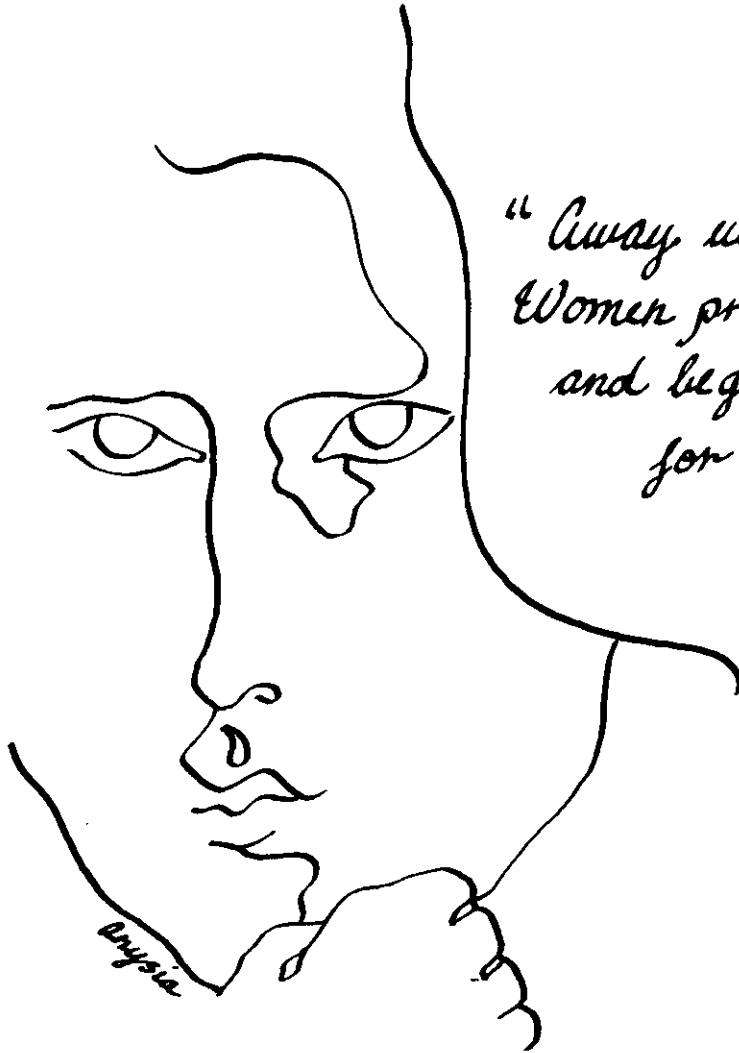


AMAZON

Vol. I Issue 4



10¢



*"Away with your man-visions.
Women propose to reject them all,
and begin to dream dreams
for themselves."*

