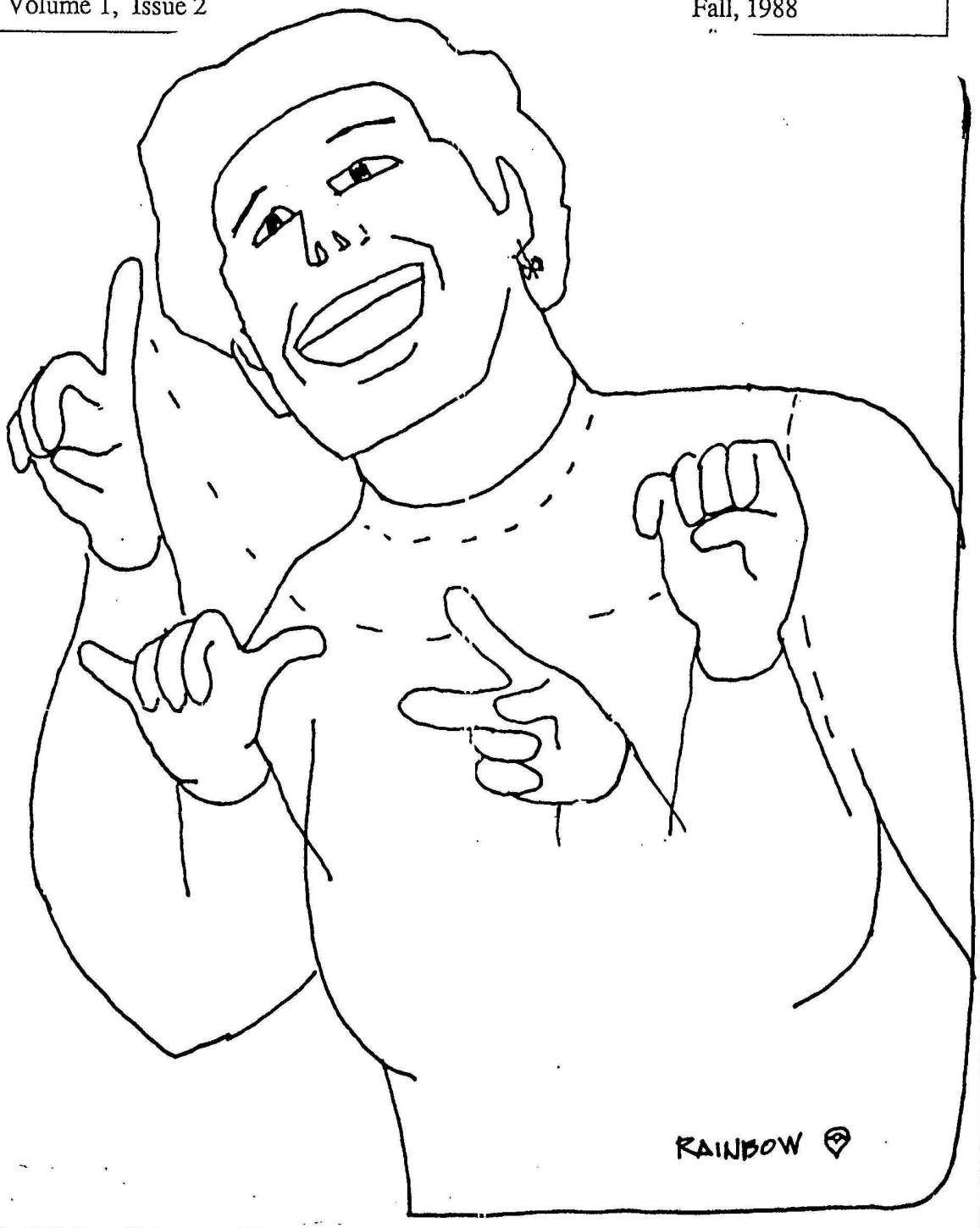
Dykes, Disability & Stuff

'cause we always have stuff to share

P.O. Box 6194, • • • *Boston, MA 02114*

Volume 1, Issue 2 Fall, 1988



editorial stuff

Publishers' Ponderings

It probably wouldn't be much of a surprise that we at **DD&S** are totally pleased by the response to **Dykes, Disability & Stuff.** We knew it filled a need for us. We even knew many other women for whom health, ability and disability were primary concerns every day.

