



Newsletter

RIGHT TO PRIVACY, INC.

SEPTEMBER 1991

The 10th Anniversary Lucille Hart Dinner



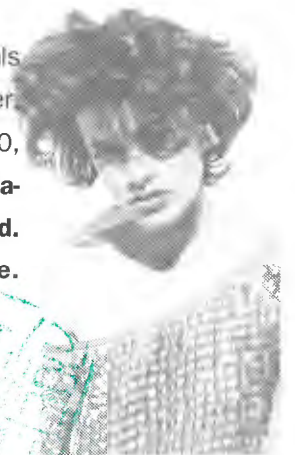
Lucille
(as **Alan**)
Hart

In 1917, a woman was run out of Albany, Oregon for living as a lesbian on her own terms. For the next 45 years, she assumed the guise and identity of a man. The woman's name was

**L u c i l l e
H a r t**

headliner **Sandra Bernhard**

Celebrate the progress that has been made for the right of individuals to live their lives openly. Attend the 10th Anniversary Lucille Hart Dinner **Saturday, October 12.** Oregon Convention Center Ballroom. Cocktails: 5:30, Dinner 6:30 pm. Speakers: **Governor Barbara Roberts, State Representative Gail Shibley.** Featuring singer, actress & comedienne **Sandra Bernhard.** Sponsored by the **Right To Privacy Political Action Committee.** For tickets call: **(503) 228-5825**



BC

Comedienne *Sandra Bernhard* to Headline

10th Anniversary Lucille Hart Dinner

Mention cutting-edge comedienne Sandra Bernhard, and the same question always flies in your face. "Okay, so did she really sleep with Madonna?"

The rising performer's sexual orientation is the subject of constant debate...something she actually encourages. Yet there's another aspect to this up-and-coming star that has her taking fans across the country hostage with her humor.

Is it those luscious, pouty lips? Or is it the *MAJOR* attitude, from a woman who knows how to work it? Or is it the surgically sharp wit that slices right to the raw nerve, leaving a searing social commentary on American pop culture?

How to describe this dynamo...She's a stand-up comedienne who tells no jokes, yet delivers a professional show that's unlike anything else on the contemporary scene.

"I am the only interesting thing happening in comedy," the brassy Bernhard tells *Rolling Stone* magazine.

"Interesting" is an understatement. Bernhard sings, she prances and dances, she rants and raves, and she gets aggressive, threatening to storm the stage like a Schwarzkopf military

move...leaving no prisoners in her wake.

If you've never seen Sandra, now's your chance. The best bud to Madonna, as well as a writer, singer, and actress in her own right will headline the 10th Anniversary Lucille Hart Dinner, Saturday, October 12th, at the Oregon Convention Center. The Dinner is named in memory of one of Oregon's first political lesbians, Lucille Hart.

It's also the major fundraiser for the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee...the statewide organization formed with the sole purpose to raise money to endorse candidates who will openly support the rights of Oregon lesbians and gay men. And a big battle already identified this year is heading off the anti-gay initiative by the Oregon Citizen's Alliance.

But back to Sandra...Bernhard burst onto the national comedy scene when she opened her off-Broadway show, "Without You I'm Nothing," later turning it into a theatrical release. She nabbed a national award from the National Society of Film Critics when she played a psychotic fan in Martin Scorsese's 1983 film, "The King of

Comedy." She also appeared in the movies "Track 29" and "Hudson Hawk".

Yet Americans may know her best as the woman who some 20-times wrestled the remote control right out of David Letterman's "Latenight" hands...flirting to kill, sending outrageousness into orbit, and climaxing one appearance with pal Madonna which left the audience stunned, Letterman speechless, and winning her a mention in Armistead Maupin's latest book "Sure of You."

So just what is this sex thing with Madonna? Well, anyone who saw her dish with the Diva in Madonna's "Truth or Dare" certainly has their own thoughts on the topic.

Of course, Bernhard could fill us in with the facts, and put this idle gossip to rest once and for all, at the 10th Annual Lucille Hart Dinner. And maybe she won't. But the night to find out will be October 12th, 5:30 p.m., at the Oregon Convention Center.

Tickets are \$100. For other information, contact Right To Privacy PAC in Portland at 228-5825.

(Paid for by Right to Privacy PAC)

Get Your Tickets Now!
Call 228-5825

RTP Opposes Thomas Nomination

Right to Privacy has joined with Oregonians for a Just Court (OJC) to oppose Clarence Thomas' nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court. OJC opposes his nomination because his judicial philosophy based on natural law leads us to conclude that he would oppose a women's right to choose. He has also repeatedly attacked key Supreme Court precedents involving fundamental individual liberties, remedies for workplace discrimination and school segregation. Call your U.S. Senators and tell them to **VOTE NO ON THOMAS**. Senator Bob Packwood: (503) 326-3370, Senator Mark Hatfield: (503) 326-3386. For more information, call Oregonians for a Just Court: 223-4510.

The Right To Privacy, Inc. newsletter is published bi-monthly. Donations are always welcome as are new names for the mailing list. Deadline for copy is the third Monday of the month preceding the publication month.
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RTP Office: (in Galleria)
Executive Director: Linda Welch
921 SW Morrison, #518
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 228-5825

POP CULTURE STAR AT HART DINNER



The quintessential entertainer of the '90's Sandra Bernhard writes, sings, acts, produces and really is funny. The audacious performer will headline the 10th Anniversary Lucille Hart Dinner.

(Paid for by Right to Privacy PAC)

Portraits Available at Lucille Hart Dinner

For the first time, Absolutely You Photography will be taking photographs of individuals, couples and groups at the Lucille Hart Dinner. For \$20, individuals and couples will receive an 8" x 10" portrait. Tables can be photographed for \$10 per person.

Absolutely You will donate their profit from each sitting to Right to Privacy PAC. What a great way to remember this event and give RTP PAC additional financial support!

(Paid for by Right to Privacy PAC)

2nd Annual Harvey Milk Awards Dinner

On Saturday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Corvallis, After 8 will sponsor the 2nd Annual Harvey Milk Award's Dinner. Harry Britt, Harvey Milk's successor on the San Francisco Board of City Supervisors and current President of the Board, will speak on "Coalition Building and Pro-Active Strategies in Times of Opposition." "Harvey's" will be awarded to two individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the lesbian, gay, and bi-sexual community. Tickets are \$25.00. For ticket and other information please call 758-7048.

After 8 is a Corvallis based group which formed following the passage of Ballot Measure #8 in November of 1988. The purpose of After 8 is education, advocacy, and direct action to create conditions which ensure that all persons are protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in this country and served briefly as a City Supervisor in San Francisco until his assassination on November 27, 1978. The Harvey Milk Awards Dinner was created to commemorate the achievements and contributions of Harvey Milk and to honor those persons who live out his legacy of activism on behalf of the lesbian, gay, and bi-sexual community.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

We are looking for someone who lives in Portland who would like to be the editor of the RTP Newsletter. It comes out every other month. The person needs to collect the information, assemble it and follow through with the printer to the final product. Anyone interested, give the office a call at 228-5825.



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MAYOR'S OFFICE

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Republicans Held Hostage by OCA

Many Oregon Republicans feel that the Oregon Republican precinct system is being controlled and held hostage by the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

Jim Peterson and Jeff Lewis in Eugene want to help avert this threat through activities at fundamental levels. They are extending an invitation to all registered Republicans who want to "walk precincts and get republicans elected," to become precinct persons by ballot or appointment.

Peterson and Lewis say that this will allow the precinct system to fulfill its function, and move the Republican Party away from issues of extremism to moderation. "There is no doubt that the Oregon Citizens Alliance is an aberration to moderates and liberals alike. As long as we remain a house divided, our future is uncertain" says Peterson.

Call them for information: Jim Peterson, 741-2253; Jeff Lewis, 343-0392.

A Conversation With Oregon

Governor Barbara Roberts is starting a unique opportunity for Oregonians. She is asking citizens to help decide the Character of their state for the 1990's and beyond.

Six meetings will be held in September to start the process and she needs your support and assistance. Thousands of volunteers will be needed statewide to help organize meetings, interview citizens and facilitate workshops.

Call 1-800-322-6345.



Office Equipment Needed

Your Right to Privacy Office is in need of a few things to make our office more efficient and more enjoyable as a place to work. If you can donate any of these, please call 228-5825: small refrigerator, FAX machine, cordless telephone.

V I V A !



Galleria

**A PARTY FOR PEACE, FREEDOM,
 ARTS & THE ENVIRONMENT**

SATURDAY, NOV. 2, 1991 7 PM - MIDNIGHT
 Featuring Portland's Hottest Music:

- MICHAEL HARRISON, jazz pianist (7pm)
- SWINGLINE CLUBS, '30s, '60s swing (8:30pm)
- PERFECT 10, R & B, motown, funk (10:15pm)

Admission: \$10 in advance at FASTIXX (service charge may apply)
 \$12.50 at the door

Net proceeds to benefit
RIGHT TO PRIVACY
 and other Galleria not-for-profit tenants

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LUCILLE HART DINNER

Starring Sandra BernhardOctober 12
 Oregon Convention Center, Portland, 5:30 p.m.
 Tickets, Call: 228-5825

A Conversation With Oregon

Pendleton 7:00 p.m., Pendleton Convention CenterSept. 19
 Bend 7:00 p.m., Bend High SchoolSept. 20
 Medford 9:00 a.m., North Medford High SchoolSept. 21
 Salem 1:00 p.m., Salem ArmorySept. 21
 Portland 12:30 p.m., Oregon Convention CenterSept. 22
 Eugene 4:00 p.m., Lane Community CollegeSept. 22

Questions about the the Conversation? Call 1-800-322-6345

VIVA! GalleriaNov. 2
 See advertisement, this page



Newsletter

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SEP 12 1990

MAYOR'S OFFICE

RIGHT TO PRIVACY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 1990

Join the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee for the

NINTH ANNUAL LUCILLE HART DINNER

"OUR POINTS OF VIEW"

presenting our very special speaker

MS. RITA MAE BROWN



Saturday, October 6, 1990 — Oregon Convention Center
777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Portland

5:30 p.m. cocktails - 7:00 p.m. dinner

Tickets: \$100 each

*For Tickets or Information, Contact Right to Privacy PAC Office:
921 SW Morrison, Suite 518, Portland, OR 97205 (503) 228-5825
ORDER FORM INSIDE*

About *Rita Mae* Rita Mae Brown

"Writers will happen in the best of families," says Rita Mae Brown. She credits her own adoptive parents for encouraging her curiosity and creativity at an early age, thus helping to seal her fate as the future author of bestsellers such as *HIGH HEARTS*, *SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT*, *SUDDEN DEATH*, the story of an egocentric tennis star, and *RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE*, a fictionalized version of her own life which has sold over a million copies and been published in every major language in the world.

