

the maiden voyage

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

february, 1970
vol. 1, no. 3

"It doesn't matter who you
love, or how you love, but
that you love."-Rod McKuen

LEGAL REFORM IN MASSACHUSETTS

Several bills dealing with state laws on sexuality have been submitted to the 1970 session of the Massachusetts legislature.

The present laws particularly relevant to homosexuals, are found in Chapter 272 of the Mass. General Laws. This chapter is titled "Crimes against Chastity, Morality, Decency, and Good Order." The relevant sections are:

Section 34. "Whoever commits ~~the~~ abominable and detestable crime against nature, either with mankind or with a beast, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 20 years."

Section 35. "Whoever commits any unnatural and lascivious act with another person shall be punished by...(various sentences follow-imprisonment and fines)."

The crimes forbidden are not further defined in the law itself. The crime against nature has been variously interpreted in different states at different times to mean genital-oral union, genital-anal union, or both. "Unnatural and lascivious behavior" was explained by a 1954 Mass. case (Jaquith v. Comm.) to mean "irregular indulgence in sexual behavior, illicit sexual relations, and infamous conduct which is lustful, obscene, and in deviation of accepted customs and manners."

The following is thought to be a complete list of the bills submitted to the 1970 legislature which deal with these laws on sexuality. The first was discharged from the joint

Judiciary Committee to the House Ways and Means for unknown reasons. The last three will have had a public hearing Feb. 23 by the Judiciary Committee.

H. 1949 Change and repeal various parts of Chapter 272, including repeal of sections 34, 35, & 18.

H. 3272 Repeal section 35.

H. 3482 Repeal section 18, (prohibiting fornication).

H. 3484 Repeal section 34

The most inclusive bill is clearly H. 1949, sponsored by the Americans for Democratic Action and others. The other bills were submitted by William Baird.

It is clear that legal reform is far from being the panacea for the homosexual's problems in society. However, (1) the public discussion generated over whether to enact the bills should work in favor of more reasonable laws because society today has a more non-regulatory attitude towards sexual behavior than it did when the laws were written. (2) Even though few people are actually convicted of these crimes, some are. The possibility of such a conviction and punishment should not exist. (3) Making such acts legal will reduce that portion of antagonism or guilt which is aroused by their illegality per se. (If YOU want to help in planning and carrying out a DOB program to support these bills, call: Ann Naley Laura (625-1263) or write to the DOB address.)

19th CENTURY GAY LIFE
IN PARIS

OPEN FORUM

Women and love in any form fascinated French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

In the last decade of the 19th century, he frequented bars and brothels which dotted bohemian Montmartre painting a series of studies of prostitutes and lesbians.

Lautrec's interest in a lesbian dancer at the Moulin Rouge increased his attraction to lesbians. He became a fixture at La Souris, a gay bar near the Place Pigalle where a "group of women of common inclination met and were quite at home."

At La Souris, Lautrec mingled with ease among these women, some aggressively masculine and others very feminine, and painted their world with a sensitivity that contradicted his voiced opinion that there was not a "more foolish woman than she who is the woman of another."

Flattered by his attention, customers at the bar were happy to pose for the crippled artist, and often sought his advice for their problems.

Some of his observations appeared in a lithographed album "Elles", a study of all women.

A few of his paintings - "In Bed", "Breakfast", and "At the Circus" are well known and are exhibited in museums. Others, because they are labeled "obscene" remain in private collections or appear in limited edition publications. -----PJB-----

On the open forum question of Butch and Femme- I think that when you are comparing any two people-- here, let us say, a Lesbian couple that one is bound to be more aggressive in some areas than the other, just as one will probably be taller, than the other, or weigh more. In other words, two people are rarely exactly alike.

Should we call this butch & femme? As far as couples go, I think not. I have found that in all the Lesbian couples in my acquaintance, once I got to know them, I could not make a definite butch-femme distinction between the two. They are simply two women living together sharing a common life with its usual problems and happinesses.

On the other hand, I can more easily make butch-femme distinctions between my "single" friends, though such is not always the case. Here, there seems to be much more role playing-- and I think the reason for this is the very fact that the person is "single", or at least not living with another woman. They then seem to identify with the society around them. And our society says that to assume any responsibilities or aggressiveness, one must also assume the role of the man--thus the masculine or butch role-playing; and it also says that to be gentle or passive, one must assume the role of a woman-- thus playing the "femme" also develops.

