

University;<sup>12</sup> the Women's Center;<sup>13</sup> leadership roles in the daycare movement and the free medical clinic; producing lesbian talent shows and concerts; setting up a free car repair garage. And as I mentioned, there were lesbian printers and a typesetter, who were joined in 1981 by a lesbian bindery.<sup>14</sup> The Iowa City lesbian community's do-it-yourself tradition meant that lesbians looked for ways to be involved in their culture. They worked—always for free—on any number of projects. This ethic helped assure *CL/LL*'s survival.

The other important factors in *CL/LL*'s birth and survival were the race and class privileges her white, middle-class members operated from. Access to credit, friends with some money to share, college educations, and the cultural assumption that doors will be opened combine to bridge the leap from "if only" to "I can."

### **Business Stuff**

The work that goes into producing each issue of the magazine is considerable. Working from 3–6 hours a week, a collective of about five lesbians coordinates the organization, does the selection and editing of the contents, and makes business decisions. Poetry editing has usually been done by a separate group, and cover design by an artistic dyke. For the first seventeen issues, the magazine was hand collated by a crew of dykes who ended up giddy and hysterical from walking in circles around tables piled with 16-page "signatures" of the mag's contents.<sup>15</sup> Not until the third year was anyone paid to help with office work; since then, there has usually been a half-time office lesbian working for \$5/hr

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12. Called Action Studies, it was headed by various lesbians who consciously used it as a way to funnel University resources to lesbians and other grass-roots groups in town.

13. The Women's Center (later called the Women's Resource and Action Center) was founded in 1971 on the campus of the University of Iowa. Most of the leadership was lesbian.

14. Founded as A Fine Bind, it later became part of the Iowa City Womens' Press.

15. *CL/LL*, like many books, was printed on large sheets of paper, 8 pages to a side, that were then folded into "signatures," collated, bound, and trimmed.