

FOCUS

A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS



Sept. '73

\$.50

FOCUS is published monthly by Boston Daughters of Bilitis, Room 323, 419 Boylston St., Boston, Mass. 02116

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Boston D.O.B. officers:
Treasurer.....Geri Bidwell
Recording Sec'y.....Lois H.
Corresponding Sec'y.Laura Robin

FOCUS staff this issue: Schel, Linda Lachman, Wendy Bauman, Andrea, Laura Robin, Cathy, Geri Bidwell.

FOCUS welcomes contributions from everyone. If you want back whatever you send us, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Let us know possible titles and how you want to sign your name.

Articles in FOCUS reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views or tastes of Boston Daughters of Bilitis.

Cover: Schel

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ADDRESSES OF OTHER D.O.B. CHAPTERS

Dallas DOB
Women for Action
Box 5944
Dallas, Texas. 75222

San Francisco DOB
1005 Market St., #402-404
San Francisco, Calif. 94103

Occupant
Box 137
Northwood, New Hampshire
(this is N.H.D.O.B., but do not address them as such on envelope).

New Jersey DOB
Box 62
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023

LETTERS TO FOCUS

To D.O.B., FOCUS,
Greetings!

On September 9, 1973, M.C.C.-Boston will celebrate its 1st birthday- We invite the whole community to join us in our "Gathering Sunday" celebration.

It has been a fascinating, frustrating, joyous, trying year for all of us at M.C.C. perhaps, most especially for the women. For many months a handful of us struggled to integrate M.C.C.-Boston. We were to the point of desperation when good things started to happen. We started a women's rap group which became a very strong core of women at MCC. Our existence as a group encouraged other women to "try out" MCC, and to become part of our larger family.

In February we held a Feminist Liturgy, which was well received and which effected several permanent changes in our worship services. We plan to do another feminist service October 14, and to have a weekend Women's Festival for the entire Boston Community of women including films and possibly a dance. We will keep you informed.

There are two parts to a ministry to gay women. One part is raising consciousness (male and female) about the needs and the humanity of women. The other is to begin to help meet those needs and celebrate that humanity.

There are some particular needs I hope we can focus on. Two of our strongest women at MCC are lesbian mothers, and it troubles me deeply that we we have done so little in our community to embrace and help gay parents, (most of whom are women.). I hope that as a church we can raise this issue and find ways to help.

I am also concerned for lesbian couples - I am disturbed that there is so little in the way of a support system for couples.

I think we have to be aware of the different types of relationships that people have, and we must learn to respect each others' lifestyles, and differences in those lifestyles.

This can be an exciting growing year for us all at MCC - particularly for women.

If you are interested, we are now meeting at 7pm, Sundays, at the Old West Methodist Church, 131 Cambridge St, in Boston. Our office phone number is 266 7491. If you would like to talk to a woman on the staff, contact myself, or Penny Ferrault.

Love and Peace,

(Rev.) Nancy Wilson

Dear FOCUS & Fellow Readers,

Thank you so much just for being you - the ad last month from Conn. had two grand people waiting for you just to reach out, dial, meet, and become friends - there's no pretense, no putting on airs - they're real good people. Try it! All of you who have read the ad and sat for hours or days trying to get up the courage to call - CALL! Other gays in other areas try this as a means of increasing your gay friends and acquaintances. The comradeship of sameness is exhilarating. Your personal worries and loneliness get placed in proper perspective - don't sit back and say it's too difficult. Remember it was just as difficult for them to Reach Out and ask that you be their friends -

I called! I'm glad I did!

Ethel

Staff note:

To "Just a friend" -

Many of us are new at raps. Please join us. We are all a little frightened.

Sisters,

For too many centuries, lesbian women have been creating around their lifestyles instead of acknowledging their lifestyles.

We are Family of Woman, Lesbian-Feminist Musicians, and have surrounded ourselves with the dreams and plans for a world in which women can re-claim our own heritage and live without the Man's structures and aggressive and passive hate. We are political musicians who have something to share with all women.

We refuse to play bars and clubs. We play only women's concert. We believe that our music is important because lesbians are vital to the concept of a women's revolution. We know that art plays a huge part in the cultural revolution that women are involved in.

