



Ovaries Forever

IWW SISTER WORKERS' NEWSLETTER 1999-2000

"Let us know what name you want to see next time."

PREMIER
ISSUE

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... and more

Women who work in Kahana Valley

by *Lynette Hillani Cruz and Gabrielle Welford*

Kahana Valley is the only undeveloped, inhabited and undivided ahupua'a (the ' is a glottal stop, how your throat constricts at the beginning of each syllable in "uh-oh") on the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i.

An ahupua'a, for the ancient Hawaiians, was a land division stretching from the mountain out into the sea, often a valley between two ridges. It included all the ecosystems in the valley, which could be cared for as an integrated whole. After private land ownership became more common in Hawai'i in the mid-1800s because of pressure from American land prospectors, the residents of Kahana formed a hui (an association), under which each resident had undivided right to all of the valley.

By the 1960's, many of the individual shares had been bought by an American woman who wanted to make a theme park. The state of Hawai'i then condemned the land and turned it into a state park, which they intended as a repository of Hawaiian cultural practice (though nothing has actually been done). Cont.





Kahana Valley

"Women have been the backbone of bringing hands-on help to the families working at Kahana, as they have been essential within the effort by Kahana families."

"They began a wild tradition of mud wrestling, and we would come out looking like parts of the land."

The residents now live as tenants of the state on land that was originally theirs. A few of them have gotten together to restore the taro patches (lo'i) and waterways (auwai) built by their ancestors up to six hundred years ago to produce food for the valley.

Taro, a relative of rhubarb, produces a large root and big leaves, both of which are edible and very nutritious. The lo'i are small enclosed fields like rice paddies, fed by waterways, in which the taro grows. The lo'i need on-going attention to make sure the banks are maintained, to develop new lo'i and transplant the tops from harvested taro back into the ground for the next crop, and so on.

Every month for the past three years, the Ahupua'a Action Alliance, a local grassroots environmental organization, has taken bus loads of folks (visitors, halfway house residents, activists, school children, university students, and more) up to the valley to help resident families work in the lo'i. The visitors bring help to the families working the lo'i, and the valley brings healing to anyone coming to work in this place of beauty and peace.

A group of Honolulu Wobblies has been involved from the beginning, but our SWs have been the most constant. Native Hawaiian activist Lynette Cruz is also with Ahupua'a Action Alliance and organizes the monthly trips. Gabrielle Welford accompanies Lynette in other native

Hawaiian sovereignty-related activities and organizes celebrations for local activists who read poetry, sing, dance and hang out with each other for rare nights of relaxation three or four times a year. Women have been the backbone of bringing hands-on help to the families working the lo'i at Kahana, as they have been essential within the effort by Kahana families.

Among the hundreds of working visitors Ahupua'a Action Alliance has brought to the valley in the past few years, some of the most enthusiastic have been local women from a halfway house in Honolulu. Lynette, who is also involved in advocacy work for Hawaiians trapped in the local prison system (over 70% of prisoners here are of Native Hawaiian descent), developed a relationship with the director of the halfway house, and the women visited regularly for several months. They began a wild tradition of mud wrestling, and we would come out of the lo'i looking like parts of the land.

Many of the students who come are women, some of them very young, and some of the regulars are women with young children. Women seem to feel a special relationship with the wonderful mud and the luxuriant green surroundings. We share food at lunchtime and swim in a nearby reservoir after working.

All you Wobbly women, come visit us here in Hawai'i and we'll take you up so you can see for yourselves!

