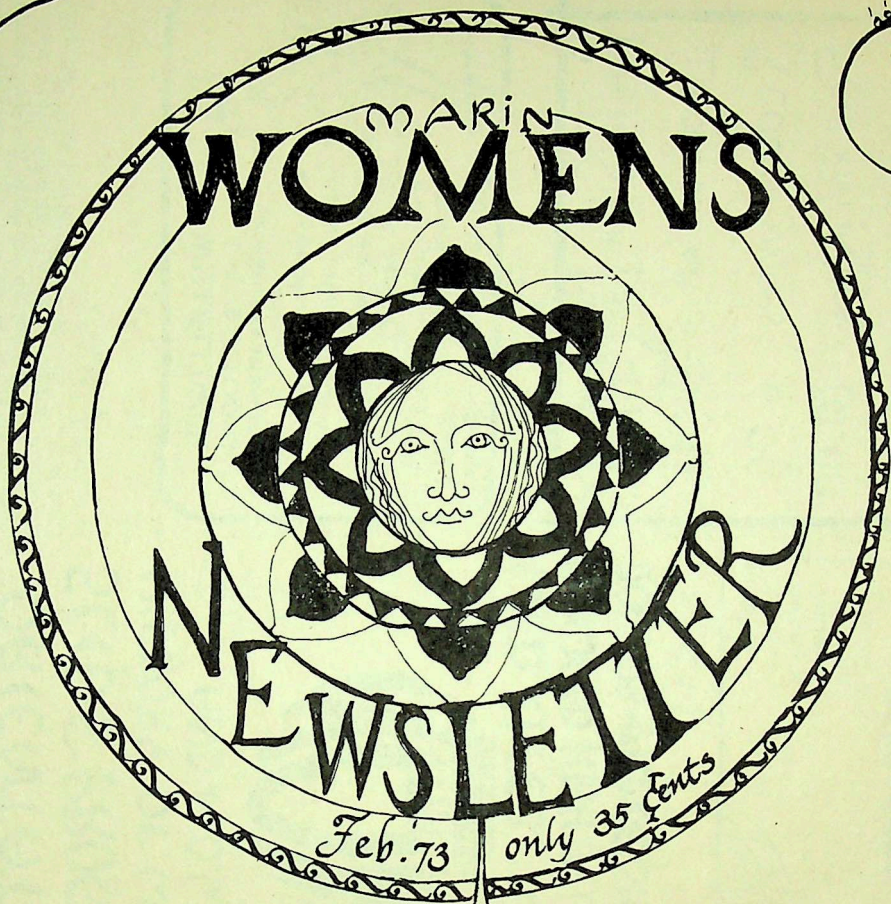
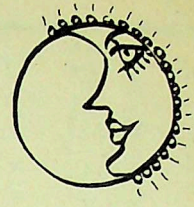
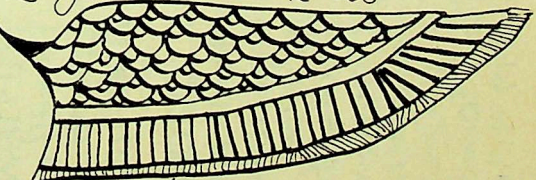
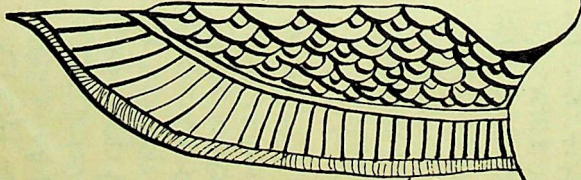


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A grass roots ~

~ Feminist Press

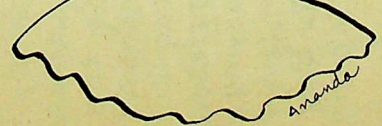


vol. 1

Number 9

letters ~
articles ~
illustrations

poetry ~
news ~
reviews



amanda

★ NEWS = STEINEM & SLOAN = NEWS ★

"If men only understood how little it matters which man is standing next to us!"



GLORIA STEINEM and MARGARET SLOAN

Steinem and Sloan spoke to an over-flow crowd in the gym at the College of Marin, Wed., night, Jan. 17. Late-comers pounding on the door chanted "Let Us IN!" and Sloan and Steinem responded with "Let Them IN!" and they were in standing in the back of the huge room.

If you were a feminist it was a fantastic, marvelous energy high. If you were teetering on the edge, it just might have sent you toppling over. If you were a man - it either turned you on or off, depending on what you wanted when you came in.

They had guts, wit, intelligence, style,chutzpa, you name it; they had confidence in themselves. They knew everyone there wanted to listen to them and they knew they were good speakers.

[I was thinking, at this point, that I should do a brief news report - quotes and so forth, and tell you all exactly what these dynamic women said, but I find myself constantly shying away from that for two reasons. First: the papers have covered their speeches very well with good quotes and a real and honest picture of what was actually said. Second: What they said was actually not as important to me as how they said it and the role models they were. They didn't really tell me anything new, but they showed me something I've never seen before]

So, I'll try to talk about this more sublt effect, which seemed to affect many of the women I've talked to. What we all did, it appears, was to SOAK UP POWER. Literally, like sponges, we saw, we drank the power in and we functioned, IMMEDIATELY with that power.

Steinem told an anecdote that was a consciousness raiser for her and so it was for all of us: Flo Kennedy (a black woman lawyer) once said to her, "When you have a truck lying on your ankle do you send someone to the library to see how much it weighs?" She said this stopped her from feeling she had to quote statistics to prove women were oppressed. In a word, it gave her confidence. As she told the story it was obvious to many that she was right. Statistics belong in a discussion with your sisters who are interested in HOW BAD the oppression is, not in proof that they're bleeding. But

Photos by Kathy Taylor

"An economic revolution would come if the demand for equal pay for equal work was ever realized."

"Stop hating yourself. Freedom comes from knowing your situation is political and working together"

What's inside:

STEINEM/SLOAN NEWS LETTERS
Looking at the MASSADAY
Book Review & COSMETICS,
Political Notes
From Barbara Boxer
& The Woman's Corner

As you can see, we're now in a news-print format! We hope you like it... We enjoy having more space & more layout flexibility. But THIS IS VERY EXPENSIVE Please help with money - Contributions & subscriptions are greatly needed.

-Editors

it was the first time in my life that anyone with power, with the respect of enough people to fill an enormous auditorium, who had news reporters stumbling all over each other to quote her, had said, DON'T BE DEFENSIVE. WE ARE RIGHT ENOUGH NOT TO HAVE TO CONSTANTLY APOLOGIZE AND PROVE THE OBVIOUS. The effect of this on me was very similar to the first time I participated in a consciousness raising group and heard other women express similar feelings and thoughts and problems to mine. I am not alone, I am sane. I am in touch with reality.

And when a TRUTH comes to you and you are ready to hear it, the effect is truly magical. You are instantly changed - no years of analysis needed, no hours of discussion groups. CHANGE, PRESTO. I walked around that hall a strong and confident woman instead of a woman intellectually committed to the idea that I was strong and confident and I no longer had a chip on my shoulder about defending women's liberation. You just can't keep it balanced up there when you genuinely no longer feel you need to be defensive.

My intellectual and social training has been such that I often trick myself into thinking it didn't matter to me what "masses" of people think; one pursues the "unknown," explores new ground, "stands alone," etc. Sure - all that's fine, but it ignores a psychological truth - we need to know whether what we say, do, think, feel, has any legitimacy with other human beings.

I observed Steinmen and Sloan's feed back - not only from feminists but from many "unknown" quantities. They were given "validity" simply because they looked like they expected it (and that you would have to be out of touch with reality not to give it to them!). That's definitely where its at (if you are ready to hear it - I wouldn't have been a few years ago.)

With out a doubt, Steinem and Sloan's speeches meant other things than what I've described to other people. I'd be very interested to know what other reactions were - send them to PO Box 1412, San Rafael, Ca. 94902 and we'll try and print them.

-Kathy Taylor

NURSE-MIDWIFE PROGRAMS

Nurse-Midwife programs are the coming thing - having a baby in your home with a nurse-midwife in attendance is becoming very popular. If you'd like to know more about it contact: THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-WIVES, 50 E. 92 nd St., N.Y. N.Y. 10028 "The change will come only when women demand it..."

PATERNITY LEAVE

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has just ruled that men are entitled to paternity leave to help care for a new-born child.

Berkeley City Council just passed a resolution entitling men to up to five days paternity leave in the city of Berkeley....

MAIDS ARE GETTING IT ON

The National Committee on Household Employment has begun to try and improve the image of the Household Technicians of America. Domestic housework isn't even listed in the Labor Department's job handbook, which means it isn't officially considered an occupation; this makes the job of improving wages, hours and working conditions doubly difficult.

A three-day conference was held in New York recently, at which time the National Committee set as their goals: earning the minimum wage, health and employment insurance, compensation and a national retirement plan.

Ms. Edith Sloan, director of the Committee says she hopes to give "dignity, status and more real as well as psychic income, by way of higher wages, fringe benefits and training courses to sharpen domestic skills." *

*McCall's, Jan. 73, p. 66.



HOW DO YOU FEEL ?

Redbook magazine announces in its January issue that increased awareness of the movement on their part is moving them to offer \$500 for 1000-1500 word manuscripts on the subject of how you feel about yourself as a human being and as a woman. They seem most interested in women under 30, as if the rest are a lost cause, but all in all, it seems a good thing. If you do write to them, they'd like to know your age, number of children you have, marital status or whatever, and what kind of job you have. They may not be able to return manuscripts, so save a copy for yourself, or send it to us or enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and hope... Also, the \$500 is awarded only to the ones they decide to publish. Send yours to Redbook Women, 230 Park Avenue. N.Y., N.Y. 10017

Bev-



MALE PINUP CALENDAR

Judy Horst and Christine Hopf are two Bay Area women who have published the first male nude pinup calendar and they are having a lot of trouble peddling it

The problem is not lack of buyers - it is lack of advertising. These women cannot find magazines who will advertise their product, including MS magazine.

But Bo-Tree productions (their ad representative) is selling many of the \$4.50 calendar called the LADIES HOME COMPANION. About 50,000 calendars have been sold since July (primarily thanks to ads in Women's Wear Daily, Village Voice and editorial mentions in Time, Newsweek and a number of newspapers).

So far, the only stores in the Bay Area carrying it, to our knowledge are Bullock's in Palo Alto and San Rafael Book and News.

CAROL DOWNER (LOS ANGELES HEALTH CENTER) NOT GUILTY

On Sept. 20, 1972 the Feminist Women's Health Center was busted. Warrants were out for two women not present-Colleen Wilson and Carol Downer. When they turned themselves in a day later, Colleen Wilson was charged with 10 counts. She later plead guilty to one, that of fitting a diaphragm. She was fined \$250. Carol Downer was charged with practicing medicine without a license, a misdemeanor. Her "crime" was helping a woman insert a speculum into her own vagina, diagnosing monilia (a yeast infection), and helping apply yogurt for relief.

On November 20, 1972, Carol's trial began with hundreds of women demonstrating their support outside. Support in the form of telegrams, affidavits and money came from women throughout the country.

Carol said, "I will be tried on the charges of knowingly and willfully helping my sisters regain control of our bodies through self-knowledge at the Self Help Clinic."

"The Self Help Clinic is not a place. It is a kind of meeting where women get together and use techniques of self examination to learn what a well woman is. By recognizing what a well woman is, we are more able to recognize deviations and thus more quickly are encouraged to seek professional help. Also, with personal knowledge of our bodies, we can have a more intelligent basis to judge good health care for ourselves. Many of us have learned that the discharges we have frequently worried over and complained about are, in fact, normal healthy vaginal secretions.

"We help one another learn breast examinations. We share birth control experiences and discuss extensively the various methods available, using texts and actual model examples. The Self Help Clinics teach first hand knowledge of our bodies so that we can ultimately provide better health care for ourselves as well as become better medical consumers."

Diane Wayne and Jeanette Christy, the defense attorneys, motioned for a woman judge. The motion was honored but the prosecution challenged and another judge, Mary Waters, was assigned.

According to Jeanne Hirsch, who attended the trial, there were only four men present. They were Carol Downer's husband, a male supporter, a police officer and the prosecuting attorney!

The jury deliberated nearly fourteen hours--two days to reach a verdict of not guilty on a misdemeanor charge.

VALICE

Information and quotes from "The Monthly Extract" Nov/Dec 1972

The costs of this trial are high. If you care to contribute, mail to: Legal Defense Fund The Feminist Health Center 746 Crenshaw Blvd. Los Angeles, Ca. 90019

*Not counting the jury which consisted of eight men and four women.

WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE

The Second Annual Bay Area Conference on Women's Studies will be convened at the Holiday Inn in Terra Linda, Thurs. March 8, 1973, International Women's Day. For more information on registration, call Diane Wickstrom at College of Marin, 454-3962.

ABORTIONS LEGAL NOW

Abortions may be performed during the first three months of pregnancy in any state of this country. All that is needed is the consent of a woman's physician. This makes it illegal to deny any woman an abortion in any state as of Jan. 22, 1973 (as I understand the law).

The Supreme Court voted 7-2 (Justices White and Rehnquist dissented) to over-rule all state laws prohibiting abortion or restricting a woman's right to an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy.

The court also ruled that during the third to seventh months of pregnancy "the states have the power to regulate the medical aspects of abortion." And furthermore, that after the 26th or 27th week of pregnancy, the states may, but are not required to, forbid all abortions except those essential to save the mother's life or health.

This ruling, while certainly welcome, isn't without it's drawbacks. That it allows states the power to ever deny a woman an abortion is appalling, and its unfortunate that the ruling's wording leaves room for some strange and ambivalent attitudes toward the fetus and toward a mother who considers her own life before an unborn one. The newspaper paraphrases the crucial point this way:

"The word person, as used in the 14th Amendment, does not include the unborn, although states may acquire, at some point in time, of pregnancy, an interest in the potential human life that the fetus represents..."

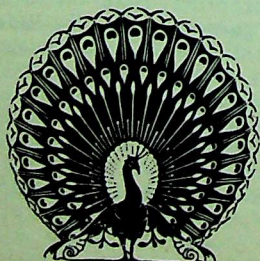
As far as I'm concerned, until that child is born it is a mother's right to decide whether to have it or not. It is part of the sexist mind set of this culture (which is so full of the "fear of women") that those who fear leaving this decision up to the mother right up to the last moment seem to envision thousands of devouring mothers who maliciously wait until their babies are practically born and then abort them - presumably for fun or something. That is clearly an irrational, crack pot notion as are all those other fears. No woman whose had a baby, gone through that many months of pregnancy is going to blithely abort during the last few weeks.

What I'm trying to say is this law still reflects a patriarchal attitude toward women. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY ANYTIME

We are not mentally defective, insane or children, all of whom have laws governing their bodies. We are free and equal human beings.

Unfortunately it takes a constitutional amendment to change this decision and it's just good enough to make most of us nervous about tampering with it - but it could have been so very much better.

-kathy taylor

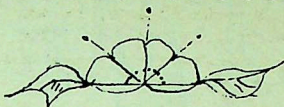


STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION

California's Commission on the Status of Women, established as a permanent body in 1971 will hold the last of three hearings in Los Angeles (State Bldg. 107 South Broadway, Room 1138) February 9 & 10. The hearings are being held to gather testimony from individuals and organizations on problems and inequities faced by women in a broad range of areas. There are two foci of attention:

- 1) Conditions, practices or laws which impose special hardships on women
- 2) Factors which would increase the ability, motivation, or opportunity of women to contribute fully in and to society.

Ananda



ANTHRO NOTES

"The two large samples of hominid from Sterkfontein and Swartkrans provide excellent evidence against the view that the robust and gracile forms are males and females of the same species. On this hypothesis the males would have had canine teeth proportionately much smaller than the females' - a feature not known in any higher primate. Also the females would have been efficiently striding, erect bipeds, very similar in this respect to modern man, while the males would have lacked the ability to stride. Such a population makes very little biological sense."

-J.T. Robinson

*slender, slim

THE MISSING LINK
Time-Life Books
NY, 1972



WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Carol Ruth Silver, law professor, who once served 40 days in jail in Mississippi for civil rights activities, (she was a freedom rider) is the new Sheriff's Attorney. Ms. Silver will receive \$12,000 for part time work. She is 34, teaches law at Golden Gate University, and holds a brown belt in Karate.

Elayne Janiak will be job placement counselor at the San Francisco County prison. She is 26, and has been a teacher. She joins a staff of four rehabilitation officers, all male.



WANT TO KEEP YOUR OWN NAME?

Legislation has been introduced in the NY Assembly to allow couples applying for a marriage license to "state at that time whether they intend to adopt the last name of either partner, to keep their own names or to use a combination of the two. The bill was sponsored by Assemblyman Antonio Olivieri.

ABORTION RIGHTS RALLY IN SAN FRANCISCO

On March 10, 1973 there will be an Abortion Rights Rally in San Francisco. Why such a rally when the State Supreme Court has just made a decision making the California Abortion Law the second most liberal in the country?

The fight for women's right to control their own bodies is far from over. Already the State Attorney has appealed to the State Supreme Court for a re-hearing. The next step will be an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Judging from the national situation (where all recent liberalizations of abortion laws have been attacked), there will be an attempt to get new anti-abortion bills introduced in the State Legislature by Gov. Reagan and anti-abortion state legislators.

New York, the state with the most liberalized laws, exemplifies the urgency with which women must unite to defend our right to abortion. The law, passed in 1969 and in effect for only two years, has had the effect of statistically reducing infant and maternal mortality rate. Also the number of women admitted to hospitals for self-induced abortions (which in the past has accounted for many abortion deaths) declined. Yet, in this light, the right-wing anti-abortion forces have exerted tremendous pressure on the New York Legislature - to such a degree that there is an extreme danger that the legislature will move to make abortion illegal again in the state of New York. Last year the N.Y. Legislature passed a bill to do just that, however, it was vetoed by Gov. Rockefeller. This year they might win by an even larger margin.

Women in New York are forming broad coalitions to defend their rights. Although the attacks on the abortion laws have not yet developed to the same degree in California, chances are that the same events will occur here (and we certainly can't count on Gov. Reagan vetoing such measures). We can not expect our recent victory to go unchallenged. Women must be the strongest defenders of our rights to abortion - it is our bodies, our reproductive lives, and our very futures that restrictive state abortion laws attempt to control. We must be free to make the decisions affecting our own bodies and lives.

The March 10th rally idea was initiated by the S.F. National Organization for Women and the Women's Abortion Coalition. This demonstration coincides with the "International Tribunal on Abortion, Contraception and Forced Sterilization" which is being held in New York City from March 9-11, 1973. At a December 2nd planning meeting, open to all women, it was decided that such a rally is needed to underscore the support for "A Woman's Right to Choose." Support from the widest range of organizations possible is imperative. Only large groups of women acting together can affect legislation and arouse consciousness in their sisters across the nation. Committees were set up to work on reach-out, publicity, fund-raising, and the program on March 10th. A steering committee was also set up to help implement the details of the rally. All committees are open to anyone who wants to help make March 10 a successful rally day. If you wish to join a committee call the S.F. YWCA at 771-3403.

The rally will be at 2:00 on the Band Concourse in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, March 10th. The Band Concourse is between the DeYoung Museum and the Aquarium just off of J.F. Kennedy Drive. For further information call the number listed above.



letters to the editors

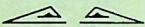
AN OPEN LETTER IN ANSWER TO
DAVID AND JACKIE

(1) The courts have been neglectful in the area of child custody, since decisions are made by judges who do not even know the family and never even meet the children.

(2) The courts, in my opinion, are not even doing a good job on the criminal law, by allowing prosecution and imprisonment for so-called "crimes" with no victim. How, therefore, can they make good decisions about children they don't even know? To drag the children into court would make things even worse. Therefore, the solution is to take child custody out of the courts and handle it in the community. I think there is a pressing need for Community Mental Health Centers with a staff psychiatrist or psychologist and good, honest, helpful social workers. A plan for these Health Centers for the whole state of California was proposed through the legislature, but financing for the bill apparently was vetoed by Governor Reagan. I think that this bill should be resubmitted to the legislature. Many non-criminal problems, especially those dealing with young people and children, could be handled by adults who know and understand their families, their situations, and their problems. This way, situations that lead to trouble could be avoided. I am talking about PREVENTATIVE MENTAL HEALTH. This Health Center would be the place to take all problems about children, especially child custody.

