

# ZINE AND HEARD (AGAIN)

by M. L. Fraser

As promised, this installment of “Zine and Heard”<sup>1</sup> is all about the “cut and paste” zines that come out from all over the country and indeed all over the world. Some real gems are here as well as some that have room for improvement. Despite my somewhat dubious literary criticism, the most important thing to remember about these zines is that voices are being raised in the finest of grassroots tradition. The idea behind the bedroom zines is that women get their say, whatever that say is. This is huge, and it’s the whole point behind fringe feminism and Third Wave sensibility. These are only a few and we are still seeking others. **Send ‘em in.** Here’s the address:

Women’s Studies Librarian  
**Attn: Zine Review**  
430 Memorial Library  
728 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

## **Demonstration: no.6 (May/June 2002)**

This little book is all about being Lesbian in New Orleans. Unfortunately if you are not in the club you miss a lot. There is an amusing but heterosnide account of trolling for lesbians in downtown bars, and a small article on the Women’s Football League, which is in its inception. Good job for talking about this, ladies. What a bummer the article is called “Sporty Dykes,” implying that all participants in this sport are gay. (Imagine their surprise). Haven’t we had enough of this implication? Also there seems to be kind of a weird obsession with Farrah Fawcett (and her Hair). I think it is yet another inside joke. Best things: op-ed about Rosie O’Donnell coming out as a lesbian mother, an exposé of Burger King’s veggie burger being grilled on the same grill as animal flesh, and a profile on the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans. If you are female and living in the Big Easy

(or if you’re attending the NWSA conference there in June), get to know these girls. They seem like a lot of fun. \$3 an issue. Jes Burns, 5500 Prytania St, #602, New Orleans, LA 70115.

## **The East Village Inky: sweet no.16 (July 2002)**

This fun little booklet is written by a New York-based woman (Ayun Halliday) who is a mother of two. Her partner is a playwright she dubbed “hot hot Tony two times” because he won two Tony awards last year. This issue gives a hilarious account of their voyage into the world of New York Theatre when at the Tonys (they were in spitting distance of several “stars” and would-be stars, all of whom Halliday makes glorious fun of). Accompanying the stories of Inky’s world are these great cartoons depicting various scenes. One story was a cartoon fest surrounding what happened when Ayun left and her partner was left **alone** to deal with



two small children. I laughed out loud at the sketch of Ayun sprawled out snoring while Greg was in a crazed frenzy dealing with toddler snot. Great stuff. This is a must get. \$2 an issue, \$8 a year. Cash or checks to Ayun Halliday, c/o *The East Village Inky*, P.O. Box 22754, Brooklyn, NY 11202. Website: <http://www.ayunhalliday.com/inky>

## **Found Magazine: no.2**

What a great concept. This is all about what we find that people leave behind and the stories that go along with it. On the website there is a list of dates when the publishers either found the piece or got sent the piece by readers (one of the beauties of this zine). Of course I immediately went to my birthday (02 March), where there was a pic of an old man and a mule, along with a hilarious account of a philosophical Serb who remarked that the person who found it was both the man and the mule. For

12 January there is a post-it with the words “self-inflicted” along with an account of how it was found in the desk of a coworker who had just been fired. This is cultural anthropology at its finest. It reminds me of all those “ironic” asides of folks who make comments about how 100 years from now, people will go through our garbage and won’t exactly know what to make of what they find. A really cool idea and we should support this one. Send \$21.21 for 3 issues and a surprise Found gift, or for a single copy of issue no.1 or no.2, send \$5 plus \$2 postage (= \$7) check or well-concealed cash to: *Found Magazine*, 3455 Charing Cross Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1911. Website: <http://www.foundmagazine.com>

**Mother Rebel: no.3**

There does not seem to be an overall theme to this. It is just a personal zine talking about whatever, and no one thread runs through the thing. The main author has four kids and I think she might have started the zine as a “grown-up” outlet. It loses focus and is a bit on the wobbly side. The best part of it is the touching tribute by the “up-tight white guy” who identifies himself as the publisher’s dad. Not much else here. Bummer. \$2 an issue. Kim Pratt, 1355 Brighton Road, Sebago ME 04029; email: [momrebel@localnet.com](mailto:momrebel@localnet.com)

**No Muy Lejos de Aqui (Reflections of Juarez)**

The title means “not far from here,” and this is an exposé of how women are treated in Juarez, Mexico. This is written by the same woman who writes *Yellow Three*, and it’s an account of her trip

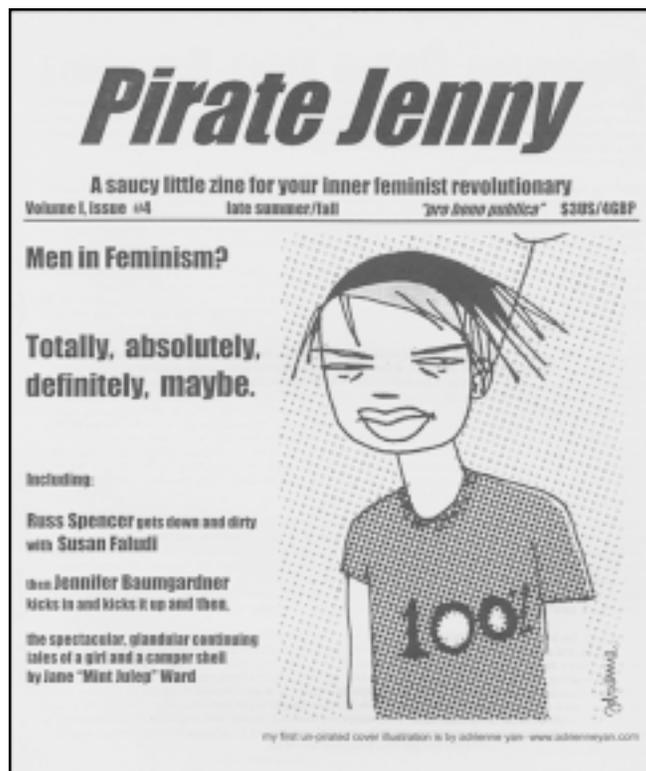
to Juarez with a band of artists called Viejaskandal-ossaa (which, if my Spanish holds up, translates to Old Scandalous Women). It is quite powerful and much more feminist in nature than *Yellow Three*, which is more of a travel journal commenting on cultural issues. There is a heart-wrenching photo of evidence called “Cuerpo #6” (Body #6), which hurts enough by itself, until you read the caption that there are 300 of these and they are all women. A good reminder of what is out there. No price info.

