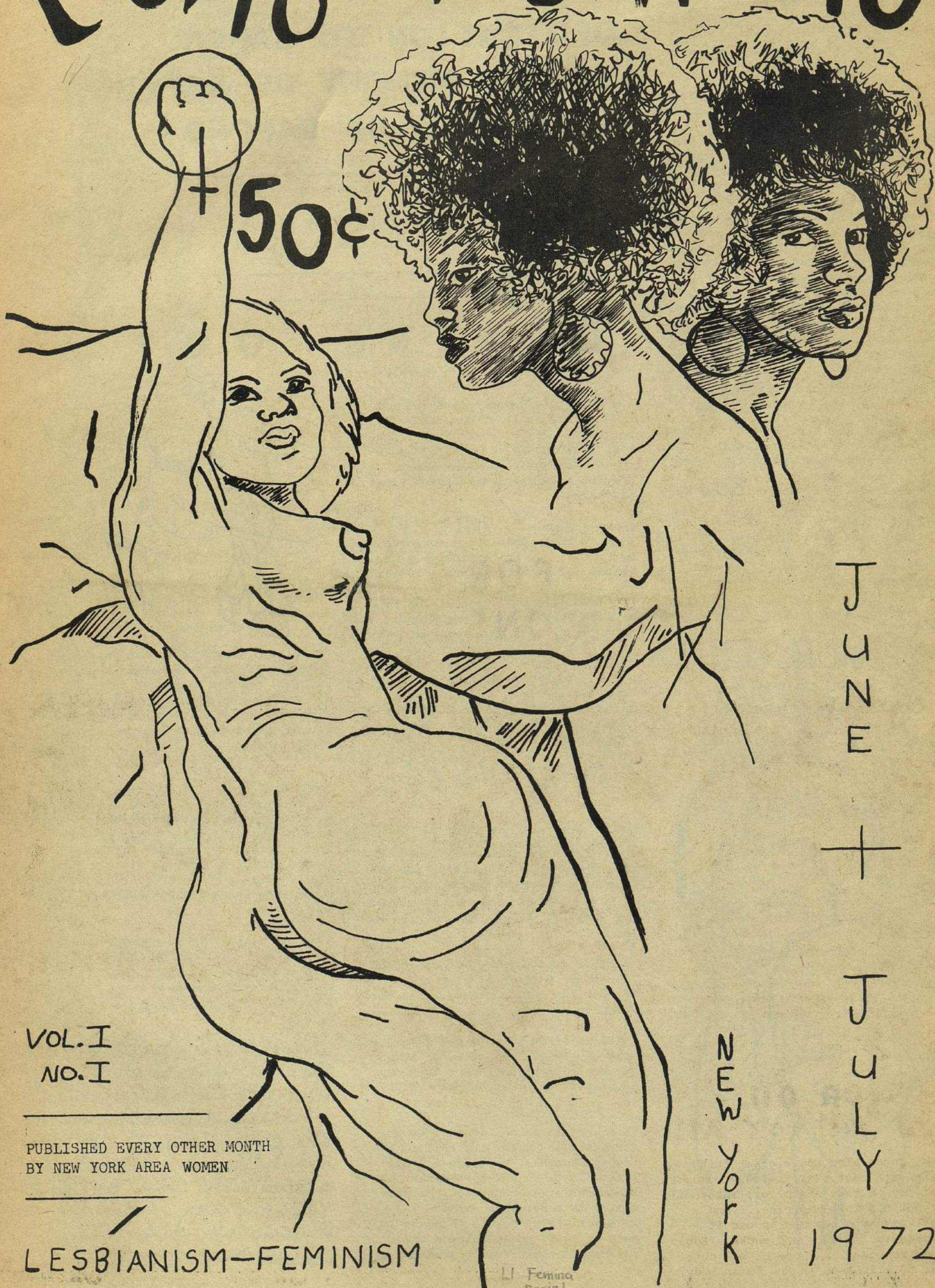


V. 1 #1

ECHO OF SAPPHO



50¢

VOL. I
NO. I

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH
BY NEW YORK AREA WOMEN

LESBIANISM-FEMINISM

NEW YORK

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THESE STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY NEWLY-COME-OUT-LESBIANS.

New come OUTS

"My mother used to go through my dresser drawers while I was away at college. When she found love letters between my girl friend and I, she accused herself of going wrong but didn't know where, so she called in a doctor. I believed that shit for 10 fucking years."

"My first penetration was a gynecologist when I was 13 years old. All my mother explained was that there would be stirrups. This increased the fear of penetration that I already had. I just naturally drew to women."

"I think feminism started it. I'd always been attracted to masculine appearing females but was too shy to ever say anything. With all this new awareness on male attitudes and behavior toward women and how so many of us women respond like sheep, I really want to put in down. I want to be me and do what I want to do, instead of living my life for someone else. What happens when that person tires of you and you're still left with you, if you don't know who you are? I don't think this could be done, living with a man."

"I've always been afraid of the thought of penetration. Kissing frightened me. Everything about sex was scary. When I was 17, I went through an experimenting stage with men. Why do men always want to humiliate you for having sex with them, after they've just convinced you to do it by how much they need you, want you, and love you and how goody-goody you are if you don't do it? I just got disgusted with it. If men are up-tight about all the lesbians, they should really dig themselves. They deserve what they get."

OPINION: Can't it just simply be a preference?



L Am Serial page 2

THIS PAPER IS FOR LESBIANS, FEMINISTS, AND MEN WHO WISH TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM SEXISM.

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DEDICATION TO SAPPHO TO THE MEMORY OF SAPPHO IN MEMORY OF SAPPHO

"Experience shows us

wealth unchaperoned by virtue
is never an innocuous neighbor."
Sappho

COMING OUT

13% of American women have reached orgasm from at least one lesbian experience. 28% of American women have been conscious of a specifically erotic response to another woman. (according to Kinsey, Martin, and Pomeroy all male)

Look at their statistics for male homosexuals: 4% are exclusively homosexual all of their lives. 10% are exclusive for 3 or more years during post-adolescents (18-65.) 18% have as much homo as hetro experience from 18-65. 30% have reached orgasm by having fellatio performed on them by another male. 50% have some homosexual experience leading to orgasm after adolescence. 60% American males are sexually attracted to another male at least once during post adolescence.

Doctors are not acknowledging lesbianism.

Lesbians, you are not in the minority. Even if you were, so are blonds. No one worries about converting abnormal blonds into normal people with brown or black hair. We all tend to sexualize our desires. People have a need for love, for sex, and for socializing.

In other societies, women can touch each other much more frequently, without the notion of sex, than here in North America.

Lesbians often go to bars, merely to soak in the warmth and.../or atmosphere of other lesbians. They may never pick up other lesbians just for sex.

There are few taboos against homosexuality in Japan, the Phillipines, Korea, Malaysia, Morocco and Bolivia. In these and most other non-Judeo-Christian countries, bi-sexuality is considered normal. A wide variety of sexual response is a part of every human culture which has been scientifically studied.



Sexuality is much more than just reproduction. Our own western culture probably has the narrowest concept of 'acceptable' behavior that has ever been known....Even heterosexual intercourse between unmarried adult is prohibited.

