

DYKATUDE

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A JOURNAL OF DYKEDISSENT
no. 2 Winter 1996



Welcome to issue #2 of *Dyka'tude*! We're chock full of goodies this time around, and, if you haven't noticed already, we have expanded to a full page format. We decided to focus this issue on body image — an issue that I've certainly struggled with. I developed early — wore my first bra in fourth grade — and if you know me, you know that my breast size is not small — not even close. I spent a lot of time in junior high and high school coming to terms with my body size. By the time I graduated from college I had grown comfortable with my body but still lacked the language to voice my frustration with a society that categorized me as too big. Working on this issue of *Dyka'tude* has helped me do that. Fat politics are radical politics — even within the feminist movement there has been very little movement forward on a thorough understanding of how body image has been used to divide and separate us. Next time you see a fat woman, think about your reaction to her — do you cringe, do you pass judgement? If you yourself are big and still feel guilty and bad about your body size, you might start freeing yourself by checking out *FaT GiRL*, an awesome 'zine out of San Fran "for fat dykes and the women who want them", that is available at many places where zines are sold. Now, as you page through this issue, you will see our Barbie shoots. By using Barbie, society's ultimate perfect woman from her femininity to her impossible body size, we were trying to subvert a het symbol by butching up one and placing her in, well, compromising positions with another more classically femme Barbie. We would have like to have changed Barbie's body size as well, but with only scissors and markers at our disposal we were limited in what we could do. Also, look for our sexuality roundtable where we discuss frankly how we learned about sex and came to terms with our own sexuality in our childhood. Interesting stuff! We hope you enjoy this issue of *Dyka'tude* — and remember we're always looking for submissions! — Sarah Shreeves

Dyka'tude is Lee Fortmiller, Sara Hairston, Beth Hastie, & Sarah Shreeves

Cover photo:
Judith Stein and Meridith Lawrence
have been girlfriends for 14 years

Judith:

I am a 44 year old Jewish dyke feminist. I spent a lot of the late 1970s and early 80s organizing the women's community around Fat Liberation. Mostly they didn't get it then, and I don't see evidence that women's body politics have gotten any better in the intervening years. I wish every woman would understand how our body hatred keeps us divided from each other, unable to see that patriarchal woman-hating boot on our necks. In the meantime, I believe that living a sexy, fat-loving fun-filled life is one small way I can spit in the eye of this fat-hating culture.

Meridith:

Meridith Lawrence is a 41 year old fat dyke who has been fat all her life. Are we your worst fear? Do you continue to buy diet products because you are so scared at what you might become? Look at the fat women around you and know that every time you pick up a diet drink, that every time you talk about weight loss and dieting, that every time you wish you looked like some anorexic supermodel, you support the diet industry which at last count was making \$10 billion/year off the backs of every woman in this culture. And know that every single time you support this death industry, you betray yourself and every woman you know. I long for the day when every lesbian will truly and ferociously love herself, no matter what her size. And that every lesbian event will have t-shirts that go up to 10X.



WOMEN TAKE PRIDE

[The programs and products brought to us by the fashion, cosmetic and diet industries] interfere with and alienate us from our bodies' natural functions. We have become so convinced that we need to use these products that we often come to fear our own bodies. We are afraid to go out without wearing make-up, afraid to eat, afraid to appear unshaven, afraid to smell... in short, we become afraid to be ourselves. We must reject the notion that women's bodies are unclean, inferior and defective. We need to stop poisoning, cutting, and starving ourselves. Our accomplishments should bring confident smiles to our faces, not surgeon's knives and chemical peels. Being comfortable with our bodies and the natural way we look helps us to break the chain of negative body image and self-esteem. Taking pride in our bodies begins with learning about our bodies. *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves* is a good place to start.

* The diet industry currently grosses \$33 billion dollars a year. (Molly O'Neill, "Congress Looking Into Diet Business", *New York Times*, 3/8/90).

* In a survey of American women aged 18-35, 75% believed they were fat, while only 25% were medically overweight. (Drs. Wayne and Susan Wooley, University of Cincinnati School of Medicine Survey, 1984).

* A California study showed that by the time girls were in the 4th grade, 80% of them were already dieting. (Naomi Wolf, *The Beauty Myth*, 1991).

* On any given day, 25% of American women are on diets, with 50% finishing, breaking or starting one. (Roberta Pollack Seid, *Never Too Thin: Why Women are at War With Their Bodies*, Prentice Hall, 1989).

- excerpt from 1993 pamphlet by Rosemary Candelario and Kasi Cruz of the Boston Women's Action Coalition (WAC) stuffed in "women's" magazines like Cosmo and Glamour at newsstands with words "WARNING: READING THIS MAGAZINE COULD PROVE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR SELF-ESTEEM".

