

The HERLAND VOICE

AUGUST 1991

MIRACLE DRUG? WHY CAN'T WE GET IT?

Ever since the five-justice anti-abortion rights majority of the Supreme Court handed down their infamous *Webster* decision, an enormously bitter battle has raged—in our courts, in our legislatures and even in our street.

Yet there is a practical way to greatly de-escalate this divisive war. To dramatically reduce the need for a vast majority of the 1.6 million surgical abortions performed in America each year.

Thanks to an historic breakthrough in medicine, there is a truly remarkable means by which the need for surgical abortions can be greatly reduced. In fact, in France in just this first year of use, the need for surgical abortions was reduced by more than 30%! This was accomplished by a safe, efficient new medication called RU 486.

But, while more than 60,000 women in France have already successfully used RU 486, *it is not available in the United States.*

Anti-abortion forces have been working around the clock to intimidate the pharmaceutical companies and keep them from bringing RU 486 into the U.S.

So far, the one-sided attack against this medical breakthrough is succeeding. Through targeted letter-writing campaigns aimed at the French firm Roussel Uclaf, which holds the patent on RU 486, and its parent company Hoechst, A.G. in Germany, the anti-abortion rights forces have threatened boycotts and other economic action aimed at "punishing" these firms if they dare bring RU 486 into the United States.

RU 486 can be used—with over 96% efficiency—up to the 49th day of pregnancy. After it is determined that a woman is pregnant, in her doctor's office or women's health center she takes a 600 milligram dose of RU 486. Two days later she returns for an injection of prostaglandin. Within another two to five days, she will have a vaginal blood flow, similar to a heavy menstrual period. She then returns to her doctor to ensure the abortion is complete and the bleeding is controlled. Since this is not an invasive procedure, there is no risk of any infection, nor need

for anesthesia.

While the most recent Harris poll shows that 59% of all adults think RU 486 should be made available in the U.S., the leaders of the anti-abortion rights groups are doing their utmost to stop it.

Beyond its capacity to dramatically reduce surgical abortions, RU 486 has other amazing properties which hold enormous promise for the benefit of women in the treatment of several major diseases and health conditions, including endometriosis. So potentially important is this drug that its inventor, Dr. Etienne-Emile Baulieu, has been awarded the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award, America's highest medical research honor and frequently the front-runner of the Nobel prize.

Today RU 486 is being tested to treat some types of:

- Breast cancer, which one in nine women develop. RU 486 has been found to be very promising in tests performed over the past two years.
- Meningioma, a benign brain tumor which, however, is fatal if located in an inoperable part of the brain.
- Endometriosis, a leading cause of infertility. After successful tests on animals, clinical tests are being conducted right now.
- Caesarean Sections, as RU 486 may be effective in inducing labor in a difficult delivery and reducing the number of Caesarean births.

And RU 486 is being tested to treat glaucoma and ulcers, and has been proven to *effectively* treat some forms of Cushing's Syndrome, a rare adrenal tumor which mostly affects women in their 30s to 40s.

With this vast spectrum of potential and actual uses, as well as its primary application as a means to medically terminate unintended pregnancies, it is unthinkable that the anti-abortion forces are determined to stop RU 486.

For more information about this drug and how to get involved in making it legal in our country, contact The Feminist Majority Foundation, P.O. Box 96780, Washington, D.C. 20077. Petitions are being circulated. **WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** ■

PORTHOLE BENEFIT PARTY

Other Options, Inc. will be the recipient of a benefit to be held at the Porthole on August 24, 9:00 p.m.

There will be balloons with prizes in them, events and great fun, and an option for an autographed copy of the book "Aids for HIV-AIDS" will go to the highest bidder. A \$15 donation for the book will be appreciated, which will be used for reprints of the book.

Music at the benefit will be provided by Peggy Johnson and Route 66. Donations from artists include Shadow, White Antelope, Kelly Arbuckle and Parker Perry.

So come on out to the Porthole expecting to have a good time and to help with a great cause. Don't forget to thank Shatzy and Carol and their shipmates for allowing this to take place. For more information please contact Cookie at 495-2732 or Cindy Bookout or Shatzy at the Porthole.