Don't feel guilty if you're a lesbian. It is not wicked. In fact, homosexuals will often over-compensate a nagging guilt by doing a lot of work in the community, working with retarded children, or with civil rights. The homosexual has a greater social conscience than straight brothers and sisters.

A common silly tale is, homosexuality was the down-fall of the Roman Empire. When in truth it was the government that was greatly at fault, homosexuality simply happened to exist.

OPINION: The Roman fall was due to many discrepancies and lack of integrity with in the government. Homosexuality was merely a condition that existed for whatever reason. It certainly did not cause any down-fall.

'BEAUTIFUL SAPPHO' said Socrates

I enjoy the possession more than the function; because if it doesn't function, it leaves something to be desired.

LESBOS

"Lesbos in the 6th and 7th centuries B.C. considered itself the very fountainhead of Greek song. Sappho was not a lonely poet adrift on a provincial island. The Greek speaking world had no capital city, but Mitylene, Phocaea, Miletus, Ephesus, and Smyrna were among the richest and liveliest at that time. In the islands lying south of Lesbos off the Asia Minor coast, the Dodecanese, art and science flourished.

Sappho was riding the crest of her own wave. She was "early," her world was as modern to her as ours is to us. If she actually spent a period of exile in Syracuse, she knew Sicily first hand. She was supposed to have been exiled by the tyrant Pittacus for political reasons.

New Translation, University of California Press

Sparta was what Athens was to become, a city of music, poetry and games. Boys and girls played naked together. This is where Sappho was said to have invented her 7-stringed lyre and the mixolydian mode.

What Alcibiades, Charmides and Phaedrus were to Socrates, Gyrrino, Atthis and Anaktoria were to Sappho.

"IT IS NOT LUST BUT THE BEAUTY OF INNOCENSE THAT CAPTURES LOVERS."

She loved flowers especially the "rose" and frilled leaves of dill and "encomia," says Philoshatos.

"Sexual frenzy was as respectable a passion to her as rapacious selfishness to an American. Few societies have been as afraid of the body as ours. The Egyptian first saw dignity and suave elegance in the body, transferring man's appreciation of animal splendor, to his own. Egyptian woman's clothing kept to the contours of the flesh. The Greek saw the body in full health, beautiful, hating any war. The old Aphrodite (goddess of love,) was fat and long-breasted. Sappho's Aphrodite was slim."

Sappho Poems and Fragments by Guy Davenport

- ECHO OF SAPPHO is a new experience
- ECHO OF SAPPHO is an old experience
- ECHO OF SAPPHO is you
- ECHO OF SAPPHO is me
- ECHO OF SAPPHO is like it is

OPINION: Sagging breasts are in again.

This trend for beauty has gotten out of hand until we don't know what REAL beauty is. Spirituality has been lost, but is being re-born again.

ADVICE WITH YOUR CONSENT

"HEARTLINE"

If you find yourself in a situation that you can't handle, if you have questions that need answering, send letters to SISTERS FOR LIBERATION P.O. BOX 263 Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

We will publish all the letters that we can, unless requested to remain private. We don't claim to have the right answers to every problem but we are willing to hear and give what ever help we can. Don't be discouraged as long as someone cares.

Echo of Sappho is a paper that relates to women, and men who wish to become liberated from sexism.



"I caught sight of a splendid Misses. She had handkerchiefs and kisses. She had eyes and yellow shoes she had everything to choose and she chose me. In padding through France she wore a Chinese hat and so did I. In looking at the sun she read a map and so did I... In loving the blue sea she had a pain. And so did I. In loving me she of necessity thought first. And so did I. How prettily we swim. Not in water. Not on land. But in love. How often do we need trees and hills. Not often. And how often do we need mountains. Not very often." Sappho

SERVING THE GAY COMMUNITY
SINCE 1967

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Papyrus paper has been found in the ruins of Sardis. Written, are Sappho's conversations with Aphrodite, goddess of the sea, of love, beauty, flowers and seasons. Sappho wrote songs for girls to sing at the moon's alter, songs for men who looked like gods, (they were taught to worship perfection in the human body, according to the standards of that time,) songs for each other, for older women and songs for marriages.

"NOTHING CAN TAKE IT'S PLACE IN MY MIND, THIS BEAUTY OF GIRLS." Sappho

PUBLICATION OF THE NAME OR PHOTOGRAPH OF ANY PERSON OR ORGANIZATION IN ARTICLES OR ADVERTISING IN ECHO OF SAPPHO, IS NO INDICATION OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF SUCH PERSON OR ORGANIZATION.



We on the staff of Echo of Sappho, have chosen names, to rid ourselves of male identities, married or maiden. We've picked names that we feel fit us. I personally, don't even agree with MS, though it's an improvement... because it still shows the sexual identity, still allowing for discrimination.



MALE

HARRASSMENT

The male psyche seems to get very upset over overt lesbianism. Men are threatened that their cherished prick is going out of style.

Men showed hostility in various ways, during the advertising campaign for Echo Of Sappho. We were pasting up signs inside the transit trains, when I was approached by a male who asked me why I was messing up the subway. He took the sign down, throwing it across my lap, saying he should paste it on my face. I didn't say anything, just stood up and put the sign back where it was. The man took it down again and I put it back up. The train stopped, but before this creep got out, he ground his heel into my foot, calling me a whoring bitch. I jumped up and gave him a big shove out the door.

I finished my ride, imagining how I would have done him in if he'd actually have put that sign on my face. I would have bashed in his head, gutted and de-balled him...then run like crazy!

On another occasion while I was putting up Sappho signs in the subway station, a male comes up to me and asks what it is. Then he hipes me for money, saying that someone just gave him something for his head. He added that he felt like killing somebody, he wasn't normally a violent man. (So I just sort of hoped the subway would hurry up and come, because he was still staring at me.)

To determine how your mate is going to treat you, look at how she has been treated in the past.

Yet another time, a fella was pretty drunk and wanted to paw all over me, saying I didn't really believe that stuff I was putting up.

"I have something I'm willing to tell you, but bashfulness holds me back." Sappho

LIB STUFF

A woman was passing out leaflets for a women's liberation meeting, in down town Brooklyn. She went into an anti poverty center and was told by the man in charge, that he didn't want women to be liberated in his place. He said, "What does a guy get married for, if the woman is going to do what SHE wants to do?"

When the same woman leafleted in a children's puppet store, she was laughed and ridiculed right out of the store.

A lesbian rap session was formed at a woman's home. A male called prior to the first meeting, asking if he could come. When he was told no, he asked, "Why not? Will I threaten your group?" He was then asked if he felt this way because he was straight. His answer was, "Relatively so."

OPINION: Bet a sewing group wouldn't have interested him. Relatively so?

D.O.B.

The following incident happened about a year ago at a Daughters of Bilitis dance, when they still had their loft on Prince St.

There were about 200 women at the dance that night. Around about midnight, 2 males, very drunk, attempted to come in. D.O.B. officers politely tried to discourage them, saying it was a private party. The men simply wouldn't budge. In fact, they got quite nasty, at which point 5 women grabbed hold of them, moving them down the stairs and out. About 50 other women followed behind for moral support. (against 2 men?)

The 2 males were flabbergasted. One said, "I didn't think they'd really do it."

Nearly everyone of those women were afraid, and the men knew it. That's how come they were so surprised.