What we weren't prepared for was how wonderful it felt to know we didn't have to do all the work around these issues alone. We didn't know how isolated we were until **DD&S** broke through that isolation.

So, today, with volume 1, issue 2 we take the plunge for real - we're officially publishers! We have almost 40 (a bit short of our break even goal of 50) subscriptions...but over 200 inquiries for samples! We have tons of gratitude for the women who helped put out the promotional issues, who brought her cross-country to book fairs, music festivals, large and small community events and left her in womens' bathrooms all over the U.S. and Canada. We gratefully acknowledge the donations, kind words and paid subscriptions that gave us the necessary financial start to put this issue into your hands. We send our bottomless appreciation to the women who put their pens, typewriters, computers, drawing markers and pencils to work and brought you the very fine contents of issue 2. We thank Womyn's Braille Press for the super job they did in putting out the braille and cassette editions. (We should also mention that we spelled their name wrong throughout issue 1. We deeply regret that error.) We expect that readers will write, call and subscribe to WBP to keep the fine work they do happening on a regular basis. **DD&S** hopes to be published through WBP in the future, when the time, money and energy are available. Volume 1, issue 2 is being brailled Ruth, volunteer from the Boston area. Thanks Ruth!

Lastly, but very far from leastly, we praise and thank the Cambridge Women's Center of Cambridge, Massachusetts who brought us into their conduit program, allowing us to receive precious tax-deductible gifts or grants. Even in the midst of their tough struggle toward continued and improved accessibility, even as the Center's 15-year inhabitant Tituba the cat, had her fate decided to make the Center environmentally safe...still the Center kept her feminist posture and politics intact and granted us a path to possible grant funds and donations. See our new, improved, subscription blank for details.

Okay. You want to know who we are, right? Some of that info is secret, but here's some data about us. We are six lesbians, some with physical disabilities, some with emotional disabilites, some with both, some with neither. Some of us are Jewish, some not. Some are working -class, some class-privileged. We have among us: asthma, diabetes, psychiatric histories including lengthy forced institutionalization, mobility impairments, environmental illnesses and allergies, phobias, foot neuropathy and phlegm. We are unwilling to say who's-got-what health or disability issue, but feel that as a group we have lots o' experience. We all dislike the medical model and love women.

We continue to envision **DD&S** as a readers' forum, and expect that this issue will encourage more "stuff" for the next quarterly issue. Deadline is December 30, 1988. Life's too short to be impartial, we've decided. We have opinions, judgments, values, feelings and wishes about how things should be. We'll make our presence felt from time to time, but mostly your words will fill these pages. So, you'll be hearing from us, and WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! 'Nuff said?

Welcome to **Dykes, Disability & Stuff.** Contribute, share, subscribe, write, muse out loud, bring her on vacation with you. She hopes to be around a long, long, time.

Dykes, Disability & Stuff has begun to work on our anti-racism policy. We are not publishing just a list of no-no's but rather *we are working to lay the foundation of our wish for a better world for lesbians*. We encourage discussion on the subject of racism, especially in the disability civil rights movement and in the lesbian community. We will not knowingly publish ableist, racist, anti-semitic, looksist, ageist, classist, misogynist, lesbophobic, pornographic or homophobic, materials including, but not limited to advertising. As part of our lesbian-feminist, separatist politics and because we cherish women's lives, **DD&S** staffers hold a strong, anti-sado-masochist position.

