

Rubyfruit Reader

BOX 2386

SANTA CRUZ



A LESBIAN COMMUNIQUE

JAN 1978

ISSUE 16



2 Dear Reader Readers:

The Rubyfruit Reader is a lesbian communiqué published monthly by a small collective. Not all of us necessarily agree with everything that is printed but we take responsibility for choosing to print whatever appears in Ruby. We are an open collective and welcome new members--call 426-DYKE for meeting times.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We always need contributions, both graphics and written materials. Graphics must be black ink on white paper and be either 3 or 6" wide. Written materials must have a signature, phone, & address, altho a pseudonym will be printed by request. We tend to give preference to materials submitted by Santa Cruz County lesbians altho we also appreciate articles that concern out-of-town events. Send by 15th of mo.

DISTRIBUTION POINTS

Pick up Ruby at the following places and put yr 35¢ in the donation can: SC Women's Health Collective, Mother Right Bookstore & You've Got Me Flying Kite Shop; also, on sale at Bookshop Santa Cruz. Please send us yr \$ if you get Ruby at: Phyl's, Dragon Moon, Plaza Books, Cymbaline or Felton Co-op.

WORKERS THIS ISSUE

Catherine, Clytia, Kater, Janice. Cover by Jan.

MIDNIGHT MEANDERINGS

Well, friends, our morale is rather low this month. Part of the problem is that each of us has been going through some sort of personal life trauma- maybe it's the time of year for it, since a lot of people we know are having a hard time. This holiday-celebration-of-nuclear-family season tends to heighten our feelings of alienation from straight society. But a big part of our problem here at Ruby is that we need HELP! It's been nearly 2 months since the last issue and still we don't have enough copy to fill the issue-see p.17. Please send articles, reviews, short stories, poetry, etc. We also need drawings. Even a letter of support would be nice...

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lesbians Unite at IWY	3
Good News From Sue	7
Changes	8
A New Women's Center	11
Women Fight Back	18
Vandals Hit Diana	20
Lesbian Love Letters	24
Gay USA: Film Review	26

RUBYFRUIT READER

Box 2386, Santa Cruz, 95063
If any lesbian can't afford 35¢, then Ruby is free.

Lesbians Unite at IWY by Jami

It was a great day for lesbians on November 20, 1977 in Houston, Texas, at the National Womyn's Conference, when the sexual and affectional preference resolution passed. Who would have believed that the two past first ladies and the present first lady of this country would support a national conference where womyn recognized the fact that lesbianism is a viable lifestyle?

There were tense moments from the day we got to Houston. All of us were told to be on our guard against the reactionary forces in the city; to carry our rape whistles and to travel in three's and fours. We as lesbians were wondering if feminists were going to sell us out as they had in the past.

The lesbian delegates and non-delegates caucused to plan the best strategy for when the sexual and affectional preference plank hit the floor. There was some conflict in the beginning between lesbians that wanted to be highly visible and those that chose to wear polyester pantsuits and wedding rings, trying to pass as non-lesbians. The conflicts were somewhat resolved and high visibility was the plan of action.

The lesbian non-delegates and supporters acquired many different colored balloons that had printed on them "WE ARE EVERYWHERE". The balloons started appearing throughout the coliseum two resolutions before the sexual and affectional preference plank came to the floor. Signs were also waved that said: Lesbian Rights; Love a Lesbian; Vote YES on Sexual Preference; We are your Sisters, Daughters and Mothers; etc.

The lesbian delegates had their strategy worked out too. When the resolution came to the floor for discussion the eight microphones were lined with pro speakers. There were many powerful pro-speeches given by lesbians; one in particular was from a Chicana delegate who said that with the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment resolution she now could be guaranteed her rights as a womyn, with the passage of the minority womyn's resolution she could now be guaranteed her rights as a Chicana, and only with the passage of this re-

solution could she be fully guaranteed all her rights as a citizen of this country. Lesbian supporters who spoke included Betty Friedan who in the past had not considered lesbianism a feminist issue. She now stated that although passage of the E.R.A. is her prime interest, she realizes this does not protect the rights of homosexuals. She called for everyone to join with her to vote for the passage of the sexual and affectional preference resolution. Ellie Smeal, President of the National Organization for Women, homemaker and mother, also spoke for the resolution.

There were some speakers that spoke against the resolution saying it wasn't a womyn's issue but a moral issue and shouldn't be on the agenda.

With every pro speaker there was shouting and clapping of approval and with every con speaker you could hear boos from the non-delegates.

When the vote came to the floor the resolution overwhelmingly passed and there were shouts of approval, clapping and kissing. Womyn realized this was a civil rights issue and not until lesbians are free could any womyn hope to be free, for lesbianism could be used against any womyn who dares to challenge the patriarchal ideas and institutions of this society.

Some delegates turned to look at the non-delegates. Rumor had it it was to turn their backs away from the podium in protest.

The chairwoman kept banging her gavel trying to call the room to order, but womyn were too happy. Finally order was established as many womyn went outside the coliseum to hold a celebration of lesbian lifestyle.

The passage of the sexual and affectional preference resolution was the test that showed that each one of us with a special interest could come together as womyn and support each other in our choices to best fulfill our lives to the highest potential we desire.

