VOLUME 4 NO 8

DECEMBER, 1981

The Belle of Amherst

Emily Dickinson Play Opens Here

By Paula Butterfield

During our recent rainstorm, when any sane person would have much preferred to stay cozily at home with a cup of tea, I found myself running through the deluge to the Pacific Grove Art Center. All was warm and bright within, much of the warmth emanating from a finely-featured blonde woman in 19th century attire on stage in the main gallery, who seemed to be offering herself when she said:

This is my letter to the World That never wrote to Me -The simple news that Nature With Tender Majesty.

Emily Dickinson has found her way to the Monterey Peninsula in the person of Barbara Kerr Condon, a newcomer to this area, but not to the role of The Belle of Amherst. Barbara was in Pirmasens, Germany, when she first saw Julie Harris perform the role on a latenight television broadcast.

Although, like most actresses, Barbara feels she could play any character if given the opportunity, she had never before felt the urgency to play one particular role that she felt about playing Emily Dickinson. "Most characters are one-dimensional, almost caricatures," she explains, "but *The Belle of Amherst* shows a particular woman inside and out: how she feels about life, death, love, happiness, sadness. She's a whole woman."

Barbara went to the director of the local Army theater and begged to be allowed to do the one-woman show. In a community that

preferred light-hearted musicals, this was a risk, but the show was very popular, and was extended beyond its intended limited run. Julie Harris had wanted to maintain Belle as her private vehicle, but litigation to this effect was soon dropped due to precedent set by another actor. "My understanding is that I was the first woman in Europe to receive permission to do the play," says Barbara.

Since arriving on the Peninsula in August, Barbara has performed continuously at the Forest Theater (Blythe Spirit continues there through December 6). Belle is the first theater piece to be presented by the new directors of the Pacific Grove Art Center. "It's our desire to show quality, original art in all fields, from visual to performance,' says director Irene Masteller. "People like Barbara will participate in a real community effort." Barbara not only self-directs the play, she even bought the material for her

"I've been acting since I was five years old," Barbara tells me, "but it's taken a back seat now and then." She performed throughout grade school, junior high and high school.

In the sixties, Barbara cut some records and traveled with a singing group, and was an extra in a movie. Then, "family attitudes prevented participation on stage for about 10

Now Barbara is married to Paul Condon, a man she met through friends in the theater. "He knew that the stage was an important part of my life. He met the real me and liked me. He was so supportive

(Continued on page 5)



Photo by Paul Condon

Barbara Condon as Emily Dickinson

ACLU Honors Ava Pauling

By Kathy Stoner

At an inspiring workshop on coalition politics recently held at the Women's Music Festival in Yosemite, singer-activist Bernice Reagon enjoined her listeners to find and learn from those rare people who have participated in the civil rights movement through the past decades "without missing a step."

At an equally inspiring event held on November 1, the Monterey Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union honored one of those "rare" individuals: Ava Helen Pauling.

The afternoon ceremony culminated with the presentation to Ms. Pauling of the Ralph Atkinson Civil Liberties Award, given each year by the Monterey ACLU to someone in our midst whose "dedication to peace and civil liberties" deserves special recognition.

This year was the first time in the award's five-year history that it has gone to a woman. Ms. Pauling was acclaimed by the speakers at the ceremony as a tireless and outspoken champion of peace and human rights, beginning when she first joined the ACLU in the era of the Sacco and

Vanzetti case.

The speakers included Ms. Pauling's husband, Nobel laureate Linus Pauling, who voiced his respect and admiration for his wife's work and acknowledged his appreciation for her constant support of him in his own work. Noting that he had often felt over the years that a mistake had been made in presenting awards to him instead of to her, he applauded the "perspicacity" of the Monterey Chapter in finally giving recognition to Ms. Pauling's work.

Civil rights attorney Francis Heisler, recipient of the Atkinson award in 1977, told of how Ms. Pauling demonstrated her strong opposition to the internment of Japanese-American people during the second World War. Her hiring of a Japanese-American gardener led to her garage door's being painted with the words, "Pauling loves Japs. Americans die." Heisler noted that at the time Ms. Pauling was one of the few people around who did not succumb to the measures which led so many "good people," out of fear and confusion, to condone the internments.

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In Praise of Growth, Change & Volunteers

As many of you know, we faced a real crisis at Demeter last month. Our two long-time editors, JT Mason and Debi Busman, who between them have shepherded virtually every detail of almost every issue of Demeter for years, had to step aside for attention to medical and personal "rest and recreation" requirements. The rest of us, thanks to the help of miracle-working volunteers, put the issue together.

Women who had never before sat at the keyboard of typesetting equipment set reams of copy with patience and fortitude. Women who had never pasted up a page of *Demeter* spent long hours devising a layout and fitting articles and ads into place. Other people performed the myriad of invisible errands and chores which are necessary for a paper to make the transition into print and out into the world.

Among these heroic workers were Sandra Bennett, Barbara Licht-Greenberg, Nancy Yuenger, Cyndi Sumner, Penny van Gundy, Leslie Lane, Emily Armstrong, Rosemary and Howard Matson. Many of them have made this issue possible as well. The staff box does not yet reflect their contributions nor that of others even newer to the operation. That is because no one is quite clear yet as to what type of organization and staffing will turn out to be most suitable. We are all committed to staying open to possibilities while an effective, flexible, satisfying arrangement evolves.

The open house on November 15 for women interested in participating in *Demeter* was a wonderful event, well-attended and enthusiastic. Briefing sessions on typesetting, proof reading and paste-up are being scheduled for those wanting to learn about these phases of production. Task forces on graphics, photography, news coverage, distribution, ad sales, putting together the community calendar, and staffing the office are being formed.

Your offers to help, your messages of support, your gifts of subscriptions, and your financial contributions have been most gratefully received. The many expressions of love and good wishes for our editors on their "sabbatical" are also much appreciated.

During the next few months, while the transition to a new and revitalized structure is being realized, Joan Weiner and I will be acting as editors pro-tem. We welcome your suggestions and involvement as Demeter continues its efforts to serve our growing women's community in increasingly appropriate and beneficial ways. The greater the participation, the better job all of us can do. Thank you again for creating miracles in this endeavor.

-Polly Parker

For the January issue we would like to feature New Year's resolutions from groups and individuals as to the goals which they would like to see realized during 1982. Deadline is Monday, December 14, so come on NOW, WADV, NWPC, Reproductive Rights Coalition, Rape Crisis Center, peace advocates, environmentalists, and all the rest of you fine feminists, let's inspire each other with the dreams we have in common.

Petition Drive Starts December 1

Local Anti-Nuclear Arms Opposition Forms

By Elizabeth Quinn

A groundswell of opposition is beginning among Californians and elsewhere in the nation in alarmed response to the continuing escalation of nuclear armament.

On December 1, a ballot initiative will begin in California which calls for an immediate, verifiable halt to all further testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons by both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Called the "Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze Initiative," the effort must obtain 500,000 signatures in 150 days to qualify it for the November, 1982 ballot. Success in the nation's largest state and the home state of President Reagan is seen by proponents as a potential "vote heard round the world," akin to the taxpayers' revolt sparked nation-wide by California's

Proposition 13.

The growing danger of nuclear war is acknowledged by many as the most crucial problem facing human beings today. The next most critical problem is said to be that too few people are paying attention to the awesome consequences of use of nuclear weapons.

