

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

"If we only have love
we can reach those in pain,
we can heal all our wounds,
we can use our own names."

--Jacques Brel

september, 1970
vol. 1, no. 9

TO BE OR NOT TO BE
by Ramey Thayer

As all of us can see from the last page of the news letter, we're having a party! It's being well-planned, and will be a good thing to go to. How much more could anyone want than an entire day of woods-wandering, bingo, food, drinks and dancing--on into the night?

From the Treasury's point of view, and trying to view the future of the Boston D.O.B. chapter, we hope everyone does want to go. We, sisters, are in serious financial trouble because of lack of turnout for past D.O.B. functions. If we don't have a lot of support for the October party, our chapter will find itself bankrupt and in potential danger of disbanding.

Think about how important D.O.B. is to you as an individual and to the community. D.O.B. should be a valid group, a meaningful part of our lives. D.O.B. needs financial support, and needs it now. Come to the October party and help keep us active--and have fun doing it.

NOTES FROM A BAR
by Gail King

Jude's Forum is the only gay bar, just for women, in the Boston area. At least that is what most of the gay girls who go to the bar think until they are there. As the night goes on, you become aware of an audience that surrounds you. I counted at least seven straight couples "en masse" augmented by the five "little boys" sitting behind us, all guffawing in their beer suds.

I do not object to mixing with straight people in a bar. I do object to being gawked at by straight people, working out their own particular fantasies of homosexuality. I wish they would save their beer money and take it to a shrink.

Jude's Forum is advertised in Boston After Dark and The Phoenix as a dating or singles bar and that accounts for the growing influx of straights. One at this point could question the sincerity of the bar owners. They advertise to the straight community as a singles bar and to gay women as a bar just for us. Who do they want? Who are they using? I am sure as the news spreads in Kenmore Square that the number of gawking little boys will increase. (Con't page 2)

over which the person has no control. Although these may contribute to persons' attitudes towards themselves, I do not consider them the primary factors in a person's life. They are only parts of a person's individual self, and this individuality, in its totalness, made up primarily of a person's feelings on many subjects, is what is important.
--O'Leary

Dear Editor:

It is with heart-felt frustration and black anger that I write this letter.

There is, it seems, some question as to the beginning of our church. The name is in question and I must say it was stated: for lack of a BETTER name it would be called church of D.O.B. This has offended some of the membership. It seems that permission is needed to establish a place of spiritual evaluation if D.O.B. is used. Am I in error to believe at this point that we as women first and Lesbians consider ourselves so nothingly that a church under D.O.B. is unthinkable??? Have we in this age of progress become so barbaric it can be said D.O.B. may not even want a church? That D.O.B. does not want everything using D.O.B. banner (and I quote!).

I say if Rev. Perry can establish a church in California why can't we here in Boston? Are we so over or underdeveloped that we feel no need for spiritual guidance? The church is non-denominational. It is for women. And until we can secure a building, services are to be held in our home. Since when did I as a minister or a person ever do anything to down-grade D.O.B.??? I feel that because of who we are we should be about dignity and love spiritually. The whole process of education of the Lesbian should at least start from a spiritual evaluation of self. So in confusion I am asking those of the membership and you who read M.V. to seriously consider the value of a church for us that can be a focal

point of establishing in society a place for us!!!

The purpose of the church: To establish a place for spiritual evaluation of self. Spiritual meditation and consultation. For worship and prayer. To educate "those" Lesbians to the fullness of and teaching of the Bible from a woman's point of view.

There are things available for the organization through the use of the church that would not and cannot be obtained because of the nature of the organization. The matter of tax exemption, fund raising, sponsors for the church where donations could be used for the up lifting and betterment of D.O.B. I have been told that I should have a church for gay people not just for women so said C.R.H. of Old West Church. I cannot tell you the untold misery that I have suffered because I chose the ministry as a profession and career, of being gay and finally of being Black.

