

CALEDOON

VOLUME I, No. 2

Jan. 30, 1982

The ERA is not Dead!

by V J Redick

NORMAN -- The Oklahoma State Senate voted down the passage of the ERA, but the people running the NOW sponsored offices say the ERA is not dead.

The women running the Norman office are taking a positive attitude toward the future of the ERA.

//The ERA issue will not go away nationally or in Oklahoma, // Dorothy Sale, NOW National Board regional co-director said.

//There has been no decision made to stop the national campaign. We will continue to organize and stay in Oklahoma, // Sale said.

Fifty-nine years of women suffragettes canvassing from house to house and district to district has netted the ratification of 35 states through an open state vote.

The people working in the Norman office said the ratification was essential to bridge the 59-cent wage gap that exists for all women in

the United States.

Employed women are paid only 59 cents for every dollar paid to men, statistics show. This wage gap exists primarily because women are concentrated at the bottom of the occupational ladder in low-paying, dead end jobs.

Constituents believe that without the ERA, female workers of not only this, but the next generation will face repeated forms of discrimination. Because of discrimination in educational institutions women continue to be tracked into the same low-paying clerical and service jobs. They believe that without full equality under the Constitution, the pattern will not change.

//If the ERA is ratified we hope to see a Constitutional principal where people will be treated as individuals with an EQUAL chance in society, // Dorothy Sale, said.

//Our main objective at the Countdown office is to change the existing climate in Oklahoma and to feed and activate ERA supporters in this crucial time, // Sale said.

Three more states must ratify the amendment by June 30, 1982 or the time, expense and hopes will once again fall to the deaf ears on the Congressional floor.

The text of the Equal Rights Amendment states:

SECTION 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

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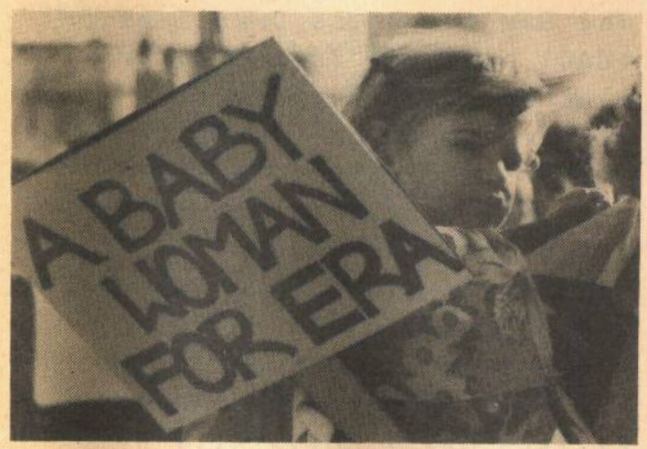


ERA supporters rallied for passage at the state capitol on opening day of the legislature.

SECTION 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

SECTION 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The Countdown office research showed that minority women have long been the victims of double discrimination, suffering from effects of both racism



One of the many young women attending the ERA Prayer Vigil.

NEWS BRIEFS

G A A RE-FORMS
NORMAN --

The University of Oklahoma Gay Activists Alliance plans to take advantage of its victory in the State Supreme Court by reorganizing its membership and getting to work planning social and counseling programs, Steve Keller, a group spokesperson said.

The State Supreme Court ruled December 22 that the OU Regents acted improperly in denying the alliance recognition as a student group.

BUT THE FIGHT ISN'T OVER YET

NORMAN --

A State legislature, Representative Bill Graves from Oklahoma City, denounced the state Supreme Court decision on gay groups, and said he will introduce legislation to prevent homosexual organizations from receiving state funds as recognized student groups.

ERA

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and sexism. Their hopes are that the ERA would guarantee equal justice under the law for ALL women and provide a vitally important tool in the fight for minority rights.

Supporters state that the ERA is the strongest legal weapon available for eliminating sex discrimination in our nation. It is an assurance that women will be fairly paid, get an equal education, and be entitled to challenge sex discrimination in courts and have the opportunity to lead lives based on economic security.

Sale said the response from local people has been "tremendous", but urged any and all people interested in helping to contact the Countdown office at Norman at 329-8063, or the Oklahoma City office at 528-0400, (312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City, 73105.)

