

# FOCUS

A JOURNAL FOR  
GAY WOMEN

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS



february  
sleigh ride

see page 12

<sup>274</sup>  
JAN '73

\$.50





## DIALOGUE

by Terry Parrone

"Am I crowding you?"

"No, I've got plenty of room."

"Got enough covers?"

"Yes, really, I'm quite comfortable.  
Don't worry."

"Good night/!"

"Good night."

"Are you awake?"

"No, I'm asleep. This is your  
conscience speaking!"

"What side of the bed do you usually  
sleep on?"

"The side you're on."

"Well, here, why don't we just  
switch sides and..."

"No, this is just as good, that  
is, unless you usually sleep on this  
side?"

"No, I always sleep on this side,  
too."

"Wonder why people prefer sides of  
a bed?"

"I don't know. I guess a lot of  
people don't like being next to the wall."

"Yeah, but even if you moved the  
bed to the middle of the room, people  
would still prefer a certain side, I'll  
bet. Why do you like that side?"

"I think it's because when my  
sister and I were real small our folks  
were kind of poor and we shared a bed  
and this side was the closest one to  
the door and the other side was against  
the wall and being older and naturally  
protective, I deduced, at the deductive  
age of five or so, that if anyone came  
in the middle of the night to stab us  
kids to death they might not bother to  
stab my sister 'cause they'd have to  
lean over me to get to her and run the  
risk of getting all bloody in the pro-  
cess and that would incriminate them  
'cause when you're that age, blood can't  
be washed off, soaked out, or anything  
like that. I mean, once you got bloodied  
up, that was it, you might as well turn  
yourself in and rely on the mercy of  
the court!.....Well, isn't it true?  
All the shows you watched on T.V., they  
were always matching blood types to  
find the killer, and the word 'blood-  
hound' was always taken literally. Like,  
every other channel had a scene with

these huge dogs, sniffing and howling,  
and chasing the bad guy through the  
swamp 'cause he had BLOOD on his  
shirt!"

"Yeah, yeah, and he ALWAYS fell  
into the quicksand and died a slow,  
horrible death proving conclusively  
that crime just doesn't pay!"

"Yeah, isn't it scary to think  
back and realize how innocent and  
naive you were then?"

"You mean dumb, don't you?"

"Yeah, I guess dumb's a better  
word for it."

"Tired?"

"No, not at all. I'm still think-  
ing about how ugly it would be to get  
stuck in quicksand."

"You mean you'd rather face 17  
hungry, drooling dogs?"

"No, I think I'd rather change  
the channel!"

"Wow, all of a sudden, I feel  
really old."

"How old are you?"

"How old are you?"

"I asked first! I'd say you're  
at least 24 or 25."

"I'm 24."

"I'm 25."

"Do you feel 25?"

"No, I still feel kind of like a  
kid playing adult or something like  
that. I guess I only feel old when  
I'm lonely and I come home and there's  
no one to feel like a kid for, I guess,  
I don't know, it's a strange feeling  
when I get it."

"Why don't you find someone to  
live with?"

"Never found anyone I wanted to  
live with."

"Were you ever married?"

"Yeah, for one year and 2 months,  
when I was 18 and knew everything  
there was to know. A disaster from  
'I do' to 'I'm leaving'!"

"I guess I shouldn't laugh, it's  
really not funny, I suppose."

"Oh, that's all right. I think  
of it now as no more than a learning  
experience, a mistake that taught me  
that when you're 18 you don't know  
a hell of a lot more than you did



when you were five! How 'bout you?"

"No, I haven't made that mistake yet, marriage, that is. I guess I'm too aggressive to get hooked up with anyone on a permanent basis, too career-minded or something. It's like when I look at what this big world has to offer and then I look at my friends rushing home to get dinner started for their husbands it's like no comparison to me. Does that sound strange to you?"

"No, it sounds like you're where you want to be, and I don't think you're strange at all."

"Gee, thanks, that almost sounds like a compliment."

"It was, but you were right about you being aggressive."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean it takes a pretty aggressive person to con me into sleeping on the other side of the bed!"

"You're really nice to talk to, you know that?"

"You are too."

"Are you sure you aren't tired?"

"No, are you?"

"No, I'm wide awake."

"Do you live in an apartment too?"

"Yes. Right now I'm living with these two friends of mine but I keep pretty much to myself--they do their thing and I do mine, that sort of arrangement. I come and go as I please, more or less."