The resolution that passed reads as follows:

Congress, State, and local legislatures should enact legislation to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual and affectional preference in areas including, but not limited to employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, public facilities, government funding, and the military.

State legislatures should reform their penal codes or repeal State laws that restrict private sexual behavior between consenting adults.

State legislatures should enact legislation that would prohibit consideration of sexual or affectional orientation as a factor in any judicial determination of child custody or visitation rights. Rather, child custody cases should be evaluated solely on the merits of which party is the better parent, without regard to that person's sexual and affectional orientation.

What is important now is for each of us to write to President Carter and our Congresspeople and insist that the resolutions that were passed at the National Women's Conference be heard and implemented immediately.

We as Womyn can and do have Power.



I'm sitting in my room reading about Gay demonstrations
& feeling myself part of them
until the pride wells up
so strong i can hardly speak
except to shout I'M GAY at the top of my lungs
but then i think of homophobia and persecution
i think that the Gay movement won't be helped
by my being kicked out of my family
i think i'll wait a couple of years to tell them
so i sit in my room
afraid to speak out for my identity
afraid to join my sisters, thousands strong
still, even as i sit here alone,
i can hear their chants in my heartbeat.

by Karen

Dirge for Motherhood

You were cold eyes steel grey
piercing nothing, seeing less,
a smile turned down and frozen laugh wrinkles lay
upon your manufactured pleasantness.

At 27 you were sure your life was half-past
plucking grey hairs
away from your virginal white silk cast
your last chance died descending those stairs.

Left to watch the moments of life
ticking by
your second half ended abruptly, with strife
and turmoil--"i do", and you died.

I've mourned you
with bitter, bloody tears
rich and deep from resenting you.
Giving up all that you were, for years

sacrificing even your mind,
not seeing the integrity lost.
You communicated only in kind
and were subservient at any cost.

Inevitable Time came around
and I left--having killed what remained
of our placenta--deeply embedded, as I had found.
Life-giving blood red binding and painful--it maimed
me, bound me firmly to the ground.

Destroyed now, so are you.
The bond gone now, so are you.

M-A



You are a monkey child playful
s - t - r - e - t - c - h - i - n - g
pulling all together
including me within you
from across the room.

M-A

Good News From Sue

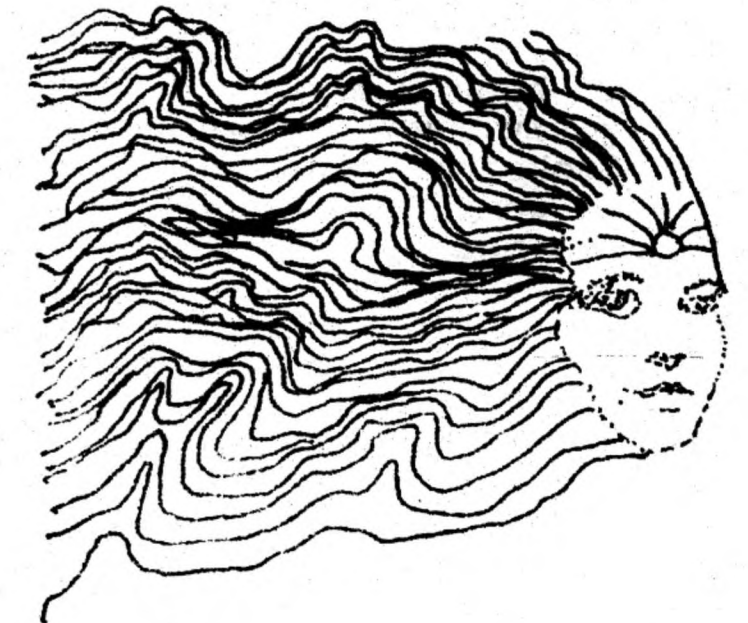
I had an interview with Mr. Cahill, the head of the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, on Nov. 27. He has changed my termination status from "punitive action" to "separation without fault", he agreed to take the investigation report out of my file, and he's going to try to get me a job, either here (probably next summer) or somewhere else in California. He was basically supportive of me and critical of some of the people in the Parks Dept., and said that if I ended up working with the same people again he'd make sure they didn't actively hold this whole thing against me.

Basically, I feel like I've come out of this much better off than I ever really expected to (particularly if I really do get a job.)

Which brings me to the main point of this article - which is that I think that this happened this way because people applied pressure. Mr. Cahill said he heard about it on a radio show (KZAP in Sacramento), and I'm sure his final decision had something to do with getting a lot of letters and the distinct poss-

ibility of a court suit. I think a whole lot of people did a whole lot of work, and we basically won (for a change) and I'm glad. I especially want to thank my defense committee, who were a personal support group, a political frame of reference, and a decision making group when I needed all three. And, I think that some people in the state parks system may be a little more careful in the future about how they treat lesbians.

Thanks. Sue Hilton



Lesbian feminist interested
in joining a support group.
Call Jami at 476-3921.

CHANGES . . .

by Catherine

Mother Right Bookstore is moving - physically to the Kite Store to share space with another woman entrepreneur, Marie Henley, and business-wise to be singly owned by Rhonda Norstegaard, as she bought out Jill Fields, her business partner of the past year.

