

WOMENS CENTER INC.

VOLUME XX
NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1994



WCN LOOKING FOR WOMEN (aren't we all?)



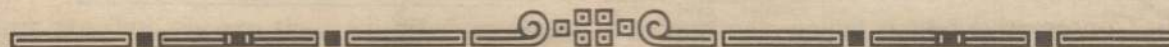
The Women's Center Newsletter staff, in ongoing efforts to provide a quality forum for the valley's lesbian community, is in the process of restructuring and streamlining operations. We are greatly in need of more women who can devote a few hours each month to help produce the valley's largest lesbian-oriented paper (and who don't mind having a bit of fun in the process).

We are also looking for women who are interested in serving on our board of directors and we have a number of positions vacant. Initially this would entail monthly meeting, but we hope to be able to reduce board meetings to a few each year. The WCN is a non-profit 501-c organization, and we particularly need people who have some experience with the administrative ins-and-outs of 501-c groups.

We also need creative thinkers with ideas for increasing circulation, attracting advertisers, expanding newsletter content, etc.

If you've ever thought about getting involved with the WCN organization, now is a great time and opportunity and we strongly urge any interested women to attend our general meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 7:00 pm at the Valley of the Sun Lesbian and Gay Center located in Phoenix, at 3136 N. 3rd Ave. (west of Park Central Mall on the corner of 3rd Ave. and Flower)

For more information, call our volunteer coordinator (Kathy) at 833-2293 or 921-1521.

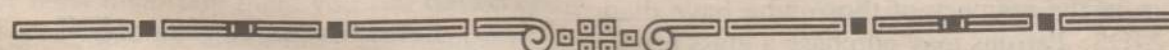


MLK March invites lesbians & gays

For the first time in history, organizers of the Phoenix Martin Luther King March have invited lesbian and gay citizens to join in their march.

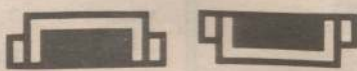
The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) is putting out a call for lesbians and gays to celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday and this invitation. For those individuals wishing to carpool to the march, you are invited to meet AHRF organizers at the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 3136 N. 3rd Ave, Phoenix (3rd Ave/North of Thomas at Flower). People will gather at The Center at 7:30am, Monday, January 17th. You can also choose to gather at the site of the march at 8:00am at 16th Street & Jefferson.

The MLK March begins at 9:00am and will proceed to Wesley Bolin Plaza, where marchers will find speeches, booths and a festival. If you have questions about this event, please contact AHRF at 530-1660.



A REAL "BRICK"

The next time you're at the Phoenix Zoo, you might want to glance down as you approach the zoo entrance. As part of a fundraising drive to raise money for a new exhibit of Asian spectacled bears, the zoo is selling paving bricks on the entrance bridge. Each brick is imprinted with the names or phrases of the donor's choice, and any number of bricks can be purchased. A few months ago the Breakfast Club members pitched in and purchased one red brick which can be seen in row 157 on the north side of the entrance bridge. Printed on the brick is simply LESBIAN BREAKFAST CLUB.



BREAKFAST CLUB HAS NEW DIRECTOR

Starting in January, the Breakfast Club will have a new coordinator and a new information phone number. Velo has generously volunteered to take over scheduling for the group and to provide a new information phone line. Except for the new number, things will operate pretty much the same, with advance schedules provided and the weekly location available by calling the number on Saturday or Sunday morning.

I have enjoyed scheduling the Breakfast Club for the past three years, but am looking forward to a bit of a break and am very grateful to Velo for offering to take over. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank Velo for her many hours of service to the Women's community in a variety of activities--she is certainly one of our community's unsung heroes.

For those unfamiliar with the Breakfast Club, we are a group of women who get together on Sunday mornings to enjoy a meal, laughter, good fun and conversation, and the chance to meet new people. There is no sign-up, no dues, no required attendance, or forms to fill out. It is simply a weekly opportunity to spend some quality time in the company of some quality folks. For more information and the location of the next Breakfast Club, call Velo at 955-0317.

Happy New Year to all!! -Kathy



**FLUSH RUSH (lindbaugh)
JOIN THE FLUSH RUSH CAM-PAIN!**

by B. Swan

Last week, to my great despair I spent three whole nights with the remote in my hand doing the exact opposite of what I usually do with it. I muted the program and un-muted the commercials! On Channel 12 during the Rush Lindbaugh Show the following commercials ran...

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Long John Silver | Energizer Batteries (Bunny) |
| Obsession | Acutrim |
| Casual Corners | 2000 Flushes (Ha) |
| Touchtone Pictures | Sanderson Ford |
| National Review (Bah) | Levitz |
| K-Lite 104.7 | KFYI 910 am (runs his radio show too) |
| ABC Nissan | Lens Express Service |
| Federal Express | Henry Brown Chevrolet |
| Circuit City (RCA, Hotpoint) | Lady Remington |
| Mint Snuff | GOP Baseball Cap (figures...) |

How about a **Flush Rush** list every month? You Know...a "these are the commercials that ran during the Rush L. show on Cannel 12 this month list." Or we could even let these business' know we will not spend our money with them? And, if we all watched once in awhile (the way I did) maybe we could form a "watch Rush' Commercials Tree", so no one gets sick! Also, we could let Channel 12 know what we think of their choice to air his show.

After all, most sensible people know he is the greatest CON-MAN to come along since the Snake oil salesmen of the Old West days. He deliberately feeds off the lowest common "denominator" of our Freedom of Speech with no respect for the reasons our foremothers and fathers valued it. His motives are no different than the Porn Industry ... \$\$\$\$\$. He has no empathy for anyone he attacks...and he's laughing (at) with all the stupid people who BUY his books, watch and listen to his shown...ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK! Let's face it...he was the happiest person in the country when Bill Clinton was elected. His Conservative "sky is falling clap-trap" is a front for making millions off the ignorant.

The sky is not falling Mr. Lindbaugh but, you may hear the distant sound of many flushes real soon!

P.S. If anyone knows where we can have small "FLUSH RUSH" stickers made we can stick them everywhere we go. What fun!

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

The Berlitz Gallery Theatre on Camelback Road announced its new "Buy a Brick" program in the memory of those who have died from complications due to AIDS. Patrons may purchase a glass brick, which will be engraved with the name of a friend or loved one, for \$50. Each brick will become a part of a permanent memorial wall to be installed at Berlitz in the Spring of '94. For more information, call Berlitz at 263-0587.

MOTHER NEVER TOLD ME...

- LOVING A WOMAN CAN BE DANGEROUS
- HETEROSEXUALS HAVE NO MONOPOLY ON VIOLENCE
- THERE IS A SAFE PLACE TO FIND HELP

SOJOURNER CENTER
258-5345

BATTERED LESBIAN'S GROUP

For Lesbians coping with abusive relationships past or present
Ask for Marilyn
Individual counseling by appointment
Sliding fee scale

...MAYBE MOTHER NEVER KNEW!

The deadline for submissions of **ANY SORT**, including ads, to the Women's Center Newsletter has been and will continue to be the 15th of the somth preceding the issue of publication. Please adhere to this schedule. **In the future, the deadline will be strictly enforced.**

The **volunteers** who put out the Newsletter have tried to be as flexible as possible regarding last minute submissions, however, the situation has become unmanageable. Newsletter volunteers put in many long hours each month to produce the newsletter, and last minute submissions create havoc with already strained schedules. All items have to be entered on the computer, printed and proofed before layout can occur. Late submissions delay this process and unnecessarily stress the volunteers. Please be considerate and mail your submissions early, especially calendar events.

REMEMBER: If we don't receive it by the 15th - it will NOT be printed for another month. Plan accordingly and mail early.

Business Sponsors Suggested Donations

Bulletin Board notices, per word with \$3. min.	\$.15
Business Cards:	8.00
5 x 4" 1/8 pg	20.00
5 x 8" 1/4 pg	35.00
10 x 8" 1/2 pg	65.00
10 x 16" Full	125.00

Please make checks to:
Women's Center, Inc.

Women's Center, Inc.

January 1994

This month's helpers:

Sheryl, Diane, Kate, Lue, Jean Ellen, Cindi, Kamela, Velo, Karen, Barb Kathy

Please limit *Letters to the Editor* to 200 words, feature articles (front page) to 1000 words or less, general articles of interest to 500 words or less. Letters and articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or philosophy of the *Women's Center, Inc.* Copyright belongs to each individual author.