The Norman ERA office is located at the corner of University and Main Street.

WISCONSIN PASSES GAY BILL

MADISON, WISCONSIN --

A bill which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation has been passed by one chamber of the Wisconsin state legislature, and supporters are confident that it will pass the other chamber early next year.

The bill, AB70, prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in both public and private sectors. It also bans discrimination by any contractor doing business with the state of Wisconsin. If passed, the bill would be the first in any state prohibiting anti-gay discrimination.

The Brazen Hussy Rag
Staff: Jana Birchum, Tonya Jones, VJ Redick, Mary B., Susan S., JR Rogers, Joni D.
Special Thanks to
Charlie

Women's Bookstore to Open

Women in Oklahoma City are putting together a women's bookstore at 1630 NW 19.

They are asking for any and/or all donations of used books, contributions and volunteers willing to donate their time. Volunteers are needed Saturdays from 12 to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m.

For information contact TJ at 528-4494.



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Artemis House

The Women's Resource Center of Norman is starting a feminist coffeehouse.

The concept is to have a place where feminists can come together, meet one another and have a chance to talk.

Entertainment will be provided by women.

The Artemis House will open for the first time in honor of Susan B. Anthony's birthday on Feb. 15 from 8 to 11 p.m. at the old Lovelight Restaurant at 755 Jenkins in Norman.

The meeting place is tentative. For information call Daphne McClellan at 364-9424 or Nancy Welch at 360-0306.

NEW GAY GROUP FORMS IN NORMAN

by Mark Adams

Norman, Oklahoma, is considered by some to be one of the more progressive cities in the state - it can also be one of the loneliest if you are or think you are gay.

When one comes out, you find yourself asking questions like: "Where can I meet other gay people?", "How do I tell my family and friends?", or "Should I tell my family anything?" Sometimes the questions are more like: "Is it wrong to be gay?" Everyone must find their own answers. The Gay Awareness Organization (GAO) has been formed to provide help and support for people searching for those answers. The GAO is a non-political organization interested in advancing Gay understanding, rather than Gay rights.

GAO meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of Ellison Hall, University of Oklahoma campus. The meetings are open to the public. If

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EDITORIALS

On Motherhood

by Jo

//Mama!//

It is a voice I know, a voice I gave birth to, a voice I longed for. No other voice has ever stirred such emotion within me. I want to hold and protect and laugh with this child. This is the child who sucked at my breasts - the child I introduced to sunsets and California waves. Why is it then, that this voice causes so much ambivalence within me?

I am a lesbian woman, and he is a male child. Nearly five years ago, I made a conscious choice to get pregnant; have my child; and do it alone. It was at a time in my life when I was younger and felt ready to take on the whole world. Now, as I look back, I can see that it has been hard, lonely, and even isolating. Still, it has been intense, warm, and rewarding.

At this time in my life, however, being //mother// is not enough - I also need my sisters as part of my life. It is from my son and wimmin that I gain the most positive energy. And I am haunted by a question: //Can I bring these two worlds together?//

A lover once asked me, //Weren't you pissed when your baby was a boy?//

I have been told, //Having a son will be a handicap to me in the lesbian community.//

My response to this is: This child is of my flesh. I do not believe, nor will I ever accept, that the fact he was born with a penis means he is doomed.

Recently my son sat in a room full of Lesbians. He was held, hugged, and talked to. I felt warm and content inside as I watched. Then, it occurred to me that someday he will

be sixteen. Will he then be allowed to enter the room?

We theorize from time to time about building our own community or state, and living together. Many times I have wanted to ask; but fear has held me back: //Sisters, will you leave me behind with my son?//

I am not free to go to the bars at whim; to be out to the point where I will lose my job; to move easily; or

to think always of myself first. There are times when I resent that. I am free, however, to love; to share our lives; and to be involved. I need the community. And I think my son and I can add to it - given the chance.

Yes, I respond to //Mama// spoken by a small male voice - but I respond no less to word //Sister// as spoken by lesbians everywhere.