I feel, though, that once a gay woman enters into a long-term relationship with another woman, then the butch-femme role playing begins to slowly drop off and she can finally relate to her lover as another person, an individual.

...Diana Travis...

EDITORIAL: The purpose of any publication is to inform without bias. If we say something you do not like, let us know about it. This newsletter, the MAIDEN VOYAGE, is Boston DOB's circuit of communication to all members and interested parties.

GAY MOTHERS

"You don't realize how many of us there are," our friend Ruth said, carefully ironing ruffles on a tiny pink dress. "We don't get too much chance to get together and talk because we're too busy with work and taking care of the children. But there are a lot of us, and we should talk.

"Some gay parents are torn with doubts about the effects of their homosexuality on their children - many feel they should tolerate marriage for the sake of their children. I believe it is better to be alone with my child than to bring her into the hostile environment of an unhappy marriage. It took me a long time to think all these things through, and I wish I'd known others who were thinking about the same things at the same time, because we could have shared our insights."

"Won't your daughter miss male companionship?" we asked.

"Everyone makes too much of that issue," Ruth said. "Susan has her grandfather, she'll have male teachers at school, and she will have neighborhood boys to play with. My mother asks every once in a while when I'm getting married again to give Susan a father, and I say Susan has everything she needs with me now. Marriage is taking a chance. Some people are happily married and some are happy single. Susan is better off with a single mother who is happy than with a married mother and father who are both unhappy."

"Would you have given up your custody to give her a more conventional life?"

"Only if there were some kind of prolonged court battle threatened that would air dirty linen and leave emotional scars on her. She is surrounded by love here with me; her grandparents worship her; I can support her well. What kind of "conventional life" could any father offer her that

would be better than that?"

"What if you couldn't support her, though? Suppose you only made \$50 or \$60 a week? You couldn't even pay a babysitter to take care of her while you worked. Would you give up custody then?"

"The most important thing is love. Money, usually, you can work something out. A friend of mine in that situation advertised and found an older woman who lived in and took care of her baby son while she worked in exchange for board and room. It was good for both of them. Then, too, it isn't too long before the children are in school and gone for half the day anyway.

"Are you going to tell her you are gay?" we asked.

"That's the most difficult problem - how much to tell and when. I guess it will depend upon her personality. I know I will prime her with an understanding toward all minority groups. I suppose the realization will come on her gradually."

"What if the other children in the neighborhood taunt her with 'your mother's queer' or some such thing? What would you do then?"

"I don't think they ever will. Children cannot type a person by the way she looks. Even if I were living with another woman, I don't think the question would arise. Of course, actions could not be overt if I were living with someone, but they couldn't be in any marriage. Many transient relationships could be damaging, but a long-term relationship with the right person could be very good for Susan. The most important thing for a child is love.. I've come to realize so many of these other so-called "needs" of children are socially imposed. A loving family regardless of the sex of the parents will give the child the confidence and understanding he needs to grow up and face the world."

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BUSINESS REVIEW

January 30th business meeting;
what we decided:

-That a checking account will be opened for DOB Boston, and that Ann Haley and Andy Cox are authorized to negotiate financial transactions in the name of the chapter.

-That Ann Haley will be reimbursed \$12.00 by the treasury to cover costs of printing the DOB brochures.

-That the treasury will pay \$50.00 for the use of 12 Carver St. for the party Feb. 14, and \$30.00 for decorations and refreshments.

-That DOB will investigate the possibilities of opening a club and that all members will look for a suitable location at a reasonable cost for such a club.

-That DOB will allow women to pay their membership fee in \$5.00 installments until the necessary \$15.00 is paid.

February 13th business meeting;
what we decided:

-That the Public Education Committee would invite a Boston Globe reporter to a meeting, the subject of which would first be approved by the members.

-That said reporter would be asked to write a press release covering the meeting.

-That as many people as possible should write to newspapers and to their State Representatives recommending passage of the pending bills pertaining to the sodomy laws.

-That Boston DOB as an organization send a letter to the committee heading the Feb. 23 hearing of these bills.

PERSONALS

Lynda D.- MAIDEN VOYAGE has your donation and would like to send you a subscription but we do not have your address. Please get in touch with us again.