This change came after many discussions between Jill and Rhonda, and further, after almost two months of womyn's community meetings. The need for Rhonda and Jill to separate in the business began these meetings - and finding the way in which to do this became the content of them.

If Rhonda was to sell the business she wanted payment for her share of the stock, plus payment of back wages. A group of womyn formed who wanted to buy and operate the bookstore collectively but they were unable to meet the price that Rhonda asked. Then they pooled their resources and came up with an offer to her, but she felt it was not enough. The collective womyn agreed that the desire for and the concept of wages for work was valid, but could not raise that amount for a business which was not yet making enough money to pay wages. Finally, Rhonda bought the store from Jill for the stock, name, etc, but their agreement did not include paying Jill back wages.

Slightly over a year ago Jill and Rhonda formed Mother Right Bookstore with the desire to have it open to input from the womyn's community. Womyn shared in ideas as to stock, shared open financial records, dreams for the store, had a place to hold the womyn's coffeehouse, gallery space for womyn artists, and space for womyn's cultural events and meetings - the store became a clearinghouse for much of the womyn's community events. When the time came to make a decision about the store's future, they felt they needed womyn to contribute to the decision making process. In addition to the various financial offers that were exchanged, the reasons behind the requests and rejections were explored and discussed at the meetings. A large part of the issue dealt with class background as a basis for the necessity of paying Rhonda back wages. During one meeting Rhonda shared much of her life background and how it tied intimately into her need for the price of the store to include wages. Womyn

at the meeting tried to understand this need, but could not agree that a completely separate group (the collective) was responsible for meeting this need.

Arising from the discussion of wage-paying was the matter of who should be paid wages - Jill, Rhonda, and several of their womyn friends and womyn in their support community had worked at Mother Right. If it was valid for one to be paid was it not also valid/desireable for each worker to be paid?

Another large desire on the part of several womyn at the meetings was that the bookstore be owned and run collectively. They knew that other bookcenters worked well this way, with the possibility of all the collective members eventually earning wages, and the change from a single or partnership-owned business to a collectivized one helped meet their political and personal visions of working toward change in the economic/sexual/cultural structure of our present society.

Rhonda did not wish to operate the bookstore with this collective, neither Jill singly, nor the collective could meet Rhonda's asking price, and thus, as mentioned earlier, Rhonda bought Jill's part of the store and plans to move to the Kite Store (123 Pearl Alley) and open there the beginning of January, 1978.

Womyn wishing to discuss the issues concerning the bookstore changes are encouraged to talk with Jill and Rhonda, as feelings and circumstances range further than this article could cover.

***Almost immediately upon concluding the bookstore decision, womyn began meeting to organize a Santa Cruz Womyn's Center, to be housed at 538 Seabright Avenue, presently Mother Right Bookstore. For that story see: " " " learned that

Note: Just as Ruby was going to "press", we learned that Mother Right will probably be operated by a collective of 7 to 8 women. Go by the store and find out what's really happening...

~~000~~

Public Service Announcement to all Reader Readers:
WHEN WAS YOUR LAST PAP SMEAR? If it was over a year ago or
if you can't remember, call 427-3500 to find out where
you can get one.

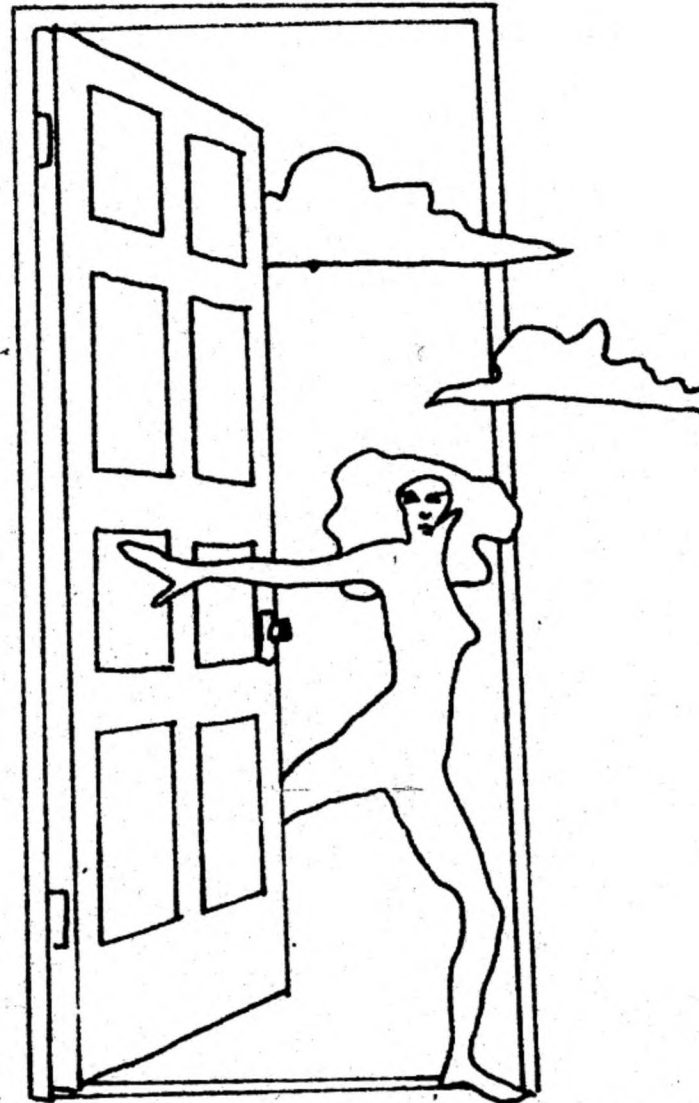
The Florida Citrus Commission gave singer Anita Bryant a unanimous vote of confidence in mid-November by extending her \$100,000/year promotional contract through August, 1979. The commission voted now rather than next February as originally scheduled in order to end speculation that she would lose her job because of her stand against homosexual rights.

