

PROPERTY OF NEWSLETTER

The Washington Area Women's Center Newsletter
February 1974

FOR OUR FILES



"So, Watch Out, Boy, when you caress-
That Pussy is a Lioness."
from Lavender Jane Loves Women,
a feminist record, reviewed inside.

DO NOT REMOVE

FORUM

* FORUM provides a means of expressing different issues in the *
* Newsletter about the Women's Center and feminism. It is written *
* entirely by readers, and the opinions presented should not be con- *
* sidered those of the Women's Center. *
* All articles submitted to FORUM must be signed. The Newslet- *
* ter will not edit on the basis of political opinion, but may edit *
* on the basis of space or coherency. *
* We hope that FORUM will promote healthy debate at the Women's *
* Center. *
* *

Sisters in spirit:

I abhor discrimination in any form and what happened yesterday can be called nothing else.

I came to the center to discuss volunteer work in the library; my husband came with me. After we were ushered in and asked to wait, a woman came out of the office and demanded to know why Billy was there. I felt that it was enough that he came in with me. Apparently not because before we realized what was happening he was asked to leave. BLATANT DISCRIMINATION, I thought as I watched him walk out the door. But instead of pleading his case, I stood in the hall quietly and uncomfortably like a chastised child. I don't like this feeling at any time and I certainly didn't expect to find it at the women's center.

My view of feminism and its goals are perhaps twisted in your eyes. Instead of a separation of the sexes, I see it as an equalization process. I apologize to myself and to Billy for not upholding these principles yesterday.

Strange. I had so looked forward to meeting the people at the center. New friends, new ideas, stimulus for my feminist projects, and all I discovered was the same damn sexism I've been fighting to get away from. I cannot in good conscience support or work for an organization that perpetuates sexist rules. My regrets to the library staff for not being able to help out.

Sincerely,
Molly Smith

P.S. One final note: If your interest is truly separatist, then I suggest that your library should be weeded out. Some male authors are peeking through...

Dear Ms. Smith;

I regret that your introduction to the Center was ungratifying. The female only policy, however, strikes me as appropriate and gratifying. I can't counter your feeling of chastisement, but do wish to explain the reasons behind the rule.

