

We really marched today
Bringing attention to 500 years of resistance to racism and
patriarchy through women's eyes. A march like this can give us
just a Glimpse of our power and rage as women together.

It's 1992, 500 years since the landing of Columbus and while the
government wants to have a big Quincentennial celebration we've
been marching today to say NO WAY!

Columbus was a conquering murderer who referred to native
women like heads of cattle.... *And he personified colonial expansion.*

We remember that 1992 is also the 300th anniversary of the
Salem witch trials. We evoke those women's spirits as we do all
of the women who've come before us and had a vision of another
way of being...

So in 1992 we won't allow the myths of history to continue and
we won't be silent in the face of the present day racism and
sexism that we see through our eyes today in 1992

Look It's hard not to be shell shocked from this horrific past
year....

I don't need to tell a crowd like this about the impact of the
massacre in Iraq, or the Clarence Thomas hearings, or the
Kennedy rape trial
or the backlash against feminism and human rights in general.

Each one of us can feel the backlash -- it's not just an
intellectual thing. We feel it whether it's with a physical attack
or with a sexist joke. Women are feeling the backlash, we've felt
it long before Time magazine thought it was worth mentioning!

But what's interesting is that the mainstream media really is
talking about women. I'm seeing articles like "studies show
girls really are getting a worse education than boys," and I see
Susan Faludi and Gloria Steinem on the cover of Time magazine, or
locally Anna Chavez does a 4 part series on "where women

stand." Now, I know better than to put my faith in mainstream media, but it is part of the growing public discussion of the backlash against women.

The strange thing is that at the same time this discussion is going on, we're being told that feminism is dead. So, on the one hand, there's growing awareness of backlash, and on the other hand, we're being discouraged from fighting it collectively.

I think They wish feminism was dead. They need feminism to be dead. But, more importantly, they need us to believe feminism is dead. But we're here celebrating women continuing to analyze and organize.

on it's
the source
of all
of our
problems

It may not make Time magazine but Women who spoke at the beginning rally expressed that. This whole rowdy march expresses that.

We can look over the past 500 years or over the past 5 days and see women plugging away, devising our survival, and our communities survivals, creatively fighting back in ways that are not always so visible..

Diverse

Every time women **speak up at our jobs or speak up about getting a job** or speak up for **childcare on the job**. it's an act of resistance. And for many of us here we know the act of resistance when we come out as lesbians... and proudly say we love women in a way that makes fried green tomatoes the main course.

We resist When we say no to the **violence against us**. There really is a war against women.

We know how hard that is to do individually but easier when there's a momentum in the world of women saying

~~No more silence stop the violence...~~

STOP IT.

And it really threatens patriarchy when we claim our **own sexuality for ourselves on our own terms...** and that means different things to different women, but to Jesse Helms we're all the enemy...

We're fighting for **AIDS education** and **accessible health care** and against **AFDC cuts**. ~~Women are fighting back by surviving on the pennies that AFDC represents anyway, never mind cutbacks!~~

X Women are fighting back when we peristently keep **abortion** clinics open and fight for the **full range of reproductive options** to be available to all women. *OUR BODIES ARE OUR LIVES If we don't control our own bodies we might as well give it up NOW. We're NOT going back*

We look around and see how outrageously **racist** this society is and as women we say enough! Not In Our Name.

While we're here, women **around the world** are protesting today under incredible conditions of repression and lack of resources. I'm thinking of the women's movement in the Philippines, In Palestine where women play a crucial role in the Intifada... And in the last decade of struggle leading up to the Accordds in El Salvador, women have particularly played a role in the mass movements, and once again have been the ones keeping whole communities together They've really been the glue.. *Glue — So often powders but we need to have den*

And this is part of what it is to see reisitance through women's eye's is to see these things... *Nameless*

Jennifer
Do

And across the country there are women's protests and events — *in many cities* this weekend; there's a demos in Chicago and New York, in Dorchester Massachusettes they're having a day of workshops and performances there's activities in Hartford Conn. and in Georgia among others.

Tomorrow Roots against War is having a rally at the Ashby Bart at 2 pm, the big International Women,'s Day Art show opens up at

the Mission Cultural Center tomorrow at 1pm, and next weekend,
the Union of Palestinian Women's Associations is having a
program and panel... just to name only a few..

We probably won't pick up the mainstream press tomorrow and
read about all these activities around the world, but whether
they want us to see it or not we are all part of women's ongoing
resistance. Today we celebrate all of our heroines ... and Just
as we honor what women have done in the past, we need to honor
the work that all of us are doing now.

CHANT

~~Let's~~ AND As we look
ahead we want to
have 500 years of the earth
AND As women we need
to insure that.