

FOCUS

A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS



Who needs Charlie Brown?!

OCT. '73

\$.50

FOCUS: A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN
October 1973

FOCUS is published monthly by Boston
Daughters of Bilitis, Room 323,
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. The post office
will not forward 3rd class mail to you.

Boston D.O.B. officers:

Treasurer.....Geri Bidwell
Recording Sec'y.....Lois H.
Corresponding Sec'y....Laura Robin

FOCUS Staff this issue: Linda Lach -
man, Schel, Wendy Bauman, Andrea,
Laura Robin, Cathy, Geri Bidwell,
Janine, Judi.

FOCUS welcome 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.

COVER: This cartoon by Candi McGonagle
which first appeared in the old Focus
(called Maiden Voyage in those days)
on May 1970, has appeared in many
gay publications since that time.

This publication is on file at the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY ARCHIVE, 2325
Oak St., Berkeley, Cal. 94708; it is available on microfilm from Bell & Howell,
Wooster, Ohio to October 1971 and from the I.W.H.A. from October 1971 - June 1973.

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ADDRESSES OF OTHER D.O.B. CHAPTERS

Dallas DOB
Women for Action
Box 5944
Dallas, Texas. 75222

San Francisco DOB
1005 Market St., #402-404
San Francisco, Cal. 94103

Occupant
Box 137
Northwood, New Hampshire
(this is N.H.D.O.B. but do not address
them as such on envelope).

New Jersey DOB
Box 62
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023

STATEMENTS BY CANDIDATES FOR D.O.B. OFFICES

The following statements were submitted to FOCUS by the Sept. 17th deadline. A FOCUS statement is, however, not a prerequisite to running.

President

My name is Sheri and I'm running for president of Boston DOB. My platform is simple. I want DOB to "be there" for the social and mental well being of all women in this community and I want to help DOB be a continuing force in the struggle for gay civil rights.

I am Andrea Gillespie. I am a candidate for President of Boston Daughters of Bilitis. I am a lesbian. I am a feminist. A friend commented to me that "DOB is something you get into and grow out of." I see no reason for women to outgrow DOB if there is room for them to grow within it. I am running for President because I would like to help DOB become a more active, living, reach-out group. I would appreciate your vote.

Vice-President

Sisters - DOB can and must be an influential organization of women. Socially and politically we have the energies and materials to move in varied positive directions. Let us realize our potentials and move to fulfill them. Wendy Bauman, Candidate for Vice-President.

Treasurer

I am a candidate for reelections as treasurer. Geri Bidwell

Recording Secretary

I am a candidate for the office of Recording Secretary for Boston DOB. I have been a regular attendant at business meetings and I would like to give of my time to make sure that DOB has a proper record of all its activities and decisions. Lois J.

Corresponding Secretary

I am a candidate for reelection as corresponding secretary. My "philosophy" about the job is to answer mail as promptly as possible, to answer all letters no matter how oddball they may seem, to maintain confidentiality of the letters, to communicate to the DOB membership all notices and information directed to its attention. I'd be glad to discuss things further on election night. Peace & Love, Laura Robin

PROXY: (For those members who can't come to the meeting and wish to vote).

I vote for	_____	for President.
	_____	for Vice- Pres.
send proxy to	_____	for Record. Sect.
office or give to	_____	for Correspond. Sect.
someone going to meeting.	_____	for Treasurer.

I entrust my votes to _____

Signed _____

"BE FRIENDS" PROJECT

Claire Shanahan (a member of DOB) has begun to organize a program for children of single parents or gay couples. This program will enlist volunteer adult companions, one day per week, for children between the ages of two and fourteen. Unlike such programs as Big Brothers, the idea is not to provide a "father" or "mother" image for the child, but to provide adult companionship of the gender opposite of that of the parent(s). Claire hopes that such an approach will create a greater openness to different life styles in the children involved, and also in the parents and adult companions.

