

FOCUS



STALKING - A GUIDE TO GAY BARS

A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN
Oct. 72

50¢

KRISTEN

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Articles in FOCUS reflect the views of the individual authors, and may not represent D.O.B. as an organization.

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Because of prejudices and fears passed down for centuries, our society has treated homosexuals as lepers, perverts, and fools. Both women and men with homosexual feelings have been made to feel worthless.

Kinsey reported that 13% of women have had some homosexual experience by age 45. Boston D.O.B. is one of many gay groups formed in the last few years to give gay women a chance to talk with one another, support one another, and help create a better life for all gay people.

Women of all ages and political persuasions participate in Boston D.O.B.: Because many gay women are not in a position to make their gayness known publically, D.O.B. provides safeguards for those wishing to work quietly within the organization, planning the social program, writing, typing, organizing the library, and so on. For those able to be more open, there is political activism, etc.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. RAP SESSIONS ON BEING GAY, where all women are invited to share feelings about being gay. HOLMES HALL (first floor lounge), a Harvard Law School dormitory, beside parking garage which is on corner of Everett St. and Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge (several blocks north of Harvard Square).
- Thursdays 9-9:30 p.m. GAY WAY Radio Show for the gay community. WBUR-FM, 90.9 on dial.
- Sundays 7 p.m. Boston Metropolitan Community Church (gay) discussion and worship, Arlington St. Church, Hunnewell Chapel, Arlington & Boylston Sts., Boston. (for info call 723-3418. The Boston church has received mission status from the national MCC).
- Oct. 7, Saturday, 1 p.m. - New England Gay Conference, 484 Chestnut St., Holyoke, Mass. D.O.B. is going. For ride call office or ask June or Geri.
- Oct. 8, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., POTLUCK SUPPER AND SPEAKERS FROM OTHER GAY GROUPS (see p. 8). Bring your special food item to share. St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston.
- November 5, Sunday, 7:30 p.m. POTLUCK SUPPER (6:30 p.m.) AND BUSINESS MEETING). Bring your food speciality. St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston. *
- Oct. 28, 1 p.m. SPEAK OUT RAGE. Public hearing on crimes against women relating to abortion, contraception, sterilization, etc. Organized by Boston Womens' Abortion Action Coalition (266-3574) and Female Liberation (491-1071), S-O-R seeks to collect testimony from women, doctors, lawyers, counsellors to ultimately present to the legislature, etc. Boston University Law School Auditorium.
- Nov. 19, Sunday, DON'T FORGET MEMBERS - Thanksgiving dinner at St. Johns at 5:30 P.M. DOB Members only. There is no charge for this dinner, DOB is supplying all. Please be on time.

* THE POT LUCK SUPPER AND THE SPEAKERS INVITED ARE FOR YOU. THIS WILL BE A TIME FOR ALL OF US TO ACQUAINT OURSELVES WITH THE OTHER GAY GROUPS AROUND BOSTON. PLEASE COME.....WE NEED YOU!

JOIN DOB...JOIN DOB.....JOIN DOB.....JOIN DOB

FOCI ARE ON SALE IN DOB OFFICE ONLY 50¢

NEXT MONTH IN FOCUS: "Following My Partners' Lead"
By Kay Silk

Any articles, poetry, sketches for Focus please send to DOB, 419 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

Most women are shorter
than most men
It's easy to over
look us

As the role-conceptions of gay women have changed over the past few years, the gay bar scene has been changing as well. Women are stepping away from being pseudo-males and the powers that be are providing more clubs for these actualized women to patronize. There has been a definite move from seamy combat-zone hideouts stuffed into neighborhood side pockets, to clubs with healthier aspects out of reach of the specialized collections of overone's favorite perversions downtown. Exploring these gathering places in the Boston Area:

There is, of course, old Jacques, on the corner of Broadway and Piedmont St. near the new Howard Johnsons Sky Scrapper in Boston's Bay Village area. Women gather here on the first floor--there is a downstairs bar for men. Sadly, in order to reach the rear area of the first floor, you must pass the front section bar which always manages to collect for itself a patronage of straight men present either for the "look at the two women" sexual fantasy, or for the more active "I wonder if I can take one home" kick. You'll probably notice an occasional transvestite in the ladies room. The ladies room itself is a little questionable and was probably imported from the Titanic just barely before she sunk. Be ready for any and all types of hustles to come your way..... varieties are endless....but some say the element of danger gives J.Q.s" an aura of excitement. Drinks here cost 65¢ with no cover except Tuesday when drinks are 30¢ and cover is \$1.