Sample Contract: (language on domestic violence)



by Rochelle Semel

Domestic violence often increases at times when the batterer believes that the victim has left the relationship. Once a woman attempts to leave an abusive partner, the workplace can become the only place the assailant can locate and harm her. Each year, husbands and boyfriends commit about 13,000 acts of violence against their wives or girlfriends while the women are at work. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, homicide is the leading cause of death for women at work. Without knowing of the signs of domestic violence, the risk of danger is magnified to the woman as well as to her coworkers. Here is a possible statement for a contract:

The Employer and the Union agree that all workers have the right to a work environment free of and safe from domestic violence. Domestic violence, which may involve physical, psychological, economic violence or stalking against a current or former intimate partner, is a widespread societal problem that must be prevented. The Employer shall use early prevention strategies to avoid or minimize the occurrence and effects of domestic violence in the workplace and to offer assistance and a supportive environment to its employees experiencing domestic violence. In all responses to domestic violence, the Employer shall respect employee confidentiality. In order to help eliminate domestic violence and to assist workers who are affected by domestic violence both inside and

outside the workplace, the Employer shall complete the following tasks within six months following the date of ratification of this contract:

1. Distribute to all employees and post appropriate information concerning the nature of domestic violence, methods by which it may be prevented or eliminated, and avenues through which victims and/or perpetrators may seek assistance.
2. Post on all Management bulletin boards information on the National Domestic Violence Hotline and local resources.
3. Provide the Union with copies of the information noted in subsections 1 and 2 above for posting on Union bulletin boards.
4. Conduct training programs, in conjunction with experts in the field of domestic violence and the Union, for employees. The purpose of the training shall be to instruct the workers about the nature and effects of domestic violence, the impact of domestic violence on employees in the workplace, and sources for referrals for assistance. Employees shall also be trained on the provisions relating to domestic violence contained in this Contract.
5. Brief supervisory personnel on the problem of domestic violence and their role in referring employees to confidential assistance.

(Adapted from the publication "The Workplace Responds to Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Employers, Unions, and Advocates," produced by the Family Violence Prevention Fund. Edited by Norton, Moskey, and Bernstein.)

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"Knowing the common theme will help us decide whether or not it will be worth our time, energy and money to organize them."

"...if workers don't complain about lack of respect, then don't waste your time."



Organizing tips

by Judy Olsen

As union organizers, our main job is to help workers work through their fear. The secondary part of our job is to ensure that workers have mentors, also known as backup.

When workers ask us for help in unionizing their work site, the first thing we need to do is interview them, to find out why they want a union, and we look for a common theme:

- Low wages?
- Asshole supervisor?
- Lack of respect?

Knowing the common theme will help us decide whether or not it will be worth our time, energy and money to organize them.

Examples:

- If their ONLY complaint is low wages, don't waste your time.
- If their ONLY complaint is an asshole supervisor, don't waste your time.
- If their ONLY complaint is lack of respect, agree to research whether or not it's feasible to organize them.
- If they complain about lack of respect and low wages or an asshole supervisor, agree to research whether or not it's feasible to organize them.

In other words, if workers don't complain about lack of respect, then don't waste your time.

To research whether or not it is feasible, we must ask ourselves many questions such as:

1. Do we know the industry?
2. If the workers want a contract, can we get a good one?
3. Do we have the resources to counteract the employer's viciousness?
4. Do we have access to the work site?
5. Is the employer vulnerable?

If we can answer yes to all of the pertinent questions, then we let the workers know that we will help them organize their work site.

Experienced union organizers agree that a successful organizing drive requires only three things:

1. Inoculation
2. Inoculation
3. Inoculation



This sounds cool, but what the hell IS inoculation?

1. Take time to build solid relationships with the workers.
2. Earn their trust.

"What do the workers want?
What are their complaints?
What are their shifts?"




3. Tap into their sense of anger and hopefulness. (YES, that's hopeFULLness.)
4. Thoroughly educate workers about all aspects of union organizing and their employers' probable and/or possible reactions to an organizing drive.

Now the workers must decide on one of three ways to gain union recognition from their employer.

1. Sign recognition cards (or even a petition) and ask the employer to recognize the IWW as their bargaining agent.
2. File for an election with the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) for an election.
3. Perform direct action.*

These three ways are listed in order of what to try first. If #1 doesn't work, then try #2. If that doesn't work, then try #3.

