

# FOCUS

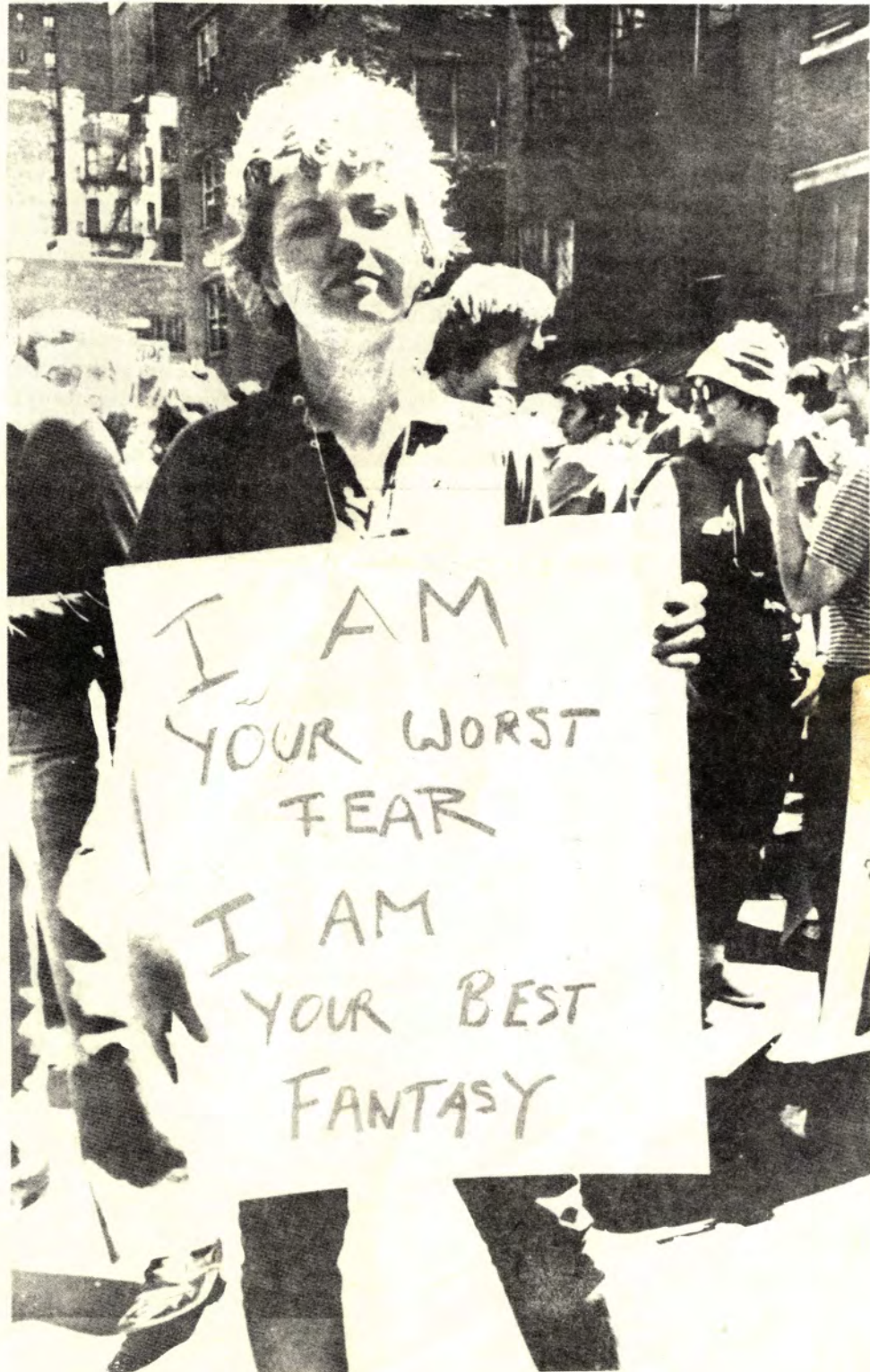
*a journal for GAY WOMEN*

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

VOL. 2 NO. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1971

50¢



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Aug. 18, Wed., 7:30--Orientation supper at St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St. Bring a cold dish, hot dish, or \$1. For information call 254-4039 after 4 p.m.
- Aug. 19, Thurs., 7:30 p.m.--Rap session. Call 969-8111 or 522-1070 for information on location.
- Aug. 22, Sun., 1 p.m.--Softball against the Mothers, Magazine Beach, Memorial Drive, Cambridge.
- Aug. 30, Mon., 7:30 p.m.--Public Education Committee meeting. Call 926-3439 or 522-1070 for location.
- Sept. 2, Thurs., 7:30 p.m.--Rap session. Call 969-8111 or 522-1070 for information and location.
- Sept. 12, Sun., 7:30 p.m.--Candidate's Night before Boston D.O.B. annual elections. St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston.
- Sept. 16, Thurs., 7:30 p.m.--Rap session. Call 969-8111 or 522-1070 for information and location.
- Sept. 26, Sun., 7:30 p.m.--ELECTIONS, St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston.
- Sept. 30, Thurs., 7:30 p.m.--Rap session. Call 969-8111 or 522-1070 for information and location.

Boston DOB phone numbers are 969-8111 and 926-3439.

PERSONALS

Here we go again--anyone want a cute, cuddly little kitten? Just let Andy and Kim know, c/o FOCUS. Agnes and her daughter Scamp have both delivered kittens (both on towels in the living room floor with their people in attendance). Between them, they are offering for adoption to D.O.B. friends: two money-kittens, one yellow tiger male, one yellow female tabby, and one black and white male with perfectly marked white boots and vest. With Emmy, still another of Agnes' children, coming of age, it appears Andy and Kim will have a continuous supply of kittens. Get in touch with them anytime you want a feline addition to your family!

