

July '72



50

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO  
CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

...a woman's organization for the purpose of aiding the Lesbian to discover her place in society and of educating society to understand and accept her, without prejudice, and...

1. To encourage and support the Lesbian in her search for her social, economic, personal, interpersonal and vocational identity within society by maintaining and building a library on the themes of homosexuality and on women; by providing social functions where she can communicate with others and expand her social world outside the bar scene; by providing an organized structure through which she can work to change society's limitations upon her lifestyle; by providing a forum for the interchange of ideas and problems within her own group.

2. To educate the public to accept and understand the Lesbian as an individual, eventually leading to the breakdown of taboos, prejudices, and limitations upon her lifestyle by sponsoring public discussions; by providing individuals as speakers and participants in various forms designed to educate the public; by dissemination of educational and rational literature on the Lesbian.

3. To encourage and support and participate in responsible research dealing with homosexuality.

4. To investigate the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual and to promote changes, providing equitable handling of cases involving homosexuals, through due process of law, without prejudice.

TO SAY AND BELIEVE THAT GAY IS GOOD.

# Sisters by and for Gay Women

VOL 3-#7, July '72

SISTERS MAGAZINE is published monthly by the San Francisco Chapter of The Daughters of Bilitis, Inc.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

If the calculations of a Laguna Beach scientist are accurate, at approximately 9 A.M. (P.S.T.) on January 4, 1973, San Francisco will be rocked by an earthquake almost as severe as the devastating 1906 tremors, which leveled the city.

The scientist's name is Dr. Reuben Greenspan. He is a physicist-mathematician and received his doctorate from Illinois Institute of Technology. Now 67 years old and semi-retired, Dr. Greenspan first caught public attention for his accurate prediction of quakes in 1935.

On July 11, 1935, a sharp earthquake in Japan killed nine persons and injured 101 in an area 150 miles south of Tokyo.

Dr. Greenspan had sent his prediction of the quake to New York newspapers several days in advance.

In-depth stories on the earthquake forcaster appeared in the July 22, 1935 issue of Time magazine, in the July 27, 1937 issue of the Literary Digest, and in regular news stories in New York daily newspapers. These stories, written well after earthquakes, affirmed that he had predicted them in advance.

Most scientists agree that earthquakes result from continuous movement of the earth's crust. These movements produce strains along the fault lines, thus paving the way for quakes. Dr. Greenspan thinks that certain planets that exert pull on the earth are factors in setting off quakes.

By calculating what part of the earth will be subjected to the strongest pull, Dr. Greenspan learns where the quake is likely to occur---also its approximate time.

"That's how I know San Francisco is ready for a serious quake and when it will occur..." Dr. Greenspan states. "The 1973 quake will probably measure around 7.4 on the Richter scale."

Dr. Greenspan's "earthquake formula" has been computerized by a scientific organization. On the basis of this formula the scientist accurately predicted the 1964 Good Friday earthquake which shook Alaska.

As in the past, he sent letters to scientific agencies and several New York newspapers forecasting the Alaskan quake. "I was off only two minutes in the time I predicted the quake would occur," Dr. Greenspan said.

A call to the New York Times verified Dr. Greenspan's story.

Of his earthquake theory, Dr. Greenspan says simply, "I hope science can put my theory to good use, because I know it works."

--from The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, Friday, February 25, 1972

John Blackburn  
Santa Ana, Calif., Register  
February 9, 1972



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## LESBIAN MOTHERS WIN---BUT

A mother who stipulated in court that she was indeed a lesbian and involved in a current relationship was awarded custody of her three children by a San Jose court on May 31, 1972--the first such case of record where custody had been contested.

BUT it was a hollow victory because of the insufferable restrictions placed upon the mother, Camille Mitchell, by Judge Gerald S. Chargin in his decision. Ms. Mitchell's lesbian partner may not move in with her, nor may she enter Ms. Mitchell's house when the children are at home, nor may Ms. Mitchell visit her outside the home when her children are at home--even with benefit of a baby sitter. For the judge was even more specific: the two women may only associate when the children are in school or when they are with the father.

"The juvenile probation officer, the child psychologist and the family conciliator assigned by the court all testified to Ms. Mitchell's fitness as a mother in spite of her sexual orientation. By placing these intolerable restrictions on Ms. Mitchell's activities, the judge is apparently punishing her for being a lesbian," Joan Bradford, NOW attorney who handled the case, declared. "I am willing to appeal on the constitutional denial of freedom of association."

"It's nothing more than a prison sentence," said a member of the Lesbian Mothers Union, an organization of mothers who are fighting for their rights to custody of their own children within what they call a "heterosexist" judicial system. "We realize the decision to appeal is up to Cam, since she will run the risk of losing her children if her case is reopened. But we appeal to the gay community for pledges of financial support so that worry over funds will not influence her decision."

It is not a matter of law that a mother is unfit and not entitled to custody because she is a homosexual, according to a 1967 California Appellate Court decision. However, the moral character of the mother would have a substantial bearing on whether it would be "in the best interests of the children" to award exclusive custody to her. Moral character, acts, conduct, disposition and the environment provided for the children must be taken into consideration. But in all other cases

to date judges have concluded that a lesbian orientation is in itself immoral and that only a heterosexual environment is in the best interests of the children, the Lesbian Mothers Union complains.

