**Fighting Crones Battle Male Heroes**

Though society restricted women more and more, the old belief in female power was never fully abandoned. A heavily armed man might hesitate to offend or harm a woman of known powers, or any of her family. The witch's cultural influence was strong enough to form a significant breakwater to the incoming tide of patriarchy that had annually assigned all authority and privilege to the male, to the warlord, to the priest.

The conflict of powerful old women with heroes of war appears throughout the tales and sagas of barbarian Europe. The hag in many of these stories has the power of shape-shifting. Sometimes they transform themselves into young women or animals. The ancient witch-spinner Louhi uses powerful magic to fight muscular Lenninkainen in the Finnish national epic, the Kalevala. Russian Bogatyrs - male heroes of phenomenal strength - confront the Baba Yagas and these ancient witch-grandmothers sometimes defeat them. In Irish tradition, the Hag of Ballybeg fights the undefeated warrior CuChullain and binds him, or his dogs, with one of her hairs.

**1984 AND ANCIENT CURSES**

The upcoming Presidential election brings to mind the ancient Chinese curse that goes: "May you live in interesting times!" The prospect of another four years of Reagan, et al, unchanged by a second term, is indeed a chilling one. It's an important and historical election for many reasons, among them being an electorate that seems to be splitting by gender. Men and women seem to have very different takes on the candidates' images, to say nothing of the values they represent. A subtle beginning, perhaps, of a confrontation that might be very serious one in four years' time.

The media say that Reagan could be defeated by an unexpectedly large turnout of voters who seldom vote and some have called the election our "choice between different visions of the future." The Republicans claim that California in the bag, counting the candidates' images, to say no-

**news & notes**

**Continued on page 3**

**Notes & News**

Received lots of really good new titles recently--something for almost everyone...here are just a few:

- **AT SEVENTY** $15.95, Carol Cassell. The author is president of the American Singer (author of Sampson's Deal) isn't the only one who needs no introduction; her family. The witch's cultural influence was strong enough to form a significant breakwater to the incoming tide of patriarchy that had annually assigned all authority and privilege to the male, to the warlord, to the priest.

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The Scots told many parallel tales about the glaistig, who often took the guise of an old woman. The glaistig has numerous folkloric confrontations with hunters in her turf, the hags in many of these stories avoid taking on the glaistig, but some hounds sprang at her. The hag pulls a grey hair from her head and tells the hunter to tie them on the dog. If the man is smart he uses his garter instead. The glaistig goes after him the minute the dogs are tied up, saying, "Lighten hair!" The hunter replies, "Loosen garter," and

sets the dogs on her while the glaistig backs out the door. They pursue her like a deer but she turns and fends. The hounds come back mangled and plucked clean of hair.

Without the dogs and their own covering, they can't compete in combat with the glaistig. In other stories she appears at the door of a house where hunters and gardeners are gathered around a fire, pressing them to let her dry herself in the warmth. She hunters down and begins to swell in size. As she grows the glaistig turns aggressive. She demands snuff from one of the hunters, if the man is not canny enough to offer it on the point of his dirk, she jumps him and begins to choke him.

In Denmark and Norway folk legend and fairy tales of hags sometimes are called trolls or giantesses, but they have many similarities to the Celtic cailleachan and the crones of French magalithic tradition. All of these old women have long hanging breasts which they use to cover their shoulders when pursuing their enemies.

The troll women were thought to feel special repugnance for priests and the church. Irefina was displeased when he discovered the Church's influence on her people. She moved her home, leaving her husband behind, so that she would not have to look on the new order of things. She built a hall under a moor which came to be called Irefina's booths. The hag of Mjoa-Firth drew priests to her and deformed them. Or so said the clergy. Six men set a trap for her and lay in wait. She leaped prodigiously and kicked a huge hole in the churchyard wall, shouting, "Stand thou never!" and escaped. People said that the wall was never firm since then. Similar tales were told in Ireland, of women who tried to prevent the building of churches. - Max Dashu

