

LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER FOR WOMEN

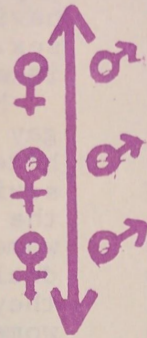
MOONSTORM

Free

ISSUE 20 April 1980

ST. LOUIS, MO

LESBIANS—
working with
gay men?



GAY MEN—
working with
lesbians?

Gay pride week is quickly approaching St. Louis. Gay men and lesbians are gonna take to the streets, have workshops and dances together and try to deal with their differences and common oppressions. Moonstorm has been represented at the planning meetings for Gay and Lesbian pride week by a couple of women. As a lesbian group, we feel it is important to unify with other gay people around our oppression. We had a discussion a few weeks ago about why we do and don't want to work politically with gay men. We also talked about what our goals were, what we could accomplish with a united gay front.

Our obvious huge, similarity with gay men is our sexual oppression. Being in the closet, scared of losing our jobs, children, family ties are fears that gay men and lesbians experience daily. Some women in MS felt that gay men could afford to be more openly gay than lesbians and were more openly gay. Men with a certain way of talking dressing and cutting their hair were visible to all people as gay. On the other hand, lesbians have taken on a look too. Short hair cuts, pants, flannel shirts, boots are ways to spot a dyke in a crowd. As gay people, we've learned ways to recognize each other without straight people necessarily knowing. Most women in our group felt like we need a stronger gay movement in St. Louis, comprised of both men

I am working on the Celebration Committee which is a mixed gay group working on lesbian and gay pride in St. Louis. Since we talked about writing an article about gay men and women working or not working together politically, I thought I'd talk with a few of the men about how they feel about dealing with lesbians. I didn't know what kind of format to use so I ended up just leading or being in a discussion as opposed to interviewing them. I thought I'd just write down a few of the main points of agreement or disagreement.

Let me preface these by saying that the men in this group are more representative of a large gay male community. There are only a few women and they don't represent (or seem to) any kind of a lesbian community. If it weren't for us needing to work together and under a time limit I don't think I'd be here. A lot of the men have sexist attitudes that I don't have the energy to confront at meeting. There are a few men that I've met and I enjoy working with—they seem to be politically astute and very willing to deal with lesbian feminist issues. The rage in ages seems to be early 20's to late 40's.

A lot of the men agreed that a majority of gay men have nothing to do with politics. Their concerns are different than lesbians and they do a lot more socializing, while a lot of lesbians seem to be politically involved.

LESBIANS & GAY MEN WORKING TOGETHER? (continued)

and women. One woman said she felt like repression was becoming worse and worse and we need the support of all gay people to survive. But then comes the problem of working with gay men. Hardly any of the women in MS do. Only 2 women actually work with gay men in any way. About half of our group said they would do it if they had an equal number of gay men and lesbians in the group. The biggest problem everyone in MS had with gay men was that they are sexist. By this we mean that gay men are not (as a whole) aware of the oppression of women in this society. As men, gay men have a lot more privilege than lesbians. Gay men can make more money, can be in positions of power, and do have privileges that men have over women. Some of us felt gay men get into sexual stereotyping. Others felt a similar criticism could be made about some lesbians.



Lesbians, if they are politically conscious, are into women's issues in general. Some lesbians have aligned themselves with the women's movement pretty solidly. Off Our Backs ran an article - "Where are the militant dykes these days?" Answer: they are calling themselves women. Lesbians have kind of a double whammy - "women and gay." Gay men on the other hand have only the problem of being gay (unless they're third world). A lot of the lesbians we know are doing work with abused women, rape, childcare, the ERA, abortion rights and birth control, and healthcare.

(cont'd on next page)

Some men felt like they had a hard time dealing with women at all, lesbians or not. Some of that came from being married-it years in one case, and he felt like he had problems working or being with women. Other people pointed out that being gay is not always synonymous with having problems with the opposite sex. One man said his best friend is a woman.

