

DUPLICATE

Rubyfruit BOX 949 FELTON, CA Reader



A LESBIAN COMMUNIQUE

SEPT 1976 VOL 1, ISH 8

~FEATURES INCLUDE~
OUTRAGE IN SONOMA
OPEN LETTERS
RAISING MALE CHILDREN...
& MORE



² DEAREST RUBY: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Ruby Women,

Hello! I saw your July issue-I was so pleased that you are continuing.

Could you put a plug in the next issue about a course I hope to be teaching at Monterey Peninsula College? It's called Women in Religion, Myth, and Ritual, co-sponsored by Women's Studies and Philosophy. The course is listed as Philosophy 195: Women in Religion. It starts Sept 22, 7-10 pm, and will be held every Wed night for 14 weeks until Dec 22. There'll be a 6 hour field trip, slide shows, and guest women speakers. It's a 3 unit class, held in room H 204.

The course is scheduled later than other MPC classes because there have been bureaucratic/administrative hassles. The course was NOT publicized in the list which is mailed out to the Monterey community. And if there are not 15 people ENROLLED in the course, I won't be able to teach it! It's the first time it's been offered at MPC and I think it's an important addition to the curriculum. I have been preparing the class all summer, so it will be a powerful course-IF 15 people enroll.

Texts for the course will be: Mothers and Amazons--Helen Diner; Not in God's Image--Julia O'Faolain; Beyond God the Father--Mary Daly. The course will be a survey, an exploration of the feminine principle, and roles of women as seen in myths, religious rituals and festivals, and religious movements from ancient Egypt through the witch hunts in the Middle Ages, in to the 1800's and 1900's in America, up to now, looking at alternative spiritual lifestyles.

Please tell your friends about this. Organize a car pool--(it's only 35-40 miles to MPC from SantaCruz)--let's make it happen--it's OUR culture we'll be exploring!!

In sisterhood,
Beth Beurkens

Dear RRReaders,

We are printing the following letter with the awareness that there may well be differing opinions on the topic. We welcome your response. We have condensed the letter as conscientiously as possible.

Ruby

FROM CHICO FWHC

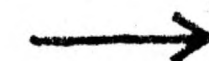
As a Feminist Women's Health Center we feel we have an obligation to the Women's Movement to make our position concerning the Oakland FWHC understood.

The FWHC started in Los Angeles out of the concept of Self-Help. From this health center and its work evolved two other FWHCs, one in Orange County and one in Oakland. For a time these were all one FWHC with a joint board of directors. Eventually political and directional differences split these centers into three separately incorporated FWHCs. At this same time three other FWHCs were forming in Detroit, Tallahassee and Chico.

During our (Chico FWHC) training with Oakland, we would at times have questions about different political tactics and directions. Because of our insecurity as a new FWHC and a sense of friendship we rarely voiced criticism or questioned politics we disagreed with. In the past months several events have happened to make the political differences between Oakland and the rest of the FWHCs impossible to overlook.

We have certain basic things in common that politically and structurally identify us as FWHCs. In the FWHCs, self-help has always been our base. Sharing knowledge, taking control of our bodies and breaking down professionalism is integrated into everything we do. The FWHCs have a structure in which the women who work full time in the centers are the decision makers. There is no outside board of directors or corporation that owns us or tells us how to operate. All FWHCs are non-profit corporations. The money goes back into the Health Center and the Women's Movement.

A few months ago the directors of the Oakland FWHC sold all the Health Centers assets to a profit making corporation-California Feminist Corporation or Cal-Fem Corp. The result of this is that only a few women outside the community are controlling the wealth and political direction/power of the Oakland FWHC. When this sellout happened the internal structure changed. Going from a non-profit to a profit status has



4 FWHCs--cont. from page

shifted the power structure from that of controlling our lives to that of making money. All full time staff were laid off and replaced by part-time workers. Staff members no longer have any decision making power.

All the actions taken by the Directors of the Oakland FWHC --gaining power through gaining capital, were done in the name of Feminism. They are trying to build a "Feminist Empire" and yet are not being responsible to the feminists they are supposedly building it for. In the present situation only a few women are strong and have control of the center. How can a revolution be carried out by only a few women? Doesn't this defeat our purpose and goals?