(3) The court dockets are already overloaded and overburdened. Why should they have to deal with custody battles when it could be handled in the neighborhood and taken out of the courts???

PEACE, ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE.
Dorothea Maria Dorman-Schmidt



Dear Editors-

I was introduced to your publication at the COM addresses of Steinem and Turner and read it after I got home. I send a contribution with my subscription. You'll hear more from me - I'm powerful!!! I have a daughter aged 6 and I'm concerned about her indoctrination. Please start a section to teach "how to teach." (Here's one of the things I do - When I read the damn classics, I change the nouns and pronouns to "she" and "her".

Yours truly,
Jeanne Nooney



Dear Sisters--

While the main thrust of Jo Stanton's article on county job discrimination in the December-January issue is excellent and on target, it is unfortunate that the example of the recruiting of Youth Coordinator was used to illustrate lax recruiting methods for county job openings, especially the better jobs.

The recruiting of Youth Coordinator was one of the county's rare exceptions in filling its better jobs. It did publicly advertise in "help wanted" columns of the I-J, at least, for that job. In fairness, we of the employment and job discrimination task force of Marin Chapter of the National Organization



for Women must point that out as a good example of what the county should do for all its position open. (The final selection of the man for the position could be argued, but the recruitment method was good).

We might point out, too, that we of NOW have gone to the Board of Supervisors and the personnel department and continually since 1970 demanded that they adopt more equitable hiring policies. They have, now, improved the policies, but implementation of them has left much to be desired. (Appointing the current personnel director as the affirmative action officer is a very dubious commitment to true change in hiring and promotion practices.)

What Marin women need to do, all right, is to find out what jobs are open and apply for them in sufficient numbers. Anyone who feels sex discrimination in seeking a job with the county should file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (NOW will be glad to help). Women must take that responsibility individually and join with us and other women's groups who will continue our group pressure to make Marin County truly an equal opportunity employer.

To date, some token progress has come in a few departments that were all male two years ago. But Marin County has a long, long way to go before women get their fair share of the better county jobs.

In Sisterhood,

Job Discrimination Task Force
Marin NOW
PO Box 2924, San Rafael, Ca.

Editors: Jo Stanton agrees



Dear Marin Women's Newsletter:

Today I received my Issue No. 8 and eagerly opened its pages as I have after receiving each issue. I certainly think this is a relevant publication and congratulate you on providing the community (and me) with this valuable reading material.

Upon reading the article on page 24, I was rather concerned that

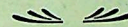
there was some misunderstanding regarding certain of my statements made to Molly. We had a good discussion regarding women's untenable position as rape victims, and perhaps in the zeal of the discussion Molly thought I was talking about a criminal action when in fact I was talking about a civil action for damages. It is not correct that anyone may file a suit for damages with the District Attorney's Office. Only criminal actions are pursued by that office. What I did say however was that a woman may file a civil complaint against the person who raped her by filing an action in either the Municipal Court or Superior Court depending upon the amount of damages she is asking. If the woman is successful in this action she would obtain more than merely her medical expenses.

I don't recall that I said "it does not often happen that a man is charged with rape, attempted rape or sexual molesting because there are sanctions around these sex crimes." People are charged with this crime whenever a complaint is made by a victim, and the District Attorney's Office determines that there is sufficient evidence to proceed with a criminal action. The woman however does not notify the police or the District Attorney many times because she understands that she will be abused by the criminal justice procedure. Spermatozoa smears of course are used as evidence by the prosecution if they are positive, but they are also used by the defense attorney if they are negative. Whether this test is positive or negative, a woman cannot be "quite sure of conviction."

Perhaps it is not necessary to clarify these points, but I would feel badly to have your readers misinformed regarding the rape victim's possible remedies.

Sincerely,
Salle Soladay

Editor: Molly agrees.



Dear Sisters--

I just read your December/January issue and think you are doing a fine job. However I was disturbed by a casual reference in the article on rape to "morning after shots and pills."

These shots, according to an article in the Chronicle about a month ago, are diethyl stilbesterol, a substance the FDA has recently banned from the feed of livestock because it causes cancer. The Nader Health Research Group has issued a warning that this drug is not approved as a morning after pill by the FDA and is being given on college campuses more or less as an experiment, with the women there as guinea pigs. The Nader group warns that DES may cause cancer in women with a family history of breast or genital cancer. Furthermore, the shots are not 100% effective in preventing conception. Daughters born to women who have taken this drug face a high risk of cancer at puberty. Around 100 women whose mothers were given DES in the

RESPECT YOURSELF

I came across an article in the I-J Women's section the other day that gave some interesting statistics about the numbers of women, both married and unmarried, who were in sympathy with the aims of the women's liberation movement and agreed that women were discriminated against and otherwise treated as second class citizens. The figures came from a survey done by Redbook Magazine and were said to have reached 120,000 women. Of these, 74% thought that full time motherhood and housekeeping was probably not very fulfilling for most women today, 85% thought that children of both sexes should be raised with similar aspirations and responsibilities, but only 2% agreed that the way to achieve full personhood for women was to organize with other women to achieve a position of influence in this country. Most of the respondents thought that it would have to be done individually, which is the way women have been fighting for centuries with very little success. Others thought that perhaps working with men in organizations would be a successful strategy. Why do so many women deny the successes the women's movement has had in the few years since its rebirth in this country? Did they really think that women's organizations don't work, or do they think it doesn't sound like much fun working with a lot of other women with no men around at all.

This called to mind a line from a Crosby, Stills and Nash song of a few years past, "You expect for me to love you when you hate yourself, my friend." And you may be thinking that you don't hate yourself, but what really is your self-image? What are your feelings about yourself and about women in general? Why do you shy away from other women and from the organized

women's movement? You must be interested in Women's Liberation or you wouldn't be reading this newsletter. I saw hundreds of women at the Gloria Steinem/Margaret Sloan lecture the other night, but so very few of you ever come to meetings or get involved with the women's movement in other ways. Have you internalized the myth of female inferiority? Do you really think that men are more interesting than women and do you prefer their company to that of your sisters? Do you speak to other women at school, in stores? Do you consider them your sisters or your rivals? This has been a basic problem in the women's movement from the beginning, as I am sure it was in the incipient Civil Rights Movement. Self Image! We must all struggle to free ourselves from the images of femininity that have been pushed at us all our lives. We must learn to love ourselves, to have self-respect, to be less concerned with society and convention and to create our own life styles and be proud. But it can not be done individually by any but the very strongest among us. We who have begun to struggle with this task have gotten together with other women for mutual support, encouragement, acceptance to share experiences, sorrows, joys. And in learning to love and respect ourselves we learn to love and respect each other and all our sisters. And we find that our sisters are great people, fun to be with, interesting to talk to, friends you can count on to accept you in any circumstance, always understanding and sympathetic. For being women we have all lived the same life in many ways, we have experienced the same fears and anxieties, we share common aspirations and within the Women's Liberation Movement have come together to work for a common goal. The women's movement in Marin County is

very young, there are few of us actually involved in projects of change. We start out small in our work, but we have in mind to change the world. We want to make this world a better place for women (and men) to live. A place where we will all be free to grow to our full potential, develop our minds in what ever area we desire, engage in what ever kind of work we choose, and to live our lives free from fear. We appreciate your sympathy but we need your help.

One other thing that was brought out in that I-J article was that most of the women questioned thought that they themselves would not benefit much from the effects of changes being brought about by the Women's Liberation Movement but that their daughters would probably have greater opportunities as a result. Well, we will not have to wait so long. Millions of women are being affected daily by the work we are doing. The Equal Rights Amendment, liberalized abortion laws (however slow in coming), the end of job discrimination, new horizons in education and career choice are becoming a reality due to the efforts of the women's movement, which is only five years old.

We are not willing to wait any longer and we are making that clear to everyone. We are no longer asking to be given our rights; we are demanding and we are taking our lives into our own hands. What begins as a very personal change in attitude grows, with the help of your sisters, into a tide to change the course of human development. It is tremendously exciting to be part of this historical force. It is a lot of work, but it is a labor of love which we truly enjoy and on which we thrive and grow. JOIN US !!

Bonnie

MORE ...

LETTERS

1940's and 50's to prevent miscarriage have developed vaginal cancer.

Obviously, if we want to know and care for our own bodies, we'd better be aware of what we're putting into them.

Love,

Sharon Litwin

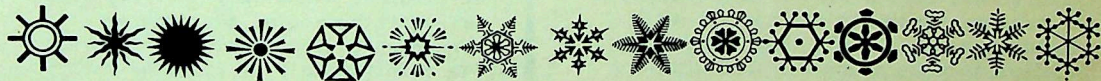
Editor: Molly agrees, but is not sure all the information in this letter is 100% accurate.



OPEN LETTER TO SISTEPS POCKETFULL OF COURAGE

Sisters,

I have been clinging to a man for three years. I have looked to a man for confirmation of my existence. The times when I did not have a man around, I longed for his presence to complete mine. I've just been immersed in a break-up not of my starting. I was crushed and felt empty and disoriented -- divorced from myself. This man was a big part of my reason for living. While I was with him I contemplated suicide (again), but found



I could not really do it. I tried to convince myself that I loved this man because he was powerful and I want to be powerful to direct my life for my own betterment. But I lived on his energy and drained it out of him to the very end of our affair.

He tried to relate to me, yet I was reluctant to grow up. I didn't know how to grow up in my soul. I resisted his teaching and he lost patience, finally, and the game ended suddenly.

This truly saddened me, I started to eat lots of food to fill that empty space that should be filled by inspiration to grow mentally and spiritually. Instead, I gluttoned almost constantly. I avoided looking at myself; looking at Ginny. I didn't want to use any self-discipline because that meant suffering to me and I felt I had suffered enough; and of course I suffered because I had no self-discipline. It's a circle. I lacked discipline, really self-love, to stabilize and balance my energy within my environment. On the physical plane this was most obvious. I was getting a very fat stomach. I was regressing.

In spurts I could get into doing the right things for myself - integrity. I do believe in positive action; I know it will save me from becoming a cold, cynical person. I want to be loved for what I do in

this world for people. I want to be loved for what I do for us all.

I had to look at myself. I had to find my balance. I asked myself questions and my answers became this letter to you and me, sisters.

Did I want to continue my interests? Did I want to join this women's search for selfhood? YES to selfhood! YES to honesty! YES to accepting the challenge to take good care of myself and those I touch with love! YES to reaching out to people! YES to kindness, and YES to care of my body!

Now I've found I have energy for all kinds of endeavors! I am not tied to anything except my love for this area and my desire to live in it. For now, I will live in this good house, continue my education, and train my mind to grow-- to have my energy reach its potential to carry my own load! I know where to go from here!

Peace - love,
Ginny



LOOKING AT THE TASSADAY

On the cover of the October issue of the Marin Women's Newsletter there was a picture that I drew of a Tassaday woman nursing her three year old child. I happened across the story of the Tassaday tribe of Mindanao in the Phillipines Islands in the August, 1972 issue of National Geographic and was immediately entranced by these "primitive" (who says?) stone-age people hidden until recently from the modern pressures of "civilization." Since reading the article, I rarely go through a day when I do not dream of the twenty-four (or more, hopefully) men, women and children hidden in their forest sanctuary. I envy them their lifestyle-usually while I wait at a heavily trafficked intersection for a green light, or in the grocery counter line, or in bed for the much needed release of the day's strains on my mind and body. I have an image of this people, of an almost flawless utopia, dimmed only by their discovery by outsiders. As I think of the gross inequalities, corruption and degeneration milling around at large, I fall back on these people-their (unassuming) respect, innocence and pride-I begin to hope again for my people, that they can see the huge messages implied through the facts of this group's existence and survival.

Where can you go to find these qualities in our culture-unity, equality, contentment? Life without war and poverty?

Oneness of spirit-family-is the strength of the Tassaday. They live, work, decide, eat, sleep, play-together. Home is a series of caves (unimproved) on ruggedly steep, rocky mountainside. Fire is the only luxury they know. Food gathering is the primary work. Coming before play. It takes but a few hours to collect a day's rations, leaving hours of leisure time. (no eight hour-five day week jobs). The food is divided equally; if there is little the children eat first. The food consists of the bare requirements for life. (When outsiders came in 1967, they taught the Tassadays to make traps for deer and smaller animals. Though the meat was good, they found they did not need it. Before that, they had no weapons and were friends of all the forest animals.) Leaves are worn as loin clothes or skirts. There is no need for covering the whole body, as they are adapted to cold, hard conditions and have no social rules that say they should hide themselves from each other.

There are no bosses; no division of labor; no failures. Each person uses his or her full potential to help the group.

Husband and wife share the child-rearing responsibilities and have great patience and serenity in their parental roles. Children are seldom struck, if ever, and are raised on love and self-preservation. The mother still nurses her child at the age of three, giving much-needed nutrition and always needed affection to the young one. Despite the two to one ratio of men to women, wives are not shared and divorce is unknown. Some of the men have no wives and wish for more women as they are of utmost importance for the Tassadays' continued existence. Strangely, the children are mostly males.

It is hard to put into words the intangible feeling of good that the Tassaday people's existence brings to my technology-rattled brain. I love them.

Tassaday ~

bright, secret hidden tribe
I pray for you
Seek your simplicity, nativity
May I share your family?



On November 11, NBC news ran an hour-long special on the Tassaday people entitled "Cave People of the Phillipines." As the first sustained look at these "lost" people who live in the rain forests of Mindanao using only the very simplest of stone tools, the program commanded a great deal of interest, but unfortunately it revealed much more about the mentality of the NBC filmmakers than it did about the Tassaday.

The newsmen invaded the jungle sanctuary of the Tassaday by helicopter with the blessings of PANAMIN, the newly formed Phillipine government agency for the "protection" of "underdeveloped" minority populations. They brought with them all the complex paraphernalia of technological civilization including the "scientific objectivity" which so often serves as camouflage for the irrational fears and collective neuroses of our "advanced" society.

What struck me first as I watched the film was the unquestioned assumption that the Tassaday must "naturally" be a male-dominated society. The film-makers introduced all the males in the tiny clan over the age of puberty by name, and suggested that many of them had "wives" without giving them either names or visual presence in their film. This unquestioned sexist assumption was made even clearer when seven or eight minutes into the film the narrator was forced to introduce a woman by name (only after first identifying her as a "widow") because, as the narrator said, she wielded "unusual power" in the group decision making process of the Tassaday. At that moment it became clear that there was a strong possibility that the Tassaday might well be matriarchal, but that the "objective" reporting of NBC would fight for male dominance against all evidence to the contrary.

There were of course all the usual speculations about hunting and the necessity for "man" to express aggressive and hostile feelings, despite the fact that all the reporters could discover in the way of support for this "Tarzanist" position was a small child who clung to his mother's breasts and tried to push his infant brother away in a little drama of jealousy and sibling rivalry.

The reporters joked and handed out vitamin pills and anti-fungal cream like tourists or occupying troops everywhere, photographing each other in these benign and homely activities while the Tassaday themselves remained smilingly and mysterious in the middle distance.

And always, in the background, were the unmistakable evidences of the tensions which recently led to Ferdinand Marcos' fascist coup and the toppling of the "model democracy" which the US has been propping up in the Phillipines since the end of WWII. The narrator reported armed conflict between land developers and the indigenous peoples of the "undeveloped areas." The aerial shots of the country over which the newsteam passed to reach the Tassaday showed the planet rappers at work, logging, mining, ripping roads through the wilderness, gouging the raw material out of the land and moving on without any effort to replenish it. The narrator talked about "rising communist influence" among the indigenous communities offering resistance to the advance of militarism and industrialism into the rural areas of Mindanao and the smaller islands of the Phillipine group, and suggested that in some cases even "local elected officials" were standing in the way of "progress."

Against this background, the Tassaday seemed almost serene in their communal food sharing and the ceremonial preparation of their intoxicant, (a kind of sticky paste about the same consistency as bread cough) but I wondered - was this impression also the product of the onspoken biases of the filmmakers? Was it simply the expression of another myth - the myth of the noble savage, the lost golden age where ignorance and bliss go hand in hand? The narrator reported that one of the women from a "civilized" village who had accompanied the PANAMIN expedition had fallen in love with a Tassaday man and had abandoned her clothes and her more complex ambitions and had joined the tribe. He reported it as proof that the Tassaday were indeed as idyllically pure and simple as he was portraying them, but I wondered; perhaps that woman had simply changed the outward appearance of her life in order to find fulfillment in a society where women held power?

Perhaps it is true; perhaps the Tassaday have found some solution to the universal human problem of repression/projection and the cycle of fear and aggression that characterizes too much of our own history; but if they have, they are not the "simple Stone Age people" we have been presented with by NBC. If, as some people have suggested, they are not the remnants of a "lost tribe" that have not changed their culture for thousands of years, but rather a comparatively new society made up of people who have begun a retreat from the insanity of modern war and ecological disaster, then it is not the officials of PANAMIN who should be talking about "saving" the Tassaday, but rather the Tassaday who should be talking quietly among themselves about ways of helping us.

-Jeremy Taylor

MOMMA: VOICE FOR SINGLE MOMS

Single motherhood is a difficult position to be in in our society. Not only do you have to deal with the everyday problems of raising kids and keeping house, you have to worry about money, fixing leaking faucets, getting the babysitter back home without leaving the children alone, and warding off the hostility of society towards a mother without a husband. Add to that the isolation and loneliness, the fear of inadequacy and failure, and the single mother may find herself speculating that she was actually better off in an unhappy, unsatisfying marriage.

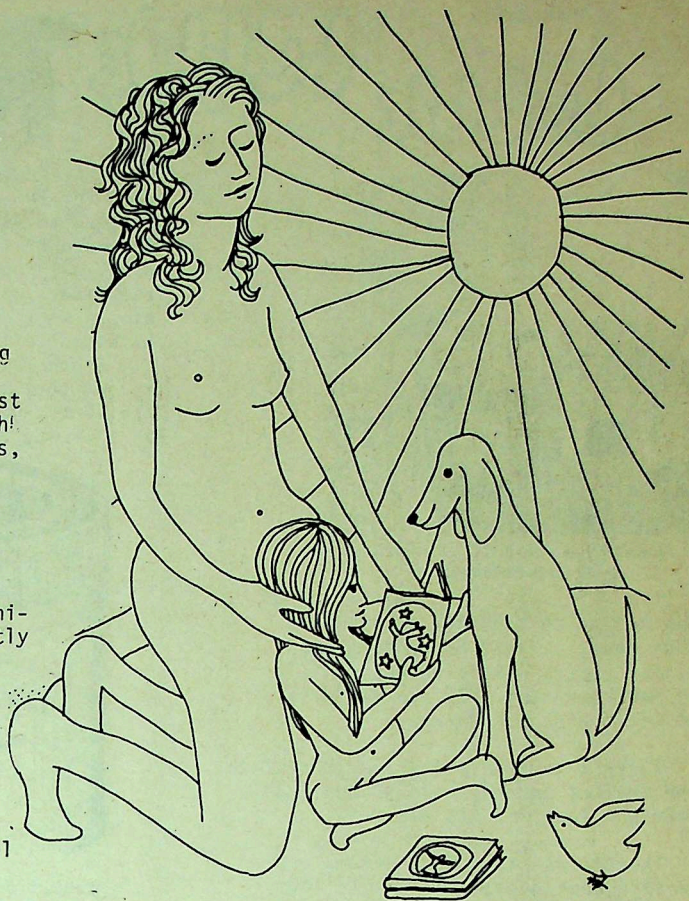
Two Los Angeles women, Karol Hope and Lisa Connolly, after spending several years struggling alone with the difficulties of their lives as single mothers, got together and decided that single motherhood could be a positive, viable lifestyle, if only single mothers could help each other. And thus MOMMA was born. It began life three years ago as a small group of single mothers who began to meet with one another to discuss their problems and possible solutions, to share their experiences and ideas. They worked to get the word out to other single mothers that they need not go it alone, that they could help one another over the hurdles and out of the isolation and frustration that had been imposed on them. They held rap sessions, organized activities, explored alternative living arrangements, researched legal, medical

and welfare rights, offered support to women who needed to know, more than anything else, that someone cared.

