

Laura

# FOCUS

a journal for gay women

**SUPPORT GAY BILLS!** p.6

## HOUSE . . . . . No. 3220

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By Mr. Frank of Boston, petition of the Daughters of Bilitis, Barney Frank and others relative to discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of sexual preference. Commerce and Labor.

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### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three.

#### AN ACT RELATIVE TO DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL PREFERENCE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 92A of chapter 272 of the General  
2 Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 418 of the acts of  
3 1971, is hereby further amended: —

4 a. By the insertion of the words “sex, sexual preference”  
5 after the word “color” and before the word “denomination” in  
6 the first paragraph of said section 92A.

7 b. By the insertion of the following paragraph after the  
8 second paragraph of said section 92A: —

9 “The term ‘sexual preference’ means choice of sexual partner  
10 according to gender.”

1 SECTION 2. Section 98 of chapter 272 of the General  
2 Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 418 of the acts of  
3 1971, is hereby further amended by the insertion of the words  
4 “sexual preference (choice of sexual partner according to  
5 gender)” after the word “sex” and before the word “or” in the  
6 first sentence of said section 98.



DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS  
CALENDAR  
April 1973

TUESDAYS at 7:30 pm RAP SESSIONS ON BEING GAY, FOR WOMEN. Share feelings about being gay, newcomers especially welcome. We go out for a snack afterwards. For location in Cambridge, call or write the office.

THURSDAYS 9-10 pm GAY WAY RADIO SHOW, WBUR-FM 90.9 on dial.

SUNDAYS 1 pm D.O.B. SOFTBALL AGAIN! Bring a ball, bat, glove if you have any of those. Someone will be there every week with a bat and ball. Come play or watch! Magazine Beach field, Cambridge, across the river from the Cadillac-Olds and along Memorial Drive in Cambridge near the Boston University Bridge and Stop & Shop.

SUNDAYS 7:30 pm WOMEN'S CINEMA, Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. (Central Square). Devoted to the talents of women writers, directors, actors, filmmakers. \$1.50. Info: 491-1071 (Female Liberation).

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 pm LAVENDER HOUR, WBCN-FM 104.1 radio. If you want to be on call Littlejohn at WBCN.

April 5, THURSDAY, 7:30 pm "Is the bisexual gay?" Paul Shanley, street priest. Homophile Union of Boston meeting, St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston.

April 15, SUNDAY, 5:30 pm D.O.B. POTLUCK SUPPER followed by a discussion on "Therapy" led by Marion Tredeau from the Homophile Community Health Service. BRING A DISH OF FOOD TO THE POTLUCK--money will not do to get you in! Bring it in whatever it has to be heated in, etc. so there will be no dishes to wash belonging to St. John's. St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston.

April 11, 12 WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, 7:30 pm TENTATIVE AUDITIONS FOR GAY VARIETY SHOW, St. John's Church. Call D.O.B. office for confirmation.

April 30, MONDAY, 7:30 pm D.O.B. BUSINESS MEETING, at the D.O.B. office.

May 11, 12, 13 FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY ANTI-SEXISM WEEK END IN KINGSTON, RHODE ISLAND. Sponsored by Kingston Gay Liberation and Kingston Women's Liberation. For information read FOCUS or write Kingston Gay Liberation, Memorial Union, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. 02881 (401-792-5817).

D.O.B. OFFICE HOURS: Monday 6-9 pm; TUESDAY 3-6 pm; Wednesday 6-9 pm, Thursday 10am-3pm; Friday sometimes day.

D.O.B. welcomes your participation in our efforts to reach other gay women, to provide raps and social events, to change the laws and otherwise work for gay civil rights, ...to educate others. Membership is open to all women 18 and older and provides an important support for the organization in terms of both people-power and money. D.O.B. has a spot for every one from closet dwellers to T.V. stars.

MEMBERSHIP is \$10 (\$15 for a couple). It includes one subscription to FOCUS. Send the \$ with a signed statement that you are at least 18. FOCUS is \$5/year (monthly) for anyone. CALENDAR alone is \$1/ 6 mo.

