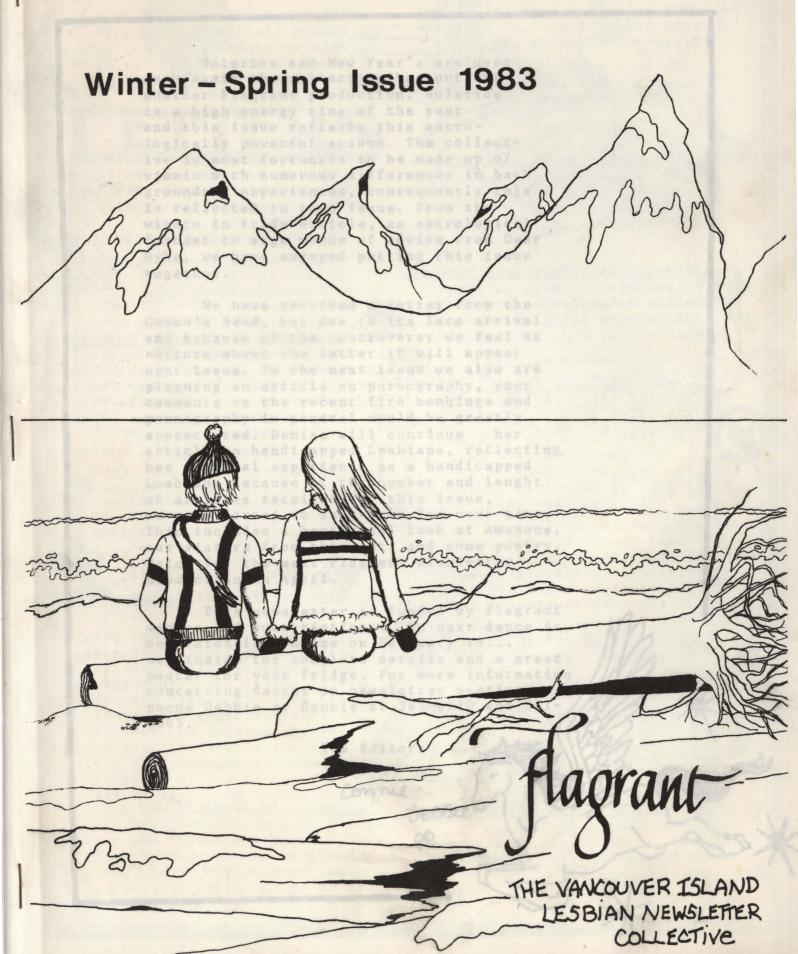
Lesbian Notes

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Lesbian Notes

Solstice and New Year's are over once again the collective has put out another Flagrant production. Solstice is a high energy time of the year and this issue reflects this astrologically powerful season. The collective is most fortunate to be made up of wimmin with numerous differences in back groundand experiences, consequently this is reflected in this issue. From the wimmin in trade article, an astrological forcast to sage words of advise from Dear Dyke, we have enjoyed putting this issue together.

We have received a letter from the Queen's Head, but due to its late arrival and because of the controversy we feel as editors about the letter it will appear next issue. In the next issue we also are planning an article on pornography, your comments on the recent fire bombings and pornography in general would be greatly appreciated. Denise will continue her article on handicapped Lesbians, reflecting. her personal experience as a handicapped Lesbian. Because of the number and lenght of articles received for this issue, we were forced to save some for next time. This includes a hertorical look at Amazons, our sisters from the past, and some poetry. Watch for the mext Flagrant Newsletter production in April.

This newsletter is funded by Flagrant dances and subscriptions. The next dance is our Valentines dance on February 19... see inside for complete details and a great poster for your fridge. For more information concerning dances or newsletter meetings, phone Debbie or Connie at 385-6470 and 381-0085.

The Editors

Connie

DEBBLE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE: 1045 Linden Ave. Victoria, B.C. V8B 4H3

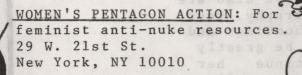
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. 2012 S. St., NW



THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MAILING LIST: computerized service by women for women, ald wild will be 1195 Valencia St. San Francisco, CA. 94110



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK: Independent reports on U.S. Health Establishment 224 Seventh St. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003



West Coast 85 Carl St. San Francisco, CA 94117

THE RADICAL REVIEWER: Canada's only radical/feminist book review and literary tabloid. Published three times a year.

Individual \$ 5.00/year Institution \$10.00/year \$50.00/year Sustainer



Write: P.O. Box 24953 Station C Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4G3

WOMANVISION ON CO-OP RADIO 102.7 FM: Listen on Mondays 7-8 p.m., news, views, music on Womanvision, the program that focuses on women.

8 5 8 5 8 5 8

THE WHOLE GAY CATALOG: is a 112-pp listing of 2000 gayrelated books. To order send DROP-IN Every Wesdesday
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

They and the Washington, D.C. 20009

OUT ON THE SHELVES: A selection guide to Gay and Lesbian Fiction is available from the Publications, Ofc., Canadian Library Assn., 151 Sparks St., Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E3

> Single copies are \$5 Canadian \$3 Can. for 5 or more, \$2 Can. for 10 or more.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CONFERENCE: Third World Women and International Women's Movements. April 9-13/83. U. of Illinois. For information write: Women's Resources Office 346 Turner Bldg. 610 E. John St. Champaign, IL. 61820

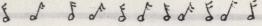


4th ANNUAL TAROT SYMPOSIUM: March 12/83 at Unitarian Church 1187 Franklin, San Francisco For information contact:

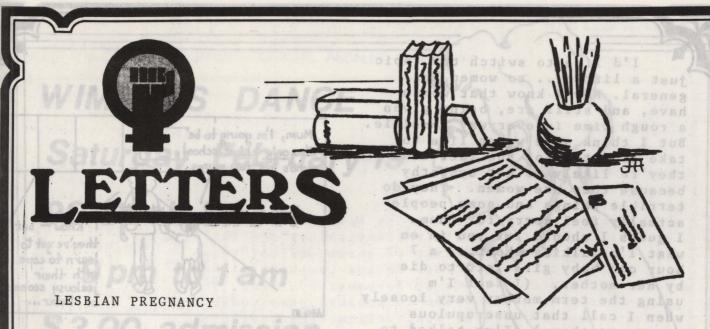
S. Judith 4027 Arroyvelo #2 Oakland, CA

LESBIANS AND MOTHERHOOD: Film being produced on lesbians who have decided to have children after coming out. Send stories to: Debra Chasnoff, Kim Clausner 46 Bay State Ave. #2 Somerville, MA 02144

RUBYMUSIC ON CO-OP RADIO: 7 - 7:30 p.m. every Friday for 1/2 hour of the finest in women's music, pop, gospel, folk, feminist and new wave.







Alot of heterosexual people come out with the line: "You have a child? But I thought you were a lesbian!" Well if you think that's amusing ... I've had lesbians ask: "How did you get pregnant?" Then of course you have the heterosexual men who make ugly remarks like: "Finally got caught eh!"