In December, 1972, the first issue of MOMMA, the Newspaper/Magazine for Single Mothers, was published, the first of its kind to voice the specific concerns of the single mother. Serving as a tool to communicate with women throughout the country, MOMMA's first two issues include articles in which single mothers talk about themselves, their children, their relationships with men, their financial and employment problems. Practical information is provided on welfare and legal rights, child care, schools, and other subjects of specific concern to women raising children by themselves. Most importantly MOMMA is a way of letting single mothers know they are not alone, that by sharing with one another they can discover single motherhood to be a positive way of life, rewarding to themselves and their children. It's an exciting leap forward in women's attempts to free themselves from psychological dependence on men.

If you're a single mother, MOMMA wants to hear from you. They need your stories, your ideas, your suggestions -- and they need your support. Subscriptions are \$3.00 per year to MOMMA, 926 Marco Place, Venice, Ca. 90291 and they'd be happy to send a complimentary copy so you can see for yourself what MOMMA is all about.

-Janis Chan



THE STAFF OF THE MARIN WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUPPORT ALL THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON OUR PAGES. READERS ARE WELCOME TO RESPOND.

Men and Women, Boy and Girl (JOHN HOPKINS PRESS, 1973. \$12.50)

This important book, by Medical Psychologist John Money, was reviewed in Time's Jan. 8 issue, p.34. It is important, I think, because it may help feminists in assessing where to put their energies in the vast work of changing their society. It provides strong support for one of the movements main contentions: that conventional patterns of masculine and feminine behavior can be changed. According to the review, "it also casts doubt on the theory that major sexual differences, psychological as well as anatomical, are immutably set by the genes at conception." Many scientists defend the theory of biological imperatives, saying that biological facts limit the flexibility of sexual roles, but Money "is convinced that almost all differences are culturally determined and therefore optional."

A dramatic example is cited in the article. It is the story of one of a set of boy twins who was maimed by a careless circumcision so badly that sex experts advised the distraught parents to bring the child as a girl. Aided by plastic surgery, a new name and frilly clothes, the one time baby boy has grown into a nine year old child who is described as

being "psychologically a girl." Admittedly, one wonders what that means and hope that the parents didn't go overboard, but it does support Money's argument that "hormones secreted before and after birth have less effect on the brain and behavior in human beings than the sex assignment that takes place at birth."

The book apparently consists of case histories of children who had to be raised as the opposite sex as the result of accident of birth defect. Money cites the case of two hermaphrodites, from different families. Each had a female chromosome pattern, each had female internal organs and a penis and empty scrotum outside. One set of parents decided to raise their child as a girl. One chose to raise a boy. In late adolescence, one had a steady boy friend, the other had a girl friend and planned to marry even though both would have the same genetic structure.

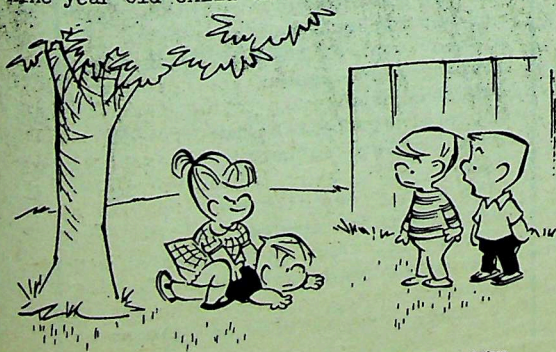
Something amazing happens when Money begins giving his personal opinions, though. After all this good news, he tries to dampen feminist hopes for a change in currently existing adult society, because he believes that few changes in male-female attitudes are possible after the age of four! He believes that beyond this age even sincere attempts at change make people uncomfortable! Finally, when he says "a liberated woman today is almost painted into a corner because there are so few liberated men she can marry" he seems completely unaware of the contradiction. If change really were impossible, there would be no liberated women to find themselves painted into corners. Where is the Feminist Movement coming from? Surely many women have changed their perceptions and feelings. Why haven't men? Even sincere change causes discomfort? Yes, and what's wrong with a little discomfort, and even pain, if it means a just society and fulfilling

lives?

The answer may lie in the normal process of sexual differentiation. "If the genes order the gonads to become testicles and to produce androgen, the embryo becomes a boy, otherwise it becomes a girl. Androgen not only shapes the external genitals but also "programs" parts of the brain, so that some types of behavior may come more naturally to one sex than to the other. For instance, both men and women can mother children--the necessary circuits are there in every brain--but the threshold for releasing this behavior is higher in males than in females. The same behavior is demonstrated by laboratory animals. If a mature female rat is put in a cage with newborn rats, she begins mothering them at once. In a similar situation, a male rat does nothing at first (italics mine) but after a few days he too begins to display maternal behavior."

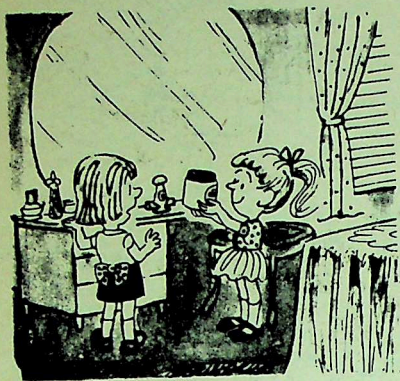
So that's why Money seems to be talking only about men when he states that change is impossible after age four. It comes down, not only to a question of genes, hormones, biological imperatives, cultural attitudes, but to a question of the threshold of change of each sex. All men need is motivation to reach it. Perhaps we are now in that space before mounting tension will cause the threshold to be reached, the time in which the male rat in the example just did nothing. So while we're putting our attention to early childhood education against sexism, we shouldn't forget to describe to men, in the most graphic terms possible, the benefits that will accrue to all of us should they also reach that threshold and start participating in this impossible, uncomfortable change toward freedom.

Beverly



- I guess it takes a few more years before they find out they're the weaker sex! -

bubble bubble TOIL AND TROUBLE



"I wouldn't dare try that... My mother says it takes off ten years!"

Guaranteed to take ten years off your face... if it doesn't create a rash, blind you, give you scars or make you itch. If you're lucky, it will only do nothing...

There's no real proof that cosmetics can inhibit ageing, heal flawed skin, help you lose weight, etc.

There's no proof that creams you massage your breasts with will make them bigger (the exercise involved will make your pectoral muscles bigger though).

The American Medical Association says male pattern baldness has no cure. No known product will reverse, halt or even slow down the process.

Facial saunas, advertised as devices that clean the face "deeply" don't clean anymore deeply than a washcloth and soap.

The above is information gleaned from the pages of GOOD HOUSEKEEPING, January 1973. They are on the case of false cosmetics advertising, as is our own reliable MS magazine, January, 1973.

Linda Stewart, in "Alice in Cosmeticsland" runs down the real facts on products and advertising. She offers some warnings important enough to quote whole:

ACNE: "Treating acne at the cosmetics counter may be dangerous as well as futile. Acne isn't a cosmetic problem. It's a medical problem, requiring ... possibly estrogen (to balance the hormones), antibiotics (to kill the bacteria) or Vitamin A acid (said to be dramatically effective...)"

ALLERGIES: "The most severe allergies come from hair products (dyes, tints, dandruff shampoos, permanents and straighteners). And severe means severe. Blindness, baldness, disfigurement. Which is why it's urgent that you take the patch test as described on labels..."

DETERGENTS: "Detergents used in bubble baths ... are (a) common source of harm. Dermatologists say many children get severe rashes and genital infections from these products."

DISELENIUM SULFIDE: "An effective anti-dandruff ingredient used in prescription items and in highly touted over-the-counter brands ... Reported side effects include: temporary baldness, greasiness of the scalp, and discoloration of gray hair. Also special care must be taken to keep shampoos with this ingredient out of your eyes."

HYPOALLERGENICS: "At the time they were interviewed, no company was willing to reveal the names of the ingredients it considers likely allergens, although ALMAY has since changed its mind. One company, when pressed, simply kept repeating that their hypoallergenic 'have been tested on humans,' ... Another leading brand went far enough to say that their ingredients, across the board, were 'essentially the same.'"



So much for the products. There's an even bigger shuck going on around LABELING, ADVERTISING AND PACKAGING.

The ingredients in cosmetics don't have to be LABELED ... unless they are classed as "drugs" (i.e. they affect or alter "any structure or function of the body." For example: an antiperspirant which claims that it stops perspiration). A deodorant which claims only to "mask odors" does not have to have its ingredients listed, although both products might have the F.D.A. banned hexochlorophene in them.

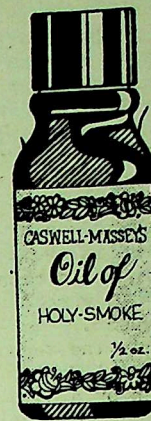
NOTE: To give credit where credits due, Avon will tell you the ingredients of any of its products if you write and ask.

Cosmetics ADVERTISING is the art of double talk and the hard but smooth sell. A simple device to obscure information is to make up words (Linda Stewart in the above mentioned article quotes such words as "aqualizing, dermatizing, lubricating, etc.")

The promises these companies make in their ads are carefully worded to comply with the letter of the law. Their products "help fight," "may help," or "may actually help." Of course they will - if you want them to, and if they don't, well, the manufacturer only said they "might."

PACKAGING definitely costs you a bundle; you pay for that "lovely blue-flowered jar," or classy "pink abalone shell bottle." But if you like these containers esthetically maybe they're worth paying extra for. But keep in mind the package has nothing to do with the quality of the products. Woolworth's 98¢ night cream is just as good as Revlon's, because they have the same ingredients, just a little different perfume.

SPECIAL NOTE OF WARNING: DOCTORS HAVE BEEN FINDING CASE AFTER CASE OF GENITAL IRRITATIONS AND INFECTIONS IN WOMEN WHO FREQUENTLY USE A VARIETY OF "FEMINE HYGIENE DEODORANTS." THEY ADVISE USING SOAP AND WATER.



Well, we all have fun now and again with bubble bath and powder and perfumes and all that stuff to help you smell like lemon trees and lilac bushes. I've got shelves full of the stuff myself, and even after reading those articles mentioned, I bought a few more. Why? Well it's fun I defensively answer. But when I really think about it I think I don't take my body very seriously, and I think I'd better start. This is a dangerous game. What they put in these products that go outside our bodies is as bad as what they put in the food we eat and the food industry is watched a great deal more closely than the cosmetics industry.

So the gist of the GOOD HOUSEKEEPING and MS articles is BEWARE! BE AWARE! Use your head about buying cosmetics. Don't poison yourself, blind, bald, or infect yourself, and pay a fortune for the privilege. If you are still taking risks with these products, ask yourself why. Is it to be "pretty." What is pretty and why be it, and for whom? If you are still "other defined" (by which I mean allowing and desiring others to define who you are and what you look like rather than deciding for yourself) consider the pleasures (not to mention economy and safety!) of self-definition.

Pretty soon there won't be an audience for those misleading, dishonest ads, nor buyers for those products. If it means we all look and smell more like human beings there's nothing wrong with that. I'd kind of like to see what its like...

-Kathy

Dancing on Reflections in A Department Store Window

The lonely ladies drift by occasionally
Stopping to gaze
at fashionably dressed mannequins
clothed in dreams
they cannot afford
to comprehend
The eye wanders to
its own reflection
a shiny pool of burning frustration
sinking ever deeper
into the mind.
These lonely ladies live
in split-level houses
each
with four fine children
and a faithful spouse.
What is it, then
that makes them want
to dance
away?

Janice Fuhrman

RESPECT YOURSELF

I came across an article in the I-J Women's section the other day that gave some interesting statistics about the numbers of women, both married and unmarried, who were in sympathy with the aims of the women's liberation movement and agreed that women were discriminated against and otherwise treated as second class citizens. The figures came from a survey done by Redbook Magazine and were said to have reached 120,000 women. Of these, 74% thought that full time motherhood and housekeeping was probably not very fulfilling for most women today, 85% thought that children of both sexes should be raised with similar aspirations and responsibilities, but only 2% agreed that the way to achieve full personhood for women was to organize with other women to achieve a position of influence in this country. Most of the respondents thought that it would have to be done individually, which is the way women have been fighting for centuries with very little success. Others thought that perhaps working with men in organizations would be a successful strategy. Why do so many women deny the successes the women's movement has had in the few years since its rebirth in this country? Did they really think that women's organizations don't work, or do they think it doesn't sound like much fun working with a lot of other women with no men around at all.

This called to mind a line from a Crosby, Stills and Nash song of a few years past, "You expect for me to love you when you hate yourself, my friend." And you may be thinking that you don't hate yourself, but what really is your self-image? What are your feelings about yourself and about women in general? Why do you shy away from other women and from the organized

women's movement? You must be interested in Women's Liberation or you wouldn't be reading this newsletter. I saw hundreds of women at the Gloria Steinem/Margaret Sloan lecture the other night, but so very few of you ever come to meetings or get involved with the women's movement in other ways. Have you internalized the myth of female inferiority? Do you really think that men are more interesting than women and do you prefer their company to that of your sisters? Do you speak to other women at school, in stores? Do you consider them your sisters or your rivals? This has been a basic problem in the women's movement from the beginning, as I am sure it was in the incipient Civil Rights Movement. Self Image! We must all struggle to free ourselves from the images of femininity that have been pushed at us all our lives. We must learn to love ourselves, to have self-respect, to be less concerned with society and convention, and to create our own life styles and be proud. But it can not be done individually by any but the very strongest among us. We who have begun to struggle with this task have gotten together with other women for mutual support, encouragement, acceptance to share experiences, sorrows, joys. And in learning to love and respect ourselves we learn to love and respect each other and all our sisters. And we find that our sisters are great people, fun to be with, interesting to talk to, friends you can count on to accept you in any circumstance, always understanding and sympathetic. For being women we have all lived the same life in many ways, we have experienced the same fears and anxieties, we share common aspirations and within the Women's Liberation Movement have come together to work for a common goal. The women's movement in Marin County is

very young, there are few of us actually involved in projects of change. We start out small in our work, but we have in mind to change the world. We want to make this world a better place for women (and men) to live. A place where we will all be free to grow to our full potential, develop our minds in what ever area we desire, engage in what ever kind of work we choose, and to live our lives free from fear. We appreciate your sympathy but we need your help. One other thing that was brought out in that I-J article was that most of the women questioned thought that they themselves would not benefit much from the effects of changes being brought about by the Women's Liberation Movement but that their daughters would probably have greater opportunities as a result. Well, we will not have to wait so long. Millions of women are being affected daily by the work we are doing. The Equal Rights Amendment, liberalized abortion laws (however slow in coming), the end of job discrimination, new horizons in education and career choice are becoming a reality due to the efforts of the women's movement, which is only five years old. We are not willing to wait any longer and we are making that clear to everyone. We are no longer asking to be given our rights; we are demanding and we are taking our lives into our own hands. What begins as a very personal change in attitude grows, with the help of your sisters, into a tide to change the course of human development. It is tremendously exciting to be part of this historical force. It is a lot of work, but it is a labor of love which we truly enjoy and on which we thrive and grow. JOIN US !!

Bonnie

MORE ...

LETTERS



1940's and 50's to prevent miscarriage have developed vaginal cancer.

Obviously, if we want to know and care for our own bodies, we'd better be aware of what we're putting into them.

Love,

Sharon Litvin

Editor: Molly agrees, but is not sure all the information in this letter is 100% accurate.



OPEN LETTER TO SISTEPS POCKETFULL OF COURAGE

Sisters,
I have been clinging to a man for three years. I have looked to a man for confirmation of my existence. The times when I did not have a man around, I longed for his presence to complete mine. I've just been immersed in a break-up not of my starting. I was crushed and felt empty and disoriented -- divorced from myself. This man was a big part of my reason for living. While I was with him I contemplated suicide (again), but found

I could not really do it. I tried to convince myself that I loved this man because he was powerful and I want to be powerful to direct my life for my own betterment. But I lived on his energy and drained it out of him to the very end of our affair.

He tried to relate to me, yet I was reluctant to grow up. I didn't know how to grow up in my soul. I resisted his teaching and he lost patience, finally, and the game ended suddenly.

This truly saddened me, I started to eat lots of food to fill that empty space that should be filled by inspiration to grow mentally and spiritually. Instead, I gluttoned almost constantly. I avoided looking at myself; looking at Ginny. I didn't want to use any self-discipline because that meant suffering to me and I felt I had suffered enough; and of course I suffered because I had no self-discipline. It's a circle. I lacked discipline, really self-love, to stabilize and balance my energy within my environment. On the physical plane this was most obvious. I was getting a very fat stomach. I was regressing.

In spurts I could get into doing the right things for myself - integrity. I do believe in positive action; I know it will save me from becoming a cold, cynical person. I want to be loved for what I do in

this world for people. I want to be loved for what I do for us all.

I had to look at myself. I had to find my balance. I asked myself questions and my answers became this letter to you and me, sisters.

Did I want to continue my interests? Did I want to join this women's search for selfhood? YES to selfhood! YES to honesty! YES to accepting the challenge to take good care of myself and those I touch with love! YES to reaching out to people! YES to kindness, and YES to care of my body!

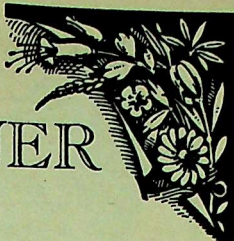
Now I've found I have energy for all kinds of endeavors! I am not tied to anything except my love for this area and my desire to live in it. For now, I will live in this good house, continue my education, and train my mind to grow-- to have my energy reach its potential to carry my own load! I know where to go from here!

Peace - love,
Ginny





THE WOMAN'S CORNER



MY SISTER - THE MAYOR

In SISTERHOOD IS POWERFUL there is quoted a West African proverb: "Women are sisters nowhere." As I view the feminist movement, its goals are, in part at least, to belie these words. And my own experience has been that women are learning to work together with trust and respect.

Last October 3rd, the term of the Mayor's office in Mill Valley was limited to one year by a 3 to 1 vote (the mayor abstained from voting) taken by the city council members at one o'clock in the morning after most citizens had left. During the 26 years that the Mill Valley City Council members have been selecting a mayor it has been for a two and a half year term. But perhaps a change is due and the one year term will indeed be, as Edward Boessenecker said, more democratic. Since he also said that being mayor doesn't really mean anything other than chairing meetings it is hard to know what it is that will be more democratic. And certainly, by making a ruling retroactive to apply to the incumbent Mayor, Jean Barnard, the city council has already flown high and mightily into the face of democratic precedents.

The Marin Women's Center voted at their October meeting to rally to the support of their sister, and on Dec. 4th the question of Jean Barnard's term of office as Mayor of Mill Valley was once again on the agenda of the city council meeting.

Feelings were strong on the issue--with one exception the council was urged to reconsider. Charlotte Krause warned: "We will not stop with tonight's meeting. We will mount a campaign from now til April." (the end of the current term) And there were many there, private citizens and representatives from political groups who felt the same way. But it was to no avail and the motion made by Bob Burton to restore Ms. Barnard's term of office died for want of a second. The disappointment of that meeting was somewhat lessened by the decision of a large number of us not to quit. With Ms. Krause's words still ringing, we set up a time for another meeting and there was still hope.

Then came the call from the Mayor asking that the Women's Center drop the issue -- stating that she was quite satisfied to be the Mayor for only one year and, really, what was the difference. And it all came flooding in on me -- MYSELF, for most of the years in my life. I heard MYSELF. Myself. still. Because, for an instant I felt relieved and then I felt betrayed by myself, by my sister. And it was then I recalled the proverb: "Women are sisters nowhere." For awhile I believed --because I needed Jean not to quit, because I needed a political model for myself and my daughters--because I wanted US, not the men to win for a change.

It was with the help of my sisters that I brought myself back to an understanding of what Jean was experiencing as a woman mayor trying to work with four men. I remembered how proud I was of her at the City Council meeting when she forgot not for a moment her job of chairing the meeting even when she came under an emotional attack by Bob Capron. And I believed her when she said that she could not in good conscience be

the cause of more divisiveness among the council members. But our good consciences have often led women astray and we have tended to put our men, our cities and our country before ourselves. Ms. Barnard has chosen her priorities and, hopefully, we will now have a cohesive city council in Mill Valley. What price peace? I'm not sure. But Jean Barnard has worked and fought for the citizens of Mill Valley for many years and I believe she will continue to do so with a newly gained insight and awareness of her sisters who offered a hand when she needed it.