- Direct action is recommended ONLY when the employer can be severely ruined. 

What do the workers want?
What are their complaints?
What are their shifts?
How many employees are there?
How many and who are the supervisors?
Who are the employer's attorneys?

The Organizing Committee must be made up of leaders who are able to influence others. Everyone on the Organizing Committee must commit to a huge fight and must be in it for the long haul. But, don't call it a "committee." Instead, ask each worker who appears to be a leader, "Will you be a contact for your group?" This puts the workers in charge of their own campaign and the contacts will function as a committee.

Test the workers to see if they are committed: Give out assignments with a specific date to finish, then follow up.

Make sure the "contacts" know what to expect from their employer when their employer finds out about the organizing drive.

In captive-audience meetings, workers need to believe they are the IWW. When they see their employer talking bad shit about the IWW, the workers will take it personally.

Many employers practice "positive" union busting. Their most effective message is "Give us another chance."

If we have been doing our jobs right as organizers, the workers will think, "This is great, the employer is listening. Now let's see how much power we have!"

More tips next time

".. see if they are committed. Give out assignments with a specific date to finish, then follow up."





What is workfare?

by Barbara Sands

In the last three years New York State has dumped 600,000 people off of welfare. Trumped up as the final solution to reduce dependency and promote the well being of families and children, welfare recipients are pushed into work with no regard to their interests, skills, or abilities. Instead of receiving intense case management, job readiness programs, and support services, workfare workers get the privilege of earning their boss an \$8500 tax break.

In 1996 Bill Clinton signed a federal Welfare Reform bill called the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. With its punitive and exploitative flavors, the PRWORA is calculated to save the government over 65 billion dollars in a seven year period by throwing people off the welfare rolls. States failing to meet PRWORA standards are sanctioned, and counties in turn are sanctioned by state labor bureaucrats if they are not in compliance.

The TANF program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) has replaced the AFDC program (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), and now a parent has only one year to nurture a newborn before being forced out to work. PRWORA provides no extra money when a baby is born to a woman who is already on welfare, and imposes a two-year limit for continuous aid with a five-year lifetime cap. In some counties,

children of recipients must attend school with a minimum of absences or their parents, under a program called Learnfare, lose their benefits. Adult applicants are required to take a mandatory drug screening, followed up with treatment if there is a positive toxicology. PRWORA is accompanied with rigorous investigations into and prosecutions of "alleged" fraud, and the generalized attitude towards recipients is that they are lazy and less than working class.



Under the new Work Experience Program, welfare recipients work at the equivalent of minimum wage jobs for non-profit or government groups. In NYC welfare workers are doing many of the duties that had been done by the 20,000 city workers whose positions have been cut from the payroll. The City uses 35,000 welfare workers in parks, garages and offices to avoid hiring more costly, unionized workers. Workfare workers say they are less likely to receive job placement assistance than other public assistance recipients, further supporting the claim

cont.



"The city uses 35,000 welfare workers in parks, garages and offices to avoid hiring more costly, unionized workers."

that WEP workers are indeed displacing union workers.

We see that families are becoming poorer every day in our jobs as social workers. The official stats show a decline in unemployment nationally, but only one out of twelve families who got dumped off welfare by September, 1996 earned above poverty level wages by June, 1997. People are being moved from one form of poverty to another. Many work two jobs, have to leave their kids in unsafe situations, and every day we meet people with no health insurance for their families. Many of them don't have a high school diploma, and they want to work. It's like a sci-fi movie, but it's here and it's very real.

Competing against the public sector, consortiums are forming to reap the benefits of this cheap labor pool. The fat cat bosses are saving tons of money. Poverty isn't even a problem for capitalists any more. Every day you read about new business partnerships forming like the one between Monsanto, Sprint, United Airlines and UPS welcoming workfare workers into their corporate "families." It's a cheap way to get wage slaves, and get tax breaks at the same time.