ALL submissions must include name, address, phone and signature of author for verification purposes. Please indicate how you would like your name printed, or let us know to withhold your name.

We will edit for clarity only, after consultation with the author. Some spelling may be edited if it affects the clarity of the work.

Contributions must be received by the **15th of each month** for consideration in the next month's issue.

Women's Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 26031
Tempe, Arizona 85285
602-266-5542 (voice) 266-5797(TDD)

LLEGO GRANT

LLEGO, the national organization of Gay and Lesbian Latinos, has received a \$420,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to fund a project targeting the Latino Gay and Lesbian Community. LLEGO is the first gay Latino group to be funded by the CDC and will use the grant for a program titled "Training Assistance and Training on AIDS Projects" (TATA).

Letitia Gomez, co-chair of ENLACE, Washington DC's local Latino gay organization, has been named executive director of the project, which will offer technical assistance to more than 75 Gay and Lesbian Latino groups around the country.

Thank you very much!

The LRP would like to express our sincere thanks to Jayne and Victoria of Bas Bleu Productions for their generous donation of \$500 to the LRP. Thanks also for bringing Suzanne Westenhoefer to the Valley for a great performance. We're certain the community waits for many more such events.

POETS CORNER

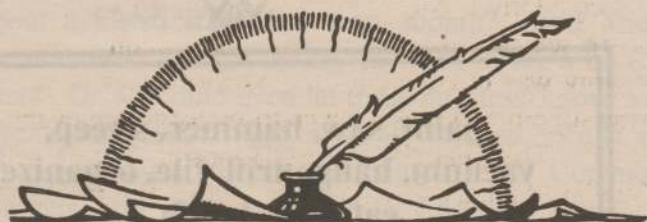


BOOK REVIEW
by Patricia Victour ©



For Darcie
Beamlight
by Dianne Whitmire

Do not fear, for I shall not hurt you.
Do not leave me, for I shall not desert you.
Just give me time, for I need time to heal and grow
grow upward toward the sunshine.....
your sunshine.....
golden beam of light coming into my life,
thru the windows of my soul.



Streaks

by Robin W.

<p>You know how you meet someone who gives you a whole lot of something you wish you had more of they put some color in your rainbow</p> <p>You reach out to take hold of their hand trying to make something between you maybe if you squeeze your hand tight enough in hers you'll make a diamond</p> <p>but as you're dreaming of this diamond and how shiny it'll be you lose your balance and fall on your face because she walked away</p> <p>you know how your life is putzing along and you wish you had something more</p>	<p>You're sitting there and out of nowhere someone STREAKS by and STREAKS your boring but clean gray tee-shirt with brilliant red paint</p> <p>it takes you totally by surprise you decide you look better in red than gray</p> <p>here I am STREAKED more than once by a rainbow of woman I'm left off balance flat on my face still smelling of sticky oil paint</p> <p>not that I mind much.</p>
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PATIENCE & SARAH, by Isabel Miller
Patience & Sarah is one of those rare books written in such a way that I am compelled to read certain lines and passages several time, savoring the beautiful way the words have been lovingly joined together, like the pieces of glass forming a mosaic, or the notes of a haunting melody. Yet, the compelling prose does not overwhelm the delicate framework of a simple story. I especially liked that it was told from the viewpoints of two totally different women, in their own very distinct voices.

The book is based on the lives of Mary Ann Wilson and her companion, Miss Brundidge, who lived and farmed together in Greene County, New York State, in the early 1800s. The two women, kindred spirits from vastly different backgrounds, meet and discover they are in love and wish to make a life together - despite all the obvious difficulties (then as now) of such a relationship.

Patience (probably based on Miss Brundidge) is, for her day, an educated woman and an artist of some talent. Having been left a secure if modest pension by her father, she has a modicum of autonomy. Sarah, on the other hand, is a shy and sensitive farm girl. Because all of their children are girls, she has been brought up as "the boy" by her family, helping her father with the heavy farm work a son would otherwise do.

Of course, neither family is pleased when they find out what Patience and Sarah are up to and, reminiscent of Heathcliff, Sarah leaves for the frontier sans the love of her life. Posing as a young man (a popular theme in lesbian/feminist literature, it seems), Sarah has many interesting adventures until she can no longer stand being away from Patience, no matter the consequences, and takes advantage of an opportunity to go home again. Inevitably, Patience and Sarah take up where they left off and are soon discovered in bed by Patience's sister-in-law, Martha, who, naturally, tattles to her husband, Edward. Actually, it is hinted that Martha is jealous of Patience and Sarah; unfortunately, that interesting avenue is not explored at any length, and readers are left to their own speculations. Spurred by his wife, Edward agrees that in order to forestall any further scandal, Patience must leave with Sarah - the exact "punishment" Patience was hoping for. Being basically a fair man (who at one point asks Patience what she and Sarah "do" - honestly, don't straight people have any imagination?), he agrees Patience may retain her inheritance, which she plans to use to buy a farm in the "wilderness" of New York State for herself and Sarah. This accomplished, by the end of the book we can rest assured that here, indeed, is a story where the lovers live happily everafter.

Patience & Sarah was published in 1969 under the title A Place For Us. It is now available from Fawcett Crest in paperback for \$4.99, or check with the LRP Library to see if they have a lending copy on the shelf.



Margaret Atwood a Must-Read

Margaret Atwood has written another book. I read a lot of book reviews, but when I see Margaret Atwood as the author, I just write the title down on my "Must Read" list, and don't even bother to read the review. Margaret Atwood, in my not so humble opinion, has never written a bad book; not even a mediocre book. If *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Cat's Eye*, or *Lady Oracle* ring a bell with you, you'll probably want to join Fourth Friday on January 28. We'll be discussing the books of Margaret Atwood, that Canadian guru of feminist dystopias. We may also discuss her newest book, *The Robber Bride*, where again the real characters are women, the marginal characters men. The *New York Times* says that *The Robber Bride* is Margaret Atwood's "funniest and most companionable book in years". Cuddle up in front of the fireplace, or just light a candle, and read something by Margaret Atwood. Bring your thoughts to Fourth Friday. We'll be waiting for you!

On Friday, February 25, we will be discussing the books and poetry of Adrienne Rich. Please bring a favorite poem to share. More about this Fourth Friday will appear in the February newsletter.

To facilitate discussion, group size will be limited, so please make a reservation by calling Lee Lawton, 990-2194. We meet from 7:00 -10:00 pm. Bring paper and pencil, your notes if any, a folding chair, and your sense of humor!

Become a volunteer for your newsletter
Call today - 266-5542

The LRP's 2nd ANNUAL WINTER CONCERT was held on December 11th, 1993 (or 9993 depending on what calendar you use) at the 1st Unitarian Church in Paradise Valley.

When I walked through the door the first person I spoke with was Carol Anne who was selling tickets. "Hi, so nice to see you! Give me ten dollars," she said. Ten bucks! Man, that's a lot of money around Christmas. I gave it to her, felling the bite in my wallet, and picked up a program.

The program was impressive in itself, one of the best I've seen. It is concise, graphically and font attractive and the lay out was first rate. Each act had a lengthy and interesting bio followed by "Volunteer Opportunities at the LRP".

I've had so many people tell me that they had tried to volunteer for something, (anything!) at the LRP and their calls were never returned. I think the Movers-and-Shakers have cured this communication problem and those of you who still have an interest in community service should try again. Very smart to put this in the program.

The advertisers, it said in the back, made this program as successful as it was, so if you get a chance, call a couple of these business', (you don't have to buy anything!) and tell them you saw their name in the LRP Winter Concert program. Then, if it's no skin off your nose, call them when you need services such as these.

There was an informational insert about Barb Jones running for the Tempe City Council. Can you believe it!? One of US, IN ARIZONA, RUNNING FOR A CITY COUNCIL SEAT! I've been waiting all my life for us to have the opportunity to show the world what we can do, that we are as intelligent as men and 'straights' and have equal integrity and concern for our fellow humans. Barb Jones, by virtue of her relationship to our Lesbian family, will represent us all in front of mainstream America. That's heavy, but doggone it, we deserve people like her.

The MC was the Reverend Charlotte Strayhorn, a high energy kind of gal. She was a super MC, walking into to audience at every opportunity and speaking directly to individuals.