ON THE EDGE

by Elaine Barton

Home for the holidays... Maybe your mother has stopped probing to see if there are any new men in your life. Maybe she has reached a point of acceptance, greeting your dog and cat at the door like grandchildren.

Holidays are the time when families get together and who is getting together is changing. No longer is the nuclear unit the dominant form of human bonding. The latest statistics on distribution of people in households is:

- 30.5% of households consist of married couples with no children living at home
- 20.6% are single-person households, (of these 1/3 are women over 65)
- 18.5% include both the father and mother as wage earners, plus one or more children at home
- 15.9% of all households include a father as the sole wage earner, a mother as a full-time homemaker, and at least one child
- 6.2% are headed by women who are single parents, with one or more children at home
- 5.3% consist of female or male headed households that include relatives other than

2.5% consist of unrelated persons living together

0.6% include single male parents

1977 U.S. Statistical Abstract //Moral Majority// propaganda would have us think the traditional nuclear family (15.9%) is still the //American// way of life (some statistics are as low as 7.8%).

What does your family look like? Friends can be family and provide that intimate and memorable contact. If I may quote a friend of mine, //holidays are the time when you leave the ones you love and visit your family.// This doesn't need to be seen as a negative view of the family, but rather an active validation of alternative relationships.

For lesbian couples, holiday arrangements are usually made with caution (we'd make great double agents), if it's not a matter of simply driving or flying off in opposite directions. Trading holidays is a solution for some if you can depend on your family to come up with reasonable explanations as to your presence: //I know that long drive is hard by yourself,// or //isn't it nice you have someone to keep you company.// It

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THE FESTIVALS



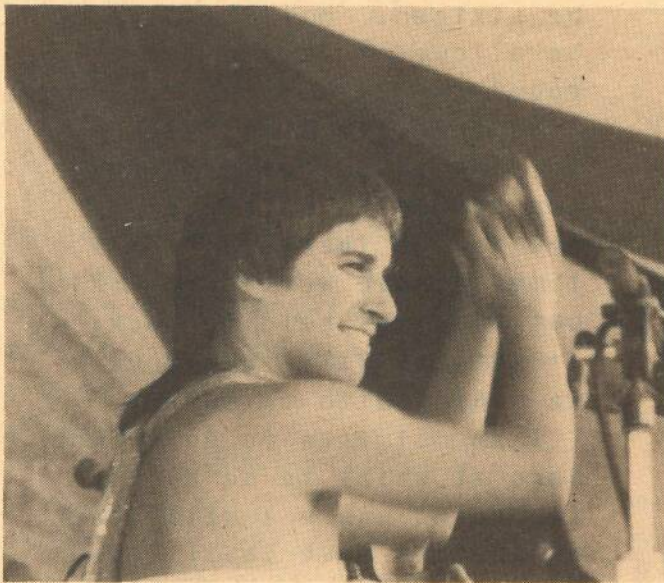
Not all transportation was reliant on one's Addidas.



Jan Martinelli - a veteran of professional jazz circuits.



Michigan is one place where cleanliness becomes a social event.



Gayle Marie joined the Alberta Jackson Band with the enthusiasm inherent to Michigan.

by J R

Out of the night came the sound of percussion instruments. The land swelled with women. In the darkness, joined by the moon and stars, women danced. The primal beat hitting a common chord in our hearts resounding from pre-history. Diana was there, Persephone was there, Artemis was there. They were all at the Sixth Annual Michigan Womyns Music Festival.

The Sixth Annual Michigan Womyns Music Festival. An annual celebration of Mothers and Daughters. Sisters from all over the country and the world. And the above experience is only one of many. There were many others. A time of firsts. A city woman's first camping experience. The first time to put up a tent. To bathe with many other women in a creek, splashing water, sharing soap, washing backs. Feeling for the first time in a long time secure in the beauty of the night. Capable with my sisters in the light of day. Volunteering service and knowing it is welcomed and needed.

A meeting of the minds - a time for talking frankly for the first time with disabled women, separatists, Irish lesbians, fat dykes, anarchists. A time for honesty. Being at the largest workshop held at the political tent - the work-



Everyone had a chance to be heard - one way, or another.

photos by
pat c.

shop on Sadomasochism, and hearing women talk, argue, agree and disagree on the feelings.