"My case has far reaching implications regarding the civil rights of many different types of people -- male and female -- who have chosen different life styles. We can no longer make blanket judgements about 'groups' of people. Our laws and our courts need to be flexible enough to consider the individual within a subculture," Ms. Mitchell contends. "Lesbian mothers everywhere live in constant fear of discovery which may automatically and arbitrarily lead to the loss of their children, regardless of the mother-child relationship."

Whether or not she chooses to appeal, Ms. Mitchell is in desperate need of funds. Besides attorney's fees there have been hundreds of dollars of additional expenses incurred in obtaining expert witnesses in her behalf. The Lesbian Mothers Union has made arrangements with the Council on Religion and the Homosexual to accept tax-deductible donations, which should be made out to CRH, 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA 94102. Such donations should be accompanied by a note indicating "for Lesbian mother's case."

--Del Martin

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donnie

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Sasha Gregory

## AN ANALYSIS OF VIETNAM AND RAPE PSYCHOLOGY

I am speaking today about the politics of rape. There is a national phenomenon in this country that promotes myths about sex and violence that are re-created in wars against Third World countries. Rape is an act of aggression in which the victim is denied her self determination. It is an act of violence which always carries with it the threat of death. And finally, rape is a form of mass terrorism, for the victims of rape are chosen indiscriminately, but our male dominated culture tells us that it is women who cause rape by being immoral or in the wrong place at the wrong time -- in essence, by behaving as though we were free.

For years the male theorists of the anti-war movement have spoken about the reasons America is involved in Vietnam: the imperialist search for profits in the war in Vietnam, and the American corporate need for a war to maintain a stable domestic economy. This analysis of the war, while correct, has never gone far enough. It has been unable to explain the unprecedented sadism which is the overriding characteristic of this war. What is the rationale for the obsession we find in the universities, corporations, and military institutions of America with increasingly hideous and perverse methods of torture and death as applied to the people of another race and land.

Through the years, scientists and professors have been inventing things like flechette pellets - tiny steel arrows with larger fins at one end - which enter the body enlarging the wound and lodge in the blood vessels - they're designed to shred the internal organs; white phosphorus, a more sophisticated version of napalm, that usually has to burn its way down to the bone before going out. The area denial program where they flood whole areas with thousands of mines designed to look like leaves or animal droppings and to make the area totally uninhabitable for humans. Thousands of square miles of Indochina are now flooded with little mines which are manufactured for the sole purpose of blowing off a foot. While white white-collar boys sit in their labs inventing these atrocities, the army re-

cruits from its male youth the manpower to prove the potency of its weaponry on the battlefield.

The result is Total War, primarily against the civilian population. The civilians are usually the ones that are in and around the villages; they can't keep on the move all the time because they have families and belongings and homes. They are the ones who signal the weapons, the ones who are the main casualties.

A 23 month-old baby is senselessly electroshocked into unconsciousness. Where does this come from in the American psyche? These perversions are the products of the mentality of rape. The mentality that produces the kind of war they continue to fight starts at home. Let's run down a few unknown facts about rape -- about male sexual violence.

Susan Griffin in an article called "The Politics of Rape" found that official crime statistics tell women: forcible rape in the most frequently committed violent crime in America. Now let's once and for all smash the white male propaganda that says most crimes of rape are committed by black men on white women. Historically and statistically this is a lie. Ninety percent of all incidences of rape do not cross racial lines. These crimes of sexual violence are usually committed by men against women of their own race.

Another myth: the rapist is a lonely creep who sees a woman without male protection and is suddenly overpowered by his innate craving for sex. BULLSHIT. Eighty-three percent of rapes by men in two's are premeditated. Ninety percent of all group rapes are premeditated. Fifty-eight percent of single rapes are premeditated. Rape is not a crime of passion; it is an act of aggression. An undeclared war against women.

Myth: that men who rape women are pathological, as distinct from your basic average male. Amir's study called "Patterns In Forcible Rape" says men who rape are not abnormal. Amir writes "studies indicate that SEX OFFENDERS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A UNIQUE OR PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL TYPE; nor are they as a group invariably more disturbed than the control groups to which they are compared." Allen Taylor - a parole officer who has worked with rapists in prison facilities stated the question in plainer language: "Those men were the most normal men there. They had a lot of hangups, but they

were the same hangups that men walking out on the street have."

Let's examine two more aspects -- Keeping in mind that all these things about rape are symptoms of a male dominated culture which feeds on the combination of sex and violence. The myth that some men protect you and some men rape you is false. First of all, the rapist is an average man. But secondly every man in this society gets male benefits from the existence of rape. These armchair rapists have their potency and masculinity confirmed through rape -- witness the number of pages given over to violent sex crimes in men's adventure magazines.

Another way all men have their power enhanced by rape, is the need they put into women for protection -- the ancient chivalry racket, men protecting women from other men. Finally, it is a fact that the most excessive degrees of violence occur in group rape. Far from curbing violence upon women, the presence of other men may in fact encourage sadism or cause sadistic behavior. Men egg each other on...

What does all this have to do with Vietnam?

