In Santa Cruz June 14

Women Take Back The Night

Last February over 1,000 women marched through the UC Santa Cruz campus in protest of violence against women. From that a collective was formed dedicated to extending the spirit of Take Back The Night in Santa Cruz County.

This spirit is an empowerment of women, an invitation to women to join in large numbers and fight back against a society that legitimates violence against women.

We, as women, face either the threat or the reality of violent abuse daily in our lives. It is so familiar that we've become accustomed to fear, a realistic and justifiable fear which is too often dismissed as paranoia.

If we try to prosecute our rapists and batterers in the courts, we are seldom taken seriously and many times blamed for the violence committed against us. By ridicule, guilt and isolation we are kept silent and invisible, each alone in our fear.

A Take Back The Night march is an act of protest against this injustice and against our invisibility. How many of us have ever strolled through our town unafraid at night? Together we can walk and be seen, not as victims, but as strong women supporting one another. We can march for the freedom of our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, and ourselves: in marching together we will overcome the lies that divide us and envision a time when every woman will be free.

Please join the next Take Back The Night march on June 14 in Santa Cruz. The rally begins at 7 p.m. in front of the county building and the march begins at 9 p.m. “Together we can make a safe home.”

Women’s Community Mural Project Underway

Is there life after dissipation? That’s what Kathleen Elvin wanted to know after she announced the discontinuation of the Pacific Grove Art Center’s Community Mural Project, of which she was the director and driving force.

Elvin states that she was unable to complete the Mural Project intended for the Caribbean Hotel wall, after the new director of the PG Art Center reversed the Center’s agreements and commitments with the Mural Project.

It is with Elvin’s dedication to making public art that she turned to our ever-growing and dependable women’s community and asked, “What about a Women’s Mural?” She asked this of Demeter Resources, KAZU and Antioch University. The result has been the formation of a task force whose purpose is to celebrate the local women’s community with a mural depicting portraits of outstanding and

Continued on page 7
An Editorial

Women Against Pornography

One of the more emotional and powerful issues in feminism today is the fight against pornography. Susan Brownmiller in her book, Against Our Will, calls pornography "the undiluted essence of anti-female propaganda." It is becoming increasingly evident to women taking back the night in city after city that domestic abuse, rape and street violence are stimulated by pornography.

To a rapist or wife-beater, a hard core porn movie/magazine can in fact be a do-it-yourself manual on violence. Former San Francisco police Lt. Jordan said that there are fewer and fewer "clean" rapes occurring now. Often, the victim is not only raped, but further tortured in the style of a scene from a movie or television show.

Pornography is often hard to define. There are soft and hard core films from bondage to torture and in the extreme, murder, called "snuff" films. It is set up as a regular pornographic movie, but somewhere in the film a woman is actually murdered while the man ejaculates. Supposedly, they are filmed in South America, where, as the ad says, "life is cheap."

Pornography is big business. In San Francisco alone, the industry grosses some $20 million annually. Hustler is the second largest selling magazine in the United States. One of Hustler's more disturbing covers showed a woman turned upside down into a meat grinder with only her bottom torso visible and meat coming from the grinder.

Pornography is a sensitive subject complete with sex, perversion and violence, all of which are hard to look at, yet are abundant around us.

There are several groups fighting to bring pornography out from under the counter and into the public eye. Women Against Violence and Pornography in Media (WAVPM) is one such group, formed in 1976 to deal with the barrage of abusive images of women in the media. Its main target is violent porn.

Violent pornography is not limited to X-rated movies and magazines. A few years ago Max Factor released a moisturizing cream called "Self Defense." Campaign slogan for the new product was "A pretty face isn't safe in this town, fight back with Self Defense." After complaints to the manufacturer, the ad was changed.

In 1977, in Hollywood, there was a billboard advertising a Rolling Stones' album. It was a picture of a woman bound, beaten and smiling with the quotation, "I'm black and blue from the Stones and I love it."

That was just one of many album covers and ads depicting violence against women. The Ohio Players are notorious for abusive album jackets. One cover depicts a woman with her hands bound over her shaved head with the title "Pleasure" next to her.

WAVPM launched a long boycott of Warner Bros., Elektra and Asylum records that recently got results. Corporate executives said that advertising and promotions would no longer use violence against women.

Nearby in Santa Cruz, Deborah Spray triumphed over the Stack of Wheat prints.

The examples are endless, not all have such nice endings. Here in Monterey you can't go into a liquor store without being bombarded with porn magazines.

Obviously, pornography is yet another blatant example of misogyny that needs correcting. All of us suffer from its effects: men who are indoctrinated with a perverse and dangerous sexuality; teenage boys who often have no other role models; neighborhood business people whose stores suffer from the blight that porn brings to the nearby areas; and most, women and children who are the targets of pornography.

There is a split among feminists over the issue of censorship. I don't believe that censorship is the solution. It's usually used against us instead of in our favor. I believe our best tools in ending pornography are education, actively working with groups such as WAVPM and opening up our eyes and seeing what's going on, no matter how unpleasant it is.

-JT Mason

New Subscribers

Thanks and welcome to our new subscribers.

