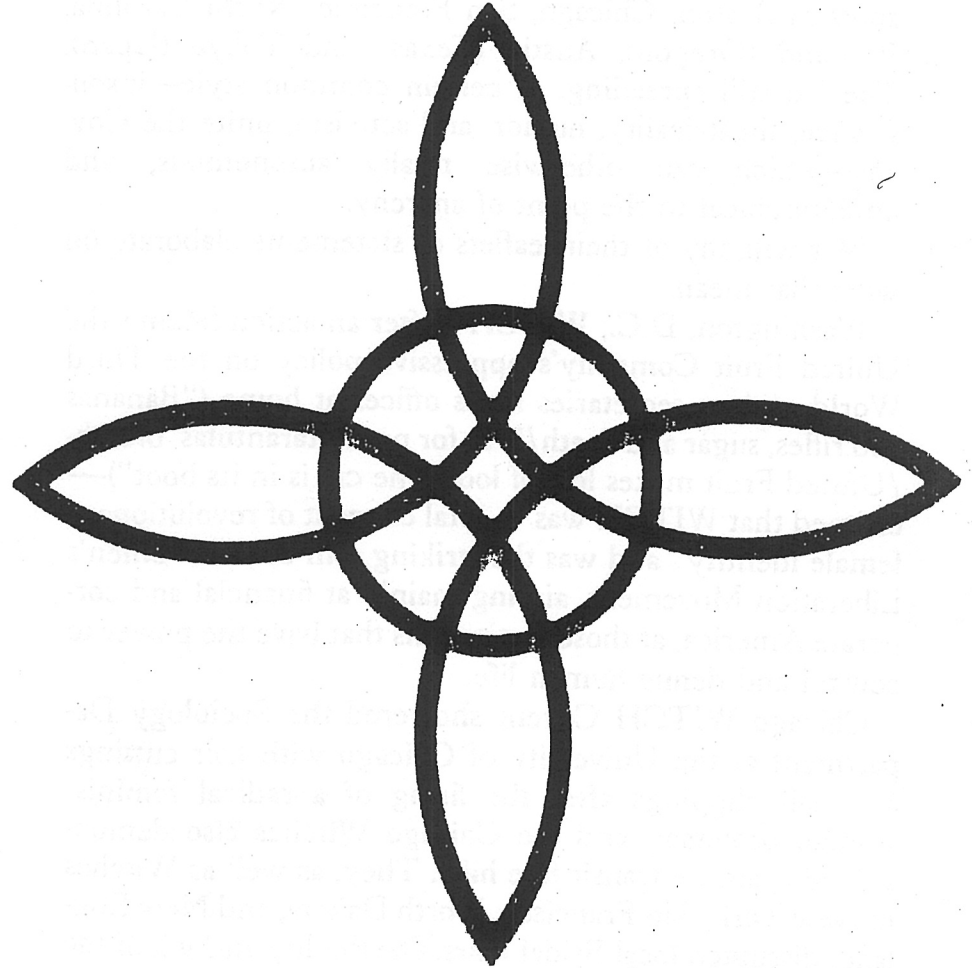


WITCH

CHAIN-PAMPHLETS

PLEASE MAKE FIVE COPIES
OF THIS PAMPHLET AND
DISTRIBUTE THEM AMONG
YOUR FAMILY AND
FRIENDS.

pay by donation
(the average pamphlet
costs 80 cents to produce)
(free to those with no change)



WITCH

Following is a selection of leaflets, hexes, etc, from WITCH—a phenomenon in itself *within* the Women's Liberation Movement.

