



# BLACK LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

Vol. I  
Number 4

OCTOBER 1982



### Advertisements

Vivienne Walker-Crawford  
Marlene Bonner  
(415) 548-6661

### Classified

Marlene Bonner

### Distribution

Joyce Penalver  
Marlene Bonner  
Lindsay Elam

### Editing

Vivienne Walker-Crawford  
Marlene Bonner

### Fundraising

Lindsay Elam  
Anita Countee  
Joyce Penalver  
Marlene Bonner  
Vivienne Walker-Crawford

### Graphics

Marlene Bonner  
Vivienne Walker-Crawford  
Sarita Johnson  
Janet Wallace

### Subscriptions

Joyce Penalver

### Typing

Sarita Johnson

### Layout Facilities

Women's Press Project

### Special Thanks

K.D.F Reynolds

Whoops!! We forgot to give credit to Chocolate Price for the September cover and general graphic work.

Cover design by Sarita Johnson

## *Submissions*

We welcome any and all written and graphic work by local black lesbians. Our format includes news, reviews, personal perspectives, political commentaries, interviews, poetry, letters, ads, announcements, humor, and journal entries. Fictitious names or pseudonyms are standard literary practice and should

be used if the contributing artist fears "too much visibility."

The deadlines for the next two issues are October 4th for the November issue and November 3rd for the December issue.

Give us a call if you have an idea that you want to talk about.

## *Outlets*

The Old Mole  
1942 University Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
(415) 540-6077

A Woman's Place  
4015 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94609  
(415) 547-9920

Old Wives Tales  
1009 Valencia  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 821-4679

Modern Times Bookstore  
968 Valencia  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 282-9246

Options for Women Over 40  
San Francisco Women's Building  
3543 18th Street/Valencia  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 431-6405

Laughing Goddess Grotto  
4118 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94609  
(415) 653-4169

Pacific Center  
2712 Telegraph Avenue  
Berkeley, CA  
(415) 548-8283



## From Us To You

The Black Lesbian Newsletter would like to express its sincere gratitude to the community for the warm response it has received after publishing only our third issue.

We feel this newsletter is an important vehicle for creating a sense of community which so often seems fragmented and isolating. As of this date, we are convinced of its need by your increasing support.

It has come to our attention that certain issues raised by the BLN have not come into total agreement with the thoughts of a number of our sisters, and we ask these sis-

ters not to just sit idly by and criticise us. We all have a responsibility to come forward and share our thoughts with other sisters. This can be an important way to express the divergent opinions and ideas of black lesbians. This newsletter does not belong to any one segment of our community, but it belongs to all of us.

We ask you to take this as a challenge to bring all sides of the issue to the front. Submit articles, write letters, and get some dialogue going, thereby helping our whole community to grow.

And finally, we ask for your continued support in these rough, but yet exciting times.

The Black Lesbian Newsletter

## WE SOUND LIKE THIS

We Sound Like This is a newly formed Black Lesbian band presently gracing Bay Area stages. Their first public appearance was on Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day in June of 1982. However, their official debut was August 13, 1982 in Radcliffe Hall (Ollies) where they "wowed" a small, but attentive audience.

Their style keeps with the tradition of all types of Black music, incorporating, blues, jazz, funk, rhythm and blues and folk. The versatility of the individual members is impressive and general musical excellence seems to be the prevailing goal.

Anna Maria Flechero, pianist/vocalist, plays with a

searing gut force that reflects total absorption in her musical expression. Her potency is exhibited by rich deep chords on the piano, grooving body gestures and a full, resounding voice.

continued on page 8





## PASS THE WORD

IF YOU TRY AND MAKE ME  
CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU AND  
MY MOTHER  
WE SHALL EMBARK UPON  
A SILENT WAR  
SLOWLY I WILL BEGIN TO  
NEGATE YOUR PRESENCE  
MORE AND MORE I WILL  
BEGIN TO SPEAK LESS.  
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND I'M  
NOT INHERENTLY NASTY  
BUT I ASSURE YOU, YOU  
WILL ALWAYS LOSE.  
A TRANSGRESSION IS A  
TRANSGRESSION

