

SHAMELESS

I decided to name my first sola zine after my goal in life: to become completely shameless. To me, being shameless is about destroying self-loathing, guilt, false modesty and all those internal voices that tell me I'm not smart, sexy, strong, brave, thin, successful, positive, or politically active/aware enough to meet the challenges at hand. Of all the sources of shame in my life the shame of my fat body has been the most omnipresent and difficult to conquer. It rears its ugly head most viciously when I'm doing things I really enjoy; dancing, kissing, blking, masturbating, dreaming, and fucking. After being consistently taught that my body is despicable and disgusting for 24 years and being a pretty good learner I've had it. I'm beginning a determined fight to love myself and accomplish complete and total shamelessness. On the way, 1 plan to take out some ugly, good fer nuthin' fat hatin' lies. YEEEHAW!!!

rockin world go round!" the

Who I am

I am 5 foot 3 ½. I weigh 198 pounds. I ride my bike every day and eat lots of vegetables and like eating fish. I am good at fire dancing and a strong swimmer. I work as a nude model for art classes and quit smoking 120 days ago. I come from a white middle class family and am queer and a feminist. I read a lot and speak Spanish. I am also a self-identified fat persyn.

am currently living in South Florida. LAKE WORTH DON'T PLAY!!!! Way down here people are a lot more willing to share their sick distorted ideas and prejudices about ... everything. From race to gender, fat to queers; you name it they're ready to bash it. The willingness of men to objectify me and expect me to appreciate it, car drivers who actively hate bicyclists, white people expecting me to join in racist stereotyping, and gays telling me that bisexuality is bizarre, threw a curveball at this west coast radicalized gal, to say the least. I grew up in Arkansas but the south looks real different through my eyes now. Seeing all the ugly isms staring me in the face and not glossed over by west coast lip service politics knocked me on my fat ass. But after recovering a little, it's giving me fuel to fight. There's something refreshing about being able to see the enemy, not the people but the hatred. I can yell back at the dudes who cat call me or dialogue with them if I'm feeling. particularly spheroid. I have the opportunity to address stereotypes within my community and be listened to even if i'm not agreed with. Having a community that is generally respectful makes this a less painful experience than living in one that is competitive and judgmental. (Insert another shout out to the L.W. crew). Still, dealing with overt sexism and fatphobia on a daily basis is exhausting. I'm hoping that thru this zine i can offer some food for thought and a wider vision of fat lovin' to a bunch of folks at once. Now that you know a bit about your authors agenda, background and bias I proudly intoduce the first and only edition of Shameless.

Spheroid it's because its totally out of place.

It was a suggestion toom the compaters spell check program. I liked the way it sounded I left it in.

Fatphobia is not = body image

Fatphobia is fear, disgust, and hatred of fat. Body Image is the way that we perceive our bodies, which is often distorted and self-loathing. The two issues are intertwined but certainly not synonymous. The confusion about this seems to motivate many comments about how thin people, people with hairy bodies and big noses etc. are oppressed, too These complaints are valid. We are all suffering under fascist beauty standards. (No, I'm not using the word fascist lightly. The beauty standards we are pressured to live up to are quite similar to Aryan ideals.) Nonetheless when Italk about Ant phobia. getting the "Get over it, I did" attitude from thin people is infuriating. Looking at the number of weight loss articles and diet centers as compared to hair removal, plastic surgery, and fat gaining ads, articles and clinics sets fatphobia apart. I imagine that some people got a little confused when I said "fat gaining", I did it to make a point. The only articles I' ve ever seen about

Linear fettiphopia is bring discussed up sugar addiction and cravings for sweets while teaching the dieter that she's making healthy choices. When she stops she gains back the weight, and often more. The diet industry has a new addict.

Percentage of people who are satisfied with their health: 88

their health: 88

Percentage of women who say they diet for women who as well as well as well as well as well as well as who as well as well as well as well as which we will also well as well

their health: 21

percentage of American women who avoid wearing a bathing suit: 88

Many of these things feel cliché and played out to say, but clearly the need to hear them still desperately exists within radical communities. When the joke "Punk Prom" king and queen are elected they are thin and often the most stereotypically attractive kids in the room. Anarchist folk still tell me "You look good. You' ve really lost weight" (fortunately i haven't lately).

In one survey those polled would rather lose an arm than be "fat". Another survey asked people whether they would be willing to gain ten pounds and keep it for the rest of their live for a million dollars. Guess

what their response was? You got it, "Not even for

a million dollars"

Dixie

South of the Deep South,
the climate is hostile
to
wimmin,
bicycles,
and
fat.