The Oakland FWHC/Cal-Fem Corp. have proved through their methods of organizing, their statements and actions that they are not open to input/criticism from the women they are making money from, or from the Feminist Movement. This analysis has led us to the decision to disassociate ourselves from the Oakland FWHC/Cal-Fem Corp. and to the realization that the Oakland FWFC is NOT a Feminist Women's Health Center.

--Chico Feminist Women's Health Center

with the support of:

Feminist Women's Health Center, Los Angeles
Orange County Feminist Women's Health Center
Feminist Women's Health Center, Tallahassee
Detroit Feminist Women's Health Center

Sisters Unlimited--a new women's recording company--has just released its first album. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, Sisters Unlimited is the first women's recording company in the South. The stereo album, called "Sometimes I Wish", carries 16 feminist songs by poet-singer-guitarist Carole Etzler. "The songs tell of the hopes, the dreams, the struggles of women as we journey toward freedom," Ms. Etzler said. The album is available for \$5.50 plus 50¢ mailing from Sisters Unlimited, 1492-F Willow Lake Dr., Atlanta, Ga. 30329. Bulk rates are available for bookstores, women's centers and women's groups who want to use the record for fundraising.

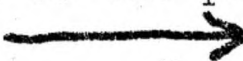
Open Letter

"...Here I am in this bar in Palo Alto. I'm sitting in the third row, trapped between the hissers and the hissed; feeling embarrassed by my "sisters" in the audience who insist on harrassing the performers, and intimidated by the frustration/anger/hostility from the stage which I feel powerless to deflect. I came to listen, watch, enjoy. Instead, I feel bewildered, defensive, unjustly accused."

The following is an open letter to Cris Williamson, Jackie Robbins, June Millington, and Lily Tomlin in the aftermath of their performances on August 13th. It is meant as feedback to them, but mostly came out of our own need to figure out what went wrong, and why. We're also writing this because as members of the audience, upon receiving a righteous anger from performers on the stage, we felt a collective guilt and an acute frustration at being caught helpless to do anything but watch the horror show.

In analyzing the dynamics taking place, it was helpful to go back and ask why womyn went to the show in the first place. Womyn travelling long distances for a two hour show, at relatively high expense, is indicative of our cultural starvation. But we became an audience which apparently did not come so much to see womyn perform their artistry as to get validation for being lesbians. So here we all were, en masse, and it became a ritual of womyn together, determined to see ourselves mirrored by the womyn "on stage." Of course it always feels good to be validated in our lesbianism, but we go too far when we claim a public person as a larger-than-life embodiment of who we all are.

The audience seemed too hyper to really listen to the perfor-



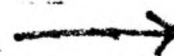
6.

mers. Lily capped it when she said, "You are reducing me to being a vehicle for your propaganda." Indeed, there was a reduction process going on in the room. Instead of expanding our consciousness, we narrowed our awareness to the lowest common denominator---our shared sexuality---and dead-ended there. A constricted sense of what the audience would allow and what it would not allow from the stage was extreme. Are we as a group so threatened by a woman mentioning a boyfriend she had 15 years ago that we must interrupt and stifle the positive messages she was trying to get across?

It could've been a fine experience for audience and performers--the "psychological fix" Lily mentioned. It could've been a good night if the performers had been welcomed to do what they came to do and if the audience had shared in it and truly responded to it instead of asserting the constant dyke declaration simply that "WE ARE!" which kept eclipsing all other potential communication. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for members of the audience to make constructive criticism of performers' material or give any evidence of thoughtful feedback. Part of this is due to the traditional passive role designated to an audience. Further communications breakdown occurred because audience reaction bounced back and forth from complete, full-on, unqualified support for whatever was happening on stage, to an equally unqualified criticism for whatever might not relate to lesbianism. Here were the performers, caught in the crossfire of these equally negating reactions, trapped in their commitment to perform--too bad they couldn't have just walked off the stage.

It seems we rob ourselves of valuable experience. Are we only looking for reinforcing images of ourselves, or do we want more? Can we appreciate creative work without reducing it to what is easily digested by All? Dyke pabulum! Who wants it?! Besides incapacitating these artists, we weaken ourselves.

We've put a heavy claim on these artists: That they speak for us, rather than with us. Cris does "cross that desert" with her work and with her energy. We do receive her support. So must we demand that she carry us across also?