We are trying to discover what women's music really is. We are not attempting to speak for every lesbian in the world. We are playing music and talking with you because we know we can touch parts in you that have been touched in ourselves by other women.

We want to eventually have all our songs written by women, more specifically lesbian women. We need your songs.

We need to reach the part in all women that loves women; sometimes through angry songs, sometimes through love songs. We need to know there is space in our movement for all women to create and share creation.

We operate as a collective. We are Family of Woman, and we want to share our music and ideas with women all over the country. Our fee for doing concerts is adjustable. We want all women's

groups to be able to afford us.

For more information please contact our business manager:

Family of Woman, 919 W. Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
312-929-1871

In Sisterhood and Struggle,

Family of Woman

DUTCH SOCIETY FOR THE INTEGRATION
OF HOMOSEXUALITY COC

General policy of COC:

The purpose of the COC is to integrate homosexual behaviour and homosexual relations into our society. The term "integration" is not understood exactly by the COC in the sense of equal civil rights for homosexuals, but more as the contrary of an isolation policy.

The COC wishes to help people to discover their homosexual tendencies, to accept these and to play their part openly with these tendencies in daily social life.

Real improvement can only be caused by confronting the direct surroundings with someone's homosexual being. So it is also the task of COC to encourage its members to stand for this confrontation with all those forms of expression seeming so normal in a heterosexual relationship. As an organization the COC puts this confrontation policy into practice by directed information and publicity and by using the Dutch legal system in an aggressive way.

(from a much longer policy statement for 1973).

WASHINGTON- The District of Columbia City Council gave preliminary approval to Title 34 - a human rights bill covering discrimination because of sexual orientation, sex, and marital status. Discrimination in the area of housing, employment, access to public accommodations, and admission to educational institutions is not permitted. If the bill passes a second hearing on Sept. 18 it will become law. (Advocate Aug. '73).

PROVIDENCE- The Homophile Community Health Services of Boston has expanded to Providence. The Providence Advisory Board will consist of psychiatrists, lawyers, business people, and members of the Gay community. Presently, the center is open two nights a week. It has hopes of increasing facilities and hours. (Morning Glory, Aug. '73).

LOS ANGELES- Dignity, an organization for Gay Catholics, will have its first national convention Aug. 31-Sept. 3 at the Holiday Inn in Los Angeles. (Advocate, Aug. '73)

SEATTLE- Federal subsistence salaries have been given to four gays in Seattle to work in the city's sexual minorities community. Two of these people will work with Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities while the others work with the Gay Community Social Services. (Fountain, Aug. '73).

NEW YORK- New York GAA's Lesbian Liberation Committee has split from that group to form a separate organization. The new group's concerns will be Gay and Feminist issues. (Fountain, Aug. '73).

OREGON- House Bill #2116, banning discrimination on the basis of sex and marital status passed the Oregon Senate in late June. The bill bans discrimination in housing, public accommodations and private vocational and training schools. (Fountain, Aug. '73).

OTTAWA- Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, in giving factors considered by the Canadian Govt. in granting security clearances, admitted that homosexuality, emotional instability and sexual abnormality are reviewed. This is to determine if those applying for such clearances would be "vulnerable to persuasion, coercion, or black-mail." Gay Alliance Towards Equality (GATE) sent an open letter of protest to Trudeau which includes a demand to cease this policy. (Advocate Aug. '73).

SAN FRANCISCO- An arson investigation is still going on in an attempt to determine who set the July 27 fire gutting the Metropolitan Community Church. The fire was the sixth burning of a gay oriented institution in the last seven months. (Fountain Aug. '73)

NEW YORK- A special project on the right of sexual privacy has begun by the national office of the American Civil Liberties Union. They will be trying to establish Gay civil rights in public and private employment and child custody. For more information write:
Sexual Privacy Project
American Civil Liberties Union
22 E. 40th Street
New York, N. Y. 10016.
(Fountain, Aug. '73).
(see July FOCUS)

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D.O.B. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

"I am a woman 18 years of age or older"
(signed) _____

Send with \$10 (or \$15 for a couple) to the D.O.B. office.