This is the kind of power men have and use over women. But only because women ALLOW it.

(An informed source told me the following. If it is not

correct, please let us know.)

At another D.O.B. dance, about the beginning of this year, approximately 14 men busted in with knives attached to their umbrellas. Some women attempted to fight back. The men tore up the whole place, as well as injuring the women who tried to stop them.

(cont. on p. 5)

"...but you, monkey face Atthis, I loved you long ago while you still seemed to me a small ungracious child.

I was proud of you, too. In skill I think you need never bow to any girl

After all this

Atthis, you hate even the thought of me, you dart off to Andromeda." Sappho

This is an introductory issue. We want to see how you will respond. If this is what you want, if you like it and if we can afford it, following issues will be larger.

We would appreciate ALL letters.

In this publication, we will try to show all sides of lesbianism without bias: political-non political; social-non social. Our main purpose is to inform...However, editorials and opinions will naturally portray our own views.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER AND ARE INTERESTED...

SUBSCRIBE NOW

This paper comes out once every 2 months.

- 12 months.....\$3
- 6 months.....\$1.50
- 2 months.....\$.50

We'll be selling at all your favorite spots. You may not catch us.....so SUBSCRIBE and be sure!!

Sisters for Liberation
When we get on the newsstands we'll list which ones.

.....
A secretary is much like a wife. She assumes all the power and prestige of the male she's working for.
.....

At one time, Greek law forced a man and wife to have intercourse at least 3 times a month. A woman could be divorced for barrenness.

A female child was an economic liability, and soon to be sold anyway. It was acceptable to leave an infant girl in a temple or the wilderness, to be found or bought by a woman who could then pass it off as her own, to prove her fertility. Some women even had their husbands believe they had actually given birth...

MORE MALE HARRASSMENT

(cont. from p. 4)

Several months ago, on 1st Ave. and 1st St., D.O.B.'s dance was again broken into. This time by cops. There were about 30 women and 30 cops. The tables were overturned, as was the beer and ice, but no one was arrested.

OPINION: If the women would have tried to defend their property, they'd have been arrested for harrassing a cop.

THE MALE APPROACH

He ___ "Can I get you to eat me?"
She ___ "No!"
He ___ "But I need it."
She ___ "I don't."
He ___ "No one has to know."
She ___ "I wouldn't function that way."
He ___ "I need it bad."

OPINION: Women feel we owe explanations to these GUYS

He ___ "Hey baby, how about a date?"
She ___ "No!"
He ___ "Why not?"
She ___ "Because who are you?"

People will not let you down. They'll disappoint you every time.

Want to list your dance or special event?

Ad rates: 20¢ per word.

42 STREET

I took my kids to 42nd St. arcade to spend a day with them. A man walked over to me and announced that he was gonna TAKE him a woman. When I said, "She'd have to WANT to be taken in order for you to take her," he got all hurt about it. He continued to follow me around and bug me for about 20 minutes longer. When I finally had enough, I told him to leave me the piss alone. He got very uptight and said quite nastily, "Do you realize that I could knock every one of your teeth out right now, if I wanted to?" And he turned and walked away.

All of this hassle because I wouldn't allow him to push all over me.

LOWER EAST SIDE

On Ave. C, in the lower east side, a woman was walking down a vacant block that was being torn down.

A man came up beside her and tried to pick her up. As his determination increased, the woman decided to cross to the other side of the street, at which point, the crud smacked her into a car.

Purse snatchers will pin down any weaknesses first.

A woman with a limp, a baby and a shopping cart, had her purse grabbed by 2 fellas running up behind her, one on each side. One of them merely slipped his hand through the strap of the purse and kept on going.

A woman in early afternoon, was waiting for a bus on Ave. D, in the lower east side. A kid came along and asked for her purse. She started screaming. He cut her breasts open, and took the purse anyway.

PROTECTION

What this all comes down to is, that women need to become very militant. It took militancy from black people before anything was accomplished. It took talking about guns and bloodshed before anybody bothered to listen.

WOMEN ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES

WHEN SOMEONE ASKS ME FOR MONEY ON THE STREET THESE DAYS, I AT LEAST REMEMBER, "WELL HE IS ASKING. HE COULD HAVE JUST AS EASILY MUGGED ME AND GOT AWAY WITH MUCH MORE.

I STILL DON'T GIVE UP MONEY TO ANYONE UNLESS I FEEL HE'S TRUELY DESPERATE, BUT AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE AN ATTITUDE ANYMORE, BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE TO ASK!

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW THE FLOWERS ARE GROWING THIS YEAR?

Echo of Sappho is open to contributions from readers. They may write on any subject and in any style they choose, with the editors selecting manuscripts for publication on the basis of interest. Names with-held on request.

"Woman's discontent increases in exact proportion to her development." Leslie B. Tanner
Voices from Women's Liberation



"...and the fact that so many men fail in the business they undertake, calls loudly for their concentrating more thought on their own faculties, capabilities, and sphere of action." Elizabeth Cady Stanton from Voices From Women's Liberation

The Greek letter lambda is in physics, the symbol of action and of the wave length of light. GAA has initiated it as the symbol of the fight for the liberation of all people.

In CHINESE it means to 'ENTER.' The spelling is YUP.



Women In Crisis



JEAN (not yet involved, but interested) AUDREY (a crisis worker)

"But if you would know, you must seek, for it is a personal experience. You must judge for yourself. Facts and results are the only measuring rods."
Edgar Cayce

GAB

The vice president (a woman) of Gay Activists of Brooklyn, 99 Clinton St., brought her resignation into the May 2, 1972, tuesday night meeting. The week before, there had been bickering over the vice presidents (Shelly) dues being unpaid and not brought to her attention until an issue for voting came up.

Shelly felt she should have the right to vote regardless of an oversight concerning the dues, as she works 6½ days a week for the organization and for liberation. And since the treasurer was explaining his constitutional justice, Shelly felt he should have constitutionally notified her earlier, instead of waiting for such a crucial moment to do it. The people voted Shelly to stay, but in so doing, several other officers walked out.

"THE DIFFERENCE between God and humanis; God is one step ahead, humans, one step behind."

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CAUGHT BETWEEN THE DOORS OF A SUBWAY?

I was riding the 7th Ave. express when a woman with 2 small children, ages around 2 and 4, got on the train. The train operator shut the doors on this woman, with the 2 year old inside the train and the 4 year old outside on the platform. The woman used her body to try and open the doors, when 2 men jumped up and helped, from inside. Not one other woman rose to her aid.

WOMEN: Where are we when we are needed?

BLACKMAIL

The cry that Gay people should not be employed by the government because they are susceptible to being blackmailed, is the worst cop out since Pilot washed his hands of the crucifixion of Christ. The governments policy of not employing lesbians and homosexual males is the very threat that blackmailers use to plague Gay people. If there was no descrimination against Gay people where employment was concerned, how the hell could they be blackmailed? Think about it.

WEST SIDE BRAWL

At one of the popular bars On the friday night of April 28, 1972, two women got into a fight over a third woman.

One of the ladies was very drunk and grabbed her girlfriend away from her dancing partner. In so doing, she put her hands on the other women, who then got uptight and pushed back. This led to the two of them socking at one another. The drunk one wilted to the floor, the other one following. There they were, rolling together under the tables and into the dancers. About five women eventually decided to stop it, while the sober one screamed, "My pants are ruined, I'm gonna kill her."

WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER

Is due to open in June 1972. It is located at 354 Bergen St.

The original idea of the women's crisis center was conceived by Windy Roberts, so that women in crisis won't have to go to male-run, male organizations.

"I have been in situations where I needed help," explains Windy, "and the womens movement gave me no actual help. It's not a criticism. It's just true. I could be a counselor today and have a crisis tomorrow."

There will be living space and assistance available for 24 hrs. a day once the center is open. The center will afford assistance and referral in areas such as, abortion, drugs, legal and whatever needs sisters may have.

In order to be a success, the center will need a lot of woman power. The center needs feminists who are willing to give time and heart.

The 18 room house is said to be owned by a man in Oregon. But now he needs bread and the house is up for sale.

There are dozens of places to get grants from, if there are people to carry out the work project. Right now there are very few women. Some are learning to do their own plumbing and carpentry. Skillful workers are needed and people willing to learn. They need women to plaster, to paint and whatever!

If women would volunteer their support with bread, labor and talent, the house could be saved.

Straight women tend to separate themselves from gay women. Women in crisis is intended for ALL WOMEN.

CUNT

CUNT was formed as a result of sexism and the voting down of an unequal rights ammendment in Toronto. The women of CHAT, (The Community Homophile Association of Toronto) walked out on the meeting and formed their own seperate organization.

RAPE

And the Rights of the Mighty Penis

The New York State legislature has passed a measure altering the requirements for corroboration of testimony of victims in rape cases. What this means for women who may become victims of rape in the future is not yet clear, but, I hope it will save women in the future from some of the degradation that their sisters have faced in courts of law in the past.

Corroboration was the greatest loophole in the law before it was modified. There had to be confirmation by a witness that what ever took place was forced upon the women. Corroboration was just another way for the male supremacist to protect his interest and the rights of the Mighty Penis.

Without corroboration the victim was the guilty party. It was the victim that had to cry out in her defense instead of the perpetrator of the crime. The rapists can claim that she consented to his act. From Eve to the young girl who may be in the process of being raped this very moment, where sex is concerned, woman is guilty, guilty, guilty.

It is interesting to note that a woman cannot assert that her husband has raped her. A husband has the right, "take his wife", whenever he feels like it and no court of law will find him guilty of a violation of human rights if his wife fights being taken. In fact it is the woman who is again guilty. She is guilty of not being a "real" wife, which in this society is much more important than being a real human being with all the rights that humanness implies.

RAPE

If a woman becomes one person's property, she becomes nobody's property, therefore, everybody's property. (editor)

STICK WITH ME BABY AND YOU'LL GO PLACES, to the laundry-----

GAB

The president of GAB, Gay Activists of Brooklyn, announced in March, that the presidents of all the gay groups are planning to come together for action GAB was formed at the beginning of this year.

MS

In March, 1972, a special issue of Time magazine was devoted to Woman. It didn't have anything at all in it about lesbians. I guess lesbians weren't supposed to be women. It was also illustrated by a man.



shirley Chisholm

AND WHAT ABOUT SISTER SHIRLEY?

The male presidential candidates, Muskie, McGovern, Humphrey and Wallace, were offered Secret Service protection when they began campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination. Senator Edward Kennedy was also offered Secret Service protection. Shirley Chisholm, who is also a candidate was not offered protection until after the attempted assassination of George Wallace on May 15, 1972.

Does that tell you something?

If women were so feeble minded and hypocritical, it would seem odd that men entrusted her so totally with the raising of children. (editor)

"Sappho, when some fool explodes rage in your breast, hold back that yapping tongue!" (unknown)

GAY

The GAY SWITCHBOARD was formed to enlighten gay people of New York, where to turn in case of legal or mental need, and where to go for social events.

THE DAILY NEWS BLUES

On April 10, 1972, approximately 200 people demonstrated at the New York Daily News offices. The demonstration was to protest a Daily News editorial that labled Gay people as Fags and Lezzies. Four people were arrested for criminal trespass inside the Daily News offices.

ALBANY, April 15, 1972

Over 1000 people marched on the capital in Albany to demand equal rights for homosexual men and women. The marchers were met at the capital by 14 people who had walked from Times Square to the capital.

RIGHTS AMENDMENT

New York State was the 17th state to ratify the women's Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex by any law or action of the Federal Government. The amendment has to be ratified by three-quarters of the States.

LESBIANS FOR CREDIT

Students at Columbia University are working on getting homosexual topics put into the college curriculum for credit.

Women Are Happening

MAY 7, DEMONSTRATION, WOMEN ARE HAPPENING

A special demonstration was held on May 7, 1972, at the New York Women's Inter Arts Center at 549 west 52 St.

Of special interest, was a fat dance, spontaneously done and completely unrehearsed.

The idea behind the fat dance, was that only twiggy-like women are accepted as being beautiful. Here, women of all sizes, did movements to, sweeping a broom, being a fan, driving a car, looking thin, and whatever else they called out to one another.

FAT AND SKINNY, SHORT AND TALL, HAIRY AND BALD....
WOMEN ARE BEAUTIFUL.

RED RIDING HOOD

Also on the May 7, demonstration was the first performance of the Women's Inter Arts Center, acting group.

The play was a feminist version of Little Red Riding Hood. It was semirehearsed and also spontaneous.

Red bugged her mother to play with her all day long. The mother had a lot of work to do but would spend a minute here and there with Red till she had enough and sent her to grandmothers house.

Red met the wolf, a potential rapist, in the forest, then skipped on to grandma's house.

Grandma was a fly-chick, daring to do the town. When wolf knocked on the door after Red had left again, grandma was ready to swing. But wolf got her in the closet until

Red came back.

When Red saw who grandma really was, she started to run away, then said, "I'm not afraid of you," and gave him a Karate fall.

The actresses were not straining to be so correct, but just wanted to act and really enjoying it. It wasn't bad at all.

A poem dedicated to....

Hump-Dump sat on a bed,
Hump-Dump let her legs spread.
All the Kings horses
and all the Kings men
humped then dumped
poor Hump-Dump again.

FACING IT

LET'S FACE IT, the whole world isn't gay
the whole world isn't non-racist
the whole world isn't non-oppressive
the whole world isn't humanistic.

We can't live in a fantasy world. If you live in a fantasy world, you can't deal with real situations. You wind up conditioning your mind and and your body to a situation that doesn't exist. Therefore, if you have to deal with a true situation, you can't cope, because your body hasn't been conditioned to the real world. It's like trying to swim the English Channel when you've only put your head under water in the bath tub for practice.

If you don't know how to act or react to real situations, you're more apt to be accosted by hostile men.

When men start raising their consciousnesses, the whole world won't be gay, it will be human. People can do whatever they want to do. If men were different, I may even want to go with a man some day.

"I loved you once, Atthis,
long ago." Sappho

ON MIXING OIL and WATER LATE at NIGHT
on a MAGICAL BED

Waking yesterday morning after a night

of loving you
I ached to have you with me all day.
There was so much to share with you,
(things like glistening sidewalks
shattered with glass and fish stores
with sawdust floors)

And thought I was alone.