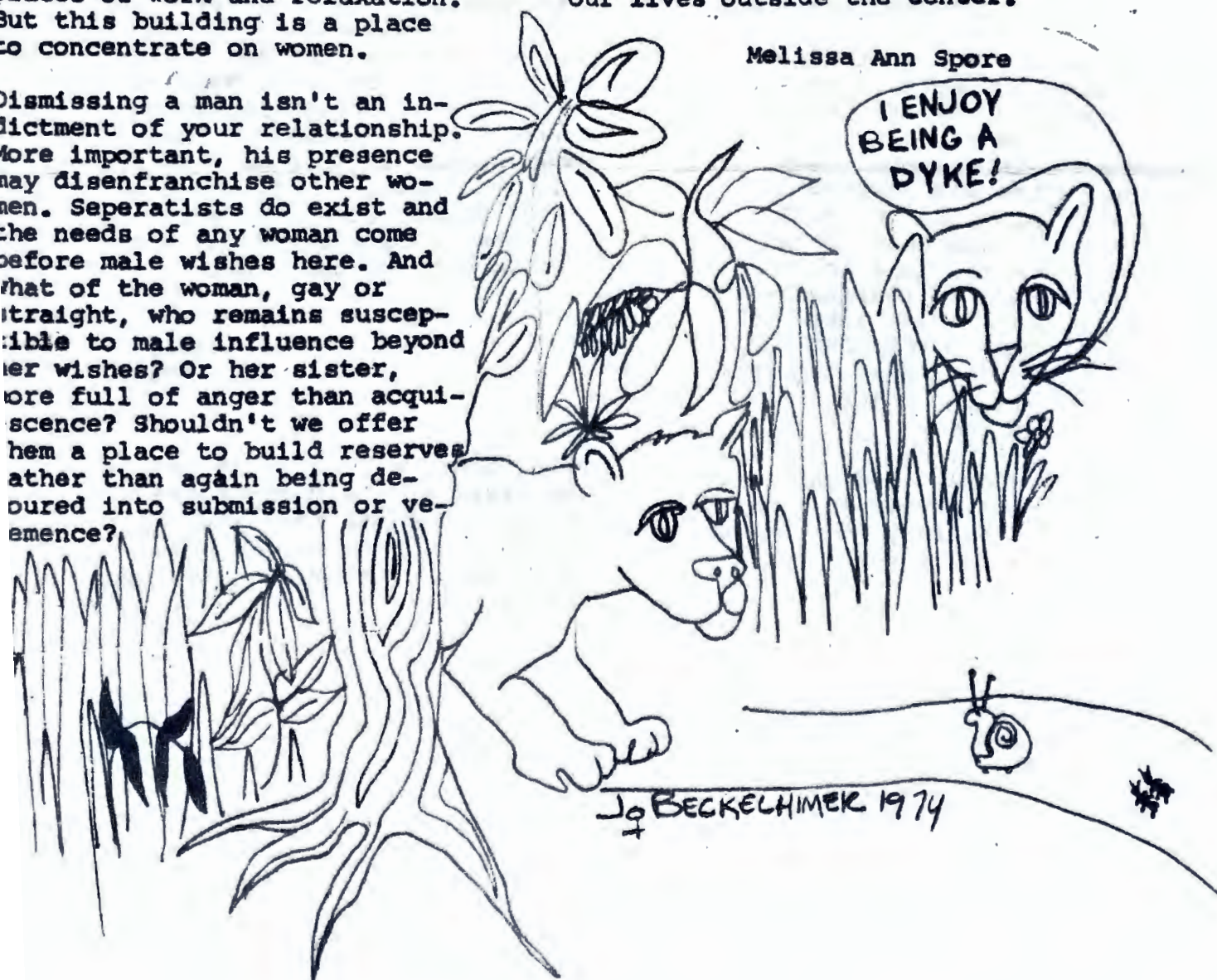
Male NOW members and couples coming for abortion counseling are welcomed. Apart from these two groups, male presence is either superfluous or intrusive. We all may pursue, amend, or halt our relations with men as we see fit; we are in their company in most places of work and relaxation. But this building is a place to concentrate on women.

Dismissing a man isn't an indictment of your relationship. More important, his presence may disenfranchise other women. Separatists do exist and the needs of any woman come before male wishes here. And what of the woman, gay or straight, who remains susceptible to male influence beyond her wishes? Or her sister, more full of anger than acquiescence? Shouldn't we offer them a place to build reserves rather than again being deoured into submission or vengeance?

As for the library, I think we must recognize male culture in building or own realm of civilization. Both "know your enemy" books and works by male allies are part of the library. With all the re-evaluating feminism has caused me, my regard for John Stuart Mill remains intact.

Equalization, I think, demands that women value time spent with other females as highly as they regard male contact. The policy, thus, broadens rather than discriminates. It encourages all women to meet here, affecting our lives outside the Center.

Melissa Ann Spore



Jo BECKELHIMER 1974

Rubyfruit Jungle is Rita Mae Brown's first novel. The book relates the experiences of Molly Bolt, the main character, from age seven until she is twenty-four.

Molly is an exceptional woman. Her body, mind and face are proclaimed again and again throughout the book. These qualities help her obtain friends, lovers and scholarships. Such a positive view of a character who is both gay and female is a refreshing change from characters who are unhappy, dissatisfied, depressed or trapped. Although these emotions are valid, equally valid is a character who has self confidence, intelligence and an amazing amount of energy and ambition.

Molly is not paralyzed by deep introspection and self-analysis. She has her first sexual experience with another woman when she is in the sixth grade. Two years later when she is talking to her cousin he calls her a queer. She replies, "So what if I am, except I'm not real sure what you mean by that" and later, "What goddamn difference does it make to you what I do? You do what you want and I do what I want". Regrets or horrible guilt feelings are totally absent. She knows herself and trusts her feelings enough to realize that there was nothing unnatural or wrong with her loving another woman.