Most men agreed that alot of gay men have been molded by our heterosexist society and are just as sexist as straight men, and, since the women's movement "began" women don't feel like they want to deal with men. A lot of men said they'd be willing to work on women's issues more if they were approached by women. They felt like women need to be more willing to educate men, and men need to be willing to learn from women.

A couple of the men in the group are affiliated with "Brothers in Change". They discuss feminist issues and think men have to educate other men around feminist issues.

A lot of people felt like gay people ought to be encouraged to attend some of the same social functions. The problem there seems to be in communicating. Not only between men and women, but amongst each other. Some men felt like they'd be willing to do things like postering, working out arrangements with childcare, etc.

A couple of the men felt like men are incompetent at dealing with women's issues. That there are

(cont'd next page)

Many of the women in MS felt good about the group "Brothers in Change" and felt that there are some gay men who recognize that women are oppressed. Almost all of us felt like we would deal with gay men over straight men as a general rule, but that a lot of us don't deal with men at all. For one thing, there are not many avenues for lesbians and gay men to work together in St. Louis. When Anita Bryant crossed Missouri, a gay coalition was begun that was comprised of almost all lesbians with a few gay men. This recent coalition for Gay Pride Week is primarily men, with a few gay women. Our biggest dividing line seems to be that gay men like to be around and deal with men and lesbians like to socialize with and deal with women.

In Moonstorm, we didn't have any answers to the problems. Three of us didn't want to deal with men. Other felt willing to go to some meetings with gay men and discuss how we could have a united gay front. One woman suggested that we point out our connections with other oppressed minorities, and see how we are all similiarly oppressed. Some people thought it would be very healthy to have a gay and lesbian group, that was against sexism, racism, and class oppression as well as united against gay oppression. Moonstorm is going to do a workshop during gay pride week on gay men and lesbians working together politically and what we see our goals as being. Perhaps, that will be a step for us in bridging our gap with gay men.



great differences in needs in gay communities with roots of problems going way back. There are two gay subcultures, tied together, but still apart. Part of that is because gay men retain the privilege of our male oriented society. A gay male couple has the most money making possibilities in our society, while two women, especially if one or both of them is third world, are at the bottom of that scale. So our lifestyles are totally different for the most part.

The main point of agreement was that it is essential that we work together politically. Especially in a place like St. Louis where we have to be specially united to get people to at least acknowledge and deal with gays. Our "enemies" are the same - the nazis, KKK, people who bombed "Mor or Less" don't care if we are fags or dykes. So we need to be able to work together, yet still maintain some private social space.

In closing, alot of men felt like the political groups were a problem in themselves. Poor leadership, people not understanding how to work together in groups, how to work to get what you want and get things accomplished can be the death of political groups. Men felt like some women's way of coping with the men's sexist attitudes was to stop coming to meetings rather than confront them directly. The men felt it was important to deal with it and that it is important to be open to women's concerns.

I edited this a bit, but the ideas here are from the men, without many of my feelings or other women's perspectives, which are dealt with in another article.

FOR GAY RIGHTS

ALK OR
OF
OW TO LET
WHILE KEEP
By Adrienne



BILLS IN CONGRESS THAT NEED OUR SUPPORT!

H.R. 2074 is the Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights Bill in the House. If passed, it will add "affectional or sexual orientation" to existing civil rights laws. It would then be illegal to discriminate against lesbians or gay men in employment, housing, public services or federally assisted opportunities.

S. 2081 is the Fair Employment Bill in the Senate. If passed, it will add the term "sexual orientation" to existing civil rights laws. It would then be illegal to discriminate against lesbians or gay men in employment.

BILLS IN CONGRESS THAT WE NEED TO FIGHT AGAINST!