Helen Woods
Debra Plotsky
Diane Richard
Allye Hobson-Robinson
Patty Ryan
Rosemary Matson
Marie O' Rielly
Mary Corey
Cammie Benoit
Claudia Daniels
Harriet Hilker
Marcś Cain
John Steinbeck Library
Judy Karas

Editors: JT Mason
Production: Joan Weiner
Graphics: Barbara Bastian
Reporters: Janie Forrest
Polly Parker
Sandra McKee

Demeter is a feminist publication designed to keep women informed of pertinent issues. Contributions of articles, graphics and money are welcome. Subscriptions are $3.00 for six months or $6.00 for one year. Mail check or money order to Demeter, 591 Lighthouse, No. 7, Pacific Grove CA 93950.
**Letters to the Editor**

**Artist Forced To Discontinue PG Caribbean Hotel Mural Project**

Editor:

It is with extreme disappointment and frustration that I announce the discontinuation of the Pacific Grove Art Center’s Community Mural Project on the Caribbean Hotel and all related activities. This decision was made when it became clear to me that the interference by the Art Center’s new director, Patty Morton Davis, could not be stopped and the Art Center’s Board of Directors lacked the intelligent leadership necessary to uphold their commitments to the Mural Project.

The loss of mailing privileges and CETA apprentices since April 1 has meant that important grant application deadlines were missed, publicity campaigns and fund-raising events were seriously hampered and the community outreach and education programs were hopelessly lost, not to mention the apprentices’ wages which were frozen without notice or recourse for three weeks causing serious financial problems.

These problems, caused by the continual interference of Patty Morton Davis and the incompetence and neglect of the Board of Directors, were too overwhelming for the Mural Project or me to withstand. Although I appreciate the efforts of the Board members who tried to alleviate the crisis, they apparently lacked the influence to be effective, i.e., too little, too late.

It is truly flabergasting to me how one person can, in so little time, undo what took so many so long to create.

I am currently negotiating a new, smaller mural project with several organizations. If we can save most of the major contributions being returned from the Caribbean Hotel project, a smaller wall would be paid for. Perhaps if we can pick up the pieces from the Art Center’s shredding machine and succeed with a new mural project, we could regain the strength to attempt the Caribbean Hotel wall sometime in the future.

I am committed to the concept of Public Art in our community. I will announce a new project as soon as agreements are cemented.

I can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box GM, Pacific Grove, 93950, or by phoning 372-4466.

Kathleen Elvin
Pacific Grove

**Source of Pleasure**

Editor:

I want to thank you for your beautiful treatment of my poem, Source of Strength. I was touched you wanted to use it and even more touched to see what you did with it.

Carol Silverstone
Pacific Grove

**Notes From Demeter**

Do you ever wonder why an event or news item wasn’t covered in *Demeter*? Why there aren’t more cartoons or graphics? Why more books and movies aren’t reviewed? The answer is very simple — our staff members can’t cover the span that our 250 subscribers can.

It takes all of our individual energies every month to get *Demeter* out as comprehensively as we do and we still miss a lot! That’s where you come in, dear reader.

Have you heard any good feminist humor lately? Seen a good movie? (Or a bad one?) Do you have some strong feelings on a social or political problem or an injustice that you’d like to share with the community? *Demeter* is asking you, our readers and main interest, to help us become more complete in these areas. We’re asking you to look through this issue and if you read something or see something you think you would do differently — do it! If you attend any of the functions listed in our community news and events, report on them for us.

And most importantly, even if you don’t have articles or art to contribute, tell us what you want in and from *Demeter*. Communicate with us and we’ll do our best to keep you informed and amused.

We FINALLY have a telephone! Thanks to a generous contribution from one of our readers, we have been able to get a phone installed in our Pacific Grove office. The number is 375-5629.

The office, located at 591 Lighthouse Ave., Room 7, is staffed Monday through Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. If you’d like to meet the anonymous women of the staff box, please drop by, or call during those hours.

If anyone knows where we can get an answering machine, reasonably priced, please let us know.
YWCA
Friday, June 27 will be a “Women’s Evening at the Women’s Center,” an evening of music making, poetry reading and refreshment. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA’s Women’s Center, 276 Eldorado, Monterey. Women are encouraged to bring musical instruments and poetry. The Center will ask for a 50-cent donation.

The YWCA will sell tickets at the Laguna Seca Races on Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22. Volunteers are needed for this fund-raising project.

Women for Women will hold a potluck meeting at the YWCA on Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m.

YWCA Summer Teen Mothers Program will begin Monday, June 23. Call 649-0834 for more information.

Women’s Health Task Force — A fact finding group to explore the health resources and needs of women. Call for next meeting date.

Women’s Center — General meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Y, 5:15 p.m. for anyone interested in the development of the Women’s Center. Scheduled meeting is June 18.

Women’s Run/Walk, sponsored by the Women’s Center, will be held July 19. Sponsors are needed. A tax-deductible donation of $25 or more will sponsor a runner. Volunteers interested in working on any of the phases of the run/walk may call the Y for more information.

Call the YWCA, 649-0834, for registration and/or information on any of the above programs.

NWPC
Will meet Thursday, June 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Home Savings Building next to K-Mart in Seaside. For more information, call Phyllis Turner at 1-449-7292.

WADV
Women Against Domestic Violence general meeting will be held Wednesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 276 Eldorado, Monterey. Speaker will be John Philips, Assistant District Attorney.

Speakers training session will be held Monday, June 23, 6-9 p.m. at the Y. Anyone who has completed advocate training is welcome.

Planned Parenthood
A reminder that the main office has moved from Pacific Grove to new facilities at 5 Via Joaquin, Monterey. Phone number for appointments remains the same: 373-1691. New administrative number is 373-1709.

Dance Classes
CJ McArthur is offering two dance classes through the Monterey Parks and Rec Dept. “Beginning Luigi Dance” will run six Tuesday nights, June 17-July 22 from 7:30-9 p.m. Fee is $15 for Monterey residents; $18 for non-residents. “Dance Exercise” will run for six weeks, Monday and Wednesday nights, 6-7 p.m. beginning June 16. Fee is $18 for Monterey residents, $23 for non-residents.

