In Concert March 2

Monterey Welcomes Holly Near!

Demeter Productions will present Holly Near in concert with Robin Flower and her band, Sunday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pacific Grove Junior High-Middle School Auditorium, 835 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove.

Holly Near has not performed in the Monterey area since 1976 when she appeared at Monterey Peninsula College in a benefit performance with Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda.

Holly Near is a superb and multi-talented performer. Her musical style is hard to categorize for her range is so wide. In a recent interview she said, "I get called a folk singer sometimes. If people thought of a folk singer as someone who sang about just regular old folks, then I'm one. But if folk singing is a very narrow description of a musical style where you dress a certain way, play a guitar and sing only ballads with 47 verses, then I'm not one.

"My musical roots and style are very different than that. My influences were a combination of labor and civil rights music, Broadway shows ... from Aretha Franklin to Janis Joplin."

Holly Near is not only a talented songwriter and performer but a conscious political worker with a strong background in the anti-war movement, women's rights, anti-nuclear work, lesbian and gay rights, and other quality of life issues. She has the rare gift of being able to blend political thoughts into melodies that leave one more aware, hopeful and thoroughly entertained.

Opening the show will be Robin Flower, who has just released her debut album More than Friends on Spaniel Records. Robin's music is a foot stomping blend of bluegrass, country and good times. Joining her will be Joan Balter, a fine fiddler, and Nancy Vogl, an exceptional guitarist and vocalist, formally with the Berkeley Women's Music Collective.

Sandra Faulkner, local dance instructor and performer who signed the December River concert in Monterey, will provide sign language interpretation.

Sound will be provided by TranSisters and Switch Productions, women's sound-productions teams from Santa Cruz. Free child care is available with reservations and the auditorium is wheel chair accessible.

Tickets are $5 in advance and $6 at the door. Tickets go on sale Feb. 11 at Do Re Mi Music in the Barnyard in Carmel; the YWCA Women's Center in Monterey; Bookworks in Pacific Grove; Cymbaline Records in Santa Cruz; and the Women's Center at Hartnell College in Salinas.

A Holly Near concert is more than a musical event, it is a wonderful cultural experience and one that you will never forget. It is also the perfect chance to bring along a friend who may still be unfamiliar with the joy and strength of women's music.

For child care reservations and information, call 659-3752 or 373-6987.

Demeter Opens Office in PG

With your support Demeter continues to grow. We reached three milestones in January: We have opened an office; our subscription list has reached 200, enabling us to qualify for a bulk mailing permit to lower our mailing costs; and we have filed the necessary legal papers to incorporate.

Our office is located at 591 Lighthouse Ave., No. 7, Pacific Grove, and will be staffed Monday through Thursday, noon to 3 p.m. starting February 18. We are planning an office-warming party Feb. 17, 5-8 p.m. Everyone is invited to drop by for wine and cheese.

Tickets for the Holly Near concert Continued on page 7
The Women's Center of the Monterey Peninsula YWCA has come a long way since its rather uncertain beginning almost a year ago. The persistence and dedication of a small group of women and the support of the YWCA board of directors has enabled a working, helpful women's center to exist on the Peninsula.

The information and referral system has been one of the center's success stories. With listings now of doctors, lawyers, therapists and women's services, the system has increased calls for information 100 percent. The information and referral line will soon be staffed by volunteers. Training is available for anyone interested in helping with calls.

The Women's Center library began with a donation from the Women's Resource Center and now has over 300 books on its overcrowded bookshelves. Donations are always welcome and any old bookcases would be much appreciated.

The clearinghouse project is to eventually set up a network for the women's community. When fully established, there will be tighter communications of events, classes and meetings - and better communication means a stronger women's community.

The YWCA Women's Center has also published a booklet entitled "Women's Organizations of the Monterey Peninsula." Contact the Y for a copy of the booklet.

In the coming year the Women's Center has a great list of activities planned. A Passover Seder is planned for March. Tickets for the event will be available at the YWCA. May will bring the women's community its first annual art show and auction to benefit the center.

A women's run will be sponsored by the center in July to take place along the Ocean View Drive in Pacific Grove. The Women's Center is hoping to make this event one to remember and relive every summer.

In September the Women's Center will have its second annual anniversary celebration.

So, hoping for another year of strength and support, the Women's Center is a reality at last. It needs the support of the community in volunteer power and utilization as a resource center for women. For more information about how you can help the center, or how the center can help you, call Linda Robinson at the YWCA.

—Maureen McEvoy
The Struggle to be Politically Effective And Remain True to Feminist Process

Dear NWPC:

I joined the NWPC, Monterey County chapter, in April of this year. At that time, I paid dues of $15. Now, six months later, I am being asked to pay an additional $25 to remain a member of your organization I feel this is too costly to belong to any organization, even one as worthwhile as the Caucus.