What starts as the socialization of male sexual violence in this culture is used by corporate and military interests to train a vicious, killing army. Examples are endless. In basic training the following chant is used to teach the distinction between a rifle, which is a weapon, and a gun, which is a cock. "This is my rifle, this is my gun. One is for killing, one is for fun." With such training it is not surprising that a major in Vietnam is quoted as saying "Don't let the news media fool you. These kids are maybe 18 or 19 -- but they are beautiful killers -- just beautiful."

What is routine conduct at home is routine conduct abroad. Acts of male domination and violence are the cornerstones of society in the United States. Here in the States we are torn with conflicts of race, class and sex. When we transport these conflicts overseas they show up in the army. AND UNDERPINNING IT ALL IS THE ASSUMPTION OF AMERICA'S ABSOLUTE right TO RULE WHERE AMERICA WILL.

The passion with which we perpetuate this war: war crimes no longer war crimes but genocide; violence promoted to contain a war we have no hope of winning.

How else to explain this but by understanding the phenomena of male, sexual violence in Western culture. Germany in 1944 and 1945 was without hope of winning the war but none the less went on building bigger ovens and crueller technologies.

It cannot be stated too strongly that: **THE CRIMES OF VIOLENCE WE HAVE BEEN SHOCKED BY IN VIETNAM CAN ONLY HAVE BEEN CREATED AT HOME IN THE U.S.** in a country which trains young men from birth to connect violence with sex. Ann Froines has written that the popular culture (magazines, movies, books) in South Vietnam now promotes a model soldier stripped of all human values or political understanding. He never talks about Vietnam in patriotic terms. He kills to survive, then seeks pleasure afterwards through sex. An integral part of this culture is the glorification of American "Natural Instincts": sex, violence and the desire for money.

On May 8th Nixon announced he had mined 7 harbors in North Vietnam, risking confrontations with the Soviet Union and China to preserve "American honor."

I.F. Stone said last week there is a possibility Nixon would finally use nuclear weapons to blow Vietnam to bits rather than be caught with his pants down at the Moscow summit conference: Genocide of a whole people in order to save male face. **THIS IS THE HEIGHT OF WAR INSANITY.**

We are faced with an imperative. Without a feminist analysis we will never confront some of the deepest motivations behind the waging of aggressive wars. The same men and power structure who victimize women are engaged in the act of raping Vietnam, raping black people, and the very earth we live upon. Rape is a classic act of domination where the emotions of hatred, contempt, and the desire to break or violate personality takes place. This breaking of the personality characterizes modern life itself. No simple reforms can eliminate rape. As the symbolic expression of the white male hierarchy, **RAPE IS THE ULTIMATE ACT OF OUR CIVILIZATION**, one which, Valerie Solanis warns, "is in danger of humping itself to death."

This speech was written by Lesbian Feminists.  
Hollibaugh, von-Bretzel, Crichton, Lindbloom  
It was given on May 6th at a large anti-war

rally in Boston. All publicity prior to the rally listed an all-male roster of speakers. Women were contacted at the last minute and were then met with blatant sexism. A crowd-pleasing rock concert mentality was more than reluctant to put women speakers on the platform. We were not announced until after many people had left and then only because women in the audience shouted for a woman speaker.

"The subject of feminism is very ordinary; it's the question of male domination that makes everybody angry."





It is surprisingly easy to announce to someone that you are gay. You merely open your mouth and say, "I'm gay." And watch the reaction. Which varies.

At some point in my life -- about a year ago -- I decided that I was tired of playing games with my friends. They were admittedly heterosexual and were free to speak of their husbands or children or lovers in casual conversation. And they did. But I was not free to speak of my lover. I had a choice: I could change the pronoun and call her a he, which is easy enough; or I could ignore my own sexual and social existence and listen to theirs. Neither choice appealed to me.

Living in Berkeley makes everything a great deal easier. Most of my friends are to the left of the liberals and most of them do fully believe in the rights of human beings to do their own things. And, given these conditions, their responses to my announcement should have been easy to judge.

After my decision to "come out" and be open, it was not difficult to choose the time and place. I dropped the news on two of my married friends over a game of pinochle one night. We had been playing for several hours, were into our third quart of beer, had consumed several joints, and my friend Mary chanced to ask about my love life. It was a casual question, tossed onto the table with her ace of clubs. I took a deep breath and said, playing my only club, "As a matter of fact, I've been meaning to tell you. I'm gay."

I don't remember how that particular hand came out. I do know that I was blushing to my roots. Mary said, "Oh, well, that's fine," and

continued to play the hand as always. I did not imagine the sort of silly little smile on her face. But it was Frank who reacted. And in no way which I had expected.

He just stared at me, a bit lopsided, with an ear-to-ear grin on his face. And he was blushing, too. The hand, of course, was a lost cause. I couldn't count cards, Frank wasn't even trying to, and Mary seemed -- at best -- remote, but still smiling.

It wasn't bad for a first attempt. It in no way damaged the friendships and did make them even stronger over the course of time.

My second declaration came with Leslye, whom I had originally been very hung up on. Until I discovered that she was definitely heterosexual. At which point we became very good friends. I broke the news to her over a cup of coffee one afternoon when we were rapping about nothing in particular. She merely looked at me and said, "Yeah, I knew that. So what were you going to say?"