GAY GIRL, 18, with child needs apt. equipped with roommates.  
Call Sue at 692-6084.

FREE PUPPIES AND THEIR MOTHER.  
Mother is 10 months old, part beagle, soft, furry, friendly. Prefer country homes. 492-1915 (Cambridge).

FOCUS still needs more information from older gay women. We are sincerely interested in doing a story about the life styles of older Lesbians. It's especially important we hear from you because every group needs to be able to know and identify with models. All replies will be held in strict confidence. Please include address or phone if possible. Thanks to the one person who did reply to the previous ad. There are other questions we'd like to ask, though. Can we hear from you again?

FOCUS is published by Boston Daughters of Bilitis.

Editor--Diane Benison

Circulation and Business--Sharon Earll

Staff--Pam Boyd, Andy Cox, Kim Stabinski, Jackie Roth, Bev. Rita Hecht,

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the organization, but rather they are the opinions of the individual contributors.

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Classified ad rates are \$1 for the first 15 words and 20¢ for each additional word. "For Sale," "Wanted," etc. do not count as words. Anything given away free will receive a free ad. Figure your charge and mail your ad with check or money order (payable to Boston DOB) to FOCUS, c/o Boston DOB, Box 221, Prudential Center Station, Boston 02199.

Full page ads are \$30, half page ads \$15, and quarter page ads \$7.50 per issue.

Persons subscribing to this newsletter should make checks payable to Boston Daughters of Bilitis.

BOSTON D.O.B. OFFICERS

- President.....Andy Cox
- Vice President.....Jo Peckarsky
- Recording Secretary.....Aggie Nanigian
- Corresponding Secretary.....Laura Robin
- Treasurer.....Rose Tuttle

The DOB phone numbers are 926-3439 and 969-8111.

Any members of Boston DOB who do not have a copy of the by-laws and would like one should write to Boston DOB, Box 221, Prudential Center Station, Boston 02199.

ABOUT THE COVER...It's a reprint of a picture used in Ecstasy, a news magazine put out by the Gay Revolution Party in New York City. It is probably from the Gay Pride march in New York City in June.

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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COMING NEXT MONTH:

The candidates speak for Boston D.O.B.'s annual elections.

## NEW YORK REPORT:

### 'A public image means always talking to the crowd instead of individuals'

by MARTHA SHELLEY

This past month has involved me in strenuous battle at the final outpost of The Man--the fortress of male orientation inside my head. I am trying to deal with the star system, the elite system, the prestige orientation which says one person is worth more than another. As a writer and speaker in the movement, I'm up to my ears in it. Let my journal speak for itself:

June 26 (Christopher St. weekend): Attended workshops on gay people in the arts...I walked into the classroom where the workshop was being held, was hesitant about sitting down, and was invited to do so by Kate Millett. About six persons participated in the discussion, although many more were present...we ranged over the effect of "Correct line"-ism on ones writings,

when they don't cooperate (translation: do things my way).

July 14: (second meeting of my consciousness-raising group) After the meeting, I walked B-- home. She offered to buy me a beer, talked until two a.m. Then we went to her apartment.

B-- is upset because of her previous affair with Kate. Well, there's no point in concealing things in the group--it only creates an atmosphere of intrigue, suspiciousness, etc. We are all going to have to deal with our feelings about K.M., the star system, our sense of self-worth in relation to others.

July 16: Realized this morning, through a series of paranoid fantasies, that I don't like sharing with K.M. any more than I like sharing with a man. Then, how much of my attraction to B-- was based on my previous knowledge of this relationship and my sense of competitiveness? And

what about the future? What future? The real question is what can we learn from each other now. Let tomorrow look after itself.

Conversation with Hy this morning. (Hy owns the candy store downstairs.) I pointed out some pathetic tale in *The New York Times* about Laotian refugees. Hy said all wars are alike, the innocent civilians always getting massacred and killed more often than the troops. He argues that the nature of man is evil, and God is ferent, or rather than the nature of God is such that men cannot make statements about God.

July 18: Met up with M-- at the abortion conference. (M-- is an old lover of mine, whom I had not seen since the last time we were in court. We had both been arrested in the 5th Street Building occupation, which is where we

(see page 5)

## Isabel Miller wins first Gay Book Award

American Library Assoc. Gay Task Force makes presentation

DALLAS, Texas (GWNS)—A Lesbian from New York has received the First Annual Gay Book Award presented by an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA).

Writer Isabel Miller accepted the award for her historical novel, *A Place for Us*, from the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the Social Responsibilities Round Table, the activist wing of the ALA, as part of ALA Convention activities June 20-27 in Dallas, Texas.

In a telephone conversation with MOTHER, newly-elected Task Force Coordinator Barbara Gittings of Philadelphia explained that the main criterion used in selecting the Gay Book Award recipient was "a book which presented a positive image of homosexuals and their style."

*A Place for Us* is the first book dealing with Lesbians written by Ms. Miller, although she has published two other works under another name. "A Place for Us is also the book I'm most proud of," she emphasized.

"It is time for gay authors to use our own lives as a subject, creating literature and other arts for ourselves, instead of just for the straight world as we've always done before," advised Ms. Miller in accepting the award June 23.

*A Place for Us*, published in 1969 in paperback by Beecher Street Publishers of New York, is based on a real-life pair of women in the early 1880s who left their homes to pioneer a homestead in Connecticut.