Joan Dunkel



I chatter
chatter
as I flow
to join the
brimming
river;
for men may come
& men may go,
but I go on forever.

POLITICAL NOTES

from

BARBARA BOXER

(written before
Peace Treaty Signing)

I was planning to write a political column this month about women in politics, about my campaign - about whatever local issue I felt was of concern.

However no matter what subject I choose, I keep coming back to the fact that the war is still going on - now more than ever. That war which the American people repudiated years ago; that war which Marin County residents voted against in 1970; that war which has brought terror to the Asians and shame to many United States citizens.

As women, as mothers, as human beings we must again raise our voices to protest what is being done in our name in Vietnam. We must urge our Congressional leaders to take back the responsibility which they have abdicated to the Executive branch. Each one of us has the political duty to write to Senators Cranston and Tunney and to Congressman Maillard in addition to President Nixon, to tell him that at election time he told us "peace is at hand."

Our own Board of Supervisors was approached by our local peace group--the Xmas Eve Peace Committee and asked to declare Inauguration Day, January 20th, Peace Day. They were asked to lead us in a rally against the War. It is important for us to remember the reaction of these our local leaders.

Supervisors Gary Giacomini and Arnold Baptiste spoke eloquently against the war. Supervisors Robert Roumiguere and Peter Arrigoni said the whole thing was a partisan move to embarrass President Nixon. Baptiste answered: "He should be embarrassed." Giacomini pointed out that he is a Republican. Unfortunately Supervisor Michael Wornum was ill and couldn't be present. He had told the peace group he supported their request. (At the time of this writing he will try to make a special meeting of the Supervisors to again vote on the concept of declaring the 20th Peace Day.)

Arrigoni's action was a surprise to the Peace Group since he had supported their requests in the past. He even voted to deny them the use of the Veteran's Memorial to do so. This prompted Evelyn Schaff of San Anselmo, to say: "I've grown up as an American and ever since I've been a little girl I've been taught that the right to assemble is a constitutional guarantee. I can't believe your action."

Three Supervisors gave permission for their names to be used in a Peace Ad - Baptiste, Giacomini, Wornum.

Giamomini said that if in fact the war ended by Inauguration Day, "we can turn the rally into a celebration of Peace."

To end that war and indeed to bring a just society it is necessary for all our elected leaders at all levels to speak out. Many city council men and women have done so, including Larkspur City Councilwoman Joan Sestak and Mill Valley Mayor Jean Barnard. Whenever you see your local officials supporting the things you believe in, call them and thank them or drop them a note. Sometimes these kinds of actions take courage.

Peace is not partisan. Peace is not political. Peace is what we must bring to Southeast Asia if we are ever to celebrate a Presidential Inauguration with our hearts in it.

Watch for local action against the war. To find out more information call Mrs. Marg Drath (Phil) in San Rafael. She is an active member of the Xmas Eve Committee which is planning long-range action to continue as long as the war continues. 9

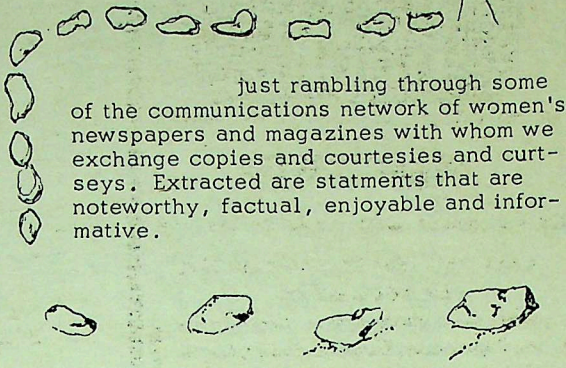
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A SHORT WALK *small press review*



just rambling through some of the communications network of women's newspapers and magazines with whom we exchange copies and courtesies and curtsies. Extracted are statements that are noteworthy, factual, enjoyable and informative.

HERSELF - Ann Arbor, Michigan. Topical articles as follows: Considering Prostitution, Morning After Pill, Children's Reading Texts, Book Reviews, Child Care.

GREAT SPECKLED BIRD: Atlanta, Ga, newsprint, extensive liberation coverage, not particularly feminist, but definitely alternate society orientation. Articles on Angela Davis, the Black Panthers, Prison News, Book Reviews. Extract from the Nov. issue, review of **LADY SINGS THE BLUES**

"Diana Ross does sing well, but if you like the songs and the music in the film, you would love Billie Holiday. This is a 'mature' family entertainment exploitation film dealing with the old cliché, the Black dope-fiend musician, Lady Sings The Blues is a lavish production (3.3 million dollar budget) which comes equipped with an antique picture-postcard overview of Harlem in the '30's - shiny, ritzy cars, and the latest fashionable "hot period" wardrobes. Even poverty is colorful. Diana Ross ain't Billie Holiday."

FEMINIST ART JOURNAL: Newsprint tabloid, published in Brooklyn, NY 50¢ Extracted from an interview with Louise Nevelson, a 72 year old sculptor, by Cindy Nemser, from Fall '72 issue.

"I am a Woman's Liberation. I think one had to take a stand. I feel totally female. I didn't compete with men, and I don't want to look like a man! I love being a lady and dressing up and masquerading and wearing all the fineries. I'm breaking down the idea that the artist has to look poor, with berets. I think that artists should have anything they want. If you have studied anything, you know goddam well that we don't make price tag imagery. We should take and wear what we like, and not, "I can't wear this, I can't wear that," of chinchilla. So fuck 'um. Yes, the fur paisley's on the outside. I like fun and I like men. I've always enjoyed them and I enjoy women. But what I mean is leave men where they are, leave women where they are. The point is that men are as enslaved as women are and it's only after they recognize it that they too will be free. Human beings, every individual, has the hope of their life. If they have the organs of a female, let them be totally that. If they have the organs of a male, let them be that. Once you have become aware and free, you will give freedom to somebody else."

Some advice on developing art and living life well: "Take your mind and polish it daily; throw out what you don't need and don't clutter it. Don't remember every telephone number. Keep it open and keep it empty, so what when you see something, you see it totally." Don't go around with a bunch of things in your head that you don't need."

The above was originally printed in **CHANGES**. If you are interested in reading it in its entirety, Marin Women's Newsletter can reprint the whole interview. Reader response is requested.



THE RUSSIAN RIVER STUMP: P.O. Box A, Monte Rio, CA. Published monthly, newsprint, 20¢. This is not a feminist paper, an underground paper with lots of feminist emphasis. There are columns for single parents, feminist book reviews, news, etc. Fro, Ann's column, **ORGANIC COMMON SENSE**: Address for free catalogs, (from the Whole Earth Catalog)

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 A356 W. Taylor
 San Jose, Ca. 95110

Nichol's Garden Nursery (herb seeds and unusual vegetables)
 1190 N. Pacific Hwy.
 Albany, Or. 97321

Theodore Payne Foundation
 10459 Turford St.
 Sun Valley, Ca. 91352
 (California wild flowers)

Vita Green Farms (organic untreated seeds)
 P.O. Box 878
 Vista, Ca. 92083

BERKELEY WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER, 2179 Alliston Way, Berkeley. Four pages of mimeographed ads and services - kind of a switchboard for women to get in touch with other women, information, etc.



UNION W.A.G.E., 2135 Oregon St. Berk. 25¢ *Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality* is an organization of women Trade Unionists organized to fight discrimination in Unions and Society.

"Women workers constitute 40% of the work force but their pay averages 56¢ to the dollar paid to men workers for full time work. Only one woman out of five is organized into a union."

THE WITCH'S OS - Small feminist magazine, good looking, published by Lolly Hirsch, Los Angeles. Contents: Self-help Clinic, From the Diary of Anais Nin, a selection on miscarriage: "It does not belong to life, for I have, already, too many children. As Lawrence said, 'Do not bring any more children into the world, bring hope and faith into the world.' There are too many men without hope in the world. Too much work to do, too many to serve and care for. Already I have more than I can bear."

Self-help Clinics were started in L.A. when women got together to learn about the biological, physiological and sometimes hidden parts of the female body. They are trying to get programs started to train women as paramedics, to help women in doctors offices and clinics. Dr. Frans Kome in Seattle has a program for training women medics for ministering to women's needs. The LA Women's Self-Help Clinic has been harassed and watched by the police in recent months and several women were busted there recently.

PANDORA: Independent Women's Newspaper, Seattle, Washington. Extract from column, Pandora's Web, Nov. issue.

"Vasectomy apparently is growing in popularity as a method of birth control among men. One million American males had the operation in 1971, according to Dr. William Furlow, a urologist from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Only 40,000 men had vasectomies in 1960."

MAJORITY REPORT: Jamaica N.Y. published monthly, 16 pages newsprint. Here is an excerpt from the Nov. issue. Report on Abortion Overseas:

Japan: Abortion on demand. Cost \$10 or less. Free for the poor.

France: Performed only if the mother's life is threatened; must be certified by three Doctors.

England: Performed when there is a threat to the mother's physical condition, or mental health, for psychological necessities, or risk of birth of a severely handicapped child.

Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland: Cost is \$75.00; performed after authorization by two or more doctors, or special board or committee.

Yugoslavia: Performed after approval by two doctors & a social worker for the following reasons only:
Threat to life or health of mother.
Likelihood that infant is deformed, mentally or physically.
Pregnancy as the result of a criminal act.

Switzerland: Criminal penalties for abortion induced by the woman allows only for saving her life. The physician must have written consent of the woman and concurrence of a second physician.

East & West Germany: Only for medical and eugenic reasons.

Tunisia: When a woman's life is threatened or when parents have already 5 children.

Venezuela, Chile, Turkey and Western

Australia: Only to save the mother's life.

PROGRESSIVE WOMAN: Published twice a month, 24 pages newsprint, 50¢ from Middlebury, Indiana. Articles on News, Health, Child Care, Women in Industry, Abortion. Here's a notable statistic: "According to the National Abortion Action Coalition: In 1966 in the US there were 850,000 to 1,200,000 illegal abortions. It is estimated that one out of every four women have an abortion during her life. In New York there is one abortion for every two live births."

Ananda ♀



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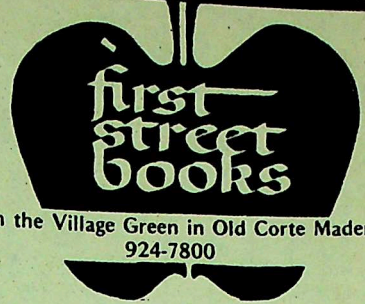
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SAN FRAN. WOMEN'S BUSINESS DIRECTORY

This directory of women who own their own businesses or offer independent services is being compiled by Advocates for Women. Listings are free and will include Marin and San Fran. areas for the first edition. Send data about your business or service to Susan Forney, Advocates for Women 564 Market St., RM 218, San Francisco, Ca.

at the Co-op Center (415) 924 9233

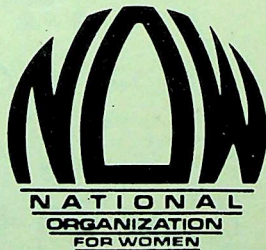


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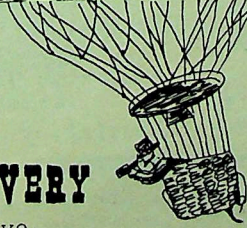


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* Pasteup Job wanted by quick, skilled artist. 456-5039.

* Guitar for Sale. \$50. 456-3392 evenings.

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* Three bedroom house to share with young woman and child. Easy commute to city from Tiburon. Pets welcome, big backyard. 150\$ includes utilities. Call 388-5502 for further information.

FEMINIST would like to live with other feminists in Marin. Would join existing collective or share in starting a new one.

Call Linda 669-1466
or write P.O. Box 521,
Inverness, Calif.

BULL'S EYE GALLERY
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*contemporary photography

FIREGIRL by Gibson Rich, illustrated by Charlotte Farrington Farley (Feminist Press, New York, 1972) - A book about Brenda, who was determined to make people stop laughing about her ambition to be a fire-fighter. (Ages 6-10) \$1.95. (Feminist Press, State University of New York, College at Old Westbury, Box 334, Old Westbury, New York, 11568.)

WOMEN'S SONGS

British & American ballads, protest and work songs, & songs by modern women songwriters. Tracing the development of women's consciousness in song from medieval times to the present. HOLLYTANNEN accompanying herself on dulcimer, banjo & piano. AVAILABLE for Bay Area gigs. 897-9130 (Novato)

DULCIMER LESSONS

Appalachian mountain music, English ballads, Irish reels and hornpipes, Elizabethan lute pieces, Balkan Middle Eastern & Peruvian folk dances... the dulcimer is delightfully flexible. Lessons may be taped. HollyTannen, 897-9130

YWCA

THE YWCA WOMEN'S CENTER IS OPENING FOR BUSINESS SOON!! They've already opened the doors to those ready to clean and help refurbish the building at 1618 Mission at Forbes, in San Rafael. Call Joan Dunkle for more information about what the Marin Women's Center Committee is doing in relation to the Y's Women's Center. Her number is: 388-5398. *****

For information on developing orientation to consciousness meetings, please call Charlotte Krause (332-4320) or Gloria Sparrow (388-1457). For information on Women's Center Activities, call Charlotte or Joan Dunkle (388-5398). Watch this page for announcements concerning March meetings.

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Women in Myth, Media and Self-portrait is a class offered by the adult education program at College of Marin. Marya Foley teaches from 7:00 to 10:00 every Wed. Evening from Jan 17-March 21. Visitors are welcome. There is a fee of \$5.00 for the entire course. The class meets in Room 172, Harlan Center.

APOLOGY

For the December-January issue of the Marin Women's Newsletter, on page 13, I submitted an article which I had taken from a popular book entitled "Person to Person". I changed some of the wording and omitted some other, for the copy-right laws, however, I neglected to give credit to its author Barry Stevens for this most timely and incredible article. My apologies to Ms. Stevens and to any of our readers who may have felt offended.

Barbara

SISTERS! We cannot encourage you enough to send us your poetry, articles, movie reviews, random thought, art work, or anything else you might like to see in print. Also, anyone is welcome to come to our meetings to contribute ideas or criticism. Call Valice at 454-5025 for the time and place of the next meeting. Material for publication, art work, letters to the Editor, etc. can be sent to P.O. Box 1412, San Rafael, Ca. 94902. If you want your contribution returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

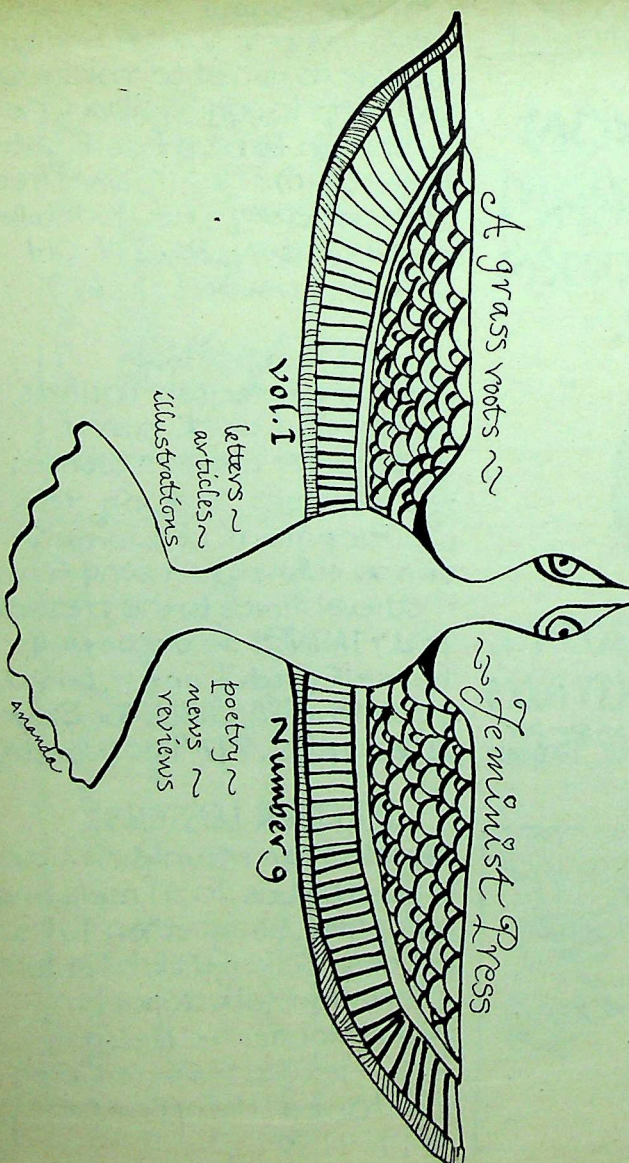
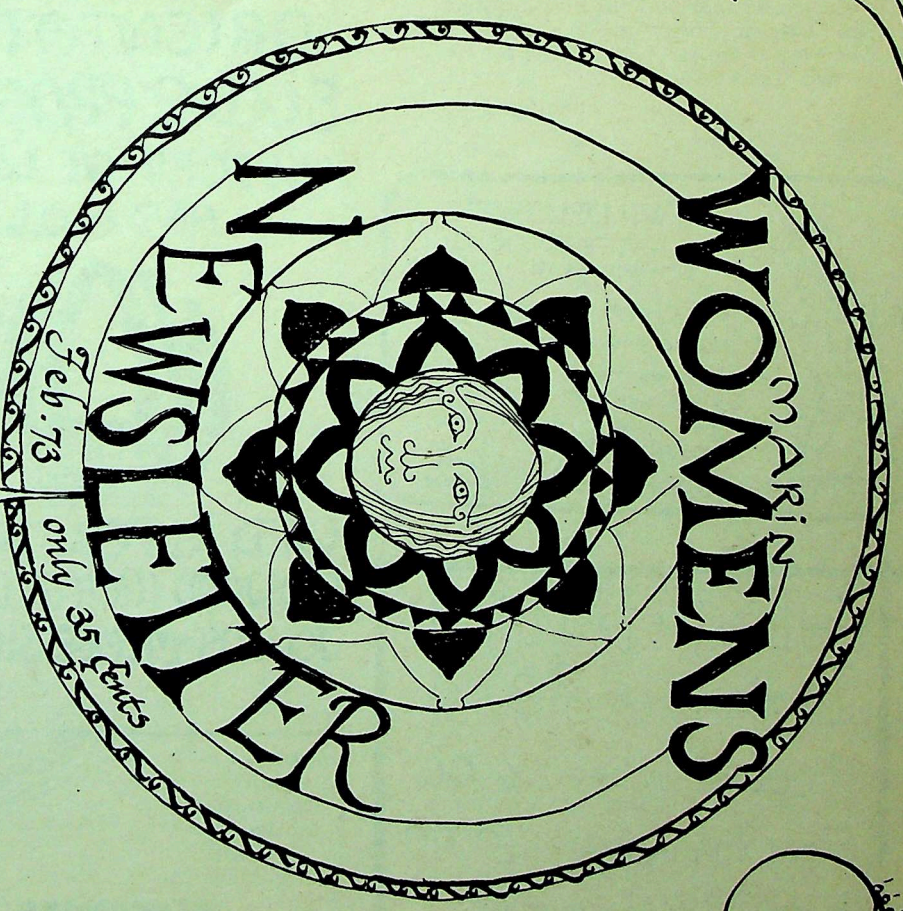
WOMEN'S SWITCHBOARD

- * Joan Dunkle is still ordering MS magazine through the Switchboard
- * and if you plan to order a sub or to resubscribe, three dollars of your nine dollars subscription money will revert to the Switchboard as a result of an agreement with the magazine. Joan Dunkle, 6 East Drive, Mill Valley, 94941.

** MEN !! **

The Newsletter is going to put together a pamphlet of articles written by men about the male experience in our sex-role stereotyped society. If you'd like to contribute, please send it to MARIN WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 1412, San Rafael, Ca. 94902. We'd like to include art, photos, poems, fiction and essays...whatever. We are very much interested in including several pieces written about the male experience in consciousness raising groups, but there's room for much more!

