

DEMETER

Women's News of the Monterey Bay Area

VOLUME 4 NO. 10

FEBRUARY, 1982

Highlighted by Apple Pie Day

Pro Choice Week Celebrated Here

By Rosemary Matson

Television viewers on the Peninsula got a glimpse on the 11 o'clock news of the beginning of Pro Choice Week in Monterey County as participants to the Reproductive Rights Coalition "teach-in" walked into the Monterey Library through picket signs reading "Abortion is Murder" and showing pictures of a fetus in a womb.

Rev. Richard Zone and his small

band of Christian Voice followers defied the rain on January 18 as well as the informational session held for those registered for the lobbying day at the state capitol in Sacramento later in the week.

Had the picketers come in out of the rain to the teach-in, they would have heard Rosann Wisman, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Monterey County, give an overview of the long history

of abortion and of the struggle over a woman's reproductive rights.

Beginning with the first recorded recipe for an abortion-producing drug in 2600 B.C., Wisman went on to describe the fluctuating position of the Catholic Church over the centuries as one Pope after another reversed the decision of a previous Pope regarding the Church's stand on abortion.

According to Wisman, under English common law, as well as under the law in the colonies and later in the United States, early abortion was legal. The first abortion legislation was passed in 1821 in Connecticut, although abortion as such remained legal until mid 1860s. By the late 19th century, throughout the United States, any deliberate termination of pregnancy except to save the life of a woman, had become a serious crime. Interesting to note, at that time the criminal charges were against the abortionist, not against the woman.

In explaining why these restrictions were introduced, Wisman described a period in history when, without benefit of antiseptic or antibiotics, abortions resulted in death for many women. This was added to the fact that the country was promoting an increase in population in order to settle new Western lands.

Not insignificant, too, was an anti-feminist attitude, especially among fundamentalists, in reaction to the awakening women's movement. Influential groups seeking to promote the idea that sexual intercourse was primarily for procreation worked to ban both contraception and abortion.

Wisman then cited facts and statistics from Department of Health, Education and Welfare

studies as well as other reputable sources to indicate the significant decrease in death rate for women after the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Studies also show that infant mortality rates have declined considerably due to increased use of birth control, fewer children per woman, and increased availability of safe, legal abortion. She cited the extremely high rates of teenage childbearing and stressed the importance of sex education, counseling and birth control methods in helping alleviate the situation.

Richard Criley, Executive Secretary of the American Civil Liberties Union, described the legislative process, how laws are made, how a bill becomes law, and the several types of "Human Life" amendments that have already been introduced by the New Right politicians on both the federal and state levels.

Criley outlined the legislation currently being considered in Congress, Senator Orrin Hatch's S.J. Res. 110, which was voted out of sub-committee into the full Senate Judiciary Committee in December.

Hatch hopes to have his bill brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote by spring.

After the presentations, and during a short break, two members of the Christian Voice picket-line entered the meeting room and began to engage several participants in argument.

Several participants that evening signed up to take the bus to the state capitol later in the week for Apple Pie Day, commemorating the battle for the basic human right of women to bear children by choice

(Continued on page 3)



Petitioning for reproductive rights is David Loye. Signe Helgeson and daughter Jennifer sign up.

Liberal Sees Hope for ERA

In the waning days of the fight to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, there is one voice in Washington still bubbling with optimism.

"We're going to win the fight," the Rev. Robert Drinan told a gathering of ERA supporters in Monterey last month.

The clarity of his message, the steadiness of his voice, the strength of his bearing made this Irish-American Jesuit priest more than just another liberal standing on a soap box decrying the conservative Reagan administration, which he characterized as the "most anti-woman administration in the history of the country."

His ringing words were met with shouts of "right on" and spontaneous applause from the near-capacity audience at a meeting of Americans for Democratic Action, of which Drinan is national president.

"Will the yahoos and rednecks win?" posed Drinan, a five-term congressman from Massachusetts until the Catholic Church made him give up political office. He is now a professor at the Georgetown University Law School in Washington, D.C.

The 34-year-old ADA is one of the original promoters of the ERA, Drinan said.

"The (Reagan) administration did a flip-flop (on ERA) because of Moral Majority and Phyllis Schlafly," Drinan charged. "They are not even consistent conservatives."

"The only good thing that I think will come out of the Congress is the Voting Rights Act," he said. Then he complimented the "National Organization of (sic) Women" for their efforts to push the voting act.

But Drinan also scolded his audience in particular and America in general for letting Reagan "get away" with his first 12 months in office "because not enough of you protested."

Stripping federal programs of Affirmative Action policies, cutting back on social service programs, not increasing the minimum wage this month, and the introduction of the Human Life Amendment — an effort "to reverse the Supreme Court" — are all signs that the current administration is "consciously and deliberately seeking to destroy the aspirations women have had for 50 years," Drinan said.

(Continued on page 3)

Inside:

Four Centuries of Women in Love

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Inadvertent Omission

Editor:

An inadvertent omission of one class offering from the article, "Women's Studies at MPC" gives me an opportunity to call attention to the omitted class and tell you a bit about my impressions as a recent member. The title is Women in Search of Self and will be offered in the spring semester.

June Schwartz, who with Ann Jealous designed the course and first offered it at the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1974, is the teacher. June has taught at MPC since 1976, and is a breath coach in private practice.

The MPC course is "designed to give participants an opportunity to discuss the transition through the various stages of being a woman."

One student, Karen Harber, perceived it as
self discovery
that endless journey
uncharted
unknown
finding secrets
telling some

As for me, I feel it was the beginning of a search that is truly endless — continuing as long as life continues — and has many rewards.

M. Ruth Whitcomb
Carmel

Quits Procrastinating

Editor:

I'd like to start by telling you how much I appreciate having a publication like *Demeter* available here on the Peninsula. I am lesbian but have only been out for about a year and a half.

Demeter has allowed me to read about activities and other women who are getting involved and sometimes it spurs me into trying to participate myself.

The thought that you may have to quit printing is scary enough to me that, even though money is scarce since I'm a student and mother, I have to quit procrastinating and get a subscription.

I read in the last issue that you need people to help put out the paper. I would like to do whatever services I can.

Thanks for *Demeter* and all the support that all of you women offer.

Lois McKivergan
Monterey

Women and the Arts

Editor:

Always hesitant and worried about showing. The exposure. But somehow you go anyway. And lo and behold there are people around you encouraging.

Women and the Arts is bringing together a myriad of creative souls and providing inspiration to our artistic processes.

Thank you *Demeter* for being the media through which we learn of groups and activities, and special thanks to Claudia Treadwell, founder of Women and the Arts.

Jane Celaya
Salinas

(Editor's Note: *Women and the Arts* is an ongoing support group for women artists which meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 810 Pine, Pacific Grove, starting at 7:30 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling 373-7201.)

Angry Separatism?

Editor:

I have just recently moved to the Peninsula and was thrilled to find a feminist paper here. It helped greatly in my transition to this area. Through the calendar I found new and exciting events and therefore people too. For that, thanks.

However, I am genuinely distressed by the latest issue's cartoon. I find it not only humorless but distasteful at best. It is the kind of example that we in the movement are trying hard to rectify. It offends our brothers and those of us who are truly trying to work for peaceful cohabitation.