I went to Urban Outfitter's recently and when I complained to the cashier (holding up an impossibly small trendy new shirt to my larger body) that the clothes in the Women's section should be marked Children's, she merely remarked that that wasn't even the smallest size they had!!
- Beth



True revolution comes not when we learn to ignore our fat and pretend we're no different, but when we learn to use it to our advantage, when we learn to deconstruct all the myths that propagate fat-hate.

My thin friends are constantly being validated by mainstream feminism, while I am ignored. The most widespread mentality regarding body image at this point is something along these lines: Women look in the mirror and think, "I'm fat," but really they're not. Really they're thin.

Really they're thin. But really I'm fat. According to mainstream feminist theory, I don't even exist. I know that women do often look in the mirror and think that they are fatter than they are. And yes, this is a problem. But the analysis can't stop there. There are women who *are* fat, and that needs to be dealt with. Rather than just reassuring people, "No, you're not fat, you're just curvy," maybe we should be demystifying fat and dealing with fat politics as a whole. And I don't mean maybe, I mean it is a necessity. Once we realize that fat is not "inherently bad" (and I can't even believe that I'm writing that - "inherently bad" - it sounds so ridiculous), then we can work out the problem as a whole instead of dealing only with this very minute part of it. All forms of oppression work together, and so they have to be fought together.

- excerpt from Nomy Lamm's
*It's a Big Fat Revolution in Listen Up:
Voices From the Next Feminist Generation.*

Thoughts on Clothes

One of my favorite pictures of myself was taken when I was around nine. I'm sitting on my grandparents' bed reading. I'm wearing these multicolored striped pants — lots of yellows, reds, and oranges — and a striped shirt — green and red — and my grandfather's fedora. A complete mismatch of colors and styles. But, you know, I really didn't care. The clothes were comfortable, and I liked them. That's all that mattered.

These days I have quite a different take on clothes. In some ways they are a pain in the ass — my size doesn't facilitate easy shopping in most stores. I tend now to buy a lot of men's clothes — khakis, large sweaters, and shirts. They're cheaper and they fit me better than most women's clothes that I can find. I worry more about what I look like for work and for going out. In the end I prefer jeans and a T-shirt, but I can dress nicer if I have to.

Clothes mean so much more than something to cover the body — they are a means of disguise, a means of inclusion, of recognition. When I walk down a street in jeans, T-shirt, flannel, Docs, and a baseball cap on, a dyke seeing me would guess that I was also a dyke. That recognition is nice — comforting in a way. And if I wore heels and a business suit, another dyke might pass me by without even blinking an eye (maybe!). Perhaps all this is obvious to everyone, but I wonder when did I lose that unconsciousness about clothes that I had when I was nine? And when did clothes start to become almost a burden, sometimes a pleasure, but always endowed with meaning?

— Sarah Shreeves

I pass. In fact most of my straight friends are dykier than I am. Femme is an understatement... Lipstick, makeup, long hair, short skirts, and high heels. I dive into heterosexual privilege then turn it against itself when the 'truth' about my sexual preference is revealed.

I do not know what it feels like to be identified as a lesbian at a glance. At first lesbians do not know what to make of me. Unlike Sarah, I do not wear many of the lesbian uniforms. My sexuality never impacted how I present myself.

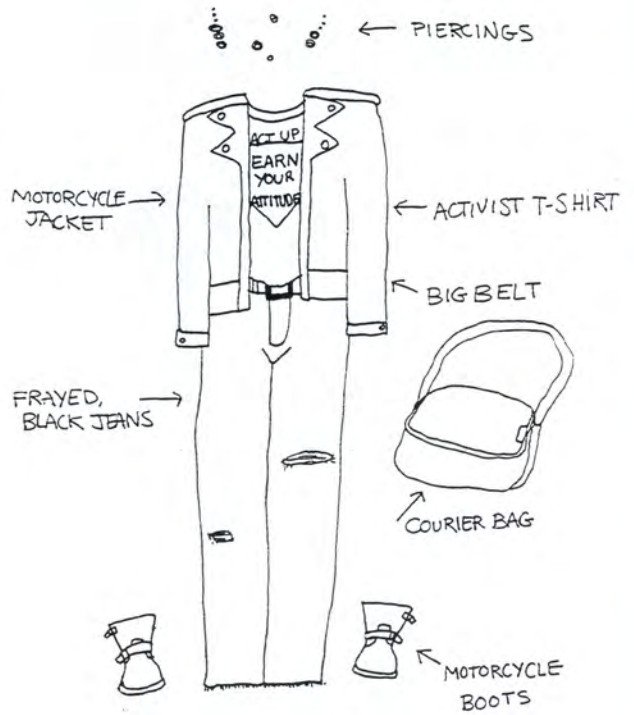
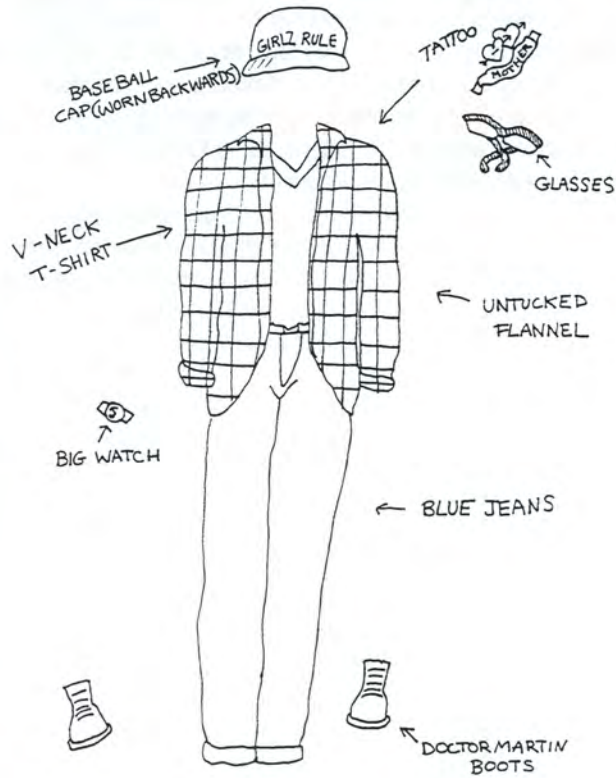
In kindergarten I would wear a long dress every day to school. I always have been interested in clothes. It is important how I appear, not to others, but to myself.