Networking, reaching out to women from all over the world. Meeting new faces, greeting old ones. Feeling safe, feeling strange. Going to the womb for the loving care that only women can give. Hearing Alix Dobkin talk about the International (Yes, I said International) Lesbian Movement. Hearing Merle Macklin, one of the oldest lesbians there, get on stage and sing an original song.

Hearing Robin Tyler call for a lesbian network of filmmakers and video artists. Seeing the women whose music I've spent many hours enjoying. Dancing with my sisters to the strains of "We Are Family" and feeling a bond with each and everyone. Knowing that, if we have nothing else in common, we have all consciously chosen to love women.

And then saying goodbye, have a safe trip, please write, see you next year and I love you.

YOSEMITE GATHERING DRAWS MIXED REACTION

by Lisa Kohl

The list of performers and workshop leaders read like a Who's Who in the Women's Movement. Meg Christian and Charlotte Bunch. Holly Near and Kate Millet. Flo Kennedy and Maiden Voyage. Directed by Torie Osborn. Produced and emceed by Robin Tyler, Camp Mother, September 10-13.

A trip into an unusual and visionary world created by, for and about women. "Sun-bathing", swimming in a lake next to a lawn area for jam sessions, hiking in the woods of Yosemite, women displaying their crafts - this was to be a celebration, a festival. Think of it - 4,000 women camping in the woods! Nirvana!

The reality was more like LITTLE PILGRIMS' PROGRESS, with heaven nowhere in sight. Women attending discovered, once again, that if there is any possibility for disagreement or confrontation, we will find it.

The environment itself tried the patience of even the most hardy. Dust was so thick many women wore breathing masks. It was impossible to find a clean place to sit. Finally, showers had to be rationed, in order to keep the water pressure up due to the threat of fires.

Brief rain showers did not begin to settle the dust. But they were sufficient to delay the evening concerts; any water on the sound equipment would have ended all performances.

The high fire risk made campfires or the use of cooking equipment out of the question. Finding hot water for coffee or tea was

a doomed venture in frustration.

Vegetarian cooking was the order of the day. It was very good. The problem was the wait in line. We waited an hour in each meal line...shuffling feet in the dust, straining to hear the classical string ensemble, nerves straining to the snapping point.

Adding to the frustration, communication problems developed. Women camping out in the woods had no way of knowing that meal times had been changed. The time and place of workshops changed with maddening regularity. Even when the workshops remained in place and started on time, the inability of many women to show up on time disrupted the proceedings.

But the most devastating event of the festival was a protest, organized by the third world women, and it conspired to drain energy away even from the music - the very essence of why we were gathered together.

Of course, the entire festival was not without its bright moments. The musical aspects of the festival were outstanding. From the classical string ensemble at dinner to the late night dance bands, the depth, variety and perfection of women's music is something to be proud of.

The crafts on display evidenced a wide variety of talents and interests.

The care and consideration for disabled women

was laudable.

Kate Millet, with her low voice and philosophical ellipticism, spoke on the first night of 'community'. "We must", she said, "rise to a new level of community." The forces against us in the country today are too great, and unless we discover this new level of community, we will fail as a movement.

I think Kate Millet is right. Women must rise to a new level of community. This festival illustrated painfully that we are not there, that we are dissipating our energy in internal bickering, lacking a sense of pride, not an effective force in the world, not even an effective force in our own lives.

The event ominously epitomized some fundamental questions facing the women's movement! If we are fighting among ourselves, who will fight the enemy? If we are ignorant in our treatment of each other, who will enlighten the world? If we don't respect the talent that we have, if we don't respect ourselves - who will respect us?

GAY

cont. from page 2

you are gay, straight, or bi-sexual you are welcome.

GAO has many lectures, discussions, and activities planned for the future, feel free to attend! Also, GAO works closely with Oklahomans for Human Rights (OHR) manning the Gay Hotline. GAO also provides rides to OKC to attend OHR meetings on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

From early times in history, homosexuality has been a taboo subject. It's time to open the door and step out into a world of light.