Although Claire has the assistance and support of several gay persons and sympathetic straight persons (including two social workers from the department of Public Welfare), she hopes that the program will reach beyond the gay community. She feels that there is a need for such relationships and openness to other life styles in all single-parent families.

Much of the organizational work has begun already. However, several more volunteer workers are needed to complete this work, and to do screening of volunteer companions once the program begins to operate. Professional persons, such as social workers and people with a talent for publicity, are especially needed.

If you would like to help with this project in any way, or have any suggestion that might be helpful, please call Claire Shanahan at: 266-7491 or 269-3681 or write to: BeFriends, RM. 508, 419 Boylston St. Boston, Mass. 02116.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SISTERS MAGAZINE
published by San Francisco DOB
\$5/year

SFDOB, Rm. 402, 1005 Market St.,
San Francisco, California 94103

GAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
(weekly)

	10 weeks	25 weeks
3rd class	\$1.50	\$3.50
first class	\$2.10	\$5.00

G. C. N., c/o Charles St. Meeting House,
70 Charles St., Boston, Mass. 02114.

Feminists/Astrologers. Beyond the
obsolete sexism of Astrology: Astroeco-
logy, first woman-created world view.
Charts, instruction. Introduction \$2.
Shara Lee, Box 534, Needham, Ma.
02192.

Would like to meet other gay friends
in the Southern Connecticut area.
Write P. O. Box 1192 Groton, Connecticut
or call Judy - 446-1119 after 3 pm.

ADVERTISING RATES/FOCUS

classifieds 5¢/ word

BY OFFSET:

full page.....\$17
half page.....\$ 9
fourth page.....\$ 5

copy should be in to D.O.B.
by the 20th of the month.
Offset copy should be camera-
ready.

JOIN D.O.B. Membership is \$10 (\$15 for a couple) and includes one subscription to FOCUS. Open to all women 18 years old and older. Send your name, address, signed statement that you're over 18, and the \$, to the D.O.B. office.

LESBIAN NOVEL- According to the publisher's ad quoting Charles Reich, The City Within, by Elizabeth Newbold, is "a novel about two worlds, the outer world of Washington, D.C. and an inner world of lesbian relationships...the point of the book is not the issue of lesbianism but the ideal of a truly enriching relationship." The distributor is Lyle Stuart, 120 Enterprise Ave., Secaucus, N.J. 07094. The cost is \$6.95 plus 50¢ by mail. Let us know if it's any good.

SPRINGFIELD- The Arch, a gay men's in Springfield, Mass. burned down on Tuesday September 11th at 5 am. by a fire bomb explosion. There were no injuries.

CAMBRIDGE- A 24 hour service designed to help suicidal people in time of crisis is in the planning stages. It will be a branch of an international organization The Samaritans. If interested, go to the first meeting at the Jimmy Fund Auditorium, Children's Hospital, Binney St. near Longwood Ave. Boston, October 2 at 8pm, or call 563-3225 or 547-5350.

NEW HAVEN, CT.- A Hartford area gay activist, Ken Bland lost his job as a house parent with the American School for the Deaf in Jan. 1971 after he was on T.V. as a gay. With the help of the Conn. Civil Liberties Union he is filing a \$100,000 suit, the first such in the state. (Advocate Sept. 26, '73)

BOSTON- Linda Woodford won the \$50 gift certificate to the Harvard Coop at a drawing at the Saints Sept 5th. The profits from the raffle went to Boston "Feminists for Lesbian Liberation to sponsor a dance. "I never won anything before," said Linda.

LOS ANGELES- The first National Dignity Convention in Los Angeles concluded on Sept. 4. It elected officers from the local Boston chapter. They are: Paul Diederich Executive Director; Tom Oddo, Sec'y, and Jack Hart, Treas. They will

serve a two year term under the terms of a provisional constitution adopted by the convention.

Dignity is a national organization addressing itself to the needs of the Gay Catholic. It is open to all interested people, straight or gay, Catholic or not, men and women of all ages.

The convention also issued a letter to all the Catholic Bishops of the U.S. asking for a review of present theology and policies.