I know I'm having a hard start to a day when I feel the need to change my clothes many times before I get out the door. I usually end up wearing the first outfit I put on. Clothes are my armor for the day. If I am in a funk and I do not have on the right armor, I somehow feel that I'll have a bad day.

I have fun with clothes. I like shopping and finding bargains. I like looking put together. Black is definitely my color. How I present myself to the world is uniquely "Lee". I have a style of my own that is usually not in tune with the latest lesbian trend.

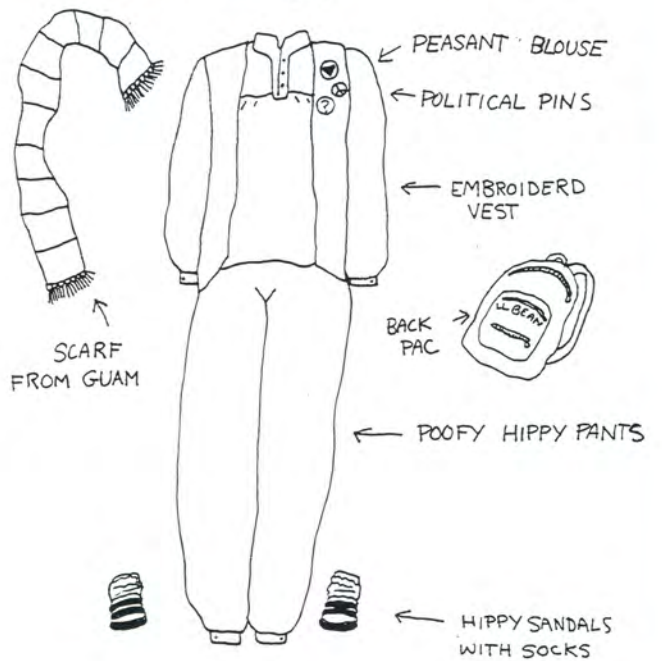
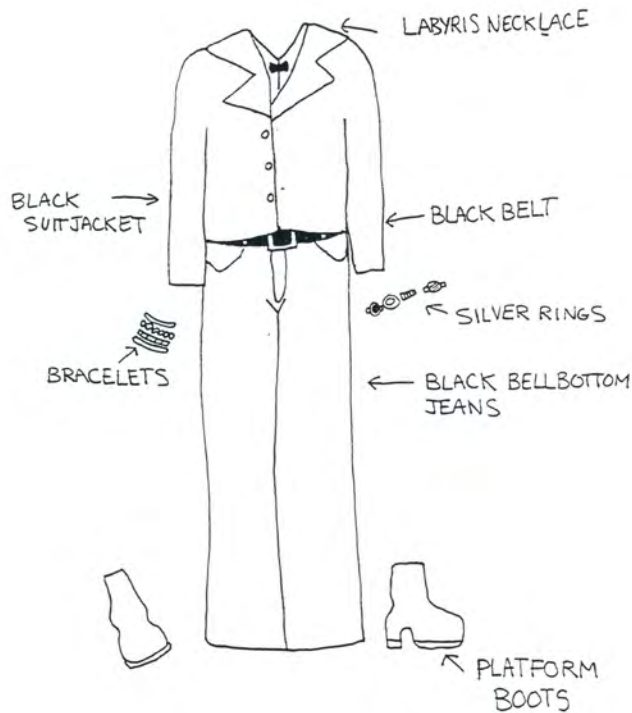
So next time you see a woman with long brown hair, a black wrap, and high heeled boots, you know she might be.... 'cause it could be me.