The initiative effort supporters hope to increase awareness among the people and to trigger a movement to press for preventive solutions to this potentially terminal problem of our time. The drive's purpose is to change misinformation to awareness and apathy to concern.

Atomic bombs unleashed in Japan in 1945 changed forever our assumptions about war as national policy. Albert Einstein said that event "... changed everything except our way of thinking."

In one-millionth of a second, a

thermonuclear weapon can release more destructive energy than the combination of all the weapons used throughout history. War with nuclear weapons is a prescription for international suicide, according to those spearheading the initiative drive.

"Nuclear weapons have destroyed superiority as a viable concept," said Chad Myers, speaker at a recent forum on the nuclear arms race held at St. Angela's Hall in Pacific Grove. "It is incumbent upon the people to stop it," Myers said.

People on the Monterey Peninsula can get information about the initiative drive, about how they can participate and where to sign petitions, by contacting the Monterey Peninsula Unitarian Church, 624-7404, according to minister Margery Keip. The church tentatively plans to kick off its petition drive on Friday, December 4.

Other local groups and organizations will also be conducting petition drives. Watch the next issue of *Demeter* for more information. There must be 500,000 valid signatures obtained within 150 days from December 1 in order to place the issue on the ballot.

Proponents of the Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze Initiative are not taking a stand on nuclear power. They are dealing only with nuclear devices designed for destruction, approximately 50,000 of which exist in the U.S. and Soviet Union combined. They would like to create a nation-wide wave of support for Reagan's being the first president to halt the nuclear arms race. They are aware that although a people's referendum would carry no legal force, it could have a tremendous political effect.

DEMETER,

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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.

notes from Demeter-

Office

Our office needs a wastebasket and some lamps. A desk lamp would be especially helpful. If you have these items to donate, please drop us a note or call our office at 375-5629. We can arrange pickup.

Our office would look, and feel, friendlier if we had some curtains. Is there a seamstress who would donate her talents to sewing us some? We could pay for material.

Gift Subscriptions

Why not give a subscription to Demeter for Christmas? There must be several people on your gift list who would enjoy getting a year's worth of women's news. See subscription coupon on page 12. We will send a card announcing your gift if you so request.

Money

Last month we ran an article in which we explained our need for money in order to make change. Since then, several people have asked about

our operating costs. Here's a breakdown of our monthly expenses:

Rent, \$102; Phone, \$25; Printing, \$175; Camera work, \$25; Postage, \$35; Miscellaneous expenses, \$38. Total: \$400.

At \$8 a subscription, we need to get 50 new ones, or renewals, each month to pay our bills. When income falls short, we hold rummage sales and other fundraising events to make up the difference.

We are currently \$700 in debt. If anyone has any ideas on fundraising, please contact us. And contributions, which are tax deductible, are always welcome.

A \$175 contribution would pay one month's printing bill. A \$100 donation would pay our rent for a month. If that's beyond your budget, how about taking an ad for your business? Our display ad rates are available on request. Just contact our ad representative, Mary Davis.

Appreciative Reader

Editor:

I congratulate your work with Demeter. I especially like the October issue and Polly Parker's article about the Women's Music Festival, with one tale of how white women must learn to bridge together with women of color and women of color with each other.

Thanks for the review of *This Bridge* Called My Back. I am reading it and am moved deeply by many of the writings.

Holly Near's short biography was useful to me.

Thanks for providing information and inspiration for us all.

Kelsey Ramage Ben Lomond

Our Bodies, Ourselves Book Collective Seeking New Material

Editor:

We have just begun a major revision of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. We need your help to make it speak to and for as many women as possible.

In addition to sections on reproductive issues, taking care of ourselves, sexuality and relationships, violence against women, and health and medical care, we plan to add sections about women in the workplace, environmental hazards, reproductive technology, alternative forms of health care, and growing older.

We will be making stronger distinctions between health care and medical care. Throughout the book we want to include more experiences from women of color, women with disabilities, midlife and older women.

Your written contributions will help shape our understanding of what needs to be in the book. Please send us experiences in any of the above areas that have affected you deeply, changed you, helped you, angered you. What have you learned that could help other women? Perhaps you would prefer to send a poem or journal entry.

We will read all the material you send us, quoting from some, not all, in the revised *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. We will not use your real name in print except in the case of poetry, if you wish.

All material you send becomes our property and will not be returned. We will, however, unless you indicate otherwise, keep your contributions on file in our office for other women to read and learn from.

When you write, take enough time and space to do justice to what you have to say, but be brief where possible. We won't be able to respond personally, but please know in advance how much we apreciate your help, caring and time.

Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Inc. P.O. Box 192 W. Somerville, MA 02144

Abortion Rights Under Attack

Senator Orrin Hatch of the Senate Judiciary Committee is now conducting hearings on a new antiabortion constitutional amendment (S.J. Res. 110). Information may be obtained from the Reproductive Rights Coalition of Monterey County, 659-3758, 659-5138, 624-7562, 373-1709.

Those interested in expressing an opinion on the amendment may write to Hatch at the Senate Judiciary Committee, Washington, D.C. 20510, with copies to senators Cranston and Hayakawa, Senate Office Building, Washington 20510 and Congressman Leon Panetta, House Office Building, Washington 20515

Copies should also be sent to Senator Mello, Assemblymembers Sam Farr and Carol Hallett at State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

On November 6, 1981, the California Court of Appeal decided once again that limitations on public funding of abortions are unconstitutional

In the case of Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights v Cory the state argued that although an identical budget limitation was held unconstitutional by the California Supreme Court last year, each budget is separate and the abortion issue may be raised again and again with each new budget. The Court of

Appeal did not agree, and held that denial of MediCal funds for elective abortions is unconstitutional.

The practical effect of the state's raising the abortion funding issue each year is that the pro-choice point of view must be litigated over and over again at great expense to the Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights, a coalition of organizations representing indigent women in this state. In contrast, the state's anti-abortion point of view is presented by the Attorney General's office which is supported with taxpayers' money.

Further information on the status of abortion laws and funding may be obtained from the Monterey County Coalition for Reproductive Rights.

Local Women

ACLU Award Goes to Ava Pauling

(Continued from page 1)

Upon receiving the award, Ms. Pauling rose to the podium. Although an unassuming speaker,

she emanated that wisdom and grace that only seem to come with a life-long commitment to peace and freedom. She spoke of her early

days on the ACLU board in Southern California, of how she was at first intimidated by all the "smart lawyers" on the board, how she soon came to understand her own value and power. She told of the importance of the support she received from her involvement with the ACLU throughout her struggles on behalf of civil liberties. In closing, she expressed the hope that she would return in 1982 and "see the next woman receive the Ralph Atkinson award."

The room was filled with local ACLU supporters and workers, the great majority of them people who have spent years as activists for civil liberties. Their experience and knowledge in this work, coupled with the resources of the state and national organizations, appear to make the ACLU invaluable in combatting the repressive forces which seem to be on the rise again.

Coalition building is one of the hallmarks of ACLU work. It was the ACLU which spearheaded a coalition of community groups and citizens which worked locally to defeat Proposition 6 in 1978. And this year the ACLU provided momentum for the formation of the Reproductive Rights Coalition, which is engaged in the vital struggle to protect individual rights and lives against the forces of the "Moral Majority."

For those who would take to heart Bernice Reagon's injunction to learn from the experience of others, the local chapter of the ACLU could hardly be a better place to start.