Slique Callahan's set was, as usual, side splitting. Sometimes I can't understand what she's saying but the expression on her face cracks me up anyway. Her face is a Jonathan Winters/Robin Williams kind, one that melts and shifts into exaggerated expressions deftly showing her versatility. The community loves her and can't wait to see Dykotomy, "a lesbian drama of love, obsession, rejection, and ultimate acceptance," which is an opera she wrote based upon the famous opera Carmen.

Kaweah was excellent, a voice that sounds like Native American flute playing, melodious and spiritual. I hope to see more of her at future events.

Fatimah Hallim! What a performer! I hadn't read her bio in the program before her act, (Okay, I didn't bring my glasses!) so I wasn't prepared for this burst of enthusiasm, this bigger-than-life story teller. I loved running through Harlem getting into trouble, watching the old hag spoon molasses into her mouth, having nightmares and ultimately killing her. I loved telling that lyin' monkey to get into the tree... I lover the feeling of 'play' her performance gave me, the enduring childhood kind of entertainment I don't normally experience. After reading her bio this morning I only have one thing to say....Fatimah, will you marry me?

TLC performed at the LRP Auction in October and were very well received. This night was no exception. I very much liked their way of entering their act. They walk slowly from the back of the room to the stage, one person singing with the others gradually joining in until they are all in order on stage and they are all singing. Their distinct yet blending voices creates a whirlpool of wonderful notes. I like this group.

Charlotte M. Strayhorn's, "RC to her friends", act was filled with electricity. Her choice of Bette Midler material spoke volumes about her connection with the women of the audience. I am absolutely intoxicated with her trademark opening song about the mountain, and we're not going to give it up, and we didn't come all this way to let them get it, something, something, love, something, something. I feel a spiritual tug when she slaps her leg in emphasis. What a show she put on! What talent! Thank you, RC.

Jess Hawk Oakenstar and Nancy Goodson closed the evening with several fine songs. Jess Hawk Oakenstar's bio says she was born and raised in Zimbabwe and later liver in New Zealand. Wow! And just think, she ended up in Phoenix performing for me! Don't you think there's something to the current New Age philosophy of Divine Order?

continued on next column

It has become typical for all our events to be signed and Holly Wilson was there, as she is at so many functions, translating.

An aside to the evening is the Lesbian Breakfast Clubs new motto, "What Do We Have To Do? Hit You With A Brick?" which refers to a brick inscribed with "Lesbian Breakfast Club" that Kathy Hopkins purchased at the Phoenix Zoo and which is now residing in one of it's walkways. (Actually, their motto hasn't changed, it's still, "Come to breakfast if you want".)

The 3 hour evening passed too swiftly and as I was walking out I thought of the \$10 admission price and had to laugh.....boy, did I cheat them!

SISTERS HONORING SISTERS

Last year over 100 women gathered for the first Sisters Honoring Sisters ceremony at the Universalist Unitarian Church on Lincoln Drive. Most had never attended a goddess event, but everyone there seemed to rejoice in the celebration of women by women. The energy was outstanding, the performances were exhilarating, the food was superb!! It was a never-to-be forgotten event.

This year the Sisters Honoring Sisters celebration will be held Sunday, January 2, from 4 to 7 pm. We invite any women to attend; bring only drums and rattles, and finger food to share. This event is sponsored by the Goddess Women Network for the women of the valley. We want you there, but you must call to reserve a place because of limited space. For information and reservation, call Sharon at 274-0230 or Norma at 266-4111.

You are cordially invited to a . . .

COMMUNITY FORUM & LRP ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 30th 11:00am-1:00pm

You will have the opportunity to meet the LRP Advisory and Project Councils, ask questions about LRP programs and policies and talk about issues that effect our lesbian communities. You will also receive LRP's 1993 Annual Report.

The Advisory Council will be providing a light brunch for the event. We hope you will make this date a priority on your 1994 schedule. Please call the LRP at (602) 266-5542 or 266-5797 (TDD) if you have any questions.

Rally Against Rape

The **Rally Against Rape** is scheduled for Saturday, **January 22, 1994** at Wesley Bolin Plaza in the State Capitol.

Invitations for participation have been sent nationwide. Recipients include President and Hillary Clinton, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, Mrs. Barbara Bush, as well as national entertainers including Garth Brooks, Vince Gill, Gloria Estefan and Oprah. Local politicians, celebrities, law enforcement agencies and victim support organizations are also invited to attend.

The rally will feature musical performances, speeches, and organizations hosting information booths. A rally program filled with valuable information will be distributed throughout the event.

Following the rally's main stage events, a more intimate, personal sharing area will be provided for those who wish to make a public statement about their own experiences with rape. A platform (giving each person 5 minutes) will be open in a designated area following the general rally. This area will be intimate in design and allow people to speak and share freely.

Currently, **Rally Against Rape** is inviting rape survivors as well as family and friends of victims to submit their personal stories to be included in a published book to be released in conjunction with the Rally. Stories may be told or expressed through a variety of media including writing, poetry and art.

Rally proceeds will benefit Advisory Board selected rape prevention programs. For more information concerning **Rally Against Rape**, call Martin Carlson Events at (602) 990-1979.

Free - style

The summer after Sonia Johnson's book, *The Ship that Sailed into the Living Room* came out, I was traveling. Everywhere I went, women were questioning their relationships with lovers and partners.

Sonia's central metaphor is the large clumsy ocean liner, parked in the middle of all our living rooms - the "relationship." She says that we spend all our time polishing the ship, and ignore our true needs and desires.

I visited friends in Kentucky, and found that they'd all jumped off the Relationship. A year later, I got an anguished letter from one of them. She was floundering the open sea, unable to make any kind of contact with the woman she loved.

In trying to answer her letter, I found myself asking the question: how can we be together, and still be free?

We look across a great distance at each other, trying to think of new words to describe the energy we feel.

The energy is real and strong between us. It has color, shape, movement. We study it, noticing how responsive it is. We try to catch it in our hands, but it flows back into the air. We cannot hold it.

We watch it and enjoy its richness, its brilliant patterns in the air.

We begin to willfully change the energy, tossing our feelings out to a particular person. It feels like painting the air.

We are all adept at catching the feelings that are tossed our way. We've grown up taking the feelings from all around us, making these feelings part of our own bodies. We are attracted by this skill in each other: it's one reason we've chosen to love women.

When one woman sends out a feeling, the other woman hears it, sees it, or knows it in her own way. She doesn't judge, and she doesn't confuse it with a request.

If someone knows your feeling, and still feels centered in herself, then you feel safe with her. If she denies or criticizes your feeling, or says, "Well, what do you want ME to do about THAT?" then you feel unsafe. Every woman expresses feeling in her own way. For one, it's five minutes of yelling. For another, it's an all night crying jag. To catch the feeling means paying attention. Sometimes, you can't handle a particular style of expression, and you can't catch that woman's feelings.

You don't need to catch all the feelings that are tossed your way. To catch someone's feelings is an act of affirmation towards that person, and it should always be reciprocal.

The energy that we send out is full of many things, not just pure feeling. When we toss out an expectation, the colors are more vivid, because the emotions run so strong. Like artists naming our paintings, we begin to put our expectations into words, in the form of questions.

When you ask a woman something, and she says *Yes*, she catches your expectation. She meets it with her own blend of color and emotion, and there is a merging, stronger than the merging of simple feelings.

When she says *No*, the energy is suspended in the air, gradually fading, until a breeze carries it away.

We become more comfortable asking things of each other, and soon we do it all the time. The freedom to say *Yes* or *No* is sacred and joyful.

No question is scorned. The asking is celebrated, because it takes courage. Every answer is celebrated. Both *Yes* and *No* take great courage.

You ask a woman, "Will you sleep with me every night

for the rest of my life?"

If she answers *No*, you have several choices. You can keep asking this question of other women, until you find one who will catch your expectation.

Perhaps, instead you decide to change your question. "Well, how about tonight? This time you hear *Yes*."

Being asked odes not imply an obligation. Of course, there are risks. If one woman can't promise another a lifetime of sleeping together, she may not be interested in just one night. But we women are strong, and stay true to ourselves. We study our own desires, the bright range of our feelings.

When a woman becomes angry at a question, it's generally because she's afraid of saying *No*.

The fear has an old history. For years, we have been taught to make do, to drown our unhappiness, to deny the thousand little mutinies.

In a friendship, we catch each other's feelings in a natural and casual way. One woman talks, the other listens, and then the roles are reversed. Both feel heard, not judged.

When women discover each other's bodies, the feelings are much more intense. Now you hear more than her words. You hear her body talk, and she hears yours. Your feelings are caught in a deeper and more complete way.

