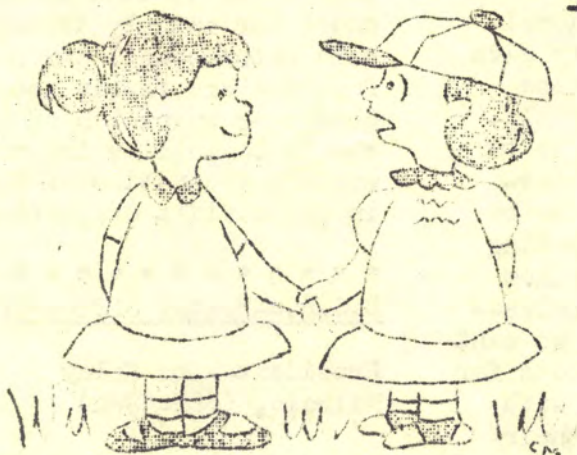


a daughter of bilitis newsletter  
boston chapter  
p. o. box 221  
prudential center station  
boston, mass. 02199

may, 1970  
vol. 1, no. 6

"I am young,      You the strange  
I will live,      Seed of day,  
I am strong,      Feel the change,  
I can give.      Know the way."

--Tim Buckloy



"Who needs Charlie Brown?!"

LESBIAN'S FREEDOM FROM MALE DOMINATION  
ENVIED BY SOME HETEROSEXUAL WOMEN

By Ann Haley

As more of today's women escape the dreary life of a suburban housewife and enter the world of business, industry, and the professions, conflicts over sexual identity are growing. These women find difficulty reconciling their active, dynamic working-world personalities with the passive, supportive roles their husbands demand of them in the home. Charged with being Lesbians because they want to realize themselves instead of catering to their husbands, some of the more courageous of them are making tentative inquiries into what it is like to be a Lesbian. Lesbians are seen as women who have

cont. on next page

CAREER WOMEN  
AIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS

Male bosses who have the titles and women under them to do their work were victims of a discussion among professional women who attended the Working Women's Conference May 2 at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Figurehead bosses who hold rank by virtue of their sex instead of their brains and achievements are increasingly resented by their underpaid and underrecognized professional women assistants. Professional women scored the need for a woman to work twice as hard to get half as far as a man, and cited the vast disparity in both starting and top salaries in the various professions between male and female workers. "A Harvard

cont. on page 3

LESBIAN'S FREEDOM cont.

had the courage to make their own way, free of male domination, in a predominately male world. That it has been possible for Lesbians to do this and lead rich and satisfying lives lends support to the view that women can have a destiny outside their homes, and encourages these heterosexual women who want to be more than housewives to develop a life beyond the home.

At the same time, conventional attitudes toward homosexuality give rise to anxiety in many of these women. Indoctrinated since childhood that the place of woman is to assist and support, and that Lesbianism is an insidious evil to be shunned at all costs, and equating their desire for self-realization with tentative Lesbian tendencies-- or, they say, why else don't we want to be housewives and sex-objects for men?--these women are nagged with doubts about themselves and their own self-worth.

"Women who assert themselves must want to be men. Women who want to be men are Lesbians. Lesbians are bad. There must be something wrong with me if I want a career outside my home." So runs the logic with which these women torment themselves. As Lesbians, we can readily spot errors in each of these premises. The only things about men Lesbians usually envy are the opportunities men have to realize themselves. Most Lesbians prefer to be women, and when they assert themselves, in no sense do they deny their womanhood. Much of the anxiety heterosexual women find as they try to reconcile their need for self-realization with their sex roles stems from a misunderstanding of the psychology of Lesbianism.

The implications for D.O.B. are great. It is human to fear what is not understood. More women must learn to understand Lesbianism so they will cease to fear it. They

must learn that the need for self-realization is a human need, not merely a male or a Lesbian need. Lesbianism is as much a heterosexual issue as a homosexual one. Lesbians who value their womanhood must find the courage to come out of hiding and show the world their lives are rich and meaningful so heterosexual women will have better insight into their own homosexual feelings. Lesbians should work toward the day when sexual orientation is no longer a cause for anxiety in anyone because both heterosexual and homosexual feelings are freely accepted. The charge or suspicion of Lesbianism should be totally irrelevant in a woman's evaluation of herself, and in the world's evaluation of her.

\*\*\*\*\*

D.O.B.--Boston Officers:

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Candi L. McGonagle

Production--Beth Restruck  
Rose Marie Turner  
Candi L. McGonagle  
Friends from HUB

\*\*\*\*\*

Deadline for the June issue:  
June 19

*ie women should not be afraid to be independent because they're scared of being called Lesbians?*

*You can be independent w.o. being Lesbians?*

MAIDEN VOYAGE  
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CAREER WOMEN cont. from page 1

graduate is given an aptitude test, but a Radcliffe graduate is given a typing test," one woman observed wryly.

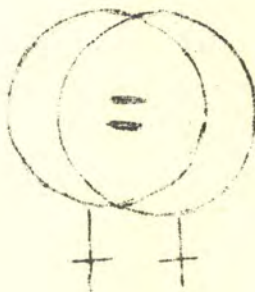
The conference, sponsored by Bread and Roses, was heavily attended by women ranging in age from 20 to 30. In addition to the discussion for professional women, there were groups for factory workers, secretaries, and hospital workers. Emerging from each discussion was a sense of frustration on the part of women who felt that they inherited this work from men who felt that such work was properly beneath them and per se "women's work."