Catherine-Boston, Sara,-Boston, Helen-St. Louis, Anon, Anon, & Anon.

letters & stuff

Dear Catherine,

Hi, I "saw" your ad for a new newsletter "**Dykes, Disability & Stuff**" in the April issue of *Off Our Backs*. I just saw it now because there have been technical difficulties with the taped editions put out by *Womyn's Braille Press*, and I received Feb-May in one package a couple of weeks ago. I tried calling the # listed and was told it's wrong. I hope this reaches you.

I'm not much of a writer - I prefer talking, because writing feels like a cumbersome way to express myself, so please let me have a phone number I can call you at.

Obviously, I won't be the major contributor to such a newsletter, but I would "collaborate" with others on just about anything. I feel, as a partially sighted person, that disability keeps becoming a bigger and bigger issue in my life. I also feel somewhat cut off from the lesbian community, partially because I miss having complete access to printed material (books & newsletters) coming out of the community, and partially because I feel very uncomfortable going to events that other disabled lesbians can't go to because of physical barriers. My current lover is blind and we talk a lot about wanting to find a way to talk w/other disabled women - to have the sort of ongoing discussion and analysis that other oppressed groups have in the community - to talk to each other. The writing that does exist seems mainly to try to explain ourselves to the non-disabled world. One connection I have found is the *Womyn's Braille Press*, which is trying to record and braille feminist literature, and which puts out a quarterly newsletter. Although it mainly serves "print disabled" women, anyone can subscribe to and contribute to the newsletter. You might find it a useful way to reach more people, and also, you might want to get advice from Marge Schneider, who runs it, on making a newsletter available in a different accessible media, (i.e. cassette & braille).

Please be in touch ,
Lynn Zelvin, 238 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302, phone (202) 309-0663. **Please call rather than write to Lynn. She'd welcome hearing from you!**
(EDITOR'S NOTE: Marge Schneider of Womyn's Braille Press and women from DD&S have already spoken together. Thanks to their generosity and with the help of a DD&S reader from California, DD&S's first edition has been available on both cassette and in braille editions, as part of their regular newsletter. Unfortunately, due to financial, staff and other limitations, they will be unable to continue this generous liaison. However we do have the great good fortune to have found a woman from the Boston area who IS brailling the current issue for us. Your commitment to both projects is vital to keep these good works coming your way!)

Dear Catherine,

Congratulations on your first newsletter! May you receive the resources for **DD&S** to prosper! Enclosed is my subscription check. My home-based business, "Grace & Goddess Unlimited" makes books and tapes of special interest to disabled lesbians. I feel it is timely to bring one of my products, Feminist Hypnosis, to the attention of the disabled womyn's community for several reasons.

For the physically/psychologically challenged, traditional (patriarchal) hypnosis (whether in book, tape or therapy form) is especially frustrating. Patriarchal hypnosis is usually visually-oriented ("visualization") which of course discriminates against those who cannot or prefer not to use that physical sense. With Feminist Hypnosis, any sense can be employed or omitted. Patriarchal hypnosis contains pre-determined wording. With Feminist Hypnosis, the individual can use her own personally-meaningful words. She also can discover and heal the cause of unwanted patterns, rather than just cover up symptoms temporarily.

Feminist Hypnosis springs from thousands of years of trance-like traditions of nature-based cultures. As a holistic health practitioner, teacher and author, I was able to express and expand these ancient concepts into modern book and audio forms. In my lifetime, I've been physically disabled (from supposedly incurable systemic lupus) and psychologically disabled (from incest and child abuse). At age fifteen, I was given as 50-50 chance of living to age twenty, with decreasing odds for life after that age. I'm 34 years old now with a successful ten-year lupus remission to my and Nature's credit. Feminist Hypnosis was and is an important ally for my physical and emotional healing. Despite the preceding, I am not a "superwoman" or "super-crip". I believe that anyone can improve any condition...when patriarchal society doesn't prevent it. The medical/psychological monopoly has persecuted natural healing for centuries. Since natural healing can be very inexpensive and effective, it is a direct threat to wealth oriented professions. Over a thousand of my clients/students/readers have used Feminist Hypnosis (and other holistic modalities) successfully and easily, for dozens of "incurable" problems. An essential aspect of feminist/holistic/natural healing is the recognition that healing and learning are on-going processes. Just as Nature displays Her cycles, so do we go through times of building and destruction, of accumulation and letting go. Unfortunately, some "New Age or holistic theories/instructors approve only the "positive" side (building, accumulating, strength, joy). They may repress and devalue sadness, anger or less-ability (disability) that must be expressed and valued for us to be truly whole. With Feminist Hypnosis, we start

letters continue on the next page...