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS  
419 Boylston St., Room 415  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
617-262-1592

by Christy

The gay subculture has probably always influenced straight pop culture in some ways. By pop culture I mean the subculture which surrounds rock and some folk music -- the subculture of marijuana smoking, hip dressing, and rock music audiences -- including pop music and pop fads and styles. It seems to me that the gay influence has increased and become more open in the last couple years, and I wonder why and what effect this will have on straight people's feelings about gay people.

Camp sensibility in the 60's looked back to the pop cultures of the past and was the first instance of which I was aware when gay culture influenced pop culture. Camp resurrected King Kong, Tiffany lamps, platform shoes, and made possible phenomena like Tiny Tim. It loved the flashy, tacky, and fun. Susan Sontag, in her article on camp for the Partisan Review in the early 60's, said that the essence of camp was its love of the artificial. She also said that homosexuals were the vanguard of the camp sensibility.

Camp pop culture was, however, never really a national phenomenon. It probably had some influence on pop styles nationally, and made Time magazine, but the line between camp and not-camp is subtle (camp is not good taste, but not bad either; just the right kind of artificial), and it was really a fairly intellectual trip. So it became mostly a snobbish urban middle class eastern hip pop culture term. And I think that very few people were aware that it originated in the gay subculture. In a way it was an exploitation of gay subculture by the straight pop industry.

The gay subculture's influence on camp pop culture was partly a result of an influence on straight pop music, and that influence has continued. Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones was the first pop musician who seemed to project a bisexual image on stage. He wore velvet and satin, bright-colored peacock clothes, long scarves, and make-up, and raced and pranced about

the stage. Many gay men believed he was (is) gay, but he married a woman. Now there are many pop musicians who look and act bisexual, gay, or even transvestity (including the Stones, Edgar Winter, Alice Cooper, the N.Y. Dolls and Gay Glitter). There is also at least one openly gay or bisexual rock musician, David Bowie. And occasionally there is a song about sex identity confusion, like "Layla" ("She walks like a woman but she talks like a man"). In addition, there are a few musicians who first became popular performing to gay audiences. Bette Midler and Roberta Flack are instances of this.

The out-front homosexual tone of the performances of many rock groups is a big change from the sort of closet influence gay styles exercised on camp pop culture. However, the picture of homosexuality presented by pop musicians is far from being entirely positive. First of all, I think it's basically a dramatized version of the gay image, presented by basically exploitative straights, consisting mostly of make-up, nail polish, sequins, and extreme clothing. Also, most of the rock performances that involve homosexuality are also very heavy on violence.

Lou Reed, who has written several songs about homosexuality including a "gay national anthem" called "Make-up", was leader of the Velvet Underground in the 60's. That group sang sadomasochistic songs ("Venus in Furs") and songs about heroin self-destruction ("I'm Waiting for the Man"), and, by the way, included a woman drummer. Now Reed has added homosexuality to his other material. "Walk on the Wild Side" is a song that includes it all. The Stones sing about violence and anti-social feelings. The symbolic epitome of the connection between rock music and violence was the murder of a man by the Hell's Angels at the '69 Altamont, California Concert right in front of the stage where the Stones were playing.

Pop culture seems to have gone two ways, toward a hippy ideal of peace, love, and natural living, and toward

a post-acid drug culture trip which is anti-social in the Charles Manson, devil-cult manner, and extremely artificial. It is the second sector which has adopted homosexuality, particularly the most artificial elements of gay male dress and behavior. In my more cynical moods I believe that being offensive to the "straight" (non-drug using) world helps sell rock groups to the second sector of the pop audience, as does an exaggerated image and show. Perversity fulfills these requirements, and also sells on its own these days. This explains the wanton violence of many rock performances. It's not so different from the wanton violence of a man like Charles Manson. And since most pop musicians, their audiences, and straight society consider homosexuality perverse, it makes a perfect addition to the show, and is presented as a perversion. Since it's not safe to be openly gay, however, rock musicians tend to go the bisexual route, or are simply sexually ambiguous.

That's the negative side. The positive side is that a generation of kids is growing up in an atmosphere which admits that homosexuality exists. Kids are conscious that some of their pop stars are probably homosexual or bisexual, and thus that they or their friends may be gay or bisexual too. Certainly the big pop industry record companies that push musicians like David Bowie don't intend to make kids more open to homosexuality or gay people, but I think they have done this.