Lawyers Form

Lawyers Form

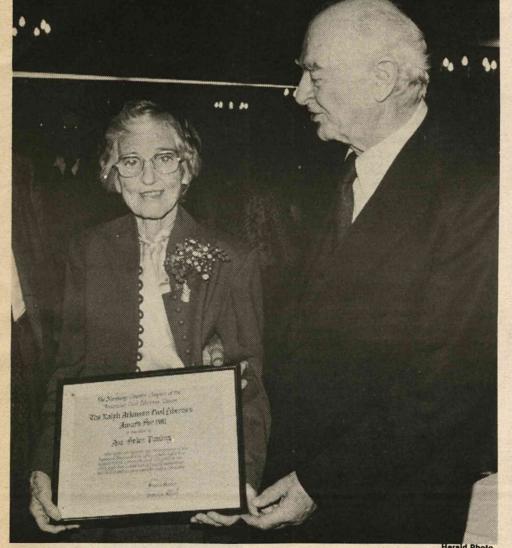
Association

The Monterey County Women
Lawyers' Association is forming a
Speakers' Bureau to provide women
attorneys to speak on areas of the
law of particular interest to local

currently over 50 women practicing in Monterey County in nearly all fields of civil and criminal law. Any group wanting to arrange for a speaker from the MCWLA should contact Mickey Welsh at 372-7525 (Monterey) or 424-1414 (Salinas).

groups or classes. There are

The MCWLA has published a directory of Monterey County women lawyers which lists the names, addresses and fields of specialty of most of the women practicing law in the county. The directory is available from the MCWLA by writing to P.O. Box 2511, Monterey, CA 93942. A charge of \$3 will be requested to defray the costs of printing. The directory will be distributed free to local women's organizations.



Ava Pauling, Linus Pauling at ACLU awards ceremony at Santa Catalina School.

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-national news briefs-

Compiled from Her Say

Ann Landers' Readers Largely 'Pro-Choice'

Syndicated columnist Ann Landers, reported to be the most widely read columnist in America, says most of her readers appear to be pro-choice.

Landers recently devoted two columns to the testimony of Dr. George Ryan, president of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, against the proposed Human Life Bill.

Landers says she expected strong reader reaction to the column, but "was unprepared for the tally." Landers says that those supporting Ryan's and her pro-choice position ran "30 percent ahead of the opposition." Letters critical of her stand, she writes, were mostly "threatening, hysterical and abusive."

A Fair College Tuition

Florida state senator Jack Gordon of Miami Beach has introduced an unusual bill that would give women a 38 percent discount on college tuition.

Gordon says it's only fair because women who graduate from college earn that much less than men with degrees.

Gordon says he introduced the

measure to make a point to opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment who say state laws are sufficient to assure equality between the sexes.

Battle of the Sexes?

The battle of the sexes may be intensifying in 1982 — within the job market, at least.

Samuel Ehrenhalt, a New York Commissioner of the Labor Department, is predicting that starting next year, there will be "a much higher degree of competition between men and women, as women increasingly move into fields other than those they have traditionally dominated."

Labor Department figures show the labor force is expected to grow by 25 million by 1995 with women accounting for about two-thirds of that growth.

WBL Losing Its Bounce?

Unless the Women's Professional Basketball League can come up with a backer fast, it probably will not have a 1981-82 season.

That prediction comes from Claudette Simpson, principal owner of the New Orleans Pride.

Simpson notes that the future of her own team is uncertain; while the WBL teams in New Jesey, Minnesota, St. Louis and Nebraska have already either suspended operations or are fading with no potential buyers in sight. Simpson says only the Dalls, Chicago and San Francisco teams remain operational.

Women Polled on Abortion

What bothers women most about abortion laws is that they are made by . . . men.

According to the first national survey to poll only women on abortion, a full 70 percent of the women said they were troubled by the fact that male politicians and judges decide abortion laws.

The poll, conducted by Yankelovich, Skelly and White for the November issue of *Life* magazine, also states that 59 percent oppose the proposed Human Life Amendment, which states that human life begins at conception.

Legal abortion was favored by 92 percent of the women when pregnancy posed a risk to the woman's health; 88 pecent approved of abortion for rape victims; 87 percent if the fetus had a genetic defect; and 86 percent if the pregnancy was the result of incest.

Too Many Moral Majorities

Television evangelist Jerry Falwell reportedly got a shock recently, when he went to Hawaii to set up a chapter of the Moral Majority.

That's because concerned citizens in the islands, who disapproved of Falwell's conservative politics, had already set up their own organization, and called it "The Moral Majority of Hawaii." Furthermore, the Hawaiian organization registered its name legally with the state, so nobody else could use that name.

Falwell is reportedly suing the Moral Majority of Hawaii, in an effort to take back the name.

New Angelou Book Out

Black writer Maya Angelou, author of the award-winning book, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, is out with the third in a series of autobiographical works.

The new book, titled *The Heart of a Woman*, traces Angelou's experiences as a civil rights worker in the South, and as an editor of magazines in Egypt and Ghana. It is published by Random House.

Christianity & Politics: Two Differing Views

By Jess Williams

Two differing views of Christianity and politics were aired in a debate between two clergymen on October 26 as part of a public lecture series at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

The Reverend Richard Zone, president of the Christian Legal Crusade and of In God We Trust, presented the conservative Christian view of such issues as ERA, abortion, and homosexual rights.

Countering his approach was the Reverend Canon Bryan Green of the Church of England, former chaplain at Oxford University, now on his 86th speaking tour of the United States.

According to Reverend Zone, 80 million Americans answered "yes" to the following questions on a recent Gallup Poll: Do you believe in God? Have you had a personal experience with the Lord Jesus Christ? From this, Reverend Zone seems to conclude that all 80 million respondents are in full alliance with the Moral Majority and its ideologies.

Even if this were true, Canon Green pointed out that there are over 200 million Americans, and since 40 percent does not constitute a majority, the term "Moral Majority" is not valid.

However, Reverend Zone went on to

However, Reverend Zone went on to say, if only one percent of the Christians who form the Moral Majority were "strategically placed," they would be able to dictate the passage, or abolition, of laws, as well as to elect candidates of their choice. Government needs to be ruled again by what he calls "Biblical morality" to stop the deterioration of the last 80 years, which first allowed plurality, then promiscuity, and finally, blatant immorality. If not checked, this trend could lead to the total deterioration of America as a nation and a people.

Canon Green called the concept of the Moral Majority an "authoritarian, totalitarian interpretation of the Bible," which constitutes "spiritual blackmail." Since each Christian denomination has laws and beliefs uniquely its own, there is no such thing as a "Christian blueprint," he emphasized. And since "sensitive Christians" can come to different conclusions concerning morality, the Moral Majority cannot encompass the whole of Christian attitudes in this country.

In reference to abortion, Reverend Zone explained the Moral Majority's opposition on the grounds that abortion is nothing less than the murder of a living fetus. To Canon Green's comment that the Moral Majority's backing for capital punishment places it in support of legalized murder, he rejoined that there was a difference since these people had committed crimes.

The fetus is indeed living, agreed Canon Green, but suggested that in some cases abortion could be the lesser of two evils when the number of unwanted children, who are subject to poverty, hunger, and child abuse, is increasing



BRYAN GREEN

When asked why the Moral Majority did not concentrate on the "big" causes of human suffering such as poverty, war, racism, poor housing, and child abuse, Reverend Zone grinned and said, "Those issues would not get the attention of the populace — nor would they fill this auditorium."

