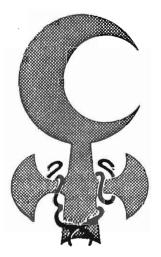
# CASSANDRA

# radical feminist nurses newsjournal

Vol. 4 No. 2 May 1986

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"Suffering, sad" female "humanity!" What are these feelings which they are taught to consider as disgraceful, to deny to themselves? What form do the Chinese feet assume when denied their proper development? If the young girls of the "higher classes," who never commit a false step . . . were to speak, and say what are their thoughts employed upon, their thoughts, which alone are free, what would they say?

- Florence Nightingale in Cassandra

# CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL

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#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL is published at the time of the full moon in September, January and May. There are no editors or review board members; the material for each issue is reviewed, selected, and the issue prepared by a local Web which assumes responsibility for three sequential issues. The name of the Web producing each issue and the names of women who contribute to the production of the issue are printed in the "Thrums" section.

The name CASSANDRA is a tribute to Florence Nightingale who wrote an essay titled Cassandra two years before her service in the Crimean War. In it she states: "Why have women passion, intellect, moral activity - these three - and a place in society where no one of the three can be exercised?" Like the mythical Cassandra, Nightingale possessed the gift of prophesy and despaired at not being heard. CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL is dedicated to re-creating the Cassandra myth by providing a place where the passion, intellect and moral activity of women who are nurses can be voiced and heard. The newsjournal is a means for actively preserving and passing on written materials coming from a womandefined perspective. Our hearing one another is critical to establishing a network among feminist nurses who need to be heard in nursing practice, education, research, administration and health care.

### MAILING LIST

CASSANDRA's mailing list is confidential and will not be sold or given to any other group. Names and addresses of women who join CASSANDRA are provided to Contact Women in their geographic area; only the names and addresses of Contact Women and Coordinating Crones (women responsible for specific tasks) are published in the Newsjournal. The Newsjournal is distributed to members and friends of CASSANDRA, and to institutions or groups that subscribe to the Newsjournal.

### PHILOSOPHY

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL publishes original works coming from a feminist perspective and encourages exploration of issues that radically affect nurses and women. While opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CASSANDRA as a whole, we do accept responsibility for what we print. We will not intentionally print material that is harmful to women because of color, sexuality, religious or cultural background, physical disability or economic situation. We reserve the right to edit material submitted, with the intent of remaining true to the author's original material. Insofar as possible, edited material will be made available to the author prior to publication.

#### ADVERTISING

Display ads will be published for businesses offering products that are consistent with CASSANDRA'S philosophy and purposes. Write to CASSANDRA for rates. Judgments about the suitability of ads for the Newsjournal will be made by the Web responsible for producing the Newsjournal.

#### CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

We welcome the contribution of articles, information, and letters that are of interest to women who are feminist nurses. Our regular features include nursing history, feminist research, myths influencing women's lives, reviews of books and journal articles, resource information, and notes that promote networking.

Articles should be original work that has not been previously published; preference is given to articles written by women who are members of CASSANDRA. The suggested length of articles, commentaries and reviews is 2-4 pages, typed double-spaced. Manuscripts of articles and book reviews are reviewed and selected by members of the Web that produces the Newsjournal. Manuscripts are evaluated in relation to consistency with CASSANDRA's purposes and philosophy, conciseness, readability, and strength of presentation of ideas and analyses of issues.

We welcome letters, notes and resource information from anyone interested in sharing information with members of CASSANDRA. Letters should be no longer than one page in length, typed doubled-spaced. Notes and resource information need to be very brief, approximately 12 double-spaced typed lines.

All material must be accompanied by the author's name and address in order to be published. We prefer to publish names and addresses, but we will withhold your name and/or address if requested.

Please mail your contribution so that it reaches us by the following lifeline dates:

January issue: November 15 May issue: March 15 September issue: July 15

Our mailing address is: CASSANDRA P.O. Box 341 Williamsville, NY 14221

#### OUR PURPOSES. . .

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NETWORK is a gathering of women in nursing practice, education, research and administration. Our primary commitment is to end the oppression of women in all aspects of nursing and health care. We believe that oppression of women is fundamental to all oppressions and affects all women.

Our primary purposes are to:

- Develop and communicate radical feminist, woman-centered analyses of issues in nursing and health care.
- Nurture local, regional, and national networks of women in nursing who are committed to a radical-feminist perspective.
- Provide an environment for communication, support and safety among nurses regardless of race, class, creed, ability, or sexual preference.
- Share and pass on skills of leadership, analysis and communication.
- Take strong public actions on nursing and health care issues.
- Preserve and publish past and present significant works of nurses.
- Publish writings on women's health that are rooted in feminist analysis.
- Support nursing research using a feminist approach.
- Develop feminist educational material for nursing programs.
- Establish a feminist nursing journal.



CASSANDRA BOOTH AT THE ANA CONVENTION

Yes, CASSANDRA has a booth for the 1986 American Nurses' Association Convention in Anaheim, California!

Our early booth number assignment is # 430. Sheila Bunting, 1203 Searle Dr., Normal, IL 61761, will be coordinating the staffing of the booth. If you want to be scheduled for staffing before you arrive in Anaheim, contact Sheila.

The ANA Opening Ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. on June 13. The Exhibit area where our booth will be located will be open from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 14; from 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 15, and from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Monday, June 16.

#### Cassandra Gathering

Cassandra will gather initially at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13, in the lobby of the Anaheim Hilton. Look for the Cassandra logo among a group of women! By about 3 p.m., those who are gathered will identify a less congested spot to move to for planning and discussion.

The primary agenda item for the initial gathering will be making plans for staffing of our booth, and planning for other discussions and networking during the convention.

# Contribute to the Booth Display

Jeanne DeJoseph and the Bay Area Web are coordinating the display materials for the booth. They are particularly eager to receive copies of slides of Cassandra events that can be used in an automatic slide show presentation.