"They can't be very close friends, are they?"

"Well, they're close friends, I mean, they know me real well and I know them real well. I guess you'd say they're 'together'. I mean, what I'm trying to say is that they're lesbians and I always say 'they're together' 'cause it sounds nicer than 'lesbian' and most people look at you funny when you tell them you have lesbian friends, never mind the fact that you live with two of them."

"You could have just come right out and told me they were lesbians."

"I didn't know if you'd understand."

"I understand."

"That's good."

"Are you a lesbian?"

"I didn't think you'd understand."

"I understand, really I do. I'm just asking if you're one. I mean, you are spending the night here, and you are sleeping with me. I don't think I'm stepping out of line asking you about your sexual preferences."

"No, I guess you're in bounds, it's just that I was debating all evening whether to tell you exactly 'what' I lived with, and I made up my mind I would tell you if the subject came up, but I was so worried you wouldn't understand and then when you asked me to stay the night I decided I definitely wouldn't tell you but it kind of slipped out when I wasn't looking--I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said anything. Now you'll be worried all night that I'm going to rape you or something."

"I don't think it 'slipped out' at all. I think you wanted to tell me about your friends. I mean, you could have hedged around it if you really didn't want me to know but you didn't. You were frank and honest."

"Oh, of all times to have an attack of honesty! I'm Freudian-slipping my way right out into that rain and into my car."

"Are you?"

"Am I what?"

"Are you a lesbian?"

"No, I don't think I am."

"Do you want to explain that?"

"Oh, I don't mind explaining, it's just that it's not exactly an easy thing to put into words. It's like I'm not really attracted to any sex. I mean, guys are fun, but they're very often sex-oriented and sometimes too shallow for my tastes, besides the fact that many whom I've met are resentful towards my independence and aggressiveness. Maybe they're afraid I'm after their job or something. On the other hand, women treat me as an equal which I think is important in any relationship, and they're more sensitive, more attuned to me and the rest of the world in general. I relate more to women, I enjoy their companionship more, yet I've never fallen in love with a woman."

"Have you fallen in love with a man?"

"No, I don't think so. I guess my big problem is that I don't really know about a lot of things, like what a



lesbian is, and if I've loved a man, and if it's really wrong to love a woman. I mean, I see my two friends, oh, you've got to meet them sometime, they're really very nice people. Anyhow, I look at them and they are so happy with each other, and they've been together four years now, and I have to ask myself, 'Now what's wrong about being in love and being happy?' and a voice inside says, 'Absolutely nothing!'. I think if I had not visually seen and, more or less, felt their joy in each other I wouldn't have accepted it as readily as I did."

"Yeah, I know what you mean exactly."

"Do you? Are you afraid that I'll rape you?"

"No, I never was."

"What are you thinking right now?"

"I was thinking that you should have just come right out and said they were lesbians."

"Well, I told you why I didn't. I just can't lay in bed with everyone and say what I've just said to you."

"Yeah, I guess you're right about that."

"Yeah, and I'm right when I say I'm not the only person in this bed who's aggressive either. You can put the pressure on too, and it takes a pretty pushy person to con me into being honest!"

"Yeah, I guess I was kind of pushy about the issue."

"You're aggressive, but in a nice way. It's easier than mine, or it seems that way somehow. You're a really easy person to be with."

"That's 'cause you're so easy to be easy with."

"Wow, we're really into circular compliments, aren't we?"

"No, we're just being honest--a relapse of an earlier attack!"

"Are you sure you're not afraid of me?"

"Yes, quite sure."

"Oh, good! That would be terrible. You'd have to force yourself to stay awake all night and your eyes--what color are they anyway--and you eyes would scan the room up and down looking for a

blunt instrument to clobber me with in case I jumped you in the middle of the night or something."

"Brown."

"What?"

"Brown, my eyes are brown. Yours are blue."

"Oh, well, brown's just as good as blue. Besides, it's a nice shade of brown, not too dark. More like an 'innocent brown' to be exact."

"Maybe when I was five they were innocent."

"No, when you were five they were dumb."

"My eyes were never dumb!"

"Oh, well, excuse me, but I'm only going on what you said."

"Never mind what I said; my eyes were never dumb. Do women really jump each other?"

"No, I don't think women jump each other. I mean I'm not positive, but my bedroom's right next door to my roommates' and if they spent half the night jumping each other I think I would have heard something, wouldn't you say? No, I doubt if they jump one another."