Respect for a performer from whom we get support involves allowing her the space to be who she is, be it Cris, Lily, or any of the others--and letting them go. Respect for ourselves requires that we look to the strength and beauty obtainable in our own lives; not through the life of the woman in the spotlight. We owe ourselves that.

Footnotes: We realize that the responsibility for a successful performance lies with the producers, as well as with the performers and the audience. Two of us from the Rubyfruit Readher had originally intended to request an interview with the producers to clear up the following questions, but this intention was over-shadowed at the time by the events that took place during the show. We would welcome any response to the following:

**Why were tickets priced at \$5.50, which is more than most performances of a similar nature?

**We had heard that this series of performances were to be benefits. If this is true, why did we hear nothing about it at the performances: A benefit for whom? For what?

**Why were they held in a bar, which inevitably prohibited the many women who are under 21 from attending?

**Why was no mention made at the time of ticket purchase that "under 21's" would not be admitted? Several women had to either find a buyer for their already-purchased ticket, or forfeit their \$5.50.

**Why was at least one performance over-sold by 60 seats?

**Why were six performances scheduled in three days, leaving a maximum of one hour between shows for clean-up, clear-out, set-up, re-seat, get-ready-to-perform-again?

I wonder if some of these questionable items were contributing factors to the attitudes of audience and performers alike

--Anne Irving

Ronnie Ewoldt--

OOPS! We goofed and forgot to put Pauline's name on the Fair Tale last issue! Many apologies!!!!!!

8. CONFERENCE INVITATION

Dear Sisters,

We the womyn of Herself Health Clinic and of the Westside Women's Clinic are convening a Women's Health and Healing Conference, October 8-11, in Los Angeles. As two relatively new clinics, we shared with each other our problems, solutions, and resources, and realized the need for more communication with and among all the womyn health workers in the area. We each have information, skills, and ideas which are important to share with each other and to communicate to other womyn not directly involved in feminist health care. That is why we called for the first Regional West Coast/Southwest Women's Health and Healing Conference.

The conference will begin with registration, a get together and concert on Friday, October 8th. The theme for Saturday is "The Politics of Health Care." We'll open with a panel on the politics of medical research, followed by a series of workshops on various issues in relation to the day's theme. The focus Sunday is "Alternative Meth-

ods." Following a panel on holistic medicine, there'll be workshops on various alternative healing methods. Saturday night, there'll be an all womyn's dance, and Sunday we'll eat dinner at the Feminist Saloon. Monday will be spent visiting the various womyn's projects in the community.

Write to us at the Westside Womyn's Clinic, 1711 Park Blvd, Santa Monica, 90405.

In sisterhood,
The womyn of HHC & WWC

**Womyn's
coffeehouse
SEPT. 76**

Rebecca	2ND
Madelyn	9th
KAREN	16th
Clytia & Brenda	23rd
OPEN JAM	30th

FOR MORE INFO:
475 9858

subject to change...

Raising Male Children — CLYTIA

How to start this article...beginnings are always hard for me. I want to talk about raising male children; my son; to share my growing realization that he is indeed growing up to be a boy and what that means in relation to my lifestyle and philosophies.

When he was first born I thought, Oh, no problem with sexism here. He's only a baby and I will provide him with the freedom to make his own choices, and to experience situations available to both sexes. But then I came out, and during the past two years have been becoming more and more of a separatist. I reject "male" energy from my life; I don't want to relate to men at all, even though I am forced to in my school and/or work situations. And I am becoming more and more aware of how my feelings, and friends' feelings, can be transferred to my son. I am aware of my responsibility to help him feel positive self-esteem, a good self-image.

He is a male child. He needs positive male role models to learn from. Where are these "positive male role models" to be found? And how can I provide them? How do I respond when he says to me proudly, "I'm a man now"? I want to cry out in anger, "You're NOT a man; you're only 2 and a half; you're a BOY!" (Somehow, being a boy seems more acceptable than being a man.) But I force myself to respond calmly and quietly, even positively, "You will be a man someday, when you grow up," desperately hoping that he will be different from the men I know today. He says to me, "I have a penis, my daddy has a penis. You have a penis?" "No, I have a cunt, a vagina," I reply, remembering the first time he'd said that to me and I'd replied that I only had a cunt, thinking My God! The socialization I still have to unlearn!! Then I wonder why I've equated penes with vaginas---why have I not said anything about my clitoris? And what in the world will I be able to teach him about male sexuality?