Besides the blatant homosexual references of pop musicians, there are many elements of pop culture which encourage sexual ambiguity and a relaxing of sex roles. The most important of these are in the area of personal appearance. Haircuts, for instance: everyone has shags. Many straight women have very short hair, and men have very long hair. However, there is still a general tendency for women's hair to be "feminine" and men's hair "masculine". This is a fairly subtle difference to describe, but I think all of us can recognize a man with a beautiful (feminine) shag, and know that he's likely to be gay. Among long hairs, all but the freakiest women keep their hair neat and well-combed, while men generally don't. There seems to be a tendency in pop

culture for men and women to have masculine and feminine versions of the same fashions, but there is also a lot of room for cross-dressing.

Unisex clothing certainly discourages dressing according to sex roles. Everyone wears the same Levis, shirts, jackets, and sweaters. Men wear high-heeled shoes, and women wear motorcycle jackets and army boots. Even underwear is becoming similar: now men too have bikinis in pretty colors.

In some hip or sexually liberated circles, bisexuality has become accepted and even desirable. I discovered this personally a couple years ago when the sister and brother-in-law of a friend tried to seduce me. They seemed to think it was the expected thing, and were surprised at my annoyed refusal. They were young business types, not freaks by any means. And there are always ads asking for bisexual men and women for threesomes in the local "underground" papers.

The increased coverage of the gay scene in the underground press is an important change in itself. A few years ago the Village Voice and many other counter-culture papers didn't carry articles about gay people and events, or ads or announcements for gay activities. Now the Voice has at least one gay columnist and often has articles about gay events. It also carries ads and announcements that are aimed at gay people. Our local Boston underground papers are not quite so liberated, but they do occasionally carry articles about gay people, books, or events, and run gay announcements and personals.

The February 14 issue of Rolling Stone, the most important newspaper of the pop music industry, had a long article on Bette Midler, and a short article on the Continental (gay) Baths in New York, where Bette's popularity began. In both articles the attitude toward gay people was mixed, and the description of the Baths emphasized their decadent, flesh-market aspects. But they also assumed some knowledge of gay life styles on the part of their readers, and that's a change.

Of course the traditional press is a

different matter. The Globe until very recently would not carry any kind of gay ad or announcement. An occasional article about something gay turns up in papers like the New York Times, Merle Miller's coming-out article of last year, for instance.

It must be obvious by now that it is male gay culture that has influenced pop culture, not lesbian gay culture. This is probably mostly because pop culture is very much male dominated and male oriented. Pop culture may be liberating men in terms of their sexuality and appearance, but it isn't doing much for women. Perhaps if there were nationally known female rock groups instead of just singers, we would see lesbian-influenced rock groups.

What effects do all the things I've listed have on straight attitudes toward gay people? First of all, gay people are becoming acceptable as pop culture personalities, and are beginning to come out publicly. Many people, especially kids, are becoming more tolerant of people's various modes of existence, and

particularly of gay people. On the other hand, I think there are many people who can accept straights being freer and more unisex, or even bisexual, and still be horrified by gay people. These are the same sort of people who still expect people to function according to traditional sex roles. Certainly the attitude of pop culture is mixed. There are anti-gay articles in the underground press as well as pro-gay articles, and much of the interest in gay people is sex-deviant, voyeuristic interest. I think that's what brings hip straights to gay bars.

But there has been an opening up of discussions about homosexuality, and of sex roles and attitudes. The closet door is open, and the straights are peeking in. Perhaps some of us have finally yelled loudly enough to be noticed.

NEW ENGLAND GAY CONFERENCE

by Geri Bidwell

The weeks of planning, the sweating out whether or not the Conference would accomplish its goals, are now in the past. The Conference was a success -- as a matter of fact, it was much more than anyone who attended had anticipated.

It was a time when both women and men worked side by side for a common goal -- it was exciting. Some of us are not down yet, and hope that the excitement will last so we can go on to bigger and better projects.

There were over 200 people present, from all over New England, each looking for something different. The amazing thing is that from the feedback sheets about the conference the only gripes seemed to be about housing and where we ate.