Several points come to mind:

- While I realize your costs have increased, my salary has not. Why not have a sliding scale for dues based on income? Many organizations, especially those composed largely of women, have such a policy. This would simply recognize the reality of our economic system - most women, especially single women, have less money than men.

- Perhaps dues could be pro rataed. That way, someone joining in mid-year would pay only half a year's dues. Or, perhaps dues could be good for a year from the time they are paid, e.g., in my case my dues would be good from April '79 through April '80. I realize this involves more paperwork, but I feel the paperwork would be warranted.

- Can an arrangement be worked out whereby one could join only at the local level, since a significant portion of one's dues go for state and national dues? I realize your voting strength at the state level comes from the number of members on your roster, but perhaps the people who join at the local level only could be excluded from this count.

- While I realize I would be welcome to come and work with the Caucus on any of its projects without paying dues, that arrangement would not be acceptable to me because it would not allow me to vote. This smacks of exploitation, which I'm certain the Caucus does not intend to do.

- Are scholarships available? When I joined, no mention was ever made of financial assistance, nor was any such mention made in the letter I received asking for my membership renewal at $25. Nor have I ever received a copy of the Caucus by-laws.

I raise this issue because I feel it is an important one for the women's community.

It is not enough simply to elect women to office. If women are to be effective in bringing about change in our political institutions, they must not be female carbon copies of the men who now hold those positions. Therefore, I feel it is important to allow women who are not affluent, not middle class, not white, not well educated, not professionally employed to participate in organizations such as the Caucus. I regret to see those women priced out of your organization.

Joan Weiner
Pacific Grove

Reply From the Caucus

Dear Joan Weiner:

As chair of the National Women's Political Caucus of Monterey County, I feel it important for me to respond to the matters discussed in your letter of Nov. 17.

Many of the concerns you raised about increased dues are the same ones we voiced at the state level and to the national organization. However, the spiraling cost of being politically effective overrode other considerations, and our opposition to the increase was voted down. Our choice was either to accept the results reached through the democratic process or to withdraw from the national-state organization. We have chosen to remain with the organization. It offers us the leadership, experience, knowledge, and tie-in to a larger network that not only strengthens our local membership but also gives us the opportunity to work for the election of women to office at all levels of government.

Membership in such an organization carries with it the obligation to be governed by its regulations and timetables, including those making annual dues payable for the calendar. However, dues can be paid on an installment basis. Furthermore, scholarships are available to those whose economic circumstances would otherwise exclude their membership but whose active participation in caucus undertakings supports their seriousness of intent. We also have active participants who are not paying members but who want to work with us because they share our commitments.

While the Caucus Newsletter is our ongoing link with all other members, it is but one part of a program that continues to focus on women's issues and candidates in the political arena. We encourage you and all others who share your conviction of the importance of caucus goals to join us in our meetings, take an active part in our program, and know that a common cause, good will, and sisterhood await you in the NWPC of Monterey County.

Karin Strasser Kauffman
Chair, NWPC of Monterey County
News Briefs

'Three's A Crowd' Axed; Sexist and Demeaning

A Detroit television station canceled the syndicated game show "There's A Crowd" following protests that the show is sexist and demeaning to women.

The show, which pits a wife against a secretary to see who knows the husband-boss better, aired for the last time Dec. 21.

Glenna Davis of Northville, Mich. began the protests, mailing petitions and making phone calls urging offended viewers to contact the station. She charged the show encouraged sexual harassment on the job and insulted wives and secretaries.

—San Jose Mercury

Natl. Women's Hotline

By dialing the Women USA Hot Line, you can get up-to-date information on current women's issues — ERA, health hazards, reproductive freedom, etc. To plug into this national telephone-alert system, dial toll free 1-800-221-4945.

Vacancies on Commission on Status of Women

Fifth District Supervisor Sam Farr is seeking applications from people interested in serving on the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women. There are two vacancies on the commission now.

Anyone interested should write a letter to Supervisor Farr's office stating background and reasons for wanting to participate. The address is: Supervisor Sam Farr, 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey 93940.

West German Birth Strike Protests Nukes

Women in the West German region of Lower Saxony are staging a "birth strike" to protest nuclear armament and nuclear power plants. The women have taken a written pledge not to bear children "as long as the ruling powers are not ready to give up nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants."

The pledge was launched last Mother's Day and has 1,000 signatures.

—Her Say

New Laws Against Domestic Violence

A bill was introduced in the California legislature which would add $5 to the established marriage license fee, to be deposited in a Victims of Domestic Violence Fund. Money in the fund would be continuously appropriated to the Director of Social Services for funding of domestic violence centers.

In New York, Governor Carey has named a 25 member Task Force on Domestic Violence to study the effects of domestic violence, and to see how the social and legal system can better deal with violence and its causes.

—Spokeswoman

Army Takes Stand on Sexual Harassment

Secretary of the Army Clifford Alexander and Army Chief of Staff General Eugene Meyer have reiterated the Army's policy concerning sexual harassment of women soldiers.