The prolific Brown, who grew up in rural Pennsylvania but began a lifelong love affair with the South when she moved to the Deep South at age eleven ("before they paved Florida over with concrete," she says), is also the author of *SIX OF ONE*, a novel in which her real life mother becomes the fictionalized heroine, and *STARTING FROM SCRATCH*, an unconventional, pragmatic and utterly delightful writer's manual. She has penned two volumes of poetry (*THE HAND THAT CRADLES THE ROCK* and *SONGS TO A HANDSOME WOMAN*), a collection of political articles (*THE PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER*), and numerous magazine pieces and book reviews.

Her flair for lively — and often riotously funny dialogue — has afforded her the opportunity to write screenplays and teleplays for Walt Disney Productions, Twentieth Century Fox, and Norman Lear, among others. Her work for Lear's *I LOVE LIBERTY* television special won her an Emmy nomination, as did her adaptation of Faulkner's *THE LONG HOT SUMMER*, starring Don Johnson. Her original screenplay based on *SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT* has been sold to Margot Kidder and Godmother Productions.

Brown's commitment to her writing, a commitment which she financed early on by refurbishing and selling a series of old cars and antiques, is not her only passion. An early civil rights activist (she says her politics got her tossed out of the University of Florida, which she attended on scholarship) and one of the first members of NOW, she is an outspoken champion of the rights of the disenfranchised, and often finds herself on the lecture circuit with the likes of Gloria Steinem, and Tom Wolfe. Yet the writer, who counts among her numerous academic degrees a Ph.D. from the Institute of Policy Studies, doesn't describe herself as left-wing or liberal, but rather

as just plain old "bedrock American."

Brown has served on the Literature Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts (1978-82) and on the panel for the 1984 Emmy Awards. She has received fiction grants from the Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

After having lived in New York City — which she admits is "a magnet for writers" but finds too "monochromatic" — for ten years, she returned to the South she adores in 1976. She now shares her home in Charlottesville, Virginia — a clapboard house on a dirt road — with several cats, dogs and horses. And though she writes six days a week (even the Lord rests on the seventh, she notes), she enjoys horseback riding daily.

Brown, now 43, is philosophical about the ups and downs she has known in life, considering them all part of her development as a writer and a human being. "In my youth I was grape juice," she says. "Now I'm fermenting."

Her new novel, *BINGO*, a sequel to the much beloved *SIX OF ONE*, is scheduled for hardcover publication from Bantam.

No on 8 (and 10) is Back!

Those fanatical folk who brought us the anti-lesbian and gay ballot measure almost two years ago are back. This time, instead of attacking our right to love who we choose, they are attacking the rights of women and girls to make reproductive choices.

They must be stopped!

Join us...

Tuesday, Sept 11th

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Bijou Cafe

132 SW 3rd, Portland

You'll have the opportunity to learn about the ballot measures and how you can be involved, as well as make a

contribution.

For more info, call Cathy at 287-9370.

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Nola J. Wilken

The Right To Privacy Political Action Committee is published bi-monthly. Donations are always welcome as are new names for the mailing list. Deadline for copy is the third Monday of the month preceding the publication month.

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NINTH ANNUAL LUCILLE HART DINNER
 SET FOR OCTOBER 6, 1990
 "OUR POINTS OF VIEW"

Right to Privacy has scheduled noted author, Ms. Rita Mae Brown, as the keynote speaker for the gala Ninth Annual Lucille Hart Dinner, "OUR POINTS OF VIEW", on Saturday, October 6, 1990, at the new Oregon Convention Center in Portland. The Convention Center is located at 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, near the Lloyd Center. The principal fundraiser of RTP, the annual Hart Dinner honors the only Oregonian mentioned in **Gay American History**.

Dinner Chair Sanford Director encourages everyone to get their tickets early for this landmark event. Tickets are \$100 per person. Director said that this will be the first public event held in the new Oregon Convention Center in Portland after its official opening. A record crowd of more 1,000 is expected to attend, including many elected officials and political candidates.

Alberta Lucille Hart was born in Kansas in 1890 and grew up in Albany, Oregon in the early 1990s. She realized at an early age that she was a lesbian. While in medical school she began to feel guilty about her sexual orientation. After going through psychotherapy, Hart chose to start living as a male and assumed a public identity as Dr. Alan L. Hart for the rest of her life. She "married" another young woman and left Oregon to have a successful medical practice in the Northwest. Long before there were gay political activists, she demonstrated courage and persistence at a time when sexual outsiders were forced to live in a hostile world, isolated from the support of others.

The Hart Dinner honors her memory by giving the coveted Lucille Hart Award to an individual who has provided outstanding dedication to the cause of justice and civil rights for the lesbian and gay community in Oregon.

The festive evening won't be all speeches and awards, however. Formal attire is optional with cocktails at 5:30 p.m., giving everyone a chance to socialize prior to an all-Oregon dinner at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Portland Lesbian Choir and the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. The evening will conclude with music and dancing.

In only nine years of existence, Right to Privacy has become one of the largest political action committees in Oregon. RTP's goal is to enhance the well being of lesbians and gay men through the political process. It donates funds raised through this dinner to candidates who advance and defend the civil rights of lesbians and gay men.

The 1988 dinner raised over \$60,000 for RTP with over 650 in attendance. The 1989 dinner saw the largest crowd ever, over 700, continue the tradition of raising funds to help our friends in local, state and congressional races. This year's dinner promises to be the most outstanding yet.

Director suggests that those interested in becoming table sponsors contact the RTP office (503) 228-5825 right away for the best seating assignments. He also encourages people to take MAX, getting off at the Holladay Street stops, to alleviate parking congestion. Parking will be available at the south end parking lot for \$4.

Vision '90:
 Pathways to Change

Vision '90: Pathways to Change, the second annual statewide conference concerning lesbian, gay and bisexual issues within the campus community will take place at Lewis & Clark College in Portland on October 19-20. The conference is designed for students, staff, faculty and alumni, and will focus on the emergence of lesbian, gay and bisexual visibility on the college campus. Vision '90 is sponsored by the Oregon Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Campus Union in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Phoenix Rising Foundation, and the Lewis & Clark College student group, Homophile; and is funded in part by a grant from Equity Foundation.

This year's conference includes a range of keynote speakers, workshops and activities, including keynote speakers John D'Emilio, co-chair of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Nancy Shaw, the first openly gay or lesbian faculty member to receive tenure at U.C. Santa Cruz.

Six additional workshops will focus on topical interests such as: examining foundations of bisexuality; organizing campus based student groups; exploring the recommendations of the President's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Concerns at the University of Oregon; teaching about homophobia; and exploring issues of intimacy, dating, relationships and safer sex practices.

For more information or to request conference brochures write: Vision '90 Conference, c/o Homophile, LC Box 158, 0615 SW Palantine Road, Portland, OR 97219.

FROM THE CHAIR

by John Baker, RTP PAC Chair

The 1990 Hart Dinner, "OUR POINTS OF VIEW," along with the 1990 general election is quickly approaching. We have toured the new Oregon Convention Center and find it very exciting. The dinner should be quite stunning. Our keynote speaker, Rita Mae Brown, is attracting more attention than any speaker in the recent past.

Triangle Productions will present a delightful theatrical event "Solos by Marco Polo" which should prove to be one of the highlights of the evening.

The political season is heating up as we all await the traditional Labor Day kick-off. We plan on finalizing our endorsements in September and making financial disbursements in October (We'll have the list of endorsements in October's newsletter). In order to maximize

continued on page 4



Please send me _____ tickets for the Lucille Hart Dinner @ \$100. each. My check is enclosed for \$_____.

I want to join the Winners' Circle for the Right Privacy Political Action Committee. Enclosed is my contribution which entitles me to a 1990 Oregon Political Tax Credit to the extent provided by law.

VIP (\$2 per day)\$730 Dignitary\$125

Celebrity (\$1 per day)\$365 Luminary\$ 50

I am unable to contribute in these categories, but I want to help with our legislative agenda. Enclosed is \$_____.

I can't contribute money, but I can contribute time. Please enter my name on your list of volunteers.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

*Occupation _____

*Employer's Name _____

*Employer's Address _____

*if contributing \$50 or more, this information is required by the Secretary of State's office.

Right to Privacy PAC, 921 S.W. Morrison #518, Portland, Oregon 97205



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What You'll Be Voting on in November

Oregon voters will again make major policy decision in November, as they vote on numerous statewide ballot measures. Three of these measures impact basic criteria utilized by the RTP PAC in making endorsements:
Abortion Rights

Measure 8, sponsored by the Oregon Citizen's Alliance, seeks to ban all abor-

tions except to prevent the death of the mother or in *reported* cases of rape or incest.

Measure 10, sponsored by Oregon Right-to-Life, seeks to require doctors to give parental notice at least 2 days prior to a minor's abortion.

Property Tax Limitation

Measure 5, would constitutionally limit property taxes, and dedicate the limited amount to fund public schools and non-school government operations.

Passage of the measure would, on a state level, force the use of state income tax dollars or other sources of funding, not yet identified, to pay for the shortfall that would result. This would remove state general fund dollars from programs currently funded, such as AIDS education. It is anticipated that in the city of Portland alone, \$30 million would be removed from city government coffers if the measure passed, severely limiting police, fire, parks, and other services.

The RTP PAC Board will be advising voters on each of these issues in their 1990 General Election endorsements. The October newsletter will have a Voter's Guide, identifying candidates and ballot

measure positions that have been reviewed and approved by the Board. In the meantime, listen to the candidates and ask them questions about the issues that concern you.



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FROM THE CHAIR

continued from page 3

our impact, we have spent the last couple of months raising money. Our Garden Party, "A dollar a day..." major donor campaign and our telethon were all highly successful. We would like to thank Bridgetown Realty for lending their office and telephones for the telethon. And a thank you to all for continuing to make Right to Privacy PAC one of the strongest political groups in the state of Oregon.

Carol A. Carver, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist

*Lesbian & Gay Affirmative Psychotherapy
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SAVE THESE DATES!!

- NO ON 8 (and 10) Meeting September 11
Call Cathy Siemens at 287-9370
- Lucille Hart Dinner *Rita Mae Brown, Speaker*
First Banquet at Oregon Convention Center October 6
- OGLB Campus Union Vision '90 Conference October 19-20
Lewis & Clark College, Portland
- For information, write: Homophile, LC Box 158,
0615 SW Palatine Hill Road, Portland, OR 97219
- Oregon General Election November 6

Kathleen MacNaughton

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Portland, OR 97210

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METROPOLITAN
HUMAN
RELATIONS
COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER



CITY OF PORTLAND

SUMMER 1991

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MHRC tells community, we will fight OCA initiative with all available means.