more letters & stuff

letters, continued...

wherever we are on our spiral path. Rather than accept patriarchal definitions of health and ability, the individual is encouraged to clarify her own, to cherish all of herself and her cycles. Am I a disabled dyke? Certainly a dyke by internal and external standards. Disabled? After uncovering additional layers of my unconscious that needed healing, I stopped my private practice in 1986 to work more with myself. My financial and psychological states required me to go on Medicaid and SSI disability income. While discovering and healing more incest and child abuse traumas, I did not follow my usual healthy regime. In 1988 I had a few months of lupus flare-up as a result. Now, my lupus is back in remission since I've learned how to better protect my body during this intense psychological healing cycle. I keep my "Grace & Goddess Unlimited" business going and plan to record an audio version of my book Feminist Hypnosisn 1989 for the Womyn's Braille press. I view my "official" cycle of disability as temporary. I sense that this time of personal retreat is easing into a time of increased public contact (e.g., writing this letter, publishing books and tapes, etc.) I could define myself as differently-abled at different times, as are all of Nature's creations. I acknowledge my present limitations as I help create my more empowered future.

Thank you, Catherine, for providing an outlet and resource for me and my sisters! Blessed BE!

Dr Cindee Grace

Write Dr. Grace with an SASE for free catalog of print/audio products. P. O. Box 4367, Boulder, CO 80306

To The Editor

We would like to welcome the **Dykes, Disability & Stuff** newsletter as a new forum for the thoughts and issues of an important segment of the women's community, disabled lesbians. However we also want to say that we were upset by the tone and the criticisms raised in Sara Karon's letter concerning the Women's Center cat, Tituba, in the premier issue of the newsletter. Much anger and hostility has been expressed by women both for and against keeping Tituba at the Center. We feel that this sort of communication has not helped to advance the women's movement, but has only built more walls between women. We would like to update the community on our progress in the past several months in dealing with the issue of the accessibility of the Center to women with allergies to cats.

The Center has been home to Tituba for 15 years. Women have pointed out that her presence makes the Center inaccessible to women with allergies to cats. After opening the issue for discussion within the Center and through our newsletter, arguing over what is fair, and considering the feelings expressed by women currently unable to use the Center, we have decided to search for a new home for Tituba. We have prepared a questionnaire to be filled out by women who might be interested in adopting Tituba. We have made a commitment to trying to find an appropriate home for Tituba, but if she doesn't adapt to the home we will bring her back to the Center. We feel that this is only fair to Tituba, to the women who care deeply about her, and to allergic women who want to use the Center. As yet, we have received no responses from women wanting to adopt Tituba. In the meantime, the first floor meeting room has been made off-limits to animals and has been thoroughly cleaned in an effort to provide a dander-free space. While we realize this is only a first step towards increasing accessibility of the Center, we are doing our best to deal with this difficult issue and hope for your support, respect and good wishes.

We would like to welcome the entire readership of **Dykes, Disability & Stuff** to visit or call the Women's Center. The Women's Center has always been a welcoming place for lesbians and hopefully will be a meeting place for more and more women with disabilities. The Center is wheelchair accessible on the first floor including an accessible bathroom. The first floor meeting room is made available to groups needing accessibility. We have a TTY and hire interpreters for deaf women who want to attend meetings or events at the Center (given adequate notice). The Center is a smoke, alcohol and drug-free space.

Sincerely, Nancy Kackley for The Women's Center

What Is Your Perfect Healing Place?