"I don't think they do either."

"listen, if you're worried or paranoid I'll leave. I understand."

"I'm not worried or paranoid and I don't want you to leave."

"I wouldn't mind, honest. I'd just spend the whole night awake feeling bad that you were afraid of me!"

"Please believe me! I want you to be here, for the whole night, and I won't be scanning the room for blunt instruments because I'll be sound asleep and why a blunt instrument?"

"Because when you hit someone with a blunt instrument there's usually very little blood involved. And if you get all bloodied up you might as well..."

"I know, you might as well turn yourself in, right?"

"Right!"

"I'd rather face the 17 hungry dogs than do that!"

"Why not the quicksand?"

"Why not the quicksand!"

"Why not change the channel?"

"Why not move in with me?"

"What? What did you say?"



## A GAY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPERBACKS

by Laura McNulty

One of the troubles with gay bibliographies until recently has been that many books have been out of print, not at the local library, and/or available only in expensive hardback editions.

In the last six months there has been a swell of offerings in paperback, so that now anyone with a few dollars can read widely and well. The following books are all in print as of November 1973 as far as I could discover and can be obtained through any bookstore or in some cases directly from the publisher (addresses are in BOOKS IN PRINT, a reference work in libraries and at bookstores). I have included a separate list of some of the "gay-is-sick" books for those interested in the analysis of homophobia.

- THE BOYS OF BOISE, 1966, John Gerassi. Collier, \$1.25. Reports on a witch hunt in Idaho in the mid fifties.
- DR. KINSEY AND THE INSTITUTE FOR SEX RESEARCH, 1972, Wardell B. Fomeroy. Signet, \$1.95. By one who worked with him.
- THE GAY CRUSADERS, 1972, Kay Tobin and Randy Wicker. Paperback, \$1.25. About the heroes and heroines of the movement.
- THE GAY LIBERATION BOOK, 1972, ed. Len Richmond and Gary Noguerra. Ramparts, \$3.95. Anthology about gay men.
- THE GAY WORLD, 1968, Martin Hoffman. Bantam, \$1.95. To be reprinted by Nov. 1973. Classic report on the unhappy world of many gay men and the connection to society's views.
- GREAT GAY IN THE MORNING!, 1972, The 25 to 6 Baking and Trucking Society. Times Change Press, \$1.75. By a commune of 7 gay men, 2 gay women.
- HOMOSEXUAL: OPPRESSION AND LIBERATION, 1971, Dennis Altman. Avon, \$1.65. Readable semi-sociology.
- HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR AMONG MALES, 1967, Wainwright Churchill. Frism, \$2.45. A cross-cultural, cross-species study.
- THE LESBIAN IN AMERICA, 1965, Donald Webster Cory. Macfadden, \$.75. One of the first, not completely liberated but ahead of its time.
- LESBIAN/WOMAN, 1972, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. Bantam, \$1.50. By a lesbian couple in the movement for 2 decades.
- THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD AND HE KNOWS I'M GAY, 1972, Troy Perry and Charles L. Lucas. Bantam, \$1.50. By the founder of the Metropolitan Community Church (gay-oriented).
- LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN, 1971, Charlotte Wolff. Harper Colophon, \$2.45. A psychiatrist reports her research on lesbians.
- MAURICE, 1971, E.M. Forster. Signet, \$1.50. Autobiographical fiction published after the author's death.
- THE HOMOSEXUAL DIALECTIC, 1972, ed. J.A. McCaffrey. Spectrum, \$2.95. An anthology--from Bieber to Szasz.