During my pregnancy I also took some mental abuse from some supposedly "lesbian sisters". They seemed to think I had broken some unwritten law about a lesbian having sex with a man. Even if it was for the sole purpose of having a child as they couldn't understand my wanting a child either. To hell with that minority!

There also was the two gay men who literally smashed into me numerous times while I was waltzing with a friend at the Queen's Head. I'm sure after the second time it wasn't an accident. Let's not forget the heterosexuals like the little old lady (around 73) who verbally attacked me due to the fact I was pregnant and didn't have a ring on my finger. It wasn't bad enough she went into a rage but she followed a friend and I from my doctor's to Shopper's Drug Mart. I felt real fear having her stand behind me at

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the corner waiting to cross the street. I was so afraid she'd push me in front of the oncoming traffic and kill my precious baby.

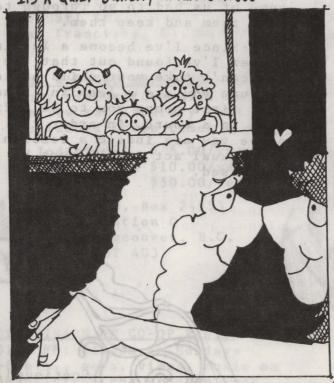
Lesbian mothers live with another fear - fear that the law is going to try and take our children because we are lesbian. Don't they realize that our children are more precious and loved even more, not just because they're ours but because of what some of us had to go through to have them and keep them.

Since I've become a lesbian mother I've found out that the law can't take your child strictl because you are a lesbian. They must first prove you to be unfit. Also in a court, in order to prove you are indeed a lesbian, the sexual act itself must be witnessed.

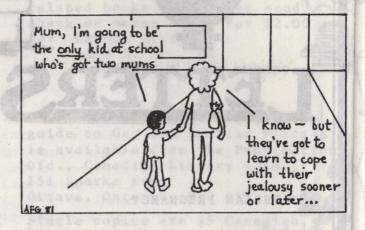


I'd like to switch the topic just a little... to women in general. Now I know that women have, and still are, being given a rough time in everyway possible. But I think some women like to take advantage of the fact that they're likely to get sympathy because they are women. They do terrible things and some people actually feel sorry for them. I guess I should let you in on what I'm talking about ... a 7 hour old baby girl left to die by her mother. (I feel I'm using the term mother very loosely when I call that unscrupulous woman a mother.) I've talked to women on the subject and have got replies like - well this could have happened or that could have happened. Since we don't know the facts of the mother's life, I can only say that there had to be another way. Wrap the baby in something or leave her in a hospital corridor Something!!!

IT'S A QUIET SUNDAY AFTERNOON ...



... AND THE KIDS ARE OUTSIDE PLAYING.



I do know one thing... if they link the word lesbian with this case (the news media like to blame all terrible things of this nature and worse on lesbians and gay men), I personally am going to publicly protest and invite all lesbian mothers to join me.

And speaking of joining ... let all lesbian mothers in Victoria start getting together. Who are you all? Anyone interested in getting together, give me a call at 658-5743. I'm sure all of us being lesbian mothers would be able to help each other. We should stick together. I'm also sure we have alot in common... like our babies; always there for us with a hug and kiss; a smile; the word Mom. Myself personally, nothing means more to me in this world than that little boy at home depending on me and loving me like no one else could. It makes it all worthwhile.

Heather



We, the Wimmin's Fire Brigade, claim responsibility for the firebombing of three Red Hot Video outlets in the Lower Mainland of B.C. on November 22, 1982. This action is another step towards the destruction of a business that promotes and profits from violence against wimmin and child-

Red Hot Video sells tapes that show wimmin and children being tortured, raped, and humiliated. We are not the property of men to be used and abused.

Red Hot Video is part of a multi-billion dollar pornography industry that teaches men to equate sexuality with violence. Although these tapes violate the Criminal Code of Canada and the B.C. guidelines on pornography, all lawful attempts to shut down Red Hot Video have failed because the justice system was created, and is controlled by rich men to protect their profits and property.

As a result, we are left no visible alternative but to change the situation ourselves through illegal means. This is an act of self-defense against hate propaganda. We will continue to defend ourselves!

WE THE THE EDITORS OF FLAGRANT

SUPPORT THIS ACTION... Suble; Connel

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The Women's Sexual Assault Centre is a totally female collective with a mixture of lesbian and feminist involvement on all levels; volunteer, salaried counsellor, and Board member. Funding is received principally from the Ministry of the Attorney General. Some additional monies are received from renting office space to various women's groups; SWAG, CARAL, Women in Trades, and the Women's Building Collective.

Volunteers are encouraged to be active in these areas in addition to their primary elective: administration, fundraising, and public relations. This is done for two reasons - logistically, the three women on salary cannot do all of these things as fully as they would like to in view of their own job responsibilities, and, secondly, being involved in more than one aspect of the Centre's functioning gives the volunteer the feeling that she is an important and integral part of the Centre.

Training sessions last for
two hours per week for six weeks,
and the handouts and speakers
throughout are scheduled to
cover every aspect of the process
of counselling a survivor.
Permeating the practicalities
is a definite spiritual
awareness - that we remain open,
whole and healed to aid the
survivor in rediscovering her
strengths; focussing on her
abilities to deal with her pain;
providing her with empathy,
compassion, respect and

information when she needs it and requests it.

Our training also includes stress reduction exercises and guided fantasy work, as well as regular meetings with staff for feedback and ongoing skill enhancement. This is provided so that the volunteer does not 'burn out'; that she has methods of relieving her own anxieties, fears and doubts accumulated through her necessarily empathic position. Volunteers are also encouraged to utilize the dropin meetings held every Wednesday evening at the Centre either as a survivor or as support to the others there. Having attended, I was impressed by the warm non-hierarchal atmosphere and was able to begin releasing my own shadows within the circle. It is this collective sistersharing/sister-love that assures me that I am on the right avenue of giving; and also has served as a goal to strive for in my choice of career within the healing field.

My own experiences being on the crisis line are not always easy ones, for I am having to consciously put aside my judgemental attitudes and triggered fears in order to fulfill my responsibilities to any woman calling - this is terrific for personal growth! Naturally following this ongoing struggle are the rewards of other areas of my life being eased and enriched by application of active listening and open-heartedness.

Training of new volunteers will commence soon, and it is hoped that funding will be forthcoming for a self-defense

course to be included in that programme. Those who do not choose to become a Crisis Line Volunteer at this time but who have a desire to support WSAC I encourage to call the Centre—there is room for every woman's special and personal contribution.

Office hours are 9 to 5, and the dropins commence at 7 pm Wednesday evening, lasting for about two hours so as not to conflict with those wishing to attend the Women's Coffee House. Those women wishing private consultation as opposed to a group situation may arrange to do so through phoning in advance.

"The question arises as to whether it is possible not to live in the world of men and still to live in the world. The answer arises nearly as quickly that this can only happen if men are not thought of as "the world"."