"With the increasing numbers of women soldiers joining our ranks, it is imperative that all our soldiers and leaders are sensitive to, and intolerant of, sexual harassment. The Army is fully committed to a policy that demands respect for the human dignity of its members. That policy cannot succeed where sexual harassment exists," said Meyer.

—Ft. Ord Panorama

Off The Record

Women Against Violence Against Women has won a major victory in its two-and-one-half year battle with record producers over lurid album covers.

At a press conference in Los Angeles, the president of Warner Communications record company, David Horowitz, said that WCI "opposes the depiction of violence, against women or men, on album covers and in related promotional material."

The statement was issued jointly with WAWA representatives in LA and New York.

WAVAW began in 1976 as an ad hoc coalition protesting a Rolling Stones billboard on LA's Sunset Strip which showed a battered and bruised woman — smiling. The promotion was for an album entitled "Black and Blue."

The women challenged the Stones to join them in a press conference in front of the billboard, or get the billboard down. They took it down.

The policy agreement with WCI Records was hailed as a major victory by women's activist groups in both cities, and WAVAW called off its boycott of WCI labels: Warner, Atlantic, and Elektra-Asylum.

—NOW National Times
Santa Cruz
Cabrillo College will sponsor a weekend crafts fair of women artists, called Celebration of Women, which will include all-day performances of music, dance, theater, films and workshops to express the diversity of women, March 8 and 9. For more information, call the Women's Center at 425-6249.

A poetry festival will be held in conjunction with the Celebration of Women, Saturday evening, March 8 from 6-11 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. The readings will feature poets from Santa Cruz and the Bay Area.

A new women's coffeehouse is open every first and third Friday at 8 p.m. at the Santa Cruz YWCA. Readings of women-identified poetry, women's theater, and music start at 9 p.m. There is a $1 cover charge, and coffee, teas, hot cider and healthy desserts are available. No alcohol is served, and the coffee house is for women only. For more information, call 427-0637.

Take Back the Night
Santa Cruz Women Take Back the Night will have a nighttime walk in protest of violence against women on Friday, Feb. 8 in Santa Cruz. For more information contact Take Back the Night, P.O. Box 263, Santa Cruz CA 95061.

Planned Parenthood
Planned Parenthood will hold a training session for volunteers this month. Volunteers are needed for both the Monterey and Salinas clinics. For more information, call Pat Potter at 373-1691.

Antioch Workshops for Women
Antioch University Monterey is offering a series of workshops for women. The first two Friday night workshops will be Feb. 22, a slide show and dialogue with Kate Elvin, community artist; and Feb. 29, Non-traditional Jobs for Women, a panel discussion, with Dian Kiser, community organizer. For more information, see article on page 7, or call Antioch University at 649-4949.

YWCA
-Career counseling, testing and resume preparation are now available from the YWCA's career counselor, Florence Mason. She can be reached at the Y.
-Health Advisory Committee organizational meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Y.
-Women's Center general meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 5 p.m. at the YWCA.
-Administrative Committee meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 4 p.m. Call the YWCA for location.
-Information and Referral Committee meeting meets every Monday at 5 p.m. at the Y.
-Clearinghouse meeting, meets every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the Y.
-"Women's Self Help" class taught by Linda Robinson, Feb. 12, 7-10 p.m. at the Y.

Women for Women
WFW meets Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joy Brennan, 26 Villa St., Salinas. Everyone is invited.

Women's Rap Group
The Women's Rap Group continues to meet Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Each meeting provides an opportunity to exchange specific information about events in the community, socialize, and discuss personal needs. All women are welcome. For information on meeting location call Signe at 624-2133.

Salinas NOW
Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at Northern California Savings and Loan, corner of Maine and John streets, Salinas. The next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 12. For more information, call 484-1321 or 758-2170.

Mural Project
Will hold a free workshop entitled "Applied Public Art," Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. in the main gallery of the Pacific Grove Art Center, 568 Lighthouse, Pacific Grove. Everyone is invited.
Part I of a Series

New Laws: Women and Children First

Every year, the California legislature enacts new laws, or changes old laws. Most of these go into effect on Jan. 1 of the following year. Below, Kathy Stoner, an attorney practicing in Monterey, has explained some of these new laws and changes which became effective Jan. 1. This is the first article of a series.

Laws Concerning Domestic Violence: In 1977 the legislature enacted a special law allowing a victim of domestic violence to obtain a civil temporary restraining order effective for up to 30 days without having to file an action for divorce or any other proceeding. This year, the effective period of the temporary restraining order has been increased from 30 to 90 days.

The legislature has also established a diversion program for persons convicted of an act of domestic violence. A diversion program is a rehabilitation and counseling program which is used as an alternative to serving jail time. It would be available only to persons who appear to be good candidates for the program, who consent to it, and who have not been convicted of any crime involving violence during the previous seven years.