→

10. Male Children--cont.

When he points to a bear with a dress on in a book and says, "That's the mommy," I feel that I'm already beginning to lose him. And the kid even goes to non-sexist childcare!

It's so important to me that he have a positive self-image, and that he doesn't pick up on my often overtly negative feelings toward men. It's hard to remember not to make separatist comments or degrade men when he's around. One day, walking with him on the beach, I snapped at him not to talk to strange men. He said he liked to talk to guys, and there was a tinge of puzzlement in his voice. But when he starts talking to men on the street, I end up having to talk to them too. And then they end up laying some trip on me, which I resent. (A kid is a great conversation opener.) How can his need for relating to men, and my need not to, be met at the same time?

I realize as he gets older, he will become more man-like. At what age do our sons become men? At what age are they ostracized from womyn-only events? And how will they understand this? Is it really fair to judge them by our past/present experiences with men?



I often think, "But Poco will be different, he won't be like other males. Is this realistic? Do I have more control over him than does the rest of society? But what will he be like? He'll grow up loving womyn because many of his best friends are womyn. Will this teach him to have relationships with them which are non-oppressive? Would I be able to support a hetero relationship of his when I basically don't believe they work? But on the other hand, How can I teach him to



Male Children--

love other men when my attitude toward them is negative?

So many questions/problems, with no complete answers/solutions. Only partial, possible solutions, and these are not available to all mothers. Poco spends 1/2 his time with his father, thereby receiving some male energy. But some of us don't have men around who we'd WANT our child to be influenced by. So we have to choose / compromise between what's available, or choose nothing at all. If we choose to have them be with oppressive men, the result is obvious. And if we choose to raise them surrounded only by women-energy, they can become reactionary, becoming more typically male-like in the process. The old double-bind once again.

Is there anyone out there who has found good ways of dealing with any of these problems? Please respond to these thoughts if you have any ideas to share.

11.
**Another
Crime Against
Womyn!**

Virginia Tierce, a 36 year old San Diego mother has been found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, for killing Louis Shark, after he attempted to sexually assault her on Dec. 22, 1975. Shark, a registered sex offender in San Diego County had spent 13 years in prison for brutal sexual crimes. Tierce shot him in the act of self-defense, and is now in the process of appealing what she and the feminist community hope to prove was an unfair trial. She needs as much support as possible. If you are interested in contributing to her defense fund or in helping out in any way, please contact:

Virginia Tierce Defense Fund
P.O. Box 468, El Cajon, Ca. 92022
or
Rape Emergency Assistance League, 5236 Wood Street, La Mesa, Ca. 92041. 466-7273.
(Feminist Bulletin May/Ju 76)

"When there are a boy and a girl of school age in the audience, focus on stories boys prefer---which usually are those that don't involve girls. (The girl won't mind; she also is intrigued by boys.)"--Alvin Schwartz, The Rainy Day Book

Response: see page 18

WAR REPORTS

Women Against Rape has received the following descriptions of men who have been hassling/assaulting/raping women. These descriptions are published at the request of the women who call us. We see them as one of the ways that can help us take care of ourselves. We want to have a realistic idea of some of the men who hassle women so that we can better watch out for them. We can all help the situation by not being embarrassed to involve ourselves when women around us seem to be hassled by men, by picking up hitchhiking sisters whenever possible, and by refusing to tolerate the hassles men lay on us every day.

If you have any feedback or questions, or if you have been raped or hassled and would like to talk to a sister, call us. We are a collective of nine women who define ourselves as socialist feminists who see rape as an outgrowth of a sick society, rather than something inherent in human nature. We are open to new members, so call us if you're thinking of joining. Until September 15, our line operates between 1-8 pm and after 8 pm for emergencies. Our phone is 426-RAPE (Rape-line). If you are interested in taking our free self defense classes or in having some members of Women Against Rape talk to your group or meeting, call us.

HASSLE-RAPE-SET-UP (last week of July)-the man hired a woman housekeeper, then hassled her. He said his name was "George Sternlund", he lives at 8299 Fremont, Ben Lomond. He is white, 55-60, 6', about 200 lbs, large pot belly; his hair is gray, below ears, balding on top.

HASSLE-ATTEMPTED RAPE (last week of July)- man picked woman up on Highway 9, grabbed

at her and hassled her. Man: Chicano, 35-40, husky, short black hair, tottoo on arm, wearing T-shirt and work pants. Car: Oldsmobile Cutlass 64-65 in beat-up condition, silver with black roof, Lic. DZL-???