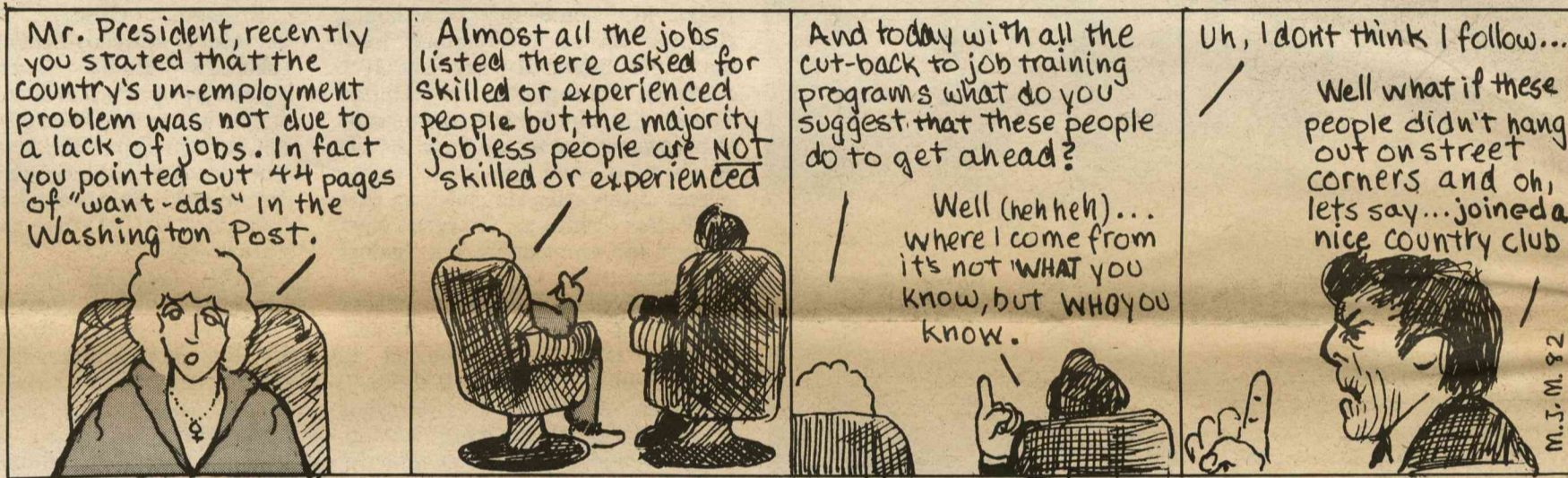
Haven't we gotten beyond the angry separatism? When we achieve the true liberation that we are seeking, I want my sons and my brothers right there with me.

Let's relinquish the angry words and seek for liberation of all. We and your paper will be stronger when we do.

Marie Cortez-Lundun
Monterey

TARZANNE TRIPES

By Myrtle Jean Mittleshmeartz



About Our Cover . . .



This month, on the 162nd anniversary of her birth, we honor Susan B. Anthony, pioneer leader of the women's suffrage movement who was born on Feb. 15, 1820, at Adams, Mass. Her work helped to pave the way for the adoption of the 19th Amendment and the world-wide recognition of human rights expressed in the charter of the United Nations.

notes from Demeter

Staff Changes

We are in the midst of several staff changes at *Demeter*. Aly Kim will be our calendar coordinator. Please direct all items you'd like listed on the calendar to her. The deadline for receiving information for the March calendar is February 12.

Emily Fireweed is our new poetry editor. Each month the poetry page will have a theme, and themes will be announced several months in advance. We promise to publish poetry every month, so submissions are encouraged.

We are looking for a new advertising representative. Mary Davis has given up her body and soul to Antioch University and we are in need of a replacement. We need someone who will call on various businesses and agencies in the area that may be interested in reaching the feminists on the Peninsula through advertising in *Demeter*.

Mary will be willing to train you and the satisfaction you'll receive from reaching out and helping the community will be your com-

pensation. Please contact us if you're interested in spending a few hours a month for a worthwhile cause.

Our mailing address is 229 Seventeenth Street, Pacific Grove, 375-5629. Our office is staffed, but on an irregular basis.

Money

The community responded beautifully to our request for financial support. Subscriptions and renewals were up dramatically last month. Our debt has been reduced from \$1,300 to \$600.

However, last month our printing bill was raised and our postage rates doubled — all of which means that we have a continuing need for financial support from the community.

Volunteers

We still need volunteers, particularly typesetters and people who can staff the office. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at our office. Everyone is welcome to attend.

DEMETER

229 Seventeenth Street
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(408) 375-5629

Staff for this issue:

Jeanne Adams
Sandy Bennett
Brenda Dillon
Emily Fireweed
Aly Kim
Leslie Lane
Joan Spear
Joan Weiner

Subscriptions and address changes: P.O. Box 1661, Monterey 93940

Demeter is a feminist newspaper published monthly on the Monterey Peninsula. Our goal is to provide a forum for the exploration and formation of feminist issues and concerns and to provide information on events, news items and organizations of interest to the women's community. Opinions expressed are those of the individual author and not necessarily those of Demeter. We welcome and thrive on input from the community and will consider for publication material of interest to women which is not sexist, ageist, racist or homophobic in content. Material should be typed and double-spaced. We reserve the right to edit copy, but will contact the author if major changes are required. Please include name, address and phone number. Material will be returned only if the author specifically requests it. Deadline for copy is published each month in our calendar. Demeter's office is in the 17th Street Women's Professional Building, located at 229 17th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Our phone number is (408) 375-5629. Demeter is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Drinan In Monterey—

(Continued from page 1)

In contrast to the Reagan administration, Drinan said, the Carter administration placed women in 22 or 23 percent of the regime's high offices. "I'm afraid all that good work is going to be set aside," he said, noting that women still receive only 59 cents for work for which men receive \$1.

Cuts at the expense of national health programs, Affirmative Action policies and social service programs, Drinan said, have been made by "radical extremists (who)



ROBERT DRINAN

have taken over the country — possibly a permanent and irreversible situation."

He said these "extremists" are orchestrating a campaign to make our middle class hate the poorer classes, blacks and Chicanos.

"How many fantasies are we going to allow them to have?" Drinan asked as he listed cuts made on the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act programs, the Clean Air Act (which he described as "emasculated"), consumer protection programs, and the ironic increases of spending on a defense program to "re-arm America and re-arm the world."

"Something is very wrong with America," Drinan said as he touched everyone in the Music Hall at Monterey Peninsula College with references to humanist issues being systematically picked on by the conservatives and "extremists" in power.

Issuing a rallying cry, he said: "The Democratic Party and the liberals are the only ones who have ideas."

"Why isn't the country fighting back?" he asked. "I hope for a revolution in the Democratic elections this June."

In the next six months, he said, "The Republic's future will be decided."

Taking his call for action one step further, Drinan said he would like to see Reagan made a prisoner of the White House, confronted by thousands who would say, "We are being deprived of our basic rights."

Demeter: Where We Stand

The community response to our recent request for donations has been wonderful. When we made the request in November, Demeter Productions was \$1,200 in debt and the newspaper was two months behind in its printing bill.

Readers responded with donations and with new subscriptions, which allowed us to reduce our debt to just over \$600. Our subscription list has topped 350, up 75.

We've also received many letters of support and encouragement. They've helped us through the last few, difficult, months.

Our monthly expenses break down this way:

- \$205 printing bill;
- \$102 rent for office, utilities;
- \$ 25 phone bill;
- \$100 typesetting, camera work, editorial expenses;
- \$ 25 postage;
- Total: \$457 (approximately).

Our cash on hand will allow us to survive through February, then . . .

We need ideas on ways to raise money. One of the ideas we are considering is applying for grant money. If

anyone has experience in this area, and would like to help, give us a call at 375-5629.

Another way to raise money is through the sale of advertising. As explained in Notes from Demeter (page 2), we need several people willing to sell ads. We'll do the training, if you'll do the selling. And, if anybody has ideas about businesses which might be willing to place an ad with us, let us know.

We are a community newspaper and we need support, both financial and editorial, from the community.