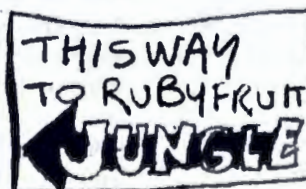
Molly faces the same problems most women face. She has to deal with the restric-

tions society places on women. Her problems come from the world rather than herself. She attempts and succeeds in overcoming these obstacles without compromising herself.

She is discovered having an affair with her roommate at college gets kicked out because of it and decides to go to New York City. Even though she is dissatisfied with her life and she is poor besides, she rejects an offer to be kept by another woman. "She's no different from a construction worker, she's just got class and bread...". Because of this experience she applies for, and receives, a scholarship. She runs into blatant sexism in her predominately male field, film. Although she graduates at the top of her class she can't get a job. The novel ends at this point with "One way or another I'll make those movies and I don't feel like having to fight until I'm fifty. But if it does take that long then watch out world because I'm going to be the hottest fifty-year-old this side of the Mississippi".

I felt like cheering when I finished reading this book. Rubyfruit Jungle is the best book I've read in quite a while. It is funny, optimistic and energy-producing. I strongly recommend it.

Judy Walton



WAIT FOR ME!

REF: 077
Man:
A



edward the dyke

Judy Grahn, a lesbian poet from San Francisco—author of *Edward the Dyke* and other works, will give a poetry reading at 8pm, Feb. 22, at Back Alley Theater, 1365 Kennedy St., E.W. A dollar donation is requested.

FEW Backs Programs and Legislation for Prevention of Rape

The Center for Women Policy Studies has received a grant from LEAA in the amount of \$226,000 to develop models for use by police and citizen action groups for treatment of rape victims. They will provide technical assistance and guidance designed to change local laws and attitudes which currently regard rape victims as the offenders instead of the offended. The grant is conditioned upon receipt of \$26,000 from other sources concerned with this vital social problem. . . . Senator Charles Mathias (Md.) introduced a bill, S.2422, to establish a National Center for Prevention of Rape. In his introductory statement, Sen. Mathias said: "All too often the victim must also contend with the societal assumption that she may have precipitated the attack or did not resist vigorously. Only in recent years have a few states and local jurisdictions begun to identify and offer solutions to problems in the treatment of rape victims and the administration of justice related to rape." WRITE TO YOUR SENATORS TO CO-SPONSOR THIS BILL AND WORK FOR ITS PASSAGE. WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN TO INTRODUCE SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. ASK THEM TO INFORM YOU WHAT ACTION THEY HAVE TAKEN.

-reprinted from the Dec., 1973 HUD Women's Caucus Notes

Many of you read the General Assembly report in the January newsletter concerning the creation of a Crisis Intervention Center. Through this program women in multi-problem situations can receive the legal, medical, and housing services they require while planning for the future through career counseling and vocational training programs.

We propose that the Center's present facility be utilized for an experimental three-month pilot project from April to June, 1974. This program will demonstrate how the needs of women in crisis can be met through a crisis intervention and careers center. Evaluation of the experimental project will be carried on in July with a report to be published in August. Prior to final evaluation, Center staff will explore funding possibilities for maintaining this project in a new facility.

Officials of the Meyer Foundation (from whom we received a \$7,500 grant last June) emphasized that any foundations we approach will question our financial stability. Before we ask for a tripling of our budget to encompass a new structure, we should be able to prove that we can sustain our current budget through membership support. That, unfortunately, is not happening. (Although we have more than the \$1,000 mistakenly alluded to in the January newsletter, our outgo is significantly more than our income. It is obvious that at the present rate of expenditures, the Center will come to a creaking halt by the end of August when our lease is up--if not before. (See ff. financial report prepared by our bookkeeper.) So that despite the

fact that we are putting forth what could be considered an innovative and crucial new program, it will never see the light of day until and unless all of you out there can pledge continuing funds to keep us operative now.

