



W/WST 2

0.15

and now some brief mailing comments.
 At this point OBSESSIONS splits off
 from mailing comments for another
 era, C/Rapa.

COVER Thank you Liz for an excellent
 and gorgeous cover. This may be the
 only way I have to compliment you as
 you moved and the last issue of JANUS
 I sent to you was returned, address
 unknown. Can anyone give me Liz's
 correct address?

AVEDON: Well I'm a little confused
 at times about what you are referring
 to because it seems that you are
 commenting on past zines and don't
 say which issue of OBSESSIONS your
 responding to. Not being able to
 find the remark you are taking off
 from gives me the odd feeling of be-
 ing taken out of context.

(A general comment to everyone: I'd
 really appreciate it if replies be
 clearly referenced, in other words
 mention made of which zine it came
 from, if a direct quote or synopsis
 of the original comment can't be
 made. I get so confused and end up
 just skimming over general compliments
 like good reply to so-and-so, etc.
 What use is there to say something if
 it doesn't make sense to anyone who
 is reading it?)

Your explanation of how a rape fantasy
 works by not really being rape because
 you have too much control over the
 possibly harmful details (more con-
 trol, as you say, than one normally
 does in real life), really clicks
 with my feelings about the whole thing.

After I did the "Persistence of Vision"
 Drawing, I found out that Richard
 Bruning, a Madison artist had also done
 one, and it turned out that we'd both
 chosen the same scene to illustrate.
 It was the one at the end where the
 group of people are **ing and the pro-
 tagonist and his friend, the woman are
 watching on with the dog. Richard did
 just the group **ing, and I included

and in fact centered on the watchers
 being envious, trying to figure it
 out. (This was the scene before
 he leaves temporarily, and so both
 could still see.) I thought it
 was rather strange that both of
 us had picked a similar image to
 draw.

MARTY SIEGRIST: I really appreciated
 your criticism of my discussion of
 the Dan White conviction. You re-
 minded me of some of the things
 pointed out in the film AND JUSTICE
 FOR ALL concerning the discrepancy
 between human justice and the beaur-
 ocracy of justice (did you see it?
 I'd be really curious about your re-
 action to it, and anyone's reaction
 to it, especially those of you that
 are lawyers. Thought it was powerful
 in parts, contrived in others and
 not too realistic in its ignoring of
 other ways of calling attention to
 injustice other than a courtroom. Where
 were the newspaper reporters, f'in-
 stance?). But you are completely
 right that the way I phrased the
 description of the situation was
 unfair. I wasn't really trying to
 discuss it as if I were unbiased,
 but you're right I was sounding like
 I was blaming the prosecuting attor-
 ney when I meant to support my bro-
 ther's feelings that with respect
 to the assumptions people have about
 gays, there was very little chance
 for real justice. I think that your
 explanation of the justice system
 as adversary system was clearly
 appropriate to what I was trying to
 say though: I wonder now why the
 point about the jailer's comments
 were not part of the trial (I found
 them in the San Francisco newspaper
 a few days after the trial). You
 ask if the judge or the jury allowed
 emotion to sway them: From what I
 read I'd answer yes to that, but what
 difference does that make in the
 advocacy system: doesn't each lawyer
 convince with all methods of per-
 suasion? I don't know if any new
 information has come down since then
 ...none reported in Wisconsin news-
 papers or mentioned by my brother.

D/NINA: How did you do that weird ditto?

BARBARA JONES: I like the recommended book list idea. Thanks a lot. This will be interesting to see after say a year or so, the kind of cumulative list we come up with. Whoever's doing the WAPA book: consider doing this as an appendix?

MOG DECARNIN: Don't look now but I thought I already did put out a couple crab zines. Nobody noticed??

Actually, I'm really having to consider dropping doing this. I think that doing mailing comments is going to become more and more difficult, in terms of time next year, and I really think it would be unfair to do too many issues skipping that and just sending in letter substitute, what-I'm-doing-now zines and be so inactive in the on-going conversation. Even this issue is going to end up being mostly that, with short-short mc's gathered from a too-quick reading of AWAPA.