Public officials and human rights activists flocked together to join the MHRC in opposing a proposed initiative that declares homosexuality a perversion.

Lon Mabon, executive director of the Oregon Citizens Alliance filed the initiative. It would amend the Oregon constitution to include homosexual activity with such practices as having sex with children or corpses.

The MHRC called a press conference.

Commissioner Donnie Griffin led off the conference saying "we are organizing a coalition to crush this effort", and that "the initiative was disgusting and alarming".

Joining the commission were representatives of various public officials. An aide to U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin said the initiative was "completely outrageous". An aide from the office of Ron Wyden, said Wyden agreed.

Gladys McCoy, Chairman of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners said she was personally scandalized that once



MHRC Interim Executive Director, Luis Machorro addresses the press. Also pictured from Left to Right is Gladys McCoy County Chair, Rodney Page Ecumenical Ministries, Sam Pierce MHRC Commissioner, Sid Galton MHRC Commissioner, Donnie Griffin MHRC Commissioner, Luis Machorro MHRC Interim Executive Director, Kathleen Saadat aide to Gretchen Kafoury, and Donna RedWing Lesbian Community Project.

again we must use our resources to fight bigotry.

Mary Wendy Roberts, Commissioner of The Oregon State Bureau of Labor and Industries, issued a statement saying she wanted to go on record as opposing the initiative. She urged all Oregonians to say no to hate and discrimination, and not sign the initiative circulated by the OCA.

Luis Machorro ended the press conference by saying "linking homosexuality to sexual perversions is disgusting and flies in the face of human dignity. We will fight this initiative with all available means".

News from the chair

by Carolyn M. Leonard
MHRC Chairperson

There are many ways that we can confront the "isms" of our society. However, before we launch campaigns against sexism, racism, homophobia, ageism, handicapism, etc., I suggest that we examine ourselves. How do we affirm the humanity of those whom our lives touch on a daily basis? What level of understanding and compassion do we bring to those with whom we disagree?

It is easy to attack someone who says or does
(Continued on page 2)

Senate Bill 708 passes state senate. Commission works to push it through house.

Letters are being written and phone calls made to various members of the Oregon House of Representatives to help get Senate Bill 708 passed.

SB 708 adds sexual orientation to the list of protected classes, thereby ensuring the

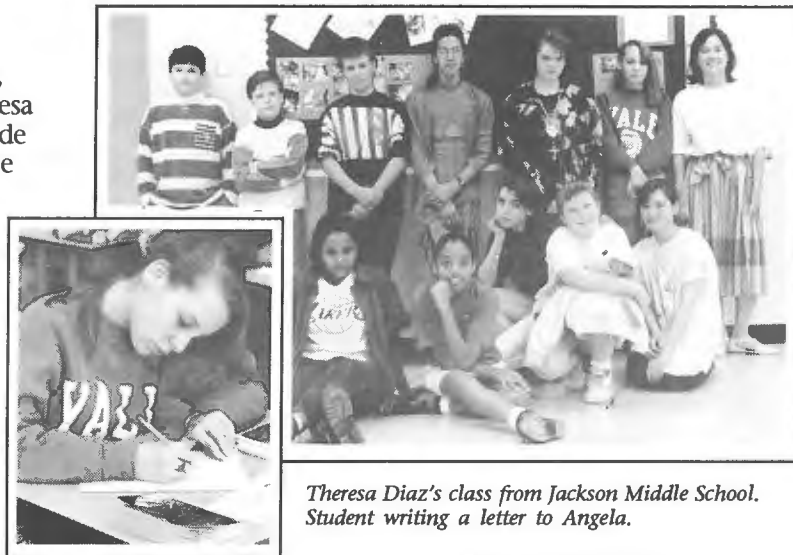
equal rights of all people in employment, housing, public accommodation, and education.

As we Oregonians cope with the rise in hate crimes and discrimination, we know that passage of SB 708 will help provide protection from discrimination under the law.

Angela Kane speaks to school children about hate crimes.

Angela Kane, MHRC staffer, spoke to Theresa Diaz's 7th grade class at Jackson Middle School about hate crimes in Portland. The information and scenarios were so interesting that the kids asked for more. The session ended with a discussion about what they could do to foster a better understanding of hate crimes, and how to help prevent them.

The kids were so impressed they wrote letters to Angela. Here are a few.
*Dear Ms. Kane,
 Thank you for coming to our*



Theresa Diaz's class from Jackson Middle School. Student writing a letter to Angela.

class on Wednesday. Your talk was very interesting and I learned a lot. Hopefully, someday we'll be able to stop hate crimes from happening. Sincerely, Larissa

*Dear Angela Kane,
 Thank you for coming and talking to us about hate crimes. You were very informative. I learned a lot. Absolutely, Positively, Sincerely, Aurora*

Chair

(Continued from page 1)

something that is socially unacceptable but, does disapproval stimulate the kind of thinking and change we are advocating?

Change within our society has to occur at a very fundamental level. People who understand and care must help those who are alienated, see that when they disrespect or negate the humanity of others, they hurt themselves. **WE ARE ONE HUMANITY!** There are only superficial boundaries that divide us. When we look at others with all of their imperfections, we are really looking at ourselves.

While overt acts of inhumanity are often recognized and challenged, most of us seldom ask: How did this happen? What would lead someone to such a position? What undergirds this behavior? Is it fear? Greed? Too often

our retort is to offer a label: racist, fascist, right winger, red neck... conservative.

My question is:

What do labels change? Whom do labels educate? Separating ourselves into "good guys" and "bad guys" will not solve the problems. I believe that fundamental change has to begin with each individual.

Daily I struggle to determine what things in my behavior fail to acknowledge the humanity of others. In challenging my own motives, I realize how incredibly hard it is to reconcile my behavior with the affirmation of the humanity of others. I want to disallow the negative behavior and yet avoid the transfer of negative feelings to other human beings.

My mind works

overtime trying to determine how the individual (whose behavior I question) got to be the way they are?

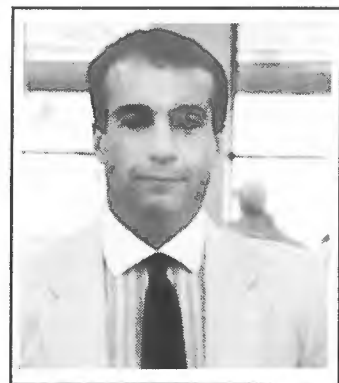
WE ARE ONE HUMANITY!
 There are only superficial boundaries that divide us.

We must indeed fight for a world that is more humane-- a world where every human being has dignity and worth.

For me that fight is launched through my work with the MHRC. The opportunity to work with people from diverse backgrounds to accomplish the MHRC mission gives me the chance to: 1. Confront myself and those deep personal beliefs I hold; 2. Become more educated about how complex it is to maintain a sense of self while acknowledging and celebrating diversity and 3. Take an active role in making Multnomah

Bernie Giusto is MHRC's newest commissioner

Bernie Giusto is the newest appointed MHRC Commissioner. Bernie was appointed by Gladys McCoy to fill one of 5 vacant MHRC posts. Bernie is a Lieutenant with the Oregon State Police.



Bernie after a press conference

County more livable for all.

The MHRC offers City/County Volunteer Commissioners, members of other groups and the public at large an opportunity to participate in: research, advocacy, issue oriented committees, work shops, hearings and public rallies. You can participate in the way that best meets your needs.

As the 1990-91 fiscal year comes to a close, the MHRC extends its thanks to those who have helped improve human relations in our community. For those of you looking for a way to get involved, we extend an open invitation to you. Please join us. Become a commissioner or serve on standing or issue oriented committees.

For more information about MHRC, please contact: Luis Machorro, Interim Executive Director at 796-5136.

MHRC works to help inner city Hispanics



A task force to help the Old Town Hispanics has been put together with the help of Congressman Ron Wyden through the MHRC Advocacy Committee.

The project is being coordinated by Gale Castillo, MHRC consultant. The first goal is to establish a temporary information and referral site.

The goal of the center is to fill the current needs of the Old Town Hispanics. One of the problems is many speak little or no English. Many

are transient and have no steady income. Many end up selling or using drugs as a result.

The MHRC is working closely with Ron Wyden's Tar Heroin Task Force, and the Old Town Community Policing Project, both in support of this project.

Our goal is to establish a permanent Hispanic services center. We are currently looking for volunteers and donors with time or money to help us help these people. The result will be a safer cleaner city for all.

Sid Galton wins Volunteer Service Award.



Sid Galton receiving Volunteer Service Award from Multnomah County for his work with MHRC, presented to him by Rick Bauman.

Arab-American Resolution

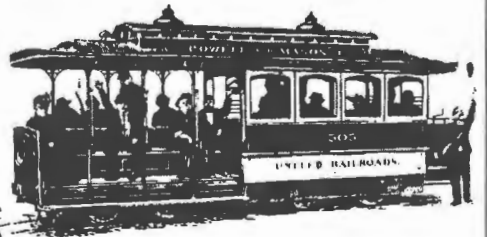
WHEREFORE, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission believes in the dignity and worth of all human beings: and WHEREFORE, the mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is to foster mutual understanding and respect and to protect the equal human rights of all economic, religious, ethnic, racial, national origin, disability, age, sex, and sexual orientation groups in the City of Portland and Multnomah County:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in this time of armed conflict in the Middle East between the United States and its allies and Iraq, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission hereby strongly urges all residents of Portland and Multnomah County to respect the dignity, worth, and equal rights of our Arab-American brothers and sisters who, just like other Americans, are loyal to this country and to the principles of equal protection and non-discrimination for which the United States stands.

Unanimously approved this 7th day of February, 1991.

MHRC Committee Advises Tri-Met

For the last few months the City/County Advisory Committee on the Disabled (CCACD)



has been giving public testimony to Tri-Met and participating regional jurisdictions and urging them to direct that the chosen alignment for the Westside light rail line be conditioned to mandate level platform vehicle access at all stations.

The cost of ongoing maintenance and replacement, the current breakdowns, the fact that persons perceive the lift as serving persons using wheelchairs only and not others with mobility impairments, and slowness of operation of the line because drivers must carefully align the car's

front door with the lift and get off the train to operate the lift are all problems with the existing lifts on the east side line.

CCACD recognizes that level platform loading offers a more cost-effective and efficient means of providing access to light rail vehicles to both the general public and to those with limited mobility or who use wheelchairs. We cannot repeat the past mistake of mechanical lifts that gave us limited access. We must be sure that Tri-Met considers level platform access as a condition on final design.