STUDY FINDS WOMEN'S LIB MEMBERS OUTGOING, INDEPENDENT, HUMANITARIAN, SEXUALLY LIBERATED- "Certainly, the impression created by the data collected in this study tends to contradict the characteristic mass media view of the Women's Liberationist as a sexually frustrated, physically and verbally aggressive, socially unsuccessful person whose choice of participation in the Women's Movement reflects her frustration and neurotic ambitions. The Women's Liberation Movement members studied appear to be outgoing, politically and socially gregarious women from relatively non-religious, middle or upper-middle-class, urban or suburban backgrounds, in whose homes liberal political opinion was given frequent expression. They tend to place high valuation on humanitarianism and personal autonomy and are strongly motivated to create conditions under which it will be possible for them to lead full and productive lives. Moreover, far from being sexually frustrated, antagonistic, and man-hating, most movement women studied appear to be sexually liberated persons who do not feel it necessary to offend men in order to defend women. While acknowledging their need for men, they do not deny their own aspiration, nor undermine those attributes and personal characteristics which run counter to traditional definitions of femininity but on which are founded their self-respect and self-acceptance." From Carolyn Stoloff, "Who Joins Women's Liberation," PSYCHIATRY, Vol. 36, No. 3, August, 1973.

NEW HAMPSHIRE- The winner of the Miss New Hampshire contest endorsed the Women's and Gay Liberation movements- "any liberation movement that's going to give people more dignity and that's going to help them to be less discriminated against."

The Manchester Union Leader, sponsor of the contest, immediately disavowed winner Michelle Cote. The newspaper said that "in the past, these (Loeb) newspapers have never sponsored any contestant who expressed such views and, therefore, no one has ever felt the need to evaluate individual candidates in that regard". (Boston Globe, week of Sept. 3, 1973)

HUMAN BEHAVIOR- The October '73 Human Behavior quotes the latest national opinion poll by the Institute for Sex Research (Kinsey Institute)

- 1) 60% of the 3000 adults surveyed don't approve of consenting adult laws for homosexuals
- 2) 76% said homosexuals should not be allowed to teach
- 3) 65% said gays are sick and needed treatment
- 4) 79% disapprove of homosexual sexual relationships even if there is love (86% if no love)

To be sure, 49% also disapproved of the same for unmarried heterosexuals.

This study was reported by Eugene Levitt and Albert Klassen, Jr. at the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, May, 1973.

TRANSSEXUALISM

"A 17-year-old boy who, for as long as he could remember felt and acted like a girl and wished to be changed surgically into a female, was successfully oriented to masculinity by researchers at the University of Mississippi Medical Center," said David Barlow at a Mass. Psychological Ass'n banquet.

"The boy was trained over a 2-month period to sit, stand and walk in a more masculine manner. Next he was trained to talk in a more masculine way...In addition, he was trained in masculine social behaviors through a series of

BOSTON- Gay activist Elaine Noble has been named to the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women by Governor Francis Sargent. (Boston Globe, Sept. 19).

ATASCADERO, CALIFORNIA- On June 30, 200 gay visitors - mostly from the Metropolitan Community Church - were allowed to hold a party for gay inmates at the Atascadero State Hospital. About 100 prisoners attended. (Gay Liberator, Sept. '73).

ANN ARBOR- "As We See It As Lesbians," a collage created by 11 lesbians, has been denied display at the Ann Arbor Public Library. Ann Arbor Mayor, James Stephenson ironically states that nothing has been contributed to the city by gays. A formal complaint has been filed at the city's Human Rights Dept. (Gay Liberator, Sept. '73).

SAN FRANCISCO- The Society for Individual Rights, an umbrella for many gay activities, is negotiating cancellation of its lease on its offices because of a financial crisis. They are faced with \$6,000 in overdue obligations. (Advocate, Sept. '73).