Across the street is the Other Side where you can leave the predatory atmosphere of Jacques behind and lose yourself in the people both male and female who come mostly to dance to multi-colored discolights and well-amplified music from a jukebox or spun by a D.J. Wednesday nights and weekends are popular with women. There is

a \$1.00 cover but on Wednesdays, drinks are 30¢.

The 1270, at 1270 Boylston Street was formerly patronized by males but it is fast becoming the nicest bar for women in town. They've made Wednesday night women's night and every Wednesday the back room is filled with women. 1270 seems to attract a nicer set of women than Jacques; a good place to go with friends for conversation, light shows on the wall, and a little dancing. The drinks there are averagely priced but a little on the weakside unless you know th bartender. If you like cruising, forgot it here unless it's subtle--the tone of the 1270 is almost intellectual, here you'll find the feminists, the teachers, the hospital administrators etc.

If you have a car, go over the Mystic River Bridge and take Route 95 North out of Boston and exit about 45 minutes later at the Byfield exit where you will find The HYWay Inn. It's a motel, bar, dance hall and swimming pool complex. WHICH, a good sounding womens band, plays here every Tuesday and Thursday. Drinks are 50¢, and no one presses you to buy them every 10 minutes. On Tuesdays, there is usually a buffet, all you can eat for \$1.50.

About 45 minutes in the opposite direction is the Cabana in Providence, R.I. Drive along the Southeast Expressway and take the Post Office Exit near the State House. Take the first right, the first left and the right. Go up the hill until there's an intersection. Bear left, Nancy Fillipi's Cabana is at the bottom of the hill, it's the building with Christmas lights all year around. There is usually a band on weekends and \$1.00 cover. Expect to be harrassed if you smoke on the dance floor or put your foot on the chairs. This club is home base for Carol and the Burgundios, an all girls band ren--

STALKING con't

oniscout of the 50's. When the Burgundios are there the cover is \$2. to walk in. You will be pressed to buy drinks. The Cabana is frequented by the older crowd of women.

There are two other Providence bars worth some consideration. If you take the Central Falls Exit to Railroad St.-- you just may find a small bar called the Railroad which has just begun to become popular for the young set. "Which" plays there on weekends and there is a \$1 cover. The Railroad is a good place to go if you're with someone you care about and you like groping around in the dark for your drinks.

The other bar is called The Jail. The rumors have it assigned the nice to be at colors of good atmosphere. Got directions there from a friend.

At Provincetown there are basically two areas which draw women. The Crown and Anchor has the Back Room which welcomes male and female patronage and what was called the Edwardian Room, the room nearer the front which is larger than the Back Room and is predominantly female in tone--it has some really nice pictures of women together on the walls. There is a \$1 cover on weekends..

The Pied Piper is a woman's bar further up the street. There is usually entertainment on the holidays. Drinks are well made and the atmosphere is pleasant.

If you are in Provincetown on a holiday, don't forget The Moors around 4 p.m. They have sing-a-long happy hours which are very popular with both males and females, but of course got there early.

Gay bars have more responsive to the realities of being a woman and being gay. Bars are not the foreign places of short days past. The feelings of being stalked by straight society in general and predatory men in particular can be now avoided. Women now have some decent social options all their own.

Editors' Note: The following bars also exist but we know little about them. We would appreciate readers' comments on these and other places in New England.

MASSACHUSETTS

Lowell

Majestic Bar, Morrismack St.
(mostly men)

New Bedford

Baylies' Square Cafe
1759 Acushnet Ave.--some straights

North Chelmsford -- The Lantern (some women)Springfield

The Arbor
83 Worthington St. (off Main St.)
women downstairs with woman
bartender.....dancing....

Worcester

Ports O'Call
700 Main St. (gay women, dance)

CONNECTICUT

Hartford

The Cafe Lib
132 Nowpark Ave. (Gay owned....
operated)

The Warehouse
61 Woodbine St. (off Capitol Ave.)
men and women

Waterbury

The Road House
1388 Thomaston Ave. (Now Gay Bar)

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THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS: CANDIDATES FOR STATE LEGISLATURE BACK AWAY FROM GAY RIGHTS

by Laura McMurry

The scene: Candidates' Night, September 8, at the Arlington Town Hall. Six candidates for State Representative had spoken their allotted few minutes each. The chairwoman, Mrs. Maytum, president of the Arlington League of Women Voters, asked for questions.