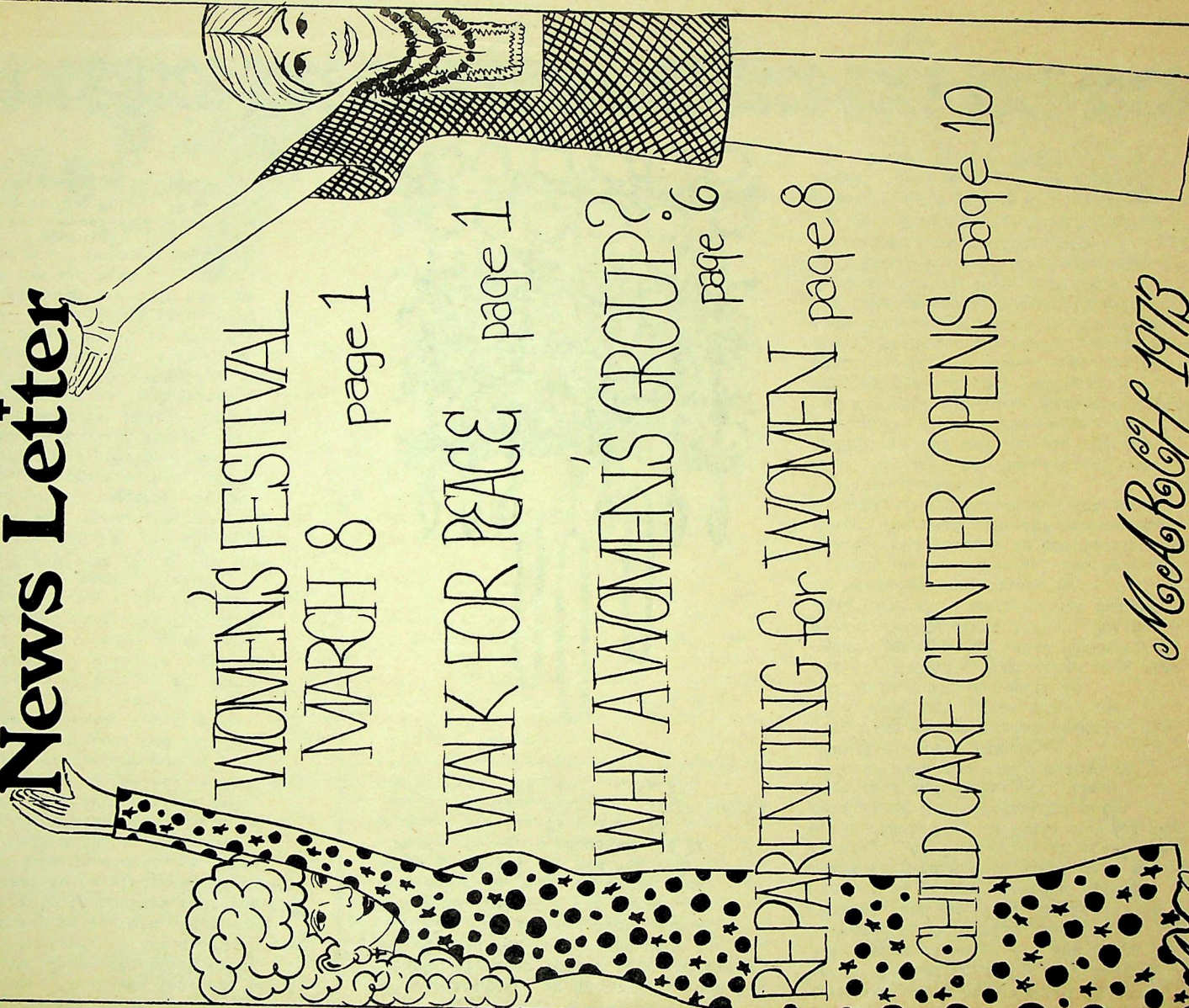
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Marin Women's News Letter 354



WOMEN'S FESTIVAL
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WALK FOR PEACE page 1

WHY A WOMEN'S GROUP? page 6

REPARATING for WOMEN page 8

CHILD CARE CENTER OPENS page 10

March 1973

A Grass Roots Feminist Press - Vol. 1, #10

MARIN WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

The Marin Women's Newsletter is sponsoring Marin's First All Women's Festival in celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, 1973, at 7:00pm at Alexander Hall, Kensington Road, San Anselmo.

The festival will feature a variety of entertainment by and for women. Ellen Estrin will perform and lead several dance routines including a group participation number. Also featured will be many local women artists displaying photography, sculpture, ceramics, paintings, weavings, and other art and craft wares.

Holly Tannen will be among the featured musicians playing her Dulcimer to a wide range of traditional and modern songs. There will also be women singing and playing classical Indian music with Tabla and drone, blue grass music and rock 'n roll for dancing.

Demonstrations will be presented in self defense for women and Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese moving yoga. Literature

will also be available about the national women's movement and about specific projects and activities in Marin County. There will be a display from the International Women's History Archives in Berkeley and several other booths.

Several films will also be shown.

Organic homemade refreshments will be available with some of the proceeds going to help the Marin Women's Health Collective. Child care will be provided at the nominal fee of 50¢ per child for the evening. Please call 453-5300 to make a reservation if you plan to take advantage of the child care.

The admission will be \$1.50 with all proceeds going to help women's groups in Marin. The festival is for women only. Women wishing to display art work or to participate in any other way are urged to call Valice at 454-5025 immediately. Further information may be obtained at that number or by calling Bev at 454-5560.

The first night, as we finished eating, one woman said, "As a demonstration of solidarity with the Women's Liberation Movement, I think the men should wash the dishes." No one said anything in response, but in a few minutes all the men had quietly migrated to the kitchen and the women, who fixed dinner, were sitting tight. (One of the men doing dishes was on a liquid fast the entire week.) No one said anything more the rest of the week about division of labor. Everyone helped with everything.

The love was astounding, and it kept growing, though we all got more and more tired, and had constantly to work and plan together in always changing situations. It just got better.

Sunday night we were in Concord, Monday night in Walnut Creek, Tuesday night, after wight miles in pouring rain, in Orinda, Wednesday night in Berkeley, all day leafleting along the route of the march.

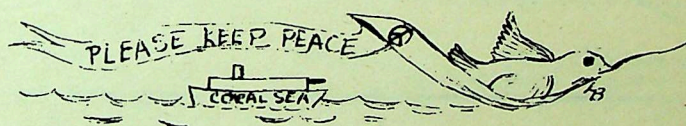
Reactions to the leaflets and the march went the whole range. Almost everyone took our leaflets. One man, short-cropped hair, straight sports clothes, middle-aged, coming out of a bank, took a leaflet from me, glanced at it for a few seconds, and asked, "Can we distribute these in the bank? I'll help you." The bank wouldn't let us, but he made my day.

A young girl, Miriam, from the Institute, slender, with a tender and loving face, drew the two worst reactions, both in the same morning in Orinda. One man, "slim and trim and neat, like a sheriff's deputy," spit on her; another took her leaflet and handed her a bullet.

But all the way people were clearly shocked to hear that an aircraft carrier was sailing for Vietnam with a huge load of bombs.

Wednesday night, at the end of the Berkeley meeting, a few people knew about the Alameda crash. But there were not many hard facts, so the group wasn't generally informed until Thursday morning, when we also heard the news that the Coral Sea wasn't going to sail.

Thursday was a very confusing day. Were it not for the crash, we could have celebrated the cancelled departure of the carrier. But the crash cast a pall over our joy. Maybe, if the crash hadn't occurred, the carrier would still be sailing.



Three of the women who went into the Bay water were Catholic nuns (in street clothes) and four were women from Marin, a 62 year-old Fairfax woman, Eleanore Becker, 54, of Tiburon, and Sally and Carol.)

And now, in February, many of us were on our way back to Alameda, where we planned to offer to unload the bombs and replace them with medical supplies to be provided by the American Friends Service Committee, sponsor of the People's Blockade and Carrier Project.

We walked along the road in the light rain Sunday carrying signs and banners, "Caution - Bombs Ahead", "Unload the Coral Sea". Cars whizzed past, honking, the people inside shouting incomprehensible insults or giving peace signs and smiles. A car honking approval sounds just like a car honking derision; hands say a lot, 2 fingers up, a peace sign; thumb up, approval; thumb down, not approval; other little hand signs we all recognize. . . . Faces smiling, laughing, staring stonily away, looking bewildered. The question often repeated, "But it's over. Isn't it?"

Each night we slept in churches and held meetings for the local communities, lightly attended until we got to Berkeley Wednesday night. At the meetings we would have talks on the Carrier Project, on Tax resistance, on the Pat Chenowith Defense Committee, a speaker from the Union of Vietnamese Students, from SOS (the Stop Our Ship movement of sailors), movies on the people's vote on the carrier Constellation in San Diego and on medical aid for Vietnamese amputees -- of which so many are children. One movie on the war in Laos featured an American-supplied ten-year-old soldier with fragmentation grenades at his waist and an M-16 in his hands, both of which he had used.

We would have liked more people at the meetings, but they were good meetings. A person was not a unit of a larger figure. Love was the main experience of the week.

Some of the marchers knew each other from earlier projects, but many were new. An AFSC bus traveled with us, carrying our gear and supplies. We would march all morning and afternoon, meeting the bus for lunch, go on to the church, fix dinner, clean up, have the meeting, and crash, or talk, or exchange massages, or play music and sing.

At a long morning meeting the group decided they definitely didn't want to exploit or even appear to exploit the crash. The day's march, Berkeley to Oakland to Alameda, was called off, and people were unsure whether the rest of our plans

should be cancelled. But they couldn't be cancelled that easily. People were coming from as far away as San Jose for the all night vigil at the gate of the base or for the demonstration the next morning. And the sailing of the Coral Sea was only a moment in time illustrating our larger concern with the inevitable results of American militarism. So the vigil was held, a quiet candlelight vigil of very tired people all night at the gate to the base, then a silent worship service the next morning and the walk was over. We left each other unwillingly.

The Carrier Project isn't over. We will all come together again the next time a carrier sails from Alameda. If you would like to join us, or know more about us, call Carol at 388-1227, Sally at 479-0354, or the Peace Action of the American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco, 752-7766.

Carol Marsh

WAR!

BUT THE WAR IS OVER, ISN'T IT?

Friday, Feb. 9th was the day the Coral Sea didn't sail. Those of us, perhaps 200 all told, who had spent the week working toward that end will probably never know whether we had anything to do with it.

The Coral Sea is an aircraft carrier based at Alameda Naval Air Station. It was supposed to sail Friday for Vietnam, with a cargo of 6 million pounds of bombs and 85 bombers, to join several other carriers already stationed off the coast of the ravaged land. Thursday morning, hours after a Navy plane crashed into an apartment building a few blocks from the base, the departure of the Coral Sea was abruptly canceled.

On the previous Sunday about a hundred peace-seeking people had gathered at Port Chicago, a naval weapons depot near Concord from which most of the napalm used in Indo-China and most of the bombs for Alameda's carriers have been shipped. We talked and sang about war and peace, took part in an ecumenical religious service, and began a walk to Alameda Naval Air Station 35 miles away, where we expected to arrive by Thursday. About 45 marched the first day. On the following days about 20 were with the march, not all the same people.

The marchers, who called themselves the Carrier Project, came from all over the Bay Area, three Jesuit priests from Berkeley, several Quakers, women from the Institute for the Study of Non-violence in Palo Alto, a group from a Catholic Workers commune in San Francisco, two women from Marin, Sally Buckley from Terra Linda and Carol Marsh from Mill Valley.

(Last September many of the same people, calling themselves the People's Blockade, had attempted a water blockade of the carrier Enterprise - perhaps the biggest weapon in the world - in kayaks, rowboats, and rubber rafts. One boat, the only one with a motor, made it to the carrier. The rest of us were stopped by the Coast Guard at the breakwater surrounding the carrier. About 30 of us ended up swimming and were picked up by the Coast Guard, taken to Alameda (dripping wet!), photographed, finger-printed, banned from Alameda Naval Air Station, and told that should we return to the base we would be subject to an automatic six-month sentence without even a right to a trial.

MARCH '73



MARCH											
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

MARCH 1

"Women and the Feminist Movement" will be discussed by Barbara Hosmer and Liz Smith at 7:30 at the YWCA (Mission at Forbes, San Rafael).

The People's Law School is sponsoring a class on women and the law. Tonight at 5:30 - 7:00 "Women with Children" SF YWCA, 620 Sutter St. Rooms 700 B and C.

MARCH 5

Rosa Luxemburg, socialist revolutionary, born 1871
Lucy Larcom, poet, teacher and organizer of women workers, born 1824.

MARCH 6

Birth of English poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1806.

MARCH 8

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Founded by Clara Zetkin in 1910.

People's Law School class on "Abortion" See March 1 for details of where and when.

WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE, Holiday Inn, Terra Linda, For information on registration, call Diane Wickstrom at 454-3962.

MARIN'S FIRST ANNUAL WOMEN'S FESTIVAL
Come dance, eat, look & listen!
Tom Alexander Hall, Chief Gate #1-50

MARCH 10

Death of Harriet Tubman, in 1913

SF Mime Troup's feminist play, THE INDEPENDENT FEMALE will be done at Patrick Henry School Auditorium, 693 Vermont St., S.F. at 8:30PM. A benefit for UNION W.A.G.E. Donations are \$2.00.

MARCH 11

Women's History Research Library PANCAKE BREAKFAST at the Vin et Fromage, in Berkeley, 9:30-1:30 \$2.50 Adults, \$1.25 Kids. Benefit for the Library. Call 524-7772 to reserve a ticket.†

Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, author of SAVE ME THE WALTZ dies, 1948.

MARCH 13

Sophia Perovskaya and comrades assassinate Czar Alexander II in 1881.*

MARCH 15

People's Law School class on "Employment Discrimination" See March 1 for details of where and when.

MARCH 17 and 18

Woman's Way "SPRING FESTIVAL" - items from the collection of Mildred Holland, gathered from all around the world will be on sale. Also things made by women and children in Marin. Sat. and Sun. 11-6 at 412 Red Hill Ave.

MARCH 21

NOW will meet in the Faculty Lounge at Redwood Highschool at 8PM. The subject of the meeting: A Discussion of Volunteerism.

MARCH 22

Birth of Rosa Bonheur, painter 1822*
Illinois becomes first state to pass a law stating women "should not be precluded or barred from any occupation or employment on account of sex." 1871.

Women's Center Committee meets at 8PM at the YWCA, 1618 Mission (at Forbes) San Rafael, 456-0782.

People's Law School class on "Rape and Prostitution" See March 1 for details of where and when.

MARCH 25

Viola Luzzo, civil rights worker killed by the Klu Klux Klan in 1965.

146 women, locked in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, die in a fire there in 1911.

MARCH 27

Alice Hertz sets fire to herself to protest the Viet Nam War, 1962

MARCH 28

Emma Goldman tells women for the first time anywhere in the US how to use a contraceptive, 1915

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Women's Political Caucus events are going on continuously. Call Barbara McNab at 845-4256 or Barbara Magnuson at 849-1066 for more information.

April 13, 14, 15

WEST COAST LESBIAN CONFERENCE will be held in Los Angeles. If you'd like to go, write: Barbara McLean, 508 N. Alta Vista Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca. 90036

Calendar entries are from ANONYMOUS WAS OFFER A WOMAN 1973 Calendar available from Women's Commission, Viking Union, Western Washington State College, Bellingham, Wash. 98225

See what's new in the news during

WOMEN'S MONTH IN MARIN

Register for 2nd. term YWCA classes NOW! Call 456-0782 to find out what's happening.

* See page 11.
† See articles opposite page.

K. Taylor

NEW WOMEN

The first meeting after each new issue of the Newsletter comes out (usually the first Monday of the month) will be an open meeting to meet people interested in working on the staff. We will introduce ourselves and talk about where and how we need help. Please come. If you'd like more information about it call Bev at 454-5560.

Artists! We especially need artists who are able to draw illustrations for specific stories. Please call Kathy at 454-2793 if you'd like to work with us - either sketching at home or coming to layout and drawing on the spot. WE DESPERATELY NEED YOU!

FROM THE EDITORS.....

SISTERS: Thank you for your fantastic response to the Marin Women's Newsletter. You have been sending us your poetry, articles, movie reviews, random thoughts, art work and letters, but we need and want MORE! We have so far been able to print most of what we have received (with the exception of poetry - the response has been overwhelming; we are planning a booklet of just poetry in the near future) so chances are very good you will see your contribution in print. Our deadline for everything but art is the 15th of each month. We are unable to return manuscripts or other material submitted for consideration, so please keep a copy for yourself. All material received will be copy edited unless specifically requested otherwise.

THIS PUBLICATION IS ON FILE AT THE WOMEN'S HISTORY ARCHIVES LIBRARY, 2325 Oak St., Berkeley, Ca. 94708.

IF YOU MOVE, PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEW ADDRESS. The post office does not forward. Undeliverable newsletters are returned to us at 10¢ apiece.

THE STAFF OF THE MARIN WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUPPORT ALL THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON OUR PAGES. READERS ARE WELCOME TO RESPOND.

There never is, and never will be, enough space to print all of the articles we like.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mime Troop

The San Francisco Mime Troup will present its original old-fashioned melodrama, *THE INDEPENDENT FEMALE*, or *A MAN HAS HIS PRIDE*, Saturday, March 10, at the Patrick Henry School Auditorium, 693 Vermont Street (between 18th and 19th streets), San Francisco. There will be an informal party from 7:00-8:30 P.M. Refreshments will be available for a charge. Children welcome. The program is a benefit for UNION WAGE, Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality.

Order your subscription to Ms. through the Women's Switchboard. Three of the nine dollars will be given to the switchboard as a result of an agreement with the magazine. Send your order to Joan Dunkel 6 East Drive, Mill Valley, Ca. 94941.

NOW

The Marin Chapter of NOW announces a special program at their March meeting, Weds. the 21st at 7:30 P.M. at the Redwood High School Faculty Lounge. It will consist of a panel on Volunteerism, and will present the NOW position and those of various volunteer groups in the county. The NOW position paper on the subject is just a beautiful document, and a short listing of its main points cannot do it justice. Hopefully we'll be able to print more of it at a later date. Briefly, here is what they intend to do.

*Challenge women's traditional role as unpaid community servants, which is a powerful reinforcement of the feminine mystique.

* Challenge the myth of the beneficial effects of service volunteering, not only for women but for society at large.

* Object to the generalized usage of the word volunteering which levels those who practice it into an undifferentiated category of people regardless of kind and quality of work.

*Make a distinction between two essentially opposite types of volunteering, that is, change oriented versus service oriented volunteering.

This is not to say, however, and this is very important, that volunteerism is something to be scorned. In fact, this issue is of revolutionary importance, because the work that volunteers do free is so important that it needs to be reassessed. Try this for starters. Think of the effect volunteerism had on this nation's ability to carry on the Vietnam War!

tenants union

With the lifting of Phase II, some landlords are coming down hard on their tenants. A group of tenants at 129 Canal Street in San Rafael decided to fight their eviction. The landlord in question Richard Gordon, partner in a local termite firm, proposes raising the rents about 28%, from \$165-185 a month to \$210 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. The leader of the tenants' group, Ms. Peggy Meza, has lived in the building six years, and feels, along with her friend, Kay Higashiguchi, that the landlord's move is directed against people with children. These women are to be congratulated for raising some tough issues that not only Gordon, but all Marin people should face. Rent Control. Tenants' Rights. Children's Rights under the 14th Amendment. The group has retained the Shapiros to file suit against Gordon.

Sexism Lives

--on 1/30/73 Rep. L. Hogan from Maryland introduced a constitutional amendment banning most abortions...

--the South is still whistling tunes of oppression: Senator Guy Jones from Arkansas said (in a speech to the Ark. legislature against the ERA): "You don't want to see these sweet and tender little bodies with their heads torn off by shrapnel." No one just pulls an image like that out of the air - you have to have had a few fantasies about it. Another one of society's sickies, alive and well in Congress.