Both classes will be held at the Monterey Youth Center, 777 Pearl St. Registration begins June 2 at the Rec Dept., 546 Dutra, 646-3866.

A series of “Afro Technique” dance classes, taught by Lambert van Buuren, begins Friday, June 6, from 5-7 p.m. in the Sky Room of the San Carlos Hotel, Monterey. Fee is $4 per class at the door, $3.50 in advance. For more information, call 372-6680.

Womens’ Group
A small, intensive six week group session for women will be led by June Schwartz beginning Monday, June 16. The group will be limited to eight women and is open to those who have taken a course of Women in Search of Self at MPC with Ms. Schwartz. It will meet Mondays, June 16-July 21 and all day Saturday, July 19. For is $80. Call after June 8, 624-2457.

Women’s Center Calendar
Have you had the frustrating experience of discovering that two activities you wanted to participate in were scheduled on the same day? This is becoming more and more of a problem as the women’s community grows.

The YWCA’s Women’s Center is trying to do something about it, but needs everyone’s help to be successful. The Center maintains a central calendar and asks that when you or your group plans an activity, that you notify the Center. This way, conflicts in scheduling can be avoided and the Center has up-to-date information to make available to any woman requesting it.
Local and National News Briefs

Business Leaders Support ERA

Calling support for the ERA “simple human justice and simply sound business,” 50 top corporate leaders announced they will work for ratification through active participation in the National Business Council for ERA. The business council was organized by the League of Women Voters and actress-businesswoman Polly Bergen.

— Women's Political Times

Men Say Midwives Not "Expert" Enough

A California Senate committee has killed a bill that would have allowed midwives to deliver babies at home. The bill would have licensed midwives to deliver babies in normal childbirth in homes, hospitals or clinics, after they had completed two years of training and passed an examination.

The all-male opposition to the bill came mostly from obstetrician and pediatrician groups, who said that midwives would not have enough expertise to deal with the 10 percent of births which often use drugs and Caesarians.

The bill was supported by midwife and home birth groups as well as by the California Nurses Association and Governor Brown.

— San Francisco Chronicle

Equality Is Good For Our Mental Health!

A study of the mental health of Manhattanites which began in 1952 has found that women's mental health has increased dramatically. Researchers Leo Srole and Anita Kassen Fischer of Columbia University attribute the increase to greater social opportunities which became available to the women when they were in their formative years.

From these facts, the researchers conclude that large doses of social equality should be given to those in groups with a less than health-sustaining supply. Further, Fischer and Srole conclude, passage of the ERA could be viewed as "primary preventive medicine."

— The New York Times

Lesbian/Gay Health Conference in SF

The Third National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference will be held at San Francisco State, June 19-22. The overall conference goal is to improve health care for lesbians and gay men through education, organizing for social change and construction of communication and support networks. For more information, write to Program Committee, NLGHC, P.O. Box 6189, San Francisco, 94110.

— San Jose NOW Newsletter

But No Change For Roman Catholics

Sexist vocabulary will remain in the prayers of the Roman Catholic Church according to the bishops conference meeting in Washington, D.C., which voted to retain gender specific language rather than "inclusive" language in the Mass and central prayers of the church.

— Women's Political Times

FDA Advises Women of Drug Ripoff

The Food and Drug Administration advisory committee has declared that AVC cream, one of the most widely prescribed drugs to women with vaginitis infections, should be banned because it is ineffective and constitutes a $50 million a year ripoff to women.

— Ms.

More Sugar Blues

Women who eat less refined sugar, less fat, and less meat may have the best chance of avoiding breast cancer, according to a recent Scottish study.

Breast cancer rates were analyzed in relation to child-bearing, various differences in diet, and other factors in 41 countries.

The report showed that the consumption of refined sugar was the single strongest factor linking diet to breast cancer. It was also found that women who consumed high quantities of meat were more likely to get breast cancer than those who stuck to a mainly vegetarian diet.

— Her Say

Women Working With Women Conference Set

The first annual West Coast Conference for Women Working With Women in Counseling and Psychotherapy will be held June 7 and 8 in San Francisco. Conference aims: to address theoretical and practical concerns of women working with women; to focus on social and cultural perspectives; to stimulate dialogue and networking; and to provide experimen-tal learning in various therapeutic modalities. Sliding scale fee from $50 to $100. For more information, call the Center for Feminist Therapy and Education, 944 Market St., San Francisco, 94102, (415) 397-2023.

— Plexus

United Way Nixes Feminist Group

A feminist group has been denied membership in the United Way of Southeast Pennsylvania because of an agreement between the charitable umbrella organization and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The fund-raising agreement with the archdiocese' Catholic Charities Appeal includes a rider authored by John Cardinal Krol guaranteeing that United Way will not fund services or programs contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

Women's Way, the coalition of six women's groups that was turned down by United Way, includes organizations that offer abortion referrals and family-planning services.

As early as 1977, charges surfaced that the United Way was biased against women.

— Mother Jones

Women's Room Aired

Marilyn French's best-selling novel, The Women's Room, is being made into a TV movie by ABC.

The novel, which remained on the best-seller list for over a year, tells the story of a group of women discovering their senses of self-worth. The TV movie will star Lee Remick, Patty Duke Austin and Colleer Dewhurst, and will be telecast later this year.

— Her Say
Local and National News Briefs

Positive Expectations

A pregnant woman’s attitude toward her pregnancy can affect the health of her unborn child. That’s the finding of Dr. Virginia Lauaean and Dr. Bea J. Van Den Berg of the University of California at Berkeley. The researchers studied more than 8,000 pregnant women who received the same basic care during pregnancy.