- ON BEING DIFFERENT, 1971, Merle Miller. Popular Library, \$.95. A noted author comes out.
- CUT OF THE CLOSETS: VOICES OF GAY LIBERATION, 1972, Karla Jay and Allen Young. Quick Fox, Inc., distributors, \$3.95. An anthology of work by both women and men.
- PATIENCE AND SARAH, 1969, Isabel Miller. Fawcett Crest, \$.95. Modern fiction set in the 19th century.
- PATTERNS OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, 1951, Clellan S. Ford and Frank A. Beach. Harper Colophon, \$2.45. A pioneering cross-species study of sexual behavior.
- THE QUEEN'S VERNACULAR: A GAY LEXICON, 1972, Bruce Rodgers. Straight Arrow Press, \$3.50. Hundreds of slang terms you've never heard of, mostly male.
- SAPPHO: A NEW TRANSLATION, , Mary Barnard. Univ. of Calif. Press, \$1.25.
- SAPPHO WAS A RIGHT-ON WOMAN, 1972, Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love. Stein and Day, \$1.95. A personal and political statement.
- THE SAME SEX, 1969, ed. Ralph W. Weltge. Pilgrim Press, \$3.45. An anthology of favorable religious and other writing.
- SCREENING THE SEXES: HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE MOVIES, 1972, Parker Tyler. Anchor, \$4.95.
- SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND THE LAW, 1965, Samuel G. Kling. Pocket Books, \$.95. Somewhat out of date, covers all states.
- SEXUAL DEVIANCE, 1967, ed. John Gagnon and William Simon. Harper and Row, \$4.50.
- SOCIETY AND THE HEALTHY HOMOSEXUAL, 1972, George Weinberg. Anchor, \$1.95. A psychiatrist says homosexuality is not a sickness but fear of it is.
- THIS IS NOT FOR YOU, 1970, Jane Rule. Popular Library, \$.95. Fiction.
- WHAT EVERY HOMOSEXUAL KNOWS, 1965, R.O. Benson. Ace, \$1.25. Gives all the logical, rational arguments on our side.
- HOMOSEXUALITY: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS, 1971, Paul Rosenfels. Libra, \$1.95

#### THE "GAY IS SICK" BOOKS

- CHANGING HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE MALE, 1970, Lawrence H. Hatterer. Delta, \$2.95.
- FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY: A PSYCHODYNAMIC STUDY OF LESBIANISM, 1954, Frank S. Caprio. Citadel, \$2.25.
- GROWING UP STRAIGHT (what every thoughtful parent should know about homosexuality), 1968, Peter and Barbara Wyden. Signet, \$1.25.
- HOMOSEXUALITY: A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF MALE HOMOSEXUALS, 1962, Irving Bieber et al. Vintage, \$2.45
- HOMOSEXUALITY: DISEASE OR WAY OF LIFE? 1956, Edmund Bergler. Collier, \$1.50.
- THE OVERT HOMOSEXUAL, 1968, Charles W. Socarides. Curtis, \$1.25.
- SOCIETY AND THE SEX VARIANT, 1955, George W. Henry. Collier, \$.95.
- STRAIGHT: A HETEROSEXUAL TALKS ABOUT HIS HOMOSEXUAL PAST, 1972, William Aaron. Bantam, \$1.50.



## BOOK "REVIEW"

by Janet Stone

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 SMALL CHANGES  
 by Marge Piercy  
 (Doubleday, \$8.95)
 

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While many of the life situation<sup>s</sup> between men and women that called this wave of the feminist movement into being are dramatized in Marge Piercy's fine new novel, Small Changes, we know the man-woman battleground is only a part of the struggle.

In an interview with the author in September, I asked about the book, especially the section dealing with Beth and Wanda, the characters engaged in a lesbian relationship. I hope Marge's answers will pique your curiosity enough to read Small Changes--it's dynamite!

"Basically, this is the first mainstream major novel in which there is a love relationship between two women--and the women don't go mad, commit suicide, become habitual alcoholics or decide to give it up for their own good. It's not the major lesbian novel people have been waiting for, it's just that one of the characters in the course of the novel falls in love and has a relationship with another woman, and it's a good relationship. It's difficult, and they have many problems, yet it is treated as a viable relationship. I thought that by now one could do this--everyone knows that women who live together don't automatically die as a

result of it. But it seems this still makes the book far more controversial than I thought it would.

"Women must be able to think of each other as full human beings, as potential love objects--that's an important aspect of women overcoming mistrust of each other. Whether women do in fact wind up as each other's primary love objects or not, it must be within the realm of normal possibility. It is very important that women not view each other primarily as competitors.

"Simply to have written a novel during the course of which two women do get it on together--for all the difficulties they have socially from it--and remain quite pleased with each other, seems to be viewed as propaganda--as it would never be if it were a man and a woman going through those things. Or, I think, even two men, as there have certainly been a great number of novels about relationships between men, although traditionally they are supposed to end tragically."

Piercy's understanding of the territory of the heart makes this book exciting; the fact that it is set in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville helps make it real. You'll love it.