Workfare workers do not have the same status as other workers. Although minimum wage and other Fair Labor Standards Act requirements are supposed to apply, it is the welfare benefits and not cash that contribute towards meeting minimum wage requirements for TANF recipients in work activities. A workfare parent may receive food stamps as compensation for certain hours, and receive rent vouchers or childcare expenses as compensation for other hours of employment. Because workfare participants receive their benefits in exchange for work, they do not qualify for federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit. There are only 23 states and two tribes where OSHA has direct jurisdiction over public sector employees, providing coverage to participants. Unemployment insurance coverage, however, does not extend to services performed as part of publicly funded "work relief" or "job training" programs, and are excluded by all states except Hawaii. In the private sector, UI coverage is discretionary, hinging on whether or not a particular workfare worker is considered an "employee" by her or his boss.



Letters to Big Mama

I NEED A DATE!

I GET NO RESPECT

I'M SUCH A GOOD DOG

I DIDN'T DO IT!

THEY CALL ME TROUBLE

Dear Big Mama,

I'm a 40 year old sister worker and I met a guy at our recent GMB meeting that someone brought along. I got so hot watching him and hearing him speak that I spent the entire meeting fantasizing about having sex with him. I hate to admit it but I'd really like to have wild, including oral, sex with him. I would even like to tie him up. All I keep thinking about is calling him up and asking him to get together, then starting out with a simple offer of a blow job. When I'm at work I can't help thinking about him and it's hard to cool myself off. It's been 5 years since I've had sex. Am I being backwards, sister, or what?

Too Hot to Trot

Dear Ms Hot,

Well, let's leave Trotsky out of this okay? Does your local fire department know that this potential fellow worker makes your bar-b-cue sizzle? Does your boss know why his workplace is constantly being disrupted by drive-by sirens? Is there a sign hanging over your bed next to "Don't Mourn, Organize" that reads, "Warning: Flammable Material Inside My Head?" Sounds to me like you're getting a real charge out of being Too Hot to Trot. After all, most men (and women) would love to be lit up by the likes of you. But, slow down Ms Hot. This is the 90s, and because things are pretty risky in the sex arena, I suggest you keep your mouth shut--- if you get my drift---and listen up to

some prevention talk. Not only are STDs and HIV dangerous, chickie, Hepatitis C is also a painful and fast killer and there are no treatments available except maybe milk thistle for some relief. Please read up and don't stay on the dark side. Afterall, it's been five years....

Being sexy and hot is good. But being safe is da bomb. I suggest you stick to mutual masturbation until you're really sure that you know this brother's history and that you can protect yourself. Make the time to get to know him and talk about what you each expect to be doing in the bed. Then you can plan for wild, sexy and safe times. From the sound of it, your kindling will probably ignite when you see this guy start to touch himself. Have fun and keep that fire extinguisher next to the bed. Stay hot, be cool, and write me another letter if you want some masturbation techniques.

Big Mama

Dear Big Mama,

What do you do with a man who always gets his way even though he tries to be sweet and not selfish? When we have sex he does whatever I want but we only have it when he wants to. He says all I have to do is ask, but I'm shy so I wait for him to initiate. Another sister worker in my branch says I'm lucky to be with a Wob who doesn't only care about his own pleasures. She says I'm beginning to sound like a demanding feminist. What do you think?

Not Feeling Right

DON'T BE SHY

Send your questions to
Big Mama c/o Sister Worker Newsletter
136 South Pine Avenue
Albany, New York 12208 USA



Dear Not,

If our union had a dollar for every time a woman considered herself "lucky" to have a "nice" man, we'd be able to hire all of ourselves as full-time organizers and still replenish the Nelson Fund. Why? Because five'll get you ten her man also thinks she's lucky to have a guy like him. Which means if she wants anything more than what she's already getting from him, everyone will think she's sounding like a demanding feminist. Familiar scenario? It always gets my goat when a man who says he is trying to not to be selfish isn't willing to give all he's got. He'll go so far as doing everything for you when HE wants to. He'll even clean up the dishes when you've done the cooking, and do the laundry once a month---but it stops there, doesn't it?

