample issue. The newsletter address is "CAIXA POSTAL 22014-01495-970 Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil. They also inform us that Brazil will be the site of the IV Latin America and Caribbean Lesbian Feminist Meeting in 1994.

**A.B. 2316** sponsored by Assemblywoman Valerie Brown would help protect the confidentiality of medical records by requiring doctors who sell or transfer their practices to notify each patient in writing of this fact and to advise patients that they may redirect the transmittal of their medical records to a health provider of their choice rather than the person chosen by the transferring/

selling physician. If you'd like to support this bill, write or call the Sacramento office of your State Senator.

**Call for Submissions - The Sage Within - The Spiritual Lives of Everyday Women** seeks prose contributions on how women incorporate their spirituality into their daily lives. No "spiritual resume" needed - just honest accounts of how you connect with the Divine and express your spirituality in everyday living. All faiths, all paths, all backgrounds welcome and needed. For information send SASE to: Hummingbird Press, P.O. Box 8116, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

**Dyke Action Alert: What's the Real Crime: Lesbian Parenting or Homophobia?** Buford Parsons, a Virginia judge, decided that it was in the "best interest" of 2-year-old Tyler Doustou to take him away from his mother, Sharon Bottoms, simply because she's a Lesbian. Tyler has been placed in the home of Sharon's mother and stepfather who, Sharon reports, sexually abused her repeatedly as a child. Lesbian rights advocates across the nation are urging an immediate response to this outrageous decision. Don't let right-wing hatred of Lesbians run loose.

**Phone, Fax and Letter Campaign:** Contact Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder and demand that he immediately institute impeachment proceedings against Judge Buford Parsons and take every action necessary to return custody of Tyler Doustou to his mother, Sharon Bottoms. Contact: Governor Douglas Wilder, Third Floor of the Capitol, Richmond VA 23219. Phone 804-786-2211; FAX 804/371-6351. Also demonstrate at a mass leafletting on Monday October 11 at either 24th and Mission BART station or Ashby BART in the East Bay. For more information call the Lesbians of Women Against Imperialism at 995-4735.

**Stop the FDA** from taking our rights to use vitamins and herb supplements. The FDA does not have the right to dictate health care. Support the Health & Education Act (S 784 and HR 1709) which would protect our right to choose what kind of medicine we use. These supplements are at risk: all free form amino acids which have been safely used by consumers for over 20 years; selective herbs (many immune boosting herbs and treatments for HIV and cancer); all medicinal claims for herbs; breakthrough and "new" supplements. Write your Reps and Senators and support these bills now.

**Women's Delegation to Cuba:** See Cuba for yourself from a woman's point of view. Join Margaret Randall, author, activist and former Cuban resident, to examine issues facing Cuban women today. Meet factory laborers, family doctors, artists, lawmakers, professors, and construction workers. Examine the similarities and differences between feminism in Cuba and the US. Cost of the trip is \$1200 including roundtrip airfare from Miami, double occupancy accommodations, visa, all transportation inside Cuba, breakfast and dinner each day, translation of programs and reading materials. For more information about this and other trips please contact Global Exchange, 2017 Mission Street, #303, San Francisco CA 94110. 255-7296.

**Listen To This...** is seeking stories, art, photos or journal entries for an anthology of coming out stories of lesbian, gay or bi teens and young adults. Listen To This..., 2215-R Market, Box #112, SF, CA 94114 or call: 641-5896.

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## Articles

### Whither the Lesbian Movement (Kate Raphael) -

Mostly when I think about future directions for the Lesbian movement and the women's movement, I feel exhausted and depressed. Depressed because things seem so terrible right now, on the international as well as the domestic economic and environmental scenes, and I really don't see the possibility of anything getting better. And exhausted, because I already feel like I'm working as hard as I can (and harder than I want to) and not getting anywhere.

It seems like a lot of people and, in particular, a lot of Lesbians who dedicated themselves to movements for social change in the '80s, have recently decided that those movements aren't going to meet their personal needs and are focusing on "taking care of ourselves." For a lot of middle-class women, that's meant buying houses, or going to graduate or professional school, or settling down with their lovers and having babies.

As a graduate school drop-out, who has supported myself with dull clerical work and lived for my political work for the last dozen years, I watch this process with growing panic. About ten times a day, I ask myself, have I missed the last clue train? Is it stupid to think I can maintain a lifestyle based in community rather than family, to think I can have a job and a life, instead of a job that is my life? At the same time, at the very old age of 34, I don't feel I have many options for getting on the career track, if I wanted to. Women's organizations, as they get grants and offices, are more likely to hire recent graduates of exclusive private colleges, who at age twenty were directors of campus rape prevention programs, than the middle-aged women who started these same organizations and ran them out of their kitchens for years.