It was more difficult with Curly, who had been my closest friend for years and years. I had managed to avoid telling her because she is, without doubt, the most conservative person I know. She even lives in Los Angeles. But we did get together often, and one night when she was staying with me, I told her. She was not bothered by the news, although she at first tried to convince me that life was difficult enough without making additional problems for oneself.

I told her that I thought heterosexuality -- for me at least -- was an additional problem which I did not want to cope with. I would stay gay and take my chances. She has made no negative comment since then and her awareness of what it means to be a Lesbian seems to be growing with the passage of time.

There were a couple of friends who were a bit more tricky. Both lived back East and were friends I had met when I lived there. Both also knew the girl I had first loved, who had since gone straight and who did not want anyone to even suspect that she might have ever been anything but straight. I put off telling them for months, and our friendships suffered by the lack of honesty. I was feeling very good about myself, where I was at, and my renewed knowledge that gay is good.

So, one at a time, I broke it to them. One friend wrote back, "Big deal. I don't consider sexual preference a criterion for much of anything. You have brown hair, you like women. What else is new?"

It was not all rosy, though. The other friend accepted it and said that it was fine with her. But her letters got terse. She snapped at fragments of my letters which she said were insulting to her intelligence -- even though I was totally unaware that I changed anything about my correspondence to her. She certainly could not have believed that I was in any way denigrating her mind. Why? We have not yet worked it out -- and I doubt that she would see her own pattern of response nor that her pickiness began with my admission of Lesbianism. She is frightened.

Another friend and co-worker was told the news during a long chat one day. She gradually stopped dropping into my office for coffee or conversation. I was surprised, but assume that it is her hangup and not mine that is in the way there.

Another co-worker turned the tables on me. We had had an office celebration and the two of us, half-soused on mulled wine, were left to clean up -- which was fine with us since we were not really sober enough to return to the office routine.

This woman and I had never had much of a relationship at all. She was whiny and bitchy much of the time and her personality clashed most severely with mine. I knew she liked me and knew that I was not likely to respond to her overtures of friendship. But I did not dislike her and she was interesting to talk with. We were office friends: no more.

We began talking about families and what expectations they had for their children, and I rather casually admitted that my mother wanted grandchildren from me but that I was not really very likely to produce them since I was gay.

She smiled broadly and said, "I thought so. As a matter of fact, I've always liked you and wondered why you didn't like me back." And from her expression I could see that she was thinking: you are gay and I like you and therefore you should like me because I am a woman. We can be lovers.

The fact that she was a woman did not remove her negative qualities, unfortunately, and I was not able to alter my lukewarm feelings about her. Which she did not understand. It was the first time another woman has ever made a pass at me. I did not like it, and she did not like being turned down.

Despite the complications, it has been a very interesting year. A good one. More than one friend whom I have told has given the whole scene considerable thought. A married friend has finally come to the realization that, even though she loves her husband, she has always been attracted to women. Two others have acknowledged having had serious involvements with other women.

The question that arises in my own mind is simple: Statistics garnered hither and yon would seem to indicate that Lesbians comprise something less than 10% of the population.

My own random sampling among my friends in this particular area would indicate that at least a third of them have had or would be receptive to Lesbian experience. We all know that the data accumulated on homosexuality is unprecise. Homosexuals have always lived in fear of disclosure. Worse, since many authorities and most textbooks in print consider homosexuality to be a disease of the mind, an admission of homosexuality is an admission of mental illness. Who needs that? Of course the statistics are screwed. Or perhaps the word is supposed to be skewered. Whatever....

I don't believe I am mentally ill because I prefer the gentleness, the warmth, the sincerity of women. I don't believe I am sick because I don't like my sex casually and without emotional involvement. That's a male trip, and I don't buy it.

I have discovered in the past year that a number of my supposedly heterosexual friends were/are homosexual or at least homosexually-inclined. Had I not indicated my own preferences, I would never have known. And my friends now have an instant source of information on homosexuality. Let's face the fact: homosexuality is the topic of more confusion and less fact than most human states. And it's really a pity, since homosexuals are people just like everyone else. Some of them are better and some of them are worse.

I consider myself a fairly decent human being -- let it be known that I am a fairly decent Lesbian human being.

- Norma Montgomery

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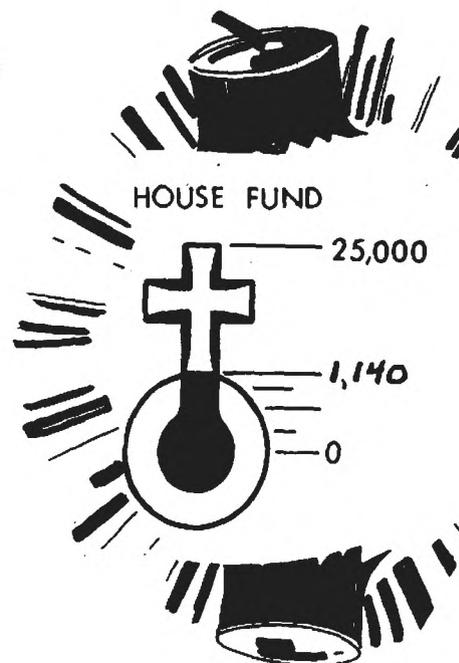
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# July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						Weekend at Albion Women's
2 Farm	3	4	5 RAP - Guest	6	7	8
9 Tape, brunch	10	11	12 RAP - music making	13	14 Bus. Mtg.	15
16 Football	17	18	19 RAP - "surprise ?"	20	21	22 SOL Mtg.
23 KPFA DOB time	24	25	26 RAP - Marley	27	28	29 Party
30	31					



WEDNESDAY NIGHT RAPS HAVE RETURNED TO THE DOB OFFICE, 1005 Market #208, S.F. - 861-8689, 7 PM.