The conventional attitude that girls do not fight was blamed for the feelings of physical inferiority women have when confronted with an overpowering male. The slender leader of the forenoon karate demonstration claimed that knowing how to fight gave her the confidence to stand up to men instead of meekly following their orders. "The effect," she said, "has been good for them and good for me. They have learned to respect me as a person with my own ideas and opinions instead of merely a sex-object; and I have new respect for myself."

\*\*\*\*\*

Those LESBIANS ARE LOVABLE buttons are still available. When are you going to get yours? ? ? ? ? ? ?

\*\*\*\*\*



SODOMY & FORNICATION STILL ILLEGAL  
IN MASSACHUSETTS  
By Laura Robin

Three bills to repeal Massachusetts laws prohibiting "unnatural and lascivious acts," fornication, and the "crime against nature" were given an unfavorable report to the House by the Judiciary Committee on April 22, 1970. The House accepted this report by voice vote April 28. These bills, H. 3272, H. 3482, and H. 3484, had been given a public hearing on February 23 at which Boston homophile groups and William Baird, originator of the bill, were represented. (See March newsletter)

A fourth bill, H. 1949, containing everything in the other three, was transferred from Judiciary to House Ways and Means Committee early in 1970. Here it received no public hearing (according to the House Clerk, this is usual for Ways and Means); but it was reported unfavorably on March 23 and the report was accepted March 24.

We must make sure these bills are reintroduced next year (deadline is this December).

Two morals to this tale: (1) Legislators will not vote for touchy bills like these just because the bills make sense; they want to be re-elected. They must see a large public support for these bills first and we have to muster it. (2) We must get to know our state legislators by contacting them about other issues--start now, it takes a while. Who are they?--Free list from Mass. Taxpayers Foundation, 145 Tremont St., Boston 02111. Get legislators' office phone numbers by calling 727-2121.

\*\*\*\*\*

\$1.00 gets you a 30 word ad in the M.V. personals column. Send your ad with payment to:

Box 221  
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Boston, Mass.  
02199

## MAIDEN VOYAGE

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### LIBERATION--WHY ME?

By Gail King

Female Liberation is a reform movement of global dimension that will, if effective, involve every member of our society; a movement that will transcend race, color, creed.

The movement is not being waged by a helpless minority in isolated geographic areas. Women who are members of every station of life will open their movement and will work from within the center of society. The movement will explode the age-old definitions of family, the concept of the nation and, finally, the ways women are now defined.

Liberation will challenge women to engage their own existence; to meet the trying task of freedom; to answer the question: "Who am I?"

women will no longer be the nation's most marketable commodity; women will claim the role of Person.

The Lesbian has too often considered herself to be apart from Liberation. Why? Are Lesbians, too, not thought of as "things" in our society? Do we really believe that we are above being used by men?

Lesbians have long held an honored position in the fantasy life of every male. The name "Daughters of Bilitis" comes from one male's erotic fancy put to print! Are we free?

Our freedom: what there is of it ends at the door. Once in public, we, too, are female "things," impersonal play objects.

I ask you--at some quiet moment--to list all of the secret dreams you had as a child, all the young female's secret desires which ended with the words:

"Little girls don't do that..."

And that, my friend, will tell you who is free.

### ON THE AIRWAYS

Two members of Boston's Homophile community and a minister were guests on Bob Sterling Smith's "Colloquy" over WHDH-FM recently.

Gail King of Boston D.C.E., Frank Morgan of HUB and the Rev. Robert Winget from the Church of our Savior in South Boston discussed the aims of the homophile groups.

Bob Smith asked whether male and female homosexuals were cooperating with each other in the homophile movement in Boston. Both Gail and Frank felt there was considerable friction between the men and the women. Gail attributed this to the Lesbian's antipathy for heterosexual men being carried over to homosexual men. Frank thought that homosexual men resent Lesbians because they could mask their homosexuality more easily. Both looked for a way to resolve the friction between the two groups.

All participants emphasized the importance for a homosexual person to accept himself and to fulfill himself in all aspects of his life, counting more than just his homosexuality. Rev. Winget urged heterosexuals not to seek to impose the sexuality that feels right for them upon others. He urged churches to welcome homosexuals.

The first program in this series was aired April 12 and featured speakers from HUB and the Student Homophile League.



MAIDEN VOYAGE  
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Adaio by Candi McGonagle

The years may pass in lonely succession,  
and you may forget the ocean from car  
windows,  
writing and Re-writing,  
cats and an Irish Wolfhound,  
and the spring day in the Blue Hills  
when you told me--for the first time--  
that you loved me,  
and root beer and Jeopardy  
and a long agonizing flight of stairs  
to heaven.

And in the years to come,  
you might forget wheeling and dealing  
across the face of time  
in a golden chariot of the sun  
and a picnic and Johnny Mathis  
and Spanish Mediterranean and pea-pickin'  
music.

So forget them all,  
if time and fading-memory deem it  
that they must be forgotten.  
But please never forget that--  
through all the years to come  
and through all the tears to come--  
I'm always yours  
and I will never cease to love you  
as much as I did last month,  
as much as I did last night,  
as much as I do today.