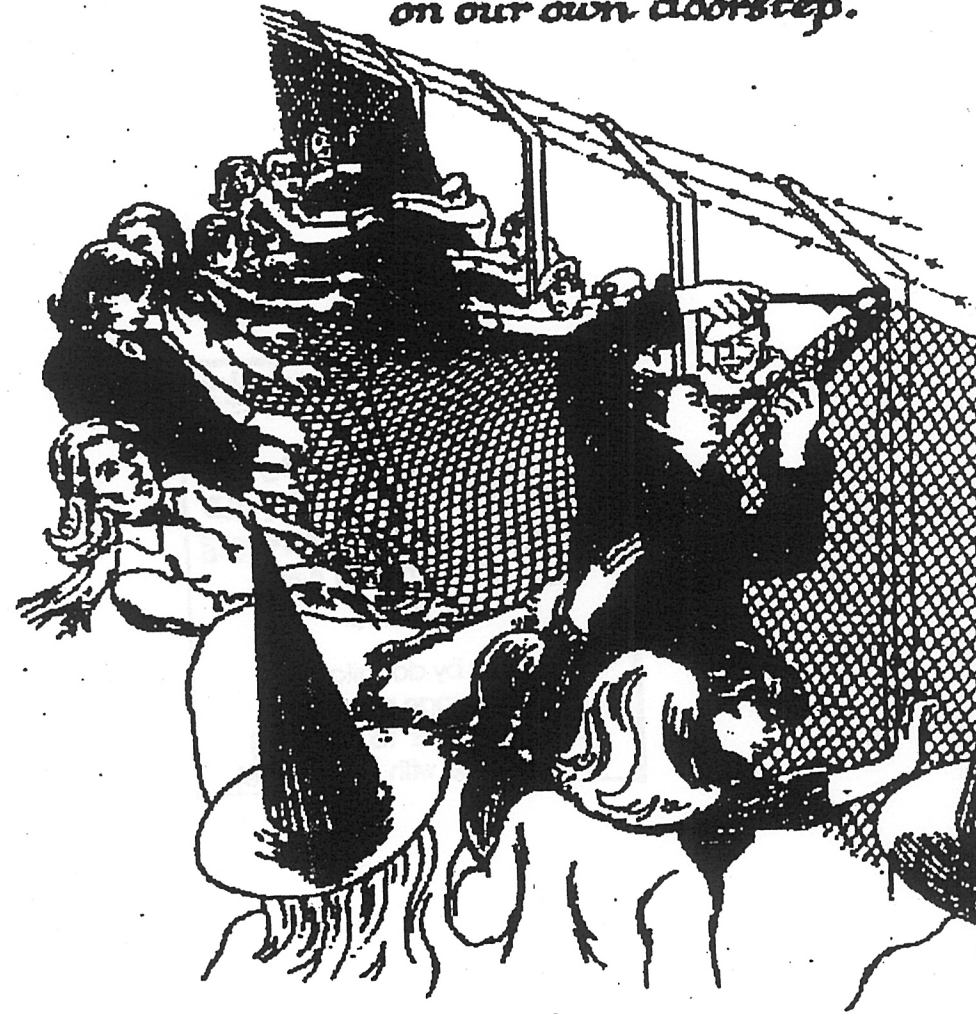
WITCH was born on Halloween, 1968, in New York, but within a few weeks Covens had sprung up in such diverse spots as Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, North Carolina, Portland (Oregon), Austin (Texas), and Tokyo (Japan). They're still spreading. A certain common style—insouciance, theatricality, humor, and activism, unite the Covens—which are otherwise totally autonomous, and unhierarchical to the point of anarchy.

Nor will any of their leaflets or statements elaborate on what that means.

Washington, D.C., WITCH—after an action hexing the United Fruit Company's oppressive policy on the Third World *and* on secretaries in its offices at home ("Bananas and rifles, sugar and death/War for profit, tarantulas' breath-/United Fruit makes lots of loot/The CIA is in its boot")—claimed that WITCH was "a total concept of revolutionary female identity" and was the striking arm of the Women's Liberation Movement, aiming mainly at financial and corporate America, at those institutions that have the power to control and define human life.