I was there with Tom Herman from the Gay Rights Alliance. His hand went up.

"I would like to ask each of the candidates if he would support anti-discrimination laws to protect gay people in employment, housing, and public accommodations."

Suddenly heads turned to stare at us. There was a momentary silence, followed by an ominous buzzing. The candidates then rose to answer.

"My gut reaction has to be, NO, I WOULD NOT", said John W. Bullock. The audience applauded loudly.

"The present laws cover race, color, sex, etc; I would not support further additions," said Michael Callahan.

Andrew "Hawk" Zamparelli said, "I'd have to see what my constituents said."

David Skerry (magna cum laude, Boston University) said, "Would I support legislation in favor of a sickness?"

Amato Lepore said something too. I don't know what. I wasn't listening. By then I was completely stunned.

I asked the next batch of candidates if they supported legalizing homosexual behavior between consenting adults in private. That would seem easier to say yes to since it was just a matter of private rights. But every candidate said no.

Having been previously nurtured on the Speakers' Bureau circuit, where the non-gays are usually polite and somewhat friendly, this foray into the Real World was quite interesting to me. I learned some more things by other encounters with candidates, too.

For example, as mentioned in last month's FOCUS, the Gay Rights Alliance sent out 300 questionnaires to Boston area candidates for State Representative and State Senator and got about 20 favorable responses. Now, half of these 20 were not willing to make their stand public.

"Wait till I'm elected," they said, reflecting what they saw as the public opinion. One candidate who said this turned out to be gay himself. Another candidate elaborated, "Furthermore, if I'm elected the first thing I'm concerned about is re-election. I could not give you active support, only a "yes" vote".

We met with John J. Crapo, Republican candidate for State Rep. from north Cambridge for several hours one evening. A couple of weeks later, we received the following letter:

Dear members of the Gay Rights Alliance:

...I personally feel that our society and government as it presently is has been very tolerant to homo-sexuals and within reasonable limits allows them to pursue their activities among consenting adults in private. To go any further, I believe will open our society to chaos and to make a complete farce of it...frankly speaking, you are beating a dead horse. The implications of some of your views are very dangerous, and I think the voters would repudiate them.

Sincerely yours,
John Jennings Crapo

Crapo won his primary fight on Sept.19.

Of the two or three candidates in Cambridge who had supported gay rights openly, not a one won in the primary.

The only bright point was the vote for Barney Frank in Boston's ward 5 (Beacon Hill-Back Bay). He won the Democratic primary over three other candidates for State Rep., two of whom

had followed Frank's lead to seek gay support in an area reportedly high in gay population.

The next thing is the general election November 7, when Republicans and Democrats will vie against each other as well as against Independents. After that, legislation must be submitted to the State House by December. And after that, ofcourse, comes treatment of the proposed legislation by the Legislaturo...

REPORT FROM THE D.O.B. AUCTION SCENE

by Miriam

"Going, going, gone! to that gentleman for fifty cents!"

And another treasure was finally parted from its grateful previous owner. So the afternoon proceeded, with articles ranging from a tiny pink nightie to a book Is Sex Necessary? being offered to the gallery. Occasionally two people vied briskly for the same item, enriching even more the coffers of the DOB treasury as they upped the bidding.

The scene was the Old West Church lobby in Boston on Saturday, September 9. Isabella, Miriam, and Ginger even hired a U-Haul to bring in from the north things saved just for the occasion. The heavens opened up just as the cartons were being brought in. Eyes anxiously scanned the skies as people scurried past the outdoor sign. But slowly the weather cleared, bringing in customers to fill the seats. Certainly we had ample room for many more, and it was a disappointment that so few came to share the fun.

Some of the items were a guitar, accordion, chinese gong, camoras, artwork, lamps, linens, small household furniture, plants, knickknacks, ice skates, old shoes, clocks and radios that didn't work and didn't sell...but a hot pink ladies' hat went for a quarter. Surprise packages also went well. Juno rummaged madly through the boxes for things to be sold.

Anybody have a tape of the Paul Bonzaquin TV show earlier this year on PARENTS OF GAY PEOPLE? One of the parents would like a copy. Write DOB or tell Laura Robin.

BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 1972

1. \$10 appropriated for stickers to advertise DOB.
2. Voted not to send anyone to proposed DOB convention in San Francisco in 1973, nor to contribute anything towards a convention's expenses.
3. Discussion of social activities and raps.
4. New officers elected for the coming year.

Jackie had a table for books and records. Pam showed her photographs. No one could resist Laura's table, spread with tomatoes, cold meats, onions, lottuce, and spicy oils, all the fixins for delicious grinders she prepared for our hearty appetites.

There were three people who had come at noon and stayed for the entire auction. They had the most fun of anybody, thoroughly enjoying Gori the auctioneer's antics, and incidentally buying or bidding on just about everything that was put on the block. The crowd kept Miriam busy hopping back and forth with change, and Lois the cashier scribbling quickly in her book to keep up with the sales.

Just when it was time to leave, and our industrious workers had started cleaning up, it started to pour again, sending the last of us dashing to our cars with our left-overs and brand new dolights.

And, oh yes! After all was said and done and accounted for, D.O.B. found itself \$70 richer.

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*
*   START TODAY
*
*   save those treasures
*   for next year's
*
*   AUCTION
*
*****

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SISTERHOOD

by Sheri

Statistically speaking there are 10,000 lesbians in the greater Boston area, give or take a few, not to mention the many hundreds more in a radius of 100 miles of Boston.

I do not know how many lesbian organizations there are besides Boston Daughters of Bilitis. D.O.B. has a membership of 65-70 members and the Focus is mailed to around 157 women.

Almost a year ago raps were started by a few interested women. It started slowly. Some weeks only 8-12 people came until it grew to such proportions as to hold them twice a week. One night I counted 38 faces all straining to hear or be heard in that tiny room. Never a week goes by but we don't see at least 3 or 4 new faces.

The first night we held one on Friday two strangers arrived from out of town who were only here for a few hours. It was a small rap and not a very good one but we received this note: "Thanks so much for being so nice to a couple of strangers in town. We enjoyed our evening and everyone made us feel welcome. That's a good, warm feeling when you don't know a soul in the whole city."

Some women only come once; talk about a particular problem they are having, seem relieved to know that others share their problems and then disappear into the night. Some women come again and again. Some are verbal and others don't talk at all; for them it is a place to come for a short time each week to be with other lesbians. "We don't go every week but it's a good feeling to know they are going on and if we feel like it we can go," says one woman.

"I hate the raps", said one young lesbian, "a bunch of

conservative old ladies still locked up in their closets." She was chagrined that we were not willing to lay our jobs on the line and perhaps risk being fired to pave the way for future generations of gay sisters. I admire this young woman and the many thousands like her who are fighting for all of us. I cannot though, forget my friends who like myself have been gay for 20 or 30 years and who in our own quiet way are doing our own thing. We cannot forget the exile, the persecution, the closed doors, the dishonorable discharges and for most the years of loneliness. Can we forget the degrading bar scene, the only place to go to be with or to meet other lesbians. "Those were the good old days," somehow does not fit here.

In D.O.B. we are coming out into the sunshine and rather than meeting in bars, we are meeting at camping trips, picnics and raps - which brings me to the point of why I wanted to write this. Out of 10,000 lesbians within the sound of my pen only about 200 will be reading this. Out of 200 lesbians, only 65 belong to D.O.B. and at any social function only 15 or 20 lesbians show up. I concede that not all lesbians are going to like one another and there is indeed a generation gap - the older professional versus the younger generation of lesbians. Whatever our status we all belong.

We belong to the gay community and I have seen in the last few weeks lesbians standing behind one another in a network of friendship and that's beautiful. "I'll never forget the gay women in Boston,"

"But what did we do?" I asked.

"You were there when I needed you."

That's Sisterhood and it can be powerful! !

COMMUNITY CENTER FOR BOSTON?
WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

by Gori

I heard about the gay guys getting together rapping about how they can start a gay community center in Boston for all gay people. They have asked DOB several times to send some women to participate in the planning stages.

I know we as gays have many problems that you may think are more important than a community center, but just think how nice it would be to have a place to drop in to rap, have a coke and what ever to drink, play some pingpong or pool, and hold dances and parties where

It is more than appar-
ont that we need such
a center here in Bos-
ton--but it takes
people who care with
time and effort to
spare to get off
our asses and attend
these meetings, air
our views, and just
plain help. All gay
groups in Boston meet
in churches and
social clubs such
as Odd Fellows Hall,
but they are not ad-
equate for our needs--
we are restricted to
set rules and regula-
tions such as no al-
coholic beverages
(it would be nice to
have a glass of wine
or beer with a spaghet-
ti dinner, right?).
Also, we must, in
most churches, be out
by 10 o'clock.