— Lee Fortmiller



dykátude barbie fashions!!

COLLECT THEM ALL!



Rosie O'Donnell Has Dyka'tude!

We love Rosie! Beth tapes her show every day (when she hasn't run out of tapes) and Sara H. watches as often as she can. Rosie O'Donnell has had her own talk show for 4 months and has great guests, lots of strong women involved in politics, sports, music and other parts of the entertainment industry including Roseanne Cash, Whoopie Goldberg, Phyllis Diller,

women from 1940s baseball, a woman basketball team olympian, Tipper Gore, Ann Rice, Terri MacMillan, and Jamie Lee Curtis to name a few. She also has men on the show.... she's boxed with George Forman and done karate with Jackie Chan. She doesn't just sit



on her chair while others perform, she'll play some hoops or sing a duet with them. She's funny and loud and knows how to have a good time. And she's watched a lot of tv.

Rosie doesn't shy from politics, unlike most other talk show hosts or people on tv in general. She is unabashedly Democratic and bashes Republicans freely. On one show recently she had a very frank discussion with Jamie Lee Curtis about reproductive rights. Jamie Lee also has adopted. I should tell you if you don't know, Rosie is a "single" mother with an adopted baby son. She often talks about parenting with other parents, but never about any men in her life. Hmm.

And what a welcome relief to see a "larger" woman on tv. She's not that big, but compared to the anorexic standard, she stands out. She has had to confront the issue of her size both on the air and off. A couple of recent incidents have happened on the show. The first one: Donny Osmond suggested Rosie was fat in a comment he made. She forced him to come back on the show another day and beg for her forgiveness on his hands and knees. Very cool. Another incident was more troubling: a caller pretending to be the mayor of Philadelphia called up (and this is a live show) and was put on the air. He said "Howard Stern says you're a big, fat pig" and then said it again. Rosie cut the call off and, despite the shock of having to respond to this while millions of people

are watching live, was very calm considering and said something about responding to annoying people in a positive way and not getting dragged down by the negativity. The next day fans faxed many letters of support. But what was even more disturbing was that not 10 minutes after this incident, Ricki Lake of "Hairspray" fame (who lost lots of weight to get her own talk show and is actually writing a book about growing up as a fat girl) preceded to tell Rosie that she wished she had vomited more while being pregnant, so she wouldn't have gained so much weight. Hello! What the fuck was she thinking! How sad that Rosie has to deal with this shit on her own show.

For the most part, Rosie is a positive role model for fat women. She has said a few times how hard it is to find rack clothes for a woman who's over size 14. Thank you! Rosie can afford to have her suits tailored (and she always wears pants and a suit jacket. Styling!), but she does deal with the issue.

However, we cannot figure out why she has Jenny Craig as a sponsor and why she's so obsessed with Tom Cruise. Beth's girlfriend Sage says that instead of Rosie's daily countdown to her meeting with Tom Cruise, she should've had a countdown to Bette Midler. I mean it's Bette she was obsessed with since she was ten and stole money from her father to go see perform. It's Bette who she loved so much that she made her early stand-up gig tours go to the cities where Bette was performing. It's Bette who Rosie had dozens of roses for when she came on the show. It's Bette who Rosie as a girl dreamed of singing with. You get the idea. Rosie definitely has *Dyka'tude*. Oh ... her and her Lebanese friend Ellen.



Sexuality Roundtable with Lee F., Sara H., Beth H., and Sarah S.

Lee: We're talking about history of early sexuality. I was sort of late bloomer. I did have a boyfriend whom I was very sexual with in high school, but I hadn't discovered my clit. He discovered it, but I hadn't discovered it for myself.

Beth: I was a really early bloomer. I had a boyfriend when I was eight. He was a year older. It was funny because we used to kiss and make out. I think he encouraged me; he was definitely very precocious. When we were eleven I had to convince him that we hadn't lost our virginity. (Laughter) He didn't understand. I'm like "No we did not lose our virginity at eight" He didn't get it about what sex was in terms of penetration. I wasn't sexually active in high school, but I was in love with my best friend. A girl.

Sarah: I wasn't actually active with anybody until high school, but I read way above my age level when I was pretty young. So I would be reading these sort of adult books and come across sex scenes and be like "Hmm, very interesting". I wouldn't really completely understand what was going on and I certainly didn't relate it to my own body, my own sexuality. That was also around the same time when I first started to masturbate. It felt really good, but I didn't really understand what was going on. It wasn't really until junior high or early high school that I first really knew what was happening, learned about my clit, and then became sexually active with a boyfriend in high school. I just never connected things for a long time, I knew this stuff, I did this stuff and it would feel good. I didn't even really connect it to the sex scenes that I read in these books. It was a completely different, separate thing for me.