This is sad because one of the purposes of those organizations was to provide community and support for the women who were doing the work. We used to have models of peer counseling, peer education, and self-empowerment; those concepts seem pretty out of vogue now. We now talk about "underserved populations," where we used to talk about "disenfranchised communities." We separate "victims' services" from feminist, activist women's groups. And fewer of us are involved in either.

Most of the women I came out with and did radical feminist organizing with in the early '80s either burned out or moved on without saying anything. One result is that much history has been lost. I have a lot of admiration for WAC and Lesbian Avengers, but what they are doing is NOT NEW. If young women bothered to ask, or if we "older women" (lumping together many generations here) tried to tell them, about Redstocking and the Furies and Nine to Five and the Women's Economic Agenda Project and WITCH and Revolting Lesbians and the Brown Berets and LAGAI and WAI and LU! and LIAHO, and all the things we've done and are still doing, "we" might not feel so alienated and passe and "they" might not have to keep repeating all our past mistakes.

One misconception I think is prevalent now is that Lesbian-only groups can only work on "Lesbian" issues. Back in the early '80s, there was a group called Lesbians Against Police Violence. They worked against police violence in all communities, participated in coalitions, did posters about particular abuses, but everybody had to deal with the fact they this was a group of Dykes. The group I primarily work in, Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention, also does a wide range of work on economic, inter-

national and queer issues, but one of our main goals is always to make sure people hear that we are doing the work as queers.

The fact is that every issue is in some way a Lesbian issue. I don't think we have to choose between direct action and other kinds of political work, or between civil rights and health issues; at best, I think we can combine many of them. I also think we put too much emphasis on things that take a lot of money. A few things I would like to see:

Every Lesbian with a job gives \$10 a month to the Lesbian Emergency Aid Fund (LEAF) [see Elizabeth Kristin's article herein for more information.]

We don't have to wait for some Dyke to come up with the money to buy a bar in San Francisco, we can turn one (how about the Twin Peaks, with those nice big windows on Castro Street).

An emergency alert network to get out low-budget posters immediately following any hate crime against Dykes (like the recent court decision in my home state of Virginia). [See WAI Dyke Action Alert info herein.]

I think we can stop asking what issues we should work on and what tactics we ought to use. Rather, we need to go back to the old (ancient?) style of women's consciousness raising and affinity groups and really talk about what issues feel most pressing in our own lives and how we like to work on them. If we do, maybe those feelings of exhaustion and depression will turn to hope and motivation.

\* \* \*

**Hothead Paisan** (by Diane DiMassa) Cleis Press, 1993, \$12.95; (Lee Lynch) - Perhaps it is not appropriate for a mere fiction writer to be reviewing a comic collection. The only answer I'd have for that criticism is that there's a little bit of Hothead in every Dyke and that makes every one of us an expert.

Besides, I've been a subscriber since issue number one. I have not one but two Chicken stamps and a Hothead teeshirt. I've written fan letters and given Hothead gifts for the holidays. There are Hothead postcards plastered around my office because once I buy one I can't part with it. I hoard my Hothead collection.

For those readers who don't have a clue what I'm writing about, Hothead Paisan is just the hottest zine going. And the whole comic strip has just been collected in this volume. It's such a faithful rendering of the buried corners of the Dyke mind — corners that may never be explored, but lurk there nonetheless — that Canada won't even let the zine in the country. Wait til customs gets the book!

What's so objectionable? Hothead Paisan (pronounced pie-zan) the character, is an Italian-American Lesbian who gets to act out revenge fantasies most of us wouldn't dare imagine. She's violent against straight men, punishes rapist and sexual harassers. She lives on caffeine and carries loaded weapons. She is not a woman of peace. On the other hand, the artist makes certain to show us that she is crazy as a loon — not that I've even noticed loons exhibiting particularly bizarre behavior...

Unbalanced or not, Hothead serves a positive purpose. Men release their anger and frustration when they go to war, have fist fights, hunt for game during the season other men have declared violence against animals to be legal. Women — what do we do? We can sit on it. We take it. We internalize it until we project the image of Victim and then men pick us off because it's always open season on women. Okay, okay, not all men, and not all women. But no one can argue that atrocities against women happen every day, every hour, every minute, and not just in Bosnia.

Look out your window.

We have no way to express our terror or rage or frustration. But Hothead does. She does it for all of us. No one is really hurt. It's simply not in the nature of women to be inspired to go out and act like Hothead. Reading about her is enough. It took a Dyke cartoonist to do it, but finally our undiminished fury has been portrayed in art.

And not just our fury, but our disdain. DiMassa's street corner males speak in oinks and grab their crotches as soon as they see a female. Her male corporate armies are automatons programmed to demean women's bodies while making money from them. Women wrapped up in pleasing men are Dyke-fearing spritz-heads.

