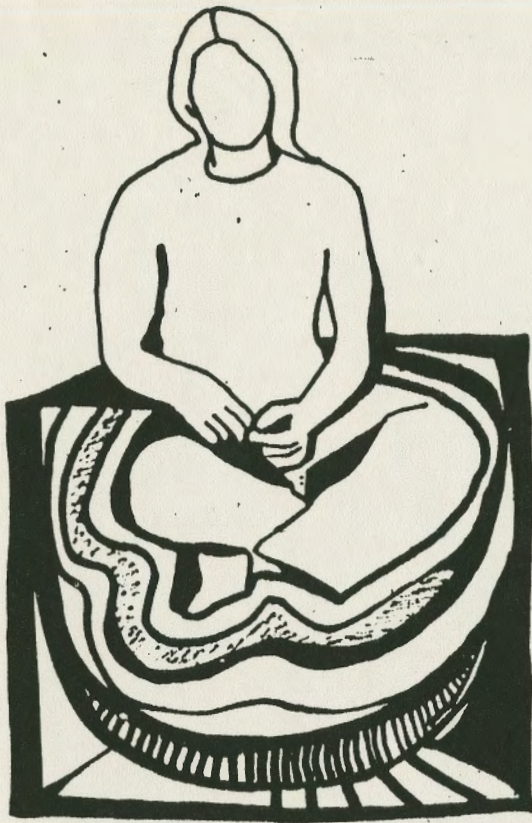




WOMEN'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL



March / April
1986

PLEASE INDICATE ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS BELOW
AND RETURN IT TO:



Return by mail to: WCJ c/o The Jezebel,
8755 Wurzbach, San Antonio, Texas

If you would like us to respond to your idea
or suggestion personally, please include S.A.S.E.

A JEZEBEL SPONSORED PUBLICATION

In a recent meeting at the Jezebel, Abby Rubenfeld (legal director and managing attorney of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund - NYC) discussed Statute 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. 21.06 is a law which has currently been reinstated by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and reads as follows:

"A person commits an offense if he (or she) engages in deviant sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex."



LNS/cpf

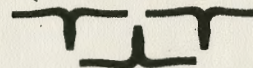
Although some view the statute as being of concern to male homosexuals only, many legal authorities have attested to its concurrent application to lesbians in Texas. 21.06 is of serious concern to our women's community. It makes it criminal to be lesbian. Under the law, your sexual orientation can lead to a minimum fine of \$200 and a criminal record if sentenced. 21.06 is also thought to be used in the future as a back up in other situations.

Applications of this law concerning lesbians in legal battles for custody and estate settlements are frightening. It may even effect our ability to gather together in organizations and settings such as gay bars.

In January of this year, the Application for review of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals was docketed in the U.S. Supreme Court. The U. S. Supreme Court will probably announce their decision on whether they will hear the 21.06 case some time this summer.

Until that time, the Texas Human Rights Foundation is busy supporting the effort to appeal 21.06. You can get active by volunteering or contacting the organization through Barbara (BJ) Anderson, State Fund Raising Coordinator, at (214) 343-0699 or by sending a contribution (tax deductible) to the Texas Human Rights Foundation P.O. box 191312 Dallas, Texas 75219.

Don't let 21.06 become the locked door on the closet. Get active now!



A word about Tuesday night, for those of you who have it on your calendar but have not been able to attend. Every other Tuesday night, Kay Ford, the owner of the Jezebel, gives of her time and her place. Kay allows the Jezebel to be transformed from a place where women dance and drink to a place where women discuss issues which really affect our lives. Tuesday she turns down the music and lets us talk, inform and become informed.

There is a small volunteer topic staff which assist Kay in planning topics but suggestions are always welcome! Topics are as varied as the people who walk into the bar. The first Tuesday night was on coming out, which is something we all have done to varying degrees. Those degrees were discussed and the dialogue was intense. The next Tuesday night was on health ... an open forum covering a variety of health concerns.