The San Francisco Web is also planning a display of materials that women in Cassandra have produced. If you have copies of books, articles, art, projects, or other materials that represent feminist-related work you are doing or have done, please plan to either send the material or bring it with you.

If you have something to contribute to the display, please contact Jeanne DeJoseph, 141 Leslie Drive, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Jan Series

Attending the Nursing and Feminism Conference at Yale University in June? For networking information with other Cassandrans in the area, see the Announcements column in this issue.



#### **WEB REPORT**

Cleveland: reported by Patrice McCarthy and Kirste Carlson

Over the past nine months the Cleveland Web has experienced a period of transition which included an ebb in the energy level of websters. We were saddened by the move of two websters to the Columbus area last summer but with the advent of fall, energy and interest which we thought lost re-surfaced with renewed enthusiasm. Several websters attended a local seminar which focused on women's psychology and empowerment of relationships. Patrice McCarthy reported to the web about her experiences at the seminar. We then used the working papers of the presenters as a springboard for discussion in many subsequent gatherings.

The presenters at the seminar were Alexandra Kaplan, PhD, and Janet Surrey, PhD. Both are affiliated with the Stone Center at Wellesley College and have been involved in a work group to explore issues relevant to women's psychology and have focused on the development of a new model for women's psychology with implications for language that better

describes women's experience. The work in progress papers may be ordered for \$4.00 each from the Stone Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181.

During our crit-self crit several students in nursing expressed interest in the issues raised, but were concerned about how they might be able to relate to the "working" websters. These concerns provided an opportunity for the web to reaffirm the essential role that younger women have played in the exploration of issues relevant to us all. The acknowledgement of all women's contributions to our feminist process heightened our awareness of the importance of our sisterhood and how the empowerment of our relationships in Cassandra has influenned our capacities to carry our principles of unity into other settings.

We have since expanded our readings to include a variety of articles and expanded our meeting times to include potluck dinners. In April our web celebrated our third anniversary.

Your web report could be HERE! How about a "group write" for a gathering -- and share ideas and challenges and happenings.



# CASSANDRA IN CLEVELAND MARCHES IN WASHINGTON Photo and information by Jane Peterson



Standing by banner from left to right: Beth Fordiani, Terri Conroy, Kirste Carlson, Nori Mandell, Nicky Rawson

Several websters from Cassandra in Cleveland proudly demonstrated their support for women's reproductive rights at the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. on March 9th, 1986. Our group received many warm and enthu-

siastic responses; it was wonderful meeting Cassandrans from other parts of the country and making connections with potential websters. Special thanks to Sharon Deevey for our eye-catching banner.

# CINDERELLA TELLS HER OWN STORY by Charlene Eldridge Wheeler and Peggy L. Chinn



One of the most popular and well-known fairy tales is the one about Cinderella -- the pitiful although pretty girl who tends the hearth of the humble cottage of her father, and is mistreated by her nasty stepmother and nasty stepsisters. However, through the vast good fortune of having a fairy god-mother who intervenes on her behalf, and through absolutely no effort of her own, Cinderella beguiles and wins the prince of the kingdom and lives happily ever after.

We never hear much about what happened to Cinderella after she married the prince. Being curious about this mystery, we did some research into longlost archival material and have discovered some truly startling information—not only about the early years of Cinderella's life but what happened after she married the prince as well.

You see, the nature of the fairy tale is determined by the mind that creates it. Truth be known, Cinderella's father was really the town drunk. He was well known as a writer of short-stories, novels and travelouges, which is what he did in order to support his drinking. This fellow was a classic alcoholic, who drank his wife away. In fact, his first wife literally worried herself to death about him, leaving him with a young daughter to raise. He conveniently found himself a new wife who had 2 daughters older than his own, and who was willing to keep his house in

order and to present an image of a happy family to his business colleagues whenever this was required.

Cinderella's father enjoyed a reputation, throughout the kingdom, for being a great story teller, most especially after a few drinks at the local tavern. In fact, the more he drank during the evening, the wilder his tales became, much to the amusement of his fellow bar bums. These drunken evenings were very favored by him, for if he happened to recall anything the next morning, his evening escapades often provided inspiration for his novels and such. Except for the story we know as "Cinderella", his tales have, fortunately, now been lost.

Our research revealed that Dear-Ole-Dad stretched the facts just a wee bit at times, especially when one considers his story compared to Cinderella's own account. Here are the things that we found to be particularly remarkable for their inconsistencies with what really happened.

The four women in the house -- the stepmother, the two stepsisters, and Cinderella, really all got along very well with one another. They worked very hard to try to keep hearth and home together, helped one another with all the chores around the house, raised a small garden on the side, but were essentially kept in poverty and turmoil by Father's drinking. It would have ruined his reputation if this were

known, so he had to create tales about the family to keep his own image intact. It may be that his wife did nag him a bit about his drinking, but she was certainly justified in doing that.

The fairy godmother was actually a wonderful widow woman who was a lifelong neighbor of the family. She did not have any children of her own, and had been named the godmother of the three girls as an indication of their love and devotion to her. In fact the girls were often sent to godmother's house to protect them from the drunken rages of their father, while stepmother stayed at home and kept him from discovering their whereabouts. True enough, godmother did help Cinderella find the clothes to wear to the ball, but the stuff about the mice turned into horses and the pumpkin turned into a coach were products of an alcohol clouded mind along the "pink elephant" line.

The glass slipper was another alcohol-clouded fabrication based somewhat in truth. Cinderella was, as a child, fascinated with glass. Glass was a rather new commodity at the time, and Cinderella spent much time in school learning how to use prisms of glass to create light colors on the wall; how to use magnifying glasses to see small objects more clearly, and to view the stars of the heavens at night. Her father often mocked her interest and attention to such a useless pasttime.

Father's twist of having a slipper made of glass is particularly vindictive. He was quite aware of Cinderella's dislike of the footwear for the women of the kingdom. She often complained loudly about the shoes that women had to wear, noting in her own pragamatic way that, "Any sensible soul can see that pointy toed shoes with tiny high heals are unsafe and uncomfortable to wear." But no shoemaker made sensible shoes for women, and it was a fact of daily living that in every home a footsoaking tub was as common and as necessary as the teakettle.