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## A PLAY:

## "SUPPOSE I FALL?"

"Suppose I Fall?", a play by Stan Edelson, will appear through January at the Caravan Theatre in Cambridge; if you haven't seen it, go. Four actors, virtually without props, engage in a series of stark dialogue encounters on an empty stage. The dialogue has a compactness, an abbreviated quality, which affectively lays bare important and fundamental facts about human interaction. The psychology here is as important as the theatre: the play draws extensively on the vocabulary of Eric Berne and the concepts of trans-

actional analysis. Some of the scenes present inner conflicts within an individual--many involve male/female confrontations. There are four inter-sexual scenes, all very sensitively done. The two lesbian sections of the play succeed in being moving and warm and real.

It is rare to find a sensitive theatrical portrayal of gay feelings, and this production deserves our support: Go, and tell your friends about it.



American Psychiatric Assn. At the December 15, 1973 press conference held at the American Psychiatric Association headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Board of Trustees of the A.P.A. announced a resolution removing homosexuality from the A.P.A. list of psychiatric disorders. This list, in the Diagnostic Manual of Psychiatric Disorders, is the official nomenclature in North America followed by all medical groups including the American Medical Association. In place of homosexuality was substituted the new category and definition "sexual orientation disturbance."

"Sexual orientation disturbance" was defined as a "category for individuals whose sexual interests are directed primarily toward people of the same sex and who are either bothered by, in conflict with, or wish to change their sexual orientation."

This category, according to the National Gay Task Force, has been designed to prevent a few psychiatrists who have made a career of "changing" homosexuals from being drummed out of their profession.

The A.P.A.'s shift, however, distinguishes "sexual orientation disturbance" from homosexuality and stipulates that "homosexuality per se is a form of sexual behavior, and like other forms of sexual behavior which are not by themselves psychiatric disorders is not listed in this nomenclature of mental disorders?"

The December ruling eliminates the rationale for perpetuating the sodomy laws of 43 states. The Board resolution also called for an end to discrimination in jobs, housing, etc.

Feminist News Exchange. At the November 3-4 Feminist Press Conference in Columbus, Ohio, a Feminist News Exchange was formed to fill the gap until a more solid national feminist news service appears. There will be an exchange of publications and material for publication; all feminist periodicals may join. The yearly fee is \$5. The address is Feminist News Exchange, Box 431, Planetarium Station, New York, N.Y. 10024; phone (Nancy Borman, co-ordinator) 929-9362.

Gay liberation in Maine. Gay liberation is on the move in Maine and will see a Bangor-centered Gay Support and Action Group and the University of Maine Wilde-Stein Club co-sponsor a state-wide conference in February. For information write: Gay Support and Action Group, Unitarian Parish House, 183 Main St., Bangor, Maine 04401.

Gay conference in Rhode Island. Kingston Gay Liberation is announcing a gay conference at the University of Rhode Island February 15-17, 1974. "(We hope to) reserve that weekend to avoid conflicts with other organizations in New England that may be planning some sort of activities for other New

England gay groups", wrote KGL. There will be free housing for attendees; and the conference schedule includes workshops, movies, a welcome dance, plays, and community meals. Watch for more information or write Kingston Gay Liberation, c/o Memorial Union, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. 02881, or call 401-792-5817.

Gay conference in New Jersey.

Rutgers University Homophile League will hold its fourth annual conference on Gay Unity April 19-21. The schedule includes not only lectures, seminars, and discussions, but also exhibits and social events. For details write: Student Homophile League, R.P.O. 2901, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903 or call 201-932-7886.

New England gay conference. The NEGC for 1974 will again be held at Emerson College in Boston in March. The vote against having it at Provincetown or Kingston, R.I. was 13 to 12 at the first planning meeting. The next planning meeting is Jan. 5--see calendar.

Wheaton women's forum. From January to April, Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. will conduct a forum in the contemporary situation of women. There will be a display of current feminist literature, including Focus.



Bibliography. Women and Literature: An Annotated Bibliography is out in its second edition. It lists 400 titles of prose fiction and critical works by women authors. Copies are \$1.25 from Sense and Sensibility Collective, 57 Ellery St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

New Bedford. The Women's Center in New Bedford, Mass. needs donations to help establish a clinic facility which would provide comprehensive health care and referrals for women who do not follow a health care program. Send donations to New Bedford's Women's Clinic, 347 County St., New Bedford, Mass. 02747.