There is another side to Hothead, though. She's often struggling with her crazies and seeking serenity in all the wrong places. Her blind friend Roz tries to lead her to peace through reason, therapy and motherly bullying. Hothead even talks to a higher power which takes the shape of a strange little table lamp. Her finest moments, though, are reserved for her cat Chicken.

It's difficult as a cat person, to be objective about Chicken. I do think, though, that she is by far the most appealing cat cartoon character since Nicole Hollander's John. Hothead isn't a psychopath to Chicken, she's Mom. Their intimate moments are tender, if strange. "C'mere," says Hothead, "lemme smell the cat breath." Chicken's best friends are Woo, Henry and Boogums. DiMassa's genius extends to their shenanigans. Chicken's visit to Provincetown is an irresistible crowning moment in cat cartooning equalled only by the kitty-yoga class.

Enough praise? Want some criticism? I have none. DiMassa's a genius. She captures suffering Lesbian insides like Alison Bechdel captures our struggling outsides. Her drawing goes from simple to complex, from clever to downright fascinating. She can depict human expression and the dingy details of an urban alleyway with equal realism. Her political commentary is honest and on the mark — unequivocal truth. Take the example of Christopher Columbus' words-according-to-Hothead: "I found it. It's mine. Kill those people." The reader has to laugh because DiMassa's got it so exactly right.

It's not conqueror-simple for Hothead. In one episode she concludes about anti-abortion demonstrators, "We can't be the same species. Either they're not human, or I'm not." In the next frames she decides, "Whatever they are, I have to get away — but where can I go?"

Into our hearts, Hothead. Can the revolution be led by a cartoon character?

\* \* \*

**The Lesbian Emergency Action Fund Needs \$6,000 (Elizabeth Kristen)** - I know it seems like I'm always asking for donations to the Lesbian Emergency Action Fund (LEAF). That is not going to change as long as there are Lesbians in our community who are in need of money for basic issues of survival. You may feel that you don't have any money to give to LEAF. You may feel like you need all your money and besides you're not rich so how can you give money away.

Just think about this. There are twenty Lesbians on the LEAF waiting list. We want to raise \$6,000 in the next ten months to give to these Lesbians. That's \$600 a month. It seems like a lot but if 60 Dykes pledged to give only \$10 per month for only ten months, we'd reach our goal.

Think about \$10 a month. Try putting aside a dollar every

time you go to the movies or go out to eat. Then at the end of the month send that money to LEAF. Give more if you can, but please try to give at least \$10 a month to help Dykes survive. Send money to LEAF, P. O. Box 20921, Oakland, CA 94620.

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**The 1993 Annual Lesbian Separatist Gathering (Elizabeth Kristen)** - This year's sixth Annual Separatist Gathering was the most wonderful of the three Gatherings I have attended. It was smaller in numbers than in previous years which made it feel to me more like a Gathering of close friends — even though we didn't all know each other — than a conference or something more formal.

There were workshops at the Gathering on topics ranging from Anti-Semitism to Separatist organizing to ritual abuse. It is very easy to give a workshop at the Gathering — you decide what you want to talk about and then announce the time and place of your discussion. It is very rare that some Sep gives a workshop where there is a planned presentation although this is certainly an option. It's very important to talk with other Seps about the issues in our lives.

Fun is also a big part of the Gathering. There was a wonderful dance and variety show as there is every year. At this year's variety show Seps sang, read poems and did comedy. There was Finders Keepers - a space where Seps can bring clothes and other things to give to other Seps. I was excited to pick up some clothes for myself there. We swam in the pool, ate wonderful food, played basketball, pool, and ping pong, went for walks, and just spent time enjoying the company of other Separatists.

The Separatist Gathering is unique. It is for female born non-sadomasochist Separatists only. There is a sliding scale that starts at zero — I don't know of any other festival or conference that provides for this. A Travel Fund helps pay the way for Dykes who otherwise couldn't afford to go. The site where the Gathering is held is very wheelchair accessible and we do all we can to make it as toxic-free as possible for Dykes with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities. Separatists are the most conscientious Dykes I know of in terms of working to fight against all oppressions. Of course we have a long way to go in establishing a truly equal community but I feel we work toward this goal when we gather as a community and throughout the year as individual Seps.

We are hoping to bring the Separatist Gathering to California next year. Take note all you Seps on the west coast who didn't think you'd ever make it to Wisconsin. We can use all the help we can get to make this happen. If you are not a Separatist but are interested in learning more about Separatism please call me at (510) 652-7729 to find out about our next Separatist event at the Whiptail Lounge in San Francisco. If you are a female-born nonsadomasochist Separatist and want to learn more about the Gathering write to The Annual Gathering, P. O. Box 21475, Oakland, CA 94620.