(Santa Cruz Sentinel)



...but there aren't any in the U.S.A.!

As a followup to the Eva Kutas article of last issue, Eva has recently been "adopted" by Amnesty International, an organization that works for the release of political prisoners in all parts of the world. An AI chapter outside the USA will work for her release.



I've just completed the do-it-yourself uncontested divorce procedure and would like to share my experiences by giving support to any women in the process, or those who would be except the paperwork or the system is intimidating. All it takes is the initial \$47 filing fee, and a few hours of your time spread over 6 months. If you don't have the money you can still do it. Sharon at 423-9192 between 9am-9pm.

A New Women's Center:

Santa Cruz tries again!

We need a Women's Center in Santa Cruz. We are one of the few cities with a large, aware women's community which does not have a center for women to meet in groups, have activities and learn new skills. The Center will also provide space for classes, workshops, musical gatherings, dances, women's art work, films, general information and space for women to come together. We envision these ideas and many more. We are still in the formulating stages and we are open for new input as to what you would like this center to be. Meetings are every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at 538 Seabright Avenue.

The space that is now Mother Right Bookstore will be available to us for a women's center on January 1, 1978. The rent for this building is \$250.00 per month. In order to stay here we need to generate money from the women in this community now. We need your support, energy and money! Contributions can be either in the form of a monthly pledge or a lump sum donation. All contribu-

tions are greatly appreciated. We realize this is short notice but rent is due January 1.

We know this space will fulfill the need we now have for a Women's Center in Santa Cruz. Please take some time to consider what your contribution will be. Pledge notes and donations should be mailed to or dropped off at Mother Right Bookstore before December 30, 1977. Please include your name, address, and amount of your monthly pledge, and send with your donation to:

The Santa Cruz Women's Center
c/o Mother Right Bookstore
538 Seabright Avenue
Santa Cruz, Calif. 95063

Late Breaking Plans: Come join in a Beautification Weekend at the new Women's Center space, Jan. 7&8, 10-6 each day. Bring picnic type food to share, cleaning supplies, cloth, plants, couches, etc., and help make our new space lovely. Then.... the opening celebration will be the evening of January 13. See you there??!!!

12 GRAVE OF A WOMAN WARRIOR

Soviet archeologists have uncovered the grave of an Amazon who was buried together with her war-horse, spears, arrows, and gold earrings. The remains of the woman warrior, who lived in the fourth or fifth century B.C. were found near the Moldavian Village of Balabany. The remains were unearthed during excavation of a burial mound built by the Scythians, an ancient nomadic tribe that roamed large areas north of the Black Sea.

(info from S.F. Chronicle)

S.C. WOMYN'S HEALTH CENTER

Health Info and Counselling
Medical Services by Appointment
Lesbian Counsellors Available
Dr. Referrals / Medical Library
Self-help Workshop Monthly

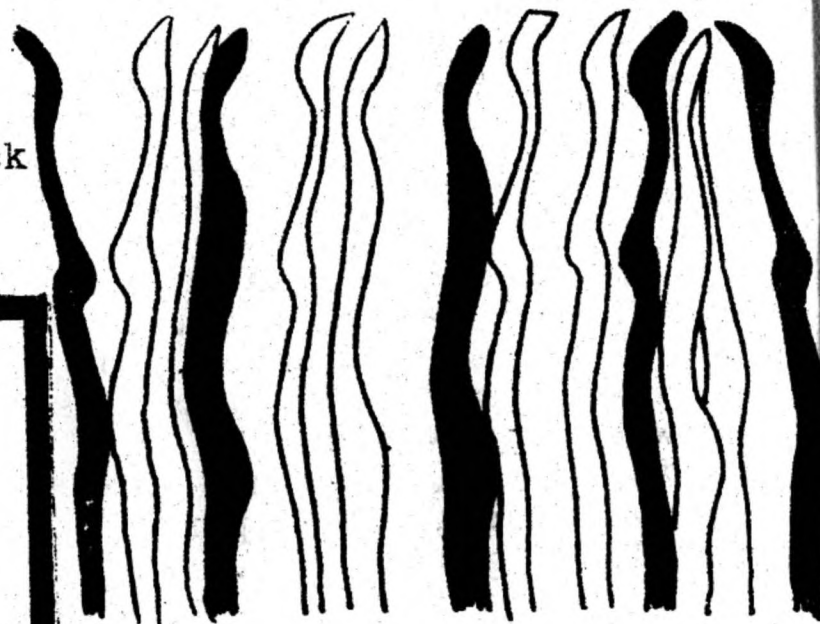
OPEN: 10-4 M-F; 7-9pm. Wed.