At the General Assembly, a group of women volunteered to work with me on the new crisis structure. At our meeting on Jan. 8 we recognized that we must deal with the immediate situation before taking on what might be new. Emphasis was placed on reviving the Speakers Bureau which would seek invitations to speak before various groups. The fees would be charged according to the sponsoring group's financial ability.

At the same time we are sending out materials to a number of foundations and church groups seeking funds for the crisis intervention and careers center. We are hopeful that a few will respond with interest. We can expect them to ask about our present financial situation. We do not want to have to admit that we're seeking funds for a new program when we can't even support our present program.

So, to avoid the crunch, all of us who meet at the Center, all of us who have gotten something out of the Center's existence, have got to put it together to come up with money, have got to hit our friends and associates for money, have got to be a couple of hundred fundraisers to make the money happen, or else women in crisis, women seeking abortions, women who are victims of job and credit discrimination, women needing peer support, women who need a place to socialize, will no longer have a Women's Center.

So if you've got \$100--or \$5--we need it! Now!

Washington Area Women's Center, Inc.

Operating Statement

October 1, 1973 to December 31, 1973

Balance September 30, 1973 \$2,367.59

Income

Contributions	\$1,167.90
Project Group Dues	150.00
Benefit	550.00
Total	\$1,867.90

Expenses

Rent	\$1,185.00
Utilities	216.31
Telephone	262.47
Maintenance	327.01
Office Supplies (including newsletter)	291.75
Postage	74.10
Petty Cash	150.00
Miscellaneous	84.30

Total \$2,590.94

Balance December 31, 1973 \$1,644.54

Meyer Grant

Balance September 30, 1973 \$6,500.00

Expenses

Salaries	\$3,710.00
Payroll Taxes	197.15

Total \$3,907.15

Balance December 31, 1973 \$2,592.85

Project Groups

Balance September 30, 1973 \$2,961.06

Income

Contributions	\$1,598.03
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Expenses

Rent	\$300.00
Telephone	360.10
Petty Cash	100.00
Salaries	93.00
Payroll Taxes	30.42
Maintenance	35.00
Educational Materials	75.00

Total \$993.52

Balance December 31, 1973 \$3,565.57

REPORT FROM THE FUND-RAISER

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Co-Ordinating Council

At the Jan. 10 meeting of the Co-Ordinating Council, Gerri Traina reported that the Ford Foundation may be interested in funding a Crisis Intervention and Careers Center. She also informed us that the Job Co-op is now metamorphizing into Pathways and is interested in training a woman from the Women's Center to be a job counsellor. Anyone who is interested should contact Gerri Traina.

There was also lively discussion at the meeting of the physical state of the Center. This began with questions about the duties of the live-ins, and how much of the day-to-day upkeep of the Center belongs on the shoulders of the women who use the Center. Jane Bristol mentioned that despite signs warning that the upstairs toilet overflows, women still use it and the N.O.W. office is occasionally drenched with the debris. Ruth Terri made loud remarks about swines and illiterates. Everyone agreed that it would not be too much to ask that people refrain from using that toilet until it is repaired. The Live-In Committee was asked to investigate the duties of the live-ins and report to the next CC meeting.

Melissa Spore and Jane Bristol voluntarily formed the Back Door Latch Collective, to procure and install a spring latch on the back door. Both women have previously been shut out of the building because someone had jammed a chair up against the door to keep it shut.

There was debate about having the upstairs toilet repaired, but since cost estimate on the venture were at the time unavailable, a decision was postponed. Melissa Spore volunteered to buy a lock for the bathroom at the same time as she purchased the spring latch, but Ruth Terri observed that, "A fancy knot would probably be enough to fool these people." Unfortunately, Ms. Terri did not volunteer for the task of tying this knot.

Jo Beckelheimer

WOMEN'S LOBBY SUES U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

While the U.S. Catholic Conference floods Capitol Hill with celibate priests armed with "abortion-is-murder" propaganda, Women's Lobby spends hours of time and energy reporting where every penny of its contributions comes from and how the money is spent. That's what you have to do if you are a registered lobbying group.

But now Women's Lobby is getting into something new: filing suits.