POT-LUCK SUPPER &
SPEAKERS
* What's going on with other gay
* groups in Boston?
* How do they deal with their prob-
* lems? What do they do? What are
* their members like?
* DOB has invited speakers from
* Homophile Union of Boston, Lesbian
* Liberation, Gay Community Center,
* Gay Male Liberation, Gay Speakers'
* Bureau, Metropolitan Community
* Church (gay), and other groups to
* a special program following the
* potluck supper.
* This is the first time in ages that
* DOB has had speakers at its meet-
* ings. In the oldon days, this
* was a popular form of meeting.
*
* OCTOBER 8 SUNDAY 6:30 pm
* St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St.,
* Boston. Bring food!

we wouldn't be
hassled by the police.
* We women would have
* our own portion of
* this building for
* a DOB office and
* access to the entire
* center.
* Think about it, gals.
* The guys are asking
* for our ideas.
* and need our support.
* to get this off the
* ground from the
* talking stago to a
* reality.
* The meeting October
* 8 (see box on this
* page) will be a
* great chance to meet
* and talk with the
* people from the
* community center
* group. As we all
* know, our stay at
* 419 Boylston Street

Our community center must be large--big enough to accommodate 100-150 people for discussions. It must be well located, and convenient to transportation. It must also provide the facilities we need.

will come to an end eventually when the building is torn down, and this may not be far away. Our facilities here are limited here anyhow. So c'mon you beauties, let's participate!!

GAY HOUSE, INC., 216 Ridgewood Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. (612-333-6088), is a gay community center started 1 1/2 years ago. They have a hotline staffed 7 days a week, drop-in center, women's and men's rap groups, a speakers' bureau, and an AA typo group for gays with alcoholic or drug problems. They started with \$2000 seed grant from the Joint Urban Mission Project.

What do you think of FOCUS?

suggestions
criticisms

Please write and toll us.

#####

AROUND BOSTON

GAY WAY, a radio program for the gay community on WBUR-FM (90.9 on dial) has a new time slot--Thursday evenings from 9 - 9:30 pm. Programmer Elaine Noble thanks those who have written in support of the program, and would welcome more letters, comments, suggestions. (address: Boston University, 640 Commonwealth Av, Boston).

GAYLINE, publication of Homophile Union of Boston, out in shiny new edition, 35¢ (282-9181).

THE PSYCHOSURGERY COMMITTEE of the Medical Committee for Human Rights hold a rally Sept. 20 at the JFK Federal Bldg. in Boston to protest against allocation of \$1 million for diagnoses and treatment of violent individuals. The bill was to come before the US Senate, and the rally was directed at Senators Brooke and Kennedy whose offices are in the JFK Building locally. The MCHR says such money may be used to study how to give violent persons--such as ghetto people or other protesting their conditions--brain operations to make them more passive. Such research may also apply to homosexual behavior, and several gay people were at the rally. For more information write MCHR, 1151 Mass. Av., Cambridge 02138, or call 298-5171, 277-7046, or read the pamphlet "Violence Upon the Brain" in the DOB library.

HIGH SCHOOL GAYS UNITED has high school students answering the phone Saturdays 1 to 4 pm at 282-3294 (unless HUB phone shuts off).

GAY COMMUNITY CENTER meetings--call 776-7454 for time and place.

GAY GROWTH CENTER, to perhaps have a farm, crafts, etc; for gays, men and women, to get together. 354-1555., or write 53 Hemmenway St, Boston 02115.

HOMOPHILE UNION OF BOSTON DANCE, Friday Sept. 29, 8:30pm--1 am, Arlington Street Church, live band, \$1.50.

HOMOPHILE UNION OF BOSTON at its Sept. 24 meeting announced that it would have to close its office and 24 hour phone line unless several hundred

dollars was received within a week. Meetings, the publication Gayline, and speaking could continue, but the other functions would be too expensive. Some donations of \$50 and \$25 were taken at the meeting. John Fisko, corporation lawyer for the city of Boston, spoke about the police/gay situation in public places like the "Block", a cruising area. Two other officials from the police dept. did not show up.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

PROJECT REPAIR is training women to be carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc. The project is funded by United Community Services, is run by women, and can be contacted at P.O. Box 3942, San Diego, Calif. 92103.