In July of 1980, a completely revised and expanded law pertaining to domestic violence will go into effect. Watch for more information on this new law later this year.

Joint Custody of Children: Until this year, there was no law which would specifically allow a judge to grant joint custody to both parents in a divorce or separation. Occasionally, judges granted so-called "joint legal custody" to both parents, but physical custody (and the right to make all significant decisions about the child's upbringing) invariably remained with one parent. Many judges questioned whether they even had the power to grant "joint legal custody," and would refuse to do so even when it was agreed upon by both parents.

Recently, much attention has been focused on the detrimental effects of divorce and separation on children. The concept of true joint custody (which is any arrangement which ensures continuous contact with both parents) has been advanced as a viable alternative to "sole custody," which gives legal support to the severing of an important relationship between the child and one parent.

The legislature has finally responded by enacting a law which requires a judge to give legal preference to joint custody where both parents have agreed to it. If the judge does not believe, despite the parents' agreement, that joint custody would be in the child's best interests, the judge must give specific reasons for her or his belief, in support of the denial of joint custody. And in any event, the judge can ask the parents to present details of the proposed arrangement to the court.

If the parents do not agree, the judge may still grant joint custody, if it appears to be in the best interests of the child, and if one of the parents requests it.

Finally, a related provision of the new law directs judges who do not award joint custody to consider "which parent is more likely to allow frequent and continuing contact" with the other parent, in deciding which parent should have custody. The judge may not give preference to either parent because of that parent's sex.

Children's Rights: There are two new laws of particular interest in this area. One concerns the right to consent to outpatient mental health treatment or counseling without a parent or guardian's consent. Previously, only "emancipated" minors (married, military members, or those 15 years old or older who have left home and are financially on their own) could consent to treatment. Now, any minor who is 12 years old or older and who appears to the treating professional to need the treatment and to be "mature" enough to participate in treatment, may consent to the treatment without consent of a parent or guardian.

The new law provides that the parents or guardian should be involved unless this seems to the professional to be inappropriate, and it also makes the treatment sessions confidential.

The other new law (actually a revision of existing law) affecting minors is the new "Emancipation of Minors Act." There are now three ways by which a minor may become emancipated: 1) by entry into a valid marriage; 2) by going on active duty in the military; or 3) by obtaining a court order of emancipation.

A court order of emancipation may be obtained by anyone who is at least 14 years old, is living apart from her or his parents or guardian with their consent or acquiescence, is managing her or his own financial affairs, and is not obtaining income from any illegal activity. Notice of the court proceeding must be given to the parents or guardian, who can present to the court any objections they may have.

Once a minor is emancipated, she or he may consent to any medical, dental or psychiatric care, may make binding contracts, may engage in lawsuits, may be free from her or his parents' control, may establish a legal residence, may buy or sell real estate, enroll in any school or college, etc., all without the consent of a parent or guardian (which is to say that any non-emancipated minor cannot do these things without the consent of a parent or guardian). A minor who has obtained a court order of emancipation may have this fact printed on her or his identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

—Kathy Stoner

Whoops!

And how could we forget the Women's Center grand opening celebration in September of 1979? The affair was attended by over 200 people and was THE event of the year for the Women's Center. Our wrap-up of 1979 is now complete.
Personal and Political

Antioch Monterey Offers Workshops for Women

"Workshops of Special Interest to Women; Personal and Political" are being offered to the community by Antioch University Monterey. A smorgasbord of topics will be covered using a variety of formats. The Friday evening series will be free to the community; the weekend series fee will be based on a sliding scale. People are welcome to attend one, some or all of the workshops.

Antioch University Monterey is a fully accredited institution offering an individualized B.A. program and an M.A. program in Psychology. Currently applications are being accepted for spring, summer, and fall quarters.

Kate Miller, faculty at Antioch Monterey Peninsula College, and Jacqueline Somma, Antioch's Center Director, are coordinating the workshops. Please call them with any questions at 649-4949 or drop by the center at 690 Pine Ave., Pacific Grove.

Friday Workshops

Feb. 22 - Slide show and dialogue with Kate Elvin, community artist.
Feb. 29 - "Non-traditional Jobs for Women, a Panel Discussion" moderated by Dian Kiser, community organizer.
March 7 - International Women's Day Eve party and potluck.
March 14 - "Publishing Your Own Book" with Judy Tatelbaum, local author and therapist.
March 21 - "Women as Health Care Consumers," Joann Farnsworth, health educator.
March 28 - "Feminist Political Theory," Bettina Aptheker, women's studies faculty member and historian.
April 4 - Good Friday, no workshop.
April 11 - "An Informal Discussion about Lesbianism," Jacqueline Somma, educator.
April 18 - "The Myth of Being Male," an evening for men only facilitated by Scott Hunter and Paul Bellina, therapists.
April 25 - "What is Feminist Therapy?" Barbara Licht-Greenberg, local feminist therapist.

