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Bella Abzug and Jean O'Leary appear at press conference after firing. O'Leary, Co-Director of The National Gay Task Force, resigned from the Committee in support of Abzug.

A
Lesbian Feminist
Publication written by and for
The Rising Tide of Women Today

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The **Lesbian Tide** is produced by the pride and energies of a staff who are committed to one or more departments within the magazine. The staff is open to women who wish to become involved in journalism or who see media as a vehicle for activism.

EDITORIAL POLICY

In the interest of fostering open communications and progressive theoretical development, **The Lesbian Tide** prints a wide variety of views from the lesbian, feminist and gay communities. Our editorial perspective also includes coverage of other social change movements as they relate to women. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Tide Publications or The Editorial Board unless specifically by-lined as such.

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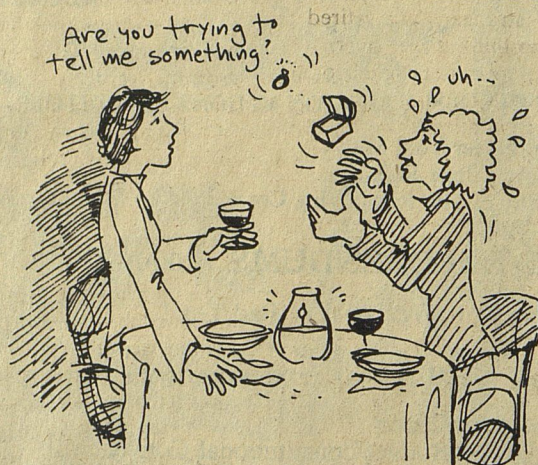
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Perspectives

What Mother Never Told Me

By Sharon McDonald



Roberta Gregory

TRYSTING - PART II

Prologue: Unnatural Desires

With several years of love, lust, and irreconcilable differences behind us, Louise and I had become aware that we were drifting into that strange uncharted territory known as "long term." They had been tumultuous years, but our dismay at each other's failings had more often than not been matched by our delight in each other's company. Having seen many models of love that start out strong and weaken over time, I was shocked to find the reverse dynamic with Louise.

Now when heterosexuals get to this point they tend to get married, a custom which I have envied for its sentimental symbolism while disdaining its more odious political aspects. I myself had never wanted to get married, but Mother always told me that when I really fell in love I'd change my mind. Imagine my chagrin 20 years later and a whole lifestyle different, to find out once again that Mother is always right.

Of course, I pondered my desire in secret. I am politically sophisticated enough to know that I can squeak by being monogamous, and even in some tolerant circles being femme, but my Radical Lesbian License would be revoked for sure if word got out that I wanted to "settle down" with the woman of my dreams.

The more I thought about it the more ironic it seemed. I was free to explore my wildest fantasies of unnatural acts with Fido and a few dozen close friends, but I was supposed to feel constrained about wanting to shout, "Hallelujah, she's the one!" I finally

decided to hell with Convention (Women Have to Marry Men) and to hell with Unconvention (Women Have to Not Marry At All). Who says this lesbian can't live happily ever after?

Popping the Question

I took her out to dinner, fancy gay restaurant, table in the corner, soft candlelight, gay waiters wafting by. I sat terrified, drinking like there was no tomorrow, as might well be true if she said no. She wasn't drinking, and as I sank lower and lower in my chair she started leaning over the table and asking solicitously, "Are you alright?"

After our boy had taken away my untouched pork chop and filled my glass for the fifth time, I lurched, er, launched into a rambling preamble. She listened intently, looking concerned. About the tenth time I heard myself stutter, "I, uh, you see, I think we, uh..." I shoved a ring box in front of her and just like in the movies blurted, "Will you marry me?" And with that, I was off on what has proven to be the most politically controversial and personally rewarding thing I've done since coming out.

Sharing or Shackling?

Louise and I quickly found out that an event of this nature in a feminist community is much like a natural disaster: it brings out the best and the worst in people. Community reactions broke down into three categories: The Aghast, The Amused, and The Admiring. The Aghast, of course, were radical lesbian feminists. So were the Amused. So were The Admiring.

Longtime friends took us out to ask if

perhaps we weren't working too hard, maybe the stress had affected our better judgement. Less delicate acquaintances snorted openly, one summing it up by asking, "Why don't you two just shackle yourselves together?"

But here and there other lesbian couples popped up, delighted at the news. They called us up, some women we barely knew, and said in a rush how they thought it was wonderful and brave and how they'd wanted to have a ceremony for years. We congratulated each other conspiratorially and invited them.

WICCA To the Rescue!

Not wanting to march down any heterosexual aisles, we set about looking for a lesbian ceremony and hit upon the Tryst. A Witch friend explained that it was an ancient ritual of bonding that was not the ownership contract of conventional marriage, but rather a mutual coming together of two equals to bond in love and friendship. (*See last issue.*) She offered to help us do it. "We'll take it!"

We called our mothers and sisters and invited them. We sent invitations to our friends, painfully resisting our initial excited impulse to send them to every lesbian west of the Rockies.

One night as the date was drawing near, I sat in bed flipping through a book on witchcraft rituals. I came across a passage that made my hair stand on end. It described how women standing in a circle at a Sabbat turn to each other and give each other "the five-fold kiss," kissing the forehead, eyes, lips, breasts, and genitals. I nearly fell off my bed. "LOUISE!" I shrieked. "We've got to get ALL the details on this ceremony!"

The next morning I called our Witch friend and asked for a blow by blow account of what was going to happen. I was alright until she got to the part about "annointing the genitals with water."

"We can't do that," I said. "Our mothers are going to be there. Besides, I think Louise would faint."

The Witch was horrified. "You can't drop it! This is a very important part of the ceremony! I just can't imagine what the spiritual repercussions might be! It could be terrible!"

"I'll risk it."

"You don't understand. The genitals are very involved in what you're doing here..."

"You're telling ME!"

"...and it could be *tragic* to omit this protective blessing on your sexual union!"

"Do it like the Catholics do—offer up a

silent blessing.”

In the end, Witch tradition won out, but only if done with ex-Catholic subtlety.

The women of both our families jumped into the preparations for the tryst with enthusiasm, this being the first tryst in both families' history. The fathers and brothers took a somewhat dimmer view of the proceedings. Because of their customary lack of enthusiasm for events of a lesbian nature, and because of the customary lack of enthusiasm of many of our guests for men in general, they had not been invited. They reacted to this with customary outrage, half of them “threatening” not to come, the other half threatening to come.

Checking Our Closets

But Louise and I had no time for family squabbles, we busied ourselves with weightier issues, like the What to Wear argument. I

desperate. Lesbians, it turned out, are not immune to any of them.

Louise went scurring off to her shrink to babble, “I love her, *but...*” Meanwhile, I surveyed the preparations for the coming tryst, which were in a shambles. Half the women we'd invited weren't speaking to the other half. The men were still threatening to come. Louise's aunt, who had promised to help, suddenly decided to get divorced, and so spent all the time she should have been whipping up Roman togas crying instead. Louise and I looked at each other and saw the face of a haunted stranger. We retired to separate gay bars to think things over.

Drinking alone, we missed each other. Coming home to bed, we found again some common ground. Revitalized, we remembered that while neither of us wanted to be a groom, we couldn't pass up this once in a

friends. Each answered honestly and in her own style.

Louise's convent-raised mother was once told by her journalism teacher that she had “best stick to **Lives of the Saints.**” Her old-fashioned innocence still largely untouched by modern mores, she attended the tryst with characteristic courage. “I . . . I . . . I . . . One should be open to *new* things where one's children are concerned. Sharon is a lovely girl.” Later after champagne, she would hug me and whisper in my ear, “Now I have another daughter!”

My own mother had provided the early bad example that every little girl needs to grow up lively. No stranger to unusual occurrences, this was still her first tryst. She said, “I think Sharon and Louise are very lucky to have found each other. They love each other and I'm happy for them. I raised all my children to do what they thought was right for them. I'm glad they're including me in their lives.”

Upon hearing these sentiments, several hardened politicians turned and sauntered off behind separate trees, from which soon emerged the sounds of noses being blown and throats being cleared with difficulty.

The tryst day was in every way a success. Some women who hadn't spoken to each other in years exchanged observations on the scene. Our families had their first exposure to our friends en masse, and vice versa. Everybody so inclined got to kiss not one bride but two! And after it was all over, Louise and I escaped (ala honeymoon) to—no, not Niagara Falls—Tijuana.

Epilogue

Today, Louise and I are a couple wise beyond our years. We have seen too much. We were shocked by our families, who turned out to be more tolerant than we'd dreamed. We were shocked by some of our friends, who turned out to be less tolerant than we'd dreamed. We were shocked by each other, that we actually went through with it.

One happy footnote: Louise's aunt finally stopped crying, got divorced, and arrived on our doorstep a few weeks ago holding hands with another woman and beaming.

In true storybook fashion, let us now fade out on the sun setting over our cozy home, conveniently exiting before the argument over whose turn it is to do the laundry, and focus on the words, “And They Lived Happily Ever After.” ■



had always wanted to see her in a tuxedo, and this seemed the perfect time, but she had other plans and could not be moved. When I wailed, “But when will I *ever* get to see you in a tuxedo if not on this day?” she replied, “The day you bury me.” End of discussion.

Louise's idea was that we should be “outside of time and fashion and contemporary limitations—we should wear stately robes!”

“Robes?”

“Yeah, you know, like Ben-Hur, El Cid, Diana the Goddess, Helen of Troy.”

“Jesus!”

That's RIGHT! Roman togas!”

“Good lord, the witches want to bless my genitals, you want me to dress up like Irene Pappas, why did I ever start this thing?”

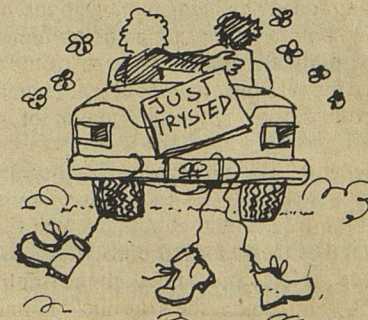
And with that it hit us: that period of reflection and kicking ourselves known as Prenuptial Jitters. This malady expresses itself in many different forms, all of them

lifetime chance to both get a bride.

The Day of Reckoning

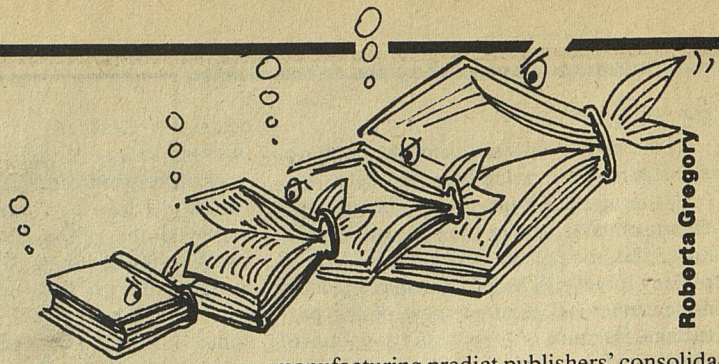
Faster than you can say “public commitment,” the day of the tryst had arrived. The ceremony itself was short, sweet, and to the point. There were no dramatic surprises, no one popping up to yell, “Stop! She's got a wife and four kids in Des Moines!” There was just us and the goddess and our families and friends, standing there doing what every lesbian has the right to do: be proud and public about her love. I cannot vouch for my appearance, but Louise looked like a dyke angel, shining from the inside out. We held hands, jumped the broom, and it was done! Applause broke out and the party was on.

There was no doubt that Louise and I were totally upstaged by the presence of our mothers. Both remarkably resilient women, they stood up well under a barrage of “How do you feel about this?” questions from our



Roberta Gregory

Vintage Books Not Bought At Random



Roberta Gregory

What do Random House, Knopf, Ballantine Books, Modern Library, Vintage, Pantheon, L.W. Singer and Beginner Books all have in common? Answer: they are all the same company. These eight houses are the different publishing imprints owned by RCA, the six billion dollar a year conglomerate. A huge defense contractor, RCA also owns NBC, tv and radio stations, markets more than 60,000 products—from Hertz Rent-A-Cars, Banquet Foods and Coronet Rugs to records and electronic equipment. Much of the proud publishing industry follows this pattern: control by non-publishing business conglomerates. For example, the folks who bring us twinkies (ITT); panty hose, cigars and films (Gulf & Western); financial services (Dunn & Bradstreet); vacuum cleaners (Scott & Fetzer); and military hardware (Raytheon, RCA, Litton, ITT, IBM) also control much of what we're offered to read.

Scores of publishers "kept" in conglomerate stables are listed in **The Passionate Perils Of Publishing** (Booklegger Press, 1978:8-11) and in **Publishers Weekly** (7/31/78:31-34). They include all the top mass market paperback houses (Bantam, Fawcett, Avon, etc.) as well as publishers like the Random House cluster, Simon & Schuster, Bobbs-Merrill, Holt, Praeger, Funk & Wagnals, World Book, Grossett & Dunlap, Hawthorn, Van Nostrand, Heath, Bowker, etc.