Music. The Women's Music Network, Inc. has been created to facilitate the movement of women's music in this country. For information related to musical compositions, music history, live stage shows featuring Lavendar Jane, and promotion of artists contributing to women's culture contact: Kay Garner, WMN, 215 West 92 St., New York, N.Y. 10025, phone 212-595-5723.

M.C.C. Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles just bought an ex-opera house for \$300,000 which can seat 1000 at worship services. They put \$70,000 down. (Advocate, Dec. 5, '73)

National Gay Task Force. The National Gay Task Force was catalyzed into existence by former Lindsay aide Howard Brown, who announced his homosexuality at a New Jersey medical conference and who is now chairman of the task force. It has opened offices at 80 Fifth Ave., N.Y. with \$13,000 seed money. (Advocate Dec. 5, '73).

St. Louis. The Women's Coffeehouse in St. Louis is relocating and needs \$ to maintain the only central meeting place for lesbians in the area. Women's Coffeehouse, c/o Moonstorm, P.O. Box 11983, Wellston Station, St. Louis, Missouri 63112.

Videotape of lesbian conf. Copies of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch EIAJ standard videotape of the 1973 Lesbian Conference (held at UCLA) is available for \$25 from Vulva Video, 606 Venezia Ave., Venice, Calif. 90291. Rentals are also possible.

D.C. rights bill. The Washington, DC. city council passed, and the mayor signed Nov. 16, a new Human Rights Law which prohibits discrimination in a wide variety of areas, including jobs housing, and rental of commercial space, on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, and personal appearance, among others. Both the council and the mayor are appointed by the president of the US. (Advocate, Dec. 19, '73).

Poll. In a poll reported in the Nov. 13 National Catholic Reporter, over 70 % of 1367 Americans asked said that homosexual relationships are wrong: 76% of Protestants and 71% of Catholics but only 31% of Jews thought so. 48% of the people thought premarital sex of any sort was wrong. (Advocate Dec. 19, '73).

Xmas trees. Boston DOB sold Christmas trees at the Charles St. Meeting House the two Saturdays and one Sunday before Christmas. Every last tree was sold and a bundle of \$ made, thanks to C. Baker and crew.

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ADS (5¢/word)

HANDWRITING ANALYZED by sister, not by computer. \$5 each analysis, two for \$8.50. K. Feinberg, Dept. F, Box 24172, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224.

1974 Calendar for Women: 13 photos by Jeb in brown on heavy white paper suitable for framing. Spiral bound, 10 x 13 in. \$2.50; The Day Before: a Graphic Datebook of our Female Ancestors. A page for every week, 52 illustrations, one quote for each week, 120 pages  $6\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. spiral bound. \$3.50. Both from Diana Press, 12 W. 25th St., Baltimore, Md. 21218.

OFF OUR BACKS! A Women's News Journal. 35¢ sample, \$5/year. Off Our Backs, 1724 20th St., N.W., Washington, DC. 20009.



## ACROSS

1. Sappho  
 5. want  
 8. hi  
 9. odd  
 10. illicit  
 13. tell  
 14. out  
 15. plan  
 17. son  
 18. smear  
 21. re  
 22. standard  
 23. gay  
 25. lonely  
 26. art  
 27. mom  
 28. Ra
29. tu  
 31. NOW  
 32. virgin  
 35. theo  
 36. AAA  
 38. OE  
 39. on  
 40. RFO  
 43. Ct  
 44. loaf  
 45. Maurice  
 47. er  
 49. Ger  
 51. Patience  
 52. whelm

## DOWN

1. sister  
 2. phile  
 3. pillory  
 4. Ohio  
 5. Whitman  
 6. no  
 7. Edward  
 11. custom  
 12. spray  
 16. NE  
 19. enervate  
 20. Adlai  
 22. slow  
 23. Grahn  
 24. at  
 27. Mo  
 29. ti
30. uniform  
 31. Nora  
 33. role  
 34. George  
 35. ton  
 37. acc  
 40. pure  
 42. or  
 45. mat  
 46. ICC  
 48. la  
 50. el

GAY RIGHTS LEGISLATION COMES ROUND AGAIN--CASES  
 OF DISCRIMINATION NEEDED

D.O.B. along with other groups is sponsoring gay rights legislation in the Massachusetts legislature again for this coming year 1974.

Bills will include protection against discrimination in employment, housing, insurance, credit, mortgages, public accommodations by both private and state sectors.

The most effective testimony last year on these bills was perhaps the testimony of Bob Dow that he had been denied a driver's licence for being homosexual (navy records).