They found that among women who did not want to be pregnant but didn’t have abortions, there was a significantly higher risk to the fetus and the newborn child.

The researchers said that for women with negative attitudes about pregnancy, the death rate of fetuses was about 60 per 1,000 pregnancies. The death rate for newborns of women who resented their pregnancies was about 28 per 1,000. For women happy about their pregnancies, however, the death rate for newborns was only 11 per 1,000.

—Her Say

Latinas Set Priorities

The first National Hispanic Feminist Conference took place in San Jose, March 28-31, with 1,000 women of Cuban, Puerto Rican, Latin American and Mexican ancestry voting to support such issues as abortion, lesbian rights, and the independence of Puerto Rico.

The conference, held to determine an agenda of priorities for Hispanic women in the '80s, was financed by the Women’s Educational Equity Act Program of the federal Office of Education.

The group decided to refer to themselves as “Latinas” rather than “Hispanic.” The only issue which received unanimous support was the equal rights amendment.

—New York Times

British “Parent God”

The British Council of Churches is urging young people to address their prayers to “Parent God” instead of to “Father God” and to confess to the sin of sexism. In a book, Pocket Praise, published by the Council and intended for use by young people throughout Britain and Ireland, prayers include:

—“Give us a vision of equality, which transcends that of the human lawmakers.”

—“Free us from the prejudice about the roles of the sexes. Make us aware of what we have done when we deny another’s potential by categorizing that person in terms of sex.”

—“Teach parents, Parent God, the art of allowing their children to live their own lives.”

Next, the Council is planning to release a controversial document on human sexuality.

—National NOW Times

Sex Bias Persists In Girls’ Education

Teachers are still discouraging girls from taking vocational courses that would lead to high-paying jobs, despite federal orders to end sex bias in education, according to a government study released recently. According to HEW’s Office of Education, “Deeply embedded sex roles...are so firmly based that the fact that all classrooms are open to both sexes has made little difference.”

The report stated that state and local school administrators (who are overwhelmingly male) “still adhere to taboos that discourage breaks with tradition...these practices include unwritten understandings that some courses are for a single sex only.”

—National NOW Times

Hands Off

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has spelled out its interpretation of the federal law that prohibits sexual harassment by employers.

The Commission defines harassment as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature” if submission is made a condition of employment or assignment, or if such conduct interferes with work performance or work environment.

The regulations apply to federal, state, and government agencies, and to private employers with 15 or more employees. The rules can be enforced by administrative action, or in court, by awards of back pay, reinstatement, promotion, or other remedies available under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Commission officials hope that the new rules will encourage employees to come forward with their complaints.

—Sojourner

House Approves Funds For Battered Wives

The U.S. House has approved and sent to the Senate a $65 million, three-year program to provide shelter and other services for battered wives, children and other victims of domestic violence.

Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), one of the bill’s sponsors, said that an estimated 1.8 million women are beaten every year and one-eighth of all murders in the nation are committed by spouses.

—National NOW Times

UN Conference To Meet In Copenhagen

In July, women from around the world will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, 1980. The decade, 1976-1985, is an outgrowth of International Women’s Year and the recommendations of the Mexico City conference.

The decade holds as its themes: equality, development and peace. The Mid-Decade Conference will assess progress to date in achieving the goals of the World Plan of Action and will recommend a specific program of action for the second half of the decade.

The specific sub-theme areas of the conference are education, employment, and health.

The World Conference is an official government-to-government conference sponsored by the UN. The US delegation (20 persons plus two members of the House of Representatives and two Senators) will be guided by positions developed by the Department of State, and interested Americans who attend 10 one- or two-day conferences in various US cities. A conference is scheduled in San Francisco June 6-7.

The International Festival of Women Artists will be held in the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Museum in Copenhagen, coincident with the Conference. Women artists from around the world are expected to participate in the Festival.

—Sojourner
Women’s Mural—
Continued from page 1
accomplished women who have provided role models for us all.

With enthusiastic consent from the women-owned Cafe Balthazar’s proprietors and building owner, providing a wall for the project; plans for a series of seminars open to the public to learn about and complete the mural, either for credit or not, with Antioch College; and documentation of the entire process, the mural project is underway.

The task force would like to hear from any other women business owners who may be interested in their wall space becoming part of a “mural tour.” Send inquiries to Demeter.

A public meeting has been set for Tuesday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cafe Balthazar, 170 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, where your feedback and participation will be encouraged.

Demeter will run a survey to help determine the women who will be represented in the mural, so start thinking now about those women who have made a difference in your life on the Peninsula.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the Women’s Mural Project.

Medicaid Funds For Abortion

The Supreme Court has accepted for review two cases that concern Medicaid funding for abortion: Harris v. Mccrae and Zbaraz v. Quern.

Both cases ask the Court to decide the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits the use of federal money for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or where the health of the mother is seriously threatened. Abortion is one of the issues that confound and divide the justices every year.

In both cases, lower courts found the Hyde Amendment unconstitutional. In Mccrae, the judge denounced it as abridging “the most fundamental rights” of liberty under the Fifth Amendment and of religious freedom under the First Amendment. In Zbaraz, the judge said the amendment discriminates against the poor.

A decision is due by the end of this term — June 30, 1980. The implications of such a decision are vast.

If the Supreme Court decision finds the limitations on Medicaid funding for abortion do not violate the Constitution, it is anticipated that every funding bill at the federal and state levels will be amended to prohibit use of any funds for abortion or related services. This action could stretch from the Medicaid funding for poor women to all private health insurance whether obtained through employers or individually, as such insurance is regulated by the state.