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**CFIDS Demonstration Planned (Ann Menasche)** - With all the talk about health care in the press, women's health needs still suffer from severe neglect, and there is no sign that this will end anytime soon. One of the most extreme examples of this is how the medical establishment and the government have virtually ignored the epidemic of CFIDS (Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome), a severely debilitating disease that strikes mostly women and for which there is neither effective treatment nor cure. At the National Convention of the American Public Health Association scheduled for the last week in October in San

Francisco, hundreds of public health concerns are slated for discussion. However, not one meeting will address CFIDS.

PWCs (People with CFIDS) believe this is an outrage and are determined to fight back. The CFIDS Action Network (CAN), a grassroots network of PWCs, is sponsoring a CFIDS rally on October 25, at the Moscone Center Plaza, 747 Howard Street, in San Francisco, the site on the American Public Health Association Convention. We will be demanding: (1) Adequate funding for research, treatment and cure for CFIDS; (2) An end to discrimination against PWCs in the workplace and in disability insurance; (3) A toxic-free environment; and (4) a Canadian-style single-payer health plan providing universal quality medical and in-home care.

Like many consumer and health-advocacy groups, CAN believes that Clinton's proposed "Managed Care" employment-based national health plan is inadequate for our needs. Large insurance companies stand to make a bundle, while consumers of health care will be denied choice of doctors, find their health care increasingly rationed, and may find themselves, especially if they are unemployed, self-employed, or disabled, unable to afford the premiums. For PWCs, choice of doctor is extremely important, since few doctors recognize or treat CFIDS. Also, alternative care, such as acupuncture, homeopathy or naturopathy, which many PWCs depend on, as well as experimental treatments, will be excluded from coverage under Clinton's plan.

CAN hopes to make alliances with other groups concerned about women's health, such as women's cancer organizations and AIDS groups, so we can all be more effective in fighting for our health needs. For more information on the CAN demonstrations, contact Ann at 664-3240 or Pamela at 386-2663.

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### Dear Lesbian Uprisings!

Most of your readers have probably already heard about the Whiptail Lizard Lounge, and many of you have been there, so we'd like to give you an update on how things are going and what we've been up to.

This Whiptail Lizard Lounge is a living experiment. We all hear complaints about how divided the lesbian community is. Can we share a space with each other regardless of political and other differences? This has been the challenge ever since Whiptail opened. Our philosophy is based on the idea that there is room for *all* of us! Are we up for the challenge? Isn't it about time? We encourage women to create what they want and allow others to do the same. If you don't like something that's happening one evening, don't go that night. Then create an event you and your friends would like to attend. Our energy could be better spent creating what we want than telling other lesbians how they should enjoy themselves.

The Whiptail Lizard Lounge is for *all* women, bi and straight included, although we are always dyke space first. The collective's (which you can be part of merely by showing up Sundays at 7 pm) primary purpose is to create and maintain a physical space for women. This space is used for meetings, performances, visual arts, musical events, dance parties, a resource center, a hang-out space, a cafe, social events and gatherings, networking, and whatever else women in the community have a need for.

Since we are entirely run by volunteers we can always use more staff. Staffing is fun - basically you get to hang out and meet women! We could use help with publicity



and fundraising, so if you're looking for something worthwhile to do.

The collective does not endorse the views or policies of groups or individuals that use the space. Individuals in the collective may have strong political feelings about certain issues but the collective as a group does not represent particular groups in the women's community. We have had many discussions about this part of our structure, and this has caused a lot of us to really stretch and practice tolerance for our sisters. We unanimously agree that we are committed to supporting individual self-expression and to combating racism, lesbophobia, sexism, ablism, anti-semitism, and classism. We also agree that all events at Whiptail have a door policy of "no one turned away for lack of funds", including those events that other groups produce.

There have been and will be events that are implicitly or explicitly exclusive. (ie., Leather Dyke Socials, "Separatist Gatherings"), but Whiptail as an organization has a policy of inclusion, even though particular groups using the space may have an event or meeting that is exclusive.

There are no leaders in the Whiptail collective. Our philosophy is, "if you don't show up and make it what you want, don't bitch later". The Lounge is a "do-it-yourself" lesbian community center. Do you want to throw a party, hold a meeting, sponsor a benefit, produce a show? Then do it!

The Lounge is drug, alcohol, and smoke free. This is not because everyone who uses it is clean and sober (although some are), but because it is meant to be an alternative to the bars. It is not a place that is only for a certain "type" of lesbian - unless of course you never show up and then wonder why there's no one there like you! It's new enough that you can participate in it's evolution and make it the sort of place you would like to support. See you there! 4035 18th Street - one block east of Castro OPEN every Sat. 12 noon - 11pm and Sunday 12 noon til 9pm. Call 415-267-6979 for events calendar or for more info.