Raps - 5th - A guest woman speaker; 12th - bring music making things for jam session. 19th - Mary asks a "surprise" question; 26th - Marley takes it away again.

July 1 and 2 - Women in Albion, on their own farm, have invited other women for an open day or two of exploring this life style. Call DOB for rides.

July 9 - Germaine's tape of Gloria Steinem at Glide plus photos and brunch; 1 PM, at 1274 Sacramento, S.F.

July 14 - BUSINESS MEETING, DOB office, 8 PM; NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS WILL BE TAKEN. Elections in Sept.

July 16 - Football in McClaren Park, 2 PM.

July 22 - The S.O.L. Sisters do it again (Slightly Older Lesbians) at Helens, from 4 PM on, at 1736 Oak Creek Drive, Palo Alto, Apt. #312. Swimming by advance reservation. Phone Helen at 321-8079 or Beverley at 921-4158 for reservations and directions.

July 29 - Party at Debby's, Veronica's, Marley's: 1743 8th Ave., 9 PM, donations accepted.

# THE LADDER

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WE WANT A HOUSE, RIGHT? RIGHT. WE ALL DECIDED THAT  
LAST SEPTEMBER IN A FLURRY OF EMOTIONAL ENTHUSIASM,  
WITH THE FORMATION OF THE "HOUSE FUND", THE PLEDGES  
CAME ROLLING IN. SO DID THE MONEY. I SAY DID. IN  
THE LAST TWO MONTHS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SENDING IN  
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS HAS DROPPED SADLY.  
I KNOW HOW IT IS SOMETIMES. YOU LOSE YOUR JOB, GET  
KICKED OUT OF THE APARTMENT, THE CAR QUITS ON YOU, IT'S  
A PAINFUL MONTH FOR THE PHONE BILL. IT'S A HARD LIFE.  
BUT, WE WANT AND NEED A HOUSE. WE WILL GET IT AND IT  
WILL BE A PLACE TO BE PROUD OF. IT'S USES WILL BE  
LIMITLESS -- A NERVE CENTER FOR WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES,  
MEETING ROOMS, A PLACE FOR PARTIES, CRASH PADS FOR  
OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS (AND SOME IN TOWN!). BUT, THEN  
I DON'T HAVE TO SEEL THE IDEA TO YOU.  
RIGHT NOW THE MONEY ARRIVES FROM A NUCLEUS OF S.F. DOB  
MEMBERS. WHERE, OH, WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOU? THOSE  
WHO CANNOT COME TO DOB FOR SOME REASON OR FEEL THAT  
THE RAPS AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS NO LONGER HAVE ANYTHING  
TO OFFER YOU, CAN'T YOU SHARE OUR DREAM BY PLEDGING  
JUST A LITTLE EVERY MONTH?  
THE LITTLE RED BLOB ON THE THERMOMETER CREEPS EVER SO  
SLOWLY UP THE DOB OFFICE WALL. EVEN WITH THE LITTLE  
HELP WE HAVE HAD WE ARE SO CLOSE TO REACHING OUR FIRST  
\$1,000. A FINE EFFORT. IT TOOK 9 MONTHS. WE MUST  
GET IT MOVING MUCH FASTER. IF WE STEP UP THE NUMBER  
OF PLEDGES AND IF THOSE WHO PLEDGED WOULD SEND IN THEIR  
MONEY, WE CAN HAVE \$5,000 BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR. WHEN  
THAT HAPPENS, WE MOVE IN. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY  
MIND THAT WE CAN DO IT.

THIS IS NOT A PLEA FOR HELP. IT IS A DEMAND. S.F. DOB  
WILL HAVE HER OWN HOME.

IRENE

(WITH THE PROCEEDS FROM THE AUTOGRAPH PARTY, THE HOUSE  
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you said that sometimes you had thought  
 there was a chance  
     we could love each other, but  
 that it wasn't enough--  
     that maybe it never existed at all

but it does exist  
 the glimpsed seconds you spoke of are real:  
 you catch them from your merry-go-round  
 each revolution when your  
 horse bounces past  
     the place where I still stand  
 as you ride after the horse in front of you  
     clinging to the pole

                    to the childish dream  
                     that you will catch it  
 while in your other hand  
                     is the grown up realisation  
                     that you will not

once you said  
 that maybe I'm just on  
     the wrong merry-go-round.  
 but I am one of the few  
     who do not ride merry-go-rounds:  
 one of the bastard few:

                    everybody loves the circus  
 but you can't see this  
 for your merry-go-round games

we have both been playing games  
 especially when we said  
 that we would never play games  
 we were too smart  
 to throw softballs at cat-dolls  
     that never fall over  
 to shoot cork guns  
     that never shoot straight

but our pockets are nearly empty  
 and you keep paying the merry-go-round man  
     not to stop

                    and meanwhile  
 you catch a glimpse of me  
     every revolution--  
 I hope that looking at me, stationary  
     will get you dizzy,  
     dizzy enough to ask the man  
         to let you off  
     so you can step down  
 and ask me to hold you  
     until your head stops spinning

--Beth Elliott

Finale Sequence

A cringing feeling  
     of rubbing my bare toenail  
     on a dry sidewalk.