Canon Green cited the Bible on the importance of these issues: for every five verses about pornographic offenses there are 500 dealing with poverty. Reverend Zone added that poverty is beyond what each person can do, and we must do what we can in our own lives.

Passage of the ERA was also of concern to Reverend Zone. He said that, rather than making women equal to men, it would make them the same; as an example, he mentioned the use of common restrooms should ERA pass. Canon Green stated that if Jesus were alive today he would support equal rights for women; as evidence for this belief he mentioned Jesus' discussions of theology and philosophy with Mary Magdelene at a time in history when women were considered uneducable.

The subject of equal rights led to a discussion of homosexuals as a minority. Reverend Zone expressed concern that the act of passing a bill for homosexual rights would denote moral judgment, or sanction, by the government for such practices. He also expressed concern that homosexuals would teach their sexual preference in the classroom.

Asked if homosexuals had a right to make a living, he replied, "No, not if they impose their beliefs on others."

Each speaker had 15 minutes for his presentation with an additional 15 minute period allocated for questions and answers. This stretched out to 45 minutes, and, even then, members of the audience, reluctant to leave, surrounded both men for further — and heated — discussion of the issues which had been raised.

Author's Comments

The idea that a man like Reverend Zone, and an organization like the Moral Majority, can attempt to deny the rights of others, because of what they regard as Biblical moral interpretation, angers me, and yet I know that our country allows even for this form of bigotry.

Reverend Zone said that he and the Moral Majority have a right and a responsibility to educate the populace. But I feel each of us has an equal right and responsibility to take the suggestion of Canon Green when he said, "Let those who oppose the Moral Majority come out of the woodwork, organize, and then the Moral Majority will surely die an unlamented death."

If those opposing the Moral Majority are, as Canon Green facetiously called them, the "immoral minority," then I thank God for them, for I believe their attitudes reflect a more loving way of being human.



RICHARD ZONE

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The Belle of Amherst Comes to Peninsula

(Continued from page 1)

and encouraging." Paul's support took the form of coming to one of Barbara's auditions, where it seems that men were needed to read. Paul found himself pressed into service, and soon auditioned for - and won - a role himself. Now the Condons often perform together in plays, and Paul has developed other artistic abilities as well, including singing, sketching and watercolors, and

photography.

Barbara says, "I happen by choice to be traditional - I like being part of a family. However, I also have a need and desire for a career that involves possible separations. My husband's (Army) career makes the same demands. We both understand that for one person to sacrifice all to the other's needs would not make for a happy situation." With Barbara performing almost every night of the week, as well as rehearsing afternoons, her husband is often responsible for preparing dinner.
"A lot of women, to please a man

they are attracted to, will take on colorations," observes this actress. It's clear that Barbara Kerr Condon confines her role-playing to the stage. On stage this month, she is Emily Dickinson, the recluse who missed nothing of life, the feisty, vulnerable woman who wrote of

Her Message is committed To Hands I cannot see – For love of Her – Sweet – countrymen Judge tenderly - of Me.

The Belle of Amherst opens November 29 and will continue Sunday matinee performances at 2 p.m. through December 13. Tickets are \$3 for students and seniors, \$4 in

advance and \$5 at the door. Special performances may be scheduled on Monday afternoons or evenings for groups of 50 to 100 people. Call the Pacific Grove Art Center at 375-2208 for more information.

Art Center Reaches Out to Community

"I believe things can be done well without a lot of money, says Irene Masteller, new director of the Pacific Grove Art Center. "I feel proud of the fact that we don't have any grants. It can be

The Art Center is multifaceted. In March, the newlyformed Heritage Players will perform Life With Father. In addition to theater performances, there will be three new shows in the Center's three galleries every five weeks. Also worth exploring is the Gift Gallery (open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.), where local artists sell their works on consignment. Browse through prints, paintings, porcelain, wall-hangings, jewelry, stationery and even hand-made Christmas tree or-

The Bay Arts Quintet gave a jazz performance benefit for the Center at the Pacific Grove Middle School. And in January there will be a photography auction with proceeds to go to renovating the Center's photography gallery. Serious collectors may call the Center for an invitation - 375-2208.

P.B.

NWPC Names Shipnuck Political Woman of Year

Barbara Shipnuck of Salinas has Woman of the Year" by the Monterey County National Women's

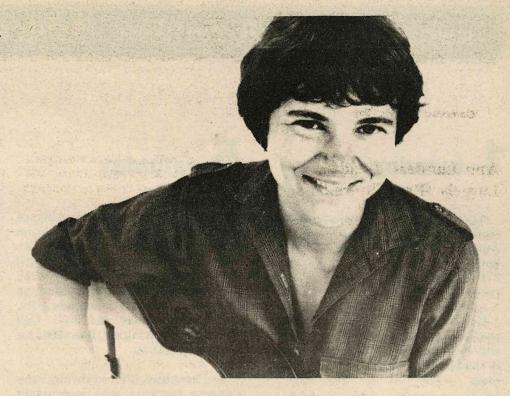


BARBARA SHIPNUCK

Political Caucus. Ms. Shipnuck holds the highest elective office in the county, is the first woman supervisor elected in the history of the county, and currently serves as chair for the Board of Supervisors, on which she represents the second

"There are today a number of outstanding political women active on city councils, school boards, special districts, and county commissions," stated Caucus chair Phyllis Turner, "but Barbara Shipnuck is an obvious choice for this year's award since she has so visibly demonstrated campaign expertise and management skills endeavors which the local women's Political Caucus strives to encourage on the part of more and more women in our communities.'

Ms. Shipnuck was officially presented to the public as "Political Woman of the Year" at a reception honoring all elected women in Monterey County on November 21.



Meg Christian Concert

On Thursday, December 10. WomensWorks presents Meg Christian and Diane Lindsay in concert, celebrating the release of Meg's third album, Turning It Over.

The concert will be held at the Louden Nelson Community Center, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz. There will be two shows -7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available at the Wizard of Aud, 1516 Pacific Ave., and the UCSC Box Office. Locally, tickets are available at The Open Book bookstore, 1184-F Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove.

Tickets are on a sliding scale from \$6 to \$8. The hall is wheelchair accessible and there will be free child care with reservations at least three days in advance.

Meg always creates a genuinely warm and enjoyable atmosphere. Accompanying her on bass, keyboards and back-up vocals will be Diane Lindsay, a musician and composer from Los Angeles, formerly of Santa Cruz.

For more information and child care reservations, call 462-2363.

Steinem in Santa Cruz

By Bonnie Rose Novads

Gloria Steinem made a recent appearance in Santa Cruz, where she was the guest speaker at the annual luncheon of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC). The luncheon, held on November 10, honored 14 Santa Cruz women for their outstanding community service. Steinem, a feminist activist and editor of Ms. magazine, is the founding mother of the NWPC, an organization which actively works toward incorporating feminists and feminist ideas into every level of

At a press conference held prior to the luncheon, Steinem addressed several questions concerning the



Photo by Eric Lindquist

GLORIA STEINEM

present state of the women's movement.

On the subject of the ERA, she expressed doubt as to its ratification at this time. She expects the proposed amendment to rise again and become law at a more opportune time, though, because the only power behind its current opposition is "12 white, aging legislators."

When asked her opinion about the current governmental attacks on the movement, Steinem reminded us that "our movement did not start in Washington." It is an "organic movement," strongly based in the personal changes being made by women everywhere. She admitted that we have suffered from Reagan, but claimed that such attacks are not necessarily fundamental.