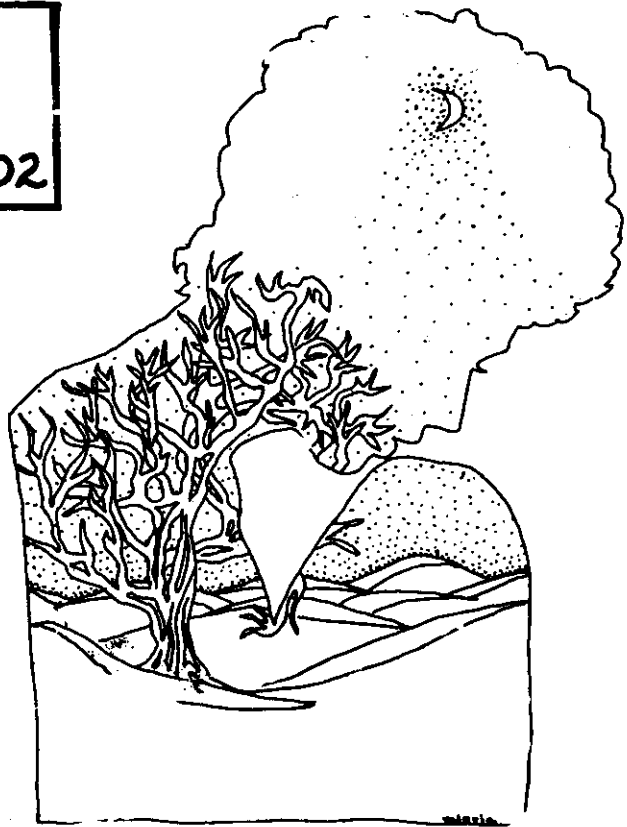
Susan B. Anthony

VOL. I No. 4
PUBLISHED BY AMAZON COLLECTIVE
P.O. BOX 90541 MILWAUKEE 53202

Perhaps this is the first time you've picked up the AMAZON and maybe you did it for general curiosity or specific curiosity to see a real feminist paper or cynical curiosity to see what those "Women Libbers" talk about.

The AMAZON staff flexibly consists of five to ten steady contributors, depending on the moon. We write usually on topics which concern us specifically as women in a sexist society and more generally as radically thinking people in a repressed society.

In order to keep the AMAZON alive, we need contributions from everyone—we can write just so much. If you are a person newly exposed to feminism, write and tell us how you feel about feminism, about the AMAZON, about projects you are involved in and want others to join --ANYTHING THAT YOU ARE FEELING. We need to hear from all of you, people searching for honest communion in a predominately phony and role-playing world.



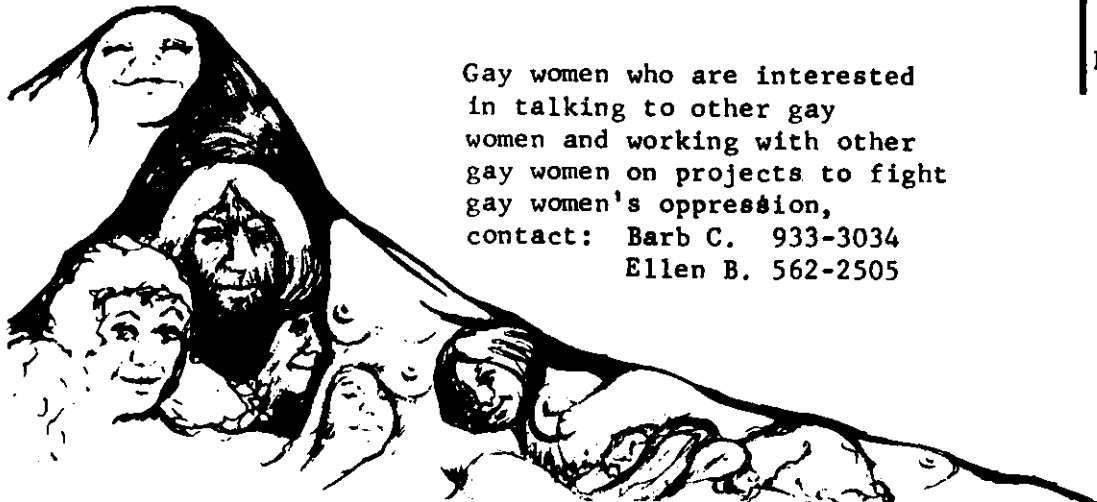
I MOVE TO THE COUNTRY

This place is new
the air is sweet and deep
I breathe in deep
inhale deep
receive the gifts
of some god
I do not know.

I am new
and you are new
I breathe in deep
I think of you
I breathe in you
bring you deep
inside of me
feel free with you
inside of me.

Martha Spencer

Gay women who are interested in talking to other gay women and working with other gay women on projects to fight gay women's oppression, contact: Barb C. 933-3034
Ellen B. 562-2505



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Fifty-two years ago the first feminists achieved their goal: the granting of the female suffrage. Unfortunately, the thrust of the women's movement had been entirely channeled into the suffrage question, and with the vote came the end of the activism the movement had generated.