Integral parts of my life, degraded daily.

Waves of heat and anger make me bolder as horns honk,

cars swerve closer,

Eyes assessing my body like unwanted fingers running up my spine.

"Sexy, Baby, Mami, Gorda"

as if i'd asked for their opinions on my wealth of sun-kissed flesh.
I didn't.
And I'm not asking now.

Researchers placed TWO FAKE PERSONALS ADS, one for a woman described as 450 and the other for a woman described as a drug addict. THE DRUG ADDIC PERCENT RECEIVED

THINGS THAT ENCOURAGE FAT LOVING LANGET OF THESE THINGS (AN BE USED TO ENCOURAGE GENERAL ISHAMELESSNESS)

- MASTURBATING AND TOUCHING IGNORED OR UNDER APPRECIATED PARTS OF YOUR BODY
- GETTING MASSAGES
- -- MASSAGING OTHER FAT PEOPLE
- -TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOUR BODY
- ONLY HAVING SEX WITH PEOPLE WHO RESPECT AND DESIRE YOUR BODY THE WAY IT IS WITHOUT (RITICIZING
- TELLING PEOPLE THAT YOU DON'T APPRECIATE FAT JOKES OR "WELL MEANING" DIET ADVICE

 (SOMETIMES JUST TELLING THEM TO SHUT THE FUCK UP FEELS GOOD, TOO)
- FAT POSITIVE ART; (REATE IT, APPRECIATE IT, GIVE IT AWAY, PUT IT EVERYWHERE
- GIVE FAT PEOPLE COMPLIMENTS (but ONLY GENVINE ONES)

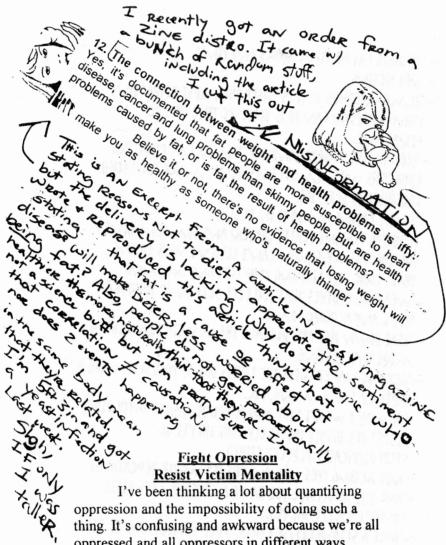
- REFUSE TO BE WEIGHED.



- READING FAT POSITIVE BOOKS AND ZINES
- 'NOT DIETING
- REMEMBERING THAT POSSIBLY THE MOST ATTRACTIVE THING A PERSYN (AN DO IS BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE ATTRACTIVE.
- LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND SAY "DAMM, I'M FINE" OUT -LOUD. THIS WILL ALMOST INEVITABLY MAKE YOU LAUGH. LAUGHING IS SEXY, TOO.
- "ENVOY EATING AND DO IT IN PUBLIC
 IF YOU'RE FEELING REALLY BRAZEN AND SOMEONE GIVES
 YOU THE "OH-MY-GAWD, I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S EATING
 THAT" LOOK, TRY LICKING YOUR LIPS AND WINKING
- -WEARING CLOTHES THAT YOU FEEL SEXY IN, IF YOUTDON'T HAVE ANY ACQUIRE SOME.
- —TEAR DOWN DIET ADS. REPLACE THEM WITH SOMETHING MORE INTERESTING.
- GETTING MAKED WITH THE LIGHTS ON, BY YOURSELF, WITH A PARTMER, SWIMMING, ETC.

 THE WORLD WON'T STOP AND IT YOU'RE MAKED WITH OTHER PEOPLE IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THEY'LL BE STEREOTYPICALLY PERFECT EITHER.
- NOT DICTING (YES, I KNOW BUT IT'S WORTH REPEATING)
- ASK OUT SOMEONE YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON. IT'S OUITE POSSIBLE THEY'LL SAY YES.
- -TAKE A SELF-DEFENSE CLASS. YOUR WEIGHT (AN BE USED TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

GIVE YOURSELF THE LOVE THAT YOU FANTASIZE ABOUT RECEIVING FROM SOMEONE ELSE.