Steinem was asked a few questions about the operation of Ms. Concerning its financial policies, she stressed that Ms. is not a profitmaking magazine. The funds it does receive are funneled back to the public through grants and charities,

claimed Steinem.

As to the concern over the advertising policies of Ms., she said that the magazine, though it will not accept what it would call "sexist" ads, is very lucky to be supported by the few advertisers it uses. "Ms. readers should not believe that we pick and choose from a wide variety

When asked about the editorial policies of Ms., Steinem claimed that 'in a literal sense, we've become much more radical.'

The press conference, though brief, gave everyone a chance to ask questions. Afterwards, Steinem was wisked away by helicopter to the luncheon, at which she spoke about the same basic issues.

tuesday

Training begins for volunteers to staff Monterey Peninsula's Women Against Domestic Violence crisis line, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the YWCA, 276 Eldorado, Monterey. See related story.

Bisexual Support Network, an ongoing group, meets on the first and 16th of every month, 6-10 p.m., at the Louden Nelson Center, Santa

Crisis Line **Needs Volunteers**

Against Women Domestic Violence needs volunteers to staff the crisis line. An 18-hour

training session begins Tuesday, December 1 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and continues Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday evenings for two weeks. Training will be held at the YWCA, 276 Eldorado, Monterey. For more information, call the Y at 649-0834.

5 saturday

Bazaar, co-sponsored by Alliance on Aging Friendly Visitor Program and the Daughters of the British Empire, 10-4 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Community Center, 515 Junipero. The bazaar will feature an English Tea Room, handmade gifts, raffles, collectibles and dolls. Call the Alliance on Aging, 646-4636, for more information.

Co-Parenting, offered through the Cypress Institute with instructors Ron Cobley and Claudia Daniels. Call 372-6242 for more information.

Issues of Step-Parenting, offered through Monterey Free University with instructor Elaine Bachmann-Berlin, 9 to noon. Fee \$5.

Alive! will appear at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320 Cedar Street, December 5 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on a sliding scale: \$6-\$7-\$8.

6 sunday

The Belle of Amherst, a two-act play, 2 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Art Center. Barbara Kerr Condon stars in the role of Emily Dickinson.

7 monday

Library evening at the YWCA of the Monterey Peninsula, 276 Eldorado, Monterey, 5-7 p.m. Call 649-0834 for more information.

Demeter deadline for display advertisements.

10 thursday

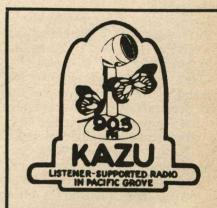
Women and the Arts, a support group for women wishing to share in their creative process with trust, exploration and acceptance of each other. Call Claudia Treadwell, 624-8220, for more information.

8 tuesday

Meeting to organize recreation league basketball teams, 7:30 p.m., Demeter office, 229 17th St., Pacific Grove. See article this page.

Salinas Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council open general meeting, 4-6 p.m. at 6 West Gabilan, Suite 16, Salinas.

Mothers Living Separately From Their Children, an open on-going group, meets 7-9 p.m. This group is led by Diana Case. For more information regarding location, call 375-6142.



KAZU 90.3 FM WOMEN'S PROGRAMMING

Women's Music for Everybody Sundays 12-3 My Sister's House Thursdays 12-3

3 thursday

ALIVE!, women's jazz quintet, will perform in an album release celebration with two shows, 7:30 and 10 p.m. at the Great American Music Hall, San Francisco. Tickets, \$6, available at GAMH Box Office. 859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco.

Planned Parenthood of Monterey County, 11th annual meeting, 6 p.m., no-host bar; dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Rancho Canada Golf Club, Carmel Valley. Cost is \$12.50 per person.

The program includes election of officers and a special recognition ceremony for individuals who have contributed significantly to the rowth of the agency. Call 373-1709 for reservations or more information.

Exhibits . . .

Photographs by Linda Troeller, The Pajaro/Salinas Valleys of California, continue at the Cherry Foundation, 4th and Guadalupe, Carmel, through December 5.

Paintings by San Francisco artist Sue O'Meara continue at the Bruised Reed Gallery through December 11. The gallery is open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Saturday.

Serigraphs and paintings by Carmel artist Carol Chapman continue in the Main Gallery of the Pacific Grove Art Center. Graphics by Donna Cattoni are on display in the Art Center's Elmarie Dyke Gallery. The center, located at 568 Lighthouse Ave., is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both shows continue through December 12.

Basketball Season Opens in January

Basketball season starts in January! Again this year, Demeter will sponsor at least one team, possibly two, in the Monterey Parks and Recreation Women's Basketball League.

If you'd like to play, come to an organizational meeting at the Demeter office, 229 17th Street, Pacific Grove, on Tuesday, December 8.

We also need a coach. Does anybody have any ideas?



13 sunday

The Belle of Amherst, 2 p.m., Pacific Grove Art Center.

Reproductive Rights Coalition Christmas Party, 2-5 p.m. See article this page.

Reproductive Rights **Christmas Party**

Everyone is invited to an open house given by the Reproductive Rights Coalition of Monterey County on Sunday, December 13 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of Dorothy Atkinson, 1224 Castro Road, Monterey.

The purpose of the party is to say "thank you" to all those who have supported the coalition.

RSVP by December 9 to Barbara Jackson, 659-5138, or Barbara Nelson, 659-3471.

Demystifying Private Funding

A two-day seminar in program planning and proposal writing for Monterey County non-profit corporations will be held December 4 and 5 in Room 6 of Sunset Center.

The seminar is being conducted by Goldberg and Associates, a Pacific Grove consulting firm.

The seminar, entitled "Demystifying Private Sector Funding" will emphasize ways to explore and ex-

ploit opportunities for private sector funding of non-profit organizations.

It will teach participants to plan and prepare successful grant proposals to foundations and corporations.

Fee for the two-day seminar is \$60. Pre-registration is required. Call 646-0529 for more information or to reserve a place.

wednesday

Against Domestic Women Violence advocate general meeting, 5:30-8 p.m. at the YWCA.

monday

Demeter deadline for news stories, calendar items.

Library evening open house, holiday party and cookbook autographing by Maria Gitin, 5-7 p.m., at the YWCA.

16 wednesday 21 monday

Residential care for aged and handicapped adults and children, foster family homes for children, pre-schools, nursery schools, infant and child care centers and family day care homes are all topics prospective care providers can learn about in orientation sessions held throughout the day at the County Office of Education in Salinas. The public is invited. No fee. Call 757-2911 for more information.

Bisexual Support Group, an open, on-going group, meets 6-10 p.m. at the Louden Nelson Community Center, Santa Cruz.

Salinas Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council Christmas party for people who have worked or are interested in working with the council. 3-7 p.m. at 6 W. Gabilan, Salinas. Call 758-LOVE for more information.

18 friday

An exhibit of art called "Unlimited Art" will open at the Pacific Grove Art Center with a reception tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. The exhibit runs through January 14. Artists include students enrolled Handicapped Activities Unlimited workshops, MPC special education classes, and older adult classes.

Channukah

Winter Solstice Party and potluck, 6:30 p.m., Japanese-American Citizens League Hall, 424 Adams Street, Monterey. Friends of Demeter are invited.

Demeter staff members and friends invite everyone to a Channukah-Christmas-Winter Solstice potluck party at 6:30

p.m. on Monday, December 21.

