



A LESBIAN COMMUNIQUE

Rubyfruit

BOX 949 FELTON CA

Readman



WOMYN POWER '76

**REPORT: THE TRIBUNA
'CRIMES AGAINST
WOMYN'
HELD IN BELGIUM**

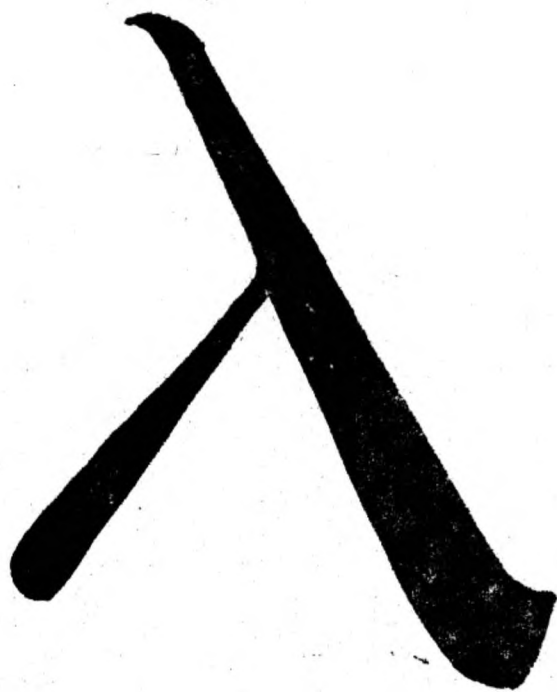
...MORE INSIDE



ALSO: MORE
POETRY
VEGIE DELITES...

VOL. 1. ISSUE 4

MAY 1976



sometimes in a bar, late at night
and loaded or a little drunk,
between flirtations and conversations
we pass and stop--
for a moment we talk
and touch,
with a look that is more than
old friendship and understanding
we acknowledge a desire,
a possible fieriness
and then, nothing promised,
we move on.

daytimes we are friends and comrades.
with limits clearly defined
we eat, go to meetings, plan our trips,
talk of this woman or that--
the others in our lives--
never of the night before.

and so we continue
through the nights and days and season
we play this game that has no ending.

maybe you will move to the city.
maybe I will find other friends.
perhaps this summer will be different.

Roxane
6/22/75

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(this means you) We need
your donations: monetary
and literary; please send
all correspondence to:*

Rubyfruit Reader

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Felton, Ca. 95018

DON'T JUST READER--WRITEHER!
The next ish will focus on our coming out
(or not) and to our friends, families, straight
jobs, spiritually, actually. So, we need!
ally, your story. You don't have to sign it.
Just send it QUICKLY!..Deadline is May 15!!
Without your coming out stories, we can't COME OUT.

Crimes Against WOMYN

In the process of pouring over my highly disorganized notes, I realized that what I want to send home is everything--and in nearly the next breath, I knew it was entirely possible. The transcripts of the Tribunal are now being copied in Brussels, and two women are editing a book which will include everything. They plan to finish by the first of May. (When it will be available I'm not sure.) What I want to do is collect all the lesbian testimonies from the conference and try to make sense of my impressions and put them together with anything else I can find here (and there is a lot).

At least 40% of the women at the Tribunal (that's 2,000+ ~~00~~ altogether, from 30+ countries) were Lesbians. That is, were openly, joyously Lesbian--meeting everyday at lunchtime to discuss strategy, many wearing signs, "I'm a Lesbian--How about you?" Considering that most women must stay in the closet--even at such a meeting--it is wonderfully impossible to say just how many Lesbians (feminist lesbians!) were there altogether. Most simply wore the unmistakable smiles of proud acceptance and freedom.

"Oppression of Lesbians" was officially delegated to Sunday, the last day of "testimonies." Everything was, however, thoroughly mixed up long beforehand. On Thursday, about 250 gay women met for the first time. Unanimously, "We will not be relegated to a topic ... Lesbian are particularly oppressed in every form of crime committed against women!" We decided to meet every day, and did. We made signs, we shared experiences, and gave support; we suffered agonies over translation and prepared a statement to the Tribunal at large. On Saturday, some 300+ Lesbians flooded the podium, the stairs, the entire front of the hall, singing an absurdly wonderful song with a million verses and a chorus of "Lesbian! Lesbian! Lesbian!" after each. And our statement WE ARE HERE! was read.