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LUCY STONE 1818-1893

Even as a child, Lucy Stone had a reformer's spirit. From the time she could read, she read William Lloyd Garrison's abolitionist journal *The Liberator*, and attended anti-slavery lectures. At 16, she quit school to teach, but was discouraged by the disparity in wages paid to men and women. She attended Oberlin College, enrolling in the regular four-year academic course. Her Greek and Hebrew studies convinced her that critical translations outlining the status and position of women in those societies had been misconstrued, and she determined to speak out against the current status of women.

Women were barred from the debating and oratorical societies at Oberlin, so she practiced on her own. In 1847, she was awarded a degree with honors, and refused to write a commencement address, since she would not have been allowed to deliver it herself.

After graduation, she was appointed a lecturer of the American antislavery Society. She lectured on both abolition and feminism, speaking on women's rights on the weekends, and for the Society during the week. Her sincerity, eloquence, and intensity drew large audiences, not all of them friendly, and mobs sometimes heckled, threw things, and turned hoses on her.

In 1850, Stone led the call for the first National Women's Rights Convention. Though not as famous as the Seneca Falls Conference, the gathering was more representative. Her speech inspired Susan B. Anthony to join the women's movement and prompted J. Stuart Mills to write "The Enfranchisement of Women." She became the star speaker in the new feminist network, traveling and lecturing extensively. She wore the unconventional "bloomer" costume and preached against traditional marriage customs, characterizing marriage in her day as legalized prostitution, and promising to "call no man master." She wrote, "It is very little to me to have the right to vote, to own property, if I may not keep my body and its uses in my absolute right."

In 1855, she married Henry Blackwell and kept her birth name. In the ceremony, the couple refuted the laws of marriage, creating instead "an equal and permanent partnership."

Stone presided over the seventh National Women's Rights Convention in New York in 1856, then took leave to raise her child, resuming a full lecturing schedule in 1867. In 1869, the movement split into the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). The division was due in part to personal conflicts between Stone and Anthony as well as to a dispute about endorsing the Fifteenth Amendment (which gave the vote to black men) if it was not broadened to include woman's suffrage. Stone led the AWSA, and published a paper called the *Women's Journal*, lauded for its journalistic excellence.

When the desire for unity overcame past antagonism. The two factions formed the National American Woman Suffrage Assoc. in 1890, with Anthony as President and Stone chair of the Executive Committee.

Lucy Stone devoted her life to challenging traditional notions about women's abilities and "nature," questioning the validity and justice of the social mores and customs of her day. ■

ENCODINGS

Volume 1, No. 2

NEW POETRY AND ARTWORK BY WOMEN IN HOUSTON

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ST. SYBIL

St. Sybil, Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, has been having a little nap while waiting for the cosmic post person to bring her some mail. She finally got some:

Dear St. Sybil,

I thought you and the folks where you are would like to try your hands at solving some riddles; so here goes: what do the U.S. Marines, the friendly neighborhood serial rapist, and my teenage children have in common?

Oh, that's too easy: They keep you awake at night wondering where they are and what they are up to.

OK, Smarty: *What do Clarence Thomas, Margaret Thatcher and Phyllis Schlafly all have in common?*

Easy, easy! They're all honorary white males.

OK, then: *What do Clarence Thomas, Margaret Thatcher, Phyllis Schlafly and the proud mother of a baby pachyderm have in common?*

They all think they made it on their own.

What do the employer who pays you 60 cents on the white-male dollar, the insurance company who won't insure you, and your ex-husband have in common?

They expect you to make it on your own.

What do the nazi skinheads down the street and a pit bull have in common?

A couple of things, at least: IQ and temperament.

What do Ronald Reagan and a soft boiled egg have in common?

IQ and temperament? Let's not get nasty.

Sorry. *What do George Bush and a straw in the wind have in common?*

I'm not going to play any more if all the answers are going to be "IQ and temperament."