The party will be held at the Japanese-American Citizens League Hall, 424 Adams Street, Monterey.

Bring food to share, plates and utensils, musical instruments and your own variety of talents. There will be informal entertainment, perhaps some surprise guests, and dancing.

Admission is free, but donations to help cover the cost of renting the hall will be welcome. Juice and other beverages will be on sale during the evening.

31 thursday

N.O.W. poetry deadline. Send poetry to 436 Noice, No. 60, Salinas. CA 93906.



Photo exhibit of Salinas, Pajaro

Valleys

LINDA TROELLER, Santa Cruz photographer, presents her impressions of the Pajaro and Salinas Valleys through December 5 at the Carl Cherry Foundation, Fourth and Guadalupe, Carmel. Troeller, who received a Masters of Fine Arts in photography from Syracuse University in 1975, is a versatile technician who has handled many magazine and industrial assignments, and has had several shows.



MEG CHRISTIAN & CRIS WILLIAMSON

IN CONCERT

With Jackie Robbins, Diane Lindsay, Mary Watkins, Vicki Randle, Bernice Brooks

SATURDAY

December 19 at 8pm **Berkeley Community Theater**

TICKETS \$8.50 (\$4.25-16 and Under, 60 and Over, The Disabled). ALL SEATS RESERVED.
Tickets at all BASS (Record Factory, Sears, UC Box Office, Service Charge May be Added) and at Olivia
Records office. To charge by phone: 415/835-4342 or 408/977-7552. Order by mail before Dec. 10-send
SASE to TIX, Olivia Records, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94008. Free childcore. Wheelchair accessible.
Special sealing section for hearing impaired-ask BASS. Sign language interpretation by Lynette
Taylor. Sponsored by Roadwork, Inc. PRODUCTION COORDINATION BY HEART'S DESIRE. For more information: 415/843-1739.

Celebrating The Release of Meg's New Album-TURNING IT OVER



Lean Paychecks Getting To You?

Tired of too little respect and too choice of workshops focusing on much responsibility? Those lean paychecks getting you down? Here's a chance to find out how you can make some changes at your workplace.

A conference on what women workers have to gain through union organization and how women can go about organizing a union will be held December 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 33 Gough St., San Francisco.

The conference will open with a panel of union organizers discussing the concerns of today's working woman and how women can be successful in organizing a union where they work.

After lunch, participants will have a

organizing "roadblocks" in particular work settings and the problems of building union support among different groups of women workers, including clerical workers, service workers, professional and blue-collar

Each workshop will be led by experienced organizers and union staff representatives.

The conference is free and open to everyone.

To register, write Sue Cobble, Labor Studies Program Coordinator, Community College Centers, 33 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Or call (415) 239-3090.

Are You Sleeping Brother John?

By Sandra Lane Bennett

Please don't wake me No don't shake me Leave me where I am I'm only sleeping.

John Ono Lennon

In December 1963...

A British rock and roll group named the Beatles released a record titled, "I Want To Hold Your Hand" in the U.S... remember?

By the first week of 1964 this single song had topped the charts and the names John, Paul, George and Ringo were known to almost every teenager across the country.

The reaction of America's youth, especially the girls, dumb-founded the parents of the "war baby" generation. A simple shake from the mop top of one of these Liverpool prodigies would send even the most refined young women into hysteria . . . and you know the rest.

After six years of undiminished and often controversial popularity the Beatles split up. It seemed that the proclaimed leader of the group, John Lennon, preferred to end his involvement with the Beatles in order to marry the mysterious and avant garde artist Yoko Ono. From then on it was she, not John Lennon, who was to bear the blame for the "Fab Four's" demise.

Upon marrying Yoko Ono, John Lennon took her name as his own. He denounced the age-old tradition of a woman's becoming the named and titled property of the man she marries. It soon became apparent that something had transformed the ex-Beatle.

Consequently, Yoko Ono was accused by many Beatle fans of being a "She-Witch" having magical powers over John Lennon, and leading him astray.

Woman Is The Nigger Of The World Woman is the nigger of the world Yes she is, think about it Woman is the nigger of the world

Think about it

Do something about it

We make her paint her face and dance If she won't be our slave We say that she don't love us If she's brave We say she's trying to be a man While putting her down We pretend that she's above us

Woman is the nigger of the world, yes she is If you don't believe me Take a look at the one you're with Woman is the slave of the slaves Oh yeah, we better scream about it

We insult her every day on TV Then wonder why she has no guts or confidence When she's young we kill her will to be free While telling her not to be so smart We put her down for being so dumb.

Woman is the nigger of the world, yes she is Woman is the slave to the slaves, yes she is If you believe me, you better scream about it!

Woman is the nigger of the world, yes she is If you don't believe me Take a look at the one you're with.

They assumed that John had no direction of his own once he was no longer a Beatle. Despite the "hate vibes" toward Yoko from the fans, the notorious couple went on as a team making music of their own, together and separately.

A theme of peace and love, as well as feminism, emerged in their songs and concerts. John and Yoko seemed to have gained a strange and awesome power during the first three years they were together, and the world hardly seemed ready for it, nor did they seem to grasp the messages that followed.

John Ono Lennon recorded the distinctive song, "Woman Is The Nigger Of The World." This was the first time that a famous male rock star had written a song feminist in nature. It was a song written in direct protest toward sexism.

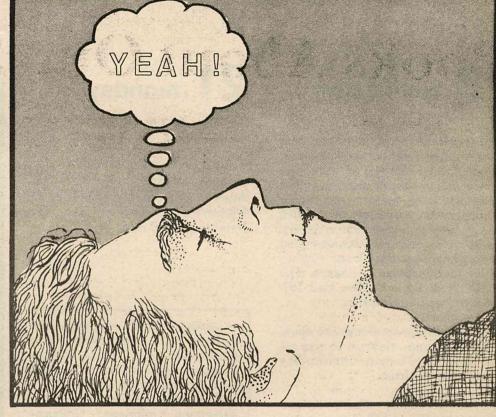
Unfortunately, the song was poorly received by the public, thus it set no precedent in the sexist

world of pop music.

"Woman Is The Nigger" was released for the second time on the Shaved Fish album. Ironically, this album was an anthology of his most successful songs published during his years away from the Beatles. And there it stood — sandwiched between his most popular recordings was John Ono Lennon's statement on the condition of

As the United States celebrated its bicentennial, Sean One Lennon was born to John and Yoko. They stepped out of the limelight into their own private world. There Yoko took over the business and public affairs while John busied himself with domestic life.

He loved taking care of the baby, baking bread, etc. With news reporters lurking around outside



Graphic by Sandra Bennett

their home trying to catch a picture of John in a ruffled apron, he surfaced occasionally to report that he had never been happier just doing what he was doing.

Could any of us have guessed at the time that John was developing a feminist consciousness?

John and Yoko re-entered public life just over a year ago armed with a new album, "a new beginning" as John put it. He was expressing a fresh and revitalized energy, and to hear him talk the listener would anticipate that he had something in store for his public which might even top the impact of the Beatles.

Talk he did. The two of them opened doors for interviews from the eager media. Interviews were granted to magazines whose audience was male-dominated, i.e., Esquire, Playboy, Rolling Stone.

John wanted his male audience to be the first to get his emphasis on the subject of feminism. The contents of the interviews were filled with stories of each other's success in their chosen paths: Yoko as a mother, business woman and artist; John as a father, house-husband and

John declared that he was more of a feminist than ever before. He went on to say that he had put his body as well as his money where his mouth (message) was. His actions were examples of personalized feminism taking it far beyond mere tokenism.