So, here's the deal, sister. It's great that this man of yours doesn't only care about his own pleasure, but he seems to have a bad case of "his-own-convenience-itis." If you don't feel right "doing it" whenever he wants to, and you're feeling too shy to start him up, then sit down together and decide in advance when you're going to have sex, just like you would any other activity. Put sex on your calendar the same way you would a movie. It might feel less threatening and make you feel more empowered. Make it a "normal" thing to do, and not just at his convenience. What do you think? Let me know if this works for you.

Big Mama

Dear Big Mama,

I'm a sister worker in the IWW and my lover is also a woman though she isn't in the union. I'm writing because I'm kind of upset. A few times she called me to say she's working late and I shouldn't wait up for her. I know her and I know that she was lying. This makes me feel the way I felt when I was married but I always thought that being with a woman would be different. Maybe I'm just the kind of person that other people will naturally take advantage of. Could this be the case and if so, what can I do about it?

Like a Doormat

Dear Doormat,

Well frankly (and we should speak frankly to one another in a union like ours, right?) it does sound to me like you're the kind of person other people would take advantage of---afterall, YOU ARE A WOMAN. But there's nothing natural about being taken advantage of. According to the Rules of Being a Real Woman, we sisters ought to "be there" for other people to use every which way they want to. That means sometimes your lover will want you to step out with her so she can show you off, and sometimes she will want to step over you like you're something messy, or sometimes she will step right on you like a big 'ol doormat. We were born and raised in a capitalist society, so just because a woman is a lesbian doesn't mean the

"...let's leave Trotsky out of this, okay?"

"Being sexy and hot is good but being safe is best."



Letters Cont'd.

Rules of Being a Real Woman don't apply.

What you can do about it, for starters, is you can tell your partner that the reason you're with her is because you made a decision to not be anyone's wife anymore. Tell her how it makes you feel when she treats you this way. I mean afterall, my sister, why go to all the trouble of being a lesbian in this agonizingly homophobic society if you're going to live a straight life ??

Big Mama

Don't be shy, sister workers. Send your questions to Big Mama c/o Sister Worker Newsletter 136 South Pine Avenue Albany, New York 12208 USA

You don't have to use your real name if you don't want to (smile).

The following letter was submitted to a sister worker by her young friend, Aisha.

Dear IWW Sisters,

I am a 6th grade African American female student in the U.S. I want to tell you about something that got me in trouble. When I was in gym one day the principal came in and told the teacher to get some kids to clean up the graffiti on the wall in the hallway. The teacher who is white said sure then picked me and two other Black kids. I told her I had cramps and didn't want to clean it up. She said I was going to the

time-out room if I didn't do what she said. I told her I wanted to talk about it and show her why I'm mad. When she said no, I told her no way because you always pick the Black kids to do the work and I'm sick of that. Well I got in-school suspension but I feel that I spoke my mind. So I didn't care and I feel proud. My mommy doesn't like her either.

Sincerely, Aisha

Dear Aisha,

Wow, you're really brave! Thanks for your letter. Sounds like your mom is raising you to stand up for what you believe in. Keep up the good work. If there are any other kids in your class who feel the way you do, maybe you can hang out with them during lunch and form a little talk group. We can think of a few things like, 1) your teacher refused to talk about racism by not allowing you to express your thoughts, yet she is the one who is supposed to be teaching you, 2) the way you kids are being taught is keeping you from "knowing," and 3) you obviously know more than she does about this issue yet she shut you up. How does this make you feel?

Maybe you can meet once a week after school with your group. Write to us and we'll give you some suggestions. You may want to ask your mom to help you get started. Sounds like she'd be really supportive.