Since the advent of the anti-war rally at Boston Common I was kicked out of two (2) churches because of my political activity and my radical views on Lesbianism and admittance of being so. Now here I am among my own kind offering my services and professional career for which I was trained and ordained only to be told it may not be wanted or accepted by D.O.B. It hurts, it really hurts!!!

--Rev. Lagora E. Kennedy Miller

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THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES

by Candi McGonagle

There seems to be a bit of discussion within D.O.B. about the question of "butch /femme" role playing. Some members, commenting on the cartoon on the front page of the August Maiden Voyage, have asked if this is the image we want to present to the outside world.

I have always thought the main strength of a group was its ability to be honest with itself, part of which is being able to laugh at itself, to satirize itself. This was the purpose of the cartoon. Yet it has stirred dissent within D.O.B.

Let's evaluate the butch/femme aspect of Lesbian life. Flora Rheta Schreiber,

in her article "Women Who 'Marry' Women," has said, "The answer to the usual question, 'who plays the man, who plays the woman?' is generally neither. Ordinarily, the two women alternate butch (the aggressive male) and femme (the compliant female) roles."

The stereotype butch, dyke, truck driver, diesel dyke, if they were ever accurate descriptions at all, are now painfully archaic. Many heterosexual women have short hair, wear tailored clothes, appear everywhere in pants. Neckties are part of today's "Mod" fashion scene. Yet, at one time, these things marked a woman "butch" without question. The term "butch" as a physical connotation is no longer accurate, due to the liberation of women in terms of fashion and comfort.

Therefore, we must examine butch/femme roles in terms of emotional and psychological structure, rather than as a physical category.

In every working relationship, one partner will be more aggressive than the other, perhaps 90% aggressive to the other's 10% passivity, perhaps 51% to the other's 49%. If both partners were equally passive, the relationship would never even have a beginning; each person would be waiting for the other to make the first crucial move. If both were equally aggressive, there would be a power struggle, perhaps subtle, perhaps overt. And a girl who is "butch" in one relationship might very well be "femme" in another relationship, depending on her partner in each relationship. The roles are interchangeable.

As long as one person in a couple makes most of the decisions, is more out-going, is the spokesman for the couple, assumes more of the responsibility, has a stronger personality, this person will be the "butch." The less aggressive, more passive partner will be "femme." This is true even if the aggressive "butch" wears dresses and lace and ruffles.

We should have no fear, then, of our physical "image" to the public.

In that same August issue, Jeb Boswell is quoted as saying, "You shouldn't have to prove that you're a wonderful person; you should be accepted just as a person like everyone else." There will always be butch lesbians, complete with man's suit and haircut. But are we so insecure or paranoid that we worry about the impression these women will make on the public. These women are part of our image just as much as the clinging-vine little femme. D.O.B.'s image is as varied as its members, as individual as each member. Our image is not a cartoon on a newsletter, it is each member herself.

And are we so insecure or so paranoid that we cannot laugh at ourselves when we satirize ourselves with cartoons?

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OVER THE FENCE WITH DIANE

by Diane

First, let me apologize for last month's maniacal twaddle lest you get the idea that I am flaky beyond help and should be immediately committed to an observation ward at Boston City. It didn't have a modicum of sanity about it, but desperately lonely people go to equally desperate lengths to draw attention to themselves. However, writing a kooky column in which I humiliate myself and people around me is just a harmless form of exhibitionism and should not be viewed ~~as~~ seriously than a mild neurosis. It is far less precarious than flag-pole sitting in front of City Hall and far more dignified than falling down drunk in the middle of Central Square.

The Desperately Lonelies is not a secret society. It crosses over class barriers and knows no race, color or creed. Many people and some of my own acquaintances suffer from this type of loneliness and it manifests itself in various ways.