I really do enjoy your zines mog, but considering the repro of this last issue (couldn't even read half of the first page), I'm considering sending you off a box of good ditto masters. Watch the mail.

Your hypothesis about FEMMES FETAL would be interesting if it weren't for the fact that (the very scholarly well backed-up text) is very clear about the motivations of the artists who utilized the femme fetal image. Not only, at the time, were the images interpreted as terrifying by others, but they were meant that way by the artists as well. Only now, are we seeing them differently... However, I'd agree with you that there must have been an unarticulated attraction both on the part of 19th century viewers and artist for such dominant, gorgeous women, a subconscious longing expressed as its more socially acceptable fear.

Double rats, from me, that I didn't get to WesterCon. I've got a bit more money nowadays though, and I expect that next year sometime or other I will be getting out to the west coast for some visiting. See you then.

ANNELAURIE LOGAN: Well, I checked my mailing list file and you were sent a copy of #15. Well try again. Let me know if you get it or not this time. First class mail.

I can see that living in a large house with a number of people can be an interesting way to cope with and try to develop non-monogamous life styles. Well, interesting in a sort of academic way; as I cannot really think of bringing myself to even live with one other person again. I need to much privacy to get any work done and remain a sane person. I can empathise with your determination to retain a room of your own in that house though. Yes.

DALYNN & FRAN: Fran, you referred to a comment Dalynn made to me in the last issue and I must have missed it. But seeing your reply to Dalynn's comment to me made me want to say something. Re it being easier (Dalynn's point) to accept a lover's ^{affections} if one is #1 than it is if one is #2, that it is difficult not to be jealous in the latter situation, I'd disagree. Not necessarily. First of all this talk of #1 and #2 just doesn't agree with how I feel when I take multiple lovers: numbering them (other than chronologically) will certainly cause jealousies, but then people in the habit of doing so really shouldn't be pretending to be non-monogamous. It's a reaction against the tendency/requirement for lovers to tell one another that the other is the "most important person," "the only one," that makes me avoid such situations. I love, and want to be loved, in a way that does not allow competition/comparison, or numbering system. I'm involved with a married man at the present time, and believe me I wouldn't be so involved if it was the typical, stereotyped married man situation. So, as I said: Not necessarily.

CHRISTINE MENEPEE: Jan Bogstad and I did some talking about GYN/ECOLOGY in our zines. I did several pages worth of review/discussion in OBSESSIONS 12 (really it was 13, but it's labled 12). If you don't have that issue, I think I have a couple extra copies

and if you'll let me know, I can send you one. I agree with you that it's a watershed book for our time/ourselves. Along with THE OBSTACLE COURSE. Yes, too, about Vinge's OUTCASTS OF HEAVEN BELT.

JANET WILSON: Yeah, I've known a couple gay men with baritone voices: they're in a Barbershop quartet in fact (separately). So much for your theory.

Your comment: "If I could wish rape on anybody, Cleaver would be at the top of the list. And I hope the rapist would explain to him that it was Symbolic." is exactly the plot/idea of that book I mentioned earlier (MANRAPE!) Seeing as you may share something with my theoretically differing British feminists, I'd really like to know what you think of that book. Would you like me to send it to you?

Haven't heard anything about "Fantasy Faire Girls" than what I reprinted in OBS. At first I wondered if this had been the work of that guy Glycer talks about in FILE 770 and who tried to close Wester-Con down, but no, wrong name. So I sent a copy to MS.'s no comment section.

I know a couple whose main objection to abortion is that they got cut off from being able to adopt, they feel, because of the fewer number of women carrying to term and giving unwanted children up for adoption. I've heard it before as well, and had nightmares about that: the knowledge that some people would like unwanted children to keep coming onto the market for their personal use, and resent abortion rights for the way that interferes with baby availability. That sort of reasoning chills me deeply, and I wonder if an important segment of anti-abortion people aren't coming from that perspective. (This is not meant as a comment as to how I perceive your motives --I'm just curious as to your perception of such.)