\*\*\*\*\*

6:30 a.m. by Donna Wyatt

a private time: the world through a  
window.  
snow falls, closing the curtain on the  
drama.  
the play is over, all exit, silently.  
one actress is crying, the other sleeping.  
the director lurks outside the locked  
door,  
laughing insanely.  
ten weeks of rehearsal, 12 weeks, 19.  
opening night? centuries off. other  
actresses  
will win the awards, walk proudly.

plastic leaf-less branches clawed  
the window,  
philco fans blow ivory snow  
against the glass that sheltered mary  
who drained her tears into a paper  
cup  
measuring her sorrow against ann's  
sleep.  
ann awoke and brushed aside mary's  
tears  
and paper cup. a tender touch  
that demanded action--lights, camera.  
mary unlocked the door; ann smiled.

no accident love; no sterile self-  
seeking.  
its bedfellow fear is weaker fear.  
horror and honor wrestle within:  
the world in sunlight is the ultimate  
vision.

\*\*\*\*\*

Untitled by The Saint

A tender smile, in time of need.  
A special look, for only me.  
Your softest touch when I feel blue.  
Your warmest hug, and sweet kiss, too.  
Your faithful love, your gentle way,  
And all the things you do each day.  
For all of this, and so much more,  
Devoted to you, I do adore,  
Those little things you do for me.  
So thank you, Babe, for loving me.



HETEROSEXUALITY CAN BE CURED!

A Satire by Candi McGonagle  
Reprinted from "Psychology Yesterday"

The purpose of this article is to bring to the reader's attention the new breakthroughs in psychiatric counseling and help for the heterosexual segment of society.

Frank S. Catrio, M.D., in his book "Female Heterosexuality" calls heterosexuality a symptom of a deep-seated neurosis, and traces some causation to parental and other environmental influences, psychic traumas, frustrations, heterosexual seductions in childhood and use of alcohol; that heterosexuals are doomed to unhappiness because of the impermanence of sexual relationships<sup>1</sup> and their numerous neurotic complaints. The vast majority are "emotionally unstable and neurotic." We know, however, that with the help of a competent, well-adjusted homosexual psychoanalyst, and with a sincere desire to be cured of undesirable heterosexual traits, a person can be cured.

Let us take the above causes of heterosexuality one by one. And, as we do, let us keep in mind what Dr. Harry Benjamin once said: "Nobody knows as yet what is normal--we only know what is customary." We are out to destroy whatever and whoever is not customary!

Parental and other environmental influences:

This case history involves a young woman, age twenty-nine, who has been married (heterosexually) twice. She was married the first time when she was 17.

"I had graduated from high school and I didn't know what to do. I had never worked, I had no training in school for any trade. My parents thought college was a waste of money for a girl. I had been dating the same boy all through

high school, and my folks kept asking, "Why don't you and Bruce get married?" Bruce was willing and the thought of a big church wedding with lots of presents was exciting. My parents kept urging me to marry Bruce and I didn't know what else to do, so I married him."

This marriage failed when the husband began to be unfaithful to his wife with a variety of amateur prostitutes in the neighborhood bars. During and after divorce proceedings, the patient lived with her parents who urged her not to be disillusioned. She got a job in a factory and four years later she remarried.

"I got so sick of listening to them (my parents) harping on what the neighbors were saying, how I was going to be a spinster after all, how they wanted grand-children. People would say, 'When are you going to get married again? You're not getting any younger.' So I married a co-worker at the plant--a widower."

The patient is enveloped in guilt feelings because this second heterosexual marriage is also failing. She complains of headaches, intense fears of cancer, sleeplessness and tension. These are psycho-neurotic manifestations of guilt regarding her attempts at making these socially unacceptable relationships successful. ?

Psychic traumas:

Psychic traumas consist of any event which is likely to be traumatic to the psychic development. For instance, one nine-year-old girl was discovered by her mother while indulging in sex play with her girlfriend. She was whipped severely and forbidden to see her friend again. Of course, this warped her normal homosexual development and forced her to turn to men to escape her neurotic mother's wrath.

Parents who flaunt their heterosexuality in front of their children run the risk of inducing psychic trauma in them.

Frustrations:

Most heterosexuals have been frustrated in their development. Many

<sup>1</sup>Note rising rate of divorce, high rate of pre- and extra-marital sex, high rate of illegitimate children and abortions.

## MAIDEN VOYAGE

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female children have an outward hatred for male children (a defense reaction against an unconscious attraction to them). They manifest a strong urge to be loved which, during childhood, increases their susceptibility to the advances of the male. If they have a strong parental fixation in which the affection is unreturned, they may feel it is through some fault of their own that this love is not returned. This causes a guilt punitive theory, which means they become masochistic, needing to punish themselves. So they become involved in unsavory heterosexual experiences. This, in turn, can result in heterosexual paranoia, or the fear that everyone hates her for becoming engaged in a heterosexual relationship. She may blame the man for her paranoia (psychic transference at the unconscious fantasy level--an attempt to find some justification for being neurotic). All of this boils down to one thing: Heterosexuals are sick.

### Heterosexual seductions in childhood:

Based on the clinical pictures of several patients as well as the anamnesis, these victims of heterosexual seduction suffer from an anxiety hysteria manifested by periodic states of panic with hysterical or conversion phenomena. A female child seduced by a male naturally feels incestuous guilt feelings, associating the seducer with her own father.

On the other hand, a young woman may be so immature that she finds the male attention attractive. She may feel she was "born" heterosexual, that there is no chance of a cure since it is a congenital state. She may rationalize by saying a penis is better than a finger because it is bigger. This is, of course, rationalization and to be corrected. It is merely a symbol of rebellion against her mother.

Many emotionally unstable men will seduce young girls and thereby ruin their normal path of homosexual development.

### Use of alcohol:

Many homosexual women with repressed heterosexual inclinations find an outlet for these cravings through the medium

of companionable drinking. They can always blame any overt heterosexual gesture they might make to their drinking.