Fifty-two years later we celebrate the day of winning the vote with mixed emotion. The movement, until recently, gained little else than a vote in a male dominated system. Women are still echoing the words and struggles of their earlier sisters. But, we can celebrate that we are no longer a one issue movement. Today's diversity, chaotic as it may sometimes be, will keep the women's movement from dying the death it did in 1920.

The twenty-sixth can be a celebration of that diversity, a diversity that encompasses all in the solidarity of sisterhood.

Monday, the 21st
Demonstration, Fair Lady,
2717 N, Mayfair Rd.,
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, the 22nd
Demonstration, The Milwaukee
Journal, Journal Square,
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Carolyn Mueller will speak
on WZMF-FM (98.3) 11 a.m. -
noon.

Wednesday, the 23rd
Demonstration, Women s
Jail, meet at the Court
House Plaza near the
Fountain, 11:30 a.m. -
1 p.m.

Thursday, the 24th
Demonstration, County
Hospital. For location
call Judy Anderson at
444-3060. 11:30 a.m. -
1 p.m.

Friday, the 25th
Demonstration, Heinemann's,
740 N. Broadway. 11:30-1 p.m.

Signs and leaflets will
be furnished for the
demonstrations each day
at the location.

Saturday, the 26th.
PARADE AND PICNIC

CITY-WIDE WOMEN'S MEETING
Washington Park
Areas 3 & 4
AUGUST 26th



august 26

To celebrate the anniversary of Women's Suffrage there will be a parade and picnic on Saturday, August 26th. The paraders will meet to organize at 11 a.m. by the lagoon on Lincoln Memorial Drive (just north of the Art Center). The official parade starting time is noon, beginning at the east end of Wisconsin Avenue, and continuing to 10th Street. The parade is expected to have floats, decorated autos, people costumed as famous women, etc. Everyone is welcome to march or ride with us.

At the end of the parade we will head to Washington Park, areas 3 & 4, for a picnic. It will be a pot luck picnic with each person bringing something to share with several others. There will be speakers and entertainment for us at the park. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US.

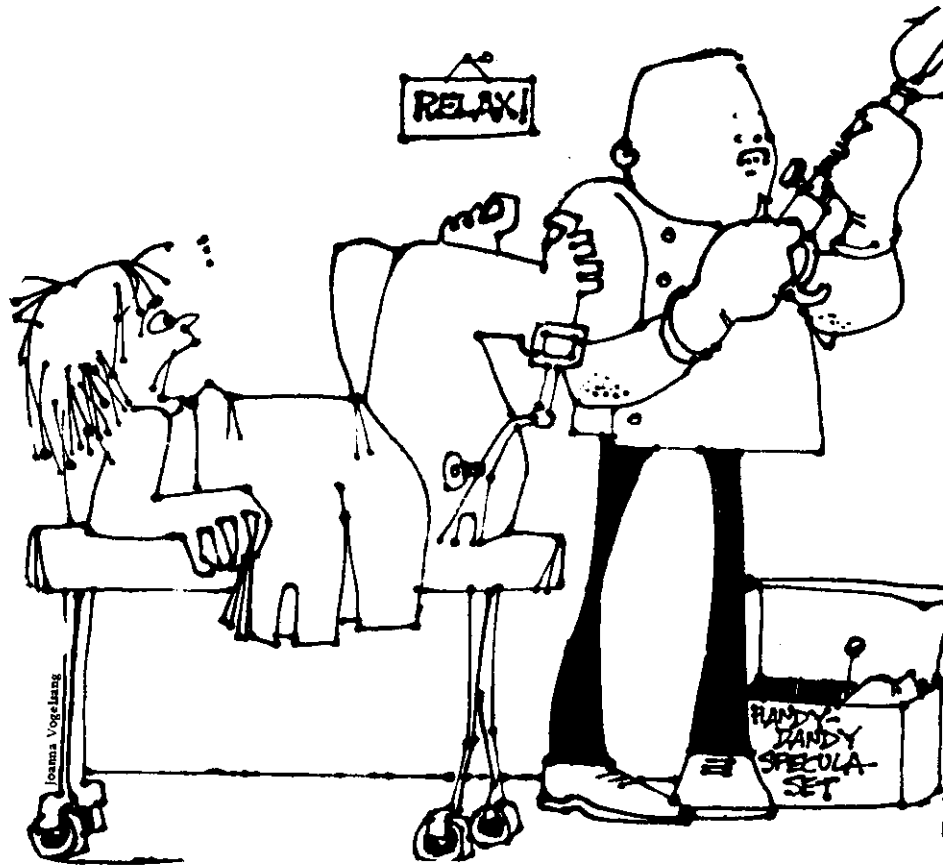
THE DOCTOR IS OUT...