The Surge To Merge

Major publishers not yet owned by outside conglomerates seem to be gobbling each other up in a wave of acquisitions which began in the 60s. A typical example is the take-over of Dell by Doubleday ("Double-Dell"), which forms the super-alliance of a major hard cover with a vast mass market paperback line. There were 57 mergers in the publishing field in 1977, 58 in 1976, and 47 in 1975, according to W.T. Grimm and Co., a Chicago based merger consulting firm.

And the beat goes on. Spokespeople for allied industries like printing and paper

manufacturing predict publishers' consolidation will lead to a further consolidation by manufacturers in order to fulfill production requirements. The marketing of books is also becoming highly centralized, from wholesaler to retail bookstore. The last few years have seen the rise of the "chain bookstore." Walden Book Company and B. Dalton (owned by huge department store chains Carter Hawley Hale and Dayton Hudson respectively) are the giants in this field. They are buying up independent stores and building new ones in seemingly every shopping center. Like fast-food outlets, the chain bookstores are automated for fast, volume turnover of bestseller fare. □

— Reprinted from "The Small Press Review". This article is a condensed and edited version of Chapter 1, "The Literary-Industrial Complex," from **The Passionate Perils of Publishing** by Celeste West and Valerie Wheat. (Editor's Note: Thus far **The Lesbian Tide** has eluded the slimy grasp of would-be Big Brother publishers. No offers have been accepted—nor received!)

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE

NGTF is seeking applicants for the position of Co-Executive Director, to replace Jean O'Leary, who has resigned effective June 1979. The Co-Executive Directors are responsible for the overall administration, fundraising and development of NGTF and its state offices. They are presiding officers of the executive and administrative work of the organization and are chief liaison to other organizations and institutions.

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By Jane Rule

I suppose even a six-year-old could write about being "an aging lesbian," might even feel the need if she'd suffered already a couple of years at the hands of a heterosexual nurse, been reprimanded by a mother for picking forget-me-nots for the lady next door, and been told in kindergarten to stop drawing the same picture over and over again: a stick figure at the top of a pointed mountain. At forty-six I may find it harder because by now the catalogue of mortal blows and pleasures is far too long and complex for a short entertainment.

I think it's probably a "masculine trait" to practice dying from a very young age. Anyway, it's always the boy children I invent who shoot themselves with their own bow ties, grab their arrow-pierced stomachs and fall to the ground, and most of the real hypochondriacs I've known have been men who at the first twinge of headache are convinced of spinal meningitis, at the gentlest fart terminal cancer. I also have a hunch that fatherhood is a way men practice dying. Women don't seem as often to need to invent melodramatic premonitions of death, the house of the body so much a waystation for other life that even those of us who do not give birth acknowledge



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R. Bradley

Grandmothers

the wasted blood, the monthly murder of some new soul for the sake of our own lives. Our bodies seem to practice dying for us without aid of our imaginations. It is only when women have imposed on them men's fear of dying that they are caught up in the vanity of pretending not to age, contemplate suicide at my age for a lost womb, a second chin, bifocals.

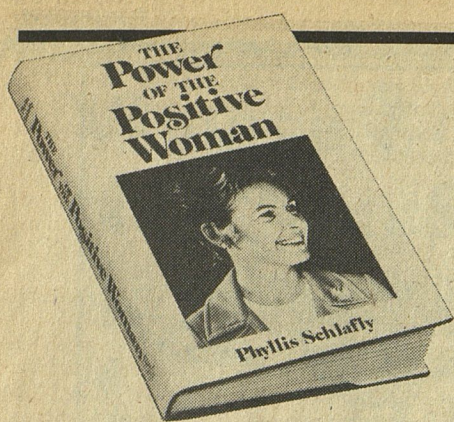
I loved all my grandparents, but I loved the *bodies* of my grandmothers, both of whom suffered from arthritis as I do now. They were fragile and deliberate in the way they moved, and from the time I was tall and sturdy enough to be some aid, they used my body as brace or hoist. They taught me early how to touch pain and to comfort because they were at the candid mercy of my love. From them, far more than from my marvelously ample-bodied and competent mother, I learned the close intimacy of flesh. When, as an adolescent, I was physically shy with my mother, I always had sweet excuse to touch my grandmothers, to brush their hair, to help them dress, to choose among their rings which would still traverse the swollen joints of what were to me their beautiful hands, accurate still with needle and thread, with cards, with flowers, accurate with requests. I found their faces lovelier than any others of my childhood because they were *made*, could be understood as the bland faces of other children could not, as even those of my parents could not since they did not yet know themselves and masked their ignorance as best they could. My mother has that wondrous face now.

When I was twenty-three, I fell permanently in love with a woman who was not much younger than I am now, whose face had already begun to be defined by time, and who has stayed there fifteen years ahead of me for twenty-three years, half my life. At sixty she is more distinguished, more readable, more

beautiful than she was when I first met her. The gap between our ages finally begins to close with the premature aging of my disease. In fact, it is I who teach her how to touch pain and to comfort. She sometimes has a moment of surprised envy at a child's heedless running across a field. I do not like some of the irritating limitations of an ailing spine. Not to be able to lift a child is a deprivation, but young Kate down the road will soon be tall and sturdy enough to offer me a steadying shoulder. The natural imbalance of our erotic energies which has plagued, amused, and taught us patience with each other is not as pronounced as it used to be. As the erotic fuses with the simply physical, we return together to a place which shares with childhood long moments in the present, no future hope of accomplishment as commanding as the sight of eagles in the high air or a sudden colony of mushrooms in the daffodil bed.

To become an old woman has always been my ambition, and it may be that my life span is to be short enough to make a speeding up of the process necessary. I have had a long apprenticeship as lover, and, in the way I can, I will still carry out those patterns of courtship, but I am coming into a time when I must be the beloved of children and the young, who will measure their confidence in terms of my growing needs. As my grandmothers taught me the real lessons of erotic love with their beautifully requiring flesh and speaking faces, so I would wish to teach the children I love that they are capable of tenderness and of strength, capable of knowledge because of what they can see in my face, clear in pain and wonder, intent on practicing life as long as it lasts. ■

© 1979 by Jane Rule from *Lavender Culture* ed. by Karla Jay and Allen Young (Jove Books)



Phyllis Schlafly & The Right Wing Connection

Exclusive Story
By Sasha
Gregory Lewis

Why are Phyllis Schlafly's Eagles handing out lesbian literature? An intriguing question. It might have been a favor to lesbians in Kentucky, Indiana, Oklahoma and Alabama who might feel isolated from the lesbian-feminist mainstream: free packets of information about lesbianism picked up from the 1977 International Women's Year (IWY) conference in Houston being distributed! And the fact that they were distributed by Phyllis Schlafly's anti-ERA troops might have signalled a major turnaround by the most notorious enemy of the Equal Rights Amendment.

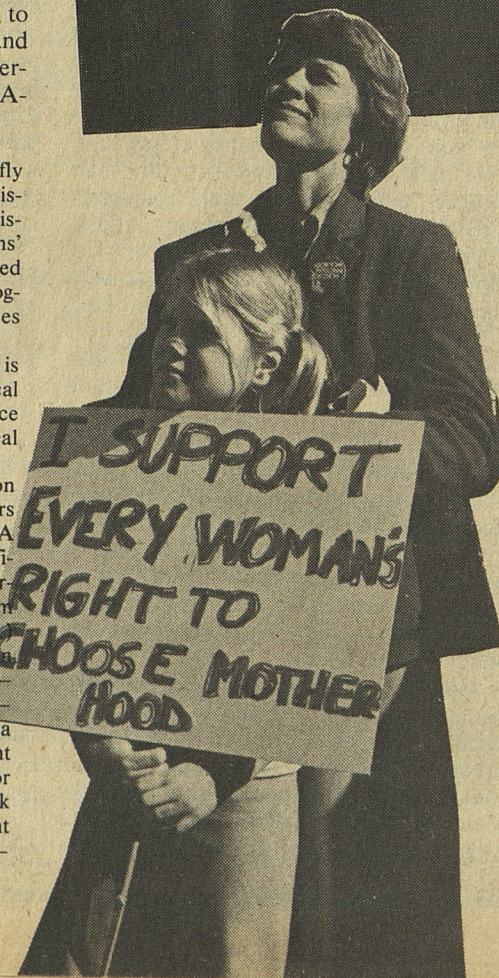
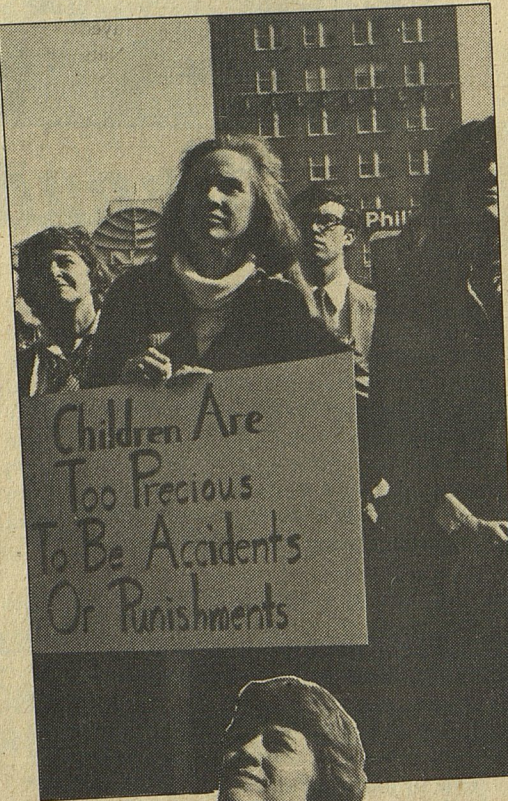
Unfortunately, it was just one of the latest tactics by Schlafly and her "pro-family" allies to smear the women's movement. The packets featured an as-yet unidentified lesbian sex manual, complete, as Schlafly's March, 1978 **Eagle Forum** newsletter reports, with "large nude close-up action pictures of what lesbians do, with full instructions on how they do it." Eagle Forum members distributed the packets to state legislators in those states both as a protest of federal funding of IWY and to, according to **Eagle Forum**, demonstrate how "radical and lesbian forces are waging war on the American family," just before hearings on ERA-related bills in those states.

Backfire on the Bigots

Fortunately, the tactic backfired on Schlafly followers in at least one state. In Kentucky, legislative pages—often teen-aged children of legislators, had placed the materials on the solons' desks. Legislators were enraged, and accused Eagle Forum members of distributing pornography to their kids. A few reportedly made noises about arresting the Eagle Forum ladies.

Leafletting lesbian literature to legislators is just one of many tricks in Schlafly's bag of radical political tactics—tactics she's had a good chance to practice over the last quarter century of radical right activism.

Surprisingly, lesbians are fairly new on Schlafly's enemy list. Her earliest newsletters barely mention the subject. Her first anti-ERA literature did not even mention the lie that ratification of ERA would legalize homosexual marriages. (Apparently she picked that one up from U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, a close friend and ally.) Schlafly's full-scale attack on lesbians didn't begin until 1976 when the homosexual marriage issue—enough to scare off some Southern legislators—began to creep up to the top of her propaganda chart. Even then Schlafly seemed a bit reticent about it all, as if the word was just a bit too much for a lady to use. Schlafly began her really rabid attack on lesbians in 1977, just as her friend Anita Bryant was beginning her crusade against gay rights—



coincident with a renewed attempt by the Florida legislature to ratify the ERA. Then the Schlafly anti-lesbian rhetoric took a plunge from "homosexual marriage" to "radical lesbians' privilege to marry and adopt children."

Schlafly's Birds of a Feather

By now, most liberals have realized that Schlafly is somewhere to the political right of the American mainstream. Few realize just how far right that goes. In 1960 Robert Welch, head of the John Birch Society (JBS), praised her as a "loyal member." This she did not bother denying until five years later. JBS ties or not, Schlafly goes a bit further right than even the "get us out of the UN" crew.

The mid-sixties and early seventies saw Schlafly speaking at a number of radical right forums, including Billy James Hargis's Anti-Communist Christian Leadership School and Liberty Lobby. Liberty Lobby has been charged with anti-Semitism by the Anti Defamation League. The Lobby's publication is also anti-black, and anti almost anyone who isn't pure white. (The treasurer of Liberty Lobby, hence the man who controls its purse strings, is Willis Carto who runs a blatantly anti-Semitic and equally racist magazine, the **American Mercury**, out of Torrance, California. Carto also has ties to the international neo-Nazi movement.) Schlafly's right-wing credentials were substantial enough to net her, in her unsuccessful 1970 Congressional bid, a \$10,000 contribution from W. Clement Stone, the man who pumped almost \$2 million into the Nixon campaign.