What we have to do this year is come with additional cases to prove the need for the new laws we want. Now, don't panic yet!...We will accept anonymous testimony. This is what we need:

If you have ever lost a job, not been hired, lost custody, etc. etc. or been discriminated against in any way for being a homosexual, or think you have been, please send us a letter with the details. We will need your name and address\* to contact you for further information if we need it, but this information will be kept strictly

\*phone # too if possible

confidential. If you are willing to have your name used, this will make our case much stronger. If you would consider testifying before the committee of 20 which will consider the bills this spring, we would love to talk with you.

Pass the word to your friends that we need these cases--maybe they know someone.

We will be distributing information at raps and in the bars about the bills and how people can help. In next month's Focus we will give details about the bills--numbers, which representatives and senators are introducing them, etc.

Besides the discrimination bills, there is one to repeal the sodomy and unnatural acts laws, and an amendment to the state constitution which would outlaw any denial of rights on the basis of sexual preference--not just job, etc. discrimination but anything including e.g. custody.

Last year everyone in the state house had heard of our bills. This year we want more votes. Let DOB know about the hassles you've had so we can get going.



TUESDAYS 7:30 pm RAP SESSIONS ON BEING GAY, FOR WOMEN ONLY. Share feelings about being gay, everyone welcome; new women there every week. Child care will be provided. At the DOB office, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323, Boston, between Arlington and Berkeley Streets, near Arlington MBTA stop.

Wednesdays 7:30 pm RAP SESSION FOR LESBIAN MOTHERS, at the office. Also, mothers can call in to talk with someone who is a mother.

THURSDAYS 9-10 pm GAY WAY RADIO PROGRAM, WBUR-FM 90.0 mc.

SUNDAYS 10:20--10:50 am GAY NEWS, WCAS RADIO, 740 AM. "CLOSET SPACE"

SUNDAYS 2-4 pm WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, Cambridge YWCA, Temple St., Cambridge, near Central Square. Swimming afterwards (bring a suit). 75¢ basketball, 25¢ swim.

January 2, 8 pm PLANNING MEETING FOR "YES, WE CAN" WOMEN'S FESTIVAL BOOTH on Jan. 18. (Wed.) Women interested in brainstorming about the DOB booth--meeting of minds and imaginations. Call 492-3370 for directions to meeting place in Cambridge or see bulletin board in office.

JAN. 3 THURS = SONYA HAMLIN T.V. "FOR ♀ TODAY" - LESBIAN MOTHERS  
Jan. 5, Saturday, 2pm NEW ENGLAND GAY CONFERENCE PLANNING MEETING, Worcester Gay Union Office, 78 Franklin St., Worcester, Mass. (at Worcester Common near the Public Library).

JAN. 6 SUN 10-11 pm LAVENDER HOUR, WBCN, 104 FM

Jan. 7, Monday, 7:30pm BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE, open to all DOB members who want to help revise and improve the laws by which DOB operates. At office.

Jan. 8, Tuesday, 7:30-8pm ORIENTATION MEETING FOR NEW DOB MEMBERS and people interested in the organization, at the office just before the rap. This is a chance to find out about the different committees and activities

\*\*Jan. 10 below

Jan. 13, 7:30 pm DOB BUSINESS MEETING AT THE OFFICE.  
(Sunday)

Jan. 16, Wednesday, 7:30 pm FOCUS STAFF MEETING at Diane's and Cherry's. Call 492-3370 for directions. All persons interested in making a commitment to working on Focus are invited.

Jan. 16--20. 8pm WOMEN FOR WOMEN: INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S FILMS AND VIDEO-TAPES, at the Video Study Center of Global Village, 454 Broome St., New York City (between Mercer and Greene). Women-only audience, contribution \$2. Coordinators Norma Pontes and Rita Moreira, Box 365, Old Chelsea Sta., N.Y., N.Y. 10011.

Jan. 18, Friday, all day "YES, WE CAN" WOMEN'S FAIR AND FESTIVAL, sponsored by WBZ-TV and the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, at the Hines Civic Auditorium, Boston. See Jan. 2 above.

Feb. 10, Sunday, 1pm--on. DOB WINTERFEST. Sleighride (or hay if no snow), ice-skating, bonfire, sledding, horse riding (extra cost), etc. and dancing in the evening to the Deadly Nightshade, all for \$5. At the Ellendale Stables in Sherborne. See elsewhere in Focus or fliers at the office for more details. Advance reservation only and women only. Send name and address with \$5; if we don't get 100 to go we'll cancel and send your\$ back.

