

IT AINT ME BABE

TO SUBSUME ME IN YOUR SHADOW TO COME EACH TIME YOU CALL A LOVER FOR YOUR LIFE AND NOTHING MORE

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BERKELEY WOMEN'S LIBERATION

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Sisters have united in Berkeley to defend our right to be treated as human beings. We want the right to defend ourselves, an end to discrimination in hiring and admissions, birth control and abortion information, adequate child care facilities, and courses about our history. During the past week we began a struggle for these demands, among others. We would like to share our experiences with you.

Winter Quarter 1970. We peruse the schedule of classes. There is a new P.E. section-particularly important to us-Karate 1. We believe that the university is finally offering a much needed class in self-defense. However, the pre-enrollment listings reveal that Karate 1 is for men only!

ON JANUARY 7, 60 WOMEN MET AT HARMON GYM TO PRE-ENROLL FOR KARATE AND TO CHALLENGE THE SEXIST PRACTICES OF THE UNIVERSITY. THEY MARCHED TO THE MEN'S LOCKER ROOM (WHERE PRE-ENROLLMENT WAS TAKING PLACE) CHANTING "SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN NOW!" THE P.E. DEPARTMENT NOT ONLY REFUSED TO LET THEM PRE-ENROLL BUT CALLED IN THE COPS WHO THREATENED THE WOMEN WITH ARREST.

We were outraged at this blatant denial of our rights and decided to return for the first class session the following day. In the leaflet we passed out on Thursday we tried to explain the importance of self-defense as it relates to the daily oppression of women throughout society.

SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

THURSDAY 1:00 A LARGE GROUP OF WOMEN GATHERED AT HARMON GYM FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF KARATE 1. THEY WERE BLOCKED FROM ENTERING THE CLASS BY A NUMBER OF COPS. THE WOMEN CHANTED, SANG AND REPEATEDLY DEMANDED ENTRANCE TO THE CLASS. THE COPS' THREATS TO PICK UP INDIVIDUAL WOMEN LATER WITH WARRANTS DID NOT INTIMIDATE THE GROUP. THE WOMEN REMAINED AT THE GYM UNTIL KARATE 1 WAS DISMISSED AND THEN MARCHED TO THE OFFICE OF CHANCELLOR HEYNS TO PRESENT A LIST OF DEMANDS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

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photo: Ruth

The ever increasing rate of traditional crimes against women has prompted women's magazines and newspapers to issue warnings and offer advice to their female readers. We are warned not to go out unaccompanied after dark, but if we must venture out alone, we are advised to carry alarms, mace, nailfiles, to avoid enticing clothing, and of course if attacked--scream, so some passing man will come to our rescue.

The crimes against women are the most blatant expression of the pervasive attitude of men towards women. While some of us have not experienced the extreme, all of us have been subjected to the more "harmless" forms--being handled, whistled at, pinched, hooted at. You don't treat an equal human being like that. Any female not under the protection of a male is "free game". If she's not private property, then she's public property.

We have depended on males to protect us too long. The right to protect is also the right to oppress. It is time that all females learn to defend themselves.

Males are taught to take care of themselves while growing up. Females are systematically denied this right. Our culture does not allow women to develop strength. Girls are not supposed to do physical things. The result is that women are pitifully weak. The psychological consequences are of even greater significance. Women feel they should be weak, that they need a man to protect them.

Women's physical weakness and its psychological consequences can only be overcome through developing their bodies. Of the various forms of self-defense, karate enables you to become consciously aware of your physical potential by teaching you to mobilize your whole body. Only when we have gained the self confidence that comes through developing our physical potential and exercising it, will we be able to gain any individual mobility.

It is a basic and immediate necessity that all women be given access to self defense instruction. It is not an individual problem. WE DEMAND THAT SELF DEFENSE INSTRUCTION BE PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY, BY TOWNS, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, WELFARE DEPARTMENTS--ALL INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE DIRECT CONTROL OVER WOMEN'S LIVES.