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"...I suddenly knew that I was alone forever, that I could lose the people I loved any time, any moment, and that the only thing I had in this life was myself."

Judy hicago

MASSAGE: HOW TO

MASSAGE ... Part 2 (Continued from last issue, Oct. '82)

In the October issue I said I would continue this massage article with describing how to massage the neck, back and feet. Because of limited space and a wish to maintain clarity, I have reduced the areas discussed to include only the neck and shoulders. Possibly at a later time, if there is an interest and space permits, I would like to continue.

As an after thought, I realize I cannot resist to at least put in a diagram of the various erotic, and otherwise, zones of the feet. The Massage Book by G. Downing, from which much of this article was taken, has a fun article on foot massage along with a full background of its' importance.

Continuing from where I left off in the last issue:

stroke, and she will know at

Bring both hands palms up under your friend's neck. Then, curving your fingers a little, rapidly drum with the fingertips against the neck. Keep the backs of your hands on the table. Press fairly hard, as if playing a piano. Work up and down the neck, and as far onto the back itself (it won't be very far) in the immediate area of the spine as you can confortably reach.



Next put your hands under the back of your friend's head and gently lift it a little. Then turn it slowly to the left until it rests easily in your left hand. If you sense that your friend is resisting you, or that she is trying to "help," ask her to relax her head as if she were letting it drop to the table. If after this she still has trouble letting go her head, you may be able to help by gently raising and lowering the head a few more times.

Now slowly rotate the heel of your right hand against the top of your friend's shoulder while bringing your fingers down the side of the shoulder, under the shoulder, and onto the back. Keep your fingers moving across the top of the back towards the spine; and then, just before reaching the spine, onto the back of the neck.





Continue up the back of the neck until your fingertips near your friend's hairline. Then turn your hand about ninety degrees so that your fingers are pointing more upwards (i.e., so that they are perpendicular to the neck itself) and, pressing more lightly, come back down the side of the neck.

Then, moving from the base of the neck, cross the topmost part of the chest straight to the shoulder. From there you can go right into the same stroke again without stopping. Repeat three or four times.

The next two strokes are also done with the head tilted to the side. I prefer to do all three on one side before turning the head and repeating them on the other.



With the head still tilted to the left, move the fingers of the right hand in slow circles about an inch wide against the back of the neck. Press firmly. Work up the back of the neck to the hairline. Then, pressing more gently, do circles down the side of the neck, working all the way from just below the ear to the collar bone. Repeat.





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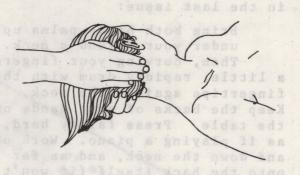
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Holding your friend's head still turned to the left, find the boney horizontal ridge where the neck meets the back of the skull with the fingertips of your right hand.

Now move your fingertips in tiny circles just below this ridge. Press firmly. You will feel a sort of furrow stretchin horizontally across the neck; follow this furrow with your fingertips.

Check in with your friend if you have trouble locating the right place. This is a nic stroke, and she will know at once when you have found the sp



"...Women are carrying a new attitude. They've cast aside the old stereotypes. They don't believe you have to be ugly or have big muscles to play sports.

Shirby Johnson

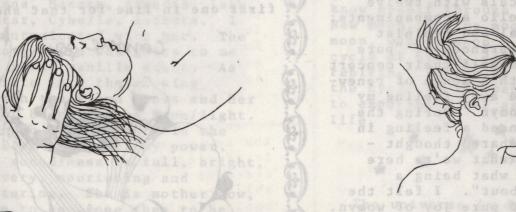
End your work on the neck by lifting your friend's head as far forward as it will go. Use both hands. Move very slowly.

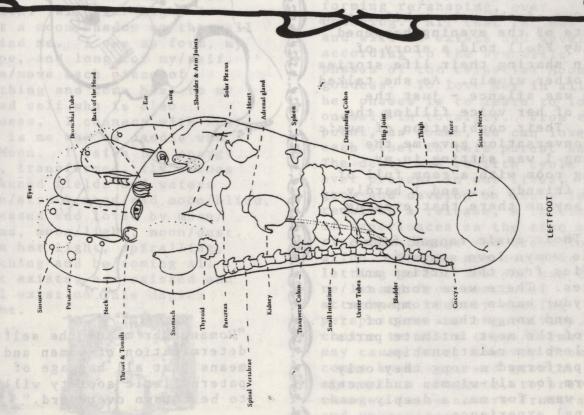
You will feel resistance either soon before or soon after her chin has touched her chest. Stop for a moment when you have reached this point. Then gently nudge her head about an inch farther forward. Bring the head back to the same point, and then push forward once or twice again. If a gentle push isn't enough, then don't push at all.

Again move slowly as you bring the head back down.

All that's left now is the scalp. Again lift the head and turn it to the left. Making your right hand into the shape of a claw, work the scalp on the right side of the head with your fingertips. Press hard, moving your hand in tiny circles. Try to press hard enough that you are moving the skin itself over the bone rather than simply sliding your fingertips back and forth across the surface of the skin. Work systematically (for example, in several wide rows up and down the head) so that you cover the entire right side of the scalp.

Repeat on the other side.





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On December 15th I walked into the "At Last" Coffee House expecting a quiet evening. The weather outside was stormy, even for Victoria. I had heard that two wimmin were performing that evening. Their names were unfamiliar; their faces were new to me. I was not prepared for what was to come.

Judy Fjell and Janet Peterson amazed and overjoyed their audience. They presented a concert best described in their own words as "everything from original music to borrowed music; from rich vocals with twelve string and cello accompaniments; from political and feminist lyrics to utterances of "pure mush". For myself their concert filled me with a sense of renewment. I came away feeling my roots as a womyn. During the concert I sensed a feeling in the room, a shared thought -"yes this is what we're here for; this is what being a lesbian is about". I felt the happiness and pure joy of womyn.

One of the most exhilarating moments of the evening happened as Judy Fjell told a story of wimmin sharing their life stories with other wimmin. As she talked there was silence - just the sound of her voice filling the room. Their combination of music and conversation gave me the feeling I was sitting in my living room with a room full of close friends ... and I hardly knew anyone there that evening.

Their music ranged from gentle womyn love songs to melodies from the forties and fifties. There were songs to clap your hands and stomp your feet, and songs that sang of some of the most intimate parts of a lesbian relationship.

They performed a song they only perform for all-wimmin audiences which was, for me, a deeply personal experience.

JUDY FJELL and JANET PETERSON at the "At Last Coffee House" on December 15th

During the intermission the few tapes they had for sale were grabbed right away. were unpaid performers and the hat was passed around so that they could get on the ferry in the morning. For the one dollar admission, it was one of the most satisfying evenings I have ever spent. My only regret about the concert was that there were so few wimmin at the coffee house that evening. If they return to this city again, and I think they will, I'll be the first one in line for that show!