If the Supreme Court decision finds that the limitations on Medicaid funding for abortion are unconstitutional, then the legal basis for challenging all other current funding restrictions will be established.

Further, a condemnation of the Medicaid restrictions as unconstitutional will narrow the focus of the abortion controversy to its most elemental form — a constitutional amendment banning abortion. This effort will probably be intensified, in Congress and through calls for a constitutional convention. An anti-abortion constitutional amendment threatens all reproductive rights.
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>International Children's Day</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Women's Concert, Oakland Auditorium, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Rape Crisis advocate and educator training, New Monterey Community Center, 9:30</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>We need calendar items, please keep us informed of what's happening of interest to women</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Rape Crisis advocate and educator training, 9:30</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Gay Pride Week, June 23-29</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Gay Day Parade, S.F.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Women's Group begins. Call June Schwartz, 624-2457</td>
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<td>Women's mural project public meeting, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Women's Rap Group, 7:30</td>
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<td>Women For Women Workshop, YWCA, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Women's Rap Group, 7:30</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>YWCA sells tickets at Laguna Seca Races</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>International Women's Year Conference, Mexico City, 1975</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Rape Crisis advocate and educator training, all day</td>
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Calendar by Lisa de Garrido
Signing As A Political Issue

An Interview With Sandra Faulkner

Sandra Faulkner is a sign language interpreter who has provided interpretation for many performers including Joan Baez, Cris Williamson, River and seven of the recent Holly Near/Robin Flower concerts. She is a versatile and captivating performer.

In this interview Sandra talks about her experiences and growth with signing.

Q. What is sign language?
A. It's basically taking something that was said and translating it into conceptual signs that communicate what was just said in English. There are two main kinds of signing, American Sign Language and Signed Exact English. I much prefer American Sign Language (ASL) and mainly use it in my interpretation.

Q. What is the difference between the two?
A. American Sign Language is a more conceptual form, with its own specific word order. For example, the sentence "The sky is beautiful today" would translate "Today sky beautiful." You state the time of the action at the beginning and the to be verbs are forgotten. With Signed Exact English there is a sign for every English word. It is used more in the education system and takes much longer to translate. Also, it can be confusing. In translating "at a drop of a hat" exactly, word for word, you lose the idea of the sentence, whereas ASL has its own idioms and flows more easily. Sometimes people combine the two and that form is called Siglish. Though it is not taught, it is a recognizable form of signing — the gray between the black and white of the other two.

Q. How did you get involved in interpreting?
A. I've been interpreting for a little over 18 months now. I have always been fascinated by movement but I found dance wasn't specific enough. All my dances were very political but there was always this vagueness that frustrated me. Sign language is a specific language that incorporates movement. I was so excited when I first saw it. Not only is it beautiful but it's an important form of communication.

My first class was at MPC. Then I went to California State at Northridge. Northridge is a fantastic school. I would attend classes from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., taught completely in ASL. It was quite an experience.

Q. How did you get into interpreting concerts?
A. My first one was the Joan Baez concert at Stanford. I went with a premonition that I might be asked to translate it. I sat in the audience about 15 rows away from the stage. I was interpreting the songs for a deaf person who was sitting next to me. During intermission Joan Baez's manager asked me to interpret. Though I wasn't really prepared, I thought I should do it. An opportunity like that doesn't often come along.

Q. How did you get involved in interpreting a song?
A. First, I panic. Then I look at the song's lyrics, especially the idioms. Most songs are written almost entirely in idioms. I take it paragraph by paragraph translating it literally, then conceptually. I end up writing my own poem choosing signs that are aesthetic and that capture the meaning of the song. I then have to make sure my signs fit into the rhythm of the song so that my translation will flow and be easy to read. That process takes a few hours depending on the song. "The Rock Will Wear Away" is a particularly hard song to translate. The first verse talks about a woman who is raped but it never uses the word rape. So I have to convey that message without losing the poetic license.

From there I have a deaf person watch me interpret the song and make changes according to her suggestions. Then Carolyn Hansen (an instructor of sign language at MPC) and I will polish it up. Then I have to memorize the signs. It's supposed to look spontaneous.

Q. How long does the process take?
A. If it is an easy song like "Waterfall," it will take two hours. "Waterfall" is easy because it is already written conceptually. A hard song, like "Believe I'll Run On" will take several days.

Q. What happens if you fall behind in a concert?
A. Usually I work with a teleprompter, Carolyn Hansen. She sits in the audience and is my second pair of ears because often I have no separate monitor and I have to share one. She has the words of the song and will help me if I get behind.
Sandra Faulkner—
Continued from page 10

Q. Where do you see your work evolving?
A. I see my work as a political interpreter. I like music so I like doing concerts, but I'll be doing some feminist retreats at Califa. Sign language is a political issue because it makes all information available to everyone, hearing and deaf alike.

Q. Do you think more and more entertainers will have interpreters at their concerts?
A. I don't know. It takes a special kind of performer to share the stage. For the deaf audience to get a similar experience as the hearing, the interpreter can't do just strict interpretation. That would be like having a poem read in monotone. It's an admirable thing for a performer to share the stage because there's bound to be divided attention.

Lynette Taylor really cleared the way for musical interpretation. Her style is very expressive and personal. She set up the ethics for it all.

Holly Near has also done a great deal of deaf education both on and off the stage. I really enjoyed working with her and Cris Williamson.