KATE ROBINSON: Welcome. I liked your explanation of why we women are so often frantic with stuffed schedules. Sounds much better than my often-muttered-under-the-breath explanation. "Stupid. Dumb. You're not letting any time for yourself to sleep."

Speaking of 60's nostalgia, I was talking to my sister about the elections and happened to mention Chappaquidick. She said, "Chappaquidick?" I said, well maybe he can win.

Yeah! another dead cat lover. You should ask to see, if they haven't given/shown you one already, Jerry Kaufman's and Suzle Tompkin's latest issue of MAINSTREAM with the article by Richard LaBonde called "The Only Good Cat." I did the illos for it.

Interesting/empathetic stuff on coupleism and non-monogamy. I think we have a lot in common in our thinking here.

Good luck on the new job with the Washington POST and the dancing.

This is, unfortunately, the time when I do have to get up from the typewriter and do a couple hundred things. And I intend to xerox this Monday. So even though I'd like to say more (and it wouldn't be hard to add several more pages to do that), I'm not going to be able to. If any of you feel this is unfair to the apa, I'll be open to considering my consequences. I may be even looking for an excuse, who knows. No not really. I do enjoy this group, this zine.

REBECCA, please keep writing personally. Sorry if I haven't given you support for that. I enjoy your zines. //LIZ, for your index, you've probably not noticed yet, but the package of zines I sent you, mostly doesn't include my stuff. I just realized I'd pulled alot of it for file copies.// ADRIENNE: Lately I wish you'd become a Brown campaigner and try out the slogan that goes something like less is more... Really, the enormous mailings you do are just too intimidating. I'll try to find another copy of that page 4 you wanted. Where do you find the time to write all that!? Cant say I don't enjoy reading it all tho. And where do you do your xeroxing!? I'm just jealous, don't mind me.

That's all for now. Come to Wiscon (March 7-9). See you in FEB.

leave

obsessions ¹⁵

This is OBSESSIONS 15
written by Jeanne
Gomoll of 2018
Jenifer Street,
Madison, Wisconsin
53704 (608+241-8445).
All contents copy-
righted © by
Jeanne Gomoll,
1979. OF NO
COMMERCIAL VALUE.
27 July 1979



Hello everyone. This is going to be a quickie zine for me. I don't have the last copy of the apa with me nor do I have the time to do mc's on it. ...Well I've been pretty conscientious the last 3 or 4 issues, so I'm not going to feel badly about it. I am, however, going to make the deadline.

Since last time there's been summer and a weird sort of summer it's been. All sorts of things went wrong and I keep sailing along in a really fine mood. Nothing seems to be enough to break into my equilibrium.

I think I mentioned last time that I was planning on going to both WesterCon and AutoClave this summer, the latter as GoH. Well neither worked out. First of all, last month I got this terrible toothache and finally went to the dentist about it and it turned out that a filling had fallen out some time ago and the cavity had gotten all infected, so much so that I now need root canal work. At the time, they told me I needed it done RIGHT AWAY, meaning during the week of WesterCon, and for that reason and for financial reason (only exacerbated by upcoming dentist bills), I called off my trip to San Francisco. Ironically, however, the dentists had to call off the root canal work. I still haven't had it done. It's scheduled for early August. The dentist, it turned out was called in for an emergency major operation on his heart. So, I said, how come you told me it was so urgent that I had to call off my trip out west? Hem Haw. The filling (temporary) that they had done after they'd cleaned out the immediate decay turned out to be enough to protect that tooth for several months. Oh well. I glowered at the nurse when I found this out, but really, had I been hit by a dentist bill AFTER I returned from San Fran-

cisco, I would have been in big trouble. So... I looked forward to AutoClave and started to get some art together.