Monsignor James McHugh and the U.S. Catholic Conference, Inc. have violated the Federal Lobbying Act, Women's Lobby charges.

As the action arm of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the U.S. Catholic Conference admits it lobbies. It openly and actively opposes legalized abortion and joins the Right To Life in stirring up every possible measure of emotion and guilt on the subject that it can among Congresspersons and Senators. But it has never registered as a lobby.

The judge denied a preliminary injunction - he doesn't prefer a civil remedy since the lobbying laws fall under criminal statutes. He thinks an interested Member of Congress should report the case to the Attorney General which would begin the proper criminal proceedings.

In the meantime, Women's Lobby wants to enjoin the U.S. Catholic Conference from lobbying until they register.

Peggy Barta

P
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H

its like being on a pile of sand
that's started to slide
nothing to hold on to
nothing to grab
just somersaulting slowly down
until it stops moving
and you know
there's no point to open your eyes
you've been buried underneath all the sand
with your eyes open or closed
its just darkness

and no matter how many people try
with their little pails and shovels
scraping up a few handfuls at a time
they'll never find you
not in here
I'm terrified in here
I can't get out
I can't breathe
there's no point to try and scream anymore
nobody can hear me
no one realizes where I am

its so damp and cold in here
who'd want to dig through all this shit
to uncover this mess

- barbara ANN

I

I am not functioning
I am not functioning
I am not getting over, only getting older
I have been brain washed
I have been hypnotized and
I have been denied - stripped of my human rights
Made the ultimate sacrifice
No longer can I be nice and take other peoples advice
To do as they see best and continue to be tested and bent
And used and spent - Treated like an object a material thing
In blue chip on the stock market - What would I bring?

II

What worth is a woman?
And how much is a woman worth?
What does it take to survive on this earth?
What the hell does it take!!!???
While men are being over rated
Women are being degraded - dehumanized and humiliated
I can not laugh - It's no longer a joke
I can not smile- it is no longer pleasant
I can not sing - I am no longer happy
I can not dance - I have no freedom

III

People would say that I am crazy
That I do not fit in to the scheme of things
She dosen't wear dresses or symbolic diamond rings
She's a trouble maker a menance to society
We will not be safe until she is married and in pregnancy
This woman is angry - She is mad
It's a shame and it's too bad
We've tried to give her everything
We've tried to make her happy
But she continues to defy her father and imitate her brothers
Dosen't she know all women should be mothers?

IV

It's your only purpose - It's your only goal
Don't let it pass you by - What else is there for you, woman?
This is your given plight - a would be birth right
And at anything else - You need not try

PGW 10/11/73

Jo Beckelheimer would like to announce that the newsletter is somewhat lacking in graphics this month because she had to correct most of the copy before it could be laid out. Next month the copy will not be corrected.

Nancy has a piano at her home on Capitol Hill and she is interested in finding other women interested in any kind of duets: piano, recorder, oboe, etc. Call her at 547-0611 if you'd like to try.

Sophie's Parlor, a women's music show on WGTB-FM (90.1) would appreciate any women's Records to tape for their program. Also, any women interested in DJing call 332-8023. Listen to Sophie's Parlor from noon till 2:45 pm every Monday and Saturday.

ALSO! Radio Free Women, a feminist discussion show Mondays 2:45 pm and Tuesdays 6:30 pm. Any group that would like exposure on either program or anyone who has announcements to be used on the program call 332-8023.

The D.C. Gay Women's Open House has been changed to Mondays at 8:00 pm and is still meeting in Sophie's Parlor. Bring your own guitars, tambourines, drinks, friends, etc.

Any woman living in D.C. who would like help in filing an uncontested divorce call Domestic Relations Counselors Nan Hunter, 544-8278 or Valle Jones, 628-0314.

The new contact person for Sophie's Parlor is Erica Guttman. Anyone wishing to entertain or obtain information relating to Sophie's Parlor can call her at 979-6530.

The Women's Center's Speaker's Bureau is looking for a co-chairperson who will solicit various groups to speak about the Women's Movement. Anyone interested call Sue Martin at 320-5363.