Take care of yourself,
Your sisters

Why join the IWW?

- Respect
- Better wages
- Better working conditions
- Benefits
 - Pension
 - Health care
 - Job security

What rights will I have as a Wobbly?

- Right to health and safety on job
- Right to vote on your contract
- Right to bid on jobs you've earned

As a worker, you have the right under federal law to form a union, select representatives of your choice and bargain collectively with your employer. This helps balance the power that your employer has over you and your co-workers.

Belonging to the IWW gives you rights under law that you do not have as an individual. Once you have forced your employer to the bargaining table, he/she MUST bargain with you over your wages, hours and working conditions.

Become a voice at work the boss can't ignore!





Men, their mothers, and us: one sister's view

by Gabrielle Welford

I have been uncovering the strange world of how men and women in the west relate to each other for nearly 30 years. I think I have come to understand these things not just because I've spent a lot of time with men but because I was brought up as a boy when I was little. I can relate from the inside-out. And what I have found out can be useful to any woman relating to any man in any way, not just to me and mine. It can be hard to convince ourselves that this scenario is really happening and sometimes with the most upright and self-sufficient looking guys.

Think on this, then... Men are mostly brought up by women. Fathers are not nearly as present in the lives of little boys. It is women who love, discipline, abuse, change diapers, wipe noses, give orders, comfort, feed, scold, hit, hug, put to sleep, take on outings, teach, touch too much or not at all, buy things for, belittle, put down, and build up their sons. Boys focus on their mothers from the time they are born.

How often have we looked at a man and realized that he doesn't see us, as a peer. He sees his mother, and it is his mother he is relating to. My question is, how can men relate to women in a grownup way when they learned to relate to women through their mother in a power relationship that was very, very unequal? While little girls learn from our mothers

by modeling their behavior, most dads are not present for boys to model. Boys learn from women by being obedient or disobedient, succumbing or rebelling, being sneaky or defiant. And I see this pattern continuing into adulthood and into their relationships with women who are not their mothers.

What part do we play?

I think that many of us women are afraid of (our visions of) untamed men, because untamed men must be (and maybe are—who knows?) wild, unpredictable, physically stronger than we are, sexually demanding, and possibly not monogamous. They are not very controllable or full of the respect we think we need in order to feel safe. So, we (liberal or radical feminists) go about taming most boy children in ways we do not tame

Although there are girls who break the "normal" behavior patterns, as I did for instance, it is usually "boys will be boys," and girls who act quieter, more social, less dangerous, and are "easier" to manage. Many boys make lots of noise. We tell them to shush. They hit things with sticks. We tell them to put the sticks away. They make weapons out of things and try to use them on siblings and neighbors. We take the weapons away and give them lectures about not hurting people and things. They experiment with killing small animals. We cry and tell them how

"We punish, cajole, bribe, threaten, frighten, and blackmail them to make them as much like male women as we can."

everything is alive and sentient, and how would they like a big giant to come along and pull their legs off? They get dirty, tear their clothes, and play violent video games for hours. They want to do dangerous things that push the boundaries of their known world. We want them to be sensible, cautious, reliable, responsible and at the same time, brave.

So... We try to civilize boys to train them not to be the wild men we fear. We want to produce the kind of men we would want as fathers for ourselves and our children and mates for our daughters. We punish, cajole, bribe, threaten, frighten, and blackmail them, to make them as much like male women as we can.

