Demeter Office Moves

17th Street Women's Building Opens Sept. 1

On September 1, Demeter Resources will join Kate Elvin Visual Arts and Katherine Stoner, attorney, in opening an office building in Pacific Grove. The new building is located at 229 17th Street, former location of Planned Parenthood.

Ms. Elvin, well known for her murals on The Granary and the Rogue Restaurant and currently working on the initial stages of the women's mural project on the Cafe Balthazar, titled "W.A.L.L. - Women's Achievements: a Limitless Legacy," will set up a studio in one portion of the building.

Feminist attorney Katherine Stoner will also share office space in the building. Ms. Stoner has been in private practice in Pacific Grove for the last year and is an instructor at the Monterey College of Law. She is available by appointment at 373-1993.

Demeter Resources will move from its previous location at 591 Lighthouse into the building, which will serve as office space and meeting room.

On September 10, Demeter Resources will sponsor a public forum on the topic of Women in Sports and the role Demeter as a feminist organization should play in sponsoring local women's athletic teams. The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. See article in this issue for more information.

Then, on September 11 we will open our regular board meeting to the public in an attempt to demystify our decision making process. (See editorial on page 2.)

Our office hours will continue to be Monday through Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. and our phone number remains the same: 375-5629.

There is temporary office space in the building available until early January. If you are interested in temporary occupancy, please contact Kate Elvin at 372-4466 or Demeter.

On Saturday, October 4 there will be an official open house/party for the building. Everyone is invited for wine, cheese and celebration.

W.A.L.L. Project Survey Continues

Women's Achievements: A Limitless Legacy is the name of the mural project for the Cafe Balthazar. But that legacy will be shown only if we show it.

The project is under the direction of Pacific Grove artist Kathleen Elvin and is jointly sponsored by Demeter Resources, Antioch University Monterey and radio station KAZU.

The mural will be a collage of portraits of local women chosen for their outstanding accomplishments. Up to a dozen portraits will represent women in Monterey County.

The project is still accepting survey forms for candidates to be included in the mural. Sponsors are interested in learning of women who have affected you. Help others by sharing those examples.

If you didn't get a survey form or want one for a friend, they are available in the Demeter Resources office, KAZU, 582 Lighthouse Ave., PG, and Antioch University, 690 Pine Ave., PG. Pick up a few and pass them around.

A class is forming to do the actual painting of the mural. To register, call Antioch at 649-4949 or instructor Elvin at 372-4466.

The more we know of each other, the more strengths we share. Let us hear from you.

West Coast Music Festival Outgrows Original Location

The first annual West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival has received such enthusiastic response that a larger site had to be found.

To accommodate the more than 1200 women who wish to attend, the festival has been moved to a site near Yosemite Park and rescheduled for September 26-28.

Performers include Gwen Avery, Alix Dotkin, Casselberry and Dupree, Terry Garthwaite, Woody Simmons, (continued on page 2)
An Editorial

Board Meetings: An Open Door Policy

Demeter Resources is the umbrella organization for Demeter, the newsmagazine, as well as Demeter Productions. It sponsors our sports teams and is a co-sponsor of The W.A.L.L. Project (Women’s Achievements, a Limitless Legacy). On February 13, 1980, we became a non-profit public benefit corporation.

Becoming a non-profit corporation was not an easy task. Thanks to the efforts of attorneys Katherine Stoner and Michelle Welsh, who patiently deciphered and explained legal language and procedure, a group of us spent months discussing and writing articles of incorporation and by-laws. This process was an extremely long and difficult one, complete with late night meetings and a lot of soul searching. (Copies of these documents are available for examination in our office.)

We chose to have a Board of Directors consisting of no less than seven and no more than 12 members, serving one, two and three year terms. At present our Board members are Joan Weiner, Barbara Bastian, Katherine Stoner, JT Mason, Polly Parker, Debi Busman and Michelle Welsh.

A constant issue for us is that of accessibility. How do we become more open and still run efficiently? One possible solution was recently discovered at a Califia conference. The collective which runs Califia opens its meetings to the public for observation only. That way it continues to work efficiently, but its workings are less of a mystery.

We would like to try this with one modification. We will open our board meetings for observation with time set aside at the end of the meeting for any questions, comments or suggestions. If things arise that need further time and consideration, we will schedule a special public meeting to discuss that issue (i.e., our September 10 meeting to discuss Demeter’s role in sponsoring sports teams — see article in this issue).

If there is a particular subject you’d like the Board to deal with, submit it in writing (P.O. Box 1661, Monterey) one week prior to the meeting. Meetings will be announced in Demeter and on radio station KAZU 90.3 FM.

We hope this will make us more available to our readers and the Peninsula women’s community. Suggestions are always welcome.

Our next Board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., September 11 at our new office, 229 17th Street, Pacific Grove. We hope to see you there.

— The Women of Demeter Resources

Music Festival

(continued from page 1)

Teresa Trull, Izquiera Ensemble, Andrea Floyd, Nicholas, Glover and Ray, Jill Rose, Robin Tyler and Pat Parker. A few additional guest surprises are promised.

Workshops covering many areas will be held and several films will be shown.

Festival arrangements are by pre-registration only from $40 to $55, through the West Coast Women’s Music Festival, 1197 Valencia, San Francisco, 94110.

This is our first local event of this stature and has the potential of being a truly exciting time for us all to come together and share. See you there!

— Aly Kim

Demeter Productions

Schedules Fall Concerts

Demeter Productions is at it again! We are working on two concerts for fall: tentatively scheduled are June Millington on October 11 and Meg Christian on November 28. If you are interested in helping with these concerts, please contact JT at 659-3752 or Deb at 373-6987.
John Anderson's Record
On Women's Issues

Editor:

While women justifiably feel abandoned by the Republican Party, President Carter's own performance in the area of women's rights has been lackluster at best.

We owe it to ourselves and our daughters to vigorously support the candidacy of John Anderson. He has consistently and vocally supported the ERA, its ratification deadline extension, and legislation to end sexual discrimination on every front: housing, credit, abortion rights, education, pregnancy and sexual preference. His clear and unyielding record was capped by his recent selection of Mary Crisp to serve as the National Campaign Chairperson.

As President, Anderson would seek elimination of gift and estate taxes between marital partners, and the revision of Social Security laws to provide equity for homemakers. He would continue his support of publicly funded child care for parents who cannot afford it themselves.