OK, OK. *Just a couple more now. What do the nazi skinheads down the street and Oliver North have in common?*

Get real, what don't they have in common?

OK, OK, *acceptable answer. Wrapping it up now: What do our friendly neighborhood serial rapist, the nazi skinheads down the street, George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Phyllis Schlafly, Ollie North and his Marines, Clarence Thomas, profiteering employers, and a Rubbermaid girdle have in common?*

We know that one, too! They all want to control you, honey, and don't you let them. FIGHT BACK! and write again soon.

Love,
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MARDI GRAS IN CONNECTICUT?

LOUISIANA BOYCOTT LAUNCHED BY FEMINISTS

Madison, Wis.—The Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association, the largest humanist group in the nation, is asking for a full-scale economic boycott of Louisiana, which just passed the country's most restrictive antiabortion law.

"Let's move Mardi Gras to a state that respects women's rights," suggests Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-chair of the Caucus, which is based in Madison, Wisconsin. "How about Connecticut, which has passed safeguards ensuring that women can obtain safe abortions there? Tourists who care about women should shun Louisiana."

The Caucus has wired motion picture producers to boycott filmmaking in Louisiana, a newly-important industry for the deficit-ridden state, which depends on tourism for survival.

In wires to the Alliance of Motion Picture and TV Producers in Sherman Oaks, California, and to the New-York based Motion Picture Association of America, the Caucus pointed out that "there exists a plentitude of states supporting women's rights in which to make movies, including Wisconsin, the first state to ratify women's right to vote!"

"The message is to shun states that shun women," Gaylor said. "This law not only punishes Louisiana women, but threatens the rights of ALL women because it was passed as a test to overturn *Roe v Wade*."

The Feminist Caucus has also targeted major Louisiana products. It is the major producer of sweet potatoes. Other products include rice, Cajun cooking, spices and music, and such specialty items as Tabasco sauce.

"We can do without Tabasco sauce, but can the Louisiana economy survive a tourism and consumer boycott?" asks Gaylor.

The Feminist Caucus pointed out that abolitionists protested a similar injustice, when states' rights were held more important than human rights. They responded by severe economic and moral sanctions against "slave states."

"We can do no less," Gaylor said.

The Louisiana boycott joins a boycott of Utah called earlier this year, after that state passed similar restrictions. The U.S. Olympic Committee is being pressured to drop consideration of Utah as a possible site for the 1998 Winter Olympics.

"Joe Hill, legendary union organizer, said he wouldn't be caught dead in Utah," Gaylor said. "That's the spirit we're urging women and friends of women to adopt."

Abortion supporters are being asked to dial the Louisiana Tourism Hotline at 1-800-1133-GUMBO to register their support of a boycott, as well as to cancel convention or travel plans for Louisiana. ■

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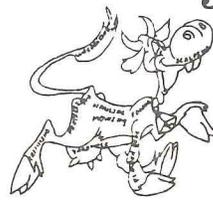
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"Women constitute half the world's population, perform nearly two-thirds of its work, receive one-tenth of the world's income, and own less than one-hundredth of the world's property."

Quote from United Nations Report, 1980.



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GAYS & LESBIANS ORGANIZE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

At a weekend planning held in Washington, D.C., May 11 and 12, more than 200 lesbian and gay politicians and activists called for a National March on Washington for lesbian and gay civil rights, scheduled for April of 1993.

The meeting was an opportunity for community representatives and individuals to discuss a national march in the spirit of the historical 1987 event, which attracted more than a half-million lesbians and gay men to our nation's capitol.

Present at the two-day event were many leading figures in the struggle for lesbian and gay rights, including principals of The Names Project, Black and White Men Together, National Minority AIDS Council, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, National Organization for Women, National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, National Gay and Lesbian Law Association, Queer Nation, Metropolitan Community Church, The National Lesbian and Gay Task Force, The Human Rights Campaign Fund, ACT UP, and representatives of groups from 22 states, from Florida to Alaska.