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**Lesbian Mother Denied Custody (Ann Menasche)** - On September 7, a trial court in Virginia ruled that a Lesbian mother, Sharon Bottoms, was an "unfit" parent solely because of her Lesbianism. Although Kay's boyfriend had repeatedly sexually molested Sharon over a 17-year period, Kay claimed that her daughter's Lesbianism would be harmful to the child and the Judge agreed. The court awarded custody to Kay Bottoms, the child's grandmother. "Her conduct is immoral," Judge Parson said of Sharon. She was permitted some limited visitation but was forbidden from taking her child to the home where he was raised. In addition, Sharon's partner, April Wade, who helped raise him for the past year, was denied all contact with the child.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) advised trial counsel Donald Butler (a cooperating attorney with the Virginia ACLU), and obtained an expert witness on Sharon's behalf. NCLR is now working on the appeal, including fundraising and gathering of amicus support.

Abby Abinanti, NCLR's Legal Director and legal advisor on Sharon's case, spoke to LU! about its significance: "Bottoms is a very difficult case because it has captured the imagination

**Court claims unfit mother  
- based on her lesbianism.**



of the country. Though there have been other cases like it over the last twenty years [where a Lesbian mother was denied custody in favor of a non-parent], this is the first time that it has been such news. It got tremendously more press than the other cases got. Also, in Bottoms, there is really no other claim to unfitness [besides Sharon's Lesbianism]. The father wanted the child to stay with the mother. The court just interposed its moral beliefs...I think the decision will encourage people to browbeat and blackmail ex-spouses and family members who they disagree with. I think it is going to make things difficult for a lot of [gay] people."

At the same time, Abernati doesn't believe that the decision represents a major setback for the Lesbian/gay movement: "I don't think that the case is going to be significant in many jurisdictions. I think what it will do is solidify jurisdictions that have case law similar to Virginia's. The number of jurisdictions that have a "per se" rule like Virginia [providing that Lesbianism automatically means that a parent is unfit] is really shrinking. We're only talking about anywhere from four to nine states. If you look at the last four months, both the Massachusetts and Vermont Supreme Courts came out with decisions approving second parent adoptions for Lesbian couples. A similar case is presently before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Also, many lower courts are granting such adoptions. So the situation is in flux."

Abernati stated that it was difficult to predict how the appellate court would rule in the Bottoms case, even though the Virginia Supreme Court held in 1985 that a gay father was an "unfit" parent: "Since 1985, there has been new social science evidence that gay and Lesbian people as parents are not really different from other parents and their children aren't either. So we have a whole new factual situation."

"I'm very sorry for that family, for Sharon and April and their son, particularly for the anguish the child must feel ripped away from his family environment...and to be in a situation that must be terribly confusing. It's a heartbreak for his mothers," Abernati concluded.

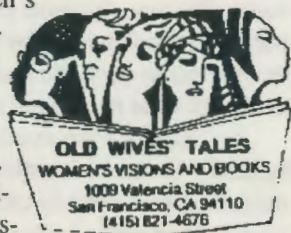
Letters of support to Sharon and April can be sent c/o Steve Pershing, ACLU Legal Director, 6 North 6th Street, Suite 400, Richmond, Virginia 23219. In addition, NCLR is looking for adult children of Lesbian parents in the south who would be willing to be part of an amicus brief for Sharon. They also need donations to pay for litigation costs. Contact NCLR at 1663 Mission Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. 621-0674.

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### Update on Old Wives' Tales (by Karen Saginor)

Old Wives' Tales, the only women's bookstore in San Francisco, is in danger of closing. Old Wives' Tales, at 1009 Valencia Street, has been in business for almost 17 years, offering feminist books, music, magazines, posters, cards, and other items of women's culture. OWT especially emphasizes lesbian work and multicultural and international publishing. They carry books from many small and hard to find presses. The Old Wives' Tales collective has sent out an appeal to Bay Area feminists, asking for help and suggestions in their current financial crisis.

OWT has been hit hard by the recession that has reduced women's spending power in recent years, but collective members



Darlene Pagano and Elissa Mondschein see another factor at work besides the recession. "The success of women's publishing may be the downfall of women's bookstores." Ten to fifteen years ago, many feminist and lesbian authors were published only by small and alternative presses, and sold only through women's bookstores. But the success and popularity of writers such as Alice Walker, bell hooks, Sarah Schulman, and Dorothy Allison have made the mainstream presses and the bookstore chains eager to publish and sell titles they wouldn't even have been willing to discuss ten years ago. Now the big corporations are in direct competition with women's bookstores for the lesbian and feminist book-buying dollar. The women of OWT, part of the women's culture that nurtured now popular writers, are happy to see them successful and their books widely available, but wonder how long the mainstream book industry will continue to support lesbian and feminist writing. And if women's presses and bookstores go under, who will encourage and bring out new writers?