\$1.00 gets you a 30 word ad in the MV Personals Column. Contact lost friends...advertise your business, etc. Send your ad to: Box 221 Prudential center station, Boston, MA 02199

Do YOU have your LESBIANS ARE LOVABLE button yet ??????????

DOB INSTALLMENT PLAN

We have set up an installment plan for those who want to join DOB but cannot afford to pay \$15 all at once.

You may now pay \$5 a week or every other week until your dues are paid up. Please see Andy & she will make arrangements with you.

Your \$15 will bring you a subscription to THE LADDER, a subscription to THE MAIDEN VOYAGE, and reduced admissions to all Boston DOB lectures & discussions.

Remember,- DOB is working for YOU- give it your support.

JOIN DOB-JOIN DOB-JOIN DOB-JOIN DOB-

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POETRY

I Remember....
you nod as you pass by,
I smile
and I remember the many times
we laughed and loved.

At one time we were together
we were one.
I knew life was only good
until now.

Now, because of some
careless words,
we have parted
Life is neither good nor bad
it is only empty.
And I remember the time
we laughed and loved.....

The Wheel

aloneness is the axle
togetherness, the wind
each spoke is a person
who has touched and been
the wheel lives on becoming.

--Shayna Reuben--

Babylove

In the twilight of the year
Rebecca changed the seasons
And I never felt the wind
And the dawning light was mellow

And the streets an esplanade.
My home lies in our wandering
Though we never said a word
And we never tried for nothing.

--Shayna Reuben--

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Boston DOB will hold its first
arts & crafts show March 6 in the
Clarke Room at Arlington St. Church.

ALL members of the homophile comm-
unity are invited to exhibit paint-
ings, photographs, jewelry, ceramics
and other crafts.

There is a possibility of entertainment
by a folk singer and a woodwind quintet.
An astrologer will discuss "Signs of the
Times." Exhibitors should plan to
arrive at the Clarke Rm. by 8:15 p.m. to
set up their work. The show will begin
at 8:45. Refreshments will be served.

CRITIQUE

Starting with the next issue
of THE MAIDEN VOYAGE, we
would like to run a monthly
critique of films and books
dealing with homosexuality.

If you have anything to say,
good or bad- please let us
know by sending your comments
to:

Editor/Critique
P.O. Box 221
Prudential Center Station
Boston, MA 02199

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Letters
to
the
Editor

Dear Boston,

Thank you for the newsletter,
and please keep it coming!

You are a month or two ahead
of us - we only started in
November, stirring that is,
and will be born at the end
of this month, all going well.
So, it was interesting to hear
about your beginnings. We have
a pro-tem committee of three,
and six to ten prospective mem-
bers. Hope our growing is as
rapid and as strong as yours
seems to be.

Best wishes anyway, from your
Aussie mates.

--Marion G.N.--
(Australia)

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* NEWSLETTER STAFF
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* Editor: Pam Boyd
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* Assistant Editor: Pat Browne
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* Production: Rose Marie Turner
*
* Circulation: by courtesy of
* a friend.
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To the Editor:

On Friday night, Jan. 16, my
girlfriend and I were holding
hands in the Cafe Florian, at
85 Newbury Street. The manager
came over to us and asked us to
behave, (which I clarify means
"act straight"). Being pacifists
by principle, we complied with
her request.

On our way out, while paying the
checks, she asked us not to come
there again. My friend said we
would not, and that neither would
any other "gay" person.

We are asking a gay boycott of
this establishment, and a letter
sent to its manager.....

Communication is the pitfall &
responsibility of all mankind.
Communicate by being yourself,
all you are. I think people
trust you only when you are
natural. So don't look down
and all around, and don't
think twice - it's all right.

--Shayna Reuben--

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in the letters to the Editor are
the personal opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the
thoughts, ideals and/or goals of DOB Boston).

SHOULD YOU TELL YOUR STRAIGHT FRIENDS?

"Should you tell your straight friends" was the topic for the first discussion group sponsored by DOB. Diana Travis acted as moderator for the meeting held in the Clarke Room of the Arlington St. Church on January 30.