The prince's search for the woman

whose foot fit the glass slipper was
Father's own embelishment to create
a little romance in the story. Far from
being some kind of love-sick schmuck,
the prince was actually a right decent
young man with a good mind -- his
appearance is altogether immaterial.
What really happened is that after the
ball, the prince and the royal family
interviewed several candidates for
marriage. They finally settled on
Cinderella for a number of reasons, not
the least of which was her intellect,
her high spirits, and her keen sense of
humor.

Two of the candidates interviewed were Cindy's older sisters, who had both chosen to go into the service of the sick as nurses. Their eyes glittered and their voices danced as they talked of the children and old folks they had nursed to health, and their dreams of a healthy future for all. It was because of their obvious dedication to their work that the prince passed them over as marriage candidates -- much to their own private relief. Cinderella wanted to follow the family tradition of becoming a nurse as well, but she was not old enough to enter school at the time of the prince's ball. At her young and tender age, she was also rather flattered that the royal family would select her, and of course none of her family objected to the arrangement either.

Cindy's marriage to the prince actually developed into a fine relationship, despite a rather rocky beginning -- not of their own making. Cindy's son was born after the first year, and the next few years she spent in trying to keep her weight under control, since she didn't have to do much work around the castle and did not have her garden. She spent a great deal of time soaking her feet, and gradually became quite bored with castle life and the role of the figurehead royal princess.

By the time she was 30, she had begun to take some classes part time, trying to decide if there was something she could do to make her life a bit more interesting. She admired her sisters who by now were well into their nursing careers, and gave her valuable advice on various matters of health in the kingdom, on behalf of which she began to organize reform. She worked with the prince to establish a few battered women's shelters, school lunch programs, and long-term rehabilitation clinics for the many foot cripples of the kingdom. She visited her step-mother daily and helped her in the garden, and shared with her stepmother and sisters the responsbility of caring for godmother, who by now was quite old and feeble. After they had completed the chores each afternoon, they sat around the hearth soaking their tired and aching feet. During these evenings as they sat together they would talk over their earlier struggles, marveling at how peaceful the house was without father. Father, poor soul, had met his end drag racing the coach in a drunken stupor on his way home from the tavern late one dark and foggy night.

By the time she was in her 40's, Cindy had finished her MBA and had sent prince junior off to a boarding school for young princes learning to be kings. She became involved in consciousnessraising groups and found herself thinking about things very differently. One night, as she and her stepmother were soaking their feet, Cindy realized that she indeed had had enough of this foot-soaking routine, and decided to do something about it. She forthwith established her own foot-wear production enterprise, with the sole purpose of producing comfortable and safe shoes for young girls and women. Her sisters had shared endless complaints over the soaking tub about the tortures of public health and hospital nursing wearing the miserable shoes of the kingdom, and gave enthusiastic counsel as to how a sensible shoe should be constructed.

Cindy began to see that some people had rather silly ideas about attractiveness, and did not in fact value

their health and well-being very much - ideas firmly established in the fairy tales told throughout the land, and in the advertisements for shoes and other things. Much to her horror, she realized that for decades the shoe folks had been successful in selling objects of self-mutilation using the most dastardly advertising tricks. So, Cindy's line of shoes were made in a variety of colors, with non-toxic dyes, constructed on individual lasts, with long-wearing and durable materials.

While the new shoes were popular among women whose work required a lot of walking and some running, like her sisters and herself, Cindy's concerns were focused on the health of all the women in the kingdom. She realized that she needed to confront the advertising campaigns that encouraged women to wear shoes that actually damaged their health, kept them in constant pain, and spending hours over the foot-soaking tub, all in the name of attractiveness.

By her 50's, Cindy turned the manufacturing part of the business over to her stepmother and her two sisters. She wanted to devote more of her energies to spreading the goodnews about foot care throughout the kingdom with a revolutionary advertising campaign, and through accessible foot-health shoe outlets throughout the kingdom. Needless to say, this wasn't such a bad move for business either.

In her 60's Cindy wrote a 13 volume treatise on advertising, documenting the many atrocities that had been perpetuated by unscrupulous vendors who produced inferior goods and had seduced thousands of women in the kingdom to years of suffering, low self-esteem and eternal foot-soaking. The last 7 volumes focused on the deatils of Cindy's own approach to advertising and marketing.

In her 70's, Cindy funded a department at the Kingdom University for healthy shoe manufacturing and another for honest marketing, and was much in demand as a lecturer throughout the kingdom. She spent most of her spare time with her granddaughter, who was to become the first princess to run the Queendom.

In her 80's, Cindy prepared a comprehensive plan for complete reform of the kingdom, in preparation for her granddaughter's queenship. The plan included a fully participatory, nonhierarchical means of decision-making throughout the queendom. She developed a major focus on health, including comprehensive nutrition and health promotion/illness prevention programs. She also developed comprehensive and effective programs for caring for children, the elderly and the footcripples for whom the ancient foot soaking techniques had not been successful, and who had not learned of her foot-health shoes in time.

When she reached 90, Cindy finally retired from active involvement in public life and turned her energy to writing her biography, which we found in the deep and dark corner of an obscure archive. She completed the biography at the age of 93. During that same year, her son passed over to the great majority and her granddaughter became queen. During the remainder of her life, Cinderella witnessed the beginning of the vision that she had designed for the queendom, and the skillful leadership that her granddaughter provided for the transition. Cindy herself passed over to the great majority at age 98, confident in the knowledge that thousands of women no longer had to endure painful, dangerous shoes and nightly foot soaks.

POETRY by Mary Kohak

I've decided to risk with you and share a small piece of myself in hopes that more of you who also write poetry about your experience as feminist nurses will share some of your poetry in the newsjournal, or with me c/o Cassandra. Thanks to those of you who have already done that.

I believe that good haiku is selfexplanatory, so I will not write what these are about. I hope that you will understand them with your heart.