Gloria Steinem stated in her endorsement that "... the record of no other presidential candidate has earned contributions from the slender resources of NOW, NARAL and other such organizations. He has earned the maximum support from such groups and from us as individuals."

John Anderson's stand on women's issues is representative of his intelligent and pragmatic approach to the very real problems that face our country. Anderson needs and deserves our support.

Berit Taggart
Anderson for President
Campaign Outreach Coordinator

Riane Eisler
Attorney

Another Perspective

Editor:

I hope you won't have to give up the feature "Feminism: A Personal Perspective" — it is one of the best parts of Demeter. I am enclosing a contribution, but I hope you get others (and much better ones) also.

Suzy Sullens
Carmel

Books for Feminists

Editor:

Thank you for the article on Herland by Charlotte Perkins Gilman in Demeter's June issue. I had never heard of it and found it interesting reading especially since I had just finished Sally Gearhart's novel The Wanderground, which is also about an all-women society.

There are several big differences between Herland and The Wanderground. First of all, The Wanderground takes place in the future and is about a community of women who have managed to escape to the country from a threatening environment in a male-dominated city.

Secondly, The Wanderground is not narrated by a man as Herland is but is told from the point of view of the women.

Thirdly, these women have not forgotten about their sexuality simply because there are no men in their society. Gearhart's description of women living and working together is moving and inspiring although not idyllic because, besides showing the love that can flourish between women, Gearhart also portrays the angers, fears and jealousies which seem to exist in all human relationships despite our utopian dreams.

I enjoyed Herland but must say I liked The Wanderground even better and highly recommend it to all feminists who are interested in visions of the future.

Erika Nielsen
Pacific Grove

Women's Community
An 'Emerging Reality'

Editor:

In case you wonder at times about the impact of articles in Demeter, I have a testimonial for you.

The July issue carried a news item about a new bookstore which I was in the process of opening at the top of Forest Hill in Pacific Grove.

The story mentioned that a major goal was the development of a strong and responsible women's section, representative of the various issues of interest to feminists.

While the opening was advertised quite prominently in local media, Demeter was the source of printed information most frequently mentioned by people coming into the store.

This indicates that Demeter is reaching a large and responsive readership — a fact which could be significant if promotion for potential advertisers should ever become part of publication plans.

It also indicates that the women's community on the Monterey Peninsula is truly an emerging reality. We at The Open Book want to serve that community well, and will welcome suggestions as to how we may do so with continually increasing effectiveness.

Polly Parker
Monterey

Notes From Demeter

Just a reminder: Demeter Resources has two public meetings scheduled this month as detailed elsewhere in this issue. We really want you to attend and give us feedback. We put Demeter out each month for the community, and encourage you to become involved.

Don't forget to send us your new address as soon as you move. Because of our postage rate, the post office will not forward Demeter after you've moved. We do our best to keep our mailing list current, but we rely on you to send us your new address.

The Personal Perspective feature has returned this issue after a one-month absence, thanks to one of our readers. If you'd like this feature to continue, you'll have to contribute. Perspectives can take the form of poetry, art work, diary entry, or whatever way you feel you can communicate. We'd like to hear from you.

Don't forget about flag football this fall. Give us a call or contact Barbara Bastian at 649-1209 if you'd like to play.
Community News and Events

Women's Center

Women's Evening — Friday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 276 El Dorado, Monterey. This will be an anniversary celebration for the Women's Center!

Career Counseling — A comprehensive career development program including interest measures and testing, resume writing, and interviewing techniques. Fee: $15 up. Y membership requested.

Women's Health Task Force — A fact-finding group exploring the health needs and resources of Peninsula women.

Library — A lending library featuring books by, for and about women.

Information and Referral — A resource to connect people with services and individuals, i.e., doctors, attorneys, child care, etc.

Women's Community Calendar — Scheduled activities and events of Peninsula women's organizations and agencies.

Women Against Domestic Violence

WADV will hold its general meeting Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Y. For further information on any of the above, call the Y at 649-0834.

Family Resource Center

The Family Resource Center offers a series of classes for parents on Mondays, 2-3 p.m. at the Center, 500 Hilby, Seaside. Classes for September include: Stress, Sept. 8; Money Management, Sept. 15; and Career Counseling, Sept. 22. For more information, call 394-4622.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council will hold training for volunteers to work on a one-to-one basis with high risk or abusive families as a friend and advocate. Commitment involved is usually 4-6 hours per week. For more information, call Susann at 394-2100.

Monterey Law Center

“Used Cars: Tips for Consumers” is the title of a workshop offered by the Monterey Law Center on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7-10 p.m. at the Seaside Public Library, 550 Harcourt. There will be a panel discussion on buying, selling and repairing used cars. Call 373-3301 to reserve a space. $7 fee, $5 for students.

Antioch University Monterey

Antioch continues its Friday night seminar series. All seminars run 7:30-10 p.m. and are held at the university, 690 Pine Ave., Pacific Grove. September seminars are: 5 — Self Hypnosis led by Claudia Daniels, MFCC; 12 — What is Feminist Therapy?, led by Barbara Licht-Greenberg, MA.

There is a $3 donation requested. No advance registration is necessary. For more information, call 649-4949.

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood in Salinas is now offering two birth control clinics a week, on Wednesday and Thursday, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Pregnancy testing and counseling are available Tuesday-Thursday, 9-11:30 a.m.

All services are confidential and at low or no cost. Contact the center at 51 E. Romie Lane, Salinas, 758-8261.

Planned Parenthood of the Monterey Peninsula will hold a training session for volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday evenings Sept. 2-18 at 6 p.m. Call 373-1691 for more information.

National Women's Political Caucus

The Caucus will meet Thursday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. but location had not been determined at press time. Agenda includes endorsements for the November election. Call 373-5193 for information on meeting location.

The NWPC state convention will be held Sept. 12-14 at the Holiday Inn, Park Center Plaza, San Jose. The convention is titled "Feminist Politics: Feminist Power." Speakers, workshops and a concert by Margie Adam are scheduled. For more information, call Maria Wagner at 625-2579.

Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission will meet Wednesday, Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Salinas Courthouse. Coming in October: an open forum for local women's groups to address the commission on the needs of women in this area.

Family Planning

The Family Planning Education Council will offer a class entitled "Issues in Male Sexuality" on Friday, Oct. 3, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Pre-registration is required by Sept. 26. Fee: $15. For more information, call Ann Preibe at 758-9351.