250 LOCUST ST.
427-3500

- 24 hour phonenumber -

* Rubyfruit distribution point *

Women in Transition, a women's therapy collective, announces a Lesbian Therapy Group led by Lauren Crux, LMFT. Begins Tuesday evening, Jan. 24, 7-9:30 (the time and day may be changed depending on interest). 8 weeks, sliding scale. Call 476-4656 for more info. Ask for Lauren.



The Womyn's Coffeehouse would relish some new womyn energy for their work. Call Kass at 423-2184.

There will be an organizational meeting for the Socialist/Feminist Women's Union on Jan. 7th at 7:30 pm. at 211 Walnut Ave. If you are interested please come. For info call 425-7329.

88.1 on your...

The Santa Cruz Women's Radio Collective is presently seeking new members. The collective is willing to train any woman interested in learning the ins/outs/off/ons of radio broadcasting and will also coach her through the process of obtaining a 3rd class FCC radio broadcaster's license.

Contact us if you are interested in helping do women's programming; be it music, news, history, poetry, drama, humor, or special interest programs. We are very open in format and scope, our programming ranging from the political to the whimsical.

Shows go out on the air every Monday from 8pm to 11pm. If you are interested in checking it out and sitting in on a Monday night with one or two of our loquacious membership please call Anne at 426-4319 or Helen at 427-0950 or phone us at KZSC on Monday nights at 429-4036.

dyke

cuts

by catherine

call for

appointment 427-3776



ON YER FM DIAL...

Mondays 8-11 PM

13

CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED

3 lesbians need a roommate to share their beautiful home by the sea. Call Cath or Wendy at 427-2908.

WOMENSWORKS presents:

**holly & mary
near & watkins**

PERFORMING ARTS, UCSC

jan 21 8:00 & 10:30**

\$ 3.50

tickets at UC box office, SC box office, & SC women's center

**especially for women; men are encouraged to attend early performance

Call in advance for childcare: 426-3953

signs of yesteryear pulling me back
 destructive forces of my own device
 helping me deal with a false reality
 seeking pleasure in the abyss of pain
 acquiescing to life's moral value
 for hopeless affection
 time wasted
 seeking the burning of hell
 pressing on to times of now and times of past and futures of
 dismay
 HELL
 bent fortune
 light of artificial means
 shining
 showing the way it is not
 and falsely I believe
 Times change
 and hearts break and
 circulation ceases for but a moment to get
 away
 to step
 aside
 to see
 free
 that it is is
 or what ever trite saying might be played upon these keys
 laughing in my pain and
 growing
 laugh in release
 knocking down doors for people's concern
 playing games for times discerned
 shadows lurking on the windows of my soul
 coldness
 shivering
 my body reaches out for my soul
 before death causes me to break the pattern of the unknown.



you pants white
 low hat white
 you gloves white
 white answer
 only one
 white reaction you
 laser me white
 you kiss
 icicles pierce
 a white dream
 real you
 thighs white
 furland white you
 eyes white
 these sighs white
 you angry
 ice bear white
 hands white white
 you swan white
 star white you
 white wind you
 white fire

jean prince

Waking up from a dreadful dream
 2 years later so it seems
 feeling again in a truthful manner
 seeking for some suitable answer
 the night draws an end to the spoken world and
 alive comes my spirit of yesteryear
 from a long hibernation it seeks to be
 free and
 me
 once again.

--Jami

Funny

how a laugh can come
 rolling out
 warming the core
 and still leave a cold
 dull
 painful ache
 behind.

Where is the love?

Walking up the street
 Hands buried deep in hip pockets,
 the other pair curling and recurving
 a lock of hair.

The gentle kiss
 and lingering touch
 are gone,
 but not really.

Hands don't know
 what to do with desire
 trapped in pockets
 and caught up in hair

The mind can stick
 dutifully to what is at hand
 and not dream
 of what might have been
 and still could be.

--M-A

"Why are you smiling"
she asks

This room is a single
capsule of warmth
music;

smooth tones of
medieval choral works
rise like the heat.

"Why are you smiling?"
This place floats in time.

"I was just seeing
every woman throughout every age,
crying in their extreme youth,
seeing them crying in full womanhood,
seeing them crying with wrinkled skin
and curled fingers,
Seeing them smiling in the interims."

jean prince

i will be back
again and again
looking for more of my story
being whipped and whipped
and being let on

for it is my way.

and i will run after you
(as i did in the dream
watching your saffron hair
bobbing in the sunlight
watching the folds of your dress
caressing each other as you ran)
in motion,
i always seem to be leaving
just as i get everything going in flames
i want you
like i want my life.

jean prince



We can't
always
pull it
out of
thin air.
Ruby

♀♀ fight back

A group of Bay Area, Sacramento, and Sonoma County women have been brainstorming to form a Women Fight Back Network (WFBN) which will link groups doing women's work across the state.

