

# Rubyfruit BOX 2386 SANTA CRUZ Reader



A LESBIAN COMMUNIQUE

FEB 1978

ISSUE 17



# Dear Reader Readers

The Rubyfruit Reader is Santa Cruz's ONLY lesbian commune. She is published as often as possible (every 1-2 mths) 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 open to taking in new members--call 426-DYKE for meeting times.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING W/ US?

We are proud to announce that this issue is the 2ND ANNIVERSARY ISSUE. Altho moral is low, we are amazed to be this old. We are in desperate need of new energy. Until we get that energy, we will be coming out as often as we can. We need articles, graphics, friends to come over at lay-out time to help out with the tasks.

We want to thank all the people who sent stuff in for this issue; keep those cards and letters coming in folks!

## RUBYFRUIT READER

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

## 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.

## DISTRIBUTION POINTS

Pick up Ruby at the following places and put yr 35¢ in the can: Rising Moon ♀'s ctr, S.C.♀'s Health Ctr., Mother Right Bookstore/ You've Got Me Flying Kite Shop, UCSC ♀'s studies; also on sale at Bookshop Santa Cruz. Please send us yr \$ if you pick Ruby up at Phyl's, Dragon Moon, or Cabrillo ♀'s Ctr.

The cover photo is by Clytia Fuller of a sculpture by Tanya Wolff. If you would like to see more of her photographs, see her exhibit at the Kite Shop or her photo-postcards at Mother Right or ♀'s center.

# Reflections on a Friday-the-13th

3

offered by E.

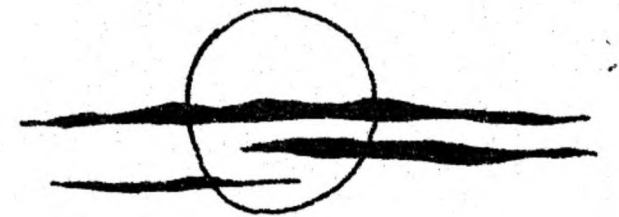
The new Rising Moon Women's Center opened with amazing energy on Friday, January 13th, 1978. About 200 women showed up to see the space that is dedicated to them.

Music, an energy circle, dancing, socializing, and some announcements were the itinerary for the evening. Much of what occurred was well-rendered and well-received, but not all went smoothly. There were times when conflicting desires seemed to take over; some women wanted focus and direction, while others wanted a more random social situation. There were some angry exchanges and a few bad moments.

On the whole I felt happy that our center is really happening, and that so many sisters identified enough with the space to come together for it's inception. Though there were some difficulties, and mistakes were made, I feel that the event was a success. However I am concerned about the negativity that occurred, and would like to share some of my personal impressions. How come there were problems, and what might be tried in the future to prevent them?

As a long-time performer I have accumulated some experience in presenting public events. Not to say I am an expert, but I have noticed a few things that seem to work. Events like these seem to run most smoothly when most people know what's been planned. Usually one person acts as facilitator, or MC, and keeps the crowd informed as to what's happening. A supporting staff helps to carry out the details and keeps things together. This type of organization was lacking on the 13th, I feel, mainly because of inexperience.

The original plan of the evening had been as follows: a small opening ceremony done by the collective, some quiet music, a little talking, and then dancing and socializing to finish out the evening. This plan was designed by the collective to meet three needs - a time of focus and oneness, a →





4 reflections...

chance to inform everyone of what's going on at the center so far, and a time for general celebration and socializing.

If our MC had told everyone at the beginning (and repeated her announcement later for the wave of newcomers) everyone would have known that their needs were being accounted for. Instead, one woman invited random socializing at the closing of the energy circle, and confusion began to take hold. The quieter planned events were begun after much shushing and shouting which irritated some and was a strain on others. It also was time-consuming and made the first events take much longer than planned.

Another thing I noticed was that the performers seemed uninformed as to the order, duration, and type of their appearances. In the past I have found that things go better when everyone can state their needs and agree on the proceedings. This bit of organization did not happen either - partly due to lack of time - and again - I feel, experience.

These are small matters, really, but they did lead to some conflict. I hope the women of the Santa Cruz community will understand, and not be turned off by our bumblyings.

I feel there is a deeper problem, however, and I'm not so sure it can be as easily remedied. It is the varying political views of many women, which I felt contributed to the atmosphere of conflict. I think perhaps it boils down to "do we change the system violently or non-violently?" Some feel strongly one way and some the other. I only hope the difference doesn't become a dis-unifying split to weaken us.

I myself am in favor of a gentle revolution. I cannot feel supportive of violence. I haven't noticed that the bloody revolutions of the past have achieved true liberation for many - certainly not for women. To me the true changes are made through love and consciousness-raising. There may be a phase of healthy anger, but with release and peaceful alternatives at its end - not war.

It is the patriarchy that starts wars and has to accom-



plish things through competition and force. I have read that the ancient Goddess-worshipping matriarchies were peaceful cultures. The invading male-dominated God-worshipping tribes acquired their control through bloodshed and coercion.

I know there are many angry sisters (and they have a right to be angry) who don't see any other way. I only hope a dialogue can exist to keep us at one with each other. Perhaps the center will become a space for such dialogues.

