

PEACE BANNER HELPS

SISTERS BRIDGE SEX

I viewed the November 6 anti-war demo as a feminist demonstration, and was quite gratified at the great amount of consciousness raising that occurred both during the march and at the rally held later at the Polo Field.

As a transsexual, it was an act of self-affirmation for me to carry a banner reading "women unite for peace" several miles with another sister, and to observe positive reactions on the part of many women

watching the march as well as some of the participants' reactions.

Unfortunately, a few women challenged the right of the sister carrying the banner with me to participate in the women's contingent, and queried her several times in regards to her sexuality, asking her if she wouldn't feel more at home in the gay contingent, apparently assuming she was gay.

Aside from that and a few hassles with Christian chauvinists, the march was uneventful and quite memorable.

War is a male chess game, defined by males, initiated by males, and performed by males for male rewards, a combination of repressed homosexuality and heterosexual male values, a dogpack struggle of animals vying for position through force and suppression. War will only be ended when feminist consciousness prevails on this planet.

In many ways, the march was one through an incredible amount of sexism. The sexism of war, in general, and the sexism of male ego trips which have led to war, such as the sexism of Christ, Krishna, of money, of leftist ideologies at odds with each other

over minute points, of racism, and the sexism of being considered little more than an entity available for conversion by X number of religious or political organizations, and since the advent of gay lib, of sexual organizations.

I felt insulted, as did many Lesbians, by the late scheduling of the speaker on Lesbianism and the distribution of a leaflet by Emmaus House, a male homosexual group, which depicted war

as a woman seducing an innocent young man.

I regret if I offended any sisters by my participation, but I feel, as an openly identified transsexual, that the discrimination directed against transsexual women by non-transsexual women--particularly those of us in the pre-operative phase--must be confronted openly and in a sisterly way if at all possible.

--Angela Keyes Douglas

MARCH MOOD

We started marching against the war and the Amchitka test from Embarcadero Plaza near the San Francisco waterfront, at about 9am last Saturday. Up California Street and through the San Francisco financial district, we walked shouting slogans supporting the sailors of the Coral Sea as we headed towards Union Square on the first leg of a seven and a half mile trek up the hill to the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park.

This march sponsored by the National Peace Action Coalition was well well-attended than past marches but the politics represented seemed more militant, and the marchers more committed.

Less than 5,000 people started the march, but increasing numbers of people joined. For the most part the march was relatively quiet

with no incidences of violence reported. There didn't seem to be as much chanting or theater as there had been at other marches in the past.

Can you figure the Petaluma Jewish Cultural Club and the Christian World Liberation Front, beside all the usual radical groups?

Many marchers expressed resentment against the so-called Jesus Freaks and doubted whether or not they actually were for peace in Southeast Asia.

The Christians' major slogan was "no peace without Jesus". Their major political statement was expressed in the singing of "Down by the Riverside"

Yet the vibes were good and most of the marchers were cheerful, if not vocal.