A call by women-for women to create alternatives to psychiatry: We're asking for input from women (especially from mental system survivors) on a project we're planning -- a safe place for women in emotional distress. If YOU were in emotional distress...and you are in danger of being committed or committing yourself to a mental" institution, what would you want INSTEAD? Your responses need not be realistic! Use your imagination! Your name will be kept confidential unless you say it's ok not to keep it confidential, but please include your address or phone so we can contact you. If you want more info in this project as it develops, let us know. Any and all responses from women will be appreciated! Contact: Judith Sara, 27 Daniel Square, Belchertown, MA 01007.

-- via Lilith, Ontario, Canada

notes & stuff

Sara Karon Responds:

I am sorry to hear that the Women's Center was "upset by the tone" of my item in the last **DD&S**. I am no different from many other people in that my tone becomes sharp when I am angry. I make no apology for that. If, however, my tone made it difficult for my point to be heard, then that I am sorry for.

If the upset caused by my criticisms moved anyone to thought or action, then it served its purpose. If, however, the women of the Women's Center were upset simply because they felt attacked by my article, I am sorry. If they merely felt attacked, then my article failed. My purpose was not to "trash" the Women's Center. I have been, and continue to be, a supporter of the Women's Center. I have much appreciation of the work they have done to make the building accessible to women with mobility impairments, and of their commitment to providing interpreter services for deaf/hearing impaired women.

My appreciation of the work that they have done, however, does not preclude my asking for continued accountability to a broader community of women. Asking current users to decide whether or not the space should be made accessible to more women perpetuates the privilege of able-bodied people in our society. I urge the Women's Center to be aggressive in their pursuit of an appropriate home for Tituba, looking beyond the community with which it has existing ties.

Happy Birthday, Sharon!
All of the country, indeed all over North America, lesbians and our supporters partied in honor of Sharon Kowalski.

Sharon's 32 birthday was celebrated August 7, 1988, in at least 21 cities where events were designed to show support and bring added media attention to bare. There were rallies, birthday parties, and pot-luck lunches. Many local organizers collected birthday cards on which over 1500 signatures were collected.

Karen Thompson, Sharon's long-time lover, has been barred from visits with Sharon by Sharon's father, since 1985. Thompson continues her battle to win visitation and to force Kowalski's father, Donald Kowalski, to restore proper rehabilitative therapies.

Rumors at the 1988 NEWMR festival, spread the encouraging news that Sharon Kowalski was due to begin competency testing on September 12th. Unable to verify that info, **DD&S** sends positive thoughts into the cosmos for Sharon. **DD&S** was an endorser of the national celebration and will work to keep her readership informed of changes and progress in both Sharon's and Karen's situations. We feel their struggle is our own.

Psychiatric System User Network
"Psychiatric inmates and survivors in Aotearoa (New Zealand) are rapidly organizing to empower themselves", said Mary O'Hagan, spokesperson for the newly-formed Psychiatric Network Regional user groups that form the network gathered at the Mental Health Foundation Conference in Auckland this week for its first national collective meeting. The network aims to encourage regional user groups and to lobby nationally on issues relating to users." "The committal process in Aotearoa is a human rights farce. Psychiatric inmates and survivors are one of the most powerless groups in society. We must have effective advocacy", said Mary
Contact: Mary O'Hagan, C\O Mental Health Foundation, PO Box 37 438, Parness, Auckland, New Zealand

-- via Lilith, Ontario, Canada

Disabled ♀ 's Newsletter

wants submissions of
** poetry *artwork *stories*
by disabled ♀

Disabled ♀ 's Newsletter
2 Sun Lane
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

This project is being formed in cooperation with
WRY CRIPS *of Berkerley, CA.*

Are the life and death decisions you hold sacred protected by a durable power of attorney Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson were not protected. See your lawyer today!

amy's stuff

As a college student,

I am at a point where I am picking my issues, the things I want to fight for. I have many, but my most important are personal: women and disabilities. This is why.