I feel we need to remember that as women we are new at the tasks we are undertaking. Most of us are conditioned from birth to be led, and let others do the organizing. We are bound to make mistakes. But if we can learn from them, and forgive ourselves, and each other too- we can surely grow and flourish in time. BLESSED BE.... Love, E.

outside

the trees grow tall and green  
on a coat line

farther north than here  
you grow  
farther and farther from me  
with every passing day  
the sun plays in the tips of trees  
rarely reaching ground  
wood close to wood

thickly  
guarding roots  
sinking deeper for nutrients  
in the dark/i think  
of root systems  
longer than systems  
regulate flux and flow  
in the shadowed machinery  
your sun hasn't touched  
for so long

i grow mushrooms where you  
once walked -  
my wood in brown  
studies the temperature  
of your moist return

kate aragon





# Women's Counseling

The Santa Cruz Women's Health Collective will be offering low cost counseling for women starting in mid-February. They will be providing individual counseling by lay counselors as well as community mental health referrals.

The focus of these counseling services is to assist women in:

- Developing and strengthening her sense of self
- Asserting and expressing herself
- Developing a positive sense of her body and sexuality
- Confronting expectations she has of herself and feels others have for her
- Working through feelings of loneliness and isolation
- Accepting the process of aging
- Learning problem-solving techniques
- Developing a personal support system
- Becoming more autonomous while breaking down restrictive roles
- Realizing personal power
- Discovering channels for action and change, both personal and political

Individual counseling will be offered for a maximum of eight to ten weeks. The empha-

sis here is to enable women to solve problems, find support, and make positive life changes within a short period of time. For women who are in need of long-term therapy or who are in a serious ongoing crisis situation, the Women's Health Collective will be providing a community mental health referral system. The referrals will be based on the collective's research and experience, on the work of other community groups, and on input from women in the community. Use of these referrals will provide a means for women to make more informed choices about mental health services in this county.

In the near future, the Women's Health Collective will be offering group counseling. These groups will be for women who prefer group counseling, or who have had individual counseling and want to continue meeting. Lay counselors who facilitate the groups will share counseling skills, so that eventually women in the group could take part in the facilitating process. There will also be special focus groups. Possibilities include groups for new mothers, lesbians, high school women, and menopausal women.

These groups can be an important way for women to build a mutual support system and a network for promoting change for themselves and each other within a social context.



The Santa Cruz Women's Health Collective operates the Women's Health Center on 250 Locust St. They are a group of thirty women who are ultimately committed to a health care system based on people's needs rather than profit. They are working to develop a preventive and education-oriented health care system which emphasizes concepts of whole body and emotional health. Their counseling program has come out of these goals as well as the need for low cost, political and femi-

nist therapy in Santa Cruz. 7

In their own words: "Our counseling will be in direct contrast to traditional therapy. Traditionally, the therapist-client relationship has been that of a dominant, omnipotent authority (usually male) therapist and a helpless, meek woman client. Too often women have been rewarded for patterns of distress and dependency. In our work we view both participants in the counseling relationship as equals. Women's personal problems are not seen entirely in an individual context; they are also seen in relationship to the broader social context."

## 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  
Counseling Services

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

250 LOCUST ST.

427-3500

- 24 hour phoneline -

\* Rubyfruit distribution point \*

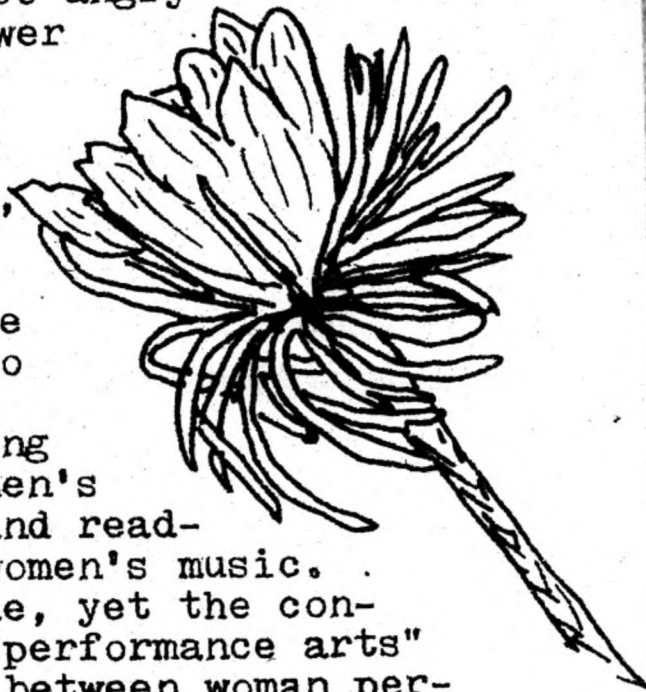


## 8: SOMEWHAT RANDOM THOUGHTS ON

# POLITICS & ART

Last month I went to the Holly Near/Mary Watkins concert. Afterwards I was invited to a party. Although I've had fantasies of meeting Holly, talking to her as equals, as two politically conscious, creative women, it didn't prove to be that easy. I was nervous, did not want to come on like a groupy, felt frustrated that she didn't know me and of course could in no way deduce from my exterior that we'd have anything in common. And all the while I was wondering if the idea that "if only she knew me she'd find me an interesting person," was just my ego running wild. And yet I could not transcend the urgency to let her know what an important influence she has been on my life. What a powerful role model she was for me; a woman using her talent to raise consciousness, make socio-political comment, etc., when I was still living in a one-bedroomhouse with a man, lost, without purpose and very frustrated. After plucking up courage I tried to explain some of this to her, but my voice trembled, I tripped over the words and backed off, embarrassed.