When my twelve year old nephew feels neglected, he comes to the table with his pet mice and hums in a monotone through dinner, annoying everyone. A librarian I know, who is a sweet but lonely soul, thrives on notoriety and is

not happy unless she is in the center of controversy. She incurs the wrath of the Board of Trustees by deliberately spending funds inappropriately and will engage periodically in a power struggle with the Friends of the Public Library.

My art teacher is a delightful man; but when he feels he is not getting enough attention, he will pick a fight with his neighbor who feels he is running his studio illegally because their neighborhood is not zoned for business. She gets irate, writes another nasty letter to the Board of Selectmen and the whole controversy starts all over again.

Another acquaintance, who is a sports writer, dresses outlandishly. The last time he showed up at the golf course for a match, he was wearing pink glen plaid pants, kelly green socks, white loafers, that were run down at the heels, and a red, white and blue Budweiser beer shirt.

Celebrities are the greatest offenders. Nancy Milford, author of the best-seller *Zelda*, writes of how F. Scott Fitzgerald's wife would completely disrobe before jumping into her backyard swimming pool, and Buddy Hackett tried the same thing on the golf course when he grokked his ball into the rough. Tiny Tim dwarfs them all, however. His sustained period of exhibitionism is sheer genius and its originality could never be equaled.

Irwin Corey, the zany professor/comedian who guests on day-time variety shows, is a delightful exhibitionist as is every stand-up comedian who draws a laugh pcking fun at himself and the world around him.

On a more serious note, if it weren't for Beethoven's pathological loneliness, the world would have been deprived of the pleasures of his many stormy symphonies. All of this brings to the point the fact that loneliness is a constant companion to a host of people, the resolution of which can take any of several forms.

* * *

In Ann Bannon's *I Am A Woman* (paperback 75¢) Laura chooses to resolve her abject loneliness in the more common way--that is, withdrawing and burying herself in her work.

She is a young, vulnerable Lesbian - caught up in a world not of her own

making. Laura is beset by two problems --the inability to shake the memory of her father's cruelty and the conflict between her desire to repress her Lesbianism with her overwhelming need for a close female relationship.

After a running battle with herself, her isolation becomes unbearable and she is catapulted into a homosexual panic. Her initial relationship with Beebo is purely physical and rather sadistic on Beebo's part. But after their friendship is cemented, Beebo shows great empathy for Laura and they find in each other a soul mate and confidante. Laura is sensitive, shy and bookish, and her personality is complimented by the more aggressive Beebo who is gregarious and outgoing.

Later, after a confrontation with her father, Laura exonerates him through insight and understanding. She realizes his abuse of her was the result of his thwarted desire to have her physically, his own wife, Ellie, having been dead for many years.

The sordidness of gay bars is well-depicted and it is assumed that Laura and Beebo will build a mature relationship for themselves, eschewing the degradation and sleazy atmosphere of such dreary bars.

OPEN HOUSE-OPEN HOUSE-OPEN HOUSE-OPEN H

Female Liberation is having an open house on Saturday, September 26, 1970. It begins at 10:00 A.M. and runs all day. At 3:00 P.M. there will be films and discussion. The address is