WOMEN'S LOBBY TASK FORCE
ON SEXUAL PREFERENCE

There will be a meeting for any women interested in the sexual preference task force on Sept 13 at the D.O.B. office, 7:30 PM. Women are needed to work for legislation to restate bills to include homosexuality. Included in our work will be contacting representatives through letters and phone. Also, we need professionals to testify to the validity of a homosexual lifestyle.

women's periodicals; inventory and file into 2,000 topical research files of newspaper clippings, research papers, poetry, and graphics cut, classify, catalog, and file women's newsletters, journals and newspaper clippings. The library contains a vast collection of women's periodicals (including FOCUS) as well as other information, and is the largest of its kind in the nation, as far as we know. It is supported by donations. For info write:
WOMEN'S HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER, INC
2325 Oak St, Berkeley, Calif. 94708

WOMEN'S HISTORY LIBRARY

The Women's History Library in Berkeley, California is looking for volunteers to help. Work involves: Correspond with

D.O.B. BUSINESS MEETING AUG. 20, 1973

voted:

- 1. to reactivate a bylaw revision committee
- 2. to allocate \$9 towards a "Gay Survival Sheet" to list area gay needs plus a bibliography
- 3. to spend \$20 on restocking the D.O.B. bar.
- 4. to have the Women's lobby task force on sexual preference meet at the D.O.B. office September 13.

Also noted: Wendy B will organize the library and Lois H. will start orientation meetings.

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Elections for Boston D.O.B. officers will be held October 14th, Sunday, 7:30 pm at the office (prior to the regular business meeting). The offices are: president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer.

FOCUS will print statements from candidates for these offices in the OCTober issue, which will be received by members before the election. Statements must be in the D.O.B. mailbox by September 17th to be sure of being printed. Candidacy may also be declared at the meeting.

The bylaws provide for the following proxy which must be returned by the night of elections. The proxy must be signed to be valid. Check only one of the two boxes.

PROXY

I vote for _____ for President
 _____ for Vice-President
 _____ for recording Sec'y.
 _____ for Corres. Sec'y.
 _____ for Treasurer

I entrust my votes to _____
 Signed _____

THE RING
by Mary Shelley

A ring is a very simple gift except when one woman gives it to another. It was our anniversary. Mary decided to buy me a ring. We have the same ring size so she was able to keep it a perfect surprise.

When Mary gave me the ring that evening, I went "Ah!". I couldn't believe it. Once you're a lesbian you don't expect to get rings any more.

She told me about how the jeweler had given her problems. It was bad enough that she wanted a woman's ring. But the inscription, "Mary adores Jane" really made him nervous. Before she left, he made himself feel better by telling her she was a good looking girl and probably would have lots of kids one day. She laughed at him.

"You shouldn't have done that," I scolded her. "This is a small town." Then it was time for dinner.

Life went on as usual. We really loved our house. One day two weeks later Mary and I were walking downtown. We passed the jewelers.

"hey!" she said. "This is it! This is the place."

"Huh," I went but she dragged me in anyway. I love her when she's spontaneous.

"Hey," she said to the man. "I'd like you to meet my Jane. She likes her ring very much."

The man looked at us. Then his mouth dropped. He raised his hand. He staggered back. He stood against the wall of the shop with shoulders hunched. I thought he was shivering. I felt sorry for him until Mary whispered in my ear that he had palsy.

We stood there and he watched us. I began to feel like I was in a police line-up. Slowly his shaking finger rose. He pointed at the door. We left in a hurry, feeling a little bit creepy.

The next week our landlord evicted us. We didn't have a lease. He stood inside the door, him and his fat stomach. He watched us pack our stuff. He told us that the jeweler was his cousin.

FOCUS STAFF MEETING

Are you a D.O.B. member interested in helping with the content, covers, or productions of FOCUS? Do you have ideas for FOCUS you want to put into action? Come to the staff meeting Monday Sept. 17th at 7:30 pm at the office.

WOMEN'S FAIR AND RALLY

The Fair commemorated the 53rd anniversary of women's suffrage. Twelve to fifteen women's groups from through-out the state were represented by tables and speakers. Music, skits, and speakers were part of the 10-4 program on the Esplanade by the Charles River.

DYKE Buttons were sold out quickly, and there was a much larger demand than supply.

LESBIAN TIDE

a voice of the lesbian/feminist community. sisters subscribe now!