Many women told of friendships with straight friends who knew that they were gay, but did not discuss the subject. It was generally felt that tacit acknowledgement of Lesbianism without overt discussion created a barrier that was difficult, if not impossible to surmount in a friendship between straight and gay people. Most women felt that having friends ignore their Lesbianism was worse in more ways than overt rejection. However, all agreed that it was with utmost discretion that those told should be chosen for all are aware of the possible consequences of telling the wrong person. Hopefully, all real friends will be able to judge the person and not the sexual orientation of the person.

Changing the public image of Lesbianism through a comprehensive, intelligent, educational campaign was the solution again offered to Lesbians who hold jobs which they would surely lose if their sexual orientation were to become known. Many women made the excellent point that society must be made to realize that Lesbians who hold such positions as teachers, nurses, and social workers can adequately fulfill these roles without supposedly corrupting the morals of those people over whose lives they exert vast influence.

Generally the most adverse reactions to homosexuality come from men and women who are insecure in their present sexual role. If a heterosexual person is secure in his or her sexual role, then homosexuality poses no threat and they are more apt to accept it gracefully; but insecurity breeds

hostility and resentment because it presents an alternative to their present sexual role which these people find frightening in that it indirectly presents them with a situation which they are not emotionally capable of handling successfully.

Analysis has brought many of our women into unhappy and very frustrating situations; some of the women were able to report understanding and intelligent help obtained from analysis, but unfortunately, the psychiatric field generally has yet to accept homosexuality as a normal and a basic part of many women's personality. Many analysts firmly believe that heterosexuality is a biological fact and any deviation from such is abnormal and, therefore, must be changed. Since the United States is based on the family unit premise, analysts tend in many cases to exert pressure on women to marry and reproduce - one woman responded to this pressure by simply informing her analyst, "I'm not a rabbit!" We are in agreement that reproduction is essential to the continuation of the human race, but we also firmly believe that a person's contributions to the present society are equally important, and that the Lesbians can and will contribute much to this society. In essence we feel that it is far more important to the individual to be whatever she wishes to be, rather than to conform to the wishes of society.



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CHAPTER CHATTER

San Francisco has just formed an action core, similar to our committee on public education and law reform. Their first project is to investigate the reported firing of stewardesses by Western Airlines on the charge of lesbianism. The women involved have been contacted by the action core, and results of the investigation will be announced just as soon as possible.

Two members of action core spoke on homosexuality to a speech class at a local High school.

Representative members of the Cleveland Chapter and Rita Laporte appeared on both television and radio. Members were invited to the taping of the TV program, and the next evening a party was given in Rita's honor. Cleveland's library is growing by leaps and bounds with seventy-five books plus periodicals.

The San Diego Chapter had an interesting discussion on the "miserable picture of womanhood which advertising presents". A few members went to Disneyland, but their spirits were dampened by cold, foggy weather.

New York has an interesting schedule of programs for February. Among them, a talk on "Homosexuality in the Theatre" by Matt Crowley, author of "Boys in the Band." Speakers from the Fortune Society will discuss homosexuality in prisons.

---Charlotte Boudier---

Open Forum Question #3

Q: What would you do if you are living at home in the suburbs, have a good reputation, career and so forth, and your parents, friends, employer and/or neighbors find out you are a Lesbian??? What do you tell them???

Boston DOB Officers
President: Ann Halev Melrose, MA

Vice-President: Diana Travis
Boston, MA(277-8952)
Secretary: Donna Ferguson,
Worcester, MA
Treasurer: Andy Cox, Weare, N.H.

Please contact these people at any time.

ATTENTION:-

Photographers- we will be able to use photographs in future editions of Maiden Voyage. Photos must be black & white and no larger than 5x7. Any subject!

Artists- we will need a series of pen and ink sketches in the style of the New Yorker Magazine to use as fillers after stories. Any size up to 2 in. by 3 inches.

Please submit to:
Editor,
Maiden Voyage
Box 221
Prudential center station
Boston, MA 02199

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COMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all Boston DOB events are open to women only, and are held at: Clarke Room, Arlington St. Church, 355 Arlington St.

FRIDAY-Feb. 27 - Guest speaker Alan Cooke, attorney-at-law, will discuss "Legal Points in Gay Marriages." His talk will cover such areas regarding homosexuality as the criminal law, wills, child custody and financial planning. There will be a long question period. Men are invited. Clarke Rm. Arlington St. Church-355 Arlington St. **Boston.**

FRIDAY-March 6 - Homophile Arts and Crafts show. Exhibits of photos, jewelry, ceramics and paintings by men and women in Boston's homophile community. Live background music and a short talk by an astrologer. Clarke Rm.

