

# FOCUS

A JOURNAL FOR  
GAY WOMEN



GERI

MAY '73

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FOCUS: A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN

May 1973

FOCUS is published monthly by Boston Daughters of Bilitis, Rm. 415, 419 Boylston St., Boston, Mass. 02116.

Phone: 617-262-1592

Subscriptions are \$5 a year, and a sample is 50¢. Give us your zip #. If you move, let us know; otherwise it costs us 10¢ per issue to forward 3rd class mail, and sometimes it just gets lost.

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

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

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Fanwood, New Jersey 07023

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS  
CALENDAR  
May 1973

- TUESDAYS 7:30 pm RAF SESSIONS ON BEING GAY, FOR WOMEN. Share feelings about being gay, newcomers especially welcome. We go out for a snack afterward. For location, call or write the office.
- THURSDAYS 9-10 pm GAY WAY RADIO PROGRAM, WBUR-FM 90.9 on dial.
- SUNDAYS 1 pm D.O.B. SOFTBALL. Bring ball, bat, glove, and/or self, play or watch. Magazine Beach, Cambridge, across the Charles River from Cadillac-Olds, along Memorial Drive west of Boston Univ. Bridge.
- May 4,5,6 GAY WEEKEND IN AMHERST, sponsored by U. Mass. S.H.L. FRIDAY May 4, Dance, 8pm-1am, with THE DEADLY NIGHTSHADE, Worcester Dining Commons; SATURDAY May 5 Registration SHL office, Student Union Rm. 413B, \$2. Workshops in the afternoon include S & M, T.V., female gay-male gay relationships, sensitivity, women's workshops, and a concert with Peter Fisher, Marc Rubin, Madeline Davis. In the evening a party. On SUNDAY May 6, a GAY PICNIC at the Hop Brook Commune, 12 noon. For more information contact U. Mass. SHL, RSO 368, U. Mass., Amherst, Mass. (413)-545-0154.
- MAY 6, SUNDAY, 10 pm LAVENDER HOUR, WBCN-FM 104.1 radio.
- MAY 10,11,12,8 pm COMING OUT, New England premier of Jonathan Katz's documentary play about gay life and liberation. The play, adapted from fiction, poetry, autobiographical and historical accounts, traces the story of homosexual men and women in this country from the 17th century to the present day. The Boston production--the first since the original one in New York City in June 1972--is produced, directed, and acted in by Boston area people. Donation requested. Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard, Cambridge.
- May 11, 12, 13. ANTI-SEXISM WEEKEND IN KINGSTON, R.I. For info' write Kingston Gay Liberation, c/o Memorial Union, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. 02881 or call 401-792-5817 or 789-7183.
- MAY 17,18,19, at 8pm COMING OUT! (see above) Performances at Charles St. Meeting House, 70 Charles St., Boston.
- MAY 18, FRIDAY, 8:30--12:30 pm D.O.B. DANCE at the Arlington Street Church, corner Arlington & Boylston Sts., Boston, (near Arlington META stop). In basement (door on Arlington St. side on right). \$1.50. Women only.
- May 19, SATURDAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE D.O.B. meeting. For place write Occupant, Box 137, Northwood, N.H.
- May 24,25,26 at 8 pm, COMING OUT! (see above). Performances at Emerson College, 69 Brimmer St., Boston.
- May 23, WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm D.O.B. BUSINESS MEETING, at the office.
- GAY PRIDE WEEK PLANNING COMMITTEE--call the office for info.

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, Room 415, 419 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116 Phone 617-262-1592. Calendar is \$1/6 mo. FOCUS: A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN is \$5/year or 50¢/sample. MEMBERSHIP is \$10/year (\$15 for couples), includes a subscription to FOCUS, for women 18 & ove.

Dear FOCUS,  
Always enjoy your wide range of news  
and views. Hope to read more gay  
poetry.

I was surprised to learn others in Ohio  
also get your paper. Is there a D.O.B.  
chapter someplace in Ohio? (Ed. Note: No.)