I felt you inside me, around me, under-
neath

and above me.

I saw your face in every woman's face.

I looked at and heard your voice,
A voice that grows gentle at night

And arouses the rivers inside me with a force
capable of suspending time and space.

Your voice is always before my senses

And your face is suspended by a silver thread
that floats freely in my mind

Like the paper sailboats I launched
in the oil-slick puddles of my childhood.

You boarded those ships and sailed past

All the locked doors and hidden passage ways

I had built to defend the delicate

And easily destroyed feelings

In my deepest chambers.

And as you entered those rooms,

The oil puddles and rivers

Flowed together

And I stood back and let them escape

behind blue eyes.

by Nancy Hoffmann

Nancy Hoffmann is in the process of compiling a book of lesbian poems. She feels that not enough is being done for lesbians, by lesbians, on the east coast; but that homosexuals on the west coast are far ahead of us:

"I first thought of the idea last October," explains Nancy. "I was working on some lesbian poetry for somebody else at the time. It was a dream, like a fable; a sailboat was suspended from a nylon thread. A woman was on the boat. She dove into the water and became a dolphin.

A friend of mine who actually had a sailboat like this in her home, was an illustrator, so I told her about the dream and my idea. We decided to work on the book together."

Nancy doesn't have a title for her book yet and there's not a date set for it's completion, but she's working on it and it should be out soon.



ART TID-BITS

Women were the first artists, actually. Since they did the majority of the basket carrying, they began to design them.

You cannot tell the sex of an artist by the work, yet we'll be told to believe that if its weak and wishy washy, it's feminine. If it's strong and saying definite statements, it's masculine.

Quite a few women artists today are working in fabrics and metals; rebelling against stereotype art. One feminist art showing displayed a waxed dish rag propped inconspicuously in a corner. There is much more openness in sex. At a woman's showing in a gallery called MUSEUM, a painting showed a woman standing on a mirror, masturbating, with an orgy in the background. Women put on an arts and crafts exhibition at the GAA firehouse on Wooster street one Sunday about 4 months ago. A really neat painting showed pipes graphically portraying fingers going into a vagina. Quite a few versions of vaginas and ovaries are going around.

Women have always been the great collectors of art, rather than great creators of it, but only because they have been refused recognition.

A woman illustrator felt that her reception from Ms magazine was worse than what she would expect from males.

MEDICAL

CANCER DETECTING SERUM

In a 1971 issue of the Isreal Journal Of Medical Sciences, a woman doctor by the name of Dr. Tal, had an article on a cancer serum of hers.

The reason why pregnant women show the presence of T-globulin in their serum is because the primitive cells of the placenta stimulate production of T-globulin the same way tumor cells do.

Dr. Tal took serum from over 500 cancer cases in Israel, and put it into rabbits to get Anti-T-globulin serum. Then the patient is tested against the Anti-T-globulin serum. The test will either come out positive or negative. Cases she tested, were cancer detectable one year earlier than already established tests.

"Women who succeed, must surpass far beyond men in talents and strength, to ever be recognized as individuals." Editor

Where you can find Echo of Sappho; Oscar Wilde Bookshop
291 Mercer Street NYC

THE SAME AUTHORITIES WHO TELL YOU NOT TO SPANK YOUR CHILDREN ARE THE SAME ONES WHO BEAT UP PEOPLE IN JAILS, KILL PEOPLE IN VIETNAM, AND SHOOT BUCKSHOT INTO PEOPLE'S HOUSES DURING RIOTS.

SELF-HELP

WOMANS WORLD put out an excellent article in their No. 4 1972 issue, on self help abortion techniques. Ways are being devised for women to give themselves pelvic exams and pap smears to detect uterine cancer.

Chauvinistic doctors, male and female, are a real drag to women. There are many ways it manifests itself. I've had internal examinations where 6 students would come in, all to prob-look-and poke-just to mention one.

The vaginal speculum can be bought for about \$2, to allow you to view your own cervix. Why should the medical profession be the only ones knowing us through and through?

FILM REVIEW

Films about lesbians put out by straight society, are almost always oppressive. showing how discontent the women really are and how much they still need a man.

The Silence, starring Ingmar Bergman, was shown at the Gay Activists Alliance at 99 Wooster St. N.Y.C. on April 23, 1972.

The older woman in this film was very tailored (to show masculinity), sick and dying. The younger woman was very beautiful and had a 10 year old son (to show her capability of going with men).

The Silence intonated how the young woman still craved a man...by suggesting incestial behavior with her son. When she did finally have sex with a man, it was mad, mad lust. The whole thing pointed out the sexual insufficiency of two women together.

Married women in pastoral societies of the Niger, are less than concubines. When they marry for the 2nd or 3rd time, they leave all the children who have passed the weaning stage, with their father.

WOMEN'S PRINT SHOP
573 Metropolitan Ave. Brooklyn
EV86916

GEM (a very cheap place to buy paper, envelopes, etc.)
594 Broadway, south of Houston
WA53479

WHERE TO FIND IT

New York Listings

Bonnie and Clydes (dance bar)
82 W. 3 St. (west village)

Kookies (dance bar)
149 W. 14 St.

Outer limits (bar)
1222 Nostrom Ave. Brooklyn

Gianni's (dance bar)
19th St. btwn. 5th and 6th Ave.
MAN.

The Lib (dance bar)
305 E. 45th St. Man.

Child psychotherapy-9248098

Gay Alliance of Brooklyn,
99 Clinton St. Spencer Memorial
Church (tues. meetings 8:00 p.m.)

Gay Activists Alliance,
99 Wooster St. Manhattan
Sunday socials, forums, films

Daughters of Bilitis
New women's fire house
W. 28 St. New Women's
Fire House. (political-dances)

The Lighthouse (dance bar)
113 E. 125 St.

Radical Theater
Pacific Street, Brooklyn N.Y.

Metropolitan Community Church
W. 46 Street Manhattan

Church of the Beloved Disciple
300 9 Ave. 28 Street N.Y.C.

Upper West Side Women's Center
82 St. btwn. Brdwy. & Amsterdam
3629823 ask for Marci or Suzan

Out of Town

Canada Toronto, Ontario

The Blue Jay Club
336 Pape Ave. (at Gerrard)

The Gateway and Marquis
439 Dundas St. E. (at Parliament)

CHAT Dance every 2nd Friday
58 Cecil St. Toronto 130,
Ontario, Canada

California

The Cave (bar)
1469 Sitter St. San Francisco, Cal.

Wash. D.C.

Jo-Anna's
430 8 St. S.E. Wash. D.C.

Lost and Found
56 L. ST. S.E. Wash. D.C.

Pier 9- 1824 Half St. S.W. Wash. DC

WHAT IS A LESBIAN?

views on lesbianism as told
by lesbians and non-lesbians

Lesbian:

"Very feminine, tall girls turn me on. Girls who appear masculine, are a threat to me because they remind me of men.

Men scare me because of their dominance in their sexual manner. I'd like to be more dominant, or at least equally so.

I don't have a lot of guilt, because I'm Jewish. The Jewish religion doesn't have such a strong hold on sin as does the Catholic Church.

But I am unsure. I don't know what to do with a girl yet."