The workshops in most cases were well-attended. The intake and output were amazing -- people listened intently and asked sensible, constructive questions. It was a time that each of us who attended

will look back to with pride. Special thanks should go to many individuals, but for fear of leaving someone out, I will not attempt to list them.

Gay Pride Week workshops were held on both days. Lists of committees to work on various aspects of Gay Pride Week have been mailed out to everyone who attended the conference. If you would like one, send DOB a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

A new group called Hold Hands made a smashing presentation. This group is mainly an endeavor to halt the news blackouts between groups both nationally and locally. As it has been said, only through working together will we be able to accomplish our goals.

See you all hopefully at the next Gay Pride Week planning session.

GAY DISCRIMINATION BILLS--  
 "THEY'RE BACK IN COMMITTEE AGAIN..."  
 by Laura McMurry

The joint Committee on Commerce and Labor of the Massachusetts legislature sent the two gay antidiscrimination bills H. 3218 and H. 3220 (see the March FOCUS) to the state Senate with a favorable vote officially on about March 21 (earlier reports of a favorable vote were essentially correct but not official, we found. Several votes were taken in Committee but it is only when the proper document arrives at the House Clerk's office that it counts).

The normal procedure would have been to next send the bill to the legislative branch in which they had originated, in this case the House, since a House member, representative Barney Frank, had filed them.

However, some committee members from the House did not want to vote in favor of the bills if their peers in the House as well as themselves were to be confronted with whether to pass the bills on the House floor. These committee members agreed not to vote at all, or to give a "yes" vote, if the bills would be sent to the Senate first. That is how the bills managed to be reported out favorably.

Robert Hall, state Senator from Worcester and a Republican, volunteered to lead the fight in the Senate (he is also a member of the committee).

The fight was mighty short. It occurred the day after the bill was reported out of committee, on March 22. The Senate voted to send the bills back to the Commerce and Labor Committee. The message was essentially, "Let the House handle its own hot potatoes".

Thus what seemed to be a very clever political ploy fell flatter than a fallen oak tree.

Now what?

An aide to Senator Hall reported that the bills would probably be brought up again in committee and sent to the House by around April 14. (Previous experience suggests this date would be only very approximate).

The question is--with what vote will they be sent out--favorable or unfavorable? If unfavorable, the bills will not have a chance in the House.

What do we do? #1) Keep up the fight! #2) Contact any Senator or Representative from your area who is on the committee (Senators on the committee are McKinnon, Wall, Burke, Atkins, Mackensie, and Hall; Representatives are Scalli, Demers, Howe, Harris, Raposa, Bowler, Campobasso, Boffeti, Bolling Jr., Buxbaum, Finnegan, Orlandi, Nordberg, Shortell, Lionett). #3) Since we don't know when the bills may reach the House floor, contact your state Representative now, ahead of time. To find who that is, call the House Clerk at 617-727-2356. #4) Keep tabs on the bills by calling the House Clerk, Representative Barney Frank (727-3974), and the DOB office (262-1592).

#### TWO OTHER GAY RIGHTS BILLS

The joint Judiciary Committee heard testimony on H. 3313 (to repeal laws against adultery, fornication, crime against nature, unnatural acts, cohabitation) on February 26 and on H. 3312 (to amend the state constitution so no right should be denied on the basis of race, creed, sex, sexual preference...) on March 6. Lois Hurst and Elaine Noble spoke briefly on behalf of D.O.B. at the respective hearings.

The reception was cooler than that by Commerce and Labor. Some committee members were rude to the testifiers, though it must be said they did not confine themselves to being rude to the gay people only.

The Judiciary has not yet reported on these bills. Again, contact the committee members, particularly those from your area, and your state representative (Judiciary: Senators Bulger, Sisitsky, Wall, Nuciforo, Conte, Locke; Representatives Kiernan, LeBlanc, Doyle, P.M. Murphy, Mofenson, Brownell, Grimley, Brennan, Early, Phelan, Schneiders, R.E. Mc Carthy, Danovitch, Bliss, Zeiser).

NOTE: At the New England Gay Conference in March we began to think in terms of New England. The Gay News Around Boston has therefore changed over into this Gay News Around New England.