I sometimes worry that people's interest in signing is trendy, but I really don't think so. There is a play on Broadway done solely in ASL and Montana State has a Theater of Silence that tours the country.

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'Lolita Lebrón Car Fund'
Donations Sought For Puerto Rican Independence Movement Worker

On May 10, the women's community in Austin, Texas, held a fund-raising dinner for Lolita Lebrón, one of the most visible leaders of the Puerto Rican Independence movement. It was a direct and spontaneous effort to help further Lolita Lebrón’s work in Puerto Rico — and, generally, to make her life a bit easier — by purchasing a second-hand car for her. When the funds fell short of the goal, I was contacted to share the work with Monterey Peninsula women.

The Austin women's community feels a special connection with Lolita Lebrón because two of its members served time with her at Alderson — sharing a few of the 25 years she spent in federal prisons for attacking the U.S. Congress to bring the colonial reality of Puerto Rico before the eyes of the world on March 1, 1954.

Both women tell wonderful stories about Lolita Lebrón's work within the prison and of her unwavering patience, belief, determination and general revolutionary optimism. Each was strengthened and educated by Lebrón's analysis. Each was blessed by the example of her life.

Lolita Lebrón provides an important example for all women. She is active, articulate and well-defined. Her commitment to the Puerto Rican Independence movement is a commitment to self-determination for the people of Puerto Rico. It is a struggle against the exploitation of the people and the land. It is an expression of the rage and pain of the indigenous people's BORINQUEN being converted into the white man's "PUERTO RICO" or "RICH PORT."

Lolita Lebrón and her co-defendants, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores and Andres Figueroa Codero, were the longest-held political prisoners in the history of the United States — all spent the past quarter-century in prison and were not released until September 1979. Enduring the most compelling immobilty the government can design, they never deserted their struggle and continue as leaders of the Independence movement.

Lolita Lebrón has been presented many obstacles about which we can do nothing; yet we can help to relieve her physical, transportation, dilemmas. We can help her in her work in a very direct and practical way by providing her with money for a car.

We have a concrete way to demonstrate our solidarity with the Puerto Rican Independence movement. We can honor Lebrón's life and work while she is living and working — and while the "remembrance" will make her work easier. Thus we can say thank-you for her being an example of a strong, committed, courageous woman.

If you want to join in the work, please send your contribution to the "Lolita Lebrón Car Fund," c/o JoAnn Mullert, 3504 Robinson Street, Austin, Texas 78703; or c/o Cuca Hepburn, 321 Eardley Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 and I shall forward the money to Texas. — Cuca Hepburn
Documenting A Relationship

The Life of Lorena Hickok

Last month I read Doris Faber's recent biography, The Life of Lorena Hickok, E.R.'s Friend, still available only in hardback at $12.95. The newspaper reviews made the "relationship" between Hickok, a reporter of considerable eminence in the early 1930's, and Mrs. Roosevelt, who embarked on her career as the First Lady shortly before they met, seem altogether sensational and titillating.

Doris Faber is a scholar of impeccable skill; as a stylist, she is wooden, often a bit redundant, and seems often to be dropping into a whisper of dismay when she recounts the intimacies revealed by E.R.'s thousands of letters to her friend Hick.

Clearly, Faber undertook her task with no preconceptions of the nature of the relationship she was exploring, and she is most careful to avoid passing unseemly judgments. But as she reports the "facts" of Ms. Hickok's life, one sees a character emerging that even the rather "motherly" Faber admires.

The relationship with E.R. is only one, though certainly the most important, of the facets of Hick's life, and in some ways made Hick's struggle for success in her profession very difficult. Doubtless it was worth it. She was able to explore American in the years of the most disastrous depression, recording and reporting directly to Harry Hopkins, the relief administrator, as well as to her friend E.R.; both of these contacts permitted her to make a real difference in the way Roosevelt's government dealt with serious national problems.

When her job as Hopkins' spy-on-the-road ended, she faced the inevitable problem of professional women whose age and expertise were too valuable for employment in the reporting jobs open (the Spanish Civil War was the next challenge). At E.R.'s urging, she became a publicity person for the New York World's Fair — one of the not very subtle ways that E.R. kept her friend nearby, available to herself.

Faber is cautious about judging the intimate relationship. She dutifully records every vacation they took together, alone or with others. She quotes some of the rather passionate — certainly profoundly loving — letters, almost twice as many from E.R. to her friend as Hick wrote to E.R. — notes that they were constantly on the telephone when they weren't writing.

For months, Hick had a suite in the White House, was evidently accepted as a member of the "family" who had a special relationship with the First Lady that was never questioned.

After all this meticulous documentation, Faber makes only one different attempt to explain and put the special relationship in the perspective of the times; it is probable (or at least possible), and there is nothing much to indicate the contrary, that E.R. simply loved Hick, found her stimulating and even sometimes fascinating. E.R. clearly needed someone like Hick and never even considered that their intimacy might arouse gossip.

She was a woman capable of vast humanity, a fabulous vision of a better society — as everyone who knew her says: E.R. was a "great woman" in her own time and for a long time after.

Hick responded as best she could to this friendship that surpassed her own expectations. She was very probably a lesbian and had other love affairs during the time of her close friendship with E.R. She was a captive, in a sense, of the times and of her intimate life with E.R., who never let her down and often tried to make her circumstances more comfortable.

There is a period during which Hick lived on Long Island in a cottage rented from a rather wealthy friend — a few years for recovery from the professional battles she had fought. Even during this period, however, E.R. kept close and often took short vacations with her, as much to encourage and enspirt her friend as for the personal benefit she must have gained from the relationship.