Weekend Workshops

Weekend workshops are for women only (except for the couple workshop). Each workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and end between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Call in advance for space reservation and to determine fee.

April 19 and 20 - Saturday and Sunday - "Couple's Workshop" to improve communication and increase ability to fight fairly and to nurture each other well. Facilitated by trained couple therapists. There will be both a heterosexual group and a lesbian group.
April 26 - Saturday - "Women and Anger and Depression," Lorna Pilnick, feminist therapist.
April 27 - Sunday - Assertiveness Training, Cuca Hepburn, local women's studies faculty.
May 3 - Saturday - "Women and Addiction." Will deal with psychological addictions to things like food, work, relationships, cigarettes, marijuana, etc. Facilitators to be announced.
"Retreat for Women: Self Acceptance Workshop," facilitated by Claudia Cranston, feminist therapist. Date (one Saturday) to be announced.

Graphic by Barbara Bastian

Demeter Office--

Continued from page 1

will also be available.

To offset the costs of opening and maintaining an office we will hold a garage sale Saturday, Feb. 9, at 215 Laurel Ave., in Pacific Grove. If you have saleable items to contribute, please call Maureen or Jill at 625-2830.

By supporting the garage sale you can find a bargain and help the Peninsula's only feminist newspaper at the same time.

Community Events--

Continued from page 5

Family Resource Center

The Family Resource Center, 500 Hilby Ave., Seaside, offers a variety of classes, support groups, counseling and social functions. Child care is provided while parents attend classes. For information of the Center's programs, call 394-4622.

Minority Women in 1980

Hartnell College Women's Studies Dept. will offer a course on "Minority Women in 1980 - Dialogue with Black, Chicana and Asian Women," in a three lecture series highlighting the goals and aspirations of minority women. Classes meet from 7-9:30 p.m. at Hartnell's governing board room. The lectures will focus on Black women on Feb. 13, Chicana women on Feb. 20 and Asian women on Feb. 27. For more information contact Cindy Oberchain, Women's Studies Dept. Hartnell College, Salinas.

ERA Action Team - Salinas

ERA Action Team meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the home of Dian Kiser, 1310 109 Primavera, Salinas (Los Olivos condominiums). Anyone who wants to help is invited to come join in the effort to get the ERA ratified. For directions, call 758-2170 or 649-0276.

WADV

Women Against Domestic Violence will hold its general meeting Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m. in the Monterey YWCA, 276 El Dorado.

WADV will hold advocate training beginning Feb. 11 to work on the Crisis Line. If you would like to join the Advocate Team, call Maria Gitin, WADV coordinator, at 649-0634.
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<td>My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3</td>
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<td>UCSC Women's Studies Collective panel on Violence Against Women</td>
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Critic vs. Critic

‘Kramer vs. Kramer’ Reviewed

Joanna Kramer’s apartment is decorated like a Bloomingdale’s display, husband Ted is vice-president of an advertising agency, and son Billy goes to a private school. But even into lives as civilized as Vivaldi’s string quartets (which are the soundtrack of the film), some shit must fly. Kramer vs. Kramer is the best of the new genre of films attempting to realistically portray modern family life. I think it is the best movie of 1979.

When Joanna leaves the prison of her pleasant life, she is so demoralized that she doesn’t feel capable of taking her son with her. This leaves Ted in the position, as he describes it, of not only bringing home the bacon, but having to cook it, too — illustrated literally in a chaotic scene of father and son attempting to make French toast.

It’s not easy. Ted’s hard-driving boss doesn’t cut him any slack when it comes to PTA meetings, birthday parties, or childhood illnesses. A poster in the boss’ office reads, “You Can’t Have Everything;” Ted knocks himself out to disprove this idea. Gradually, father and son adapt to bachelor life (they learn to make French toast with streamlined finesse), but then Joanna reappears to demand custody of her child.

Joanna is a character seemingly made for Meryl Streep (it’s horrendous to think that wooden Kate Jackson was considered for the role). Writer-director Robert Benton had enough confidence in Streep to let her write her own lines in the climactic courtroom scene. She glances reflexively at Ted when his attorney asks her, “Isn’t it true that you failed at the one important relationship in your life?” Ted shakes his head, but Joanna, a stern judge of herself, nods.

Billy (Justin Henry) is not portrayed as a child shattered by being “the product of a broken home” — an image probably 20 years behind the times. What does shake him up is the judge’s decision that he is to live with his mother. I had a strong emotional reaction to this part of the film. As a child I was the prize in a similar custody battle. I remember vividly the feelings Billy enacts here: love Mother, miss Mother, but Mother left once and she might do it again. All in all, Father seems like a safer bet. Joanna is not a villain, but mother-leaving-child is one of our last basic taboos, and our gut reaction just doesn’t match up to our intellectual one. In the strict morality of a child, Mother gets only one chance.