HASSLE: (last week of June) man propositioned and hassled woman hitch-hiker. Man: White 5'5", about 140 lbs, late 20's pockmarked complexion & pointed nose; his hair was blond,

"fine, shoulder length; he had greenish-brown, shifty eyes. He had a long scratch on his left arm, dirty hands and bitten down nails." His name is David, he lives in Los Fatos, and is a mechanic. Car: Chevy, possibly Le Mans, 1969, green, no radio. Picked woman up at Highway 17 entrance in San Jose.

MASTURBATOR: (first week of May)--Man: White, late 20's, 5'10", thin, 140 lbs, dark hair, short, parted in the middle, straight texture with a wave, brown eyes; angular face w/fine features; spoke w/ and Eastern accent. Car: Fairly new, green pick-up w/ green and white camper. Lic: 93J-667 Picked up woman hitch-hiking on Highway 9 by the tannery.

RAPE-KIDNAP: (first week of August)--man picked up woman hitch-hiking from Santa Cruz to Watsonville. Man: White, 5'6"-5'7", 170 lbs.; brown hair, growing out from a butch, blue eyes; tattoos on both arms. One on left arm of a knife w/ ribbons on which was written "KILL". Said he was an ex Marine and that he was going to jail soon for burglary. He had a pistol. Name on pill bottle in car said K.J. Riggins or Biggins. Car: Catalin or

Plymouth station wagon, blue curtains on windows of car, mattress and ice chest inside CB radio antenna on inside.

RAPE-KIDNAP--(first week of August)--Man offered woman ride in direction of Highway 9. Man: Black, approx 28, years old, 160 lbs, slight build; black natural, brown eyes, sideburns; wearing a green horizontal striped polyester T-shirt. Said his name was Tony and that he was from Oakland. Car: newish, grey, Chevelle, had automatic door lock. (Looks like a Cadillac.)

have you
Been...

• Raped?
• hassled?
• Assaulted?

haven't we all?

You can talk to a sister by
calling... **426-RAPE**

women against RAPE
PO BOX 711 SANTA CRUZ

CALL FOR info re: **FREE**
SELF DEFENSE CLASSES

Portrait of Sylvia

Louise Diamond

I used to smoke all the time. It was the only way I could relax. Please, no judgements. You don't know, or remember what it was like walking down the hallways in high school, the feeling of tripping over your own feet in fear, or of the spittle on your hair. Maybe you're not interested. Now, a good cup of tea is enough for me. I am sitting, I am waiting, at our kitchen table.

Sylvia has gone to the women's music concert looking very dykey. Her short, tough figure speaks of survival. Will they think she and Risa are mother-daughter lesbians? It's hard for me not to feel jealousy. She has just arrived from New York, and saved her money for months to make this visit to California. I identify with Risa's mother as a sister, as a comrade of sorts, and a role model, but not in the maternal sense. I could never relate to my own mother in that way. My mother was too drugged up to remember my birth. That's why on my birthdays I always cry; I'm not the perfect birthday girl, and I know it; I'm not a good daughter, ungrateful, I know it. Lying in bed with Risa at night I think, "Here is my family." But I know that one person can't be your family, your best friend, and your lover, as wonderful as she is. And what if she died? These kinds of thoughts always reach catastrophic proportions in my head.

My writer friend says to get everyone out of the house, sweep the floor, and make a cup of tea as you get psyched into doing your thing. Good advice! I'm sitting here at the kitchen table thinking the kitchen isn't clean enough, it doesn't measure up; the wood needs polishing, it doesn't

Portrait--cont. from page

measure up; my ear is infected and I don't (will I?) measure up. It's funny, sitting here like a mother cat, waiting for Risa to come back from a potluck, and Sylvia to come out...I mean, come back from the concert.

Sylvia returns from the concert talking like a speed freak. Is that Holly Near a lesbian, she asks. As much as you, dear friend, I want to say, if only you could let yourself know. I give her the inside scoop. Does she hear, does she notice? She is a woman with so much energy, and vitality. I'm a tense woman, she says. Brimming over endlessly with words, crying, yelling and philosophizing endlessly. I haven't had any coffee, cigarettes, or grass since I arrived, she tells me. It'll make you healthy, I reply. She laughs, as if the idea hadn't ever occurred to her.