Needless to say, some women squirmed in their seats, some were indignant--but not many. The vast majority was wishing for the freedom to join in.

On Sunday, as originally scheduled, testimonies were given. A Norwegian woman first read her testimony. Discrimination there is absolute. Most Lesbians are wives and mothers who would be forced to abandon their homes and children to come out. Admitted Lesbians are isolated in prisons, forcibly raped in psychiatric hospitals, and given no protection from violence under the law. Her testimony was personal and bitter.

Women from the Lesbian Action Center in West Berlin described the yellow press tactics of their country. Two women, Judy Anderson and Marion Ihns, were convicted for the murder of Ihns' husband--but they were actually tried for the public exploitation of their "perversion."

In England, "Wages Due Lesbians" proposes a strategy of Lesbians demanding wages for housework. I don't quite follow that one, but it is a strong Marxist group in London.

"CRIMES" continued...

4.

Beatrice, an 18 year old woman from Switzerland, described the abuse she has undergone through five years of psychiatric treatment and 1 months in prison. She made a strong plea for older Lesbians to create and support contacts with younger women who desperately need the

The Dutch women demystified their situation--Amsterdam seems fairly comparable to San Francisco. But outside Amsterdam, in the villages, homosexuality is simply not tolerated.

Women from the Spanish delegation were afraid to testify--afraid of the pressure from the other women in their delegation.

For me, the most moving experience of the Tribunal was the letter read by Maria, a Lesbian feminist from Mozambique. Lesbians there along with single mothers and prostitutes, are sent to "rehabilitation camps." If she were to denounce her love for women, she could participate in the revolutionary movement. She refuses! Her pleas are for international feminism and "female unity above all!"

I will bring copies of all these testimonies when I come home, as well as the songs I hear, and the poetry, stories, and strategies that are emerging everywhere. We have been so damned isolated for so long. This is an international struggle--our freedom is our power and we must use it to show support and solidarity with our sister throughout the world!

Love,
Charlotte

(Charlotte is a Santa Cruz woman who is travelling in Europe for the next several months. We will be printing any of her letters that deal with the status of women in Europe.)

poem for minna rose:

i am not a genius
but i can love them
and know what they know
by lip reading lips lips
lips

and thighs

by wandering through
the delightful garden of their mind's minds
hair lash and eye hair in my
mouth

and breathe

sighs rich allusive sighs heavy witty
sounds in my ear tongues in my
irrepressible beats beats beats
heart

and love

patrice
25.V.74

LESBIAN MOTHER WITCH HUNT

Cynthia Forcier, Lesbian mother, has been outrageously accused of sexually molesting her own five-year-old daughter. Cynthia has become the victim of a modern day Witch Hunt that should awaken all people to the fact that anti-gay repression is on the up-swing. Orange County officials are attempting to make both Cynthia's children, Kristi, and 8-year-old Perry, wards of the state and bring criminal charges against her for what they term her "depravity." Cynthia says, "I am a Lesbian, and therefore, in their eyes, a depraved child molester."

The case arises out of a visit Kristi, who was temporarily with foster parents, made to Cynthia and Perry last Christmas. During this visit, Cynthia and her daughter slept together as a treat for Kristi. Cynthia had been informed that Kristi was on antibiotics for an infection, so when she noticed a yellowing of Kristi's panties, she questioned her about whether she was in any discomfort. Kristi complained of none, so Cynthia assumed that she had a slight yeast infection from the antibiotics.

When Kristi returned to her foster family and saw her doctor, she complained of having been kicked by a little boy. When the doctor examined her and noted the discharge and minor bruises around her pelvic area, Kristi's complaint of having been kicked was ignored completely and the doctor chose to conclude instead, because the child had slept with her Lesbian mother, that she had been sexually molested.

The authorities have now, with a vengeance, proceeded to make this the kind of case that will have long term repercussions not only for all gay parents, but may be the beginning of widespread witch hunts to prevent gay people from having any association with children. Cynthia has been offered a deal: If she will relinquish all rights to both children, criminal charges will be dropped.