A laugh-cry urge  
     of waiting for a storm  
     in the middle of summer.

You hang dusty and crooked  
     inside me,  
     like a painting  
     long forgotten --

I turn your face to the wall  
     of my spine --  
 Got that toenail-on-a-dry-sidewalk-  
     Can't-stop-feeling.

--Claire Baker

Two Kinds of Death

--Alicia Langtree

An old family Bible  
 leather bound lies in her  
 hands  
 hands used to a certain silk  
 by damp softness only  
 memories now the left  
 one tied to the cradle  
 with a golden band  
 white roses reflecting  
 in a silver chalice heard  
 the vows along with all  
 the others but only they  
 also heard the hurt and anger  
 voices inside your brain,  
 breaking their fists against  
 the backs of your empty eyes  
 studied tongue trying  
 to turn the sacrilege,  
 but only the flowers cried  
 for you, dropping their petals  
 in wilted shame...

precious few resist

or even hear  
 "you must!" behind "we love"  
 I sang the words for you  
 until I broke my all upon them  
 even promising to wait  
 to stay but  
 you have banished those  
 of your own kind "for awhile"  
 for "Father" you say "Forever"  
 I know  
 nevermind that the night  
 whispers be true be true...  
 you only hear the sun  
 moons hold nothing for you  
 now and because I've found  
 alone

too heavy a weight  
 forgive? (though you've really disowned  
 the right of blame) this  
 tired one who's going to sleep  
 with the roses  
 today



## SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH

L. as told to Linda  
 Wesley. - Part One of two.....



SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH L.  
Part I

How long have you been in the service?

Three years.

How old are you?

23.

What did you do today?

Well, I just waited around all day for the time when I could leave the office and wander around in the sun. That's about all I do, because I just can't stand my job. I'm a typist.

How fast do you type?

About 40 words a minute. I taught myself. I had to advance. I hate to sit down all day, but that's about all I can do, being a woman. It's not so bad now. I just started working for a couple of lawyers, so I'm learning a lot. They're Judge Advocate General lawyers. I'm familiarizing myself with military law. I really haven't got into it yet. This is only the second week I've been there. I've really been hitting those books in the office, thumbing through them, reading as much as I can about law.

Are you into any cases involving the discharge of women?

I didn't read anything about women, most of it involves men. There are some cases involving WAVES, but these were administrative cases, as opposed to court martials. Right now I'd like to find out about this administrative board. They can kick you out of the service. It's not a legal trial, but it can take a lot out of you. I've been asking questions like, can you appeal a board decision? Recently, a guy was accused of being homosexual, and was given an undesirable discharge. This kind of discharge means you lose a lot of privileges. All the things a straight guy gets in the service, a gay guy loses if he's caught. I want to know if he can appeal.

So now that you're here, you are enjoying it more?

Yes, now I have a chance to snoop around. I've gone over a number of the gay cases, on the surface, curious to know what's happening, and I

notice that the trend is toward a decrease of discharges because of homosexuality. I don't know why that is.

Have you ever been involved in something called a 'witch hunt'?

Yes, when I was at boot camp. The shit came down and they were looking for lesbians. This cooled down, but it happens in every barracks.

Have you ever heard of women being transferred to another base or something because of this?

One woman got sent to school so they could get her away from her lover. But everybody manages to stay more or less out of sight. The reason you don't hear much about us, even though the service is supposed to be full of gay women (which is not the case), is because women are more discrete than men. The whole atmosphere in the service is one of oppression.

Did you know it would be so oppressive when you went in?

No. I didn't go into it looking for other gay women. I was just trying to do something with my life. Finding a job was difficult. I didn't type at the time, I had never worked before. I'd been in school so I couldn't find a job. I was desperate, looking for anything I could get. So I went to the recruiting office and wound up in the service. I had no idea what it would be like. I really didn't think it out. I just wanted a job, and it was an easy way to get one. And to get some training.

What kinds of tests did you have to pass to get in? Did you have to hide your lesbianism to get through the tests?

When a woman joins the service, she is given a lot more tests than the guys are. First of all, a woman has to have character references; a man doesn't. They send people out to ask about you, which they don't do to the men. On the different intelligence tests, women have to score higher than men. They're more selective toward women.

Why do they do that? Is it discrimination?

I'm not sure why, but it's discrimination. There are a lot of men around who think the military is strictly a man's field and women shouldn't be there.