Ted, played by Dustin Hoffman, changes from being solely career-oriented and unintentionally insensitive about his family, to being a parent who fully experiences the wide range of emotions that role entails. Joanna finally realizes that Ted may have been a terrible husband, but he’s become a wonderful father. Her sacrifice of custody of her child is not just noble, it’s necessary.

—Paula Butterfield

On the Other Hand...

Kramer vs. Kramer is a film about Ted Kramer, a New York advertising executive, whose wife moves out on him and their six-year-old son, leaving Ted to make breakfast every day, go to work, come home, make dinner, do laundry and be a good parent.

The film made me angry. Men have always left their families, and their wives’ difficulties were never glorified on film. Only recently when a few men have been deserted and become working, single parents have the role become heroic, and worthy of a major motion picture.

This film has been praised for its equal treatment of both parents in the custody fight. No way. For most of the film Ted struggles with the job of parenthood. His wife’s struggles with the child through five-and-one-half years are never pictured, or even mentioned. I suppose this is because when a woman raises a child it’s nothing special, it’s what she’s supposed to do. When a man does it, he becomes a hero. There’s nothing equal about that.

—Joan Weiner

YWCA: Towards Eliminating Racism

In 1970, at the National YWCA Convention, the constituents adopted what is known as the One Imperative. A recent issue of YWCA Interchange has stated the One Imperative as being “to thrust our collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary.”

According to Lynn Evers, executive director of the Monterey YWCA, the YWCA has a long history of striving for racial equality. In 1968, Shaw University, in Raleigh, North Carolina, was the site of the first YWCA Interracial Seminar to be held in the south and in 1965, the YWCA Office of Racial Justice was established.

Since the adoption of the One Imperative in 1970, there has been a reaffirmed commitment from the YWCA to recognize and confront the perpetuation of institutional racism. Ms. Evers noted that she considers the YWCA to be a change agent in this process, meaning the YWCA must first deal with the problems of racism within its own structure.

It was in this spirit of growth that the Action Audit for Change was inaugurated on a national scale for YWCAs to examine racism within themselves and the communities. Members of the YWCA and the local community will review racism in institutional structures, policies, practices, and patterns of behavior and set up various programs to facilitate education of the community on racism.

Ms. Evers emphasized the urgent need for community input. The telephone number is 649-0834. Ideas, recommendations, volunteers, all are needed in this effort to eliminate racism.

—Sandra McKee
Book Review

Hygieia — Healing Ourselves Naturally


Hygieia: the Greek goddess of health.

Hygieia bills itself as “a woman’s herbal” and it is just that, but much more as well. As its author Jeaninne Parvati points out most eloquently, in healing ourselves we are expanding both spiritually and politically. We learn to recognize and trust our inner powers and we reclaim the authority we have given away so often to doctors, healers, pharmacologists, and others. Hygieia asks us to reclaim this power, in a gentle, loving but very definite manner.

Parvati focuses on “finding female allies within the plant world,” that is, plants that will help us heal ourselves. In her search for such aids she has compiled an impressive amount of information, mythology, and Indian lore about plants that have been used over the centuries to ease menstruation, menopause, birth, and lactation.

She includes sections on balancers and toners for our hormonal systems, self health, aphrodisiacs, anaphrodisiacs (for those of us attempting celibacy, be it temporary or otherwise), herbal birth control, infertility, and more.

Her coverage is by no means complete, as she herself acknowledges; the information presented here is meant to be a seed planted in our lives nurtured by use. As a collection of information it is fascinating, but Hygieia’s real power lies in her use as a tool to transform our own beliefs and ideas about our bodies and health. She asks us to awaken to the power and responsibility we hold to heal ourselves and our sisters naturally.

Throughout the book are scattered goodies: a true life dialogue between Margaret Sanger and Mahatma Gandhi, a discourse on the moon, letters from women about their lives, poems, and photographs.

The graphics by Tamara Slayton Glenn and calligraphy by Quill Cleaver are uniformly excellent; the three creators of the work obviously held a common vision of what they wished to achieve.

Don’t just open the book anywhere and plunge in. Parvati has carefully organized all the material; her introductions to each section are vital for best understanding of the plants and ideas presented. There is a lot of material here, to be absorbed slowly and in small doses. If your interest in the plant kingdom is thoroughly sparked by Hygieia, a very helpful cross-reference would be The Herb Book by (pardon!) John Lust. It includes sketches, doses, etc., of almost every herb imaginable arranged in alphabetical order. It is the cheapest and best book on herbs I know of.

So if you wish to share in a treasure given to us by three creative sisters, treat yourself to a look at Hygieia, and begin to draw from that infinite pool of healing which is your Self.