Rape Crisis Center

The Rape Crisis Center will hold volunteer training in September. Dates and time had not been determined at press time. Call 373-3955 for more information.

Women in Search

A class taught by June Schwartz entitled "In Search of Self" will meet Mondays, Sept. 8-29, 7-10 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Room B-7, MPC. Call 646-4000 for more information.

Copenhagen Women's Conference

Patricia Schroeder has recently returned from the International Women's Conference in Copenhagen. She will be interviewed about the conference and her experiences on "Women's Waves," KUSP FM radio 89, Thursday, Sept. 25 at 4 p.m.

She is working together with three other women, one from Denmark, one from Gambia and one from Austria, to develop a slide show for presentation to interested local groups. She may be contacted for information about speaking engagements in care of Interconnections, 219 Union St., Santa Cruz, 95060.

Women's Crisis Line

The Women's Crisis Line is offering a training course to community people (law enforcement personnel, social service employees, representatives of community organizations, etc.) who wish to raise their awareness to the problem of rape.

The training course for crisis line volunteers will begin Sept. 17 and will provide 16 hours of training for people who wish to work in this crisis response area. Pre-registration is required: registration for people not training to be volunteers ends Sept. 3, prospective volunteers must fill out an application by Sept. 10.

The course will be held Wednesday nights from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Salinas Community Center. For more information, call 757-1001.
Local and National News Briefs

Genuine Risk — 'Woman' Achiever?

*Harper's Bazaar* has named Genuine Risk, the filly that took the Kentucky Derby this year, as one of the top seven women achievers for 1980.

Other women named in this rather strange hall of fame were Carol Bellamy, New York City Council president; Sarah Caldwell, conductor of the Boston Opera; Shirley Hufstedler, Secretary of the Department of Education; choreographer Twyla Tharp; columnist Jane Bryant Quinn; and WNBC anchor Sue Simmons.

*Harper's* said it put Genuine Risk along with the other women achievers because the filly won the Derby with the betting 13-to-1 against her. The magazine said that should remind women of what the publication believes is required by the best — willingness to chance the odds.

Genetic Screening Hurts Women's Job Chances

A new practice of "genetic screening" by major chemical companies has particularly prejudiced job opportunities for women, according to a four-part series published in the *New York Times*. The newspaper singled out Du Pont and Dow Chemical as conducting tests on thousands of women employees with the aim in mind, in the companies' words, of "protecting workers with vulnerable genes" from exposure to chemicals which might harm them.

Labor unions and feminists have protested the screening tests, demanding that the companies eliminate the hazards of the workplace instead; the companies have replied that such steps would be "economically unfeasible."

Further criticism was leveled at the screening practice by Dr. Jeanne Stellman, executive director, Women's Occupational Health Resource Center.

"I absolutely resent the assumption that if you look at a 14 to 45 year old woman, you are looking at a woman who is presumed pregnant unless proved otherwise," Stellman referred in particular to the screening practice of barring only women of childbearing years from working near lead, when lead is known to be harmful to both sexes.

—*National NOW Times*

Yale Awards B.A. In Barbie Dolls

Yale undergraduate Ella Torrey will earn a B.A. degree in Barbie dolls under a special program which permits students to choose their research field without course requirements. Torrey calls the doll a cultural artifact indicative of American society's incredible consumerism and obsession with the more beautiful self.

—*Sojourner*

Ad Exec Urges Women To Exert $$$ Power

Rene Bartos, 1980 Advertising Woman of the Year and an ad agency executive, warns that women may stop buying certain products if companies don't stop using sexist advertising.

Bartos says that "What women don't want are ads which demean or stereotype women generally, treat people — men and women alike — as incompetent, childish or dimwitted and play up a woman's sexuality while playing down her individuality." Bartos claims women are particularly turned off by ads which either subtly or blatantly promise a woman as a reward, and that they will begin to retaliate by refusing to buy from companies which make light of them.

—*National NOW Times*

GOP Champions 'Family Protection' Bill

Even though Paul Laxalt (R-NV) didn't get the nod on the Republican ticket for the vice-presidential candidacy on the Reagan ticket, he remains one of the strongest ideological influences on Reagan and the author of the "Family Protection" bill, S-1808, introduced into the Senate last September.

Among other provisions, the bill would deny federal funds to schools to use for the purchase of textbooks which "would tend to denigrate, diminish, or deny the role difference between the sexes as it has been historically understood in the U.S."

A major letter writing campaign in support of S-1808 is already under way directed by Dr. Robert J. Billings of the National Christian Action Coalition, and aided by Dr. Jerry Falwell and Phyllis Schlafly, no strangers to those who have fought the forces of the New Right. The Senate Finance Committee currently has charge of the bill and has scheduled no hearings on it yet.

—*National NOW Times*

Court Strikes Down Wife As Servant

The Maryland Court of Appeals has overturned a decision by a Circuit Court which ordered damages paid by Floyd Kline to Donald Ansell, in the amount of $44,250, for stealing Mr. Ansell's wife.

The Appeals Court reasoned that the common law on which that decision was based — "criminal conversation" — is unconstitutional, since it allows husbands and not wives to sue, thereby violating Maryland's Equal Rights Amendment.

Mr. Ansell had only to prove sexual intercourse between his wife and Mr. Kline to have the latter convicted of "wife stealing."

The concept of "criminal conversation" had originated in British common law, which assumed a wife to have the same status as a servant; anyone sharing affections with a wife was therefore guilty of depriving the husband of his "proprietary interest in the servant's services."

—*National NOW Times*
Local and National News Briefs

UN Conference: ‘Show and Tell’

Two thousand official delegates—one-third of them men—ended their mid-decade United Nations World Women’s Conference by passing resolutions which condemned Zionism and apartheid, called for equality in the education and training of women, and drew attention to the problems of migrant and refugee women and the poor.

The program of the conference, which was passed by a vast majority of the nations attending, was opposed by the United States, which objected to the plank in the plan that equated Zionism with racism, and which called for consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization over relief funds to be spent on Palestinian refugee women.

Some members of the US delegation, which was headed by UN Ambassador Donald McHenry and Sarah Weddington, charged the conference had been politicized, and that women’s needs had not been made the conference focus. One US delegate, Mary Ann Grefe, characterized the UN meeting as “busy work, show and tell.”