I've been thinking a lot about quantifying oppression and the impossibility of doing such a thing. It's confusing and awkward because we're all oppressed and all oppressors in different ways. Sometimes, there seems to be a competition in radical activist and anarchist scenes to be "more oppressed than thou." (bell hooks writes good stuff about this in killing rage.) Why are we compelled to build movements on isolating, victim mentality? We are much stronger when we focus on the power of our combined experiences and united strength. Victim mentality encourages self-pity; and pity--our

own or anyone else's--is limiting. It also leaves oppressors in power that they can either choose to cede or not. It encourages guilt and shame in people who would probably prefer to be loving allies. How can we find ways to continue raising awareness about suffering and oppression without portraying survivors of oppression as victims? Especially when those survivors are ourselves. Someone suggested to me that our movement wants to appear victimized because successful movements have been organized by oppressed people, not well-off white folks (which not all of us, but a lot of us are).

The realization that I'm neither blameless nor condemned, a survivor and a perpetrator, oppressor and oppressed is liberating. As bizarre as it may sound, it's lifted a weight of shame and of rage off my back. I am not as bound by good or evil dichotomies. I can let go of white guilt and work on undoing racism from a more honest angle. I can fight sexism as a womyn who's motivated by her desire for equality and who is powerful regardless of patriarchy. I can include trans people in the selfdefense classes I teach because I'm genuinely concerned with their safety, not fearful that I'll be criticized or called transphobic. I've got to cut this off. This is supposed to be a zine about fatphobia, not a critique of my community. But this line of thinking has given me inspiration for another issue of 'Shameless"

Percentage increase in risk of hip fracture for a 150-pound woman who loses fifteen pounds: 280

Percentage of people who fully recover from hip fractures: less than 50

Capitalism- The diet industry grosses about \$40 billion dollars per year (gross is a particularly appropriate term here)
-The average fat woman earns \$7,000 less per year than thin peers.

-In a field study, 50% of landlords refused to rent to fat people. All the landlords in study were willing to rent to thin tenants.

-Wimmin are 10% more likely to live in poverty if they're fat.

Sexism- 30,000,000 wimmin in the U.S. are on diets. Only 10% of dieters in the country are men.

-25% of wimmin surveyed said that they'd avoided sex because they felt fat.

-Fat wimmin are 20% less likely to get married by their mid 20s than thin wimmin. (Sure, not all of us are seething with envy over this, but it's still telling)

-Men are only 11% less likely to be married.

Number of dollars American businessmen sacrifice in salary for every pound they an

overweight": \$1,000

All of the above- Body mass
Indexes aka the stupid weight
charts in doctor's offices were
based on a poll by an insurance
company. The people surveyed were
overwhelmingly white males all of
which could afford insurance.

CONTINES ON NEXT PAGE -

"If American men are obsessed with money, American women are obsessed with weight. The men talk of gain, the women talk of loss, and I do not know which talk is the more boring."

Marya Mannes.

AsioE most people or white

These "ideal' weights were set around a tiny portion of the country's population. Not to mention, the weights used were the responders' reported weights. Lots of people lie about their weight. The higher weights were originally indicated for men and the lower ones for wimmin. Who would condone basing a system that would effect how millions of Americans think about their body weight and health on such faulty data? Maybe, the same people who could get richer by overcharging fat people for insurance, selling dangerous and ineffective diet drugs, weight loss plans, and those most likely to be considered "healthy" by these standards. Hmmm...sounds like another plan from "The Man" to me.



Some things i like about being fat

1) I get away with more illegal things due to the fact that the general public sees fat people as dumb, lazy and compliant.

2) I Can float for as long as I want.

3) My sexual partners will never see me as a "trophy girlfriend".

4) People get out of my way when I'm in a hurry.

5)i'm not seen as fragile.

6) My fat recently inspired me to start Creating fat positive art.

7) have no fear of getting fat.

8) i Can be a great example of strong fat wimmin to kids i work with.

9) Soft bodies are great for hugging.

10) When i work as a nude model people tell me how much they like drawing my curves.

11) people rarely borrow my Clothes.

13) my big breasts look good in a corset.

14) i already have a lot of experience taking up space.

S white skin priving a solon a sloon Huge factor.

Ver

1".

Percentage of Americans who call education

one of the country 3 of Americans who are "very con"

e the country 3 of Americans who are "very con"

e e the country 3 of Americans who are "very con"

cerned" about saturated fat 61

15) fat is fun to grab and squeeze. 16) ive got more ass to shake

Some pointers on treating fat folks with respect.