--the Boston Strangler and/or yet another killer is at it again in Boston. His 8th victim was just found. All have been women. In the 1960's the Strangler killed 13. All These Women Are Victims of Sexism. K.T. *****

RAPE VICTIM

--In S.F. recently, a S.F. General Hospital guard was found guilty of attempting to rape a 27-year-old Piedmont widow, mother of two. The woman, testifying in Spanish through an interpreter told the jury she had left the hospital after visiting her sister, was accosted by two men from whom she escaped. When she ran to the hospital guards for help, they began terrorizing her in turn, instead of arresting her assailants. She escaped yet a second time, grabbing a key ring from one of the guards, running to safety inside the hospital. Harvey Pleasant, 36, faces one to twenty years for the attempted rape. Both men face a possible six months - five years for failing to make an arrest. It took the jury eight hours and fifteen minutes of deliberation. The prosecuting attorney was a woman, Assistant District Attorney, Maxine Mackler.

WRITERS AND ARTISTS

FITZ PRINTING wants manuscripts and works by women (or groups of women) for possible publication. We are a mixed collective with a small press in the mission. We would like to print for you too. Call Nancy or Pam at 826-9515. (from the S.F. Women's Newsletter)

WOMEN AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS

--The Bay Area's two major medical schools, Stanford and the University of California - may have to discharge several hundred faculty and staff members and a large number of students taking advance training because of the budget proposed by Nixon. It's clear who goes first. Stanford Nobel laureate, Joshua Laderberg, said the ending of grant support for training would mean cuts in half the training programs just "when women are on the point of finding their just parity and when many members of minority groups have qualified for leadership in the sciences." The Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation in East Palo Alto will be curtailed. At UCSF, the School of Nursing is faced with loss of its entire department of psychiatric nursing, involving 40 faculty members and 400 students.

--Bev

MANY MANY WOMEN HAVE REQUESTED INFO FROM THE NEWSLETTER ABOUT RELIABLE COUNSELING SERVICES FOR FEMINISTS. WE ARE LISTING TWO SERVICES HERE WHICH HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY PHONE CALLS AS LEGITIMATE - THE NEWSLETTER CAN NOT VOUCH FOR WHETHER OR NOT THEY FULFILL THEIR PROMISES. PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH THESE AGENCIES

WOMEN'S COUNSELING SERVICE

The Women's Counseling Service is a group of women therapists with training in traditional counseling and clinical psychology. As feminists we are seeking to provide a non-oppressive therapeutic service for women in which the emphasis is on personal growth and self-expression. Our purpose is to help each woman free herself from a social environment which has denied her the freedom to define herself according to her own feelings and live in a way that is fulfilling to her as a unique and creative individual.

We are available for individual and group services, family and couple counseling. Our fees are based on a sliding scale, with five dollars a session being the minimum. For further info you may call 392-0400 between 10AM and 9PM.

WOMAN'S WAY (see story page 7)

A Counseling Service for Women
412 Red Hill Ave.
San Anselmo
453-4490

Women in Sports

When San Bernardino Valley College basketball coach Ray Blake sent 5'4" blonde guard Sue Palmer into the game against San Diego City College, the score was 114-85 in the (San Bernadino) Indians' favor, and the opposition, in an apparent inference of insult added to injury, walked off the court rather than be opposed by a female player-even though the 18-year-old Miss Palmer's inclusion was legal, under a new state junior college ruling making women eligible for all 12 varsity sports.

Women's Switchboard
phone: 453-5300

D.E.S.

On Feb. 22, 1973, the Food and Drug Administration commissioner, Dr. Charles C. Edwards told the Senate health subcommittee that the FDA is about to approve the controversial drug Diethylstilbesterol for use as a "morning-after" pill in cases of emergency (which is defined as "rape, incest or a woman suffering 'mental shock'")

IT'S ILLEGAL TO GIVE IT TO COWS BUT NOT TO WOMEN.

The ban on giving it to cattle as a feed additive is continued.

Dr. Peter Greenwald, director of N.Y. cancer control testified before this same senate health subcommittee saying "it is unfortunate (it was approved because) there is a definite cancer risk to daughters born of pregnancies where DES was taken. In my opinion there have been insufficient comprehensive and controlled scientific studies of risks as well as effectiveness of DES as a morning-after pill"

Anita Johnson, an attorney with Health Research Group, Washington, testified that DES is dispensed "like water" on college campuses, often with little or no warning about possible dangerous side effects.

Recommended

Joan Baez in Hanoi: Twelve Days Under the Bombs, Rolling Stone, Feb. 1, 1973. Between Dec. 18 and Dec. 30, the U.S. dropped 100,000 tons on bombs on Hanoi and Haiphong. An officer at Guam stated the raids were "the biggest aerial operation in the history of warfare." It is the equivalent of six Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs. Hanoi's Bach Mai hospital, the country's leading medical school and research center was completely destroyed in two B-52 raids on Dec. 19 and 22. The Pentagon denied it; Baez's party took films; the Pentagon admitted to "some limited accidental damage." Her experience there was indescribable, but she puts us in touch with what we must know, the enormity of the crime our government has committed in our name.

Lucy Rosenthal's review of Esther Vilar's THE MANIPULATED MAN (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$5.95) in the February Ms. The analysis called "A Best-Selling Hate Book" is fair, sensitive, and hard-hitting. It's a beautifully thought out, beautifully written review, a gem.

THE GOLDEN NOTEBOOK, a novel by Doris Lessing (Ballantine Books, 1962). This book explores the process of one woman's liberation. I, for one, should have read it ten years ago.
-Bev



good books

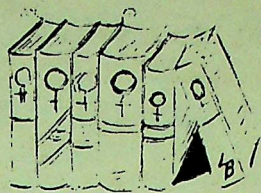
IN CASE YOU'RE FEELING BAD HERE'S SOME BOOKS TO LIFT YOU UP!
ROOT OF BITTERNESS: Documents of the Social History of American Women. ed. Nancy F. Cott (E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., N.Y. 1972) \$4.95.

This has bits of Ann Hutchinson's trial, witch trials, Revolutionary War diaries, letters, essays, working women petitions, narratives from escaped slaves, excerpts from 19th-century books on women, and suggestions for further reading - fascinating.

THE GENTLE TAMERS: Women of the Old Wild West. Dee Brown (Univ. of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1971) \$1.95. Covers pioneers, army girls, prostitutes, dance hall girls, school marms, etc. with illustrations.

THE HONEYMAN FESTIVAL: A Novel. Marian Engel (Anansi, Toronto, 1970) \$2.50.

This novel is about one night in the life of a woman in her mid-thirties "torn between affection for her family and the need for a life in which impulse and intelligence can once again find play."



WRITERS NEEDED FOR THE GUARDIAN

The Guardian, an independent news-weekly from New York city, is looking for material about the Women's Movement across the country. They are interested in brief announcements to stories from 600-1800 words. Individual women can become "stringers" or women's collectives can submit material as a group. All material will, of course, be credited. Payment ranges from \$5-20 for articles used. Pictures are also useful and will be paid for. Send for a sample copy:

Kathy Kuman
c/o The Guardian
32 W. 22nd St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10010



I AM WOMAN... I AM ARTIST

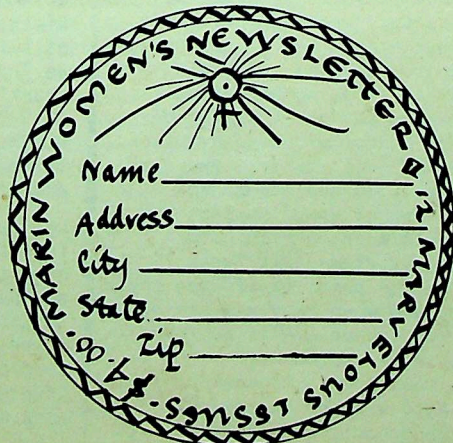
A portfolio of Women's drawings and prints to be published soon in the Bay Area. If you would like to submit black and white drawings and/or prints (no photos) contact Bobbe at 864-5148 for further information. Deadline for all works is March 1.

WOMEN IN MYTH, MEDIA AND SELF PORTRAIT

is a class offered by the adult education program at College of Marin. Marva Foley teaches from 7:00 to 10:00 every Wed. eve. from Jan. 17-March 21. Visitors are welcome. There is a fee of \$6.00 for the entire course. The class meets in Room 172 Harlan Center.

ASAWA'S FOUNTAIN

-Ruth Asawa, widely known SF sculptor has just finished her new fountain, designed in bread dough, cast in bronze. Have a look when you're at Stockton and Post in Union Square. It was two years in the making and is meant to be "touched, loved and patted."



Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____



Send to:
P.O. Box 1412
San Rafael, Ca 94902

WOMEN'S HISTORY RESEARCH LIBRARY

During two years of global wanderings through all various aspects of the women's movement, one small item tucked away in the corner of each peice of movement literature has repeatedly comforted me with its constancy, its assurance that "this publication is on file at the International Women's Historical Archives." Seemingly suspended above the political chaos is the confirmation that those strong, patient women in Berkeley, California, continue to piece together the myriad fragments of our political movement.

At the time I decided to volunteer at the library I fantasized long quiet stacks (at least two floors of them) tended by a professional staff on the funding of a high Ford Foundation grant. Reality - a limited, part-time staff of dedicated amateurs in a 2 and a half room bungalow - was at once exciting and dismaying. The physical layout is not your "university library model" but the home of Laura X, the library's founder, crammed to the ceiling with the world's most comprehensive collection of information on women. It includes everything we've been able to get, by or about the women's movement, as well as a topical research file of information about women in all walks of life, past and present.

The International Women's History Periodical Archive is available on microfilm, and our catalogue (supplemented by directories of women's films, women artists, course outlines, bibliographies, tapes, and research projects), is sold at one quarter of our cost in order to expose as widely as possible the projects of women at no cost to them. Because of my job, I know that we do a huge mail order business with individual women, groups, and libraries throughout the world, but our lack of funds has forced us to close the library to random visits by the public during the past two years.

Our two main problems are lack of funds and lack of staff. We have been turned down by 37 foundations because we are too old and established or too new and radical, or because we charge our customers too little and want to pay our help. I suspect that most women share my former illusions of Ford Foundation grants, but the hard fact is that we are a very non-profit organization dependent on donations from individuals and groups.

Without money we cannot hire staff and must draw our women power from two rather nebulous sources: college work-study programs and volunteers. Although the work-study staff is paid by your donations and partly by the federal funds, it turns over quarterly, and it's probable obliteration by Nixon's domestic cuts will make our already crying need for volunteers even more acute. Especially needed are long-term volunteers, as we are constantly losing people we've trained due to some women's serious economic straits and Berkeley's transient University community.

Women of Marin, we need your help!! Use the Women's History Library! Send in your own works for our archives. Donate your time, labour, supplies, equipment and money. Attend the benefit Ham and Pancake Breakfast to Celebrate our 5th anniversary on Sunday, March 11, at Vin et Fromage Restaurant, 1556 Solano Ave, in Berkeley. Serving 9:30am-1:30pm. Donation is \$2.50 at the door (\$1.25 per child under 12), \$2.00 for advance tickets. Call the library for advance tickets or come to Marin's First All Women's Festival and buy them at the Women's History Library display.

Chris



Dear Sisters

I am only beginning to open my mind and eyes to Women's Liberation (my heart has pain fully been aware of my place since I was very little). The more I act, read, listen, the more I realize my knowledge is only a seed. But in sisterhood, work, confidence the plant will grow strong.

I have been living in the city all my life. I have been ridiculed, kept down, discouraged in school - assaulted on the streets - poisoned by the air, food, water. The city is a dead trip - anger was not enough to sustain me and because I could not fight with a sick body and heart, I left.

I now live on a ranch in Bolinas. I am growing vegetables to feed life. I am a part of, or at least trying my hardest to be part of nature's ever so gentle cycle. Everyday I see my body, which for 17 years held no greater strength than needed for girl's volleyball in gym, become strong and healthy. I am trying to show those around me to respect the land, to put back what you take, to simplify, to survive, to be happy.

A friend and I live in a Tipi, gardening organically about an acre and a half of land. The ranch contains 1400 acres of beautiful rolling pacific coast hills, meadows, wildflowers and streams. We pay no rent. The people here who are partners with the owner have a horse boarding operation in order to get up money to feed themselves and keep up the buildings. When the garden makes a lot on money (we make about \$160. per week in the summer at our peak) we are supposed to pay 25% sharecropping fee. But the ranch people are good and mellow people and the fee is not paid on a strict basis.

We need more people to help us with the garden. There is another structure in the canyon where our tipi is, a geodesic dome 15' in diameter, 7' high. Right now it has no floor or covering, but we have the plastic to do it.

The garden is our source of income and our needs are minimal. If there are any women who want to live organically, please contact me. Robin and I have only been doing this for about 9 months so everything doesn't flow as smoothly as we wish at times. As I said, the garden is our survival, so any women who come would have to be interested in doing and learning and making the garden work. It is hard sometimes, but always joyous work.

It would be best for anyone interested to write and arrange for a time to come by, perhaps try it for a week or so; so we could both decide if it would work out.

The garden won't be making any money until the summer, but we need help right now to make sure it happens.

Thank you and love
Eileen

Rancho Baulines
Hyway I, Bolinas, Ca. 94924

letters to the editors

Dear Sisters,

Just finished reading a copy of your newsletter-September issue. Just wanted to let you know that you have a fine newsletter-most informative and well written - enjoyed it emmensely.

At the moment I am financially unable to subscribe to your newsletter, but will send a donation as soon as I can find some kind of employment.

If any of the Marin sisters are interested in knowing about the far north movement or anything pertaining to Alaska please urge them to contact ALASKA WOMEN'S LIBERATION c/o Waltraud Barron, 1801 Peck Ave, Anchorage, AK 99504 or myself. Also, any sisters enroute to Alaska will always have a place to stay and fine people to rap with. My house is always open to anyone in need. We are all united.

Sincerely,
Debi Davis
1221 W. 11th #2
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 274-3197



My sisters, hello-

Saw your ad in Lesbian Tide and wanted to share with you some of what flows thru me. There are so many of us now, each spreading love in our own way - and every day new age pioneers are blossoming all over the planet.

My major trip is concerned with helping people to know the Karmic trip they elected - the difference between riding a surfboard and getting caught by that damned wave as it breaks! Coming thru as much shit as I did has been a delightful test of the fact that new age therapy really works ...for me. I'm merely an advance seed planter, tho, and everything is important and nothing matters. Living Tarot, as it comes thru the entity that is me, janice aurah, is one of the most joyous and deepest ways to cut through spaghetti of the mind. Why not!

Rainbows, butterflies
and sunbeams,
janice aurah
The Cosmic Lady

Dear Editors,

My name is Sheila Purcell and I got this newsletter at Gloria Steinem's speech which I attended with a friend. We were the youngest there. I'm 13 and getting an early start on being liberated. I'm also going to be an Editor soon, the first female or male to even put together a Yearbook for my school. I have been fighting for the girls' or women's rights at school. I made up a petition for equal time in using the gym during recess. The boys had it all to themselves. I have been put down by fat chauvinists who claim that all the girls do is sing and that basketball is much more important. Many girls are interested in volleyball, which has been provided for in the gym. I'm not a student council member (although I tried, but failed because many females and males vote for popular people, ones who are going steady or liked much by the opposite sex). I have had to gather student council officers and arrange meetings for them just for the gym, and I haven't given up yet and won't.

I hope you'll print this so other young women or girls (I don't know where they draw the line) won't be silent if they feel like joining N.O.W. with me. I'm wondering if joining would be acceptable? When is the next orientation?

Sheila Purcell

(Eds. note: The next orientation meeting will take place at the Women's Festival on March 8th. There will be much information there about all the groups and projects going on in Marin for women.)



Dear Sisters,

We were shocked when we read your article on "The Male Pill, Devices and Methods." Particularly, we couldn't believe that you had advised women that:

"in the event of a rare failure or breakage, if the woman will within 24 hours take a large dose of stilbestrol, pregnancy will not occur."

After months and months of feminist groups and medical consumer groups trying to alert the public that stilbestrol (better known as diethylstilbestrol) in the form of the morning-after pill CAUSES CANCER in the recipients, it was a hard blow to us to hear that you are promoting the drug.

STILBESTROL as a post-coital contraceptive is a non-approved FDA drug, which is used on an experimental basis. There is a great danger to the woman who takes it if she has a family or personal history of genital or breast cancer, adenosis, endometriosis, diabetes, blood clotting etc. Not only that, but if a young woman's mother took any of the stilbestrol "anti-miscarriage" drugs that were popular in the 40's and 50's, she is already prone to vaginal and cervical cancer. According to Dr. Arthur Herbst of the Mass. General Hospital, an additional dosage of stilbestrol in the form of the morning-after pill can serve to exacerbate a pre-cancerous condition.

Needless to say, we could go on for pages and pages about the dangers of stilbestrol. Aside from the fact that it causes vaginal and cervical cancer among women exposed to it in utero, it has caused breast cancer in males to whom it was given in treatment of prostate cancer, and it has caused endometrial cancer in women who were being treated with it for excessive bleeding. The FDA has NOT approved its use as even an anti-lactation drug which has been given to women for over 20 years.

We are enclosing literature on the dangers of the morning-after pill. Please read it. Also, you may wish to read Dr. Herbst's latest report in the Dec. 21, 1972 New England Journal of Medicine.

PLEASE-for the benefit of many women who read your article and may now be taking this drug---
put a retraction in your next issue.

-----Herself Staff



Editors Note:
We will be reprinting some articles from HERSELF on this subject and/or have an entire article on it in the near future. They are right - we should not have been so casual about endorsing this dangerous drug.



WHYA WOMEN'S GROUP

Women are changing. The way we view ourselves and what we want to do with our lives is changing. Recently the cry has been for freedom, emancipation, liberation. Fine. Implicit, yet sometimes forgotten in these demands, is the responsibility that goes along with improved status. Because today's women are moving into uncharted waters there is fear--of our ability to succeed as whole persons, frustration at being laughed at, guilt over not wanting always to be just someone's wife and mother, and often hostility toward ourselves, other women, as well as men.

There is a hopeful side to this. There is a place where responsibility, as well as rights, can become real. I feel strongly that the hope lies in women coming together to gain strength and understanding from one another. There is a need to share problems connected with changing women, as well as specifically individual problems. I was taught to compete with women, to mistrust all but a few friends, to regard men as being more valuable. I was also taught to want a good education, and was given one. This education was to help my future husband succeed and to teach my children... the "hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" syndrome! At 20 I had little idea who I was, what I wanted, or even if I wanted anything for myself. At college I enjoyed parties, got bad grades and dropped out. I became a file clerk, at minimum wage. I did not know what else to do. I got married... every woman can always do that, I reasoned. I was a divorcee at 21.

The struggle to find me was long, accomplished without the aid of a group. How I wish it could have been otherwise. How I wish I could have had caring women telling me I was not unusual to feel lonely in a marriage or that I wasn't crazy because I cried daily on the bus to work.

The help I got from a psychiatrist was valuable, in part. I learned my destructive patterns, their causes. But he continually defined me in his terms. If I didn't like to scrub floors, then I was rejecting my femininity. If I liked to wear blue jeans and argue politics, then I was denying my femininity. If I wanted to take graduate level courses, then I was denying my femininity. Now I am unlearning some of what he told me I should do to be fulfilled. When I did things his way I sometimes felt awkward, and always felt phony.

A women's group is a place where feelings can be openly shared among women, advice and suggestions given, constructive criticism, and most of all, concern from those who really care. From those who have been there. I have found in women's groups that my experiences were not unique, many had gone through the same.

The following are quotes from the Center Point Women's Group when I asked why and if they wanted to continue meeting:

--I have problems with relationships with men that I can't handle

--I'm afraid to say things around men, and I feel other women will understand

--I need to have made clear fallacies about men and women, especially about sex

--I think we're mainly fighting roles--stereotypes for women, for men. Our problems are individual, yet we get caught in roles. I want this to stop


--I'm often very excited about all the new possibilities I now see open to me. Just as often I'm really scared, scared because for so long I've been told I can't do things. And until I've actually done them, been independent, I don't know on a gut level if I can. I need the support of other women in getting where I want to go, and to know that I'm not alone in the excitement, in the fear and in the trying.