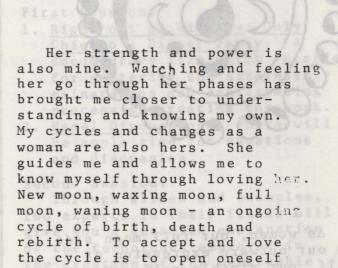


"Womanpower means the selfdetermination of women and that means that all baggage of paternalistic society will have to be thrown overboard." 12

Germaine Greer

Wemoon Magick

I feel the Magick. swirling and whirling to me. rising up from with/in and over/flowing to with/out. She is in Cancer and will begin Her Lunar Eclipse at the Magickal hour of 3:33 - my energy reaches its highest peak at this full Moon time. I am emotional, sensual, sexual. I light my Goddess Candle to Her in all Her different aspects. Diana, Selena, Hecate, Artemis, Isis, Ishtar, Cybelle, Astarte. am intoxicated with her. smooth white wax gives to me its faint vanilla scent. As I stare into the glowing warmth the Flame grows and Her light be/comes the Moon/light. Through Her presence in the dark we share Her/my power. Her round/ness is full, bright, silvery, nourishing and nurturing. She is mother now, soon to be crone then to be maiden. With her light I cast a moon/shadow on the wall behind me. I see my form, my shape, and long for my/self. I re/move each piece of clothing and come home to my naked self who is also as a self as Goddess. I connect with her who is me who is candle who is Moon. I raise the energy and, transformed, fly across darkened fields and waters moon/struck moon/mad moon/blind, caressed and loved by moon/ beams, moon/light, moon/dust. I am her light, spiralling, touching and be/coming all that exists, has existed and will exist on this Magick night.



life.

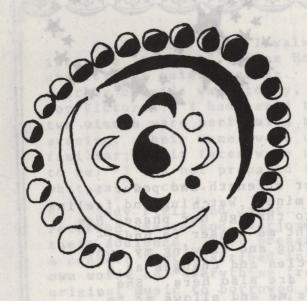
to experience all aspects of

The universe is dynamic; forming re/shaping, ever changing. All that is, has been, and will be exists and develops according to the symbollic phases of the celestial Moon goddess. To love her in all her phases is to learn to love oneself in totality. From this point, as women, we can love each other in this purest sense. The death and rebirth cycle is ever present in our lives. To grow and develop on every level requires a release, a letting go of experiences as the time becomes ripe for change and trans/formation. Things are not lost by letting go but instead one is re/leased from emotional attachment thereby gaining perspective and objectivity. The choice to allow trans/formation may cause pain; however from pain comes knowledge and growth. To attempt to stagnate, to prevent change, is to ensure frustration and unhappiness.

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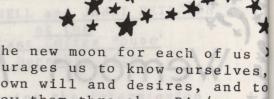
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As women, our full moon side is our outward expression of self, our visible self. We are secure because we can see it and know it in a tangible way. But as there is light there is also dark. Our dark side is the new moon side of self; a part that exists but often is not ackowledged, is feared, is kept hidden. This is our roots, our emotions feelings and intuitions, all an integral part of everywoman. To accept the dark of the moon is to begin to love the whole. We must dis/cover our hidden side if we are to re/cognize, re/claim and re/form that part of us that reaches out to be loved as part of the whole. In time, with care and nurturing, we become accustomed to and comfortable with the dark.

We can learn to trust rather than doubt our inner(dark) selves, to listen to the goddess within each of us, and to accept that the goddess manifests herself in different ways to different women. This results in an acceptance of responsibility for oneself.

and unhappinessons



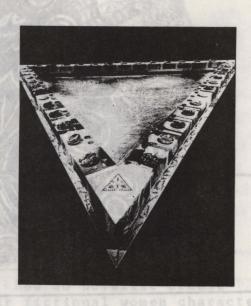
The new moon for each of us encourages us to know ourselves, our own will and desires, and to follow them through. Dis/cover all ideological roots and beliefs. Follow their convoluted paths back and understand where the starting point Follow them ahead to see where they lead. Feel and draw. as much nourishment and positive expression from every aspect of them as possible, but where you feel them to be insufficient create your own new ones. Take ideas, modify and refine, make them yours. Affirm you feelings by understanding and accepting the interconnectedness of all things Know that your own authority/ strength/reality is as valid and as equally important as every other woman's.

Rejoice in the darkness of the new moon. Accept and love it, for soon it becomes a thin crescent of luminous light which grows, which waxes, which becomes full, round and bright. Love the fullness, the roundness. Experience the power, the strength, the nurturing which is also your own. This phase leads to one of release, symbollic death, change. The waning moon teaches us of transformation, hence of freedom. We are able to develop, through the guidance of the silver moon goddess, a deeper more profound understanding of the rebirth and illumination in all physical and spiritual things



University Extension: 'U of V

SPRING '83/COMMUNITY EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES



JUDY CHICAGO'S DINNER PARTY

For five years, artist
Judy Chicago worked with a
community of four hundred other
artists, craftspeople and
researchers to create The Dinner
Party - a monumental tribute to
the women of spirit and accomplishment throughout history.

We offer the people of Victoria an exceptional opportunity to view the exhibition in Calgary and/or be part of two unique study sessions.

Study Sessions

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ic

Inspiring? Awesome?
Grotesque? Vulgar? Whatever
your opinion of Judy Chicago's
controversial presentation,
it's unlikely that you are
indifferent to it. These two
evenings will give you a chance
to learn more about "this first
epic feminist artwork" and to
participate in a lively discussion of its significance and
merit.

First Session:

1. Right out of History: July
Chicago's Dinner Party. A
documentary film which recorded
for posterity the alternately
painstaking and exhilarating
process of creating the work.

2. Panel Discussion. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

Second Session:

Through slides and examples, two experts in their fields will give you a detailed explanation of the techniques employed in the creation of the remarkable plates and the exquisite embroideries that comprise The Dinner Party.

Course No: FAHA X 406 Section: S01 Wednesdays, February 2 and 9: 7 to 9:30 pm, 2 sessions

Fee: \$20

"In my view, the content of feminist art, and its deepest meaning, is consciousness: a woman's full awareness of herself as an entity, including her sensations, her emotions, and her thoughts - mind in its broadest sense."

Arlene Raven

THE 1980s: A NEW DECADE OF FEMINISM

What shape will feminism take in the 1980's? How do we define new goals based on what we have already accomplished? To answer these questions, this course focuses on economic independence for women. Our instructors represent different perspectives and have worked together in Victoria's Status of Women Action Group. The first three of the lecture/discussion sessions will be offered by Stella Lord on:

- Women and Economic Change
- Women, the Economy, and the State
- Programs for Change?

Josephine Payne O'Connor will conduct the last three sessions on:

- Building on Success
- Working Together
- Wider Horizons

Course No: HMWS X 011 Section: K01 Wednesdays, March 30 to May 4: 7:30 to 9:30 pm, 6 sessions

Fee: \$30 ags and day was to





TEN YEARS OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S ISSUES: A REVIEW

In 1971, the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women was published. Since then, a large number of studies on women's issues has been produced. Here is an opportunit for you to review a selected number of them. We will begin the workshop with a discussion of the 1971 Report.