This is easily proved by a visit to any so-called "straight bar." The women there, nearing the stage of drunkenness (or already having reached that point) are easy marks for any man who looks halfway decent and who can talk a good line.<sup>2</sup>

Any girl who has nursed her mother through consecutive hangovers is apt to turn to a teetotaling man as a compensation reaction. This is, however, merely an over-reaction.

### Summary:

In conclusion, we can state that the following are the main causes of heterosexuality:

An over-protective mother, an uncaring mother, a dominating mother, a passive mother, an absent mother, a working mother, a housewife-type mother, a rejecting father, an overpowering father, a "prude" father, an alcoholic father, a tyrannical father, a submissive father, precocious sexuality in the child, lack of sexual knowledge and experience in the child, too much parental love, not enough parental love, guilt feelings in the child, callousness in the child, too much in the way of material things, deprivation, slum environments, plush environments, sibling rivalry, and being an only child.

In other words, two different people in the same conditions will react differently. One will not bend in the face of adverse conditions and will mature to become a well-adjusted homosexual; the other will fail and become a neurotic hetero-

---

<sup>2</sup>Also in this category, we can place the use of money. There would be no female prostitutes if there were no men with money to buy their abnormal favors. In their private lives, however, most prostitutes remain normally homosexual.

sexual.

In the face of overpopulation, the rising tide of divorce and abortions, juvenile delinquency, and the glorious liberation of women, it has been definitely shown that homosexuality is the only normal and sane course of development; that heterosexuality is a deviated, wasteful, selfish way of life. It has been proven that since the majority of the population is now homosexual that it is the only normal state, the only one we can accept. All other courses of sexual development are psychopathic and unstable. The majority rules and the minority must either be cured or wiped out.

New laws are needed to help curb the heterosexual influence on our young people until homosexuality is so widespread that there are no more young people left. Only in this way can the problems of overpopulation, juvenile delinquency and teenage drug abuse be abolished.

If you know a heterosexual person, urge them to see a psychiatrist immediately. Heterosexuality is merely arrested development. It can be cured!

\* \* \* \* \*

ISR HEAD SPEAKS TO HOMOPHILE GROUPS

Institute for Sex Research President, Tom Maurer, spoke to members of Boston's homophile community at St. John the Evangelist Church recently.

Mr. Maurer, the head of SIR, is currently working on a study of homosexuals in the San Francisco area. An ex-minister who attended Boston University, he brought up several interesting points concerning homosexuals especially as they are regarded as "sick" by the straight world.

"What can be unnatural in nature?" he asked. Mr. Maurer protested the use of the word "deviant" as dehumanizing and insulting. He prefers the word "variant."

A member of Boston D.O.B. who attended the discussion said, "Mr. Maurer is a very beautiful person in his thinking and in his regard for all persons. The homophile population is lucky to have him in its midst."

CHAPTER CHATTER

CLEVELAND - The Cleveland Chapter of D.O.B. held its "first public showing of talent" in their organization when they presented "The Belated '69 Variety Show and Art Show." Comedy acts, music, a rock band and art work highlighted the event. The group is now moving ahead with plans to hold an art show in June.

RENO - Reno's chapter library is beginning to take shape with "a small selection of the better novels of Radclyffe Hall, Valerie Taylor, Ann Bannon and others." Also available are non-fiction studies of homosexuals by Doctors Frank Caprio, Louis London and Harry Benjamin. They are now looking out for pertinent magazine and newspaper articles. Apparently the public library in Reno has many selections to offer its readers on this subject. Three members of D.O.B. met with some thirty members of Crisis Call to discuss lesbianism, D.O.B. and methods through which interested members of D.O.B. could assist in counseling troubled gay people in the community. The two groups are now working on approaches.

SAN FRANCISCO - The San Francisco chapter is thinking about holding a Flea Market in July or August. Last summer D.O.B. netted more than \$100 from the sale of donated items like books, records, clothing, etc. Eleven members of the chapter counted ballots at the Annual Lulu Awards Presentation (the gay world's answer to the Academy Awards) and earned \$100.

LOS ANGELES - The president of L.A. D.O.B. reports she was fired from her job when a girl from work, whom she invited to a meeting, became hysterical and said that the president had accused her of being a homosexual. The reason for dismissal was given as "an act of indiscretion." However, when the incident was brought up at a union grievance meeting, the management agreed that the president had been unfairly treated and she was fully reinstated.

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MAIDEN VOYAGE  
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EDITORIAL  
By Pam Boyd

Boston D.O.B. has made its first important breakthrough in presenting the aims of the organization to the public at large.

A four column half page article in the May 10 edition of the Boston Globe covered some of the highlights of the April 3 symposium held at the Arlington Street Church. At that time, a number of clergymen, psychiatrists, and educators from the straight community had been personally invited to attend the meeting aimed at "creating a long overdue dialogue between heterosexual and homosexual members of the Boston community and to build a greater understanding of the homosexual woman in society.

The article was a straight-forward news story of the events as they unfolded that night. The reporter did what any good reporter should do--write the facts and not succumb to the temptation to editorialize.

This is a step in the right direction and a sign that some attitudes are indeed beginning to change.

But there is another side to consider.

What happened to 50 to 100 professionals who were invited to attend? As the Globe article pointed out, the audience was made up of about 50 people--two of them were clergymen--but it was, as someone said, a "mostly gay" audience.