Old Wives' Tales has been struggling with a large debt since an attempt in 1988 to expand the size of the store. In 1991, new collective members, in cooperation with the outgoing group, closed the second room, reorganized operations and cut expenses. In the past two years, the OWT collective has reduced the debt from \$74,000 to \$60,000, stabilized the store's credit status and created a cultural events series called Women's Voices. But sales have dropped off sharply since the start of 1993, and further efforts to cut expenses have not been enough. The store is working to raise \$25,000 in order to stay in business. The appeal sent out last month asks for both feedback and assistance from the community. Ways to help the store include donations of used books, discount memberships, tax-deductible donations to Women's Voices, short term loans, and recommending the store to friends.

Most of all, OWT wants business, and is committed to providing services to attract visitors and customers. OWT maintains events postings and information binders for housing and employment. A popular stop with lesbian tourists, OWT has just updated and expanded their free "Visitor's Guide to Lesbian San Francisco." A brand new offering is validated parking at Mission/Bartlett garage around the corner from the store. Women's Voices readings and cultural events are listed in the Bay Times and here in Lesbian Uprising. To find out more about what's available, stop by the store at 1009 Valencia at 21st Street, or call them at (415) 821-4676.

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**The Moon Is a Lesbian (Zsuzsanna Budapest) -** When the moon goddess Diana fell in love with the sun goddess Lucina, their daughter was Aradia, the only female avatar known to us. So goes the Dianic legend. Aradia was a teacher of the poor and the oppressed. She taught the people how to bring down their oppressors using witchcraft. The craft of the wise. Moonpower.

Our luck has changed for the better. The moon is sending down blessing vibes in our female collective behalf. I feel better since the Clintons are in the White House, don't you? It is like a deep depression slowly lifting from our collective hearts. Bill could not get us our total freedom, only put the first serious chink in it. Maybe its not his job. It is ours. Ruth on the Supreme Court to keep Sandra and our rights company, Hilary saving our bodies from harm, we can come out from under the morose rock and have fun again.

The good news is that the Goddess is coming back as a grass roots Women's Movement, fueling everything, from small

gatherings to larger ones, festivals in each state, goddess on every mug, teeshirt, gown and earrings. Goddess consciousness so enfolded the women's cultural scene that we could furnish a whole museum full of stuff if some future archeologist ever dug up what we leave behind.

But where are the Lesbians in all this? At Michigan and Bloomington it seems Lesbians rule, but in the larger picture, I find Lesbians holding back from the Goddess to a symbol or artifact instead of the experience. Lesbians are no longer the majority at goddess gatherings. I don't understand why not, especially here in the Bay Area. The ancient earth religions, the goddess culture is ecstasy oriented, arts and music flow from it, high self esteem and personal happiness. It is our own good medicine and you know it.

I sound like some kind of a religious fanatic, but I guess I am. Otherwise, I would not have gotten into my head 20 some years ago that what the women needed to do first in order to get rid of patriarchy was to change the gods. Not just a sex change, but VALUES CHANGE, PRIORITIES CHANGE, SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE. Bring back the Lesbian Goddesses, Artemis, Athena Callisto, Pallas. Lesbian couples such as Athena and Pallas shared their altars together. Artemis constantly had to rescue Callisto from Zeus or some other Greek god's lust.

So why are so few Lesbians at these great feasts of Goddess culture and women energy except the usual ten percent? Do we still suffer from the division between political and spiritual warriors? Didn't it get through our heads yet that the two are one? Or the same coin, different sides? This old argument is like one side of our brain would say to the other side, "only the logical is trustworthy, or only the irrational is creative." Get over it.

Are we divided still because the gay press ignores spirituality or gives it snidy fringe coverage, if at all, and we think we better wait until better P.R. comes down the pike? (My work was covered only twice in 23 years by the gay press, once in the seventies by the Lesbian Tide and recently by Hot Wire.) Wasn't our own experience the only judge we needed? Have we stopped growing?

Straight women support the Goddess in great numbers, they change their lives over a weekend, they leave husbands, abuse, go back to work, find themselves and have babies, turn around, even come out, or not. Can Lesbians afford to ignore such an important part of our herstory? After all, it was the Lesbians who supported my vision of a feminist spirituality, helped build the first all woman cover which now is a legend, the Susan B. Anthony Coven number one. It was Lesbians who tried out the first rituals and developed women's religion on those California mountaintops. Now that we are coming into our own, for heaven's sake, don't stay away from the harvest of your earlier energy.

Europe is worse. They are about ten years behind, and know little about circling, raising energy, organizing festivals for themselves. They help fill with 80% females the few New Age festivals, but still have to listen to male gurus, rehashed male spirituality complete with a know-it-all teacher.

But the future is going to be great. With a little easier political climate, a little less worry about bread and butter, we will have more energy for resourcement of our spirits, sharing wisdom together, sharing the awe of the goddess.