-- MK

hot, bloated woman yellow and retching with death -tears come down her cheeks



Old Woman in me -wise and sexy magician How will I birth you?



I wield you high and bring you down sharp to cut the mark of my ragepain.



# BOOK REVIEW by Sheila Bunting

Other Women by Lisa Alther. Signet Books, New American Library, New York, 1985.

This witty, compassionate novel by the author of <u>Kinflicks</u> focuses on the progression of a relationship between two engagingly unforgettable characters, both of the "helping professions", both strong women you will enjoy knowing and introducing to your friends.

Caroline is a nurse much bruised by her history, her life, her relationships. It is easy as a woman and a nurse for the reader to identify with her vulnerability. She is overwhelmed by the individual brutality she sees in her job as an ER nurse, and by the more impersonal brutality of violence, war, and starvation bombarding her from the media.

It is hard for Caroline to find any reason to deny her impulse to walk into Lake Glass, the symbolic, enigmatic backdrop for Other Women, to end her misery, but she has two dependent sons and is somewhat resigned to her pain and depression until she finds that her reactions are threatening her ability to do her job.

Hannah is the therapist who drinks Martinis and chain smokes brown cigarettes. She reads the National Enquirer, Harlequin Romances, and the last page of mystery novels. At the point we meet her, Hannah has come to a certain peace in her 38-year marriage which has survived flirtations, social ostracism, child death, and the day-to-day blaming and boredoms. She still struggles with her "demons": the pains and fury of the massive losses she has sustained over a lifetime. In helping Caroline, she is forced to examine again the twin mysteries of life's coexisting savagery and beauty. Experiencing this examination through the keen insight and ironic humor of this character is a rare treat for the reader.

We see Caroline seeking the affection and acceptance she was denied by her parents. She has thrown herself wholeheartedly into a series of relationships with men and with women but she is unable to find purpose and joy in her world or even to believe that she deserves happiness.

Caroline is the archtypical woman and nurse. She is nurturer to the world, apologizing for taking up oxygen and space, sublimating all of her own wants and needs to those of everyone else. She is unable to be aware of her own value. It is a delight for the reader to move with Caroline as she learns to know and to appreciate her own worth as she gains insight into her problems and begins to forgive and love herself. She comes to understand her relationships, past and present, and to free herself from the awesome responsibility for the world's burdens. As Hannah ironically observes of Caroline, "If you'd caused World War II, subsequent disasters must seem like small beer." (p. 88)

At one point in the book, Caroline has a quick satisfying sexual encounter with a woman she meets in a health spa. She is amazed at her ability to enjoy the contact without her usual assumption of responsibility. "She's never known you could go to bed with people without assuming their debts, writing them into your will, adopting their children, folding their laundry, rubbing ointment into their hemorrhoids." (p. 227)

Some readers might find Other Women too optimistic or too simplistic in its answers (The answer is "there are no answers"). Few would fail to find it entertaining and healing in its compassion. It is a story of loss and survival and growth, and of a bridge of affection and understanding buildt between two wise and brave women for the purpose of helping themselves and one another.

# DEAR CASSIE

In this column we will publish letters asking for specific ideas and thoughts about problems. Rather than publish "Cassie's" response, we encourage websters to write your thoughts and ideas for publication in the next newsjournal. If you also wish to contact the woman who writes the letter personally, send your letter to CASSANDRA, P.O. Box 341, Williamsville, NY, 14221, marked for forwarding to the woman to whom you are writing the letter. We will see that she receives the letter right away.

# Dear Cassie,

Help! I need the advice and support of my sister Cassandrans to help me deal with unjust treatment of nurses in the workplace.

A brief background: For more than five years I have worked at this large county hospital in Texas, first as a nurse assistant while in school, then as a staff nurse, and (during a period of progressive and supportive nursing administration) as part of a management team. When, through attrition, the supportive, progressive atmosphere that I thrived on disappeared (it was said in so many words that managers' loyalties were expected to be applied up the chain of command and not down the chain of command) I transferred to another area where I now work as a staff nurse and have climbed the clinical ladder.

I graduated during an acute nursing shortage and we were given generous week-end and shift differentials. Shortly thereafter, however, all cost-of-living increases were discontinued. We get yearly merit increases. Within the last two years, the merit system has been redesigned so that employees are divided into quartiles according to base salary. Those in the highest quartile earn smaller merit increases for job performance than those in the lower quartiles, with the obvious goal that everyone will eventually make the same amount of money.

About three years ago, a bond elec-

tion was held and the hospital began construction of a new wing and remodeling of the old building. With the construction nearing completion and many of the new beds already open, our salary budget has been exceeded. Weekend differentials have been cut by 25% and shift differentials by 25¢ each. All hiring and transferring has been deferred for three months. My feeling is that staffing is to be reduced thorugh attrition, avoiding a layoff. The method by which the budget is being cut (through shift differentials) clearly bypasses physicians and administrators and hits nurses, ward clerks, housekeeping personnel, etc.

I think that I am about the second highest paid staff nurse in my area. For a year and a half, I have worked the 12-hour night shift in a loose 2 or 3 on, 2 or 3 off pattern. Traditionally, we all get about two weekends on and two off per month. My new schedule has me working every other night for two weeks, and every week-end for the entire month. Considering the background I have given you, I see this as encouragement to quit. It's true that I am not happy in my job. But after five years of employment, I have accrued benefits that I would not have in my first few years of employment elsewhere. Also, although we nurses are not paid what we're worth, I could not make as much money doing anything else due to lack of qualification. I am looking diligently for a job but have not made any applications. My personal struggle is whether to stay and fight or to quit. As you can see, I may not have both options. If I'm going to lose my job anyway, I would like not to go quietly but to make a bold radical point about how nurses are given responsibility without authority or power and about how money is valued above patients' well being. This is where I need your help. My own thoughts are:

1. To make an appointment with the CEO and make my feelings known about the way the workers are being treated.

- 2. Write an incident report and notify the nursing supervisor every shift we are understaffed. (The hospital requires that we measure patient accuity by our own system based upon the GRASP method, so this can be well documented).
- 3. Write letters to the editors of the local papers.