Cynthia has unequivocally rejected this "offer." She has refused to yield to the judicial blackmail of a state that placed her daughter in a juvenile prison camp for four weeks after the instigation of these charges. Cynthia is fighting these outrageous allegations, and she needs our help. She has retained Nancy Bunn, a feminist attorney who is optimistic about the outcome of this case.

As we all know by now, legal defense, expert witnesses, etc., do not come cheaply, and the judicial system in this country serves the rich. The people with no money can rarely afford the "justice" that this society claims is available to all. Donation should be made payable to: SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN'S CENTERS, 63 BRADY, S.F. 94103, and earmarked for CYNTHIA FORCIER, c/o LESBIAN MOTHERS AND FRIENDS.

Cynthia stands trial on the custody portion of this case on June 1, 1976, in Orange County Superior Court. Criminal charges will be the next order of business. Cynthia is being tried for being a Lesbian and single mother. She needs our support and she needs it now.

Donna

Ai Yi Woman!

The hands
The arms and shoulders
The legs and trunk of you--
A body loving work Ai Yi!
Grasp lift twist and bend,
Glisten with the sweat of work!
Bone and muscle move
Ooze a working wetness!

Woman Ai Yi!

The eyes
The heart and breasts
The lips and womb of you--
A body loving love Ai Yi!
Gaze flow kiss enfold,
Soft and deep places open
Ooze a loving wetness!

Ai Yi Woman!

Ai Yi WaterWoman

Woman of Wetness Ai Yi!

Sharon Hoyenga



QUICHE

CRUST → CRUSH CRACKERS

‡ MIX W/ 6 T. MELTED BUTTER;

LINE A DEEP PIE PAN

ADD STEAMED VEGIES →

ZUCCHINI, ASPARAGUS,

BROCCOLI, OR WHATEVER

SCALD 1½ C. MILK, REMOVE

FROM HEAT

ADD ½ LB. SHREDDED CHEESE

‡ 3 BEATEN EGGS

STIR WELL ‡ POUR INTO PAN

BAKE AT 350° FOR 40 MIN.

GREAT BREAD

DISSOLVE 1 T. YEAST IN 2 C.
WARM WATER OR STOCK

COMBINE ¼ C. OIL ‡ ¼ C. HONEY

MIX 4-5 C. WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR

½ C. SOY FLOUR

3 T. SOY GELATIN

1 C. SESAME SEEDS

1 T. SALT

ADD LIQUIDS TO DRY INGREDIENTS

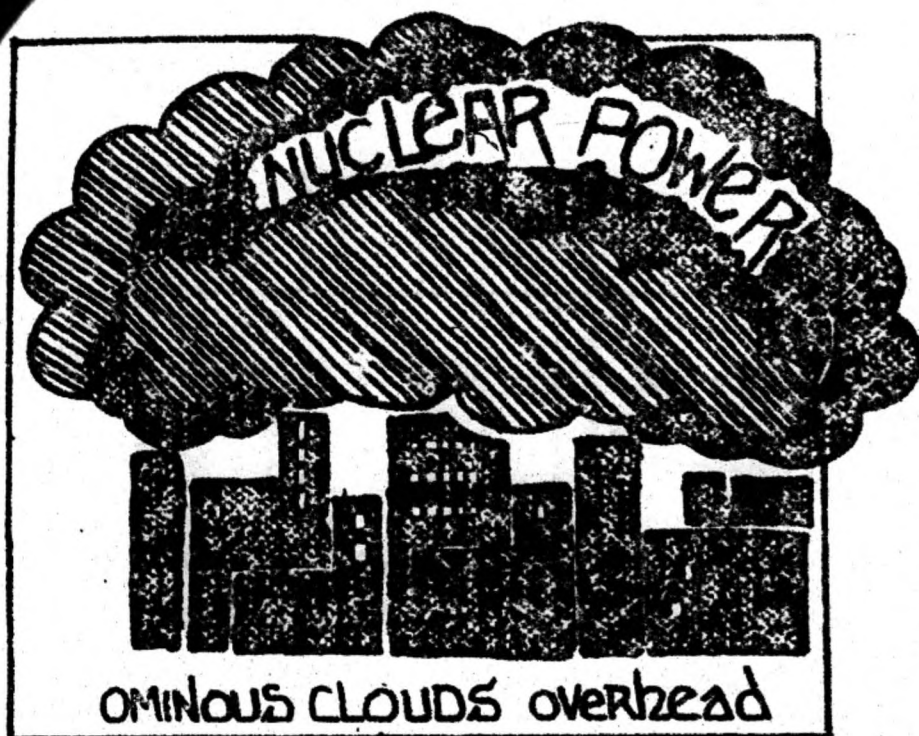
KNEAD UNTIL SMOOTH AND
GLOSSY (10 MIN.)