I would like to correspond with other  
'sisters' in Ohio. It can be somewhat  
difficult for a discreet woman over 35  
years to learn where the gay group is.

FOCUS, keep up the good work.

Yours truly,  
Belle Jackson  
129 E. Lorain St.  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Dear Friend,

As you will note in our statement of  
principles, the Libertarian Party is  
dedicated in principle to the right of  
every individual to exercise sole domin-  
ion over his own life, to live his or  
her life in whatever manner, so long  
as the rights of others are not violated.  
Our intent is to create an atmosphere  
in Massachusetts (and around the country)  
in which this principle can become a  
political reality. If you would be  
interested in helping us achieve this  
goal, please let us know.

Yours truly,  
Paul L. Siegler, Chairman  
Mass. Libertarian Party  
24 Prescott St.  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear FOCUS staff and readers,

I am writing from a small town in New  
Hampshire to let you know how much I  
appreciate your monthly issue and the  
refreshing relief from the monotonies  
of isolation it brings.

Less than a year ago I was completely  
ignorant of the existence of any lesbian  
organization and since then have been  
amazed by the amount of activities and  
interest and especially people who  
really care about us. I still haven't  
attended any meetings or activities  
partly from being so far away and part-  
ly from fear that what exists in black  
and white so boldly might elude me. For

now I am content to keep in touch by  
reading.

Thank you FOCUS, and anyone who might  
be interested in correspondance --

Susan Grover  
Box 75  
Elkins, N.H. 03233

Dear FOCUS,

Since graduating from basic training  
at \_\_\_\_\_, I think that receiving FOCUS  
puts me in jeopardy.

So please cancel my subscription effec-  
tive immediately....

Thank you so much for just 'being.'

Sincerely,  
J.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On June 23, 1973, the Gay Activists  
Alliance of New Jersey will be hold-  
ing its Gay Pride Parade in Hackensack.

We cordially invite you and your group  
to join us in our march for Gay Rights.

It is suggested that those who will be  
in attendance bring signs, posters,  
and/or candles, as the parade begins  
at 8:30 P.M.

Any signs or posters, which your group  
brings may not have a pole attached  
to it, as this is in violation of a  
city ordinance.

Following our parade, we will return  
to our headquarters for a dance, free  
wine and cheeses.

Our group has plans to attend your  
Gay Pride Parade, and it is our hope  
that you have similar intentions.  
Please forward any and all information  
for your parade.

We are looking forward to seeing you  
and your group.

YOURS IN LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING,

Stephen P. Rice, GAA N.J., Box 1734,  
South Hackensack, N.J. 07606  
(cont. on p. 4)

Dear People,

Barbara Gittings spoke here at Indiana University this week-end, and passed around a bibliography of gay writings, in which FOCUS was listed.

I'd be very much interested in receiving it, since Boston is my home base and eventual destination when I am finished here.

Enclosed is five dollars. Thanks very much.

Peace,

Ruth

#### Lament of the Romantic

I have not seen the fires of flaming  
Rome,  
The little shack Diogenes called home.  
The brilliant Caesar came before my time.  
As Homer and his famous verse sublime  
And Cleopatra's charms are obsolete---  
Achilles left us on his magic feet.  
I only know of dreams, of love and hate,  
For I was born a thousand years too late.

Geri

#### NEW BOOKS IN THE DOB LIBRARY

Lesbian Nation, by Jill Johnston  
The Outcast, by Anna Weirauch  
The Scorpion, " " "  
Color Photos of the Atrocities,  
by Kenneth Pitchford  
Testimony from the hearings before the Commerce & Labor Comm. of the Mass. legislature  
Gay People's Union News, a monthly from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

#### GAY NEWS AROUND THE COUNTRY

##### G.A.A. Newspaper

In February the Gay Activists Alliance of New York published its first combined male/female gay newspaper with a run of 20,000 copies.

##### New York City Gay Women

Members of the Lesbian Liberation Committee of the New York G.A.A. are considering forming a separate lesbian organization in N.Y. City.