Sara: When I was little I had this friend — she was so sexual. In second, third grade that was all she would talk about. You know how you played dodge ball — we used to get out in the beginning and go over to the corner and talk about sex the whole time and make up all these stories. I went over to her house once and basically she started to initiate masturbation. I got freaked out because I did that and I got freaked out because she did that and so I ran out of the house and was like AHHHH (laughter). That kind of scared me off for a couple of years. It's kind of funny because she ended up being pretty prudish later on in her life and I kind of wasn't.

Sarah: I think it's interesting at what ages kids discover being aroused, I guess. I have a good friend who in first or second grade she would have basically orgasmed by going up the jungle gym — you know the fireman's pole — and she would go down that and it would feel really really good (laughter). It took her years to realize what happened. I think it's really interesting at what age you discover that, when you make the connections to what that feeling is, but also how you feel about it at the time. I know when I first started masturbating, I sort of had this sense that it was — not that it was wrong — but that it was something that I didn't want to talk to my parents about or tell anybody about.

Beth: I remember enjoying feeling down there but I didn't really know about my clitoris or whatever until I remember being in my backyard on my swing set with a friend and having her tell me about masturbation. I don't if she used that word, but she masturbated. Basically she just said 'Do you masturbate?' or something and I'm like "What? What's that?" (laughter) "Really? I had no idea" (laughter) But I think I went through a period where I knew that things felt good down there, but I just was not connected at all to what she told me. It sort of made some sense, that there was a name for masturbation. I think later I experimented because it was ok because she had told me.

Sara: That same friend - we used to sit around and try to figure out what women did together. And we thought up the craziest things. They were really weird. She was the one who first told me what heterosexual sex was. I spent the rest of my life feeling absolutely so afraid that my mother was going to tell me what it was, I don't know why. I didn't like to talk to my mother about stuff like that. So every time my mother would sit me down for a talk I'd be worried what it would be about.

Beth: I didn't want my mother to talk to me about it either. She would sort of try, she felt so uncomfortable about it, it was painful.

Lee: My parents were very comfortable. They talked about sex really early on in my development. I knew what it was about, I remember being really really young and playing "5 minutes in the closet" with the boys in the neighborhood and not knowing what they wanted or what was going on. We just kissed and by the end we were like "Oh forget it, we don't want to kiss" (laughter) But my parents were very sexually explicit early on because they thought you should, but that doesn't mean I was aware of my own body until way later. High school. And even I didn't start masturbating until later than that. When I was first with a woman, it was obvious that she masturbated all the time and I didn't at all, so I didn't know what the hell was going on. I wasn't clear on what to do down there to her, so she was very adept to my pleasure and I was like totally lost. But that was in high school as well.

Sarah: The first time I had sex with a guy was in high school. Both of us were virgins, and we had really no idea of how to give each other pleasure. He didn't have any idea of what a clit was and I still hadn't quite made a leap there or understood how to have sex and have pleasure for myself. It was completely bewildering like "oh, is this what we're supposed to do?"

That sort of feeling.

Beth: One of my first sexual experiences was really bad. I was about six and a neighborhood boy who was about fourteen trapped me in his house and forced me to make out with him. It was really horrible and I knew he wanted to do more than that, but I got away. It happened again a year later and basically I wouldn't let him touch my genitals. I knew that was not what I wanted and I left. I remember having this confrontation with him — I was six or seven and he was fourteen. I went and told my mother, she was home, and she went and read him the riot act. But I remember when I told her it was hard — she had friends over — and I was sort of ashamed over it. She was like “Did he penetrate you” or something and it was really different — I mean, he hadn't at all — it was like kissing me. But it was really upsetting. And it was hard for me because my mother wasn't comfortable talking about it. It was just hard when you're growing up and you've had a really bad sexual experience to think about sexuality in a positive way and kind of work through that. I was really glad that she took it seriously and went and talked to him and talked to his parents and stuff but I remember feeling like I wish he had gotten arrested or something. I didn't feel like what happened to him was serious enough; I wanted it to be taken even more seriously.

Sarah: I think it matters a lot how your parents talk about sex or the people you are around talk about sex. My parents talked about sex in a very clinical way — like this is how you make babies — I don't often find in talking to other people that their parents talked about sex in terms of pleasure — it's just a clinical thing. And I think that really confuses kids about what sex is or what sexuality is. I think the pleasure aspect gets lost in that or becomes something that you're not supposed to talk about. And certainly with kids, I mean I think there's a whole taboo in our society to not talk about pleasure and sex with kids especially younger kids.

Sara: Kids almost think it's something different from what their parents explain, that it's something else. The parents explain it so clinically — it almost seems like they're talking about math or something (laughter) and then that's totally different from what kids feel and they don't even connect half the time when parents are too clinical. I remember stuff you learn at school, I didn't even think about it as the same thing.