\$6/ year
50¢/ sample

Tide Collective, 373 N. Western Ave.,
Room 202, Los Angeles, Calif 90004

FOCUS: A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN
50¢== some back issues available

somewhere in a Serva-matic down on 5th avenue,
a middle-aged businessman with a wife,
three children, a dog,
and a mistress,
sees it floating on the top of his coffee,
and he leaves the restaurant, abruptly.

a married woman with two small children
and a husband who doesn't drink or smoke, who isn't that
exciting in bed, whose hands are too small and delicate for
a man: she sees it behind the scenes of the tv serial she's
been watching, and changes channels, abruptly.

a teenager sees it, in the innocent smile of a best friend
who locks arms too often, who is exciting to be near; a teenager
sees it, and sits on her bed late at night, worrying: crying, abruptly.

a chic young model who spends her days in front of cameras,
fending off photographers, sees it in the dressing room, in the
flowing bodies of other models. She sees it, and accepts a date
with an obnoxious photographer, abruptly.

an overweight mother of grown children sees it
in the friendly face of another oversized-children-grown-and-gone
mother: she stops having her over for coffee, abruptly.

they all
see it
and feel it
and sense it
and hear it
it is uncomfortable for them,
it lies hard in the bottom of the stomach,
it makes lumps in the throat
and sometimes it makes the men impotent
and the women panicky.

it is called
latency.
a "misdirection"
a tendency
an inclination
what it means is that
if given half a chance
you might be a homosexual
and you are scared to death.

--gingerlox

LOVE IN THE LABORATORY

Kathleen, stop leaning over my shoulder
when I'm trying to study.
How can I type that lab report
when your presence distorts my senses,
clouding my genius!
Oh, the curse to be high on love!

Bitch, witch;
begone, you and your cauldron!

Now where was I...
Oh, yes, - there is a significant difference
between the lures of studying
and the Elixir of Love...

Lovable, loving,
beautiful creature!

So, in conclusion, Professor,
it is my contention
that Sappho was, indeed, a right-on-woman;

And Kathleen wins tonight!

-- Patricia

CLASSIFIED AD
(5¢/ word)

Lesbian trail bike riders--

Autumn is coming, the loveliest time
of the year. I've been riding in the
woods all summer. Where are you?

Terry, 748 Oakland Beach Ave., Apt.1,
Warwick, R.I.

P.S. Back road riding is nice, too!

AMAZON QUARTERLY

A Lesbian-Feminist Arts
Journal

\$5/ year (plain wrapper)
\$4/ year (no wrapper)

Amazon Quarterly, 554 Valle Vista, Oak-
land, Calif. 94610.

you lay asleep
& I flung across
you like a survivor
from a shipwreck
lay awake
clinging
to your heartbeat

ever since
you told me
your mother died
in her sleep
I'm afraid
sometimes
& listen for hours
to your steady rhythm
of yes, yes, yes

death
is something
I could never accept

(I keep tripping
over those memories)

but you did
& grew stronger
to yield
& to fall asleep

so I leave you
for a while to write
drink milk
smoke cigarettes
& practice saying yes

--C.G.

MAJORITY REPORT

Full and fair coverage of feminist
events.

\$3/12 issues

Majority Report, 74 Grove St.,
New York, New York 10014

SISTERS MAGAZINE
published by San Francisco DOB
\$3/year
SFDOB, Rm. 402, 1005 Market St.,
San Francisco, Calif. 94103

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

PROJECT

-GROUP DISCUSSIONS-

Sociologist and psychologists are interested in collecting information from gay men and women, single, coupled, for a good book on sexual and social relations in the gay community. By writing this book we hope to make gay life easier and more fulfilling.

We will pay a small amount for participation. Privacy assured and preliminary interview required. Total--5 evening sessions. Call UN4-8181.

We would like to thank all the kids that answered our ad in the August issue. We had a neat party at our house for them. We would like to encourage more people to call 203-429-1741 and ask for Betty. We want more friends. Call anytime; more parties are planned.

GAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

\$1.50/10 weeks

G.C.N., c/o Charles St. Meeting House, 70 Charles St., Boston, Ma. 02114

AMERICAN GAY FILM FESTIVAL

The Washington Area Gay Community Council and the Janus Theatres announce that applications are now available for participation in the "First American Gay Film Festival" to take place in Washington, D.C. this winter.