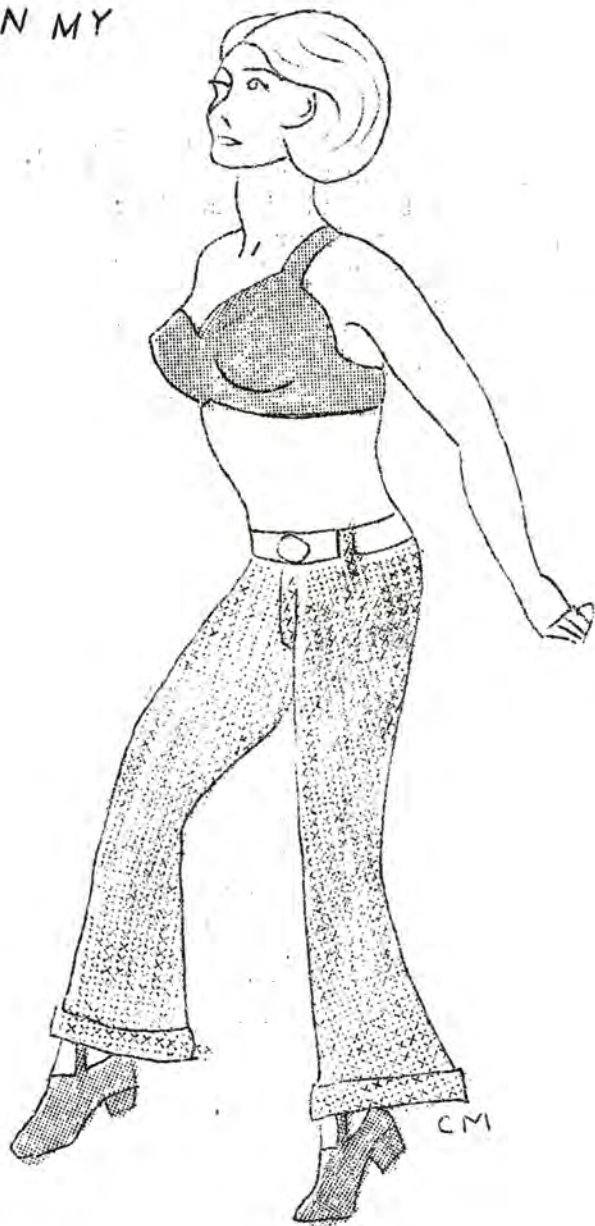
1126 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts

PARTY ! ! ! ! ! PARTY ! ! ! ! !

OCTOBER 3, 1970 - - Party at Gail and Jo's pad. Informal and fun. The blast begins at 8:00 P.M. The address is _____, Dorchester. Call for more information--436-7393. BYOB and come on over!!!

I DREAMED I
WENT CRUISING

IN MY



MAIDEN VOYAGE

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VIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT:

I would like to see our organization go forward in two main areas--that of "inreach," or establishing programs, social events, or any kind of encounter group that is needed for our members, and that of "outreach," or public education.

I want D.O.B. to be unified, so that disagreements can be worked out healthfully, and so that we will become strong and not be always on the verge of a schism. I hope to incorporate more people to be working members of D.O.B.--to contribute their time and energy into making it a viable organization for everyone.

As far as working with other organizations goes, this and all other functions should be decided upon by our members. I personally feel that we have much more to gain from women's rights groups than the male dominated homosexual groups, but there are times when a showing of solidarity within the gay community would be most beneficial to us. In the past few months our straight sisters in the women's movement have gone out of their way to ask us to join and work with them. This has not been just a tacit acceptance or a "do your own thing" attitude, but an active interest in us as gay women with our own special problems in society. I do not feel that we can afford to pass up the chance of communicating with and being accepted by all women.

I feel D.O.B. has the potential to be a strong and active organization. As a member, or as president, I pledge my energies toward helping our organization be relevant to all our members and to the world in which we live.

--Diana Travis

I feel strongly that maintaining our own identity should take precedence over participation in any other groups such as women's lib, male homophile groups, or any political organization.

I think D.O.B. should be less activist and more adaptive in the political scheme; less publicly demonstrative, less extremist. Hopefully, society

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will become honest enough with itself to accomodate all factions within its boundaries without being overthrown. I think we should be less stridently demanding; so many confrontations have riot potential and D.O.B. does not need this. We have to be able to give a little before we are able to receive. If we demand results, people will fear us. I feel the role of D.O.B. should be to win society's respect, not its fear. I am in favor of public education, but against graphic illustration. I think D.O.B. should encourage self-awareness in each member, enabling her to function more adequately within the group and within society. I would like to discover why people don't join D.O.B. and why so many members do not participate; is it because of the group structure or personaliti ?