Schlafly, however, is no mere follower of the radical right. She, her husband Fred, and sister-in-law Eleanor, are entrepreneurs of the right. Together they have formed or led at least half a dozen right wing organizations from the Committee to Free Cuba (which may have been a channel for CIA money in its Bay of Pigs schemes) to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, founded in 1958 and still operating as an anti-communist propaganda operation. The foundation, run by sister-in-law Eleanor, occasionally ventures out to offer literature opposing abortion and the ERA. Husband Fred is perhaps best known today for his leadership role in the American Council for World Freedom, a radical anti-communist outfit.

Sometime in 1975, a group of conservative researchers brought to the Schlaflys' attention the fact that the World Anti-Communism League, of which Fred's Council was the U.S. constituent member, was gradually being overrun by international neo-Nazi and neo-Fascist organizations, and Fred pulled the Council out. It may have been about then that Phyllis got the full story about Carto and his background because she has stayed clear of Liberty Lobby ever since.

Ties on the "New" Right

Apparently scared away from the likes of Liberty Lobby, Schlafly, in the last two years has kept her politics in line with the so-called "new"

Sue Cooke

A cornerstone of Schlafly's anti-ERA effort has been to fight abortion rights.

right. She is prominent in the American Conservative Union (now pushing U.S. Rep. Phillip Crane, its head, for president in a 1980 GOP primary in which Reagan may turn out the moderate); has worked with the brains behind the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, Paul Weyrich who has given lectures on practical politics at the polls to Schlafly's Eagle Forum members; and has spoken for The Conservative Caucus.

The American Conservative Union (ACU) has always been an omnibus group, including a few from the racist fringe as well as Mike Thompson, the Florida ACU head who masterminded Anita Bryant's propaganda campaign. It has also had its share of Birch Society members. The Conservative Caucus (TCC) and the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress (CSFC) are both creations of Richard Viguerie, the direct-mail wizard of the new right who raised \$6 million for George Wallace a few years ago and raised about \$7 million for the re-election of Sen. Jesse Helms in 1978. TCC and CSFC are further to the right than even most political commentators are aware. A surprising number of TCC organizers are JBS members, and both TCC and CSFC have close ties to U.S. Rep. Lawrence Patton McDonald (author of an anti-gay amendment to a legal services corporation piece of legislation in 1976) who was Robert Welch's personal physician a few years ago and now remains a prominent JBS leader. The candidates backed by CSFC tell the story of its political position. All are: in favor of school prayer, against unions, against affirmative action, against school busing, against abortion even in the case of rape or incest, against child protective legislation, against the ERA, and, of course, against perverts and communists.

The ties Phyllis and family have made during their quarter century of activism have included virtually every right wing person of any note, with the singular exception of Ku Klux Klan leaders. Also running in Schlafly's favor (and in favor of the radical right as a whole) is the fact that their organizations don't have to bother with democracy.

Schlafly, for example, heads Eagle Forum and there are no votes taken by members on what its positions are going to be or who its officers will be—Schlafly appoints them. Two of Schlafly's Eagle Forum board members were primarily responsible for the Houston IWY counter-convention. The first is Lottie Beth Hobbs, who also runs a group called Women Who Want to be Women (also known as the Association of the W's). The second is Tottie Ellis of Tennessee, where her husband is a minister in the Church of Christ. Reportedly, Tennessee Church of Christ buses hauled hundreds of women to the Texas counter-convention.

The Big Lies

Schlafly's most effective coup to date has been on the American media which have portrayed her organization as about as large as the National Organization for Women (NOW), solely on her word. Actually, paid membership in Eagle Forum was about 1,000 according to reports on file with the IRS in 1975, when Schlafly bragged that her membership was 40,000. Women Who Want to be Women, meanwhile, had a membership of about 3,000 in 1976 according to estimates based on reports on file with the U.S. Postal Service.

Her second big coup, which she has achieved by moderating her statements from the far-right tales she told as a Goldwater delegate in 1964, has been suppressing the fact that the leadership of her Eagle Forum is dominated by women who are either members of, or who have ties to, the JBS. Among these are: Oklahoma state Sen. Mary Helm, a JBS member; Arizona state Rep. Donna Carlson, a JBS speaker (and probable member) who beat both Phyllis and Bryant to the anti-gay bandwagon back in 1975 when she introduced "emergency" legislation to prevent two black men from marrying one another; Janine Hansen of Nevada, a leader in the American Independent Party which is known to be dominated by JBS members; and in California, Mrs. John G. Schmitz, wife of the one-time American Independent Party candidate for president who is a lifetime JBS member. Doubtlessly, further re-

search would uncover even more ties between Eagle Forum leaders and the JBS. Meanwhile, Schlafly herself continues to speak at JBS-sponsored meetings as she has throughout her career. Additionally, Schlafly has ties with far right elements of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), far-right elements in Catholic circles, including the Buckley family, and, through the "new" right, ties with radical right elements of the "Born Again" movement.

It's a good team, but is not nearly so strong in terms of its active members as the mass media would suggest. It has, perhaps, out-organized moderates and liberals, but it is vulnerable. It hides its vulnerabilities behind a blizzard of press releases, orchestrated letter-writing drives, apparently "moderate" conservative rhetoric in public, and good-old-Birch tactics like distributing lesbian literature to legislators. ■



Sue Cooke

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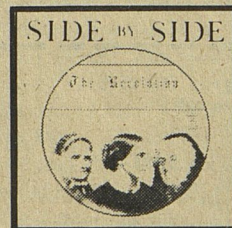
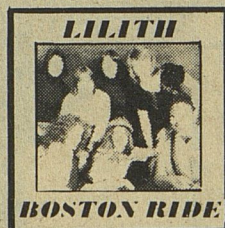
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(illustrated from Marlene Dietrich's classic 1930's film "Blue Angel")

Rights & Referendums

“It Was A Very Bad Year”

1978 In Review

“And the goddess save us from another year like it!” said a friend reminiscing over the worst year the Gay Movement has ever had. As a direct result of the backlash generated from Orange Tuesday, June 7, 1977, Dade County, FL, we saw *six* anti-gay referendums in 1978. We lost four of these, as well as numerous smaller battles. The gay rights record on the city level took a bad beating, and on the state level only 1 state, New Jersey, joined the 21 other states in decriminalizing its sodomy laws. Homosexuality is still outlawed in 38 states in this country, even in some states where the capitols have legislated other civil freedoms for gays.

Yet the record for 1978 (see chart below) indicates that we were not completely halted. Six cities, 2 counties, and 2 states did pass some favorable legislation, and the tears, the drama, and the millions spent, paid off handsomely with two stunning victories in the fall (Seattle and California). Many analysts speculate we might have at last stopped Anita Bryant, and have certainly put a dent in her anti-gay momentum. The horoscope looks good for 1979 and for the first time in a year, there are no anti-gay referendums arising or pending in this country. We fought back in '78 and we have survived. More sophisticated about what it takes to fight and win, more determined to do so we march ahead to better prospects in '79



On the bright side in '78, women danced in the streets as Proposition 6, the anti-gay teacher initiative, was trounced at the polls in California.

Twenty two states have decriminalized homosexuality (sodomy) laws.

THE SCORE IN '78

Wins

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Ithaca, NY | : affirmative action |
| Alfred, NY | : affirmative action |
| Washington, DC | : comprehensive city law passed. |
| Berkeley, CA | : comprehensive city law passed. |
| San Francisco, CA | : comprehensive city law passed |
| Ingham County, MI | : comprehensive city law passed. (?) |
| Santa Barbara, CA | : School District said ok to gay teachers. |
| New York, NY | : Mayor Ed Koch issued executive order. |
| *New Jersey | : decriminalized sodomy laws. |
| Michigan | : new rights for gay senior citizens. |
| *Federal Government | : Civil Service, Immigration, Defense Depts. and Bureau of Prisons mandate pro-gay reforms. |
| **California | : defeats referendum against gay teachers |
| **Seattle, WA | : defeats referendum against city gay ordinance. |

Losses

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| **Eugene, OR | : lost referendum |
| **St. Paul, MN | : lost referendum |
| **Wichita, KS | : lost referendum |
| *Dade County, FL | : lost referendum for second time. |
| Hartford, CT | : council defeated ordinance. |
| Providence, RI | : council defeated ordinance |
| New York City, NY | : council defeated ordinance. |
| Oklahoma | : passed anti-gay teachers measure. |
| Arkansas | : passed anti-gay teachers measure |
| Hawaii | : killed gay bill in legislature. |
| Copper River, AK | : School District banned gay teachers. |

Internationally, gays around the world suffered some losses and made some victories. In Sweden the age of consent for gay sex acts was lowered from 18 to 15, gays began meeting for the first time as a movement in Ireland, Israel, and Spain. Greece passed legislation calling for prison for gay acts, and England, usually liberal on gay rights, saw a scandal over lesbians' rights to be artificially inseminated. ■

*Important victory or loss. **Major victory or loss.

GAY PAPER WINS!

Canada: A Toronto judge has dismissed all charges against this country's largest gay paper, **The Body Politic**. The paper was charged with sending “scurrilous” material through the mails in regard to an article in its Dec. '77/Jan. '78 issue entitled, “Men Loving Boys Loving Men.” During the trial the prosecution alleged that both the paper and the article were obscene. In a 45 page memorandum the judge called **TBP** a “serious and responsible journal” and said although he was personally opposed to pedophilia (sex with children), debate on this subject would continue. Despite confiscation of many of its files **TBP** continued to publish regularly during their year of crisis.

California:

Assembly Bill 1 (Art Agnos) and Senate Bill 3 (Milton Marks) would eliminate employment discrimination against gays. Prospects look hopeful in the Assembly, but rough times are expected in the Senate.

Affirmative Action First!

Troy, NY: This upstate city has become the 43rd in this country to recognize gay rights. Without debate or protest the City Council approved an affirmative action ordinance which includes sexual preference.

Bella Abzug Exposes White House Double Standard

"They call me Battling Bella, Mother Courage, and a Jewish mother with more complaints than Portnoy. There are those who say I'm impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash, and overbearing. Whether I'm any of those things, or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am, I'm a very serious woman."

—Bella Abzug

In a move that stunned and enraged even conservative sectors of the Women's Movement, President Jimmy Carter fired a top ranking advisor on women's rights. The ouster of Bella Abzug, Co-Chairwoman of the National Advisory Committee for Women, has been followed by the resignations of 24 members of the 40 person National Committee.

The vociferous feminist has been replaced by Marjorie Bell Chambers, president of the American Association of University Women. A New Mexico resident and registered Republican, Chambers is described as "low key" and to date has shied away from public comment on abortion and lesbian rights.

Carter 'Lectured'

As reported by Jill Clark in **Gay Community News**, "The former Manhattan Congresswoman was fired at the White House shortly after the first meeting of the Advisory Committee with the President. Carter reportedly arrived at the meeting already irritated by a press release distributed by the Committee prior to their audience with him which criticized his economic policies with respect to women. At the start of the nearly 90 minute session, the President expressed dissatisfaction with the Committee. During his lecture, Chairperson Abzug interceded on behalf of the other 39 members. She reminded Carter of the duties of the Committee and its role in satisfying the needs of its constituents. One presidential official who observed the proceedings contended that '...she lit into him (Carter) in front of nearly 40 other people.'

Following the volatile exchange between the two in which each accused the other of delivering condescending lectures, Committee members aired their 'beliefs and gripes' at the President's invitation, according to Abzug."

After this rocky start the women all applauded the President as he rose to leave, and Abzug told a press conference the meeting went "very well."

Bella Scapegoated

What Bella did not know at the press conference was that her ouster had already been planned before hand. As Clark reports, "After the session, top presidential aide Hamilton Jordan sent a memo to Abzug inviting her to his office. There he and Robert Lipshutz, counsel to the President, informed her that Carter had decided to replace her. In a written notification, Jordan told Abzug, '...the President believes that new leadership for the committee will be beneficial.' Abzug countered that she was being used as a scapegoat for things which had angered the President, such as the Advisory Committee's criticism. To this, Lipshutz angrily retorted that he '...hated the word 'scapegoat.' And that she was a 'liar. . .the next thing you know you're going to be telling everyone that I fired you because you're Jewish.'"

Bite the Bullet—on Women

Abzug's firing was decided upon in mid-January shortly after a presidential aide got hold of a highly critical Advisory Committee press release which questioned the President's anti-inflation fight as potentially detrimental to women's concerns. The memo, which

L.A. Times photo by L. Armstrong

Bella Abzug has taken to the lecture circuit to talk about women and economics.

used language such as "challenge" and "disagree" specifically complained about the increase in defense allotments and cuts in health and welfare programs which affect women. It was at this point that Carter apparently decided he couldn't work with the Committee's "confrontational" style.

Speaking to the National Women's Political Caucus in Los Angeles a month after she was fired Abzug revealed more of the behind-the-scenes politicking surrounding her dismissal. She said she had phoned the President in November to tell him of her Committee's cancellation of the now infamous Nov. 22 meeting with him. "He *apologized* for the tight scheduling (the meeting was allotted 15 minutes) blaming it on his aides." He then referred her to Stuart Eizenstat at the Office of Management and Budget. In her talk with the Domestic Advisor which she described as "a very fine conversation," Abzug detailed her Committee's fear about projected budget cuts in CETA, sex equity, and other women related social programs.¹ She also told him, "Since the President has said he wants to do for the Women's Movement what Lyndon Johnson did for civil rights, I think this Administration should bite the bullet and make the first national public policy on women." According to Abzug, Eizenstat agreed, "It is true there is a serious neglect to deal with the effect of our economic policies on women.