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My Point of View

by T. Bennett

In this edition and the following editions, I will try to share with you that which has been hidden, known only by a small number of people throughout the ages up to this time. In this hidden knowledge is contained the heritage and destiny of a race of people, who at this time do not as a whole know that they are a race set aside from all other races. A race called out from all other races.

We are a most unique people, for we are the only race of people that need not reproduce itself. Should every Gay person in the world die at this instant in time, in the very next generation we Gay people would be here once again. Our race cannot be exterminated. We have been here on earth always. God put us here. We are not a self-creation.

For 2,000 years a Great lie has been perpetrated upon the people of the Western World. Gay people have been fair game for this 2,000 years. We have persecuted, murdered and slandered. Our dignity and our Divine Mission was taken from us, and truth was hidden away. Our Godliness was taken from us and we were called evil, cursed of God. Great truths were hidden away. Words were given new meaning and the Great lie became as truth. Not only did the people as a whole fall for this Great lie, but as time passed, so did most Gay people. But not all, and so from one generation to the next the truth (well hidden) was passed on to this time.

All Gay people were born into the world as Gay people. We did not become Gay. This fact is just now being realized by most people. We Gay people remain at a fairly constant percentage of the general population, 10%.

This 10% can be found in every country on earth, no matter what culture one may examine. This is for a reason. For this is a law of God. 90% of all that the people have is theirs. But 10% of everything belongs to God. We Gay people are that 10%. We are the tithe from mankind to God the Creator. You see, in all of the Creator's dealings with people, God required that 10% of all that people had be returned to God to do the Creator's work.

Gay people are here on Earth as a special people for a special reason. We are here to change the world we live in, and to bring about the new order Jesus often spoke of. This new order was not the advent of the church. But something else totally. It was the order which unified a race of people into the Brotherhood of Man and the Sisterhood of Woman. Their mission was to do the work of God and to serve God's Great Creation - man and womankind, to bring peace to Earth and to protect our Earth, mother of us all.

There is much more I could talk about, but it will wait. A few words and their meanings will follow. These words have been given inaccurate meanings. All Gay people should know these words and their true meanings:

CELIBATE - one who abstains from sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. A celibate is a Gay person. Gay people make love.

REPROBATE - one who engages in sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. A reprobate is a heterosexual. Heterosexuals make babies.

COMPASSION - an emotion that one man feels for another man or one woman feels for another woman. Like gravity.

PASSION - an emotion a man feels for a woman or a woman feels for a man. Gay people do not have this emotion. Passion serves as a type of gravity that draws a man & woman together to reproduce.

In future articles we will discuss such topics as sexuality and non-sexuality. If you are Gay you are a non-sexual, not homo-sexual.

What a fisher of men is. What is the most sacred animal, and many others.

Correspondance to:

T. Bennett
700 Cruce St. Apt. B
Norman, OK 73069

DYKEWISE

by Ronin

I went to the bar the other night. Just thought I'd amble on up to the bar and get a Bud. Well, the bartender fastened upon me a suspicious glare and said gruffly, "No Bud - COORS." I, not wanting to appear forward, inquired if there might not be a few other brands I could choose from. Well, the bartender scratched her head thoughtfully for a minute and then proudly affirmed that they also had Coors Light, as if that ought to be enough selection for anybody. She went on to say that Coors supported her and she in turn supported Coors. I went on to ask her how in the hell she figured that, and she said that whenever the Bar Owners Association has a function Coors donates free beer. (Now those of you with a head for math, follow closely.) Let's say Coors gives 8 to 10 free kegs of beer per year, in turn Coors enjoys overwhelming popularity, and in some cases outright monopoly, at the bars. Coors Company makes lots of money, a substantial portion of which goes to the Coors family. The Coors family members in turn donate thousands of

(continued on page 7)

hermit's riddles

when I say
come to me.
enwrapped in your arms
I am the fire.
am I weaving
with fog-crystal cloud
a web of illusions?

when I hold
in my hand
your heart's secret key
I am the power.
am I the phoenix
rainbow feathers charred
flying a spiraling path?

when I hold you
to keep cold from the night
through the winter
I am hearth to you.
Am i burning an altar
casting flickering golden light
of no gooddeesses' name.