During the meeting, delegates endorsed two upcoming political events: Stonewall 25, international march and festival in New York City on June 26, 1994. This event commemorates the 25th anniversary of the riots that sparked the modern lesbian and gay liberation movement. Also endorsed was the October, 1992 march on Washington to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Survival of Indigenous Cultures. This event is held to protest Christopher Columbus' "discovery" of the new world and the subsequent genocide of its Native American peoples.

The next organizational meeting for the March on Washington will be held in Chicago on August 3 - 4 at the Allerton Hotel, at which time the national co-chairs, steering committee and working groups will be established, and a final date for the march will be set. For more information, contact the MOW hotline at 1-800-832-2889, or write to MOW c/o NGLTF, 1734 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309. FAX: (202) 332-0207. ■

A LESBIAN & GAY SUPPORT GROUP

has begun meeting in
NORMAN

on Thursdays, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.
at Counseling Psychology Clinic
at South Base

CALL 325-2914
FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS THE WOMAN-CENTERED ECONOMY: *Ideals, Reality and the Space In-Between*

Seeking essays, interviews, and stories that explore the relationship between feminist women (and organizations) and the money we need to keep ourselves alive. Particular needs include:

- Women who succeed at making their livings from within the women's community
- Women who have tried to make their livings from within and have failed—especially women who have run restaurants, coffeehouses, concert series, etc. whose target market was the women's community
- Investing in the community: women who have run banks, brokerage firms, etc. that invest in woman-owned business
- Women of Color/immigrants from non-capitalist countries/women from rich and poor backgrounds: how does upbringing affect participation in the woman-centered economy?
- Taking from the patriarchy: political analyses pro and con
- Making capitalism work for us and how capitalism has worked against us
- Land ownership: creating woman-only space for ourselves/for profit/ for the community
- Feminist service organizations: pros & cons of grant funding/seeking contributions/volunteer labor

These ideas are only the beginning! I am especially interested in differing perspectives on money/finance from within the women's community. Please feel free to call me at (312) 784-6725 if you would like to discuss your piece before sending/writing it. Send clean, typed manuscript with SASE to: Loraine Edwalds, Third Side Press, 2250 W. Farragut, Chicago, IL 60625. DEADLINE: August 10, 1991. ■

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CALL FOR WORK

Short fiction, poetry, and cartoons by lesbians and gay men wanted for collection of *Ex-Lover Wierd Shit*. Pretty much looking for funny stuff. Simultaneous submissions okay. DEADLINE: September 1, 1991. Send submissions, brief bio, and SASE (with adequate postage) to: Debra Riggan Waugh (X), P.O. Box 5243, Takoma Park, Maryland 20913. ■

HRCF CALLS FOR HALT TO PENTAGON DISCRIMINATION

Washington, D.C. — Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest lesbian and gay organization, today called on Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney to halt proceedings against an Air Force Captain whose discharge has been held up following the serviceman's participation in the Washington, D.C. Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade.

"The simple fact is that the Pentagon is promoting bigotry," McFeeley told Cheney in a letter sent earlier today. "Captain Greg Greeley has served our country honorably for four years. Now, on the eve of his discharge, he is being hounded because he sought to express his solidarity with other lesbian and gay Americans," McFeeley wrote.

The Washington Post reported in a front page story this morning that Air Force Captain Greg Greeley has been told that his discharge has been put on administrative hold.

"The American public overwhelmingly opposes the kind of harassment Captain Greeley is facing," McFeeley stated. He noted that a public opinion survey released in April found that 65% of the American public support admitting openly lesbian and gay Americans into the armed forces. *An even greater percentage of Americans—81 percent—oppose discharging a service member simply because of his/her sexual orientation.*

McFeeley noted that every study ever commissioned by the Pentagon itself on military policy regarding homosexuality—including two that were made public last year—support the idea of modifying or eliminating the discharge requirement.

"Just as the military integrated blacks and women into the ranks, the Human Rights Campaign Fund believes they will also end their policy of discrimination against lesbians and gays. We urge Secretary Cheney to end the enforcement of this outmoded and discriminatory policy today," McFeeley said. ■

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OLD LESBIANS UNITE!