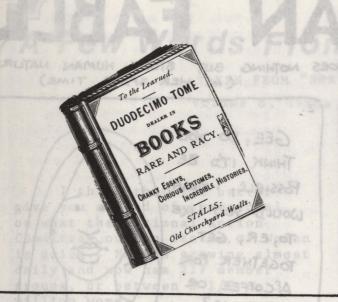
Other selected topics to be reviewed are:

- Women in the Professions
- Women in the Labour Force
- Homemakers, Single Mothers, and Poverty
- Women in the Arts and Literatu

For further information and to register, please call Brishka Lund, 721-8463.

Course No: HMWS X 010 Section: K01 Friday, April 29: 7 to 9 pm, and Saturday, April 30: 9 am to 4 pm

Fee: \$25



WOMEN IN FICTION, PART I; BY WOMEN AUTHORS

How do novelist create their fictional women characters? Part I looks at the development of women characters of all ages in eight novels by women:

The Road Past Altamont - Gabrielle Roy

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nd pm Fire on the Mountain - Anita Desai

Who Do You Think You Are? -Alice Munro

Sula - Toni Morrison The Tent Peg - Aritha Van Herk Burger's Daugher - Nadine Gordimer The Double Hook - Sheila Watson To the Lighthouse - Virginia Woolf

Maureen Scobie, B.A. Instructor: Course No: HMWS X 005 Section: S01 Mondays, January 31 to March 21: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 8 sessions Fee: \$35

the Status of Women, and the

FESTIVAL OF CANADIAN WOMEN WRITERS ONE NIGHT AT A DANCE

FREE

In cooperation with Open Space Gallery and Canada Council, we have invited writers from all across the country to celebrate the International Women's Week. Three sessions of readings and information discussions are planned.

If you wish further information, please call 721-8463.

Friday, March 4: 8 pm Saturday, March 5: 2 pm, Saturday evening: 8 pm

Place: Open Space Gallery 510 Fort Street

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Admission is free



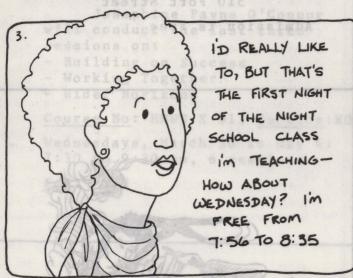
MORTAL THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR HOMANCE IF YOU OVERBOOK YOURSELFILL

A VICTORIAN FABLE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MEDUSA, WHO DOES NOTHING BUT STUDY HUMAN NATURE (IN HER SPARE TIME)













MORAL: THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR ROMANCE IF YOU OVERBOOK YOURSELF!

A Few Words From Doris Anderson:

TAKEN FROM "NORTH SHORE WOMEN",

Volume 8, Issue 4, Dec/Jan '83.

I think that I'd better give you a kind of commercial on what the National Action Committee on the Status of Women is doing. Nac is growing almost daily and now has 217 member groups, or between 2 1/2 to 3 million women.

We have been very busy since we were elected in March. We were plunged immediately into presenting a brief to the Committee on Bill C53, the bill on sexual assault which then changed to Bill C127. That bill, as you know, has been introduced over the past ten years three times. The particular one that we had to speak to was in committee for eighteen months. All during the summer there were amendments introduced that we had to respond to. We're not entirely happy with the bill, but the government did split it off from the pornography and prostitution sections and got through the part on sexual assault. They did follow our suggestions of having three tiers as well as our ideas on spousal immunity. So it's not the best bill, but it is a lot better than the one women have been putting up with all these many years.

In July the government introduced C124, the restraint bill on the 6 and 5 per cent raises for public servants. We were in a way lucky and in a way very smart because we'd arranged to meet Judy Erola, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, and the two women critics early in July because we had a number of

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yery wuch but we are ready with concerns. So we were the first to tell the Minister responsible for the Status of Women some of the worst implications of that bill for women: that it would be very hard on women because they are in the low ranges of the salary scales in the public service; 6% of \$12,000 is a more serious matter than 6% of \$72,000, which is what top civil servants (mostly men) get. We also warned of the problem of stopping cold any further negotiations on maternity leave or equal pay for work of equal value. We got them to move a bit on that and Don Johnson, who was head of the treasury board at that time, said he would honour equal pay jurisdictions; so that was a minor triumph.

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Then we took part in a microtechnology conference in June in Ottawa along with 3 other national women's organizations.

We're preparing a brief to appear before the Committee on Native Women and another on part time work. A brief on microtechnology and its effect on women was presented in Halifax in June before a task force in that subject.

So we've been very busy. We've also been asked (and this is the first time in history that a Minister of Finance has asked to meet with a women's group) to discuss the economy of the nation. Three of us met with Marc Lalonde early in September and told him what we thought he should do with the economy. We had a lot of suggestions!

I think I should tell you about some of the concerns we'll be turning our attention to this fall.

The government seems to have shelved its green paper on pensions because it's so strapped for money that it's unable to do very much, but we are ready with a new brief to respond to whatever they come up with. We have a bottom line that we feel is the absolute minimum of what they should be doing in the field of pensions today.

We're also alert that when the constitutional talks are reconvened between the federal government and the provinces that any further transferring of the Divorce Act to the provinces must be stopped and resisted. It's tough enough now in Canada to get custody and children and to get child support without each province having its own divorce laws.

We're also quite concerned about any moves that might be made to change fiscal arrangements between the provinces and the federal government. We have a paper being done right now which we hope will bring out in detail some of the problems women have in getting funding and the kind of bureaucratic red tape that our concerns get wrapped up into and therefore nothing gets done.

The climate of the economy in Canada and the United States is very bad and traditionally women have always lost ground in bad times. Funding to many programs has been cut in the United States, and there have been rumblings that there might be cuts in Family Allowances and some of our universal social programs. We were assured by the Prime Minister a few weeks ago the universality of social programs would not be touched.

But it's a funny atmosphere that we're in right now. It's going to be very tough to squeez women out of the work force.

We make up 40% of the work force Many families today are not experiencing the most severe economic crunch because there are two wage-earners. We know that there would be 49% more families living below the povert line in Canada if women did not work. So women make a very big contribution to the economic viability of their families.

There's also another hopeful feeling in the air so that I don't take the most pessimistic point of view of what could happen to women - that things are going to get worse, that we're going to lose what little we've gained.

I think that the most important thing that's probably happened to women in the last little while is the fight women made to get some of their rights I think in a way that Lloyd Axworthy did Canadian women a favour when he tried to cancel, unsuccessfully, the conference on Women and the Constitution. Women said, "We don't have to put up with this; we have a perfect right to discuss what's going in the charter as far as we are concerned and we won't be shut out of this discussion"

We brought together twice as many women to Ottawa in a period of less than two weeks. They raised the roof. They put on an excellent conference. They ploughed through firstclass resolutions and more than that, they lobbied till they got a very important addition to the Charter of Rights - Clause 28 the clause stating the equality of men and women. I like to think that that clause has the potential and the strength of the E.R.A. clause in the U.S., for which women fought from 192! and finally failed last June.