It's a time of euphoria. Feelings come up that have been forgotten, buried, repressed. The expectations often ride along, like barnacles on a whale's back.

The more feelings there are, the more you are likely to ask each other. And you want to say yes to everything your

lover asks, because you want to keep catching her energy forever.

This can be overwhelming, and sooner or later one woman has to say, "Stop," or "Slow down."

It's the scared *No*, the *No* that friends give each other without blame. Loving another woman means celebrating her right to ask, and her right to say *No*.

Saying *No* is hard, but at least it's clear. It's much harder when the other woman constantly disappoints your expectations, but you never let her know.

You're dressed up, and you want your lover to tell you how good you look. For you, looking good has a lot to do with feeling loved. But you're ashamed of feeling this way, so you say nothing and she says nothing. You feel sad, depressed or resentful.

Begin by tossing the feelings towards her, and letting her catch them. This involves no obligation on her part. It's a big help to get these rough feelings out of the closet.

Then ask directly for what you want: more compliments. She can catch all your feelings, and still say *No*. Maybe she feels it would be insincere to compliment you more.

This doesn't mean she doesn't love you. She loves you enough to be clear in her answer. She may talk about her need to be spontaneous and sincere in everything she says. She's giving you a feeling to catch.

This is a danger point, when talking can become a fight. You feel rejected and vulnerable and ashamed. "Are you trying to tell me that *I'm* insincere?" You need to recognize your pain when it's talking.

Maybe you can talk about your fear of being considered insincere. If you don't get into a fight, you could find that all your feelings echo each other, and are easy for each other to catch.

There's also the danger of competing - trying to figure out who's more sincere, or who's more afraid of seeming insincere. This is a side-trip down a patriarchal treadmill. At the end of an exhausting run, you find there's no Olympic award for pain.

1994 Wish List

The LRP has needs for the following items/helpers. Please let us know if you can help.

Volunteers

LaserJet IIP

Folding Chairs

10-12 cup Coffee machine

Please call the LRP at (602) 266-5542 if you need more information. Thanks for your help.



The Views! The Whews!

WREN (Women's Recreational Enjoyment Network) begins its 1994 Get In Shape While Having As Much Fun As Possible (GIS-WHAM-AP) Campaign with a MODERATE hike on the north side of the Superstitions. On Saturday, January 22, we will hike the Canyon Lake Trail to the Indian Paint Mine, a round trip of about 6.6 miles. There is a 1640' elevation gain on this trip, and the book calls the hike moderate, with a few very steep sections. It has been many years since I've hiked this trail, and I don't know if I'll have time to scout it before we go, so if you have recent information about the trail, please call me so I can better answer women's questions.

My reference book describes this as a "fine" trip, with "magnificent vistas at almost every turn--views of rocky, saguaro-studded hillsides, of the rugged Mazatzal Range" (how do you pronounce that, anyway?) "rising about Salt River Canyon, and of the famous landmark of Weaver's Needle..." We may also find running water in La Barge Canyon or Boulder Canyon. And, I'll be scouting this trail as a potential backpacking trip in March or April, so if you'd like to backpack, speak up! If we backpack here, we could take a 1.3 mile side trip up La Barge Creek to a "fabulously spooky box or narrows... this bottleneck is only a few dozen yard across, with walls that rise almost vertically some 500' on either side." Ooooh!

Call Lee Lawton, 990-2194, to sign up for the dayhike on January 22, or call to get your name on the backpacking list. The backpack may not be planned far enough in advance to appear in the newsletter, but I will contact you by phone, and we can coordinate schedules.

Children and dogs are welcome on dayhikes. Bring at least two quarts of water and your lunch. Boots are recommended, especially in desert terrain. Wish there were more hikes? Let me know.



Dykes to Watch Out For



RESOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?

In 1994, with firm resolve, I commit to being open. I will open my eyes to see the injustices being waged around the globe. I will open my eyes to the possibility of progress. I will endeavor to not stick my head in the sand, nor believe nothing can be done. I will open my eyes to the beauty that abounds.

I will open my ears to hear - another's viewpoint, someone else's plan, the cry for help, the call to battle, the invitation to celebrate. I will endeavor to not block out what is uncomfortable, unfamiliar, unexpected. I will open my ears to the universal symphony of discord and harmony.

I will open my heart to those who would love me. I will open my heart to those needing love. I will endeavor not to lock myself up in that inner fortress that feels so safe, yet serves to imprison. I will open myself to the exquisite joy and pain of human communion.

I will open my soul to receive healing. I will open my soul to share my small flicker of light with those who seek. I will endeavor to not believe others' condemnation of my soul. I will open my soul to the inspiration of countless tiny flames joining together in peace.

I will open my mouth to speak. I will let people know who, what I am. I will speak out for equal rights and equal protection under the law. I will endeavor to not remain silent in the face of prejudice or adversity. I will open my mouth to share what I've seen, heard, felt. I will speak with encouragement for others to be open.

J. Katherine Benning



FACTS ABOUT WOMEN

The Women's Action Coalition (WAC) was formed in 1992 to fight injustices which deny women their rights. WAC has compiled a new book, WAC STATS: Facts About Women. This small volume packs a wallop in delivering hundreds of salient facts, with sources cited, documenting some of the injustices and inequalities that WAC was organized to redress. The facts are grouped into about twenty categories, from "Abortion" to "Work."

Some tidbits:

- 1920, the year American women won the right to vote, also saw the birth of the Miss America Pageant.

- From 1989 to 1990, AIDS increased 34% in women, compared to 22% in men.

- Since its inception, the US Congress has had 134 women and 11,096 men.

- The average prison term for killing a husband is twice as long as for killing a wife.

- 71% of all rapists are repeat offenders.

- At Harvard, women professors are paid \$14,000 per year less than their male counterparts of equal rank.

WAC Stats is compiled and edited by Andrea Blum, Julie Harrison, Barbara Ess, and Gail Vachon.



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3. On the third day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...A helping dream... Gifts from my love...And some healing to set me free.
4. On the fourth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...A branch of evergreen...A helping dream...Gifts from my love...And some healing to set me free.
5. On the fifth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me... Joyous song! A branch of evergreen...A helping dream...Gifts from my love...And some healing to set me free.
6. On the sixth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me... Greetings from my neighbors...Joyous song! A branch of evergreen...A helping dream...Gifts from my love...And some healing to set me free!
7. On the seventh day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...Magick for the year... Greetings from my neighbors...etc.
8. On the eighth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...Fine conversation... Magick for the year...etc.
9. On the ninth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...Nine pearls of wisdom... Fine conversation...etc.
10. On the tenth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...Candles for the lighting... Nine pearls of wisdom...etc.
11. On the eleventh day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...Deep contemplation... Candles for the lighting...etc.
12. On the twelfth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...Showers of abundance... Deep contemplation...etc.
13. On the thirteenth day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...A Grand Celebration... Showers of abundance...etc.



Not a half-baked idea

Boston-On Dec. 6, the Mass state House and Senate passed without debate, a law imposing a ban on discrimination against gay students in public schools.

Proponents say the bill would combat the harassment that leads some gay teens to drop out or commit suicide. Gov. William Weld must sign the measure, but it is believed he supports it.

"No statute is going to change attitudes, but it's a first step in telling people that discrimination and intolerance are not good," said Sen. Robert Havern, D-Arlington.

In 1989, Massachusetts became the second state, after Wisconsin, to enact a law banning discrimination against gays in housing, credit and employment, but that law didn't include public schools.

"This is an incredible victory for gay and lesbian students throughout Massachusetts," said David LaFontain, political director of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. "The safety of gay and lesbian students throughout America will be enhanced if other states follow Massachusetts' lead," he said.

The director of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights complained the law is "unnecessary legislation over a contrived issue."

"The ultimate purpose here is to introduce homosexual programs into the public schools," said C.J. Doyle.

MARCHING FOR FREEDOM!

is the feature length video commemorating the 1993 March on Washington, produced in association with/benefiting the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). This video addresses a wide spectrum of issues ranging from Lesbian and Gay "marriage" to the military ban and the AIDS pandemic. Events covered include: the March, the Wedding, the Holocaust Vigil, the Quilt, and Civil Disobedience. Additionally, activists, politicians, musicians and comedians from the main rally stage are featured.

The video which includes a companion color poster is available to members of this organization for a special promotional price by sending \$21.95 + \$3 shipping payable to: **Project 1993, 2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington DC 20006.** Further information is available by calling 1 800-993-1993.