LET RISE UNTIL DOUBLE (1½ HR)

PUNCH DOWN; FORM INTO LOAVES

LET RISE (1 HR)

BAKE AT 350° FOR 30 MIN.



There's a lot of talk going around these days about the threat of nuclear power, pro and con. The pros come in the form of ads taken out in some of the "straighter" publications by our collective power and light companies. Basically, they're out to placate our worst fears, and they are very successful at it. I was skimming through an old Newsweek and came across an ad which read "Why shouldn't I be concerned with Nuclear Power Plants?"; it went on to explain that we really have NOTHING to worry about (they have it well under control!!!!!!). There are no PROVEN dangers of radiation, explosion, leakage of waste products (plutonium), etc.

Project Survival (located in Palo Alto) disagrees with the concept of "safe" nuclear plants. They contend that the emergency systems in these plants have never been fully tested (scale models tests have flunked 6 times out of 6). Storage leakage is another sore point with Project Survival. After 30 years, the storage tanks begin to leak plutonium into the ground, contaminating the earth we live on and lasting approximately 250,000 years. And the list goes on and on. There must be some safeguards against nuclear disasters occurring on our planet; alternative means of harnessing power must be explored.

We have not been given enough information on the "shortcomings" of these plants and it's about time we get that information.

On June 8 there will be an election held; on the ballot will be a nuclear initiative---Proposition 15. Registration closes May 9. We strongly urge you to register and vote Yes on that proposition.

REMEMBER: Register & Vote !!

An only-in-San Francisco love letter: "When the bus strike started, I began walking from my home in Noe Valley toward the financial district via Market. I saw the most fantastic guy walking the opposite way, and every day for a week we just smiled and our eyes glanced into each other's. One day we stopped and he gave me his phone number at work. I called him, we met for a drink and are very much in love. So to all the strikers, I say thank you--I found my love on Market St. because of the strike. Sincerely, Tom Richardson"--from Herb Caen
April 26, 1976

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE AT ANY FIRE STATION..REGISTRATION IS ALSO NECESSARY FOR YOUR SIGNATURE ON MANY PETITIONS, INITIATIVES, ETC. TO BE COUNTED AS VALID.

OF SANTA CRUZ

india joze

SERVING ASIAN DINNERS ~ DAILY 5:30-10
AFTER HOURS ~ NIGHTLY 10-3 AM
AT THE SUNNYSIDE CAFE
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Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<div> <div>dyke which is all</div> <div>MAY</div> <div>EVENTS</div> <div>(Play)</div> </div>					Rice leaves
		♀ RADIO 99 7-12 pm NITES KZSC 88.1	WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTER cabrillo COLLECTIVE MEETINGS 1 pm CABRILLO COL. 4	FILM: SEXUALITY SERIES "Killing of Sister George" 7:30 + 10 \$1 Thimann III UCSC	♀ RADIO 99 9-12 KZSC 88.1		DYKE SPORTS each saturday S.C. HIGH 1 pm
2				5	6	7	
DYKES UNLIMITED BREAKFAST look for POSTERS	9		♀'s NITE 2 SISTERS coffee shop every tues. 7:30 - 10:30	FILM: "Some like it hot" SEXUALITY SERIES			
	10		place To eat (2 Sisters)	12	FULL MOON	13	14
16		17	18	19	20	21	22
				Film: "Fortune & Men's Eyes" UCSC			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			FILM: "SUNDAY UCSC BLOODY SUNDAY"	3	4	5	6
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		june					

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 (ages 8,6,&2) have an empty room
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