Chicago WITCH Covens showered the Sociology Department at the University of Chicago with hair cuttings and nail clippings after the firing of a radical feminist woman professor, and the Chicago Witches also demonstrated against a transit fare hike. They, as well as Witches in New York, San Francisco, North Dakota, and New England, disrupted local Bridal Fairs. The fluidity and wit of the Witches is evident in the ever-changing acronym: the basic, original title was Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell, but on Mother's Day one Coven became

"We can only begin to tackle the concrete and barbed wire that divides our world when we start with that on our own doorstep."



Women Infuriated at Taking Care of Hoodlums; another group, working at a major Eastern insurance corporation, became Women Indentured to Traveler's Corporate Hell; still another set of infiltrators, working at Bell Telephone, manifested themselves disruptively as Women Incensed at Telephone Company Harrassment. When hexing inflationary prices at supermarkets, a Midwest Coven appeared as Women's Independent Taxpayers, Consumers, and Homemakers; Women Interested in Toppling Consumption Holidays was another transfigutory appellation—and the latest heard at this writing is Women Inspired to Commit Herstory.

For Rebellion Is As The Sin Of Witchcraft . . .

—*I Samuel*, 15:23

New York Covens

WITCH is an all-women Everything. It's theater, revolution, magic, terror, joy, garlic flowers, spells, It's an awareness that witches and gypsies were the original guerrillas and resistance fighters against oppression—particularly the oppression of women—down through the ages. Witches have always been women who dared to be: groovy, courageous, aggressive, intelligent, nonconformist, explorative, curious, independent, sexually liberated, revolutionary. (This possibly explains why nine million of them have been burned.) Witches were the first Friendly Heads and Dealers, the first birth-control practitioners and abortionists, the first alchemists (turn dross into gold and you devalue the whole idea of money!). They bowed to no man, being the living remnants of the oldest culture of all—one in which men and women were equal sharers in a truly cooperative society, before the death-dealing sexual, economic, and spiritual repression of the Imperialist Phallic Society took over and began to destroy nature and human society.

WITCH lives and laughs in every women. She is the free

part of each of us, beneath the shy smiles, the acquiescence to absurd male domination, the make-up or flesh-suffocating clothing our sick society demands. There is no "joining" WITCH. If you are a woman and dare to look within yourself, you are a Witch. You make your own rules. You are free and beautiful. You can be invisible or evident in how you choose to make your witch-self known. You can form your own Coven of sister Witches (thirteen is a cozy number for a group) and do your own actions.

Whatever is repressive, solely male-oriented, greedy, puritanical, authoritarian—those are your targets. Your weapons are theater, satire, explosions, magic, herbs, music, costumes, cameras, masks, chants, stickers, stencils and paint, films, tambourines, bricks, brooms, guns, voodoo dolls, cats, candles, bells, chalk, nail clippings, hand grenades, poison rings, fuses, tape recorders, incense—your own boundless beautiful imagination. Your power comes from your own self as a woman, and it is activated by working in concert with your sisters. The power of the Coven is more than the sum of its individual members, because it is *together*.

You are pledged to free our brothers from oppression and stereotyped sexual roles (whether they like it or not) as well as ourselves. You are a Witch by saying aloud, "I am a Witch" three times, and *thinking about that*. You are a Witch by being female, untamed, angry, joyous, and immortal.

Witches As Women's Hidden History

Chicago Covens

Like other oppressed groups, women have not been allowed to develop a consciousness of their own history. When we try to think of great women of history, we think of George and Martha, and who the hell was Martha anyway? We demand to learn about the history of women in the same

Children oppressed:
on welfare, in orphanages,
in schools, in foster homes;
by poverty, by routine,
by racism, by male supremacy.
Therefore,
WITCH curses the State
and declares it unfit.

WITCH knows our suppressed history:
that women who rebel are not only
jailed, napped, & beaten,
but also
raped, branded & burned at the stake.

We women are:
in jail at Niantic
in the mud of Vietnam
in the slums of the cities
in the ghetto-sinks of suburbia
at the typewriters
of the corporations
at the mimeograph machines
of the Left
in the water at Chappaquidick
in the brutalizing beds of Babylon.

We are going to stop
all confinement of women.
WITCH calls down destruction
on Babylon.