Next in the Tuesday series, March 18, 1986, will be, Real Estate. Planning to buy a house? Come learn of the possible pit falls, or great opportunities which await you! If you cannot make it that Tuesday, the next in the series - April 1, 1986 - should not be missed. It is about women and rape, with an emphasis on the abuses of female children and incest. There are many myths and realities in this area which have a deep and far reaching affect on all women. Come, participate, give us your ideas. . . Thanks Kay!

I can't tell you how pleased we have been with the turnout and response to the Tuesday Night program. It is very exciting to see people speak up and really talk about their opinions or feelings. Even the quiet (seemingly apparent) ones we see out on a weekend night really shine when they have something to say.

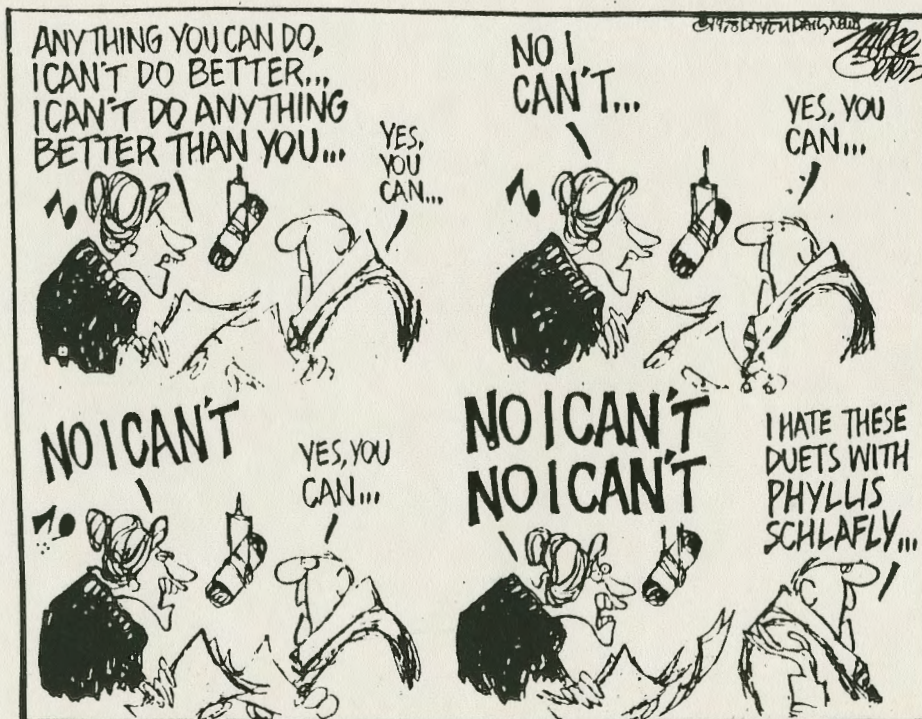
I realize that this program is somewhat of a "dark horse." (in the way that people normally perceive a bar) None the less, I can't think of a better purpose than to bring people together to talk or share information. Bars probably have not done this before for a simple reason - it doesn't make money. Not to sound too altruistic, I have to pay rent like everyone else. However, we all gain by experiencing a wide wide variety of people and ideas. It sounds "soupy" I know, but there have been times when I've been past "broke" and times I've been financially comfortable. It can fluctuate drastically in this business. The one constant has been friends.

The most rewarding thing is to see

people who really care and give of their time and themselves. Our whole topic staff, and the editor of this paper (who is also on our topic staff), have worked completely without pay, donating their time and money to our common efforts. Those common efforts are to bring people together regardless of their political, social, or religious beliefs.

Our objective for WCJournal is both to inform and to air opinions. The gay community is but a microcosm...no different from society as a whole and has differing opinions and aspirations. The WCJournal is not a vehicle to promote the labels of feminism or political activism per se. It is simply a journal for and about women.