Canadian women got a clause very similar to that in the Canadian Charter of Rights, and we did it ourselves. Furthermore, when the Prime Minister and the premiers got together in one last attempt to get some kind of accord last fall and came out of that - whatever they cooked up in the kitchen at the Chateau Laurier - with a deal and the next day Pauline Jewitt stood up in Parliament and said, "What happened to Clause 28? The Prime Minister didn't know. It got lost in the shuffle and it was decided that a restraining clause would be put on Clause 28, a "notwithstanding" clause! Ridiculous! Once again Canadian women organized themselves and their fury was unbounded and it should have been. Here's the clause we worked so hard for and just arbitrarily a restraining clause was put on it. Well, the last holdouts, Buchanan of Nova Scotia and Blakeney of Saskatchewan were stunned at the fury of women. They got so many telephone calls and so many wires and so many letters! Of course Blakeney got defeated in the subsequent election and I would love somebody to do a study on that election and where women's votes were a decisive factor in that defeat. certainly don't think it helped.

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Sometimes I think women make gains when it looks darkest. I remember when Lloyed Axworthy was Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I frankly hoped he'd stay there forever because every time he opened his mouth, he converted another thousand women to feminism. there is a kind of power that we feel, having made these gains that we made last year on the Constitution. We know we can do it. There's a nervousness on the other hand on the part of politicians because they really don't know how to deal with these women any more. They can't walk

into a hall and congratulate them on their hats because women don't wear hats any more. can't walk into a hall and congratulate them on how beautiful they are because they'd be booed out of the hall. And they make some awful mistakes. An alderman in Toronto recently made an offhand remark that the reason there were no women employed down at City Hall was that women were too lazy to get up in the morning and get down to City Hall and get the jobs. He just about got drawn and quartered. He didn't know what had happened to him. Five years ago I think that remark would have been noted but not much would have been made of it. I can remember when Grace McInnis, who was a member from British Columbia, the only woman in the House of Commons, when she would introduce any subject on women, day care, changes in the divorce act, anything that had to do with women, there was a general titter of laughter through the House "Ha, ha, this is funny.... it has to do with women" and the House would empty. It was not important enough to stay. The tariff on ties, the cow vaccine - that was an important subject....offshore fishing - that's an important subject, but women are last, but when Margaret Mitchell introduced that report on wife battering and the House broke up, not just women but men and women all across this country were shocked that people elected by men and women should find that a humorous remark. It's just very lucky for those people who laughed that the cameras weren't on them at that particular time. politicians are nervous. really don't know whether we've got power out there that can be translated into votes in an election that can hurt them and change the political structure of this nation or not. So I think they will be paying attention to us and I think we have

to have our act together. We have to have our facts together and know what we're talking about. We have to present what we want in a very effective way.

We thought at the beginning of the nineteen seventies we developed a lot of skills, a lot of knowledge. A lot of young women went into law and business and they do know how to present briefs and a lot of the rest of us learned how to do it better.

So I think the 80's can be a great decade of real progress. And I just want to leave you with one thought. I'm always being asked by somebody, sometimes a woman, but mostly a man, "Is the women's movement finally over?" In other words, "We're pretty tired of all this nonsense from women. When are you going to start to behave in a normal manner again?" And I like to say, "The Women's Movement certainly isn't over. It's not languishing. It's not sick in any way at all. It's a social revolution that's been going on for several centuries. It's changing the way we think and live in the most profound way. It's not just good for women. It's going to do great things for men too because they have suffered under this system which stereotypes men just as much as women are stereotyped. Actually the system only works for a tiny group of very aggressive successful men and it's time to change it. And I like to think that that's what we're in the process of doing and we're going to be crowned with quite a lot of success.

Doris Anderson



CLASSIFIED

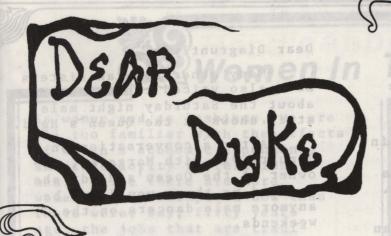
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Dear Dyke:

Received a letter from a lesbian friend living in New Zealand in which she says: "Have recently been doing a training course for womenline, a telephone listening referral service for women exclusively which I believe is really important as lifeline, etc. often have such a male attitude and don't give women the support they really need. It has just started up but it would be brilliant if it took off as a worldwide thing - want to start one up your way?"

Well Dear Dyke, what do you think, is there a need for such a service in Victoria?

Mikki

Dear Mikki:

Just in time for your letter, the Lesbian Information Line sent us this ad... read on.

THE LESBIAN INFORMATION LINE -LIL - offers resource information, peer counselling, and referrals. We attempt to keep an up-to-date file on social events as well as rap groups, workshops, feminist therapists, and pertinent legal information.

LIL was formed to offer information to women who are not yet involved in the women's community. Women isolated in the suburbs, in marriages, in closeted relationships, who are

new in town, or any woman struggling along with ambivalent feelings around her sexual identity. Also women who have no idea how to meet other lesbians or are unaware that a community of lesbians exists. A telephone line offers a vehicle for women to discuss their thoughts and feelings and ask questions while preserving their anonymity. This is important for many women to whom the thought of attending a drop-in or social function where they would have to acknowledge their lesbianism would be threatening.

So far we have had an overwhelming response to LIL. Our calls have been about half requests for information and half dealing with the process of "coming out".

We are in operation two nights a week at present and have an answering machine financed with the help of individual donations and a donation from the Rights of Lesbians SubCommittee of the British Columbia Federation of Women.



LIL has no government funding and exists on the donations of those who volunteer their time and/or money because they feel LIL is worthy of support.

We put regular advertisements in local newspapers and have received many of our calls as a result of these advertisements.

If you wish to support LIL, donations can be sent to Lesbian Information Line c/o 1501 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.

(734-1016)

Dear Dyke;

Well, here I go starting the New Year bitching. Oh well, if the G-string fits, wear it. No..Ho..Ho..

I am speaking of unpleasant Saturday evening visits to the Queen's Head wishing to dance and socialize with lesbian friends only to be hit, smuck in the eye, by a male go-go girl strutting his wares on the standup bar near the dance floor. Pl..ea..se spare me such vulgarity. I was led to believe that such male debauchery was scheduled for Wednesday nights only?

Since the owners turn a deaf ear to our protests, what to we do? Do we all jump onto the standup bar and bare our chests? (If you can't beat them, join them.) No.. heaven forbid, we'd all be barred for life! Do we wait outside in the parking lot and quietly beat Mr. go-go's fancy pants off? A bit barbaric. Do we all sign a petition requesting that the owners not have such tasteless displays on the weekend? Fruitless??? Or do we go armed with baskets of oranges and bombard the tart?