##### State of Washington

A proposed penal code revision is in committee in the Washington State Legislature. If passes, this revision would abolish all laws against homosexual behavior over age 18. Solicitation to commit a homosexual act would not be a crime. (ADVOCATE, April 11)

##### Oregon

A bill to prevent discrimination in employment, housing, etc., is in the Oregon legislature. (ADVOCATE, April 11)

##### Paid Gay Lobbyist

The New York State Coalition of gay organizations is paying for a lobbyist on gay issues at the New York State Legislature. He will receive a hundred dollars a week until the end of the session this summer. Major gay groups such as Mattachine were assessed three to four hundred dollars. (ADVOCATE, April 11)

Jack Baker, Minneapolis gay activist, is running for Minneapolis City Council this November.

##### Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance

(Georgia) was formed in June 1972 and has an active program. Write ALFA, 1190 Mansfield Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30307 (phone 524-3192)

##### Gay Pride Week-Philadelphia.

The week begins June 2 with a Gay Arts Festival and ends June 10 with a parade and street fair. The theme is "Celebration of Gay Life". For details write FGPC73, P.O. Box 2350, Phila., Penn. 19103.

Forty-five women and two men at a Natick Jewish women's organization meeting filled out a questionnaire on their attitudes about homosexuality before listening to a Gay Speakers' Bureau presentation April 11.

They were mostly in their twenties. Their answers showed they believe that homosexuality is not immoral and ought to be legalized. They were divided, however, in opinion on whether it was a psychological illness, and many would turn first to a "professional" if their own child was gay.

Although the sample was small and select, the answers were surprisingly similar to those given on May 18, 1971, by a class of fifty-eight teachers and guidance counselors, a third of whom were men, in Avon, Mass.

		<u>Natick, 1973</u>	<u>Avon, 1971</u>
Do you think homosexuality is a psychological illness?	Yes	45%	60%
	No	36%	26%
	Don't know	11%	14%
	Other	8%	--
Do you think homosexual behavior is immoral?	Yes	2%	10%
	No	96%	84%
Do you think homosexual behavior between consenting adults should be legal?	Yes	92%	86%
	No	8%	11%
Would you object if your child were taught by a homosexual?	Yes	31%	26%
	No	57%	64%
	Don't know	8%	--
	Other	4%	--

As an adult with responsibilities towards young people, what would you do if you found out that a young person was homosexual?

Send him/her to a psychiatrist or other professional	36%	--
Talk with the person myself to see if they understand what they are into	16%	--
Do nothing special	13%	--
Try to understand	6%	--
Send to gay groups	2%	--
Other answers given	13%	--

Have you ever known a homosexual?	Yes	36%	52%
	No	59%	47%

FOCUS LIMERICK CONTEST

Deadline May 20, 1973.  
 First prize 1 FOCUS subscription or 2 tickets to next dance.  
 Must have a gay theme.

WHERE ARE ALL YOU LIMERICK WRITERS?? WE HAVE RECEIVED VERY FEW ENTRIES. COME ON!

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. There is a spot for everyone from closet dwellers to T.V. stars. Join us.

In a landmark case in September, 1972, a Superior Court judge in Seattle, Washington, gave child custody to two lesbians who had divorced their husbands and were living together as a gay couple. The case had been initiated by the fathers a year earlier.

Judge James A. Noe ruled, however, that the six children, ages 4 - 9, were in a "potentially destructive environment" and ordered the lovers to maintain separate households (see April FOCUS in letters section). He did not order the relationship to end.

The judge apparently compromised. The views of several psychiatrists and a court-appointed social worker were that the children were "well cared for physically, emotionally, and intellectually" and were showing no identification problems (as to their sex). The children wanted to stay with their mothers. Some of the letters to the editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, which had printed a sympathetic feature article on the case, showed the opposing views: "...an article of this type is the gravest of moral pollution"; "excuse me, please, time out to vomit"; "We know homosexuals exist, but must we give this type of relationship credence by this undue publicity?"

