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September 1982

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

*1 year free subscription to BLN

*\$25.00 gift certificate to Rags--40's and 50's clothing store

Please hurry!!! It's already 6 months old, starting to walk, and we don't know what to call it!!!

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

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

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

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

Rags
3789 24th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 285-6509

Going...Going...Gone??

Almost 300 women of color attended the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Connecticut last year. This year there were only about 30. What happened?

Racism was the theme of last year's conference held in an all-white, secluded university town. Women of color were invited to speak about race, and did so in a variety of contexts. Some discovered, however, that race was the only thing they were asked to talk about, even if they felt quite competent in other areas as well. Others discovered they had almost as much trouble discussing race with other Third World women as they did with white women. There were breakthroughs, though, and women opened up to each other.

By the time the conference was over everybody seemed burned out or up or both about color, and some black women gave up on the NWSA organization, even if they did not give up on their sisters in it. Some white women decided they had been guilt-tripped enough and pledged to drop the subject of racism altogether for the rest of their lives.

This year the NWSA conference was held at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, more remote than ever from women of color, both geographically and ideologically. The theme this year was Feminist Connections Throughout Education, and a lot of women, especially black women, left feeling the connections were not made. Few workshops addressed the issue of race or racism in feminist

education, and few women of color participated in panels or events that did not have a racial/ethnic focus.

The lesbian presence in the National Women's Studies Association is strong and open. There are few professional associations where "out" lesbians can be perceived as competent in their respective fields, not just as lesbians. Many heterosexual women who attended were uncomfortable about the lesbian presence, as they were about the presence of "non-academic" women, such as community organizers, at what they interpreted as an academic meeting.

Conference costs this year and last were extremely high, and other expenses. Third World women are usually the most sharply affected by these costs and many simply could not afford to come, especially the large number of black women concentrated on the East Coast.

Continued on page 4



The Marx

Wednesday & Friday

9pm-2am

10pm-4am

*2267 Telegraph Avenue, Third floor
Oakland, California*

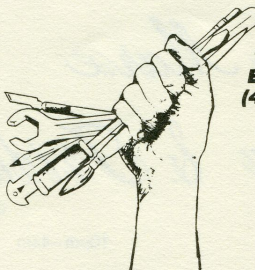
Going, Going, Gone???
Continued from page 3

Without a doubt the most enraging aspect of the NWSA conference was the policing of women who attended. Color-coded badges had to be flashed at every turn and checkers were instructed to keep out anybody without a badge. NWSA states that nobody is denied membership in the association for financial reasons, yet women were turned away at conference events because they couldn't afford the fees. Some members of the Third World Caucus decided to drop out of the NWSA and organize their own conference in Virginia next year; some will continue to be active in both efforts.

Next year's National Women's Studies Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio, and promises to be responsive to the needs of black and poor women. Columbus has a large black population, public transportation and a much greater choice of housing arrangements. Women of color are leaving the Association in droves right now, but if next year is no better, they'll not only be going, they'll be GONE.

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Strokes

Well, A-L-L-R-I-G-H-T!!!
I am really impressed with the quality of your paper from inside to out.

Through grapevine communications, I heard about BLN, so I went out and bought my first copy, the August issue. As I read, I couldn't stop saying: A-l-l-r-i-g-h-t!

Again, we Black womyn have beaten the odds! Although the survival inequalities render us short on time, money and energy, you have managed to invest all three into this wonderful publication.

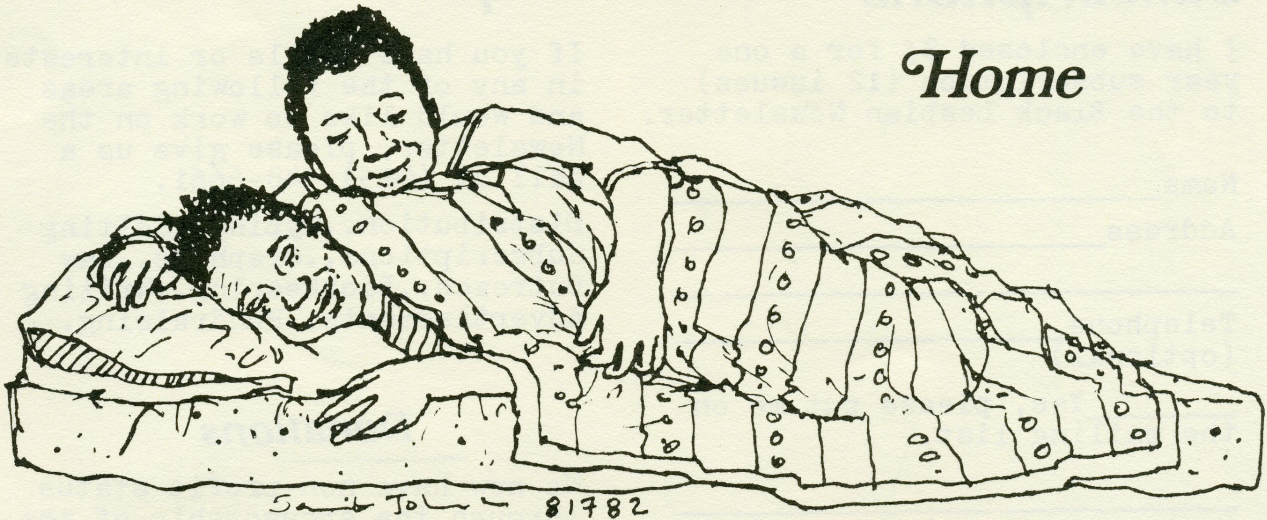
Since money and I have a serious misunderstanding, money has left me and all I can offer you is time and energy! Please let me know what I can do to help BLN "weather the storm."