Dear Dyke, I anxiously await your words of wisdom.

Dear Disgruntled:

Many other lesbian sisters have also voiced their concern about the Saturday night male strip shows at the Queen's Head.

After a conversation on January 9th with Margaret, co-owner of the Queen's Head, she assured me there would not be anymore male dancers on the weekends.

That's one for us lesbian sisters, so keep up the good work.



"Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got."

edd at beds Janis Joplin

Women In Trades 25

As women and as lesbians, we are all too familiar with the effects of women's economic dependence and inferiority in relation to men. While there are more women in the workplace now than there were, say, fifty years ago, the jobs that are traditionally open to women are those of low status and low pay, with few exceptions. For these and other reasons, women are forging their way into "non-traditional" occupations.

I entered the trades because, after having been a psychiatric nurse for four years, I was 'burned out' and didn't want to work so closely with people anymore. I wanted to do something where I could use my intellectual and physical abilities, where I'd be paid a wage that matches the work I do. Part of me wanted to do something "different" from those occupations usually done by women, to be able to hold myself up as an example to women looking for a line of work; "If I can do it, so can you"; and so that because I was there before, it could be easier for women who are following me into that trade.

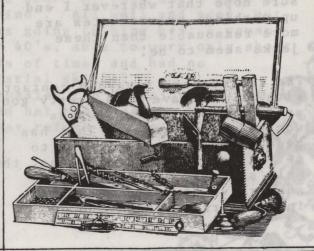
My first significant exposure to the skilled trades was an introductory trades programme for women, at Pacific V.I. in the spring of 1982. It was a three month course sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, where we got hands-on experience in a variety of trades. (The Women's Exploratory Apprenticeship Programme is now extinct, However, Camosun College offers a shorter, less structured course for women interested in the skilled trades.)

From WEAT, I entered a six-month pre-apprenticeship programme for electrical trades, which I will complete in February, so I'm still a greenhorn in this business.

by Margie Pringle

I think, however, that it is important that I share some of the experiences I've had so far with women who are considering entering a non-traditional occupation.

The actual work is great! I've discovered that I can grasp mathematical principals and use them well, something that I doubted before this course! I know that I have some of the qualities that make an electrician a good one. And I'm pretty sure I have the potential to develop the other ones. Sometimes I wonder though, if I'm doing the right thing. The effective, efficient use of tools is something that was relatively foreign to me a year ago, since as I was growing up I was encouraged to do "girl" things. As a result I'm a little slower and possibly more awkward than some of the guys are at some of the work. I have to consciously tell myself to give it time, that I am just as capable of learning to do this work as anyone else in my class is.



There are two of us women in my class. We get along well so we stick pretty close together during lunch and coffee breaks, and when doing shop work feel more comfortable exposing my weaknesses to Elenor than I would in exposing them to any of the men. We're both relatively accepting of each other as we are, and share the same opinion of much of the stuff that goes on between the men in the class.

Going to school with a bunch of men, most of whom are much younger than I am, is much different from what I expected. I have usually gotten along well with men, but I sure find the guys in my class unpleasant to be around. It's not because they do anything to me - they don't. The games they play amongst each other are ones that I see operative in the aspects of society that keep women, homosexuals, and every other minority down. They play each other's weaknesses to the hilt, which to me is a very good reason to pretend not to have any weaknesses, i.e. "Be a man". They have chosen a scapegoat, whom they pick on about everything he says, does and wears, and whom a few of them have threatened to beat up; "We'll beat you into a coma". It's strange and scary to me. I sure hope that wherever I end up working, my workmates are more reasonable than these jerks seem to be!

The instructors I've had contact with so far have been pretty good as far as attitudes towards women in the trades. That has been a great encouragement to me. I've heard, though, that the male students can be far more supportive of women than the instructors in some courses.

All this is not meant to discourage women from entering the skilled trades. I really want to see more women in the places where I work. My intention here has been to point out the real difficulties I am facing, and that other women could face if and when they enter a male dominated blue collar field.

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Something that helps me to keep a positive perspective on what I'm doing is participating in the Vicotria Women in Trades collective. This is a new group, still in the formative stage, for women who are currently working in the trades, or training to, or who want to do so. Basically, the goals of the group are:

- To provide the support needed by women who are working in the trades;
- 2. To provide information to women who want to enter trades, about how to get started, what courses are available, what trades are open to women (all of them, of course!), and what it is like to be a women in the skilled trades. We see ourselves as being able to be the role models that could be more encouraging to women that a career counsellor or films.
- 3. To provide advocacy to women training or working in the trades or who wish to be.

New members are always welcome, so if you want to join, come to a meeting. We meet the first Saturday of each month (second Saturday if the first one is a holiday), at 11:00 a.m. at the SWAG office at 1045 Linden Ave. For more information call. Heather at 382-0636.

Handicapped Women

What does the word 'handicap' mean to you? What images are provoked in your mind? Pictures of people crippled by diseases such as polio, M.S., muscular dystrophy, and others, or from

accidents or in the form of birth deformities? Do you see blind people, mentally retarded people or people who are required to live their lives in crutches, wheelchairs or beds? Medically and legally these people are handicapped. But, Funk and Wagnalls dictionary defines handicap several ways, one of which is as follows; "to serve as a disadvantage or hindrance to". Such a definition probably refers to more than 90% of our population, as most of us are handicapped in ways not recognized as such. These are the invisible handicaps. cover everything from arthritis to epilepsy to deafness. It includes those susceptible to heart attacks, emotional handicaps, and psychological traumas. The list can be almost endless if one looks hard enough.

especially those of us who are lesbians? Many of us have been silent about our handicaps for so long with the attitude of 'after all, what could possibly be done about it?' (Those of us who remember our struggles and pain of coming out as lesbians know we are doubly oppressed as women and as lesbians. Add a handicap to that if you don't have one). I have noticed a did they refuse her in the first lack of awareness among the place? women of Victoria regarding handicapped women and their trials. I hope to somehow bring this awareness about and make it easier for my handicapped sisters to speak up and state our needs and wants and desires along with other

Reva, a strong lesbian feminist, suffers from ANKYLOSING SPONDILITIS (a disease that causes inflammation of joints and deposits calcium in ligaments, altogether inducing pain and stiffness). She is a women

who rarely considers herself as being "handicapped". However, she once had a relationship with a woman who made such obvious concessions to Reva'a handicap (i.e. doing or offering to do everything she though Reva couldn't do), that she made Reva feel helpless and handicapped. Her other relationships with women have generally been quite open and honest (she once believed that if anyone were to get involved with her, they would get involved with a liability). She now approaches relationships with a positive attitude, an open mind and a quote, "I can offer you these things, but some things I can't do". When Reva moved out here from Quebec, she wanted to drive the one ton truck of furnishings herself across Canada. People tried to talk her out of it with the reason that she couldn't possibly drive that much in her condition. She did it anyway. (Oh, the power of women!)