To the women's group I proposed the formation of a men's group to deal with male-female relationships and their attitudes toward women. Surely there are areas where men feel uncomfortable with women. I would like to see these two groups on-going, with an open dialogue between the two every two months. This met with agreement by the women's group.

The ideal would be for men and women to feel free enough with each other to be able to be frank. But, the time is not now. Women are in the defensive position. We have usually been in the defensive position. When people continually have to spend energy for defense there is little room left for growth. We need time to grow, become independent and to be able to welcome equal sharing of responsibilities and status with men.

Lenore G. Bowie





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tripping on the Babysitting trap

ANSWER TO "BABYSITTING CO-OPS"

I don't think babysitting co-ops are a trap. I think they are a great idea. Advantages, as mentioned in the "trap" article:

mom gains free time
child has friends of own age
responsible mother cares for children.

Disadvantages, as mentioned in article:

"...in return for my free hours, I would be obligated to devote a certain amount of time to babysitting for everyone else's kids - and that realization quickly burst the balloon. It's not that I mind taking care of other people's children occasionally, but the thought of scheduling certain days on which I would have to be responsible for the care, feeding and entertainment of 4 or 5 preschoolers, no matter what kind of mood I might be in or what else I wanted to do, was depressing in the extreme."

Janis went on to say she thought free child care centers should be available. O.K. They should. I have a four year old myself. But why put down an intermediate trip as a trap? I've been in a babysitting co-op on and off and it's worked out great! Say there are 4 kids in it. Say it is set up so that you meet each Saturday at a different parents house. OK, so if you have only one child you have 3 out of 4 Saturdays free and the fourth you are in charge. So, get a friend to come and be with you on that day.

IMPORTANT: Focus on the Children. i.e., don't try to get the washing done on that day. Tell the friend the focus is on the kids and not on the interaction between y'all.

Janis mentioned feeding and entertainment. If you don't like to feed 'em, so tell the other mothers to send a paper bag lunch with them, or initially set up bag lunches as a general policy. Then you could be responsible only for providing milk and nuts or hard boiled eggs, or sunflower seeds, or carob milk, or cheese squares, celery stalks with cream cheese or UNHYDROGENATED peanut butter, organic carrot sticks, organic fruit, what ever snacks. (yes, I went a little overboard on that, but I get really pissed when my kid is served "snacks" of jello, sugared orange juice, cookies hot chocolate, hydrogenated peanut butter...)

As for entertainment, is that really such a big deal? Maybe you take it too seriously. Kids coming over to a new house with a bunch of new toys, a new environment, don't need entertainment! Just show them where the bathroom is or the potty seat, and let 'em be. Sit there and relax with them. You don't need to direct them. If a kid wants something, she or he will ask for it. If someone says they are bored, hand 'em a sheet of paper and a crayon or two. I think I have a different feeling about caring for kids than most people. I say relax, sit there and let them do their thing. Be open if a kid comes up to you. If you HONESTLY FEEL like initiating an interaction with a kid, do. But don't feel that kids need some one bustling around ORGANIZING things for them and ENTERTAINING them. Maybe the friend who comes over has a car and you could take them to the park or the beach.

Janis wants it all now. So do I. But in the meantime, babysitting so-ops seem to me to be a convenient practical solution.

Nyla Blair
Fairfax

He works
A skill
He knows
The Way.
I sit
And watch
He doesn't
Say
A word.

I wait
And wonder
What he thinks:
(He hates
his job
He hates
my face
He wants
his lunch.)

I want
My place
The skill
To know
And do
The things
"A woman
Can't".

I want
A lot
Resent
His Way.
I want
A world
Where
Women grow
Full as Suns
Free to know
And do
The job
Our way.
-Molly Willard



EMILY DICKEZSON

To fight aloud is very brave / But
gallanter I know / Who charges
within the bosom / The Calvary
of woe.

Who win and nations do not
see / Who fall ~ and none observe
Whose dying eyes, no Country
Regards with patriot love.
We trust, in plumed procession / For
such the angels go ~ Rank after rank
with even feet ~ And Uniforms of snow.



Love oh love oh love oh love



Never too late blooms the rose and the strawberry,
the grape on the vine, the corn on the stalk, the roots that
nourish the springtime. May time and wine and shared flocks
of migratory birds eating berries and worms bugs and buzzes
and happy days cushioned in curly clouds floating weightlessly.
Bright fresh green shining blades of grass. Worship oh
worship the world of spring love. Oh love oh love oh love.
-Ananda

THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER

I went to bed with the long-distance runner.
Seven laps he ran around the bed
Flexing bulging biceps as he ran,
Contorting head and neck,
And, shoulders perched on shoulders,
He turned cartwheels and set the
bed on fire.

The hair of blonds, brunettes, and redheads
Turned my bed into a pyre
(Immolations on imaginary altars)
As seven laps he ran around,
Seven laps around the bed.
And there he left them one and all,
Ran down white corridors and out white doors,
And dark star, he is running still.

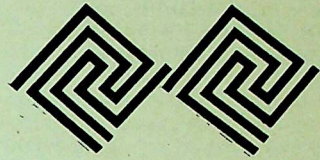
-Cecile Pineda



what about the me in you
that cries out to be seen
what about the you in them
that will not mend the seam
that's broken here
before us now
though we swear we all are clean
we haven't been no - where yet
we're all waiting for a ride
that will take us thru the inner wall
and out the other side.

looking thru the morning-glass
at the sister moon
hearing all the winds cry past
while watching for a room
that will open up and take you in
with out asking if you're leaving soon.
why should we walk out any door
unless we've chosen to.
We've only just begun it seems
to learn there's me in you.

Allah Hu ALLAH HU ALLAH HU ALLAH HU
is it you. is it you?
-Iris Rose



Oh hell, I get myself twisted into knots

He has this 5' x 5' x 5' box
That he thinks I should live in.
But I'm 5' x 1' x 1'
And come with a certain amount of bric-a-brac
acquired in the Gallic campaigns
(Like, for instance, a trench,
Dug 16' x 20' x 2'
And a phalanx, or two.)
So how do I tell him NO
(gracefully,--so that he doesn't feel
rejected)?

-Linda Purrington

Woman's Way

Woman's Way is the name of a new center for women in San Anselmo. It began as my dream about a year and a half ago and with the help and support of many friends, the dream is no longer just mine; and because of that, it is no longer just a dream. We have an office and after months of planning, are ready to offer services.

Woman's Way was inspired by the Movement and is our individual response to it. We have some firm convictions about what is occurring in many lives but that is not to say that we have any answers or solutions. We are searching, too.

It seems to us that the most verbal women in the Movement are asking a great deal of their sisters. They are asking women to change their conditioned responses to life; in the broadest sense they are asking all people to examine their prejudices about women. These things must be asked of all of us if we are to live more meaningful lives. At the same time, we know that people hold onto their prejudices with a fierce tenacity. The process of change for a whole society is slow and painful.

We believe that we must also recognize that that same process of change is slow and painful for each individual. It is always easy to talk about change; it is quite a different matter to make those changes in our daily lives. It is also very easy to agree intellectually with the beautiful rhetoric of a dynamic speaker

or writer; it is another matter to have the sense of self to see how each of us as individual people can adapt the thoughts to our emotions and live comfortably with the two. What we are seeing is that a lot of our sisters who have opened themselves to the possibility of changing are confused and some are hurting very badly inside. Others of our sisters do not yet understand or maybe even want to understand what the liberation of women is all about. So, for many of us this period of transition is disconcerting. We hear many women asking some searching questions: Is marriage possible for me? Should I have children? If I go to work, will it really fill the void I am experiencing? These are tough questions and there are no easy answers. What worries me a lot is that I see some people attempting to give easy answers.

What we care about most is the basic question: What does being a woman really mean to you? Putting aside but not forgetting the rhetoric and expectations of other people (even those we most admire), how can you and I relate comfortably to the changes that are occurring? We believe that each woman has her own answer, should have the confidence to stand by that answer even if it disagrees with others. We know that many women's lives have been based on living up to the expectations of other people; another thing that worries me is that now we will shed one set of expectations (male oriented) for another (female) and still not experience the autonomy we are so desperately searching for.

We will help support women who are dealing with these issues through a variety of services: a referral system for women wishing the name of a professional and/or a service we know to be sensitive to women; groups; workshops dealing with a wide variety of subjects pertaining to women; job counselling; and a newsletter distributed to members. In addition, we have developed ways to deal with social issues affecting women's lives and are concentrating now on continuing education for women, new careers, and so on.

Woman's Way is an affiliate of the Marin Institute. We are not primarily a volunteer organization (although we do use some volunteers under special conditions); we have chosen to operate with the financial structure and organization of a non-profit corporation. We are located at 412 Red Hill Ave., San Anselmo, Suite 9. If you'd like to be on our mailing list or become a member (\$15.00 per year) call us at 453-4490; we're open from 10-4:30 five days a week. Ask for Emily, Melinda or Linda. Come in and have a cup of coffee. Your ideas and participation are important to us.

Our first consciousness raising group will begin in early March, Thursdays, 10-12 (\$5.00 a week); Please call if you are interested.

-Emily Bell



REPARENTING FOR WOMEN

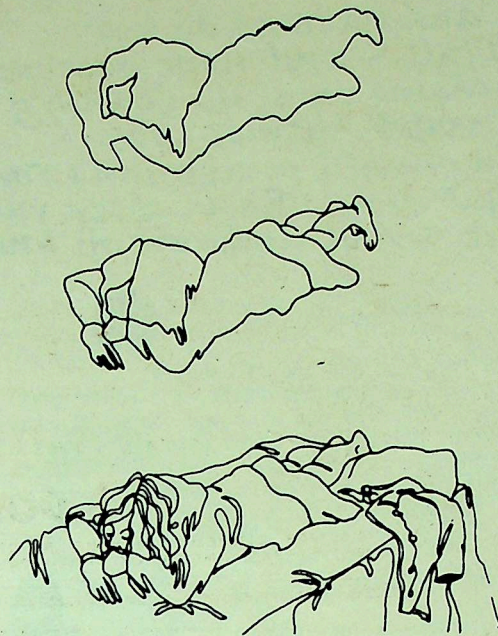
The ideas for this article germinated some years ago, but at that time they were disconnected, and seemed only fragments of personal experience, of value to me and to nobody else. Now I think otherwise.

This was my experience (later I will tell you what I have been making of it). I come from a small New England town that was once dominated by my paternal family in the days of whaling ships and cotton mills. My paternal grandmother was a lively girl from the lower classes who married a wealthy, weak man when she was seventeen. She proceeded to have two children, both boys--and treated my father with disgust because he had not turned out to be the girl she wanted. Later, when the boys were nearly grown, Granny had a wild public affair with a real estate agent, divorced my grandfather, and remarried. My mother and father complained for as long as I can remember about my grandmother's 'outrageous' behaviour. She would invite all the grandchildren to Christmas dinner--and come to the door dressed in a ripped black satin gown pinned together with a paper rose; she would drink scotch and play cards, and sing bawdy ballads and serve us hardtack with mustard smeared on it. Finally, Granny sent her second husband to an old folks home, and moved into the center of town, where she gave piano lessons for a living.

Not, one would suppose, the right kind of woman to identify with. The whole town was outraged by her behavior--the worst item seemed to be her divorce, since very few women in the town had divorced at that time--and she had simply rejected her husband, who was one of the leading citizens. The divorce, more than anything else, made me a Scarlet Woman. There were mothers of my classmates who would not send their daughters to take piano lessons from my grandmother. My mother was on such bad terms with her mother-in-law that I hardly ever saw Granny, and always thought of her as a wicked (if very interesting) woman. And the stories were simply part of a family saga.

But the time came, after many years away from the town, and after travel, and five years of marriage, that I came home for a weekend visit, and incidentally told my parents that I was getting a divorce. My mother was sad that my marriage was "failing" and queried me about my failings--was I perhaps being divorced because I was unfaithful (like Granny)? My father, in his remote way, offered me much more--he gave me, without comments, the documents proving my relationship to Hester Prynne of the *Scarlet Letter*. There was no question but that my divorce put me into the category of Scarlet Woman in his mind--along with his own mother and Hester. Wow, I thought, and watched closely. Sure enough, he could talk to me now as an equal--as a woman who was not on a pedestal, not pure--who was, in a Victorian sense, "fallen." It was all in the grand tradition of geishas and hetairas who were allowed education and intellectual conversation and considerable independence in payment for sexual favors. Far out, I thought, and I read the documents very carefully.

Yes, it was apparently true. Nathaniel Hawthorne had run across the documents relating to the trial and chastisement of my ancestress, Mary Puddington, for adultery with the village minister. The documents described George Purrington (the model for Roger Chillingworth) and how he launched the first alienation-of-affections suit against the minister (who had the reputation of liking rather



too well to pray with young women alone in his chambers). Mary was required to stand in a white sheet before the elders of the church; and George disinherited the daughter whom he said was not his. Mary, though, was bold--she burned the will, to protect her daughter's inheritance. The minister was condemned and asked to leave the colony. You can hear echoes of the name as it now is, Purrington, in the names Puddington, Prynne, and Chillingworth. Hawthorne changed elements of the story, but the message that he extracted was basically the same. Hester Prynne was a Scarlet Woman--she stepped out of her role as a chaste Puritan woman, and mothered a brilliant and beautiful daughter. She made a livelihood for herself, and refused for most of her life to reveal the name of the man she had slept with. Hawthorne cast this woman in attractive terms, and painted the harshness of the old husband and the colony in unattractive terms--but he still felt that there was considerable sin in Hester, primarily the sin of concealment and the sin of pride. It was all very well for her to love a romantic young man, but think of the effect on the children! And what would society come to if women started living by themselves with their daughters on the edge of the woods and refused to apologize for themselves? For one thing, the men would go to rack and ruin, and old men like Roger Chillingworth would become embittered and evil; young men would pine away and die because they were not manly enough to admit their sin with the Scarlet Woman.

I still didn't really know what to do with these ruminations on Scarlet Women and the discovery that I was related to Hester Prynne. Was it just a good story? Should I go out and embroider myself a scarlet letter? Was it enough that my fall from grace as a good married woman had opened up some distorted communication between me and my father? I didn't know what to do with it until last week. In the course of reading a book on transactional analysis, a really neat word caught my eye. It was *reparenting* and was imbedded in a title in a footnote. In the context *reparenting* meant providing a psychiatric patient with artificial parental injunctions that would be less inhibiting and restrictive than those supplied by the real parents; a method of using a patient's identification of the therapist with a parental figure, for the patient's advantage. An interesting idea. I threw it in the salvage corner of my mind, thinking that it might come in handy some day.

After a few days, I went rummaging around in the storage room, and discovered that *reparenting* had acted like a catalyst on lots of other ideas and facts that were stacked up in there. *Reparenting* was transforming the little story of Hester Prynne--it had shed some of the overtone of male chauvinism that I always seem to pick up when reading the popular transactional analysts' books, and had sloughed off its connection with women's dependency on parental authority. Why couldn't I reparent myself with some heroic women--and follow in their footsteps? Why couldn't I find some women with whom to identify, as Phyllis Chesler suggested in *WOMEN AND MADNESS*? I already knew that Hester Prynne and Mary Puddington were two different people--I knew that I could strip off the pejorative adjectives that a male chauvinist society applied to them. I got so interested that I used my entire visit home over the Christmas holidays as a detective session. First, I rehabilitated my paternal grandmother, the original Scarlet Woman in the family. At eighty-three she is still drinking straight scotch and gin, hobbling around town, outraging people, playing the piano, and reminiscing about all the high old times that she had. True, that incredible energy was confined by a woman's role--she should have been leading battles or haranguing crowds--instead she marked her mobility and independence by the ability to attract and discard men, wringing out of them some scope for herself. Hester, too, marked her independence by the woman's role--she was ostracized for contact with a man. But I can forgive Mary Puddington much for throwing that will, in which old Puddington disinherited his daughter, into the fire.

What else could I find? My maternal grandmother started out to be a grand discovery, and then a tragedy. Gertrude Meyer was a young German suffragette, who fought for women's rights, marched and wrote articles for a woman's paper. Before she got married. Then she settled down to be the perfect, pale, remote German housewife with six children, the appreciative wife of an ebullient coxcomb of a village schoolmaster. I had never heard of her activity as a suffragette, except as an amusing example of youthful fervor. How I wish she had not stopped writing; that someone had saved what she wrote; that she had not been so diligent darning socks and doing enormous loads of washing. But at least I dug up the first part of her life, and the fact that she and her mother were stoned in the streets of the village for refusing to wear corsets.

It is like stripping the top layer of dirt and varnish and misguided touchups from an old painting. Women that I can identify with as ancestors were doubly trapped--first in their sex roles, reacting to men more than they acted, and second by the rewriting of history, in which all of the independent, rebellious acts were interpreted as bad, and removed from possible emulation by daughters and granddaughters. Women were bad if they step-



ped outside their family bonds to their husbands or to their children. They were bad if they had fun; if they made their own living; if they kept their own counsel; if they got what they wanted; if they were not crippled by their own sensitivities. They were redeemed if they apologized; if they made penance; if they lived the rest of their lives as model suppressed women. They were especially condemned if they were harsh toward husbands and sons; and not particularly redeemed when they protected and fought for their daughters. They were partially redeemed if their exploits reflected a continuing dependence on men to give meaning to their lives (my randy old grandmother keeps all the pictures of her youthful beaux, although she cannot remember their names). They are Scarlet Women, independent and self-willed, unless broken down by isolation and punishment and ostracism. They are my family.

I find my re-parenting an optimistic thing. Frankly, I don't know enough about my ancestresses and I don't have enough of them to re-parent myself simply from people who are family. From now on, I am going to do some re-parenting from the stories of women who lived in my home town; older women whom I meet or hear about or read about. The next time someone says, "she was a bad woman," I'm going to think twice. She may be someone with some strength of mind that I should like to adopt as an aunt. That cat she has on her lap may be a symbol of independence and non-servility; the fact that she's a spinster may mean that she never found an equal to mate with; or if she did, that marriage would have spoiled it all. I'm going to think twice about something printed in the Marin Women's Newsletter--that the women we call L.O.L's (Little Old Ladies) are the women who have been fighting for over half a century.

Linda Purrington

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EVEN WITH FOOD STAMPS YOU CAN BE MALNOURISHED...

If you are "middle" income or above, yes, it's possible though not easy (to be well fed at today's prices). But for many poor people it's impossible. If my own family were on food stamps and we had no other money for food but the \$112 allotment (which we would pay up to \$88 for), we would be poorly nourished.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes three food plans: low, moderate, and liberal. With careful shopping you can get by on the low-cost plan. But food stamps are supposed to be based on the "economy plan," which costs 20 percent less. The economy plan, according to the USDA is "designed for temporary use when funds are limited" and "does not provide as nutritious a diet as the other plans... It suggests less milk, meat, poultry, fish, eggs, fruits and vegetables than the other plans."

But not even this meager plan is allowed a food stamp family. Today my own family would be allowed 14 percent LESS than the economy plan because of the inflation in food prices.

(reprinted with permission from the COOP NEWS, Feb. 5, 1973, "What do we do about food prices?" by Betsy Wood, COOP Home Economist.)

Women Writers

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section



Just over a year ago, in the unlikely orange naughyde atmosphere of Lyon's, the Marin Women's Health Collective was born.

Now ready for action, its purpose is threefold: to educate women about our female body processes, to provide information about health services available to women in Marin and the Bay Area through a telephone information system, and to present an alternative to current medical practices which do not meet our needs.

Pat Maginnis, Fran Laws, and Barbara Hosmer hatched the idea over lunch plates at Lyon's and collected \$8 to open a bank account. We decided that women were overcharged in Marin for abortions, and we were concerned with the attitude of medical and health care professionals toward women as patients. Too often did we hear from women that they had been treated condescendingly--as if they were a bit dull or a nuisance--and often as "hysterical", with just another "woman's problem."

We concluded that lack of information leaves us at the mercy of what any particular doctor may tell us. As medical consumers we have the right to adequate and medically sound information about our bodies and about which doctor will meet our needs, what level of care to expect for our money, and what the various health care services in the Bay Area have to offer us.

We began last year by surveying all general practitioners and obstetrics and gynecology specialists in Marin to determine costs and services each offered for women's medical care: Pap tests, maternity care, natural childbirth, abortion, etc. We have also collected data on VD clinics, birth control services and related health services.