Women's music heals. Sylvia used to have a beautiful, clear, strong voice until she ruined it yelling all the time. Risa says she remembers her singing and how angry she is that Sylvia ruined it screaming, but we haven't talked about that really since high school, when Risa was angry at her mother for so many things. Sylvia's upstairs now, singing, in the room that used to be Risa's study. Her voice wobbles, bird-like, her voice sometimes cracks. Still, it is beautiful, truly beautiful. Somewhere, even her deepest wounds can be healed or transcended---her schizoid mother and aunt, the necessary annihilation and brutality of Jersey City ghetto life, twenty years and more of suburban isolation and marriage, the four unwanted babies illegally aborted by butchers and quacks, the three babies born...I believe that because I want it to be true. I want the healing and growing to happen for her, to come from her.

And anyway, Risa, why did she scream until her voice cracked? She is crazy, but she is strong, iron strong, just as you are. She fought and yelled her way through the swinging forbidden doors of Colombian Presbyterian Hospital, New York, to be at your side at your side in the recovery room as you

cont. →

18. Portrait--cont.

came out of anesthesia. She yelled and fought her way through the corridors to be there to say "It's over, it's over" so that as you awoke you wouldn't believe the catharizing hadn't been done yet, the terror of being so young, and vulnerable.

She said, "I beat the shit out of Risa's sister, I've ignored her brother." Even if she hated her kids, or made her crazy with her craziness, she also gave them incredible strength. I can look at her and say that. And what if she wasn't the "Perfect Mother," who's the perfect daughter? Only Donna Reed could be what she was told she should be. Her generation was insane with a conformity that allowed her little breathing space or room for self-expression. You can see that when she lets the actress denied in her escape in bright little flashes of energy and life. Already, I can hear Risa in my head, "You didn't live with her." I know. Maybe that's why I can see that part of her.

"Well, I hope Risa can sleep in tomorrow, it's getting late," Sylvia says as she gets up, washing out her teacup, and wiping down the counters, unnecessarily. I can't help but notice these automatic habits of cleanliness, the reaction to a childhood of urban poverty and years of housewifery. We have stayed up until almost two in the morning, talking and waiting for her daughter, my lover. Abruptly, our conversation is through. It continues inside my head, echoing throughout me. She does understand the love between Risa and me, but not her daughter's lesbianism. Risa, as hard as she tries, can't forgive her mother for the past, which always hangs over her present, and looms in front of her, fatelike, complicating her future. I hope so much for Risa, and so much for Sylvia; this daughter and mother, struggling to know and embrace each other once again.

Loretta Lez sez:

"Alvin: It's people like you that give men a bad name."

♀ LAND TRUST INVITATION WORKING-CLASS & THIRD WORLD ♀

COME ENJOY YOURSELVES LABOR DAY WEEKEND
ON WOMEN'S LAND IN SOUTHERN OREGON

On Labor Day weekend, you and your children are invited to come visit and camp on land which has just been bought by us, the Oregon Women's Land Trust in the name of all women.

The land trust is a country-based women's organization which provides land so that women who want to live in the country will have a place to come. It has taken either class privilege or very, very hard work at a decently paying job, to get the money needed to make mortgage payments. The land trust is a way for many women to put their money together and own land in common.

The first piece of land, Owl Farm, has been bought in Days Creek, Oregon--in southern Oregon close to Grants Pass. It is 140 acres and has one large log cabin house with kitchen and fireplace. It is available for you to use this labor day weekend. Please bring food, sleeping bags and a tent (if possible), and water (there is a water shortage).

The second week in July, the land trust took title to Owl Farm and a gathering took place there with nearly 150 women. Much of the time was spent meeting together to decide the future of this land. It was at this time that women voiced the desire to have more women know about this land--especially Third World women and working-class women. Since this land was bought in the name of all women, it is important that women know that it exists and is available to them.

If you are coming from a long distance, stay the rest of the week also. It is an eight hour drive from the bay area, but the drive is very easy. It is cooler to drive in the night. We realized that 8 hours is a long way to come for working women on one of the few holidays of the year--but we wanted to

SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

The oppression of native peoples stretches far, reaches deep. Womyn have been and still are a strong force fighting for Native American sovereignty. These strong womyn are often over-looked, their struggles against the F.B.I. and goon squads ignored and unpublished by the white male press. As womyn, we recognize the struggles of ALL native peoples and are focusing our energy on these womyn who URGENTLY need our support.