I would like to invite you to San Francisco for Halloween Eve, October 30th 7pm at the Women's Building for the Tenth Annual Woman's Spiral Dance/Ritual. It's a classic. Travel sister. Come alone. Come with friends. Our city celebrates Halloween

like no other city in the world. Give yourself some fun. Tickets bought in September \$15 dollars, in October \$25. This is a once a year fundraiser of the Dianic Tradition which is the Women's Mysteries, a natural for Lesbians.

Next Spring I am producing the first international Goddess Festival for the Women's Spirituality Forum. Come again for May 19, 20, 21, 22 Full Moon. If I get 150 women to sign up this year, we have exclusive to hundreds of acres of California redwoods and wilderness. Imagine, the freedom of Michigan, the music and the workshops, better food, cabins, good weather, Pacific ocean. The Maypole Dance is a good luck ritual which you could incorporate into your life as an annual renewal. Travel again. WE pick you up at the airport and take you to the magical camp. We are advertising on every continent. You are sure to make international friends, travel even further.

I just got home from my journeys this year. I have only two more retreats to do in October in Arizona and Canada. The revolution is within and it doesn't have to be hard. But it does have to be the collective energy and it does have to be a cultural/spiritual gathering again and again. Lesbians think of Sappho, how she was a goddess worshipper. She wrote lines such as I quoted at the beginning of my book Grandmother Moon:

While the Moon shone full The women were at their place Encircling the altar.
---

Come home Lesbians, come to your spiritual home and taste the sweet honey on the fingers of the priestess. Blessed Be.

(Zsuzsanna Budapest is credited to have sparked the Goddess Movement in the USA. She has written The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries, Grandmother of Time, Grandmother Moon, and recently, Goddess in the Office. She works for the Women's Spirituality Forum PO Box 11363, Oakland, CA 94611.)

\* \* \*

**The Importance of Appreciation (Kris Yates)** My mother was, and still is, an incredibly critical person. She is the only parent I ever knew. Consequently, I internalized her criticism and have been working for years to subdue my internal critic which loves to put me down. The hurts which I received at the hands of the mental health system strengthened my critic even more. Fortunately after years of healing, my internal critic is getting quieter and there is even a new supportive and forgiving voice which I often hear as well.

It has taken many years to develop a supportive inner voice. Because my inner critic was so strong, I have often asked friends to appreciate me by telling me when I have done a good job or what things they like about me. Even then it is not always easy to take in what people tell me, but it has helped.

Lately I am coming to the conclusion that criticism is basically useless. I notice my pull to criticize others is often motivated by a need to elevate myself by putting them down. I have been trying to keep a pact with myself not to criticize others and to instead notice what is going on for me that is causing me to feel critical. Constructive suggestions are so much better than criticism. When I get criticized I tend to shut down and get defensive. There are ways to make positive suggestions for making things work better without being critical.

Internalized oppression works to get us fighting each other instead of fighting to change the oppressive system. As long

as we continue to do to each other what has been done to us we will not be very effective in making positive change in our lives or in the world. Some ways I see internalized oppression working is by keeping us isolated and feeling lonely and bad about ourselves. It also makes us feel critical and negative toward each other diverting huge amounts of energy away from social change work. I think it is very important for us to all think about how to make things go well. If we have suggestions or other ideas, we can put information out in a positive way without criticizing or attacking others.

Finally, appreciation and acknowledgment helps build trust among group members and also lends encouragement for folks to keep on working. Criticism and attacks, on the other hand, make folks defensive, insecure, and usually result in counterattacks or withdrawal. We need each other too much to do anything other than nurture and support each other. If we take time in our meetings and in our individual relationships to appreciate each other frequently the payoff is great. Not only do folks feel better, but things go much more smoothly.

Regardless of how hurt we have all been we do not have to keep passing the hurt on to others around us. Instead, we can practice giving the respect and appreciation which everyone should have received but didn't get throughout our lives. We have the opportunity to heal ourselves and those around us through appreciation and support. Eliminating attacks and criticism will also help our social change work be more effective.

\* \* \*

**Max Dashu's Wonderful Slide Shows (Reviewed by Genny laMorgan)** - I attended all three of Max Dashu's September slide shows from her Suppressed Histories Archives. The showing was part of the San Francisco Women's Building mural project. The mural to be painted on the outside of the building by five womyn muralists is currently planned to show an African, Asian and Aztec goddess, but no image representing a European — my Self. Our wholeness is still incomplete in some of our art. I also missed seeing either a Moon or a Snake, both symbols of woman power worldwide. It is, however, quite beautiful and will be a spectacular site to see!

The first of Max's wonderfully inter-national slide shows was titled "Women in Power," and the room was packed. The second show was titled "Priestesses," and again the room was full of witch Dykes and others, both womyn and men. One womyn said the information should be made available to more — women and men. Judy Grahn in Another Mother Tongue tells of male infiltration (my word) into our womyn spiritual/political ceremonies through cross dressing and self castration ("post operative"). I was bothered that men even attended this showing titled "Priestesses." I do not think we need to repeat this turn of history, this loss of womyn's power worldwide, by again sharing knowledge of womyn's Mytery rites.