If you've been thinking about making a donation, now's the time. All donations are tax-deductible.

If you'd like to write an article, or a poem, or do an interview, or submit a photograph or drawing, now's also the time.

The first Monday of each month we have a meeting in which we plan our next issue. If you'd like to be involved, or just see how we function, drop by. Our meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are held in our office at 229 Seventeenth Street, Pacific Grove.



Boarding the bus for Sacramento are (left to right) Dick Criley, Katy Koken, Jackie Smith and Rosemary Matson.

Pro Choice Week—

(Continued from page 1)

and not by coercion. Each year, on January 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, pro-choice advocates mobilize across the nation to commemorate the historic 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. In California, the celebration is known as "Apple Pie Day."

Fresh apple pies, symbolizing the slogan "Choice is as American as Apple Pie" are presented to state legislators supporting freedom of choice for every woman. Legislators opposing legal and safe abortions for all women receive decorated apple cores bearing the statement that "Choice is the Core of Democracy." Informational pro-choice packets are distributed along with petitions bearing signatures of supporters in the legislator's district.

This year, the Monterey County Reproductive Rights Coalition joined in the January 21 Apple Pie Day celebration. The Coalition

chartered a bus to transport Peninsulans to Sacramento.

Three presentations were made by the Monterey group: a get-well card and T-shirt for Kenator Henry Mello and a promise to deliver his apple pie when he has recovered from his recent surgery; an apple pie for Assemblymember Sam Farr for his pro-choice stand; and an informational packet for Assemblymember Carol Hallett.

Hallett did not qualify for an apple pie this year because, although she is pro-choice, she voted for the amendment (subsequently stricken down in the courts) restricting abortion funds for poor women to cover cases of rape, incest or life endangerment only.

The Coalition also presented to each of the legislators a bound set of petitions bearing more than 2,500 signatures of support for reproductive rights for women by citizens of Monterey County.

Clarifying the Issues

By Richard Criley

I am standing in front of the Safeway market in the mouth of the valley with a clipboard in my hand. My petition reads, "We, the undersigned, fully support the U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortions legal and safe." As I approach the shoppers, I am aware that I strike some as an oddity — a white-haired man in his seventies pushing a "feminist" petition. Maybe it works to my advantage. Many younger women thank me as they sign.

An older woman shies away saying, "After all, I'm passed that age." "So am I," I tell her. She laughs and signs.

I keep a rough scorecard in my head. The breakdown goes something like this:

- Sign without hesitation — 25 percent.
- Do not sign, "abortion is murder" — 10 percent
- Do not sign, "not interested" or "I don't sign anything" — 30 percent
- Do not sign, "haven't made up my

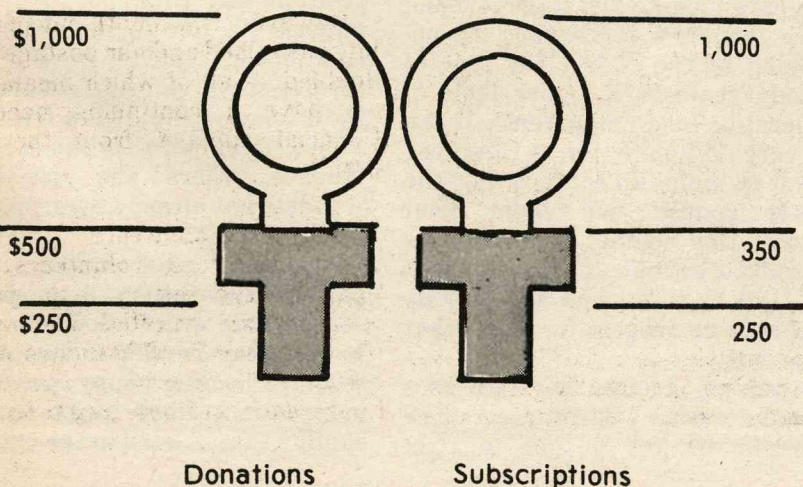
mind," but discuss and take literature — 10 percent

Sign after discussing their doubts and disagreements — 25 percent.

The "numbers game" is deadly serious. The strategists of the pro-life movement are studying the public opinion polls and shaping their strategy to achieve their goal of a total ban on abortions despite the fact that, by their own estimates, no more than 25 percent of the public agrees.

In this age of mass computerized mailings and slick television messages, there is still a decisive role to be played in person-to-person discussions. A petition campaign is more than a compilation of already firm opinions. It is probably the most effective means of clarifying the real issues and influencing those whose opinions will determine which side has the real majority.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Criley is executive director of the Monterey County Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union.)



Compiled from Her Say

National Service for Women

Thirty-three congressmembers have introduced legislation calling for registration for national service by both women and men.

The proposed measure — HR 1730 — has been introduced by Representative Pete McCloskey, and includes representatives Pat Schroeder, Millicent Fenwick and Gladys Spellman among its co-sponsors.

Under the proposed measure, women and men would be required to register for national service on their 17th birthdays. They would then be offered the option of a two-year military hitch; a one-year term of community service; a brief active service followed by five years' reserve duty; or the option of participating in a lottery for military conscription, at times when a draft is deemed necessary.

HR 1730 is presently under consideration by three House committees. According to an anti-draft activist in McCloskey's home district, however, it has little chance of becoming law. Doris Jones of People Against Registration says similar measures proposed by McCloskey in previous sessions of Congress have failed to pass. There is presently no companion bill to HR 1730 in the Senate.

After the Revolution

The women of Nicaragua are hard at work shoring up gains they made during that country's revolution.

That's according to a report in the *New York Times*. That newspaper is reporting the last two and one-half years have seen the end of all laws considered by Nicaraguans to discriminate against women.

A law giving fathers absolute right over their children has been abolished, for example, while a new measure banning the "commercialization" of women has been passed. That means — in the words of one feminist — that advertisers "can't sell beer and tires with women's legs."

Sandinista women made up nearly 30 percent of fighting troops in the recent war. A major city was captured and held by a five-woman military command.

Equality is Good Business

Giving women equal pay might be good business sense, after all.

So concludes a study by the women's research organization, Catalyst. The study found that the wage gap separating male and female workers lowers women's productivity.

Catalyst reports that when women shoulder the same job duties as men but receive smaller salaries, they tend to rate themselves lower in ability. Because the women feel they are worth less, they may produce less.

Catalyst adds that other women may let their feelings toward the wage gap turn to resentment, which also tends to hamper performance.

Nurses Walk in San Jose

More than 800 registered nurses went on strike last month for comparable pay in San Jose in what they call the first such action anywhere by RNs.

The strikers — who walked out January 5 — say their jobs pay less than other, equally demanding work because nursing is primarily a woman's occupation.

Says Maxine Jenkins, chief negotiator for the California Nurses Association, "As long as we compare depressed wages of one group of nurses to depressed wages of other nurses, nurses' salaries will remain in the swamp."

The nurses have adopted the wages earned by pharmacists as their comparable pay goal. Jenkins says pharmacists make between \$31,000 and \$36,000 a year. By contrast, the base pay for most of the striking nurses ranges between \$20,000 and \$24,000 annually. The CNA is asking for a 25 percent wage increase in the first year of a new contract.

On-Campus Assaults

Colleges and universities in the U.S. have witnessed a dramatic increase in rape cases since 1972.

That's one finding of an FBI spot survey of 107 schools. The study shows that on-campus assaults on women rose by 55 percent between 1975 and 1980.

US News and World Report says

schools are trying to reverse the assault rate by sponsoring anti-rape workshops; providing free escort services; increasing their police forces; and installing additional lighting and emergency telephones.

Another First for Women

Carnegie Hall will record another first next November.