H.C.R. 166: The McDonald Resolution. House Concurrent Resolution 166, introduced by Congressperson Larry McDonald(D-Georgia), would if passed, resolve that (in part): "It is the sense of the Congress of the United States that homosexual acts and the class of individuals who advocate such conduct shall never receive special consideration or protected status under law." In other words, they would never give us the basic rights taken for granted by others in our society. This resolution, in its entirety, is inflammatory, moralistic and repressive. At this time, it seems unlikely that the resolution will be heard in Committee and therefore will probably not come to the floor for a vote. But you should bring the resolution to your Congressperson's attention and ask a clear commitment to oppose it.

S. 1808: The Family Protection Act. S. 1808, introduced by Senator Paul Laxalt(R-Nev), is based on the idea that basic justice for lesbians and gay men somehow threatens the family. The bill is omnibus in nature and takes on many issues besides gays. But three sections or concepts deal most specifically with our issues:

Concept 36: This prohibits legal services funds for homosexual rights litigation.

Concept 37: This section forbids allocation of federal funds under any authority from being awarded to any organization, group or other entity which advocates homosexuality, or presents homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle.

Concept 38: This provision would write into law a statement that discrimination against declared homosexuals would never be considered an "unlawful employment practice".

Gay Directory

WALK OR NOT TO WALK
or
HOW TO LET YOUR GAY SELF OUT
WHILE KEEPING YOUR CLOSET TIDY

By Adrienne Rae (pseudonym, of course)

Many of us in the St. Louis closet are disturbed over the Lesbian and Gay Walk for Charity...We want to walk...we know that our numbers may be too few...but the bills will come next month...mother really ought to know, but not from the newspaper, for God's sake...for the sake of the Goddess...as much as we'd like we just can't see taking the:
BOLD-FACED APPROACH: what Anita calls, "flaunting it", and letting the chips fall where they may.

But, we might be able to manage one of the following:

THE CLOWN LOOK: in keeping with the Walk's balloons, caliope, and carnival atmosphere, clowns are always in demand and in excellent taste.

THE LIBERAL TICKET: walking with a non-gay-identified group, many including the Women's Rights Action Group, will be there with organizational banners.

INCOGNITO TYPICALE: come disguised, but as an ordinary person--bizarre disguises, although fun, draw the TV camera and create questionable images for the public.

THE OUT-OF-TOWNER: walking under a Kansas City (or other) banner, dressed as your concept of that locale, camouflaged by real out-of-towners.

Whether or not we can walk, we can still contribute by:
-giving money to any of the 7 charities.
-offering van transportation to return Walkers to Maryland Plaza.
-offering your home to house out-of-towners.

-inviting your own out-of-town friends to your house.
(to help, contact Women's Eye Bookstore, Left Bank Books, or Magnolia Member)



The following is a listing of resources run by, for, or are supportive of the St. Louis gay and lesbian community. If we left anything out it was not intentional--please let us know and we'll print it in the next issue.

Organizations:

IRIS is a group of lesbians and gay men who are working for educational and political purposes as they relate to our lives and those of other lesbians and gay men. Our educational efforts our directed at the Gay and Lesbian community as well as the heterosexual community. A general information and membership meeting will be held Mon., May 5

WATCH FOR TIME + PLACE all are welcome!

LaGOAL (Lesbians and Gays Organized for Acceptance and Liberation) is primarily involved in planning recreational and social activities for the gay community.

Concerned Lesbian and Gay Students at Wash.U. is a campus organization. Call Women's Resource Center there for more information.

Gay Peoples Alliance, 200 Read Hall, Columbia, Mo. 65211

Gay Academic Union, box 4916 St. Louis Mo. 63108

Parents of Gays 863-2748

History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation thru its own efforts.
-Samuel Johnson

Gay Alcohol Anonymous meetings are at MCC on Sun. and Saturday but both are closed so call first. Also theres meetings on the south side but you should call MCC to find out the right address. All are mixed and the ones on the south side are open.