The Old Lesbian Organizing Committee, based in Chicago Illinois, asks you to ASK YOURSELF: Where do groups of Old Lesbians get together? Could I get in touch with those who are isolated near me? Could I organize a small O.L. gathering in my area? Would I want to be a contact person for a region not covered, or a specific area in my region? What would I like to have happen in my area?

OLOC says that YOU ARE THE ONE who can find out, reach out to other lesbians your age near you, especially those who are isolated and are hesitant to join a group. Start by just getting acquainted. Then discuss possibilities for group activities. You can be a link between your area and the contact person in your region or a link between your area and OLOC.

OLOC can provide you with brochures and ideas. There are videotapes of Old Lesbians which were previewed at the National Lesbian Conference, and soon there will be a Speaker's List, and a Handbook on Ageism to use in discussion groups. You can obtain this resource material through OLOC or your region's Contact Person. Contact The Old Lesbian Organizing Committee, P.O. Box 14816, Chicago IL 60614. ■

SISTERS BEWARE

by Deborah Fox

... of the Patriarchy in the New Age movement. I've had a growing suspicion about the New Age movement; my gut feeling told me that all was not love and enlightenment in the house of the family of light.

It started a few years back when I lived in New Mexico. There was an advertisement for a "Prosperity Workshop" in Albuquerque. In a storefront building decorated in pastel purples, pinks, and blues, with an atmosphere of an Art Gallery, I inquired about the workshop to a soft-spoken woman with curly brown hair. She lovingly informed me of all the New Age celebrities that would be conducting the seminar, that it was a three-evening affair over the weekend and that the fee was \$450.00. After I picked my jaw up off the floor I asked her why the fee was so high, explaining that if I had \$450.00 to spare I doubt I'd need a Prosperity Workshop. Wasn't this a workshop for poor people? She in turn explained to me ever so gently and simply that the high cost discouraged those who are not yet willing to change negative thought patterns and limit the audience to only those who *really* want prosperity consciousness, that those who are really serious about this will *create* the \$450.00 fee. And this as if hierarchy, greed, inequity of jobs and resources, ecological destruction, and capitalism did not exist! What for the people most harmed by these injustices! I began to suspect the New Age movement was elitist (last time I checked the fees for such seminars and retreats ranged from \$740 to \$1,000).

Then there's the New Age slogan: We Create Our Own Reality. Something I couldn't quite pinpoint about this idea, didn't sit right with me from the start. When I see the commercials about the starving children all over this world it becomes increasingly clear to me that there is something wrong with anyone who could advocate that these children created their reality, or that it is their "karma." That reeks of scapegoating to me! I suppose the child being abused created that reality? Or the rape victim; she created that reality? That's victim blaming, guilt tripping, and it places all the responsibility for oppression onto the oppressed. I can believe that we are co-creators of our reality and I do believe we can reclaim our power and create a better reality, but there are other forces at work too. We are not isolated islands unto ourselves. We do not create our lives in a vacuum. And what better way to stifle women from reclaiming our power than by dragging us down with guilt and blame, causing us to believe that we created the rapes and abuses, that the suffering from our oppression is the result of our past life wrongs. We must always be wary and read between the lines because misogyny is insidious within language and ideology. Those little nuances that we can overlook because they seem so trivial can become thorns festering in our souls. They beat down our self esteem.

Male authors outnumber female authors published in New Age magazines. Interviewers and interviewees are predominantly male. The few words spoken about sexism seem token. Though there is plenty of information, little is written about the Goddess and Patriarchal cultures. Those that espouse "Prosperity Consciousness" are middle to upper class and there are tons of outrageously expensive

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New Age goodies flooding the marketplace. Non-Indians exploit, and therefore defile, Native American spiritual practices. The spiritual focus is still predominantly Patriarchal. Both eastern and western, wose transcendental gods are "out there" somewhere above the earth denying the unity of spirit and matter. The disciplines often aspire to "rise above" the earthly plane, physical processes (like birth) and sexual desires. Rarely have I seen the New Age philosophy deal with the root causes of suffering and injustice—there is far more profit in treating the symptoms. And now there is the Men's Movement which seems intent upon neutralizing the Women's Movement and calling themselves "success objects" (gee, guys, we'd have taken those jobs!), and articles with quotes like this: "... I came to see American feminism as having a few good points but as mostly being very damaging and very corrosive, in addition to simply being wrong." (!!*) This by the white male New Age guru Ken Wilbur. (No way guys, you no longer have a monopoly on authority—heck, we can't even trust you to dispose of your garbage!)