—Ampao

‘Still Beat Noble Hearts’

Margaret Fuller Dramatized

Margaret Fuller was a remarkable woman: a philosopher, author, literary critic, magazine editor, a lecturer on woman’s rights, a newspaper reporter and foreign correspondent (for Horace Greeley’s New York Tribune).

She was a contemporary and colleague of Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Horace Mann, Bronson Alcott and others who made Boston in the 1830s and 40s a center of intellectual ferment.

Actress-writer Laurie James has put together excerpts from Margaret Fuller’s articles and letters in the form of a one-woman show entitled Still Beat Noble Hearts. Billed as a “dramatic portrait of a forgotten American genius whose thoughts are as alive today as a century ago,” it was presented at the MPC Music Hall, Friday evening, Jan. 18.

The purpose of this endeavor is worthy, for its subject deserves to be far more widely known than she is at present. Its overall effect, however, is less than satisfying. The material has not been shaped into an artistic and coherent whole. Instead of building to a climax or conclusion, it simply ends with an announcement that she is about to leave for Europe. Only a program note reveals the dramatic events of her sojourn abroad and tragic death. The impact of her life and thought, the subtleties of her personality and motivation, are left undefined.

The use of slides to depict significant places and people is an effective device for staging a production in the variety of locations found on the road. It’s fun to see Emerson and the gang in their youthful vigor and good looks, rather than as the usual elderly bearded personages. How ironical though that a supposedly feminist production does not include glimpses of the many lively intelligent women of the day, such as the Peabody sisters, who are mentioned in the text but never shown!

There are wonderful quotations from Margaret Fuller included that one longs to have access to. Alas, the program contains no bibliographical information on the availability of her works or of material about her.

The West Coast tour is scheduled by Women in Transition of Berkeley, an ecumenical ministry to promote “women’s words, works, and wisdom.” Unfortunately, these particular words need more work if the wisdom is to be truly transmitted.

—Polly Parker
Photos By
LOOKOUT!
The Second Annual Women's Variety Talent Show is now being organized. If you're interested in working on the project please call 372-4466 or 373-6987.
Women who are interested in performing should start practicing their act now. Auditions are set for Saturday, March 15 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 16 at 1 p.m.
So LOOK OUT!!
Two New Women

Remember those
two women back there?
The ones that
worried about setting
their hair?
Where did they go?
You don't know?
What women
are these?
Themselves wanting
to please
They look so similar
yet can't be the same
Their features alike
And even their name
The two women I knew
didn't know what to do
They were pretty and nice
behaved just right
Their homes were
such a pleasant sight
Their husbands came first
through their family came purpose
They cared for others well
Their bodies they
could almost sell
They surely fulfilled
Their roles so well
Where did they go?
You don't know.
Look at these women
almost the same
Yet their heads
are held higher
They walk with
imminent strength
There's a power
within them
From their very
being it swells
Their bodies are strong
Their directions are sure
To themselves they are true
They live from the inside out
They can see
Even through steel
They love hard
And request the toughest
They say life is for them
They want it all now
To share in their lives
They make a firm request
To be admitted
You may give
Only your best!

It's so new
Having a friend
Like you
A woman
to share
Our deepest dreams
And celebrate
Our strengths
A woman
With fire
In her heart
For growing
Willing to adventure
Always on the
Closest edge
Of friendship
Seeking more
Pushing for more
Alive and
Ready to go
Sparkling and zany
Creatively living
And loving.

Poetry By
Judy Roth

Alive again
This morning
The ocean's forces
Mixed with mine
Salt air filling my body
Electrical energy
StIRRING within
Back bending
Waves coming and going
As rich sea air
Enters and leaves me
Standing close to my friend
Currents flowing through us
The waves that are
The sea gulls in flight
The movement of life
Shooting through our bodies
For we are connected
We are one with all
Life's energy force unites.
I hardly ever admit this anymore, but in 1977, when Congress decided not to provide funding for Medicaid abortions, I was in agreement. I remembered back to my college days, when we were all poor students and abortions were illegal (and expensive). I remembered that when friends found themselves in such a predicament, they always managed, by hook or by crook, to raise the necessary funds. I was positive that welfare women too would somehow arrange for their abortions. My tax dollars weren't needed for this.

Now, however, I realize that I had been wrong. Denial of Medicaid funding is clearly a violation of civil rights. How could we pretend to offer equal protection of the laws, if we arbitrarily deny welfare women free medical services for some needs and not for others. Now to the interesting development:

In a stirring and bold opinion, Judge John Dooling of the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn declared funding denial to be unconstitutional. He has ordered Washington to lift the restriction by Feb. 15 and to offer funds for all medical abortions sought by the poor. The decision gives hope that the federal courts, which opened the way to a rational, humane abortion policy, will now permit one to be carried out.