A woman student at George Washington University is doing an experiment in which she is comparing gay and straight women's backgrounds and attitudes concerning politics, religion, and marriage and family living. Participants will have to fill out a questionnaire provided by the woman taking the survey. Anyone who wants to participate can call Sue at 833-1286.

The Center office will be temporarily closed on week-ends. We desperately need office volunteers for both weekends and anytime Monday-Friday. Call 232-5145.

HELP! We are suddenly in desperate need of volunteers to staff the office on weekends. Set your own hours and have all the free coffee you can drink. We also need substitute hostesses for the Gay Open House held every Monday at 8:00 pm.

Rosemary Radford from Howard University is giving a seminar called "Sexism and the Ecological Crisis: The War Against the Mother Goddess Reconsidered". The seminar will be held on Wed. February 13 from noon until 2 pm at the Institute for Policy Studies, 1520 New Hampshire Ave., N.W. For information call Judy Davis at 234-9382.

Teachers class in self-defense for women; for any women who have had some training in self-defense and would like to learn how to share your skills with other women. Depending on your response, we've set the tentative date of mid-March to begin the course. For further information please contact Sue (332-6497) or Marie (234-4561).

The Liberation School is starting an auto-mechanics course in mid-March. The class will meet on Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. A plumbing class will also be available soon. Women interested in either of these classes should call the Women's Center at 232-5145 and leave their name and phone number.

The Newsletter would like to extend its apologies to Jeanne Hirsch of New Moon publications. We unwittingly used her comic ("What do you mean, it's a girl?") on our December cover, and did not give her credit.

New Moon Publications, a mother/daughter team, put out "The Witches Os", the classic of Self-Help Literature, and now publishes "The Monthly Extract", an irregular periodical in conjunction with The Feminist Health Center in Los Angeles.

Their subscription rate is 3.50 for six issues, and their address is:

NEW MOON COMMUNICATIONS
BOX 3488 RIDGEWAY STATION
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06905



ive Saskatoon women have published an appointment calendar of photographs, graphics and quotations that record significant events in the history of women in Canada. To order, send \$3.00 to Canadian Women's Educational Press, no. 305, 280 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario.

First Things First is a non-profit mail order corporation that sells books for women. They have recently published their first catalog of the books they have in stock. The group will also handle special orders of titles not listed in the catalog. Their name is a statement of their philosophy. "We-WOMEN- first. Our movement, our needs, our needs." Their catalog is available by writing to 23 Seventh Street, E. Washington, D.C. 20003

The women's Center office is selling OUR BODIES, OUR SELVES for \$2.00 (it usually sells for \$3.00 in stores). This is an expanded, improved edition of the old paperback edition.

Lavender Jane Loves Women is the first lesbian feminist record I have heard that I have no qualms about. The quality of the recording is excellent. Alix Dobkin's vocals are lovely-listening to her voice is as reassuring as having your mother sing you to sleep. Kay Gardner's flute and piccolo lend an almost baroque quality to the music, which is kept very simple. It's all in a folk-vein, with the exception of "Fantasy Girl", a honky tonk comment on the marital package deal-

"She's a bargain basement mom replacement. She's a tiny tender tin-der box. She rolls her eyes-she walks, she talks. Boop Boopy Doo-let me entertain you."

but the tone suddenly changes, and-"Finally the times have changed. Your Sugar Babe's rearranged, so watch out, boy, when you caress-that pussy is a lioness..."

There's a nostalgic medley of folk-tunes ("Oh, don't you remember Sweet Betsy the Dyke?") and a delightful number entitled, "Beware Young Ladies", enumerating the pitfalls of relating to dandies (men).

There are several of what I call Lesbian Love Songs. Some of them are not lovesongs as patriarchal society defines the term, but they have an air of tenderness and sensuality that I not only associate with love songs, but also with lesbians. This quote from "Caledonia" is typical.

"The mountain mists and the clouds they have kissed are one to another like a sister. They whisper, 'come now, you'll be home in the country, with me' A gentle home where loving exists, can heal up the spirit like a sister."