I have a hidden disability: hearing impairment. My parents--well, they seem to feel it is best hidden and essentially forgotten. Problems I had in school: poor social skills, classmate hassles, paranoia, were because I instigated those problems. I doubt it ever occurred to them that those problems were because I was not hearing my peers very well. Sure, I had hearing aids all along, have had them since I was six, but I was never made to wear them--so I didn't. As a result, I am trying to catch up to my peers by learning now the social skills I should have learned then. My hearing impairment has thus also perpetuated a degree of emotional disability.

I have also had problems with friends, supposedly intelligent people who have trouble understanding what relatively few needs I have. Some environments are hopeless for me: outside where the wind scatters sound, at parties where background noise means I cannot hear someone inches away, or when people block their mouths with their hands so I cannot supplement what I hear with lipreading. One "friend" told me that I make too much of my hearing aid. She does not realize that it is not as simple to deal with as someone with blue eyes wanting green eyes, where one gets used to it and life goes on. I must constantly learn new ways to adjust with my disability because of previously unencountered environments. And sometimes when I meet new people I have to decide instantly if I should "come out" to them about my disability.

What's in a subscription?
A full year of D D & S.
See the back page for your subscription form!

As a women, these problems are complicated by our patriarchal society. It presents an oppression that makes me feel guilty to ask for help. I am a woman; I am supposed to be nurturing, not to be nurtured. And since society has created a closet for my disability, it makes the closet bigger to hide the additional fact that I am a lesbian. I find myself under multiple locks.

The lesbian community itself is an oppression. My hearing impairment makes me feel insecure about relationships. Would a woman want me with my physical imperfection? It may not be visible, but it can still cause problems. I'm afraid I won't understand intimate whispers. I have been known to give a why? answer to a what? question because I misheard the sounds. I've wondered what would happen if the same problem arose in a serious discussion and I wrongly created a sense of mistrust in my partner because I responded to something wrong, or did not respond at all because I did not hear. Just having hearing aids does not "fix" my hearing. I was six when my impairment was diagnosed, so my speech comprehension skills are not properly developed. So as much as we lesbians pride ourselves on not using society's standards to choose a partner, the lesbian community does not handle disability issues well.

The Sharon Kowalski case has done a great deal to raise awareness, but that awareness is limited. Most of my straight friends have never heard of Sharon Kowalski. Sharon is also only woman, one lesbian, with one particular set of disabilities. No two people with one or more disabilities have the same needs. I have found my most effective awareness-raising is one-to-one, among my friends or people I talk to who have an interest in these issues. It works best for me because my words have more impact. When I make my needs known, what and why, more casually, my friends are more receptive to those needs. They can talk about it with others.

These are some of my issues. We all need to make our disabilities visible to the people around us. They need to see that we are people too. We think, we have feelings, we have needs as women beyond those presented by our disabilities. Being a lesbian with a disability means I have to fight a lot of oppression. But I am not alone. And I have not even begun to cover all of the issues: for women of color, for women with more visible disabilities, etc. My issues are simply the ones most visible in my life. And it's all a matter of working together, because only together can we defeat the oppressions we face.

Amy Putnam
309 Freeman Hall
Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA 02181

THINGS WE WISH

We look into the near future and see such wondeful possibilities for Dykes, Disability & Stuff. But we do request a few special kinds of reader contributions. Here is the first ever, simple & sublime, DD&S wish list!

We need a real logo...or a bunch of logos to use on upcoming issues. We'd also really love more cover art for the next, new-improved-winter DD&S.

We could really use lots of new subscriptions. They pay for each issue to be produced and printed, and for samples issues we send out.

Like this issue, we wish that lots of folks will write their words for the rest of us to share. That's so much of what we're about.