when I see
before me now
a future of past echo's
I am seeing
am I deceiving
tree-top view image of
myself about these things?

when I know
truely as
sun sets in west
I am empty.
can I sleep
peacefully, under starry sky
should I close my eyes?

when I tell you
we are interwomen
fabric pattern of karma
I am on fire.
am I burning
as a yod from the sun
or a witch in the night?

when you see me
smile for another
with eyes of longing
I am seeking
am I finding
a wholeness in myself
or merely false masks?

when I say
the cosmos
is within us,
I am the center.
am I believing
the waves crest bringing
these lucid truths myself?

myra fourwinds 11-j12-80

An Evening Alone

by V J Redick

She listened to the roaring
of the room
While silence absorded the
sheetrock

Age had at last tempered
the blow
While cynicism offered
consolation

The search for destruction
Nears to a peaceful end
Tempered by the warmth of
whiskey

We are
where and what
We hide
and how well
We hide
within ourselves

DYKEWISE (continued from page 6)

dollars to right-wing causes, including the Moral Majority. In fact, a 1979 Federal Election Commission Report stated that 25% of all private donations to the Moral Majority were from the Coors family. Now, I'm no mathematical wizard, but it seems to me that someone is getting the short end of the stick. It's not the Moral

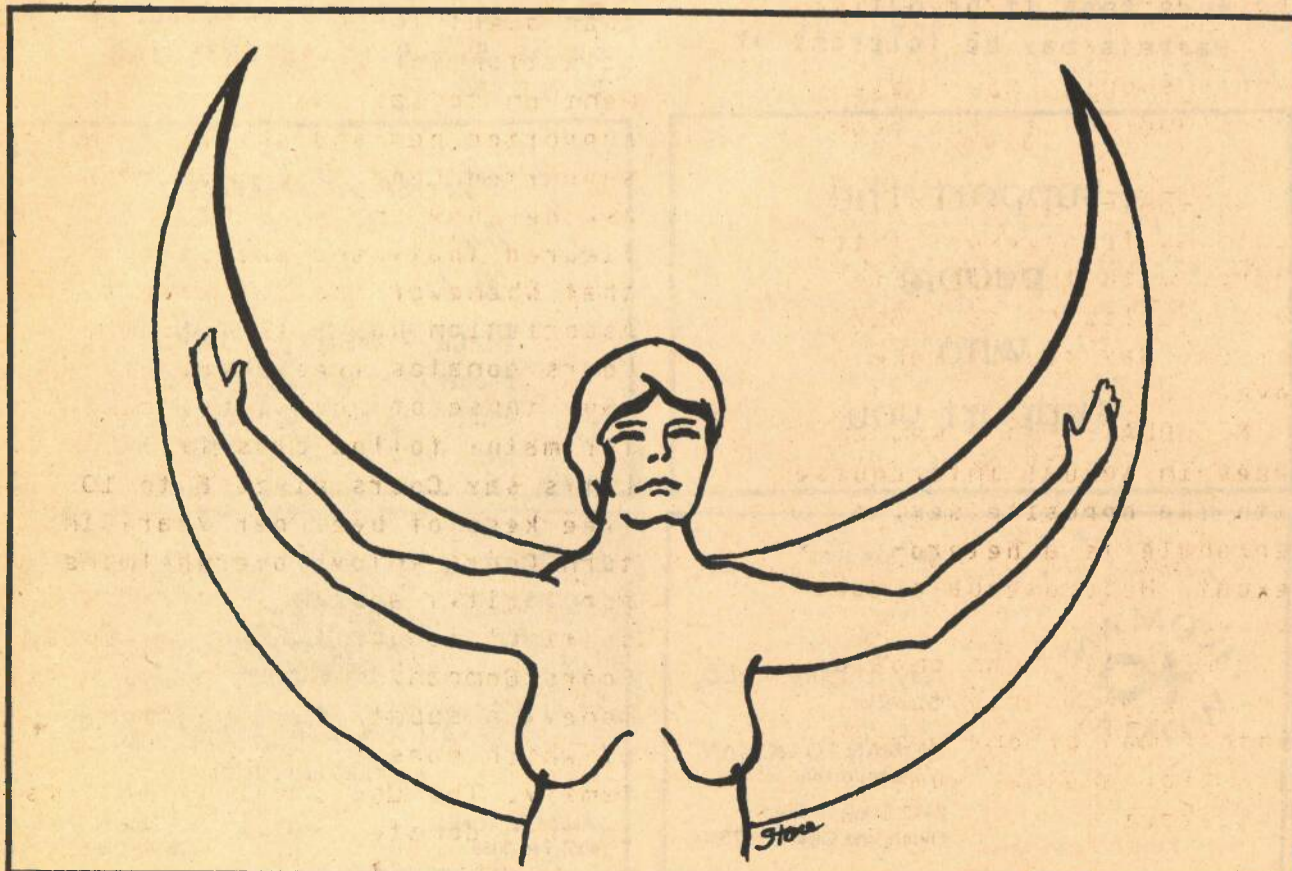
Majority, it's not the right wing, it's not the Coors family, or the Coors Company. So who's getting screwed? That's right! We are.