**MAMA BEARS IS ONE YEAR OLD**

and thriving! Celebrate with us on Sunday, November 4, beginning at 2 pm. See entry in Calendar for details.
The first contact: Sarah rings the bell of the townhouse, inquiring about John who had come to her clinic. Miriam replies he's gone to Switzerland (he's been referred to a cardiologist). Miriam eyes regarding, that night Sarah leaves to walk distantly the streets of Manhattan. A montage juxtaposes scenes of Sarah's walking, a heavy truck speeding through the streets, and a man conditioned on a police officer. Sarah crosses the street, the truck bears down, Miriam holds the paper with Sarah's phone number to her heart, the truck brakes, Sarah is safe, Miriam smiles, and she is nonchalant. That night Sarah wakes to find tears streaming down her face. Wide awake, eyes staring at the darkness, she seems a caged animal.

The humbling lesson to learn is to ring the bell. It is an upturned version of Patti Smith's GLORIA: "Oh she looks so good/Oh she looks so fine/And I've got this crazy feelin'/I'm gonna uh uh make her mine/Here she comes walking in the the street/Her my door...Sarah rings the bell. "I don't know why I'm here." She crosses over the bridge into the mystical magical land.

It is by the eyes, and language, that Miriam attracts and empowers love. The eyes. We all know the eyes.

Winding their way through the labyrinth of rooms, a scene set in pale shadow, and they are the last two steps old, "Miriam's lover John says, "Two thousand years, and then yet another loss is added to the losses of the endless future..."

As the dead prey upon us, they are the dead in themselves.

- Charles Olson, "AS THE DEAD PREY UPON US"

As a paradigm of the human condition, the Vampire Legends lead to questions of the nature of identity and the essence of love. The psychologies of the persistence and popularity of the vampire genre are too many and complex to explore here; three remarkable works of the last few years are considered for these questions, the year of evolution, the year of the vampire, the year of the vampire. THE VAMPIRE TAPESTRY, Suzzi McKee Charnas, 1980. Edward Lewis Weiland alternates between centuries-long hibernations and waking periods when he adapts to the civilization that finds him around. Except for language and certain skills, such as: how to make a flint knife, he forgets each past lifetime. He thinks of himself as distinct from the human species, his resemblance to human form too fragile to last long in the concept of the contem­porary college in charge of a sleep-study lab, which comfortably provides him an identity and access to food. He slips an amount equal to a blood transfusion from a temporarily unharmed donor. A woman penetrates his disguise, sending him into flight.

The Count de Saint-Germain Series, 6 books by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, 1977-1980. He is the seductive and generous vampire of France, Rappaczy, the seductive and generous vampire of France. In culture, urban, wealthy, elegant, charming, and 4,000 years old. He draws his sustenance while love-making and he loves generously; moreover, he is greatly compassionate of heart. He wears the soil of his native earth in his shoes.

The HUNGER, a film directed by Tony Scott, 1983, was adapted from the 1981 book (THE HUNGER) and ignoring their titles, the vampire in each works is cultured, urban, wealthy, elegant, charming, and 4,000 years old. He draws his sustenance while love-making and he loves generously; moreover, he is greatly compassionate of heart. He wears the soil of his native earth in his shoes.

Weiland (THE VAMPIRE TAPESTRY): "I look like human beings - I can pass for one of them. I must drink their blood for sustenance; thus I cannot go off by myself and ignore their history. Preying on them insures an outlaw status that prevents me from revealing myself to them.

The process of survival depends on intelligence, cunning, and planning. A lifetime that extends over centuries requires adaptations to changes in language, mores and laws, and the ability to wear many guises in order to blend into the human society. Miriam's phrase, an "ancient find", a witness to the history of the world.

Sarah, (from the book): "Her tragic human companions were her only comfort. According to the laws of the world of Saint-Germain, when Ragoczy's great leader, the Count de Saint-Germain, was sent to the city to be killed in battle, the Count's Voice is transformed into a 'lair' or 'haunt' of an animal. It developed into 'personal identity', and later Aristotle borrowed it for his term 'Ethics'.