I would like to be the kind of leader who does not exclude people from active participation; to prevent control of the group by cliques; to encourage a cross-section of membership participation; to foster communication; to expand the treasury; to learn why social events have been so poorly attended and unprofitable.

I am committed to D.O.B. for the sake of its members, for its future goals. I believe in what D.O.B. is, what it stands for, what it hopes to be.

I have the immediate goal of having women feel accepted in D.O.B. and the long-range goal of having D.O.B. accepted in society.

--Candi L. McGonagle

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VIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

My main concern with D.O.B. now is to meet our internal needs. I think with the best intentions we have rushed into areas--peace marches, other gay groups, female liberation; that can always wait. We need to answer the needs of our own members first.

We have a beautiful group of people; people of all types and ages.

We are an organization where people can feel comfortable; at least we should be. If people don't feel free to talk then there is something wrong. When there is something wrong with home then

that is where our business has to be done. I think we should re-order our agenda. We must gear our efforts to our own people first. The public can wait. We can't!

--Jo Peckarsky

As Vice President, I would strive to make each committee within D.O.B. active, productive and successful. I would keep the membership aware of what each committee is doing, its plans and accomplishments, at all times.

I feel D.O.B. should be an active part of the community, working always to win the approval of the community. We should also be concerned with meeting the needs of members and prospective members. D.O.B. should be a type of "Lesbian Aid Society," where women can feel at ease, voicing their opinions and experiences freely.

I would like to see more inter-chapter communication, now that National no longer exists as our coordinator, so that we can learn from the experiences and examples of our sister chapters.

I believe D.O.B. should be a place where the Lesbian can feel useful, working toward changes in the structure of society. D.O.B. should be a major force in reshaping archaic prejudices and myths about Lesbianism.

--Beth Restruck

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VIEWS OF CANDIDATE FOR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

I am a candidate for corresponding secretary. As corresponding secretary I would answer all mail as promptly as possible. I would try to build a reference file of people and places to which inquirers may be referred if they need help outside D.O.B. I would also like to have a few reprinted articles to send to people, in addition to the brochures and newsletters. I am a regular attender of meetings so I would be able to inform of current activities.

--Laura Robin

VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER:

I am announcing my candidacy for treasurer. After reading The Ladder and our local newsletter, I do feel that I can help out in some sort of way to hold D.O.B. together. My name is Rev. Magora E. Kennedy. My goal is to work for the uplifting and progress of Boston D.O.B.; to encourage, enlighten; to make spiritual awareness a part of the organization; to work unceasingly in the never-ending struggle for equality and social recognition and legal acceptance; bring fresh and new ideas into the organization; raise money by any means necessary or available; counsel, marry; pray for total acceptance in Boston first, then the world. I remain sincerely yours,

--Rev. Magora E. Kennedy
Thank you.

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RESOLUTION FAVORING HOMOSEXUALS

by Laura Robin

Below is a copy of a resolution passed at the 1970 General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Churches and Fellowships. It is reprinted from Unitarian Universalist World, August 1, 1970. Rev. Edward Harris, Arlington St. Church (where Boston D.O.B. holds meetings) sent us a copy of the resolution. He said it was offered at the assembly by their Liberal Religious Youth cooperating with a caucus of homosexuals.

"Discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals"

Recognizing that:

1. A significant minority in this country are either homosexual or bisexual in their feelings and/or behavior;
2. Homosexuality has been the target of severe discrimination by society and in particular by the police and other arms of government;
3. A growing number of authorities on the subject now see homosexuality as an inevitable sociological phenomenon and not as a mental illness;
4. There are Unitarian Universalists, clergy and laity who are homosexuals or bisexuals;

Therefore, be it resolved: that the 1970 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

1. Urges all people immediately to bring an end to all discrimination against homosexuals, homosexuality, bisexuals, and bisexuality, with specific immediate attention to the following issues:

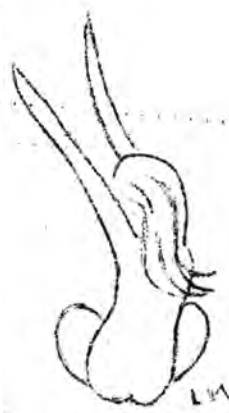
a. Private consensual behavior between persons over the age of consent shall be the business only of those persons and not subject to legal regulations

b. a person's sexual orientation or practice shall not be a factor in the granting or renewing of Federal security clearance, visas, and the granting of citizenship or employment.