McGraw-Hill Publishers of New York will release a hard-cover version of the historical novel late

this year.

In presenting the award to Ms. Miller at the ALA Conference in Dallas, past Task Force Coordinator Israel Fishman praised the book for "handling Lesbianism as natural and spontaneous as any other mature friendship or marriage should be handled."

The task force chose a fiction work, rather than a non-fiction work, Ms. Gittings noted, "because we know that a dozen or so non-fiction books on the subject of homosexuality will be published within the year. We wanted to have a wider field to choose from..."

The Gay Book Award was not presented by the entire ALA, she emphasized, but only by the Task Force on Gay Liberation, which is a sub-group of the ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table.

# Two announce presidential candidacy

## SHARON EARLL

In recent months I have seriously questioned whether or not D.O.B. was the organization to which I could most fervently devote my energies.

As a member of the Public Education Committee, I felt to be a contributing entity within a dedicated group. As a member of D.O.B. at large, my feelings became those of total frustration. This frustration is due in large to my feeling no defined lines of group direction or purpose.

My doubts led me into the study of D.O.B.'s statement of purpose and its bylaws, as well as into the philosophies and ambitions of other gay women's organizations. The result proved to me that, in theory at least, D.O.B. offered the most conservative, yet productive, program to the Lesbian community.

There are many things about D.O.B. which I would like to see changed, not in a structural sense but rather on an individual motivational level.

I believe in the Boston Chapter of Daughters of Bilitis. I believe we have the talent, the desire and the will whereby we can play a decided part in educating society to the Lesbian culture and in hastening the time when all people can live in peace and be accepted as equal.

It is to this end that I pledge my energies as I announce my candidacy for the office of President of Boston D.O.B.

Sharon Earll

## Laura Robin seeks re-election

Editor:

I am a candidate for re-election as Corresponding Secretary.

Laura Robin

## Weekly rap sessions

open to all women

D.O.B. is starting a series of evening "rap" sessions to be held initially every other Thursday in private homes. All women are welcome to come and share their thoughts, feelings, confusions, conclusions---whatever. Meetings will be at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 19, Sept. 2, 16, 30. For locations (in the Boston area) call 969-8111 or 522-1070.

## GAIL KING

"Day of the Dolphin is an absorbing story...which...touches urgent moral and philosophical questions."

Wall Street Journal

Provocative, chilling, scathing are all adjectives used to describe the virtues of this best-selling novel by Robert Merle. The review quoted from *The Wall Street Journal* has a perverse ring of truth for gay people.

There are truly "urgent moral questions" raised and the answers given in this book, and I am afraid in large part all to the straight society are frightening.

Let me introduce you to three of the characters in the novel:

"Bob came forward and C's eyes rested on him, a tall, slender, willowy young man, graceful in all his movements, with long, delicate, supple hands... 'How do you do, Mr. C?' said Bob with a ravishing smile..."

"Bob came forward, graceful and loose-limbed. 'Don't disturb yourself, Arlette,' he said in his fluty voice. 'I'll play hostess...'"

"There was a silence. C's eye passed coldly over Arlette's body...how obscene a woman's body is, those big breasts, those hips, everything so weak, so soft... naturally they're all the same, always sex, always thinking with their vaginas."

"Lisbeth was..tall, strong, blonde, athletic, with her regular features, broad forehead and square jaw, she looked like a very handsome, intelligent and headstrong boy, who at the last moment had been given the wrong sex..."

It does not take a particularly perceptive reader to see that Bob, Lisbeth and Mr. C are all homosexual. More importantly, these same characters are also the villains in the story. Homosexuality is used in all three characters as the indication of an evil disorder, a premise made familiar to us by the doctors Berger, Caprio and Ruben.

It would be simple enough for us to turn away from these stereotypes: swish queen, amazon butch, destructive closet case. Yes, they are real people, but few and far between in the gay community. Or are they? The tragic fault in each of these characters is his/her inability to reconcile

(see page 14)

## Elections set for Sept. 26

Boston D.O.B. will hold its annual elections at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, in St. John's Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston. Offices to be filled are President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.

Candidates' Night will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, in St. John's Church. Candidates will give their views and goals and answer questions. Nominations of all candidates, announced or unannounced, will be made from the floor election night. Proxy forms must be received no later than election day. Only paid members may run for office, nominate for office, or vote in the election. See proxy form, page 4.

The officers to be elected and their duties, as taken from the by-laws:

### Article C. The Chapter

Section 2: The President of the chapter shall act as resident agent of the society in the area; she shall be responsible for the conduct of all chapter meetings and the coordination of chapter activities; she shall be responsible for insuring monthly meetings of all the officers and the newsletter editor. She shall appoint the editor of the newsletter but must place her nomination

before the membership for ratification.

Section 3: The Vice President of the chapter shall serve as acting president in the absence of the president; she shall be ex-officio member of all committees and shall be responsible for insuring a written report of these committees at each business meeting.

Section 4: The Recording Secretary of the chapter shall be responsible for the transcription of the minutes of regular and special chapter meetings. She shall forward copies of chapter documents, publications, forms, etc., to the Governing Board promptly.

Section 5: The Corresponding Secretary of the chapter shall be responsible for handling the correspondence of the chapter.

Section 6: The Treasurer of the chapter shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of chapter funds. She shall make a financial report at each chapter business meeting. She shall notify each member 2 months in advance of the date when her membership expires.

Any member who wishes to run for election should notify FOCUS immediately so that her name can be added to the next proxy form.