Beth: It's interesting there'll be a controversy about teaching sex education in the schools and people want sometimes it to be left to the parents. But parents a lot of times don't know anything and totally feel uncomfortable talking about sex and are unable to do it and probably a lot of times don't say anything. I think parents should be educated about how to talk about sex. I know a lot of friends whose parents didn't talk about it at all. My mother would try, she would say “Do you have any questions” (laughter), and I'd say “uhhh, no”. I remember being in high school and my mother saying sort of vaguely if one of my friends got in trouble I could come talk to her, if one of my friends got pregnant accidentally or whatever she would be supportive. It was sort of nice to know, but that was kind of as far as it went.

Sarah: Did she ever talk to you later about what happened when you were six or seven?

Beth: No not really. I would bring it up occasionally. I remember bringing it up with her once and she said do you ever think about that and I said yeah and her being upset about that. So she wasn't very able to deal with it, so it was kind of like I didn't want to upset her. It's funny 'cause I remember being in high school and a friend had a pregnancy scare — two friends had a pregnancy scare at the same time. I was not sexually active at all so I was the one who went to CVS and bought them the pregnancy because I didn't have anything to feel ashamed about. So I went and got them a pregnancy kit — I think there are two tests — so they each got one and both of them got their period right after they found out they weren't pregnant. But I went and did that — it was very interesting.

Sarah: I have sort of a funny story. When my boyfriend in high school and I first decided to have sex, we were scared and nervous and all this stuff, even though we had been very sexually active up to penetration. We had his younger sister who must have been like eleven go buy condoms (laughter) and she wanted to — she thought it was really funny.

Sara: I always had pregnancy scares. I had a boyfriend in high school, and I just don't think I got it, I didn't understand. We were both just so ignorant, we never figured out anything the whole time we were dating. I don't know — neither of us knew how to put on the damn thing. I was always afraid that I had gotten pregnant and it was just a big mess. I bought a pregnancy test every month (laughter) and I'd take it. I was always like “I'm pregnant” and after a while my friends were like “yeah whatever” and they wouldn't help me anymore. I just didn't know what I was doing.

Beth: Did your parents ever talk to you about sex at all?

Sara: No never. My mother is really shy and she just dies if you have to talk about sex, she'd be so embarrassed. So I never told her that I was getting all these pregnancy tests.

Beth: I remember being in grammar school, I was 10 or 12 or something, and being with a really good girlfriend of mine — a friend not a girlfriend, but anyway, and both of us were lying on the living room floor carpet pretending we were making out with our husbands (much laughter). I wish we were doing that with each other — but oh well.

Sara: I remember giving myself a hickey on your hand (laughter) — pretending it's a boy. I was so afraid of boys even up to high school. Whenever one of them talked to me, I was like “Yikes”. I remember I danced with a boy in a junior high dance and the whole time I thought I was going to throw up and I thought that meant that I liked him. (Laughter) It was funny

DYKATUDE

PRESENTS

JOURNEY INTO DYKENESS

MY JOURNEY INTO DYKENESS BEGAN JUST A FEW YEARS AGO...



I HAD ALWAYS HAD CLOSE FEMALE FRIENDS.



I HAD ALWAYS HAD BOYFRIENDS, BUT THEY WERE GAY, TOO.



SO I DECIDED TO COME OUT.



I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OTHER DYKES, SO I TRIED THE PERSONALS...



IT DIDN'T WORK OUT...



IT LOOKED HOPELESS UNTIL I MET CATIE.



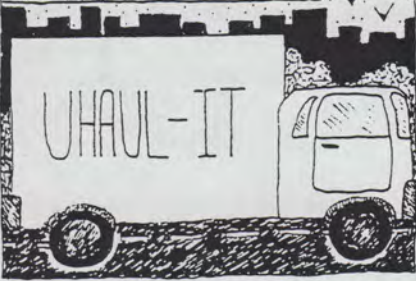
SHE SHAVED MY HEAD...



WE FELL IN LOVE...



AND MOVED IN TOGETHER.



WE FOUGHT...



... AND BROKE UP BUT REMAINED FRIENDS.



I NURSED MY WOUNDS AND MOVED ON...



I WENT TO MY FIRST DYKE MARCH.



AND THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

SARA HAIRSTON ©

'cause I couldn't talk to him, I just got this yuck feeling in my stomach.

Lee: Now when you're adults do your parents talk about sex more explicitly?

Sarah: Not with me, no. I don't think they could. (Laughter) I mean they're very open with me being a lesbian, but I don't think they could talk about...

Lee: What you actually do.

Beth: My parents don't either. In school, my stepmother did two I used to collect stickers — sort of thing. When I was like sticker that said "I love sex" sex. I gave it to my stepmother room door which was so cool. thing. The second thing when me the teenage version of *Our* was really good. She didn't gave that to me, and that was thing she could do because it

...my mom talks about sex in a very positive way now. About masturbation and stuff. It's almost embarrassing.