Kingston Gay Liberation in conjunction with Kingston Women's Liberation is having an Anti-Sexism Weekend May 11,12,13 in Kingston, Rhode Island. Tentative plans include a dance, gay art exhibit, films, athletics, community supper, and gay and women's follies.

For housing and other information write Kingston Gay Liberation, c/o Memorial Union, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. 02881 or call 401-792-5817 or 401-789-7183.

University of Massachusetts Boston Homophile League meets informally over coffee Mondays from 5-6 pm at 100 Arlington Street, Boston in Room 213. The group is trying to overcome the isolated feelings of gays at a commuter college; it is for students, faculty, and staff, and the gettogethers are open to all members of Boston's gay community. For more information call Jim at 542-6500 x 607 Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Lavender Hour on WBCN-FM (104.1) will occur the first Sunday of every month at 10 pm. The program will concentrate on gay music, playlets, interviews, poetry, etc. If you have ideas or want to be on, contact Littlejohn at 482-6410. He welcomes everyone's participation. He will also put announcements on.

Women's cinema in Cambridge. Female Liberation, in conjunction with the Women's Center, opened a film series devoted to the talents of women writers, directors, actors, and filmmakers.

The series began March 18. One of the films shown was "Home Movie", a journey through the life of a gay woman as seen through home movies her parents took of her.

Showings are Sundays at 7:30 pm at the Cambridge Y.W.C.A., 7 Temple St., Central Square. Cost is \$1.50 at the door. A discussion follows each showing. For more information call 491-1071.

North Dakota repeals sodomy law. As part of a revision of the state's entire criminal code, homosexual acts in private between consenting persons 18 years of age or older will be no longer criminal. The law takes effect on July 1, 1975 unless next year's legislature has a change of heart (as happened with a similar revision in Idaho). The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of repeal.

The same legislature voted against the Equal Rights Amendment to the US constitution to give women equal rights. According to the Advocate, there are no gay organizations in North Dakota. (ADVOCATE, March 28, 1973).

Homosexual father fights for visiting rights. One of the men from New Jersey who was at the New England Gay Conference is initiating action to get visiting rights with his two sons aged 5 and 3. He is separated from his wife, who will allow him to see his sons only in a certain room and when she is present. The judge hearing the case will discuss divorce proceedings only after visitation rights have been resolved. (BERGEN RECORD, Hackensack, N.J., March 12, 1973)

West Coast Lesbian Conference is expecting over 1000 women to attend from all over the country, judging from inquiries received. The dates are April 13-15. For information see March FOCUS or write Barbara McLean, 508 N. Alta Vista Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90036. It will be in Los Angeles. FOCUS would welcome reports from any of its readers who attend, especially from east coast women.

National Organization for Women resolutions. About 2000 women attended the 6th National Conference of N.O.W. February 17-19 in Washington, D.C. The conference adopted a resolution calling for the introduction and "support of civil rights legislation to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and to introduce, with legislation designed to end discrimination based on sex, the phrase 'sexual orientation' in areas such as,

(cont. on p.8)



but not limited to, housing, employment, credit, child custody, finance, and public accommodations".

(EASTERN MASS. N.O.W. NEWSLETTER, March 1, 1973)

Ann Landers on the warpath again. In her March 5 column, Ann printed one of the no doubt hundreds of irate letters from gay readers about her last column on homosexuality (see March FOCUS). The reader said he (?) was shocked and outraged. Ann said that she could listen to and respect opinions different from her own without becoming angry, shocked, or outraged. After this chastisement, she quoted letters from several MD's and one ex-queer who agreed with her that homosexuals are sick. The MD's gave their names and all.

But we have to give her a little credit. In her March 8 column she comforted a parent who had just become aware that someone close to the family was a homosexual and who was worried about the kids. "Dear Afraid", wrote Ann, "the percentage of homosexuals who are child molesters is actually smaller than among heterosexuals. Your little boys would probably be safer with this friend than with a 'funny' heterosexual uncle."

So cut that one out and send it to your legislator.