Please, PLEASE write me with your suggestions and send positive energy to:

Sue Gibson

Dear Cassie,

I was recently given your name and address by a friend/nurse. I am a registered nurse and have my own private practice in holistic health. I channel

healing energy through my body to the person I am touching with my hands. This reduces/eliminates stress and pain. I have studied therapeutic touch, Reicke, polarity and other healing modalities and use a combination of these in my work. I also use iridology (science of the iris of the eye) and coordinate holistic health workshops.

I have tried to get malpractice insurance, but have been denied coverage because I am self-employed. Do you know of any insurance companies that would possibly give me coverage?

Thank you for your response.

Love and Peace,

Helen Cox

### LETTERS FOR CONNECTIONS

Dear Cassandra,

I have just been given the task of being a liason between the Association for Women in Psychology and CASSANDRA, as a representative of a feminist force in nursing. I would be glad to let AWP know about happenings in CASSANDRA and vice versa. As a feminist nurse psychotherapist I find my links with both organizations are vital. Since nursing is seldom considered to be congruent with feminism this kind of information exchange provides a good opportunity to have nursing concerns and activities brought to the attention of others involved in feminist social change.

I hope that any interested Cassandrans will contact me. If anyone wants additional information, I would be happy to try to provide it. Thank for being there.

In sisterhood,
Denny Webster
University of Illinois
at Chicago
College of Nursing
845 S. Damen
Chicago, IL 60612

Hi!

I just recently became aware of CASSANDRA from a friend who's been helping me work thru a lot of changes in my life. I went to Pro-Choice March in Washington -- probably the first publicaly feminist-activist-women-centered thing I've ever done. When I climbed out of our packed car on the mall in D.C., the very first people I ran into were a contingent of women from a CASSANDRA chapter in Cleveland. It was great to see nurses organizing in this way, and has restored a lot of the pride I was beginning to lose in my profession. Anyway, I'm really glad you're around, and I hope to be able to take an active role in the days to come.

I will be attending the Oncology Nursing Society Congress in Los Angeles in May. I hope to see other women in CASSANDRA there, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who specializes in cancer nursing.

Keep up the good work!
Sincerely,
Rebecca B. Booker
445 Morris St.
Pittsburgh, PA 13218

### SISTERS

S end
I n
S ome
T houghts
E pistles
R esponses
S oon

Two articles in the January issue of the Newsjournal brought two letters specifically addressing issues raised. This is one of the most important ways we can all contribute to our purpose of networking, and we are delighted to see this networking beginning. Thanks to Scottie and Lisa!

# Dear Cassandra,

I am in the midst of reading "What Makes a Feminist Social Science?" (January Newsjournal) and the writers' concern with pronouns is driving me nuts. I don't want to finish the article and I'm really intersted in it. Their use of her/his, her/him is surely better than the exclusive use of the masculine pronoun -- and I like seeing her before him for c/r purposes. But the repetition of both pronouns is real disconcerting to me.

Could you suggest to future writers that if they want to include males as referants, that they use "they" or "their" instead of both feminine and masculine pronouns? For example, 1.b. in the article would read: "does the writer indicate the ways their own biography, circumstances, or attitudes have contributed to their interest in the subject?"

The way it is now feels like bending over too backwards.

Sincerely, Scottie Daugherty, San Antonio, Texas



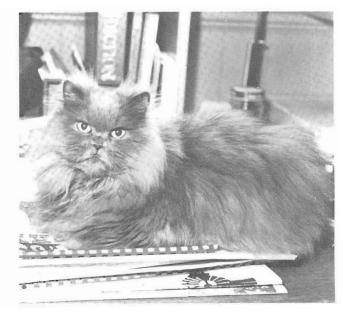
Newsjournal staff nurses' note: The use of "they" and "their" is acceptable usage for a singular referent. This was the old english style of usage, and the plural usage only came into existence with the "modern" rigid gender-based distinctions in pronouns. See The Handbook of Nonsexist Writing by Casey Miller and Kate Swift, New York, Lippincott and Crowell, 1980.

# Dear Cassandra.

Mae Jacob's comments in the January, 1986 issue of the newsjournal brought to mind an article on separatism that I. recently read. The article is by Julia Penelope in the journ Lesbian Ethics (Fall '84, Spring and Summer '85) and is titled "The Mystery of Lesbians". For those of us who have been challenged by separatism as a philosophical stance, a political position, or a way of life, Julia's discussion of lesbian separatism is powerful, insightful and affirming. I'd also like to add the journal to the recommended reading lists, as the first few issues have been exciting. Their address is P.O. Box 943, Venice, CA, 90294.

> Yours, Lisa Jeanine





ANIMAL RIGHTS AND NURSES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NURSES AGAINST VIVISECTION information provided by Ann Smart, Director

# Our philosophy

The National Association of Nurses Against Vivisection (NANAV) unites members of the nursing profession who are committed to the abolition of animal experiementation and the redistribution of precious health care dollars. As health professionals and persons committed to the care of others, nurses are in a unique position to voice opposition to vivisection and to support programs which help people rather than harm animals.

NANAV's goals are: 1) to inform the public and members of the nursing, medical and ancillary professions about the enormous suffering of millions of animals used in research; 2) to promote discussion of the ethical issues involved in animal experimentation; 3) to promote a more effective allocation of our limited health resources by emphasizing wellness and the prevention of illness, including the promotion of a vegetarian idet; 4) to challenge the myth that the use of animals in medical reserach is "necessary"; and 5) to promote the use of sophisticated and sensible nonanimal research methods.

Animals are not research "tools" or disposable laboratory accessories.

NANAV believes that animals should be afforded the right to live without fear and pain and that we have an obligation to protect, not exploit them, in the same way our society protects other vulnerable groups.

