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AZULÃO

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I WOULD LIKE TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK _____ YES _____ NO _____

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AZULÃO

OUR BOOK OF DREAMS

NOVEMBER-84

Volume II: Issue V



Handwritten signature: Azulão
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Donation

AZULÃO

AZULAO IMAGES THE PERSONAL STRENGTH AND CREATIVE POWER OF WOMYN. WE ARE EXPANDING AWARENESS, TAPPING CREATIVITY AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

We publish articles, information, commentaries, short stories, herstories, poetry and art, dealing with womyn who are/or have influenced our lives.

All articles represent the views of their contributors and not necessarily those of AZULAO.

All materials submitted are kept on file for use as needed. Please do not send original copies.

The spelling of "WOMYN" or "WOMON" does not indicate an anti-male attitude. Our intention is to claim our identity independent of, not as a subgroup of our male dominated society.

DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED ADS:

For information on rates or to exchange ads write and include a SASE.

NOTICE:

* OUR RATES WILL DOUBLE IN FEBURARY. *

WRITE TO US:

We want your comments, feedback, and participation.
AZULAO, 615 Fargo, Houston, Texas 77006.

We wish to apologize to those womyn who have waited for prolonged periods of time for a response from us in both correspondence and in receiving AZULAO. Delays imply no lack of dedication for the work required to put this magazine together, but rather reflect the limitations imposed by our present overloaded working conditions.

OUR VOLUNTEER CORPS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....	page 4
HERSTORY.....B. Freeman.....	page 6
POETRY CONTEST.....	page 8
IRIS SIZEMORE.....Carol Beverage.....	page 9
WOMENS GROUP.....Iris Sizemore & Emily Abbott.....	page 13
SPOTLIGHT ON FREDDY.....Carol Beverage.....	page 15
YOUNG BRAVHERY.....Aquarius.....	page 19
VIRGINIA M. APUZZO.....Carol Beverage.....	page 20
CHURCH OF CHRISTIAN FAITH....Nancy Harty.....	page 22
GURUMAYI CHIDVILASANANDA....Alice Hepinstall.....	page 24
GURUMAYI CHIDVILASANANDA....Carol Beverage.....	page 25
MEG CHRISTIAN.....Carol Beverage.....	page 28
DEAR SHARE - IN.....	page 32
CURIOUS WINE (book review)...Sara Lindley.....	page 32
SAPPHIST EROTICA.....	page 33
MICHIGAN FESTIVAL.....Simone.....	page 40
MICHIGAN FESTIVAL.....Georgeanne Green.....	page 41
MICHIGAN FESTIVAL.....Carol Beverage.....	page 44
U.S. HAS FERRARO - INDIA HAS GANDHI..B. Freeman....	page 53
FAR-AWAY-FRIENDS.....	page 55
HOLLY NEAR RONNIE GILBERT...Georgeanne Greene....	page 60
MS-ING-U.....	page 61
REFLECTIONS.....Nancy Conner.....	page 63
VISIONARIES.....Loret Ulmschneider.....	page 65
CLASSIFIED.....	page 66
WOMYNS NUMBERS.....	page 67

EVERY REFORM WAS ONCE

A PRIVATE OPINION!

WARNING: IF YOU MOVE WITHOUT SENDING US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, YOU WILL LOSE AZULAO. WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO PAY THE HIGH POST OFFICE FORWARDING OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS CHARGES. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED.

Letters To The Editor



Dear Azulao,

After a frustrating time in San Diego, pet-hating capitol of the world, I have moved to Dallas, Texas, home of 106 degree heat, redneck policemen and of course, Republicans. I met many nice women in San Diego, and I miss them terribly. I have not met any women yet in Dallas, except one. She bent my ear with her marriage (lover) problems for a solid week, and then Sunday night she made a drunken pass at me. Needless to say, it's been two days now, and she hasn't shown her face. Best not! All that free counseling she got! I am spending my pre-job hunting time in self-improvement. Exercise, reading, and unpacking. It's a bit lonely, not knowing anybody here. I would like to be listed as Azulao's "Far-Away Friend" for Dallas. I would also be honored to be the first official "Far Away Friend". Also, why aren't we (Azulao) listed in Lesbian Connection? Let's all get on the road! I miss everyone in Houston and wish (you guessed it) that you were here. I need help starting a woman's group here in Dallas. If any of you have friends in Dallas, please have them contact me, ASAP. Sorry, I don't have a phone yet--any day now. Thank you, Carol, for helping me move. I miss you, woman.

In Sisterhood,
Sara Lindley
4005 N. Hall #201
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear Sara,

We loved hearing from you and are glad you are a little closer to home than you originally planned. We will be happy to have you as a Far-Away-Friend for Azulao. You have the honor of being one of the first. However, Sammie Cohen became our first "Far-Away-Friend" when she moved to Denver, Colorado. She has since moved back to Houston so you're now sharing the honor with our friends in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Chris and Trish (505) 293-7914. We are listed in Lesbian Connection. Unfortunately, we asked to be listed before we had our new name so we're listed under Carol Beverage, but the number is still the same! You're right. We need to write and give them our new name. We've got help for you to start a branch of Azulao in Dallas. Bonnie O'Hare and Evelyn Roots have been given your address so you can get the ball rolling. I was happy to help you move, I really enjoyed my shower, and the plane ride was wonderful.

Carol

Letters To The Editor



Tonight I went to Twins and learned that this traditional bar of Houston will soon be closing. There will be a lot of truly dedicated womyn in this big town, including me who will miss this entertaining bar. Every one will love the last big party! Mark, I personally thank you for the encouragement that you have brought to the community and the effort you have put in for our entertainment. I am a true believer in what you have tried to give the womyn in Houston. As a representative of AZULAO I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that AZULAO thanks you for the support you've given to the womyns community.

THANK YOU,

Tom Chapin, brother of the "late great" Harry Chapin, will be doing a benefit concert for A PLACE IN THE SUN on Sunday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rainbow Pavillion, 10950 Old Katy Road. The GracieLynn duo (APS Director Rev. Gracie Lee and her partner Lynn Herrick) will be sharing the bill with Chapin. Mayor Kathy Whitmire has declared the day of the concert A PLACE IN THE SUN DAY. Eleanor Tinsley will be representing the Mayor at the concert to read her proclamation and accept the shelter's gift to her: (An original piece by Montrose sculptor Mara Smith.) Other dignitaries such as Rep. Debra Danburg and Carolyn Day Hobson will also be present and be honored by APS for their contributions to "Justice and Mercy" in Houston.

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Herstory

One Remarkable Womyn

By: B. Freeman

How do you think you would have coped as a woman from 1880-1968? How do you think you would cope as a blind woman? -a deaf woman? How do you think you would cope as a woman literally considered dumb? Any one of these areas is scary, isn't it? Each one involves stamina, courage, and numerous frustrations with obstacles. This article is about a woman well known by everyone, and I daresay everybody has read a story on her, or at least watched a movie about her. Irregardless, this womyns' magazine, Azulao, feels herstory is worth mentioning once again. We are talking about a woman who not only lived from 1880-1968 but was also blind, deaf, and considered dumb. We are talking about a woman who faced and conquered each one of these handicaps, and proceeded to fully live her life. We are talking about "Helen Adams Keller"!

Born in Tuscumbia, Ala., to Arthur Keller (a former confederate officer) and to Kate Adams (related to Robert E. Lee), Helen Keller lived a normal life until eighteen months of age. At which time she was stricken with an illness described as "congestion of the brain and stomach", which left her unable to see or hear. She had no way of communicating except by screaming and throwing tantrums. When Helen was approximately seven years old, her parents sent for a teacher from the Perkins Institute for the Deaf and Blind in Boston. This proved to be the turning point for Helen Keller. Through patience, love and dedication, this teacher gave Helen Keller her life--her life as she was to live it from this moment on. The moment she understood that everything had a name and their names could be spelled out in her hand (the well known water-at-the-pump incident). With amazing rapidity and apparent intelligence, Helen Keller made up for lost time; she learned to read and write braille fluently, and at ten years old she began to relearn how to speak. This task seemed impossible, but her teacher discovered that Helen could learn sounds by placing her fingers on her teacher's larynx and "hearing" the vibrations. At the age of sixteen, Helen Keller went to preparatory school and proceeded onto Radcliffe College. With the help of her teacher, who "spelled" the lectures into Helen's hand, Helen Keller graduated with honors (cum laude). Dumb, indeed!

After college, Helen devoted her life to helping deaf and blind people. She became active on the staffs of the American Foundation for the Blind and Overseas Blind. She gave lectures and wrote several books. She started the Helen Keller Endowment Fund of \$2 million. In 1932, the Pictorial Review Company gave her it's \$5,000 Achievement Prize

Herstory

for her dedication works.

In later years, she began working for better conditions for the blind in underdeveloped and war-ravaged countries by lecturing in their behalf in more than twenty-five countries on the five major continents.

She worked with World War II soldiers blinded by the war. She received awards of great distinction such as the Chevalier's ribbon of the French Legion of Honor, the Alumna Achievement Award of Radcliffe College, and decorations from governments all over the world. Her books have been translated into more than fifty languages. They include "The Story of My Life" (1903); "Optimism" (1903); "The World I Live In" (1908); "The Song of the Stone Wall" (1910); "Out of the Dark" (1913); "My Religion" (1929); "Midstream My Later Life" (1930); and "Teacher" (1955) which tells the story of her teacher. The motion picture, "Helen Keller in Her Story", told her life. The play and motion picture, "The Miracle Worker", told how her teacher made contact with Helen through the sense of touch. Have you noticed that I have referred to Helen Keller's companion and guide as anything other than "teacher"? Well, I know you are probably aware of this, but this teacher provides another beautiful and fabulous part to the Helen Keller story--the teacher was also a woman; yes, this great feat of overcoming handicaps was accomplished by the combined strength, patience, and courage of two women. Can you imagine the "rare" energy required to be in either woman's role; the drain that must have been felt on numerous occasions? Helen's teacher, Anne Sullivan (later Mrs. John Mary), gave Helen Keller her life--communication! Through the love, dedication, and companionship of nearly fifty years, Anne Sullivan gave a generous portion of her own life to Helen Keller. Let us not ever forget such long ago feminine feats of courage; for by remembering, no matter how well known the story, we women of today cannot give up our rights and needs. For how can we let our women forerunners down (such as Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan)? Otherwise, what a waste!



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ANNOUNCES A POETRY CONTEST

Contest is open to any woman living anywhere. There is no limit to the number of submissions, but each must be accompanied by a \$1 entry fee. Maximum length 25 lines.

Entries must be typed, double-spaced, with no identifying data on the same side as the poem. Only one poem per page. Name and address must be typed on the reverse side.

Poems must not have been previously published and this must not be a simultaneous submission. TELEWOMAN acquires one-time rights only of the winning poems. Each entry must be clearly marked "For TELEWOMAN Poetry Contest."

Theme is "In Celebration of Ourselves" and must reflect some positive facet of our woman-loving nature, our culture, our lifestyle, etc.

First prize is a feature-length article in a future issue of TELEWOMAN and/or a full Heart to Heart page devoted to the winner's poetry. Runner-up prizes include subscriptions to TELEWOMAN and other lesbian periodicals, TELEWOMAN T-shirts, and various other donated treasures from friends of TELEWOMAN.

Judges are Susan Sheppard, Parkersburg, West Virginia; Rochelle Holt, Westfield, New Jersey; and Katharyn Machan Aal of Ithaca, New York. All are widely published poets.

DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 1985

Iris Sizemore & the Womyn's Group

CB: Iris, could you tell us about the history of your involvement with the Womens Group? How did it begin, what is it about, and what progress would you like to see take place?

IRIS: It's interesting that when you make great changes in your life, especially when it concerns defining who you are as a woman, it is like your life starts there. I was 35 years old when I came to Houston from Chicago. I feel my life started when I defined myself as a Feminist. After my divorce, I came to Houston wanting to connect with people who had philosophical beliefs that would be compatible with mine. Somehow I sensed that the Unitarian Church would provide that. Especially since I was aware of the history between the Suffrage and the Womyn's Movement in the Unitarian Church in the 19th Century. When I came, they had a bookstore, but they didn't have Mary Daly's Beyond God the Father, so I felt I should get involved in the bookstore. That book was being discussed, and a lot of Feminist theory was evolving from Mary Daly, at that time. I was involved for about a year and was able to bring a large diversity of books about womyn, and books I thought reflected some of the movement in the Womens Group. One morning I suggested that the next Sunday we get together to define who we were and to share some of our experiences. This was September 1975. That was really our first meeting. You really only need two womyn to have a group, we started with ten. We haven't really changed in nine years. We came together on the supposition that we were going to break silences, start naming ourselves, start defining, start validating each other. The basic definition hasn't changed, but the political commitment has certainly changed along the way. I'm not sure whether we reflected the changes in the larger overview of the Womyn's Movement or whether we were in the vanguard in defining that change.

One of the basic commitments of the Womens Group is a commitment to Feminist Consciousness Raising. That's where womyn come together in small groups for 8-10 weeks, and take all the issues of a society and look at them from a womons sensibilities. I believe all issues need to be looked at from a feminist sensibility.

Another aspect of the group is that womyn come to the group and get an over view of the other organizations that they might want to diversify into in the community. We're not only a part of some of the larger groups but usually in the vanguard, in defining the activities of these groups. There is a continuity between the Womens Group and the rest of the community. Resource sharing is one of the attractions

Iris Sizemore & the Womyn's Group

of the group. Any woman who has an announcement can come and share with other womyn. It is a place where information that is pertinent to womyn is accessible, to womyn. We focus on bringing together womyn in the community that have a service. We actualize the political statement that the personal is political. Giving your money to a woman is about the most powerful political statement you can make in our society. We try to encourage that in every way we can. When you can get 70 or 80 womyn to show up at a womons show, say an artist, singer, or comedian, that lets the management know that there is a womyns audience out there. It gives the artist a little more leeway in defining some material that she might want to use or not use. It might give her the influence to be able to eliminate some sexist material for example. This is the impact of womyn in numbers supporting a woman in whatever she is trying to do.