It's like thanks, I didn't really need to know that!

But actually in high really good things. One, hearts and cats and that 12 or something, I got a with a heart — I heart and she put it on her bed. That was such a positive I was fourteen she gave *Bodies, Ourselves*. It talk about sex, but she just the most important had just great informa-

tion, I could look up what I needed, it was very comprehensive, just to be able to look at it and not have to talk to anyone, just to be able to read was really important. I remember when I got it my mother said to me — it was my stepmother who gave it to me — "You don't really need that — you're too young" and I was just like "Give me a break." (Laughter) It was ridiculous — I said "It's not like I'm having sex now — but I should have the information, I mean, I'm not too young to have the information. Please."

Sara: People do think that even 14 year olds are too young to feel sexual. I mean, kids feel sexual when they are two.

Lee: My dad doesn't talk about sex at all, but my mom talks about sex in a very positive way now. About masturbation and stuff. It's almost embarrassing. It's like thanks, I didn't really need to know that! (Laughter)

Beth: Think about how controversial masturbation is. I mean, Jocelyn Elders got fired because she was accused of promoting masturbation. I mean, it's completely ridiculous. Jocelyn Elders was speaking at some event and this reporter called her on something she had previously said at another event, I think, about masturbation being healthy, about safer sex.

Sarah: Yeah, and also being a natural part of sexuality is how she put it. Something like that.

Beth: Which is great. She was actually being honest as the surgeon general should be. And, it got out, someone pushed her on what she had said. And she defended what she said. And then basically Clinton got a lot of pressure to force her to resign. And it was all over masturbation. It's interesting because it sort of assumed that boys masturbate and you don't really hear about girls masturbating. That's just not something out there.

Lee: I think a lot of women now and also older women their sexual partner has little to do with their pleasure. And so it's very dangerous to find women having sexual pleasure.

Sara: Just when I was little I just knew that it was considered yucky or something. I don't know what it was about it. I remember even up to junior high, that was a way that boys would tease you — they would say that you masturbated — it was just considered something you weren't supposed to do, but it was ok for them to do. They'd almost brag about doing that. Every girl would lie and they'd say "you do that" and we'd say "no, we don't" I remember lying. (Laughter)

Sarah: It's interesting in the work that I've done with children's literature and reading a lot of young adult novels, masturbation is hardly ever mentioned. I can think of maybe three or four books where it's even mentioned in passing or mentioned as something that kids do. All of those books are by authors who are very frank about sex and other things. I think it's very interesting what kids are reading in young adult literature and sex isn't even touched on.

Sara: That's why that book *Forever* (by Judy Blume) was so racy.

Sarah: Yeah, I can remember at summer camp *Forever* being passed around to every girl at camp. With the pages where they have sex dogeared. (Laughter) It's just funny when you think about it.

Beth: Thank god for Judy Blume. I mean really. (Laughter)

Sara: Right on. I remember planning me getting *Forever*. It's almost like it was....

Beth: It was a certain... like you weren't sure that you were supposed to be reading it or something.

Sara: Yeah, my mother never told me I couldn't read it, but I snuck it in the house, put it under the pillow. It's like boys and porn or something, but it was just Judy Blume.

LOOK FOR PART II IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DYKA'TUDE!

I am sitting in a pool of my own blood
after having
fucking given birth
fucking giving birth
fucking giving birthing

Is that all I am good for?
fucking giving birthing

And I wonder,
if babies grew from my head,
would my thoughts be worth something?

Would I be more than
a cunt
walking down the street
walking down as if I am waiting
for Billybobnjimnewt
to fuck me
over.

I am sitting in a pool of blood
the blood of my ancestors
ancestors
I want some answers as to their massacre
and enslavement.

And when I think of Columbus
coming
I remember why I am supposed to be
afraid of penises,
those vessels of sea men
of semen
burning a hole through my history
through the ozone
through the universe
because they can't control their urge
to cum
to come and wipe me out.

I am sitting in my sister's blood
sister
sister
nigger
bitter
better
white is better
What is Better?

Certainly not white
nor straight
nor male
nor rich
nor amerikan
american me
buy american
try to buy off native americans,
just try to buy me.

You know, I'm not bleeding for nothin'.

- Ana Lara

"Warning: to reduce muscle tension and/or injury, refuse to question and don't do anything about anything."