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CURBING THEIR ACTIVITIES

The Phoenix City Council dealt a tough blow November 16th to antiabortion extremists in the Valley and passed a new "bubble ordinance," which protects family planning clinics and their clients.

The ordinance requires demonstrators to stay eight feet away from any person within 100 feet of a health care facility, if so requested by one of the parties. The ordinance was modeled after a similar ordinance in San Diego and seems to be a part of the growing tide to limit antiabortion activities in light of the recent murder of Dr. Gunn in Florida. The ordinance also may apply to AIDS clinics and other medical facilities which may be a target of protest.

Emotional public testimony debating the constitutionality of the ordinance lasted two hours in the standing-room-only council chambers. Opponents of the ordinance told council members the restrictions were a violation of their constitutional rights to free speech and assembly. Many of those who spoke in favor of the ordinance spoke of the death threats and "psychological terrorism" antiabortion activists direct toward employees of the clinics. Two individuals said they've even had their pets drowned and poisoned.

Diane Post, representing the National Lawyers Guild, argued that free speech has always been subjected to government regulation.

Councilman Craig Tribken said, "Free speech stops when it is in my face."

The measure was passed 6-1 with Frances Barwood being the only dissenting vote. Barwood complained that she was "left out of the loop" as council members pre-positioned themselves on the issue prior to the public hearing. Councilman John Nelson and Thelda Williams were absent from the vote.



LAMBDA LEAGUE OPENS AT ASU

The Lambda League opened its office on the Arizona State University campus in December. The League offers "a safe place" as well as a resource center for lesbian, gay and bisexual students at the university. The office will be staffed by student volunteers, during normal working hours, and will be located next to other student organizations in the Memorial Union Building.

Lambda League spokesperson, Skip Shrader, said the atmosphere at ASU "has not always been hospitable," but that it may be improving. As late as 1987, the Lesbian and Gay Student Union was forced to sue the ASU administration for funding and the campus paper, State Press, refused to print meeting announcements for lesbian and gay organizations. Schrader said "it takes a lot of work to change attitudes." He notes achievements such as the recognition of domestic partners for spousal benefits at the Student Recreation Center, recognition by the Student Life Department and the acquisition of space for Lambda League offices.

Lambda League is comprised of five member groups including: Coming Out Discussion group; Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Academic Union; LEGAL, the lesbian/gay political action league; Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity; and We Are Free Indeed, a lesbian gay Christian organization.

An "Open House" has been scheduled for the end of January, but first the group needs the support of the local gay community to provide necessary equipment for them to serve the students. The League's "wish list" includes bookshelves, a couch, a four drawer filing cabinet, a telephone answering machine, a Macintosh computer, wall clock, and a cork bulletin board. Schrader said, "of course, money is always welcome, and its a great way to show support for the youth of our community."



Catching the next wave

Hawaii-Hundreds of people attended legislative hearings in Honolulu to argue for and against same-sex marriages. The 12 hours of hearings were called by the House Judiciary Committee to obtain voter comments for any bill that the lawmakers may consider on the subject next session. There are no specific bills at the moment, the *Philadelphia Gay News* reported.

The arguments on both sides of the issue took a familiar tone. Those in favor of same-sex marriages talked about equal rights, while those opposed preached about the sanctity of marriage and family values that "made this country great."

Although the state Supreme Court has ruled that the law barring same-sex marriages is unconstitutional, an appeal of that ruling means that it may be at least two years before a judicial decision is reached.



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NO LONGER THE TALK OF THE TOWN

The Talk of the Town, women's bar on 7th Avenue closed on December 5th after six years of serving the Phoenix community.

The Talk's owner, Deb, intends to reopen the bar after the first of the year under a new name as a bar featuring live music nightly, open to people of all sexual orientations.

Deb extends a hearty "thank you" to the community that supported her for so long, but feels it is time to pursue another avenue in her business ventures.

We'd like to extend thanks to Deb for the six years she served our community!!!

WHO GETS WHOM?

Washington-The presiding judge of the DC Superior Court's family division said she may bar gay couples from adopting children in DC, unless the District issues guidelines for determining which partner would gain custody if the couple separates, the *Washington Blade* reported.

The statement by Judge Susan R. Winfield, was made during an adoption hearing for a gay male couple.

Sources familiar with the hearing said Winfield issued a request to the DC Corporation Counsel's office to develop formal guidelines to determine who should gain custody of children who are adopted by "unmarried" couples in the event those couples decide to separate. Although she did not say so directly, the sources said, Winfield made it clear that she is unlikely to approve the adoption for the gay couple unless the Corporation Counsel's office comes up with separation guidelines that are satisfactory to her.

Arlene Robinson, head of the Corporation Counsel's Family Division, said her office is studying Winfield's request. She said the office has yet to decide how it will respond.

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ARIZONA AIDS SERVICE OF THE DEAF (AASD)

has moved to a new office which is located in the same building with Arizona AIDS Project, 4460 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

AASD is the first agency in Arizona to work with the deaf and hard of hearing population in HIV/AIDS prevention and early intervention. It provides a wide variety of information and referral services for its targeted population. AASD is in the process of applying for incorporation as a non-profit agency.

Office hours are from 10:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. The office will be staffed by Paul "Kokomo" Waller, Volunteer in Client Services. During these hours, Paul can be reached by TTY number, 265-9953 or through the relay service, 1-800-842-4681. During other regular working hours, messages can be left with the operator at Arizona AIDS Project, 265-3300.



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to reserve your space and define your focus.

When you can't catch each other's feelings, take a break. Go dangle your toes in the water, and think about the expectations that are hooked into your feelings.

When you're ready, it's time for another request. You are still thinking about how great you look, and how she never notices it. So you ask, "If you happen to think about how good I'm looking, would you tell me?"

She may say *Yes* now. But she may still say *No*. Maybe giving compliments embarrasses her, or brings up fears about romance. She can give reasons if she wants, but she doesn't have to. A *No* is still something to respect and appreciate for its clarity.

Pressuring her - asking the same question over and over - is unfair. If you need something that badly, you should look for it elsewhere. This doesn't mean "breaking up." Stay specific. Ask other women to compliment you. Your friends will probably be happy to tell you how beautiful you are.

Or maybe you feel, "It only means something coming from her, because she's the woman I adore." This means that, for you, love is a package deal, with lots of expectations attached.

There's no blame in this. It's harder, that's all. It isn't easy to find a single person who will catch a long list of expectations. Are you really sure it has to be one person?

It's as if you've imagined a woman, and then you look for her replica in the real world. It's a lot easier to love a real woman for who she happens to be. I think it's worth it to unwrap your package deals, and spread your requests around a little bit.

When you first start touching a woman, what are the expectations that ride in on your feelings? Sift through these expectations, and let some of them blow away. You no longer expect a lover to save you from yourself, or to make you happy.

But many of your expectations are alive with joy and energy. They can find some kind of form, starting with words.

Maybe you expect a lot of ongoing physical affection, whether or not you're in bed together. In our culture, we don't easily ask this of our friends.

But each time you touch her, it's a request. When she receives it, she's saying *Yes*. And at any time, either of you has the right to say, "No, I don't want to be touched."

If you're feeling the flow of intimacy very strongly, and the other woman has said *No* to your touch a few times, you can put all your scared and frustrated feelings into a request. "I need more touching with you."

She might just say *No*, and you'll take your desire for touching elsewhere.

Or she might say, "I'd like to, but I'm working on healing from some old pain." Then it's time for you to decide. Do you wait, or ask another question, or find other women who are interested in touching?

If she's trying to heal, she probably wants a lot of attention from you. The love between you has triggered some intense feelings.

She may ask you not to be physically intimate with anyone else right now, and you can say *Yes* or *No*. If you say *No*, that doesn't mean that you won't be catching her feelings. You can love a woman, and still touch many other women.

But if you find other women to touch, the focus of your attention will change. You will be sending lots of feelings in new directions, asking others to catch them.

No matter what you decide, you can still treat each other in a loving way. You can catch each other's feelings,

and ask each other for things. If you do say *Yes*, it's important to follow through, to treat your own choices with respect.

Sometimes a *Yes* must change to a *No* after a little while. We are all in motion, alone and in relation to each other.

Feelings are abundant, but attached to finite moments. Some women are jugglers, catching feelings and expectations from all sides at once. But most focus on one particular connection at a time, weaving little patterns and playing with all the variations.