Regarding the January 12 meeting which preceded her ouster, Bella confirmed that Carter "did not appear too happy" when he entered the meeting (having recently read the press release). "He expected us to criticize him on the ERA and even on abortion, but he did not expect us not to support him on everything else!"

Firing Leaked To Press

Abzug also clarified that, contrary to some press reports, she had not been given the opportunity to resign. The White House had informed the press she was fired even before notifying her. In the meeting between Jordan, Lipshutz, and herself, Lipshutz blamed Abzug for not preventing her Committee from cancelling the November meeting or issuing the controversial press release. Abzug told the President's counsel that her Committee was "an independent group of leaders" and that his firing her was "in my opinion, a great mistake." Aide Jordan immediately accused her, "So you are going to make a public issue over this?" Abzug replied, "This will naturally occur." In a last ditch effort to retain the Committee's future efficacy Abzug said she told Jordan, "I'll go and talk to my Committee and see if we can't work something out (regarding her resignation)." Jordan replied, "No you can't do that, it's too late." They had already leaked it to the press—**The Washington Post**, among others. "They thought that my image as a controversial figure would smoke the issue," Abzug interpreted the Administration she knows well. "This didn't work. The press was angry at being sandbagged."

Economics-None of our Business

"I was fired because of the issues we (the Committee) raised," Abzug clarified in an **L.A. Times** interview. We're very concerned about where women fit into the economy. I think the federal budget represents the value system of society. And women are the source of the lowest paid labor supply in the country.

"We're 49% of the work force, yet 80% of those are at the lowest rung of the economic ladder and therefore very vulnerable. Women are 63% of the people living below the poverty level, and among the elderly they have half the income of men. Therefore, since they essentially live at the edge of the economy, they are very much affected by inflation and anti-inflation policies.

So we presented the position to the President that... we were concerned with the possible anti-inflation policies that could lead to increased unemployment in the cutback in social programs where women would be much more deeply affected than, perhaps, had been thought about. Because we never made up the gap from where we are today and where we used to be. And perhaps the way to cut it might be in the military budget instead of in the human budget."

Refusing to back off the economic issue Abzug continued. "I think economic justice for women, in and out of the workplace, is a very critical issue. . . . Once we started getting into an area that affected the federal budget and foreign affairs and the military, it was as though we had gotten into a verboten area."

Bella Mobilizing

Since she was fired Abzug has toured the country making the issues clear. She has refused to publicly break with the Administration she worked so hard to elect, but neither has she committed herself to remaining in the 1980 Carter re-election camp. For now she is angry and sure of only one thing: "There has been a breach of the bridge between the President and the women's movement." Bella says she has found a great interest in the issue of women and economics, and "I'm going to mobilize that sentiment." Asked if she or others would begin some kind of new national women's organization, Bella's eyes twinkled, "I don't know what form it will take, but something will happen in the next short period of time." Despite the proliferation of some 4,000 feminist groups there has never been an organization solely concerned with fiscal issues as they relate to women.

"Premature" Press Release

Jean O'Leary, Co-Director of the National Gay Task Force, and one of the 26 members of the Committee who resigned in protest, hypothesized that Carter was angry at Abzug ever since the Committee cancelled a Nov. 22 meeting with him. The Committee broke the appointment feeling insulted that Carter had allotted only 15 minutes to discuss women's concerns. Ironically, Abzug was not even present at the meeting during which the unprecedented motion to cancel was passed.

Commenting on the controversial press release O'Leary said in retrospect she thinks it might have been a premature tactic. "Never send out a press release before the meeting. . . that's not acting in good faith. . . ."

According to Clark, "The NGTF leader declined further comment, fearing that by alienating herself from the Administration she might jeopardize the movement to gain national gay rights legislation.

"Friday Afternoon Massacre"

Clark continued. "Gloria Steinem, though not herself an Advisory Committee member, has spoken out in support of co-chairperson Abzug and the 26 resignees, victims of what she called 'the Friday afternoon massacre.' She questioned the President's 'rationality' and his 'ability to perceive his own political self-interest.' Lauding those women who stepped down, she stated that they will not be a clique for the re-election of the President." In Los Angeles Abzug also affirmed the solidarity of her Committee members, calling the mass resignations "a courageous act." "It takes a lot of guts to say to a President, 'thanks—but no thanks.'" Noting that the 24 were "under pressure" to withdraw their resignations, Abzug revealed that "promises were being made" to them in hopes they would re-join the now shattered group and not embarrass the President any further. Many of the former Committee members sent telegrams of outrage to the White House. Nancy Newman, League of Women Voters, accused the Administration of having "always kept women's issues on the back burner of national policy decisions. . . now they are in the refrigerator."

The ex-Chair also spoke of the remaining 16 as "good people." "Some of them were out of the country and couldn't resign," she noted sincerely. "Others had too much at stake. Like Chambers had a big Tea scheduled with Rosalyn (Carter) and others."

Double Standard At White House

Asked if she saw any parallels between her firing and the Hill atmosphere which led to Midge Costanza's resignation, Abzug nodded. "There is a double standard in the White House. Burt Lance and Doctor Bojrn had some alleged wrongdoing and their leaving was handled with great care. All women have to do is speak out—and they're out!"

Bella now feels the Continuing Committee has "lost" its effectiveness. "No one takes it seriously anymore." But despite the abrupt cancellation of one of her several political hats and roles on behalf of feminism she is not hatless or hopeless. "The strength of the Women's Movement never depended on *any* one Committee. . . and we're all talking about something new now!" ■

1. Carter's proposed budget calls for a \$12-\$15 billion dollar cut in the human services area. It also *adds* to the Pentagon budget.

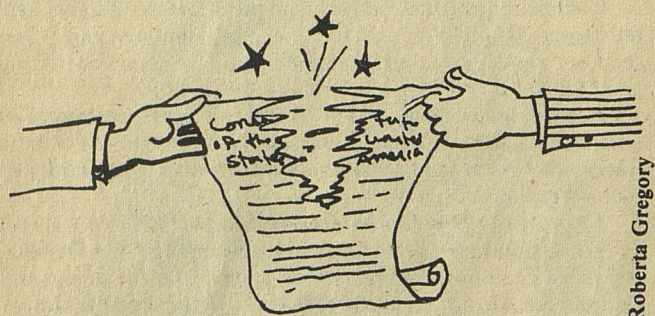
Right Wing Time Bomb

By Jeanne Cordova

There's a political wind a blowin' in this land that could make Prop. 6 look like small potatoes, would make losing the ERA a matter of fact rather than speculation. I am speaking of the threat of a Constitutional Convention, a threat which may become reality in 1980, a threat which would be catastrophic for the Gay and Women's Liberation Movements.

For some years now we have read about the growing numbers of states (now 24) which have called for the enactment of Article V of the U.S. Constitution, an article which provides for the calling of a Constitutional Convention. Only 34 states are needed and a January issue of *Time* magazine reports that 10 more states are expected to join this bandwagon by May 1979.

The Radical Right, Phyllis and her Eagles, have been calling for such a Convention for several years now. Until recently I was concerned but not frightened because I didn't think 2/3 of the state



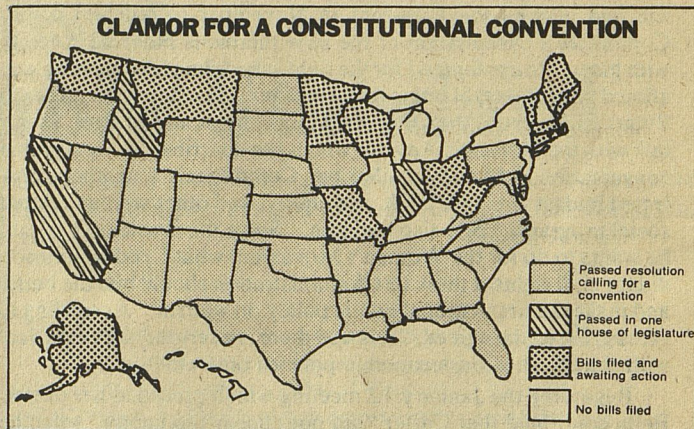
Roberta Gregory

legislators thought rescinding abortion rights was important enough to warrant calling a Convention. But that was before it became clear that Schlafly, Bryant and Co. would get a strong new ally: The Tax Revolt Movement.

California Gov. Jerry Brown, a known presidential contender, now seeks to ride the white horse of Tax Reduction into the White House. Toward that end he has called for a Constitutional Convention to pass a Deficit Spending Amendment (a law which would prevent Uncle Sam from spending more than it makes). The threat is that *millions* of Americans, including conservative and shortsighted members of our *own* community, think that nothing sounds more reasonable than making the government balance its checkbook. Why not? We've had to do it all our lives! But the upshot is that now an issue with truly grass roots support and validity has been married to the cause of right wingers who wanted a Constitutional Convention principally to dump the Supreme Court pro-abortion decision. And this spells big trouble for women, gays, peoples of color, political revolutionaries and activists.

Article V does not specify WHO will be elected to vote at a Constitutional Convention, nor HOW such delegates will be elected. There is also no legal way to limit the agenda of such a meeting. Apparently our forefathers didn't really think it would come to this, so they dismissed the particulars. The risks inherent in such a wide open Meeting has prompted even Howard Jarvis to call a Constitutional Convention "dangerous and unnecessary." Jarvis feels that "weirdos" might get in and concoct a new "screwball" version of the U.S. document. Whether Jarvis is referring to leftists or feminists as "weirdos" or simply all those who disagree with him, is unclear. What is more probable is that the likes of Jarvis himself will be elected as delegates. At this time, before the Justice Department speaks to the issue, we can only assume that delegates will be reflective of broad based opinion. We can expect then, to lose all rights not generally supported by middle America. In the space of two weeks we could get a Deficit Spending

14 • Lesbian Tide



LATE NEWS: 27 states have now called for a Convention. Indiana and Montana are now considering the question. California defeated the Call Feb. 22. An NBC poll says 70% of Americans want a Balanced Budget Amendment. Three similar attempts have been made this century, one successfully forced Congress to adopt the 17th Amendment (which allowed the people, rather than state legislatures, to elect senators). Two other movements ended unsuccessfully and without Congressional action. In 1938 the move to put a 25% ceiling on federal income tax began. Called the "millionaire's amendment" Congress delayed until support fizzled. In 1964 thirty-three states, just one less than necessary, voted to call a Convention to change the Supreme Court's one-man(sic), one vote law. The Deficit Spending tax movement expects 34 states by summer.

Amendment. We could also lose: abortion rights, those meager gay rights we have accumulated, very possibly the ERA, and possibly sections of the Bill of Rights (freedom of speech, assembly, etc.).

What is then essential is to *prevent* such a Convention. We might have some help here in that many constitutional experts and some politicians do not want to see such a meeting take place either. They too fear a Convention would declare open season on re-writing the Constitution. Others feel that passing a Deficit Spending Amendment is impractical and bad for the country's future (running a deficit is a tool for fighting recession). Many liberals know that a government strapped by such an Amendment would have to curtail its social welfare programs.

There are two ways to pass an Amendment to the Constitution: either by the kind of Convention spoken of here, or by the method employed with the ERA, that is passage by the Congress and ratification by the states. The Congress, explains Los Angeles NOW president, attorney Gloria Allred, could shortcircuit a call to Convention by passing a Deficit Spending Amendment (or any other Amendment) itself. They may do just this when and if it becomes apparent that this is the only way to head off a call to Convene. Calling Jerry Brown "irresponsible," Allred noted that Brown is aware of this Congressional alternative and merely called for a Convention to gain national recognition. "Calling for a Convention is a lot more startling than his saying, 'We must put pressure on Congress.'" Many believe that Brown and others backing the call are trying to bluff Congress into 'buying' the Tax Revolt.

Although they might be just playing politics, Allred still feels "the odds (that we'll see a Constitutional Convention in the near future) are getting better all the time. And it's a frightening prospect." ■

March Support Continues

As enthusiasm for a massive lesbian and gay march on Washington, D.C. mounts, activists in three cities have set up organizations to plan such an event. Meeting in tandem with each other, a list of 37 nationally prominent lesbians and gays is now endorsing the work of New York, San Francisco and Philadelphia Committees. Twenty-three of the endorsers are gay men, 14 are lesbians. At press time many of these activists, and hundreds of others from across the country were meeting in Philadelphia (Feb. 23-25) to set a date and focus for the event. All feminist and gay organizations were asked to send two delegates. Mixed groups were asked to send co-sexual teams.