Oppressors:
the curse of women is on you.
DEATH TO MALE CHAUVINISM.

How does New Haven's Niantic State
Woman's Farm treat women
in confinement?

They are:

isolated from other prisoners;
denied sleep by the continual noise
of walkie-talkies
and constant bright lights;
denied their constitutional right
to prepare their case;
denied their legal right
to choice of counsel.

How does Niantic State
Woman's Farm prepare women
for their confinement?

They are:

denied their choice of doctors;
denied information about childbirth;
denied their choice of method
of childbirth; deprived of proper
diet, exercise, medication & clothing.

Rose Smith weighed 132 pounds
at the start of her pregnancy.
Now—7 months pregnant—
after Niantic's prenatal care,
Rose Smith weighs 133 pounds.

Guards will be there
when the babies are born.

Guards will be there
to take them away.

The State will decide
who's "fit" and who's "not fit"
to guard and be guardian
of mother and child.

way that we demand that history be the history of the
people, not of the elites.

The history of women has been severely distorted. An
excellent example of this is our understanding of witchcraft
in Europe and America. We think of witches as malevolent
old women, conspiring the death of their neighbors, and the
debauchery of the civilized Christian world, leading us all
to hell with the aid of Satan. Or else we do not take them
seriously at all, but believe that witches never existed and
that the trial and purges were isolated incidents particular
to a few small societies.

In fact, witchcraft was the pagan religion of all of Europe
for centuries prior to the rise of Christianity, and the reli-
gion of the peasantry for hundreds of years after Catho-
licism prevailed among the ruling classes of Western
society. The witchcraft purges were the political suppres-
sion of an alternative culture, and of a social and economic
structure.

Before the middle ages, the people of Europe lived in
societies which were small agricultural and pastoral group-
ings. They were a diminutive race which was driven into
the hills and continued to live in small communal societies
while Christianity took over the lowlands. These societies
were matriarchal, had no private property, and no institu-
tion of marriage. Their god was a woman—Tanà, the moon
goddess. Tana was queen of heaven, the moon, and was a
fertility goddess of rain and magic. Witch rituals were basi-
cally circular dances at night which worshipped the moon
and the change of the seasons.

Unlike their counterparts in Christian culture, women
were highly respected in witch societies; they were integral
in the church hierarchy which also served the governmental
needs of the people. Since there was no private property or
marriage, women were not sold as chattel to their prospec-
tive husbands, as they have been throughout Western cul-
ture. Thus, during their forced conversion to Christianity,
women fought to retain their rights as well as for a religion

which recognized women as an important part of theology.

The Catholics had tried slow conversion of the witches for many centuries and there is evidence that there was a mixing of beliefs going on increasingly. The cult of the Virgin Mary was emphasized by the popular demand of new converts who had been accustomed to worshipping a woman as the Supreme Deity. But numerous factors combined to make the continued existence of pagan rituals and beliefs intolerable: primarily, the black plague.

Death swept Europe in the thirteenth century, killing twenty-five percent of the population. A religious explanation of this was needed to calm the fears of the people. The plague was defined as the punishment of God to a people that tolerated heresy. But who was to define heresy? The witches blamed the plague on the Christians, who had deserted the old gods, and the Catholics blamed the witches. The stronger prevailed. The Christians were hierarchically organized, controlled the upper classes, the military, and the state governments throughout Europe. The witches were the peasants and lower classes, the hill tribes, and women. The scapegoat for the plague naturally became the local witch. As peasant revolts developed, "witchcraft" became a cry for the rest of the population to arm itself. The purges clearly assumed the nature of a class war.

However, the trial signaled more than an attempt to keep the people "in line." Women found themselves in a uniquely oppressive condition resulting from the cultural views implicit in Catholicism. The chief document used to suppress witchcraft, Kramer and Sprenger's *Malleus Maleficarum*, commissioned by the Pope in 1486, discusses the evil nature of women at length.