The two women, Sandra Schuster (two sons) and Madeline Isaacson (four children), are now living in homes a block apart. The next step is unclear but may involve re-opening the case if more evidence is obtained. The women want the right to live as a single family unit. (Information taken from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 18 and 19 and March 11, 1973; and the Seattle Times, September 23, 1972; copies supplied by Sandra Schuster.)

Sandra Schuster explains to FOCUS the present situation:

Dear Friends,

We will either reopen the case with new evidence or some unusual judge will, someplace in the country, say its okay for gay relationships that are stable to have children live in a family situation with them.

Maddy and I live a block away from one another. We are quite sure the judge was worried about our sleeping in the same bed confusing the children because it would be two women instead of a man and a woman. There is virtually no evidence gathered to show what children who come from gay environments are like. Most people think they are probably confused about their sexual identity, i.e. whether a boy or a girl, and that their sexuality is confused! My master's thesis in psychiatric nursing is on this very issue. All I need are gay mothers and kids willing to share where their heads are. If there was any way possible to go throughout the U.S.A. and talk to gay mothers and their children, collect the data and report it, I believe we would have evidence to reopen our case and appeal it if necessary. I believe that lesbian parents in particular provide a better balanced home environment than the heterosexual ones so widely researched. We need quality and quantity when the study is done. If you don't have a good sized sample no-one will listen! If only there was someone who had money who cared about this whole issue enough to sponsor a study!! I know where to find the gay mothers, it's just the problem of speaking to each on a personal basis that will make a big difference!!

All in all I would say the credit for our case belongs to God. Without our faith in Him we would not have lasted past the first month of pressure!

We appreciate your interest. We would very much like to have a copy of the FOCUS that this appears in.

Thank you --

Sincerely,

Ms. Sandra L. Schuster  
P.O. Box 15312  
Wedgewood Station  
Seattle, Wash. 98115

Contributions to "The Gay Mothers' Legal and Research Fund," which is attempting to provide educational material and legal assistance, can be sent to Sandra at the above address.

By Kay Silk

Within the first year of its life, MS magazine has become a familiar element in the battle between feminists and anti-feminists. Mentioning MS is considered an accurate test of a person's attitude toward the women's movement; like litmus paper, the person in question will react to the sound of the magic name either as radical red or as traditional true blue.

The frequency of true-blue reactions is surprising, for MS is really very tame. It addresses itself to that most comfortably situated of women, the white, heterosexual, urban or suburban dweller, affiliated with the business or professional class. The format, by no coincidence, resembles that of NEW YORK magazine, and advertisers like Dewars Scotch, American Express, and THE SATURDAY REVIEW make their appearance in quest of the newly liberated female dollar.

The content of MS reflects the same unadventurous, big-money spirit indicated by the advertising and the physical composition. Many of the articles are informative enough, but they merely tell us more of what we already knew or sensed: the injustices suffered by airline stewardesses (Jan. '73) or by female employees of READER'S DIGEST (Oct. '72) or by beauty queens (Sept. '72); female contributions to political and artistic life; the iniquities in women's legal and economic status; the sexist atrocities preserved in the wedding ceremony (Feb. '73). Some of the topics are as glossy as the paper they're printed on, such as the discussion of cosmetics and the cosmetics industry (Jan. '73). In one issue we find an interview with a domestic worker (Feb. '73), a member of a breed unfamiliar to many of us, though evidently not to the staff of MS.

More often than the editors might wish to admit, MS deals with subjects that have long occupied the conventional women's magazines and newspaper sections. These include being fat (Sept. '72), turning forty (Nov. '72), and contraception. This last subject is sometimes served with a scoop of popular psychiatry, as in "What Contraceptive Type are You?" (March '73). and most fre-

quently of all, there are articles about the dreariness of housework, presumably written for those who lack domestic help. The shocking revelation that housework is a bore, whoever does it, is presented in an Erna Bombeck tone, except that the self-pity is unleavened in MS by any of Bombeck's attempts at humor.