That's when singers Meg Christian and Cris Williamson will team up for Carnegie's first women's music concert. The event will also yield a live album by the performers.

Christian and Williamson staged a musical reunion in Berkeley last December after going their separate musical ways in 1976.

Foul Play?

Women basketball players have finally made it into the statistics summary compiled by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The weekly sheets on the women are the same as ones that have been distributed for decades on male dribblers.

Seattle Times associate editor George Meyers claims the NCAA's attention to women players is a "belated and hasty attempt to prove it is not, after all, sport's last bastion of male chauvinism." At the same time, Meyers adds, the association is "striving to wrest control of female competition from the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women."

Legal Notes

Child Custody Mediation

By Nancy Yuenger

The adversarial process of a dissolution proceeding is not the most constructive way to deal with family problems. When a divorced couple, or a couple seeking a dissolution, is having trouble reaching a satisfactory custody or visitation arrangement the services of the child custody mediator can help them iron out their differences.

Judges are required to refer to mediation any family with a custody or visitation dispute arising out of a dissolution. Couples may also be referred to mediation by their attorneys prior to going to court, and can take advantage of mediation even if no legal papers have been filed. There is no fee for this service.

The mediation records are not made available to the court. The mediator makes no reports or recommendations to the court. New information discovered in mediation cannot be used in a court proceeding. This confidentially encourages openness. The only exception to the strict confidentiality is the requirement that the mediator report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

The child custody mediator for the Superior Court in Monterey County is Susan Schellie. Susan has a master's degree in social work and has spent 11 years in human services, with eight of those years spent concentrating on dealing with families and children. I had an opportunity to talk with her and she described her function as a mediator and shared some of her thoughts on counseling.

Susan sees each family for an average of two or three sessions, with follow-up appointments. The emphasis in mediation is on short-term, problem-resolution counseling. The purpose of mediation is to help people work out their own agreements for custody and visitation. If the parents cannot agree in mediation, then the court can recommend that the probation department do a custody investigation.

Susan meets with the children in about one-quarter to one-third of the cases. Only school-aged children are included in these meetings and the decision to include the children is made with the parents. This session helps parents to understand

how conflict between them affects their children.

Despite the dissolution or separation, there is still a family, even if it has been re-organized into two homes. Hostility between parents can continue to affect children after a divorce and in dealing with post-divorce problems it is best to deal with the entire family.

There is a trend today towards awarding both parents joint legal custody. Joint legal custody gives both parents an equal right to make major decisions concerning the upbringing of the child. This type of custody requires a higher level of cooperation between parents. It can be very difficult for a divorced parent to maintain contact with the former spouse but under joint custody this contact continues for the child's benefit. The parents do not need to be friends but they do need to have respect for each other as parents.

Susan emphasizes her role as a communications facilitator. She attempts to get people to com-

municate effectively and to be better listeners. She has found that people assume they know what someone else is thinking and then act on that assumption instead of reality. This problem may be aggravated in a post-divorce setting when it is hard for someone to give her-his ex-spouse credit for changing in a positive way.

Susan has found that when one spouse is unhappy, there is a tendency for the other to say, "It's your problem." Instead, they should understand that it is likely to be a relationship problem. It is not unusual for her to see that earlier counseling could have helped resolve the problems a couple had in their relationship. It is a frustrating aspect of her job that she deals with families where the decision to separate has already been made.

Mediation can result in the parents developing a cooperative relationship which allows their child to have the benefit of two parents who are leading happy, productive, independent lives away from the conflict that existed in the marriage.

ERA Fund-Raiser Very Successful

Thirteen local women were honored as distinguished community leaders on January 9 at a fund-raising party and auction held by the ERA Coalition of Monterey.

Honored were Rev. Betsy Bennett, Rev. Joan Cathey, Kate Kietterle, Maggie Eastwood, Frances Horn, Joanne Lasnik, Mary Morain, Rosemary Matson, Sylvia Panetta, Floye Phelps, Kitty



RIANE EISLER

Ragsdale, Dorothy Washington and Riane Eisler, who spoke on the Equal Rights Amendment.

About 350 guests were present at various times during the three-hour event, which took place at the House of the Four Winds in Monterey — including Congressman Leon Panetta, as well as the Rev. Robert Drinan, who gave an impromptu talk. He was on the Peninsula to give an address at Monterey Peninsula College later in the evening (see article on page 1).

Entertainment was provided by a trio of musicians: Howard Matson on the violin, Victor Selby on the guitar and David Loye on the harmonica, playing portions of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

When some "gate crashers" interrupted the auction, there was a moment of consternation — and suspense. In marched a group of women carrying signs like "59 Cents is Enough," "Off the Ballots and Into the Boudoirs," "Suffering Not Suffrage," "Accepting Money for Work is Unladylike," "A Woman Can Get Anything She Wants from a Man."

Spooing similar anti-ERA demonstrations, the group was led by Jacki Lewis, who made the signs.



Sylvia Panetta (left) and Congressman Leon Panetta at ERA Party

The other participants, wearing feathered hats, wigs and hair curlers, included Linda Crowe, Cindy Friedrich, Charlene Moffett, Betty Tambling and Lucy Roberson. Rosemary Matson came as Phylis Laughly.

But the final surprise was the appearance of the party's mystery guest — the ghost of Alice Paul, played by Alison Paul. Exhorting

the "demonstrators" to join with their sisters in the struggle for equality (which they did), she turned the "demonstration" into a rousing finale, ending with all joining in the song "When We Get ERA."

Over \$3,500 was raised which will help ratification efforts in the remaining unratified states.

CSW Forms Advisory Panel

The newly-formed advisory network to the Monterey Commission on the Status of Women held its first meeting on January 12. The network is comprised of the board presidents or executive directors of the League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, National Organization for Women, National Women's Political Caucus, Junior League, YWCA, Rape Crisis Center, Planned Parenthood, Women's Crisis Line and Project Worth.

The network was formed to advise the commission, and through them the Board of Supervisors, on needs and issues that are of concern to women.

The Commission on the Status of Women, as the body designed to be the direct line of communication to

the Board of Supervisors, intends to assume a stronger advocacy role for organizations that are involved in the broad-base identification of women's issues and concerns, according to Commission chair Carol McClure.

The CSW has created the network to give more women an effective and organized voice in the political structure by seeking their advice as to what recommendations should be made for the benefit of all women in Monterey County.

The network's first formal recommendations were: (1) that the Commission go on record in support of the Equal Rights Amendment; (2) that the Commission support the travel boycott of unratified states; and (3) that the Commission ask the Board of Supervisors to go on record in support of the above-mentioned items.

Among other issues discussed were measures to make the county safer for women including self-defense training to be taught in public schools, and means of ensuring better funding to meet the needs of women.

Riane Eisler, representing NOW, was elected the group's first facilitator. She will formally present the Advisory Network's recommendations to the Commission at its February meeting.

Eisler expressed hope that the network will be of major help in furthering the education of both our officials and the public to the urgent problems and needs of women. "I hope," she said, "women all over the county will use this opportunity to strengthen the Commission's role in seeing that our governing bodies address the needs and aspiration of women."

Nuclear Weapons Freeze Coalition Forms Here

Currently forming is the Monterey County Coalition for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze. The group, a locally based association of groups and individuals, seeks to reverse the drift toward nuclear war by education and political action.

The Coalition supports the initiative measure for a bi-lateral nuclear weapons freeze to be placed on the November, 1982, ballot as a step toward world-wide nuclear disarmament.

Organizations or individuals may affiliate.

More information can be obtained from Jackie Smith at 624-3982.

Women's Studies

Fortunately for those of us in the Monterey Bay area, we have three community colleges that offer classes of particular interest to women. Last month we listed those being offered by Monterey Peninsula College. This issue we share offerings at Hartnell and Cabrillo colleges.