These are the people who can do so much to help us work to educate the public intelligently. How can we reach them?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor--

Addressed to Diana Travis:

First of all, I think it was great to see a response to my letter in M.V. I'm a firm believer that both sides of an issue should be aired. However, I do not think you really read my letter.

I did not contradict myself. My words were: "we are a group of Lesbians, looking and working toward the day free from oppression." From that one state-

ment, it is obvious that I know we are an oppressed group of people. You need not tell me what I already stated.

I do not think holding hands in public is filth. If I do not choose to hold hands with a woman in public at this time, it is because this is the way I feel. I do not think I should be accused of thinking it is filth just because we do not agree. Are you always so quick to pass judgment on those who are not in agreement with you? I am free inside. And that is more important to me than just being free in public.

Yes, Diana, I am scared. I am not too proud to admit it. If a person is not afraid at times, then one must be very foolish.

We live in a world where we can not always do as we please. Unfortunately, it takes blood, sweat and tears to win the right to be free.

It is only my opinion that we, as Lesbians, cannot go out in public, hold hands, and expect to win acceptance (tolerance) at once. You cannot force anyone to accept you, your ideas, or your feelings. You must make them understand before you can do anything else.

You have not convinced me that the parents at the Florian were not thinking the worst of Shayna Reuben and her girl that night. You have not convinced me that anyone (straights) present that evening did not find the incident too much to take at this time.

You are right. We should not be laughed at, insulted, or ignored. But neither should we bring it upon ourselves. They just don't understand yet. Someday, because of you, me and D.O.B., they will, I'm sure. I think D.O.B.'s Education Committee will go a long way in helping straights understand.

So until they can understand and see that our love is a pure love,

I am yours for a now and free tomorrow. . .

The Saint

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MAIDEN VOYAGE  
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OVER THE FENCE WITH DIANE

By Diane

What do you do when the urge to write is so overwhelming that it takes precedence over everything else? Moreover, what do you do when it is three o'clock in the morning, the typewriter ribbon is broken, your typing paper is missing, and every blasted ballpoint in the house is dry? You temporize with a Librium and go back to bed. By morning, when all the cracks in the ceiling have been counted and ten of your fingers are in search of a throat to strangle, you call a friend. Does she come over with typing paper or a new ribbon or even help you with your spelling? Absolutely not. That's because she's been dead for twenty years. Don't get me wrong--she still breathes, walks, eats, and makes a guttural sound when she wants the salt passed; it's just that her parents forgot to bury her. Calling her when I am either depressed or manic is absolutely fruitless. I would get a quicker response if I called the tomb of Amenhotep IV in ancient Egypt during a telephone strike. Why do I bother with her? Because her catatonic stubbornness intrigues me and I don't give up easily; but, I tell you, it is no fun having a withdrawn corpse for a friend.

It was Saturday and I was in a "kick me" mood; so I invited Rip Van Winkle up for the evening. She brought along a gay male friend. These two have about as much in common as Nasser and Ben-Gurion; but he is a charming, witty guy with a sado-masochistic relationship with the world and a measure more excitement about him. He has a way of harassing and amusing you at the same time. He can inflict pain one minute and soothe it away the next. A real Dorian Gray.

Anyway, I forgot there was a ball game on; and when he arrived he threw himself on my couch, drank my Chivas Regal, smoked his smelly cigars, screamed at my boob-tube all night and tuned the two of us out while he flicked back and forth from one ball game to another.

Now, I don't expect people to come to my house and expound on Albert Camus or

Søren Kierkegaard or string up a wire and do a balancing act across my living room; but I was looking forward to a little light conversation and a few laughs.

My attempts at social intercourse thwarted, I turned to my friend, the "scintillating conversationalist," who as I have said, is about as exciting as a burned-out fuse box, as deep as a puddle and as interesting as a wet newspaper. She sat there the whole night twisting her hair, chain smoking, and making an inane remark about every three hours to prove that the dim bulb in her head was still working and that she knew something about the game.

"But I told you there was a ball game on tonight," she said meekly through a face that would stop a rhino in full flight and which reminded me of a Yahoo from Gulliver's Travels.

Having nothing else to do except chew my nails and count the slats in the venetian blinds, I began to examine this girl. One thing I will say about her--she knows what's right in style. She had on a midi skirt which she has been wearing since 1950 anyway; and the 1940 wedgies she inherited from her mother are real haute couture. They're right in style again, too. Hers were run-down at the heels a little, but they looked as if they'd be good for another ten years. Her hair was something else, too. It looked like the swallows of Capistrano had used it for at least three seasons, and it hadn't been set by a hairdresser since the week of Truman's inauguration.

Fed up, I made coffee at 11:45, came back in to find the game over and His Nibs fast asleep. I woke the bum up, thanked him for a stimulating evening and his effervescent company, said good night to my other friend--the "genius"--and threw them out.

I never felt more like murdering anyone so much in my life. I fancied myself cutting him up into little pieces and boldly mailing his 'loody remains to my dear little friend. I doubt if this would arouse much

emotion in her because she hasn't shown a spark of life since the sixth grade when she inadvertently stuck her finger in the pencil sharpener. Also, although they have not used the electric chair in Massachusetts since 1947, I do not relish sitting in "Death Row" or in a dingy cell for the next ninety-nine years.

So what do I do when life becomes disappointing and these carnal desires are thwarted? I eat a pound of liverwurst, drown myself in turpentine and poppyseed oil, wrap myself up in my security blanket with my Raggedy Ann, or I get out my driver or my three wood and whack the devil out of that little white ball.