First openly gay minister in a major Protestant denomination. The United Church of Christ ordained William R. Johnson on June 25, 1972. He has not been able since to find a parish, and is presently executive director of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual in San Francisco, a job with no firm salary. At the General Synod in St. Louis this June 20-26, there may be attempts made to "defrock" him or to make guidelines against ordaining more gay ministers.

(THE GAY CHRISTIAN, Feb. 1973)

All-Ohio Gay Conference will be in Columbus May 4-6 at Ohio State University. There will be workshops, entertainment, a march, rock concert, and Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. For information: David Treadwell, Gay Activists Alliance, 1739 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio, 43210 phone 614-422-9212.

Tampa, Florida Metropolitan Community Church has a congregation of 150, half of whom are women, contrasting with the male majority in most M.C.C.'s including Boston's. The Tampa M.C.C. recently bought a church building for \$40,000. (ADVOCATE, March 28, 1973).

Oregon gay political caucus. The first meeting of a coalition political caucus in Oregon was Jan.13 (FOUNTAIN, February 1973).

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#  
# ROOMMATE WANTED #  
#  
# 23-30, lovely Brighton Apartment #  
# \$110. Own Room. Am fairly to- #  
# gether person, only hassle is #  
# strong need for discretion. #  
# Available May 1, 1973. Call #  
# 254-0479. #  
# #  
# (CLASSIFIED AD. RATES 5¢/ WORD) #  
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#  
# FREE CLASSIFIED ADS IN #  
# MAY FOCUS. MAXIMUM 25 #  
# WORDS, ONE AD PER PERSON, #  
# NO COMMERCIAL ADS. DEAD- #  
# LINE APRIL 17. #  
# #  
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#  
# RUTGERS UNIVERSITY HOMOPHILE LEAGUE #  
# is having its 3rd annual #  
# CONFERENCE ON GAY LIBERATION & CULTURE #  
# April 26-29, 1973. #  
#  
# There will be lectures, seminars, #  
# exhibits, social events, etc. For #  
# information: S.H.L., R.P.O. 2901, #  
# Rutgers University, New Brunswick, #  
# N.J. 08903; 201-247-1766 x 6886. #  
# #  
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New periodicals received by Boston D.O.B. library include SAPPHIRE (from Calif.), EASTERN MASS. N.O.W. NEWSLETTER, MORNING GLORY, WOMEN'S VOICE OF GREATER HARTFORD, GOLDFLOWER. We also have a copy of the book OUR BODIES, OURSELVES, a women's health care reference.

Connecticut

Kalos Society -- GLF  
P.O. Box 403  
Hartford, Conn. 06101

Trinity College Gay Liberation  
c/o Kalos Society - GLF

Univ. of Bridgeport Gay Alliance  
Box 115, Student Center  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Massachusetts

Student Homophile League  
R.S.O. 368  
Lincoln Center  
Univ. of Mass.  
Amherst, Mass. 01002  
413-545-0154

Holyoke Homophile League  
c/o Bruce McKeon  
15 Berkeley St.  
Easthampton, Mass. 01027

Hampshire Gay Friends  
c/o David Reynolds  
P.O. Box 607  
Hampshire College  
Amherst, Mass. 01002

Univ. of Mass. Gay Women's Caucus  
c/o Southwest Women's Center  
Cramton-McKimmie Faculty Lounge  
Univ. of Mass.  
Amherst, Mass. 01002

H.A.L.P.  
c/o Damon  
Box 674  
Provincetown, Mass. 02657

Daughters of Bilitis  
419 Boylston St., Room 415  
Boston, Mass. 02116  
617-262-1592

Dignity-Boston  
1105 Boylston St.  
Boston, Mass. 02215

Emerson Homophile Society for the Arts  
148 Beacon St.  
Boston, Mass. 02116  
617-227-0448 (6-8 p.m.)  
Fag Rag c/o The Red Book  
91 River St., Cambridge, Ma. 02139

Mass., cont.