Around the middle of the month (July) I got a phone call from Leah Zeldes telling me that the AutoClave committee had decided to call off the con... They'd had a lower pre-registration count than they'd expected/needed and Cy Chauvin later told me that they were having some problems with the hotel as well. So, I missed two cons instead of getting OD'd on them... Still, it mysteriously didn't seem to get to me. I felt more like comforting Leah than sorry for myself while we were on the phone!

I did however get to X-Con which was scheduled for the first weekend of July, opposite WesterCon. There weren't a lot of people there, and most of the ones that were seemed to be in the treckie, SCA, alien-groupies categories. Very young. Not too many people that I knew. If I had been there for the con, it would have been a dreary time, but as it was there were other things going on for me there. Hank Luttrell, Jim Cox, Phil Kaveny, Jan Bogstad and Milwaukee author Gene DeWeese put on a panel on popular culture and since it was 4/5 a Madstf panel I went to that. Later I got recruited for a fanzine panel with Glicksohn, Zuhl, Foglio and Joni Stopa. And I did go to Kelly Freas' slideshow/talk. But besides that and maybe 3 hours total partying, that was all I saw of the con. As it turned out, my sister has been having an incredibly rough summer at home, parent-trouble, friend-problems, and several genuine crises. This would normally be a topic I'd love to work out here in the apa, but Julie is very probably going to be an active fan within the next couple of years. (She's planning on doing a web-offset fanzine for a senior project in her printing class next year and has started to attend the WisCon's and the Milwaukee convention. You may remember her last year at WisCon if you were there: she was the lead guitarist in the band that played before the auction.) So, anyway, I'm going to be obtuse about what happened in her life and respect her privacy. We did spend a lot of time together, and have been bulging my phone bill all summer. At one point, I was heard to say "No way I'm going to be a mother, it's hard enough being a sister." Indeed that is one of the things I am more than a little aware of and trying to guard against: playing the mother-role too much. It feels incredibly good though to know that she trusted me enough to come to me when things got bad, and we've both commented on how close we've gotten through it all.

Possibly, that crisis with my sister is what made the other summer difficulties seem insignificant and what has prevented me from getting depressed about the little things. It's been important that I be there for someone else. Another set of reasons for my continuing good mood, however, has been a general glow about how well things are going in the group here in Madison. We seem to have gone through a sort of re-birth of family ties, having parties, getting together, able to support one another more easily. It's been a very satisfying thing to have in the background. Also, I've been breaking my "rules" and getting more than casually involved--sexually--with a member of the group. The main reason for the exception is that we share attitudes about jealousy and discomfort with monogamous relationships which has been the main problem whenever I have gotten involved with group members or with people I work with all the time, that sort of thing. So, so far, it's going more than fine. He was also incredibly supportive during X-Con to both Julie and myself, and we've been doing this sort of mutual admiration/respect club on each other ever since. It's felt good.

As for work done, that's been sort of lower in quantity than I would have expected, but I'm generally pleased with progress. I've gotten a job doing a

continued on page 6

*(pp. 3-5 also used for another
zine)*

This is from a flyer we received in our SF³ Post Office Box, advertising something called "Fantasy Faire" 9, to be held July 27-29, 1979 in Pasadena, CA. (Bill Crawford, Chair):

"FANTASY FAIRE GIRLS: We've added something new this year which we are sure will be taken up by other conventions ((OH?!), so just remember Fantasy Faire started it. The Fantasy Faire Girls will be there to make sure you are not a wallflower, to introduce you to guests, and to answer questions about Fantasy Faire."

I thought this was one of the traditional areas in which SF cons differed from straight conventions (ETks, etc.). Besides the comparatively small fees charged by our conventions. Marion Zimmer Bradley, Octavia Butler and several other women writers (along with chief Goh, Alan Dean Foster) are touted as attending guests. I wonder what they think of this additional feature.