But producing "good" men has drawbacks. They had to be good for their mothers or they were not loved. And men, like women, need to be loved. If a man thinks of himself as a "good" man he will go on being good for his female partner, for the woman he works with, the woman he sees on the street, teaches, learns from, etc. But, men who are being good for the women in their lives do not have good boundaries. They will keep being good by doing things for females until they are so full of resentment that they (the men) have to go away, shut down, do small (or large) passive aggressive things, become resistant, or demonstrate big payback behaviors attempting to

even things up. No one who is "being good" to the detriment of their own needs is trustworthy. Usually women are delighted to find a good man. And then gradually, the bubble bursts: he doesn't help clean the house, he forgets dates and other things. He goes out and forgets to come home in time for dinner. He "accidentally" bangs her with objects or his elbows. He stops talking. He suddenly slips and says rude things about her in front of his friends. I believe the rage women feel when these things start happening is actually the man's unexpressed rage at "having" to be so good all the time.

But what about the "bad" man? He's almost as common and obviously doesn't go around trying to be good for women. Men who are "bad" are no more being themselves than men who are "being good." They are still being something in relation to what they think a woman wants. I had a vision recently, in which I could feel a man talking like this:

"Okay, mother, I'm bigger than you now. You don't have control over me anymore. I'm going to get back at you for making me into something I'm not. You can't stop me anymore if I want to blow something up. I'm going to find out what you love and destroy it. I'm going to kill your children. I'm going to destroy your earth that you love so much. I'm going to leave messes everywhere.



"Okay, mother, I'm bigger than you now. I'm going to get back at you for making me into something I'm not."



"...most men have not even begun to realize that they are dependent on women to the extent they are trapped in childhood patterns and are angry about it."



I'm going to knock down trees. I'm going to make you cry and cry and not care. If I can't rape and plunder here at home to get back at you, I'll go to other countries and rape women there. I can have all the violent sexual fantasies I want to have without you ever knowing. I can have them while I'm having sex with you. I can have them while I'm reading pornography. I can prefer to be with my images than with you. My dreams of sexual violence know no bounds. I'll kill off lots of animals. I'm going to make the world so that it's full of noise, so much that you can't hear the earth speak anymore. I'm going to make the world so male that it's uncomfortable for you. Now I have the power, you'll find out what it's like to be little and in the power of someone who's not at all like you, who doesn't have your values or your desires. And I can, if I want, do it in such a way that you'll never guess what I'm doing. I can look as though I'm just doing my job. You will find yourself frustrated, angry, powerless, stopped in all directions, sad-- just like I was when I was little. This is revenge. You won't, little woman, even know what is happening. And most likely, nor will I." This "bad" man or the man who beats women, kills them even, or

who uses women, is no more free of the "influence of women" than the "good" man is.

Unlike so many females, who have spent the last 100 years or so working hard to overcome our dependence on men (in all kinds of ways-- economic, emotional, physical, sexual, intellectual, spiritual, and so on), most men have not even begun to realize that they are dependent on women to the extent they are trapped in childhood patterns and are angry about it. There are small groups of men who are working on these issues, but for the most part, men are not aware and have no reason to become aware. Most men are also powerless and work like slaves to keep things going. In western society, even the men who are in power (whatever situation, big or small) are responding to the imagined will of a woman.

So, on this basis, we cannot trust men. If they are being good, they will subconsciously do things to and around women and in the world that will even things up. If they are being bad, they will consciously do things that will even things up. What we can begin to do about this, I will write about next time.

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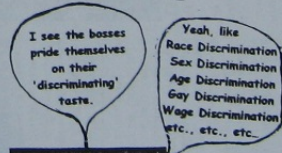
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We are publishing the *Sister Worker Newsletter* as a way of sharing information, organizing experiences, questions, resources, opinions, and hopefully to inspire action. We also want to let it all hang out and have some fun.

We welcome and will consider for publication all articles, graphics, poems, letters, tips and jokes from women and women's organizations only. Please let us know what you think about our first issue. We want

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Adapted from OPEIU
 --local 8's Workplace'

We dedicate this newsletter to all our sisters especially the ones who aren't afraid to speak out against injustice and inequality both inside and outside our union. We re-dedicate ourselves to the destruction of capitalism and the building of a sane and compassionate society.
 With love,
 Judy Olsen &
 Barbara Sands

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