The Vampiric Ethos of Miriam and Ragoczy includes a magnified capacity for suffering, a capacity to feel the pain of all humans. Miriam's therapist Floria notes: "Stunned to find him positively lyrical and romantic. The contemporary vampire is in the process of not only feeling empathy with humanity, but also of acquiring human character.

Weyland fears becoming vulnerable to the very species he must think of as "monsters." Each of the vampires in these works represents a different stage of an evolving ethos. The contemporary vampire is in the process of not only feeling empathy with humanity, but also of acquiring human character.

Sarah's phone number to her heart, the truck brakes, Sarah is safe, Miriam holds the paper with Sarah's phone number to her heart, the truck brakes, Sarah is safe, Miriam smiles, and she is nonchalant. That night Sarah wakes to find tears streaming down her face. Wide awake, eyes staring at the darkness, she seems a caged animal.

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As the dead prey upon us, they are the dead in themselves. They could not conceive of the loneliness that drove her to transform them, to create her own image within them. "Like Rappaczy, she must reach out from the solitude of species. She achieves companionship and love for two or three humans, but no other loss is added to the losses of the endless past and the endless future."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Linda Tillery
Making New Album

Linda Tillery is in the process of preparing to make a new album, good news indeed for all of us whose lives have been enriched by her music over the years. Linda has sung, played, taught, and produced, simply encouraged so much of 'our' music while, at the same time, she was evolving into a highly respected musician in the world at large. She has, in fact, just won the jazz award (Jammie) for 'Best Female Bay Area Vocalist', the second year in a row.

The album is currently at that stage called 'raising the money' (which one does independently these days, in order to retain control, creative and mental freedom), about two-thirds of which has been raised already. As with many contemporary albums, this money is being raised by offering shares to individual investors. In this case Tull is using a Limited Partnership Co-ordinator) at (212) 677-J901. For Information, write:

or call Barbara Edwards (Fundraising Co-ordinator) at (212) 677-J901.

For Information, write:

If you like to read about language (verbal & body) & women banding together against patriarchy—plus its a great read. DAW paperback. $3.50

Those of you who live in Oakland got a letter recently from the Oakland Block Organizing Committee. Some of our customers said they wanted to answer it, but felt funny about not knowing the names of any of the women involved with it. Additionally, some women may have wondered if we were giving our mailing list out to other groups or individuals. This answer is no. No one but Mama Bears has access to our mailing list. However, we will allow occasional copying of names and addresses in envelopes that go directly into the mail, under our supervision. Seems like a good way to meet the needs of producers while helping the flow of pertinent information. The women starting the Oakland Block Organizing Committee, some of whom are known personally to us, are: Renee Crowley, who works in the landscaping field and is a long-time activist with environmental issues; Rosie Rock, a technical writer for a utilities company and former non-activist; Karen Ryer, downtown Oakland attorney; Patricia Sargent, restaurant consultant and new American citizen; Ronia Robinson, computer specialist and acoustician at large; and Jean Paulin, East Bay registered nurse.

All are lesbians and Oakland residents, who have observed the lack of response to women's issues, particularly lesbian issues.

It's fitting that our Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Classes for Women. Our philosophy is that if you've got a Ham M'Bears Evening Cl...
SAT OCT 27
AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH GINGEROSE
Over the months we heard the name Gingerose from various women—"they're really great! Try to get them here!" Gingerose is two sisters, Ginger and Rose, who sing and play guitar, and play their own (very good) songs and popular favorites. They're heart-warming and funny, and carry on like sisters do...and if you go for romance they know how to break your heart.
8 PM women only $3