Aw, heck. We could use a little ol' Macintosh computer and laser printer, too. We continue to dream the dreams while we do the work, as the work feels so good to do.

loralee's stuff

I fell in love,

With a wheelchair user. That was the easy part. She was very beautiful, very bright and very independent. Being involved with a wheelchair user has not been all that easy. Don't get me wrong. I don't mean to imply that she's the problem. She's not. Most of the problems we face are caused by the attitudinal barriers of others. I've learned that access is not the American way; ignorance and misinformation is. Having only been romantically involved in the past with women who are able-bodied, has made adjusting to life with a wheelie both difficult and fun. The whole experience has definitely sharpened my sense of humor.

The hardest things to get used to are the attitudinal barriers of others. Even my friends who I consider to be very politically aware had very strong misconceptions about disabled people. "How do you make love?" seems to be the question on everyone's mind. Then one day while I was working at the local women's center, I told a fellow staffer that I was waiting for my girlfriend to pick me up in her van after she got off work, The self- proclaimed feminist said, "She works?!" Her assumption was that she was disabled and therefore unable to work. The women's center staffer was amazed to learn that my girlfriend not only worked, but earned twice as much as I did.

The next hardest thing to get used to was the new set of bruises on my legs everyday. Learning to be graceful in the vicinity of a wheelchair is no easy task; it can take months. At first, remembering to leave extra space between my lover and I every time I bent down to hug or kiss her was difficult. It was something I never had to think about before. Only with the appearance of each new bruise did remembering become easier. As all walking partners of wheelchair users know, footplates can really do a number on your shins! Another essential trick I learned is always knowing the exact location of my feet. An average sized wheelie in her 150 pound electric chair can cause a lot of pain if she's standing on your toes.

Dealing with the dirty floor syndrome was also difficult for me to adjust to. My girlfriend isn't particularly concerned with keeping her floor clean. Why should she worry about a thing like that ? After all, she doesn't walk on it. I'm sure a plump grape squishing underneath a bare foot feels less pleasant to me than it does to my lover as she flattens it with the tire of her chair. In fact, almost all of our views on housecleaning are different. She notices when the bottoms of things aren't clean, while I'm primarily concerned with the tops. She is also especially disinterested in my obsession with vacuuming the large stones her tires track into the house and deposit onto the carpet. I haven't yet been able to come up with a successful analogy to describe to her what it feels like to walk on gravel where your livingroom rug used to be.

Not all adjustments have been difficult. I've discovered that there are some real advantages to dating a woman wheelchair user. For instance, we frequently go into the handicapped stalls in bathrooms for a quick kiss and no one ever gives it a second thought. After all, don't all handicapped people need help going to the bathroom? People just think that I'm her attendant. Not too many couples can get away with this.

Ironing a shirt as a favor for any of my past lovers was truly a chore. Now ironing a shirt for my current flame is only 1/2 a chore. She quickly informed me that it was only necessary to iron the front. because no one ever sees the back of her shirts while she is sitting in her chair.

Being involved with a wheelie has also helped me get a jump on the future. In the time we've been together, I've learned a lot about wheelchairs, access, and even how to use a catheter. I guess I will be well prepared when it's my turn.

Loralee Stewart, Boston, MA

⁎ If your name, or the name of your organization has a star ⁎ beside it, according to our records you are <u>NOT</u> a subscriber. If your records differ, please write us as soon as possible. We are not computerized, and so things are are a bit rustic in our bookeeping department. If you want <u>MORE</u> of DD&S, send us a subscription -see the form on the last page!

(How about your words appearing here in the next issue?)

poetry, verse & stuff

pioneer

i don't know how to do this.

today at grace's house rare winter sun
lit the grass no more than twenty feet
outside the shield of glass.
someone is reading poetry but all i hear
is the shouting of that green sunshine

i don't know how to ask this
that someone pull and tug my wheelchair
over and up and down and out
into that sweet suburban yard.

i save my asking for the big things:
wood chopping, meals when i'm too sick,
getting me here today at all.

claire says, " you're a pioneer!"
who tries to live in the country
where the standard is tough country dyke
and wheels must struggle over rock, through mud

ironically, it's concrete and leaded air
that helped tear me down--
now the cities pay with curb cuts,
disabled parking zones.

