Person and Heron both acknowledge that the empirical literature seems to support the view that, in general, for men, sexuality is central to their identity as men, whereas this seems not to be the case for women. However, both acknowledge that if one's sexuality is "deviant," then it is more likely to play a central part in the identity of both women and men. The one clear conclusion we can draw from the empirical literature is that the relations between sexuality and identity are exceedingly complex.


16. The sources for these findings are Elizabeth Heron, "Lesbian Adolescence: A Review of the Literature," and Ethel Spector Person, "Sexuality as the Mainstay of Identity: Psychoanalytic Perspectives."

On Coming Home
From Another Boring Lecture on Wimmin's Studies Class of Wimmin, Myth and Ritual

Lectures
Facts
Slides
Footnotes

No soul
No fire
No rage

Scientific objectivity
Impeccable credentials
Academic excellence

No tongue
No heart
No cunt

Goddess protect us from ourselves

Let us light incense and candles
Take off our shirts and shoes
Push back the student desks
Made room to stomp and chant

Let us draw big cunts on the board
Yell out our names and Her names
Beat sweaty breasts and drums
Rub our blood on the walls

Let us rage and celebrate our Goddesselves

Ila Suzanne
California


19. Well, there may be, in some cases, in some contexts, good reasons for ascribing non self-acknowledged sexual orientations to others. For example, we might allow that in a self-chosen and trustworthy therapeutic context there might be reason to (tentatively) attribute a lesbian sexual orientation to someone who did not acknowledge it. However, I think we make a mistake if we do not recognize that such a context is not the place to look for a paradigmatic case of ascribing sexual orientations. Nor, should we forget that even the uses of the term "lesbian" in therapeutic contexts are ultimately parasitic upon the meanings of the term as used in more ordinary contexts.