Not only was I embarrassed, I was also angry at myself for giving away all my power to her. I was confused. What is it, this celebrity stuff? How could I behave like that, shaky, powerless near her? Intellectually, of course, I accept that I have as much worth, but my reaction was emotional. I don't begin to understand it. We are all women together. We do what we do best and offer it to the community, whether it is fixing cars, organizing child care centers, putting out women's publications (like Ruby), writing and reading poetry, or giving concerts of women's music. All these contributions are valuable, yet the contributions that are classified as "performance arts" lead to this unfortunate imbalance between woman performing and woman in audience.



What can be done to prevent this? Perhaps very little. Holly does her best. Even after two performances the other night she came up front afterwards to talk. The women at Olivia 9 Records have tried to overcome the celebrity system by giving everyone involved in production equal billing on the record jackets. When Olivia women give concerts they usually give each performer equal stage time regardless of what the capitalistic entertainment industry calls "drawing power." However, ironically at such concerts I've found myself frustrated. As one example only, a long, technically excellent piano solo is not nearly as exciting to me as Holly's extraordinarily powerful and moving lullaby to herself. (THIS IS AN EXAMPLE- REMEMBER- NOT "IS HOLLY BETTER THAN MARY?") I think this is because a piano is a piano is a piano and makes piano sounds whether it's played by a male or female. It would take a very radical change of approach to the instrument to draw from it what could be called "Women's Music." It is not enough that the pianist be female. In contrast, a woman's voice is miraculous; it can convey all the subtleties of her experience and emotion, past and present. I think THIS is the stuff women's culture is made of. Perhaps many women would agree. But dare we say so? Are we afraid to show obvious preference for one artist over another, so careful are we to be fair, politically correct, etc. (By the way - who decides what is "politically correct" anyway?) I find myself questioning if this attitude of fairness is best for women's art. This brings me to the ethics of the collective process where art is concerned. Should we allow collective process to overlook the obviously extraordinary?





talents of a few women so that those less talented IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA be encouraged? If the answer is 'yes', then two sub-questions spring up: Is this condescension?, and, Where do we draw the line, if anywhere? When collective process becomes detrimental to the growth of women's culture then perhaps it is the wrong process. Socialist politics and art are tricky partners, but what are the alternatives? Certainly not a return to the perverse "star" system, but it does seem that we women, in our acute sensitivity to the need to support and encourage ALL women, should not ignore the fact that there will be a few who will rise above the usual in their ability to awaken us, teach us and thrill us and in so doing, contribute to our vision of what is possible, and in turn contribute immeasurably to rising women's culture. Let us not stifle them, even a little, in our clumsy attempts at equalizing things; rather, let us examine more closely WHY we feel the need to equalize things in the area of art. Are we trying to make up for the hierarchical, patriarchal structure that women have had to struggle through? If so, is this the way? Is this liberalism? Does this alternative spring from our fear of power and the way we have seen it used?

Perhaps when women's culture is older, more defined, we will be confident that allowing some of us to fly high as we can helps ALL women and in no way diminishes any one of us, but rather inspires us. It takes a very long time to build a culture; I think we should keep far-sighted. We, as women committed to change, are groping for new ways of doing things. Some of the alternatives we try will not turn out to be what is best in the long run. Let us be vigilant of our processes, re-examine them, and be willing to replace what proves to be ineffectual or harmful with yet other alternatives.

I feel I'm taking a risk in writing this article. I am afraid I will expose myself as politically naive and or worse, "elitist." I've brought up a lot of questions and I have no answers. I am writing these thoughts in hope that they will spark discussion among women and out of that will come more understanding.

In solidarity and love,

Ray Gwyn Smith

## NEWS FROM L.U.O.

The Lesbian Umbrella Organizations' January meeting was a great success. The topic for discussion was "Breaking Into the Lesbian Community". Since newcomers are always welcome at L.U.O. meetings, quite a few were present.


After the usual frolicking fun of the icebreaker games, we broke into smaller groups to discuss the issues. All of the groups had a lively time sharing their views and experiences and came up with some fantastic ideas for making newcomers feel at home in the community. Some of the ideas included: getting much needed information to the newcomer, such as what's going on in our community, where the lesbian operated businesses are and how best to get acquainted in our area.

All of us agreed that potlucks specifically to welcome newcomers would be a good idea, as well as having a group designated "the welcoming committee". Packets of information will hopefully be ready to hand out to newcomers at our first Newcomer Potluck--Feb. 12th--Noon→ 2 pm at 538 Seabright Ave--The Rising Moon Women's

by Tigger and Butterfly

Center. We need total lesbian support to make this a success. Please come, bring your food and your friends and yr plate and silverware. We plan to make this at least a monthly event.


Also, mark your calendar for the next L.U.O. meeting--Feb. 19th 2-5 pm at the Women's Center. See y'all there!



for  
quality

**CARPENTRY**  
**PLUMBING** and  
**AUTO WORK**

call **JANICE**  
**426-6925**



CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED  
WOMEN'S COUNSELING: Low-cost, short-term counseling by lay counselors of the Santa Cruz Women's Health Collective. We will be taking appointments starting Feb. 13. Call 427-3500.



I was born a dyke,  
Then they took it out of me

(They taught me to fear  
They taught me to doubt  
[my self]  
They taught me to think only of others  
They taught me to sit with legs crossed  
And not take up too much space  
And walk carefully through Life, too carefully,  
And don't try  
And don't do anything alone  
And don't do anything well  
And don't know all that I am  
[With my powerfull, soulfull strength] ---  
They taught me to be a good girl.  
And they took away The Knowledge  
That was inside me.)

I learned it so well  
That I thought I was only recently  
a "political convert" to lesbianism.