Compromise requires seeing both sides of the fence and agreeing with the other side is not necessary. What is necessary is simply to know the other side! To understand and not be afraid to change because you've learned more requires knowing and believing that we are all equal and that no one is truly lesser or greater than the other.



Except for a few moments when an inner light would shine forth and illuminate the room, I existed in total darkness. I stared out at my black abyss, sure I was not alone yet, as I could see no one. Often I would hear sounds; they appeared to becoming from another place, a better place. When my inner light shined forth, I felt I shared something with those people outside in that better place. I so longed to reach them because there were moments when they gave things I could never give back. Instead, I could only live off what they were saying, for I could hear them but they could not hear me.

In spite of my aloneness I knew there must be sister travelers of darkness. How could I alone be touched by the outside that I could not reach. After a time I saw a crack of light. Immediately, I moved toward that light. I had to reach out. As I moved toward it, I wondered if it would lead to the outside, or was it light illuminating from sister travelers in this abyss of darkness? When I reached the light, I discovered it was sister travelers from the darkness, sisters who shared my longing for that light so apparent from the outside and so absent on the inside. As we came together, we thought of ways and will continue to think of ways to make our light shine as brightly in this space as the light we feel from the outside.

The preceeding is an attempted allegory, I do stress attempted, as I can myself see its literary faults. It is however an attempt to demonstrate in the abstract the sense of community, or lack of community that exist in the San Antonio lesbian community. It obvious from the sizable weekend bar trade that there are lesbians in the San Antonio gay community. But to look toward the Calendar or to look beyond the bar is to wonder where they as a community might be located.

Lesbian-Feminism is a live and well in the 80's but it appears comatose in San Antonio. One can talk to individual women in San Antonio and realize they have knowledge and opinions about what is being debated in the arenas of Lesbian and Feminist press. Women are cognizant of the debate surrounding pornography, child custody, and our civil rights. San Antonio women have read the books concerning lesbians in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. But when it comes to a place we can go to share our reactions, incites, and knowledge we find ourselves only to be in agreement with regard to that lack of such places in San Antonio.

Lesbian-Feminist in San Antonio should ask themselves how much mileage they have logged between San Antonio and Austin in the last six months, and how much material they have read concerning Boston, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D. C. in the last year. As these questions are asked, I wonder if you will react as I react, I say we lack community; we need to develop a sense of community, in this the tenth largest city in the United States, and the Second largest Hispanic city in the United States.

I am sorry to have presented the lack of community merely in terms of Lesbian-Feminism, I am sure there are many women concerned with this lack of community who would never address the problem in terms of a feminist dilemma. They however might have the same gut concern; San Antonio from the outside can be viewed almost strictly as a bar culture. This in itself perhaps would not be bad; however, in some bar settings the deafening noise, smoke filled atmosphere, and large crowds precludes real communication between women. Often as one rejects this atmosphere, they find themselves rejecting outside lesbian contact. This is because San Antonio has to date failed to provide an alternative to the bar that goes beyond our own personal contacts. As we exist segregated from one another in our respective closets, we build up society's homophobic and stereotypic views of one another. We share more in the dominate culture then we do in the lesbian culture.

Ultimately, I am saying that each lesbian has something to offer the community and something to receive from the community. There are groups now forming which will reach out to your individual interest - help to shape them with your special personality. I urge all women who read this to look into themselves for what they feel to be lacking outside of themselves. Bring that inner light to share with the rest of us that we might be able to light the whole of San Antonio and make it equal to those communities we read so much about.

...Ellen



New Woman Alphabet

EVE MERRIAM

A amazon: a mythical female of great force, see also an abzug.

B brain: may be referred to colloquially as a barbarajordan, as in complimenting a man by saying, "You think like a barbarajordan."

C cinderella: prototype of the passive maiden who becomes a prince's footnote instead of stepping out with her own imprint.