- don't assume we have eating disorders.

-don't assume that we're lazy, gluttonous, desperate, lonely, sexless, inactive, weak, stupid, or using food to deal with an emotional disorder (generally, not assuming is good)

-Analyze your own fatphobia.
i.e. if you wouldn't have a
fat partner consider why.
-keep ignorant fat hating
comments out of your
conversations and publications.

-If you fuck fat folks, appreciate them the way they are. ⁴If you like it in the sheets don't dis it in the

streets.

-Recognize that not all fat wimmin want to be called Earth Mothers.

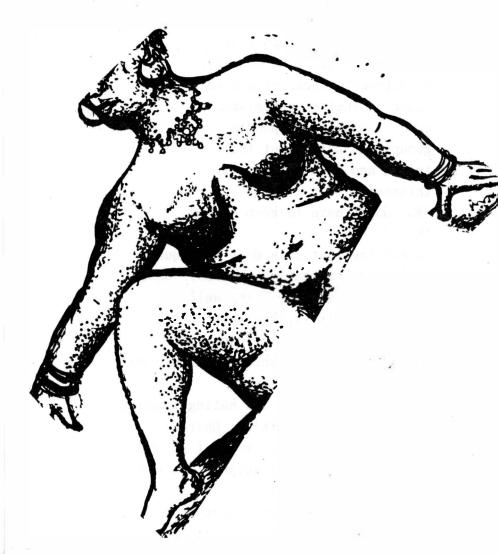
*I have not given birth to anything, much less a planet. -Make events fat friendly. Provide large, sturdy chairs. Consider fatphobic messages in fliers, presentations, and provided material.

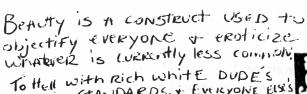
-Don't expect all fat people

about being called fat. (It's Assured different and an easy thing to do) -If someone does identify as fat, don't tell them that they' re wrong, just healthy, Voluptuous, thick, or use any other offensive euphemisms. -don't come to fatphobia groups and talk about the trials and tribulations of thinness. *Why do we have to keep saying this?! -Recognize that thin does not equate health or fat the lack thereof. Good health is a mix of eating well. physical activity, healthcare, environment, and privilege. -don't be shocked when fat people do difficult physical tasks. -Be responsible for fat hating language you use in front of kids. Hatred learned young is hard to let go of. - "Wow, you' ve lost weight" is not necessarily a compliment. -Don't pity fat people. Probably better not to pity anyone. it's degrading.

-Encourage zine distros to carry fatloving publications.

-Be conscious of using the word fat excessively with self identified fat people to increase your newfound comfort with the word. (imagine having any physical characteristic constantly pointed out, it's boring at best) -Don't wait for fat people to address fatphobic comments. Anyone can identify and confront stereotypes.

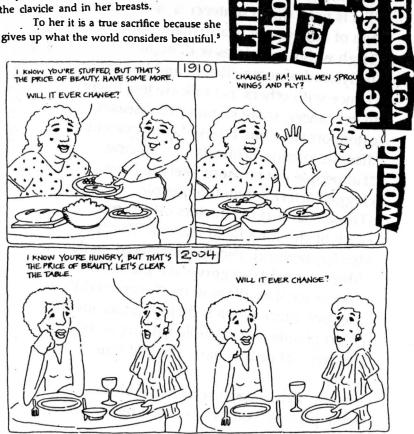




To Hell with Rich white DUDE'S , BEAUTY STANDARDS, & EVERYONE ELSS , FOR that matter , REATE , NINN!

Hilde Bruch quotes a French physician who, in 1911, wrote:

One must mention here that aesthetic errors of a worldly nature to which all women submit, may make them want to stay obese for reasons of fashionable appearance. It is beyond a doubt that in order to have an impressive décolleté each woman feels herself duty bound to be fat around the neck, over the clavicle and in her breasts.



F.Y.I fight yuppie indoctrination

-Fat is more about nature than nurture. If a kid has one fat parent they have a 50% chance of being fat. If they have two fat parents then they have an 80% chance of being fat.

-It's not neciscarily that fat parents are passing along bad eating habits to their kids either. Studies of identical twins raised in completely different enviornments weighed within 5 pounds of eachother's adult weights.