### PROXY FORM FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS

*This form is to be used only by fully-paid members of Boston D.O.B. who will not be present at the September 26 election. The form must be signed to be valid and must be in our hands by election day. Send the form via a member who will be present, or mail it to D.O.B. Boston, P. O. Box 221, Prudential Center Station, Boston, Mass. 02199.*

Member's name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I entrust my vote to \_\_\_\_\_ OR I vote for the following:

**PRESIDENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Sharon Earll

\_\_\_\_\_ Gail King

\_\_\_\_\_

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Laura Robin

\_\_\_\_\_

**TREASURER:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*If additional candidates announce prior to the deadline for the October issue of FOCUS, which is scheduled for release in mid-September, their names will be added to the proxy form in that issue.*

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Gayness in the Women's Movement

The issue of freedom of sexual expression has become a central issue in the women's movement, consequently giving implicit support to the gay liberation movement.

Freedom of sexual expression, as an additional demand of the Women's National Abortion Coalition (sponsored by SWP and YSA), was voted down at the June 12 pre-planning meeting. This was due to confusion in many women's minds about the connection between freedom of sexual expression and the abortion issue.

This confusion was created by the insistence of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) that there is no connection between abortion and freedom of sexual expression. Hundreds of women left the Coalition and are now reforming. They have also withdrawn endorsement from the Coalition and are endorsing a four-demand campaign organized around: Abortion on demand; no forced sterilization; contraception; and freedom of sexual expression.

A group called FOCAS (Feminists Organization for Communication, Action and Service) stated at a press conference in New York City July 22:

"We can have a conference focusing on abortion law repeals, but including other issues pertinent to a woman's control of her own body. Such a multi-issue conference with a main focus can appeal to all women--including those primarily interested in women's rights. By including related issues, the conference will be recognizing the right of all women follow-up and could lead nowhere.

SWP and YSW have done the gay liberation movement a great favor by making a spectrum of women come to some clear insights to complete sexual and reproductive freedom. This right is not predicated only on our ability to bear children. Both freedoms are keys to every woman's liberation, although neither one freedom alone can liberate any one woman. Women interested in this larger issue have no other choice but to form such a coalition."

The list of women who have withdrawn endorsement from the June Coalition runs in the hundreds. A few prominent names include Gloria Steinem; Mary Daly, doctor of theology at Boston College; Martha Shelley; Robin Morgan, editor of *Sisterhood is Powerful*; Jacqui Ceballos, presi-

dent of the New York Chapter of NOW; and Kate Millett.

The withdrawal of endorsement for a single-issue abortion campaign is significant because it also testifies that many independent feminists and women's organizations are not willing to be manipulated by SWP. SWP and its affiliate Young Socialists Workers Party (YSW) have attempted to co-opt many movements. They have successfully done so with the peace movement. They filter out all ideas save those which they find politically expedient, and they build mass demonstrations around one issue. The SWP and YSW organizers of the June Coalition have not in the past concerned themselves with litigation and legislative activity. Nor do they recognize that the primary strategy of an abortion repeal campaign must concentrate on those methods. The method of mass demonstration endorsed by the majority present at the conference lacks necessary about what part gay plays in the women's liberation movement. The new found support is invaluable. But further infiltration of SWP and YSW people into the gay liberation movement is a danger that clearly only we can control.

NEW YORK REPORT: *(continued from 2)*

met.) After the conference, we went for a beer and sandwich. M-- said she'd been having trouble with her women's group in Queens, and with their tendency to treat her as a political heavy and bigshot since she'd been arrested.

July 21: M-- bought a Peugeot racing bike. (I have been reading about these bikes, which I covet madly, and went along with her to test the bike, according to the instructions in *The Complete Book of Bicycling*.) She became extremely nervous, wanted to grab the bike and run. I felt anxious and dizzy--testing the wheel,

playing expert in the shop. Challenging the authority of the male bicycle dealers made my hands shake.

July 22: B-- and I went to the press conference after breakfast. (This was a press conference called by the feminists who objected to the Socialist Workers Party--SWP--domination censorship by the left and the right, purges, the star trip. K.M. and I monopolized the conversation on the star trip--I told about how it affected my personal life: being treated like a celebrity instead of a wallflower at a dance,

being pursued by movement groupies, having every public utterance treated as gold--which can tempt one to write shit and let it be taken for gold--being asked to give opinions on things one knows nothing about. K.M. seemed quite moved by the discussion, as did Tina Mandel (of New York D.O.B.). Tina says the Socialist Workers Party is trying to make her into a movement star and their puppet gay, or token gay, based on a two-minute speech she did in Washington

*(See page 11)*

EDITORIAL

## No time to retrench--- Our snowball has started

*This is no time to retrench, although our bodies and souls may be screaming "Stop, rest for a while." FOCUS is no seer, but the signs are in the winds that we as gay people are coming into our own. Now is not the time to slacken our efforts. Hundreds of women as distant in philosophy as Isreal and Egypt have rallied to support the idea that freedom of sexual expression goes ALONG WITH the abortion issue. They see control of women's bodies as the issue, inseparable into abortion and gayness.*

*There are other signs too. The ever increasing quality of publications which include more than poetry and prose gives eloquent testimony to our economic and psychological growth. How many years ago was it most gay publications included only fiction and prose? Today the balance has changed. Today gay periodicals carry news of what's happening in state houses, corridors of government, and in businesses.*

*While this beginning is ever so small, it is probably the most momentuous of any step we gay people will take as a movement. Like the pro-*

*verbial snowball rolling down a hill, we have taken off.*

*Boston D.O.B. elections are coming up soon. Both presidential candidates are strong, forceful, dynamic. Either one will take us a long way, but beware. They are both slave drivers. They will demand work, and those who don't give it may be left littered on the wayside.*

*FOCUS is not planning to take an editorial stand supporting one or the other. Rather, our stand is to urge D.O.B. members to really give their support, physically or financially, to the movement.*

*If you don't want to do the work, then give us your generous financial support, and that means also spreading the word among your friends. You should fight your own battles. We will fight yours in the course of our own if we have to, but you, too, have dues to pay.*

*You pay them to the straight world by pretending to be something you're not. How much less painful it would be to pay them to yourself by working for the movement or financially supporting it.*

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## Cuban Communists and Gays

Following is the statement of the First National Conference on Education and Culture denouncing homosexuality. It is excerpted from GRAMMA, Cuba's Communist Party newspaper. Along side it is an article by Sue Katz, a member of gay women's liberation and active in other political arenas.