Women come to the service not to do the house-wifely chores around the office. They have specific skills which the military can use. They don't have to wave a pistol around--there are other things. The military now is not just a place for a man who knows how to shoot a gun.

It's a corporation.

Yes, the military is big business.

Do you think you might stay in the service if you can get into law?

I am intensely interested in the law. So much of the law, especially American law, which affects our lives so directly, comes from the Judeo-Christian moral notions. It's inculcated into our law; if you are different, then you can be stopped legally. Don't be open; do your thing but don't let anyone know. You will be more effective then. The law just cuts people down. I'm interested in the gay people and how they're shafted when they are court-martialed, and I'd like to be in that law office for every gay man or woman who comes in so I can help.

Would this mean that you'd have to sign up for another hitch?

Yes, I'd have to stay in. But I know if I stay in, I'm not going to be hiding in my little room and living by myself. I've got to get out and meet other women.

There are a lot of women coming out on army bases now, aren't there?

Yes, they're coming out more and more. And in one way I'm happy--they're going to meet others and be more relaxed; all the guilt will be gone. On the other hand, I'm worried because the more women who come out, the greater the danger of there being an investigation. A witch hunt. I've met several women in Kelly's (gay bar) and now there are four of us who know each other on base. And when the investigation starts, there will be some embarrassed people, because our best, our most talented women are gay.

Do you think that women's liberation has influenced this new coming out?

I don't know. I've thought about this myself.

Why are so many doing this? I remember how tight things were a few years ago. It seems that the younger ones are coming out, right from the start. And they are risking their careers in the service. I'm waiting for them to find me. I'm not afraid of this as I once was, though. I am beginning to feel better and better being as "out" as I am. I get an emotional release. I am feeling better as a person. Had they confronted me earlier, I would have been totally shattered. I would have lost their good opinion of me.

How much do you make a month?

About \$435.00 a month, plus medical, dental, room and board. If I were to marry, I, as a woman, couldn't draw dependents' pay like a man can, nor would I have the medical privileges men have. Women are complaining about this, though.

Education, etc., for men and women being equal, what reason would a woman have for going into the service?

Women are human and anything that exists to do, women will do it. The idea that there is an enemy or predator out there affects women as much as men. The idea of defending oneself isn't confined to men. If someone gets in my way, I'd try to get them out of it. You don't have to be a truck driver type to believe that.

How many women in high rank are there?

Not many. They thin out as they go higher. They are always running into men who get to recommend them for advancement or not. My goal is to get past them and into the exam room. From then on I'm in control. And I'd go as high as I could go.

How about that, a woman admiral?

Women officers are stopped. They are not allowed aboard ships. They would create a 'morale problem', you know. Also, a woman is not allowed under the Geneva Convention to fight. What it really is, I guess, is that the men under her command would think she was not able to think or fight under attack, or so they'd wish.

Haven't they heard that women perform better than men under all kinds of stress situations?

Things are changing but slowly. We just have to get into positions of responsibility.

If you were going into law, would you be interested in all gay people or only in women?

I think, just off the cuff, I would be more interested in helping the gay. I think we need it more than the straight women do. I know there are women who do need it, but now I'm really interested in the gays.

How do you think women in your barracks would react to a witch hunt? Would they freak out or come out even more and fight?

Well, if you openly admit that you're gay, you don't have a chance; all they have to do is get you at a court martial. It seems that still the reasonable and prudent man considers that you are a threat to the maintenance of good order in the service. And the courts are made of ordinary men.

Would you have a better chance if the board were made up of women?

Not now, no. But if there were more gay women admitted into the service, I probably wouldn't even wind up before a board. Now the prejudice exists. Women officers are prejudiced against women anyway. They feed the male ego. They play up to the men, but they get all the shit jobs from men. If I found myself at a court martial, there wouldn't be any women. If there were, they would be higher-ups and they would have been in long enough to conform. They have become what they have been teaching themselves to be--officers, as bad as the men officers.

If you were to sign up again, would you live on base or move off?

If I moved, it would have to be near San Francisco. Imagine how limited it would be if I moved to a small town, where there would be no outlets at all. I'd have to worry if I approached someone on base, just for companionship, if she would find it objectionable and turn me in. If one of my neighbors decided he didn't like me, he could call in and make a complaint -- if he saw something that indicated I might be gay, like women visiting me, then it would cost my my job and all the benefits I would have from being in the service.

I have been thinking about if I didn't sign up again. I would have to sign up for six years if I did, but then again, I could find some sort of job if I didn't. It's something I have to think about.

--Interview by Linda Wesley



## Fired because of rumor

SALEM, Ore.—A lesbian high school teacher in rural Turner, Ore., 12 miles east of here, is suing to get her job back. She was fired Oct. 11, 1971, on a "rumor" that she was a homosexual.

"There was no complaint. It was a rumor. Someone hinted to principal Leonard Federico that I might be a homosexual," she told the *ADVOCATE*.

"So, I said, 'So what.'

"Three days later, I didn't have a job."

It's "only because I'm a homosexual" that she got fired, Ms. Burton explained. Her job performance records show high ratings.

Ms. Burton's case has enormous significance to Oregonians. Last January, consensual sex legislation became law and removed all criminal sanctions against homosexuality, except rape, with juveniles, and prostitution.