Your feelings and your life move in a web of mutual creation. All women are free to ask, and all women free to answer.

by jenny yates
off our backs/oct. 1993

BORED OF EDUCATION? THEN TRY THIS!

A lesbian and gay studies class will be offered by the Psychology Department for the Spring Semester at Phoenix College. The class may be taken for three hours of credit or as a non-credit elective. Final approval for academic credit for the class is expected by mid-December from the Maricopa Community College District Governing Board. Classes will meet from 7:10 to 9:50pm, Mondays beginning Jan. 24. Instructors are Drs. Conrad Egge and Jean Parsons, two local psychologists who have been active in the lesbian and gay community.

The course provides an introduction to lesbian, gay and bisexual culture, including psychosocial, developmental, and historical aspects of homosexuality. Homophobia, heterosexism and family issues are addressed as current issues. The determinants of sexual orientation and sexual identity will be explored.

Participants will have an opportunity to examine economic, political and religious issues. Gay literature, art, music, theater, and film will also be show-and-tell topics of discussion.

People interested in the class are encouraged to register. The course instructors are hopeful a number of people from the community will enroll. Phoenix College is located at 1202 W. Thomas Rd. Academic credit students should register for PSY 199PA; non-credit students should register NC 500, Section 9908. Residents of Maricopa County pay \$96.00 plus fees for three credit hours courses. Call 602/285-7262.

BENCH WARRANTS BOYCOTT?

San Francisco--Members of the religious right have threatened to boycott San Francisco because authorities have been slow to prosecute gay demonstrators who damaged a church where the Rev. Lou Sheldon, founder of the Traditional Values Coalition, was speaking, the *Philadelphia Gay News* reported.

"Major corporations are considering canceling their reservations for conventions because of what took place," the Rev. Carl Herbster, pastor of a Kansas City, MO Baptist church told the Board of Supervisors during a hearing into the matter. "You've awakened a sleeping giant," he warned.

The attendance at the hearing was divided about evenly between fundamental Christians and gay activists. Patt Reise, a lesbian, spoke for the activists when she told the supervisors, "Do not allow one broken bench to overshadow the atrocities against people in the gay community."

Between 75 and 100 activists demonstrating at a San Francisco church in September caused \$2,000 in damages to a concrete bench and the church door. One man was arrested but was released without being charged. Police say they identified several protesters on a video tape and still were investigating.

by Patricia Victour

Thereasa Harris is the woman whose sexual harassment case, *Harris v. Forklift Systems Inc.*, was recently decided - in her favor - by the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Harris sued a man at her workplace because he called her a "dumb-ass woman." He also suggested the thermostat should be turned down so the women's nipples would show through their clothing. This man had a nasty habit of requesting that women under his supervision bend over so that he could ogle their rear ends or peek down their blouse fronts. He even requested that they retrieve coins from his pants pockets. Just (dirty) business as usual, you might say.

The point I wish to make here is that several weeks ago, as I listened to a newscast reporting that the Supreme Court was in the process of considering the *Harris* case, my attention was caught by the single itty bitty word which was used to describe all the intimidating, disgusting, foul and unnecessary verbal and visual harassment Ms. Harris had been forced to endure before she decided she'd had enough. The word was "injured." How could that one, tiny little word even begin to describe what M. Harris and her female coworkers had been forced to endure from that man? The answer is, it shouldn't.

"Injured" is attorney-speak used to describe anything from a nervous tick brought on by the neighbors' barking dog to the killing and maiming of 200 people in a train wreck. It's used like a mantra in every tort case in every court in the land to describe the result - large or small, physical, mental, financial or even imagined - of any wrong one person is said to have inflicted on another.

But when those who are not attorneys hear the word "injury," we naturally think of blood, broken bones, death. We probably don't normally include verbal abuse in our definition, because everyone knows that "sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." Ms. Harris had not been beaten; her bones had not been broken; she was not dead - so how was she "injured"? Was Ms. Harris really hurt by this man's verbal assaults, or was she just a crybaby? Doesn't the use of that tired old catchall, "injured," tend to trivialize Ms. Harris' situation?

Well, of course she was "injured," for lack of a better word, by her boss' verbal attacks - as surely as if she'd been beaten up or raped by him. But I, for one, would like to know why it isn't enough for a woman to simply say she was upset, she was disgusted, she was fed up, she was angry, she was pissed off, she was scared by a man's boorish behavior. Why can't a woman who is "merely" upset, disgusted, fed up, pissed off or scared by some guy's harassment get her case before the Supreme Court? Why must she say she was "injured" when that doesn't begin to cover it?

Thanks to Ms. Harris' willingness to stand up in court and say "enough," it appears that under the Court's new ruling it will be unnecessary for workers (male or female) to prove that sexual harassment has severely "injured" them psychologically or even "seriously impaired their work performance." They won't have to prove they've suffered "tangible effects" from the harassment. Well, what do you know! At this rate, perhaps my faith in the judicial system may be restored in the next eon or so. (For the record, Clarence Thomas did not render an opinion in this matter.)

Because of brave women like Ms. Harris and Anita Hill, maybe someday all of us will work in safer places and walk on safer streets, where men no longer feel free to turn our own bodies into weapons with which to verbally "injure" us. De we, at the beginning of a new year, dare to dream? Stay tuned.

CONSTRUCTION CREW NEEDS HELP

Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center is still under construction. The work has been done entirely with volunteers who have given generously of their time. We need more volunteers to help continue the work.

The LRP moved into The Center on October 30th. Several other organizations will be moving in throughout the rest of the year. Many rooms and common areas still need constructing, patching and painting.

If you have time to help please call Annie through the LRP at 266-5542. The usual schedule is M-F 10am - 3pm and Saturdays 9am - 1pm.

The Center is also in need of office furniture such as folding chairs, desks, tables, etc.. Please call The Center at 352-3144 if you have items to donate.

STAMP OUT AIDS

The US Post Office will offer its newest edition to its family of stamps, recognizing everything from environmental concerns to the crusade against cancer and polio. Move over Elvis, this time the issue is AIDS.

The Postal Service will print 25 million booklets of first class 29-cent stamps bearing a bright red ribbon and the words "AIDS Awareness." Each booklet contains ten stamps for a total of 250 million stamps, which easily will be recognized as the symbol of AIDS awareness.

According to a Postal Service press release, the AIDS awareness stamp is a call to action, building on this already accepted symbol.

The Postal Service will not be donating proceeds from the sale of the stamps to AIDS education and service agencies. Rather, according to Yolanda Stenson-Sims, Phoenix customer relations coordinator, the Post Office has waived all merchandising and licensing fees for the stamp to allow non-profit groups to use the design in their fundraising and awareness efforts.

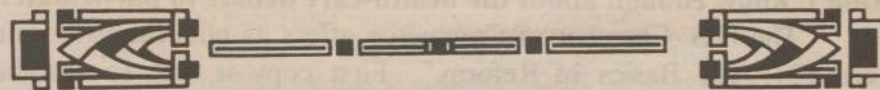
"The goal of the stamp," Stenson-Sims explained, "is increased awareness, not postal revenue." For this reason, the Postal Service is asking people to use the stamps as opposed to saving them.

Snow Goose, at Park Central Mall, will sell AIDS Awareness stamps and donate the entire cost to Volunteers in Direct Aid (VIDA).

The Post Office has a long-standing tradition of issuing stamps which draw attention to health and social issues. In 1931, the Postal Service issued a stamp recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Red Cross. In 1957, it issued a stamp recognizing those who helped fight polio. The Crusade Against Cancer and early Cancer Detection were postage stamp themes in 1964 and 1978, respectively.

Some have argued that it is not the role of the Postal Service to educate Americans about AIDS. However, Stenson-Sims said, "Community service and outreach are a part of our social contract with the American people. By promoting awareness of AIDS, we are helping to put people in touch with resources for information about the disease and its prevention."

Accordingly, each AIDS Awareness stamp booklet will provide the following telephone numbers: the AIDS Hotline for the Centers for Disease Control which is 1-800-342-AIDS, 1-800-243-7889 (TDD/Deaf Access); and the number for the National Points of Light Foundation(NPLF) 1-800-468-7687. NPLF can put interested persons in touch with volunteer centers and groups around the country which can help with a multitude of social and health concerns, including, but not limited to AIDS.