KA-MOOK BANKS: *21-year-old Oglala Lakota (Sioux) woman from Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. *Currently charged in Wichita, Kansas, with transporting firearms across state lines *Arrested earlier this year in Portland, Ore for being a passenger in a car allegedly carrying firearms and explosives across state lines. The charges were dropped after police failed to produce evidence. *Ka-Mook now waits in fear, wondering when she'll be called to stand trial in Wichita. *KA-MOOK BANKS OFFENSE/DEFENSE COMMITTEE, 3435 S W HOOD, PORTLAND, 97207

YVONNE WANROW: *Yvonne is a member of the Colville Tribe in eastern Wash. *Sentenced to 25 years for killing "Chicken Bill" Wesler. *Wesler had raped her babysitter's daughter and attempted to molest her young son. When he barged into her house, Yvonne, in two leg casts and on crutches, fired point-blank at him. She immediately called the police. They in turn produced a tape of her call in court, alleging that her calm tone of voice indicated premeditated murder. *She is now out on appeal, and desperately needs our support. *YVONNE WANROW---CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, 853 BROADWAY, NY, NY, 10003

JOANNA LEDEAUX: *Organizer and legal worker for the Traditional Community in Pine Ridge. *Jailed Sept 22, 1975, for re-

Native American Womyn--

fusing to testify before a grand jury investigating the death of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation. *"As long as the United States government continues its conspiratorial cultural, and physical genocide against Native Americans in general, and the Oglala Nation in particular, I will continue to reject any attempt to make me a party or tool in any way for the further repression of a people I love and respect."

*She has not been charged with any crime! *FREE JOANNA COMMITTEE c/o FRIDLEY NASSER, 101 MAIN ST. SIOUX FALLS, S.D. 57105

For general information about starting a support group, please write: WOMEN SUPPORTING NATIVE AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY c/o MOTHER KALI'S BOOKSTORE 333 W. 11th, EUGENE, ORE. 97401

A gynecological clinic for lesbians is among the possible future clinics being considered by the S.C. Womyn's Health Collective. Lesbians who would be interested in volunteering in such a clinic or who might want to actually join the Collective, as well as those who have ideas about the clinic, are encouraged to contact Kater or Shelley at 427-3500.

MERLIN PRESS is accepting contributions to an anthology of the work of contemporary California women poets which is to be published in spring, 1977. We welcome the work of both published and unpublished poets. We have a particular interest in work which sets forth women's unique experiences and perspectives, but all types of material are welcome.

Rules governing the submission of material are as follows:

1. Only unpublished material may be submitted.
2. Poems must be typed.
3. A maximum of ten poems may be submitted.
4. The poet must be both a woman and a resident of California
5. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be enclosed for return of unused material.
6. Poems must be submitted no later than January 15, 1977.

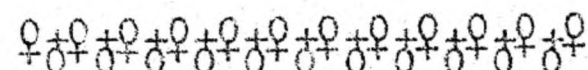
Address manuscripts to MERLIN PRESS

P.O. Box 5602

San Jose, Ca. 95150

For more details of this incident and the consequent actions of the Sonoma womyn's community, the lawyers, the court, et al, get a copy of

All interested womyn should write Senator Dunlap and Assemblyperson Siegler from Sonoma County demanding an IMMEDIATE investigation of this continued outrage. These womyn are our sisters!



SC WOMYN'S
HEALTH COLLECTIVE

Health Info. & Counseling
Dr. Referrals/Medical Library
Lesbian Counselors Available
Self-help Workshop monthly - CALL
* Ruby fruit distribution pt.

OPEN 10-4 M-F; also 7-9 pm. Wed.
24-hour phone line.

250 LOCUST ST.
427-3500

→ If you are a lesbian interested in joining our collective, please call and ask for Kater or Shelley.

S. C. Midwifery Case Continues

The Court, a panel of seven male judges, will discuss the case extensively in private, and will render their decision in some unspecified number of months. Depending on their decision, the case will then be dropped, be appealed to the U. S. Supreme court, or finally go to trial. **Kater

WINDY JOHN

ASIAN DINNERS

5:30-10:00 DAILY

MONDAYS - MIDDLE EASTERN

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS-JAPANESE

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS - INDIAN

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS - INDONESIAN

AFTER HOURS

10:00-3:00 NIGHTLY

ESPRESSO, PASTRIES

GOOD FOOD

415 SEABRIGHT

SANTA CRUZ-427-3554



ON YER F.M. DIAL...