CB: Have you had any highpoints in the group that you would like to talk about? Anything you've accomplished as a group or anyone that's come in that has really influenced the group?

IRIS: Every woman that's spoke here has influenced the group in some sense. The high point is that for nine years we've been able to have a continuity and a history. Womyn have always had a history but to be able to call it forth, to acknowledge our histories and to keep having dreams and visions about a society that would reflect womyns sensibilities. Mayor Whitmire is coming in January, I believe that's just part of this.

For womyn to define a space in society is rare, as space is traditionally defined by men. When you come together and define a space as accessible only to womyn, this is how the process of power evolves. Our group does define and control space and that's very important. Even in a liberal atmosphere such as the Unitarian Church. I think I ought to make it clear that the Womens Group is not necessarily a part of the Unitarian Church. However we have been supported by this group of people for nine years. This is a very powerful type of support and I feel we need to acknowledge that. The social action involvement of the church is not incompatible with the social action of the Womens Group. Yet there is no religious fervor to have womyn become involved with the church. Having this space, that the church provides, where womyn feel comfortable is one of the reasons that the group works.

CB: Is there anything else you would like the public to know about the Womens Group?

Iris Sizemore & the Womyn's Group

IRIS: It's hard - we don't have language to reflect our experiences and that's a big part of our commitment, womyns language. You almost have to come and experience it. Where ever a woman is in her life, if she's open for identifying or trying to identify who she is in an oppressive society, if she will come I think she'll be touched by something. I was taught some where along the way that a woman needs two things; a mentor and a dream. When I came to Houston and started the Womens Group I had a dream. To take part in the evolution of a dream is rare. If you have a group that can function from the basic supposition that your all womyn you have a tremendous amount of connection to begin with. That doesn't mean that the group does not disagree - that's the richness of it. We disagree, but mostly we celebrate our commonalities. Maybe a group needs to have a person that establishes a continuity of being visible. Maybe that was a part of my commitment over the years. I think now the group would evolve without such a strong leadership person.

CB: Some of the talk I heard the other day when everyone thought you were going to move to California, left me with the impression that you've done a lot more than what your giving yourself credit for.

IRIS: I think that's indicative of womyn, don't you? You told me earlier, you don't like to talk a lot about your accomplishments.

CB: I don't feel like I've really accomplished much, I'm just trying - I've got a toe hold.

IRIS: That's what I had. We had a toehold. You've got physical space. That's power. I've always had womyn friends who have been able to help me with the garbage work of a movement. They don't get the visibility that I get. Womyn to do the typing the scheduling, etc. so I haven't had to do that part of it. One can stand around and be charismatic if they have that sort of support.

CB: There's something else that amazes me - the mixture of gay and straight womyn and the total acceptance, the naturalness of it. Where a lot of mixed groups the gays keep their mouths shut in order to be around. Here it's OK to be yourself - that's real powerful for me. I like that.

Iris Sizemore & the Womyn's Group

IRIS: I think that a woman being herself in a society takes a tremendous amount of definition to begin with. Then all the things that we may be or may not be including ones sexuality, including ones oppression because of color or religion. Those things are celebrated in Womyns Group but they don't become the only issue. One of the things we did years ago in 1975 was this thing about homophobia in the womyns movement. I think homophobia exist both ways. We decided we would deal with that. We had a speaker come over to talk about homophobia in the womyns movement. About 105 womyn showed up. I don't think it's ever been an issue since. Not that it was an issue then but at that time there was a political split between lesbian and straight womyn in a lot of NOW chapters. Womyn have traditionally been defined by who they sleep with. I don't want a woman defined by who she sleeps with whether it's a man or a woman! Why should we define a woman by who she sleeps with? It's very limiting, we are so much more than who we sleep with!

*Metal
Temptations*

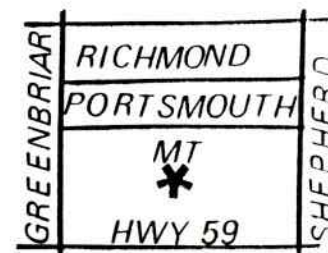
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AZULAO staff take in the street festival.
Left to right - Freddy, Carol, Potto, Patches,
and Paula. Photo courtesy Susan Clements.

Womyn's Group

The Women's Group meets every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM and provides a forum for women to validate our experiences and to celebrate our "breaking silence;" to experience "speaking in a different voice." We define a space where women speakers come to express and explore their views on all issues, from Dr. Wanda Mott (gynecologist) and Dr. Sheila Sheinberg (Women and Change) to Mayor Whitmire (January, 1985).

We are committed to change through political activism, resource sharing and feminist consciousness raising as well as social activities. We support women in all of the arts. We are committed to the excellence of feminist analysis on all issues of the world such as politics, human relationships, economics, and survival.

Our visions are as diverse and transforming as the women we are, but the commonality is that we celebrate and transcend our differences by naming and being and envisioning. We validate and commit outrageous acts of rebellion as we redefine a society which values our experiences.

Iris Sizemore & Emily Abbott

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Spotlight on Freddy

By: Carol Beverage

Kathy Greives, better known to her friends as "Freddy," was born in Dallas, Texas, February 23, 1946; and was adopted three days later by Frank and Catherine Greives. She grew up in a large, comfortable home with an abundance of nooks and crannies to explore. In time, and with headstrong determination Freddy found them all. Her formal education began at Ursuline Academy in Galveston, which she attended through the seventh grade. For years Freddy and her mother (her father died when she was five) had summered with cousins in Las Vegas. Following her seventh year at Ursuline, the family decided to move there permanently. Unfortunately, the hot dry climate proved more than some were able to tolerate, and the dreams of permanency were scrapped. Freddy and her family returned to Texas, settling in Houston in time for her to enroll at St. Christopher's for her final year in Junior High.

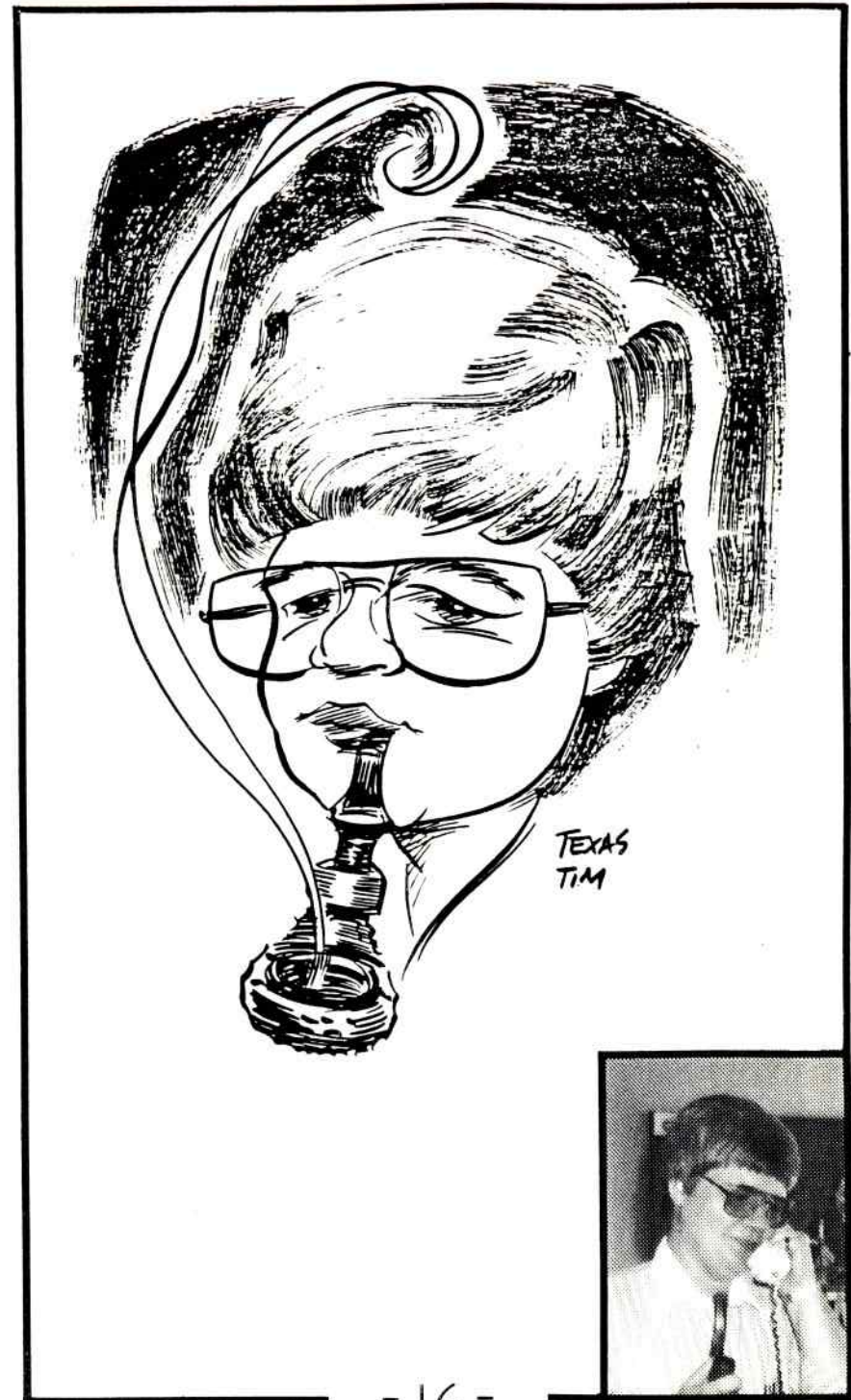
Her high school years were spent at Mt. Carmel, it was there that she discovered her interest in; and a decided aptitude for art. Whenever posters or fliers were needed she seemed to always find herself at the helm.

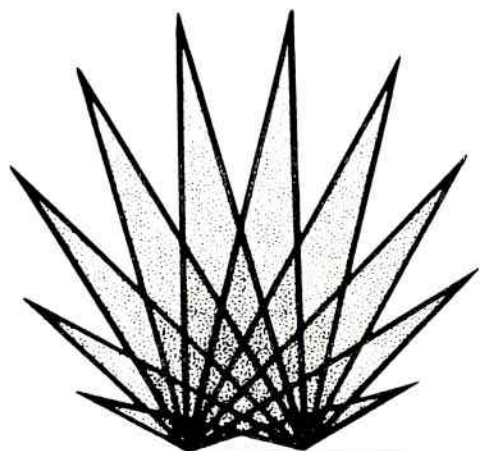
Following her graduation she enrolled at San Jacinto Junior College, where in addition to her continued interest in art, she began to pursue courses in psychology and sociology. In 1966, having exhausted her options at San Jacinto, Freddy elected to transfer to Stephen F. Austin State in Nacogdoches. It was an instant love affair. The town and the university still hold a very special place in her heart.

It was while attending SFA that Freddy discovered her true leadership abilities. Chosen to help coordinate her dorm's float entry in the homecoming parade, her energy seemed inexhaustable and her enthusiasm was infectious. As a result, College Park, A new dorm with it's first ever entry was honored with a trophy.

After college she began a search for the proper profession. It was a difficult road leading her through a wide variety of occupations, including a brief turn with a local candle manufacturer where she learned the intricacies of developing the novelty molds, to a three year stint with the Texas Employment Commission. She found her niche in the printing business where her easy way with people, her gregarious personality and her natural salesmanship make her an invaluable member of the team.

Freddy has a quiet strength about her. Her usual stance, with pipe in hand might make her appear rather tough. In reality she is a big hearted woman with a whole lot of love to give. She generates a good deal of charisma with her pipe. A lot of people who come into the shop where she works comment about it. One woman came into the shop and told her boss that she hadn't seen a woman smoke a pipe since her grandmother in Tennessee! You could tell she





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Poppa Bear, Freddy Greives, and Linda.
Photo courtesy of Susan Clements.

Spotlight on Freddy

really liked Freddy's pipe. Another incident with her pipe was created when a couple of traveling lesbians spotted her in Bellaire, not knowing anything about Houston they decided to follow her. They followed her to a meeting at AZULAO. They came in, introduced themselves, and spent two days visiting.

Freddy is very up front about her lifestyle both at work and in her personal life. At her Birthday party held at Double R year before last, every one of her co-workers attended, both heterosexual and gay. The straights brought their wives or girlfriends and everyone had a good time. The straight people had a chance to experience the gay lifestyle in a very different way. Because Freddy is who she is, everybody felt comfortable.

Freddy is a very loyal, giving, and compassionate woman. She really cares about people and will bend over backwards to help someone. When Carol Beverage, editor of this magazine, approached her about donating a prize for a logo contest in September 1983, she was more than happy to cooperate. So began the bond between Freddy and Carol. A woman of vision, she saw and understood the need for a womyns community magazine and has worked hard to help establish this for our community. Where Carol had a dream Freddy had experience. She began to teach Carol the things she needed to know to improve the publication. This improvement can be seen in our magazine today. Her unfailing support of AZULAO earned her the position of Vice President in May 1984.

Meeting Danny Villa gave her real insight into another need our community has. That need is to support our brothers who are suffering from Aids. She is working with Ken Nations to organize a Blood Drive in Houston. In this way lesbians can support their brothers by donating blood. Freddy is one of those rare womyn who try to bridge the gap between men and womyn in our community.

On the lighter side, Freddy enjoys football, video games, bowling, miniature golf, and trivia games that test her excellent recall.

AZULAO salutes Freddy for her outstanding contributions to our organization.

*This story was the compilation of stories told by Freddy's cousin Nita Broussard of San Antonio, Freddy's lover Dolores; and her friends Wendy Strain, Ken Nations, Audrey Rae, K.C., Becky, her co-worker Gary Hargett, and her boss Mike Reuter.