SUN OCT 28
RECEPTION WITH SONIA JOHNSON
Sonia Johnson burst on the public scene several years ago when her struggle with the Mormon Church caught everyone's attention...since then she has been a loud, clear, sane voice heard around the land, from the ERA struggle to woman's peace camp activities. Ms. Johnson is blazing her way along the feminist spiritual path...same as many of us...
Ms. Johnson will be in the East Bay: Sat, Nov 27 (that's yesterday) at Mills, 2 pm, and here at Mama Bears today at 10:30 am.
Mama Bears is honored to hold this reception for Sonia, and hope as many of you as possible can drop by to meet her: there is no substitute for face to face encounters with each other. A lot of information gets transmitted.
10:30 AM-12:00 Noon, reception-buffet donation requested

MON OCT 29
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

TUES OCT 30
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

WED OCT 31
HALLOWE'EN—WITCHES NEW YEAR CELEBRATION—PUMPKIN MASK CARVING
You bring your pumpkin and we'll provide the candles...music for the event provided by Max Dhau. There will be a Sagging of the Four Corners ritual.
8 PM women only

NOTES & NEWS (CONT')

battle to resist being expelled from the Mormon Church catapulted her into the headlines and changed her life, turning her into a full-time woman's movement organizer. As she immersed herself in the E.R.A. struggle with M.O.W., including a hunger strike that almost won to her recently has been active in the women's peace camps.
Sonia is running for president on the Citizen's Party ticket, and if this were not such a crucial election we'd be voting for her. But something amazing and unexpected happened this year; and since there's a real chance to get elected, let's go for it. Interestingly enough, although Sonia's running for president, her advice in the last paragraph of a 1983 speech to women is to dream:
"...the dream will tell us what to do next. As we begin to see that future in detail, in beautiful gorgeous detail, and begin to live in it by loving ourselves and others more, then our dream is going to tell us what to do next. There isn't any other way to figure out what to do next, other than that, that we can see. That's the way revolutions, true revolutions, happen.
Now I don't know if we've ever seen a true revolution; we may be the first one, really, that we'll ever have made in history. This may be the first genuine revolution of the human spirit!"

FRI OCT 9
READING BY JESS'WELLS—AUTHOR OF: THE DRESS, THE CRY, AND A SHIRT WITH NO SEAMS
Jess will read her erotic lesbian fiction, including some new, unpublished pieces. Mama Bears has heard good things about this young writer...her fiction collection, THE DRESS, THE CRY, AND A SHIRT WITH NO SEAMS, is on sale here.
8 PM women only $2-4

THURS NOV 1
Woman-only socializing until 11 pm or later. Elaine Blake will be on hand to do mini astrology readings.

THURS NOV 7
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

THURS NOV 8
Woman-only socializing until 11 pm or later. Elaine Blake will be on hand to do mini astrology readings.

FRI NOV 2
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: SCORPIO—DISCUSSION BY ELAINE BLAKE
This month Elaine discusses Scorpio—a formidable sign...we know Scorpios and our watchers will be paying very close attention, especially since Pluto has just gone into Scorpio...sounds like tidal wave time on the way.
8 PM women only $3

SAT NOV 3
SAPPHO AND THE LESBIAN TRADITION—JUDY GRAHN READS FROM HER FORTHCOMING WORK
In a continuation of the work she started in Another Mother Tongue, Gay Words, Gay Words, Judy in this new book, THE HIGHEST APPLE, to be published soon by Spinsters Ink, examines lesbian history through the voices of its poets, and leads us and our senses into lesbian history and spiritual tradition.
A reception with Ms. Grahn follows the reading.
8 PM women only $5

SUN NOV 4
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

ELECTION NITE GATHER
VOTE NO ON PROP 11 TODAY
POLLS OPEN 7 AM TILL 8 PM
We'll, we voted today. This calendar item was written in late September, so no telling yet who'll win. As you know, the unexpected emergence of Geraldine Ferraro in the race certainly excited us all...so tonight will be either a celebration or a wake, as we watch the results come in on TV at Mama Bears. Bring your voting stub and get fifty cents off on any purchase...then put your stub in the raffle bag & you may win a prize.
7 PM until? women only

Mama Bears has new store
We open at 9 am Monday til 10 am on Saturdays, sundays.
We close at 7 pm, except and Saturdays, which we open until 11 pm or later.
"classes or events.
Sorea's events on other Calendar will tell you when.