Katz wrote the article at the request of FOCUS as a response to it.

FOCUS feels that it is imperative all gay peo-

ple realize what various political parties have been trying to do to the gay movement, and thus has reprinted the excerpt. No political party or philosophy in any country offers any panacea for gay repression, but recently groups like the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and others have tried to cash in on the gay movement.

The issue is discussed here, and also in Martha Shelley's column and the article on the abortion fight, all in this issue.

### STATEMENT

The social pathological character of homosexual deviations was recognized. It was resolved that all manifestations of homosexual deviations are to be firmly rejected and prevented from spreading. It was pointed out, however, that a study, investigation, and analysis of this complex problem should always determine the measures to be adopted.

It was decided that homosexuality should not be considered a central problem or a fundamental one in our society, but rather its attention and solution are necessary.

*(see page 10)*

### RESPONSE

by KATZ

No socialist revolution has ever really freed women or homosexuals, because every existing socialist government has just been one group of cock-minded straight men replacing another. Revolution is my vision, but revolution in the hands of straight men is just another way of oppression and repression.

Certainly no one who has ever

*(see page 10)*

### LETTERS

#### Vacation cottage offered

Dear members,

Believing wholeheartedly in your organization and wishing to do my part in assisting those who lack proper finances to support a merited vacation, I am offering my cottage free to those desirous of relaxing in a pine-scented atmosphere.

I was an honorary member of D.O.B. San Francisco, having made numerous monetary donations to that chapter's support.

My cottage is located in the Lakewood Theatre Colony of Maine, and I have room for at least 6 members who wish to accept my offer. Those accepting will at no time be under any obligation. If I can make any member happy, it will be a complete

satisfaction to me.

This offer is open after the seventh of August (my present guests will return to New York on August 6) until October 15.

#### HUB seeks woman columnist

Dear Ms. Benison:

Having recently assumed the editorship of the HUB Quarterly, I feel that one of the first steps to be taken is the expansion of HUB's coverage to become more representative of the entire Boston homophile community. Here, a regular column written by gay women and addressed to gay men would fill a major need.

This column could tell the men in the gay movement what you, the women, want us to know about

Hope to hear from you in the near future.

Paulette

(Anyone interested may contact Boston D.O.B.)

yourselves, your problems, and your achievements. Where are our outlooks similar, and where radically different? What is the gay women's movement in Boston doing, and what would you like to see the gay men do?

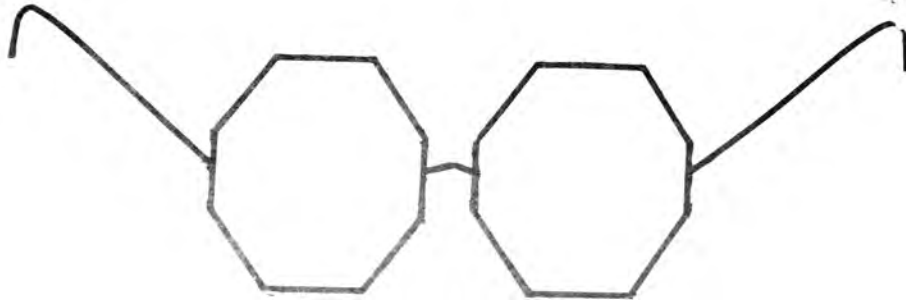
I believe that such a regular by-women-to-men column is needed, and I am eager to hear what you and D.O.B. think about this suggestion.

Steve Wolf

(Anyone interested? Ed.)



the movement is in



# FOCUS

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# NOTED WITH INTEREST

## REGIONAL GAY FESTIVAL...

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Oct. 1-3 in Hartford, Conn., hosted by Hartford's Kalos Society. It will be for the entire Eastern Region of the country. The Festival will include, among other activities, a March for Freedom in celebration of the Oct. 1 effective date of the repeal of Connecticut sodomy laws. For information call 203-547-0940 or 203-367-8950.

**SENATE PRESIDENT** Kevin Harrington told a Phoenix reporter (7/13, p. 21) "I don't care what a guy does with himself, as long as it doesn't infringe on other people's freedom. But even if a majority of the legislators were sympathetic to the problem, their constituencies are dead against homosexuals. So there'd never be anything beyond sympathy."

## GAY INTRODUCTORY

**BUREAU...Parade Magazine**, July 18, published a brief article about a Gay Introductory Bureau in Britain. Basically it's a dating service, but it is run quite openly by a 26-year-old woman with the help of a 28-year-old friend, also a woman. There is no mention whether they are gay. It operates out of 30 Baker St., the heart of the old Sherlock Holmes district in London. Comments the owner, Jane Lindsay, "I know that people in America will be outraged at such a service. America is such a straight and puritanical country. But I think Europeans are a bit more compassionate and understanding. And that's what we're looking for, some understanding of people who have a different way of life, some understanding instead of outright, brutal condemnation."