Do most of you know about the San Francisco riot of last Monday, May 21st? It followed the conviction of Dan White for the murder of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in City Hall November 27, 1978. White was convicted by a jury of 2 counts of voluntary manslaughter. He had originally faced a possible death sentence if convicted of 1st degree murder. Now, he faces a maximum sentence of 7 years and 8 months; with good behavior he'll get out in about 5 years.

The only state of mind required for voluntary manslaughter is the intent to kill. By its verdicts, the jury determined that White could not have premeditated, deliberated, or harbored malice--the elements necessary for a murder conviction... No matter that White had sneaked into City Hall using a window to avoid the metal detector at the door which would have picked up his concealed gun.

White had quite his job as Supervisor, ostensibly because he felt he needed more income. However, the defence was originally going to bring out the fact that recent events in city government had been offending White's sense of values --especially the increasing power of gays and liberals in local politics. When he later changed his mind and asked to have his position back, Harvey Milk led a campaign with County Board liberals not to re-appoint White. At that point Don Horanzy was to be appointed in White's place.

Outraged, White sneaked into City Hall, killed Moscone with 4 bullets and walked down the hall (not able to find Diane Feinstein who he'd asked to see) and shot Harvey Milk when Milk smirked at him in passing.

White's lawyer, Schmidt succeeded in persuading the jury that the killings were not the work of a coldly rational killer, but the unpremeditated outburst of a man who had been pushed over the edge and no longer able to weigh the factors involved in the act. "Good people -- fine people with fine backgrounds -- simply don't kill people in cold blood," he pleaded. Just disregard the facts, he asked the jury.

An odd thing that has turned up since the trial is some information provided by James Denman -- White's jailer-- who felt that the main piece of evidence (a taperecording of White's confession, full of emotion, guilt-wracked outbursts) that got White off, was oddly inconsistent with White's jail behavior. He was super-cool and unemotional in jail, and in fact had the obvious support of most of the police in the building. (White was once in the police corps.) "It all seemed very fraternal... Officers and deputies were standing around with half smiles on their faces. Some were actually laughing" as White was booked, Denman reported. Denman feels that he wasn't called as a witness because the prosecution didn't want to go into the "connection between police attitudes towards gays and liberals and Dan White's state of mind." In fact, the defense did drop that tactic for some

reason. A deal was made perhaps.

Following the announcement of the verdict, thousands of gay outraged demonstrators marched up from Castro and Market Streets, where Cleve Jones (former Milk aid) had been speaking ("Out of the bars and into the streets!"), and marched up to the Civic Center where the mood quickly became one of violence. Windows were broken, 13 police cars were set afire, and Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver was injured.

Police clubbed many of the rioters plus many uninvolved (even persons trying in vain to calm the crowd) and press people. A fire was set in the basement of City Hall. During this time, police were supposedly under orders not to do too much, but simply to keep the crowd in order-- I'm not clear on this part. And they felt so frustrated apparently because they had not been allowed to stifle the demonstration earlier on, that a large number of them then went on to make a sweep through Castro Street--rows and rows of sardine-packed cop cars rolled down the street provoking gays, yelling obscenities, taunting, and finally violently closing all the bars on the street, doing considerable damage and hurting many. A Captain Jeffries was heard to yell: "We lost the battle at City Hall. We aren't going to lose this one!" Noone is quite clear yet, it seems, on just who ordered this revenge mission.

The next day over 4000 people attended Harvey Milk's Birthday Party, many of whom were at the riot the night before. Many events were feared and rumored, but no violence erupted. Although there were numerous undercover police milling through the crowd (trained in non-violent crowd control), the uniformed ones were restricted by order of the mayor.

...The reason I have accumulated so much information on the events of late May in San Francisco is a letter I received from my brother soon afterward. It was a very emotional, moving letter, hardly any periods throughout its 10+ pages. But it impelled me to find out more about what had happened and to talk about the events and read Rick's letter on WORT-FM, on the Madison Review of Books Show that this week focused on Gay issues. Excerpts of

that letter follow (edited and punctuated slightly).