Reva had to quit her job about six or seven years ago as she found it very But what about handicapped women, draining for her and she suffered bouts of low energy as well as constant pain. She applied to the government for a Handicapped Pension and was refused it on the grounds that "...I was still able to touch my toes and I have a good mind". All well and good, but who was going to hire her; a woman in her 40's, able to work only short periods of time, and had no secretarial skills? She appealed the decision and they granted her the pension, but why





Reva still suffers embarrassment and discomfort when asked what she does. There seems to be just as large a stigma about being on a handicap pension (or any pension when you look younger than 50), as there is when one is on welfare. But Reva continues on the best she knows how. Her last words were "My handicapped sisters should take courage - not give up or give in. We're still fully human."

The society we live in rarely recognizes handicapped people as defined by medical and legal terms, let alone those whose handicaps are rarely considered such as Reva's. Only in the past decade have steps been taken for only some varieties of handicaps. In some communities washrooms, stairwells, elevators, doorways, and curb corners have been made to accomodate wheelchair persons. Signing has been introduced at concerts by women for the benefit of those who are deaf and hard of hearing. Close captioned (CC) programs, (programs with subtitles), are available through the use of a TV converter and hearing dogs are being trained for deaf people. There are institutes for the blind, seeing- eye dogs are still being raised, and there are books printed in Braille. But there are still many places where wheelchair persons are restricted, if not discriminated against (remember the case of those two children in wheelchairs who wanted to see E.T.?) All handicapped people must still fight for entrance into regular schools, and there is a sad lack of communication between the deaf and hearing people. Arguments rage today whether to teach young deaf people exact English signing, or place the emphasis on oral speech and lip reading. Both are needed to

fully communicate with other deaf and hearing people.

It takes a large protest and a confident strong speaker to approach the government with their views and proposals and demands. Unfortunately, it is only just recently the government has stopped to see and hear about our discrimination. It is rampant in the employment factor, schools are largely unequipped to deal with handicapped persons (though it is our right to receive a full and normal education like everyone else) living quarters are often physically inaccessible to many and some landlords may discriminate against us, but our greatest handicap is the ignorance of the majority of

society (even within the women's community).
I wonder, however, just how many women in Victoria stay home because

women in Victoria stay home because they are handicapped and wish to avoid the embarrassment and discomfort society

bestows upon them
because these women
make society feel
uneasy? These women
have every right to be out
and involved with their

community, giving and helping as best as they are capable of.

I was myself born quite deaf with about 35% hearing, but though I cannot hear well, I hope this article helps you hear what I'm trying to say.

I shall continue this subject in the next issue, so if you are handicapped (or even if you are not) share your views with me by calling at this number: 385 2770.

Denise

astrology section



- (A) SAGITTARIUS MUTABLE FIRE (76) CAPRICORN CARDINAL BARTH
- (≥) AQUARIUS FIXED AIR (→) PISCES MUTABLE WATER

The dormant season of veiled sun is with us - WINTER.

Moon awareness is heightened as night is longer and
more in our thoughts. The inner forces of the subconscious
mind are at work, stirred by our innate connection with
Nature's present process of life beneath the soil.

DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 1982/83

Any difficult emotional situations arising from family Christmas celebrations is somewhat eased by the boisterous happy-go-lucky influence of Jupiter's child Sagi. The New Year, (a return to routine of job and school for many of us), is aided by Capricorn; serious, sensible and always keeping an eye on the top of the mountain. February is bound to be full of unexpected changes that initiate bold strides in the personal realm - don't expect those around you to make a great deal of "rational" sense, do, however, enjoy the novel and usually right-on ideas prevalent as Uranus sends it's blue bolts. March, the month of our Piscean sisters, will be a time for reflection of the twelve months past, and their synthesis into a new version of motion.

SAGITTARIUS***

Your philosophical awareness has a flipside of the clown - people are often fooled into thinking that you are show-offs and insensitive to other people's feelings, when really you are just more aware that every "doom and gloom" situation has a funny side - it is this sense of the sublime that sustains you when your sensitive heart is bruised by the snubs of less freed beings. Watch those dollars (as you do seem to vaporate money without the least little amount of effort) - tax and car insurance time is right around the corner. If you can take care of that, you'll be in a great position to take that vacation/job combined that is coming up in the summer months.

CAPRICORN***

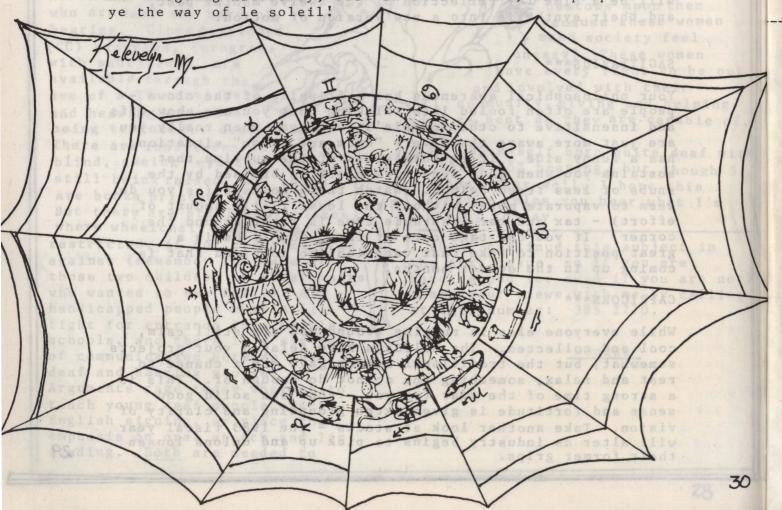
While everyone else is running around you are still calm, cool and collected. The holidays have delayed your projects somewhat, but the traditional aspect gave you a chance to rest and relax, something you do not do enough of. This is a strong time of the year for you - your own solid good sense and fortitude is given extra grounding and clarity of vision. Take another look at stocks - the 1983 fiscal year will alter as industry begins to pick up and unions loosen their former grips.

AQUARIUS***

As the festivities wind down you might be feeling that it's time you went away and took stock...go for it! Solitude is not as scary as you might envision - besides, you possess the pleasing quality of making friends wherever you happen to be. A cabin by the sea, long walks on the beach, a change in diet; all of these will ease the transitions you will be making. As your day of manifestation nears you may start thinking about moving, changing jobs, lovers or philosophies. This is contributed to somewhat by the radical changes you perceive those around you making - be sure to consider the emotional affect before throwing away something just for the sheer novelty.

PISCES***

The period of dark before the dawn is often hard to get through, and friendly assurances of all soon being well are hard to believe, but, you have made it through on levels soon to show themselves, and have grown a thousand leagues in the process. You are very gentle-hearted, and so lessons learnt go deep and stay there. If you can relax and use your own element to soften the initial impact the lesson will still be absorbed without the suffering. Seek out friends who are warm and outgoing naturally, bask in their shine, and prepare



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