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Young Bravery

BY: *Aquarius* ☿



It was about 5:45 Thursday evening and Nickie was out on the porch in her hammock. Just across the street at the Stanford Square Condo, a burglary was taking place. To the surprise of the burglar, there was an eye witness. Nickie saw it all; the man broke the front patio door to get out, then jumped the fence, and fell down, hurting his shoulder in the fall. He got up and there was the kid, a thirteen year old, looking right at him and he at her. The burglar took off. Nickie came in and was telling us about it. We then called the police. They arrived here in about five minutes. The police talked with Nickie who gave them a complete description of the man and within the hour they had apprehended him. Two block's from the house, she saw him again as he was led into the police car. She was a brave little girl, but she got upset when she had to identify him. We would like to commend Nickie for her bravery. It is this type of heroism that helps make our community safe...August 23, 84.

Virginia M. Apuzzo

By: Carol Beverage

Virginia M. Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, took time out of her busy schedule to talk about the Aids issue and her personal views on our government and our community.

She felt there was both good news and bad news concerning the disease. One good aspect was the opportunity it has given her to talk about our health care problems, as a whole. She has never talked about Aids at the highest level of government and just left it at Aids. We are dying at the rate of 2,500 per year as the result of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. Our womyn are so ignored and misunderstood by the establishment that we don't even know the health care problems of the Lesbian community. She is trying to use Aids as a window of opportunity to expand the agenda, to get the government to examine the whole arena of our health care problems.

The bad news clearly being the disease and the physiological toll it is exacting from the community. It's tragic enough after living an entire life, to experience the loss of friendships, lovers and life partners. With Aids this is happening to very young people who have not anticipated that death would be a factor in their lives this early. Ginny feels that something is needed to re-engage us in the celebration of life. Not in a reckless hedonistic way but in touching our potential, our potency and power. Power in the sense of our own strength to effect our lives, positively. By opening a house in the community, by making government more responsive, by the love and care that physicians from our own community are exercising in caring for our sick. She is talking about the power of the human spirit. The burnout potential, for those involved with this aspect of our community is extraordinary; therefore, we as a community need to nurture, support, and be responsive. Remembering that there is hope. You cannot give up hope. You cannot allow the spirit of the person to give up on it's potential to affect it's life and the life of it's community. We can't succumb to this, the human spirit has the capacity to fight and to make of a terrible situation-a positive.

In May 1983, Ginny testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. She alleged that prior to that time the Federal Governments response had been dismal. She felt the request for grant proposals to initiate research were slow to get out, they were slow to request the grant proposals, they were cumbersome in evaluating them, and they were miserly in allocating funds to them in the course of that particular hearing. She admits that she is a biased observer. Her brothers are dying! Instead of calling people who aren't ill, the worried well, Ginny calls them the walking

Virginia M. Apuzzo

wounded. She feels that the attacks on a persons sexuality because of Aids is uncalled for. There is no reason to attack sexuality because of a disease that is the result of behavior. Heart disease is a result of behavior, cancer is a result of behavior, especially lung cancer. There are many diseases that kill people and we don't say that the activity has to be outlawed in order to deal with it.

Another area Ginny expressed strong views on was the arms race. Arms for peace is not her idea of making America strong. She wasn't speaking for NGTF, she was expressing her personal opinion. She stated that she would never be paid enough to give up her first amendment rights. She has trouble with a trillion dollar committment to arms. We treat our missles like they're children and our children like they're disposable hardware. There's something wrong with that. We lose 43,000 children a day to curable disease, most of it hunger. For a country thats so quick to talk about children, especially in the mythology about gay people, we can't teach, etc. (Ed. note- The public attitude that it is dangerous to allow gay people to be around children.) This posture that we care about children. How come we've never heard Jerry Farwell get on TV and say that fewer arms would make it possible to save some of those children. This administration seems to think that life begins at conception and ends at birth. The real need is to be concerned about life once it's here.

Ginny feels it's a horror that this administration has contributed to allowing an atmosphere where the likes of Jerry Farwell can take over the Republican Party. She laments the fact that the Jimmy Swaggarts, Pat Robinsons, and Oral Roberts are the only interpretation of good living people that the Republican Party has selected to be identified by. This identification has created an atmosphere in this country that has increased homophobia. When you say people aren't people, when you say they are horrible things, then you make it easy to push a guy off a bridge to drown. When you do that you are objectified. We as womyn know that the result of objectivication isn't that you call me a bad name and I get my feelings hurt. You call me a bad name enough and somebody's going to beat me up. Somebody's going to say I'm a second class citizen. Somebody's going to say my life isn't worth saving.

Back to the Aids issue and what could possibly be good about it. Ginny feels there are some real positives being brought to the fore with this crisis. The biggest positive to develop out of this is, the Blood Sister Project. In her capacity as Executive Director of the Fund for Human Dignity, she was able to bring this project to New York and encourage it to be replicated in other areas around the country. The Blood Sister Project started in San Diego. This is where the Lesbian community and Feminist stood up and donated blood on behalf of their brothers. This is one way the community can raise the issues in a positive way. She went to San Diego and spoke at a dinner where Barbara Vick and Faith

Virginia M. Apuzzo

A. Burkhardt, the womyn who started the Blood Sister Project, recieved awards. Ginny was so thrilled when they talked about the project, how everybody in the audience was so proud of what these womyn had done. There was so much love in the auditorium that night that she thought, we've got to export this. We've got to give this more attention so this good feeling of working and caring together can be spread.

Ginny feels that we don't have the luxury to not participate in politics. When society views you as a second class citizen, you have a responsibility to participate. A lot of men wanted to believe what we all wanted to believe. You go out, your a good citizen in the community, you do a good job, you do the best you can; and this is the land of the free and the home of the brave. Once they find out that your part of the group that they are trying to push aside, that your a second class citizen, you put your clothes on and they say "Oh, your a homosexual - second class - minus five - forget it! When gay men looked at what government was willing not to do, when it became a matter of life and death, they came to understand what we as womyn were trying to say. That we must be vigilant where politics are concerned we can't take anything for granted. We can't just assume that this country provides LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

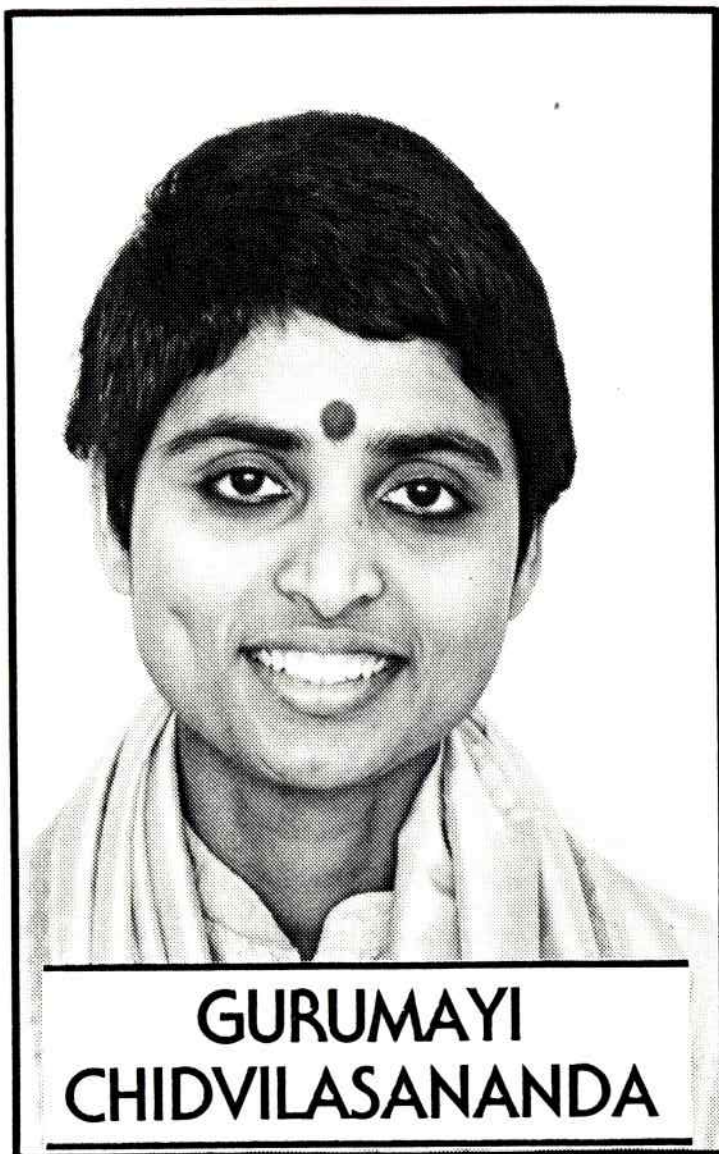


CHURCH OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

On Sunday, August 26, hardly anyone attended service at Church of Christian Faith, not even the pastor. Why? Because most of us spent the weekend at Golden Triangle Church of Christian Faith in Beaumont. We were invited to help celebrate their third annual charter banquet. For those who don't know, "charter" is the State of Texas's recognition as an official church. Golden Triangle Church of Christian Faith or GTCCF is the only church with a gay outreach in the Golden Triangle area. Founded by Rev. Cindy Newvillage, formerly of CCF Houston, GTCCF is a growing Christian church that provides worship, teaching, and fellowship for gay Christians.

Showing their usual hospitality, Saturday, they served homemade gumbo and chili which was followed by entertainment. On Sunday morning, Rev. Jeanne Leggett of Houston delivered the sermon.

Our churches have shared as family through the years and are looking forward to many more. Thanks again, Beaumont.



GURUMAYI CHIDVILASANANDA

AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMYN
by: Alice B. Hepinstall

I want to tell you about an extraordinary womyn that has helped me to find myself as a person and the happiness that exist within.

Her name is Gurumayi Chidvilasananda. She was born in India twenty-nine years ago and is a world renowned meditation Master.

What's most important, about this womyn, is that she gives me the deepest experience of my true self; that person inside me that doesn't need approval from anyone, strokes from my ego, or a therapist's counseling to be totally content. Because she has taught me to find this experience of inner satisfaction and happiness, I am thoroughly devoted to her and her teachings.

In 1981, when I first heard of this, I thought it farfetched and out of my reach. Happiness!? I was too concerned with the world's atrocities, feminist struggles, and my own inadequacies to believe that there was an inner part of me that was content and happy. Moreover, I was told that my essence of Being is Divine and that all I have to do is sit down and meditate to understand my own true value. I thought, "Whatever happened to original sin?". Once again I was told the only mistake we've made, as human beings, is that we've forgotten our own true nature - we've lost sight of our divinity. After hearing this my doubts finally quieted and I began to meditate.

In the past three years I've begun to experience and understand my value as a human being and to see that there is a fountain of bliss inside that makes me ecstatic whenever I tap into it.

Gurumayi's Teaching is: "Love, Honor, and Respect your own Self; God dwells within you as you." In other words, all that we are, all that we need, and all that we are looking for is already inside just waiting for the moment when we re-discover the treasures we each possess. There is nothing that exists without love and we must look into our own hearts to find happiness.

Gurumayi Chidvilasananda came to Houston in August and reopened the Siddha Meditation Center and said she would return in February for 3 to 6 weeks to give evening talks and hold week-end workshops. The workshops are designed to give us a look at our inner Self and to awaken our meditative energy. Whether you come to feel good, to listen, or to just sit and be with the most extraordinary womyn I've ever seen, an evening with Gurumayi is thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile.



Photo courtesy of Susan Clements.

Gurumayi Chidvilasananda

By: Carol Beverage

Who is Gurumayi Chidvilasananda? She is one of two current masters of the ancient Siddha tradition. She and her brother were appointed successors to Swami Muktananda in May of 1982. The proper name for a successor is Guru which means teacher. A Guru can actually be anything that teaches you; in a sense, the whole world is your Guru. Gurumayi and her brother are Swami Muktananda's only successors. It is a tremendous honor to be appointed a successor. It's like being appointed as pope in the Catholic Church.

Siddha Yoga is not something that is preached like most religions, it's a practice. A state of inner experience that is whole and unified. It goes beyond religions. In a sense it is the essence of all religions. One of the worries people seem to have about Siddha Yoga is the fear about whether it will conflict with their religion. Muktananda answered this by asking if they gave up their religion when they went to sleep? Meditation is a state beyond the state of sleep - so - if you don't give up your religion when you go to sleep, then why should you have to give up your religion to achieve this state beyond the state of sleep. You should meditate on yourself and that bliss and joy that you envision as being attributes of God are also within you. Meditation improves your spiritual approach to life. It improves yourself and puts you in touch with all that you are.

Siddha Yoga makes you better physically, emotionally and mentally. Many people have that experience of improvement in their physical well being also. It happens as you let go of a lot of negative stuff about yourself. It is gradual and natural. You can have in your mind a lot of good precepts but if you don't live them, if you don't experience them, it doesn't do any good for you or anybody else. In fact, you can even use those concepts in a way that is damaging.

So, who is Gurumayi Chidvilasananda? Her followers believe she is a woman who is so aware and so knowledgeable, that she can teach all of this by her mere presence.

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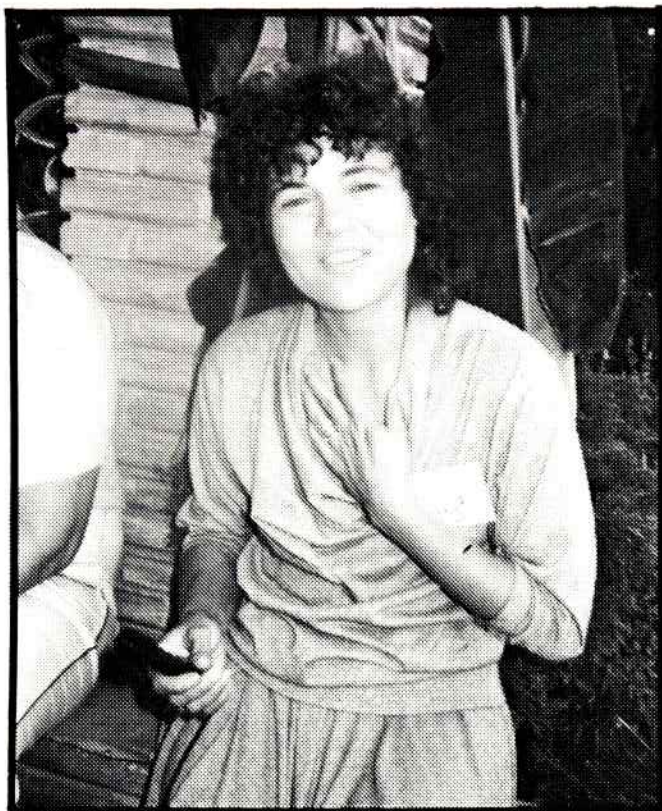


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MEG CHRISTIAN - feminist singer,
songwriter, guitarist and autoharpist.