Another in this group, Her Precious Love, combines the talents of Kay and Alix with Patches Attom on bass and Jody Vogel on cello. It is a jubilant hymn (her) to the Goddess, "Glory to Her for the joy in living, and praise be Her power, Her tender care-for-ever in beauty, her light shines upon me...the blissing of precious

woman's love...woman..loving, easy, warmly, so peacefully."

"A Woman's Love" is the story of a classical beginning to a lesbian romance.

"Because she's a woman, I didn't think I loved her-so unexpected, we just stood and smiled, and I felt so fine, and it was so right inside..."

The last in this group, "The Woman in Your Life is You" is my favorite. In this touching example of self-celebration, Alix reassures us that we are all very capable and compassionate women, and that we should each turn to ourselves for the greatest part of our strength, because: "Who knows more about your story and your struggles in the world, than the woman in your life, and she's trying to come through-a woman's voice with messages, a woman's feelings-the woman in your life, she can feel so easily...she knows everything you do, because the woman in your life is you."

Lesbian Separatism is also a recurrent theme, the emphasis being more on the relationships with women than on the lack of relationships with men. In "Talking Lesbian", Alix contends;

"If we don't let MANeuvering keep us apart, if we don't let MANipulators keep us apart, if we don't let man-power keep us apart, and mankind keep us apart, we've won...What I mean is, We Ain't Got It Easy, but We've Got It."

The Mystery Dyke

Lavender Jane Loves Women is a product of Women's Music Network (Women's Wax Works-A001) copyright 1973, 215 W. 92nd st., NY, NY 10025

The Bread and Roses record Co-op is ordering Lavender Jane, and expects to have it by the first week of February.

We will be reviewing more women's records in the future, thanks to Bread and Roses, who have offered to lend us records for this column.

Calendar

- Feb. 1- Meg christian at Sophie's Parlor, 8 pm.
 Feb. 7- Coordinating Council meeting, 7:30 pm.
 Feb. 9- General N.O.W. meeting at All Soul's Church at 16th and Harvard, 10 am.
 Home Rule workshop at Martin Luther King Library at 9th and G St. N.W.
 co-sponsored by D.C. and Capitol Hill Women's Political Caucuses and
 various other groups, 12-5 pm.
 Feb. 11- General meeting of Women's Legal Defense Fund at G.W. Law School in
 Room B-3, 8pm.
 Feb. 14- Happy Valentine's Day! (Kissay-kissay-poo!)
 Feb. 15- Susan B. Anthony Birthday Dinner sponsored by D.C. chapter of N.O.W.
 Features will include a wine and cheese gourmet dinner and entertain-
 ment by the Washington Area Feminist Theater (WAFT). The \$5.00 each
 for tickets to the dinner should be paid by check and made out to
 D.C. N.O.W. for the Susan B. Anthony Birthday Dinner. Checks should be
 mailed into the D.C. N.O.W. office at the Women's Center no later than
 February 8. The dinner will be at All Soul's Church. For further informa-
 tion call N.O.W. at 387-6895, or Ann Terbush at 462-5607 or 967-5103.
 Feb. 17- WRC-TV presents "A Woman Is" featuring Edith Sloan, a black woman from
 D.C., 10:30
 Feb. 21- Coordinating Council meeting, 7:30 pm.
 Feb. 22- Judy Grahn will read her poetry at the Back Alley Theater, 1365 Kennedy
 St. N.W. Donation of \$1.00.
 Feb. 28- Opening night for two plays produced by WAFT. Comings and Goings and
Calm Down, Mother, both written by Licia Colombi, will be performed at
 the Back Alley Theater. Both plays directed by Mary Kathryn Wilkins.
 For further info call 654-8284.

Every Monday: Abortion Counselling Meeting at Center, 8pm.

Gay Women's Open House in Sophie's Parlor, 8 pm.

Every Wednesday: Women's Health Clinic in church in Georgetown at Wisconsin
 and Volta, starts 6:30.

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