Gay Community Center, Boston  
617-491-5669, 288-8765

Gay Phone, Boston 354-1555 - 1556

Gay Speakers' Bureau, Boston  
419 Boylston St., Room 403  
Boston, Mass. 02116  
617-266-5477

Harvard-Radcliffe Gay Students'  
Ass'n.  
617-498-2301

Homophile Community Health Service  
419 Boylston St., Room 403  
Boston, Mass. 02116  
617-266-5477

Homophile Union of Boston  
419 Boylston St., Room 509  
Boston, Mass. 02116  
617-536-6197

Boston Gay Youth  
c/o Homophile Union of Boston

Lesbian Meetings & Gay Confusion  
c/o Women's Center  
46 Pleasant St.  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139  
617-354-8807

Metropolitan Community Church  
419 Boylston St., Room 408  
Boston, Mass. 02116  
617-266-7491

Red River Dyke Collective  
43 Willow Ave.  
Somerville, Mass.

Student Homophile League of Boston  
617-492-7871

Univ. of Mass. at Boston Homophile League  
For info, call Jim  
617-542-6500 x607 Tues., Thurs. AM

New Hampshire

Occupant  
P.O. Box 137  
Northwood, N.H.  
(This is a gay women's group)

New Hampshire con't.

Mattachine Society of N.H.  
P.O. Box 694  
Concord, N.H. 03301

Rhode Island

Providence Gay Women  
Caroline Overman  
Diane Chain  
184 Angell St.  
Providence, R.I. 02906  
401-274-0239

Brown Gay Liberation  
Chairperson, Efton Giles, Jr.  
Student Activities Office  
Brown University  
Providence, R.I. 02912  
401-726-3374

Morning Glory  
P.O. Box 194  
Kingston, R.I. 02881  
401-789-7183

LETTERS TO FOCUS

Hello!

I am very sorry that we have neglected to keep in touch with you. GLF is a small organization with high aspirations. We hold meetings every Sunday evening, staff an office for counseling, sponsor social activities, take political/legal action publish a monthly newsletter and a sporadic literary edition (The Empty Closet), and provide speakers for classes and other groups. As a result we come up short in other important areas, e.g. correspondence. I cannot promise that this will change, but I will make sure that you are on our mailing list.

I thoroughly enjoy reading FOCUS and consider it to be one of the finest gay publications around. The article on Emily Dickinson a few months back was especially good. You might also be interested to know that there is a new gay women's group in Rochester. The name of the group is GRCW, Gay Revolution of Women. Their address is: 185 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y.

Sincerely,  
Marjory David  
for GLF  
University of Rochester  
Todd Union, River Sta., Roch., N.Y.

Rhode Island con't.

Kingston Gay Liberation  
c/o Memorial Union  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, R.I. 02881  
401-792-5817

Gay Recipients of Welfare (GROW)  
Box 2433, East Side Sta.  
Providence, R.I. 02901

Vermont

Gay Dorm  
Box 501, Greatwood  
Goddard College  
Plainfield, Vt.

Donald Poole  
RFD #1, Box 155  
Bristol, Vt. 05443  
(Will help organize a group)

Letters Con't.

Dear Focus,

Where are you? Every day I rush to my box anxious for your arrival. Did you forget me this month or are you only late? Anyway I will be waiting.

I thoroughly enjoy Focus and wish I were up there to help out in the publication. I love the poetry and would like to see more of it.

A special hello to Lois & Sherry: I met them at a rap session before Xmas.

Love,  
Judi - (Conn.)

Ed. Note:

A few people did not get the March issue - we don't know why. Usually, if you live in N.E. and haven't received it by the 10th of the month, you should write to us. If you did not get the March issue, let us know.

Dear Focus,

Have been reading Focus for several months--my better half subscribes and we wait for it to arrive. Both enjoy it. Some of the activities are a bit far from Toledo, Ohio, but we enjoy seeing what's happening in the

East and book reviews and opinions, etc. In regard to the book review--Fatience and Sarah was very enjoyable (we both bought it and read it after reading the review). The freshness of the book was pleasant. It was good to read something happy about gay...

The February 20th Toledo Blade ran a short article "Two Lesbians Win Custody of Children--Women Ordered to Live Apart". Seattle. Two mothers both self-avowed lesbians and fundamentalist Christians have been awarded custody of their children--on the condition that they no longer live together.

"You can continue the relationship, even care for each other's children," Superior Court Judge James A. Noe ruled, "But live separately."