- Fat is not a death sentence or a definitive sign of any type of health malfuntion.
*High weight corolates with higher likelyhood of some illesses and lower chance with others. Fat folk are less likely to get cancer, some respiratory diseases, osteoporosis, some types of cardiovascular disease, anemia, scoliosis suicide.
*Fat people are no more likely to have clogged arteries than thin people.

-Those charts at the doctors office are a crock of shit for a lot of reasons. They're also hypocritical. People considered in the "ideal" weight category have shorter life expectancy than those in the "overweight" category. Since when is dieing sooner ideal?

- Thin people have trouble gaining weight, similarly fat people have a hell of time losing

weight. This is because of metabolism. Some peoples bodies burn thru fuel faster than others. Losing weight especially in the roller coaster style dieting leads to makes people more prone to some illness and disease.

-Dieting does not work!!! 90-98% of diets fail. This is counting "success" as keeping weight off for 3 years.

-Models often meet weight criteria for being diagnosed as anorexic. Some say that a womyn who is 5ft. should weigh 100 pounds and add 3 pounds for every inch above.

-History suggests that wimmin's beauty is defined by what is most intangible. In a country where the average womyn is a size 14, setting our ideals as a size 7 or below continues that trend.

offize "Eyeryone has a size. A size. A size O is a size. Unless fat is sonething to be ashamed of why not use the

in a 1993 study 40% of 5th graders study felt they were



i'm not going to be bothered with citing the sources for all this info. that i've so generously offered up. do your own homework. there's some quality books mentioned on the reading list.

FAT AMERICANS ARE

Lazy, Disgusting, T.V. Junky, Fast Food Addicted, Car cultured, Rich Capitalist Pigs

RADICAL FOLKS, please take these stereotypes and stick them

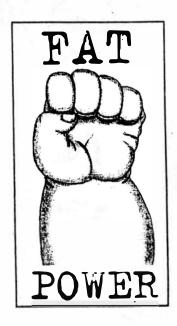
in a vegan, organic, refined sugar and wheat-free pie, chew on 'em, and swallow them down so that they can be properly processed into the shit that they are.

Sure, some fat people are all of these things. So are lots of thin people. We've established that thin people don't eat less or corner the market on health, and that fat people are only slightly more likely to get thin and stay that way than short people are to get tall. Fat people meet job discrimination, are openly ridiculed and harassed, discriminated against in college admission, get paid less, and are more likely to live in poverty. Many fat people are people of color and wimmin. Here comes a big fat rant.

These facts are only slightly ignored when some self-righteous and usually thin activists decide to make fat capitalist and "fat pig" cop puppets, put similar icons in their zines or other publications, give fat car drivers hell and tell them to get a bike so they can get rid of some of that fat ass, mail unsolicited and ignorant fat hating propaganda from their distros, or use veganism as a suggested weight loss diet. I am angry. I am fat. I was fat when I was vegan. I haven't owned a t.v. for 6 years, I don't eat fast food (except when I'm really hungry and find it in the trash), I drive cars about twice a year and have depended on my bike for transportation since I was 19. Did I mention I'm still fat. Sometimes when I talk to people about fatphobia it encourages them to share all their fathating ideas with me, and make casual fat hating comments in my presence.

My absolute favorite is when people I'm romanticly involved with get a wild hair up their ass to share their hatred of fat... with me. It is wrath invoking, but also a little confusing. Do they really think I'm thin? Do they think I think I'm thin? Do they think because I'm attractive, I'm not fat? Or that since I'm attractive it's "voluptuousness", not fat? Why is it that when we enjoy a persyn from a group that we have hateful prejudices about, that the respected persyn becomes an exception to the rule, as opposed to questioning the rule?

My second favorite is when radical activists air their fatphobia as if it is creative and funny. I was reading a bike circus' zine and fantasizing about joining until I got to the quotes page that had a witty quote from one of the circus members about telling a fat motorcyclist to get a bicycle so the motorcyclist could get thin and healthy like him. The other brilliant quote was about g.e. foods making people fat. There was no evidence given that the statement was based on anything more than prejudiced assumption. I wrote an email to the circus that they never responded to. One more statement that fatphobia is not even worth addressing. Everyone, especially people who have chosen to focus their lives on equality need to assess the sources and validity of their stereotypical ideas.



Just to shore up my convictions that fathating stereotypes linking my fat body to rich capitalist dudes are erroneous I did some homework. I looked up the CEOs of the first big, bad, evil corporations that I thought of and found photos of them on the Internet. I win. The CEOs of McDonalds, Nike, Shell, and Disney aren't fat. The CEO of Shell wouldn't make a great poster child for Slim Fast (or PETA for that matter) but none of these filthy rich capitalists would be recognizable as the pigs in suits type puppets that so often fly over anti-globalization marches. Not even the former CEO of McDonalds who just died of a heart attack. I included their photos for your viewing pleasure.