Alternate Coffee House (sponsored by MCC) every friday night at 5108 Waterman 7:30-11:30 361-7284

(more on next page)

Brothers In Change, box 24159
St. Louis, Mo. 63130(gay and non-gay)

Feminist Coalition, box 1128
Wash. U. St. Louis 63130

Womens Center, University of Mo.
St Louis 453-5380

Womens Resource Center, room 312
Womens Building, Wash U. 889-5943

Womens Resource Center, Webster
College, 968-0500 ex.374

Womens Resource Co ordinating
Council, St. Louis U. 20 n. Grand
St. Louis 63103 658-2805

Raven(rape and violence End Now)
Counselling and referral service for
men P.O. Box 24159 St. Louis 63130
533-3372

Tiamat Press (back of womens Eye)
6344 s. Rosebury

Tomato Productions 4535 Gibson
652-6376

Womens Caucus For Art box24182
St. Louis 63130

Womens Choir 644-2849

Golden Light Birthing midwifery
Rt. 6 box 154 Doniphan, Mo. 63935

Peoples Clinic tuesday night is
womens clinic 6010 Kingsbury
721-5577

Womens Self Help Center
27 n. Newstead 531-2003

Legal Aid Society 533-3000
607 n. Grand St. Louis

Bookstores

Womens Eye 6344 s. Rosebury 721-1616

Left Bank Books Euclid and Mcpherson
367-6731

Daily Planet News 243 n. Euclid 367-1333

The Bookshelf 1116 Olive 241-3260
and 10 n. Euclid 361-3521

Churches and Religious Organi.
Affirmation St. Louis for Meth
and friends. box 306a St. Louis

Dignity a Catholic group, but open
to all box 23093 St. Louis 63156

Integrily for Episcopal and their
friends box 7213 St. Louis 63177

Lutherans Concerned box 974 St.
Louis 63188

Metropolitan Community Church(MCC)
5108 Waterman, St. Louis 63108
361-7284

Gay Hotline 367-0084

For More Information About Gay
and Lesbian Groups, Events, Etc.
Call the Hotline Mon-Fri. 6-9pm.

Bars:

Gallery Lounge 72135 s. Broadway
832-7244

Charlies Lounge 6th and Delmar
621-9624

Cunards 1927s. Jefferson 773-9946

K-Mart 2805 Shenandoah 776-9171

Kitty Kat Club 2800 California
776-5083

Potpourri Mcpherson and Euclid
361-9203

Hitching Post 3231 Olive 534-9250

Faces 130 Collinsville E. St. Louis
Ill.

Schraders 204 n.5th E. St. Louis Ill

Upstream Lounge at 9th & Pine in
St. Louis has a disco on Thurs.-
Sat. after 9pm. Jazz band also
plays. (Gay and non-gay).

Le Grande Finale-Kingshighway & Man-
chester. New gay, mixed bar.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

International W
commemorated on
Over 200 women



but open
63156
Louis
Method
ania

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day was commemorated on Saturday, March 8. Over 200 women gathered to exchange ideas and information at what has become an annual St. Louis event. We think this is an important day in that it brings women together to discuss their struggles and give each other support. We are printing summaries of each workshop (health care, housing, family and violence against women) prepared by the workshop coordinator.



HOUSING SYNOPSIS

The information shared by four St. Louis housing activists at the IWD workshop presented the bleak picture that housing is denied and taken away from low and moderate income people. Legislative acts and funds designed to stimulate communities, are misused by city government for the advancement of multi-million dollar corporations. This is exemplified in the use of special tax abatements granted in law 353 which have been actually given to companies as Monsanto, the May co., Purina, etc., not poor people. Also the 353 law has granted the right of eminent domain to private corporations, utilized to take property not only from renters but homeowners without funds to rehab. their homes. While buildings taken under 353 are turned into condominiums that start at \$40,000, or renovated homes for the upper middle income person, new units are not being built to replenish low income housing stock.