Recent events show that women need to organize more comprehensively and act more effectively. As women we are under attack. Recent legislation denies abortions to poor women. Two Third World women, Dessie Woods and Yvonne Wanrow, are on trial for defending themselves and their children from physical attack by white men. Jeanne Jullion, a lesbian and Linda Gill, a blind woman, must fight for custody of their children. A judge has ruled that it is okay to rape women hitch-hikers. Rape crisis groups and women's health centers are finding it harder to keep their funding. Lesbian women are under attack for their very existence. These are but a few examples.

A network could enable us to co-relate our different struggles as women, educate and support each other concerning these struggles and form a strong statewide women's

power base from which we could fight back. One idea is that a Bay Area office could act as a clearing house so that we can respond rapidly to crisis and initiate mass action.

A demonstration/conference/tent city is being planned on March 4 & 5 in Sacramento during International Women's Week to show our strength as united women, for women from all over the state to meet and exchange ideas, information and support and to provide an official contact point for organizations wishing to form the network. How participating or-

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



ganizations make this contact will be worked out in the planning of the demonstration by participant groups.

The network and the demonstration/conference can only work if they are designed and carried out by all participating groups to serve the needs you know best from your work. If you are interested, please contact us at United Neighbors for Action (UNA), 491 65th Street, Oakland, CA 94609 (415) 654-0101 and ask for Elizabeth. Weekly meetings are held on Thurs. @ 7:30pm at the Center for Independent Living (CIL) @ 2539 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley.

(memoirs of a lesbian
abortion counselor)

little fishbone ribs
i held you in my palm today
arm and tiny fist
dangling, mutilated
what you are now, or could
have been -
it matters not
yet this power
this fearful power of mine
it startles me
to end one life and save
the other
a choice we make often...
and this heterosex
what is it
that it plants without care
or will
what must be torn out again
with such force?

kater

Marie Henley's home burned yesterday (12/20) and with it her clothes, furniture, and all the normal stuff that gets wrecked in such an occurrence. Any help towards replacing her belongings and helping her re-establish her life would be appreciated. For her specific needs and for sizes of clothing, shoes, etc., and for where to send \$\$ gifts, please call: 426-4444.

VANDALS HIT DIANA

Sometime between 10pm on Oct. 24 and 8am on Oct. 25, someone broke into the office of Diana Press in Oakland and caused enough damage to cripple the company's operations. The vandals apparently came in through a loading-dock door which had been improperly wired into the alarm system. They methodically destroyed books, offset plates, and equipment, and disabled what could not be destroyed. Solvent and ink were poured over plates for books issued during the past 5 years, making reprinting very difficult. Five thousand copies of Rita Mae Brown's Plain Brown Wrapper were destroyed. Pasted-up copy for three books meant for the Fall catalog were torn up page by page. Oil-based ink and cleanser were poured into the gears of all four presses, so that they now must be dismantled, cleaned, and rebuilt. IBM composers, typewriters, telephones, and the adding machine were also disabled. The distributions, sales, and bookkeeping areas of the office were ransacked and strewn with chemicals from the press room.

There is no part of Diana Press's operation which was not disrupted due to the vandalism. It was extensive, painstaking, and clearly the work of someone who knew where a small press would be most vulnerable to attack.

As for who did it, major women's media sources are apparently differing. According to Plexus, Diana Press suspects the federal government. It is aware of past gov't harassment and investigation of women's groups and views itself as a "major institution within the feminist movement that is active". There was another break-in at the Women In Distribution offices in Wash. D.C. which occurred a few days before the one at Diana Press. The Press also reportedly suspects that the federal gov't is exploiting the divisiveness within the women's community in an effort to leave feminists pointing their fingers at one another.

According to another women's newspaper, off our backs, the women at Diana Press clearly feel that the vandalism came from within the movement by women who disapproved of the politics of Diana Press. Part of the press release they

issued after the break-in reads:

The identity of the vandals is not known. It seems, however, that they were women. Their footprints found on a shelf and on a sheet of paper were far too small for most men. Speculation as to who could have done such a thing centers around three primary possibilities:

1. Government agents
2. Women in the movement who were opposed to Diana Press and to FEN (the Feminist Economics Network)
3. A combination of agent provocateurs and women who felt they were saving the movement from "feminist capitalism."

...Regardless of who personally and individually was responsible for this particular act of physical violence, it was made possible by the climate of gossip, trashing, backbiting and verbal violence that the movement has encouraged about Diana Press and FEN for the last 2 years. The movement is subject to infiltration only when it is divided against itself and unable to deal with political differences constructively.

In the absence of more evidence than just footprints, it seems that reaching the conclusion that the vandals were movement women disaffected with Diana Press and FEN requires a large leap. It also seems that blaming critics for the destruction at Diana perpetuates the idea that verbal criticism and disagreement are inextricably linked to physical violence. The implication is that either we must mute our differences, or we will loose all manner of destructive forces.

Disagreement does not automatically lead to violence. The distinction is easily made. Public criticism, however heated, is in the realm of ideological struggle. Physical violence is an attack on the right to be, either mentally or physically, and cannot be justified by political rationalization.