Author and artist, Monica Sjoo has said that: "New Age teachings have become distorted and biased because of the middle to upper class privilege of the white men who dominate the movement." (*Women of Power magazine, Winter 1991.*) The New Age movement is being exploited as a vehicle for white male capitalism and used as another tool in the oppression of women. "... we as women know that spirituality cannot be divorced from the struggle against oppression." Sjoo

I agree with Monica and I want to join my sisters in rescuing what is valuable in New Age teachings and in reclaiming the New Age. As author Lynn V. Andrews so aptly put it: "I sometimes see women who have been cheated out of their spiritual heritage just as they have been cheated out of their minds and bodies. I, for one, struggle against that theft." You are not alone, Lynn.

Monica Sjoo is the author of: *The Great Cosmic Mother*, in cahoots with Barbara Mor, and has a new book: *New Age Or Armageddon: The Goddess Or The Guru? A Feminist Vision Of The Future. Woman Of Power* is a magazine of feminism, spirituality, and politics. For subscription information, write: Woman of Power, Inc., P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238. Lynn V. Andrews is the author of several books, *Flight Of The Seventh Moon* being one of my favorites. ■

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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POETRY is sponsoring their 1991 poetry contest. \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded. The deadline for entry is August 30, 1991. Contact NLP, 5-E Gwynns Mill Court, P.O. Box 704A, Owings Mills, MD 21117; (301) 356-2000.....

THE RAGDALE FOUNDATION OFFERS A WRITING FELLOWSHIP ANNUALLY to a woman over age 55 who is beginning a writing career. The winner is given a free 2-month residency anywhere in the continental U.S. Contact Ragdale, 1260 N. Green Bay Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045; (708) 234-1063.....

LESBIAN ONLY THERAPY GROUP. For further information call Jo L. Soske, M.Ed./MHR/CAC at 360-5708.....

FALL RETREAT — OCTOBER 11 - 13. Mark your calendars now. Nancy Scott of Austin, Texas will be our headliner.

DEAR SISTERS:

On Friday, July 12, 1991, 20/20 aired a segment on Naomi Wolf's book, *The Beauty Myth*. The segment included an interview with a courageous 16-year-old woman who admitted being absorbed in our society's expectations for women's appearance. She also spoke honestly of the pain she experiences as a result of this.

Following the segment, Barbara Walters dismissed Naomi's book as "greatly exaggerated." She referred to the idea of a feminist backlash as a "crock." She discounted the interview with the young woman, saying that all 16-year-olds are insecure. She offered herself as proof that women are not being held back.

I was outraged by 20/20's use of a woman to totally discount our experience. As most of you know, Naomi Wolf's book is a well documented scholarly work which was first published by Oxford University Press. As a teacher and a therapist, I have seen several women who are killing themselves to try to achieve "the look." They are all around us, and they are our sisters. Frequently, the damage done to their bodies will never heal. It is less easy to measure the damage done to all of our minds and souls.

I do not wish to encourage a great deal of horizontal rage at Barbara Walters. She is a pawn of the patriarchy which keeps women dieting/dieing. I would like to ask, though, that you take 5 minutes to send a postcard to 20/20 and let them know that their treatment of women's real pain is inexcusable. The address is: 20/20 Journal Graphics, 267 Broadway, New York, New York 10007. Thank you for your commitment to women's lives.

Sincerely, Jo L. Soske

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MANDALA iii: (A Poem)

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Pulsing, pumping, Rhythim-tide
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You yield beneath my eager stride
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I, and my two-wheeled twelve-speed friend!

by Suzan Ceterra

Kay Killgore, M.Ed.