So in spite of the sensationalism that our age might attach to the truly profound friendship of these remarkable women, it was "innocent" in our terms. It was neither disgraceful nor worthy of gossip. The book reveals two women whose friendship was the most important aspect of their lives for many years, but if they had been selfish or demanding, the history of the 1930s and 1940s might have been different.

— Suzy Sullens

Herland's Utopia

Sweet Feminist Dream

Charlotte Perkins Gilman wrote Herland as a serial for her magazine, The Forerunner, in 1915. The 1979 printing is the first time that Herland has ever appeared in separate book form.

Ann J. Lane, in her introduction to the book, gave a brief biographical sketch of Gilman. Lane noted that, in her seven-year career as creator of The Forerunner, Gilman wrote enough material to equal 28 full-length books, pertaining to subjects ranging from venereal disease to noise pollution. Gilman's commitment remained definitely to the rights of women and to socialism.

I wondered, as I read about this fascinating and prolific writer with such earthshaking ideas — even today, almost a century later, some of the notions Gilman had would have far-reaching effects — how it happened that history failed to give Gilman the recognition due her. I am pleased, though, that Gilman's feminist utopia is being brought to light by Ann J. Lane.

Herland's utopian civilization was long ago isolated geographically, at first a disorganized group of women. The women work to survive and begin developing as a civilization, evolving to the point of reproducing by parthenogenesis. Three men stumble upon this utopia built by women, supposing that, "This is a civilized country... There must be men."

The book sets a wonderful vision that confronts the issues of cultural conditioning based on gender, motherhood and cooperative societies.

To read Herland is to question the very foundation on which we all, women and men, stand. What a sweet dream to think of women of reality as the women in Herland, with the limitations removed, to reach the potentiality and make it an actuality. Yes, what a sweet dream.

— Sandra McKee
Women and Schizophrenia

Geri De Stefano, a psychic counselor and teacher for 14 years, recently moved to the Monterey Peninsula from San Francisco. In her work she has observed countless women schizophrenics and facilitated alternative, therapeutic processes for them. Demeter will publish three articles Ms. De Stefano has excerpted from her research on "split-mind" activity. The first provides a definition and historical perspective of schizophrenia.

Part I: Mystics and/or Maniacs?

Schizophrenia is defined as a psychosis marked by withdrawn, bizarre and sometimes delusional behavior, usually accompanied by intellectual and emotional deterioration. It is, unfortunately, one of those catch-all labels doctors often use when at a loss for a more specific diagnosis.

"Split-mind" activity, as the Greeks called this altered state of consciousness, has always been part of the fabric of the human condition. Whether the abnormal individual is labeled psychic or psychotic is determined by the time and culture in which s/he lives.

The early Greeks revered the individuals in their society who had the ability to make the transition from one state of reality to another. These people were seen as having a direct link to their gods and goddesses, and were trained as oracles.

The Greek oracles were sheltered from mainstream life and provided with everything they needed because they were, on the whole, incapable of dealing with the practical realities.

The trance or ecstatic states that allowed them to function as mediums would render them incoherent for extended periods of time. The longer the trance state lasted, the more visible the physical dysfunctions became. However, this altered state of consciousness was utilized for the good of the community and served a purpose.

How many modern oracles are drugged, institutionalized or invalidated by the system in the name of "normalizing" the individual? The Greeks revered the individuals in their society who had the ability to make the transition from one state of reality to another. These people were trained as oracles. How many modern oracles are drugged, institutionalized or invalidated by the system in the name of "normalizing" the individual?

The early Christian church spawned countless women mystics, prophets and political reformers, who combined spiritual transcendence with great practical ability. Deriving sustenance from their ecstatic states, these women emerged from relatively obscure lives to impose their wills and their reading of events upon the world.

St. Hildegard of Bingen, a woman of strength and character, apparently possessed powerful psychic gifts. The light within her drove her to denounce the corruptions of church and state.

St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) voluntarily withdrew from the world for three years and existed almost entirely within an ecstatic or contemplative state. As a result of a vision which passed her future work before her, she emerged as one of the leading humanitarian and political forces of her time.

However, St. Catherine and other Christian mystics experienced an increase of nervous instability, ill-health and unhealthy ecstatic states. These women were keenly aware of the differences between healthy and unhealthy ecstatic states, and some wrote at length on the subject.

These few historical examples should be sufficient to remind us that this altered state of consciousness we now call schizophrenia is not a new "problem." Through my research I have observed some common threads linking the mystics/maniacs of every time and culture.

These people share: an exceptionally mobile threshold of consciousness; a primary break with the "sense world;" a need to communicate their visionary states, very often in a creative or political way; a sense of being a medium for something "larger," usually divine; a marked degree of emotional and physical deterioration as a result of the ecstatic state.

Some cultures, past and present, not only recognize, but accept, these abnormal states — usually to the benefit of the individual and the community.

In cultures with a strong spiritual framework, these misfits are seen as mystics or seers. In more technologically advanced, less spiritual cultures, these same misfits are more likely to be labeled maniacs.

In this country today we see a lot of what I call "spiritual schizophrenia." Individuals strive to find a larger meaning for their lives — in fact can, and do, experience ecstatic states spontaneously — but have no framework for their experiences. What follows is a high degree of stress about not being "normal," which only accentuates the altered state. As a result, the individual experiences a type of fragmentation or splitting of the personality, a kind of "split mind."

Sometimes these people quietly go insane. And sometimes, out of sheer desperation, they are driven to seek help.