26. hello? hello?

Ruby to readers-Ruby to readers: Come in please! What do you think of Ruby? What are your burning questions? What would you like to see more of? What are you sick to death of? Have you read something that fancied your tickle? Did you read something that prompted you to fart and say "That stinks"? Do you wonder if we're really Martians? What DO you think?

The input we've received thus far has led us to delete the Dear Dee/Sister Clit columns. We'll gladly resume an advice type column and give sincere answers IF we receive sincere questions.

Anyone interested in joining the staff? Two of us are leaving at the end of Sept., and Ruby needs more than 3 dedicated dykes to keep her going.

Most important, please let us know you're out there reading her!

--I'm looking for someone to translate a lesbian love story from German into English. The book is Sind es Frauen by Aimee Duc. Call if you're interested. Laurie 426-4319

Elayne Jones, the black woman tympanist who was dropped last year by the S.F. Symphony, filed a \$1.5 million Superior Court suit against the symphony, Local 6 of the Musician's Union, and seven members of the symphony's players committee which voted to deny her tenure; the charges were alleged discrimination on the basis of race and sex.

--S.F. Chronicle

The RR needs graphics... one of the staffers does most of the graphics & unfortunately she's leaving for the greener grass!! So Help!!



Ladybug mechanic

Setting up Sept. classes (9/21)
tues. p.m. / sat. a.m.

7 week series @ \$10.00
LEARN AS YOU WORK ON YOUR CAR
oil change, tune-up, brake & clutch adjustments

LYNNE

475-4945

Feminists have long suspected that beer baron Joseph Coors has funneled money into the campaign against the ERA. Acting on solid reports that Coors is behind an arch conservative effort that is working against a broad spectrum of women's rights issues, California NOW voted at the April 26th board meeting to boycott Coors Beer. We urge you to do the same!

(NOW Newsletter, May 1976)

The **READHER** is published monthly by a collective of 6 & 5 womyn. We have open meetings at 10 am every Friday at Pergolesi's. Not all of us necessarily agree with all that is printed herein, but we are attempting to maintain our status as a forum for the lesbian community. The **READHER** is supported by your response! We need your donations: Monetary, literary, news events, feedback. Send all correspondence to:


Rubyfruit Reader

Box 949

Felton, Ca. 95018

426-DYKE

SHARE FEMINIST ANECDOTES WITH YOUR SISTERS



an anthology of
Feminist Humor

Feminists are still accused of being humorless. We know that isn't so. No political movement can last without a sense of humor. It distances us from problems, so we see them in truer perspective. It disentangles us from suffering sufficiently for us to remain sane. SO, send your jokes and stories--be they true, untrue, or in-between--to:

Gloria Kaufman

Indiana University

South Bend, Indiana 46615

Contributors will be acknowledged in print (unless you stipulate otherwise). You need not be a skillful writer, since material will be edited. If you have a good anecdote, pass it on!!

lesbianize and quit those guys!



HELP!

The Rubyfruit is going broke...
This is a FREE COMMUNIQUE
BUT we CAN'T go forever on
No money!!! So... AS A FAVOR

to OUR FANS & OURSELVES, we ARE having
A SUBSCRIPTION drive... \$3 for 6 months
(just think folks & the FANTASTIC Rubyfruit
Reader delivered to yer FRONT DOOR
→ Such a deal!!!) ... OR... if yer into
picking one up @ yer FAVORITE EATS
PLACE (TWO SISTERS) OR DANCE PLACE
(DRAGON MOON), please, please, drop
A donation in the RR car... AND we
thank you!!!

Also: we in the collective would
like to thank ALL OUR
CONTRIBUTORS (Anyone sending in articles,
information, donations etc. →) we
REALLY appreciate YOUR good vibes & YOUR
CONTINUING SUPPORT!!!

CLIP IT OUT
FILL IT OUT...



AND
Send it in!!!

Rubyfruit Reader SUBSCRIPTION (3 BUCKS for 6 MONTHS)

name
address

..... ZIP

MAIL TO: Box 949, Felton, CA. 95018