(Ed. note: See the Dec. '72 Focus. We hope to have more on this case in the future)

Also in the February Ms. in the letters (dyke had been misspelled dike): "Lesbians are 'dykes' not 'dikes'. We are not dams, although some people consider us damned".

...Thanks for Focus. Keep up the book reviews, etc.

Ann Richardson  
c/o Linda Waldvogel  
3145 Cambridge  
Toledo, Ohio 43610

NOTE: FOCUS WELCOMES ALL LETTERS, WE MIGHT SHÖRTEN THEM OCCASIONALLY FOR PRINTING. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME PRINTED, AND IF SO, WHAT PSEUDONYM WE CAN USE. AND KEEP WRITING!

\*\*\*\*\*

LOAN FOCUS TO YOUR FRIENDS.

HOLD HANDS.

FREE: A VERY USEFUL list of all Massachusetts State Representatives and Senators town by town, also United States Representatives and Senators, members of state legislative committees, and addresses of everybody. Massachusetts Legislative Directory, from the Mass. Taxpayers Foundation, 145 Tremont St., Boston, Ma. 02111 or call in and have them send you one: 357-8500.

D.O.B. BUSINESS MEETING MARCH 26

At this meeting the 16 members of D.O.B. present voted:

1. To approve Dallas as an official D.O.B. chapter,
2. To participate in Our Bag (four New England publications sold in one packet at a reduced price).
3. Not to set up a D.O.B.-sponsored rap group for persons breaking up with their lovers.

#####

THE UNMENTIONABLES

WCVB-TV (Channel 5) advertised a series of short spots on homosexuality to accompany the 6pm and 11pm news for the week of March 26. However, before any had been shown they withdrew the 6pm showings. They had received complaints from (parents? advertisers?) that young people would be watching.

Various gay people are in the process of calling the station and contemplating an appropriate response as we go to press.

#####

LIMERICK CONTEST !!!!!

For the best limerick with a gay theme we will give two tickets to the next DOB dance or a free FOCUS subscription to anyone you designate. DEADLINE MAY 15, 1973.

Here is what a limerick is--we assume you will do BETTER!!!

Mona Lisa lived in pure misery  
Till she finally found D.O.B.  
"I don't care, Leonardo  
About all your art-o  
At long last my smile will be free"  
--RD,LR,GB

#####

As a little girl,  
 balancing on knife-edged cliffs  
 of need and fear,  
 love and rejection,  
 I never thought the world would be easy.  
 I never presumed to hope that the odd knots  
 and spirals, angles and edges  
 of my unsatisfactory Self  
 could ever be smoothed and straightened  
 enough to be acceptable,  
 to fit the shining mold  
 of Marriage and Motherhood.  
 I approached becoming a woman  
 with, I thought, a sufficient degree  
 of caution and realistically low expectations.  
 But somehow nothing prepared me for the pain--  
 the losses of self and vortices of panic,  
 moon-haunted nightmare roads  
 of doubt and self-hatred:  
 world-given side-effects of  
 unacceptable and unaccepted  
 selves and loves, my deepest places,  
 what had become my being.  
 And if I now live in love with sureness  
 (and oh my darling, sweetness and joy and passion),  
 and if the special shape of myself is now  
 part of my Personhood,  
 it did not happen without suffering,  
 and it is only after years of struggle  
 with indoor and outdoor demons  
 that I now proclaim, with pride,  
 the love of woman for woman.

Holly

#### THE NEW NARRATIVE

You placed women from your old life in a tied ribbon.

You broke Dylan's records into pieces, pieces like your old  
 cowgirl boots that had never been admired.

Your three volumes of poetry you said were that and no more.  
 The cleaning lady stopped dusting them then and the landlord  
 pointed to the single papers on your desk and said,  
 even a little like a mother, Imagine, all those  
 people passing by on the sidewalk and not one knowing  
 about you.

Your elbows behind typing hands run over to the dress shop  
 for the ball the latest phone conversation earns you.  
 She says it's because you've been discovered doing  
 attractive things to men, but, then, she has switched, too.

Every evening, now, you do the same thing: climb into bed  
 with a man and every morning, in the early light,  
 you install things that have come from it into the  
 world and none of them are poems.

M. Trap

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

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