Lesbian:

"I always wanted children. I'd never be able to afford to adopt. I don't feel that gay couples should adopt anyway, because of the non-permanency. I compare it to the couple having a poodle. If they both loved the poodle, who'd take it when they broke up?"

Lesbian:

"I'm very squeamish about little girl organs. I think she's going to hurt. thoughts run through my mind of wanting to tear the organ apart. I can understand the psychopathic child sex murderer. The only difference is, I have control and think anything so literal, is just horrible. But the feeling still remains. This makes me little better. I think it comes from my being orally copulated by a male neighbor when I was 1 year old. I remember feeling very guilty, as my 3 year old cousin was watching. I think what I feel, is that a small child shouldn't have organs, because when I look at her, I'm seeing a woman. An infant is a full grown woman to me. I want to tear out her organs, because I know she's not a grown woman and shouldn't have been treated as though she were one."

Lesbian:

"I have all boys. I don't mind if one of my boys grow up to be gay, because I think he's going to be. I wouldn't want the other boys to be gay, but I think that's because they don't seem to tend toward it. What I really should be saying is; let them be what they want to be."

Heterosexual

male "I love women so much, I wish I were a woman just so I could be a lesbian."

Bisexual

female "I'm not attracted to women who are male-g geared, as I am...because I'd feel their attentions would be divided. I don't feel my attentions toward them are divided, but I don't have a panting and a lust for them. If I felt she were the same as I, then I wouldn't be turned on at all. I have to feel as though she's truly craving to get to me, because this is how I've identified with men."



Heterosexual

female "I'm heterosexual but desire to be homosexual. I work very hard at it. It's really a 'head' thing, more than physical. It's hard for me to get stimulated physically. So I do a lot of dancing. I just think maybe I'm impotent. I know you're not supposed to blame your mother these days, for our own acts.... but mine couldn't accept sex. She got this across to me. She approved of my having all types of women friends, and gay male friends; she loved it, with her latent-self. I truly believe that sins do pass through generations from mother to daughter, etc. Basic human frailties are just as decrepit as ever. (referring to personalities now, not sex)."

Straight

female "Lesbians don't ever go out. They just stay home and have sex all the time, and get jealous of each other. I don't know that many lesbians personally. I also think women's liberation is a whole operation, geared to break up married couples and to make lesbians out of everybody."

My box is hot!

Straight

female "I believe in complete freedom and that anyone should do what they want to do. I think women have been so subjected to different ideas and commercialism that goes along with the government....sell products..., keeps women married...and keeps them as objects."

editor:

The official views of this paper are expressed in the editorial and opinion letters, articles and cartoons sent in, and presented in this Paper are those of the writers and artists and do not necessarily represent the opinions of ECHO OF SAPPHO.

THE ETERNAL TRIANGLE

By the time she came to me needing a place to stay, Jacky was dying of an ulcer. She was relentlessly searching for someone; constantly moving about, as sick as she was.

It was four years before this that Jacky fell in love with a prostitute. She was twenty-one years old then and had always believed that she would never be able to love anyone.

Jacky was exceptional; she was one of the few women in New York who had complete machine-shop experience; finished nurses training and had been barred from practice for committing a mercy killing, all at twenty one.

At the time that Jacky met her lover, she was managing department stores and had to go away on business. Six weeks later, she returned to find her dead...shot in the shower by her pimp. Blood was still everywhere. Jacky became violently ill with nausea and fever. When she came out of it there was only one thought in her mind, that this pimp would be tormented physically, as much as she had been tormented mentally and then she would kill him.

Jacky moved from city to city. She knew where the pimp was likely to hang out and knew he'd try to get her first; word was out she wanted him.

Her health was wearing on her, an old ulcer began new rounds. Jacky was drinking heavily now and not able to keep jobs for very long. Her friends tried persuading her to go into the hospital but she was possessed with finding this pimp.

Four years of this had passed, by the time I met Jacky. I was real anxious to help her. I thought a 'natural juice' diet would cure her. She scoffed at that. All she wanted was her beer and whiskey. What I remember most about her, was her deep depression and guilt for going away and leaving her lover alone, unable to defend herself against the man who killed her. She would say how she only had love for that one woman; that she refused to die until she completed her only mission and only reason for living.

During her two-month stay with me, she practically consumed all of my small income and contributed toward my eventual break-up with my boy friend, Paul.

Paul was bi-sexual and met Jacky at one of his cruising places. One day Paul came home and told me about this great person, Jacky, he'd just met. He was impressed by her logical mind, I think, more than anything.

Paul and I were on shaky grounds then, due to his not knowing what he wanted sexually. I was also bi-sexual and satisfied with it but Paul was disturbed to the point of getting violent with me. He felt it was alright for him to do it but not me. I was the "mother of his child".

Eventually he committed himself into Bellevue psychiatric ward for observation...but only after he slit his arteries and nearly strangled me to death. I personally, was frightened and wanted to leave him, so perhaps I should not blame Jacky for that part of it.

Paul was transferred from Bellevue to a private hospital where he 'talked-his-way' back home in less than two months. Before his transfer, Jacky contacted me, taking me up on a previous offer I had made to her, if she ever needed a place to stay.

Jacky moved in. All she had was a couple of changes of clothing and a 'favorite' blanket. Almost immediately she began to take over. In order for me to be fair here, I was an extremely chaotic and unorganized person. She saw that I needed help. This was her way of paying me back for her room and board. I will always contribute a certain amount of my personal development to her. However, she manipulated everything around to suit her needs.

She planned a party to welcome Paul home on a weekend pass. She had me cash a two-weeks pay check of Paul's which came to about \$125.00, plus \$50 he had, stashed in a drawer, and spent the entire amount on drinks and pot for her friends. Paul was bugged by her assumptions, After finding out all the things that she did, he didn't come home.

When the evening was over and more than half of the two-ounces of smoke was left, I said, "Good, I can save that for Paul." While she was wrapping it up, she answered, "What does he need it for? I'm giving it to my friend here. He's done a lot of favors for me. This will help to pay him back!"

I still had my job as a part-time waitress to supplement Paul's pay. I managed to get rent out of it; the rest was completely used up by Jacky's demands. She smoked three packs of cigarettes, drank three, 6-

packs of beer and when money could afford it, a quart of whiskey or brandy a day. I often didn't have money to cover for all of that so she'd fake or exaggerate an ulcer attack. These occasions would frighten me to death. I'd run out into the street to get money for medicine. I'd ask anyone! She never told me what kind of medicine to get so when I would return to the house with the money, she'd either take it and go for some whiskey or plead with me to do it.