Films by gay filmmakers and/or about gay life is the theme of the festival. Films may be submitted in Super 8, 16 mm or 35 mm, as feature length, shorts, or animated films.

Deadlines for entries is Oct. 31, 1973. For information write "First American Gay Film Festival", c/o Washington Area Gay Community Council, P.O. Box 40552, Washington, D.C. 20016.

GAY ACADEMIC UNION, N.Y.C.

The Gay Academic Union, a group of men and women including teachers, researchers, artists, graduate students, librarians and administrative personnel has just formed in New York City.

Its goals specifically are: (1) to oppose all forms of discrimination against gay people within academia, (2) to support individual academics in the process of coming out (3) to promote new approaches to the study of the gay experience, and (4) to encourage the teaching of gay studies throughout the American educational system.

A committee of the Union is planning a Conference of Gay Scholars to be held in New York City over the Thanksgiving weekend, November 23-24, 1973.

For membership information, write Prof. K.S. Sherrill, Dept. of Political Science, Box 1479, Hunter College, CUNY, 695 Park Av., N.Y., N.Y. 10021.

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS
CALENDAR
September 1973

10

- TUESDAYS 7:30 pm RAP SESSIONS ON BEING GAY, FOR WOMEN ONLY. Share feelings about being gay, everyone welcome. At the D.O.B. office, 419 Boylston St., Boston, between Arlington & Berkeley Streets, near the Arlington MBTA stop.
- THURSDAYS 9-10 pm GAY WAY RADIO PROGRAM WBUR-FM 90.9.
- SUNDAYS 1 pm D.O.B. SOFTBALL. Bring bat, ball, glove, and/or self; informal games. Rain or shine. Magazine Beach, Cambridge, across the Charles River from Cadillac-Olds and along Memorial Drive west of the Boston University Bridge. MDC swim pool adjacent.
- September 8, SATURDAY, ABC news special "Woman's Place", 9-10 pm. "Examines the myths and realities of growing up female in America". Written and produced by Marlene Sanders. ABC-TV = Channel 5.
- September 13, THURSDAY, 7:30 pm WOMEN'S LOBBY TASK FORCE ON SEXUAL PREFERENCE. Women are needed to work for legislation to restate bills to include homosexuality. At the D.O.B. office.
- September 17, MONDAY, 7:30 pm FOCUS STAFF MEETING. All D.O.B. members interested in the content, covers, or production of FOCUS and who are willing to help with the same are urged to come. At the D.O.B. office.
- September 17, MONDAY DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF STATEMENTS FROM CANDIDATES FOR D.O.B. OFFICES FOR OCTOBER'S ELECTIONS. Statements to be printed in October's FOCUS.
- September 21, FRIDAY, 8:30--11:30 pm D.O.B. DANCE at the office. There will be beer, liquor, and soft drinks for sale. Women only. 75¢ admis'n.
- September 26, WEDNESDAY, 7:30 pm D.O.B. BUSINESS MEETING at the office. If you are concerned about making D.O.B. continue to work, come.
- October 14, SUNDAY, 7:30pm ELECTIONS NIGHT & BUSINESS MEETING. Elections for new officers in DOB will take place first at 7:30, followed by the October business meeting. More details about the elections are to be found in the September FOCUS

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS
419 Boylston St., Room 323
Boston, Mass. 02116

phone:
617-262-1592

ALL D.O.B. EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL WOMEN REGARDLESS OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS IN D.O.B.

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIME AND MONEY IN OUR EFFORTS TO REACH OTHER GAY WOMEN, TO PROVIDE RAPS AND SOCIAL EVENTS, TO WORK FOR THE RIGHTS OF GAY PEOPLE.

Membership: Open to all women 18 years old and older. \$10/yr; \$15/ yr for a couple.
Membership includes a subscription to FOCUS.

FOCUS. A monthly journal for gay women. \$5/ yr.; 50¢/ sample. Brown envelope.
Calendar of events. Monthly. \$1/ 6 mo.



The History Project
<http://www.historyproject.org/>
info@historyproject.org

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