**FROM DOWN UNDER**, we finally got a newsletter from Melbourne, Australia! The group calls

itself the Melbourne A.L.M. It was marked No. 14, April, 1971, and is mostly poetry, short stories, and announcements of activities. One of the interest notes was a report of a guest speaker from Holland, Jerek Feykema, who discussed the status of homosexuality there. Apparently homosexual relations are legal in Holland between consenting adults over the age of 18. A.L.M. stands for Australian Lesbian Movement. Apparently lacking underground type newspapers like B.A.D. and Phoenix, A.L.M. has taken to running periodical advertisements about the organization in the more legitimate newspapers in Melbourne. So far only one has refused to run advertising for it, while two have accepted ads.

## GAY COUPLES NEEDED...

Phyllis Kaufman, a graduate student at Sacramento State College, is conducting a study of homosexual marriages with the purpose of building a case for social/legal acceptance of such unions (and the legal and economic benefits that attend such acceptance). Ms. Kaufman needs couples (female/female and male/male) who have been together two years or more. Participants remain completely anonymous; she simply needs addresses to which to send her questionnaire. You can write her at the School of Social Work, Sacramento State College, 6000 Jay St., Sacramento, Calif. 95819. FOCUS urges couples to help or to refer couples you know who qualify. The end result could be most helpful to us all.

**MORE ABOUT BOOKS...**The most recent we've heard about on the subject is **Homosexuality: The Psychology of the Creative Process**, by Paul Rosenfels, M.D. It's been parished by Mattachine Midwest and called an "exciting experience in self-understanding."

From the publisher comes the statement, "To be homosexual in the 1970s is to be in the vanguard of a supreme liberation struggle that dwarfs political movements in the scope of its affirmations. Yet most homosexuals are only dimly aware of the dramatic role they are playing in psychological history. If anything can dispel the cloud of myths holding back the homosexual revolution and arouse the creative spirit in each of us, it is the inspiring insights of one book." Unfortunately, the flyer FOCUS received did not say who published the book, so we can't give you a book company. It is available from the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 291 Mercer St., New York, N. Y. 10003.

**KISSING CRIME...**We haven't heard anything yet about the court case which was scheduled to be tried June 25 in Chicago against John Cantrell and Richard Chinn, who were arrested after they kissed good-bye leaving a bus in Chicago. They were charged with disorderly conduct, public indecency, and lewd fondling and were released on \$1,000 bond each after the arrest. Chicago Gay Liberation Front, in describing the incident, said it was a "brief kiss." CGLF planned a public demonstration at the courthouse on the day of the trial and urged Chicago's gays to help stage a "Kiss-in." More when we hear more.

**ANOTHER PAPER...**The Ann Arbor (Mich.) Revolutionary Lesbians have begun publication of a newspaper, SPECTRE. The address is P.O. Box 305, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48107.

## BOSTON GAY BULLETIN...

Two gay men have started a gay bulletin getting together all kinds of announcements from all the gay groups in Boston.

## Cuban statement

(Continued from 7)

A study was made of the origin and evolution of this phenomenon and of its present-day scope and antisocial character. An in-depth analysis was made of the preventive and educational measures that are to be put into effect against exist-focues, including the control and relocation of isolated cases, always with an educational and preventive purpose. It was agreed to differentiate between the various cases, their stages of deterioration and the necessarily different approaches to the different cases and degrees of deterioration.

On the basis of these considerations, it was resolved that it would be convenient to adopt the following measures:

- a) Extension of the coeducational system: recognition of its importance in the formation of children and the young.
- b) Appropriate sexual education for parents, teachers and pupils. This work must not be treated as a special subject but as one falling into the general teaching syllabus, such as biology, psysiology, etc. A campaign of information on sex matters should be carried out among teachers and parents to help them answer, in a proper and scientific way, the questions asked by children and young people.
- c) Stimulation of a proper approach to sex. A campaign of information should be put into effect among adolescents and young people which would contribute to the acquisition of a scientific knowledge of sex and the eradication of prejudices and doubts

- which in some cases result in the placing of too much importance on sex.
- d) Promotion of discussion among the youth in thoses cases where it becomes necessary to delve into the human aspect of sex relations.

It was resolved that it is not to be tolerated for notorious homosexuals to have influence in the formation of our youth on the basis of their "artistic merits." (Emphasis added.)

Consequently, a study is called for to determine how best to tackle the problems of the presence of homosexuals in the various institutions of our cultural sector.

It was proposed that a study should be made to find a way of applying measures with a view to transferring to other organizations those who, as homosexuals, should not have any direct influence on our youth through artistic and cultural activities.

It was resolved that those whose morals do not correspond to the prestige of our Revolution should be barred from any group of performers representing our country abroad.

Finally, it was agreed to demand that severe penalties be applied to those who corrupt the morals of minors, depraved repeat offenders and irredeemable anti-social elements. (Emphasis added.)

Cultural institutions cannot serve as a platform for false intellectuals who try to make snobbery, extravagant conduct, homosexuality and other social abberations into expressions of revolutionary spirit and art, isolated from the masses and the spirit of the Revolution.

## Katz

(Continued from 7)

visited or studied seriously the new conditions in Cuba, China, North Korea, and North Vietnam can deny that the quality of life there has improved immensely in the terms of education, food, shelter, clothing and national pride. But since no one can be really free unless everyone is free, I feel that all these countries need another revolution--a gay and feminist revolution--to insure personal liberation of all of their problems.