But now I know.  
It's been in me all along  
I merely had it stolen.

Now I have claimed it back.

Karen B.



## The Great Goddess Re-Emerging

For millenia throughout the ancient world, the Great Goddess was revered as holding the power of life, death, and rebirth, as the giver of wisdom, just law, and the arts of civilization; and as the protector of peace and the nurturer of growth. In the Christian era, the last of her temples was forcibly closed in the 5th century AD. But an irrepressible movement arose to name Mary, "Theotokos," the Mother of God. While denying the Goddess, the Christian Church, for the sake of its own survival, allowed the worship of Mary to flourish in the Mediterranean and Celtic countries where the tradition of the goddess was strong.

Today, the symbol of the Great Goddess is re-emerging in the midst of a culture which has been predominantly patriarchal for several thousand years. Symbol of wholistic understanding, cooperative process, and natural energy, she is being rediscovered by many who seek new visions of political and spiritual power. Hers is the wisdom of season and cycle, waxing and waning, birth and death, that many of us dis-

cover as we come to trust our experiences and to integrate the psychic and healing forces within ourselves and our world. The goddess is an outer manifestation of these energies in ourselves.

There will be a weekend program on the Goddess Re-Emerging through the Univ. of Cal. Extension at Santa Cruz, Mar. 31 through April 2. This conference will be multifaceted, exploring the story and wisdom of the Goddess through art, ritual, myth, theater, and poetry. We will look at the Goddess through current research in history, archeology, religion and psychology, focusing on aspects particularly relevant today. Some of the participants will be Carol Christ, Anne Kent Rush, and Merlin Stone.

The program may be taken for either credit or non-credit, with the fees \$55/c, and \$45/nc. For more info direct your questions to "The Goddess Program," U of Cal. Extension, Santa Cruz, Ca. 95064 or phone (408) 429-2971.

**CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED CLASS**  
Gallery space available. Negotiable rates. 123 Pearl Alley. Call or come by. Marie. 426-4444



When we first kissed  
 in that bright room  
 and I said I'm shy (and you didn't believe it)  
 and you spilled beer down your back (twice)  
 and you invited me for tea  
 Did you know?

When I drank beer (instead of tea)  
 and you drank wine  
 and we kissed in the bathroom  
 and went home together  
 Did you know?

Did you know you would write me a letter  
 with a recipe for coffee-can bread  
 and a joke from Rachel  
 and when we danced  
 touched  
 loved  
 Did you know?

## II

And when we talked  
 and I laid my insecurities on the table  
 and we told of our hurts - old hurts-  
 did you know I'd grow to love you  
 and need your friendship?

When we drank hot chocolate  
 and smoked cigarettes in bed  
 and wrote each other love letters  
 Did you know you'd tell Martha we're lovers  
 and did you know I'd want to tell everyone (even my parents?)

## III

And did you know we would learn how to share  
 our deepest fears and desires  
 and we'd grow to feel close  
 and that I'd miss you when we're apart?  
 Did you know you would lend me a book  
 and that I would want to try everything with you  
 And that I'd grow to be proud of being a Lesbian?  
 Did you know?

Joy

-to a quasar-

"a distant starlike  
 celestial object that  
 emits much light or  
 powerful radio waves."\*  
 \*Webster's New World  
 Dictionary of the am-  
 erican language



Woman, my world receives  
 the bounce of your radio  
 energy from so many miles  
 this body almost daily  
 spins and twirls  
 by your own definition  
 which i run and re-run  
 thru computer banks  
 trying to decipher the mechanics  
 of your astral emissions

my ocean floors sophisticated  
 instruments  
 anticipate your intensity from  
 the last recorded touch  
 in patterned quadrants  
 your signal abstracts  
 to the degree of complications  
 surrounding the merging of  
 two points

in space your waves reach me  
 simply  
 as easily as fingers  
 obliterate our distance

in fine fire from your  
 body  
 i discover hidden patterns  
 in shored loops fed into banks  
 i discover contradictions  
 in this planet,

living  
 for the fire of stars  
 yet trusting machinery  
 to skin touch;  
 maintaining distance to compensate  
 for

gravitational pull

kate aragon



## AND THE WATER COMES AGAIN

Wednesday, January 25, laid-back Santa Cruz changed a little. One hundred-plus people drew the line and made a stand regarding the type of "entertainment" they would tolerate.

The Crossroads Tavern was to have a "naughty nite". The show called the "wet T-shirt act" let women customers volunteer to dance around to live music played by a group called The Pricks, while men, armed with squirt guns spray the T-shirts of these women until they are soaked. Then a judging was to take place with \$20 going to the "winner".

The demonstrators, with very short notice, turned out in large numbers around 8 pm, singing, chanting and carrying signs.

The owner, Richard Spachner, said the act was just "harmless fun." The demonstrators replied chanting, "harmless fun hurts" and "harmless fun costs and women pay the price."

By 10 pm. the show was cancelled and the \$5 cover charge was returned to some 30 customers.

The organizers of the demonstration, called the Committee Against Cultural Violence Toward Women, told the group, "Playful imagery reflects real violence...the connection between the symbolic violence of being shot at with a squirt gun and the actual violence that women are being subjected to in this town and everywhere is real." It was reported that 2 to 3 rapes are committed in Santa Cruz every day.

The committee said in their leaflet, "This statement is not a personal attack on the women who have participated, but an expression of concern on our part for all women. This is not meant to be a moralistic putdown of people as sexual beings (but) we must all learn new ways to be sexual without being sexist."