Currently the Health Collective is operating its information service through the Women's Switchboard, and our future hopes include a women's clinic to perform routine procedures. We plan to keep a continuing file of women's evaluations of their treatment, both positive and negative experiences supplied confidentially, and we hope to be able to follow up on consumer complaints, and change things where necessary.

The founders were mostly members of Marin Chapter, National Organization for Women, but we set up separately so that other women could join the collective. Currently the basic group also includes Patti Challender, Margaret Melsh and Susan Gibbs. The group meets once a month on Thursday nights, and is open to any woman who wishes to work with us.

The Health Collective sponsored the rap with Gloria Steinem after her College of Marin appearance, and is planning a film and discussion series for women on such subjects as self-help clinics, abortion, natural childbirth, breast and pelvic examinations, and sexuality, to be held at the YWCA-Women's Center in San Rafael.

On May 18 a showing of the Kate Millet film "Three Lives" and the KQED short of Steinem's day in Marin, will benefit the Health Collective. It will be held in Olney Hall at the College Marin.

The Marin Women's Health Collective, 14 Claus Circle, Fairfax, may be reached on weekdays through the Women's Switchboard, 456-5300.



DAY CARE

● After nearly three years of waiting, hoping and more waiting, the Fairfax-San Anselmo Day Care Center is a reality. Funding, until last month, was to be set up with 25% "private funds" (United Bay Area Crusade) 25% state monies and 50% from the federal Government. Now the new federal directives have made matching funds unavailable and the burden of financial responsibility is suddenly turned over to local governments. Needless to say, money is shaky.

● The cost-per-child is \$1.05 per hour with the state reimbursing on the basis of attendance records. The feasibility of the program as a whole depends on maximum use of staff and facilities. Thirty children can be accommodated at any one time, but due to staggered hours and days an estimated forty plus children will be accepted. There are still openings.

● The standards of eligibility include two things. One must be working or in school and be a certified former, present, or potential welfare recipient. If you are working, fees are based on a sliding scale. Eligibility is re-evaluated periodically. A former recipient every three months and a potential's every six. Theoretically, a former welfare mother might work and at the end of three months time be deemed no longer eligible. If she cannot afford or find adequate child care she will have to quit her job to stay with the child and will be forced to return to the welfare program. She will then be eligible again to place her child in the day care center and begin to look for a job again. This sort of crazy system destroys job incentive and just does not work. Hopefully some other means of determining eligibility will be found.

● The people who had the idea for this particular center formulated it as an expression of discontent with "Social Services." Welfare women in Fairfax met at Blanche Hansen's home to form a Welfare Rights Organization. Women, and some men who were united by poverty and need, talked about the ideas they knew would make life more livable. From these discussions came the realization that economic, educational and mental health problems could begin to be solved with the relief of children pressure.

● The main problem that had to be solved was to find out what the problems in starting a day care program would be. After floundering in an ocean of bureaucratic possibilities, the Marin Economic Opportunity Council was looked to for an answer. At this point many women walked out, expressing a profound distrust of that agency. Others felt that it might be a good way to go and at the very least action could happen that would remove these women from the classic "lazy welfare mother" stance.

● As most of you are aware, the EOC did deserve that profound distrust; but it provided a vehicle for the ball to roll around in. Space was available and the women made use of it by forming rap groups, a free store, referral services and on-the-spot empathy and advice. The EOC also lent credibility (such as it was) to the ideas of these women and the "outside" world started listening and gave support.

● Probably the most dynamic of these professional women of the "outside world" is Ethel Seiderman, who, with a deep understanding of both bureaucratic procedure and poverty pressure provided a mainstay of enthusiasm and unthwarted energy. After considerable urging by the Board of Directors of the Day Care Center, Ethel was persuaded to give up her job at Baneka (infant day care in S.F.) and take on directorship of the center. She is finally getting paid money for her work of the past two and a half years.

● With almost constant frustrations of red tape and delay, many mothers dropped out but some stayed on. Susan Carpenter Savage is the only inceptional woman who has remained constant with the group, i.e. Board of Directors, shaping new ideas and directions into compatibility with the old. Trips to Sacramento and lots of meetings along with going to school are almost everyday affairs for this woman whose son is fast growing too old for the center.

● Wilson Riles (State Director of Public Education) has talked of plans to integrate four-year-olds into the public school system and with this in mind the Fairfax-San Anselmo Center has leased space in the Yolansdale School on Elm Street in San Anselmo. Four year-olds will then be able to join some of the more advanced classes in the school and the older children will be able to take advantage of some of the programs in the center.

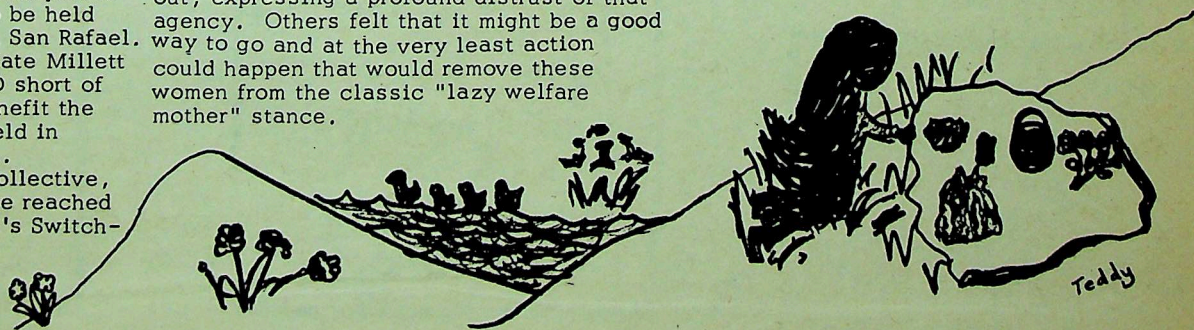
● The unique and pilotable program is a learning situation for parent and child. Parents will take responsibility for the Center in any capacity that suits. The Board of Directors is 51% parents and this might be one's involvement. Educators as well as a pediatrician are members of the Board of Directors.

● A proposed component will be licensed day care homes nearby to relieve the school atmosphere and also to take care of slightly ill children. There will be "home tasks" brought into the child's home by a staff member. Something that parent and child can use together such as the book "Inch by Inch", a measuring tool. Real jobs like building a play house with real tools will be a complete learning experience from buying lumber and nails to playing in the completed project. Day care will not be an interlude between two separate realities at the Fairfax-San Anselmo Day Care Center.

● Other people who have been instrumental in establishing the Center are: The National Council of Jewish Women, Stan Seiderman and Dorothy Leake of Community Mental Health, Betty Presley of D.P.S.S. and Theo Simison of Motherhood.

● The Center will open on for a first group of ten children, followed on March by the remaining twenty or so. The Center will take children from two to five years old. There are still openings, but you must be certified eligible ahead of time. The number to call for further information and appointments is: 456-4452.

●Valice●





howling at the moon

This month the big news is still the non-peace Nixon has foisted on us all. It's clear where his head is at about peace from the following quote from his State of the Union address: "It will still be exciting working in the cabinet in peace time." To this MANIAC war means excitement, not human beings who are no more because he gets bored unless there's a fight. The most important question this "peace" raises to me is what to do with the fact that Nixon's "peace" looks exactly like Nixon's war. What should I do, what should women do?

No one has really proved that women are less blood-thirsty than men, but evidence does seem to point to women having spent more time than men over the last several thousand years doing creative and growing things rather than destructive and killing things. What I'd like to say is "Come on, sisters, speak up now as a group!" But that presupposes we all feel the same, and even more unlikely, that we all know what we feel. Your own feelings about violence and force are frightening things to explore. A lot of women have been discovering so much anger when they look into themselves that the only answer seems to be violence and mayhem. They take up karate, or other forms of self-defense, or throw a bomb or to, or kill themselves, or maybe just get very up-tight and withdrawn at this new self-knowledge. The process of finding buried feelings is dangerous and painful, but looking honestly for them is what growing is all about.

So instead of looking for women to band together with, to make some group effort for peace in the name of feminism, I find myself wishing every woman I know would honestly stop and look at her angry, violent, aggressive feelings and try to understand them - why they are there and what to do with them. Maybe we can raise our voices together at the same time, to protest this insane and bloodthirsty president and his overt manipulation of the American psyche; maybe not. What's important to me is that women, individually and collectively DO SOMETHING. Don't pretend the murder of other human beings, in your name, is not your business. When people stop lying to themselves about how it's someone else who has all that killing instinct it might become possible to stop the juggernaut.

 "Howling at the Moon..." is from a line in Bob Dylan's "Tom Thumb's Blues."

-K. Taylor

The following sketches are taken from GENERATIONS OF DENIAL: 75 Short Biographies of Women. Kathryn Taylor (Times Change Press, Penwell Rd., Washington, New Jersey, 07883, 1971) \$1.35.

SOPHIA PEROVSKAYA (1853-1881)

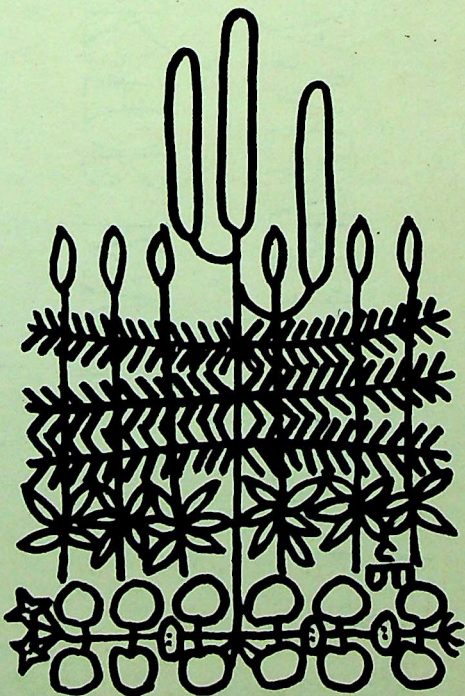
"First woman in Russia to be executed for a political act"

On Feb. 19, 1861, Tsar Alexander II abolished serfdom and along with it came some changes for long oppressed women. Universities began to open up. "Student" became synonymous with "revolutionary" and as the Tsar gave in a little they asked for more. In 1874, the "Chaykovtsi" was formed, a group of socialists, anarchists and student intellectuals eager to put theory into practice. In response to the intellectual radicals of the period, Bakunin and Marx, the students were beginning to leave the universities to work with the farmers (whom Bakunin said had a "special strength and knowledge" to transmit to their privileged intellectual comrades). Perovskaya was a leading member of the "Chaykovtsi;" "tenacious, silent, fearless and self-possessed, the comrades submitted to her strong will, her experience, and her acknowledged authority in the most important undertakings."¹

At the university, she was arrested for advocating social revolution among villagers with whom she was working as a teacher and health organizer; she was then sent to Siberia but escaped on the way and returned to St. Petersburg to continue her work.

On May 1, 1881, Tsar Alexander II was assassinated on her order. She had brought the bomb to the spot, prepared and planned the action and gave the decisive order at the right moment. Sophia was arrested and hanged for this political act by those whose purposes it foiled, and revered as a martyr by those thousands it liberated. She was 28 years old.

¹Halle, Fannina, WOMEN IN SOVIET RUSSIA Viking Press, NY, 1933, p. 56-57.



**
 ROSA BONHEUR (1822-1899)

Artist

Rosa was considered "incorrigible" and "indifferent to appearances and conventions" by her family, to whom these were distinctly negative characteristics. Her father tried to make her a dressmaker, and sent her off to a seminary to acquire "feminine virtues;" but she was committed, even as a child, to painting: "I refused formally to learn to read, but before I was four years old I already had a passion for drawing, and I covered the white-washed walls as high as I could reach with my shapeless sketches."¹ She knew what she wanted and at 13, her artist father agreed to teach her to paint. She made clay models and dissected dead animals to learn bone structure and musculature. This passionate interest in animals led her to slaughter houses and stables, and she adopted masculine dress in order to come and go as she pleased in comfort, dressed in a way that suited her vision of herself. She never bothered to return to women's clothes, and in 1857, the Secretary General of France issued a permit which allowed her to dress as a man, legally! At the age of 19 (1841) she began exhibiting in Paris and for the next seven years exhibited both paintings and sculpture. They sold so well she could afford to travel all over France, observing and sketching animals. In 1848, when her father died, she set up housekeeping with an artist, Nathalie Micas, and they were never again parted until Nathalie's death, thirty years later. During this time she completed her change to masculine appearance by cutting her hair short. She had transformed herself so completely that during the last time she was wearing a skirt, she was arrested for female impersonation!

At 31 her picture "Horse Fair" was sold for \$8000 and she was wealthy enough to buy a chateau where she and Nathalie tended an ever-enlarging menagerie of sheep, goats, deer, gazelles, horses, cows, dogs, lions, boars, monkeys, parakeets, ponies from Iceland and mustangs from America and none in cages! During the Franco-Prussian war in 1870, she led a posse of "irregular guerrillas" made up of "poachers, wood-cutters, etc...." and opened her house to all French. Damon, Gene & Stuart Lee, "Lesbian Artist: Rosa Bonheur" THE LADDER, Vol. 6, No. 2, Nov. 1961, p. 9-10.



PEACE or Illusion?
 for info on The Peace Movement
 contact The American Friends
Service Committee, 2160 Lake St.
San Francisco. 415-752-7766.
 At press time we learned that
 The Coral Sea is scheduled to
 sail from Alameda Naval
 Air Station March 9 ♀

WOMEN FOR PEACE

Despite a cease-fire in Vietnam, the Nixon administration has requested approximately an \$8 billion increase in the military budget for 1973. Women For Peace proposes a national campaign to reverse the unlimited, unquestioned expansion of the military. While more money goes for death, there have been many recent cutbacks in areas of long-neglected needs - childcare, education, housing, welfare, nutrition, job training, etc. We women know only too well what this "starvation" means - fewer opportunities for changing our lives and for self-determination.

Action in the Bay Area will be working with community groups, especially women, to hear your ideas for effective action for educating the public and for political action. Call the Women's Peace Office (863-7146) weekdays or Karen Callahan (467-7040). (from S.F. Women's Newsletter)



I want to be a writer, an actress, a poetess, leader of causes, pioneer of women, founder of new freedoms. I want to be all of these things and more. But, alas, it's such a burden, a wearisome task to take on that I cannot even begin. And, so, I am left with my thoughts and overwhelming desires. I could burst out like an erupting volcano that has held back its rushing lava for over a quarter of a century. Life can be so meaningful and so exciting if I knew how to begin this great growth. Just wanting and dreaming isn't enough -- or maybe it is enough -- to begin with -- perhaps more than many individuals will ever feel or achieve. (Yes, if I take the premise that this is a beginning - a grand beginning to what can be.) But, for now, I must take pride in my ability to dare to want -- to find some direction, even if that direction may be a million different directions. It is a step toward something -- it is wanting. And if this wanting lasts only a day, an hour, a brief moment -- I have wanted and felt good about it.

I must realize that for me wanting is still a new experience -- an experiment with myself. I have always been tempered by my fears imposed upon me as a woman -- I am still fighting and may always be fighting those pre-established rules laid down by my ancestors and my heritage. I have many roles to fill -- many that I want to shed, but am not certain if I am on steady enough ground to make it. Who shall I be? Child, wife, mother, mistress, career-girl, dependent, independent, helpless, strong, soft, sexy, cunning or clever. Wow, those are some set of choices that have been given me -- or shall I say, that I have given myself!

I am, with many sisters, facing new choices. It can be an anxious experience and an exciting one. I am justified by my occasional fears and frustrations. But, most important of all, I am not alone in them.

Stephanie Miller

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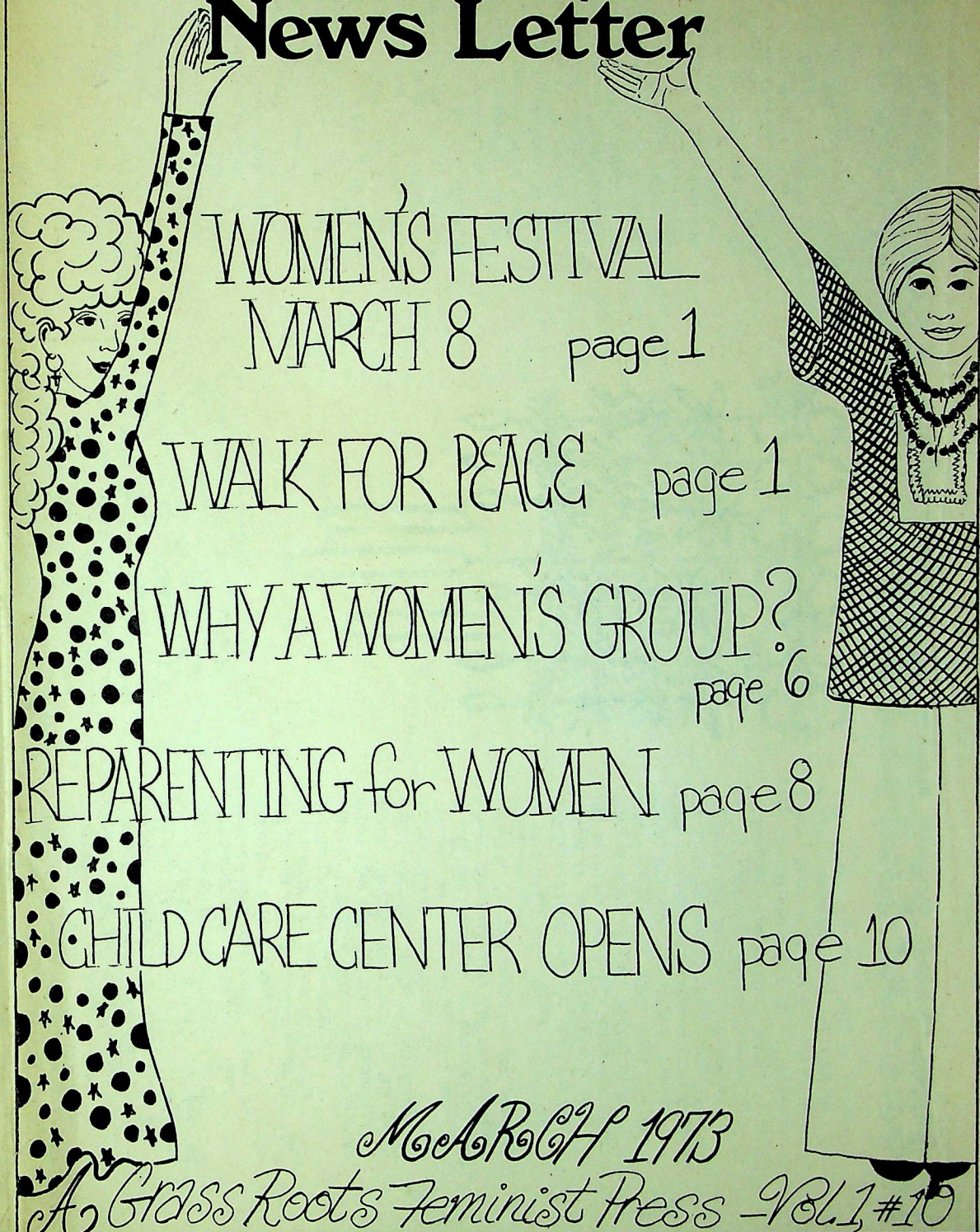
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McAUGH 1973

A Grass Roots Feminist Press - Vol. 1, #10

marin
women's
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letter ♀

March 13, 73

just read of the International Feminist Collective in the February. March issue of "off our Backs". we would like to know if you have a story written about yourselves which we may print.

we have been very interested in enlarging our viewpoint of the feminist world and sometimes feel very isolated here.

Do you have a publication(s) that we might exchange with?

we have been printing nearly 1 year. Our first issue was mimeographed & then we changed to photo-offset doing all aspects ourselves. This issue (March) was our second month in newsprint.

marin
women's
news
letter ♀

and altering the world to fit ~~of~~ our consciousness must grow and come from a larger pool of resources. For this reason, we hope that you can send us what you can of your knowledge.

together we'll grow,

Valerie

Marin Womens Newsletter

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