The main reason for woman's frequent alliance with evil is that "she is more carnal than a man, as is clear from her many carnal abominations . . . there was a defect in the formation of the first woman, since she was formed from a bent rib . . . And since through this defect she is an imperfect animal, she always deceives . . . To conclude: All witch-

Conspiracy Against Women

WITCH (Women's Independent Taxpayers, Consumers, and Homemakers)

Double, bubble, war and rubble,
When you mess with women, you'll be in trouble.
We're convicted of murder if abortion is planned.
Convicted of shame if we don't have a man,
Convicted of conspiracy if we fight for our rights.
And burned at the stake when we stand up to fight.
Double, bubble, war and rubble,
When you mess with women, you'll be in trouble.
We curse your empire to make it fall—
When you take on one of us, you take on us all!

Pass the Word, Sister.

WITCH (Women Inspired to Commit Herstory)

6 sisters in prison.
3 sisters pregnant.
2 sisters almost in labor.
All have been accused
of conspiracy and murder.
*None have been tried
or found guilty.*
All 6 are black.
All 6 are Panthers.
All 6 are sisters.

CONFINEMENT: 1. The act of shutting within an enclosure; the act of imprisoning.
2. The state of being restrained or obliged to stay indoors.
3. A woman's lying-in; childbirth. —*Standard College Dictionary*

learned that her problems aren't just her own.
All over the world, girls are growing up . . .

Mother's Day Incantation

WITCH (Women Interested in Toppling Consumption Holidays)

Every year we set aside
a very special day
to remind you, Martyr Dear,
that *home* is where you stay.

Your family wants to thank you
for your martyrdom.
After all, without you
no *real* work would get done.

While hubby challenges the world
his wonders to perform
you cook his meals, clean his home
and keep his bedside warm.

Your children are your challenge,
in them your dreams are sown.
You've given up your own life
and live for them alone.

Now look upon your daughter
will she too be enslaved
to a man, a home, and family
or can she still be saved?

This is your real challenge—
renounce your martyrdom!
Become a *liberated mother*
a woman, not a "mom."

(card by Hellmark)

craft comes from carnal lust, which is in women insatiable." Accordingly, the witch religion, known for its fertility rites, and the freedom of women, could not be tolerated if women were to be chaste and subservient to men in theology and in the home.

Even as the religion of witchcraft became suppressed, women fought hard to retain their former freedom. The Church understood that if its control was to be effective, the purge must be extensive and brutal. The insurgents were not easily smashed. Several authorities have estimated that from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries, *nine million witches* were executed for their alleged beliefs and crimes. (Persecution of witches was particularly brutal on the Continent. Torturing and burning effectively destroyed 900 witches in a single year in the Wurtzburg area, and 1,000 in and around Como. At Toulouse, 400 witches were put to death in a single day.)

Thus, the witch was chosen as a revolutionary image for women because they did fight hard and in their fight they refused to accept the level of struggle which society deemed acceptable for their sex. Finally, they were the center of motion both as agitators and as targets, as women today must assume positions of leadership if radical politics are to relate to the real oppression of people, and mutually, if women are to gain true equality in a revolutionary movement.

Confront the Whoremakers
At the Bridal Fair

February 1969 WITCH

Marriage is a dehumanizing institution—legal whoredom for women. *Confront* the perpetrators of our exploitation as women. *Confront* the institutions which make us pawns in

a male-dominated culture. *Confront* the structure which forces men into the dehumanizing roles of our oppressors. *Confront* the Bridal Fair, which encourages vulnerable young girls to be dutiful, uncomplaining, self-sacrificing, "loving" commodities on the marriage market, and well-packaged, fully automated, brand-conscious consumers. *Confront* the exhibitors of this commercial extravaganza: "Big Boys" of the world of business and finance who are at the same time enslaving and murdering our sisters and brothers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Come witches, gypsies, feminists, students, our black and Puerto Rican sisters, professional women, housewives, welfare women—come all oppressed women of every age and marital status. Come to New York's first *and last* "Bridle Un-Fair."