McDonald's Corp. Chairman and Chief Executive Jim Cantalupo



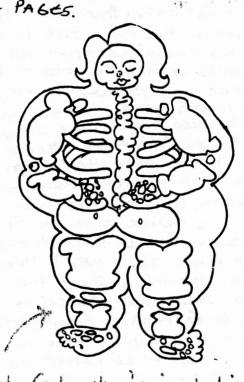
Phil Knight, Nike CEO



Michael Eisner
Disney

I am not the posterchild for fat love, impeccable eating habits, or a bottomless fountain of fat knowledge. I still apply fathating stereotypes to myself and others. Sometimes, I eat dumpstered donuts + pasteries WHEN I'm Not even hungry. I don't Follow ANY pigorous physical Activity plan. I just bike or walk where I need to go. I swim because I like it. I have some disordered eating habits. MANY FAT + THIN FOLK (especially gals) who grew up w/ ANOREXIC + FAT HATING PARENTAL FIGURES DO, Too. A BIG motivation FOR this ZINE is my OWN THERAPY. I have NO DELIBIONS THAT All FAT PEOPLE ARE PORTRAITS OF HEALTH. LOTS OF PEOPLE WOULD FARE BEHER PHYSICALLY IF HEY ATE BETTER AND MOVED MORE. Some D GET FATTER, Some THINNER. I'M ALSO AWARE THAT AMERICANS ARE Getting FATTER FASTER THEN OTHER PEOPLE. WE'RE GEHING TALLER, TOO. WE ALSO HATE FAT MORE. MAKES ME THINK OF PROHIBITION. FOOD HAS BECOME AN IMMORAL' DRUG. The cHOCOLATE THAT YOU "SHOULDN'T EAT" is sexien than the SpinACH THAT you "Should". I believe firmly that it's easier to HATE THINGS INTO BRING THAN OUT, I THINK THE solution to people becoming sizes that are un-HEALTHY FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL BUDIES is the SAME AS THE SOLUTION to FATPHOBIA. STOP HATING FAT! Accept and enjoy that Bodies come in diffERENT Shapes & Sizes. FOOD WILL (FASE to BE "FORBIDDEN FRUIT" PEOPLE WILL BEGIN to ext. Primarily for the Nourishment of THEIR BODIES AND THE PLEASURE THAT BRINGS OF COURSE people will still eat occasionally for pleasure only, but won't spiral into the DEPTHS OF SELF-HATRED AND ADDICTION FOR SUCH A MINOR TRANSGRESSION. Anti Copy eight Message

I "stole" a lot of the information used in this Zine. I pont believe that anyone owns information, certainly not me. Reprint, distributes ell (if you con find people to pay for it), or claim as original + Hought, Anything + Everything with in these pages.



She's not fat, she's just big-boned!

especially stuff w/ #s + %s were LIFTED FROM FAT?SO + SUSAN KANOS BOOK. THANKS YALL, FOR YOUR UNKNOWING +

READING LIST

Fatlovin' books

- -FAT!SO? the zine and the book. Wann
- -Making Peace with food: Freeing yourself from the diet and weight obsession. Kano
- -Big Fat Lies: The truth about your weight and health. Gaesser
- -Fat GiRL: The zine for Fat Dykes and the women who want them
 - Fat Pride: A Survival Handbook Grosswirth, Martin
 - Rethinking Obesity: An Alternative View of its health implications Ernsberger, Paul
 - -Shadow on a Tightrope: Writings by Women on Fat Oppression available thru Aunt Lute books

books on masturbation (because enjoying your body and getting yourself off are huge steps toward self-love)

-For Yourself. Lonnie

-Sex for One: The Joy of Self loving. Betty Dodson

just damn good
anything by bell hooks
Doris zines
Zora Neal Hurston's books
Summerhill by A.S. Neill
The Never Ending Story and Momo
By Michael Ende

RESOURCES Fatso.com 1-800-OH-FATSO

-NAAFA 1-800-442-1214 P.O. Box 18860 Sacramento, CA 95818

myself- patwilkinson@hypocrisy.org

READ H BECOME AS SHAMELESS AS YOU DREAM OF BEING. so May you