

LESBIANS RISING UP

REFLECTIONS ON THE SECOND YEAR OF SINISTER WISDOM'S PUBLISHING

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SINISTER WISDOM 6
A Journal of Words and Pictures for the Lesbian
Imagination in All Women

Summer, 1978

At a femslash convention, Millennials and Gen-X-ers talk about the entitlement of younger fans. In so doing, we discuss the subversive history of wimmin loving wimmin being in print. One participant explains that the community comes first. Why? Because lesbians write and read in resistance to being possessed by norms. Then and now, we write, read, and imagine our erotic out of spiritual necessity to be "haggard," which Mary Daly defines as being "tractable, willful, wanton, unchaste, [and] reluctant to yield to wooing" (Daly, *Sinister Wisdom 6*, p. 6).

Haggard writing is by and for haggard women, those who are intractable, willful, wanton, unchaste, and especially, those who are reluctant to yield to wooing. It belongs to the tradition of those who refuse to assume the woes of wooed women, who cast off these woes as unwor-

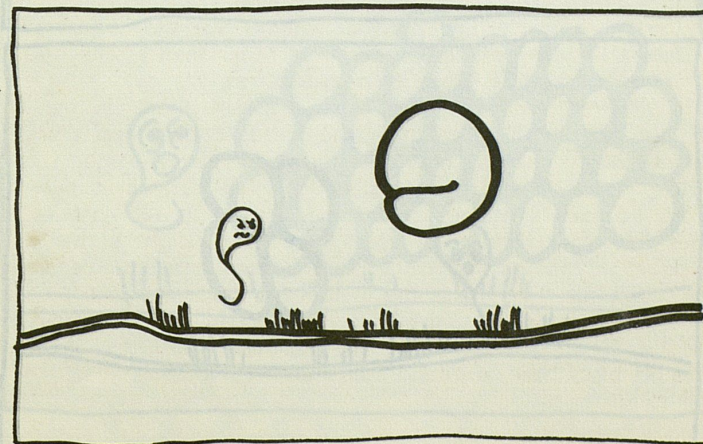
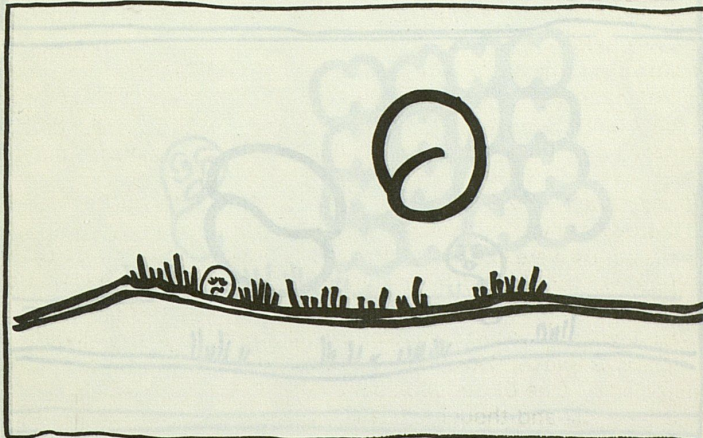
Anticipating *Sinister Wisdom's* Croning in 2026: Part 2 of 10.

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PARthENO- genesis

SCENES FROM THE ANIMATED FILM BY
JAN MILLSAPPS

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The first page of Jan Millsapps cartoon in *Sinister Wisdom 6*

In 1978, *Sinister Wisdom* was imagining a future of more writings and more productions. *Feminary* emerged when *Sinister Wisdom* moved up north, speaking to the growth of the audience for feminist and lesbian-feminist periodicals. Womyn loving wimmin were beginning to build from what they imagined, the potential of rewriting our place in time. They were imagining a *crone-ology* that moved farther back than patriarchal chronology, centering crones and haggards as our beginning.

In "Parthenogenesis" by Jan Millsapps (*Sinister Wisdom* 6, p. 55), the threat of how we live becomes clear: because we

MARY DALY:

The first and essential point which I'd like to make is that we exist in a State of Possession. Secondly, I'd like to talk about the fact that we exist in a State of War, and after that I'll be speaking of female friendship.

When I began to try to think about the State of Possession, I realized that words fail. It isn't only a matter of having to create new words but having to look into the deep Background of the very old words, which are women's words. For example, *Hag, Harpy, Crone, Fury, Spinster.*

THE TRANSFORMATION OF SILENCE INTO LANGUAGE AND ACTION

The Lesbians and Literature Panel of the 1977 ANNUAL MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, December, Chicago. Chair: **Julia P. Stanley**; Participants: **Mary Daly, Audre Lorde, Judith McDaniel, Adrienne Rich.** Attended by 700 women.

«your silence
will not
save you...»

envision creating and expanding without sperm, which I read as patriarchy.

How do we re-member to

expand without it? As we continue to read and write our lives into normal, how do we pay homage to the crones and the haggards who recentered our crone-ology? Have we come to see them as patriarchy does? How do we move beyond that? I ask this of myself, of the lesbians rising up and for the womyn whose pens and paper hunger for recognition.

Erika Gisela Abad, PhD, is a Queer Puerto Rican/Dominican teaching in Las Vegas. She has contributed to and reviewed for *Sinister Wisdom*. Her commitment to queer writing communities sustained her participation in Portland, OR's former Dirty Queer open mic. She also supports the work of Surviving the Mic, a survivor centered, queer positive open mic in Chicago. You can follow her at @lionwanderer531 on Twitter and @prof_eabad on Instagram.

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