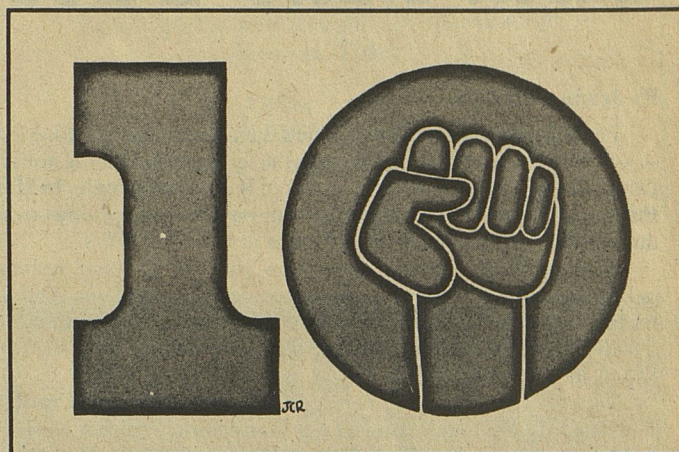
Fall Date Wanted

By a vote of 63 to 47 the San Francisco Ad Hoc Committee has voted to recommend (to the Philadelphia Conference) setting the march date for the fall of 1979. The date for the march remains the most hotly debated issue to date. In their pre-Conference report the group also recommended that \$50,000 is needed to operate their office for one year, and fundraising should begin immediately.

Lesbians Want ERA

The Philadelphia Conference may also settle the controversial issue of which demands the March should present. The San Franciscans want the March to demand: 1) The President to issue an Executive Order banning discrimination against gays in the military, federal government, and sub-contracted private employment. 2) Passage of a comprehensive gay rights bill in Congress (i.e. the Abzug-Koch bill), and 3) A call to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn state anti-gay laws. Additionally, a lesbian caucus of the San Francisco group introduced a resolution calling for Ratification of the ERA to be one of the top demands of the gay march. The resolution read, in part.

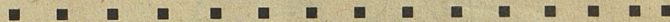
"WHEREAS, women. . . will march to demand the repeal of sodomy statutes in every state. . . even though we are rarely arrested under these laws. . . because we know that at the root of these puritanical laws is hatred of men who the rest of society thinks are like women. . . an equally dramatic feature of this March must be that men will march for the rights of their lesbian sisters to participate in society. . . as equal human beings."



Ten years after the 1969 Stonewall Riots, birth of the Gay Liberation Movement.

This caucus of San Francisco lesbians, popularly nicknamed "Lesbian Concentrate," is composed of 15 women among them Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, Sally Gearhart, Anne Kronenberg, Jo Daly, Jean Crosby, Priscilla Alexander, and other well known lesbian activists of that city.

Groups and individuals who wish to be kept informed of the progress of this project are urged to write one of the following and asked to be placed on their mailing lists: *Philadelphia Ad Hoc Comm. for March on Washington*, 1719 Rodman Street, Phil, PA. 19146. (215) 735-0904. Or, *New York Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Rights*, 156 Fifth Ave., Room 505, NY, NY 10010. (212) 924-2970. Or, *San Francisco Ad Hoc Comm. March on Washington*, 44 Lurmont Terrace, San Francisco, CA. 94133. (415) 431-1522. ■



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To have your cards read send me a letter with three questions on it written in your hand. Or send some object that belongs to you. This is my link, my connection with you. The questions will be answered for you, and a "Tree of Life," to see what karmic forces are acting around you, is also done and sent to you on cassette tape.

Please send \$15 fee and letters to: Z Budapest, Susan B. Anthony Coven #1 (COG), 1018 Marine St. #1, Santa Monica, CA. 90405. (Checks payable to Susan B. Anthony Coven #1).

Controversy Endangers Press

Rita Mae Sues Diana

By Jeanne Cordova

Three lesbian authors have added their names to a growing list of women who have complaints with the feminist publishing house, Diana Press. Rita Mae Brown, author of **Rubyfruit Jungle**, **In Her Day**, and **Six of One**, is suing for non-payment of royalties over three other works published by Diana in the early '70's.

Barbara Grier, editor of the now defunct national lesbian publication **The Ladder**, is also considering a lawsuit. And Z Budapest, founder of the Susan B. Anthony Coven #1, wants to retrieve the rights to her illustrated short story **Selene**, published by Diana in 1976.

Brown's case regarding her poetry, **The Hand That Cradles The Rock** (1973) and **Songs To a Handsome Woman** (1973), and her book of essays, **Plain Brown Rapper** (1976), alleges that Diana has incurred "a material breach of agreement." The Hollywood-based author, who is now writing screenplays, is also demanding the return of all rights on the three works, a complete financial accounting of sales, and punitive damages of \$25,000. Diana Press, Brown's first publisher, says they will not return the rights of publication.



Barbara Grier Negotiating

Barbara Grier, who co-edited the anthologies **Lesbian Home Journal**, **Lesbian Lives**, and **Lavender Herring** with Diana Press collective member Coletta Reid, is now negotiating with them to obtain royalties and an accounting of sales of her books. Grier's attorney, Barbara Price of San Francisco, explained that her client was "a great supporter" of the now beleaguered publishing house, and only began pressing them legally when they refused to communicate with her for more than a year. Grier was a "close personal friend" of Reid. Price says she has written to Diana about her client's grievances but has received no reply to date. Grier would like to settle her problems out of court, but is prepared to sue if necessary.

16 • Lesbian Tide

A lesbian attorney, Price is also representing Z Budapest and Carol Clement, the author and artist of **Selene**. Both women wanted the rights to **Selene** returned because Diana refused them the promotional tour they had been promised, and has not put the work out in hardback as they had also promised. Diana says they could not afford to follow through on these promises because **Selene** was not selling very well. Price has successfully negotiated with Diana Press to return the rights to her clients and the publishers have also released a promised advance check to them. Diana has also settled their differences with poet Elsa Gidlow by returning the rights to **Sapphic Songs** to her. Questioned about her current relationship with the press, an irate Budapest explained that the check she'd received had bounced.

Price is also representing a third disaffected Diana Press author from the East Coast who is "worried" about her contractual relationship with them.

Diana Answers Geller

As previously reported (Sept./Oct. '78 **Lesbian Tide**), Jeannette Foster, author of **Sex Variant Women in Literature**, and Ruth Geller, author of the unpublished **Womansseed**, are also bringing suit against the northern California publishers. Foster is claiming non-payment of royalties and Geller is charging Diana wrongfully severed their contract to publish her book.

For several months Diana Press refused to answer Geller's charges which were printed in several national feminist and lesbian papers. However in a statement released exclusively to **Albatross** (New Jersey-based lesbian magazine), the publishers admit they broke their contract with Geller—but only under extreme financial duress. The statement, signed by the entire collective, reads in part, "Her (Geller's) accusation that we broke the contract is true, but it was not an action we took lightly or because Ruth was too much trouble. At the time, there was nothing else we could do. The contract specified a publication date of December 31, 1977. The book (the typesetting and paste-ups) was destroyed by vandalism on October 25, 1977. We could not meet the terms of the contract, and, since we had already invested a great deal of time and money and energy in her book, our inability to fulfill those terms meant that we took a considerable loss."

The statement goes on to say that the 1977 vandalism forced them to "drop two other books" under contract and to "postpone several more". (As reported: "5,000 copies of **Plain Brown Rapper**, and the paste-ups of three of Diana's fall books were ripped up. Their press was crippled, and office and bookkeeping areas were dowsed in chemicals." Jan./Feb. 1978 **Lesbian Tide**).

Diana said they waited so long in refusing to publicly answer Geller's charges because "we wanted to avoid the personal issues such an answer entails. . . (and because). . . our previous experience with the press has made us wary of attempting to get our position fully or fairly represented. . . (and) we believe that author-publisher relationships should be confidential." The statement also refutes Geller's accusation that they would not communicate with her.

The only "personal issue" alluded to is an innuendo that Geller (or at least Geller's lawyer) was racist. "Finally," the statement concludes a list of adversary interactions with the author. "she (Geller) was distressed because the photo in the catalog (illustrating her book) showed a Black woman in the crowd. As Ruth said, there were no Black women in her book. To be perfectly accurate, we did not have this argument with Ruth herself, but with her attorney. . ."

Otherwise, the statement returns Geller's insults and accusations in kind, saying it was she, not them, who acted irresponsibly and insisterly.

Where Are The Royalties? What Royalties?

The consistent complaint by authors that they have received no royalties may be due in part to the kind of contract they signed with Diana. Many of the contracts specified that royalties would not be paid until costs (of production, presumably) were recovered. Unfortunately, Diana press spent more time implying that there would be *some*, if not large, royalties, than emphasizing that high costs and low sales could well result in *no* royalties. Disappointed authors who gave away more than they thought are finding this hard to accept especially since they have received no accounting of sales and seem in the dark as to how Diana calculates costs. According to Price, costs were not specified in Grier's contract with Diana, although they were spelled out in the later contract with Budapest and Clement.

To date the only royalties that have been paid are \$920 to Brown for **Songs To A Handsome Woman**, and one check for a calendar published some years ago.

Vandalized or Vanquished?

Asked what appeared to be the root of her clients' grievances with the Oakland publishers, Price explained that Diana seemed to be in over their heads. "I don't know about the past but they are in terrible shape now. I think they just over-extended themselves and their methods of dealing with this problem were not in their authors' best interest." Noting that the Press had broken promises made in writing, Price said the problems were more than simple miscommunications. "They have been dishonest, more than inconsiderate, and also stupid. I think they could have just gone to their authors and said 'Look, we've got problems' and things could have been resolved."

But this course of action has only recently begun to be taken. And it just might be too little, too late. A history of apparent poor communications with their authors was compounded by the 1977 vandalism. The fact that after the attack Diana Press chose to drop only the three books that were not written by in-house authors did not win sympathy. A few authors felt that Diana should have offered to re-do the destroyed typesetting rather than break contracts. Diana claimed the financial implications of re-doing this work left them no choice. The level of discontent crystallized after the fall attack. Hearing that the Press had received \$14,000 in donations (plus insurance money), some authors and activists openly implied that the publishers themselves were responsible for the 1977 disruption of their offices.

Many facts remain unclear but it is apparent that much of the problem originated with Diana's ambitious political vision of what a (*their*) feminist press should be. As the largest West Coast feminist publisher, Diana is *both* printer and publisher. Either role alone would be a handful. Like all feminist enterprises, the publishing house has had to contend with fulfilling both political goals and capitalist realities. Expensive, often faulty, equipment, staff turn over, technical problems, and the inability to pay competitive wages, especially to their printers, has been hard on them and their authors.

In her investigative piece on this subject in **Sojourner** newspaper, Molly Lovelock visited Diana's offices and observed the large Mann press under repair and staffers unsuccessfully searching for an auto in order to deliver to local bookstores. Distribution itself seems to be a significant problem in that Sisterhood Bookstore, the largest women's bookstore in southern California, says they simply "don't *ever* receive" books ordered from Diana despite substantial customer demand for some of their fine stock.

These realities, coupled with poor business decisions, have resulted in an insecure future for Diana Press. In apparent, though unconfirmed, response to their financial situation, they have recently laid off most of their workers, including their printer. At press time we were unable to confirm whether Diana Press is still functioning in whole or in part, or what they intend to do about their future. ■

Author's note: For more in-depth information, interested readers are referred to "Diana Press's Kaleidoscopic Controversy," by Molly Lovelock in Sojourner, Dec. 1978. Write: 143 Albany St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

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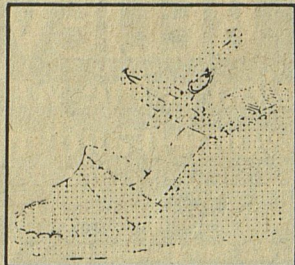
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Dyke Magazine Calls It Quits

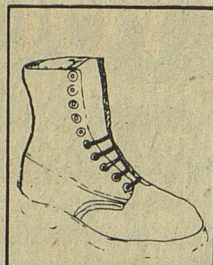
If the voice of the national lesbian community is not yet heard in the White House, it apparently was heard loud and clear in the office of **Dyke** magazine. The controversial publication, one of three national papers for lesbians, folded this winter because it could not support itself and its editors were tired of supporting it. "We just didn't have enough readers," explained Editor, Penny House. "We started two years ago and hoped to become self-sufficient, but it seems our readers didn't know what to make of us."

Dyke, the magazine that one reader observed, "everyone has heard of, but few have read", earned its initial reputation by widely

WHICH SHOE FITS YOU?



A



B

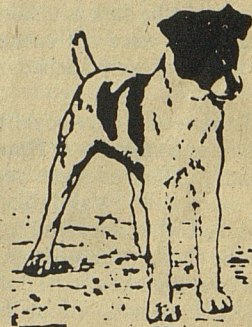
If you chose "B" then **DYKE** magazine may be for you. **DYKE!** A new magazine of Lesbian culture and politics.