PORTLAND- The editor of 'Fountain', (gay paper), Lanny Swerdlow, was elected Democratic precinct committeeman and presently holds a seat on the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee. (Advocate, Sept. '73).

behavior rehearsal sessions. Following this, sexual fantasies in which he assumed the male role were positively reinforced and shaped. At this point the boy assumed a masculine gender identity and procedures to change sexual arousal patterns from homosexual to heterosexual, which had failed a year earlier, were successful.

An 18-month follow-up revealed a good adaptation to his new gender identity."

--MASSACHUSETTS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASS'N
NEWSLETTER, July 1973

FOCUSING ON FOCUS

Here's your October issue of FOCUS. The staff hopes you'll enjoy it.

Last month we ran a small ad for FOCUS, in FOCUS, asking for women to come to the staff meeting and contribute ideas and help. There was one new face, which was encouraging, but we'd like to see more!

To begin with, the staff gets together and reviews all the contributions mailed to DOB-FOCUS. We read the gay periodicals and excerpt interesting news from around the country. Articles and news, pro and con, from the straight press are considered for inclusion. We all read all the material submitted and vote yes, no, revise, or hold for future use. Those of us who work on FOCUS also write articles, and these are voted on, the same as every other piece. We also discuss and select a cover for the issue.

When we finally have approved material we plan a night for typing the stencils. After FOCUS is typed, we set up a night to run it off on the Homophile Community Health Service mimeo machine. Next, we gather a few, five or six, volunteers??? to put the pages together and staple them. FOCUS then goes to the mailing committee to be folded, enveloped, addressed, stamped, and mailed. In the meantime the cover is taken to the printers because it is done in offset.

What do we hope to accomplish by telling you all this? Well, we'd like to encourage you to come to the FOCUS staff meetings and contribute a few hours of your time, once a month, to

help make FOCUS a better, broader-based journal. We'd also like to hear from those of you who can't come. Tell FOCUS what you want to see in it; ideas for articles, news you're read. Also send in stories, poems, and articles you've written!

What the staff has in mind is a larger organization for FOCUS - an editorial staff, production staff, advertising staff, distribution staff, etc., similar to the type of set up and real monthly quality of The Lesbian Tide, published by sisters in L. A.

We'd like to make FOCUS even bigger and better, and to have more women participate so that the same few don't end up carrying the whole load month after month.

So come and be part of FOCUS. Bring (or send) your ideas, contributions, and criticisms. Give FOCUS a few hours a month.

D.O.B. DANCE

(it's H A L L O W E E N)

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 26th

8:30 pm

just 50¢ admission
women only

beer and soda for sale

AT THE D.O.B. OFFICE

SEX

HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS AD, BUT NOW THAT WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, HOW ABOUT JOINING THE FOCUS STAFF.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

THERE ARE JOB OPENINGS IN ALL AREAS: EDITORIAL, ART, ADVERTISING, PRODUCTION,
DISTRIBUTION. WHATEVER YOU CAN DO, FOCUS CAN USE IT. ALSO NEEDED: ARTICLES STORIES
POETRY, COVER IDEAS, ART, NEWS, AND EVEN CRITICISMS. CONTRIBUTE AS FEW OR AS MANY
HOURS AS YOU CAN ABSOLUTELY

FREE

COME TO THE FOCUS STAFF MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 7:30 pm, OR CALL DOB OFFICE.

They said I was a Lesbian
 because I had an oral fixation
 So,
 the next morning
 I stopped:

drinking
 brushing my teeth
 smiling
 kissing my friends
 talking
 smoking cigarettes
 eating

my lips dried up
 crumbled, flew away
 dust in the wind
 my eyes filled with dirt
 damned open, not moving
 my body slowly shriveled
 wrinkling in upon itself
 I continued to breathe
 until I died
 still a Lesbian.