Bring posters, brooms, costumes, consciousness, anger, witches' brews, love, bridal gowns, tambourines, hexes, laughter, solidarity, and alternatives.

We will create our own rituals and festivals, perform our own anti-fashion shows, meet each other and the brides-to-be attending the fair in self-defense against the common enemy. We will distribute WITCH "shoplifting" bags, share free cocoa and experiences, cast spells, celebrate guerilla theater, and demand an *end* to the patriarchal structure and the profit-oriented society. *Bridal Fairs must not happen. Here's why:*

1. ALWAYS A BRIDE, NEVER A PERSON. Women were the first slaves, the first barter items way back when the monied economy and the patriarchal structure were just beginning. Ever since, the pressure has been on women to marry or face society's rejection as a spinster—a species of sub-human. A woman is taught from infancy that her only real goal in life is to fulfill the role of wife and mother of male heirs. She is allowed an identity only as an appendage to a man. An unmarried girl is considered a freak—a lesbian, or a castrating career girl, a fallen woman, a bitch, "unnatural,"

CHILDREN:

DO NOT:

- Talk with your neighbors
- Wear your skirts too short
- Wear culottes
- Be late
- Not wear stockings
- Wear sandals that go between your toes
- Put pretty things on your desks
- Have fun pictures on your line-a-time
- Go to the bathroom in two's
- Leave hair in bathroom sink
- Use too much toilet paper
- Use correc-type
- Use white-out—it might get on your clothes
- Have fun at work—this is a place of business
- Go to the bank at break
- Smoke in typing room when you want to because you see supervisor smoking
- Question your supervisor
- Waste time resting eyes or fingers
- Laugh aloud
- Act young (which you are)
- Get pregnant without consulting supervisor
- Stand when supervisor says sit
- Sit when supervisor says stand
- Discuss your rights as workers with each other
- Discuss your paychecks
- Stick together with your fellow workers

DO:

- Fill out your work sheets and compete against each other
- Carry a pass at all times
- Accept everything the supervisor says
- Take breaks (recess) on schedule
- Produce, Produce, Produce so the company that treats you so well can make more and more profits

HOW DOES A GIRL BECOME A WOMAN?

When she defines her own life and stops being controlled by her family, her boyfriend, or her boss. When she learns to stand up and fight for herself and other women—because she has

Last week, AT&T fired two typists who were tired of being "girls."

Definition: Girl—Young, inexperienced, easy to train, innocent, respectful, obedient, emotional—not logical, gay, frilly, frivolous, carefree, scatterbrain, good at details, petty, decorative, docile, sweet and passive, easy to manage.

HOW DOES A GIRL BECOME A GIRL?

A girl is born and her parents buy her pink and frilly (starchy and scratchy) things . . . but they really wanted a boy. They buy her dolls and doll houses, and tell her she must not play with her brother's erector sets.

While her brother is dreaming of becoming president, doctor, or astronaut, the little girl is told that she wants to be a secretary or a nurse—or an astronaut's wife.

At school: Girls are expected to be quiet and well behaved, while boys are expected to play rough and be wild. Boys are expected to ask questions and be logical—and girls to be diligent and good at details. Teachers, like parents, think it's important for boys to go to college to get a good job—but all a girl has to learn is how to be some man's good secretary until she's some man's good wife. And the danger that she might not be a wife is the worst threat of all, held over her to make her behave.

To get a man she has to be both sexy and sexless—because a man is supposed to be experienced when he marries, but a girl is supposed to be a virgin. If we're natural about sex, we're used by men and disgraced by society and made to feel ashamed and guilty ourselves. But if we're not natural about it, we're put down for that too, called uptight and frigid—and in fact do become afraid of our sexual feelings.

At the job: And finally we get to work, thinking that at last we've got the right to be women. But we discover AT&T treats us like girls just like we were treated in school.

a frustrated old maid, sick. In the end, she begins to believe these innuendos herself, There is no way out—marry or die.