"The Dan White verdict -- we marched to city hall and stayed till the glass started breaking. The next night we were down in the Castro celebrating Harvey Milk's 49th birthday. The anger Monday night was justified certainly--by the end of the trial, White had become the son or brother of each member of the all white, middle-class jury. They could understand and forgive him, as no black man or woman or chicano or chicana or faggot or dyke would have been forgiven. It seems we live in different worlds. My first reaction to the glass-breaking and car-burning was disappointment. But the US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT just out, echoes a lot of other media: 'Now they're a political force to be reckoned with.' They won't listen until you smash something. I don't break glass, but Danny, (and then Sally Gearhardt Tuesday night said as well), I won't apologize for it either.

"Tuesday night -- the birthday party. Castro Street was closed off for a block, no police was in sight by the mayor's order. But Dolores Park, one block away was an armed camp. We got there about 8:00; the crowd was still gathering. Meg Christian sang --soothing the vague tension. (Voice in the crowd: 'Is that Joan Baez?' 'It doesn't look like her.' 'But it sounds like her.' 'Who is that?') Cecil Williams spoke, a gospel sort of sermon. A couple of politicians spoke. Finally Sally Gearhardt. She was in WORD IS OUT-- the middle aged woman with salt and pepper hair, who spoke of her life in the university and the church while closeted. She's the best speaker I've ever heard. She took the podium in front of a restless crowd, random noise. She carefully spoke: very quiet, very slow, forcing the crowd to settle down and listen. She read a birthday letter to Harvey Milk. I wish I could send you a copy. She listed things she'd like to be able to tell him--funny

things--that the police force had woken up one morning and discovered that they were all gay, that sort of thing. And then she spoke about the trial and verdict. That's when she said she couldn't apologize." And she said that the verdict has had a radicalizing effect on the gay community, that we're beginning to see 'as you (Harvey) always saw', the connection between underpaid secretaries downtown and men who drive big cars, for example. (And she continued with a list of seemingly isolated situations that share a patriarchal foundation.) By the end of the list people were applauding agreement. And she talked about patriarchy and the masculine code. 'An army of lovers cannot be beaten.' Long ovation. From an audience probably 3/4 faggots, 1/4 dykes.

"I think that what she said about radicalizing is true. We all wanted the jury to bring in the 'right verdict'--we wanted the system to work. I wanted the system to work. As far as I'm concerned, it didn't. And the best explanation of what happened is exactly what Sally said. Patriarchy and the masculine code, the values held by those people who wrote the laws, and... At the birthday party a lot of people agreed with that explanation.