THE DAMAGE IS SET FORTH WITH  
THE CHALLENGE  
AND I WILL TAKE YOU ON  
I WILL TOSS DIRECTLY IN YOUR  
FACE

THE MOST PERFECT EMOTION OF  
INDIFFERENCE  
I WILL SHOCK YOU WITH MY  
ABILITY TO RESIST YOUR  
FORGIVENESS  
I WILL WALK PAST YOUR DOOR,  
STARE YOU IN THE FACE  
AND SEE NOTHING.  
I WILL PRINT GESTURES ON MY  
FACE THAT CAUSE YOUR MOUTH  
TO FALL OPEN REPEATEDLY.....  
AND JUST IN CASE YOU DID NOT  
GET THE WORD

I WILL SEND YOU A LETTER IN RED.

Poems c 1980 Nedra Williams



Photo by Joan Franklin

## SONGS of the HUM- MINGBIRD

gyrating thighs  
against a shimmer of delight  
the covers twist endlessly  
to fit our emotions

oil smooth stones  
slip between the crests edge  
while,  
the plateau of our cry  
pulls the horizon into  
a relationship with the stars

no words spoken  
only striking monologues  
of flesh and feelings  
flesh hot with thought  
and immersion  
we cant homonymes  
to the songs of the humming-  
bird  
and listen to the rustle of  
the trees

we leave the bed unmade  
to air our feelings



# CHANGES

dedicated to Askari and Weldon

Mastery does not lie in progressions, but in synapses  
a scientific explanation for leaps.....

neurons are a part of the plan  
....but the nucleus is the origin.

Change only comes with those  
that want to leap....  
can you leap, can you see  
a different way

Consciousness is your only recourse  
for stupidity of yourself.

Mastery, does not lie in progress  
but in synapses.



Photo by Joan Franklin



© SARITA JENNINGS 1982

# WONDER.....MENT

for Sarah Webster Fabio

butterfly lady  
with wings of mosaic images  
creating ideas as you progress  
through adventures  
only you could possess

visions flow from your passions  
to meet with the breeze of  
necessity  
and you transform your beauty  
over and over  
giving witness to the splendor  
of life

lands drift beneath you as  
moons rise to echo  
the tale of the caterpilla  
while softly the rain kisses  
the earth  
and i know you are near

fluttering past my window your  
flight  
is patterned after  
tutolla, cesaire and hurston

whispering as you sail  
you say to me  
create, create, create.

Poems c 1980 Nedra Williams



# Help Name the Newsletter — Contest



As you may have already noticed, we have given birth to a hefty 8-page newsletter. Although it gets bigger and brighter every month, we haven't yet come up with a name. So we are asking you, the interested reader, concerned community member and serious black lesbian to help us with this dilemma. Send us your suggestions for a name, with your name, address and telephone number to: Black Lesbian Newsletter, P.O. Box 11643, San Francisco, CA 94101. The dead-

line is November 1, 1982. The submitter of the name that is finally chosen will WIN:

\*1 year free subscription to BLN

Please hurry!!! It's almost 8 months old, starting to walk, and we don't know what to call it!!!

## Donations

We now have non-profit status through the sponsorship of the San Francisco Women's Centers. Therefore all donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to the San Francisco Women's Centers/Black Lesbian Newsletter in order to benefit from this status.

## Announcements

### October 1

We Sound Like This, Gwen Avery, Debbie Sanders and buffet - Benefit for Lovey's Restaurant at Duste's Corner Zoo - 16th and Market, SF - 9 pm, \$5.00

### October 8

We Sound Like This - Artemis Society - 9pm - 11pm - \$4.00

### October 10

Soft Sundays - Music by Fundi-Ollies - 3pm - 6pm - Free

### October 23

We Sound Like This - Gerties of Sonoma County - 9pm - 12am \$4.00 (48 hrs. in advance) (707) 527-0485