THURS NOV 6
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

NEW STORE
Mama Bears
You can make reservations here.

FRI NOV 3
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7 PM until? women only

WED NOV 7
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

THURS NOV 8
Woman-only socializing until 11 pm or later. Elaine Blake will be on hand to do mini astrology readings.
MON NOV 12
WOMEN'S WRITING WORKSHOP
"TAUGHT BY JUDY GRAHN"

A prose and poetry writing workshop, given by Judy Graham, a superb craftswoman, theoretician, and historian. 6 Monday night sessions, beginning tonight (Nov. 12, 19, 26 & Dec. 3, 10, 17). To register, call Ms Graham at 223-4355, 7-10 pm, women only, $130.

TUES NOV 13
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

WED NOV 14
PAT BOND TEACHES: HOW TO PUT ON A ONE-WOMAN SHOW

Be a star! Pat Bond teaches. You can build a performance that will bring an audience to its feet—CHEERING. You will learn research techniques, performance techniques, and razzle-dazzle. To register, call Pat Bond at 536-9518. 8 sessions, Wednesdays and Sundays, 7-9 pm, starting tonight. (Nov. 11, 18, 21, 25, 28, and Dec. 2. 5. 9.) Women only. $150.

THRUS NOV 15
Woman-only socializing until 11 pm or later. Elaine Blake will be on hand to do mini astrology readings.

FRI NOV 16
SIXTH-YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE CRYSTAL Biz ON THE AVE

An evening celebration with Suzanne & Hilda, who planned 6 years of selling crystals on Telegraph Ave, and are now entering the 6th year. The evening will start with a meditation led by Vickie, and will include the divinatory use of crystals by Suzanne and Vickie to us, for us to plant to world peace. Suzanne will read from her forthcoming book a passage entitled Conversations With Touchstone, a Crystal. Four crystals weighing from 65 to 125 pounds will be on display. If you have crystal you 'can't use' anymore, bring them, and we'll trade crystal. If you want to, bring your favorite piece for sharing.

7 PM women only, potluck $2 donation

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Some important women's books printed in the last 15 years, which we would carry permanently in the New-Books section (The First Sex, for instance), are out of print. This is frustrating...because they are exactly the books that won't be considered when a new bookstore section is set up. So, when we do get hold of them, we stash them. As soon as we get a lockable glassfront bookcase and figure out where to put it, such books will go on display. You will be able to read them at Mama Bears (we'll charge a small-change fee) but not take them out. Any additional copies of such books will go on sale in the Used Books section. Keeping the important books available is our high priority.

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INCIDENTALLY, teachers and students...we're about ready to provide book-order service for your classes. Interested? Get in touch.

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SUN NOV 18
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Woman-centered worship services with celebrant-pastor Paula Gunn Allen. (See entry for Sunday, Nov. 11.)

10:30 AM women only-

THE MOTHERPLUCKERS MONTHLY JAM

You are invited to attend and perform with THE MOTHERPLUCKERS in their jam session, which takes place at Mama Bears every third Sunday afternoon. Bluegrass, country-western, old-timey, folk...it's a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and we're honored that The Motherpluckers have chosen Mama Bears to be their home.

3-6 PM $2 donation

MON NOV 19
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

TUES NOV 20
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

WED NOV 21
OPEN FROM 9 AM UNTIL 7 PM

THRUS NOV 22
Thanksgiving of course falls on Thursday (Nov 22) which is always woman's socializing night at Mama Bears. So we will be open until 11 pm or later. Those of us working at Mama Bears that late afternoon-evening will have our turkey dinner there...stop by and visit if you've a mind to, if you can move.