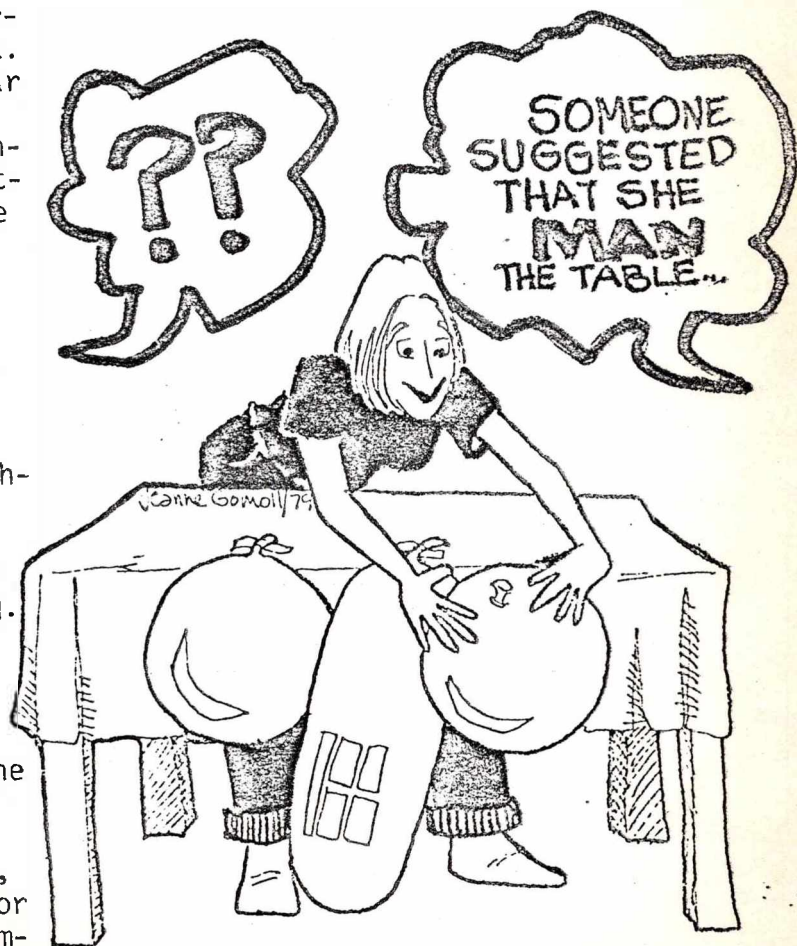
"Well, a long ovation. And then some quiet music, and then...the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching and Twirling Corps elbowed its way right up through the crowd! Much happiness. And later a dance band. No ugliness, a good evening. The cops never showed up.

"There was a sweep through Castro Street by the cops Monday night after the riot, lots of damage done by them, windows broken, etc. and at least one man in the hospital, clubbed. The police in this city, although held in check by the mayor and police chief, are still predominantly Irish Catholics. Recruiting minorities has just started. They don't like gays. Dan White

was a cop, and lived in that world as well as the Marine's, fire-fighters, and Eagle Scout's worlds. Investigations are just starting.

"A friend/fellow worker, named Mandy, who is a dyke from Little Rock Arkansas (where several years ago they had a councilman who bragged that the rape figures in Little Rock were the highest in the nation because they had the prettiest girls there, and he's just been elected mayor), views the world politically. She talks about class struggle a lot. That's a somewhat foreign language to me (politics, that is) but of all the political languages, the various dialects of radicalesse seem to best represent the realities of life on this planet."

(Rick gave me permission to reprint portions of his letter.)



Cartoon will have or will be about to appear in KRATAPHONY, ed. by Eli Cohen.

Continued from page 2

logo for a Madison firm called "Technical Resources" which could be very good for me if I can get more of that sort of thing. One can support oneself doing logo designs (for stationary, business cards, advertisements, etc...). I also finally got my work back from the University of Florida for whom I did a brochure design (well, actually two) for a conference for them, and they sent the check along too. That was nice. You may not believe it, but work on JANUS has been frantic too. Because of a whole lot of problems with our printer the last issue (Number 15) was layed out and sat around his shop for more than a month. It looks now as if we will be sending out #15 and #16 within two weeks of one another. We're almost done typing #16 now, and I guess it will take me about a week to lay it out. This last week I've crossed out about half of a list of projects that has been lying around for the last couple months (fanzine cover illos, general illos, article requests, letters, books read, you know, a "do" list), gottenthem tied up, finished. And I've been making good progress on some long-term projects as well.

Also: I've had the best interview I've ever done for a position with the Department of Natural Resources (remember them?) as "Graphic Artist 2." I should know about that one in the next couple of weeks. There have also been several other graphic job openings in town recently and I'm hot on the track of all of them. Something is going to open up I think, either that or my good mood is inspiring me with false confidence.

It is possible that if I get that DNR job, I won't be going to NASFC, but I am planning on it right now. If I do get there, hope I see some of you...and you can tell me what all I missed in San Francisco and Brighton... That's all folks. See you here, at least, in a couple more months, with a brand new OE.

-Janne

An illo for an article that complains of the constant sexist stereotype of the woman being more interested in cooking and babies when the hero is trying to explain the hyper-space drive principles to her...