Hartnell College

Women-Writer-Hero, taught by Phyllis Burke, is a six-week course beginning Feb. 24, to be held Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m.

For those women who want to be physical, there is a weight training class for women led by Ellie Spier, Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m., beginning Feb. 4.

Assertiveness Training, taught by G. Brown, is designed to introduce and develop the process of becoming assertive through an

experiential-didactic presentation. Class will be held Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., Feb. 2-March 30.

Cabrillo College

Cabrillo College has an extensive schedule of classes offered through their Women's Studies and Women's Re-entry programs. The semester begins in February, with day, evening and weekend courses to accommodate flexible scheduling.

In the Women's Studies program are anthropology from a feminist perspective; working women; success and stress; female sexuality; contemporary women's issues; feminist visions of the future; women 45 and over; power and authority; las mujeres and unlearning racism and sexism.

For more information call 408 425-6249 or 688-2075.

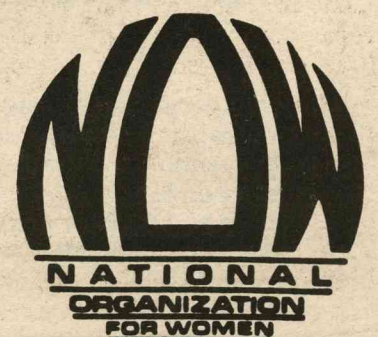
NOW Chapter Convenes

The National Organization for Women, Monterey Peninsula chapter, will convene Jan. 30 to bring the chapter to active status. Pat Lala is acting as convenor. Elections will be held at this time.

All members in good standing are urged to attend as their votes are needed! The meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center located near Dennis the Menace Par.

Candidates for office are: Pat Lala, coordinator; Rose Higgs, secretary; Lil Bitney, treasurer. In addition, nominations will be accepted from the floor beginning at 11 a.m.

At noon, the chapter representative to the Advisory Council to the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, Riane Eisler, will give her report on the first of the meetings.



1 monday

Demeter meeting. All interested welcome. 229 17th St., Pacific Grove, 7:30 p.m.

3 wednesday

An evening with Holly Near: an autobiographical talk about her music, her work and her politics. Kresge Town Hall, UCSC, 7:30 p.m., free. Call 429-2071 for more information.

4 thursday

Mothering Skills-Nursing Mothers meet for topic "Sleeping" at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Central and 12th, Pacific Grove, 10 a.m.

Women and the Arts groups meets, 810 Pine, Pacific Grove, 7:30 p.m. Call 373-7201 for more information.

5 friday

Lesbian Rap Group begins 8 p.m. Topic: Women and Food — discussion of all aspects of what food is to each of us, what we eat, why we eat, food as protection. Call 372-1452 or 624-2133.

"Patriarchal Attitudes of the Medical Profession," lecture-discussion to be led by Dean Brock, counselor of Sunrise House, sponsored by Hartnell "Women on Campus," Rm. C165, 12-1 p.m.

"Nonviolence — A Total Approach" workshop with Wally and Juanita Nelson at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway in Santa Cruz, beginning 7:30 p.m. and continuing through Saturday evening. A sliding-scale donation of \$10-20 is requested with work exchange available if arranged in advance. For more information or to preregister contact Resource Center for Nonviolence, (408) 423-1626 or write P.O. Box 2324, Santa Cruz, 95063.

6 saturday

Theory and Techniques of Gestalt Therapy, a two-day course offered by Antioch University, Saturday and Sunday, 10-5 p.m. Cost is \$75 to audit and \$140 for credit. Call Jackie Somma at 649-4949.

8 monday

American Sign Language introductory course begins, taught by Joni Bishop through Monterey Free University, \$7. Meets 7-9 p.m. Call 373-2641 for more information.

15 monday

Demeter deadline for copy.

Women's Therapy Group

Sidney Ramsden-Scott and Suzanne Judith will lead a women's therapy group, presently in the formative stages. Once the group is under way, its size is planned to stabilize at 7-11 members.

The group was designed to become a sharing circle where women can come together in a safe atmosphere to give and get nurturance, feedback and support; to work on releasing anger, resolving conflicts, dealing with tension and anxiety; to explore and actualize their potential as full human beings.

Using a humanistic, holistic, transpersonal approach, Suzanne

and Sidney want to integrate a variety of therapy techniques into the ongoing group process. Their work will be a blend of such therapy modes as Gestalt, T.A., and Psychosynthesis.

Meetings will be held weekly on Wednesday nights, 7-9:30 p.m. The first meeting will be held Feb. 10.

There will be a fee of \$10 for a first-time, get acquainted session, after which it will cost \$50 per month — and there are a limited number of reduced rate scholarships.

For more information call Sidney at 625-2745 or Suzanne at 649-6065.

9 tuesday

League of Women Voters Unit meetings. Reports and group discussion on local water study. Call Betty Dalsemer at 659-2915.

"Breaking Through," a Canadian film on women going into non-traditional trades and technologies, will be shown at the MPC Career Center, 1 p.m.

12 friday

Demeter deadline for calendar listings.

Lesbian Rap Group begins at 8 p.m. Topic: Women and Love. Call 372-1452 or 624-2133.

16 tuesday

Volunteer training for the Salinas Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council begins. Become a volunteer in the Education or Direct Service Program doing one of many jobs such as answering the child abuse information and referral line, joining the speaker's bureau, becoming a parent aide, providing child care or transportation. The six-week training course is held at 6 W. Gabilan in Salinas from 7 to 10 p.m. Call 758-2910.

Smoking cessation workshop for women, led by Alison Paul and Slay Adams, begins and continues through March 11. There is no charge for the class and materials will be provided. Class meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7-9 p.m. at Hartnell, Rm. C165. Contact Alison Paul at 758-8211, ext. 375 for advance registration.

Movement Massage Workshop

Claire Parrish will offer a movement massage workshop for women on Saturday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The workshop will focus on basic massage skills, movement in massage, how to select massage oils and massaging without oil.

Claire has been practicing and teaching massage on the Monterey Peninsula for seven years. She has studied various bodywork methods including

Trager work, polarity, joint motion, cranial motion, acupressure as well as massage.

The cost of the workshop is \$30. A \$15 deposit is required in advance. To register please call 375-6484. Location will be announced at the time of registration.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a light lunch. Bottled spring water will be provided.

18 thursday

League of Women Voters general meeting. Speakers on the topic of agricultural lands. Pacific Grove Community Center, 1 p.m.

Women and the Arts group meets, 810 Pine, Pacific Grove, 7:30 p.m. Call 373-7201 for more information.

Mothering Skills-Nursing Mothers meet for topic "Liberated Parents-Liberated Children," at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Central and 12th, Pacific Grove, 10 a.m.

19 friday

YWCA of the Monterey Peninsula annual meeting at the Naval Postgraduate School, 6-9 p.m. Call 649-0834 for more information.

"Personal and Professional Growth Aligned" is the topic for discussion led by Dani Perkins, counselor at MPC, to be held at Hartnell College Rm. C165, 12-1 p.m. as part of the "Women on Campus" lecture series.

Lesbian Rap Group begins, 8 p.m. Topic: Women and Age, to share views of aging, agism, older women, age differences in relationships, future planning. Call 624-2133 or 372-1452.

20 saturday

Food Addiction Workshop facilitated by Suzanne Judith to be held in Salinas, 2-4:30 p.m. There is limited enrollment. For location and more information contact Cindi Obenchain at 449-1460 or 758-8211, ext. 378.

Woman's Workshop: Tune in to The Female Principle, 10-1 p.m., offered by Neeltje de Haan, through Monterey Free University. Sufi dancing and some massage, wear loose clothing. Fee is \$5, bring your lunch, call 373-2641 for more information.