Finally the characterization of criticism of Diana Press and FEN as "gossip, trashing, back-biting and verbal violence" is an unprincipled dismissal of real political differences, an attempt to tar political opponents with the brush of vandalism.

the second life of simone-
tired tired yes tired each thought lifting pains of the
unknown

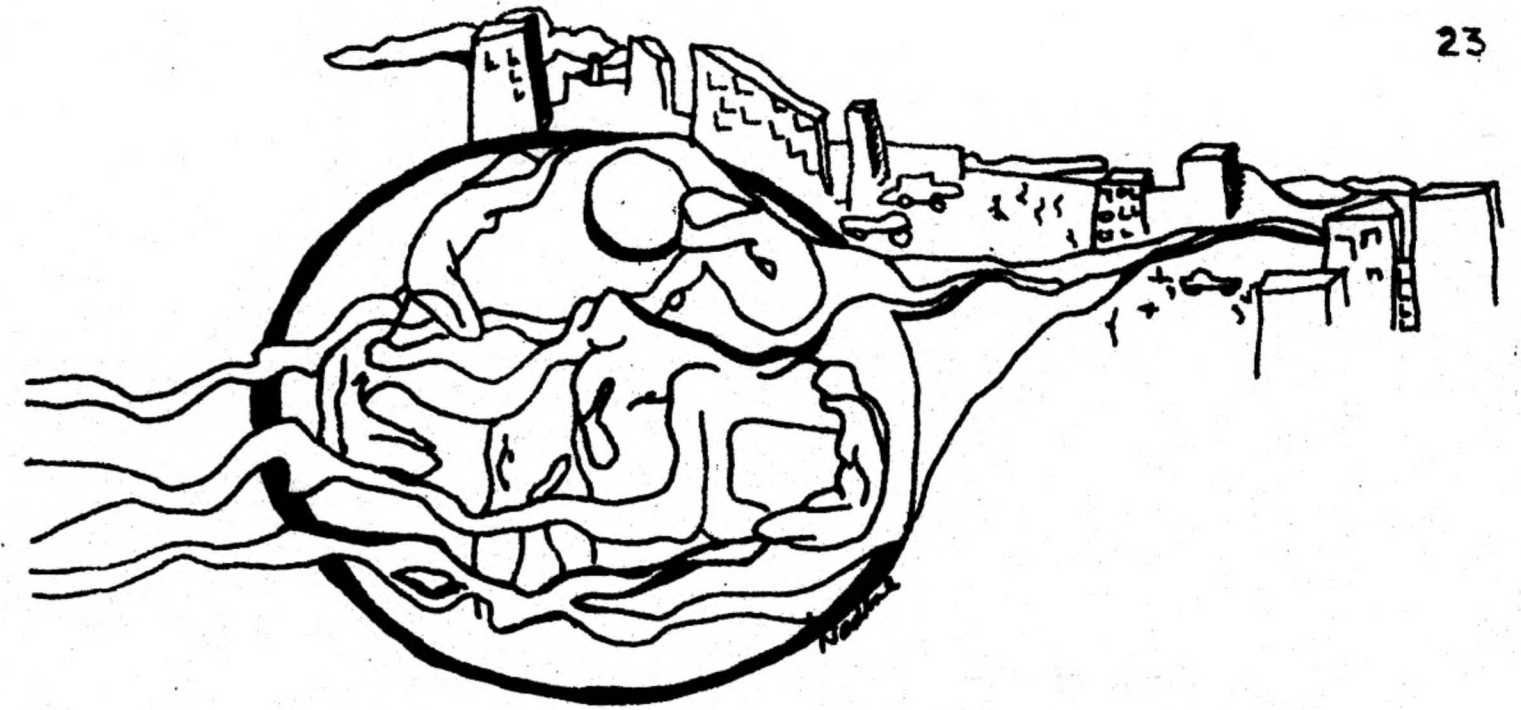
pains of reality striking
voices ringing
thoughts singing Glory Glory Hallelujah
sister hit me with the ruler
measuring my strength
measuring time against it all
although
time deludes me
waking up one morning the after birth still lingering
between my legs

child of the unknown
new surroundings different perceptions
scream out IT IS IT IS
going forth screaming IT IS IT IS
writing again
mirages of the spirit helping or hindering
death defining terms telling you not me
YOU speak heavy words loaded ones
stretching my legs
tearing them from their sockets
FOR WHAT
reading each day the signs on the freeway telling me it is
this

Vandals (cont.)

In view of all this Diana Press has clearly stated, "in spite of this crippling blow to our very work, we all feel that we cannot close. We feel that what we are doing is too important to give up." Support from across the country is needed, however, particularly in the form of donations and direct orders for books. Contact Diana Press, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608.

(info from off our backs and plexus)



way i want to go
why call yourself a freeway Why?
Night dawning thoughts in my mind
spinning not rising elevation is left to elevators and
giraffes (not elephants as one might think)
Plastered to the walls with beer puke as mortar and
I AM ANGRY
stifling words of heavens' compassion
ripping my guts to your hearts content
or contempt
which?
bellowing bellowing as the light disappears and all trace of
color is gone from sight
FRIGHT
gaining control
of my soul
Paths leading one on a lonesome mission to nowhere for no
reason
but the third dimension has had its turn so we fo(u)rth
is there a limit to pain
is there a limit to anger
is there a limit to freedom?