THE LADDER, a lesbian review published for 16 years, ended publication with the August/September 1972 issue. The editor Gene Damon wrote in parting, "For those of you who...sometimes intended to subscribe, but never quite got around to it, we wish you whatever you deserve and leave it to your own consciences to decide just what that might be." The Ladder was originally published by Daughters of Bilitis, and every membership to DOB included a subscription. In 1970 it became an independent publication, and enlarged its focus to include feminist as well as gay issues. In addition to stories and poetry, it carried an excellent "lesbiana" bibliographic section and a current events run-down. Boston DOB has recently obtained back issues of The Ladder from 1962, 63, 64, and 65 from a friend, and has some recent issues from an exchange with FOCUS.

LADIES HOME JOURNAL October 1972 reports results of a poll of women on whether they preferred to be addressed as Mrs., Miss, or Ms. The results:

	prefer Ms.	prefer Mrs. or Miss
Married.....	1794.....	4005
Single.....	561.....	701
Divorced.....	286	182
Widowed.....	81.....	464

OVER THE FENCE
By Diano O'Keefe

I am so sick of kids. I'm fed up to the car lobes with them. I can't wait til the first day of school when that thundering silence comes crashing down over my head. It seems the whole world is peopled with nothing but kids and every one of them is out to get me.

If they're not kicking sand in your face at the beach, they're bombing into you at the skating rink, elbowing you in the ribs in the dressing room at the shopping center, or relieving you of your pocket book and/or one leg with a shopping cart at the super market. I'll tell you there is no haven from them. The little darlings are back from Grandma's and summer camp and have gathered en masse ready to do battle on the home front. You would think the local library would offer a temporary reprieve. Not so. Yesterday I'm reaching for the solo copy of Shakespeare's Selected Works containing the only copy of Henry IV part I and part II (summer reading for Great Books) when a grubby hand belonging to an equally grubby teenager intercepts said book and marches away with it. I could have smashed her smile button right in the mouth. The final indignity that day, though, was with my own kids. I had found what I thought was an exciting new recipe for meatloaf, but which was in reality only another fiasco as three voices in chorus came screaming across the table: "Yuk, it has hard boiled eggs in it." Where is the Alice in Wonderland world where kids eat everything on their plates, are soon and not heard and are in bed at eight o'clock. Help is on the way, though. Daylight saving time is slowly slipping away and the little darlings will soon be neatly tucked behind their little desks. Of course, the teachers haven't been sleeping all summer either you know. The clever devils have devised their own method of survival called "open campus", phase I of which consists of early dismissal and late arrival. There's a goodie. If the kid's a sophomore he may have the choice of spending a cultural morning swinging back and forth on the refrigerator door til it's time for school or he may lounge in bed listening to the latest all time classic "Put the lime in the coconut and drink it all up".