2. Calls upon the UUA and its member churches, fellowships, and organizations immediately to end all discrimination against homosexuals in employment practices, expending special efforts to assist homosexuals to find employment in our midst consistent with their abilities and desires.

3. Urges all churches and fellowships, in keeping with our changing social patterns, to initiate meaningful programs of sex education aimed at providing a more open and healthier understanding of sexuality in all parts of the U.S. and Canada, and with the particular aim to end all discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals."

Other resolutions passed included ones on withdrawal from Southeast Asia, supporting population control, legalization of marijuana, and equal rights for women.



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NEED A RIDE TO D.O.B. MEETINGS???

Call any of the following people in your area...

- VIVIEN -
- RAMEY - A
- VIOLA - S
- GINGER -
- GAIL & JO

Censored! to protect the individuals concerned -DOB-

NEED HELP WITH YOUR RUMMAGE FOR THE D.O.B. SHIN-DIG OCT. 17???

Take it to...

Rose's apartment

5

or have Ginger come for it.
Call Ginger

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CHURCH SERVICES FOR WOMEN ONLY

Services will be held every Sunday starting at 10:00 A.M. at the home of Rev. Magora E. Kennedy. The address is

and for further information, call

Services are open to all women, everyone is welcome.

COME SWIMMING WITH D.O.B. every Monday and Thursday from 7-9 P.M. For further information or for transportation arrangements, call

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SILHOUETTES reprinted from Opus, 1960

- Black forms
- Outlined
- Against a lighter black--
- All black,
- Nothing more.
- No gaudy colors,
- No striking deviations---
- Nothing to add,
- Nothing to detract--
- Just the forms,
- Pure simple forms
- As they really are
- When only natural stateliness
- Can effect stateliness,
- When natural lowness

Can effect only lowness.
Only here do things seem in proper perspective.

--Kim Stabinsky

A T T E N T I O N A L L R E A D E R S!!!

If you are not a member of Boston D.O.B. this is the last issue of the Maiden Voyage you will receive unless you trot your little body down to the Post Office with this subscription blank and \$5.00. You'll never miss the \$5.00, but, oh my, ~~how~~ you would miss the Maiden Voyage!!! If you're very generous, give the MV as a gift to some hip chick you're trying to impress. We'll even send along a gift card saying it's from you or-- if she's straight--you can do it anonymously. **BUT ACT NOW!!!**--or this is the last issue of this priceless newsletter you'll ever see.

SEND TO:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Zip: _____

This is a gift from:

Enclosed is \$5.00 for each subscription.

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PROXY FORM FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Members: This form is to be in our hands no later than Friday, November 13, 1970. Return to D.O.B. Boston, Box 221, Prudential Center Station, Boston, Mass. 02199

NAME: _____ I entrust my vote to: _____

_____ OR I vote for:

PRESIDENT

_____ Diana Travis
_____ Candi McGonagle

VICE PRESIDENT

_____ Jo Peckarsky
_____ Beth Restricks

RECORDING SECRETARY

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

_____ Laura Robin

TREASURER

_____ Viola N.
_____ Rev. Kennedy

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE # _____

I am a woman 18 years of age or older

Partial _____
Full _____

Signature & Date: _____

Signature & Date: _____

Signature of Treasurer & Date: _____

Received: _____

Membership rate is \$15 per couple
\$10 single

Full membership includes: Maiden Voyage (12 issues), reduced
Admission to events, voting privilege
Partial membership includes: everything but voting
\$5 down, the rest within 2 months

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COMING ATTRACTIONS *****

Sat., Oct. 3 - Party at Gail & Jo's
Details elsewhere in newsletter

Sat., Oct. 17 - Homophile Hostel in New
Hampshire. Details elsewhere;
Open to men and women.