At the third show only one-third of the chairs were filled. The presentation was titled "Racism: History and Lies." Where were all the witches, "cores of political power" that Max had talked about at the two earlier showings, when the root of the evil was being discussed? It is not enough to practice and study spirituality. Traditional/ Whole spirituality is political. Feminist Ethics is another word for Witchcraft (matri-science) and must be present and studied within the craft or Olde Tradition. Without a Feminist Politic, spirituality is new age, leading to a bush/christ new world order.

Max accomplished a great move away from racism and prejudice by showing the vast similarities among womyn roots.

We all developed from the same natural world, from Nature. I came home each time able to touch that olde woman inside, Dancing with a stick, wanting to Re-Turn to that kind of collective strength and spirit. Max will be showing again through the Winter. Keep an eye out. Be Re-Minded!

\* \* \*

### Where are the Lesbian Poets? (by Genny laMorgan)

Where are the lesbian poets, the leaders of ecstatic dance and prophecy? The writers of spells, chants and songs. This month's poem/chant is the ending prayer of Helen/Queen Inanna/You and Me, in "Queen of Swords," by Judy Grahn (published by Beacon, P. 126). The drum beats are underlined by my Self as I pray this sacred poetry.

O Lady, Lady of the changing shapes,  
help me remember  
how to dance in place;  
when to witness,  
when to harness,  
when to charge with all my forces.

I don't know the reaches of my fate  
I know your shadow falls across my face.

O Lady, Lady of the great below  
Hard are your lessons  
many-fanged your harshness;  
irresistible are your passions  
and sweet, sweet are your praises.

I don't know the mazes of your soul  
I know your shadow falls beside me  
everywhere I go.

**ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!** To all of you Lesbians out there who have been reading and enjoying the newsletter over the past few years I have some important news to convey. Unless we at the LU! newspaper collective get some influx of womanpower and money we won't be publishing much longer. That is to say the LU! Newsletter that you have come to love and enjoy is entering its final hours unless you help!

You can do this in two ways. The first is financially. BUY RAFFLE TICKETS, sell them to your friends, or else just send us a donation. BUT WE ALSO DESPERATELY NEED YOUR WOMANLY HELP! You can do this by either writing for the newsletter directly or helping to get it out. If you are interested in doing either please call me, Rochelle at 664-3240 and I can arrange to get you involved.

Your newsletter needs you or else she'll die, it's as simple as that. So if over the years you have found the newsletter stimulating, thought provoking or you simply can't plan your life without the calendar please come get involved. And be sure to buy your raffle tickets! Your newsletter is counting on you!

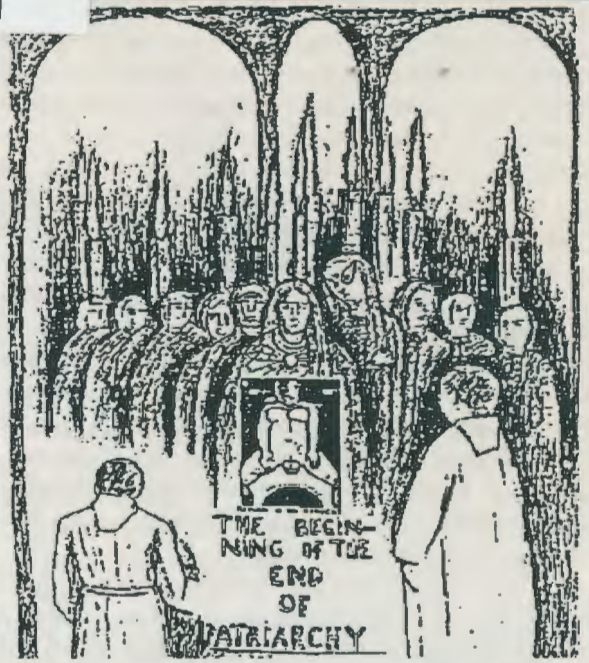


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FROM BRISTOL, ENGLAND: On May 9, 1993, a group of 13 womyn attending a "Breaking The Silence" anit-racism conference, walked into a 10:00 a.m. "service" at Bristol Cathedral declaring "The End of patriarchy Is Nigh!" Monica Sjoo, whose dream this had been, stood centre carrying a placard of her controversial 1970's painting "God Giving Birth," showing a Great Womun standing on Her two feet giving birth to the World from between Her great two legs.

Facing the congregation, they sang in front of the "altar," "The Burning Times," a song of the witchhunts. The Conference, attended by 100 British womyn, is part of a national -- becoming international -- Ama Mawu/End of patriarchy Movement. Wanting to create a multi-racial movement of womyn, the conference addressed racism as a major issue to end patriarchy.

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