In December 1980 . . . The news came . . . I still get cold chills when I reflect upon it:

John Lennon was for millions, a

John Lennon was for many, the bespeckled guru.

John Lennon was for us, a feminist.

Is there anybody going to listen To my story All about a girl who came to say She's the kind of girl you want so much It makes you sorry Still you don't regret a single day Ah, girl.

When I think of all the times I'd try so hard to leave her She would turn to me and start to cry Then she promises the earth to me And I believe her After all this time I don't know why

Ah, girl. She's the kind of girl who'll put you down When friends are there You feel a fool When you say she's looking good She acts as if it's understood She's cool Ah, girl.

Was she told when she was young That fame would lead to pleasure Did she understand it when they said That a man must break his back To earn his day of leisure Will she still believe it when he's dead Ah, girl.

Woman

Woman I can hardly express My mixed emotions at my thoughtlessness After all I'm forever in your debt And woman I will try to express My inner feelings and thankfulness For showing me the meaning of success

Woman I know you understand The little child inside the man Please remember my life is in your hands And woman hold me close to your heart However distant don't keep us apart After all it is written in the stars Woman please let me explain I never meant to cause you sorrow or pain So let me tell you again and again and again

(I love you now and forever)

Imagine

Imagine there's no heaven It's easy if you try no hell below us Above us only sky Imagine all the people Living for today . . .

Imagine there's no countries It isn't hard to do Nothing to kill or die for And no religion too Imagine all the people Living life in peace . . .

Imagine no possessions I wonder if you can No need for greed or hunger A brotherhood of man Imagine all the people Sharing all the world . . .

You may say I'm a dreamer But I'm not the only one I hope some day you'll join us And the world will be as one.

Books About Our Suppressed Past

By Riane Eisler

Our society is androcentric and androcratic; that is, centerd on and ruled by men. To maintain this social system women are taught, through religious myths like the Genesis story of Eve's creation from a man's rib, by a male deity, that we are inferior "afterthoughts" put on this earth to obey, serve, and procreate for men.

The reclamation of our suppressed religious heritage, and with it of a very different way of mythologizing the world, is for us not an academic exercise or just an interesting hobby. It is an essential step toward our liberation.

As modern history so dramatically proves, the old adage that man, and woman, do not live by reason alone is true. We need myths, for it is these powerful images and stories, and not logic or reason, that impel much of human action, and underlie our most formative and socially determinative processes.

This reclamation of what is rightfully ours is also a fantastic journey of adventure, the chance to enter and explore what was only 100 years ago a completely forbidden, and hidden, territory.

Battering down the gates to this solong suppressed, and deliberately concealed, heritage is the scholarship of women, and sometimes also men, searching for the truth about our cultural origins.

Already, in the nineteenth century — when, not coincidentally, modern feminism began — scholars as diverse as Robert Briffault, Friedrich Engels, and Jane Harrison had begun to uncover evidence of what Engels called "the great historical defeat of the feminine sex." This was a defeat in which, both ideologically and socially, women were "domesticated by men," through male violence.

In this century — once again, not coincidentally, in the wake of the women's liberation movement — the scientific evidence of our suppressed heritage is growing by leaps and bounds.

My own work, focusing on what kind of a world ours might have been — and still can be — with sexual equality, has led me to many books and articles that I might otherwise never have heard of. These works bear directly and profoundly on the reclamation of our lost heritage.

The Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels (Vintage Books, 1981, 182 pages, \$2.95) is one of the most fascinating books ever written about Christianity. In it, Pagels, chair of the Department of Religion at Barnard College, Columbia University, brings to public attention a number of scriptures not included in the New Testament.

Written by members of the Gnostic sects (a term derived from their conviction that wisdom is revealed through gnosis or direct knowledge of divinity, rather than through the authority of religious hierarchies) these scriptures present a very different view of Christianity from the one later sanctified by the Church fathers.

To begin with, in the Gnostic gospels the more ancient female aspect, of the deity as a divine Mother is still present both in a feminine Holy Spirit and as Wisdom.

But what is perhaps most shocking to the conventional Christian reader is that in these gospels Mary Magdalene is presented as Jesus's favorite disciple—a view that might explain why even in the official gospels, or those

canonized by the Church father, the risen Christ first appears to Mary Magdalene, who only then informs the others of her vision of the resurrection.

Pagels points out how the Gnostic position that self-knowledge is required for this knowledge was correctly perceived a threat by the men in the emerging Church hierarchy, who saw themselves as guardians of the only true faith.

Pagels also points out how these men eventually edited out of the official texts all feminine imagery of the deity and almost all references to women as disciples, teachers, and equal members of the community.

Pagels also tells us how for centuries the only knowledge of Gnosticism came through orthodox diatribes against heretics. Then in the nineteenth century a number of original Gnostic writings came to light. But it was not until 1945 — around the same time the Dead Sea Scrolls were found — that 52 Gnostic writings were discovered near Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt.

Buried for almost 1600 years, these writings contain traditions even older than the gospels in the New Testament.

However, due to a series of events that read like a cross between a mystery and a potboiler about academic intrigue, these documents, unlike the Dead Sea Scrolls, were not published immediately. They have only recently become known to most religious scholars, and, thanks to Pagels' work, are now accessible to the general public.

The data about our suppressed heritage unearthed by another scholar, archeologist and linguist Marija Gimbutas, have unfortunately not yet been published in a form available to the general public.

Nevertheless, at least some acquaintance with the work of Gimbutas, who teaches at UCLA and is on the editorial committee of the *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, is essential if we are to reclaim, or even properly understand, what was destroyed when maledominance — and with it a generally hierarchic and violent social order — became the norm.

In an article called "The First Wave of Eurasian Steppe Pastoralists into Copper Age Europe" (Journal of Indo-European Studies, Vol. 5, No. 4, Winter 1977, pp. 227-338) Gimbutas dramatically contrasts the prehistoric societies of Old Europe and those of the Indo-European or Kurgan invaders. These latter so utterly destroyed the earlier civilization that, until it was unearthed by archeologists during the twentieth century, not even its memory survived.

"The Old European and Kurgan cultures were the antithesis of one another," writes Gimbutas. "The Old Europeans were sedentary horticulturalists prone to live in large well-planned townships. The absense of fortifications and weapons attests the peaceful coexistence of this egalitarian civilization that was probably matrilinear and matrilocal. The Kurgan system was composed of patrilineal, socially stratified herding units

"The Old European belief system focused on the agricultural cycle of birth, death, and regeneration, embodied in the feminine principle, a Mother Creatrix . . .

"Weapons are non-existent in Old European imagery, whereas the dagger and battle-axe are dominant symbols

of the Kurgans, who, like all historically known Indo-Europeans, glorified

the lethal power of the sharp blade."

In short, in the prehistoric societies that worshipped a Goddess and equated power with an all-giving and nurturing mother, both women and men lived in peace and equality. By sharp contrast, among those people where power was symbolized by violent and armed gods and men — as it still is in our world today — warfare and inequality were — and still are — the "normal" order of life.

Gimbutas' remarkable book, The Gods and Goddesses of Old Europe 7000-3500 B.C. (Thames & Hudson and/or University of California, 1974) provides us with glimpses into what life seems to have been like in a world in which power was seen as the power to nurture and give, rather than to dominate and conquer. This work about Neolithic societies is unfortunately out of print, but is available through university libraries.