We know that thousands of lives could be saved if more funding was allocated for prevention, rehabilitation and nutrition programs. We believe it is unethical for us to continue to hope for benefits for ourselves at the expense of others' suffering. Experiments on animals blunt human sensitivity and lower reverence for life. Those who are capable of routinely and systematically inflicting pain on animals and taking lives can also become insensitive to the suffering of human beings, particularly those who are unable to defend themselves, such as children, the elderly, and mentally ill, mentally retarded, and disabled persons.

Ill health in human beings has its roots in a wide variety of factors, few of which can be accurately replicated in other species. Responsibility for good health rests largely with the individual, and as nurses, we have chosen to take an active role in saving both human and animal lives.

continued . . .

# What can you do?

First, learn everything you can about the issue of animal experimentation. We have information on many different groups concerned with protecting animal rights, which we will send to anyone who is interested.

Second, try to get other nurses educated and involved. Bring up animal rights issues in conversations at work, and try to act as a resource person. As NANAV, we will try to provide information or direct you to the proper source. Contact local nursing schools to see if you can post literature or speak to classes.

Third, look at what is being done to animals in your own hospital or university. Are kittens being used to teach intubation? Are animals being used for dissection in the nursing school, or does a nearby nursing or medical school have a "dog lab?" Are dogs being used in Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) courses? If you would like to oppose such practice, NANAV will provide as much information and support as possible.

Fourth, once you have done your reading, consider making yourself available for TV, radio, or newspaper

interviews. As a health professional, your opinions on animal research and vegetarianism can have an impact. When you go to animal rights demonstrations wear your whites and carry a sign that says "Nurses Against Vivisection." Be available to speak to local high schools or community groups about animal rights issues. It is very important that as nurses we take a visible, public stand. We realize that this sort of public speaking doesn't come easily or quickly for a lot of people, however, so we have available several articles and leaflets that may be helpful in building skills in this area.

We do not yet have a newsjournal, but hope to start one in a few months. Any ideas that anyone can contribute will be welcome. Please write to us:

> National Association of Nurses Against Vivisection P.O. Box 42110 Washington, DC 20015-0110

Newsjournal staff nurses' note: See the article "Critique of 'The Use of Animals in Nursing Research'" by Margaret A. Crowley and Denise Donnell Connors (both Cassandrans) in <u>Advances in Nursing Science</u>, 7:4, July, 1985, pp. 23-31.

# COMMUNIQU'ELLES

BIMONTHLY FEMINIST MAGAZINE

#### INDIVIDUALS

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# INSTITUTIONS

\$18/1 year; \$34/2 years; \$48/3 years

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The New Haven Web is interested in providing housing for other Cassandrans who may be attending the Feminism and Nursing Conference sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau at Yale University, New Haven, CT, June 8, 9 and 10, 1986. For more information about Cassandra networking at the conference, contact Annie Teitelman, 17 Grafton Street, New Haven. CT 06513 (Ph: 203/777-7416) or Madeline Mann, 114 Blake Street, New Haven, CT 06511 (203/387-0150) For more information about the conference, contact Sigma Theta Tau, Delta Mu Chapter, Yale University, School of Nursing, P.O. Box 3333, New Haven, CT 06510.

The 8th Annual Conference of the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault is being hosted by the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, July 22-26, 1986 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. For more information, write to ICASA, 527 East Capitol, Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62701 (217/753-4117).

Minerva: Quarterly Report on Women and the Military announces the publication of the Index for Volumes I and II (1983-1984) compiled by Debra E. Morgenstern. Cost is \$10; back issues of all numbers are available at \$7.50 each. Order from Minerva, 1101 South Arlinton Ridge Rd., No. 210, Arlington, VA 22202 (703/892-4388).

Women Take Liberty action is being sponsored by Women Rising in Resistance, a national network of feminist activists, at the Statue of Liberty on Sunday, August 3, 1986. The purpose of the event is to dedicate the Statue to Liberty, Equality, Sisterhood, and Peace and to affirm a feminist vision of what our society can be. For more information, write Women Take Liberty in '86, P.O. Box 2096, Station A, Champaign, IL 61820 (Ph. 217/352-6110).

- Do You Need Facts
   About Menopause?
- Does the Stereotyping of Older Women Make You Angry?
- Do You want to be Part of an Older Feminists' Network?

# BROOMSTICK

a Bimonthly National Magazine by, for, and about Women Over Forty



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3543 18th St., #3 San Francisco, CA 94110

# RESOURCES

1985 Women's Canoe Trips are scheduled by Beverly Antaeus, founder of HAWK, I'M YOUR SISTER, P.O. Box 9109, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 (Phone - 505-984-2268). Trips are planned that focus on photography and writing, as well as the environmental and exploration features of canoeing. Most trips are suitable for women of all levels of canoeing skill, although physical fitness preparation and paddling instruction prior to the trip are encouraged. The first 1986 trip was in April; other trips are scheduled for June, August and September.

Nurses Alliance for the Prevention of Nuclear War (225 Lafayette St., Rm. 207, New York, NY 10012) has program outlines for classroom lectures, and resource information about the arms race and its impact on health care. Contact Jennifer Tichenor for more information.

continued . . .

# Resources, continued

Communiqu' ELLES is a Quebec women's magazine that focuses on exchange of ideas between and among readers. Includes book and film reviews, resources, and news. Subscriptions for individuals are \$12 (Canadian) for one year. the Write to LES EDITIONS COMMUNIQU'ELLES, 3585 ST-Urbain, Montreal, Quebec, H2Z2N6

The 1986 Index/Directory of Women's Media is available for \$12 from the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008. This is an excellent resource for periodicals, films, music groups, women's writers groups, bookstores, library collections on women, and more.

The Cinema Guild, 1697 Broadway, New York, NY 10019 (Ph. 212/246-5522) has several new film and video releases

focusing on topics such as abortion, missing children, hysterectomy, and the social construction of sexuality. Write for detailed information about the film, preview policies, and availability of the film for use in your area.