The plan of the conference, which was adopted over US objections, needs the approval of the United Nations General Assembly to become official.

—Her Say

New Magazine For Feminist Men

A seven-man editorial collective has begun publishing what appears to be the first nationwide quarterly directed at feminist men.

The quarterly is called M., Gentle Men For Gender Justice, and includes discussions on the ERA, militarism and violence, interviews with noted authors such as Marilyn French, and also a critique from what M. calls the “other side,” the masculinists.

Says Eric Johnson, voicing the philosophy of the new quarterly, “We don’t represent the entire men’s movement, just the pro-feminist side. We do see men as oppressors, but we also see that men are themselves oppressed by the many aspects—social, political, economic—of this patriarchal society.”

—Her Say

Another Danger to Our Reproductive Freedom

An insidious danger to reproductive freedom continues to grow in the form of a convention call resolution (or “con-con”) asking that Congress convene a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of overturning the 1973 Supreme Court ruling on abortion. Alabama and Oklahoma recently passed the resolution, bringing to 19 the number of states calling for the “con-con.” Three-fourths of the states must approve the resolution for the “con-con” to come about; this year, action on the proposal is expected in Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio and Wisconsin. NARAL and the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project have been two groups especially active in fighting the “con-con.”

—National NOW Times

Single Mothers Study

A major research project on the experience of being a single mother is entering a new phase. Feminist research-ers Ellen Lewin, Ph.D., and Terrie Lyons, M.S.W., who for two years have been interviewing formerly married heterosexual and homosexual women raising children in the greater San Francisco Bay area, are now interested in speaking with women who became mothers outside of marriage. Their aim, as before, is to document how single mothers cope with their responsibilities and to identify the special needs of families headed by women.

Women who wish to be interviewed or who desire more information about the study should call Ellen Lewin or Terrie Lyons at (415) 524-7951, or write to them c/o Medical Anthropology Program, University of California at San Francisco, 1320 3rd Ave., San Francisco, 94143.

—San Jose NOW Newsletter

Male MDs Link Cervical Cancer To Promiscuity

The Director of the National Women’s Health Network has taken considerable exception to a report issued by a panel of experts at the close of the recent National Institutes of Health conference.

At the conference, a panel of gynecologists and researchers gave their findings on the causes of cancer, particularly cervical cancer, in women. Those panelists concluded that the more sexual partners a woman has, the higher her risk of developing cancer. One physician, Dr. Anthony Miller, said that cervical cancer behaved “very much like a venereal disease.” He added that nuns virtually never get it, while one study found that up to eight percent of prostitutes become victims.

Cowan said that what was “distressing about the reports is the underlying sexist assumption that physicians and federal officials are making, which links cervical cancer to promiscuity”.

She said that instead of warning women about the number of sexual partners they are with, perhaps some attention should be “given to the men who are carriers” of these viruses, and that they, too, should undergo screening processes.

The NIH panel had recommended that women, as soon as they lose their virginity, should begin to get Pap smears every one to three years until they are in their sixties.

—Her Say

Scholarships Available

Clairol Loving Care Scholarship Program awards grants up to $1,000 to women over 30 who are studying on the undergraduate or master’s level in professional schools for vocational training. The program funds both full- and part-time education, and grant money can be used for tuition as well as for child care, transportation, books, etc. Contact Ellen Anderson, Director, Loving Care Scholarship Program, 345 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022.
Barbara Greenberg
An Interview With A Feminist Artist

Q. How was it that you entered the world of feminist art?

A. I majored in fine arts at Hunter College, then became alienated by both commercial art and the male-dominated "art culture." The Seventies brought in an era of consciousness-raising. I was further influenced by Judy Chicago's work at the Women's Center in Los Angeles. In that spirit, seven years ago some 30 of us women began a women's artist collective called "Alternative Directions."

Q. What was the purpose of "Alternative Directions?"

A. The collective's function was to give women the avenue for breaking down the barrier between the "fine" arts and what could be called arts and crafts or artisanry. For instance, being a potter, I used clay for a media.

Q. Did you gain knowledge from your connection with "Alternative Directions?"

A. Art is considered worthy only if the work is sold. In other words, economics decides the seriousness of one's art; the creative process itself is not given credence.

Q. You talk of economics and art. How did you resolve the conflict between the two issues?

A. My husband, who is a musician, and I made a joint decision for both of us to work part-time and still be able to devote part of our time to our own artistic directions. Getting "paid" work relieved me from the burden of supporting myself financially as an artist, yet enabled me to continue my exploration in the arts.

Q. What other conflicts might you, as a woman and as an artist, see confronting women in the arts?

A. First, there is the issue of parenting and art. Both artistic work and household work are not paid labor, so there is a conflict between which of the unpaid jobs to give the most energy to.

As I became aware of feminist issues, I began to notice the creative work processes of women. Women usually have no, or limited, space in which to work; then they spend time with things that don't take much time to finish. Many women, too, work with methods of creativity that are easily set aside, such as sewing, crochet or embroidery. I began using watercolors as a media for precisely that reason — no oils to clean from brushes, for instance.

Q. What media does your work involve now?

A. I have consciously continued using watercolors in order to make a statement concerning the legitimacy of women's art. I tried, for awhile, to make overt political statements in my art, but I realized that the images were other people's, not my own. At first, I had no intention of showing my work. I recognized, eventually, though, that I really wanted to exhibit my artwork and that it was necessary to be serious about my work. To do otherwise would be contributing to the attitude that women's art is not "real" art.

Q. Do you have an exhibition of your work planned?

A. Yes, I have a show opening in September, September 26 to the exact. My work will be on exhibit at the Pacific Grove Art Center, 568 Lighthouse, Pacific Grove, until October 26. There is an open house planned for September 26, 7 to 9 pm and I would like to invite Demeter subscribers to attend.

—Sandra McKee

Human Rights And The Family

(Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the San Francisco Examiner of August 17, 1980. Need we say more?)

The Democratic platform endorses ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and withholds national party funds from candidates who do not support the ERA, opposes a constitutional amendment to make abortions illegal, opposes governmental restrictions on federally funded abortions, advocates enactment of a comprehensive national health insurance plan without setting a timetable for carrying it out, calls for a phased transfer to the federal government of welfare costs now borne by states, commits the party for the first time to support full civil rights for gay people by opposing discrimination based on sexual orientation, calls for strengthening the Fair Housing Act.