of it

Women can get pregnant from their first period to their last. We spend thirty or forty years wondering and worrying about birth control methods, pregnancies, abortions, childbirth, and making love. Our sexual organs and feelings are a crucial part of our lives, and yet we know very little about them. Our ignorance begins with the simple fact that we can't see our sex organs unless we do contortions with mirrors. Little girls explore themselves, just as little boys do, but girls can't see anything and soon learn not to touch themselves when adults are around and not to ask questions or talk about those places in public. As they grow up they hear about periods and babies and boys from their mothers or from older girls and friends, but a lot of this is old wives tales and fantasy. In hygiene and biology classes, something about periods and about how babies are born, but it's not very real. When you learn about blood, you may prick yourself and look at your blood, feel your pulse, even listen to your heart through a stethoscope. But can you imagine a teacher saying, "Go home and put your fingers in your vagina and see what it feels like; feel that it's moist and at the end there's a round lump with a hole in the middle that leads to the womb."

Adults seem afraid that if we know about our bodies, we may go out, make love, and get pregnant—we may put our information into practice. The trouble is, once we've left school and probably *are* making love (and using or not using birth control) and maybe getting pregnant, we need the information but may not be able to get it. Our two main sources will probably be women's magazines and doctors and clinics. The magazines often handle biological questions well, and give concrete information once a subject has become respectable or fashionable. But magazines are a one-way medium; if you don't understand, you can't ask questions. More important, the magazines are mainly trying to encourage women to think about themselves as *objects* to dress up or make up -- not as people whose bodies are fine as they are. So a dozen articles which tell women they needn't douche their vaginas, or that if they do, they only need use white vinegar and water, probably won't have as much effect as the dozens of ads for vaginal sprays and deodorants which teach women that there is something wrong with their natural odors.

We are supposed to be able to get information about our bodies from our doctors, but there are very few doctors who have much sympathy and understanding for their women patients. Doctors are almost always men, and at their best they are usually patronizing or paternalistic. They assume women won't understand or don't care how their bodies work or what all that poking around inside is for--so they don't explain. It's difficult for a woman to get up the courage to question a busy doctor when she's lying on her back with her legs in the stirrups. If she doesn't have a college degree (which he has) or if she's poor (which he isn't) or if she's black or brown (which he probably isn't), it's hard to think of questions he won't think stupid or irrelevant. As a result, most of us don't feel comfortable talking with doctors and often leave their offices frustrated and angry.



Women today are demanding control over their bodies. We want to be able to *choose* when and how to have sexual relations, when we will get pregnant and when we won't; and if we do get pregnant, we want to be able to decide whether or not to have the baby. But to make these decisions, we must know about birth control, abortion, and pregnancy. We must know how the Pill and the IUD (coil or loop) affect us (the Pill is a hundred million dollar industry, and the drug companies have spent more on advertising than on research to find out if the Pill has any harmful side effects). We must learn as much as possible about abortion techniques so that we can decide if we want them, and, if we do, we must know how to have them safely. Poor women must not be pressured by government officials, teachers, and social workers to abort pregnancies they really want; eager men must not discard contraception because, "Even if you get pregnant, you can always get an abortion." We must be able to make our *own* decisions, based on our *own* needs.

from RAT

I consciously masturbated today
for the first time that I can remember.
It wasn't hard and it wasn't uptight.
Felt pretty damned nice.

Lots of other people have felt they had
the right to mess with me.
Lots of boys pretended to be men on me.
Lots of doctors put metal things and
middle fingers up me.
(Didn't even know them at all!)