Photo courtesy of Susan Clements.


Meg Christian

CB: How long have you been studying with Gurumaya?

MEG: I met her a little over two years ago. I had bought a book called I Don't Know Where I'm Going, But I Sure Ain't Lost, by a guy named Jess Lair, and had started meditating. I was in a fairly poor state of mind at the time. I'd just broken up with somebody. This book taught the Siddha Yoga technique of meditation. With Siddha Yoga you take a focusing device called a mantra, which is a series of words that has been used for centuries by people who meditate. They help still your mind and get you in touch with your inner self. In a very short period of time I felt a difference in my life. I felt more joyful, more peaceful, happier, less upset by little things that happened. It was quite extraordinary! I went on tour, and had a good time. I didn't get irritated by all the little things that go wrong. I began to feel that this was really powerful. I decided to check it out a little bit more. When I got off tour, I went to Oakland where I live and went to the Ashram there, which is like a meditation center. I went through some of the chants and I really liked them. It was all totally weird to me, I'd never done anything like this before. The chants were all in Sanskrit. It was strange, but whenever I left, I felt so good! Then I had an opportunity to meet Gurumaya. As soon as I met her I felt a very deep loving connection with her. It seemed clear that she was going to be my guide.

CB: Does this mean that you're giving up your music?

MEG: This practice of Siddha Yoga is intended for us to live more joyfully and fully in the world. The point of this is not to go off and live in a cave somewhere. The point is to do whatever it is we do with joy and strength and increased efficiency no matter what it is. During the time I have been meditating and studying with her, I have felt so much of a change in my music, in my whole feeling about my work. I feel like my music has come from a much more joyful, true place inside me. I talked all my life about wanting to be free but I didn't really know what that meant. I thought it meant, let's change a bunch of laws that are unjust. Let's try to create an alternative society that allows us to dress the way we want to dress, love who we want to love, work where we want to work. I lived in an almost entirely womyns community for years and was still unhappy in a lot of ways. Until I started realizing that, if I was going to be really happy and free inside, I had to change inside me first.



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Meg Christian

I couldn't keep waiting until somehow the world changed before I could be at peace with myself and feel whole. Practicing Siddha Meditation, and being with Gurumaya, has given me a conscious internal experience of those words that we have always talked about, of what freedom really means, of what my own true self, my own true power is. Once you feel that, there is nothing like it!

CB: Do you have plans for releasing another album?

MEG: I have absolutely no plans. First I'm going to take my sabbatical and I'm going to travel with her for awhile, then we'll see. My last album, From the Heart was dedicated to her. A number of the songs on the album were written for her about my experience with meditation and of being with her.

CB: How long will this tour last? Are you going back to Oakland?

MEG: No, I'm going back to India with her.

CB: How long will you be in India?

MEG: I want to stay with her for awhile now. I really want to get into this. The more I'm around her the better I feel.

CB: What does Gurumaya actually do?

MEG: What she does is, she opens your heart. When you're around her you experience your own love inside. They say people don't give us love. We've got all the love we need inside us, but we don't know it. When you see a puppy you feel this good feeling inside, that puppy didn't do a damn thing! That puppy just lay there. What you feel is your own love. You have everything you need inside of you. Someone like Gurumaya experiences her own true self every moment. She has been practicing meditation and studying with her guru, for so long that she now feels that joy and that personal power all the time in her life. She is the role model I have always looked for as a woman. She is absolutely, utterly, aware of her power, of her potential, she is completely happy. She has offered her life to help us to be really free.

CB: Does this conflict with your interest in the womyns movement?

MEG: What's so exciting to me is that the womyns movement has always had such a strong spiritual component in it.

Meg Christian

I think that's one of the most beautiful and unique things about the womyns movement...is that it's always had that strong spiritual element about it. We started by learning to change ourselves and we learn to love ourselves and respect ourselves. Then we go out and we can make change in the world. But first we start here. We love ourselves and we learn to love and respect our planet. Because ultimately we want a world where the qualities of compassion and caring, support, and choice are available to everyone. There have been phases in my life as a political activist in which I thought the spiritual stuff was a waste of time. I'm sure you've heard this or maybe even thought that it was irrelevant, that you only did it when you weren't doing some political organizing. I almost burned out behind that kind of attitude. I realized that we're talking about changing everything! I've been involved in the womyns movement since 1969. I am still a long way from my goal of feeling utterly free and confident and whole. But, I'm feeling so much more who I really am. I'm feeling that strength and that freedom so much more than ever now. That's why I'm so excited Gurumaya is alive in this world. The word guru has gotten such terrible press, we all have our stereotyped ideas of what a guru is, most of it negative. But, look at her, she has nothing to offer us except our own experience of our own freedom. The word guru means teacher. It means leading from darkness into light. Of course, it matters a lot to me that she's a woman. There have been other female gurus, most have remained hidden. She has been sent out into the world and I don't think it's any coincidence that she's being sent out at a time like this. I went to the 10th Annual Womyn's Music Festival in Bloomington in May and was going to do a workshop on incorporating spirituality into our lives. There were about fifty workshops and I think every other workshop was about spirituality, healing, recovery from alcohol, drugs, and various addictions. I believe the womyns movement is getting back on our true track, which is to incorporate all the parts of ourselves, the political, emotional, the physical, the spiritual. That's going to give us the sense of wholeness that we have always fought for and yearned for.

CB: I'm glad you brought up the music festival because I just attended my first one, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. I'm trying to write an article about it and it seems to be beyond words. Have you ever attended the Michigan Festival?

MEG: Yes, several times.

CB: What's your reaction to it, maybe that'll help me.

Meg Christian

MEG: You know... I don't think we have to find words. I think it's important to say that it's beyond words. When we come together like that and feel that deep amount of joy and validation and support, we experience some sense of ourselves. The guru talks about feeling the self, the inner self. When you're around people who are really loving and you're in good company, you feel your best self. You're most self loving, your most self-worth. We experience that at times like the festivals, when we come together and there's so much sense of "mutual okayness" joy and celebration of who we are. It's just another form of what the guru is talking about. It does go beyond words! Who needs words? Words are for the brain. Words are for the recorder part, that's not the experience, that's after the experience. It's that deep feeling of joy that I wouldn't mind having every moment of my life. Because I realize that you can feel joy and fight oppression. Isn't that an astonishing idea? I used to think you had to be miserable and suffer in order to help save the world. But they say, a drowning person can't save another drowning person. We've gotta get well for Christ's sake! We have all been wounded, have suffered, it's not just us. I've been discovering that every human being has a sense of emptiness, of loss. It acts out in different ways. Sometimes we act it out by hurting other people, or by oppressing other people. Most of the time we act it out by hurting ourselves, hating ourselves, denying ourselves who we really are. The guru flushes all that out with love pure and simple.

CB: We're really glad to have had the chance to meet you and thank you for the interview.

MEG: I'd like to thank you for coming today.



AZULAO photographer Susan Clements and Meg Christian.

Dear Share-in

Dear Share-In

I am the mother of a 2 year old boy. I have a lover that doesn't really care to have anything to do with him? How can I get them to become friends at least?

Torn

Dear Torn,

is the relationship between your lover and your son detrimental for your son? If it isn't then realize that you have two separate relationships and leave it at that. If it is then let your lover know that the bond between mother and child is of primary importance and base your decision on that.

Dear Share-In

The reason I'm writing to a lesbian publication is because my daughter recently volunteered the information that she is a lesbian. We were stunned since we had no inkling of this. After many discussions and correspondence on the subject, she flatly refused any form of counseling and says that she's happy the way she is. What can we do to understand her?

Worried Parents

Dear Worried,

There is a wonderful woman in Houston named Freda Jerrell. She heads an organization called "Family and Friends of Gays." This is an organization made up of people who have found that someone they love is gay. This is a place where you can find many answers to the questions that you have, and meet other people who have had to face similar situations. You may write her at: 1720 Moritz # 24, Hou. Tx 77055. Remember your daughter is the same woman today that she was before she chose to share the information that she is a lesbian.

Curious Wine BY Katherine V. Forrest

When a group of womyn gather in a cabin at Lake Tahoe, anything can happen. Diana Holland has been attracted to men as long as she can remember. Lane Christiansen has been going with men to forget a first love (a woman). The two womyn room together in the cabin upstairs, and at night fireworks sizzle with the heat of potential romance. Lane asks Diana to wait a month to see if she really loves Lane before they get together permanently. Pow! Fireworks explode with a happy ending.

Well-written and very detailed, this book is set in the late seventies with the appropriate conservation apparent. Be sure to read Curious Wine and the author's newest book Daughters of a Coral Dawn. They are both excellent.

Reviewed by Sara Lindley

Sapphist

Time holds no end-
peoples souls like grains of sand
tossed in an endless wind.

I have learned many peoples beliefs
but who can prove there is Right or Wrong?
This artists mind is constantly confused
with choices I didn't choose.

I saw you as the one
who would make no rules.
I selected a fine black felt pen
to trace you in leather.
Satin was one night,
silk finger tipped brushes stroked
the face of the moon.

I wanted so to offer
fresh canvas and paints,
colors you would never share again.
Reasons built your frame.
The canvas your life was painted on
was covered.

The artist remains unknown.
Did time ever begin?

Paula Beverage

every picture i've seen of her
portrays her strength and greatness
captured by the cameras eyes
wonder if the people taking
all these photographs
saw the things i see
i wonder did they see a spirit
more ancient than the dawn
pretending to be a child
i wonder have they read
the destiny in her eyes
the simple honesty of her
carriage and stance
the wisdom and kindness of
her gentle expression
or the depth and intensity
written on her face
the attraction of her glance
standing with the class
posed but not quite ready
unaware of her secret
but unable to hide it
pictures say nothing,
but have much to tell
hers tell a story that
sweeps me into tomorrow
to view today from there
in the form of history

Barbara Greer

This woman
can shatter
my heart
with a non-look
or
leave me breathless
and time
standing still
just by
holding me
with her eyes!

Carol Beverage



Yes, I did run;
I ran for my life,
I ran for my health.
It wasn't a marathon
--I ran away.
I don't have an excuse
and don't need one
for myself
--why should you?
I ran to heal myself
far away to the country;
far away where the corn grows,
the sun glistens,
and you can see
the stars at night
--bright,
without the city lights.

Julie Bernacchi

Erotica

you've asked me to share with you
the nature of my fantasies
so i guess i will - i mean
its only fair, you inspire them
first let me say you're every woman
i have ever loved
in your eyes i see reflections of my own past
memories, dreams realities emotions
once only half fulfilled
you nurture to fruition every seed
in your eyes i see the faces
of many womyn i have known
and yet a spirit stronger than them all
binds them as one.
then let me tell you, you should know
i see you as a woman sage
a sorceress enchanting the frozen depths to life
calling forth the dragons breath the ancient mist
creating all the magic that
unfearing spirits crave
yet leaving mysteries enuf
to quench a playful mind
and i might as well confess this too
that you are the Goddess manifest
incarnate in your woman flesh
that forceful soul just barely hidden
by the birth you've taken
how is it no one else has noticed you
for what you are
and oh i feel such strange elation
at the star designed good fortune
that is mine because of you
and you should know
that these things i fantasize
aren't only true in metaphor
but these are my reality
just as you are my destiny

Barbara Greer

your true loves a living legend
mine a fantasy
yours an easier pretend
a possibility
mine unlikely to the last
for seen with subtle eye
they are but visions from the past
and time has passed us by
yet will i share dreams with you
and follow each one out
for those of mine which could be true
you've seemed to bring about

Barbara Greer

When did I forget
how to pick up my pen
and show you the sun
glistening across the rising corn
at dawn?
When did I forget
how to pick up my colors
and paint you the moon-filled sky?
When did I forget
how to laugh and dance,
to live and love,
to be me?
When?

Julie Bernacchi

I've made
my own path
following
no ones
example
knowing what
I needed for
HAPPINESS
it's not
that I've had
no offers
but I'm
waiting
for someone
special
I don't
give my heart,
lightly.

Carol Beverage

Dare I write?
I haven't
for so long!
How could I
let myself know
how painful
your absense
has been.
Once on paper
like a brand
it lives forever
to be relived
time after time.

Carol Beverage



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GOOD LUCK

AZULÃO



*I want to wish the womyn
I've known a good future
love to everyone*

*To those people that I've known
personally, that I will not be
able to see before closing
I will miss you
I thank you*

*To a person I've never met
but would like to do so
Marion Coleman
I wish you luck*

Paul R. Thompson

Sapphist

these hands are the hands
that don gloves each day
to go about their task
these are the hands of a worker
these hands as well
give life to thoughts and feelings
immortalizing them with ink and pen
these are the hands of a poet
these hands are also those
that gently touch my own
convey unspoken points of view
thru the way in which they touch
they say "i'm open to you
and i want to explore
and discover you"
these are the hands of a woman
these lips are the lips
that spend much time at rest
taking it all in
for future reference
these are the lips of a thinker
these lips as well
give force to ideals
in living words
that swell with ancient wisdom
these are the lips of a leader
these lips are also those
that caress me with a smile a touch
that silently pressed against my own
declare "i want to know you
i want to take you in and feel
you as a part of me"
these are the lips of a woman
these eyes are the eyes
that never close
even when it hurts not to
still they bear true witness
these are the eyes of a saint
these eyes as well
cut thru the image of reality
as it stands
with fiery glance declare it a mirage
with dream-like unhindered foresight
visualize the tomorrow that must be
these are the eyes of a seer
these eyes are also those
that peer deeply into mine
touching every level of my being
kindling at each a flame
that so gently hold me captive
while tacitly proclaiming:
"we are one, i feel you
in my heart, your eyes tell me
that you feel me there, in yours"
these are the eyes of a woman
and these eyes are so deep
that gazing into them
i fear i may fall in
these are the eyes of a lover

Barbara Greer

you call me a witch
and say that i must teach you
but daily at your side
i learn so much from you
you are a lesson in freedom
and total independance
what i know from books
you know by intuition
oh, wise woman
it is you that must teach me
teach me patience and calm
and serenity in selfhood
and a sense of absurdity
if i am a witch
you bring it out

Barbara Greer

It's time now
I've been
patient
long enough!
I can't
live any longer,
without
holding you
with my
eyes.

Carol Beverage

DAY BREAK

*The mystifying sunlight,
the radiance she unloads,
The never ceasing toils of life,
the constant winding roads.
A new day breaking upon us all,
our fields are damp with dew.
The infinite choice of destinies,
by the swift, the strong, and the few.
Living to yet strive on,
to dream on, yet pursue.
A new day breaks upon us all,
sunlight dries the dew.*

Veronica Crawford

Érotica

Our friendship
dead and buried
long gone
haunts me.
Reading old thank you's
I can't sleep.
My heart
reaches out
for the phone,
stops.
My hands hold
a yellowed letter
--refused
--return to sender.
Friendship;
so fragile
so tender
and now it's gone.
Why?

Julie Bernacchi

A ll we have is a
Z est for life, an
U nderstanding that people need people, to
L isten, to learn from, to love.
A nswers come slowly, but come they do,
O nly time, patience, and good
friends will see you through



lucky are the children
who are raised by you
you may see only two
i see many more
all of them tended
like rare orchids, all of them
left to their element
allowed their selfhood
freedom freely given
like rain
acceptance, total and unconditional
of what each one
has to be or needs to go through
yeah lucky are the children
who are raised by you
for on their heads
lies the shadow of tomorrow
but they have been raised
with knowledge of love
and light

Barbara Greer

one is great, whose dreams are
laughed uneasily away
called fantasy even by friends
one is greater still, whose reality
is doubted, questioned
enviously by those who prefer
to think it a dream
are there none who truly, have loved?
who have felt the promise
of tomorrow unspoken
and not a threatening echo?
how can such as these conceive
a dream of common freedom
if its beyond them to perceive
the reality of a lasting love.
one not forced by oath
but allowed by each
one not ruled by roles
but uninhibited by rules
one where the vows exchanged
are unspoken symphonies
heard with the eyes
and the promises made
are never broken
and never told

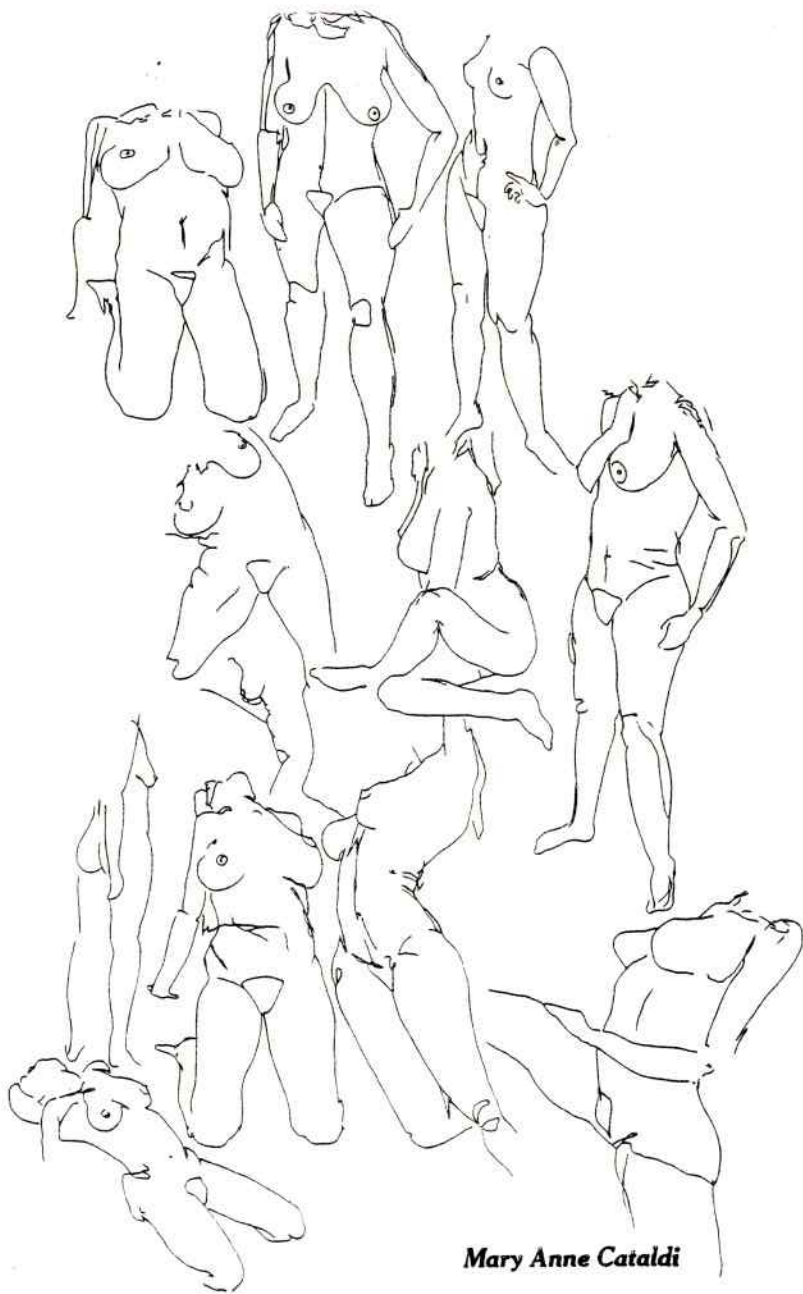
Barbara Greer

Light sparkles across the depths
a path between the moon and I,
soft gentle waves that call me
some nights.
Dancing glitter, blue and silver
Reflections of the sea;
Moon Woman whispering,
"Join me."

Julie Bernacchi

If you
don't
hurry back
I'll be forced
to track you down
you forgot
your roses
and my
heart!

Carol Beverage



Mary Anne Cataldi



FESTIVAL WRITE-UP

by: *SIMONE*

The Ninth Annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival has completed another successful year and I was fortunate enough to be able to participate. I had a very enjoyable time and am now experiencing PFRE - Post Festival Re-entry Syndrome: making the psychological, emotional, social, spiritual, and political re-adjustment to what Alex Dobkin calls "THE FAKE WORLD". It was just as hard to adjust to a culture that I was not familiar with just as it is to re-adjust to a culture that I am accustomed to.

There was lots of energy to give and to receive as I found out by participating in several of the events that were sponsored by the Festival. In one area, the massage tent, I put in a 6 hour shift in which I also received ideas to better my technique.

One incident that occurred that I felt to be an experience was a group of clothed and naked womyn dancing out to form a circle around the "Goddess" (a carving in a tree, that overlooks the festival grounds, where womyn leave small sacrifices). A witch, in a head-dress with flowing ribbons, ran up bearing a banner that read "Expect A Miracle", upon which we started chanting and doing the spiral dance. As the dance wound in and out womyn began to share their unity by kissing each other. Ten years ago I came out as a Lesbian, but, that night, I came out as a witch.

Before, when anyone asked me, I would say, "I'm no more qualified to be a witch than I am to be a surgeon." As told to me, by a witch that I had met there, "It's not the same, you already are a witch!" She then explained to me that the "Goddess" is a metaphor of Earth, Mother Nature, and the creative spirit in all of us. It works for a healthy change in the world "Here and Now". A witch is a wise and healing womyn.

I am looking forward to next year's festival and the new experiences that I hope to encounter then.

THE 9TH
MICHIGAN WOMYN'S
MUSIC FESTIVAL
AUGUST 9-12, 1984



By: Georgeanne Greene

Finally arriving at the Michigan Womyn's Festival was like stepping into another time. I felt an overpowering release. I'd left the confusion and turmoil of everyday life and found myself in a womlike place: basic, supportive, and warm. "The Land", the affectionate term used for the Womyns space, was beautiful. Carol Beverage and myself started our adventure at a Houston truck stop. (yes, we hitchhiked) Although, we had good luck and a safe trip, I did experience culture shock. I found truck drivers to be a different animal (and I mean animal!) than I was accustomed to. It made my transition and experience at the festival much more appreciated. The Festival gave me the opportunity to grow and be empowered. There was continual womyns music, (Chris Williamson, Tret Fury, Ferron, Mary Watkins, and Alix Dobkin, just to name a few) workshops, and lots of co-operative sharing of ideas and workshifts. Some of the workshops I participated in were "Mothering Without Birthing", "Joys of Sharing/Sharing Anger", "Communicating Love in a Relationship", and "Protective Behavior/Anti-Victim Training". It was difficult for me when Monday arrived and we had to go home to the reality of our lives in the "Real World", but I can say that because of the experience I'm stronger and noticeably more aware. No womyn should deny themselves the experience of the Michigan Womyns Festival. Get there anyway you can, WE DID!



We made new friends. What is this rumor about a "GEORGIA PEACH!"

A-cut-above
ENGRAVERS

A-CUT-ABOVE ENGRAVERS

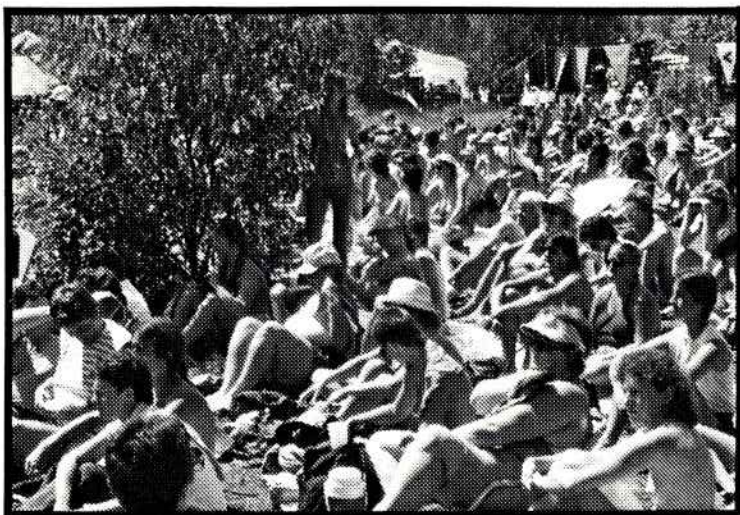
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Another way of communicating.



Who is that hiding in the shadow of the tree?

THE 9TH
MICHIGAN WOMYN'S
MUSIC FESTIVAL
AUGUST 9-12, 1984



So...we've got a womyn's magazine started. Operating on a budget so tight we logically shouldn't even be in operation! To add to this already strained situation the extermination company I worked for went out of business. Our publication was about to go down the tubes, right? Only if you believe in doing things logically! That's an area that AZULAO has yet to explore. Being totally idealistic and operating on faith was nothing new to our organization. But, sharing the financial burden with the womyn who support AZULAO was a new experiment. The womyn in the community rose to the occasion with some of the most enthusiastic supporters moving in to cover the basic cost of keeping our open house "open". Then the adjustments began of womyn learning to live with each other under crowded conditions. This required real dedication for a cause! Add one more ingredient to make sure, enough tension was in the air. This last item was how to get to the MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL.

This was the hottest "Happening" in the womyns community at that time. How could we claim to be a womyns community magazine and not cover this event? Odds kept piling up against us. As the time drew near one catastrophe struck after another. Jobs didn't pay as expected, cars broke down, womyn changed their minds about almost everything, rent was behind, lovers fought - mass confusion! No money, no car, to get to Michigan. We dropped our already low advertising rates in an effort to create funds. Randall Stein of the Therapeutic & Forensic Hypnosis Institute in Montrose was the only business that took advantage of our special rates. This left us with only half the funds we needed for entry fees to the festival. In desperation, womyn broke into their piggy banks, or searched through their purses for bills they might have tucked away and forgotten. Two days before the festival opened, we raised the two hundred dollar entry fees and two hardy souls stuck out their thumbs with determination to get the Michigan story.

Billie Duncan, editor of the Montrose Voice, loaned us a camera so we could get pictures of this event. Billie has always been helpful and supportive of our organization. She is a beautiful example of the womon-spirit of supporting and networking we are trying to help establish in our community.

We started our trip at the 76 Truck Stop just north of Houston. Being an ex-truck driver, I'm aware of the compassion these rough, rowdy types can display in times of need. Wishing to avoid the sexual overtures and harassment for which they are notorious, we fabricated a tale that would bring tears to a macho man's eyes.

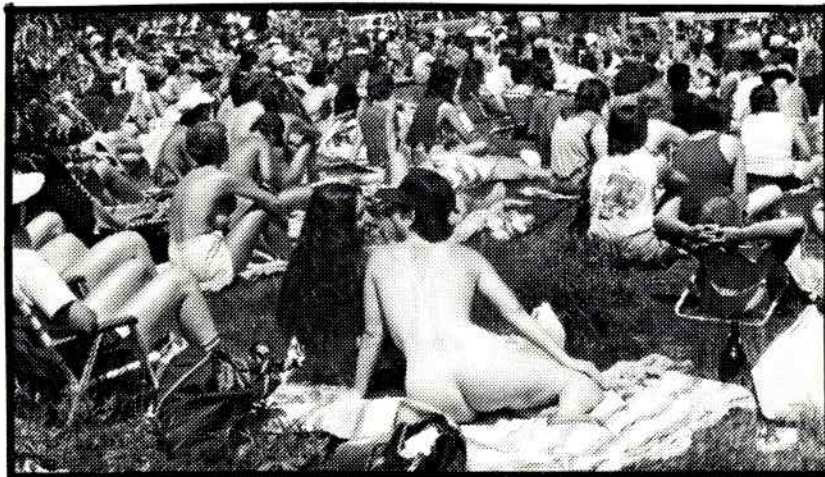
We caught a ride with a driver whose CB handle was "Slow and Easy". He was headed for Springfield, Missouri. A little out of the way but, we decided it was the best offer we'd had. We took it.

Just outside of Dallas we stopped to eat. A driver I ran with in my trucking days was in the cafe. He wanted to

THE 9TH
MICHIGAN WOMYN'S
MUSIC FESTIVAL
AUGUST 9-12, 1984



The cooks had a hot job.



A tender moment midst the crowd.

know what we were doing hitching. I could not help myself, I asked if he wanted to know the truth or what we had been telling everybody. So the truth came out. "Slow and Easy" was shocked but, handled it. He even let me drive when he got sleepy. Naturally, that was one of the highlights of our trip for me.

In Springfield, Georgeanne had her first experience of sexual harrassment when a driver told her he'd give her a ride, but she'd have to leave her girlfriend behind. She was enraged!

A salesman for YELLOW (a truck company) carried us to Lebanon, about forty miles down the road. His questions were rather obvious. Indicating that "Slow and Easy" had been doing some talking. Fortunately, he was a perfect gentleman and was simply being curious about us. When we exited his car we forgot one of our bags. Within fifteen minutes he drove back to return the bag!

The closer we got to our destination, the worse our rides got. We rode for hours in a truck with no sleeper, so crowded we had to sit in each others lap(almost). The only way out of this misery was to sleep! I guess the driver got tired of watching us sleep all over each other, because he let us out at a roadside park in the middle of Buma-Fudge-Vado. Where's Vado? We didn't know either! Not much traffic, and who was going to pick up two hitchhikers in the middle of no-where, at night? Who else, but a brother. He didn't say so, but his immaculate "Autocar" and his manner of relating tall tales of naked womyn, told us all we needed to know.

On the side of the road again in Muskegon, Michigan, I made the mistake of writing "Music Festival" on a poster, trying to find a sister. Instead, we found a state trooper! Obviously, he had heard of the music festival, too. I received a ticket for hitchhiking. I noticed what looked like blood splattered on his headlight and decided not to ask how come Georgeanne didn't get a ticket, too!

He told us to turn around and walk back to the last ramp to get off the highway. Of course, we proceeded forwards towards the festival, praying for a sister to pick us up. He drove back by, shook his finger at us, and I just knew he was going to come back to haul us to jail.

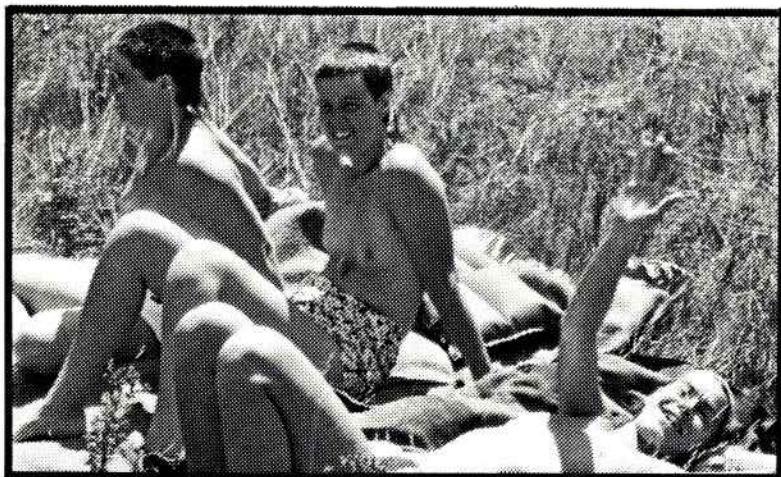
Fortunately, we caught another ride. These guys were so obliging that they were going to take us exactly where we needed to go. We kept looking for sisters, though, because we didn't want to lead them too close to the festival. When they stopped for gas, we spotted our sisters, finally!

Mary Ann of Minneapolis and Helen of Maiden Rock, Wisconsin rescued us. When we pulled back on the highway, another car was letting a sister out by the roadside. Another rescue. This was how we met Ginny from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

At last we arrived at the festival. We went through orientation, which took forever, and came out more confused than ever. We picked a camping spot on the map which looked close to everything. The map was not accurate. My feet will



The showers were ice cold!



Margo Shelton, Heidi McMunn, Cindy Schuette.



Womyn set up shop to earn extra money.



tell you it was miles away from everything! Neither of us knew anything about camping. We brought one sleeping bag, one blanket, (we nearly froze at night!) no eating utensils, and no coffee! Talk about not being prepared! No tent of course, so we headed for the community tent.

After two days of hitchhiking the first thing we needed was a shower. In the distance we could make out the figures of half-clad and naked womyn, who were busy with campfires, setting up tents or hauling water. Most of them wore little or no clothing. We became self conscious of our fully clothed bodies. We felt that womyn would notice us because we were dressed. There were no curious stares, only a few casual hellos and smiles as we passed. After the initial shock began to fade, we started to exchange thoughts in half-guarded whispers.

"I don't believe it!"

"Me neither. Fat womyn, big womyn, why, I'd never!"

"This is incredible!"

"I thought I was a feminist, but..."

"Yeah, I thought I was liberated but, I'll never be this liberated!"

"Me neither".

We walked on, noticing how the womyn passed, unselfconsciously, totally unaware of the shock we were experiencing. I felt like a tourist or a kid in a candy shop - with no money of course. With thoughts racing around my head like cars at a race track we came upon the showers. Hordes of naked womyn! No private showers! How could they? How could we? However, we had been hitchhiking for two days, and I desperately needed a shower. Suddenly the question of taking a shower manifested all kinds of problems I never imagined could be. It wasn't this bad in my gym class. At least I had a corner I could go hide in during those showers.

I became aware of the sweat covering me. I was too dirty to wait till dark. We decided to go for it. I fumbled with my things by the fence post trying to work my nerve up. I dived under the showers only to jump back out quicker than I had gone in. What kind of torture was this? Liquid ice! Never had I experienced anything this cold. The only thing that forced me back under that water was my embarrassment at being totally nude, surrounded by all those womyn. I wanted to get away from there as fast as possible.

After my shower was finished the air hitting my body felt so pleasant I was almost tempted to let nature dry me. After all nobody seemed to be paying attention to me. I looked at Georgeanne. She looked at me. It almost seemed foolish to put my clothes on. I mumbled this to her. She agreed but, habit, upbringing, inhibitions, whatever, got the best of us and we donned our clothes and set out to investigate further.

So many things were happening. How could anybody decide what they wanted to do? From Thursday, August 9th til Sunday, August 12th there were over 120 workshops to choose from. Almost every subject you could dream of was covered from Healing Through Artmaking, Communicating Love in a Relationship, Raised

Poor and Raised Working-class Womyn, and womyn gatherings: Hastening the Post Patriarchal Feminist Age. This being the case I naturally headed for the day stage to absorb some womyn's music. The music was so fine. I became totally lost in it. Every emotion was pulled as if by a puppeteer. I became so engrossed I lost all track of time. Somewhere during this, Georgeanne and I went different directions. And, I spent my time falling in love! I fell in love with Kate Clinton, Chris Williamson, Alix Dobkin, Casselberry and Dupree, Tret Fure, Barbara Higbie, Mary Watkins. I could go on and on. The lighting, the atmosphere, the music all seemed out of this world. I thought I had died and went to the island of Lesbos! I found it interesting to see almost no distinctions between femme and butch until the patriarchal clothes were put on. Surrounded by four thousand five hundred womyn all in comfortable stages of nature attire. Yes, this had to be the Island of Lesbos!

One stroke of luck occurred when Gayle Marie walked by while we were talking about our magazine to Cindy of Houston. Gayle Marie recognized our magazine. She sat down to chat with us. She recognized the Fargo st. address. Will miracles ever cease? But then, the festival is a miracle.

Since several of our dear friends and supporters have moved to various parts of the country. We've decided to make the festival our official "Family Reunion". Start saving your money now, because we will be there next year!

Obviously, we made it home safely or you wouldn't be reading this story. Roxanne Daumas and Alice Evergreen picked us up at the gate of the festival and dropped us off at our door.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for all their contributions. Because, without their support, this story would not have been possible.

THANKS,
Carol for AZULAO



A VICTORIOUS RETURN!

REV. GRACIE LEE

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**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

7:00 P.M.



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WE WANT THE MUSIC COOPERATIVE
Producers of the Michigan Women's Music Festival
 1501 LYONS STREET, MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
 (517) 772-0582



10/18/84

Dear Carol,

I want to thank you for sending us the article you wrote about the festival, and for all of your words of support, feedback & suggestions. It's a large part of what makes the festival work - the input from all of the various womyn who attend.

I really enjoyed reading your article and I appreciate your sending us a copy. So often articles are written about the festival and we do not hear of them until it is too late to be able to get a copy of the article. And of course, we're not in the position to subscribe to all of the various womyn's a gay papers around the country.

We're already psyched about the upcoming 10 year anniversary, and plans are underway. Dates have been set for August 8-11. Do pass the word, and I hope you can make it back!

In Sisterhood,

Lisa Vogel
 Lisa Vogel
 WWTMC



SO FORTUNATE, SO YOUNG!

WEIGHTLIFTING CLASSES

AZULAO is sponsoring womyns weightlifting. For beginners and experienced womyn. From athletes to amateurs.

ANY WOMON CAN JOIN

One hour sessions weekly
 Everyone works according to their body strength and flexibility. INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE.

Classes consist of fifteen minute stretches and warm up exercises. Weights and a bench are provided. Thirty minute work out with weights. Individual progress sheets will be kept.

JACUZZI AND SWIMMING POOL available for relaxation after class. Classes will be held EVERY SUNDAY at 5:00pm at:
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Instructor * BRENDA CREDILLE

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 Opens Jan. 4th at
 Theatre Suburbia
 1410 W. 43rd
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 to run 5 weeks
 Starring:
 Rebecca Lane
 as Belinda McDonald
 Mike Kelley
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 as Mrs. McKee
 Mike Kelley and Audrey
 Rae appeared in Street
Theatre at the Pink
 Elephant.

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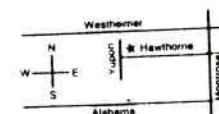
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WOMEN'S CUTS \$16.
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 PERMS from \$45.
 (includes cut & finish)
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OPEN EVENINGS

APPOINTMENTS
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FREE
 MATRIX shampoo with
 any service (with this ad)

U.S. HAS FERRARO - INDIA HAS GANDHI

By: B. Freeman

Ripples are not only being felt on the home front (what with Ferraro being Mondale's running mate); but waves are also being formed in India in regard to womyn and politics, and all due to a twenty-seven year-old woman by the name of Moneka Gandhi.

India is ruled under the Nehru dynasty, which began with India's first prime minister Jawahardal Nehru. Up until his death in a plane accident in June, 1980, thirty-three-year-old Sanjoy Gandhi (son of the current Prime Minister--Indira Gandhi) held a seat in Parliament and was regarded as his mother's successor for prime minister. Rajin Gandhi was Sanjoy's brother, and he currently runs his mother's Congress Party; also, he is considered India's second most powerful politician. Moneka Gandhi was Sanjoy's wife, but she found herself expelled from the prime minister's household two years ago because the prime minister did not approve of Sanjoy's and Moneka's marriage; nor of Moneka herself.

A national election for the lower house of Parliament must be held before January 20, 1985. Moneka is putting a ruffle in Rajin's feathers by forming her own independent political party and strength and by competing against Rajin for the seat in Parliament. She is trying to gain strength by such things as improving health conditions, seeing that children are in school, organizing a "fast" at a plant for improvement of working conditions, etc. These are things that the current political system is lacking; she is making her name known. Even if she were to fail to win the seat in Parliament, she hopes to have at least fifty of the people in her party holding other seats in Parliament. If she succeeds, it will give her significant strength politically.

Do you realize the strength and determination required for Moneka to be making her achievements? Compared to Ferraro, she has even more to overcome. After all, she's in a country that once required its womyn to throw themselves on their husbands' funeral fires when their husbands died. The implications of the results that womyn like Moneka Gandhi and Ferraro can accomplish are just now forming. Take notice! You are living in the midst of what will be drastic changes for womyn and their future. You are seeing what will make the herstory books as a turning point for womyn and politics!

COMING OUT?

NEED TO TALK TO OTHER WOMYN
ABOUT YOUR FEARS, DOUBTS -
SUBGROUP OF AZULAO MEETS
EVERY TWO WEEKS-
CALL 529-1896 for more info.

LESBIAN/GAY DEMOCRATS

of TEXAS

The goal of Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas is to end social, economic and political discrimination based on sexual orientation. We work toward this within the Democratic Party. We are visible in large numbers at local and State Democratic Conventions as delegates, alternates, staff and volunteers. We register voters, endorse candidates, work in campaigns, and reach out to the gay and lesbian community with the importance of participation and getting out the vote.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

TOGETHER WE CAN SUCCEED.

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Political advertisement paid for by Sandy Campbell, LGDT Treasurer.

Far-Away-Friends

AZULAO had an opportunity to exchange ideas with two womyn from Dallas, Evelyn Roots and Bonnie O'Hare. These womyn represent "Womyn of Color Inc." This organization is for womyn of Asian, Black, Hispanic, or Indian ethnic origin; and all womyn of color. As a minority in the Lesbian culture they feel they have a different experience of oppression and have a need to communicate in a supportive environment via rap groups and national conventions. To no avail they have tried working thru a bookstore. They're now in the process of creating flyers to hopefully generate participation in meetings that could be held in their home in Dallas. AZULAO would also be willing to donate space for such meetings in Houston. Any one interested in leading such a group should contact AZULAO at 529-4975.

AZULAO shares our sisters belief that the Lesbian communities tend to be separated, so that our strength isn't apparent to ourselves, our communities, or the Heterosexual world. Our goal, through networking between cities and even internationally, is to make our strength felt, not only for our personal benefit, but also politically.

Bonnie and Evelyn, in support of womyn, also operate a womyns clean up service for new construction sights. This provides employment opportunities for womyn. Anyone interested in becoming involved can call (214) 522-3458 or write "Womyn of Color Inc.", 3343 Hudnall, Apt 2198, Dallas, Texas 75235 for more information.

By: Georgeanne Greene

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529-3211

Far-Away-Friends

Azulao is networking with other Gay/Lesbian publications around the world. This will enable us to inform you of Gay/Lesbian issues from other countries. Recently, we received a publication from Paz y Liberacion drawing our attention to the many groups that share our struggle for UNITY. Below are articles that were featured in Paz y Liberacion. If you are interested in reading other Gay/Lesbian publications visit our library at Azulao, 615 Fargo.

"NEW LESBIAN GROUP-BRASIL"

Salvador: The Grupo Libertario Homosexual (Libertarian Homosexual Group) has recently formed. They are a Lesbian group, though they have a small number of male members, as they are against prejudice of any kind. They would like to hear from groups from around the world, female, male or mixed. (G.L.H.; Caixa Postal 2446-Cidade Alta; 40.000 Salvador, Bahia; BRASIL.)

"NEW GAY GROUP-PERU"

Lima, Peru: The Movimiento Homosexual de Lima (MHOL) is a new gay rights group composed of women and men. They recently participated in the Latin American & Caribbean Feminists Meeting in Lima, offering support to Lesbians for their double oppression. They will appreciate receiving contacts and publications from other gay liberation groups from around the world. Contact: MHOL; Apartado 11789; Lima 11, PERU.

"NEW PUBLICATION-GUADALAJARA"

Guadalajara, Mexico: The Grupo Orgullo Homosexual de Liberacion (GOHL) is publishing an excellent 16 page newsletter called "Crisalida". Subscriptions are 300 pesos in Mexico or \$5 U.S. outside of Mexico. Issue #5 of December 1983, features articles on "Homosexuality & Politics". GOHL; Apartado Postal 1-1693; Guadalajara, Jalisco; MEXICO.

"JAPAN GAY CENTER"

The Japan Gay Center was organized in March, 1979 by two womyn and two men and is that country's most active gay liberation movement. (Japan Gay Center; P.O. Box 662; Shinjuku; Tokyo 160-91; JAPAN) - "Spartacus Travel Journal", Amsterdam.

LOOKING FOR...

MISSING FRIEND: Anyone who knows Jody Mc. or her present whereabouts, please contact BJ Elessar, 2605 SE Woodward, Portland, OR 97202 (503) 230-8848. Jody was living in Stone Mt, GA and had planned to move to Houston, TX the end of December '83. She was originally from Syracuse, NY. (This notice was printed in the August/September 1984 issue of LESBIAN CONNECTION. Since it concerned a woman who possibly moved to Houston we reprinted it as a service to our readers.)

Caring for women in need



Some of the women benefitting from the help offered at the Azulao Centre, with Ann and Riena right at the back.

Far-Away-Friends

Article courtesy of:



**GAY PRIDE
IN
AMERICA**

**Ann Smith reports on
her trip to the USA**

NEWSPAPER OF THE GAY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA • NUUSBLAD VAN DIE GAY ASSOSIASIE VAN SUID AFRIKA

IN Houston, Texas, Carol Beverage is busy turning her house into a centre — called Azulao — where, as she puts it, "women can get their lives together again".

"The basic intention of this centre is to provide a safe and secure place — but strictly only a temporary one — for women who need one," she explains.

A damaged woman's emotional needs are provided for by the supportive attitude of others at the centre and her practical needs such as accommodation and food are met. In return for this she can make either a cash donation or she can agree to assist with the work of running the centre and producing the magazine.

The women at the centre produce a monthly magazine, Azulao, directed at women. They have invited Ann to contribute on a regular basis and in this way to establish one of the strands, as it were, of an international network set up to assist women everywhere.

By encouraging the women staying there to become actively involved, the centre can continue while they have their sense of self-worth bolstered and encouraged because they see that their contributions are essential to the continuance of the project. They, in turn, assist other women in need.

Carol is concerned that women should learn that to assist each other is of paramount importance. She feels that networking, on all levels, is the key to success and is actively engaged in putting this ideal into practice in the establishment and maintenance of Azulao.

• Carol and her associates rescued Ann and Riena from Houston airport when they learned that the person requested to arrange accommodation for them had failed to do so. Demonstrating in a very practical way her concern for women in general, she took them in and even gave up her bed, insisting that she could sleep very well indeed on the living-room couch.



A Place in the Sun is a non-profit organization sheltering physically or socially battered women and offering many services to both sexes. We feed the hungry both on site and through food distribution, counsel the troubled, offer religious services, and use the arts in the healing process through public programs and exhibitions on the premises, arts therapy and other work therapy projects, and outreach by lay music therapists and others to other shelters, institutions and groups.

P.O. BOX 66973
SUITE 176
HOUSTON TX 77006

* IS MOVING *
THE NEW ADDRESS IS
212 FARGO

Dual Career Couples

Work, marriage, children, and home — too much to do, too little support, too little time. This problem-solving workshop is for husbands and wives who each have careers and have run out of ideas. Tuition: \$80 per couple and \$70 for members (no single registrations please). Time: December 1, 1984, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Location: 2444 Times Blvd., #302. Presenters: Barbara Ellman and Cheryl Rampage.



Women: Body and Spirit

This workshop will be a celebration of female sexuality and spirituality. We will explore our intuitions about our bodies, our cycles, our desires, and our energies using films, music, and structured experiences. Tuition: \$45 (\$35 for members). Time: January 19, 1985, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Location: 2444 Times Blvd., #302. Presenter: Kris Halstead.

The Retreat: A Celebration of Woman's Experience

Join us for a weekend of celebration, communication, rest, and renewal at the beautiful retreat house in Dickinson. We will explore women's special skills for loving, empowering, connecting, and making a difference. There will be plenty of time for work and play. Tuition: \$110 (\$100 for members and students). Time: March 30 - March 31, 1985. Location: The retreat house in Dickinson (maps will be sent to registrants). Presenters: Barbara Ellman, Thelma Jean Goodrich, Kris Halstead, Cheryl Rampage.

Send registration form to
The Women's Institute for Life Studies
P.O. Box 271703
Houston, Texas 77277-1703
713/529-4752

JUST US
is a dating magazine exclusively for women
wanting to meet women. First Ad FREE.
FREE Details, \$2.00 for Sample Copy.
JU
PO Box 80521 - AE
Chamblee, GA 30341

HOLLY NEAR

RONNIE GILBERT

By: Georgeanne Greene

Like a lot of other people, I was very pleased to hear that Holly Near and Ronnie Gilbert were coming in concert. I had tried to see Holly in '82, when she came to Texas. I'd bought the tickets and everything. I had visions of introducing Womyn's music to a womyn I was seeing at the time. I was so excited to have this opportunity, so happy that I didn't realize I was buying tickets to a performance at the First Unitarian Church in Dallas, not Houston. So that night, there I was waiting, date and all! Was I embarrassed!

Well, anyway I made it this year. The performance was at the Tower Theater on the 29th of October. This was a political tour for Holly and Ronnie. I needed the consciousness raising I received from attending, and enjoyed these two delightfully entertaining womyn. I've been an admirer of Holly's for years, but I'd never had the pleasure of hearing Ronnie's music.

I found myself going through a wide range of emotions; fear, anger, responsibility, empowerment. All of which provide me with the opportunity to stop, think and question myself on ways in which I can participate in changing the world.



PHOTOGRAPH BY IRENE YOUNG

Ms

- ing -

- U

SEND A NOTE TO THAT SPECIAL PERSON.
35 words or less only, \$5.00.

GOD,
AZULAO REALLY
APPRECIATES THE
- SUPPORT -
WHAYN LIKE YOU
MAKE IT ALL
WORTHWHILE
Love
Carol

I would like to thank
all those who contributed
to the article "Spotlight
On Friends"
Fraddy

FAP
The ALBATROSS moves:
Look out - bright lights -
big city, here we come.
The new address is:
THE ALBATROSS
c/o Judy Harrison
7625 8 mile creek rd.
Pensacola, Florida
32506
• SISTER PUBLICATION •

DIABLO,
DISTANCE BETWEEN US WILL KEEP
US APART - BUT NOT OUR LOVE. BEST
WISHES WITH YOUR NEW HOME
THAT YOU BE ALL LOVE TO YOU
THE GREAT-THUNDERBOLTS
♀

JUNIOR & GENE,
Hows my X-mas
Roby and valentine
CHILD doing? MAMA
misses you - try
to be good - I
know that's hard -
try anyway.
Love
mom

HEY NANO, LINDA,
THERESA, MARY AND
ALVERNA
I LOVE ALL OF YOU.
THIS IS MY LETTER
TO YOU - HOPE YOU
ENJOY.
Love always
Carol

Hi Ms. Woodress,
Miss you wish you the best for
the coming year and hope enjoy it
our issue of Azulao.
M. L. ANDER

I wish things
could be different
GA

ANGIE & BLUE
THANKS FOR LOANING
AZULAO YOUR
- TYPEWRITER -
IT HAS REALLY
IMPROVED THE LOOKS
OF OUR MAGAZINE!
Love Ya
Carol

ANGIE,
I WANT YOU BACK,
BUT HAVEN'T RECEIVED
A REPLY. PLEASE WRITE
OR CALL 504-4975 &
LEAVE MESSAGE. I'D
LIKE TO HEAR FROM
YOU
GA

KAT GRAHAM,
THE SPIRAL DANCER
SHE CHANGES EVERYTHING -
SHE TOUCHES
AND EVERYTHING
SHE TOUCHES -
CHANGES
PERFECT LOVE AND
PERFECT TRUST
SO NOTE IT BE
YOUR #1 FAN
AND NOT SO SURE ABOUT
CAROL BEVERIDGE

There's A Real Need
For You To Be Here
The Writing Sometimes
get hard
You'll know it's there
until you "listen to the"
heart to
see to

Keith & Patches
Our Love is a Gift
To Draw energy from
So much to share
Also you here of
Although Love
Rula & Patches



Patches
Loving
Da Da Da

Rula Beveridge
- of -
Keith Ziegenfuss
(since 78)

Reflections

By: Nancy Conner

Alone, finally - with my stereo - I feel myself again - here, where I am. There's Dennis, with a world now a vague image, as if under fog.

I stand now on the threshold of that which I sought and am seeking. I recognize an eternal moment of truth. Alone, I am frightened. Accompanied, I am seduced by adventure and freedom, with all its risks on the one hand. Seduced by familiarity on the other. Familiarity with all its mixed up kind of insecure, security and its unreal reality, its rewarding futility.

Once before, I stood at this place. I stood young and courageous, full of life, rich and ambitious, thirsty for experience, without fear. It was almost without hesitation that I stepped across to what is now so familiar.

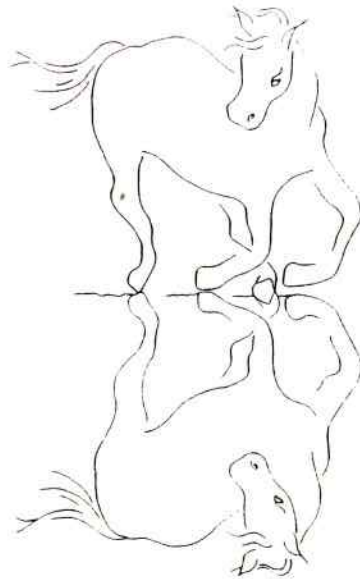
I filled my senses and my mind with all the experience the lifestyle has to offer. I ran through it as a child at a carnival, excited and delighted, but I didn't win the goldfish or the teddy bear, and I spent my allowance.

Now, I'm wandering, tired and cold in the night. My friends have gone. I have no ride home. I'm so weary that I don't know if I had fun. I don't know if I want to go home or remember how to get there.

Strangers notice me, with laughter in their eyes, offer to take me home. I don't go. I don't remember why I left. Dennis offers to take me home. I don't go. But he offers his jacket to keep me warm, and stays with me so I won't be alone. We sit still in the sawdust, in the night. He tells me a story as I rest my head on his shoulder. I can't resist sleep any more. My last awareness is that they are folding up the carnival while I sleep, the lights are going off one by one.

Morning comes. We are the same but the carnival is gone. Only sawdust remains and the echo in my mind of the music, the laughter, the noise of the crowds, a leftover sensation of rides still spinning in my mind.

He asks me again if he can take me home. I say no. So, we walk together for awhile. I am still weary, with the taste of cotton candy still fresh on my tongue, the smell of popcorn still in the air. I secretly hope we'll find the carnival, and I'll be rested enough to experience



MaryAnne Cataldi

TAKE TIME TO REFLECT

Reflections


it again. We walk on, it all seems farther and farther away. I am losing touch with whether it left me in the night or if I left it in the light of day.

Suddenly, there it is! A carnival! We're home! It's right next door - I'm standing on the threshold - older, tired, experienced in the sensations and aware of it all. He asks again if I will go inside with him.

I'm afraid my parents might be mad at me for being gone so long, or because I spent all my allowance and didn't even win the goldfish or the teddy bear. I might be punished, or be grounded.

No, I don't want to go inside. I don't want to go to the carnival. I just want to walk some more. Maybe we'll find a new place together. Maybe I'll call home every once in awhile to see if they're mad at me. Maybe you'll find something, maybe I'll find something, maybe we'll walk forever. But, I just want to keep walking for now.

A Women's Newsletter



TELEWOMAN

P.O. Box 2306
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

send \$2.00 for sample issue

Telewoman is a national lesbian networking newsletter with an emphasis on resources & contacts for women who write poetry and fiction, women in the arts and photography, and women whose spiritual perspectives are central in their everyday lives. Book reviews, exquisite graphics, outstanding cover art by lesbians, links between country and city lesbians. Subscriptions \$20.00/yr.

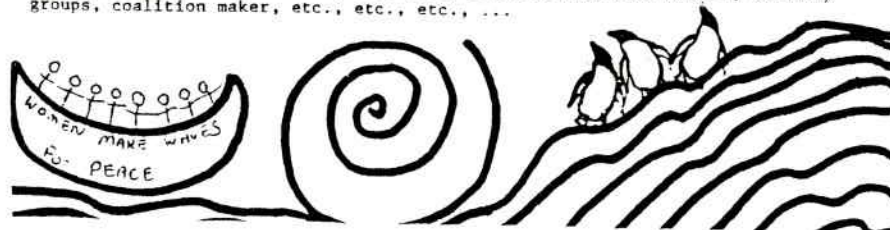
CALLING Visionaries, Artists of All Kinds

In your deepest dreams, do you remember a time when womyn took to their boats and sailed out to share the joy and gifts created by their peace-loving cultures? That ancient memory is emerging again in the dreams and visions of womyn around the world. It's been surfacing in my dreams for years. Ever since I saw Wendy Dragonfire, a martial artist, tour with Holly Near, I've dreamt of creating a traveling troupe of womyn artists of all kinds: performing, visual, healing, martial, organizing, living, etc. Several years ago the dream expanded to include the idea of traveling on a solar-powered barge/houseboat. Magically, womyn began appearing in my life who had a similar dream. This 'magic' is one of many signs that the image of "a web of life that will ensnare the powers that bury our children" - that womyn have been creating thru rituals and political actions - is becoming a tangible reality. That web - begun at the Women's Pentagon Action - is now helping to make this dream a reality.

The purpose of the troupe is to share their love and resources with people across the country thru workshops, performances, rituals, raps and improvisational street theatre. In this way we hope to awaken, catalyze, and strengthen the connections between people who are moving towards creating a world where "no one or nothing in nature is treated as the other," where war and rape cannot be imagined, where the culture and art of ordinary people is deeply valued and encouraged.

Plans are now being made for the first wave of this dream to begin on the Tenn. R. near Oakridge in the summer of 1985. Mary Bricker Jenkins has a vision of a boat sailing down the Tennessee under the theme, "Women Make Waves for Peace". She sees the boat bringing new visions of how we could live in harmony with each other and the planet, in contrast to the realities of the nuclear research facility at Oakridge (where plans for the A-bomb were developed in WWII), the nuclear power plants along the river and what the Tenn. Valley Authority has done to the region. She sees local womyn organizing around these issues and coming to greet us in "feminist flotillas" at each port. Our approach, to the communities we visit, is best expressed by the chorus to "Nicolia", "Harbor me, won't you harbor me?..." We do not come to conquer, but to ask for a harbor where this idea that there is another way to live can thrive.

Is there a harbor in your heart for this dream? If so, please contact me, Lorel Ulmschneider at 719 N. Irving Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201. 703-527-7396! Any level of involvement is welcome. Womyn are needed for many roles: contact people in local areas, networkers, navigators, solar researchers, planetary healers and artists, core group consensus decision makers, affinity groups, coalition maker, etc., etc., etc., ...



Classified

1980 Dodge Colt, 5 speed, airconditioned, stereo sound, cloth seats - LIKE BRAND NEW - \$2650.00/528-2631 after 6pm.

1981 Ford Escort, 2 door Hatchback, 5 speed, airconditioned. EXCELLENT CONDITION - \$2700.00 / 528-2631 after 6pm.

NEW LESBIAN WRITING. Poetry and Prose. Pictures of Contributors. Edited by Margaret Cruikshank. \$8.95 pp from Subco, Box 10233, Eugene Or 97440

AZULAO WISH LIST

We've decided to print a wish list. This will be a list of items needed to improve the operations and services of AZULAO. Donations can be exchanged for membership and/or ads in our magazine. If you wish to make a donation please call 529-4975.

1. vacuum cleaner
2. washer and dryer
3. sewing machine
4. old bicycles and/or parts
5. gas heater
6. record player
7. old musical instruments

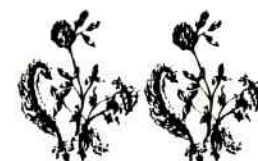
We also need to borrow a chain saw to cut tree trunks.

AZULAO needs a larger home. We are looking for an older house that needs repairs. We would like to exchange our ability to do repairs for a discount on the deposit and rent. We would prefer the Heights area. Please call 529-4975 and ask for Carol.

FOR SALE: King size waterbed frame. Has pedestal with six drawers but no mattress. Solid wood. Paid \$600.00 for it new six years ago. Asking \$100.00 cash, now. Call 529-4975 ask for Carol.

Ad Rates

20¢ a word
1/4 Page...\$10.00
1/2 Page...\$26.00
Full Page...\$50.00



WOMYN'S

numbers

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance	222-3434
Child Abuse	800-252-5400
Crime Stoppers	800-252-8277
Crisis Hotline (24hr)	228-1505
Harris County Sheriff	221-6000

Houston Fire Dept	227-2323
Houston Police Dept	222-3131
Poison Control Center	654-1701
Rape Crisis Center (24hr)	228-1505
Rape Crisis Coalition (24hr)	528-2121

GENERAL INFORMATION

Counseling	529-3555
Dentist--Marilyn Jones, DDS	523-2392
Family Connection	523-6825
Gay Switchboard	529-3211
IRS	965-0440
Library	229-9195/224-5441
Lifetraining (self improvement)	977-4054
Montrose Counseling Serv. Center	529-0037
Professional Counseling Services	529-1913
Rogers St. Wayout Womyn's Center	649-9437
Time	844-7171
Weather	228-8703
WIRES (Women's Info, Ref, Exch)	528-2121
Women's Center	4 Chelsea 528-6798

POLITICAL-LEGAL

Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence	650-1412
Amer Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	524-5925
Attorney--Patricia O'Kane	526-7911
Citizen's Assistance, Office of Mayor	222-4005
Gay Political Caucus (GPC)---Sue Lovell	521-1000
Gay Rights National Lobby	521-0196
Gulf Coast Legal Foundation	651-9080
Harris Co. Women's Political Caucus	723-7416
Houston Voter Registration	224-1919
League of Women Voters	529-3171
Women's Lobby Alliance	521-0439

WOMYN'S

numbers

ORGANIZATIONS

Azulao (Lesbian Social Network)	529-4975
CRIS (Children's Resource and Info Serv)	790-9500
Family and Friends of Gays	564-6663
Frontrunners (Gay Runners)	529-1288
Gay Hispanic Caucus---Dennis	868-5252/864-2224
Houston Area NOW	664-4282
Houston KS-AIDS Foundation	524-2437
Kairos Foundation	977-4035
Lambda Center (Gay Alcoholics)	521-9772
Lesbian and Gay People in Medicine	880-9486
Married Lesbian Support Group--Day/Night	529-4975/529-1896
Montrose Area NOW	451-5413
Montrose Clinic	528-5531
Montrose Guest Recovery House	524-8813
Rice Gay/Lesbian Support Group	524-0724/432-0785
Stages	225-9539
UH (Clear Lake) Women's Resource Ctr	488-9216
UH (Clear Lake) Gay Resource Service	488-9466
UH (Main Campus) NOW	521-2824
UH (Main Campus) Gay/Lesbian Resource Serv	749-1253
United Way	529-5913
Women's Rugby (Heathen Hearts)	665-6422
YWCA---Willa---Khaleelah Abdul	868-6075

CLUBS

Bacchus	503 Lovett 523-3396
COPA	528-2259
Double R's	5731 Kirby 521-1444
Kindred Spirits	5245 Buffalo Spdwy 665-9756
Marion and Lynn's	817 Fairview 528-9110
Rascals	2207 Kirby 524-6272
Twins	535 Westheimer 520-0244
Brazos River Bottem	2400 Brazos 528-9192
Mary's	1022 Westheimer 528-8851

BUSINESS

Downbeat Records	2111 Richmond 523-8348
Francisco's Hair	901 Richmond 523-0438

PUBLICATIONS

AZULAO	615 Fargo 529-4975
Lavender Letters	2615 Waugh Drive # 509 529-4147
Montrose Voice	408 Avondale 529-8490
TWT	2205 Montrose 527-9111

READING, MUSIC, CULTURE

Diversity Theater	739-0007
Hazelwitch Production Co (Concerts)	864-4534
Place in the Sun (Coffee Shop/Books)	522-7695
Wilde 'N' Stein Bookstore	529-7014



TO BE LISTED IN OUR WOMYN'S NUMBERS SECTION
MAIL \$3.00 WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND
PHONE NUMBER TO AZULAO, 615 Fargo, 77006.

WOMYN'S

numbers

KFFT Radio Station-----90.1 FM-----526-4000
 Tues 8 pm A Woman's Place
 Wed 9 pm Al Nisa
 Thurs 7:30 pm Wilde 'N' Stein
 Fri 8 am Breakthrough

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Congreg Aytz Chayim (Gay Jewish)-----956-2503
 Church of Christ (Gay Protestant)-----529-8005
 Dignity (Gay Catholic)-----528-7644
 1st Unitarian Women's Grp (Feminist)-----526-1571
 Gay Atheist League of America-----524-2222
 Integrity (Gay Episcopalian)-----526-0555
 Lutherans Concerned for Gay People-----453-1143
 MCCR (Metro Commun Church or Resur)-----861-9149
 St. Joan's In'nat Alliance (Fem Cath)-----667-2830

MISCELLANEOUS ADDRESSES

Ages of Women Products, Dept LC
 645 Water St #20E
 New York, New York 10002

Attorney at Law
 4503 Lemmon
 Dallas, Texas 75219 (213) 559-4760

Attorney and Counselor at Law
 Kim K. Day
 1309 Main Street
 Davis Bldg Suite 1112
 Dallas, Texas 75202 (214) 742-2287

Free Sunshine Catalog of Lesbian and Fem Production
 Womenmade Products
 J/P Distribution, Dept LC
 374 Woodfield Rd
 West Hempstead, New York 11552

Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund
 PO Box 21567
 Seattle, Washington 98111

Moonrise: A Lesbian Support System
 PO Box 863
 Flint, Michigan 48501

TeleWoman, Box 2306, Pleasant Hill, California 94523

 AZULÃO...To seek out a Bluebird, to carry a message of love, is no stranger than the belief that, dreams lend power to bring about results.

AZULÃO

HOME OFFICE

615 FARGO
 (713) 529-4975
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

* CIRCULATION *

1500

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

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 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

If there is a colored dot affixed to the box above, you are NOT scheduled to receive future mailings from us. If you would like to continue with our publication, complete the form on the reverse side and mail it to:

Carol Beverage
 615 Fargo
 Houston, Texas 77006

ABOUT OUR COVER:

CLOSE YOUR EYES - LET YOUR DREAMS
 TAKE YOU TO THE STARS and ...more
 A journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step.
 Let's share our womyn power to create our
destiny with AZULAO.

ART by: Paula Beverage

Azulão
615 FARGO
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

AZULÃO

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____ APT. # _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE NO. _____ OCCUPATION _____
TRANSPORTATION _____ YES _____ NO _____

HOBBIES & OTHER INTERESTS:

<input type="checkbox"/> PHOTOGRAPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> ART GALLERIES	<input type="checkbox"/> ROLLER SKATE
<input type="checkbox"/> READING	<input type="checkbox"/> BOWLING	<input type="checkbox"/> CAMPING
<input type="checkbox"/> THEATRE	<input type="checkbox"/> BILLIARDS	<input type="checkbox"/> GOLF
<input type="checkbox"/> POETRY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOFTBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> FISHING
<input type="checkbox"/> CARDS	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCCER	<input type="checkbox"/> HORSES
<input type="checkbox"/> OPERA	<input type="checkbox"/> TENNIS	<input type="checkbox"/> ICE SKATE
<input type="checkbox"/> MOVIES	<input type="checkbox"/> JOGGING	<input type="checkbox"/> MOTORCYCLE
<input type="checkbox"/> DINING OUT	<input type="checkbox"/> RACQUETBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> CRAFTS
<input type="checkbox"/> SYMPHONY	<input type="checkbox"/> VOLLEYBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DANCES	<input type="checkbox"/> HIKING	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> BALLET	<input type="checkbox"/> SWIMMING	_____

FULL YEAR MEMBERSHIP DUES (20.00) _____ 1/2 YEAR (10.00) _____ QUARTER (5.00) _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK _____ YES _____ NO _____

DO YOU WISH TO NETWORK WITHIN THE COMMUNITY? _____ YES _____ NO _____

AZULÃO

OUR BOOK OF DREAMS

IAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NO

GENE BIDDLE and the LIFETRAINING SUPPORT GROUP will be sponsoring a GARAGE SELL to benefit AZULAO, 710 E. 25th on December 15, 1984. 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 A.M. Womyn interested in donating items for this sale, please call GENE at 880-3121 no later than Dec. 13th.

IAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NO

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

IAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NO

Tell your friends - copies of AZULAO are available at the following locations:

A MOVEABLE FEAST.....3827 Dunlavy.....528-3585
DRAMATIKA.....3224 Yoakum.....728-5457
EROTIC CABARET.....1222 Westheimer.....528-4565
FRANCISCO'S HAIR.....901 Richmond.....523-0438
LIONEL HAIR DESIGN.....3220 Yoakum.....526-4494
METAL TEMPTATIONS.....2164 Portsmouth.....524-3068
NEARTOWN GARAGE.....1901 Taft.....523-2794
THE TIRE PLACE.....1307 Fairview.....529-1414

IAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NO

OUR ADVERTISING RATES WILL DOUBLE IN FEBURARY

ECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL NOTICE...SPECIAL N

Patronize Businesses That Support The Womyns Communi

Azulão
615 FARGO
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

AZULÃO

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____ APT. # _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
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TRANSPORTATION _____ YES _____ NO _____

HOBBIES & OTHER INTERESTS:

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<input type="checkbox"/> DINING OUT	<input type="checkbox"/> RACQUETBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> CRAFTS
<input type="checkbox"/> SYMPHONY	<input type="checkbox"/> VOLLEYBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DANCES	<input type="checkbox"/> HIKING	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> BALLET	<input type="checkbox"/> SWIMMING	_____

FULL YEAR MEMBERSHIP DUES (20.00) _____ 1/2 YEAR (10.00) _____ QUARTER (5.00) _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK _____ YES _____ NO _____

DO YOU WISH TO NETWORK WITHIN THE COMMUNITY? _____ YES _____ NO _____



Don't be left behind!

1222 WESTHEIMER 528-4565

CLOTHES LINGERIE SWIMWEAR ACCESSORIES