Historically, socialist and communist parties have never sought to DESTROY power and the concept of power. Rather, they transfer that power from one

group of straight men to another and end up with another system of social domination. This is also true of socialist and communist parties in this country. Every party of this sort has a strict hierarchy of power (which they call Lenin's democratic centralism and which I call communist prick power) and that hierarchy is inevitably anti-gay and anti-woman. Just as capitalism was an improvement on fuedalism, so communism is a step forward from capitalism. But all are still male-dominated hierarchies, and none of them has liberated the most oppressed peoples.

The Progressive Labor Party, the Communist Party, and the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) are all male-dominated. Until last year it was against party rules for members to be gay, just like in Cuba today.

Some of them, in particular the SWP, see the Gay Liberation movement as one of the most exciting and vital movements in the history of this country, and they are trying to cash in. But they are motivated by opportunism, not understanding and identification. (Emphasis added.)

(see page 13)

June 27: the March. Everyone in the gay movement was there (all the big names, that is). I was busy marshalling, which for me is a good way to spoil my fun. I get too involved in having to run the show, get annoyed at people of the conference on abortion.) The pre-conference meeting saw us debating what to say--not wanting to sound like red-baiters or like women tearing each other's hair out. Kate was very upset--felt as though she was being asked to endorse something when she didn't quite know what was going on.

Each woman at the table made a statement or read one. There were statements of support (and against SWP's attempt to dominate the women's movement) from Robin Morgan and Gloria Steinem. Cindy Cisler from N.O.W. was very impressive; the press dug that she represented 20,000 women.

Cameras finally focused on Kate, who had elected not to make a statement but to remain in the audience. She could have declined to comment, but she did it anyway, and went on too long. We finally had to drag her out for a drink.

That evening, I participated in a panel discussion on "Feminism: Reform vs. Revolution." Most of us were for revolution, or saw feminism as incredibly revolutionary in and of itself.

July 23: M-- came over during the afternoon. I told her about yesterday's adventures, sensed her suspiciousness: finally it came out that she envied my acquaintance with Kate and with Robin Morgan. (Robin and I worked on RAT newspaper for four months together.) It's the same old story: the star's toilet paper is more interesting than everyone else's toilet paper. And this affects me, in how

people treat me, in how I treat them, right in the rotten attention-seeking center of my guts.

I went home to my parents' house for dinner. Realized just how chauvinist my father is. At one point, our next-door neighbor came by, and she and my mother were talking about their diet problems. My father drew me close to him, put his arm around my shoulder, and whispered, "Gabs."

It was he who taught me to despise my own sex--I had forgotten until just then how much of a chauvinist he is. And it became apparent that he still thinks of me as a son. Later, when he walked me to the subway, he seemed almost pleased that Ma had failed the civil service exam for promotion to Grade Three Clerk, and he himself had passed it.

Afterwards, I went to the D.O.B. dance. Kate showed up.

(see page 14)

# THE LADDER

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DOB recommends these persons to members who want professional advice.

LEGAL

Alan Cook and Michael Buckman, 1514 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, Mass. 288-4041.

PSYCHIATRIC

Dr. Richard Pillard, 6 Bond Street, Boston. 423-9722 or 262-4200, extension 5251.

COUNSELING

Homophile Community Health Services, 112 Arlington St., Boston, 423-6398 or 423-6399.

RELIGIOUS

Roman Catholic-Father Kevin, Newman Center (St. Clement's Church), 1105 Boylston Street, Boston. 536-2376 or 277-4847.

Episcopal-Rev. Gilbert Dent, Christ Church, Zero Garden Street, Cambridge. 876-0200.

Unitarian-Rev. Barbara Hollerorth, First Parish Church, Unitarian-Universalist, Lexington. Church, 862-8200. Home, 653-1712 (Natick).

GAY GROUPS

Gay Women's Liberation-492-1915.

Homophile Union of Boston-Meetings every other Sunday, 33 Bowdin Street, 282-9181.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Boston Women United, P. O. Box 278, Allston 02134, 253-6498.

Bread and Roses, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., 492-4130.

Media Women, P. O. Box 8926, JFK Station, 02114.

Female Liberation, 552 Mass. Ave., Central Square. Evelyn, 491-1071.

National Organization for Women (NOW), P. O. Box 346, Cambridge 02138. 492-5533.

Women's Center at B.U., 232 Bay State Road, 2nd floor.

Katz

*(Continued from 10)*

The statement on homosexuality by the Cuban National Conference on Education and Culture shows that conditions for gays are not much different there from our own country. Many gays who worked hard in the last decade to establish communism in Cuba are finding themselves, as soon as it is known they are gay, interred in "rehabilitation work camps." They are excluded from the revolution's public arena. Cuba seems close to hysterical about gays having any contact with children.

I have never understood the ludicrous attitude and fear of many straight people that homosexuals shouldn't be around kids. After all, many, many homosexuals are parents, public personalities, teachers, nurses and performers. All these people have plenty of contact with, and influence on, children. My feeling is that if there is one group of people which is dangerous to children, it's straight men. They're the ones who rape little girls. They're the ones who teach little boys the value of competition, cruelty, repression, arrogance, and physical terror. They're the ones who teach little girls to forget physical fitness, to be ashamed of fighting, to limit their aspirations to "womanly work," to spend hours trying to transform their looks, and to be obedient to men. Why are active strong little girls called "tomboys"? They aren't boys of any sort. They are active, strong little girls.

It's the heterosexual trip to structure the world to force people to be straight. It's a heterosexual masturbatory fantasy to believe homosexuals are out to trick the entire world and convert everyone in it. It's straights who create whole sciences of myths (like psychology) and whole economic structures (family plans) to coerce people to be heterosexual.