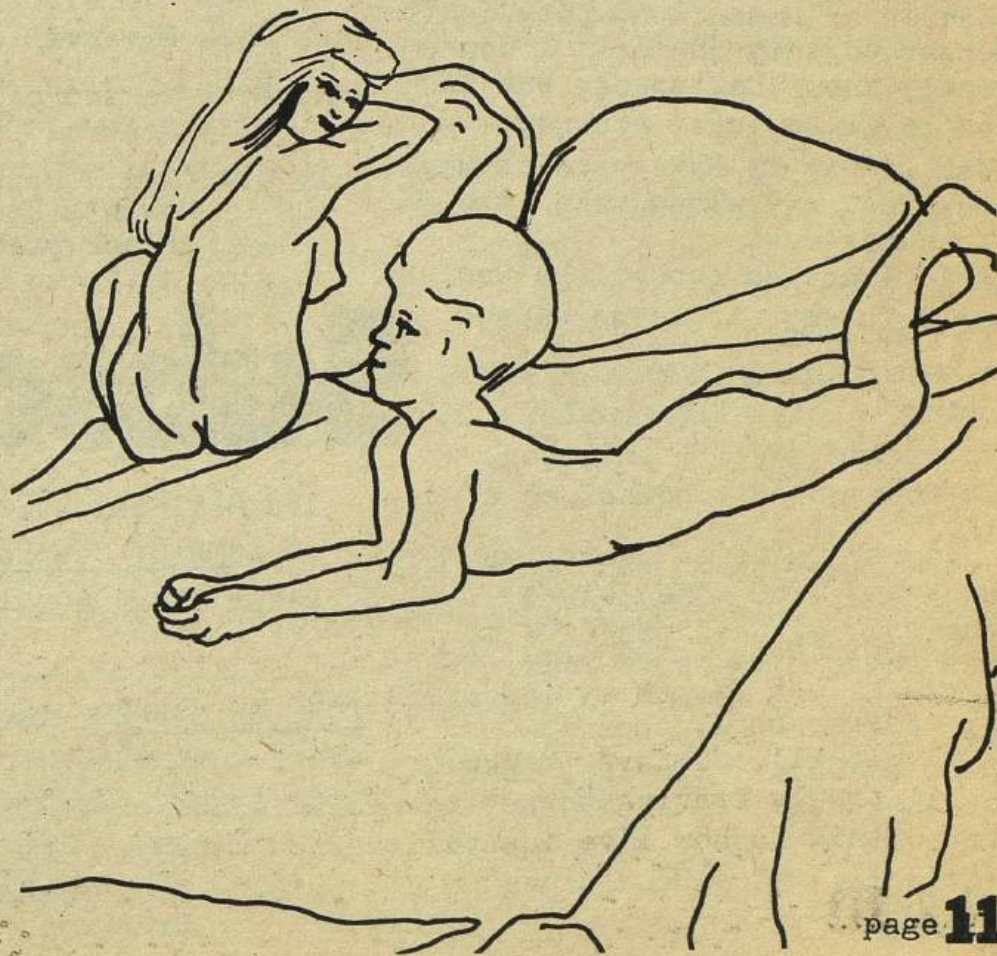
Her food taste was expensive and not necessarily good for her diet. This was a real hardship on my normal life-style with my four kids. She once had the nerve to suggest that I start saving. (With what?), I'd think.

We had sex maybe six times during this period I was anxious to get started but she thought she had to psyche-my mind up for it by telling me how good she was. I just let her do it her way. This was all part of her plan. She even admitted to me that she uses people through sex, making them more amiable to doing what she wanted them to do. (I was falling for it while she was telling it, making me double-dumb).

Paul came home. He was up-tight over how he felt Jacky had used us both and told her to go. She was furious. She told him what a patsy he was and what a whore I was then added, "I had sex with your wife while you were in the hospital. I told you I'd do it. I'll give you and her about one month before you break up." (WOW!), I thought. You mean he knew what she was up to all the time, and allowed it? Paul said nothing. Jacky went to the refrigerator, filled up a shopping bag full of food and left.

Paul couldn't accept my having sex with another woman. Jacky had practically made a bet with Paul that she would have sex with me, to prove her point that I would go with anybody. Paul felt as though Jacky had made a fool of him. A few months later, following a bad beating by him, I left for good.

This was three years ago. Jacky had all of those problems, but look what she did to another woman in the process. She was almost like my pimp, manipulating and using me. I'm wondering where she is, if she's done what she had to do and could die in peace... or still searching.



CRAZY QUILT WOMEN'S ROCK BAND

The Crazy Quilt rock band, now called SISTERS, was originated and held together by the guitarist who calls herself Flash.



"There definitely is a lesbian standpoint to music," says Flash. "There are conflicts. I'm certainly not going to sing a love song to a man. I want lyrics that aren't sexist. That's what music is all about; lyrics that give women a better view of themselves. The Rolling Stones certainly don't help any."

"Lesbians don't have to rely on men," continues Flash, "They are more independent. We carry around our own equipment. It's really a hassle, but we're getting strong."

The far-out thing about being a lesbian is, you don't have to rely on men for fucking. I really dig women. Men are a waste of energy. I don't need them.

I've always wondered why lesbians seem more independent than other women; why they don't appear to rely on men. I don't really know the answer, but if you're in-to-guys, you say, 'Well, they'll take care of me,' where as, gay women take care of themselves.

If I act as though the whole world is gay, it seems closer to being true. I'm always trying to classify myself. My friends say I'm in a box, but that doesn't bother me a bit.

In reference to music, my thoughts about women blues singers are, that men like to hear about women suffering, and women are taught to accept it; Billy Holiday, Bessy Smith and Janice Joplin, that's how they made it. I won't write blues songs, except with a message. "Creation Blues"

is a feminist song I wrote, about how the Adam and Eve myth fucked us over. That's the only kind of a blues song I write. Other than that, I write about women, about how Janice got fucked over and how good she was.

My mother wanted me to play classical music. So at 13, I started out on the piano. I later went to music school until they told me what to do and how to do it, so I left.

I started playing in men's rock groups. They always resented my talent because I was better than them. Finally, I decided definitely no more male groups.

In October of 1971, I started out on my own with an all women's band. There was a lot of unstability and changing around and ripping off of equipment.

The first group was called, Daughters of Witches, then Woman, next was, Flash in a Pan the last one being Crazy Quilt, and the new one coming up called, Sisters.

The original Crazy Quilt was no where as good as the one now is.

We flew out to San Francisco on a job in May, 1972, we also played for Richmond College on Staten Island during that month, and we played for a costume-ball held at the 20th St. new women's fire house, located at 243 west 20th St. Man.

The Crazy Quilt is now called Sisters, and Flash can be contacted for jobs at 2229489

June - July Schedule

- June 10 - Church of Holy Apostle given by lesbian consciousness raising groups
- June 24 - Riverville N.J.
- June 25 - At end of gay march in Central Park
- July 9 - (Sun.) Upper West Side Women's Center on 82 St. (block party)

POLITICAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

A political women's caucus of Brooklyn met tuesday, May 9, 1972, at the Baptist church on Ocean Parkway and Rogers Street. The meeting had WCBS T.V. coverage but won't be shown until after the elections.

A woman was there who had recently talked with vietnamese women. She had with her, pictures of children needle-ridden and children with their faces shot away, etc.

One of the women from vietnam that she had spoken with, who's father was assassinated and who's mother was parylized for life, had this to say, "What have we done to the american people, that they should do this to us...,no, no, I don't mean the people, but the american government? I am grateful to the american people for putting up a resistance against the war."

The woman telling this to the caucus, then went on to say, "President Nixon excuses his action by saying that N. Vietnam invaded S. Vietnam. But how can a country invade itself? A poet said, "There is only one child, it's name is all children."

Look at the name that has been given to mongoloid idiots merely because they have an oriental look.