Spring 1976 ad caused an uproar.

publicizing a house ad depicting a high heel shoe and a camping boot. "Which shoe fits you?" the ad asked. The editors finally had to recall the ad when it was found it was producing more ill will than subscriptions. **Dyke's** reprinting of the C.L.I.T. Papers (originally published by **The Furies** and hailed as the bible of lesbian separatist philosophy) developed more resistance than theory. The final mistake which sent the paper into a debt they didn't want to continue, was the publication of their last issue, "Lesbians & Animals". The sexually explicit issue on bestiality, which did not confine itself to the merits of dry dog food, was in House's words "a bomb." "Our prior issue on ethnic lesbians went over great, but the animals issue seemed to just dumbfound readers." Many lesbians, notably Californians then engaged in the Prop. 6 fight over negative myths about gays, thought the issue was "politically ill-timed, to say the least!"

Animals & Lesbians

on the farm
at home
as lovers



Dyke

Despite misjudgements as to what the 1970's lesbian community finds acceptable or productive, House seems to have a clear analysis of her paper's demise. In addition to "alienating a lot of people" she cited **Dyke's** distribution and advertising problems. "Our distribution policy of only selling to lesbians in women's stores really hurt us, it limited distribution. . . We were perceived as a national publication so we didn't get much local advertising. We didn't get much national advertising either, there's really not that many national women's businesses." **Dyke's** distinctly separatist advertising policy meant "we turned down lots of ads. In a way we cut off our nose to spite our face."

Perhaps most telling is House's sophisticated analysis of how **Dyke** was "too sophisticated" for its hoped for readership. "I think our combination of visual slickness (glossy paper), our radical politics, our humor and variety of articles, just confused our readers. There were too many different messages." The editor noted that the paper sold almost exclusively on the East and West Coasts, but even here apparently not enough lesbians identified with what the publication had to say.

House said she and co-editor Liza Cowan discussed changing the paper's name for many months prior to the decision to fold. "Most women found it (**Dyke**) too aggressive, ugly—though some thought it was great!" Asked if she had any regrets, House expressed "relief" that it was over. "I would do it differently, if I had it to do all over again, but we are both proud of our work. It got better each issue and we learned a lot."

Dyke has gone out as it came in, quickly and without excuse. It now becomes a part of herstory, a legacy whose value can perhaps only be measured by our future. ■

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Short Currents

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK GOES HOLLYWOOD

Michelle Triola Marvin's suit against Lee Marvin for wages for six years of housework and associated services has tremendous implications for feminists. Marvin, always a blatant bastion of chauvinism, has been verifying under oath the sexism that feminists have complained about for years. In his testimony Marvin admitted that he told Triola that he loved her, needed her and intended to spend the rest of his life with her. The following day he casually dismissed these statements as "idle male promises." He said he never meant these things and that "this deception was acceptable male conduct." In earlier testimony Marvin compared his love for Triola to a gas gauge on a car. With her, he claimed, "the needle registered only a quarter of a tank."

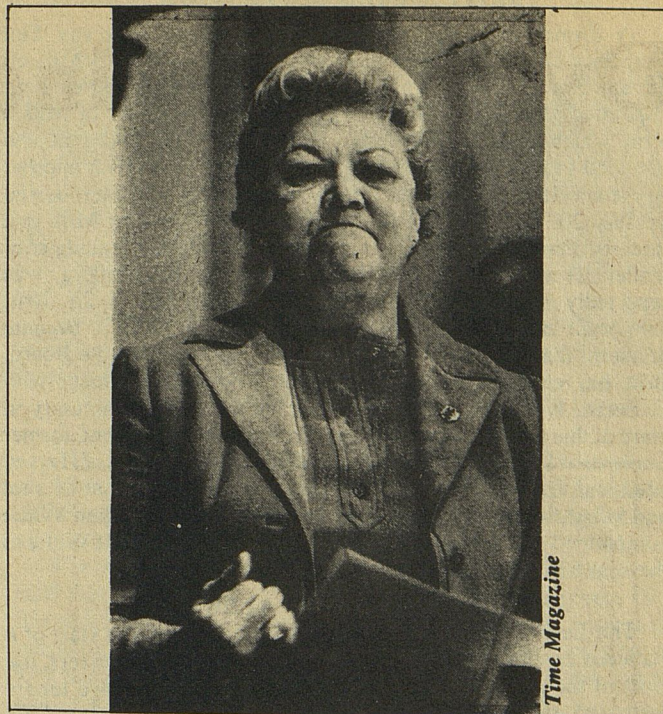
Triola upped her asking price (half of 3.5 million) another million dollars after hearing her boyfriend's deception. A victory for the houseworker in this case could severely re-define "acceptable male conduct" for those males who don't wish to re-define their bank accounts.

CORPORATIONS OPEN TO GAYS ... So They Say

According to a survey conducted by the National Gay Task Force, 121 of the nation's largest industrial corporations, employing over seven million workers and representing nearly 600 billion dollars in annual revenue, now state that they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring and promotions. The list includes such corporations as AT&T, Bank of America, Bethlehem Steel, Dupont, Exxon, Firestone, Ford, General Electric, General Motors, Gulf Oil, Gulf & Western, IBM, Mobil Oil, Rockwell International, Texaco, Union Carbide, Western Electric and Xerox. Send to NGTF for the complete list, 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011.

WEATHER PEOPLE FREED

A Los Angeles judge has freed the four Weather Underground defendants accused of conspiracy to bomb the offices of Senator John Briggs in November 1977. Judith Bissell, Leslie Mullin, Thomas Justesen, and Marc Perry have spent 645 days in jail already. The judge found them guilty of intent to bomb the anti-gay leader's office, but gave them a minimal sentence, and freed them because they had already served enough time. The judge said the court could not assume that they did intend to commit the bombing even though they had discussed it (conspiracy) specifically.



Time Magazine

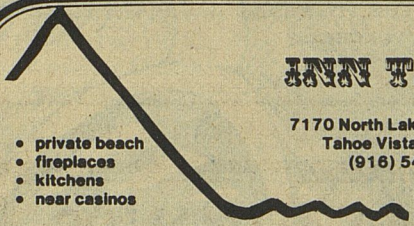
Finger poised, acting Kentucky Governor Thelma Stovall gives 'em hell.

MAKIN' HAY WHILE THE GOV'S AWAY

Kentucky's uppity Lt. Gov. Thelma Stovall is back in the news again. The woman who vetoed her legislature's attempt to rescind the ERA while the Governor was out of the state for a few days has done it again. This time, while Gov. Julian Carroll was off again, she called a special session of the legislature and put before them a tax cutting package. Carroll was furious at the news, but had to swallow it a few weeks later as he and legislators admitted Stovall's programs were good. Look for Thelma in the top spot at the next elections.

WOMEN OF COLOR

Off Our Backs will publish a spring '79 issue written and produced by women of color. Send poetry, commentaries, news articles, personal experiences, etc., on women in prison, political struggles, feminism and lesbianism to: Ain't I A Woman, 1313 Quincy St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20011.



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BRITT NAMED SUPERVISOR

A former Methodist minister and president of a gay San Francisco Democratic club was named to replace Harvey Milk on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Mayor Dianne Feinstein appointed Harry Britt, 40, to complete the remainder of Milk's term which ends in November. Feinstein, who said that she intended to fill the vacancy created by Milk's death with another gay supervisor, interviewed 20 candidates. Her staff interviewed another 20. Britt was one of four people mentioned by Milk in a tape recording as acceptable replacements. Another leading contender for the spot, former Milk aide Anne Kronenberg, was reportedly not chosen because of her youth. She is 25. Britt supported Kronenberg, but accepted the job after it became apparent that she would not be selected. Since joining the Board, Britt has charged the San Francisco Police Department with increased harassment of gays and called upon the community to combat this with its support and ideas. In a related incident, former Supervisor Dan White who was indicted for the murders of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, told police investigators that he shot and killed Supervisor Milk because Milk "smirked" when White complained about Mayor Moscone's refusal to reappoint White to the seat he had resigned.

LESBIAN PHOTO ALBUM

The Lesbian Herstory Archives has announced the start of a National Lesbian Photograph Drive. According to organizers, the roots of the Archives "lie in the silenced voices, the love letters destroyed, the pronouns changed, the pictures never taken." To end the legacy of lost faces, they are asking lesbians all across the country to send a photograph of themselves, friends, children, homes, pets and activities to the Archives. Contact Joan Nestle or Deborah Edel at the Lesbian Herstory Archives, P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10001 or call (212) 874-7232.

JEAN O'LEARY LEAVES NGTF

Jean O'Leary has announced her resignation as Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force effective in June. The decision, according to O'Leary, was for personal reasons. O'Leary first joined NGTF in 1975 as National Coordinator and has been in her present position since June of 1976. ■

BLACK LESBIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY SEEKS SPONSORS

A comprehensive, annotated bibliography of materials by and about Black lesbians in the United States is nearing completion. The bibliography which has approximately 140 entries is being compiled by JR Roberts and will feature a forward by Barbara Smith. This important publication will not be published without financial assistance. If you would like to contribute or do fund raising, contact JR Roberts, 167 Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

ABORTION MEETING: COMPROMISE OR CONFRONTATION?

On February 15, National NOW President Ellie Smeal met in Washington, D.C., with anti-abortion spokeswomen to discuss "ways to lessen the need for abortion, to reduce the incidence of unwanted pregnancy, and to end the polarization and violence surrounding the abortion issue." The meeting, instigated by Smeal, was attended by groups including NOW, Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), YWCA, American Students Assoc., National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), D.C. Area Teachers, several labor unions, Pro-lifers for Non-violence, Birthright, and Peace (an anti-abortion group).

The invitation-only meeting excluded some women's groups that have been working for abortion for years. Some groups and individuals, notably the National Women's Health Network, the Feminist Women's Health Center, and Carol Downer, have expressed outrage at Smeal's move, and fear that "Smeal is calling for a truce with anti-abortion forces", in Downer's words, calling it, "not a feminist strategy, but a compromise." In direct response to the D.C. meeting, a new national feminist organization has been formed called the Abortion Rights Movement (ARM), to work on securing reproductive rights for women. ARM can be contacted at 1212 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

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graphics - Donna Tracy

Editorial

MONEY PRINTS

We heard a reader comment recently that she did not fill out the Advertising Survey published in our Nov./Dec., 1978 issue because, "it looked commercial." Another reader did return the survey and wrote under Comments, "Is this survey for a better magazine or more ads? The questions are very money oriented. How about women who barely make it, working class lesbians and women of color, poor women?"

We are very angry at these kinds of responses. For a magazine that operates in a capitalistic society and has no rich private backers, there is no such question as, "Is this survey for a better magazine or more ads?" There is no either/or here. A half dozen feminist magazines folded in 1978 and another half dozen will fold in 1979 because of financial problems (see **Editorial**).

The facts are simple: no ads, no magazine. The more ads, the better the magazine can be. The relationship of money (ads) to survival is a well-known equation—*especially* to poor dykes of all colors. It is only the middle class, raised in comfort, that seems surprised, or politically offended when trying to grasp this reality. We did receive many many surveys and the results are not all tabulated yet. We do hope that our economically poorer readers did (will) fill out this particular survey so that their lifestyle is reflected in the results. The results of this survey, and future editorial and advertising surveys, will be used to help us determine how to make **The Lesbian Tide** survive and what kind of stories, news, etc. our readers want.

The relationship of "more ads" to a "better magazine" is that more ads means more money, and more money means we can send reporters places to get news, pay the phone bill to find out what the dykes in Boston are doing, print photos when they are submitted, pay photographers for their film and development, buy a second hand typewriter once in a while, pay for the ever-increasing envelopes to send the magazine out to dykes who would get evicted if their landlords saw our publication, pay the staff something so they won't decide to quit because they are too poor to go on giving so much of their time for free, etc., ad nauseam. The list is absolutely endless. And frankly, so is our need for money.

DYKE FOLDS, MR IN TROUBLE

It's been a rough year for our press. While overseas gay papers are being legally harassed with obscenity charges (see **Short-currents**), inflation is harassing some of our papers into non-existence. Penny House, editor of the often controversial national lesbian magazine **Dyke**, reports that her paper has folded. New York's eight year bastion of feminist thought, **Majority Report**, reports serious financial troubles. Boston's **Sister Courage**, **The Monthly Extract**, **Prime Time**, and Chicago's **Women's News For a Change** have also had to close their doors. Increased paper, postage, and labor costs have also brought an untimely end to overground papers, like **New Times** and **Viva**. Since labor is seldom paid on feminist papers, paper and postage increases and the *lack* of volunteer labor are the factors hitting our press the hardest.

Majority Report has an \$8,000 debt and is urgently calling for donations. In their editorial on the subject, **MR** says, "If you do want to allow this paper to shlep itself into the 1980's don't just sit there reading this trash. Think about what it means to hang onto the few alternative publications we have left, and what we'll have left when these struggling rags have gone, and write us a check." Contributions may be made to **Majority Report** at 74 Grove St., NY, NY 10014.

THEY HAD CLIT!

