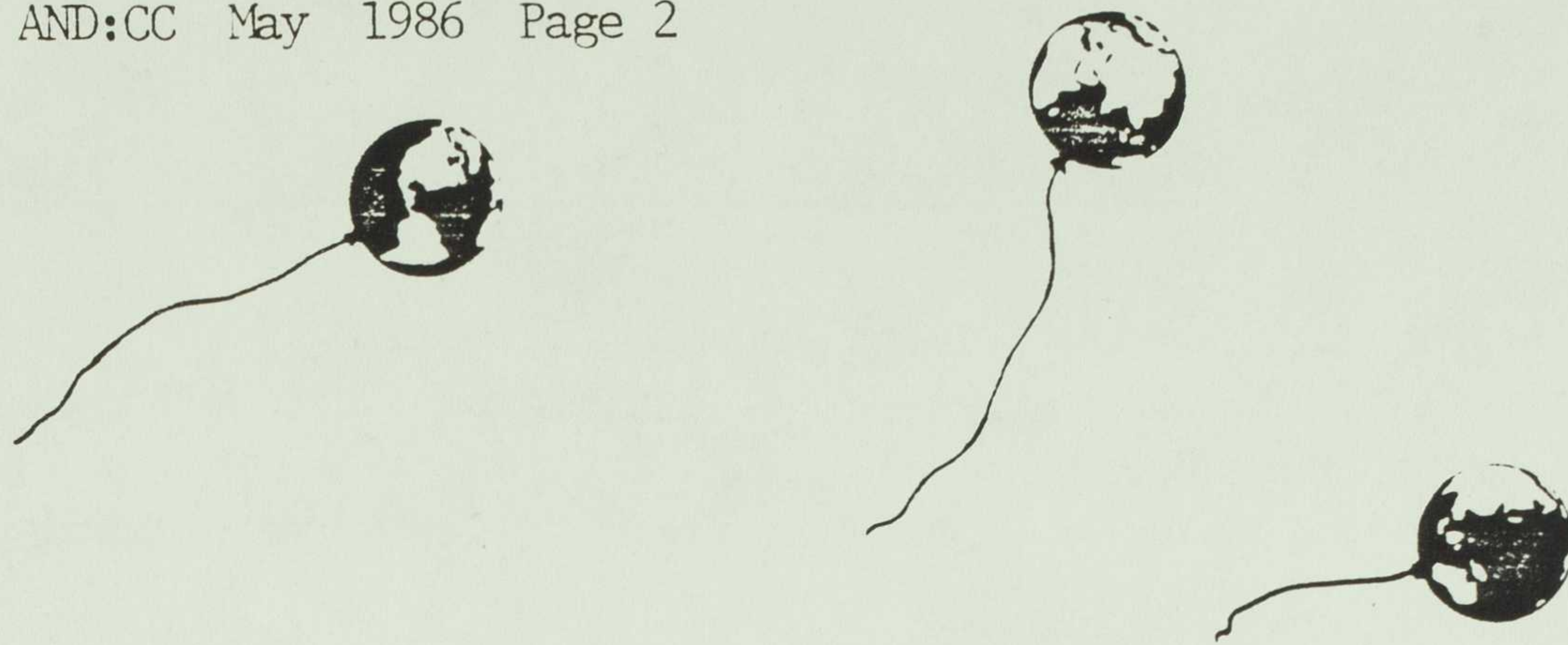




Appeal to Womanhood Throughout the World

Again...have the skill and power of two great nations exhausted themselves in mutual murder. Again have the sacred questions of international justice been committed to this fatal mediation of military weapons. In this day of progress, in this century of light, the ambition of rulers has been allowed to barter the dear interests of domestic life for the bloody exchanges of the battle-field... But women need no longer be made a party to proceedings which fill the globe with grief and horror. Despite the assumptions of physical force, the mother has a sacred and commanding word to say to the sons who owe their life to her suffering. That word should now be heard, and answered as never before.

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts... Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies... We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs." From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: "Disarm, disarm! The Sword of murder is not the balance of justice." Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession...

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women, without limit of nationality, may be appointed and held... to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

Julia Ward Howe
From "Appeal to Womanhood Throughout the World"
Boston, 1870