Another work, providing a glimpse into life on the island of Minoan Crete, where a recently discovered high or advanced civilization continued to be governed by such a conceptualization

of power, is *Crete* by Nicolas Platon (Nagel Publishers, Geneva, 1966). This work, too, is available through libraries. And, although not directly concerned with or even very aware of women — who are, however, here recognized as playing a prominent part in Cretan life — it too is well worth the effort.

For we need to understand both the Neolithic culture and Crete if we are to know the truth about our cultural origins. We need to know the truth about what came before patriarchy, so that we may better understand — and discredit — our prevailing patriarchal mythology, which, as June Brindel points out, ex alts the kinds of heroes that no woman, and no gentle and sensitive man, can, or would want to, identify with.

Above all, we need to read and study these kinds of books for the great task of re-mything that lies ahead. This is the task of fashioning the kind of mythology that can serve as the basis for a more advanced ideology: one appropriate for a world in which both women and men can live in equality, dignity, and peace.

THE WOMAN'S BOOKSHELF

by Polly Parker



The recent publication of Adrienne Rich's latest book of poetry focuses attention once again on the tremendous contribution her work has made to women's lives. An extended review of the new book is promised for next month; here, appropriately, is a welcome assessment of her collected prose.

On Lies, Secrets, and Silence, Adrienne Rich's collection of essays, appeared in 1979, covering her "selected prose" from 1966 through 1978 (Norton Paperback, \$3.95).

To say that much is to indicate my awe at the scope of Rich's work: she truly "enlarges my mind" — to borrow from Conrad — and after reading several of the pieces three or more times, I still feel that I have more to learn from her sensibility and profound intellectual breadth.

She writes more lucidly and clearly than most prose writers, yet the diamond-like imagery of the superb poet glitters on every page.

In her foreward, Rich explains why she chose these particular essays, some from scholarly publications, others from feminist journals, and several based on panel discussions in which she was a participant, or addresses to various groups.

The subjects range from literary (on Jane Eyre, Anne Sexton, Emily Dickinson) to profoundly philosophical statements ("Women and Honor: Some Notes on Lying") or comments on the social situation of all women which far transcend the usual stridency of even our most distinguished women writers.

The last essay in the collection, "Disloyal to Civilization: Feminism,

Racism, Gynephobia" will, I suspect, eventually appear as a major study by itself, a sequel of sorts to Rich's very moving book, Of Woman Born, which absolutely every woman should read at some time in her life.

My own special concerns were engaged by the essays on "Teaching Language in Open Admissions" and "Toward a Woman-Centered University." These pieces reflect her experience as a teacher about a decade ago, while two short pieces ("Claiming an Education" and "Taking Women Students Seriously") ought to be required reading for every teacher in the country.

Her concern about sexist attitudes in the schools is one we all share, as it is probably the biggest disgrace in our society, perpetuating a paternalistic and degrading climate while professing equality of opportunity for all

Rich is the complete feminist theoretician of our time. In the last essay, she writes: "The past 10 years of feminist writing and speaking, saying our own words or attempting to, have shown us that it is the realities civilization has told us are unimportant, regressive or unspeakable which prove our most essential resources. Female anger. Love between women . . ."

And much, much more.

-Suzy Sullens

Correction: The last line of Diane Moore's review in the November issue should have read: "Until we have all the answers, Mead is a fascinating guide to the right questions." Many apologies for the error — especially since it destroyed the entire point which Moore was making in her

It's Later Than You Think

Everything is farther away than it used to be. It is even twice as far to the corner, and they have added a hill, I noticed. I have given up running for the bus, it leaves quicker than it did before.

There is no sense in asking someone to read aloud, they speak so softly, I can hardly hear them. The material in our clothing is so skimpy today, especially around the waist and hips, I can hardly reach my shoe lace.

Even people are changing; they are so much younger than I was at their age. On the other hand, people my age are so much older than I am.

I ran into an old classmate the other day and she has aged so much, she didn't recognize me! I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was brushing my hair this morning. In doing so, I glanced at my own reflection. My God, they don't even make good mirrors anymore.

-Snooker Barth

What lips my lips have kissed, where and why I have forgotten, and what arms have lain under My head 'til morning, but the rain Is full of ghosts tonight that tap and sigh Upon the glass and listen for reply. In my heart there stirs a quiet pain

The music is soft the fireplace glows, The candlelight flickers as does my heart. Through my body the adrenalin flows, Hold me, my love, never, never to part.

You went out of my life no word no fuss, You took our world away from us. I search for where to place the blame, I console my heart, our love was too lame.

Mr. Sun where have you been so long, To take away your warmth and light? Mr. Moon are you still riding high 'til dawn, Giving young lovers inspiration each night? God, how I miss you, I live in the fog.

I love you when you laugh, I love you when you cry. I love you 'cause you're you that's why.

-Snooker Barth

Earth Changing

Volcano erupts
Glowing lava flows like rains
Cooling into shiningblack rock seas
Quaking plates beneath oceans
Slide together buckling into mountains
Once where cities laid
Now laid to rest
Register no more the seismographs
Winds blow furious songs overland
Whistling clear through the core
Tides rise high reaching toward the stars
Wash clean the dirt of humanity
Troubles the soul no more

-Anonymous

Little Sisters

The pain of isolation rushes through me.

Overwhelms and engulfs me,

I think I would rather not live.

It hurts me too much to hide how I am,

To hide all the love that I feel.

I cry with the need to let it all out,

To tell someone who I am, what I am.

Where do I go for the understanding so desperately needed?

Most painful of all,
Waking up in the morning,
New tears and old on my face,
Overflowing with love and need,
Yet empty, unfilled, only part of a whole,
Alone and so lonely, and no one to tell,
Afraid to come out, too much need to keep in,
(Boy am I a mess!)

No longer straight, not yet a sister,
Alone on a middle road with no company to keep,
And, hardest of all,
My deepest need must remain secret
From my closest friends and family.
Who shall I tell?
For sorrow should be shared.

How long can such a need remain repressed?

Even now it pushes ever stronger outwards from my being,
Coursing through my body, playing havoc with my psyche,
Someday soon the dyke will break,
No more walls, just let it out,
The way is forward, never straight,
F.D.A.s we need each other's strength.

-Anonymous

How will you look in a gas mask turning over rocks covered with oil

finding no life.

Trying hard to remember what the ocean smelled like before, sniffing at dust, trying to relate to the earth.

Had I known—
I would not have cursed you with a life

you do not deserve.

-eah

All Things Considered

By Janie Forrest

T'was the night before Christmas And I in my bed Picked up my *Demeter* To see what it said.

And as I was reading And drinking a beer I started reflecting About the past year.

The Peninsula was jumping As never before With lectures and forums And workshops galore.

And remember the night When we all came together To watch "Rosie the Riveter" And learn from each other.

We got high on the music At our concerts this year With Alive! and Teresa And our sweet Holly Near.

And there was our anger At New Right reformists Who cheat and distort us And claim to inform us.

The year was superb For women and sports We were strong on the diamond And on basketball courts.

There were good times and victories
With all the year brought
There's even a woman
On the Supreme Court.

But disappointment continues As day after day We must strive for equality Without ERA.

And look at the world
The way that it is
While reading New Woman
And Savvy and Ms.

So All Things Considered As the year takes its flight Merry Christmas to all Let's keep up the good fight.

classifieds-

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