### Midgett's Place October Events: October 15

Lambert Vanburen - Afro-Haitian dancer - 8pm - \$3-4

### October 22

Anne Sandifer - poet and writer reading her first collection - 8pm \$3.00

### October 29

Topic: Sexuality - 8pm Free

### Wednesdays

Women of Color Health Clinic in south Berkeley - for information call Berkeley Women's Health Collective 843-6194

### Deadlines for Announcements

Oct. 11 for Nov. issue

Nov. 9 for Dec. issue

(415) 524-5969



## Classified Ads

### PERSONALS

Articulate, warm, easy-going, over-achiever woman seeks another woman who is particular about whom she calls "friend." Let's share growth and an inner glow of love. Call Ann 547-0158

### NOTICES

THE RISE OF THE FATES, A Halloween Comedy by Z. Budapest, Sunday Oct. 31 7:30 and 10:30 pm \$6 at Ollie's Radcliffe Hall 4130 Telegraph Ave. Oakland (415) 653-4169.

We need your original writing and art for the upcoming book "I'm Not A Women's Libber, But..." about your struggles and ideas. Poetry, essays, humor, artwork. Submit by Nov. 1, 1982. For more info, call 848-4850 or write c/o Paula Ross, Box B 1312 Addison St., Berkeley CA 94702.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Visit the West Coast Lesbian Collections, Sundays noon to 4 and Wednesdays 6 to 9 - Call us at 465-8080, or write P.O. Box 23753 Oakland CA 94623

Play bingo for the Women's East Bay Building Fund every Wednesday 7-10 at Ollie's Radcliffe Hall, 4130 Telegraph Ave. Oakland - childcare and info 261-0385

### ARTICLES FOR SALE

The Laughing Goddess Grotto 4118 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 653-4169 - candles, oils, incenses, gifts, books. 4pm-9pm.

### HELP WANTED

Would you like to make money selling ads for the Black Lesbian Newsletter? If so, give us a call at 524-5969 or 548-6661.

Make money hawking the Black Lesbian Newsletter at the bars or women's events - Call 524-5969 or 548-6661.

### WANTED

Ride needed to CCSF - Call Anita 543-5124

Power weights and other body-building equipment - Call Joyce 893-1341

<p><u>Deadlines for Classified Ads</u> Oct. 11 for Nov. issue Nov. 9 for Dec. issue (415) 524-5969</p>
--

For classified ads, enclose \$1 per line (\$2 minimum per ad). There are 22 characters per line. Each letter, punctuation mark or space between words counts as a character. We reserve the right to use our discretion in the selection of advertisements.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



## We Sound Like This (continued from page 3)

Dee Harris, the bass guitarist, gives a center stage performance through her "funk machine" and spontaneous dance. Her smile was very warm and my enjoyment was heightened just knowing that she was having fun.

Cookie, the percussionist, presented a balanced image of intensity and control. Her "licks" were well timed, tasteful and properly proportioned. I did find myself, however, longing to hear more percussion and hoping that she would take a more prominent role in the future.

The drummer, Yolanda Bush, proved herself to be one of the most talented musicians in the group. Besides traps, Bush also did a solo spot with guitar and vocals that tickled, tantalized and soothed. I felt as though she had invited me into her living room for a talk over a bottle of wine. Her basic rhythmic nature, was not only displayed on the drums but was also demonstrated by a light teasing scat during her solo.

The overall performance of the group was spotty. "Your Basic Space Cadet," written by Flechero, was very strong and powerful, while other tunes suffered from poor arrangements and inconsistency. Two old favorites, however, made their appearance under new names and expansive orchestrations. These were: Summer-time, newly named Calypso Woman and incorporating a gospel chorus; and Song For My Father, renamed Song To My Lady and using varying musical modes.

8

I hope that we hear more from We Sound Like This and encourage the community to give this new group abundant support. See Announcements section of the Newsletter for October performance dates.

c 1982 Vivienne Walker-Crawford

## Subscriptions

I have enclosed \$5 for a one year subscription (12 issues) to the Black Lesbian Newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yes, please put me on the mailing list.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please send subscriptions, ads, correspondence, or donations to:

Black Lesbian Newsletter  
P. O. Box 11643  
San Francisco, Ca. 94101  
(415) 548-6661