First annual Grand Masked Costume Ball sponsored by Family Resource Center.

25 thursday

Reproductive Rights Coalition council meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Monterey Library. Open to the public.

26 friday

Lesbian Rap Group begins, 8 p.m. Topic: Public Display of Affection. Call 372-1452 or 624-2133.



KAZU
90.3 FM
WOMEN'S PROGRAMMING

Women's Music for Everybody
Sundays 12-3

My Sister's House
Thursdays 12-3

Cookie Sale

The annual Girl Scout cookie sale begins this month, with deliveries Feb. 26 through March 7. Cookies will also be available from booths at stores and other public places the last weekend of February and the first one in March.

Help support this 70-year-old women's organization.

27 saturday

Turn Off Your Age, a workshop in which experts will share ways in which your mental, physical and spiritual outlook contribute to your concept of aging. Offered by Jennie England, through Monterey Free University, 10-3 p.m. Fee is \$6. Bring your lunch. Call 373-2641 for more information.

Parks and Rec

The Monterey Parks and Recreation Department offers a varied schedule of activities for the spring.

Programs include mother and tot gymnastics, physical fitness for women, dance, jazzercise, volleyball, music, drama, film, assertiveness training, creative writing, parenting courses and Red Cross classes, among others.

For complete information regarding programs, pick up a copy of the guide to spring activities, or call the department at 646-3866.

Ongoing

Tuesdays

Domestic Violence Workshop conducted by Abbie Lane, 2 p.m., Cabrillo College Women's Studies Center.

Wednesdays

Parents and Prospective Parents of young children, a class offering basic infant care and peer support begins January 13. The class is offered by Choice, Inc., at 6 W. Gabilan, Salinas. Call 758-2910.

Parents Anonymous, a self-help group for those concerned about their interaction with their children begins January 6. Group meets at 6 W. Gabilan, Salinas. Call 758-2910 for more information.

Thursdays

Women's Problem Solving and Support Group, through mutual support and brainstorming, women resolve conflicts they may be experiencing in their personal and-or professional lives. Offered by the Cypress Institute, cost is \$65 per month and the class meets at 6:30 p.m. Call 372-6242 for an interview.

Gay and Lesbian AA, meets 8-9:10 p.m. at the Monterey Neighborhood Center, corner of Dickman and Lighthouse, Monterey.

Women In A Changing World, an ongoing discussion group led by Dorothy O'Connor, meets 7-9 p.m. at the Family Service Agency, 1078 Munras, Monterey. For more information, call 373-4421.

Fridays

"Women on Campus" lecture series held at Hartnell College, Rm. C165 from noon to 1 p.m., the first and third Fridays of each month.

Lesbian Rap Group, a support and discussion group offering lesbians an opportunity to share feelings and experiences in an open environment and a chance for new friendships. Topics vary with occasional guest speakers. Call 372-1452 or 624-2133.

Sundays

Lesbian AA meets 8-9 p.m. at Janus Recovery House, 202 7th Ave., Santa Cruz.

Other

Bisexual Support Network meets first and 16th of each month, 6-10 p.m., at the Loudon Nelson Center, Santa Cruz.

Mardi Gras

Celebrate Mardi Gras at the first annual Grand Masked Costume Ball benefitting the Family Resource Center of Monterey County, Feb. 20 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Crossroads Center Interior Mall, Highway One and Rio Road, Carmel. Music will be provided by Viva Brazil.

For more information or advance tickets call the Family Resource Center at 394-4622.

Four Centuries of Women in Love

By Emily Fireweed

Surpassing the Love of Men renewed my gladness to be alive today, rather than in 16th century France or late 19th century New England. Our own relative freedom to love other women seems almost luxurious in contrast to the often sordid history of persecution and shame surrounding lesbianism in the past.

On the other hand, Lillian Faderman also points out just how far we still have to go toward creating a society in which we can be free to love whomever we love, without regard to politics or gender.

Surpassing the Love of Men is a long and exhaustive history book. It examines a segment of women's history through literature and letters by men and women of the past four centuries in Europe and America. It is straightforward and intellectual, packed with quotes and footnotes, only subtly polemical; yet it succeeds in being thoroughly readable, perhaps simply because of its subject matter which to my knowledge has never before been treated. Also, the quotations are in themselves a pleasure.

Faderman examines "Romantic Love and Friendship between Women from the Renaissance to the Present." She is very careful to differentiate between lesbianism, which involves sexual or genital expression of love; and "romantic friendship," in which two women devoted their strongest passions to one another, but were deemed chaste.

Faderman, unlike some writers,

does not postulate that unrecorded sexuality occurred within these friendships; rather, she takes the women's own letters and poetry at face value. The writing she quotes is often very passionate and even sensual without being sexual.

Faderman believes that because sexual pleasure of any sort for women (including in marriage) was taboo or simply inconceivable, most women did not act upon or perhaps did not even experience the sexual aspect of their feelings for one another.

However, she recognizes that as long as women's love for one another surpassed their love of men, they were women-identified women.

Faderman examines the myths that have surrounded lesbian sexuality for centuries. Many of these myths were created by men who seemed unable to conceive of sexual pleasure that was not aimed at enticing them.

In the 18th century, as in the 20th, male pornographic fantasy involved women who played with one another but leaped to attend the infinitely more satisfying male organ when it was available. Since lesbians themselves, being women, did not publish, some bizarre ideas were propagated about what women do with each other in bed (the illustrative quotes are most amusing to read!).

In the 19th century, the Victorian era ended the expression of open sexuality between women for the most part, but romantic friendships between women actually became wildly popular. It was all the fashion

(Continued on page 9)

SURPASSING THE LOVE OF MEN



Romantic Friendship
and Love between Women
from the Renaissance to the Present

Lillian Faderman

film

Reds: A Revolutionary Love Story

By Emily Fireweed

Warren Beatty's film *Reds* is, as advertised, a "love story"; and it pulls all the strings of our empathy, anguish, and erogenous zones on that level alone.

It is set against the story of a revolution; one which encompassed the emergence of worldwide Communism, and also the beginning of an effort toward worldwide emancipation of women — although we get only glimpses of this latter revolution in the film.

The central figure of the film is actually Jack Reed, the radical journalist who wrote *Ten Days That Shook the World*. He is portrayed attractively and effectively by Warren Beatty himself. But in my mind, *Reds* is dominated by two women: primarily by Louise Bryant, Reed's wife, played by Diane Keaton in sensitive detail and with exquisite sympathy; and Emma Goldman, played by Maureen Stapleton.

One cannot always admire Louise Bryant, but cannot help feeling strong identification with the pathos, the pride, and the humor of her growing pains. Unfortunately,

we are left to wonder about most of Bryant's life. The role is rich, but not full enough to match the performance by Diane Keaton, who has created a major dramatic characterization that is charming and often funny as well as painfully believable.

Stapleton as Emma Goldman plays a relatively small role in the film. Although a major radical figure of the times, she is shown only as a supportive friend to Reed and Bryant. But her passionate, bitter speeches (both public and private) are memorable. Unlike the young Louise Bryant, Emma Goldman takes herself seriously and participates fully in the radical politics of the day.

I want to examine here not the political aspects of the film, but rather the personal revolution embodied by Louise Bryant and her relationship to Reed. It is fascinating to learn about the Bolshevik Revolution and the part that American radicals played in it.

But most significant to me was the conflict that Louise Bryant, 55 years ago, shared with many contemporary women: the desire

for a secure relationship that seems to undermine the need for autonomy.