If Judge Dooling's decision is upheld on appeal, the government will resume an appropriately neutral role in the abortion decisions of poor women. The decision contends that Congress may not exclude abortions from coverage of the otherwise comprehensive Medicaid program. Such restrictions, he said, violate the First Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion or conscience and the Fifth Amendment guarantee of due process and equal protection of the laws. He also held that poor women have an even stronger claim to abortion on medical grounds than women with more means, who are generally healthier.

The decision also is remarkable because for the first time, a federal court has recognized that women may seek to terminate a pregnancy for deeply religious or "conscientious" reasons. Conservative and Reform Jews, he finds, teach that the mother's welfare must always be the primary concern. The American Baptist Church believes abortion is up to the woman and can be justified for many health reasons. The United Methodist Church condones abortion for various reasons. Such teachings, says the judge, "in the mainstream of the country's religious beliefs... exact the legislative tolerance that the First Amendment assures."

The Dooling decision is also the first to challenge the federal law on Fifth Amendment grounds. The judge finds the funding denial statute vague, discriminatory and an invasion of privacy. And he brushes aside the argument that courts may not tell Congress where not to spend money. Poor women have no specific constitutional right to free abortions, he finds. But once Congress decides to pay for any medically necessary services for the poor, it cannot exclude abortions.

The government has already appealed. All things considered, the Supreme Court could not ask for a richer or more eloquent document.
When I was asked to write this article for Demeter I was glad and wanted to do it, but I was also a little freaked. I had never written for an adult publication before, only for things like the school paper. I might as well get the basics out of the way. My name is Lisa Miller. I'm 14 years old and in the ninth grade at Colton Junior High. I'm a feminist, and if you ask me, very happy.

My first real exposure to feminism was in 1973 when I was seven. My mom, Kate Miller, went back to school. I never had a "Moment of Enlightenment" as far as feminism goes. It came on gradually, for I was being pushed on all sides.

On the feminist side were my mother, my adult friends, and Holly Near's songs. On the other side were many of my peers, much of the media (I was a gullible little kid), and my reading books at school.

But, my mom was my major influence, and when the TV was stolen she refused to buy another one. So, the equilibrium was toppled and I became a feminist somewhere around the age of eight.

My dad didn't have much to do with all this. He didn't really care. All he wanted was to find somewhere to live up in the mountains — away from everybody. He's pretty much succeeded in doing that, except he's in the desert in Utah, where I spend most of my summers.

Whenever someone screws up one eye, looks at me, and asks, "Are you a Woman's-libber?" I always answer that I prefer the word feminist. When people hear the words "Woman-libber" they think of a bra-burning, man-hating person, which I'm not. Webster's New World Dictionary defines feminism as "The principle that women should have political, economic and social rights equal to those of men." However, feminism holds some extras for every person.

For me, the hardest part of being a feminist is dealing with my peers at school. Often I'm simply passed off as a fanatic going through a phase. (If I am, it's an awful long phase.) As a result, I find myself just passing on offending jokes about women and homosexuality, only saying something if it gets really obnoxious. It's hard, though, to separate two such dominant parts of my life as school and feminism. I do an awful lot of wincing whenever one of my teachers starts off on another talk about how no matter who's there first the man opens the door, helps the woman out of the car, up the steps, and to the table.

Outside of school, I'm much more outspoken on the subject of feminism. I've managed, with the help of my mother, to sway some members of our family. So, I do manage to accomplish some advertising.

Often when people find out that my parents are divorced, they start in with stuff like: "Oh, you poor thing! How could they have done such a thing? I would have waited until the children had grown and left. They didn't even make sure you had a brother or sister to play with. These broken homes are the problem with our society these days!"

Well, getting divorced was the best thing my parents ever did for me. The second best thing was to make sure I did not have a brother or sister to play with. (I don't know anybody who plays with their brothers and sisters anyway.) If my parents hadn't gotten divorced, my mother would be miserable, my father would be miserable, and, most important of all, I'd be miserable. We'd also probably be living in Los Angeles. My parents simply don't belong together. The only thing broken about my home is the paint that's beginning to peel off the wall in my closet.

This time of year I spend most of my time doing school work. But whenever I get a chance I try to get out of my books. I'm a member of the Y.W.C.A., and am on the teen needs assessment committee.

After I graduate from high school, I'm pretty sure I'll go on to college. I don't know what I'll major in, but I do know that it will be in math or the sciences.

About marriage — I don't know if I will get married or not, but I do know that it won't happen until I'm sure that I can support him. Or, if it feels O.K. to let him support me, I'll still have to have some back-up just in case I find myself in a position where I have to support myself and any children.

Having children is also a controversial feminist issue. At this point, I don't think that I'll have any children myself. However, I do think I would like to adopt children. The world is so overpopulated that there is no point in bringing more children into being when there are so many here already that need some care.

—Lisa Ann Miller

Just as long as newspapers and magazines are controlled by men, every woman upon them must write articles which are reflections of men's ideas. As long as that continues, women's ideas and deepest convictions will never get before the public.

—Susan B. Anthony