For information on the Women's Political Caucus in your district
CONTACT the 53rd A.D.
Women's Political Caucus
15 Crown Street days-6364941
nights-1N98067

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"The small dark body's lesbian loveliness that held the fire eternal."
Sappho

"If God has assigned a sphere to man and one to woman, we claim the right to judge ourselves of his design in reference to US, and we accord to man the same privilege."
Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Is Heterosexuality really normal?

LESBIAN CONFERENCE
June 9-10
New Women's fire house
west 28th Street

Men who prefer women to wear under-wear while engaging in sexual intercourse, might have a revulsion at the sight of

Homosexuals, more often than not, grow up in a heterosexual environment, so growing up in a homosexual environment will not necessarily make a person a homosexual.

Homosexuality is common among primitive societies as a part of a child's initiation into adulthood.

The name homosexual applies to women as well as men. Our society downplays the existence of lesbians, and so, largely talks only of men in exclusion to women.

Science has not been able to link homosexuality with an excess of feminine or masculine hormones. Tests have shown, however, that male homosexuals have less testosterone in the blood, though the cause can't be traced to homosexuality.

A Pavlovian technique called "aversion therapy," punishes the patient by electric shocks, when shown an erotic picture of the same sex and "rewarded" by the absence of pain when viewing a picture of the opposite sex. The same principle can prove true, however, in reverse; if

the patient is punished when shown a picture of the opposite sex, and rewarded with a picture of the same sex.

Homosexual males often go through an effeminate stage, because they're taught that that is how homosexuals are supposed to behave.

Some lesbians still think they have to emulate males in order to be a lesbian. This is like saying we're not good enough as women. We're still inferior! A whole segment of the liberation movement argues that homosexuals main goal should be ridding ourselves of guilt and self-hatred.

Many psychiatrists are advocating to repeal the laws that violate our civil rights as homosexuals.

VIGINAL....THE TERRIBLE

Men dislike themselves so much, that they can't accept a woman who has sex with other males. They must think their sperm is awfully germy, because they'll turn it around to say that we women are the nasty, dirty ones. What would make us so nasty and dirty, if not his sperm?

Women have glands within their vaginas, which produce a liquid that acts as a disinfectant, keeping the area sterile. Her menstruation is another cleansing factor.

Men are not aware of how women sometimes look at THEM. Women consider men as being germy and creepy too. Clothing alone, will give the genital area a stagnant odor; men are not exempt.

Male: "Men aren't dirty. Their organs are all on the outside. A woman's organs are on the inside where it's harder to wash."

Female: "Having the organs contaminated from the outside is WHAT MAKES a male unclean. He doesn't have the constant cleansing taking place from the glands that the female has."

It is when the male homosexual has an aversion toward the vagina (as being huge, bloody hole, dirty, polluted; a toilet) which enables one to categorize male homosexuality as a phobia.

OPINION: Straight males frequent this belief too, by the way.

OEDIPUS, WHO COMMITS 2
OUTRAGES, IS ONLY BLINDED
AND EXILED, WHILE JOCASTA
(A WOMAN) MUST DIE FOR ONLY
COMMITTING ONE.



the pubic hair, maybe because of a bad association of being confronted with the sexuality of the mother.

Lesbians can also be affected by facing their own sexuality:

Lesbian: "Nudity turns me off."

Lesbian:(answer) "How can you be a lesbian then? The body is beautiful. You're saying you find it disgusting."

Douching is killing women's natural femininity and destroying the function of her internal glands. Vaginal sprays that are advertised and guaranteed to rid us of our natural odors and health, are especially harmful to women.

Without proper function of the glands, we are much more susceptible to getting vaginal infections, as we are left unprotected.

GAY PRIDE WEEK ___ JUNE 19--25
Mass march-celebration-June 25
up 6th Ave. to Sheep Meadow,
Central Park.
Assemble: 2 p.m. Christopher St.
(west of 7th Ave.)

Mohammed

MOHAMMAD had a great respect for women. He was interested in sex and domestic life, but never treated a woman as an article of pleasure, as some of his followers did later. He would marry and take care of women when their husbands died, no matter if they had a bad temperament, already had children, or were old.

OPINION: One must consider the times in which things took place. Women probably would have been left to die if they were suddenly left with no husband

MALE FEMINISTS

ANCIENT FEMINISTS OF INDIA (a male)

"...women are the jewels, not the jewels they adorn. The fair sex should be considered the mainstay of society. For what fault have women, which is not shared by man? If anything, women have been driven to wickedness by men. Women are incomparably pure; they are never defiled; their menstrual periods destroy all their impurities. Man is born of woman, hence, o-ungrateful ones who slander women, to whom you owe your very existence, how can you even be happy? Man's sex desire is not abated even when he is a hundred years old; it abates in him only with the loss of virility whereas in women it is controlled by their will." Brhad Samhita
6th Century (male astronomer)
Indian Women Through The Ages
by P. Thomas

News Broadcast on Channel 5

"It's 10 o'clock. Do you know where your children are?"

Answer: "I have 3 sons. They're in Vietnam but I don't know where."

P.S. "Do you know if they're alive?"

"All men must find within self that which rings true for them." Edgar Cayce

FOR ANYONE WISHING TO HAVE SOMETHING PUBLISHED, BUT REMAIN ANONYMOUS..., THIS PAPER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PROTECT ALL SUCH INDIVIDUALS.



STORIES, INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES IN THIS PAPER ARE ACTUAL FACT UNLESS SO STATED. IN CASES OF PERSONAL STORIES, HOWEVER, NAMES AND PLACES ARE CHANGED.



Daughters Of Bilitis is a lesbian organization that has been around for several years. When they were looking for a new loft around the beginning of 1972, a D.O.B. officer approached the owner of the loft with this:

D.O.B. "It's a women's organization, political and social."

Owner: "Will you be having dances?"

D.O.B. "Yes."

Owner: "Will there be men there?"

D.O.B. "Most likely not. maybe 1 or 2."

Owner: "Oh, no, I don't want any of that."



How to tell your parents you're a lesbian

"I didn't discuss any sexual acts with my parents. I told them that I had to search it out; I wasn't led down any primrose path.

The danger of suicide was constantly with me before I 'came-out'. Since, I have not thought of suicide again.

I wanted my parents to understand that I was the same girl they had always known and that this is one more facet of my personality. It took them maybe 3 months to come around."

"I trained my parents early. They don't want to hear about it so I don't tell them."

"If I told my parents I was a lesbian, I'd feel as though I'd be asking for approval. It makes me mad that I'd have to WANT their approval."

"I haven't told my parents or my sons. Am I wrong? If they came right out and asked me, I'd give them straight answers. But I don't WANT them to know."

"We were all sitting around the dinner table; this is when we discuss our personal problems and interests. I said, 'Well folks, I think I'm gay.' My mother said, 'Please pass the butter,' and Dad asked my brother about the ball game. They completely ignored what I had just said, and it was never mentioned again."

"But I say that whatever one loves, is." Sappho.

"I've never told my parents, but I think my mother already knows. She makes too many hints. She accepts it, but I don't think she wants to hear me say it."

"I told my mother I was in love with my teacher. She said, 'Oh Betty! No your not! How can you say a thing like that?'"

"When I told my step-mother that I was a lesbian, she said, 'No you're not, you're a normal girl.'"

"...asleep against the breasts of a friend..." Sappho