Yes, MS is very tame, behind its bold front. The defense (Feb. '73) of comfortable clothes, of pants and low-heeled footwear instead of the skirt-girdle-stockings-high heels harness, sounds like the arguments we used to have with our mothers before we left home. In an early issue (July '72), Germaine Greer speaks out against wearing underpants. So what? In the same issue we read that a woman's body hair is the 'last frontier.' By refusing to remove hair from the traditional places, a woman is asserting her freedom from traditional female roles and stereotypes. This article was good for an unexpected laugh. Of all the women I know, the most scrupulous shaver of legs and armpits is a confirmed butch.

The freshest material is to be found in the departments of 'Lost Women,' 'Found Women,' and 'Notes from Abroad.' 'Found Women' brings to our attention women who are making contributions in every field, and who have gone generally unnoticed until now. 'Lost Women' presents such figures from the past as Maud Younger, a suffragist and trade union organizer (Jan. '73), and 'Boxcar Bertha' Thompson, who worked to improve the lot of the itinerant female laborer (Dec. '72). The 'Notes from Abroad,' which report on the position of women in other countries, can be enlightening to an American. These departments are genuinely informative, and the material often deserves to be made general knowledge, to help correct the male bias of our historical records.

The same can be said when MS deals with women in relation to larger problems. The photographs that accompany the essays on women in prison (Feb.

(cont. on p. 8)



'73), the troubles in Ireland (March '73), or the three Appalachian women (July '72) speak for themselves, to all of us. The horrors attending our society or Anglo-Irish politics are everyone's concern, and in fact merit a wider exposure than the rarified air of MS.

As a publication for women, MS confines itself to a few themes, presented with many variations. The editors have imposed even more limits by devoting themselves to the reader who is urban, prosperous, and all the rest. (To her man, too. A men's department appears regularly.) The price, for example, a dollar an issue, is typical of magazine prices these days, but it is prohibitive to the truly poor woman, the woman who has the most to gain from any reform in the social and economic system. She needs that dollar to buy as many of the necessities as possible.

More disturbing is the limitation on what might be called the emotional atmosphere. In particular, MS reflects the hostility that feminists of the Friedan-Steinem variety feel toward lesbian women. In the early months, we were encouraged to see that MS printed an excerpt from Anne Koedt's 'Notes from the Third Year,' presenting the idea of women loving women (preview issue, spring '72); that Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon discussed aspects of lesbian relationships (July '72); and that Jill Johnston introduced another problem, from another viewpoint, in an article on the 'Amazon Mother' (Sept. '72). It seemed for a while that MS was interested in reaching all women.

But then something happened. Maybe somebody took a survey and discovered that most of the MS readership was indifferent, or worse, to the subject of lesbian women. Or maybe there was pressure from advertisers, whose success depends upon the continuation of the heterosexual status quo. Or maybe the editors themselves felt it necessary to prove their detachment from the 'lavender menace,' in order to gain acceptance for the brand of feminism they were promoting. We'll never know. But since last September, there has been no more material for or about lesbian women, and no poetry, short stories,

photography, or graphic work that might even suggest the love of one woman for another. If not for the presence of the AMAZON QUARTERLY's classified ad in the March issue, an onlooker might think that lesbians had become extinct in the last six months.

In general, MS has approached the subject of lesbianism by not approaching it, by hoping to ignore it out of existence. Usually this discrimination is genteel and ladylike, but it became blatant in the March issue.

'The First Feminist Comedy Team,' consisting of Patti Harrison and Robin Tyler, was reviewed in the March MS. We find that their opening routine includes the following challenge to the audience:

'You see us up here, two women in blue jeans, and you're thinking: they must be...yeah...they're...!' After a pause to make sure the audience has filled in the obvious, Harrison and Tyler added, 'Come on now, how many of you thought that...?...Well, we're not,' they said defiantly.

Their tone set the audience on edge, but their straight image was still intact. And nobody really got hurt, except for lesbian women.