Volcano Press has publised a spanish translation of the widely acclaimed book on menstruation for young girls:

Periodo. Libro Para Chicas Sobre La

Menstruation by Joann Gardner-Loulan,
Bonnie Lopez, and Marcia Quackenbush.
The book is well illustrated, detailed in the information provided, and written to appeal to young girls. Write Volcano Press, Inc., 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, or ask your local women's bookstore. For more information contact Cindy Loeser, 415/386-3500.

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# CALLS FOR MATERIAL

Woman of Power, a magazine of feminism, spirituality and politics is planning their fifth issue (Winter/Spring 1987) on the topic of "Healing". In this issue the editors want to explore how women are making our lives whole through accounts of personal healing experiences and through profiles of various women healers, healing modalities, and health philosophies. It is their intention to investigate cross-national and crosscultural approaches to women's work of healing body, psyche, and community, of healing the violence, oppression and divisiveness of patriarchal culture, and of healing our personal relationships, our environment, and our relationship with nature. Special emphasis will be placed on those women who bring spiritual, political, and feminist perspectives to their healing work. Date for receipt of materials is July 1, 1986. Will consider interviews, essays, fiction poetry, artwork, photography. Write Woman of Power, P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238-0827 (Ph. 617-491-6204)

Caroljean Pint is seeking material for a book exploring friendships between lesbians who are not lovers. Discuss play, work, growing-up, coming-out, separations, family bonds, commitment, betrayal, humor, aging, raising children, affection, etc. Send stories, drawing/graphics, photos, essays, poems, songs, etc. to Caroljean, 1050 Title Insurance Building, 400 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Women who love dogs: here's a chance to participate in an exciting photography book to be entitled <u>Dogs</u> and <u>Their</u> <u>Women</u>. Photos must be black and white, and no larger than 8x10. Old and new photos are sought, of women of all ages with their dogs. Include your dog's name, your name, address, telephone number, and a brief caption. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of your photograph. Deadline is May 30, 1986. A percentage of the proceeds from the book's sales will be donated to a humane society.



# BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

EMMA is back! In fact, Anne Montes, Buffalo webster, is now the new owner of EMMA in addition to her independent geriatric nursing practice. Anne has selected a list of titles that may be of interest to Cassandrans. Please use the order form with this newsjournal if you want to order from EMMA, or look for these titles at your local women's bookstore.

Everyday Sheroes: 1987 Calendar of Celebration. Margaretdaughters, Inc. \$8.50 (after September 1, \$9.50)

An inspiring wall calendar for 1987 featuring nurses who make a difference in the everyday things they do -- many of whom are also Cassandrans. 13 stunning photos, brief self descriptions reflecting the diversity among women, and women's birthdates and events commemorated throughout. This is one calendar you won't want to do without!

Call Me Woman by Ellen Kuzwayo. Spinsters Ink, \$7.95

A remarkable autobiography that focuses not only on the author but draws on the unrecorded history of a whole people. In telling her own personal and political story over 70 years, Ellen Kuzwayo speaks for, and with, the women of South Africa among whom she lives and works. Their courage and dignity remain a source of wonder.

When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America by Paula Giddings. Bantam Books, \$8.95

Paula Giddings draws on speeches, diaries, letters and other original sources, to movingly describe how Black women have transcended the double discrimination of sexism and racism from the landing of the first slaves in the 17th century to the present.

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In Her Prime: A New View of Middle-Aged Women by Judith K. Brown, Virginia Kerns and contributors. Bergin and Garvey, \$14.95

This book challenges our culture-bound stereotype of middle age in women as simply a time of "Middle-aged jitter" and "empty nest syndrome." In fact, middle age finds women more energetic and autonomous and less restricted than during child-rearing years. Informed women will be facinated by the author's reports of women in widely divergent cultural environments, ranging from the primitive hunter/gatherer tribes to late industrial societies.

Toward a New Psychology of Women by Jean Baker Miller. Beacon Press, \$5.95

This small book (143 pages) is quoted by the New York Times Book Review as possibly being able to "help to change your life, not without risk, but without despair." Now a classic that is a well-proven resource for women.

The Second Self: Computers and the Human Spirit by Sherry Turkle. Simon and Shuster, \$8.95

Sherry Turkle writes about the effect computers have on us. She explores the thoughts and feelings of children with computer toys and computers in the classroom, video game enthusiasts, home computer users, virtuoso "hackers", professional programmers, and artificial intelligence researchers. She finds that the computer, which appears almost to think, has provoked us to reconsider what it means to think, to feel, and to be human.

Women Who Do and Women Who Don't Join the Women's Movement by Robyn Rowland. Routledge and Kegan Paul, \$8.95.

This is a book in which the author asked a variety of women to write about their lives and the reason for their alignment or non-alignment with the women's movement. There are 24 contributors drawn from five different countries. The contributors create a

diverse pattern of women's interpretations of "being female" with surprising similarities emerging between the two groups, particularly in terms of their experience of self.

Wings of Life Natural Foods Cookbook by Julie Jordan. Crossing Press, \$7.95

This cookbook is in its 7th printing. The author, from the Cabbagetown Cafe (Ithaca, NY) guides you through the world of vegetarian cooking, with great results.

Women and Aging: An Anthology by Women edited by Jo Alexander and others. Calyx Books, \$12.00

The Women and Aging Anthology is composed of photographs, essays, fiction, journals, poetry, profiles, art and reviews. There is also a bibliography and notes on the contributors. As stated on the back cover: "The largest proportion of the aging population is composed of women. They are ignored by society, the media, and feminists. This anthology provides insights into problems, concerns and images women writers and artists have about women's aging."

This Way Day Break Comes: Women's Values and The Future by Annie Cheatham and Mary Clare Powell. New Society Publishers, \$12.95.

This is an affirming work by two "futurists" who traveled 30,000 miles to document the lives and visions of 1000 North American women. This book is comprised of three parts: 1) Women Relate, 2) Women Create, and 3) Women Heal. A book that demonstrates and nurtures feminist visions.

Companeras: Women, Art and Social Change in Latin America by Betty LaDuke. City Lights Books, \$12.50.