It also opposes benefit reductions in welfare and other human-needs programs and says that no change should be made that will result in recipients getting smaller Social Security benefits than received under the present cost-of-living formula.

The Republican platform withdraws GOP support for the Equal Rights Amendment, saying its ratification is an issue that states must decide, calls for a constitutional amendment outlawing abortions, seeks appointment of judges who have an anti-abortion bias, supports legislation to ban school busing and permit non-denominational prayer in school, opposes federal takeover of the welfare system, and opposes national health insurance.
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<td>3</td>
<td>Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women meeting, 7:30 p.m. Sarah Apfelbaum, author, born 1949</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>YWCA Nominating Committee meeting. My Sister’s House, KAZU, 12:30 p.m. Alice Elise Bartlett, author, born 1949</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Joan Ancestral, Santa Cruz Civic Center, 6 p.m. Lesbian Rap Group meets Self-Help seminar, Anacostia, 7:30-10 p.m. War Resisters League women’s gathering</td>
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<td>Jane Addams, first woman Nobel peace prize winner (1912), born 1831</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Labor Day Emma Mott becomes first female telephone operator, 1878</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Planned Parenthood volunteer training begins, 6 p.m. Women’s Music, KAZU, 1-4 Anna Mary Robertson, “Grandma Moses,” born 1860</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Demeter Resources public meeting on women and the economy. WADY general meeting, YWCA, 6:30 p.m. Law Center workshop on used cars, 7-10 p.m.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Demeter Resources board meeting, open to the public, 7:30 p.m. Ruth Hashemah My Sister’s House, KAZU, 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Feminist Therapy seminar, Antioch, 7:30 p.m. Lesbian Rap Group meets specific State Convention, San Jose Florence Kelley, social reformer, born 1859</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Margie Adam concert, San Jose, in conjunction with NWPC convention</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur, Jewish Day of Atonement</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Money Management class, Family Resource Center, 2-3 p.m. Women’s music, KAZU, 1-4 Alice Blackwell, born 1857 Margaret Sanger, birth control pioneer, born 1883</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Frances Willard, first woman college president, Evanston College for Ladies, 1871</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Nancy Hays Teeters, 1st woman governor of Federal Reserve Board, 1978</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>NWPC general meeting, 7:30 p.m. My Sister’s House, KAZU, 12:30 p.m. Lesbian Rap Group meets</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Women’s evening, anniversary celebration for Women’s Center, YWCA, 7:30 p.m. Lesbian Rap Group meet. Art show opening at PG &amp; E Art, 7:30 p.m. Ellen B. Greenberg’s show, 7:30 p.m. West Coast Women’s Music Festival Is it time to renew your subscription?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>We meet calendar events. Send them to us at P.O. Box 2486, Monterey, 93940. Women’s Crisis Line volunteer training, Salinas Community Center, 7 p.m. Women’s Center, KAZU, 12:30 p.m. Interview with Patricia Schroeder, The Copenhagen Women’s Conference, KUSP FM 88, 4 pm Sukkot</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Plan now to attend Demeter’s Open House Oct. 4 in our new office, 229 17th Street. Women’s Music, KAZU, 1-4 Lucinda Hines (Kru), advocate of education for women, born 1814</td>
</tr>
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The Associated Press has reported that 16-year-old Andrena Appleby has filed a sex discrimination suit in federal court asking that she and other girls be allowed to try out for the Los Altos, California, high school varsity football team.

U.S. District Judge William Schwarzer denied a temporary restraining order which would have allowed Appleby to take part in pre-season practice sessions which began recently. A hearing on a preliminary injunction was set for September 5 in U.S. District Court.

The class action was brought by Appleby and her parents. It names Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District and Superintendent Paul Sakamoto.

The suit said Appleby has been playing various sports, including football, since she was in fourth grade and in her first year of high school played on an all girls football team.

While in the 10th grade, she expressed interest in joining the varsity football team and tried to attend a meeting called for those interested, the suit said. But she was denied admission by Coach Robert Baird. She also tried to buy a football uniform but was turned down.

On both occasions, the suit said, Baird told Appleby she could not take part as a member of the varsity team "solely because she is a girl."

It is believed that no male student has been denied a chance to become a team member.

Appleby was "denied an important educational opportunity — the opportunity to participate in a team sport and develop the skills attendant thereto," the suit claims.

The court was asked to enjoin the district from enforcing its policy and practice of prohibiting female students from taking part on any of its school-sponsored teams and find that such a ban on the basis of sex violates the Constitution.

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Graphic by Liz Atkinson

Tampon Use Linked To Toxic Shock Syndrome

A $5 million lawsuit has been filed against Proctor & Gamble Co. by a Northern California woman who faces loss of her fingertips because of toxic shock syndrome.

Use of the tampons has been linked to the disease, which shows up most frequently in menstruating women and causes vomiting, diarrhea and even death. Proctor & Gamble make a tampon called Rely.

The suit was filed recently in Shasta County Superior Court by Linda Imboden of Redding, California. Her doctors say she will lose her fingertips because of gangrene caused by extremely low blood pressure brought on by toxic shock syndrome.

The suit contends Proctor & Gamble, which is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, was "aware there were incidents of serious injury and death from use of Rely tampons."

Robert Schock, an Oakland attorney representing Ms. Imboden, said tampon manufacturers have known for more than a year there was a link between use of tampons and the syndrome and that Proctor & Gamble should have printed warnings on tampon packages.

Toxic shock syndrome is believed caused by a bacteria called staphylococcus aureus. The federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta issued a report last June linking use of tampons with the disease.

There is speculation that irritation of the vaginal wall by tampons provides additional impetus for the bacteria.

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NCAA Appoints First Woman Executive; Embraces Women's Movement in Sports

Ruth M. Berkey, athletic director at Occidental College, was recently named director of championship events for women in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, a new post that could pave the way for the NCAA to embrace the women's athletic movement.

Ms. Berkey, who joined the NCAA staff officially Sept. 2, is the first woman to hold an executive position in association history.

She will direct the championship events in Divisions II and III, the smaller schools, as authorized by a membership vote at the NCAA convention last January. The events — tennis, volleyball, swimming, field hockey and basketball — will begin with the 1981-82 academic year.

"Ruth Berkey is an outstanding human being and nationally recognized as one of college athletics' most competent athletic administrators," said Walter Byers, NCAA executive director. "She will be responsible not only for assuring the success of these women's championships but also for representing women's sports interests in all facets of NCAA operations. She will have the full support of the NCAA staff and its resources."