Relocation assistance is not being given to those displaced. While in 4 locations alone in St. Louis, 6,000 people were displaced, the Central Relocation Authority doled out only \$300 each to 158 people. A paralegal worker at Legal Aid said

some displaced clients have had no place to go and lived in public parks, another woman client needing housing agreed to get sterilized because the owner of a subsidized housing unit demanded she get sterilized in order to rent from him.

The latter part of the housing workshop talked about strategies to fight against displacement and housing shortages. For specific problems of renters within one building, the tenants need to organize and learn what few tenants rights exist, such as receivership. In receivership, rent can be held and spent specifically on building repairs on a run down building. To combat redevelopers taken buildings away from communities where there aren't the funds to rehab, a resource bank was proposed. The resource bank would be skilled tradespeople willing to donate time to help community groups do their own repairs.

Current community housing organizations need to band together to present a stronger force to demand that the city officials distribute funds such as Community Development Agency money be allocated to low income people. Demands need to be made and met for more public housing and for actual relocation of any people displaced from their homes by redevelopment.

For more information on housing, consultation on housing problems, the following organizations may be contacted: St. Louis Tenant's Union 621-4545, the housing unit at Legal Aid 533-3000, and Metro-Housing 862-4546.

THE MOUNTAIN-MOVING DAY IS COMING
I SAY SO, YET OTHERS DOUBT
ONLY A WHILE THE MOUNTAIN SLEEPS
IN THE PAST
ALL MOUNTAINS MOVED IN FIRE
YET YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE IT
OH MAN, THIS ALONE BELIEVE,
ALL SLEEPING WOMEN NOW AWAKE
AND MOVE
-YOSANO AKIKO
1878-1942

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(IWD: cont.)



HEALTH CARE

Doing a summary of a workshop for which I was the coordinator is somehow hard to do. It's hard to know what got across, or how close it came to my intention. The point to be made was that the poor quality of health care available to the people living in this city is

an issue of concern to women; an issue we are aware of, need to learn more about. And we need to find a direction to move in that will improve the situation.

When I was trying to get speakers for the workshop among those employed in the health field I felt the icy breeze of this country's political climate. Critics of the health care system are to keep their mouths shut, programs that employ health care workers are being cut back rather than expanded, I found there is repression and fear, especially among publically employed health care workers. The presence of those who could not be in the workshop for fear of reprisal was missed.

The central point brought home by the speakers was what it means to have health care based on a service for payment system. This means that low income people are not only prevented from obtaining preventive care such as examinations and immunizations, but must wait until illnesses reach critical stages before they seek care. This in large part accounts for the fact that U.S. citizens are outlived by a large number of people in other countries that are less affluent and less technologically advanced. In this country providing health care is a business like any other, and health care decisions become business decisions as the speaker from the Committee to Save Homer G. Phillips Hospital explained. Before HGPH was closed 59% of all outpatient visits in the city of St. Louis were at the public hospitals. If you have had any experience with the quality of care at the public hospitals you know that

people go there because they have to, not because they choose to. The closing of HGPH the census at City #1 on 14th and Park has declined. The only conclusion can be that more people are staying sick.

Another result of the fact that our health care institutions must follow the rules of business is the kind of conditions it forces health care workers to work under. Low wages, hard hours, no benefits, under staffing, extreme stratification, minimal unionization—all

NURSE!



-Peg Averill/LNS

these factors are not conducive to good patient care, but very conducive to high profits.

Very little is being done to change the deplorable conditions of this system. Improving health care is not a priority to many elected officials—is even Kennedy still talking about National Health Insurance? It is my opinion that health care should be a right as much as public education. How we're going to get to that point seems to be a long and difficult road. Hopefully the health care workshop at IWD got a few more of us on the way.

(more on next page)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

it, and all women experience it.

We focussed on rape, battered women, pornography, sexual harrassment on the job and incest. Rape claims us violently-with mutilation and murder, to quietly in the home. In the home a woman is under pressure, may feel/be coerced wants to avoid hassles and a fight, feels she's supposed to be meeting his needs. We don't even think it's happening to us.