Jackie Joice, 1218 E. Broadway #100, Long Beach, CA 90802. Website: [www.xanga.com/jackiejoyce](http://www.xanga.com/jackiejoyce)

**Pirate Jenny: no.4 (Men in Feminism)**

What a gem of a zine!!! I love this girl. No, I want to BE this girl with her feminist rants and her commentary on the eerie white male universe in which we find ourselves. She is smart and funny and reads like a seminar in feminist studies, one of the ones where you got to crack jokes and people actually got them. This issue is devoted to the oft-unaddressed issue of men who are feminists, and how we need them in

our fight without praising them for doing what they should be doing. It is a hard line and one that is based in reasonableness. There are contributions by Jennifer Baumgardner (LOVE her!) and excerpts from Robin Morgan. Xeroxed flyers about sexual harassment from the new feminist empire are readily available within this zine, as well as a hilarious first installment of a day in the life of Helena Rubenstein, written by the Riot Pirate herself. Some pieces are written by men who define themselves easily



and without compunction as feminist and rant their little hearts out of the paternalistic closet. (I \*thought\* I heard a noise). As I have five brothers who all will tell you that they came out of a vagina, were raised by a feminist mother, and are tired of being thanked for holding views of women that they should hold, I love this zine. This is a true grrrl zine in the tradition of feminist awareness. I wish there were Grammys for zines (Femmies?) because Jenny would get my vote. GET THIS ZINE. Five issues thus far. \$3 an issue plus three stamps. *Pirate Jenny*, P.O. Box 1544, Santa Barbara, CA 93102.

**Sugar Needle:** nos. 19 & 20

A zine devoted exclusively to candy. While this is an interesting premise, it is best used as a regular feature inclusion in other larger zines. Reading about candy page after page would have been cool when I was 12. It bores me as an adult, although the first couple of commentaries were cool. It got old. Fast. How did they EVER make it through 20 issues? Too bad because these girls are truly talented zine-makers who might have gone a bit awry with this one. Good only if you are heavily into saccharine drips. The best part: the cover is fabulous art from Robert Kirby (who does a gay comic strip which has run for years; look for *Curbside Boys* on Amazon). \$2 an issue or \$8 a year to either address: (points north) c/o Corina Fastwolf, P.O. Box 300152, Minneapolis, MN 55403; (points south) c/o Phlox, 1174 Briarcliff, Suite 2, Atlanta, GA 30306.

**This Is My Blood—This is Your Blood:** first issue

A women's group called the Scarlet Tide Brigade from Simon Fraser University extols the joys of female bodily fluids. Some of it verges on the icky, but most of it is an exploration of female lifeblood. It was written as a means to educate women about the natural forces and flows that women all experience. The intent is to demystify the pattern of denial surrounding menstruation. It is clever and well done although it does verge on the maudlin a couple of times. It is unclear if this will be ongoing, although I certainly hope it is. It can be difficult to create ongoing zines with transitory populations like college groups. I hope these grrrls find a way. Worth getting even if it is only one issue. The Scar-

let Tide Brigade, SFPIRG, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, Canada. No subscription info.

**Yellow Three:** no.4 (January 2003)

This girl is an authentic zinestress. She really gets it. She gets why zines are true and real and feminist grassroots interpretations of who we are. In this issue of *Yellow Three* she goes to Ghana and connects with the "sea of ebony faces" who greet her so sincerely that it makes her cry. Most zines that are handwritten are difficult to read due to simple illegibility. Not so this one. I wish her photos could be lightened up with the technology out there as I found them fascinating. One photo in particular is of slave quarters where pregnant women who had been raped by the Generals of War were imprisoned. There is also a provocative first half of an article remarking on Jewish and African parallels of exodus as told by a Ph.D. student friend, although it ends abruptly. Astoundingly fun and worth trading or picking up if you are into zines as personal statement. The author explains on her website (<http://www.xanga.com/skin.asp?user=jackiejoice>) that "Yellow Three is the stage right before a volcano erupts." Go Jackie Go. Jackie Joice, 1218 E. Broadway #100, Long Beach, CA 90802. No subscription info.

Note

1. The first installment of "Zine and Heard" appeared in *Feminist Collections* v.23, no.4 (Summer 2002), pp.6–10. Read it online at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/fc/fczinesfraser1.htm>

[M.L. ("Mhaire") Fraser recently got her Ph.D. and is looking for work in the academic realm. Her research examines social identity and gender issues, with Third Wave feminism and pop culture a special interest. She is a long-time riot grrrl and publisher of the zine **Debutante Gone Wrong** (which, unselfishly, she has not reviewed here). She likes dirty martinis, swing dancing, big fat cats, and reading about Eleanor Roosevelt. Send her more zines.]