A 1957 graduate of Pepperdine University, Berkey became athletic director at Occidental in 1977. She has been an associate professor of physical education at Occidental since 1968 and an instructor at the Los Angeles school since 1960. In 1976-77, she was a member of the executive board of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) and was nominated for that organization's presidency this year.

Berkey's appointment was interpreted by many observers as an important step in the previously male dominated NCAA's long-range plan to assimilate the women's movement in athletics. Division I NCAA members will vote at the next convention in January, 1981, on whether or not to adopt women's championships. Many athletic administrators have predicted the vote will be successful.

"I particularly am pleased to have the opportunity to continue to be involved in the growth of women's athletics," Berkey said.
Demeter & Sports: 
A Public Forum

A public meeting will be held September 10, 7:30 p.m., to discuss Demeter's role in sports.

As many readers know, Demeter sponsors women's teams in local recreation leagues. The first was a basketball team which was formed and played last winter. It was followed by a softball team, now finishing summer league play.

In each instance, the Demeter team was comprised of women of varying ages, most of whom had either never played the sport before or had not done so in years. A conscious decision was made by each team to play in an "entry-level" league and to concentrate on supportive skills development.

The experiences of these two teams have been quite positive. Each team sustained a high level of enthusiasm, improvement and cooperation throughout the season. There have also been many thoughtful (and sometimes heated) discussions among team members about competition, sports and play, and about our various attitudes and expectations around those issues.

Sports, like many other institutions of our culture, have for the most part been shaped by men, and they embody attitudes and skills which may or may not be of value to women participating in them.

Demeter Resources wishes to examine our role in sponsoring teams, and to formulate some policy which will enhance the personal and collective growth of women playing on those teams.

For example, should there be an emphasis on "beginner" or "entry-level" teams, and if so, should there be a commitment to giving every team member a chance to play, even at the expense of winning? What is "winning?" What about players who develop a high level of skill — should Demeter sponsor more "advanced" teams? How are teams to be selected? Is there an advantage to a different kind of league, in which new, ad-hoc, teams are formed at random each time play is scheduled?

These and related questions will be the subject of a public forum sponsored by Demeter Resources on September 10 at its new office, 229 17th Street, Pacific Grove. All interested women are urged to attend and help shape our role in women's sports.

-Kathy Stoner

Girls Still Lag Behind Boys in School Athletic Programs

Women and girls still lag far behind men and boys in athletic opportunities in schools and colleges despite progress made in the 1970's, a U.S. Commission on Civil Rights report says.

The report, More Hurdles to Clear: Women and Girls in Competitive Athletics, traces the history of American women in sports back to the mid-19th century when "they were thought too weak and frail for physical exercise."

The 1972 passage by Congress of Title IX, which bars sex discrimination in schools getting federal aid, spawned new sports programs for women at both the scholastic and collegiate levels.

At the high school level, 3.7 million boys but just 300,000 girls played interscholastic sports in 1970-71. By 1978-79, there were 4.2 million boys and 2 million girls competing.

"The dramatic growth in the number of girls in interscholastic athletics is illustrated by the increasing number of schools offering the two most widely available sports for boys and girls, basketball and outdoor track and field," it said.

In 1970-71, some 19,647 high schools had boys' basketball teams, but only 4,856 offered the sport to girls. By 1978-79, there were 18,752 high schools with boys' teams and 17,167 with girls' squads.

"Despite these impressive gains, large discrepancies remain in the boys' and girls' programs," the commission said.

"Some differences may be attributable to traditional sex stereotyping. Other discrepancies cannot be explained in this manner. Golf is offered to boys in over three times as many schools as to girls."

Men outnumbered women 10-to-1 in intercollegiate sports in 1966-67, but the gap was less than 3-to-1 by 1976-77, when 170,304 men and 64,375 women competed.

But the commission said "women are still offered fewer sports than men at most colleges in the nation . . . (Their budgets) continue to be considerably smaller than the men's budgets."
Supreme Court Upholds Hyde Amendment

The United States Supreme Court recently held that neither the federal nor the state government is constitutionally required to fund abortions for poor women as part of the general health services program.

In an opinion by Justice Stevens in the case of *Harris v. McRae*, the Court acknowledged a woman's freedom to choose abortion, but stated that a woman's freedom of choice does not carry with it constitutional entitlement to the financial resources to avail herself of the full range of protected choices. The Court noted that the Hyde Amendment, which limits federal funding for abortions, leaves an indigent woman with at least the same choices as she would have had if Congress had not chosen to subsidize any health care costs.

The Supreme Court also held that the Hyde Amendment does not violate the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution. Since poverty is not a "suspect classification" (such as classifications based on race or national origin), discrimination is constitutional if it is rationally related to a legitimate government interest. The Court found that the Hyde Amendment satisfied that standard since, by encouraging childbirth, it is rationally related to the "legitimate governmental objective" of protecting potential life.

In disposing of the poor women's argument that the Hyde Amendment violates the Constitution by establishing a particular religious point of view, the Court stated that just because the funding restrictions of the Hyde Amendment "coincide" with the religious tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, it does not violate the establishment of religion clause.

In a related case, *Williams v. Zabaraz*, the Supreme Court held that a state government, as well as the federal government, may lawfully discriminate against poor women by refusing to fund abortions.

California currently provides funding for abortions through the Medi-Cal program. However, a case is now pending before the California Supreme Court challenging this funding under the California constitution. Although the United States Supreme Court has held that abortion funding is not required by the federal Constitution, a state such as California can provide greater protection for its citizens by means of its own constitution. This case will probably be decided by the California Supreme Court this fall.

Planned Parenthood of Monterey County is conducting a drive to obtain signatures in support of safe, legal abortions for all women, regardless of their ability to pay. For further information, contact Rosann Wisman, executive director, at 373-1691.

Her Say reports that Planned Parenthood will raise money for poor women seeking abortions, in the wake of the Harris decision. Faye Wattleton, president of Planned Parenthood, says that the money raised will go to the group's Justice Fund, which provides loans to needy women for abortion expenses. The fund has already received $185,000 from two foundations.

New Coordinator Named
For Salinas Women's Center

The Salinas Community Women's Center, which opened in May of 1980, now has a new coordinator. Carole Kelley has joined the staff of Women for Women, Inc., which sponsors the Women's Center, to coordinate the activities at the center.