We define pornography as every degradation and manipulation of women's sexuality-not just for men's pleasure, but also for economic gain. In drug stores, supermarkets, tv shows, advertising, commercials we find women used to sell, sell, sell by selling ourselves.



I KNOW! LETS PLAY HOUSE!!

Abuse against women maintains the power structure. It is not only a form of abuse but serves to keep us in line. We are afraid to go out alone at night, during the day; afraid to be home alone. Pornography symbolizes and reinforces the degradation of all women. Sexual harrassment on the job serves to keep women out of the job market.

And the recurring theme is that we are responsible for this violence and that we should feel guilty. This violence is happening because we haven't kept things in order, or because we've stepped out of line. And then, look at it, our porno society teaches us to be se-

visors to put a protection clause (referring to sexual harrassment on the job) in the union contract did not pass, but the broken silence did effectively intimidate foremen. There will be a Coalition of Labor Women conference about women in unions & discussion of forming a statewide task force on job harrassment in the near future.

- acknowledge what happens to you.
- vocalize it.
- support each other in exposing the truth.
- get angry together.
- have speak outs.
- get rid of guilt: erase individual responsibility and collectively explore this political/social phenomenon.



There is no simple key like effective police and judicial systems, more shelters, more crisis centers. These could meet some after-the-fact needs, but they prevent nothing. We need to socialize our children out of sex roles. Teach boys not to be so aggressive and competitive and that they can get anything they want. Teach our girls to have independence, self-respect, and personal strength. Our children are in the core of change.

(cont'd next page)

(IWD...
AGAIN...
cont)



THE FAMILY WORKSHOP

The family workshop was held in the afternoon and was well attended. The workshop was intended to discuss a broad range of family issues including the right wing "pro family" movement, the kinds of attacks families are really under and where those attacks are coming from, the Miriam Short case, the child care picture in St. Louis, and ways of teaching children more positive values in the face of media violence and negative images of women. The four speakers addressing this wide range of issues were from the Womens Rights Action Group, The Miriam Short Defense Committee, The Womens International League for Peace and Freedom, and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. Unfortunately, space does not permit even brief summaries of all the talks--so I will focus on the very informative one given on the Miriam Short case. Miriam Short is a black woman from St. Louis and a mother of five, who was previously a welfare(ADC) recipient. She got a job and notified the welfare department of this fact, asking to be taken off welfare. She continued to receive the checks (amounting to about \$4000 per year) for 4 years in addition to her \$7000 per Year income from her job. Two years after the welfare department finally acted on her request to stop the payments she was charged with 8 counts of mail fraud for supposedly intentionally defrauding the government. Her case was railroaded through Judge Wanglins court and she was sentenced to five years in a federal prison. On the same day in the same court, the same judge sentenced the V.P. of the Jefferson Gravois bank to 5 years probation for embezzeling \$410,000. An interesting fact brought out about the case was that Miriam Short had been active in her community concerning the consolidation and integration of school districts of Kinloch and Berkley. She had been outspoken on other important community issues. It was a classic case of a woman being punished for being a woman, a mother, and for being poor, black and

most unforgivably--for organizing to fight racism. But the story has a happier ending--two days after her plight was discussed at IWD an article appeared in the local newspaper about Judge Wanglin sudden and unexplained order releasing her from prison--she will remain on probation but she is at least home with her family.

*When we stand up we see daylight
and the world will never be the same!*



Letter to Moonstorm

Dear Fellow Lesbian/Feminists:

I am writing in response to the "frustrated, working class woman" whose letter you published recently.

Personally, I am sick and tired of the abuse I've taken from the likes of her for years--I'm sorry she's jealous of my degrees and my career and my money--but I worked damned hard to get to get to where I am today.

I wasn't born rich either--and I can't write home for money, because I make more than my parents do. I went through college on a combination of scholarships and boring, tiring part-time jobs. Sure, I didn't get to go out like my friends did, and I had to make all my own clothes because I never could afford to buy them--but I did it-- and she could too.