Louise Bryant grows visibly during the three-year (1916-1919), three and one-half hour course of the film. We first meet her as the dissatisfied and rebellious wife of a Portland dentist. Her urges to radicalism and adventure are mainly acted out in sexual games and minor outrageousness. But she has already rejected the traditional roles of "wife" and of "mistress," at least on the surface.

But in living with Reed, Louise Bryant finds that she has become "just like a boring, clinging, miserable little wife — who'd want to come home to me? I'm just living in your margins! I want to stop needing you!"

She is insecure because she does not yet take herself seriously as a writer, as Reed points out. Her identity is still caught up in being Jack's woman, in decorating his world. She attempts to resist his control in misdirected ways — such as by refusing to accept his (apparently justified) criticism of her writings; and by having an affair

with the cynical poet Eugene O'Neill (Jack Nicholson's portrait of O'Neill is fascinating and flawless).

Only after a long separation does she build up the self-regard to be able to join him, finally, in Russia, where they work together as partners in recording the emergence of the Revolution.

After the Russian trip, Bryant is at last able to be more effective in her disagreement with Reed, for her opinions come from direct involvement in the issues.

When Reed goes to Russia for the second time, Bryant refuses to accompany him and threatens desertion; for she believes he is in search of the limelight rather than political effectiveness, and that his politicizing has deprived him of his true journalistic talents.

After many complications and dramatic moments, Bryant is reunited with Reed having learned at last how to give of herself without giving up herself. Bryant and Reed have finally defined their relationship, a definition for which they have been seeking throughout the film: they are "comrades."

Women Talk About Love

Reader response to the interview column in the January issue was so good that we've decided to make it a regular feature. If you'd like to be interviewed, call Grace Lou Osoinach at 373-6920. Themes for upcoming months are: March, Woman as the Wellspring; April, Beauty of Life; May, Hierarchical Values.

This month's theme was — what else — love.

Marsha White: Love is happiness.

Love is having a family who cares. There is a difference between love in the family and "outside."

Love is being a foster parent. It takes a lot of love to be a foster parent and to stick in there.

Love is having a mate who understands, who accepts my ups and downs and will stick by me all the time!

Love is the children, putting them to bed and kissing them goodnight.

Love is having parents who are there through thick and thin.

Ellen Gillis: Love is entirely maintenance, which can be quite boring, time consuming.

For 18 years I've seen my mother-in-law avoid ever saying a painful word. She has three children, 10 grandchildren and many great-grand children. She clearly says her opinion once, and never mentions it again. She is a friend.

When my husband told her about me, she sent a card saying, "Love is the first and most important thing. Welcome."

Love involves the recognition of sex, innocently and/or passionately as the case may be.

But in the end, we have to be able to live without them all.

Daphne Winters: Love is beautiful, it really is sad that more people don't know what it is. If you have true love it is wonderful, it takes two people, one really must appreciate a good man. It really does make the world go round.

We have five sons and one daughter, four grandsons and one granddaughter, and the best part of being a grandma is sleeping with grandpa.

The main reason I really love my honey is that he has that spirit of Christmas all the time. He never thinks of himself, always others, he is just loving and giving all the time.

When young people are courting, they love one another, but after marriage they try and mold the other to fit themselves, rather than loving the mate for themselves and the way they are.

Rozelia Green: There was more love in my childhood. We were poor back in Texas, but black people loved each other more, and when something went wrong in the community everybody rallied around to help one another.

If everybody showed a little kindness to one another, really helped with what they know, to use their skills to help a neighbor, the cost of living wouldn't be so bad.

Even Christians who go to churches only help their own church members here. There are lots of good-hearted people, good Christians, too, but they don't go to church, and when they have problems they need help, too. If you say you're a Christian you'll want to help people.

The sweet thing my mother did was to make everybody a birthday cake, even after you were married and gone, you had to come home for your birthday cake.

Sidney Ramsden Scott: Love is the strongest creative force. When I think of the phrase, "God Is Love," I think that might be truth, for me.

I do not mean by "God" a paternalistic, Santa Claus God in the sky, pulling the strings. I see all of creation as a high consciousness.

If I have a personal sense of godliness, it is the love that is manifested through people towards one another, and towards the environment.

Love is such a generative force that it can create anything, any situation. I think that when we are able to love we are most at peace and at one with the universe and paradoxically most able to change it for the better.

Florence Clayton: Love. You can find it in any number of ways, but normally it is consideration for another person instead of yourself.

Sexual love is another story, but I don't know where it gets you. You better change after awhile, or you'll be lost.

Basic love is the feeling for other people, so that what they want is more important than what you want yourself. There's a warmth that you feel when you're with people you love, an emotional reaction to the other person, that is probably based on personality; than the people you admire.

If you're going to be happy, it is essential that you love somebody.

Empty Nest or Hollow Life?

By Graciela de Gonzalez

It is a long, slow process, isn't it, this birthing ourselves? I used to call it "pulling myself up by my bootstraps." That was about as far as I got — to my boot tops — before I was tramped back into the mud again, because I was dependent in a slavish relationship.

I married in my mid-teens to escape an intolerable home life, a real "mommy dearest" type mother. I left that marriage with a two-year-old son.

For 40 years — 1942-1982 — I've been obligated to somebody else. I wanted the obligation, it was a devotion of love and joy, but I had hoped to gain something also. I wanted reciprocal love; I didn't know how to get it. There's still time.

Recently, at the winter solstice,

my last child, not the last born, but the last to cling, has left the house. He's been on his own time and again, although, perhaps, not in strength and he's been looking back in love and empathy. He really wanted to help me, and let me help him. So we've been increasingly smothering one another, standing in each other's light, quite literally.

I wish I could better understand this process. At this point I feel that it's all over, that there'll never be any relating or understanding. Maybe a large part of me hopes this! Much of my slowly budding self-love says, "Don't darken my door," and really means it, because when they do come around (and they still do if they want something), we're into the same old desperate, hopeless routine.

They ask, and I give and give and

give, then I suggest, or even dare to ask, usually to no response which I presume to be assent, to be left in souring hope.

Recently, I've been stating my limits and demanding, "Either clean up after yourself, or stay out of the kitchen."

"Tell me what you want. I know my stores and supplies, I'll tell you what I'm willing to part with, accept that or try Goodwill Industries."

"You may leave your stuff, but pack it well and put it where I want it."

This never happens. The stuff is left in the middle of the living room, the desk or the front hall. With bicycles and automobiles and component parts spoiling the landscape.

Funny thing is, they can't stand their father's piggish lifestyle, yet

won't let me get my life organized. Until I find some sort of organization, that proverbial "real me" can never stand up. One of these winter holiday seasons I want to tell you how it feels for a door mat to become vertical and three-dimensional.

I did get some poetry, and desperately phrased questions written in earlier years, and as deeper thoughts would linger, I'd consign them to my unconscious, committing them to nurturance and growth with the promise to retrieve them someday and share our mutual growth.

I'd really like to begin that resurrection now. I need and want some type of understanding, a sign that the commitment of those years which currently feels so cold and hollow has not been a total waste.

Four Centuries of Women in Love—

(Continued from page 8)

for women to declare undying love for one another in passionate terms.

Men seemed to recognize that their world had little in common with that of women; it was natural that women should form spiritual unions with one another that often surpassed the unions within heterosexual marriage. Men apparently regarded this kind of friendship as a sign that a young woman had the capacity for devotion and purity that would make of her a good wife. However, many a "Boston marriage" between women was never sundered for the sake of a husband.

Though Freud created the notion that a lesbian is an immature woman who has not yet accepted her unfortunate lack of a penis, he also, to his credit, set the stage for

the liberation of women's sexual feelings from the Victorian harness that for so long had kept them in rein.