But lately I find liverwurst tasteless, turpentine is bothering my sinus, my security blanket is full of holes and my Raggedy Ann is missing. And to boot, it's raining and the driving ranges are closed.

I think I'll just go suck my thumb for a while.

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SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

By Laura Robin

Four members of Boston's Homophile groups were invited to speak to a small group of junior high school students at Sudbury's Unitarian Church recently.

Homosexuality was discussed as a part of the students' unit of study on human sexuality.

The major topics of discussion concerned definitions of the terms homosexuality and homophile, selective service problems, the child-molesting myth, the separate organizations and their activities, gay bars, The Boys in the Band, and the disease concept of homosexuality. After the discussion--over coffee--it was brought out that the leaders of this group apparently had quite a difficult time reaching our organizations.

In conjunction with this unit on human sexuality, Boston D.O.B. members also spoke at Unitarian churches in Framingham and West Newton. The members returned to speak with adults the following Sunday.

Four Boston D.O.B. members and one HUB member discussed homosexuality with two moderators on closed circuit radio WCSB-AM at Grahm Junior College, Boston recently.

Several misconceptions were cleared up during the discussion with the moderators and from the half dozen phone call questions. For example, one person thought that homosexuality might be a "fall-back" position for people who had failed at heterosexual relationships. One of the moderators, impressed by comments on emotional involvement, seemed to be speaking for himself when he said: "The popular conception of homosexuality is (that it is) on a purely physical level; I don't think too many people realize that there is anything emotional involved."

Interestingly, some friends of the moderators expected that the moderators would sit in a separate room from the homosexuals during the interview! Those people probably listened to the show, and just the idea that they were listening to real homosexuals who were at that moment in the Grahm radio studio must have opened their eyes to our ordinariness.



D.O.B.--EDUCATION OR PROTEST?  
By Candi McGonagle

After a thorough perusal of the Sunday editions of both the Boston Globe and Traveler, I find myself reviewing mentally the problems I have been confronted with in various articles. They're the same old problems written up with new angles--poverty and welfare, black power, drugs, the war in Vietnam. Not a word on the problems faced by homosexuals. Some of us are poor and on welfare, some of us are black, some of us smoke grass or pop pills, some of us are members of the womens' branches of the Armed Forces. We are beset with problems also experienced by heterosexuals, so these articles can also pertain to some of us. But we have other, more individual problems, too. What of these?

What about the problems of having our insurance cancelled because a nosey neighbor puts the hex on us? What about the lesbians who get hooked on drugs to escape the harsher realities of gay life? What about the dishonorable discharges on the grounds of lesbianism? And what about the black lesbian--who is crushed under the heel of three-fold discrimination--because she is gay, because she is a woman, because she is black?

Okay, I won't bore you with all the problems involved in having a varied sexual orientation. If you've been a lesbian for any length of time, you know the problems from first-hand experience. Enough said. But what can be done???

The Black Power Revolution is successful in that it has put the problem of discrimination smack-dab in the public eye. It has done little, however, to accomplish much more than token reforms. The more militant black groups are hated and feared by whites for their sometimes violent approach.

Albert Camus said: "Every revolutionary ends by becoming either an oppressor or a heretic."

Many people feel that if a black revolutionary group succeeds in overcoming our established form of government, the whites will become the oppressed group. This is purely theoretical,

but it is a possibility.

Revolution is one answer to the problem of gaining rights for homosexuals; but it is not D.O.B.'s way.

Telling your family and trying to educate friends and relatives is not always the answer, either. The result might be alienating the very people you are trying to educate. Telling some people that you're gay might either disgust them or make them enemies.

Public education in a dignified manner seems to be the best answer. "Write to your congressman" has become a cliché; but it isn't a bad idea. If everyone in D.O.B. sat down and wrote letters, there might be more attention paid and more action taken in our favor. Write to newspapers and magazines and demand (nicely) coverage of problems faced by homosexuals--who are as much an oppressed minority as racial groups. Write to people (like "Dear Abby," Dr. Charles Socarides, television and radio shows, writers and columnists, etc.) who give a bad review or incorrect view of homosexuality. Protest in letters. And--by all means--do write to your congressman. If you're old enough to vote, you're old enough to demand civil rights for homosexuals.

Another common alternative is informal alignment with other homophile groups. Those in favor of this must realize that not everyone favors this approach. Common courtesy will include respect of other people's feelings on this matter. Inviting men to D.O.B. meetings may be a cooperative gesture, but it will alienate many women who just do not want men around all the time--especially at a meeting of a group organized specifically for lesbians.

The answer, it seems to me, is dignified education of the public. Riots and picketing get results--but these techniques are old-hat and unimaginative; the results are not always those we want. Educating the public (for those of us who can do it) is living a circumspect, ordinary way of life without denying your homosexuality. It's a way of saying: "See--we're just like you in every way except

*of whom?*

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our sexual orientation." Riots and militant approaches only cause the straight world to think: "Look at them! If we give them equal rights, they'll take over and where will we be then? They're crazy!"

Public education is open approval of all books dealing with homosexuality rationally and truthfully--and openly condemning the trash written specifically for the male heterosexual consumer--books which deliberately distort homosexuality. Someone once said: "If a book were written about gay life the way it really is, it would be the dullest book ever written." Maybe someone ought to write it--the straight world might wonder then what all the laws against us are for.

Public education is going to a straight bar and being open about your homosexuality. Not being offensive about it, but not being ashamed of it, either.

Public education is accepting all the speaking engagements you can handle--then accepting one more. "We try harder."