In the same issue, Gail Rock reviews Ingmar Bergman's film, 'Cries and Whispers,' which is dominated by women. The relationships among these women are varied and complex, but never, God forbid, unsavory. Although the servant Anna cares for the dying Agnes with 'strangely erotic tenderness,' the reviewer clears away any misunderstanding, or understanding, that may have arisen in the reader's mind.

'Bergman concentrates on the women's interrelationships. He has always seemed fascinated with the capacities for eroticism between women--a kind of open, animal sensuality that I don't think he intends to be taken for lesbianism.'

Certainly not!

Finally there is Letty Cotton Pogrebin's article on women's rap groups, also known as consciousness-raising (or

C-R) groups. As we all know, the C-R group occupies a central place in the women's movement, occurring at the grass roots level. The C-R group is the place for women to share their their grievances, to find that they're not alone, and to gain the support of other women. The C-R group, among heterosexual women, helps them to examine their feelings, but not too closely, and to love their fellow women, but not too well.

It is important that members of the group develop feelings of closeness and trust for one another. Pogrebin describes one of the methods by which the group can encourage these emotions: to hold meetings in the nude.

'The women talk about their physical vulnerability, about revealing their bodies for the first time to a man, about their reactions to seeing other women's bodies...A thin woman touches a plump woman's buttock and remarks that fat would be less threatening now that she has perceived the loveliness of a full figure. Several overweight women marvel as they trace the planes and angles along a lanky woman's back.

Although there was much touching and intimate talk, women report that nothing overtly sexual seems to develop in this group encounter.'

'Nothing'? Come on, Letty.

The truth is that nobody would acknowledge such feelings, even if they arose. The pressure against them is too great. My reaction to this article recalls my discomfort, and that of some of my lesbian friends, in C-R groups of straight women. The dilemma is this: either to hide one's lesbian affinities and be welcome in the group, or to declare oneself a lesbian and be ostracized. The MS variety of love among women keeps this dilemma alive, for the so-called feeling of sisterhood is governed by conventions as severe as any incest-taboo. The free flow of affection is less

free than it seems; it stops where it risks being transformed into attraction or passion. For all the female loyalty and pride advertised by the MS feminist, it is ordained that her most private territory -- her heart, her body, her bed -- must remain the preserve of men only. Is it any wonder that a lesbian woman feels uneasy among non-lesbians? Especially now that they're playing games of grope-and-feel, hands-on but not turned-on.

So why do I still buy MS each month? Certainly not from any lingering hope that the editors have warmed toward us non-MS types. And not to read yet another piece about Florynce Kennedy or Sylvia Plath, interesting though these women are. And not even the 'lost women,' the 'found women,' or the women from other countries are quite worth that dollar.

I continue to buy MS because it usually includes a section called 'Populist Mechanics.' To judge by the modest format and location, this is not the section in which MS takes the greatest pride. The type is pale and spidery and hard on the eyes, and the articles themselves are crowded humbly into the very front or back of the magazine. But the content of these poor relations is worth the inconvenience. They are 'service articles' in the best sense, presenting the basic facts of such subjects as cars and electrical systems and stereo sets. 'Populist Mechanics' is worth the price of the magazine to those who know nothing of mechanics and to those who are unsure of their knowledge. Best of all, the factual quality of the material does not lend itself to editorial comment beyond the indisputable suggestion that knowledge, of any kind, is power.

From the viewpoint of one who is not the MS dream girl, the magazine is most successful where it teaches without preaching. An understanding of the distributor cap and the circuit breaker is useful to every one of us, whatever our emotional inclinations might be.



## THEY NEVER KNOW

Hey Man! There is a world out there  
 Bleak and dismal as it seems  
 I've found the light, I've seen a dream  
 Though it took all joy of life  
 I took a chance and paid the price  
 I made the scene at her advice  
 I live a life and kept a dream  
 They took me here, they took me there  
 Let me go from corner to corner  
 But held me back from border to border  
 Set me free within their order.