I was starting to feel like some public restroom.

Then that began to change today
for the first time that I can remember.
I took care of me myself.
Feels pretty damned good.

Martha Spencer



GO

Here I am, ready to fly.
Looking over the edge
(with preliminary flapping, poised to move),
I need to lick my lips several times.
Shall I count to three, and go?

I must always keep all my new knowledge
in mind,
Simultaneous with pushing away the old,
the unuseable, the contradictory,
the lying, the no good.
Twenty-five no-good spattered years.

I have to step back from the edge for a moment
For my focus comes in and out.
These wings are pretty new --
Is their quality high?
Though convinced at times, I am now dubious.
But I cannot use the old pair again;
they're warped, completely undependable.
The new ones are only untried.

The starting point of a hundred new worlds
Is a trembling mass of panicked split atoms.

Women in the Arts

The Center for Twentieth Studies and the School of Fine Arts at UWM are co-sponsoring a week long celebration of "Women in the Arts" for October 23-29, 1972. During this week there will be exhibits, performances, readings, and lectures by outstanding women artists in dance, film, literature, theatre, music and the fine arts. The purpose of the week is to draw attention to women as creators of art, not just as interpreters, and to recognize achievement in the various fields. We are not calling this week a "symposium" because of the word's boring connotations. We want the week to be a joyous celebration.

Angela Peckenpaugh of English and Jane Butler of Twentieth Century Studies are doing the co-ordinating work with the help of faculty and students. As of July 1 we have a commitment from Adrienne Rich for Friday, October 27. The following people have indicated they are willing to participate: June Wayne (lithographer of the Tamarind Institute) and theatre critics Catherin Itzin (playwright and editor of Theatre Quarterly, a British publication), Jill Johnston (Village Voice), and Erika Munk (editor of Performance/Scripts).

We have also written to: Anne Sexton, Maya Angelou, Shirley Clarke, Barbara Loden, Eleanor Perry, Elaine May, Jane Fonda, Lee Grant, Carmen de Lavallade, Mary Hinkson, Pauline Oliveros and Thea Musgrave. The exhibits in the Fine Arts and the Union galleries will be devoted to our celebration and the Union has expressed its willingness to co-operate in the program planning.

Right now we're working to get commitments from people outside the University and to find the money to pay them. We want to get the faculty and students of UWM and the people in the community involved too, because the celebration is for you. So, if you have ideas for participants and/or programs, please call Jane (963-4141) or Angela (963-4540). We will schedule the major public presentations in the evening so women in the community and faculty and students with daytime activities will be able to attend. During the day visiting artists will meet informally with groups.

When school starts in the fall, we will be depending upon you to support the programs with your attendance and participation. We can use this week of events to show the interest and solidarity of all women. All available means of publicity will be used: T.V., newspapers, posters, mailings, etc., but we still need word of mouth publicity and personal involvement. Hope you are as happy about this opportunity as we are.



CREATING OUR CULTURE

ON THE WAY TO WORK

Umbrella dripping between his legs,
man leers across the aisle,
running his eyes obscenely down my body slowly.
Aquiver with disgust, I long to ram that weapon
between those lust-drooling eyes.
But, I sit,
collared with an 8 a.m. deadline heavy
round my anger.
One second our eyes meet, registering a
ritual understanding;
he with blantant arrogance,
I with blunted fury.

Mary Hines



The 1972-73 Contemporary Trends on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus will have a new title: "Futuristic and Present Trends". The theme for the course which is also open to the public and consists of a series of lectures will be CULTURAL PLURALISM.

This works out to such questions as: "Will this society survive beset by the demands of such diverse groups as women's liberation, Chicanos, Blacks, special interest economic lobbyists, youths, etc?" "Will competition between women and minority men become a major battle in the economic sphere?" "Will the end to the philosophy of America as the melting pot cause social chaos?"