FRI NOV 23
PALMISTRY WORKSHOP
"GIVEN BY HERTHA"

HERTHA was in town for a week a couple of months ago doing palmistry readings, and accepted our invitation to come to Mama Bears and do a palmistry workshop. A good opportunity to explore this area of knowledge.

6 PM women only $2-4
POSITIVE POSITIONING

WISHCRAFT, HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT, by Barbara Sher with Annie Goettel, Viking Press, 1982, ($12.95)

Reading WISHCRAFT is an intimate yet casual experience. Barbara Sher's style allows you to see the eraser marks from the first draft, providing an experience in which to learn about yourself in a setting as comfortable as your sister's living room.

Ms. Sher offers the reader an earth-mother type of compassion and logic. She convinces you that she too knows what I thought I should be.

In the second half, a sort of how not to do it book, Ms. Sher stresses the importance of finding resources to help you get what you want, and generously supplies you with many names, ideas and starting points. She stubbornly insists that any dream can become reality, if you truly want it, make room in your life to pursue it, and are willing to refine your goal plan, in respect to the time you'll take, with a rate that is both appropriate for acquiring the goal, as well as being what you can handle.

The authors address our closet fears, fear of failure, fear of success, fear of trying, with humor and compassion.

WISHCRAFT is good entertainment. Moreover, it actually convinced me that I could reach for my dreams and that I could attain them. The authors overcame my resistance by patiently and persistently proving that the book was not a fraud, that it isn't a waste of time to pursue what I know to be unattainable dreams, and all such arguments. To my delight, I learned more about myself, that my dreams can be attainable, and gained a helping hand on my way.

I've recommended WISHCRAFT to all my friends. It is not often that a book becomes available that is so universal as well as so important to the potential quality of our own lives. In rating the book, I toast a hurrah, hoping you will read it soon.

- Sharon R. Mason

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MINOR TUNE-UP — $39.95
Includes:
- Change spark plugs
- Change points
- Adjust ignition dwell and timing
- Adjust carburetor idle speed
- Check engine on oscilloscope
- Perform cylinder balance test

MAJOR (YEARLY) SERVICE — $59.95 (More for fuel injection)
Includes:
- All above items plus:
- Adjust valves
- Replace fuel filter
- Replace air filter as needed
- Clean and lube choke
- Pressure check cooling system & inspect hoses
- Inspect belts
- Inspect distributor cap, rotor & vacuum advance
- Change oil and filter
- Service battery
- Pull two wheels, check brake linings.
- Check U-joints, springs, exhaust system
- Check fluid levels in differential and transmission
- Grease chains, lube door hinges, and hood and truck hinges
- Check tire tread depth
- Check wheel bearing play
- Adjust shock absorbers
- Test compression
- Safety check - lights, horn, wipers
- Check shocks and struts
- Test drive car

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The Dojo is a self protection and jujitsu school for women, established in 1972, offering six week and ongoing classes for women of all sizes, ages, and abilities. Call for more information, or a free brochure.

Z BUDAPEST
KPFAs favorite Tarot reader
Change your life with insights into your own Goddess consciousness. Don't wait until I am on the air again, make a private appointment. Telephone readings available for out of town people by prearrangement. Call (415) 444-7724 or write P.O. Box 11363, Oakland, CA 94611.

75 5" Pen and Ink drawings designed to color plus
Illustrated interpretive book
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DAUGHTERS OF THE MOON
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Willits, CA 95490

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AND FREDOM SONG NETWORK

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$4-7 Sliding Scale
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SCHOOL OF
CLASSICAL BALLET
For Children and Adults
Beginning through professional
Pre-ballet from age 3½
Morning and evening adult classes

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DAUGHTERS OF THE MOON
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Willits, CA 95490
The clue is an early scene between John and Miriam. He says "Forever and ever," confidently waiting her reply. This is their ritual, the exchange, the constant empowering: Forever and ever. But, after a moment, Miriam answers "What?". The ritual is unfulfilled, the exchange nullified, the power wanes. He has been about age thirty for over 200 years and he ages to an old man in two days. The next morning, ignoring John, Miriam avidly watches Sarah on a TV program discussing sleep and aging.