This issue we say goodbye to a sister lesbian publication, **Dyke** magazine, which has folded (see story). In the infant annals of the lesbian press, **Dyke** was unique as the only slick, feature oriented national lesbian publication. The usual rigors of capitalism and inflation, coupled with an often unpopular editorial stance prompted its folding. As Sandi Horn writes in **Gaia's Guide**, "**Dyke** is more personally honest in print than most people are in conversation." Or as one of our staff said, "I didn't always like what it had to say, but I liked that they had clit!"

We will miss **Dyke** as a symbol of our diversity and we thank its editors, Liza Cowan and Penny House, for their courageous contribution to our herstory.

(see story on **Dyke** in National News this issue).

PRICE HIKE

Most of what you've read on this page has to do with money and unfortunately, this article is no exception. There is some good news and some bad news.

The good news is that thanks to our advertisers, readers and a staff that works largely for love, **The Lesbian Tide** greets 1979 financially steady. In 1978 we added several new sections to the magazine, found a couple of national correspondents, bought some long needed equipment and had a dramatic increase in the number and quality of our photos and graphics.

Generally, the effect of inflation on us has been to delay our growth plans, such as our plan to go monthly. Our income growth in 1978 has only enabled us to continue meeting ever-increasing expenses in 1979. This month we received another notification from our printer (the 4th in two years) that our press work price is going up another 10%. (Since 1976 our press bills have increased 35%, and camera work 86%.) We saw a postage hike in '78 and will undoubtedly see another in '79. On the labor front, our staff has grown smaller as more and more dykes must devote considerable more energy to making a living in these harder times. The existing staff has learned to do things faster, and offstaff writers' contributions continue to help tremendously.

If you're thinking this is beginning to sound like the bad news, you're right. We have found that we must compensate for the year of inflation, paper and postage hikes by raising our prices. Our sample copy rate is now \$1.50 instead of \$1.25, our subscriptions will be \$7.50 rather than \$6.00 beginning on April 15.

We have only raised our prices 25¢ a year for the last 3 years, and in general from 35¢ (1971) to the current price now 8 years later. We are also open to exchanges, make us an offer! Donated labor, office supplies (especially paper, postage stamps, blue pencils, White Out, etc., "borrowed" from your employer would be just fine) or news clips or photos from your area of the country. We'll take just about anything! We are delaying the subscription price hike until April 15th and urge all who wish to subscribe to do it now for \$6 (see ad).

Our financial report shows a small growth in 1978 and seems to forecast stability for 1979. In short the future looks "guarded but good."

Much of our success in '78 and hopes for '79 depend on our advertisers remaining with us through the lean as well as the good months. **The Lesbian Tide** is critically dependent on our advertisers so we urge you to help us and them by buying their products. You can also make a tax deductible donation to us by sending a check made payable to The Women's Center, Inc. So think of us when you get your tax returns!

—The staff

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Reviews

Songs for Dykes

By Elaine Miller

Dyke Music, by Marilyn Gayle. Godiva. \$3.95.

Marilyn Gayle, a lesbian song-writer/performer in Oregon, has compiled in this book her songs and her story as a lesbian woman. Her writing is honest and direct so that when you have finished reading through her story you know something of a woman who describes herself as a "restless soul, a little sarcastic and hot-headed." Her songs speak of her life as a lesbian. She candidly conveys stories of relationships (of all varieties), living with women and with children, friendships, the trials of being a performer, and interweaves in them a theme of growing self-confidence and self-awareness. It is always refreshing to hear a "dyke" tell it like it is. The songs are warm at times, hot at times, raw, honest, and real. I found myself identifying with the struggles and laughing at the parallels with my own life as a lesbian woman and songwriter.

Musically speaking, the songs are written well for someone to read. Guitar cues at the beginning of each song give a hint of the style and although I have some difficulty with odd rhythms (7/4, 10/4, etc.), the songs are playable on sight by someone with some facility on guitar. A little incentive in dealing with rhythmic problems comes in knowing that the content is real to us as lesbian women.

I truly enjoyed Marilyn as a person and as a song-writer speaking from her own experience. I also applaud the fact that this "Marilyn-made" book has found its way to print primarily through the efforts of the writer. This includes the stories and drawings as well as the songs and the production of the book. It's a good story and a fine portrayal of the woman who lived it and the women who inspired her. ■

The Emergence of Cynthia MacAdams

By Sue Cooke

Emergence: A book of photographs by Cynthia MacAdams. A Dutton Paperback D522 \$9.95.

She was born in South Dakota and raised on an Indian Reservation at Sisseton. Later she went to New York and to Hollywood where she was an actor. She spent a year in Nepal and India, where she lived in Buddhist monasteries and devoted herself to study and meditation.

In 1973 Aloma, a photographer friend encouraged her to step behind the camera.

"Each woman in **Emergence** has a particular view-point and reaction to life that manifests itself in her body. The body, according to the degree of awareness, radiates light. I've chosen these women because each one has a strong radiation of light from her forcefield. Each one emanates positivity and strength. What I've seen in each of these women is a total commitment; be she actress, painter, sculptor, or writer, each one has had a great deal of integrity and conviction. The women I've chosen matter to me. They're my teachers. Each one has nourished me and helped me to understand myself." —Cynthia MacAdams, 1977.

Honesty, integrity, these are not the glossy images of women we are used to seeing everyday beguiling us to purchase the newest product, photographs that turn the very women in them into products. These photographs confront with their concreteness.

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Cynthia MacAdams' photographs in ways remind me of the work of the late Dianne Arbus, however, her work lacks the anger and pathos of Arbus's work. MacAdams grows through her work, it shows. At the same time she is creating a new vision, a feminist vision of women.

As a feminist photographer myself I empathize greatly with her work and feel that a number of other women photographers are also walking a similar path. Her book has helped me work through certain conflicts I've had about my own work.

Many of her photographs have appeared in the **Tide** as well as a number of other publications. If you are interested in photography and are unfamiliar with her work I most highly urge you to check out this book. ■

Autobiography of a Lesbian

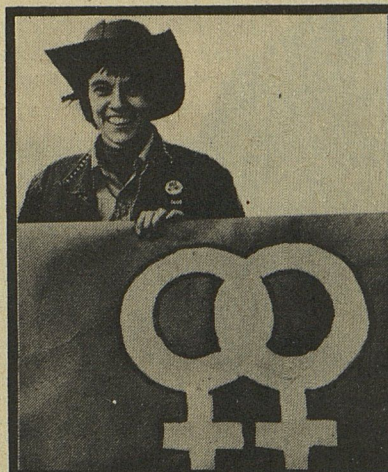
By Martha Heath

The Notebooks That Emma Gave Me, by Kady Van Deurs. Kady Van Deurs. \$5.

The letters and diaries of women in the 17th century gave rise to the novel as a form of literature. Kady Van Deurs, however, rejects fanciful narration. She says, "A woman can tell the truth about her life without disguising it, fictionalizing it." Through diaries, letters and recollections Kady Van Deurs has presented her life truly. Her self-portrait is authentic and spare, revealing emotion without sentimentality, self-irony without self-pity. These are qualities any journal-keeper must envy, for the temptation to overdramatize one's life is nowhere stronger than in personal anecdote.

Subtitled simply **The Autobiography of a Lesbian**, Van Deurs' book is a landmark within dyke literature in that it is the first true chronicle of a lesbian's evolution from the "pre-liberation" times (1940's and 50's), through the Left-and-Freudian 60's, up to the "political" lesbianism of today. Her perspective is, therefore, informed with the balance afforded by a wide experience. Yet she is never artful, never preachy. Kady Van Deurs comes off the page whole. ■

NOTEBOOKS THAT EMMA GAVE ME the autobiography of a lesbian by Kady van Deurs



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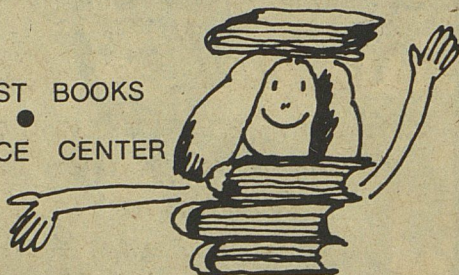


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Mary Watkins in Motion



By **kmc minns**

Something Moving, by Mary Watkins. Olivia Records, Oakland, CA 1978.

Whoever said women can't play music like this better move right on down the road cause Mary Watkins has proved them wrong for the last time! Watkins' music is the best thing to come out of Olivia in a while. This is an album to dance, dream and make love by.

The cover notes speak of Watkins' synthesis of sounds. It isn't hype—Mary's style incorporates jazz, rhythm and blues and good ole rock and roll for something that really cooks.

The first cut is a smash opening called "Yesterday's Children". A combination of jazz, black and blues—it rips the record wide open. Gwen Avery's voice is a surprise—something between Roberta Flack and Diana Ross—fantastic. The back up vocals are good and add much to the song but Mary should watch her use of strings and stay away from heavyhanded rhetoric in her lyrics. Her main talents lay in instrumentals.

"Back Rap" features Mary on the grand piano, Rhodes, Mini Moog and Crumar string synthesizer. Jerene Jackson's guitar is slick—she's probably the best on the woman's music scene today. Joy Julks bass is also fine but Linda Tillery on drums is a bore—a new arrangement is needed.

"Brick Hut" is a pop number with a bit of disco and jazz thrown in, very reminiscent of the theme from the movie "Car Wash". The lyrics by Pat Parker are a trip—funny, with a cutting edge.

"A Chording To The People" is an instrumental filled with rainy night highway feelings. The virtuosity of Watkins on grand piano, Rhodes, Mini Moog etc is spectacular. Only in the middle where Mary breaks down into some ballroom blahs does it slow down. Jerene's solo on classical guitar makes up for it—a beautiful dialogue between her and the synthesizer.

"Leaving All the Shadows Behind" is a treat. Mary uses her own voice as lead vocal and shows off her best lyrics—it is a soft opening to a sensual flip-side.

"Witches Revenge" is a show tune straight out of the musical version of MacBeth! Here Linda redeems herself as percussion and Moog make this the heavy number it is. Jungle drums, heavy bass and repeated phrases move through like vines in the darkness. The

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jazz trumpet of Bonnie Kovaleff stands out as the high point on an already high album—superb. Jerene's rock and rollin' guitar is right out of the '60s. Anger and power as political statements come burning through—no need for words. Watkins is out front saying who she is and where she's going; the music is all. This is by far the best cut on the album. Four stars.

"I Hear Music" coming after "Witches Revenge" sums up the total experience of this record. Watkins and Co. take you through a ride of emotions and make you feel as if you've touched the sky.

The simple title belies the movement of the song. If Watkins can control her minor Keyboard Liberace she'll really be moving. Only the tendency to overkill with orchestration and a bit of a fade-out unresolved ending mars this almost classical piece.

Over all, if Mary Watkins can par down, trust herself more, be less afraid to come on solo, she's got it all together. This is exciting, moving music—some of the best made anywhere. Just goes to show women CAN play tough, hard and gentle. Let's hope Mary sticks with it for a long, long time. ■

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HARDCORE

Robin Tyler

The Motion Picture Industry has exploited women for so many years, in so many ways, that it is hard to think that they can ever top themselves. Well, they have finally reached the bottom of their sewers. It's a movie called **Hardcore**.

Now most of us in Tinsel Town knew that **The Story Of O** was not a movie about the alphabet. But **Hardcore** is written and directed by the very same man who wrote **Taxi**—a film whose violence and hatred of women makes the billboard "I'm Black & Blue for the Rolling Stones" look like a nursery rhyme. Yes, these bastards finally found a way to bring hardcore to suburbia. Despite its "R" rating, **Hardcore** has a "PG" window dressing, establishment credentials, produced by Columbia Pictures, starring George C. Scott, costing \$5 million. It was designed for the general American public and they will probably flock to see it.

It's ridiculous to go into an involved explanation of plot since there isn't one. What there is is an excuse for Scott, looking for his teenage daughter, to enter the world of Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco hard core, multi-million dollar pornography industry. You get your dirty bookstores, hookers, pay for peeping scenes, orgies, massage parlor and S & M clips. And to top it off, you get your SNUFF movie scene in which you see the actress getting her throat cut. Oh yes, the boys have left nothing out.

Of course, George C. Scott is ultra religious, no drinking, no smoking, no fucking. And so, when by the end of the movie he finally finds his daughter and the bad guy is killed, he *reasons* with her. She sits huddled on the floor saying how he never loved her. He stands over her tall and *erect*, asking her to come back to Grand Rapids and let Christ come in her (instead of all the other men who have for fun and profit).

So here we have it. The classic Whore-Madonna syndrome with which writer/director Paul Schrader seems to be obsessed (especially with teenage girls). Of course, daughter returns home with daddy to continue being exploited with guilt instead of gelt (Jewish for money).

And speaking of money, this picture will probably make loads of it because in the end morality (if one can call organized religion moral), triumphs over evil. Unfortunately the real danger of a film like this is that some people will see it as a legitimate attempt to educate the public about the dangers of the pornography industry. In fact the numerous explicit scenes in the picture makes **Hardcore** a monument to the very thing it is supposed to be protesting.