This theme might prove to be an important one in shaping local thought about the legitimacy of women's rights. Dr. Peltz of the Philosophy Department is the coordinator of the series. If you have any suggestions for him, especially the names of qualified speakers, please do not hesitate to contact him. He can be reached at the Philosophy Department (963-4736) or at Twentieth Century Studies (963-4141), Mitchell 201.

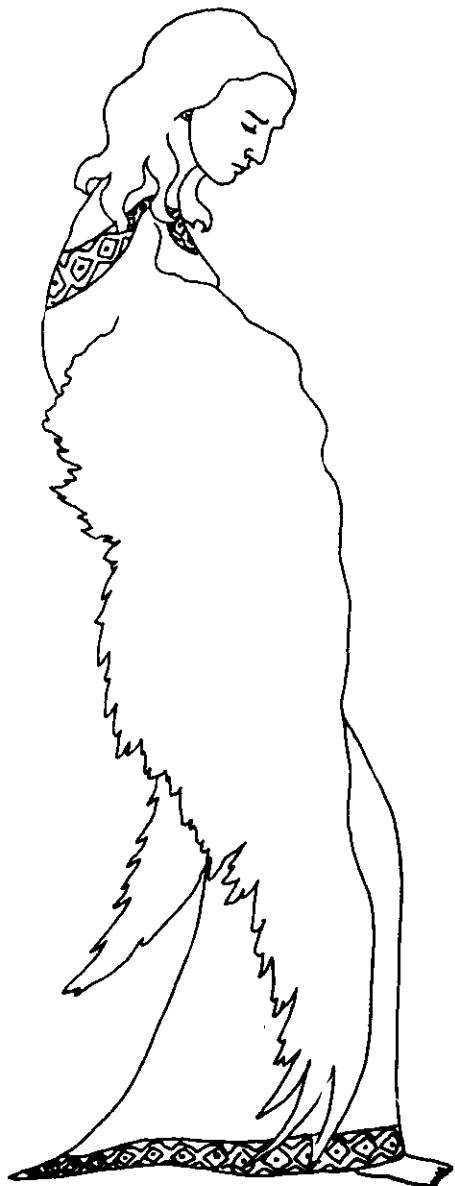
Give him your ideas soon.

MAMA'S HOMEMADE MEDIA, a feminist media collective, has been in existence for six weeks, learning how to use the equipment and doing sporadic filming. We've been working with INPUT, a Southside based community video group, and we would like to extend our warmest thanks to INPUT, especially John Pawasarat for his time and energy.

MAMA'S HOMEMADE MEDIA is available for all feminist happenings, topics and energies. Now past our infancy, we are embarking on a documentary on the Margaret Sanger Clinic.

Unfortunately, we can no longer use the INPUT equipment after the summer, because of their prior commitment to Southside community projects. If you have any leads, ideas, or resources or access to equipment please call Linda at 964-5936 or Andi at 278-8173.

Sheila Tobias of Cornell University will speak on Women's Studies at 3:00 p.m. on September 7, 1972 in the Fireside Lounge of the UWM Union. Her talk will be open to the public free of charge.



across from the Computer
 Room-beside it you
 pecking David & Sons' Sun-
 flower seeds
 from blue and orange wrapping.

You-beside it
 with treble fingers
 and glass gentle face
 of Cindy from Louisiana
 (Terrible
 in her scag-freak jacket!)

Little bird-women
 I could lift you aloft
 in the space of imagining
 and making oblation
 let fall my palms
 and see you
 glide away.
 Anysia

This fall there will be a course entitled "The Feminist Movement and Education" offered by UWM's School of Education (300-479-3 - section 2). The course is open to everyone and will hopefully provide the diversity to deal with many aspects of the movement wherever you are. If you have any questions concerning the course please contact Arlene (963-5142) or Joni (224-0972).

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR AMAZONS

Fertile Dirt
 Natural Foods Outpost
 Rhubarb Bookstore
 Margaret Sanger Clinic
 Sandburg Dorms
 Paperbacks Paperbacks

The 10¢ charge pays for the printing bills so please pay and keep us out of debt. Donations would be real nice. Thanks.