Next month: how some women are helped — "Put the Power Back Where it Belongs."
some spare words from the lone lesberado

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a wounded lesbian's frustrated ravings

my dearest great white straight lady
speaking so casually of “bisexual”
etc. and so on into the night
tenderly unfolding her new found love
for some man — sounds really great
as the impact of fantasized
words on my lips
slips
and unfathomable distances reveal themselves
so fantasies remain as fantasies
and dreams are still for slumber
wounded hearts will let go
someday
hurt and unfulfilled
sweet kisses like an unopened bottle
ferment in the closet
and passion pours itself
upon this poem

our loving
sweet kisses
holds
deepest knowing
comfort
glowing
soft boundaries
flowing
lasting changes
endless
growing
always comes back to you
full circle ’round
sweetness
home is where
heart thoughts
return
constant irregular rhythm
sweet rhyme embracing
always strays
back your way
whispers
how i love you

my time
will come
i know it
and then i will
remember
these long lonely
nights of soft jazz
alone and insecure
by the fire

my kitty
has a tummy
doing snow
and shadows
on her back
from clouds
that float by
i’m sitting here
drinking a beer
nothings too clear
except my dear
that i may be too near
the brink
of my lifetime
**Classified Ads**

Classified ads cost $1 for 3 lines. Send copy along with payment to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey, CA 93940. Ads must reach us by June 17 for inclusion in the July issue.


I WILL BE moving back to the Monterey Peninsula July 1. I am looking for a house/apt. to share with other women (lesbians or women who wouldn’t mind a lesbian) in their late 20’s or older. I’d like to live in Monterey, Pacific Grove or Carmel. I am neat, well-organized and a non-smoker. I would like to have a cat. Call Estalee after 6 p.m. at (415) 581-1662.

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Send 25¢ and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Route 3, Box 575, Carmel 93923 and receive an original postcard printed in limited editions.

The WOMEN’S MURAL is coming. Watch for it!

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**All Things Considered**

By Janie Forrest

... will return to this spot in our next issue

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**FEMINIST FRIENDSHIP**

Susan B. Anthony (left) and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (right) spent over 50 years together in a working friendship dedicated to women’s suffrage and rights. As partners in revolution, Elizabeth wrote many powerful speeches while Susan B. traveled throughout the country delivering them with inspiration. Radicals of their time, (post Civil War/pre Nineteenth Amendment), both women strongly advocated economic equality, dress reform, abolition and an immediate change in the laws regarding the legal status of women. — Cyndi Sumner

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A Continuing Series

Feminism — A Personal Perspective

Arriving at a feminist perspective is a profoundly personal experience. The process forces one to re-examine many unquestioned customs and relationships. Feminism helps women realize they have a right to make many more choices than society commonly permits. Through Demeter we hope in some way to reach every woman. Each month a woman will be writing a chronicle of the process she went through in becoming a feminist. We encourage others to send in their own accounts of their emergence as feminists.

I am a traveling saleswoman, 33 years old, and have been divorced twice. Feminism, until recently, has meant bra-burners, lesbians and man-hating radicals to me. Still most of my family, from Hoeton, Nebraska, believes that, too.

I got married when I was 17 to my high school sweetheart. I convinced myself that it was for love but now see that it was an escape from abusive parents and from Hoeton. We traveled around. He was a traveling salesman, a clerk, a truck driver and a fairly good husband. However, five years later, after two children, he walked out.

I was destroyed. My whole identity was in being Mrs. Tony Letry. There I was with two small boys, no skills and no identity. I searched everywhere for a replacement: church, bars, clubs, wherever I could. And, at last, I found him.

It was a storybook romance. He had a steady job, loved the boys and wanted to take care of me. And again I thought I had found love. At least I found another identity.

When the kids started school I decided to take some courses at the University of San Francisco. It was the best decision of my life. I was surrounded by exciting, vital people, and not just the male students, but females as well. At first it scared me and I guess envy was part of it, too. They could center on themselves and the knowledge they were gaining. I had some of that but being a wife and a mother began to feel too confining.

Feminism was still outside my realm. I read about it and yet it still scared me.

Then I became pregnant. I knew that if I carried it I’d end up having to quit school, at least temporarily, and I resented that. My husband certainly wasn’t going to help out the way I needed him to. So I went into counseling at the Women’s Health Collective. They were the only ones who would even discuss abortion.

The women there were so supportive and seemed to really care. I explored all the options. I ended up keeping the child, and my education, with the help of the child care center at school and those wonderful women.

My husband and I didn’t make it. He had married a traditional woman and wanted that kind of marriage but, though I’m far from liberated, I also am not the Barbie Doll wife I was before.

Along with the re-entry program at school I discovered that my life experiences had given me skills. I’m good at traveling and I’m pretty good at selling products. I have to put up with too many traveling salesman jokes but that aside, I love it.

I can’t say that feminism doesn’t still scare me a little, but I know that it has helped me make good changes in my life and I won’t just run from it anymore. In fact, I even attend a women’s support group in Santa Cruz, a little CR for the soul.

— Monica Hague

Demented Scoops Them All

— Jack Anderson reports in his syndicated column that the Agriculture Department is paying a University of Texas scholar $90,000 to find out why people become vegetarians. The research will delve into the backgrounds of selected vegetarians and the "socio-economic factors" that led to their gustatorial convictions. Carnivores will be questioned too, just to add balance to the study.

Remember, you saw it first in Demented.

Women Speak Out

A comic has to be aggressive — in control of the audience at all times, and, of course, women have never even been encouraged to be aggressive so, many women comics turn that aggression on themselves and become self-deprecating. It is easier for me as a lesbian, though, since my culture validates my aggression, my desire to succeed.

— Robin Tyler