However, if he has early dismissal he may be home as early as 12:30 bugging his mother for a little lunch after already having had "doubles" at the cafeteria or he may gather with the other local hoods at the corner garage which offers an open campus course in how to pick bicycle locks. Cynic I--- never. Now Phase II is just for juniors and seniors. If as sophomores they have shown themselves to be responsible students during phase I they are eligible.. That is if they haven't driven a stolen car over the state line or bombed the principal's office the previous year. However, these adventurous students need not sweat. They will be quietly removed from the general society of the student body and placed in the office of the commissioner at Walpole to study prison reform or they may enroll in an open campus course in automotive repair where they will learn how to successfully remove hub caps, hook up a bomb to the ignition system or learn how to keep a run away car in good working condition. Now that's what I call progressive education. Keeping it relevant and preparing each individual student for his own destiny. Don't get the idea because I'm so negative I'm against progressive education. I do fool though that a little of the old discipline went out of the system along with mother's apple pie and father's back hander. Don't misunderstand. I'm all for unisex, long hair, faded jeans and the wearing of the american flag as long as what's in there is pleasant and courteous. As a matter of fact to show the kids my heart is still in the right place I have signed up for an open campus course myself-- you guessed it---needlepoint. It may be just what I need to get my nerves back to the shape they were last June.

~~~~~

NEW ENGLAND GAY CONFERENCE

October 7, Saturday in Holyoke, Mass.  
A chance to talk with other New England gay groups. Everyone is welcome. DOB people are going--if you want to go along let us know. See calendar of events for place.

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STUDY SHOWS WOMEN EXCLUDED FROM
MASS. STATE GOVERNMENT

Ninety-three per cent of the top positions in the executive branch of the Massachusetts government are held by men. Ninety-seven per cent of the Commonwealth's judges are men. And 98 per cent of the legislators in the General Court are men. These are among the findings of a report, Who Rules Massachusetts Women, which has just been published by the Women's Research Center of Boston.

The report, which breaks down the statistics for each of the three branches of state government, found overwhelming male domination at all top policy-making levels. As the six women who compiled the study write, "it was worse than we imagined."

There are only five women out of 280 members of the legislature, and no women serve in top leadership or staff positions. None of the state's six elected executives is a woman. Several key executive departments have no women in important positions, and the 61 women out of 906 who can be said to be at policy-making levels are usually either a lone woman in an all-male department, an unpaid member of a citizens' advisory board, or in a position concerned with "women's affairs" which is required by law to be held by a woman. Until two 1972 appointments, out of 258 judges in the Commonwealth only eight were women, with only one woman judge serving above the district court level.

The analysis of these statistics, which forms the heart of the report, shows that male dominance of state government does have an adverse effect on women. Bills passed--and not passed--in the last two legislative sessions show the sexual bias in the General Court. Administrative decisions affecting women show the same kinds of discrimination and over-protection. Court decisions on divorce, child support, abortion, and prostitution serve to keep women in their place.

Women are shut out from high public office for several reasons, the report continues. The party structure is male dominated. The women make coffee rather than "participate in decisions over beer and cigars."

Women do not belong to the "old boy" network through which appointees are recruited for top administrative and judicial positions. And women do not control corporate sources of wealth to allow them to take the campaign contribution route to the rewards of public life.

The report recommends three strategies to give women effective control over political decisions which affect their lives. One is to put many more women into public office (this year more than twice as many women are running for office as in 1970). But there is a caveat: such women must be responsive and accountable to their female constituency, for "we do not need more women in office; we need more feminists in office." Second, women must work to bring about institutional changes such as in provisions for birth control and child care. This means creating power bases of women so there will be the strength to effect change. And third, concludes the report, women must come together to build alternatives to present institutions which will bring a liberated and humane society.

The Women's Research Center of Boston is an interdisciplinary collective research group of women social scientists concerned with feminist social change. Center members seek to link their research skills to action, focusing on problems faced by women in the society.

Who Rules Massachusetts Women is priced at \$1.00. Copies may be obtained from Women's Research Center of Boston, Center for the Study of Public Policy, 123 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, Mass. 01138. For further information call:
547-6919 876-2138
864-0997 739-1233
969-1890 262-1583

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AN OPEN APPEAL TO NEW HAMPSHIRE SISTERS

An Open Appeal to gay sisters in and around New Hampshire- A small group of women are trying to organize a Homophile Organization for women here in N.H.

We are fortunate to have the promised assistance of Boston D.O.B. to help in our new endeavor.

We have for some time been aware of the problems gay sisters face and wish to provide a place where we could meet socially, humanly, to support one another and to help create better attitudes toward gay people.

We have tentative plans for Rap sessions, talks, group functions, and a Qualified Speaking Bureau to provide the public with a better understanding of "Gay Life".

If you are interested or would like to give your support send your inquiries in care of Boston D.O.B., Rm. 406, 419 Boylston St., Boston, Mass. 02116

APPLICATION FOR D.O.B.

return this or a copy of it to the DOB office.

Enclosed is \$_____ for the following:

Membership in Boston D.O.B. (\$10 per year for a single, \$15 for a couple (joint membership). Includes one FOCUS subscription and all voting privileges. Can be paid by \$5 down, the balance within 2 months. If the balance is not paid then, the \$5 becomes a donation to the organization.) Members receive calendars. Membership is open to all women 18 years old or over.

FOCUS subscription. (\$5/12 issues). Anyone may subscribe.

Calendar subscription (\$1 for 6 months. Calendar of DOB events.) Anyone.

NAME _____ PHONE (MEMBERS) _____

Second NAME if joint membership _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE (for members only) I am a woman 18 years of age or older

_____ date _____

_____ date _____

(second name if joint)

Send to: DOB, Room 406, 419 Boylston St., Boston, mass. 02116



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