DATE

ASSIGNMENT

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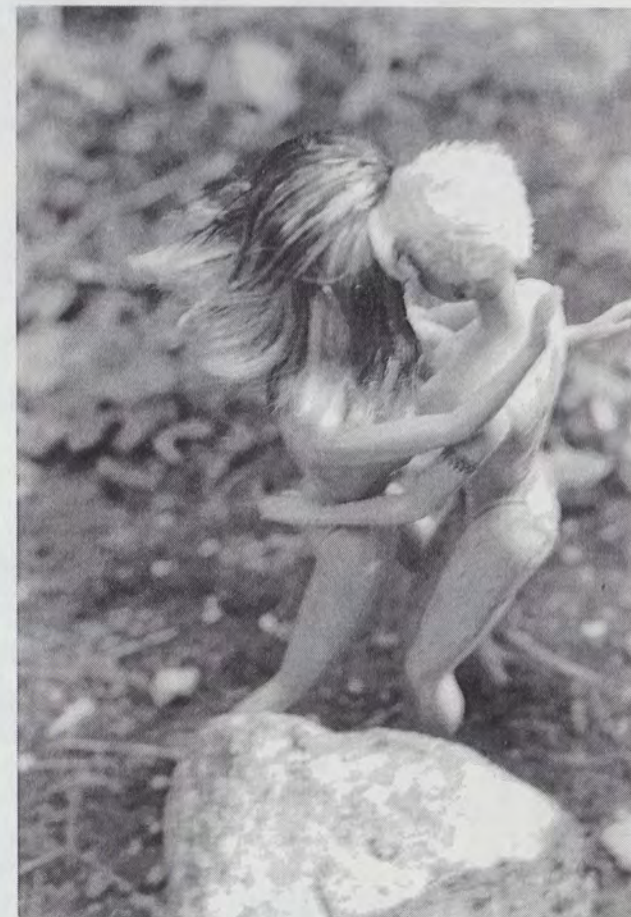
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DYKA TUDE
BARBIES
PHOTO SHOOT

the meeting hands voice *body language* clothes eyes sexy glasses laugh
shoes lips awkward breasts walk *heart pounding* nails rings sensuality
cigarette lighting tongue hair yawn ass butterfly stomach wet **first**
dance smell heat touch sweat **sway** eye contact **strong** close



breath **music** embrace reach **rhythm** **bodies pressed together** understanding **focus**
first move **butterfly kisses** cheek to cheek **first kiss** **lips** tongue
pressure breast moist urgency **hands** body arms hug close **soft**
smell skin **hard** relief neck *shoulders* pause tilt of head **first time**

WANTED:

Submissions for **Dyka'tude** #3!

Yes, your name could grace these hallowed pages! We are looking for personal stories, art work, cartoons, photographs, poems, etc, etc to include in the next issue of **Dyka'tude**.

We are planning to focus on local activism in the next issue, so please share your experiences, thoughts, ramblings, and inspirations about activism in Boston. Send your submissions to:

Dyka'tude

228 Chestnut Avenue

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-4412



Susan Trotz marshalling Boston Dyke March '95



THE LESBIAN AIDS PROJECT OF MASSACHUSETTS

A group of grassroots activists is meeting regularly to discuss issues around queer women and HIV. Join us.

HIV+ Lesbians HIV- Lesbians **dykes**

QUEER WOMEN straight women who do women

older women younger women *femme*

butch transgenders **women on the bed**

For more information call:

Beth Hastie at [REDACTED]

Margo Abels at [REDACTED]

Anushka Fernandopulle at [REDACTED]

Dear *Dykatude* reader:

The Reproductive Rights Network (R2N2), a grassroots feminist organization fighting for reproductive and sexual freedom for all women, invites new members. We are at a crossroads in our organization looking for new energy and vision. Some projects include: the dyke march, producing a newsletter, and defending access to abortion at the clinics and hospitals. We currently meet at the Cambridge Womens Center on alternate Monday evenings. Call 661-1161 for the date of our next meeting. Come join us!

R2N2 R2N2 R2N2 R2N2

submit to **Dyka'tude**



Dyka'tude is...

Lee Fortmiller is a graduate student at the Museum School and Tufts University.

Sara Hairston is the *Dyka'tude* staff cartoonist and professional art school grrrl of doom. She loves animals, living in J.P., and looks forward to planning the next DYKE MARCH!

Beth Hastie is a radical feminist dyke, HIV/AIDS and labor activist. Her photographs and graphic sense grace these pages. She grew up in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.

Sarah Shreeves has been active in queer activism in Boston for the last four years. She has an M.A in children's literature and works at the Dewey and Humanities Library at M.I.T.

**FATTER
than Barbie
BUTCHER
than Ken**

Special thanks to.... Ana Lara, Meridith Lawrence and Judith Stein, Susan Trotz, the Dyke March Committee, and Andrea Plastas for the concept.

DYKATUDE

A JOURNAL OF DYKE DISSENT

cartoons

interviews

Photography

puzzles

sex talk

local
activists

politics

writing
and

body
image



more!!!

available at: TOWER RECORDS,

GARMENT DISTRICT, OR SEND SASE AND \$2 TO:

or write us at:

DYKATUDE
228 CHESTNUT AVE.
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA. 02130

we need your submissions! don't be shy!