I suspect that this bitter woman was sitting around in gay bars having a great time while I was working my ass off to get ahead in the world, and now that I am enjoying the fruits of my labors--and my long-delayed gratification, I don't have to apologise to anyone.

I suggest she get off her barstool, and spend all the energy she's blowing on weekends at the bars on something worthwhile.

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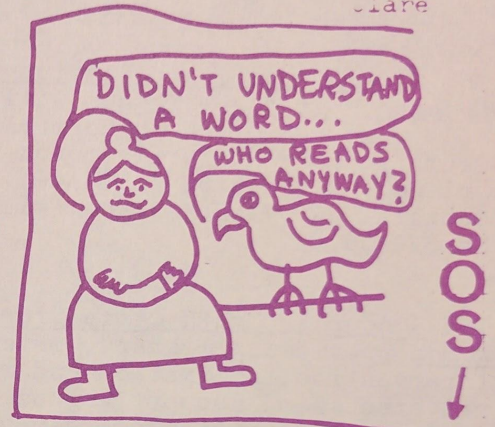
...alk is cheap, honey--anyone who really wants to get somewhere in life can get there, you just have to want it enough. Stop blaming everyone else for your own laziness.

Sincerely yours,
MIDDLE-CLASS NOW, AND PROUD OF IT

& a reply

Dear Middle-Class and Proud of It, I'm writing a response to your letter because I think you have missed the point of the original letter and you are misdirecting your anger on to a fellow struggling woman. The point being made was that making a decent life for oneself is alot harder for some of us than others and that **women** who are born with certain class privileges are **often** really insensitive to those who are born with less. You certainly have nothing to apologize for, but I don't think you need to put down other struggling women in order to justify your own struggle. The author of the letter we published is, in fact, working, starting school, and trying damn hard to make the best of her life. Where I severly disagree with you is in your saying that any-

one who wants to get ahead can. Trying to better your life is something you have in common with all women, but the fact is we live in an economic system that has a few spaces at the top, many at the bottom, and many barriers to social mobility. I sincerely believe that we, in striving for a better life for ourselves, we must also work for a more equitable society that inspires respect for one another rather than the dog eat dog society we now live in.



Santa Clara County and San Jose's existing gay rights ordinances have been forced onto the June 3 ballot. Right-wing zealots strike again! Help(time & \$) is needed. Contact Coalition for Human Rights, POBox 2066 San Jose, CA. 95109. (408)280/7460

at first if you don't succeed ...

We ran this questionnaire in the last issue but did not get a great return. We know you can do it...so here's your chance! We really do want to know what you think.

Remember National ERA march in Chicago May 10.

Questioner

Moonstorm has been in existence since 1973. Prior to Spring, 1978, Moonstorm was a journal with articles dealing with particular themes (separatism, food, etc.). Since Spring, 1978, Moonstorm has been a newsletter containing primarily local news and announcements. In the past year it seems that we have begun to get back into theme issues. Moonstorm #16 published in June, 1979, for example, dealt with lesbian mothers and children. Since then we have spent lots of time discussing the issue of class, but decided not to publish an issue around this theme. These issues are more difficult and time consuming to put together, and so this causes Moonstorm to come out less frequently when we do that type of issue.

It would be helpful if we had feedback from our readers on what you like and don't like about Moonstorm. Please complete the following questionnaire and drop it by the Women's Eye/Tiamat Press or Mail to: Moonstorm, PO Box 4201, Tower Grove Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63118

1. Approximately how many issues of Moonstorm have you read? _____
2. Where do you usually get Moonstorm? _____
 Bars
 Left Bank or Women's Eye
 subscription
 women's events such as concerts
 other: _____
3. Do you have any suggestions for other places to distribute Moonstorm? _____
4. Which would you prefer?
 infrequent issues containing theme articles and some local news and announcements
 frequent issues focusing on local news and announcements
 other: _____
5. What do you like best about Moonstorm? _____
6. What do you dislike about it? _____
7. Please give suggestions or comments. _____