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DEAR EDITOR,

I was incensed by the letter in a previous issue from Palmira C. She is weary of "pagan propaganda"—well, I am weary of Catholic propagand and propaganda of other white-male religious denominations and white-male religions. We live in a world created by men, for men and religion is one of the tools used by men to retain the status quo. Our lives are saturated with references to and talk of these white, male religions. Our flag salute contains "one nation under God." We have prayers before athletic events, at the beginning of the daily state legislative sessions. We have legislators who physically fight over who will be the Chaplain for the week. We fought a war in which God was on our side. We prayed to God and thanked God regularly on television for our small number of casualties (our God did not care about the lives of the people of Iraq; guess that was because they were not Christians!) In the courts, we are often asked to "swear to God."

To become a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, a prerequisite for a permanent practice of law in Oklahoma, an individual must take an oath in which "God" is used. In Oklahoma, and I would assume most states, in addition to a Judge or Justice of the Peace, a minister is able to perform weddings recognized by the law. If you are admitted to a hospital, you are asked what religion you belong to. It is a foregone conclusion that we all believe in this white, male god.

References to goddesses in the *Voice* are infinitesimal when compared to this "foregone conclusion" of the existence and belief in this white, male god by the populous. If Palmira C. is so weary of references to "Goddesses" in the *Voice*, I wonder if she would attempt to understand how weary I am of "white, male god" propaganda.

I do not believe in Goddesses for that matter; but I do believe in women, and references to Goddesses can only promote the image and welfare of women. Isn't it interesting that the two religions which Ms. C. refers to are Jewish and Christian—guess Muslims, Hindus, etc. are not valid. Is that because they were not created by caucasian males?

Thanks to everyone responsible for the *Voice*.

Take care, take power, and trust joy.

Coleen Woody

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August, 1991

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m.	3 Pantex Peace Farm
4 Pantex Peace Farm ** Benefit for Second Chance Andrews Park Norman	5	6 Remember Hiroshima, 1945; Work for Peace.	7	8	9 Richard Nixon resigned the Presidency. 1974 * CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m.	10 Sisters of Swing at the Coyote Club 9:00 P.M. -- Peggy Johnson at Poets B-II
11	12	13  LUCY STONE 1818 - 1893	14	15	16 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m.	17 Backyard Barbeque at Herland Barbara will be here!
18 Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. -- Miss Brown to You at the Coyote Club 8:00 P.M.	19	20	21	22	23 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m.	24 Benefit for Other Options at the Porthole
25	26  Ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920.	27	28	29	30 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m.	31 Peggy Johnson at the Coyote Club 9-12 PM

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outhwell, M. Ed.

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grow*

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Certified Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Counselor

THE ECONOMY OF DEATH

Amount	Paid for	Could have paid for
\$20 million	20 Patriot missiles	Vaccines to protect all the women in Africa from tetanus
\$65 million	1 E-2C Hawkeye aircraft	The estimated total amount of external funds spend on AIDS in Africa in 1990.
\$450	1 M-16 rifle	The training of a primary health care worker to respond to such community needs as immunization, oral rehydration, antibiotics, safe births and postnatal care.
\$340 million	Two days of air combat	UNICEF's 1990-91 budgeted expenditures (<i>plus</i> \$48 million)
\$12.3 billion	Noncombat costs, January-March '91	The total current annual amount of investment in water supply in the developing world
\$500 million	One day of air and ground combat	Oxfam's operating budget—forty-six times over—for 1989-90
\$6.9 million	1 CH-47D army transport helicopter	All of Save the Children's refugee programs in Indonesia and Thailand, 1989-90 (providing services for 25,000 people)
\$20,000	1 Stinger missile	Basic medical equipment and building materials for a maternity center in Mali

If you were to spend \$1.2 million a day for ten years you would spend \$44 billion, the estimated amount spent on the Gulf War alone (not including long-term costs of operating a base in Saudi Arabia or reconstructing Kuwait).

Source: Vol 1 No. 6 of Ms. Magazine.

Articles appearing in the voice are the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Herland Sister Resources.



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