In the 20th century, overt sexuality between women was more frequently expressed, and recorded in literature with somewhat more openness. Yet until very recently, lesbianism in this century was associated with shame and ultimate failure.

Modern "medical" concepts created the modern myth that homosexuality is an "illness." Lesbians themselves were among the worst perpetrators of the myth. Radclyffe Hall, in *The Well of Loneliness*, demonstrates a self-hatred that is almost embarrassing to read. She had introjected society's view of her "defect"; her famous novel is a plea for com-

passion for the noble victims of this congenital anomaly.

A major thesis of *Surpassing the Love of Men* is that love, even sexual love, between women was never questioned or deemed reproachable by straight society — until it became a threat to male power. Thus, in the 16th through 19th centuries, women who were affectionate with one another to the extent of eternal vows were looked upon kindly, as long as they were "feminine."

But if a woman dressed as a man, and passed for a man in the world of work, in order to marry another woman, she was liable to prosecution of the severest kind.

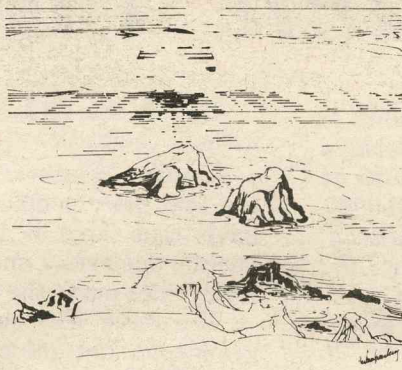
In the 20th century, lesbianism became associated with perversion simultaneously with the rise of feminism. For then men felt

threatened with their own superfluity in the political and economic spheres as well as the sexual. And they convinced the majority of women that if they sought to be creative, powerful, thinking human beings, then they were not "real women." The label "lesbians" is even now used to keep feminism down.

But along with political change has come the sexual revolution, and more and more of us sense the freedom to explore our furthest fantasies . . . to discover that loving one another can mean, not shame and ugliness, but joy and pride. We can no longer be frightened by a label that has lost its power to offend.

Surpassing the Love of Men helps lend perspective to our continuing battle for the freedom to love.

Sappho's Isle



To A Bird-Watcher

*What passes for love may be
the dream of believing
that your hand in my thigh's hollow
resting, like a swallow
nesting after tired flight,
could stay my usual migration
longer than the season
meant for flying.*

*The reason
for love may be believing
the swallow's dream
of never leaving.*

ek

Introducing a real, permanent poetry page for *Demeter*. In the future, we hope to print poetry by local women each month — not as “filler” material but as a feature.

We'll have a theme each month. We'll be going through our old poetry files as well as soliciting new work. Next month the theme will be that of the March issue as a whole: International Women. We'll look for poems related to problems and possibilities of women of all cultures.

Due date is February 15 for March poems. April's poetry page will feature poems about spring; due date for April issue is March 15.

And this month's theme is — what else — love.

*Love
be damned!*

*And all
its rot.*

*Whatever
it's supposed*

*to be —
it is not!*

Emily Armstrong

*Let us not
anatomize lovemaking
speech vulgarizes all*

*My tongue tells you
everything
when we kiss*

*your touch on my breast
is a dictionary
of intimacy*

*your response
to the deepest private
kiss of all*

*is the music
in another sphere
we can never reach alone.*

author unknown

Caught Through the Eyes

*I broke my arm but once:
my heart has mended many times*

*and now the bleeding stops a little,
only my inner lining is befouled*

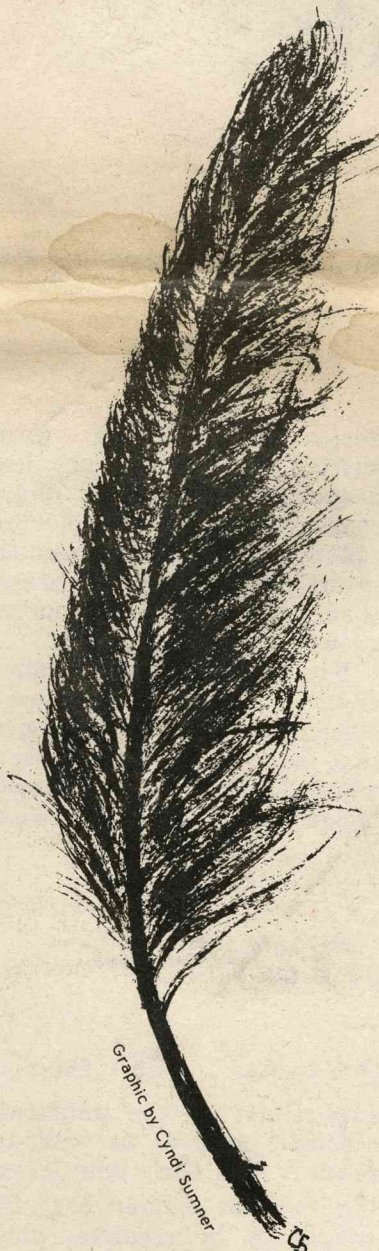
*When it seems worst
this clever platitude suffices:*

*Love is a disease
caught through the eyes*

*Like all fevers, it burns its course
for days or hours, then subsides in neglect*

*and the scar leaves a little immunity
to prevent the next exposure*

Suzy Sullens



Graphic by Cyndi Sumner

Absence

*Your absence enters this room
floundering like an ancient whale
washed upon the shore: still warm,
a cumbersome creature impossible to move.
A thing demanding ceremony.*

*Appointed the final act
I wait.
A few sparks of life warrant watchful
Examination.*

*Is the beast really dead
or are those last monumental movements
final death*

*or death wishes
of ambivalent desire
once clear acknowledgements of life force
and vision.*

*Black holes bore through my mind
leaving window box memories of our love,
Roses once bloomed blood red
now worn and wilted from neglect.*

Claudia Treadwell

Inventory

*Disappointed
you take stock
and find
we are not
equally matched.*

*While I am excessive
in silence and love;
you want words
and time.
I am ahead of schedule
or behind.*

*It doesn't matter
that I memorize your face,
that I like you grouchy.
We have nothing to say.*

Ruth Hatch

(Reprinted with permission of The
Academy of Arts and Humanities,
Seaside, CA)

classifieds

Classified ads cost \$1 for 3 lines. Send copy along with payment to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey, CA 93940. Ads must reach us by Feb. 15 for inclusion in the March issue.

MASSAGE WORKSHOP for women. Learn 79 strokes with outline to take home for practice. Three instructors give individual attention. Non-profit. Sat., March 13, 12:30 to 5 p.m. For registration information call 373-2671.

HYPNOSIS FOR WOMEN. Learn self-hypnosis to increase confidence, change unhealthy habits, and make more satisfying life decisions. Sliding fees. Call Maggie Phillips, state certified hypnotherapist and MFCC, at 1-686-7501 for information.

PERSONALIZED REPETITIVE TYPING ideal for fundraising letters, mult resumes proposals. \$5 setup-\$1/page. 646-0529.

LIFELINE DIET MEALS — low salt, low calorie, low fat. Available as frozen entrees at Monterey Nob Hill Market. Also, home delivery available. For information call 375-7335.

PLEXUS, San Francisco Bay Area women's newspaper since 1974, brings you monthly feminist news, reviews, features, community forum, calendar and more. Sample copy, \$1. Write to Plexus, 545 Athol Ave., Oakland, CA 94606.

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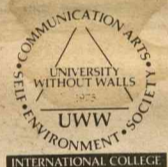
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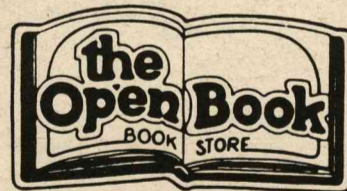


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