D difference: as in "Viva la"; more often, as in yearly average earnings of male and female workers.

E ecclesiarch: leading church official, such as Pope Joan.

F ford: outstanding woman resident of the White House.

G george: pseudonym of the famous women novelists George Eliot and George Sand; hence, a term of admiration for something very well done: "By George!"

H home: place often run or walked to by female Little League batter.

I irritability: mild form of disorder experienced for a few days each month by sensitive men when they are in their pre-pay-check period.

J juliet: principal character in the Shakespearean tragedy, "Juliet and Romeo."

K king: most powerful court person, sometimes known familiarly as a billiejean.

L lady: ludicrous label, as in lady doctor, lady governor, gentleman truckdriver.

M mr.: a form of address for men, marital status deemed not relevant, as for Mr. Clean, the detergent, and Mr. Ed, the talking horse.

N neuter: occupational classifications, such as cadet, clown, detective, ecdysiast, senator.

O olympian: of or pertaining to the goddesses.

P paint remover: for club chairs, airplane cockpits, and executive suites marked FOR MEN ONLY.

Q qualification: the question is, "But can he type?"

R re-entry: as of mothers into the economic market after childrearing; also, from outer space.

S sage: outstanding Wise One, the voice of experience; for example, a margaretheadster.

T television top newscaster: a walters, formerly a walter.

U ulysses: absentee father; mother heads single-parent household.

V virginiawoolf: in real-estate parlance, a single room.

W wet nurse: the one job men cannot fill, as women cannot apply to be sperm donors.

X x: the female sex chromosome, also still the unknown quantity.

Y y: the male sex chromosome, also part of a mathematical formulation as in $x = y$.

Z zeitgeist: spirit of liberty, equality, sorority.

0 SPRING CALENDAR

Every Thursday

At the Jezebel

- March 18 "Real Estate Law: Buying, Selling, and Investing" The Tuesday Night Series, 7:30pm- The Jezebel
- March 19 (1974) Womanspirit journal started
- March 28 Women's potluck supper & discussion- see below
- April 1 "Women and Rape"- With an emphasis on the abuses of female children and incest The Tuesday Night Series, 7:30pm- The Jezebel
- April 1 (1975) Olivia Records produces & releases "I Know You Know" by Neg Christian
- April 9 S.A.NOW Membership Meeting "Women's Spirituality" at 7pm- Room 302, SAC Library

"Grill Night" 7:00-9:00 pm
Bring your own steak, chicken or whatever - grilled just the way you like, with a special marinade - Served with salad, fresh vegetables, and a smile



"If he had a period, we'd have grant money for menstrual research."

The articles contained in this journal are written by individuals who are free to air their opinions and/or information - therefore opinions or information expressed do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the Editor or Publisher of this paper.

New Women's Group Forms

A group of thirteen women met on Sunday afternoon on February 16th, under the auspices of the Lesbian Task Force of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.). Our goal was to get women together to discuss their special needs as lesbians and feminists, and to determine some activities that would serve these needs. Five women present were N.O.W. members. Out of the discussion that afternoon some ideas began to emerge. It became evident that Jezebel's has already begun having rap groups on women's issues. Also, the Women's Community Journal can serve to publicize activities that will be planned. We would like to form a coordinating group, if possible; to avoid a lot of duplication of activities. Future plans include support groups, rap sessions, pot luck suppers, women's dances, political activities, feminist consciousness raising, and a future coffee house. We would also like to start a lending library of books (those you would like to share).

We would like the input of all you women out there. Call friends whom you feel might be interested. Our next meeting will be held on March 28th Friday, 6:30pm at 111 W. Huisache (2 houses west of Main Ave.). Call the N.O.W. phone for directions if you wish at 735-2307. It will be a potluck dinner (bring a dish or platter of your favorite food), to be followed by a discussion on relationships. Come over on Friday.

Lois