FRIDAY-March 13- Business meeting for DOB members only. Clarke Rm. 9:15 p.m.

SAT. - March 14- A party at 12 Carver St., upstairs. BYOB, buffet 8:30 p.m.-1:a.m. and dancing. Tickets \$2.50 at the door. Women only.

FRIDAY-March 20- Employment Discrimination Against Homosexuals. A member of the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission and possibly other major local businessmen will participate in a discussion on discrimination against women in general, and homosexuals in particular in various employment areas. Clarke Rm.

--*-*-*

ANNOUNCEMENT!

With regret MAIDEN VOYAGE announces the resignation of Marty Kelly as editor.

We on the staff, and members alike would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Marty, who, because of her concern for DOB led MAIDEN VOYAGE to its successful debut.

--*-*-*

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DOB TO WRITE BOOK

The Public Education Committee is moving ahead with plans to compile a marketable book on the homosexual experience.

The book, undertaken because there aren't any really good books on the subject, will consist of chapters written by people connected with the organization, and will be in a fictionalized autobiographical form.

Anyone interested in contributing should submit typed double-spaced copy of any length, relating personal incidents which will shed light on the subject.

Preliminary editing will be done by the committee but the final major editing will be done by experienced personnel. The committee further hopes to interest a well-known paperback book publisher in the idea. ALL proceeds from sales will go to our Boston DOB.

Katie _____ at 277-8952 is the coordinator. Please mail copy to:
Boston DOB....P.O.Box 221....Prudential Center Station....Boston, MA 02199

On Friday, January 23rd, the first meeting of the committee on law reform and public education took place. A dozen women gathered to start working on what is one of the essential aims of DOB--social acceptance of the homosexual. There was a high degree of enthusiasm and willingness to work, and many good ideas brought up at the meeting are already being acted upon.

Before the next scheduled meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5th, at Diana Travis' apartment, the committee has set out to accomplish the following activities: Getting the LADDER sold on six more newstands, and getting at least two libraries to carry it as a periodical; preparing a press release for the Boston Globe about DOB and encouraging followups; contacting Jerry Williams to see about getting members on his talk show on WBZ; contacting Boston After Dark to see if it will carry announcements of our events in its "What's Happening" section; contacting Steve Fredericks, WMEX, to have him announce some of DOB's forthcoming events; getting permission to reprint an excellent article on Lesbianism from the magazine Motive, published by the Methodist Church (the article will then be sent out to inquirers, left in churches, libraries, etc.); and drawing up a Recommended List of what we consider valid books or articles on Lesbians.

Also discussed were: a possible meeting, well publicized, for straight people to come, hear one of us speak, and to ask questions; and having speakers for such groups of public power as the League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce, the Urban Priests League, and the Priests' Senate.

Wearing the Green?

ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARTY

March 14, 1970

8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

12 Carver Street
UPSTAIRS

Tickets
on
Sale
at
the
Door
\$2.50

Dancing
and
Buffet

under 21? —
Come but please
don't drink.

Bring Your
Own Bottle

WOMEN ONLY!!

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Support Boston DOB -

Your \$15 membership fee gets you:

- a subscription to THE LADDER
- a Subscription to THE MAIDEN VOYAGE
- reduced admission to all Boston DOB lectures and discussions.

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$15 (do not mail cash) for membership in Boston DOB

I would like to join on the installment plan____. Enclosed is my check for \$____. I am 21 years of age or over.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____

ALL membership applications are confidential! Mail to:
Boston DOB, P.O.Box 221, Prudential Center Station, Boston, 02199

!!!NOTICE !!!

As we go to press, we have learned that: a member of DOB (Boston); Frank Morgan of HUB; Peter Connolly, a heterosexual member of HUB; possibly Allan Cooke, an attorney; and possibly a member of the Legislature are to appear on the Steve Fredricks Show on WMEX, Friday, Feb. 20 at 11 p.m. for a discussion about Homosexuality. Details on the outcome of the program will be reviewed in the March issue.



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<http://www.historyproject.org/>
info@historyproject.org

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