Moonstorm is FREE and is distributed at women's events, local gay bars, Women's Eye/Tiamat Press, and Left Bank Books. We can also mail it to you at a cost of 50¢ per copy. Write to us at PO Box 4201, Tower Grove Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63118.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wash U. Women's Film Series,
Wednesdays in the Gargoyle, 7:30
pm. Upcoming films:

- 4/16 In the Best Interests of
the Children
Daughter Rite
- 4/23 Men's Lives
Killing Us Softly
No Lies
Rape

The Second Annual Southeastern
Lesbian Writer's Workshop will be
held June 5-8, 1980 in Central
Georgia. For info write Woman-
writes, PO Box 5502, Atlanta,
Georgia. 30307. Total cost will
be \$20.00.



The Sojourner Truth Center for
Women provides a library, crisis
intervention, information and refer-
ral, discussion/support groups, Tues-
day night activities, emergency trans-
portation for abused women and their
children in the Caruthersville area.
Contact 301 E. Third St., Caruthers-
ville, Mo. (333-1254)

The National Women's Studies Assoc.
will hold its annual convention
at Indiana Univ., Bloomington from
May 16-20. For more info contact
Elaine Reuben, Coordinator NWSA,
Univ. of Maryland, College Park
Md. 20742.

Meg Christian concert on April 15
at 7:30pm. Univ. Of Mo. in Columbia,
Memorial Auditorium. Free

Conference on Violence Against Women
in Denver, Colo. Sept. 18-21, 1980.
For more info write: Nat'l Confer-
ence on Violence, PO Box 18014, Denver,
Colo. 80218. (303)388-4268.

An alternative to the bars...Open
women's rap groups at the Women's
Eye/Tiamat Press, 6344 S. Rosebury
on the 1st Friday of each month
beginning May 2. Everyone welcome!

May 16th-4th anniversary party
for the Women's Eye Bookstore. Call
721-1616 for details.

7th Midwest Wimmin's Festival is be-
ing held at Camp Rising Sun, Lake
of the Ozarks State Park on May 22--
27, 1980. The festival is open to all
women and children (males under 10) as
a space for play, sharing skills and
ideas and celebration of women-energy.
There will be cabins, limited tent
space and private access to lake (swim-
ming attire necessary). Three vege-
tarian meals served daily-Everyone
will be expected to sign up for a
work shift. Cost is \$1 registration,
\$3 per day (children under 10-\$1.50)
insurance \$1. Total 1 day-\$5, 2-\$8,
3-11, 4-14, 5-\$17, 6-\$20. Pets are not
allowed. Pre-registration is request-
ed. More info available at the Women's
Eye/Tiamat Press, 6344 S. Rosebury or
from S. Fitelson, 7623 Jerome, 63143.

The 3rd National Lesbian & Gay
Health Conference, June 19-23,
San Francisco State University.
Workshops will include Mental
Health, Education, Sociopolitical,
and Physical Health topics. For
info write Programming Committee,
PO Box 6189, San Francisco, Ca.
94101

**"This is a woman's issue. Women and children
are eleven times more vulnerable to radiation
as men. Our mother the earth is in enemy
hands. Her daughters will not abandon her."**



Citizens for a Radioactive Waste
Policy have started a campaign
to place a law on the Nov. '80
ballot to prevent to burial or
dumping of radioactive waste in
Missouri until it's demonstrated
that it is safe. The law would
also require that the huge cost
of cleaning up and dismantling
a nuclear plant when its useful
life is over (30-40 years) is not
left to the taxpayer or added to
our grandchildren's utility bills.
The group meets Wednesdays at 7:30pm
at 438 N. Skinker. If you'd like
more info or are interested in help-
ing to leaflet and petition in your
neighborhood call them at 725-8080.