CAMELWEST TAX SERVICE

and

COUPLES OF ARIZONA

present

"TAX PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR LESBIAN OR GAY COUPLES"

Saturday evening, January 8, 1994 - 7:30 pm

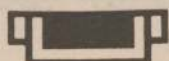
VALLEY OF THE SUN GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

3136 North Third Ave. (west of Park Central Mall)

Is it possible to claim your lover as your dependent? What is the correct (as well as least audit-prone, AND generally most beneficial) way of allocating "joint" income or deductions between your separate returns? Are there circumstances under which you can deduct expenses you pay for your partner, such as medical? Is it possible for your partner to claim your child, if it will give him/her a greater tax benefit? How should we title joint property? How do we have tax advantages over "traditional" married couples?

These are among the questions that will be answered in a special presentation, by Bob Lind, an Enrolled Agent and proprietor of Camelwest Tax Service. The subject is a specialty of Bob's, on which he has lectured before, here in Phoenix, in Tucson and in Southern California, and on which he has been quoted in *The Advocate*. The Strategies are perfectly legitimate, and conform to IRS regulations and latest policies. However, it is information you are NOT likely to find anywhere else, so make every effort for at least one of you to attend this session!

Bob is also a regular columnist for the *Tax Saver's Report*, a monthly national newsletter, and has consulted on tax features for *Money* magazine and the FOX and NBC television networks. He has been quoted several times as a "tax expert" in the *Arizona Republic*. In addition to covering the subject, Bob will also review the 1993 and 1994 tax law changes, and give a preview of what is likely to come through Congress in the next few years. He will also be happy to answer any general tax-related questions anyone has.



EAGLE NATION GATHERING OF A NEW NATION

A new tribal nation of **WOMEN FOR WOMEN ONLY**. It is now time for the woman to become a warrior as she has always been in life but now it is time to live in peace as well as learn survival. It is time for women to come to the aid of themselves. Eagle Nation is a new tribal nation fashioned on the living by the old tribal Native American Plains Indian ways. Get in touch with the Earth Mother, learn to live off the land and make your own items. Learn to be a warrior as only the men use to be, now it is your time. You will learn the ancient ways as well as the new and learn all Indian ways. You will learn many skills as well as Language, Spiritual, Culture, Getting in touch with yourself. Learn to Walk the Path of a True Human Being. Find yourself.

You may live with Eagle Nation permanently or when you have the need. Eagle Nation has its own self support. Become a member from afar or near or live with us. Live in peace with us. All women welcome.

I am Jessie Spiriteagle, Warrior of the Blackfoot Nation and have gone on my way to start a new nation of peoples and to keep the old ways alive. Learn to live in harmony with the Earth Mother and yourself. Learn self love as well as being just yourself or a new Warrior. Write or call for more information or interest in joining our tribal nation.

EAGLE NATION
P.O. Box 44258
Phoenix, AZ 85064
602-220-1997



Tired of hearing all the health-care hubbub?

Proposed health-care legislation will have to go through two committees before it is voted on by Congress. Let committee members know what you want or don't want. Write to U.S. Senate, Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Washington, DC 20510, and to Henry Waxman, Chairman, Subcommittee on Health, 2415 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Don't know enough about the health-care debate to participate?

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce offers its publication "Health Care 101: The Basics of Reform." First copy is free to chamber members; \$7 per copy for non-members. Make check or money order payable to: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Publications Fulfillment, 1615 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20062-2000.



Committed to Diversity

From the beginning, the LRP has been committed to diversity both in our staff/volunteer positions and in the programs we offer. Feedback and statistics show that we are honoring this commitment.

We need your help to continue our commitment. We encourage lesbians of color, young lesbians, elders and differently-abled lesbians to become involved in the LRP. If you have ideas on issues you would like to be involved with but don't see them discussed here, please call me at the LRP so we can discuss your involvement. (LRP # 966-6152 voice/TDD)



POLISH THAT APPLE

Apple Computer, a leader in benefits for gay and lesbian employees, is under siege for their support of gay, lesbian and AIDS support groups. According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Apple's antidiscrimination policies are being attacked by phone, FAX and mail complaints. According to employees, the attacks are coming primarily from Colorado, Oregon and Texas. The well-organized effort could cause Apple to reconsider its support of equal rights.

To show support for Apple Computers' progressive policies, many people are calling Kevin Sullivan, Director of Human Resources for Apple at 408-996-1010.



GAY ED

A Lesbian and gay studies class will be offered by the Psychology Department for the Spring Semester at Phoenix College. The class may be taken for three hours of credit or as a non-credit elective. Final approval for academic credit for the class is expected from the Maricopa Community College District Governing Board. Classes will meet from 7:10 to 9:50 p.m., Mondays beginning January 24. Instructors are Drs. Jean Parsons and Conrad Egge, two local psychologists who have been active in the lesbian and gay community.

The course provides an introduction to lesbian, gay and bisexual culture, including psychosocial, historical, and developmental aspects of homosexuality. Homophobia, heterosexism, and family issues are addressed as current issues. The determinants of sexual orientation and sexual identity will be explored.

Participants will have an opportunity to examine economic, political and religious issues. Gay literature, art, music, theater and film will also be topics of discussion.

People interested in the class are encouraged to register. The course instructors are hopeful a number of people from the community will enroll. Phoenix College is located at 1202 W. Thomas Road. Academic credit students should register for PSY 199PA; non-credit students should register for NC 500, Section 9908. Residents of Maricopa County pay \$96.00 plus fees for the three credit hour course. Call 602-285-7262 for more information.



PROTECTION IN SCHOOL

On December 6, the Massachusetts State House and Senate passed without debate, a law imposing a ban on discrimination against gay and lesbian students in public schools.

Proponents say the bill would combat the harassment that leads some gay students to drop or commit suicide. Governor William Weld must sign the measure, but it is believed he supports it.

"No statute is going to change attitudes, but it is a first step in telling people that discrimination and intolerance are not good," Senator Robert Havern (D- Arlington) said.

In 1989, Massachusetts became the second state, After Wisconsin, to enact a law banning discrimination against gays in housing, credit and employment, but that law didn't include public schools.

"This is an incredible victory for gay and lesbian students throughout Massachusetts," said David LaFontaine, political director of the Collation for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. "The safety of gay and lesbian students throughout America will be enhanced if other states follow Massachusetts' lead," he said.

The director of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights complained that the law is "unnecessary legislation over a contrived issue."



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Women's Spirituality Group

A casual, loving group has formed to support the multiple facets of spirituality. There is no denomination, no leader and no charge. All women are welcome. We meet on the 2nd Friday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7 to 9pm. For more information call Peniel at 921-3982 or Lee at 990-2194.

Relationship Discussion Group

The gay, lesbian and bi discussion group is an ever-changing group of adult singles and couples, who gather twice each month to meet people and to discuss interesting issues. There is always time to socialize and to find out about activities in the community. Sometimes there are special speakers, panel discussions, or workshops. When women's and men's needs differ, different programs are tailored to the unique needs of each.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix, 4027 East Lincoln Drive. A social period begins at 7:00 p.m. The formal part of the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information call (602)392-3198.

**STONEWALL 25 CELEBRATION
BEING PLANNED**

The Rocky Mountain Regional Steering Committee is looking for lesbians and lesbians of color who would like to serve on the committee to plan regional events for the 25th anniversary of Stonewall which will take place on June 26th, 1994.

If you are interested or need more information please contact Todd Groves at (303) 449-0099. The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 23rd in Boise, Idaho. The committee does not provide transportation but can provide fundraising ideas.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Contact AA Central office 264-1341 and request listing of gay meetings. Confidentiality respected. Can also stop by Lambda at 2940 E. Thomas Rd., noon - 6pm or 8pm everyday.

ACTION COLUMN

Women Against Pornography has been working to get advertisers to pull their ads from the swimsuit issue of Sports Illustrated. Hyundai Motors has done so. Please send them a note of thanks. Rod Hayden, CEO, 10550 Talbert Ave, Fountain Valley, CA 92727.

RESOURCES

(Please note: This is a PARTIAL list of non-profit groups. If your group would like to be included please write or call us. We are looking for groups supportive of and of interest to Lesbians.)

INFORMATION:

Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard: 234-2752

Lesbian Resource Project: 3136 N. 3rd Ave, Phoenix, Az. 85013, 266-5542 (voice) 266-5797(TDD).

SOCIAL GROUPS:

Couples of Arizona: PO Box 7144, Phx, 85011. Call 831-6432.

Desert Adventures: Indoor/Outdoor social activities 266-Camp(2267).