C. G.

Masturbation

wood inside flesh
 flesh inside flesh
 deep
 circularity cream warmth
 ocean smell
 softness of down
 prickly bristles
 fullness of stomach
 air sucking air
 animal fantasies
 room quietness
 wet streets under cars
 light trying to give
 giving light
 dead giving life
 life giving pleasure
 pleasure
 peace

the flesh mind
 intertwines
 organs unite
 beer bubbles
 and smoke calms
 as the bitten into
 cheese
 has intercourse with the
 burned out incense

marilyn Hadfield

Love Poems for Her

first written
 they appear full
 of my feelings
 as deep as memory

shyly
 they are offered
 in sacrifice

I offer no defence
 I am guilty of love

now
 time past
 I'm moving next week
 packing
 & sorting
 & throwing out stuff
 I find
 love poems for her

they seem to have
 no meaning
 after seeing them so much
 it's like Old Glory
 it's like my reflection
 in the mirror
 each morning

C. G.

with my hipbone
 dug into the Georgia earth
 and summer night cracklings
 around my head
 I get high
 in this half-kneel
 above you
 I swim
 into the elements
 of air, your face,
 the soft moan of us
 melting this moment.
 ginger lox

Poem

And you have an upside down
 tree on your left arm
 and i'm afraid to say how
 pretty it is
 because we both used to
 stick needles into
 branches

Marilyn Hadfield

this girl with black hair
and good eyes
is my sister
and this is the first time
she has ever been able
to be my friend
in 30 years.

she came to my house
skiddish
obviously full of some
dreadful confession
of wanton sin.
I braced,
listening.

"I'm gay" she said
and tears
glistened
in her good eyes
that we both inherited
from our mother.

"well,
so
am
I." I said
and tears
glistened in my
good eyes.
she laughed and
sputtered tears of relief
I laughed
and sputtered tears of relief
and we were friends
for the first time
in
30
years.

gingerlox

now i work for the
City of New York
now i have my own apt.
and am responsible
now i try not to write poetry
because i don't want to feel

nothing's changed.

Marilyn Hadfield

My Dog And Me

9

We were sort of a family,
Her, my dog, her cat and me.
My dog and I still love each other
And we will 'til there's another
Sort of family
With a new her, my dog, her cat and me.
Cathy

Remembering The Rain

Tonight it rained
And as I laid there alone
I thought of the nights
When we were together
Lying side by side
Holding hands
Just listening to the sound of the
Raindrops pounding on the roof
And the safe, warm, protected
Feeling I had when we listened
To the rain together.

Cathy

August 23, 1973

10 yrs. ago today
i got busted
for the first time

27 yrs. old

told me he was a
construction worker
staying overnight at the Hilton

and i fell for it

what's a nice girl like you
doing hustling

you don't use dope do you

the judge will let you go
in the morning

and i believed them

but your Honor
she uses drugs
60 days in the workhouse
30 days to kick

and again and again and again

i no longer get busted
i no longer hustle
i no longer hear what's a
nice girl like you
i no longer use dope

←---

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS
 CALENDAR
 October 1973

TUESDAYS 7:30 pm RAP SESSIONS ON BEING GAY, FOR WOMEN ONLY. Share feelings about being gay, everyone welcome. At the D.O.B. office, 419 Boylston St., Boston, between Arlington and Berkeley Streets, near the Arlington MBTA stop.

WEDNESDAYS 7:30 pm LESBIAN MOTHERS' RAP, at the D.O.B. office.

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

SUNDAYS 1 pm GAY WOMEN'S SOFTBALL. Magazine Beach, Cambridge, across the Charles River from Cadillac-Olds and along Memorial Drive west of the Boston University Bridge. Drizzle or shine.

September 28, FRIDAY, 12 noon. DEMONSTRATION commemorating the second anniversary of the date Nixon refused to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court. Post Office Sq., Boston. Information Ann Kendall 354-7615.

September 29, SATURDAY, 9:30 am--4:30 pm JOINT CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Auditorium, \$1/ person. If you're interested in representing D.O.B. see Wendy or Garl.

October 1, MONDAY, 10 pm MEDICAL CENTER ON T.V. "Dr. Joe Gannon enlists the help of a lesbian psychiatrist in treatment of a critically ill cardiac patient." Channel 7.