Public education is ceasing to live a lie, refusing to be anything but what you are, refusing to be thought of as less than a whole person.

Public education is quiet, dignified revolution. Slower and less exciting than burning stores and smashing windows. Not as obvious as picketing a restaurant which discourages gay clientele. Not as flamboyant as creating a gay ghetto.

But, in the long run, it is much more effective.

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Love Song by L. Dowty

I love you more than an eye has winks,  
I love you more than the sphinx has  
thinks,  
More than the Swiss have holes in their  
cheese.  
More than Australia's surrounded by seas.  
I love you more than plastic is pliant.  
I love you more than the jolly green  
giant.

I love you more than the Nile has  
miles,  
More than the Mona Lisa smiles,  
More than the Alps have snow-covered  
peaks,  
More than a baby has pink in its cheeks,  
I love you more than quail or venison,  
I love you more than His red Lord  
Tennyson.

I love you more than the rain is wet,  
More than the sum of the national debt,  
More than diapers are folded and pinned,  
And not a bit less than the devil has  
sinned.  
I love you more than apples are swarthy,  
I love you more than Charlie McCarthy.

I love you more than Alaska is cold,  
More than King Midas treasured his gold,  
More than a flush has beaten a straight,  
Considerably more than an elephant's  
weight.  
I love you more than Scarlett loved  
Tara,  
I love you much more than Shrimp  
Nixonera.

I love you more than turtles need shells,  
More than a Mona needs double E's,  
More than the British sing "God Save  
the Queen,"  
More than Cole Porter began the bequine,  
I love you more than there's corn in  
a silo.  
I love you more than Venus de Milo.

I love you more than a radar has blips,  
I love you more than Flipper flips,  
More than Jobuck is coupled with  
Seers,  
More than they duel in "The Three  
Musketeers."  
I love you more than the stretch of  
cistic.  
I love you so much--it's really  
fantastic!

OPEN FORUM QUESTION NUMBER FIVE

Q: D.O.B. is a woman's organization for homosexuals. Do the members consider themselves as women first or as primarily homosexuals? Would D.O.B. benefit more by aligning itself with the women's liberation movement or by joining with some of the more male-oriented groups?

A: I am one of the many members of the Boston Chapter who does not want to see arguments in our group because people take sides over this issue, and so I'd like to answer without giving my name. I don't think we should be joining with any other group very often, and I've had too much of it lately.

I think we all agree D.O.B. itself must be built up. Many members, myself included, have been staying away from recent Friday night meetings because we've had quite enough open meetings. We're beginning to feel Boston D.O.B. doesn't have much identity itself, it is so busy welcoming gay men and female liberation people and distinguished clergy and, it seems sometimes, everyone in the whole world. When I joined D.O.B. I thought it was going to be a place where Lesbians could meet and get acquainted and have fun. Now, it seems, we can't do anything by ourselves without inviting everybody else who might possibly be interested.

I think we should have some open meetings, and I'm not against men, but a little goes a long way. Most of our stuff should be for us, because we're the ones who joined, not all these guests. If things keep on this way I'm afraid there'll be hardly any members at our meetings--only guests. A lot of people feel this way but we hesitate to speak up because we don't want to start arguments.

--Name withheld upon request

A: The very form of this question is seriously in error. D.O.B. is not now and never has been a homosexual organization... it is not, in most respects, an organization for "female homosexuals" which is, at best, a misused

what is this?

So? medical term.  
D.O.B. is an organization for Lesbians, though it has always been open to all women, providing only that they were 21 years of age.

In our early years, in the late 1950's, D.O.B. attempted to work closely with various primarily male homophile and similar organizations. This simply did not work, for many sound reasons. First and foremost, males, homosexual or not, tend to think of women as "added members," "conveniences" to help THEM, assist them, in reaching THEIR goals. This is not a matter of male prejudice, this is a normal occurrence caused by the way in which young people are trained in our society. There have always been those women who felt they could best serve the homophile or homosexual movement by working with the men...and these have and still do join the male groups in small numbers. Fine, let them. D.O.B. is working for Lesbians, and their rights, primarily. Because we are, all of us, women, whether all of us like it or not, we do happen to have more in common with women in general than we do with men in general...and we always will have, however unpalatable that might be to the male chauvinistic Lesbians.

This does not mean we should ally ourselves strongly with any one or all women's rights or women's liberation groups...in fact, it helps to point out the fact that while we have a few things in common with the male homosexuals and a few things (a few more at that) with the women's liberationists, we are unique. We have our own set of problems. We will benefit, surely, from the inevitable law changes that will help male homosexuals a great deal and us very slightly. These things will help all of us in areas of employment. But these battles indeed are being fought and won by all of the some 70 male groups...let them, they have a lot more to gain than we do.

On the other hand, if all the laws were changed tomorrow, that would still leave Lesbians a long ways behind the male homosexuals...and it is in

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these areas (where we are counted, after all, as "mere women") that we have things to fight with the women's liberation groups for.

What this boils down to is that we have basic problems that concern us as Lesbians. Some of these have to do with male homosexuals and their problems, some of these have to do with women's rights, some of them have nothing to do with either group.

D.O.B. would do best to align itself with D.O.B., and with working to bring a few hundred thousand of our own millions into the battle, so that we might, with some sense of pride and accomplishment, move into the next century with some of our battles won. No one else is going to carry our burdens, we have too few people and too little money to waste either any of our power or our funding or our time on anyone or anything else. Where we can benefit working with the men, fine... when we can benefit working with women's rights, fine; but we must always consider ourselves first. As individuals, we will always have many different interests, goals and intentions.