I'd like to thank the Writer's Guild for showing this at a screening. I paid nothing to get in, not knowing what I was going to see, and walked out realizing I had dearly overpaid. If the film industry is going to allow women to be brutalized by legitimizing filth and violence, then it is time for us to snuff out films like this. If you want to protest this picture, organize, fight back, strike out, call Paul Schrader at Paramount Studios (213) 463-0100 and tell him so. ■

Cheryl Reekin, D.C.

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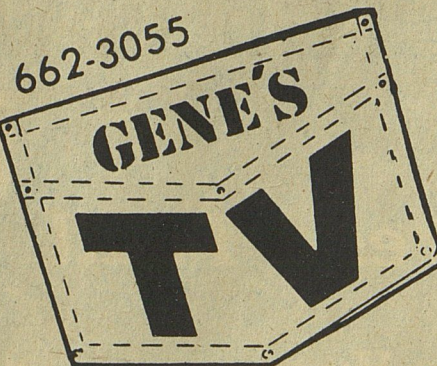
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Community Focus

PUBLICITY FOR LOCAL EVENTS

*(Editor's Note: Lesbian and feminist groups from Santa Barbara to San Diego are invited to place free announcements by calling **The Tide** (839-7254). If you have free events in May or June (our next issue) be sure to give us a call. Leave all particulars and your phone number on the tape. Events which charge an admission fee are ads and may be placed by calling same number and asking us to return your call.)*

PROFILE

MAGIC IN ORANGE COUNTY

The newest thing for lesbians behind the Orange Curtain is the Majic Speller, a general bookstore that is fast increasing its selection of feminist books. The bookstore was opened in 1976 by Maria Desiderio and Zoe Ananda who consider themselves "the luckiest lesbians alive" because they have experienced little discrimination regarding their lifestyle and their parents are in back of their personal and business partnership 100%. This positiveness pervades their store and is communicated in their welcome of feminist and lesbian customers. Zoe and Maria are particularly interested in "the spiritual future of women" and they study books on the subject, in addition to running the store themselves. Majic Speller now carries over 100 of the most popular lesbian and feminist titles and they look forward to expanding this selection as quickly as they can. You can find them both seven days a week at the store which is located on the Newport Peninsula, west of Pacific Coast Highway (see ad this issue).

DEMOCRATS GET DYKES

The Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Party has been renamed the "Lesbian/Gay Caucus". Newly elected Co-Chairs are Ivy Bottini and Tom Van Strien. The Caucus now has enough members to qualify as official and receive Caucus privileges at Conventions.



Maria Desiderio and mother (left) and Zoe Ananda and mother (right) of the Majic Speller Bookstore.

BROWN CALLS FOR RIGHTS LEGISLATION

In his inaugural address California Governor Jerry Brown said that he would support the inclusion of "sexual preference" in the anti-discrimination provisions in the state Fair Employment Practices Act. The announcement caught gay activists by surprise. Days later in his "state of the state" address, Brown reiterated his commitment to legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

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LOCAL EVENTS

HOW TO SAY GOOD-BYE is the topic for March 9 rap of the Southern California Women, a local lesbian group. Location: 10923 Moorpark in North Hollywood. Call 763-9791 for directions. SCW has also started an Orange County Chapter. Call Jeri Doyle, 433-8329, for membership and information. In L.A. call 766-6811.

GAY RIGHTS DEBATE: The ACLU Gay Rights Chapter hosts a debate Wednesday, March 7 at the Cal. Fed. Bldg., 5670 Wilshire Blvd. at 7:30 p.m. Debaters are: Ivy Bottini, Susan McGrievy, Morris Kight & Don Admador. Special focus on whether or not to push for a Los Angeles gay rights ordinance.

RAPE CRISIS COUNSELORS: Training program is set for March 10 at Womospace, 237 Hill St. in Venice at 10 a.m. For training outline program write: Rape Crisis Hotline, Box 145 Venice, CA 90291.

WOMONSPACE PROGRAMS: The Fat Underground, Non-Violent Feminists, Older Women's Liberation (OWLS), and many other rap groups and organizations meet regularly at this Westside feminist center. Call 399-9813 for dates and times. Location: 237 Hill St. Open afternoons and evenings.

WOMEN'S OUTREACH COMMITTEE: formed in the Prop. 6 fight continues to meet with a current focus on lesbian participation in the National Gay March on Washington. Meetings on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at 3189 Cheviot Vista Place #208 in Culver City. Call 837-6874 for directions and information.

OPEN HOUSE: The Lesbian Art Project will hold an open house on Sunday, March 25, 1-4 p.m. at 2119 Estrella in downtown L.A. We are seeking lesbian artist/workers to join us for the third year of the project. For more information call 687-4593.

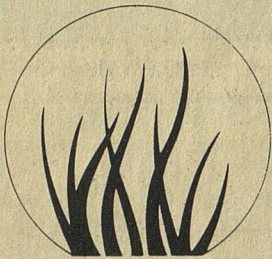
LESBIAN RAPS & GROUPS: Regularly conducted at the Gay Community Services Center. Call Raymonde Sendra at the Center 464-7400, ext. 257.

NOW LESBIANS: of the Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force of NOW meet on the first Friday of each month, March 2 and April 6. The group has re-vitalized with "new leadership and new ideas." Special program meeting on 3rd Friday of each month, March 16 & April 20. 7:30 p.m. at the NOW Center, 6363 Wilshire Blvd.

EROTICA OR PORNOGRAPHY?: March 4 at 8:30 p.m. on KPFK (90.7 FM) as *Lesbian Sisters* discuss this topic and Adrienne Rich, Susan Griffin and Nellie Wong share their poetry. On March 22 & 29 at 8:00 p.m. Parts I and II of "Fair Sex, Fair Game" will air, same station. Part I focuses on a feminist definition of pornography, and Part II on child porn, porn and racism and porn and the New Left. Women Against Violence Against Women will show their slide show on pornography at the radio station at 9:00 p.m. directly after program. Location: 3729 Cahuenga Blvd. Call 877-2711.

NEW IN TOWN

Or simply disconnected from other lesbians? Call Womospace (399-9813), The Woman's Building (221-6161), or **The Lesbian Tide** (839-7254), for information or referral about the group or event you want. ■



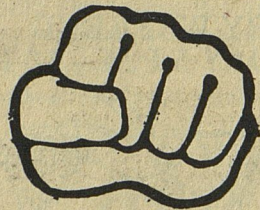
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JOB-EDITOR: for **The Lesbian Tide** wanted. Job includes being on Editorial Board with others, writing own articles, editing & critiquing others, short news clips, etc. Time: every Tuesday evening plus home work to fulfill above. Experience in feminist or lesbian movement preferred. Writing skills necessary, editing preferred, but will train. Pays \$60 per issue stipend. Call (213) 839-7254.

JOB-LAYOUT ARTIST: sought to help one day every two months on layout of **The Tide**. Coming dates: April 22 & July 22. Pays \$10 per day. Previous experience preferred. Please call (213) 839-7254.

JOB-STRINGER: San Francisco lesbian wanted as **Tide** correspondent to write articles, send news tips, etc. Stipend relative to copy provided. Write: Tide Publications, 8706 Cadillac Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034.

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DID YOU MISS SOME HERSTORY? Now you can own 4 years of it for only \$10. Get 19 issues of **The Lesbian Tide** ('75, '76, '77, '78) for \$10, or 13 issues ('75, '76, '77) for \$7. Separate year prices: '75 for \$3, '76 for \$4, '77 for \$3. A very special gift for friends or lovers. Order now from **TIDE PUBLICATIONS**, 8706 Cadillac Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90034.

JOB-FUNDRAISER: Director of Development for the Gay Community Services Center. Create & implement a comprehensive community relations/solicitations program designed to raise funds for the Center. Proven experience in non-profit fundraising and degree preferred. GCSC 1213 N. Highland, Hollywood. (213) 464-7400 ext. 51.

BELL JAR TO BE PREMIERED: You are invited to two very special evenings. The May Co. & Avco Embassy Prod. are co-sponsoring a benefit premiere of **The Bell Jar** for the Woman's Building, on Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m., in Westwood. Tickets are \$10. The film is based on the novel of the same name by Sylvia Plath. The evening will include a reading of Plath's work and a dialogue with the star, Marilyn Hassett, screenwriter Marjorie Kellogg, and director Larry Pearce. A reception will follow. All proceeds go to the Woman's Building. On Saturday, March 31 at 9 p.m. the world premiere of **Lesbisia**, a lesbian film by Jere Van Syoc, will take place at the Woman's Building located at 1727 N. Spring St. in Los Angeles. Admission \$3. RSVP for both special evenings at 221-6161.

CONFERENCES

The Scholar & The Feminist: 6th Annual Conference of the Barnard's Women's Center held April 21 at Women's Center, 100 Barnard Hall, 3009 Broadway, Barnard College, NY, NY 10027. Conference will explore and define those structures which organize and determine concepts of sexual identity and difference. Write above address for registration or call (212) 280-2067.

Lesbian Reality: the 5th Annual New York State Lesbian Conference, April 20-22, Binghamton, NY. Event hosts workshops, political discussions, and entertainment. For registration & information write: The Lesbian Switchboard, c/o Women's Center, PO Box 354, Binghamton, New York 13902. Call (607) 722-3629, evens. 724-8840.

Women & The Law: Will open its 10th Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, March 29-April 1. The Conference will have over 135 workshops including a Lesbian Law Section which will host discussions on relationships, combating discrimination in the courts and the military, custody and in prisons. The Conference will also feature lesbian rights events. For registration and information write: Women's Law Caucus, University of Texas School of Law, 2500 Red River, Austin, TX. 78705.

Gay Jews: will host an international conference in Israel in August 1979, followed by a tour of historical sites in the Holy Land. Write: Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, P.O. Box 1270, New York, NY 10001. Call (212) 929-9498.

Lesbian & Gay Rights Law Conference: March 10-11 at New York University School of Law, 40 Washington Square South, NYC. Sessions: Trusts & Estates, Child Custody, Constitutional Litigation, Immigration, Jobs & Housing Discrimination, etc. \$15 or \$5 registration for limited income. Checks payable to Lesbian & Gay Law Students, 33 Washington Square West, Room 1c, NY, NY 10001.

WOMIN CRAFT STREET FAIR: in Los Angeles! Womospace is having its third annual Womin Craft Fair on Sunday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the street in front of Womospace, 237 Hill St., Santa Monica. All are welcome, no admission. Come and enjoy a day of fun, food, frolic, and fabulous women-made crafts and entertainment. Craftswomen or entertainers interested in being in the Faire please call Gail at (213) 399-9813 or (213) 396-0054.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

RATES: \$5 per listing (3 lines). National listings welcomed.

Betty Berzon, Ph.D. (therapy): lesbian couples, individuals, & groups. 6399 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1007, Los Angeles 90048. (213) 653-2912. By appointment.

Valerie A. Kirkgaard, B.A., M.T. (therapy, communications consultant, massage, rent-a-mom). Los Angeles. (213) 258-5543.

Mary Madsen (Attorney & Counselor at Law): general civil and criminal practice. Castle Green Building, 99 S. Raymond Ave. Suite 502, Pasadena, CA 91105. (213) 795-0179.

Barbara Price (attorney): 1714 Stockton St., San Francisco, CA 94133. (415) 433-6790.

Susan McGreivy (attorney): staff counsel for *free* legal services at Gay Community Services Center. 1213 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood, CA. 90038. (213) 464-7400.

Gail Christian & Assoc. (public relations): promotional services for organizations & small businesses. 7801 E. Telegraph Road, Montebello, Calif. (213) 680-3282.

Gloria Allred (attorney): divorce, wills, child custody, sex discrimination, personal injury, business. USC Bldg., 6381 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 404 Los Angeles, CA 90048 (213) 653-6530.

Bridget Overton (real estate), MacElhenny, Levy & Co., Inc., 9280 Telephone Road, Ventura, CA 93003, (805) 647-0540, (805) 648-6531.

Linda Barrone, MFCC (therapy): individual relationships and groups, feminist therapy for lesbians. 1640 5th St., Suite 220, Santa Monica, CA. 90401. (213) 393-9194.

Jan Stone (attorney): estate planning and probate and business. 6210 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 303, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 934-0512.

Marlene Abel (attorney): Daigneault, Abel & Daigneault. Del Amo Executive Plaza, 3838 Carson St., Suite 100, Torrance, CA 90503. (213) 540-2515.

Marcelle Philpott-Bryant (attorney): general practice—divorce and custody, personal injury, criminal. 234 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 620, Pasadena, CA 91101. (213) 793-6139.

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DEADLINES: Camera ready copy* and check must be received by the 20th of the month prior to publication. That is by:

- December 20 for January/February issue
- February 20 for March/April issue
- April 20 for May/June issue
- June 20 for July/August issue
- August 20 for September/October issue
- October 20 for November/December issue

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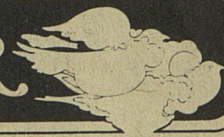
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