Desert Valley Squares, Ltd.: Lesbian/Gay Square Dance Club, PO Box 34615, Phx 85067. Contact C.J. at 252-0048.

Lesbian Breakfast Club: Meets Sundays at 10:30am. 955-0317 Saturday night or Sunday morning for location. (Location changes weekly)

Desert Hearts Motorcycle Club: Monthly rides. Deb at 279-9228.

Lesbian and Gay Seniors Group: 241-1604

Valley Career Women: PO Box 33393, Phoenix, Az. 85067. Contact Kathleen at 996-3184 or Baker 947-4081.

Eagle Nation - P.O. Box 44258, Phoenix, Az. 85064 - 602-220-1997

SUPPORT NETWORKS:

Women Veteran's Support Network: The Pallas Athena Network, PO Box 1171, New Market, VA 22844.

Coming Out Group: Meets at Healing Waters Ministries, 225 W. University Dr., Tempe. Call Bonnie at 966-6671 or Healing Waters at 894-8681 for details. (This is a non-religious group)

Lesbian & Gay Academic Union (LGAU): meets Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Memorial Union at ASU. Contact Skip 829-7909.

Gay and Lesbian Relationship Discussion Group: 7:00pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix, 4027 E. Lincoln Dr. Bob at 392-3198.

Gay & Lesbian Parent Support Network: PO Box 66823, Phx, 85082. Sandi or Deb 892-8075.

POLITICAL GROUPS:

Arizona Committee For Progress: PO Box 40374, Phx, 85067.

Feminist Lesbian Activist Coalition (FLAC): Karen at 966-4521.

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project: PO Box 60881, Phx, 85082. Call 351-3080.

Phoenix Women Take Back the Night: 1826 E. Willetta, Phx, 85006. Dianne at 258-7985.

Women's Center, Inc. PO Box 26031 Tempe, Az 85285: 266-5542(voice)266-5797(TDD).

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church: 1029 E. Turney, Phx 265-2831.

CCL/Conference for Catholic Lesbians: Donna 947-8187 (Phx area) or Pat at 326-8379 (Tucson).

Dignity/Integrity: PO Box 21091, Phx 85036. Bill 258-2556.

Gentle Shepherd MCC: 3425 E. Mountain View, Phx 85028. Tom at 996-7644.

Goddess Womyn Network: Meetings & quarterly newsletter. Call 266-4111.

Healing Waters Ministries: 225 W. University Dr., Tempe 85281 894-8681.

Lutherans Concerned: Phoenix, Frank 870-3611

Mispachal Am (Lesbian & Gay Jews): PO Box 7731, Phx 85011.

Oasis MCC: 2405 E. Coronado, Phx Rev. Charlotte Strayhorn at 275-3534.

Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns: Meets monthly 275-0506.

OTHER NEWSLETTERS OF INTEREST:

Luna-Sea: Tucson Wimmin's Community Newsletter. 727 E. Helen, Tucson 85719. \$7/yr. \$3.50/six months.

Flagstaff Women's News: Aradia Bookstore, PO Box 266, Flagstaff, Az. 86002. Donation appreciated but not required.

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- Special Package:
 - 2 Persons, 4 Hours.....\$ 90.00
 - 2 Persons, 8 Hours.....\$160.00
 - 4 Persons, 4 Hours.....\$160.00
 - 4 Persons, 8 Hours.....\$300.00
- Other Plans Adaptable



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Days & Evenings

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ON GOING MONTHLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS **Breakfast Club** 10:30am. Call Velo at 955-0317 for location as it changes every Sunday.
Ultimate Frisbee 3-5pm at Encanto Park. For more details call 253-7459.

TUESDAYS **Gay & Lesbian Relationship Discussion Group (RDG)** meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Unitarian Church, 4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Every Tuesday - Lesbian & Gay Alanon, 8:45, LAMBDA Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phx.

1st & 3rd Thur ASU-EAST VALLEY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW). Meets at ASU in the Memorial Union.

Sat 2 **Sisters Honoring Sisters**, see page 5 & 8.

Sat 8 "Tax Planning Strategies For Lesbian or Gay Couples, see page 13

Sun 9 LRP "spiff-it-up party see page 15.

Thur 13 Women's Center Newsletter Monthly meeting, 3136 N. 3rd Ave., 7pm.

Fri 14 Women's Spirituality Group see page 15.

Tue 11 RDG - 7pm Unitarian Church, see page 15

Sun 16 Community Discussion Group, see page 3.

Sat 22 WREN's hike, see page 7 for more information

Sat 22 RALLY AGAINST RAPE, SEE PAGE 5.

Tue 25 RDG - 7pm Unitarian Church, see page 15

Thur 27 Women's Spirituality Group see page 15.

Fri 28 Fourth Friday (book discussion group) see page 4 for details.

Sat 29 Slique Callahan 7:30, see page 6.

AGRA RODEO is sometime in January. We regret we could not locate anyone to provide us with any information.

The deadline for submissions of ANY SORT, including ads, to the Women's Center Newsletter has been and will continue to be the 15th of the month preceding the issue of publication. Please adhere to this schedule. **In the future, the deadline will be strictly enforced.**

The volunteers who put out the Newsletter have tried to be as flexible as possible regarding last minute submissions, however, the situation has become unmanageable. Newsletter volunteers put in many long hours each month to produce the newsletter, and last minute submissions create havoc with already strained schedules. All items have to be entered on the computer, printed and proofed before layout can occur. Late submissions delay this process and unnecessarily stress the volunteers. Please be considerate and mail your submissions early, especially calendar events.

REMEMBER: If we don't receive it by the 15th - it will NOT be printed for another month. Plan accordingly and mail early.

Lesbian Resource Project Happenings at the LRP

(Please call ahead if you are interested in participating in any events listed below. Many meetings have information you will need prior to joining a group 266-5542 or 266-5797 (TDD)

SUNDAYS

January 9th LRP "Spiff-it" Party 10:00am - 12:00 (see notice)

January 23rd Fundraising Task Force 10:00am - 12:00noon

January 30th Community Forum & LRP Annual Meeting 11:00am-1:00pm (see notice)

MONDAYS

January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st TLC Practice. Contact Sandi @ 926- 9296. Singing group welcomes new members 7:00pm - 9:30pm

January 24th Volunteer Training at LRP 7:00pm - 9:00pm

WEDNESDAYS

January 19th Writer's Group 7:00pm-9:00pm Call Patricia @ 569-0321 (eves) to confirm group is meeting. If at least two people haven't confirmed attendance beforehand by calling the number above the group will not meet.

THURSDAYS

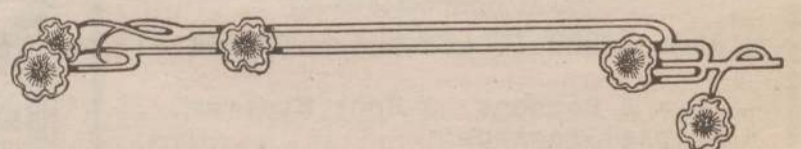
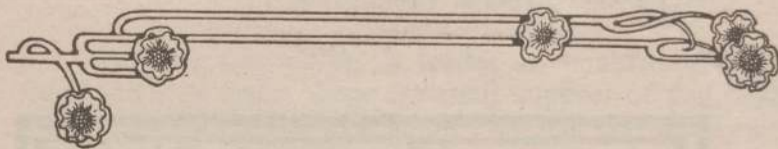
January 13th Volunteer Training at LRP 7:00pm-9:00pm

January 13th Women's Center Newsletter Monthly Business Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm

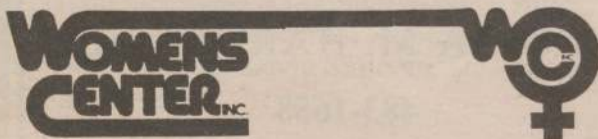
FRIDAYS

January 7th & 21st Lesbian/feminist Reading Discussion Group 7:00pm 9:00pm

Remember, if you are interested in starting a Common Interest Group just call the LRP and we'll help you get started. Please call for date/time when the Library Task Force will be meeting this month.



Join our organization today and receive our monthly newsletter in the mail.



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- Couples: \$20.00
- Limited Means: \$10.00
- Work exchange is possible.
- New
- Renewal

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 Address: _____

Make check or money order payable to: Women's Center, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 26031, Tempe AZ 85285. The Center is a tax-exempt corporation. All donations are tax-deductible. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 602-266-5542 (voice) 266-5797(TDD)