Dig it Man! How great it was  
 To make a choice within the order  
 To dream a life or live a dream  
 To play each day a game of life  
 And at the end know only strife  
 But if I chose to live a dream  
 I'd say Good Nite but once in life  
 And know I'd dream and dream  
 For somewhere out there, there is a scene  
 Made from all the joys I dream  
 Perhaps tonight will be the night.

--C.N.

## SISTERHOOD

I love you my sister,  
 Because you are me, and I am you.  
 Because we share in the same life-  
 styles and limitations.

I will help you whenever you need  
 help.

I will shake you from lethargy.  
 I will protect you when you need it.  
 I will make you uncomfortable in  
 your rut.

I will arouse your discontent,  
 and your energies.

I will not try to dominate you or  
 make you part of me.

I will never look down on you, and  
 will discourage you from  
 looking down on yourself.

I will give you my respect, my time,  
 my assistance.

I will defend your individuality.

I will walk with you when you don't  
 want to walk alone.

I will work to assure you the  
 necessities of life.

I will fight for your rights,  
 to make you free.  
 You will always come first.  
 I will applaud your strengths,  
 And gently point out your  
 weaknesses.

I will encourage you to further  
 accomplishments.

I will stand by you in your  
 failures.

I will never turn on you, or  
 turn my back on you.

I will be constant in my support  
 of you.

I will turn to you for guidance.  
 I will teach you everything  
 I know.

My successes will be yours, and  
 yours mine.

I love you my sister;  
 Without reservation or qualifi-  
 cation.

I love you as I love myself  
 Together we can celebrate our  
 lives.

--A.G.

BOOK REVIEW: THE LOVE THAT DARED NOT SPEAK ITS NAME BY H. MONTGOMERY  
HYDE (Little, Brown, 1970)

by Geri

THE LOVE THAT DARED NOT SPEAK ITS NAME is an excellent and well-documented survey of the legal vicissitudes of the homosexual in England, from the time of the Norman conquest to the present day.

In 1533, during the reign of Henry VIII, the first statute appeared which made the 'detestable and abominable vice of buggery committed with mankind or beast' a crime punishable by death. It was a long and painful road that led from there to the passing in 1967 of the Sexual Offenses Act, which legalized homosexual acts between consenting adults in private. The information given in this book is invaluable to anyone concerned with changing the legal status of the homosexual in this country. It is worth noting that Mr. Hyde lost his seat in Parliament, which he had held for ten years, as a consequence of his outspoken support of the Wolfenden Committee's recommendations.

For those readers interested in information and anecdotes about well-known homosexual figures, this book will definitely prove to be worth reading. The author, having written two books on Oscar Wilde (THE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE and THE AFTERMATH), is somewhat brief in his treatment of the best-known British homosexual literary figures. This deficiency is more than compensated for by detailed accounts of some other famous cases. One learns with some surprise that the ban on Radclyffe Hall's THE WELL OF LONELINESS has never been lifted and therefore is still technically in effect. Nevertheless, after World War II the book was re-published and sold freely without interference from the police, in the words of Lord Justice Norman Birkett, 'an indication of the world of rapid change in which we live and of the vagaries of taste.'

In 1921, an attempt was made in Parliament to penalize lesbians in the same way as male homosexuals. The arguments brought forth by the various speakers, both for and against the measure, displayed the general ignorance of lesbianism which appears to be universal.

One cannot help feeling that the measure was finally defeated not out of any civil libertarian considerations, but rather from a general consensus that to recognize lesbianism in any way was tantamount to recognizing the capacity of women to enter into relationships that excluded men.

The last chapter, entitled 'Whither Now?' is perhaps the most important from an activist point of view. It deals with the problems left unsolved by the Sexual Offenses Act, such as those posed by the homosexual serving in the Armed Forces, and by homosexuals under the age of consent. The author mentions the efforts being made by British homophile organizations to improve the situation.

Mr. Hyde feels that a great deal of progress has been made in improving the British public's knowledge and attitudes about homosexuality, but that much prejudice remains. The author suggests a close look at the homophile groups in Holland and Denmark as working models. On this side of the Atlantic, we can also profit from that advice.

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