Ms. Kelley has been very active in the community as a staff member of Self-Reliant Education, a non-profit agency helping displaced homemakers. She has also been on the Child Care Task Force, is a member of Mujeres Unidas Aztlan, and is on the Advisory Council for Self-Reliant Education. An intensive course in community development and organization has prepared her for her new role.

Plans for the Center include a series of workshops aimed at the concerns of women and their families in the community. A newsletter and calendar are being developed to share the activities and dates, as well as other news of interest, with the community. The Center is also available for a nominal fee to other groups wishing a place to meet.

Women for Women also co-sponsors the annual Women's Fair with Hartnell College, to be held this year on October 25. The Fair will take place at Hartnell in the Performing Arts Center, and will be available for college credit. The theme of this year's Fair is "Images of Women in the '80s."

In addition to administering the Salinas Family Emergency Shelter, WFW also provides an information and referral service.

The Women's Center is located at 6 West Gabilan, sharing the building with the Women's Crisis Line, Salinas Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council, Self-Reliant Education, Housing Advocates, and Experience, Inc.

If you would like more information, or would like to receive the newsletter, drop by the Center, or call 757-7253.
Social Change In Fiction: By and About Women

It is well understood by now that to uncover women’s history we don’t rush to conventional history textbooks, or to famous (male-written) accounts of historical events. Thus, in attempting to resurrect a sense of women’s past, one of the most useful sources proves to be novels and diaries written by women.

There are three such novels which successfully document both the history of women’s lives and the larger scope of social change in the United States. Yonnondio: From the Thirties, by Tillie Olsen (Delacorte Press: 1974), Daughter of Earth, Agnes Smedley (Feminist Press: 1973), and The Dollmaker, Harriet Arnow (MacMillan: 1954) all deal with a common theme: the impact of an expanding, thrusting capitalist society on working class families.

In addition, each of these novels gives us a close, crucial insight to the changing work and roles of women; indeed, the main characters are all women: daughters, mothers and wives.

Varied geographical and socio-economic scenes are described which read like chapters out of familiar schoolbooks on early 20th century America: mining towns in the Southwest; a rural community in Kentucky, a fast-booming industrial city.

What makes the accounts of these women unique is that, rather than emphasizing the boundless glories of America growing rich quick (the myth of plenty for all), we see the stress placed on women and men working dangerous, grossly underpaid jobs, the all-consuming work of women who must materially provide for the needs of their families while living with constant anxiety over the safety of husbands and fathers. Overall, we gain an understanding of the constant edge that poor people lived on during a time in which people of the working class had no securities, no assurance of next week’s paycheck or the safety of working conditions.

What is compelling about these novels is the strength of the women characters, and the diverse ways in which they deal with their deprived and painful circumstances. Gertie of The Dollmaker and Marie of Daughter of Earth convince us of the tumultuous conflicts which women of all times have undergone in their attempts to resist what are clearly dehumanizing and degrading social conditions. Their resilience and modes of adaptation stand as evidence of a singularly active and courageous past.

Arnow, Smedley and Olsen accurately and convincingly give us insights as to what women have been experiencing and doing during the early years of the 20th century in America.

—Vicky Smith

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT (1859–1947)

Carrie Chapman Catt worked in state suffrage campaigns during the late 1800s with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. From 1900 to 1904, Catt served as president of the National American Women’s Suffrage Association, then resigned to lead the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Following ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, she organized the League of Women Voters to help educate women on political issues.

—Cyndi Sumner

Course In Family Law Offered Locally

A course in family law will be offered on the Monterey Peninsula beginning Sept. 15 through the San Jose State University Legal Assistant Studies Program. The 16-week course is open to the public, and is also offered for three units of degree credit in the certificate program for legal assistants.

Local attorneys Katherine Stoner and Michelle (Mickey) Welsh will teach the course, which will meet at Monterey High School, Room 95, on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:25 p.m. The fee is $159.

For information and applications call (408) 277-2182. You may also enroll at the first class.
All alone
I feel
a burning
deep within me.

My body
aches for you;
your touch,
your loving embrace.

I need
to feel
you next to me,
to hold you close.

But only
the memory
of you
lingers on.

By
Sandra Lewis

Burning

I know I should leave
but still I stay

The Birth of a Cloud

She stands in front
of the canvas
with her paint brush
extending like a finger
My head sways with
the motion of her body
I know I should leave
but still I stay

She creates
from her soul
Like hot lava it
flows from her toes
up through her thighs
passing by her left breast
into my arm and explodes
onto the canvas

It is a sensuous movement
A sensuous moment
And with the passing
of time
I have just witnessed
the birth of a cloud.

This Moment

A strike of a match and soon
the fire begins to glow.

The wine, in crystal glasses,
glitters like diamonds.

The music, soft and slow,
is mellowing to the soul.

The moment, is perfect —
like the love I've found in you.

Untitled

Surrounded by love,
I feel the cloud of pain
and loneliness lift.

You are gentle and honest,
as sincere in your giving
as I am in my need.

You sense the cure
without knowing the cause
and fill the void within me.

A feeling of hope
consumes my soul and
a calm engulfs me —
I am ready to live again.

Poetry

By
Linda Garcia

The Birth of a Cloud

Sometimes
when I have forgotten
to touch
to say hello, I love you.

Something happens
and I remember
the days of childhood
and the love you always gave

Weeks
even months
will sometimes pass
before I'll realize
I've forgotten
to remember

The Rock

Through the spring of my life
I sat alone on the rock
Where years passed
moving from one full moon
into another

Where I waited
for you to come to me
Now I occasionally
wonder from the rock

Venturing out into the world of lovers
only to return and sit alone once again
I said to you, and you, and you
my rock is big enough for two
And occasionally you would sit with me

But then time
like a mother with her child
would take your hand and lead you away

Leaving me once again
I am ready to live again.

Grandma

Grandma

Grandma
When I was a young child, my mother often told me never to accept candy from strangers. She never quite explained why, and so I went along thinking that perhaps strangers were likely to put poison in their candy because they hated little children. Actually, of course, my mother was trying to protect me from child molesters (or pedophiles, as they are now called).

Today, in this age of openness and frankness, the subject of pedophilia remains shrouded in taboos, myths and secrecy. It is the unmentionable topic that "respectable" families would rather not confront because of its unpleasant nature.