We never get taught the "facts of life" at all, in this country, or in any male/straight/controlled country. We get taught a few straight facts of a limited life. We are not permitted sensual and emotional alternatives as children. The limits aren't imposed by homosexuals, but by heterosexuals. The basis of the gay liberation movement is not that everyone must be homosexual, but that everyone must restructure his head and live to the reality that homosexuality does exist, always has, and we hope always will. But the whole of straight society is terrified by that "fact of life."

Straights, here or in Cuba, aren't really so concerned about our being around children...they're concerned about our being inside of them. Children are just an excuse. Children aren't anti-gay...quite the contrary...they naturally seem to dig open loving affectionate people and don't make the kind of divisions pigs must make in order to divide people so that they can dominate them.

We know what this country does to us. And Cuban gays can best speak for their own country. I quote from a letter by Cuban gays written to gay liberation people in NYC about anti-gay policy of the Cuban Communist Government:

"Since its beginning, the Cuban revolutionary movement...has pursued homosexuals with methods that go from the common ways of physical aggression to the attempt of psychic and moral disintegration of such individuals...Here the homosexual is attacked, and this is done obliging her or him in many cases to join to a series of formulas to 'conceal' what the authorities judge as an aberration of repudiable fault, formulas that go from confining them in marriage as a pretense of living a 'normal' life, to confining them in farms where they receive brutal treatments, as happened with the

concentration camps of the UMAP.. They have kept farms of prisoners who are exclusively homosexual.

"On the street we suffer persecution, aggression and a constant abuse of authority, demanding I.D. cards, arresting us for the use of clothes, hair styles, or simple group meetings, which are rights guaranteed by the Declaration of Human Rights..."

"The methods of psychological repression, social isolation, control by districts, zones and centers of work and study, always with negative aims, are a common thing of this regime."

As our Cuban sisters and brothers show us, we homosexuals must not only be on guard against our obvious enemies--the state, the police, the church, the psychological sciences--but we must also be wary of those straight people who, while they call themselves revolutionary, seek only to grab the power over us from one group of fuckers and hang onto it themselves. We must always reinforce in each other our feelings of pride and the beautiful development of our own lavender vision.

## Auction nets more than \$80

Boston D.O.B.'s Great Auction Night, Sunday, August 1, drew a small crowd but profits after expenses were more than \$80. About 40 men and women visited the auction during the night, with the men being the big spenders.

While most persons took their 80% on items the auction sold for them, several donations of outstanding items helped significantly. One man donated a week in his guest house in Bermuda sometime in October or November. It went for a steal at \$33 to Andy Cox and Kim Stabinski. Now they just have to scrape up the money to fly down.

## presidential candidacy

(Continued from 3)

his/her sexual self into a whole self, in other words, to be fully and happily gay.

Life is something that comes in bits and pieces. There are few of us along the way that have not compromised somewhere. Gay people have learned, I think more artfully than any group, how to survive. What a bitter price. We have all and are still at some point passing for straight. We have no particular color, age, sex, or even accent to distinguish us from any group we choose to be in. We are invisible unless we choose otherwise. Most of us choose to survive in the only way we as gay people have been allowed--by appearing straight.

Gay liberation is about taking those steps, small or large, to a very personal acceptance of our gayness. As that acceptance and love of ourselves deepens, in a strange way that private joy becomes public. Remember if you can that first love--the joy so deep it had to be shared. Gay liberation calls us back to that joy of love.

What else is being gay all about but loving? We are called back again to celebrate that private joy with the world around us.

Liberation is a freeing from. Gay liberation involves many changes for all people, but for gay people the initial change is a freeing from shame, guilt, and all other remnants of self-hate.

I suppose I have misused the original intent of a book review. Instead I have presented to you some of my views on gay liberation--and that, I think, is one of the first obligations for a candidate for the presidency of D.O.B. I would like to spend a lot of time talking with you about what I have learned from gay liberation. I would like to explain why I am a member of D.O.B., why I think it is the most viable organization for gay women and some of the changes I would like to see. I hope that on every occasion up to the day of election you will take the time to ask me some of these questions.

Gail King

## MARTHA SHELLEY (continued from 11)

I found myself focusing on her, wondering how much everyone else at the dance was more aware of her presence than that of any other woman. Kate takes up too much space in my head. I do not know how to deal with this problem.

These are excerpts from my journal, this column being too brief to permit inclusion of a whole month's entries. I picked out those passages which deal specifically with the star problem, leaving out a few which might be construed as slanderous. They are presented, not as tidbits for a gossip column, nor as a study in self-glorification, but almost as material from a consciousness-raising group.

When I passed through Utah last month, a shepherd offered me a job herding sheep with him (or perhaps he wanted a better companion than his favorite ewe?) out in the desert. It was a tempting fantasy--at least the sheep were tempting--and the solitude, and the stars over the desert. (Rigel, Aldebaren, Vega, Polaris and Betelgeuse as opposed to Millett, Morgan, Steinem, Lamb, Firestone, et al.) But I'm an ambitious woman and I want someday to earn a living as a writer--which means having a public reputation, like it or not.

It means having a public image, and sometimes or always trying to live up to that image...playing to the audience, talking always

to a crowd and for posterity, instead of to individuals. Hearing yourself sound phoney...saying to your lover you wish you were an ordinary person again and knowing you don't mean a word of it, because it is better to be a little star in the movement than to go to a strange party and have no one ask you to dance...writing an article like this and wondering how many people are going to think it is trivial compared to an article on gay people in China (are there any?)...or how many people are going to say I'm name-dropping.

I still don't know how I'm going to live with this mess. Any suggestions?



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