The police were on hand but the demonstration was very peaceful and no incidents occurred.

After the announcement of cancellation of the show, the owner invited the protesters in for a drink. No one accepted. Instead, the demonstrators formed a circle, held hands and took a moment of silence. Then feelings of joy, pride and satisfaction were shared and the last chant: "We have won and we will win again!"

by Marie

## Text of Leaflet for Women

Playful imagery, ("It's only water"), reflects real violence. Sure, it's all in fun - it's only water pistols, they're not real guns. What harm is done if women, of their own free will, choose to amuse men in this "naughty" way? But the connection between the symbolic violence of being shot at with a squirt gun and the actual violence that women are being subjected to in this town (and everywhere) is real. This 'playful' charade reinforces and encourages the acceptance of women as targets for male aggression. The object on the stage means a victim on the street.

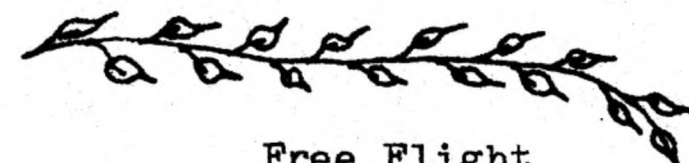
On an average there are two to three rapes reported daily in Santa Cruz County and nationally, there are approximately ten million women being physically abused in their home environments. This type of violence is supported and condoned by women being on stage having their bodies shot at by men with plastic guns, while dancing to the music of 'The Pricks'.

This statement is not a personal attack on the women who have participated in this event, but an expression of concern on our part for all women. This is not meant to be a moralistic putdown of people as sexual beings. We all must learn new ways to be sexual without being sexist.

As women, we would like you to know that we are affected by your actions. Our concern with the Wednesday evening event at the Crossroads arises out of a respect for the women participating and all women.

If you wish to respond to this statement, please talk to us here, or call 426-RAPE.

---Committee Against Cultural Violence Toward Women---



### Free Flight

In order to fly, a kite needs someone to pull its string. Butterflies flit from flower to flower - in God's favor - No strings attached.

Butterfly

### CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED CLASS...

3 lesbians looking for another roommate to share house by the sea. Lisa, Jay and Kath. 427-2908.

### CLASSIFIED...CLASSIFIED....

STOP and SHOP at You've Got Me Flying Kite Shop, 123 Pearl Alley (behind Woolworth's). Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM 'til 5 PM. Come visit the art display here too.



# FLY ME TO..... RISING MOON WOMEN'S CENTER

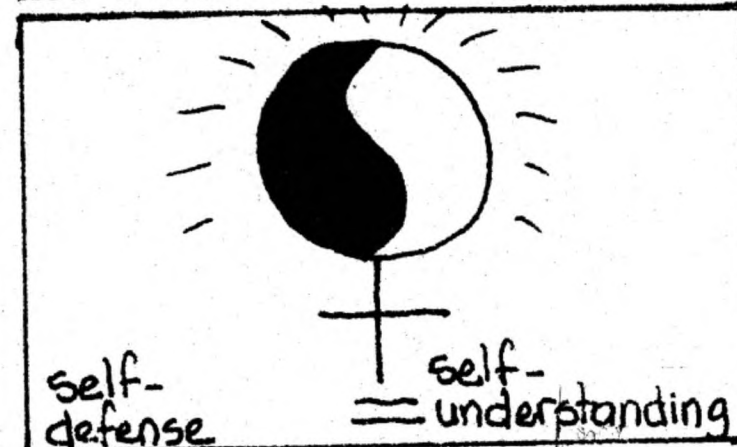
by catherine

The new Women's Center is open, named, and working toward being a place that feels welcoming and safe to the entire range of woman-kind in Santa Cruz county. The other day while looking over the original "brainstorming" sheet of what was wanted at/for/of our ♀ center I realized that we already (just 2 weeks after the opening) have met several of the needs/wants expressed on that long list. We have a center that is open daily, where women and children may go to visit, read, talk, cry, play, find and give information about housing, workers and products, healing, etc., glean new "duds" from the free box, listen to and play music, sell their crafts, display their artwork, attend poetry readings, dances, self-defense classes, co-counseling class, a psychic class. Women may keep up their involvement in the center by attending Tuesday night meetings, staffing for an hour a week or more, pledging money for the rent and utilities (++), helping decorate, build, sew and clean for the center's beautification and utility, reading the logged notes of meetings and the staffers notes to keep up on policies, discussions and dreams, and doing childcare for meetings.

We are in our formative and "policy making" stage as an institution - the collective is trying hard to use consensual decision making and an "open" structure in our meetings and often this is frustrating and tiring, but we feel it is worth it in the long run toward making new ways to live and relate. The meetings seem scattered and jagged at times, and then at other times a good-feeling decision will arise from a calm circle of women. We have long (often heated) discussions on feelings and policies about process, smoking, childcare, what place men have or have not at the center, and feminism. Some of us are growing stronger through these struggles, becoming more articulate and thoughtful, and learning to love each other deeply. Other women feel worn out and alienated already. Some women start false rumors about the ♀ center based on their feelings of fear and alienation, while others work hard to make the center a safe, helpful place for all women. Hopefully the barriers some women feel will be discussed and bridged. It is truly a growing time for us - and as the spring comes I feel the

center and the women it touches will "green up" and bloom, even more than now. 19

Financially we have about \$260 in monthly pledges promised us. For the next 4 months our rent alone is \$335 - then it goes to \$310 for 2 more months, and then to \$260/month in August (after our key deposit and last month's rent are paid off). To help meet this we welcome more pledges, and your enthusiastic attendance at fundraising events. For February this will be a women's Valentine's Dance at 8pm., Feb. 14 at the center. Staff-wise we are open daily, but with more staff we could open earlier and stay open longer. Any new staffers out there? And our telephone is in- 426-9975.



## CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED

Beginning Self-Defense Class starting February 16-March 18, at the Rising Moon Women's Center. This will be the first in a series of 4 evolving classes: Beginning, Intermediate, Beginning Advanced, and Advanced.

The beginning class will focus on personal understanding through the body. In addition to using my resource as a woman, I will be utilizing principles and techniques from various martial arts (judo, jiu-jitsu, Kung-Fu, Tai Chi, Aikido, and

Kapwea, an African art).

In addition to the above, the major points of Jin Shin Jutsu or acupressure will be shared as a method of self-healing and maintenance. Donations. For more info call Kathy Quinn. 476-3423

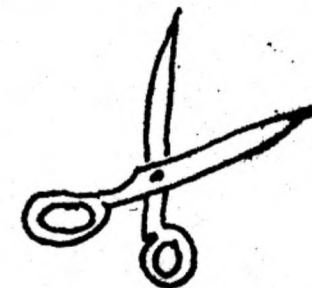
## CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED

Lesbian collective house needs one woman to rent a room in our home. Two older children, sunny kitchen, fireplace, large yard. No dogs please. \$92.50 per month. 426-9547.

dyke  
cuts

by catherine

call for  
appointment 427-3776





# criticism=

Dear Sisters at Rubyfruit  
Reader,

I would like to say nice things to you about your magazine. Obviously, I know pretty much what is involved in your effort though the details are different for us all. However, before I can feel sisterly I must express my surprise, dismay and upset upon finding that six drawings from WOMANSPiRiT have been reproduced by you WITHOUT REQUEST OR CREDIT.

Rubyfruit is not copyrighted, I notice. Perhaps you have decided that is too patriarchal and all women should share their gifts and work. However, you do charge so you have realized that women must have money to pay the MAN--be it printer, post office, supplier.

WOMANSPiRiT is copyrighted. We decided to protect the work of the women who GIVE their artistry to their sisters via WOMANSPiRiT. These women often need money and all of us need the recognition that our gifts are valuable.

Of course, I am pleased that you liked those drawings. The women who drew them would also like to know you appre-

ciated and wanted them--and they won't know unless you get in touch with them. To ask them about their use is a minimal courtesy--certainly sisters deserve and expect that from each other. Without being asked, we feel ripped off--invisible again, we don't count.

I am imagining the way it is here as deadline approaches/there isn't time to write and ask. We are weary--we are exhausted/we are discouraged. Graphics ARE hard to come by. I worry more about them than anything. I can understand--but I want you now to understand how I feel and how those six sisters will feel when they find out somewhere, sometime, that you have ignored sisterly courtesy. I'm not talking about the legal fact of ignoring a copyright.

Yes, we've made our mistakes too--and had our consciousness raised. Please consider this letter as part of that sisterly process..... And now I can tell you that I had time (being sick in bed) to read issue 16 from cover to cover and really liked the information and feeling you convey about your community. I understand low morale (yes, I think it is the time of year) and certainly don't want you to be more discouraged. Making a

magazine is HARD work and 90% of the work doesn't show. If you can hang in the long run results are worth it, I think --but there are days.....I really hope you continue and that you get the help you need. My formula: ask every woman I meet to help in some way or other. GOOD LUCK.

Jean Mountain Grove

Dear Jean,

Thank you for your letter, and of course you are completely right. The way you imagined the situation is entirely true, yet that is still no excuse for the oversight. We have gone back through the issues we took the graphics from and found the proper credits. They are as follows:page

7 & 16-Prairie Jackson, Houston, Texas; p.14- Louise Mattlage; p.19- Mary Scarlett; p.23-Nadine; p.6-unknown.

Also, we would like to run an ad for you if you will send us the copy. We love your magazine very much and didn't mean to be bad. I especially want to give you strokes for the article, Facing Our Darkness, in the Winter Solstice 1977 issue, and to recommend to all our readers to read it. (It's about accepting and coping with depression.) It was exceptionally relevant to my life.

Thanks again for your sisterly criticism and support!  
RUBY

## IN CONCERT!

Friday, February 17th  
8:30 p.m.

First Congregational  
Church Sanctuary  
900 High St.

**WOODY SIMMONS,  
& HOMESPUN  
& JAKE LAMPERT**

**TICKETS  
\$3.50**

Available at  
You've Got Me Flying  
Kite Store, Mother Right  
Bookstore, Women's Center,  
Cymbaline Records, at the door.

Produced by Womensworks





## holly near/mary watkins concert

- a brief review, by brenda

It's hard to write a not-so-rave review about a performer who has always been one of my favorites...maybe I expect too much consistency from her, but Holly Near's performance on Jan. 22 was lacking in something.

Part of the problem, for me, was that although Holly and Mary were given equal billing, it was obvious that it was Holly's show, with Mary as accompanist. I felt uncomfortable with that--I felt like, okay now that she's a dyke she has Mary instead of Jeff.

I also understand that that wasn't the intention of the concert, but it was the end result. Maybe it's partly an audience problem: people came to see Holly because they know her work. In that sense, it was good exposure for Mary to an audience that might not have heard her otherwise...but still, I didn't like the context: Mary playing piano accompaniment to Holly's music, with Holly doing all the talking and audience-relating, except for Mary's very brief solo part. Mary's music is wonderful & moving,

and I appreciate that Holly is exploring performing with different other women performers. I just didn't feel like this particular concert was enough of a break from her traditional role as performer, and as such, it didn't give Mary's music the attention and appreciation it deserves. As for the production of the concert, WomensWorks did an excellent job of smoothly putting on two concerts in one night--no small feat!

The Lesbian Umbrella Organization is a community group open to all lesbians. We have open monthly gatherings (next one Feb. 19- 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!**

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 on free self-defense classes. 426-RAPE.

## Lesbian Herstory:(usa) 1600-1900 <sup>2:</sup>

by mary leola

The following is from a term paper for a history class. It will be run as a serial in the next several issues. RR

### Introduction

Woman-identified-women, lesbians, are women who receive most of their support from women, including emotional, mental, physical, financial, spiritual and sexual support. It must be clear that we are talking about much more than sexuality. Woman-identified-women can be (are) homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, or asexual. Whatever their orientation, they can be lesbian if most of their support comes from women.

It is difficult today and was even more difficult in 1600-1900 for a woman to receive all support in all these areas from women exclusively.

### Treatment

Lesbians have been pretty much ignored by society, with the exception of their sexual orientation. In discussing treatment, I will deal with the homosexuality of lesbians.

Homosexuality was originally considered a sin and was dealt with by the religious

community. Later "treatment" was taken over by the legal community and "lesbianism" became a crime. In the early 1800's the medical community stepped in and homosexuality became a sickness. Generally speaking, each community has added to the previous concept so that by the 1800's homosexuality was a sinful, criminal, sickness. That concept lives with us today.

We see the religious community in league with the legal community in 1642 when Gov. William Bradford of Plymouth and three religious leaders of the day advised Gov. Richard Bellingham of Massachusetts Bay Colony that "unnatural lusts of...women with women...be punished with death." (Wm. Bradford Of Plymouth Plantation, ed. Samuel E. Morrison. ((N.Y.:Knopf, 1952)

Legally, women of any orientation have continually been oppressed. Women very seldom could own property or sign contracts. They could not vote. Women could obtain little or no education. Lesbians, defined by their sexual orientations, had all these and more legal restrictions placed on them.



In 1655 the New Haven Colony published its body of laws which included "Lesbianism" as a crime punishable by death. "If any man layeth with mankinde, as a man lyeth with a woman both of them have committed abomination. They both shall surely be put to death. Levit. 20:13. And if any woman change the natural use into that which is against nature as Rom. 1:26 she shall be liable to the same sentence and punishment." (J. Hammond Trumbull, The True-Blue Laws of Connecticut and New Haven. ((Hartford: American Pub. Co., 1879)), p.201).

The list of treatment, of "cures" by the medical community of "Lesbianism" is often little more than pure horror. The list includes: surgery- removal of either ovaries or the clitoris or both; shock treatment- both chemical and electric; hypnosis; psychiatric/psychological "persuasion", and more.

In 1884 Dr. James G. Kiernan, a professor of legal psychiatry, wrote about a 22 year old patient of his: "She has felt herself at certain times sexually attracted by some of her female friends with whom she indulged in mutual masturbation; these feelings come at regular periods, and are then

powerfully excited by the sight of the female genitals.

The case last cited I have treated as if it were a case of nymphomania and aided the patient's will by using aphrodisiac measures, such as cold sitz baths, etc., at the same time instituting a course of intellectual training. So far the patient has been by these means able to keep the feeling under control." (James G. Kiernan, "Psychical Treatment of Congenital Sexual Inversion, Review of Insanity and Nervous Disease. ((Milwaukee, Wis.)), vol.4, no.4 ((June, 1894)), p.295).

Ten years later Dr. Kiernan wrote about this same patient and how a lesbian might hide in a heterosexual marriage: "...This friendship became perverted love and the two were almost inseparable. To secure the companionship of her friend the patient was induced to marry the friend's brother." (Ibid.)

In 1889 Dr. G. Frank Lydston had a lecture published in the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter in which he suggests that if the "disease" (homosexuality/nymphomania) is determined to be organic: "extirpation of the ovaries, or the procedure of Mr. Baker Brown--clitoridec-tomy-- may be performed. Howe recommends the application

of the actual cautery to the back of the neck...he also suggests blisters and setons to answer the same purpose... In the severe cases...the asylum is usually our only recourse." (G. Frank Lydston "Sexual Perversion Satyriasis and Nymphomania," Medical and Surgical Reporter ((Philadelphia)) vol.61, no.11 ((Sept. 14, 1889)), p. 285).

In 1893 the Pennsylvania board of charities was finally able to stop one Dr. J. Price and his large scale experiment of removing ovaries from sexually "perverse" women without their consent. Presumably being insane, as evidenced by their sexual preference, the women could not give their consent. Ann Bonny and Mary Read

Anne Bonny was born about 1700 in or around Charleston, N.C. In a rage after being disinherited by her father, Anne burned his plantation and fled to New Providence. Here she lived with Capt. Jennings, a pirate, and his mistress, Meg. Meg told Anne that in New Providence she would need a male protector. Here Calico Jack entered the picture. Apparently both Anne and Jack were homosexual and their coupling not only gained Anne the needed male but allowed them both heterosexual privilege.

Anne soon began to plan her first raid. With a friend, Pierre Bouspuet and a group of others she: "stole a boat from the wrecks in the harbor and flung turtle blood over the topsail, deck and themselves. In the bow they placed a dress dummy, in women's clothing and covered it with blood. Anne stood over it with a blood soaked axe and they sailed out to the Merchantman. When the French Merchantman's crew saw them they were so horrified at the scene of mayhem and demons aboard →



Anne Bonny, from an 18th cent engraving



Damn, I worked so hard to win  
my independence-  
To be self-sufficient - my  
own woman.  
Now, in one horrible moment,  
I am cut down.  
Back, back, to infancy.  
I cannot feed myself.  
I cannot raise my head.  
I lie in fetal position-  
whimpering.  
Were it not for strong, help-  
ing hands- would I make it  
through?  
Hands to comfort, feed and  
tend me so lovingly?  
Maybe that's what real inde-  
pendence is after all -  
having such a friend.  
- Butterfly -

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
12 12-2 - Lesbian Newcomers Potluck. 5:30 Seabright. All lesbians welcome.	13 Opening of 9's counseling services at health center. For info call 409-427-3500. 8-9 radio collect-five 88.1 PM. "Woody Simmons" live music.	14 Nonmaking health services @ 9's health center. Call 427-3500 for apt. 8-9 Valentine's Dance. Benefactor for Rising Moon & Center - 5:30	15 Stop by 123 Pearl Alley (Kite Store) - see Clytia's photo display	16 4pm - 9 waves on KUSP 88.9 FM "9's in the armed forces" 5-7 9's self defense class starts @ 9 center 7-9 potluck & lesbian writing party - Casual school drinks.	17 5:30 LVO core meeting - 123 Pearl Alley 8:30 - Woody Simmons Homespun, Take Lam part concert - 900 High St. for child-care call 426-4319	18 12:30. Beginning of Lesbian feminist Federation meeting. See 2/19-20 also 12:30 - 9 basketball Branciforte Jr. Hi Gym. 8-9 coffee house - "Tales & Trunks" slide show - 5:30 Seabright
19 2-5 Lesbian Umbrella monthly meeting - 5:30 Seabright. For childcare call 426-DYKE early	20 Lesbian Fam. Fed. meeting - call 409-289-1088 for info - place 7:30-9:30 at Seabright	21 9 kind health services - see 2/14 7pm. GALA core group mtg. Merrill lounge. WSC 7:30 9 center mtg. 5:30 Seabright. childcare available	22 Full Moon Gaze at Lynis art show the wall of the Rising Moon Center 5:30 Seabright	23 4pm - 9 waves on KUSP 88.9 FM "9's Balkan Music" 8 - Full Moon Ceremony - @ 5:30 Seabright - Rising Moon & Center	24 5:30 LVO core meeting - 123 Pearl Alley GRC/GALA sponsored Disco Dance Kresge Town Hall - For more info call GARY 2468	25 12-9 basketball Branciforte Jr. Hi Gymnasium 8-9 coffee house - Poetry w/ Diane Ram - 5:45 - 5:30 Seabright Donations welcomed.
26 7 - GALA discussion on "coming out" Merrill lounge WSC	27 8-9 radio collective K2XC 88.1 PM - "9 designed space"	28 9 kind health services - see 2/14 7:30 9 center mtg. 5:30 Seabright. Child-care available. FLM - "In the Best Interests of the Children. For more info call 426-DYKE	MARCH 1 Eat dinner with a friend #9	2 4pm - 9 waves on KUSP 88.9 FM 8 - Gay Rights Coalition (GRC) discussion on "Transsexuals & Transvestites" - Casual school Annex	3 5:30 LVO core meeting - 123 Pearl Alley	4 12-9 basketball Branciforte Jr. Hi Gym. 8-9 coffee house 5:30 Seabright - COME! & BRIN A SISTER/FRIEND
5 Bring a picnic, guitar & hang out at the 9's center.	6 8-9 radio collective 88.1 PM	7 9 kind health services - see 2/14 7:30 9 center mtg. 5:30 Seabright. childcare available	8 Fly a kite at the beach	9 4-9 waves on KUSP 88.9 FM 7 - GRC meeting Casual school Annex - 1:30 Seabright	10 5:30 LVO core meeting - 123 Pearl Alley	11 12-9 basketball Branciforte Jr. Hi Gym. 8-9 coffee house @ Rising Moon 9's Center - 5:30 Seabright
12 The beach is waiting to take walk with you.	13 8-9 radio collective 88.1 PM	14 9 kind health services - see 2/14 7:30 9 center mtg. 5:30 Seabright. childcare available	15 Make an appointment for your 1978 Pap smear	16 4-9 waves on KUSP 88.9 FM - come visit the 9 Center!	17 5:30 LVO core meeting - 123 Pearl Alley	18 12-9 basketball Branciforte Jr. Hi Gym. 8-9 coffee house 5:30 Seabright
19 2-5 Lesbian Umbrella monthly meeting - 5:30 Seabright. call for 426-DYKE childcare	20 8-9 radio collective 88.1 PM	21 SPRING EQUINOX 9 kind health services - see 2/14 7:30 9 center mtg. 5:30 Seabright. childcare available	22 Visit your own-brand new Rising Moon Women's Center!! WELCOME.	23 4-9 waves on KUSP - 88.9 FM 7 - GRC meeting Casual school Annex - 1:30 Seabright	24 Full Moon 5:30 LVO core meeting - 123 Pearl Alley	25 12-9 basketball Branciforte Jr. Hi Gym. 8-9 coffee house 5:30 Seabright





## 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.

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FILL IT OUT...



AND  
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