Just last month, the mother of a nine-year-old girl in Monterey told me about an attempted molesting at her child's school playground. She added that she was outraged because the school had not notified neighborhood parents about the incident. The school's response, predictably, was that it had not wanted to alarm people. The offender remains unapprehended.

When a recent national crime survey revealed that 300,000 children per day were being victimized by this hideous crime throughout the country, a San Francisco parents' group tried to organize an educational network to alert both children and parents to the problem. They searched unsuccessfully for a public facility in which to hold their meetings, but were refused space repeatedly in churches and schools because of the shocking subject matter. But trying to pretend pedophilia doesn't exist certainly isn't going to cure the disease. In fact, it is now known that sexual abuse in children is statistically more prevalent than physical abuse or child battering.

Who are the pedophiles? Almost all the literature to date suggests that they are heterosexual males from all educational and economic backgrounds. They typically victimize pre-adolescent girls and the median age of the victim is around 11/2 years.

There is evidently an abundance of "underground" kiddie-porn material available to pedophiles in spite of national legislation preventing such media from being sold openly in adult bookstores. Being an incurably suspicious person, I decided to see for myself just how effective this legislation was.

With trench coat wrapped around my body and dark glasses covering my eyes, I slipped into an adult bookstore in San Jose and discovered numerous non-illustrated kiddie-porn paperback novels being sold openly and freely. I also noticed many slick illustrated sex magazines featuring only flat-chested, genitally-shaved models who were convincingly made to look like 10-year-olds. I quickly purchased a cheap sex news tabloid and darted for the exit.

In the journal I found direct-mail advertisements, presumably placed by parents, with messages such as, "Send us $10 and we will rush you pictures of our naughty little girls picking up their dresses and pulling down their panties and doing the most unbelievable things."

I also learned that two L.A. based kiddie-porn magazines, Namibia and Gypsy, boast subscription circulation figures in the hundreds of thousands nationwide. They serve as news resources to child molesters, reporting such things as the best places to pick up children in all states and major cities, how to seduce them with praise and affection, how to avoid legal repercussions and so on.

One article I learned about reassured pedophiles that the wild screams that a child might produce during intercourse were "actually screams of pleasure and delight." And KRON-TV News reported last month that in San Francisco alone, four large pornographic distributing companies were reporting a "booming business" in kiddie-porn, selling sex shops everything from slides to playing cards to what have you.

While I don't pretend to have the solution to this mess, I certainly know that the first step for fighting back must be to take pedophilia out of the closet and talk about it openly. For avoiding the issue clearly affords the offender great advantages in both perpetrating the crime and avoiding prosecution. And as long as pedophiles want people like me to continue to ignore them, I intend to do just the opposite. In fact, all things considered, I'm going to scream my head off!
A Continuing Series

Feminism — A Personal Perspective

A few months ago, I learned that an intimate friend's daughter — with her mother's encouragement — was planning to be married this month. I am sure it is an ideal marriage: the bride is almost 21, the groom a couple of years older, a June college graduate. She is lovely and he is handsome and earnest; they are truly and deeply in love, of course.

But I was instinctively resisting the idea and had to consider why I thought it wrong for them to marry: it forced me to examine myself, my reasons for being unwilling to accept what all conventional wisdom would certainly approve.

Perhaps a third of a lifetime spent teaching women that age has brought me to some new perspective about them, for my response to this particular "marriage made in heaven" has no other logic.

Well-protected 21-year-old women scarcely have an opportunity to learn their own worth in our heavily structured social pattern. If they rebel early, make painful errors and suffer, perhaps they grow up sooner, but their faith in the value of a proper marriage as a secure institution is at stake. It is a huge contrast to my life 40 years ago.

At 20, I had graduated from business college, held two semiprofessional jobs, fought some of the eternal sexist battles in my job, and gave up what my father thought was a proper "career" as an accountant — defied him, in fact — and went to college on borrowed money.

Meanwhile, five of the six women in my high school graduating class (1938) were married (two before graduation), and my determination to "succeed" in college was probably an inchoate desire to find some challenge that my "secure" career would never provide.

Thereafter, my choices were not always "safe" and frequently unwise — often dictated by the exigencies of my personal life. I never felt I was making any long-range plans, but I graduated from college in 23 months during the first two years of World War II, joined the Navy more or less in despair of a better opportunity, and within the next 15 years finished two more college degrees and got a "secure" teaching job at MPC.

I was 37 years old when I came here in 1958 and have just now retired from teaching to seek some other challenge that will make my post-middle-age useful to myself and others.

Never have I chosen "security;" I have often accepted a comfortable liaison with a person whose life seemed to parallel mine at a given moment. Yet I could not have recognized those choices when I made them as merely comfort.

The professional battle women have fought during my lifetime has been the most important change in American society in our entire history. I wish I had made a braver contribution, but I always managed to find my own challenge in personal achievement — not in militant feminism.

It took a certain callousness to be a business woman, a Naval officer, a graduate student, even a college teacher — all during the years when American society generally accepted the premises of a "man's world," a "women's place," and one had to avoid the consequences of those attitudes by sidestepping the conventions.

Probably I have always been a feminist, but I admit with some chagrin that I have selfishly promoted my own interests while others risked much more than I to help change our milieu.

I admire those thousands of braver women who have asserted women's right to their own idea of independence. Today, a young woman still has to consider the price of her sense of self-worth, for even the luckiest bride may discover that she has married for an illusion of security, embracing an institution that will probably fail before she realizes who she is, what internal resources she needs.

So I wrote this poem for the mother of the bride:

Sometimes when I don't expect it
you say the words unwitting
that touch the heart of our differences:
security is the reason for marriage,
your justification for giving your
daughter away at twenty
as if she, too, thought security
was worth the price
of learning how to be a wife
before she could become
an independent woman

And I checked the words
for if I had retorted:
security is a state of mind —
you can't buy it in marriage —
you would have rejected what I said
and me for saying it

And in age-forced wisdom,
in the sorrow of failed security,
I must say it still:
security is an illusion,
and every woman who places it before
her independence
has lost the expectations
and her sense of self.

—Suzy Sullens

Women Speak Out

This world taught woman
nothing skillful and then said her
work was valueless. It permitted
her no opinions and said she did
not know how to think. It forbade
her to speak in public and said
the sex had no orators. It denied
her the schools and said the sex
had no genius. It robbed her of
every vestige of responsibility
and then called her weak.

—Carrie Chapman Catt