The blood is exchanged, the words are exchanged, the love is exchanged, but it is Miriam who invests the power through the medium of love. And who can control it? Falling in love, falling out of love. It is an ambivalent question in the film. Does the aging occur first or the ceasing of Miriam's love: "Forever and ever?" "What?"

In the vulnerability of her love, in the intensity of her passion, Miriam bestows and gives over all of her powers to Sarah who, in the end, is the survivor and successor. In the power of love, Miriam surrenders her power.

[IV]

Over the years the homoerotic theme has not been neglected in the Vampire genre. In Drayer's 1932 film, VAMPYR, there is an ambivalently erotic scene when the vampire, Lucy, sits up in bed and follows with stark and hungry eyes the movements of Mina about the room. There is a wonderfully outrageous gay vampire in Polanski's 1967 THE FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS, and in 1970 four lesbian-vampire films were released, including the distinguished DAUGHTERS OF DARKNESS with Delphine Seyrig. This year saw the publication of Jody Scott's THE VAMPIRE, a wild science-fiction-lesbian-vampire romp.

On reading THE VAMPIRE TAPESTRY I was reminded of Stephen Gordon's THE WELL OF LONELINESS. Like Weyland, she feels that she preys on women; she even forces her vampire In Polanski's 1967 THE FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS, and in 1970 four lesbian-vampire films were released, including the distinguished DAUGHTERS OF DARKNESS with Delphine Seyrig. This year saw the publication of Jody Scott's "THE VAMPIRE, a wild science-fiction-lesbian-vampire romp.

"What?" The ritual is unfulfilled, the exchange nulled, the power wanes. He is instilled permanently in that first moment of realization, say at a high school dance, "I am not like these others, I do not respond in the same way. I am different and I am alone." Ever fear telling a straight woman friend about your other life? Fear the recoil? Better to keep referring to your lover as 'she', especially if the friend is a workmate. I know a woman still wounded after the loss of her best friend of five years. She came out to her friend, wanting her life to be known fully.

A continuous theme in science-fiction and fantasy is power and the subjects of love and power are at the center of the Vampire Legends. In any relationship the balance of power is an issue, but perhaps it is more acute in the uncharted territory of the lesbian relationship. Watch two friends together, or review the occurrences leading to a break-up, and the struggle for power becomes visible. And from relationship to relationship the roles change. Miriam reveals her vulnerability and need to Sarah, uncharacteristically surrendering her power, and the balance shifts. THE HUNGER is a telling film.

Are there parallels to be found between the Vampire Ethos and the Lesbian Ethos? Parallels or at least suggestions of themes in common: the essence of identity, the 'outlaw status', solitude and loneliness, survival techniques, blending in-undetected, vulnerability, power and possession, and "in the midst of that, the desire and fear of love. As the Vampire enters the human dimension, the vulnerability and risks increase. And as lesbians, as we allow ourselves to evolve from the singular state, the protective 'lair'; to desire and give and receive love and to form a community; we, like the Vampire, enter the human dimension."

- Joanna Griffin

and acceptance as a part of nature (Gide's CORYDON of the same era takes great pains to prove that homosexuality is 'natural' to all species), while feeling herself to be an aberration of nature. I read this book in 1955, just before the 50's and 60's the 'outlaw status' was an acute aspect of being lesbian. In these comparatively easier times it is still difficult for older lesbians to let go of protective shields and, if one has not come out to family, friends, or at work, then one does participate in the 'outlaw status'. Perhaps it is instilled permanently in that first moment of realization, say at a high school dance, 'I am not like these others, I do not respond in the same way. I am different and I am alone.' Ever fear telling a straight woman friend about your other life? Fear the recoil? Better to keep referring to your lover as 'she', especially if the friend is a workmate. I know a woman still wounded after the loss of her best friend of five years. She came out to her friend, wanting her life to be known fully.

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