October 5, FRIDAY, 11 pm on, FEMINIST FILM NIGHT, North Station Cinema I, Friends St., Boston. "The Gentle Sex", first showing in Boston. Admission \$1.50. If interest is shown, this could become a regularly scheduled showing of films for women.

October 7, SUNDAY, 10 pm LAVENDER HOUR, WBCN-FM radio, 104.3 on dial.

October 8, MONDAY, 7:30 pm. D.O.B. WATE WATCHERS. Come join us overeaters and we'll all lose weight together. Eight week course, \$1 per week. Full details at this first meeting. At the D.O.B. office.

October 13, 14, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. M.C.C. WOMEN'S FESTIVAL. Saturday, 1-7 pm, open house art festival (poems, art, dance, singing); 7-8:30 pm feature length film; 8:30--midnight, dance. Sunday, 3 pm, workshop on women and the church; 7 pm, feminist liturgy service with guest speaker Rev. Freda Smith, pastor of M.C.C. Sacramento and newly-elected first woman elder of UFMCC. For more information call 266-7491.

October 14, SUNDAY, 7:30 pm, D.O.B. ELECTIONS NIGHT AND BUSINESS MEETING. See candidates statements in this month's FOCUS.

October 18, THURSDAY, 7:30 pm, FOCUS STAFF MEETING, at the office.

October 26, FRIDAY, 8:30 pm, D.O.B. DANCE. Beer & soda for sale. 50¢ admn, at office
 DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS phone:
 419 Boylston St., Room 323 617-262-1592
 Boston, Mass. 02116

All D.O.B. events are open to all women. We welcome your contributions of time and money in our efforts to reach other gay women, to provide raps and social events, to work for the rights of gay people.

TWICE

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AS BIG

DOUBLE ISSUE

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THE U. S. AND CANADA



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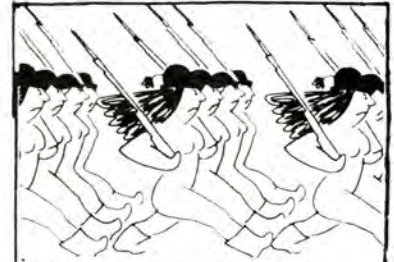


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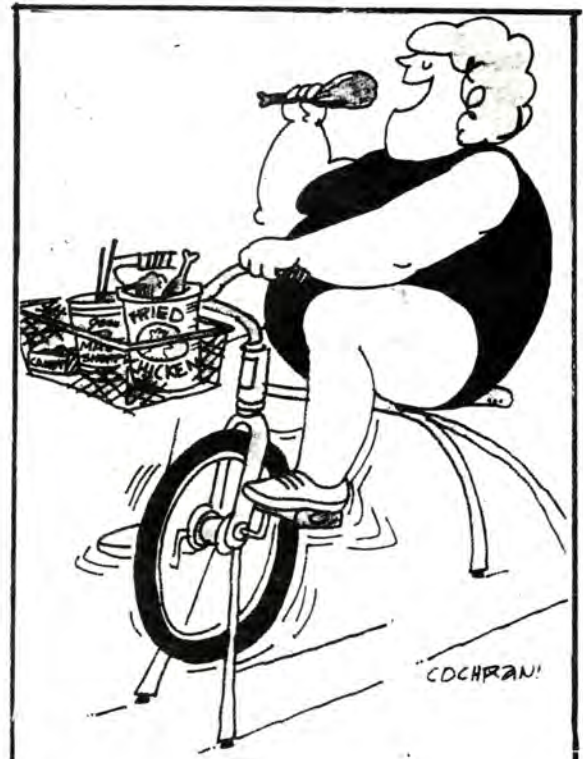
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• irreverent reviews • calendar

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COCHRAN!

D. O. B. WATE WATCHERS
STARTS MONDAY OCT. 8
AT THE OFFICE 7:30pm.
COME JOIN US! see the calendar



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