Fri., Oct. 23 - Members' meeting
8:00 pm, Clarke Room, Arlington
St. Church, corner of Arlington
& Boylston Sts., Boston.

Fri., Nov. 6 - Candidates' Night
8:00 pm, Clarke Room B.Y.O.P.*
Members only

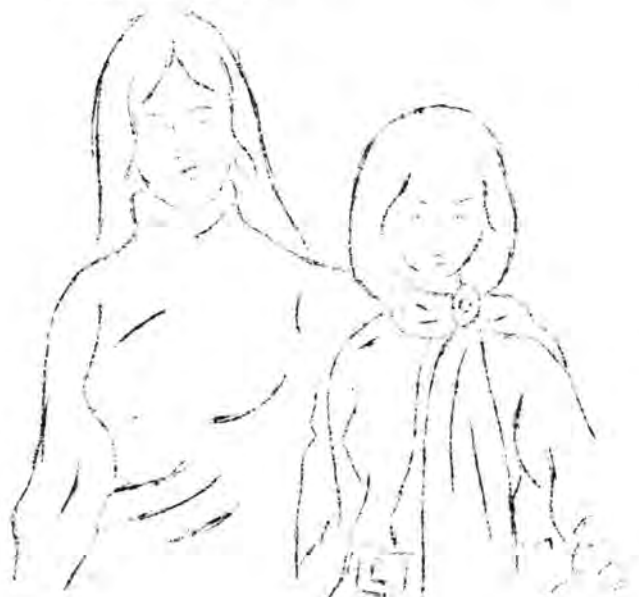
Fri., Nov. 13 - Election of Officers
8:00 pm, Clarke Room
Members Only

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

*Bring Your Own Popcorn

ANNOUNCEMENT

Kim Stabinski's article which was originally scheduled for the October/November issue of The Ladder will not appear until the December/January issue. Editor Gene Damon changed the publication date in order to use the religious theme in the Christmas issue. This article is entitled "The Roman Catholic Homosexual...THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH."



PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORTS

On Wed. Sept. 23, the new public education committee held its first meeting.

Gail told of a course on homosexuality that is being taught at Goddard College in Vermont. The professor, Leo Emord, has invited D.O.B. to attend his classes at any time.

Diana Travis reported to those present on the "Gay Guerilla Theatre" whose tactics are to confront the public with illustrations of homosexuality (kissing, hugging, etc.) hoping to invoke comment from the straights. I'm sure it is successful -- in getting comments, that is. Right on, fellas!

A documentary film of Lesbian life and/or D.O.B. was discussed. D.O.B. would want full legal control of this film if the photographer makes it and Gail is contacting Att. Alan Cook. Don't worry, girls -- it's films of meetings, nothing else.

The Public Education Committee set up nothing in the way of Friday night programs, feeling this was the concern of the In-reach and Program Committees.

WILD has made an offer for a radio program sometime soon.

A form letter has been drawn up to send to colleges and schools (especially girls' schools) announcing the D.O.B. 1970-71 speaker series. The committee hopes to make new contacts for speaking engagements in this way.

The committee is going to try to meet with hospital chaplains and nurses to see if one girl can visit her spouse in the hospital when visitors are restricted. Public Education would also like to change this so a lesbian spouse can be allowed to sign for surgery, etc.

It was decided to cooperate with the gay boys on speaking engagements when we are asked.

The first meeting really started the season off with a bang.

The next meeting will be Wed. Oct. 7, at 3:00 P.M. at Gail and Jo's.



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