Betty Duke brings together the personal stories and recent work of contemporary artists in the Carribean, Central

continued . . .

and South American countries. This representative survey of 14 countries includes professional painters and sculptors of the big cities, self-taught painters, and women who work in a variety of crafts media.

My Mother's Body by Marge Piercy. Alfred A. Knopf, \$7.95.

Marge Piercy's tenth book of poetry takes its title poem from one of her strongest and most moving poems -- an affirmation of continuity and identity. Each one of her poems tells a story -- about wandering luggage, her love of animals, the influence of a name, appleblossoms and blackberries, pollution -- everyday topics that touch us all, presented to us in a way that makes them linger long after we put the book away.

# TITLES PREVIOUSLY LISTED AND STILL AVAILABLE

Process by Charlene Eldridge Wheeler and Peggy L. Chinn, \$4.95

Daughters of Copperwoman by Anne Cameron, \$7.95

Motherwit: A Feminist Guide to Psychic Development by Diane Mariechild, \$7.95

The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory by Marilyn Frye, \$8.95

Women of Ideas and What Men Have Done to Them by Dale Spender, \$9.95

Look Me In the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism by Barbara McDonald, \$5.95

A New View of Woman's Body, \$9.50

Shadow on a Tight Rope: Writings by Women on Fat Oppression edited by Lisa Schoenfielder and Barb Wieser, \$8.95.

Despair and Personal Power in the Nuclear Age by Joanna Rogers Macy, \$8.95.

The Single Mother's Survival Manual by Barbara Duncan, \$12.50

No Fairy Godmothers, No Magic Wands: The Healing Process after Rape by Judy H. Katz, \$8.95

Voices in the Night: Women Speaking about Incest edited by Toni AH McNaron and Yarrow Morgan, \$7.95

Lesbian Sex by Jo Ann Loulan, \$8.95

With the Power of Each Breath: A Disabled Women's Anthology edited by Susan E. Browne (Cassandran), Debra Connors, and Nanci Stern, \$9.95

Feminism for the Health of It by Wilma Scott Heide, \$8.95

A Feminist Legacy: The Ethics of Wilma Scott Heide and Company by Eleanor Humes Haney, \$12.95

The Nutrition Detective: A Woman's Guide to Treating Your Health Problems Through the Foods You Eat by Nan Kathryn Fuchs, \$9.95

Menopause, Naturally: Preparing for the Second Half of Life by Sadja Greenwood, \$10.00

# BUDGET REPORT

October 1, 1985 - March 1, 1986 by Maeona Jacobs and the Utah Web

# <u>Draft</u> <u>Account</u> (available for use)

Balance Forward	ed:		\$ 3,249.81
Income:			
Membership: Webster: New Webster: Renew Friends: New Friends: Renew Subscribers: New Subscribers: Renew		\$ 835.00 1,347.00 75.00 .00 70.00 35.00	,
Newsjournal Reprints: Promotional sales: Donations: Check Interest:		.00 63.50 .00 88.85	
	Total Income:	2,514.35	2,514.35
	Total useable asse	ts:	\$ 5,764.16
Expenses: Transfer to WSH	Research Fund:	\$ 302.51	
Check Charges: Membership: Newsjournal: CAN Gatherings (ANA Public Relations Finance: Coordination:	booth)	20.00 263,30 1,302.59 .00 950.00 .00 .00 .00	
	Total Expenses:	3,807.82	(3,807.82)
	Closing Balance:		\$ 1,956.34
	*********	*****	
Wilma Scott Heide Research Fund (not available for withdrawal)			)
Balance forward: 13% Webster dues: Dividend:		\$ 2,385.13 302.51 47.37	
	Closing balance:		\$ 2,735.01

### CONTACT WOMEN . . . .

Names and addresses of all Cassandrans are forwarded to their nearest contact woman; otherwise our mailing list is not distributed. This list is arranged by state alphabetically, so find the location nearest you to connect with the nearest contact woman. There are many cities and states not yet represented by a contact woman, so if you would like to be a contact woman and encourage networking in your area, please let us know. If you are a contact woman and you are not listed, or if the information given here is incorrect, please notify us. Write Cassandra, P.O. Box 341, Williamsville, NY 14221.

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### THRUMS

(Any loose end, fringe, or tuft of thread; the fringe of warp threads left on a loom after the cloth has been cut off).

# This Newsjournal was produced by:

The Buffalo Web. The Newsjournal Staff Nurses who were responsible for production of this issue were Charlene Eldridge Wheeler and Peggy Chinn.

# Appreciation to:

- Frigid, the technological wonder, without which all of this would be infinitely more difficult, if not impossible.
- Women of the Buffalo Web who assist with mailing tasks and other details of preparation of the newsjournal.
- Monday the Persian, and Sophia the Pug who so graciously posed for the photos on page 14
- Doris Santercole for Sophia's photograph.
- Charlene Eldridge Wheeler for Monday's picture.
- Jane Peterson for the photograph of the Cleveland Web and banner at the March for Women's Lives.
- Waterfront Press, its employees and owner Richard Petit consistently provide us a quality printed newsjournal through their union shop.
- Florence Nightingale, whose birthdate is May 12, for inspiration.

# Illustrations:

Unless otherwise specified, the illustrations are from the following publications:

Jewell Graphics' Feminist Clip Art, P.O. Box 29303, Oakland, CA 94604.

<u>Women: A Pictorial Archive from</u> Nineteenth-Century Sources, Dover, 1978.

Treasury of Flower Designs by Susan Gaber, Dover, 1981.

Banners, Ribbons and Scrolls ed. by Carol Belanger Grafton, Dover, 1983.

<u>Treasury of Art Nouveau Design and Ornament by Carol Belanger Grafton, Dover, 1980</u>

Art Nouveau by E.V. Gillon, Dover, 1969.

# Quote:

The quote on the front cover of this issue is from Florence Nightingale's Cassandra, published by the Feminist Press, 1979, p. 26.