2. **HERE COMES THE BRIBE.** The corporations are quick to capitalize on our insecurities. Will I be a good housekeeper and cook? How do I keep my husband from having affairs with other women? Will his friends like me? Will I get along with my mother-in-law? Will I be a hindrance to his career? Will I lose my looks after the first baby? Will I be good in bed? Does he really love me?

Isolated from her sisters, who have been cast in the role of enemies and competitors in the desperate struggle for a husband, the bride is alone. She is alone in her suburb, or apartment, or job as a clerk-typist—dehumanized, with no resources. And she is manipulated—by the giant corporations who need consumers on which to unload their over-productivity, and who have one answer for the anxious women: *buy!*

Buy cosmetics and fancy clothes to be beautiful. Buy gourmet foods to win your way to a man's heart. Buy fashionable home furnishings to be respected in the community. Take a glamorous honeymoon to gain status at the office. Buy deodorant, to be "dainty" and "safe." Buy Virginia Slims to prove America's assertion that "you've come a long way, baby." And, after all this, is your life still lacking in meaning? Then give yourself a lift—spend an afternoon choosing what shade of flowered toilet paper is most *you*. With this drivel, the corporations transform our self-doubts and emotional needs into commodities and sell them to us at a profit.

3. **YOU HAVE A FIEND AT CHASE MANHATTAN.** The corporations exhibiting at this Bridal Fair include Chase Manhattan Bank—major investor in racist South Africa; International Coffee, which condemns its South American workers to poverty and slave labor; Aereonaves de Mexico, airline of a government which is now torturing, jailing, and killing thousands of students: J.P. Stevens, a fabric supplier with

large government defense contracts (Is J.P. Stevens making military uniforms and soldiers' shrouds at the same time as he is filling our hope chests with shoddy linens?). *Imperialism begins at home.*

4. THE RITUAL IS THE REALITY. Our wedding day is the "only" day in our lives. We commence, consummate, consume, and are consumed on that single day, having spent our childhood playing "house," and our adolescence filling hope chests with empty Hollywood-Madison Avenue dreams. The wedding ceremony is the symbolic ritual of our legal transference from father's property to husband's property. The name is changed from one man's to another's, and our role as chattel in a male's house remains the same. And this is the highlight of our lives, our only festival. *We will no longer celebrate this day of ignominy. We will create our own rituals and festivals—festivals of life, instead of death.*

Nor is that all. Although we resist society's demand for legal and commercial trappings to the simple act of living together, our alternative is *not* "not marrying" within this present sick, racist, sexist society. The so-called "sexual revolution" of the last decade has only made the pressures on women more subtle, and provided the greed-brokers with even more complicated means of insuring their consumptive hegemony over us.

SISTERS! Let us confront the whoremakers at the Bridal Fair (and at every bridal fair across the country) but more important, confront and overthrow the institutions of marriage and capitalism which make such bridal fairs possible!

WITCH Un-Wedding Ceremony

We are gathered together here in the spirit of our passion to affirm love and initiate our freedom from the unholy state of American patriarchal oppression.

We promise to love, cherish, and groove on each other and on all living things. We promise to smash the alienated

family unit. We promise not to obey. We promise this through highs and bummers, in recognition that riches and objects are totally available through socialism or theft (but also that possessing is irrelevant to love).

We promise these things until choice do us part. In the name of our sisters and brothers everywhere, and in the name of the Revolution, we pronounce ourselves Free Human Beings.

Hex On Slavery

Boston Covens

DOWN WITH CHAINS

CHAINS ON BRAINS

SHACKLED BY

BEAUTY CLAIMS

HEX ON MASTERS'

EGO GAMES

FREE US FROM THE

AUCTION BLOCK

tote that bail

iron that shirt

don't call him

he'll call you

shut your mouth

don't think

smile for him

he's always right

HEX THAT GAME

LEARN TO FIGHT

AT & T (AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH) WANTS
GIRLS—NOT WOMEN

WITCH (*Women Incensed at Telephone Company Harrassment*) Leaflet: