Women's Day Considered

By Carmen Vazquez

This March 8th is International Women's Day. Living in America, born in Puerto Rico and conditioned in Harlem, I don't know in my soul what International Women's Day means.


What are our names? How do we share with each other?

I remember my first International Women's Day "celebration." I went to Golden Gate Park only to find an Indianwoman. I lay in the sun, drank beer and bought presents. My attention wandered to a day meant to bring us together. Where are my sisters? Who have been killed? What has it done to knowing our names, with finding a way of knowing our stories and the stories of our mothers. And with finding a way of raging against the violence we are forced to feel. It means finding ways of understanding how all women in the world suffer the violence of rich white men. And then I think. Black women suffer from another, and white middle class women aren't the same as poor white trash and Jewish middle class isn't the same as Jewish working-class. And yet we feel it, we go back to not knowing in my soul what international Women's Day means -- for that matter, not knowing what the "Women's Movement" means.

"Revolution" is an old, big word. "Political" women use it to mean the overthrow of a society that structures and preserves itself on material and psychic violence. "Revolution" means a complete cycle of events, a complete and drastic change of any kind.

We women need a revolution. We need to find ways of changing ourselves, of not hating ourselves and each other, because all we can do is kill each other. We hold each other up inside our gut and kill ourselves. There's enough power in our discussions, our dreams; this much we can bring to the revolution. We women can learn to hate ourselves. We can learn to hate our mothers.

When my mother came to San Francisco it was too late for her in the eyes of others. I remember her that I had left my room alone with her. She took a bag, crossed a thousand miles over her anger and disappointment; in the same shoes, the degrees, in the same love she believed she would bring her son and daughter. After her 30 years of anger, I left her with me. She left me with me. We both grew tired of her lightning.
March 14
In San Francisco

Curtains Up!
on Images of Men
(See March 5.)

Douglas Dea's Comedy

special friends

Center for the Performing Arts
133 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

3/28

3/15

3/12

3/11

3/10

3/9

3/8

3/7

3/6

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3/1

Metropolitan Community Church - San Francisco gay men's issues every Sunday 11:30am.

Valerie's: A New Generation of Women's Art through the Ages. March 17th.

Suicide Prevention Workshop - Bernard Mogensen of Suicide Prevention addresses gays and lesbians.

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence on KQED TV.

International Women's Day Events occur in box at right center of calendar.

Gay Gay Men's Drop-In Rap, Mondays, 7:30pm at the Women's Bldg, SF. Info: 552-3045 (Walter Ems), 757-6629 (Barbara Bixby). Gay Latino Alliance gen'l mtg. 7:30pm. Last Wed of month at the Center, 2700 Bancroft (at College), San Francisco. Info: 391-0727.

St. Patrick's Day Party at Ollie's of Oakland. 3pm, 6pm-8:30pm.

Night of Queer's Choice: Gay culture exhibition, bar, Mardi Gras-style party, live music, 2nd floor of the Stonewall Gay Demo Club, 1st Mon of each month. Info: 863-1087.


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Breakfast Spring Registration...Classes about women. Class vouchers available. Call (415) 583-1890, ext. 102. or write to: 10 Barklund Rd (College), Berkeley, CA 94704.

Share My Self-Defense Workshop... Sunday 2pm at Center, 3158A Mission, SF. $5.

SHI's Introductory w/4-Wheel Drive, 1-5pm, 2504 Union St. SF. (707) 555-6789.

Feminist Tour of a Pornography District... Every Sun. 2pm at Center, 3158A Mission, SF. $5.

Lesbian Job Harassment: Denise Koons speaks of her battle to be hired as deputy sheriff in Contra Costa County. 7:30pm. at the Center, 2700 Bancroft (at College), Berkeley, CA. Info: 626-1163.


Divine Madness (Bette Midler) directed by the revered directing genius at the Renaissance, 21st & Market, SF. Info: 596-8517.

March 18, 1981 - 50 years before... "Homotography," a pornographic film documenting gay/lesbian police in San Francisco. A documentary of the political right. Unitarian community. Slideshow, discussion, special programs.

In Box: We dream of the future, a night of mummers, Sunday, 6pm-2am (all day) at El Rio, 3158A Mission, SF. No cover.

The Caring Coterie, non-fee social org for men & women in a self-supporting egalitarian community. Slideshow, discussion, special programs.

Teenage Suicide: Fact and Fancy - Bernard Mayas of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights. 7:30pm. at the Center, 2700 Bancroft (at College), Berkeley, CA. Info: 626-1163.

The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant. 8pm, KQED TV (Ch. 9). Repeats March 21, 1981.

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Genet's 'The Maids' Opens at the Goodman

Thea Von Harbou revises a European nondescript story to create an evening of staged reading. Opening night

Women's Day...

(Continued from front page)

Various configurations of leaves in the pots.

The coffee shop, where John Kyper, M. J. Lallo, David Lamble, Maureen Madsen. Rink, Roland Schembari (co­ noting to us so that they reach us

We want to list events in the calendar should mail

Performers, clubs, individuals or groups who

IN ANY OF OUR EASY-TO-FIND LOCATIONS ON THE MAP

WE CAME TO THE EXOTIC EAST BAY . . .

WE'RE EASY . . . TO FIND, EASY PARKING, EASY TO ENJOY! THE PERFECT '10' (PLUS ONE) EAST BAY BARS AND RESTAURANTS OFFERING FRIENDLY SERVICE AND CATERING TO THE ENTIRE FAMILY. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE DINNER, DROP IN ANY OF OUR EASY-TO-FIND LOCATIONS ON THE MAP . . . IN FACT, MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP, WE'RE WORTH IT!

Gays & Defense...

(Continued from front page)

classes, supports victims, and organizes MACF-certification classes for the community.

During March, CUW will host four MACF classes: Thursdays, 7pm, on the 3rd and the 17th; and Saturdays, 10am and the 21st. All classes are at 117 Diamond Street, and the fee is $3 ($2 which pays for the class, the certification of training, California license and a MACF completed. Registration should be mailed to CUW, PO Box 1440, San Francisco, Calif. Registration can also be paid at the door.

Editor's Note: We would appreciate information on other antigay violence and self defense groups. Either send any information to us at Coming Up, 198 17th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94117 or call us at 431-7433.

Women's Day is proudly of my commitment to expressing my truth. That she lives too.

My mother and I have had a small revolution. If International Women's Day is to mean anything, it ought to be a time to collectively focus on something more toward utility. It should be a statement of our commitments to revolution — to a complete and drastic change in a society that institutionalizes women as the property of men.

We must recognize that unless we — lesbian and heterosexual women, housewives, secretaries, bus-drivers and childcare workers — commit ourselves to supporting each other, our agencies and dreams, there won't be a Women's Movement.

My mother and I have had a small revolution in our lives. For her sake and mine and my sister's, I will...