



# Rubyfruit A LESBIAN COMMUNIQUE Teacher



Vol. 1 ISSUE 2

Box 949 FELTON CA. 95018

MARCH 1, 1976



## LESBIAN COEXPLORATION

DONATES thirty dollars to  
TEACHER. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

## OUR HERSTORY: PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE

(This is a rewrite of an article, rather than a reprint, since I didn't have time to get an OK from the author. However, I extend acknowledgement and hugs to Amy Kesselman, whose articles "Women vs the Centennial Celebration of the American Revolution" appeared in "A Woman's Place Newsletter" in Portland, Oregon.)

We've all heard that history repeats itself, and in this 200th year of our country, we're hearing a lot about the men who made this country what it is today. All glorious. All brave, courageous, and bold. Blah blahblah

We've heard little or nothing about the HERSTORY of our nation--natch. And no wonder, since it would hardly behoove our fearless leader to pass on information such as the following.

In 1876, as today, there was preparation for a grand centennial celebration. And in 1876, as today, people questioned the appropriateness of a celebration. Celebration of what? liberty? freedom? equality? Celebration for who? racial minorities? people whose religious beliefs differed from the "norm"? homosexuals? WOMYN???

Here, herstory repeats herself. In May, 1876, the National Women's Suffrage Association resolved:

Whereas, the men of 1776 rebelled against a government which did not claim to be "of the people," but on the contrary, upheld the divine right of kings; and

Whereas, the women of this nation today, under a government "of the people" in an infinitely greater degree are suffering all the wrongs which led to the war of revolution; and

Whereas, the oppression is all the more keenly felt because our masters, instead of dwelling in a foreign land, are our husbands, our fathers, our brothers, and our sons; therefore

Resolved, that the women of this nation in 1876, have greater cause for discontent, rebellion, and revolution than the men of 1776.

Festivities were to be held in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July. The NWSA requested a chance to present a women's declaration of rights and 50 seats at the celebration. They were denied. They received an invitation for four.

At this point, our foremothers "determined to place on record for their daughters of 1976 the fact that their mothers of 1876 had asserted their equality of rights and impeached\*the government of the day for its injustice towards women."

On July 4th, the four delegates from the NWSA took a hand-written copy of the Women's Declaration of Rights to Independence Square. They waited till the Declaration of Independence had been read, then marched to the stage, handed their document to the master of ceremonies, and distributed copies to the audience while the m.c., who had denied their original request, futilely attempted to regain control. They proceeded to read their declaration, which concluded as follows:

"And now, at the close of a hundred years, as the hour hand of the great clock that marks the centuries points to 1876, we declare our faith in the principles of self government; our full equality with man in natural rights; that woman was made first for her own happiness, with the absolute right to herself--to all the opportunities and advantages life affords for her complete development; and we deny that dogma of the centuries, incorporated in the codes of all nations--that woman

Was made for man--her best interests, in all cases, to be sacrificed to his will. We ask of our rulers at this hour no special favors, no special privileges, no special legislation. We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States be guaranteed to us and our daughters, forever."

So Sisters, Mothers, Daughters, let us live our revolution again. And again. And Again. For as long as it takes. And may the goddesses smile on us in our struggles, so that in 2076, no woman will be writing of the same thing I am. May she be writing of how we, her foremothers and all the womyn before us, finally won our revolution.

In love and anger,  
Ronnie

\*\*\*\*\*

### CABRILLO WOMYN'S WEEK

Cabrillo College is sponsoring a celebration of womyn starting March 8 (International Womyn's Day) through March 12. There are information posters (purple) around town that will turn you on to the daily activities; there are some additions and changes:

Tuesday morning: panel presentation by Chicanas of the community; also, three womyn conga players.

Thursday night: Instead of video "Sex Problems of Womyn" there is a panel discussion on "Masturbation" with audio/visual aids.

Friday night: Entertainment by more local womyn musicians than advertised.

For further information regarding these changes, contact Cabrillo Womyn's Center for a final word: 425-6249

See you there!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Sisters,

The Rubyfruit Reader Collective now consists of six womyn. We've decided to limit our collective to eight active, committed members. We hold open meetings every Friday morning at 10:00 at the Catalyst. Feel free to show up on time. We don't intend to write the entire Reader by any means--we want to facilitate an open forum for lesbians. We want to hear from you. Write it, draw it, create it, and send it to us!! RUBYFRUIT READER/P.O. BOX 949/FELTON, CAL./95018/335-3803  
Deadline for the next issue is March 17.

We're in the process of defining/refining our editorial policy, and for now we are printing all items as received. We invite your response to articles and your input regarding our structure and policy.

Love & Strength,

the publishers

000000  
+++++

## Support Your Local Co-Op

The inspiration for this series of articles came from the conviction that our Lesbian bodies, individually and collectively, are the basic territories of revolution. This manifests itself in many different ways: 1) not altering our bodies chemically or mechanically in order to have sexual relationships with men; 2) not supporting the male-medical hierarchy; 3) learning self-defense to avoid being a victim, etc. But the practice of discarding old lifestyles often stops in the kitchen, and this oversight can have serious implications.

Any business that addresses itself to our basic bodily functions has a potential customer in every human being. The same businessmen who brought you Sex as a marketable commodity found a goldmine in the multi-million dollar food business. Americans sacrificed personal over-seeing of the quality of the substances they consume for the sake of convenience, longer shelf life, higher appetite appeal, and ease in eating, e.g. bread that melts in your mouth and slides through your system.

There's so much vital information to be shared about sound nutritional practices, that it's difficult to isolate one topic of focus for this first episode. I hope others are encouraged to submit articles on their interests, insights, and experiences.k

"Natural foods and organic cooking" is a well-worn topic in Santa Cruz, being both a topic of humor and a great opportunity; other areas don't have the nutritional resources of co-operatives that this area offers. These places are food for your politics as well as your body. The orientation isn't just profit--ecologically sound practices are endorsed and observed, and the workers have a large part in what happens.

It's no exaggeration to compare a super-market to a factory outlet... Next time you go in one, if there need be a next time, look around you. How much of the food can you actually see, or can you just read about it, and take their word for it? The sum total of all the preservatives in one store could embalm our entire community. Think of the advertising, coupons, and gimmicks used to lure customers into the store.

Listen to the "musick" played to anesthetize you as you spend a fortune. Think of the waste in paper, metal, and plastic resulting from the over-packaging.

If something is claimed to be enriched, they've probably added back four of the 32 nutrients that were stripped in pulverizing, filtering, heating, bleaching, coloring, dehydrating, and compressing the product. If eggs are only 70 cents a dozen, it may be because they've developed a more powerful hormone or antibiotic to add to the chicken feed that goes into the chicken's cubicle on a conveyor belt.

At the co-op you might have to take your own containers for honey and peanut butter, but at least what you're obtaining isn't plastic also. You'll also have to open the door with your hands rather than your feet. Very likely, the task of actually chewing what you buy there will also be added to your list of responsibilities. But when you leave you'll feel more like you've just met some really nice people and less like someone's experiment. You can even put up a flyer or a notice there if you want. The divorce from the super market isn't really that hard to make, as you can always go back to cash checks or

buy toilet paper.

For many, these are concepts upon which we are already basing our choices. The reiteration may be necessary for those of us who, for convenience sake, sometimes tend to backslide. Advocating an alternative to the super market seemed a logical place to start this stream of nutritional consciousness. Even if you don't know a lot about nutrition, there just ins't much there that can hurt you. In the meantime, I'll be scratching out analyses of vegetarianism, refined sugar, food companies and processing in general, medecines and drug companies, conditioning, etc. These articles are an empowering learning process for me as well as an affectionate offering to sisters who say that their bodies or other women's bodies are important to them, but put off learning and acting on those statements because they're just too busy or might not want to make the effort. Anyway, just keep chanting "You Are What You Eat" and take these humble efforts with a grain of kelp.

Love,  
Suzanne

COMING UP NEXT: You don't sleep with animals, so why eat them?

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DON'T FENCE ME IN

There is little or no place for ex-convicts in this society. Their lives seem to be already destined for them and the attitude of "once a convict, always a convict" keeps them from getting even a chance to prove otherwise. What some people in Santa Cruz are concerned in doing is starting a Parolee Support Group to help these people re-establish themselves in society. Parolees need friends and moral support. They also need help in finding housing and jobs. By being in a PSG, you could help by being a friend, providing transportation, temporary housing, helping job hunt, providing food, or pooling resources with other people to help a parolee make it. If you're interested, contact Rebecca Hoff at 423-2605 after 6pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DYKES UNLIMITED

Several weeks ago, the first Dyke Center meeting was held, the purpose to establish whether a center was feasible in Santa Cruz. There was much enthusiasm at that meeting. However, the second meeting, held two weeks later, had a much different aire about it. The enthusiasm was still there, but in a more concrete form. There are about six womyn involved in the group, we're now referring to ourselves as DYKES UNLIMITED, and we feel like we're fonna accomplish something in the way of a center. However, we're not rushing into anything. We are trying to establish a Hotline for Lesbians coming into the community (providing info about housing, resources, skills, etc.) and for Lesbians already in the community (a possible tie-line to THE CITY), events in the community, and anything else anyone thinks should be included.

DYKES UNLIMITED is holding a Benefit Breakfast this Sunday, February 29, from 10 am till noon. We need your support (need I say More?) so, we're hoping to see you all there.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR DEE QUEER:

Dear Queer,

my lover is giving me a lot of flak because she says i'm not political enough. She seems to think I'm supposed to go out and join a bunch of heavy womyn's groups and learn to talk like them. But I don't want to!

signed,  
Fed Up

Dear Up There,

it seems to me that the most basic political principle of all is the right to be, and I seriously doubt your lover's politics if she doesn't see that. So, Fed, sounds to me like you're more PC than she.

Hang in there,  
D.Q.

Dear Queer,

my mother will be coming out from Tucson soon and I am seriously trying to get up the courage to tell her I'm gay. She has had a lot to deal with (problems in the family) and i hate to add one more to her load, but I can't keep up this lie of being straight anylonger.

I want to come clean and try to make her understand. I need her to love and accept me as I really am. What is the best way to approach her with this?

Timorous in Tucson

Dear Timmy,

it sounds like you feel pretty uncomfortable about this whole situation. Your previous solutions were lying or evading and now you want to lay all the shit on your mother and let HER deal with it. Can't you be comfortable and be yourself in front of her without having to tell her who YOU go to bed with?

You say you need her love and acceptance, bet remember: there is no guarantee of that from anyone (except yourself).

Is it necessary to add one more problem to your mother's life? Maybe you're too caught up in your own needs/ego to be sensitive to what your mother's needs are. Even if you told your mother you were gay, would it change the way you relate? I mean, she'll stop asking you when you're getting married and you'll stop making faces and then it's back to the weather, right?

Well, since i assume you're going to tell her anyway, Timmy, why not waittill it comes up in normal (or abnormal, or even perverted, for that matter) flow of conversation? Awright awready, so you say the conversation never flows in that direction and you want a straight answer from me...write Dear Abby then, cause you'll never get a straight answer from

Dee Queer

(And keep those cards and letters coming in)

\*\*\*\*\*

"EVERY MAN I MEET WANTS TO PROTECT ME. CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT FROM"  
--Mae West--

\*\*\*an evening with jill johnston or what every mother's daughter's sister's lover being herself a daughter in rebellion should do in case of boredom with the revolution...

for those who came to see/hear their idealised jill johnston radical political lesbian dyke in seven league boots the evening was tense and disappointing, unless one stayed until about 10:45 when jill came down to an accessible level of communication and rapped with candor and sensitivity in the small group that remained.

NOTE:

jill johnston came as an artiste, crazed and illumined, she either alienated or amused her audience with streams and streams of consciousnesses; comments one womyn "she was trying to bore us" discourage those who could not appreciate her prose wanderings across the cosmos so that she could have her small group (paranoia) there was so dialectic the audience was simply an audience "star-tripping at its worst" but she delighted those who were willing to close their "politically-critical" eyes and take a ride and what a ride... back into the darkness ancestral projections and rejections sharing her past (and present) re-formed with non-patriarchal novel structures, exploring her anima (emma jung) animus and translating that exploration into revolutionary ways of structuring her mind, time and all kinds of relationships...i shall not however pretend an exposition of her position she doesn't sit still, slipping between dimensions (art/life) like a freed electron (a privileged class: artists: madwomyn who can translate themselves) but what did she say?

we are all orphans or bastards: all bastards or no bastards, male lineage/genealogy is each womyn's identity lost to a son, not ever really regained fulfilled or realized through motherhood. to be ourselves we must remain daughters and rebellious (lesbians?) at that, envisioning our own ancestors/ansisters and keeping in touch with their power by whatever means...her implications point towards a realized androgyny (because of no other word) clearly jill johnston in reading from her latest work "my father in america" has sharpened her focus, for the time has relaxed her stance in the face of blatant sexist class/race oppression, choosing to be in the world as a bearer of gay tidings and enlightenment, a bright-eyed athena looking for metis (goddess of wisdom) inside of her father zeus, bringing the darkness into light.

later in the evening this pink lipped greying lady spoke of her children and ancestors literary and otherwise, while others questioned the silence surrounding spirituality in the feminist movement and it today's movement is truly the beginnings of a lasting new culture...no one got her to talk about sexuality, except with a hand on her lover's thigh and a full toothed smile...jill johnston in translation: try Marmalade Me, Lesbian Nation, and esp. Gullible's Travels.

p.s.

\*\*\*\*\*

"After some of our sisters have done some research, we find that when the Christian era moved in and started destroying Sappha's image and they were afraid of her political power and trying to really down her, they changed her name. They put the "o" on the end of her name, which in the Greek language is the male pronunciation. Her real name was Sappha."

--Norma Stafford--

\*\*\*\*\*



# CALENDAR

- EVERY SUNDAY: KZSC/88.1/Womyn's Radio Collective/11am-1pm
- EVERY MONDAY: KZSC/88.1/Womyn's Radio Collective/7-10pm/Lesbian Soap Opera--7:30
- EVERY TUESDAY: WOMYN'S AIKIDO/Martial Arts Building--UCSC/9-10am/FREE  
Beginners welcomed & encouraged
- WOMYN'S NIGHT/Womyn's Coffeehouse/41st & Potrero/7:30-10:30
- EVERY THURSDAY: WOMYN'S AIKIDO/Kresge Town Hall--UCSC/5-6:15pm/FREE/  
LAGMU meeting/Fireside Lounge--Cabrillo College/7:30  
FEMINIST SUB-GROUP meeting/7pm/see below for details  
DYKES GO BOWLING/Surf Bowl/10:15pm/Ad for frr game in "Good Times"

## FEBRUARY

- Sun 29: BENEFIT PANCAKE BREAKFAST/115 E. Cliff/10am-noon/Adults \$1.50  
Kids 75 cents OR free childcare
- SWEET CHARIOT/Dance at Mona's/8pm/\$2.00

## MARCH

- Tues 2: KAREN "MAMMARY GLANDS"/Womyn's Coffeehouse
- Wed 3: CAROL/Womyn's Coffeehouse
- Thurs 4: LAGMU Potluck Dinner/7:30/followed by...Pat Smith & Diane Ramsey, singing & reading (respectively)
- FEMINIST SUB-GROUP/117 Anita St/Social & Pot Luck/7pm SHARP
- Sat 6: BONNIE RAITT/Benefit for Tom Hayden/SCCivic/8pm/\$5.00
- Tues 9: CYNTHIA WEST/Womyn's Coffeehouse
- Thurs 11: WOMYN'S MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION/Fireside Lounge/Noon/  
Kathy Quinn & Suzanne Gandy
- FEMINIST SUB-GROUP/321 National/Discussion on Socialist-Feminism led by Mary Howland
- Fri 12: WOMYN'S MUSIC/Student Center--Cabrillo/7:30/\$1.00 non-student
- Tues 16: KRIS CONDOS/Womyn's Coffeehouse
- Thurs 18: FEMINIST SUB-GROUP/Apt. G-10/UCSC/Presentation by Sally Wagner