i don't know how
to do this
no one is showing me

can my "living in the country"
be reduced to lust for fifteen minutes
of suburban sun?

at home, the cedars crush against blue sky
so far above my bed.
i love to watch
the six rectangles of light and evergreens
how they change
as the day's hours pace by
predictably.

i know that i would rather
see wilderness and rarely touch it
than not see or touch
the sun so out of reach
the stream that i can only hear
soothe by their presence--
though sometimes they pull at me deeply,

under my flesh.
i do not know
how to stop this wanting.

i remember the feel of the climb
feet finding stoneholds under leaf
arms sure, grasping at branches
in the wisp-edge of danger

this is another climb
out of the sharp noon-light
to the shaded soft tops of trees
to a healing place where rain
touches inside my flesh
washes at the angers

leaves me eyes-open for a new plan.

from herb womon, a collection of poetry and art by *zana*. Write *zana* for details at 12150 w. calle, seneca, tucson, az 85743

more poetry, verse & stuff

UNTITLED

My nights have become days
with darkness and sleep in-between.
My hands have become cold fingertips
that seek warmth between legs,
and creases,
and folds of skin.
Responding and closing
tighter - thoughts of feeling.
And my skin refuses to
tell tell tell me what it feels.
The light blinks
We move into our solid dreams
and I wonder why there is sweat below.

Daphne L. Hill - OH

TOUCHING SOULS

In this woman I see myself
A reflection of my body,
Mirror image of my experience,
Kindred spirit.
She has felt my pain,
Wears my scars,
Knows my heart,
I touched her
And felt my own soul.
-Love,
Me

Viewing the Beach
(From The Wheelchair)

i sit upon the boards
like an actor upon the stage
viewing the set
of my sky, and sea and love
stretching in my mind
my phantom legs into the sand
chilled by winter and thawed
now in the warming Spring
my toes, all ten memories
giggle in the softness
and play cache-cache
with the grains of salt and spice
at this feast of beach
the grasses bend and whisper
"look, she's back"
the gulls chuckle
in chorus and the sparrows
small upon their spindles, flutter
hardly touching the sand
and in a darting glance
acknowledge that i sit and smile

Disco Dancing
Wheeling Over Patterns
Of my Once Upon A Time...

...and the music pranced
like a carousel horse
beat up, beat down
on and on
my wheels traced
patterns of feet past
dancing
on the lights
flickering on polished wood
memories of footprints
flashing
now wheels spinning
feet, rounded feet
responding
to the beat
to the prancing
to the light...

Jeanne Ferg • 173 E. 5th Street • Brooklyn, NY 11218

Dykes, Disability & Stuff

'cause we always have stuff to share

P.O. Box 6194, • • • *Boston, MA 02114*

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Subscriptions to **Dykes, Disability & Stuff** quarterly are available in both print and braille editions for $8-$20+/year/individual, $25-$50/year/institutional-organizational (U.S. funds, please).

Our aim is to make **DD&S** available free to women in institutions by our second year and we acknowledge the fixed-income limitations of many women with disabilities. We have, therefore, priced **DD&S** with a wide, inclusive sliding scale. All monies above the subscription price will be accepted as donations. Thank you!

All donations and subscriptions to **DD&S** are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to *The Women's Educational Project,* our fiscal sponsor. This sponsorship, which comes to us compliments of the wonderful Cambridge Women's Center, grants us the benefits of non-profit status.

Free sample copies of the first issue are available in print, braille and cassette editions. **DD&S** will supply the print sample while the terrific women from Womyn's Braille Press will send braille or cassette editions.

Clip & send this coupon, today!

[ ] This sounds great to me! Sign me up for subscription.
Make check payable to *The Women's Educational Project.* All monies above the subscription rates will be considered donations-thank you!

[ ] print edition [ ] braille edition [ ] indiviual $8-$20 [ ] institution $25-$50

Name _____

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Mail this form along with your check, to **Dykes, Disability & Stuff,** POB 6194, Boston, MA 02114