

# Commentary

## The Thought Connection: "New Rage Thinking"

by Christine Burton

When a reader complains that my columns sound angry I am glad because to be able to express anger is an indicator of my growth as a person. In my childhood as the moral values of my forbears were programming me, anger was one of the cardinal sins. Now we know anger is an appropriate response to injustice, abuse and a host of other destructive human behaviors. I, like most of my female contemporaries, were conditioned to be passive in order to please men. Also it made us more tractable under religious and governmental authority.

Now I have learned that the human condition contains two kinds of human steamrollers: 1. those who intend to commit crimes against me; 2. those who care so little about me that the result can be as damaging as the criminal's intent. Also I have learned if I am passive and apathetic, I am the worm waiting to be flattened by the steamroller.

I was taught that all power comes from a transcendent male god, who would love and protect me as long as I was good. I was good, I obeyed their rules. Having received no sex education (I didn't know men did that), I was the victim of gang rape (two men). I learned that god does not protect the good and innocent (read ignorant). Observation has shown me he does not feed the birds of the air as the bible promises; vast numbers of them starve to death.

I have learned that I have a right to express anger so long as my anger does not imitate the injustice and violence that caused my anger. I am of a new mind, a new way of thinking.

I am not alone. Through the decades since anger was a cardinal sin, and god took care of you, the ideas and concepts of more and more people have changed till new age thinking has become a cultural phenome-

non. Marilyn Ferguson in her book, The Aquarian Conspiracy, calls it "a paradigm shift," which she defines as "a dramatic revolution of understanding, a sudden liberation from old limits on thinking." During 1988, our news media made us aware of a paradigm shift: Gorbachev embodied it in his concept of glasnost and it has become global during the last few months. No longer is it politically popular for one nation to hate another nation. The entire population is not converted, but the liberation from old limits on thinking makes improvement possible.

I am angry that our military complex is permitted to rip off our government. I am angry when I realize that only feeble steps are being taken against the rapidly rising power of hate organizations. I am angry when I know anti-abortionists scream "You're murdering your baby" at teenagers who must have an abortion because they are too young for motherhood. I am angry when I hear toughs call a gentle, well-behaved boy a "damned faggot." I am angry when I hear a small boy make fun of a girl because she is not a boy. I am angry when I see pictures of the starved bones of dying women, children and men. I am angry that our planet is being destroyed. I am angry when I see the demeaning pressures of a homophobic society cause a split in lesbian relationships. And because I know the word processor is mightier than the sword I must state my anger as strongly as my talent and writing skills permit.

I feel a responsibility to be angry. Without anger I would have no spine. Without anger, mine would be a pastel, one-sided world of non-reality. One must be angry or pretend one lives in a Pollyanna land, a pretense that would hasten total destruction of all us all.

Anger is a powerful electro-chemical

vibration that moves through the brain and out through the skull, like the waves begun by a pebble thrown into a pond. It may reach infinity. Who knows? And on its way it may touch the brains of others. With repetition and time, it could create another paradigm shift. If enough of us are sufficiently angry about injustice, in time injustice will weaken its hold on the self-serving.

The homophobia in our society must be attacked in many ways, at all levels and without diminishing our efforts. Sometimes I think the most powerful way and one that is most unused is the simple act of coming out of the closet. Every atom of energy we use to conceal what we are, increases the power of those who are against us. By living openly, totally open without sham or subterfuge, we increase our own self-esteem. People's acceptance of us is inspired by our own self-acceptance.

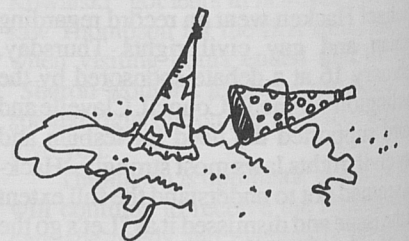
By channelling our anger into an intense glow of rage without hatred, our love for all that is good, true and beautiful is liberated and becomes more powerful. We create a new self, a new world and a new age.

## An Announcement

Dear OITM:

I haven't seen many anniversary announcements in the newsletter, lately. So now must be the time for this one which has been kicking around in my head for years:

Ellen G. Bresler is happy to announce that she is **STILL TOGETHER AFTER 35 YEARS.**



Thanks for (y)our newspaper. Ellen. PS. I always like to send my mom a birthday present on my birthday. I hope this issue to be this year's.

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