MHRC Research Committee Report

The Research Committee submitted a report entitled "Equity in the 80's: Recommendations for the 90's", that was adopted by the Commission in March, 1991. Iris Bell was the consultant who prepared the report. It reviewed the original 1979 recommendations of the Community Coalition for attaining equity in academic achievement by minority students in the Portland Public Schools, which were incorporated into the Portland Public School's Desegregation Plan. During the past decade, the School District has implemented many of these recommendations as well as other programs, and the gap in achievement scores has decreased. However, the report concluded that more



needs to be done. Among MHRC's recommendations for the 90's were the need for the District to: evaluate national models of success in improving the academic achievement of minority and low-income students, strengthen its involvement in strategies for increasing integrated housing in Portland, and vigorously pursue continued improvement in providing a multi-ethnic faculty and staff in its school.

The Research Committee also completed the first phase of a project to survey youth ages 13-17 in the metropolitan area on a variety of social, educational and community issues. The results will be important to both the Commission and area agencies serving youth. In planning this project, the Committee decided to have the survey developed "by kids, for

kids". Six area high school students, from a broad ethnic/cultural spectrum, created a questionnaire during a series of meetings facilitated by Victor Adonri. The Committee thanks Stephanie Craig, Alex Gonzalez, Eric Jones, Rosemary Nguyen, Joseph Robbins and Michelle Soles, who decided to call themselves "Creative Youth Incorporated" as they worked on this project. Methodology planning will proceed through the summer, and the survey will be distributed and analyzed in early fall 1991, with the assistance of a Portland State University graduate student.

MHRC is responsible for regular evaluations of the county and city EEO and Affirmative Action progress. This year, the Research Committee reviewed the city of Portland's overall EEO and Affirmative Action progress for the 1989/90 fiscal year

as well as the first six months of 1990/1991. It also focused on the specific progress of the Police and Water bureaus. The report was recently completed by Martin Winch, a consultant with considerable experience in local government issues. The report was adopted by the MHRC in June, 1991. It found encouraging changes in the overall city structure and emphasis on Affirmative Action as well as the Police and Water bureau's renewed commitments to a more diverse work force. However, little had changed in actual hiring of minorities and women during the past ten years. Many of the Commission's 1989 recommendations had not been implemented. We concluded that the City has for too long offered promises and increased expectations, and it is now time to translate those words into actions.

Jeanette Pai leaves MHRC to become Oregon State Affirmative Action Director

Former MHRC Executive Director Jeanette Pai resigned to become Oregon's Affirmative Action Director. We all are going to miss her and wish her the best of luck.

Luis Machorro is no longer a commissioner

but, the new MHRC Interim Executive Director. Luis has stepped right in and kept things running smoothly.

We also would like to thank past commissioners Peynet, Stone and Tenorio for their many years of service.

Mission Statement

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission believes in the dignity and worth of all human beings. MHRC's mission is to foster mutual understanding and respect, and to protect the human rights of all economic, religious, ethnic, racial, national origin, disability, age, sex and sexual orientation groups in Multnomah County.

MHRC

1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Room 520
Portland, OR
97204-1989
(503) 796-5136

131
404

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #653
Portland, OR

MHRC Commissioners

Carolyn Leonard, Chair
Janet Chandler, Vice Chair
Jaime Lim
Samuel Pierce
Kao Chin
Nathan Cogan

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Pat Swan
Commissioner Bogle's Office
B131 - 1220 SW Fifth
Portland, OR 97204



MARCH 1990

P.O. Box 5931 Portland, Oregon 97228 (503) 223-0071

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY CELEBRATION

Portland will hold its 15th Annual International Women's Day Festival on March 10th, 10:00am-5:00pm, at PSU Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway. On March 8, 1857, thousands of working class women marched through the streets of New York City demanding an end to sweatshop conditions, better childcare facilities, equal pay for equal work and the right to vote. In 1910 at the International Conference of Women Socialists held in Copenhagen, Clara Zetkin proposed that March 8th be observed as International Working Women's Day in honor of the New York march. This observance continues as hundreds acknowledge and honor the words and works of all women.

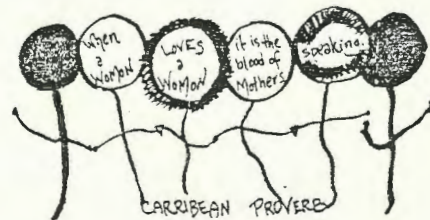
Many exciting activities are scheduled throughout Smith Center during this celebration. Poets from the Northwest will be sharing their poems; films will be screened throughout the day; crafts-women from throughout the state will be displaying and selling their work; music will be performed in two settings and will encompass a wide variety of styles. The Talking Heads room gives women an opportunity to speak about different

issues which impact our lives. Aromas will draw you in to taste the many different foods from around the world.

The Political Forum will be held at noon in the Smith Center Ballroom on Pornography and Prostitution. The forum will feature speakers who either work in or are survivors of this movement. Sarah Winter, founder of WHISPER (Women

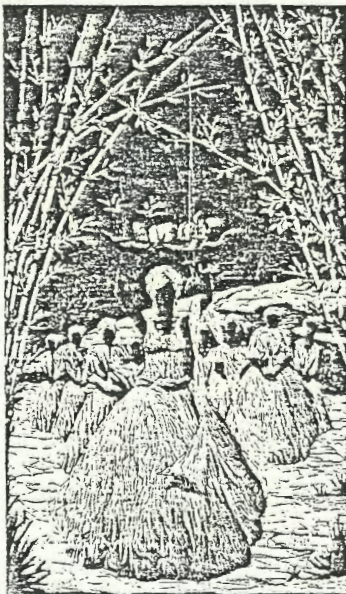
have information tables, the Littman and White Galleries will feature art by Northwest women and a variety of workshops will round out the day.

The evening concert will feature two dynamic groups, Deuce, a fusion/jazz band, and Altazor, four women comprising the Latin American New Song Movement. Tickets for the evening are



Hurt in Systems of Prostitution Engaged in Revolt) will be one of the panelists. Other speakers will include Susan Hunter, Director of the Council for Prostitution Alternatives, located in Portland, and activists and survivors from Seattle. Community organizations will

\$10 and can be purchased at A Woman's Place Bookstore, Artichoke Music, and PSU Box Office. Smith Center is wheelchair accessible, child care will be provided for all of the International Women's Day events, and free parking is available at the PSU parking structures.



MASSACHUSETTS LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS LOBBYIST VISITS PORTLAND

The Lesbian Community Project and the Right to Privacy PAC are delighted to present an evening with Barbara Boring, who successfully lobbied the passage of the state wide Lesbian and Gay rights bill in Massachusetts. She'll discuss organizing and legislative strategy and bring us up to date on the referendum effort. Don't miss this opportunity to hear a success story!! Everyone welcome.

SAT., MARCH 10
7 pm - 9 pm
THE BIJOU CAFE
132 SW 3rd

For more info, call Cathy Siemens at 287-9370

LCP UPDATES

NEWSLETTER NOTES

The Newsletter Committee extends anew an invitation to you to join us at our next planning meeting and to get involved in producing the newsletter. The Committee is open to all members of the lesbian community. We invite your input, involvement, and feedback. Call the office for info. *Also please fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire.*

Committee activities this month include producing the April newsletter; taking

the Portland Police Dept.'s Women Strength self-defense class; and moving towards our goal of enabling the newsletter to reflect the diversity within our community. The Newsletter Committee is beginning a series of meetings to look at how we have been hurt by "isms," how we participate in perpetuating oppression, ways we can change, and how we can ensure that the newsletter speaks to all members of our community.

LCP BOARD AMENDS BYLAWS

The LCP Board has adopted a temporary amendment to the bylaws which will be submitted for ratification by the full membership at the next annual general membership meeting. The amendment changes the term of office of board members from a 2 year term to a 3 year term. Additionally, the terms are staggered so that only 1/3 of the board is replaced each year.

Currently, the bylaws require a 50% annual turnover of board members. Our

experience has been that each year some board members have been unable to complete their terms. This has resulted in a 75% board turnover annually. We are hopeful that the bylaw amendment will result in more continuity in order to better serve the lesbian community. The next annual general membership meeting will be held sometime during the next 90 days. Anyone willing to serve as an LCP board member should please contact the LCP office.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

While I write this, a hawk is spiralling over the Willamette River, swooping and twirling, playing in the windy skyway. To the right I can see Mt. Hood, a snowy, almost ethereal presence suspended over the horizon. Portland is, even from my office window, a place of stunning beauty.

Portland is also a place that has attracted the attention of Supremists, a frightening group that has taken their politics of violence, racism and homophobia from the streets of Portland to its city hall, from Laurelhurst Park to Martin Luther King Boulevard.

And what are we doing? Are we waiting

to see what their next move is? Are we waiting for them to go away?

Can we afford to be ambiguous about the MLK Boulevard controversy or the presence of neo-nazis in our city? Can we choose to be non-political? I think not. How can you be a lesbian and not be political? I believe that the act of identifying as a Lesbian is a profound and political act. As a Lesbian you can lose your children, your apartment and your job because this state does not extend its civil rights to include Lesbians and Gays. You can be singled out and harassed and hated and hurt. How can you be politically inactive, how can you remain passive, when your basic human

1990 VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN OFF AND RUNNING

The LCP Visibility Committee has selected this year's theme: a photo of a number of women, 1 in 10 of whom are *not* lesbians! The response to the idea has been extremely enthusiastic. The visibility project's purpose is to increase public awareness of lesbians as real people--not as some myth or distortion. Having a picture of 100 or more women, 10% of whom are straight, is designed to:

1. Create confusion as to who is and who isn't a lesbian
2. Create a safe vehicle for lesbians to participate in the project (after all, we can all be one of the 10% who are straight, right?)
3. Distort the usual statistics (9 out of 10 are lesbians, rather than 1 out of 10).
4. Ask the question "Why should it matter anyway?"
5. Respond by stating that unfortunately it does matter, i.e., lesbian teachers can lose their jobs, lesbian mothers can lose their children, etc., etc..

The message will be disseminated through ads in the Oregonian, as well as smaller publications. Depending upon the amount of funds raised, the Committee is also hoping to place ads in outlying community papers.

If you would like to be involved in this year's project, call either Donna Red Wing (223-0071) or Deborah Betron at Bridgetown Realty (287-9370).

and civil rights are denied?

This year we have the opportunity to support those who are sensitive to Lesbian and Gay issues, those who will initiate and support our civil rights. From the city to the state to the national level, our political clout, our votes, our energy and our money can make a difference. On a neighborhood and community level, we can aggressively and persistently combat the racism, homophobia, sexism and classism that impinges on each of our lives. Personally and politically, we can make a difference. We must make a difference.

If you are interested in getting involved, on any level, call the LCP office.

GROUP PROFILE:

NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH PROJECT

Kathy Tweet

The National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP) began in 1981 as a pilot project of the National Women's Health Network (NWHN). Bylye Avery, one of two Black women who sat on the board of the NWHN, began doing research on the status of Black women's health in the U.S. and was shocked to discover the disparities between the health of white women and that of women of color. As a result of this research, Bylye made a personal decision to do what she could to change the system. A conference attended by 1700 people in Atlanta in 1983 gave the NBWHP direction and a sense of purpose. It became incorporated in 1984 in Atlanta and now has 150 chapters in 40 states as well as projects in Africa, the Caribbean, Central and Latin America. Bylye Avery is the president of the organization.

"We're health care activists," explains Sharon Gary-Smith, of Portland, whose long-time involvement with the Black Women's health care movement has led her to her current position as National Group Development Specialist with the NBWHP. "We've got to break down those artificial socio-economic barriers that have kept us from each other. Black women need to have the opportunity to sit across from one another in a mutually supportive environment and talk out loud about what this separation has meant to us. We need to come together to create opportunities so that optimal wellness becomes as much a reality for women of color as it has been for white women. As women of color, we must constantly work to change our self-perceptions and the perceptions of a system which continues to invalidate us because we're not the right gender, not the right color, or can't speak the language," she says.

In her role as national group development specialist, Gary Smith has become the architect for the project. "My joy and my job," she says, "is coalition building, bringing women of diversity together in an effort to achieve a common endeavor. We initiate dialogue, lay groundwork necessary to begin new chapters, and help to reactivate chapters that have become dormant." From Portland, she serves as a resource person for projects in northwestern and western states.

"Critical thinking is not the exclusive domain of the white patriarchy as it has traditionally been considered to be", she says. She believes that women hold the key to accessing societal institutions and that through the process of self-advocacy, they will be enabled to obtain quality health care for themselves and their families.

The local fiscal source for the Portland Black Women's Health Project is the Black United Fund, an alternative funding agency which provides grants to community-based projects in Northeast Portland. The project hopes to open a Northwest development office soon. The NBWHP has received its primary funding support from such foundations as Ford, Rockefeller, and New World.

For further information on the National Black Women's Health Project, contact Sharon Gary-Smith in care of the Black United Fund, P.O. Box 12406, Portland, OR 97211. She can be reached through the Fund at 282-7273 or at 286-3601.

"We need to come together to create opportunities so that optimal wellness becomes as much a reality for women of color as it has been for white women."

CALENDAR

To save space below, note general information here:

Cafe Mocha: 4108 NE Sandy Blvd, 288-9950, alcohol-free night club.

SisterSpirit, Wimmin Sharing Spirituality: P.O. Box 9246, Portland OR 97207, 287-3379 Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at 1431 NE Broadway.

Thursday, March 1

Country Western Dance Lessons "CC Shuffle", 8-8:30pm, Cafe Mocha, dancing 8:30pm-midnight.

Friday, March 2

FOREST Group potluck (6:30)/planning meeting (7:30); Bring your own mess kit. FFI 288-2893

Sunday, March 4

FOREST Group Alpine ski the Glade trail (Timberline). FFI 283-5926.

Songwriter workshop led by Judy Fiejl, Cafe Mocha, 1-3pm, \$15-20 sliding scale. Reserve by calling 231-9351.

Judy Fiejl on guitar and Crystal Reeve on fiddle, Cafe Mocha, 7:30pm, \$6 at door.

Tuesday, March 6

Two Year Anniversary of the First Tuesday Coffee House: The Trio Passage, Andee Hochman and Rachael Silverman --poetry and much more at Cafe Mocha, 7:30pm, \$2 donation.

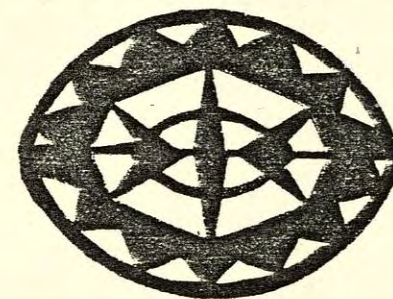
Thursday, March 8

Beginning at midnight on March 8, KBOO 90.7 FM will air 24 hours of special programming in honor of International Women's Day. Some of the topics to be addressed include: women in Nicaragua, racism and women, women

and AIDS, battered women, homophobia in the lesbian community, and an interview with Dr. Helen Caldicott. Listen to women for a change.

Saturday, March 10

15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION
PSU Smith Center, 10am-5pm: Speakers, art, films, crafts, music, poetry, organizations, political forum (noon), int'l food booths, evening performance featuring Altazor and Deuce, (tickets for evening \$12, available at Women's Place Bookstore, Artichoke Music, PSU Box Office). Sponsored by PSU Women's Union, FFI 725-4452, after 5pm and weekends 236-5125.



Forest Group hike in the Multnomah Falls area, FFI 231-5926.

Sunday, March 11

FOREST Group Intermediate Nordic skiing in Mt. St. Helens area FFI 238-2759.

Women With Women With Infants and Toddlers, (also women who are pregnant or considering motherhood), potluck, 10am-noon, Kim or Celia FFI 234-0038.

Hawk Madrone, Lesbian performer and photographer extraordinaire, will present a photographic celebration of women and other natural forms, and a

lively performance of original songs and stories, 7:30pm at Positively Fourth Street (265 4th Street) in Ashland, OR. Produced by Womansource, \$4-7 sliding scale, Refreshments catered by Four and Twenty Blackbirds.

Second Sunday brunch group, 11am-1pm, Dakota Cafe, 239 SW Broadway. Discussion: "degrees of outness" in school, office, the workplace. Lesbians who are associated with institutions of higher learning, either as faculty, staff or students are welcome. FFI Harriet Levi 227-5030 evenings.

Purim potluck brunch for Jewish Lesbian/Feminists, 11am, 5454 SW Orchard, Children welcome and noisemakers provided for the reading of the Megillah. FFI Vickie 244-8537.

Musica Femina Flute-Guitar Duo in concert/informance of music by women composer, performed by Janna MacAusian and Kristan Aspen, 7pm, Cafe Mocha, \$5 cover at door.

Monday, March 12

SisterSpirit Healing Circle, 7:30pm, 3705 SE Market Apt. 3, FFI 287-3379.

Tuesday, March 13

Downtown Dykes meet for lunch at the Dakota Cafe, 239 SW Broadway, 11:30am-1pm. Ask for the "Lunch Bunch" table.

SisterSpirit's SisterSong group, 7:30pm, at Dun Sidhe, 2804 NE 42nd, FFI 287-3379.

Wednesday, March 14

SisterSpirit Celebration Planning Meeting, 7:30pm, FFI 287-3379.

Friday, March 16

Concert by Mary Rose and Yvonne Simmons, 7pm to benefit Art Enrichment Program for Children at Urban Art Retreat. Tickets: \$3-5.

Saturday, March 17

Barb Galloway and the Vital Move perform at the Wild Rose, Seattle, WA. \$7 cover.

First meeting of support discussion group, 10:30am: Wanted: Lesbians with art background/education/talents. If you've been working 9 to 5 (metaphysically speaking) and have let your art training/desire/inspirations submerge...we want you. Join this group at LCP. Help yourself and other women develop art re-emergent exercises and experiences. Possible art cooperative/studio development in future. FFI LCP 223-0071.

Sunday, March 18

Birthday Party for Red Spirit, United Indian Women, Inc. invites the community to celebrate Red Spirit's first birthday, beginning 11am throughout afternoon. There will be food, drumming, crafts, 2853 SE Stark, FFI 236-6154.

FOREST Group Nordic skiing trip, FFI 284-7952.

Tuesday, March 20

SisterSpirit Jewish/Pagan Group, topic: Purim, 7:30pm, FFI 287-3379.

"No more fiendish punishment could be devised, even were such a thing physically possible, than that one should be turned loose in society and remain absolutely unnoticed by all the members there of."

-WILLIAM JAMES

from "Disability Rag" Nov/Dec '89

Wednesday, March 21

FOREST Group views Alaskan slide show, FFI 255-3487.

SisterSpirit Wiccan Group 7:30pm, FFI 287-3379.

Saturday, March 24

FOREST Group Whale Watch boat trip from Newport. Sign up and pay by March 2, limited space, FFI 235-1712.

Kate Sullivan and Loose Women perform at East Avenue Tavern.

Open Your Heart Auction, 6-10:30pm, Montgomery Park Atrium, 2701 NW Vaughn, tickets are \$20 each, \$175 table of ten. Presented by Burnside Projects. FFI 222-5574.

Sunday, March 25

SisterSpirit Celebration 'Spring Equinox', 3pm, Echo Theatre, 1515 SE 37th off Hawthorne. FFI 287-3379.

Tuesday, March 27

SisterSpirit Feminist Christian Communion, Queen of Heaven Gnostic Chapel, 2229 SE Market. FFI 287-3379.

Saturday, March 31

FOREST Group intermediate ski trip. FFI 238-2759.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 1

FOREST Group advanced beginner Nordic ski trip for dykes and their dogs. FFI 235-3765.

FOREST Group intermediate Nordic skiing along Barlow Ridge. FFI 238-5926.


Last day to reserve a place at Jewish Lesbian/Feminist Seder on Sunday, April 15, 4pm. FFI 231-7383.

Woody Simmons at Cafe Mocha, 7:30pm, \$6 advance tickets at Women's Place Bookstore, \$7 at door.

Friday, April 6

Portland Lesbian Choir presents its 2nd annual spring concert, Women with Wings, First United Methodist Church, SW 18th & Jefferson, 8pm. Doors open at 7:30pm, Cost: \$8-12 sliding scale in advance at A Woman's Place Bookstore, \$10-14 sliding scale at door. Wheelchair accessible, signed for hearing impaired, free childcare. FFI 231-9105.

FOREST Group potluck (6:30pm)/planning meeting (7:30pm). Bring your own mess kit. FFI 283-5926.

 Girlfriend Productions presents

March 10th

DEUCE & ALTAZOR

PSU Smith Ballroom, 8 pm, \$10

April 14th

Dance with

RANCH ROMANCE

Pine Street Theatre, 8 pm, \$10

April 21st

RONNIE GILBERT

with special guests

Pine Street Theatre, 8 pm, \$10

Tickets available at Artichoke Music

and A Woman's Place Bookstore

For more information call 281-4635.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spouses Get Free Ride

The Belgian Telephone and Post Service has extended free use of the state train system to employees' heterosexual spouses or their gay/lesbian domestic partners. The expansion of benefits, considered bold by Belgian standards, has not yet been extended to unmarried heterosexual partners.

Partners, Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples, 12/89

Celebration '90 To Be Held in Vancouver, Canada

Begin making plans and arrangements for attending one of the largest gay and lesbian festivals ever held. From August 4-11, 1990, Vancouver B.C. will host Celebration '90; Gay Games III and Cultural Festival. This event brings together gay and lesbian athletes, artists, musicians, and spectators from around the world: 5500 athletes, 4500 performance and visual artists, plus 16,000 spectators will participate. Write: 1170 Bute Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6E1Z6

The Paper: An Alternative Lifestyles Journal, 12/89

"Project 90": A Grassroots National Network

Six local chapters of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLADD)

sent representatives to Washington D.C. in November for two days of national organizing meetings, held in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change conference. A national network emerged, with bases in nine cities aimed at turning around public opinion on homosexuality.

The local GLAAD chapters created a national steering committee to lay the groundwork for a national GLAAD. Among the issues to be decided by the committee this year are the composition of a national board of directors, national objectives, and national staffing and fundraising needs. For more information write: GLAAD, 89 Varick Street, #3E, New York, NY 10013 *GLAAD Newsletter, Winter 1990*

May Day Gathering

The local coordinating council of the Wolf Creek Radical Faerie Sanctuary will sponsor a May Day gathering, "Dykes and Faggots in Class Struggle," a low-cost campout at the sanctuary April 28 - May 6 with vegetarian meals.

The Wolf Creek Faerie Circle would like to see 50 to 200 lesbians and gays come together to talk about how class affects us. At this time they need volunteers to help coordinate the gathering, particularly gays and lesbians well versed in

class issues who can volunteer to lead discussions. To volunteer or get more information call the sanctuary at 866-2678. Leave a message.

Southern Oregon Lambda Association (SOLA) Newsletter, 1/90

Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men '90

Registration for the 15th annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, to be held in Raleigh, NC, March 22-25, is \$80.00 if paid by March 20 or \$100.00 at the Conference. There are a number of other fee combinations including single day admissions, single entertainment tickets, and exhibit area admission. A brochure detailing complete information about the Conference and fees is available from SECLGM, Inc. '90, PO Box 28863, Raleigh, NC.

The Newsletter, Durham, NC, 1/90

36 New Organizations Join ILGA

The International Lesbian & Gay Association World Conference in Vienna in July, 1989, accepted 36 new organizations as full members, including seven groups from the USA. This record growth for ILGA also included new memberships from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The 12th Annual World Conference of ILGA will be held in Stockholm, Sweden from July 1-7, 1990. For information on the 1990 Conference or for a free brochure "This is the ILGA" and membership details for groups or individuals, write ILGA Information Secretariat, c/o RFSL, Box 350, S-101 Stockholm, Sweden. The 1991 ILGA World Conference will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico. *Community News,*

Andy Rooney & Homophobia

Andy Rooney shows his bigotry on the December 28 CBS News. "There was some recognition in 1989 of the fact that many of the ills that kill us are self-induced, too much alcohol; too much food, drugs; homosexual unions; cigarettes. They are all known to lead to premature death. The moral issue is this: If a person is repeatedly warned that something is bad for him, is society respon-

Teen Suicide

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that gay/lesbian youth are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than other young people, and gay/lesbian youth may comprise up to 30% of the completed youth suicides annually. The key to ending the gay teen suicide, the report said, is ending discrimination against young people on the basis of their sexual orientation. *The GLAAD, Winter 1990*

Fundamentalists "Forbid" Gay Games III from Happening.

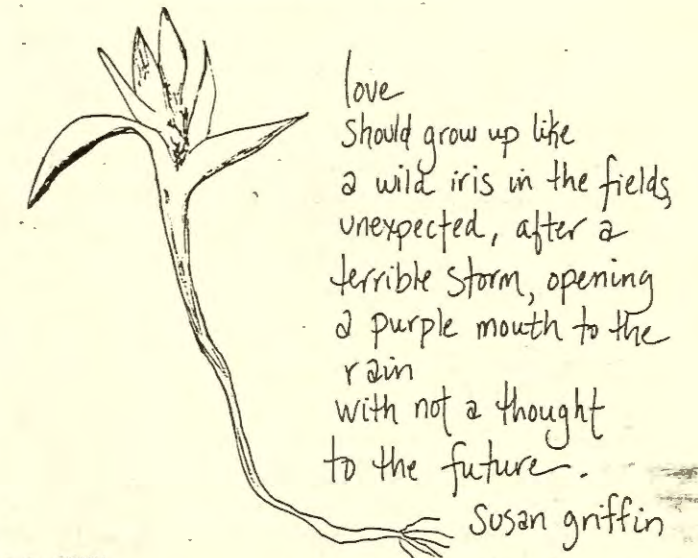
Unnamed "Christian leaders who live in Greater Vancouver" shocked organizers of Celebration '90: Gay Games III and Cultural Festival with full-page ads in the city's two major daily newspapers calling for the Games not to take place. The reason, "...these games will bring God's judgement upon us all in this city, we therefore forbid them."



sible for his medical bills?" But don't worry, he doesn't consider lesbian sex to be a homosexual union. In his words, "When I say homosexual union...to me the sex act has clear meaning of invasion of one body by another. My understanding of what (lesbians) do wouldn't involve that. I didn't consider that when I used the word 'union.'" *The San Francisco Bay Times Feb. 1990*

Rights Supported

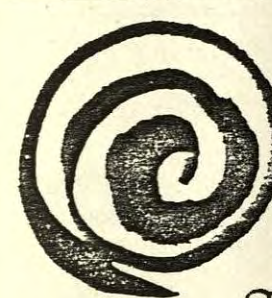
A recent Gallup poll found that 233 percent of Americans favor granting same-sex couples the same legal rights as married couples, while 69 percent were opposed. One-third would extend those rights to unmarried heterosexual couples.. *Partners, December 1989*



love
Should grow up like
a wild iris in the fields
unexpected, after a
terrible storm, opening
a purple mouth to the
rain
with not a thought
to the future.

Susan Griffin

Some folks didn't receive their February newsletter -- sorry for the inconvenience. We had problems with our labels. Everyone should receive their March copy.



Body
Centered
Therapy

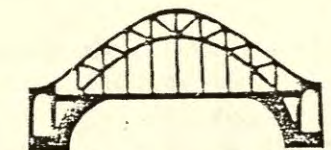
Musawa • 630-7848

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

--MARGARET MEAD--



A real estate professional: one who orchestrates the transaction to meet the needs and objectives of the buyer and seller.



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— established 1979 —

"I always cringe whenever I hear a Lesbian say to a straight interviewer, 'We are just like you.' I never felt like any straight woman in the world."

-LESBIAN POET PAT PARKER

keynote speaker at the Passages conference for older Lesbians

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:

Susan Rosenthal

Chris Maier

Susan Rosenthal has been a member of the Visibility Project since it began last year. Last spring as part of the Visibility Project, she coordinated the Gay and Lesbian Float in the Starlight Parade. This year, she is working with the current organizers, sharing what she learned about what works and what doesn't. She said she felt that last year she was the float's "mother," and this year she is one of its "grandmothers."

Politically active since the Vietnam war, Susan said that she has sometimes dropped out "when the working process was so negative and frustrating. This (LCP and the Visibility Project) was a welcome change because it was so positive. Maybe we've all learned something." Susan has done some legislative work, including extensive work on the No on 8 campaign--coordinating the phone bank and doing outreach to the religious community, and soliciting endorsements and support from religious leaders.

A member of LCP for some years now, Susan began actively volunteering for LCP after the passage of Ballot Measure 8. In dealing with that defeat, she felt it was crucial to do something positive. She began working on the float by agreeing to call the Rose Festival to find out how to apply, "and it went from there."

"For me, doing the float was, both in the process of making it happen and in literally having it happen, a really significant, important event. I didn't think of myself as a 'volunteer'. Rather, I was given a chance to be involved in something special. Working on the float gave me a sense I never had before of the talent, commitment, and cohesiveness of our community."

The importance of the float and of the Visibility Project as a whole is connected with the problem of Measure 8 for Susan.

"I don't think we altogether understand why we lost Measure 8, but one thing seems clear--that we have to be more known in all kinds of ways. The float and the Visibility Project are important ways that that can happen. We stepped into arenas in which we are traditionally hidden--the Rose Festival, the Willamette Week, and the Oregonian."

Two things struck Susan as being the best part of being involved with the Visibility Project--the first was that "by the time it (the float) finally happened, it was the culmination of the efforts of many, many people. I really felt a part of our community." The second was that both the float and the Visibility Project are happening again this year. The most fun part, though, was "actually seeing the float go by--I saw it go by in five different places, maybe seven. It was an incredible high. It was beyond fun, for me and for all of us."

A therapist, Susan told me that she appreciated "the balance between working in the microcosm in my work and working in the macrocosm in my volunteer and activist involvement." Spending time with her 11-year-old son is an important part of her personal life. She likes to work around the house and on her yard, and from that interest, she started the Lesbian Gardening Club. For several years, she has also been visiting a Hmong family that she originally met through the Lutheran Family Services.

"I'm very glad that LCP exists. The multifaceted organization it provides an opportunity for lots of ways of addressing our needs as lesbians. I would hope other people could have the experience I have had of finding a niche in LCP and of being a part of something that feels so good afterwards."

THE FORMAL'S COMING...THE FORMAL'S COMING..

Volunteers are needed to plan and implement the LCP May Formal to be held Friday, May 11, at the Western Forestry Center. This party is a return to the formals of the LCP of years past and promises to be an exceptional occasion.

All areas of preparation are open and available, and volunteers often get reduced or free passage to the event. Areas of help needed are: decorating, setup/cleanup, serving drinks/food, ticket sales, and publicity. Getting involved is a great way to reflect your input and interest. Interested persons should call Sparky at 236-5125 or the LCP office at 223-0071.

The Events Committee also will be meeting Sunday, March 11th at Cafe Mocha to plan this and other events. Come get involved and bring a friend! The Committee wants to produce films, speakers, and other new activities for the Lesbian Community. We encourage you to participate and to bring your ideas. Call Sparky at 236-5125.

**Your
Ad
Here!**

LEAVE WINTER BEHIND! Former LCP Director and partner have furnished bedroom to rent in Honolulu, by the week (\$100 or 150/couple), by the month (\$300 or 400/couple). Close to beach, on bus line. Contact Jawa or Donna at (808)546-8014, or write: 39 Hialoa St. #201, Honolulu HI 96817. We cannot return long-distance calls, but leave a message on our machine with desired dates, your address and/or phone number and we'll send a postcard or call you collect to answer inquiries. Aloha!

IT'S ALREADY TIME TO START THINKING SOFTBALL! LCP is beginning work for this year's softball tournament and we welcome your help. This "bigger and better" event needs support in areas such as publicity, awards, T-shirts, umpires, scheduling, graphics, and organizing a social. Call LCP office (223-0071) today to volunteer. A little help will go a long way in making a fun weekend and a successful fundraiser for LCP.

LCP Ad Rates

Classifieds: Minimum of \$2 for 20 words or less, \$.03 each word over 20.

Display Ads: \$5 per column inch per issue, discounts available.

Business Card Ads: \$20 per issue, \$50 for 3 issues, \$170 for a year.

Full page: \$100 per issue.

Inserts: Inserts must be supplied to LCP by the 15th of the month. Priority will be given to LCP sponsored events. A maximum of 3 inserts will be allowed per issue. Events which are fund-raiser for non-profits will not be charged, however, profit making events will be charged \$50 per insert, per issue.

CLASSIFIEDS

EUGENE GAY AND LESBIAN HELPLINE of the Lavender Network: 683-2428 or 1-800-333-2428, 4-8pm. The Helpline is also collecting data on harassment of lesbians and gays -- call them with your information and experiences.

AVAILABLE SOON: ONE BEDRM BASEMENT APT. in pleasant, safe, overlook neighborhood of N. PDX. Close to frwy, downtown, #5 bus, park. Suitable for one responsible person. No smoking in building. My dog and 2 cats don't want more dog/cat competition, but welcome your human friendship. W/D available, not w/c accessible. \$300/mo including heat, elec., water. \$150 refundable, interest-bearing deposit. FFI Gilah 281-2980.

BODY WORK THERAPIST: Musawa, MA/LMT combines training in Hakomi Bodywork Therapy (advanced student), Clinical Psychology (MA), and 18 years in the Wise Woman Tradition of Healing. Sensitive body-centered therapy that touches you deeply. FFI 241-8953 in Portland or 630-7848 in Estacada.

WE'MOON HEALING GROUND: Living space available on women's land, 30 miles SE of Portland, 50 acres, fenced pasture and barn, organic garden (will be working the land with horses this Spring), old forests, creek, overlooking Mt. Hood. Room in the Main House, trailer, and Little House: \$150/mo each. Natural sanctuary for self-healing, weekly healing circle and work day on the land, occasional workshops offered. Home of the We'Moon Almanac (Mother Tongue Ink) and Musawa's Healing Matrix. Mostly vegetarian, ideally toxin-free, definitely safe from abuse of substance-land-or-people. Spring planting: looking for wemooon who wish to live, work, and love in peace on this earth. FFI Musawa: 630-7848.

WE'MOON '91: THE CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS for next year's We'Moon is out! An int'l astrological moon calendar and daily guide to natural rhythm for wemooon produced locally...now in its 10th year of publication by Mother Tongue Ink, edited by Musawa. Camera ready art work and short poems, teachings, written words should be sent with a S.A.S.E. by March 20, **SPRING EQUINOX, 1990.** What would you like to see on the pages of next year's We'Moon? Theme: The Living Earth, and all our relations to Her. Send to Mother Tongue Ink, 37010 SE Snuffin Rd., Estacada, OR 97023. FFI Musawa: 630-7848.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS: Save time and relax knowing that your records are well kept. I'll provide you with monthly bookkeeping, a clear understanding of your finances, and more. My goal is to help you reach yours. **SMOOTH SAILING BUSINESS SERVICES,** Mitzi McMullen 236-2590.

FAMILY-ORIENTED FEM looking for weekend exercise mate/s. Medium level fitness including indoor aerobic work-outs or brisk outdoor walks, about 1-2 hrs./weekend, prefer mornings. Jocks or fems OK. No smokers. Leave message at 255-1941.

From *The Feminist Dictionary*

Contraceptive Sponge

A contraceptive which "is just a way of making sex seem more like doing the dishes." Elayne Boosler 1984; quoted in *Newsweek*, April 30, 1989

VOICES

Two gay men were hung and two lesbians were stoned to death in Iran recently because of who they loved. Fourteen women were brutally gunned down in Montreal because they were women. How many women are harassed and assaulted or killed each day? When will it not matter what color your skin is, what side of town you live on, how old you are, or who you love?

I have always questioned authority. In the fourth grade, I volunteered to be an alter boy. Sister Marie told me I couldn't be an alter boy because I was a girl. Well, I knew I could ring those bells as well as any boy. My persistence got me to the principals office where I was told God didn't like little girls who cause trouble.

During the 70s, child abuse, rape, incest, spouse abuse, and other violent crimes against individuals became more public.

Some people said, "The family's breaking down; there was none of this in the good old days." There were plenty of violent crimes in the good old days, they were just never talked about. It was socially acceptable for a husband to slap around his wife. If a woman was raped, she was asking for it; if she was assaulted, she was in the wrong part of town.



given no rights. Martin Luther King Jr. and the 60's civil rights movement questioned authority and shocked this country.

It is easy to become oppressors ourselves by denying others the right to be themselves just because we do not agree with them. We all have the right to choose how to live our lives and when someone denies us that right, we must fight.

Joan Palmer

If you have been debilitated emotionally to the point of despair because your alcoholic partner verbally, emotionally, or physically abused you, if you focused on her potential rather than on heeding the red-flag warnings, if you thought that electric sex would save the relationship --then you know what co-dependency is.

If you found yourself reacting to absurd accusations and engaging in hateful, derogatory arguments, if you drove from bar to bar looking for her car, if you betrayed yourself by losing your self-esteem and personal goals --then you've been co-dependent.

If you begged her to stop drinking to no avail, if you thought she would stop drinking if you were only loving and understanding enough, if you felt guilty that you couldn't make her happy, if you felt pity and a growing revulsion for one you had so dearly loved, if you'd been so confused and beaten-down that you couldn't leave her no matter how abusive she became --then you understand co-dependency.

If you became so enmeshed in alcoholic drama games, so humiliated, hurt, and enraged that you envisioned a shotgun bullet through her forehead--then you know the danger of co-dependency.

Have an opinion or something you want to say to the lesbian community? Write to Voices, c/o LCP, PO Box 593, Portland 97228.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

The LCP newsletter welcomes and encourages an open forum of all topics important to our community. All submissions or responses must include the writers full name and phone number. Phone numbers are for verification only and will not be printed. Please let us know if you want your last name printed. Writer's last name will be identified by first letter only unless otherwise requested. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for grammar. We will not print material we interpret as a personal attack on a named individual, or material which is clearly racist, sexist, homophobic, classist, anti-Semitic, ableist, ageist, fat-oppressive, etc. Submissions must be limited to 500 words or less due to space limitations.

GIRLCOTT'S

If you felt so self-hateful, ashamed, and unlovable that suicide became an option for solving your pain --then you have lived through sickness.

But if you have not experienced the terrible desparation and feelings of self-loathing, then I don't think you can understand why so many of us have had a need to seek out a 12-step program such as Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA). ACOAs are survivors who restore our sense of dignity through sharing and learning from others. ACOA and AI-Anon empower women, by asking us to focus on ourselves and our own needs.

I watch the co-dependents in my alcoholic family endure the best they can. But to see my Great-Aunts, Aunts, Cousins, Grandmothers, and Mom catering and deferring to male family members is not to see co-dependency, but their attempt to survive in a sexist world.

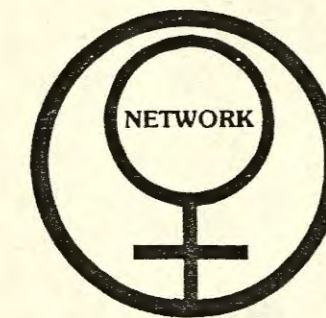
I was fortunate to be introduced to political theory by a radical feminist who was determined in her efforts for Women's Liberation, before I was introduced to 12-Step programs. I am however delighted to see the empowerment of women in these programs. I've always been a believer in "If it works for you, do it." These programs emphasized focusing on yourself, your needs. Personal well-being is the key, a message that not a whole lot of women are encouraged to heed.

As one AI-Anon member put it, we heal in meetings so we are able to go out into the world, healthy, and do our part. This is my belief. Pass it on.

In the spirit of anonymity, H

(Dear H. we had no phone number and didn't know from your closing how you wanted us to print your name.)

For a change, we recommend a socially responsible American Company to BUY products from. Kraft General Foods has announced a \$1 million commitment for corporate advertising in the African-American press. A senior vice-president was quoted as saying "At Kraft General foods we have long recognized the important role the Black press plays in their communities." In 1989 the company, through its minority vendor program, purchased more than \$10 million in goods and services from African-American vendors. Kraft produces and markets a large variety of



products including Kraft cheeses, Miracle Whip, Philadelphia Brand, Breyers, Maxwell House, Sanka, Jell-O and Birds Eye. Skanner

Celebrate trees.....start thinking about Earth Day (April 22nd) a little early. April 1-7 has been dedicated by the Oregon Legislature as Oregon Arbor

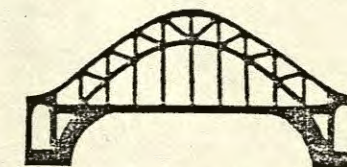
Week. The Arbor Week Council and the American Forestry Association are suggesting that we all plant trees as an important grassroots way to combat global warming. Trees use carbon dioxide as they grow and help cool the earth. So plant trees around your home, in parking strips, or in vacant lots. Beautify your neighborhood and help Mother Earth.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Help around the LCP Office; typing, filing, answering phones, etc.
- Work on Newsletter Committee
- Help with funding/grants-writing files and correspondence
- Work on Starlight Float Committee

WISH LIST

- Elec. typewriter with correction key
- Large plants
- Art work, photos, etc. for office
- Books of interest to wimmin
- Book shelves



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Sales Associate
Res: 238-0135

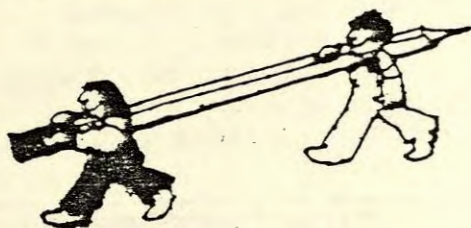
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Portland, OR 97232
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JOIN US IN PRODUCING
 THE NEXT ISSUE!



DYKE ABOUT TOWN

What can women do, individually or as a community, to respond to hate crimes against lesbians and gays?

Barrie Brewer: Be pissed. And follow through.

Margaret Sears: Speak up. Be willing to be assertive and confront bigotry. Teach our children to be assertive too.

Annette: Apply political pressure to city officials and the police so it isn't tolerated. Let it be known that there is zero tolerance.

Susan: When people make jokes let them know it offends you. Don't be quiet or let it go by.

Clarice Johnston: Come out. Come out to acquaintances and co-workers and everyone you know. Fear is a bad habit. The more we come out, the easier it gets.

Sandi Clark: Address our own internalized homophobia, racism, and sexism, then work together towards confronting violence. We need to work together, instead of fighting each other.

Lesbian Community Project Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

- I am interested in volunteering
 I am interested in learning more about becoming a pledger

Voting Membership

I am a woman who supports the goals and purpose of LCP.
 Annual fee enclosed.

- \$20 Basic \$ 50 Friend
 \$75 Supporter \$100 Sustainer

Associate Membership (nonvoting)

I am an individual or an organization that would like to support LCP. I understand the terms of Associate Membership. Please enroll me. Enclosed is my annual fee.

- \$20 individual \$35 organization

RETURN TO:

LCP, PO Box 5931, Portland, OR 972(503) 223-0071



--PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER--

Alliance Between Whores, Wives, and Dykes:

Proposal for a Work Group to Demystify and Eliminate The Division of Women into Bad, Good, and Perverse

Gail Pheterson

In 1979, an alliance project was organized in the Netherlands to study and interrupt obstacles to solidarity among women.¹ Groups were formed to address the internalization of racism, classism, anti-semitism, and heterosexism within and between women. Beginning in 1981, additional groups were organized to address divisions between able-bodied and disabled women and between women in the presence of men. At the same time, a prostitution work group joined the project to explore the "whore-madonna" split within women. Each group, except the prostitution one, had a majority of women who belonged to the oppressed category; one group had seven black women and five white women, one had seven Jewish women and five Gentile women, etc. That balance was considered essential to counteract the invisibility and subordination of the oppressed group and the assumptions of normalcy and superiority of the dominant group. The prostitution work group had initially formed separately from the alliance project as a feminist task force to study prostitution in the third world. Participants were not working prostitutes. They joined the alliance project in order to use its basic analysis of "internalized oppression" for addressing their identification with prostitutes (self as "whore") as well as their stigmatization of prostitutes (self as "madonna").² The present proposal is an attempt to give political substance to their psychological exploration by organizing a group which includes a majority of women who work as prostitutes and thereby risk legal, social, and physical abuse.

Although the content of each oppression is specific, there are profound commonalities and interconnections. The oppression of women working as prostitutes, for example, is intimately linked to class oppression, sexuality oppression, and race oppression. In fact, it may not be accidental that an alliance group between "madonnas" and "whores" evolves in this project now, after years of groundwork around other oppressions. As an issue which unavoidably confronts the economic and sexual realities of women, prostitution taboos and coercions may underlie the social control of all women.

One of the insights of former groups which affects the present plan is the realization that women are divided not only into good and bad, but also into perverse. There are those of us who deal with our female condition neither by submission to men (the good women, called here the wives) nor by manipulation of men (the bad women, called here the whores) but by rejection of men (the

perverse women, called here the dykes). Labelling is as sensitive a subject to the oppressed as it is a critical one to the dominant. This proposal uses the above labels not as definitions of identity, but rather as definitions of functions³ assigned to women by dominant male society. Some women choose such labels to identify themselves for commercial, social, or political reasons, all of which helps to redefine functions in the service of others as strategies for oneself.

Good women (wives and other women assumed to be possessed by individual men) are legitimized by the patriarchal system; their function is to model subservience. Bad women (whores and other women assumed to be "loose" or for hire) are stigmatized; their function is to serve as an example of the ostracism awaiting any woman who strays. Perverse women (dykes and other celibates of patriarchy) are ignored; their function is to demonstrate that a woman who rejects men loses her identity as a woman. All women are eligible for all functions so it is no wonder that we shrink from assuming or even associating with any additional burden to the one(s) we already carry. Functions are external impositions, however, which are used to divide us from our own capacities and to divide us from other women. The challenge of alliance between women is to demystify our behaviors from the external functions they serve to the internal strategies for self-determination they could be.

It is not always the sex-worker who is labelled a whore; Masters and Johnson's sexual surrogates, for example, are elevated into "good" women by their professional middle-class status and their bondage to a legitimized male institution. It is not always the married woman who is labelled a wife; a poor black married woman may be judged "bad" on the basis of her color rather than "good" on the basis of her marriage. And, it is not always the lesbian who is labelled a dyke; again, race and class may determine whether one is considered "perverse" or autonomous. In order to address the division of women into good, bad, and perverse, we must necessarily address our multiple oppressions. Prostitution is clearly a stage of such complexity.

As women, we have probably all learned the strategies of submission, manipulation, and rejection. For various reasons of necessity or choice,

we may have cultivated one set of behaviors more than another. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for any woman to survive completely outside of the above functions/strategies (if we don't have a husband, we may have a boss; if we don't sleep with women, we may still reject sleeping with with men, etc.). Therefore, whereas our political positions differ, our psychologies are likely to be similar because of our common eligibility for subservience to male power.

It is important to emphasize that submission, manipulation, rejection, or any combination of the three can all be aware positive choices. To fill out forms or fulfill someone else's needs is submission; to dress a certain way for effect or to use certain language in a proposal in order to obtain funds is manipulation; to refuse an invitation or to resign from a job is rejection. All of the above can be useful self-validating skills or life-saving strategies when used awarely; they can also all be self-depreciating or endangering alienations when used unawarely. It is absolutely not the the intention of this proposal to elevate one strategy or one social group of women above another. On the contrary, the challenge here is communication, mutual affirmation, and elimination of stigmatizations among women.

It is also appropriate to acknowledge that the specific choices we make as women are not defined totally by our political functions and strategies. We also act out of emotional preferences and needs. Women who choose to be sex-workers may find the occupational rewards satisfying and self-enhancing. Women who choose a committed relationship with a man may find satisfaction in developing a complementary partnership. And, women who choose intimate relationships with other women may be emotionally far more atuned to loving women than to rejecting men. Nonetheless, those emotional, and in the given examples positive, choices do not in any way alter the political negative positions to which we are assigned. In patriarchal terms, we all become outlaws, property, and/or witches. Our emotional satisfaction, or dissatisfaction, is politically irrelevant unless it is coupled with an autonomy which threatens male supremacy.

Goals

The purpose of the proposed group is self-examination, collective analysis, and exercise of a strategy for demonstrating the relevance of prostitution to all women and for including the rights of prostitutes in

the forefront of feminist struggle alongside the rights to divorce and to abortion and the rights of lesbians. Individual women, groups of women, and the global women's liberation movement each contain the elements of division discussed here. The goal of a work group is to understand the intrapsychic as well as the interpersonal dynamics which perpetuate the divisions within and between women. In order to share whatever understanding develops, recording and writing will be necessary components of the process. In addition, since up until the present the alliance groups of this project have taken place in the Netherlands, the present plan for a group in California is intended to bridge women in Europe and in the United States and thereby contribute to global feminist solidarity.

Participants

Seven women working as prostitutes and five women not working as prostitutes will be invited to participate in a group which is organized by two women belonging to each subgroup. Racial, class, and sexuality differences will necessarily be well-represented among participants.

Process Plan

The group will meet every two weeks for five months. Between meetings women will meet in dyads to explore feelings and thoughts which emerge in the group in more detail and safety. Group meetings will begin and end plenary and will divide regularly into subgroups in order to illuminate the barriers and taboos operating in the mixed group.

The following general process plan derives from experience in former alliance groups. Meant to be highly flexible and responsive to the particular needs of participants, it is intended merely to give direction and focus.

I. Visibility

The first month will be focused upon revealing identity and personal history by telling (and writing in brief) life stories and reacting to the stories of others. In the case of this group, identification of the functions one has served and the strategies one has developed will be central.

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II. Pride

The second month will be focused upon the pride we feel about who we are, who our foremothers are or were, and how we have survived and achieved whatever autonomy we have. Also, this month will be devoted to the shame and prejudice we have internalized about ourselves as women and about other women.

III. Solidarity

The third month will be focused upon identification with women who share our political position. Supports and obstacles to solidarity within one's own group and strategies for strengthening solidarity will be explored.

IV. Alliance

The fourth month will be focused upon identification of common interests with women whose political position differs from our own. Supports and obstacles to alliance between groups and strategies for strengthening alliances will be explored.

V. Implications

The last month will be focused upon evaluating the process and group analysis and upon drawing implications for feminist organizing.

Long term goals:

1. Improving the social and judicial position of the prostitute by unconditionally accepting women who have made it their occupation to exchange sexual services for material compensation.
2. Counteracting the puritanism that underlies all forms of oppression, violence, and abuse of power by humanizing the sexuality of all men and women.

Short term goals:

1. Gradually eliminating the stigmatization which ostracizes whores from society.
2. Interrupting the barriers between women who find themselves in different socioeconomic positions.
3. Recognizing that the fear of being a whore is a part of the internalized oppression of all women.
4. Becoming aware of the taboos that impair one's own sexual experience.
5. Spreading the knowledge that the true meaning of the word whore was "lover".

Assumptions:

The behavior of a woman who makes being a whore her occupation is distinguished by the following characteristics:

1. She has sexual contact for money.
2. She has sexual contact with an unlimited number of men.
3. She invites or initiates sexual contact (in other words, she is Eve who seductively offers the apple).
4. She usually has sexual contact (while working) with the exclusion of her own feelings.

Given that the behavior of all women touches at least one of those aspects, every woman has at one time or another felt herself to be a whore or to be seen as one. Either she is financially dependent upon a man with whom she would rather no longer go to bed (1), or she feels herself to be, or is seen as, a whore because she has not limited her sexual relationships to one man (2), or she likes sex and would like to be assertive but doesn't dare to take initiative out of a fear of being rejected or judged (3), or she makes love with the exclusion of her own feelings (4).

Affiliations:

The Prostitution Task Force of the Organization "Women, Church, World"
The Alliance Project of the University of Utrecht and the Institute of Advanced Social Studies in Amsterdam (IVABO)

Footnotes:

1. An article describing and analyzing the first two years of the project has been published in Dutch: Pheterson, Gail. Alliance between women: A group process report and theoretical analysis of oppression and liberation. Psychologie en Maatschappij (Psychology and Society), nr. 20, September, 1982. An unpublished exact translation in English, available from the author, is being edited for Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society.
2. A translated preliminary outline of goals and assumptions written when this group first joined the alliance project in February, 1981, is attached to this proposal. A report written at the conclusion of the group is published in Dutch under the title: "Prostitution: Far From and Nearby My Bed". A theoretical paper partly inspired by the group process is presently in Dutch press: Mandersloot, Gosina. The Split Image of Women as a Mirroring of the Conflict between Reproduction and Lust. MG.V. An English summary is available.
3. Ti-Grace Atkinson makes the critical distinction between a capacity and a function. Women have many capacities, some of which have been used by men as functions in support of male domination. Atkinson, Ti-Grace. Amazon Odyssey. New York: Links Books, 1974.

Gosina Mandersloot
February, 1981

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