--Jami

24 Lesbian Love Letters

Love between women has received very little serious attention in literature, interest often being limited to political and sociological analysis or pornographic treatment. The time has come for women to share and explore the essence of that very thing that brings and keeps us together--the spirit of love between us.

We are planning to do a book we hope will show the heart of love between lesbians--through their letters, the most authentic and living reflection of the life cycle of that love. We feel that

the language of lovers (as opposed to those who write about them) is spontaneous poetry. As editors we intend to keep a low profile and let the letters speak for themselves.

We're collecting lesbian love letters from all over the country and we're asking women to contribute their letters. We realize that many of them may concern past relationships and that you may feel a light year away from that time in your life and possibly embarrassed re-reading or submitting them; however, they could be an im-

portant contribution to the purpose of this book. We want to include letters that reflect the nature and quality of all facets of relationships--the beginning, the middle, the end, the struggles and changes, the new beginning, and continuing friendships..Feedback on this project has been enthusiastic, but readers want to know a little about the people involved. Some brief autobiographical note as well as what was happening in the relationships at the time the letters were written will help the women reading it to better identify.

Not all letters we receive will be published, but all will be treated confidentially.

We need releases from the 25 writers of the letters that will be published, so please accompany any letters with the names and addresses of the letter writers and we'll tactfully contact them for release. We'll automatically change all names in the letters, so, if you have a preferred name, send it along with the letters. We would be grateful for photocopied letters, but we will xerox your originals and promptly return them to you. Our deadline for the collection of letters is March 1, 1978. Please forward letters to: LLL, PO Box 621, Old Chelsea Station, New York NY 10011. Thank you very much. In love, Joan G. and Diane G.

What is love if you can't shout it?
What good is this coffee if I can't taste it?
How marvelous is this ocean scene if I cannot marvel it
with my eyes,
with the soles of my feet?

What good is love, if you can't shout it?
It is what I live and you might too
but you do not shout it (I do not)
but you don't even say it to yourself (shame)

If I hold you and you are not rough
if there is no wet spot to sleep on
then is the love any less?
Oh woman,
when the mind is murdered, and life flows through the eyes
then you will see that love is love and by any other name
would still be a flower
and you must shout it.

--Jean Prince--

Mother Right
tues - sat
11-6.
123 Pearl Alley
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060
426-1317
feminist bookstore

for
quality

CARPENTRY
PLUMBING and
AUTO WORK

call
JANICE
427-3776

a film review

Film Review: GAY U.S.A., directed by Arthur Bresson, w/ a cast of thousands.

Those people who had a chance to see "Gay U.S.A." at the Sash Mill Theater over the weekend of Dec. 10th are most likely glad they went. Those who missed it (unfortunately it only played 3 days) probably want to be sure to see it if they get a chance to. And if they don't, they should.

I would like to be able to say that this is the best gay movie I've ever seen. It is. Unfortunately, it's also the only gay movie I've ever seen, so let me just say that it is the most heartening, spiritually uplifting, encouraging thing I've ever experienced, be it gay books, gay records, gay what-have-you. Seeing thousands of gays marching, chanting, proud and strong, gave me a feeling of inner confidence, strength, a feeling that "an army of lovers cannot fail."

The film consists of 73 minutes of footage of gay demonstrations, combining general shots of marches with

short interviews, with some of the individual demonstrators. The story of the Stonewall Raid is recounted, as well as the little-known facts of the Third Reich's mass extermination of gays prior to WWII. This last is illustrated with photos of prisoners wearing triangles and photos of children (Jewish, I assume) being brought into a concentration camp, juxtaposed with photos of present-day gay demonstrations.

I'd recommend it to any one that hasn't seen it yet (I'd like to see it again). I don't think it's showing anywhere around here, but if we stuff the request lists at the theaters maybe it'll come around again, I hope so- it's great! -Karyn-

The Lesbian Umbrella Organization is a community group open to all lesbians. We have open monthly gatherings (next one Jan.15- see calendar) which provide a way for us all to meet, discuss relevant issues and socialize, as well as for new lesbians to plug into any of several small groups. Call 426-DYKE for more info. NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

[illegible]

JANUARY CALENDER

RUBY'S ADVERTISING RATES

We want to support more of the cost of our production through ads. We also hope to raise enough to start printing, (instead of mimeo).

So, if you would like to place an ad with us, please send camera ready copy (black ink and graphics on white paper to size) and payment by the 15th of the month.

Our rates are as follow:

CLASSIFIED:

- will be typed, single spaced
- \$1.00 for first 25 words
- \$.50 for each additional 10 words

DISPLAY:

- \$2.00 per column inch (2 3/4 inches wide)
- OR--

	high	wide	
-1/4 page	3 1/4"	x 2 3/4"	\$ 6.00
-1/2 page	6 1/2"	x 2 3/4"	\$12.00
-or	3 1/4"	x 6"	\$12.00
-full page	6 1/2"	x 6"	\$24.00

Feel free to write or call about trades.



CLIP IT OUT
FILL IT OUT...



AND
Send it in!!!

Rubyfruit Reader
SUBSCRIPTION
(3 BUCKS for 6 MONTHS)

name
Address

Zip

box 2386, santa cruz, 95063