\*\*Jan. 10, Thurs. 7pm HEARING ON WOMEN'S ISSUES RELATED TO LEGISLATION IN MASS., a part of the "Yes, We Can" program. It will be filmed by WBZ-TV. Women from all different groups will be testifying, and legislators will supposedly be there to listen. Gardner Auditorium, State House, Boston.

D.O.B., 419 Boylston St., Room 323, Boston, Mass. 02116. 617-262-1592



D.O.B.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1974 1 pm----

# WINTERFEST !!

SLEIGHRIDE (hayride if snow fails )

TOBBAGANNING\* SLEDDING (bring yours )

ICESKATING (bring skates)

\*never said I  
could spell them  
big uns

HORSEBACK RIDING OPTIONAL

OUTDOOR GRILL TO COOK ON  
(bring whatever you want to eat and drink)  
(don't forget the MARSHMALLOWS)  
(and carrots for the horses)

AND A BONFIRE

-BYOB-

AND IN THE EVENING ONE OTHER LITTLE THING,

DANCING

TO

THE DEADLY NIGHTSHADE!DRESS WARMLY!  
There's no heat in  
the barn--we'll  
generate our ownThe whole bit, from 1 pm when it  
all starts till --?-- when it all  
ends will cost you

\$5.00

advance reservations only, by Feb  
3.The place is ELLENDALE STABLES, SHERBORNE. Take Route 16 out to  
Route 27. Turn left onto 27. Go about a mile. Just after you  
cross the railroad tracks there is a yellow house on the left  
with a place for parking. That's it. If you want, meet at 12  
noon sharp at Grossman's on Route 16 in Wellesley and we will  
guide you. That's Feb. 10, Sunday.Reservations MUST be made in advance. We need 100 women to make  
this pay for itself. If we don't get that many we'll send your  
money back. We hope to get many more! FILL IN THE FORM BELOW NOW!  
WE MUST HAVE THIS FORM AND THE \$ BY FEB. 3.

## RESERVATION

return this with \$5 per person (women only) to DOB, 419 Boylston St., Boston.  
02116,

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_



SWEET UP WOMAN

Hanging low  
sweet up woman  
woman  
tell me why  
I turn away so fast  
after it took me  
so aching long  
to turn to you.

--Susan Cavin

For as long as I can remember  
I have been lonely  
and now you have come into my life  
bringing things I do not understand  
but need

Stay with me awhile  
and  
tell me again the white lie

Yesterday the Gothic lore of man  
held my fate  
Today your soft eyes and unshed tears  
haunt me  
and I love you

I have only myself to offer  
but then...you've said it's enough  
and I dare not question you now

I need you  
I need your laughter, confusion, and  
endless dreams

Please stay with me awhile  
and  
tell me again the white lie

--Carla Marie

\*\*\*\*\*

PORTRAIT OF THE LADY

A tall slender willowreed-wand  
with high, hollow cheekbones  
and a fantastically gentle  
windy smile  
brown fawn eyes, soft  
shy, mirroring her rapture  
black, fluffy hair that  
falls softly as a frame for her  
face;  
a contrast against her  
pale, perfect skin and  
the freckles she wears  
when the sun comes out.

--Desi Geshen

LOVE POEM

Hoping for you,  
I make my bed  
With clean sheets.

--Wendy Hayes

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* JOIN BOSTON D.O.B. \*  
\* There's \*  
\* lots \*  
\* to be \*  
\* done. \*  
\* First orientation meeting \*  
\* for new and prospective \*  
\* members Tues. Jan. 8 7:30pm \*  
\* at the office: first 1/2 hr. \*  
\* of the rap. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

LETTER TO FOCUS

Dear Boston D.O.B.,

I thought I would write and give you the  
news from Fort Worth.

We think we are doing great. We have  
raised enough money from donations to  
rent office space and a place to meet.  
We are supposed to get a newsletter cut  
for January. When we do we will, of  
course, send you a copy. Thank you  
for the Focus...keep in touch.

Jeanne Leggett  
D.O.B. Fort Worth  
P.O. Box 1564  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76101

NOTE: The New Jersey DOB phone number  
is now 201-233-3848. If there is no  
answer, call 674-1111 and leave a  
message.





The History Project  
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