

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent
Mark	:	DYKES ON BIKES
Serial No.	:	78,281746
Filing Date	:	July 31, 2003

Commissioner for Trademarks
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

Attention: Sharon A. Meier, Examining Attorney
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DECLARATION OF JUDY GRAHN UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 2.20

I, Judy Grahn, being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any registration resulting therefrom, declare:

1. I am a lesbian author and activist. I have identified as a lesbian since the 1950s. Excerpts from my *curriculum vitae* are attached as Attachment A.
2. I began reclaiming gay and lesbian words and experiences in the 1960s, as I came to understand them as legitimate subjects with historic and social value. In 1966, I wrote a piece called "the Psychoanalysis of Edward the Dyke" as a satiric critique of the psychoanalytic establishment, and a public statement about both the word dyke and an

experience of a “dyke” person. This satire became part of an off-Broadway show produced by Jonathon Katz around 1973; he is now a professor at Yale University.

3. In 1972, in a highly publicized set of poems published by Diana Press, called the “She Who” poems, I used the word “dyke” in several poems, including in the since oft-quoted line. “I am the dyke in the matter, the other.”

4. In 1983, Beacon Press published *Another Mother Tongue, Gay Words, Gay World*, a nonfiction cultural history that was very popular with gay people of all descriptions, and remains in print. The book contains material on words related to being gay, and historic material including possible sources. I attributed the word “dyke” and more specifically “bulldyke” to the English warrior queen Boudicca, whose name is pronounced “buadyke” in some dialects. I pointed out that the term “dyke” is associated with toughness in women, not just lesbianism. I also found another possible source in the Sanscrit “dika” and Greek “dike” as fierce or underworld goddesses.

5. A three-page poem I wrote about British Queen Boudicca, using the term “dyke” in reference to her, was published in the *Iowa Review*, a preeminent American literary journal, in the early 1980’s.

6. All this work was well-received by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) communities, as well as by other groups of people. *Another Mother Tongue* received a “Gay Book of the Year” award from the American Library Association in 1985. In 1988, the book was chosen as the theme for a Gay Day Parade in Seattle, as parade organizers struggled to maintain a cultural focus in the face of commercialization.

7. In large part because of *Another Mother Tongue*, and my reclamation of “dyke” and several other terms, The Publishing Triangle, an association of lesbian and gay

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publishers, established a “Judy Grahn Nonfiction Award” in 1997. Recipients of this award have included graduates of esteemed universities, such as the University of Chicago.

8. In 1988 Beacon Press published my book length poem, “The Queen of Swords,” which features a set of characters called “crow dykes” and is set in a lesbian bar. Theater Rhinoceros in San Francisco produced the play, which had a nine week run; it has also been produced in Los Angeles, Miami, and at UC Santa Cruz, and most recently, at New College of California.

9. I believe from watching how my own work has been received in this country and around the world that the word “dyke” has been successfully reclaimed to mean a powerful, independent woman capable of defending herself, who is also a lesbian in sexual orientation. Far from rejecting this term, the gay and lesbian communities have to large extent celebrated “dyke” and applauded DYKES ON BIKES as emblematic of women’s progress in our society, and of the courage and historic memory of lesbians.

10. Based on my own knowledge of lesbian communities, other examples of how the term “dyke” has been enthusiastically accepted as a positive term in those communities are: Alison Bechdel’s extremely successful comic book series, “Dykes to Watch Out For,” first published by Firebrand Press in 1986; the countless “Dyke marches” that now take place in Europe as well as the US; the use of dyke in numerous commercial enterprises and magazines targeted at lesbians, such as the “Technodyke” website and the prevalence of slogans such as “warm fuzzy dyke” on T-shirts and other paraphernalia worn and bought by lesbians and others who support lesbians.

11. I do not believe there is a realistic chance that the name or mark DYKES ON BIKES could be misconstrued as a derogatory reference to lesbians, given the cultural

prominence of the DYKES ON BIKES contingent themselves and the extent to which the term “dyke” has been reclaimed by proud and outspoken lesbians.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Dated: March 20-2005 By: Judy Grahn
Judy Grahn
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