I don't deny that Joe Coors is a very generous man. He gives lots of money to groups like the HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Phyllis Schlafly's EAGLE FORUM, the MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL

FOUNDATION, and the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, to mention a few. Some of you may have never heard of these groups, but you had better start listening, because they are working openly against Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, and against ERA. They have money and they have power, and they are using it against YOU. That's a pretty high price for a few kegs of beer, don't you think?

The Coors Company is coming on with this wounded dignity trip, saying Aw-come on! We're not such bad guys, don't we give you all that free beer? Well, boys, it was the damned least you could do to give us a little kiss while we were getting screwed.

The Brazen Hussy Rag would like to give special thanks to the following people for their incredible help in documentation and for support: J.R., INTERCHANGE Resource Center (1201 16th St., Suite 405, Washington, D.C., 20036); Jill Clarke of Gay Community News - Boston; and Eugene Haberman of Gay Alaska newspaper, Anchorage, Alaska.



cont. from page 3

may be a bit stressful to bring your lover home, but the benefits may outweigh the costs when the alternative is to be apart.

If it's your home, you are more aware of your families' habits; because you grew up there you may be able to adjust more readily to the subtle interactions, the nonverbals. You owe it to your lover to keep her informed as to the images you both have and want to have, but it's hard to control for not saying "thank you, dear" when you are poured a cup of coffee.

There are advantages to bringing a womanlover home as opposed to a man,

but the advantages are a result of women's invisibility. You may get the bedroom with the double bed, unless your brother and his wife are there. You would have gotten to sit at the big table but your aunt and uncle came to dinner. Marriage legitimizes, and our society needs to recognize and confirm relationships between committed women as well.

The question to tell the family or play the "we're just good friends" role is something many have decided to let the family ask. But will the family ask? The reason they should is in the asking they say, "I see you!", or "I will recognize your existence, your involvement in a relationship apart from the societal necessity to 'Have a man sanction you.'" You will be wholly present and accounted for from there on.

Everyone's family has been confronted with the "issue" of homosexuality. In the media it is gay rights, child custody suits, discriminatory hiring and firing, lesbians in the Navy, gays in the Air Force, Christopher Street, Mardi Gras, the Stonewall riots, Gay Pride Week. Most everyone has been confronted personally also, whether they know it or not. Parents may be tolerant or

disagree with the choice to be lesbian as an "issue", but when it becomes personal, when it's their daughter, often any previous rationale is clouded with emotion - "what did we do wrong?" Why ask why? The choice to be lesbian is only different to the choice to be heterosexual because heterosexual is what most men teach and insist upon.

For parents I think it's very painful for some. They may be unable to think past what appears to be a cancellation of their lifestyle and what they hoped for their children. But disappointment does not have to follow difference and difference doesn't have to mean rejection. Because sexuality in its most traditional form has not been especially well understood, it hasn't been comforting for people to talk about it much or get past themselves in order to see even one other person, let alone people who are different sexually. But many traditions aren't so traditional anymore. On an individual level, we must affirm ourselves as best we can and talk with whom we can.

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