As Lesbians, we are the most down-trodden people on earth, in history. That is by far sufficient bag to carry, sufficient work for thousands.

Many years ago it was formally agreed by the vast majority of members that we could not as a group ally ourselves with any other group. NOT because we do not individually and collectively approve of many other groups, many other goals, but because when women come to us, to D.O.B., they come to join a Lesbian organization working for Lesbians. As individuals, do as you please, but as members of D.O.B. give all you can for all the Lesbians in this world who need you, your time, your energy and love and caring. If we all do enough of this, there won't be room for other goals for a time...but there will be, someday, a new way of life in freedom for all our people.

Is that not enough?

--Gene Damon, Editor  
THE LADDER

A: I favor D.O.B. standing on its own two feet, completely independent and thus better able to cooperate with other organizations where we have goals in common.

The word "radical" has many meanings today. I consider myself a radical in thought. That is, I see the oppression of over half the human race (what some call sexism) as the root trouble in our society. I'm radical, too, in that I believe our society should accommodate many life styles that hurt no one else. I'm for rights for heterosexuals or Blacks or Indians or Jews or whatever.

I use the dictionary meaning of the word radical. To most people it seems to mean wild behavior and a form of left-wing bigotry. Here D.O.B. is conservative. We favor the quiet, dignified approach. It is perhaps slower and less exciting. But it is the only way to make real progress.

I have foreseen the possibility of a schism in D.O.B. since before I took office. Now that elections are coming up again at the General Assembly in NY, I want our members to know where I stand. (My letters in Newsweek and the Saturday Review state my views). The schism, as I see it, is between those who think of themselves as female homosexuals, who want to help the male homosexual, and who lack the pride and confidence in themselves to fight for Lesbians, and those who realize they are women before they are Lesbians and that our best allies are women. But above and beyond this, D.O.B. is an independent organization, not to be confused with any other.

My feeling is that those who must have the men around are in the wrong organization--they should join HUB or some such. Those who want to plant bombs should join the Weatherwomen. Those who want to scream in the streets should join Gay Lib or some such. D.O.B. is not and cannot be every Lesbian's cup of tea...Should D.O.B. turn into a wild and radical

OH  
wow

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group or vote to lose its identity in a sea of male homosexuals, I for one will leave it.

--Rita Laporte  
National President, D.O.B.

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PERSONALS COLUMN

Do you need a roommate for the summer? Well, so does Shayna Reuben. If you can share your rent with Shayna, contact Katy and Diana 277-8952

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COME JOIN THE HOMOSEXUAL SQUARE  
The country Dance Society is holding an audience participation dance on Boston Common June 6 at 2 p.m., and we want to dance, too--as gay couples! For information, call Laura Robin at 625-1263. We hope that couples from all the homophile groups will come and join in.

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LAST MINUTE REMINDER!!!!

JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER PARTY

Saturday, June 6, 8:00-midnight at Candi and Beth's mini-apartment. Price of admission: a snack. Beer provided--we're asking a donation of 50¢ per bottle. If you don't like beer, bring your own choice. Women only (not counting the resident male Spaniel). For directions on how to get to this esoteric, phenomenal blast, call 335-0220 and ask for Poe.

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MASSACHUSETTS

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D.O.B.'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Unless otherwise specified, all events of Boston D.O.B. are open to women only.)

Fri., May 29--9:00 p.m.--Guest Speakers from Bread and Roses will lead a discussion on the abuse of women in advertising. Clarke Room. Arlington St. Church, 355 Boylston St., Boston.

Fri., June 5--9:00 p.m.--Members Meeting. MEMBERS ONLY!!! Clarke Room.

Sat., June 6--2:00 p.m.--Boston Common--The Country Dance Society audience participation dance.

Sat., June 6--8:00 p.m. till midnight. Party at Candi and Beth's. Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sat., June 20--Field Day and barbecue at Betty's. Bring your own food (and bottle), sleeping gear, etc. For further information, call Gail and Jo at 523-2177.

Tues., June 23--D.O.B. Night at the Pops. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For further information call Ree at 335-0220.

Sat., June 27--Overnight camping trip. For further information, call Gail and Jo--523-2177.

July 10-11-12--D.O.B. Convention in New York City. Full information available to members in April/May issue of THE LADDER.

Sat., Aug. 8--Beach Party. Details later.

EVENTS TO COME: deep-sea fishing trip, overnight backpack mountain trip, horseback riding trip, card party, and a canoe trip with lessons for beginners.

FURTHER DETAILS IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE MAIDEN VOYAGE!!!

NOTICE--D.O.B. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Boston D.O.B. is \$15.00 per year. This amount may be paid on the installment plan as follows:

1. \$5.00 down required
2. The balance must be fully paid within three months or monies already paid will be considered a donation to D.O.B. and the process must be started again.
3. The Maiden Voyage will be sent upon receipt of the first \$5.00.
4. The Ladder will not be sent until the full membership is paid in full.
5. Effective with the first \$5.00, admission to D.O.B. meetings (those which have an admission fee) will be 50¢ instead of \$1.00.

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THE LESBIAN IN LITERATURE  
A Bibliography by Gene Damon  
and Leo Stuart  
An alphabetical listing by author of all known books in the English language, in the general field of literature, concerned with lesbianism or having lesbian characters.  
Price: \$2.00 plus 25¢ handling  
write: Daughters of Bilitis  
1005 Market Street  
San Francisco  
California 94103

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