Hang on in there, Black Lesbian Newsletter. We need you because without a voice, we'll be overlooked and definitely not heard. Thanks again for being.

In Love and Struggle,
Ann Sandifer



Home



I wake up smiling these days.
My eyes first focus on her face. If she is asleep, an innocence glows in her that sends an Electric current from my heart to my toes, long before the eyes have registered Daylight. She feels my glance and turns in her sleep to Enfold me in her arms, trusting, warm, completely Open. If she is already awake a Smile parts her face that would melt a glacier; I am at once swept up in her Love.

Of course I smile. I am home.

We often spend the night together, Weaving in and out of each other's dreams: Rescuing, fighting, protecting, teaching each other. Waking simply continues the Companionship on a different landscape, with slightly more ordered signposts.

Many people ask us what we have in common, what we ever find to talk about. Sometimes we laugh together about those curious questions; most often we answer them Soundlessly, in that moment, just waking, when we KNOW.

© Helen Stewart

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 September 6th for the October issue and October 4th for the November issue.

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

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

Help!!!

If you have skills or interests in any of the following areas and would like to work on the Newsletter, please give us a call at (415) 548-6661.

Distribution..Typing..Editing
Subscriptions..Graphics..Law
Outreach..Bookkeeping..Writing
Advertisements..Fundraising.

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

September 5

Eve & Lynn Present: A Tribute to Diana Ross. Buffet & Dancing Different Strokes, 1550 California St., San Francisco \$5.00 848-0242 or 885-2969

September 15

Opening of Women of Color Health Clinic in South Berkeley. For information, call Berkeley Women's Health Collective 843-6194

September 17

Music and dance by Lambert and Fundi - Artemis Society 9 p.m. \$4.00

October 30

The Black Lesbian Newsletter is having a big, bad Halloween party. For further details see our October issue, the Plexus calendar and/or flyers distributed throughout the community.

Tuesdays

Eve & Lynn Present: Salsa Music for Dancing. Different Strokes 1550 California, San Francisco \$1.00 9 pm - 2 am 547-4235

Deadlines for Announcements

Sept. 16th for Oct. issue
Oct. 14th for Nov. issue

Midgett's Place

A Private Space For
Lesbians

Fridays 864-0876

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

Self-assured, intelligent, mature, kindred spirit seeks woman that has a zest for life, who's daring, down-home and a lover of self! Call Pat 635-4497

SERVICES

Need a low cost answering service? Call "BUZZ" - Ann 652-3258

WANTED

Drums needed for aspiring musician - Carol 285-6509

Ride needed to CCSF in Fall. Call Anita 548-5124

MISCELLANEOUS

Drawstring pants, all sizes, infants to adults - Deborah 641-1904

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

EMPLOYMENT

Work exchange, vintage clothing store. Let's talk - Deborah or Carol 285-6509

GROUPS

Black lesbian theatre group forming. All Black lesbians are invited to participate in the forming of a new theatre ensemble. Writers and actors are most welcome. Thurs, Sept. 30th 7:30 - Berkeley Women's Center 2908 Ellsworth, Berkeley

Lesbians over 40 group. Every Thursday in September. Call Midgett 864-0876

Deadlines for Classified Ads

Sept. 16th for Oct. issue

Oct. 14th for Nov. issue

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 _____

Letter to Mother

This is an excerpt of a letter from my mother:

My Dear,

Please think about this real advice from me--for your best success and happiness please, please try to change what has been your lifestyle--then everything will fall into place, all in your favor.

God is watching over us all and is the only One to favor us with anything and all that is good if He is pleased with our actions. Only your mother can tell you the bare truth. Please don't feel offended. I really love you.

Always,
Mother

Dear Mother,

So far I am living day to day and taking each of life's challenges as they come.

As for my lifestyle as a proud, black lesbian--I will not change. At this point in my life, this is my political and emotional philosophy and way of life.

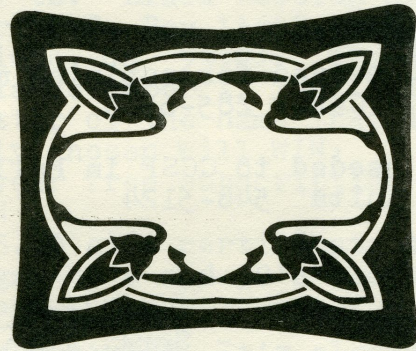
I feel that I don't have to prove myself to anyone. I owe it to myself to live my life as I see it.

I understand your concern as a mother, but I must live my own life--whatever lifestyle it may be.

I'm just beginning to find out who I am and I've discovered that I'm a survivor.

For now I'll sign off. I feel happy about myself and happy to come out of the closet and into the light.

Anita



*Ladies Nite
every
Saturday & Thursday*

DIFFERENT STROKES
1550 California Street
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Dancing - Disco/Salsa

Information: 885-2969
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your hostesses: Lynn and Eve



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