The American Civil Liberties Union is representing Ms. Burton "to establish that government employees [in Oregon] may not be fired because of their homosexuality," reports the *Oregon Journal*

in Portland May 3.

The rural junior-senior high school where Ms. Burton taught six subjects (biology, ecology, consumer education, business math, earth science, assistant volleyball coach) has small classes ranging from 12 to 30 students.

The school was sued last April by several male students suspended for long hair. Another federal lawsuit is pending by teacher Burt Czapszy, who claimed his 1972-73 contract was not renewed because he wore a moustache.

It took six months for the ACLU to get the lawsuit for Ms. Burton filed in federal court. "It's gone rather slowly," she said.

Paying for food and rent has become a problem for her. "I have a lot of creditors knocking on my door. I'm really in debt. I have a part-time job that pays \$160 a month, and that's what I'm living on. I have a lot of college loans to pay back, and the people are on my back.

"It's hard to get by," she said candidly.

7

WOMEN ARE ALWAYS INVOLVE  
IN UNIMPORTANT CONCERNS

FOOD  
SHELTER  
CLOTHING  
PEOPLE  
FRIENDSHIP  
LOVE  
BIRTH  
NURTURANCE  
HEALTH  
COOPERATION  
COMMUNITY  
SENSITIVITY  
ANIMALS  
PLANTS  
TRANSPORTATION  
GOODS  
EDUCATION  
LIVING  
PEACE  
LIFE

MEN ALWAYS TALK ABOUT THE  
MOST SIGNIFICANT THINGS

BOOZE  
OFFICE  
SMOKERS  
ANATOMIES  
FRATERNIZING  
SEX  
VIRILITY  
HEIRS  
SPORTS  
COMPETITION  
POLITICIANS  
CRUDITY  
HUNTING  
PROPERTY  
HORSEPOWER  
PROFITS  
TAXES  
PRODUCTION  
WARFARE  
DEATH

--Donnie

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Dear SISTERS:

We at Arena Three would like to welcome you to our newly formed mailing list whilst extending a sincere apology for keeping you waiting for your first new Arena Three magazine!

Setting up the machinery to produce copy after copy of the magazine on a monthly basis and at the same time maintain the standard of the former publisher has proved to be a task, but it has at last been completed and volume 9 no. 1 has gone to press. You should be receiving the first edition by early July. I hope it meets with your approval. Please let us know if it does not!

Whilst taking the opportunity of writing to you in this form, may I also draw to your attention the work we are doing "behind the scenes" in other directions. As a founder member of the National Federation of Homophile Organizations we are witnessing the most radical and sweeping changes taking place this year in Gay Politics, with Gay Liberation in Front, the campaign for Homosexual Equality and Scottish Minorities Group co-operating and consulting with the NFHO in the promotion of social and legal equality between all men and women. The magazine will bring you up to the minute reports of this work in addition to its function as a communications media between gay women everywhere.

We invite your comments for publications on any subject of interest to you and your friends, as well as articles, poems and news.

Kindest regards,

Brownie,  
The London Co-ordinator

*ArenaThree*

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## book review

"The First Sex" by Elizabeth Gould Davis (G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, \$7.95) is a remarkable new work that cannot fail to become an enduring source book for the women's liberation movement. It restores to woman her history, long suppressed, distorted, denied, even stolen, righting the wrong of what Ms. Davis calls "two thousand years of propaganda concerning the inferiority of women". To read it is to feel pride and an energy of joy in being a member of the sex that -- Ms. Davis shows with thoroughly documented fact and admirable scholarship -- actually has contributed more to civilization than man. That woman was first in the discovery of the arts and sciences. That the real "fall" of humankind had nothing to do with Eve eating an apple but resulted when patriarchy triumphed over matriarchy and throughout the ensuing centuries woman was beaten into submission and enslaved.

Ms. Davis charges that "in the frenzied insecurity of his fear of women, man has remade society after his own pattern of confusion and strife and has created a world in which woman is the outsider. He has rewritten history with the conscious purpose of ignoring, belittling and ridiculing the great women of the past, just as modern historians and journalists seek to ignore, belittle and ridicule the achievements of modern women. He has devalued woman to an object of his basest physical desires and remade God in his own image -- 'a God that does not love women'. Worst of all, he has attempted to transform woman herself into a brainless simulacrum, a robot who has come to acquiesce meekly in her own inferiority."

A harsh indictment; but she proves it with facts and cool logic, always citing her sources and references. The book is in four parts. Following a prologue ("The Lost Civilization"), we have "The Gynocratic World" where woman is shown in the realization of her strength and accomplishments, material and spiritual; "The Patriarchal Revolution"; "Pre-Christian Women in the Celto-Ionian World"; and, the fourth part, "The Tragedy of Western Woman". This section closes with a

chapter, "Woman in the Aquarian Age" when Ms. Davis says, "the ages of masculism are now drawing to a close". And: "Only the overthrow of the three-thousand-year-old beast of masculist materialism will save the race".

I feel that this book should be owned, read, studied by the women everywhere who, in a surge towards control over their own lives, are seeking modes of action: action compatible with their needs, their bodies and being. For they need models. Contrary to what many men are writing and saying, women do not wish to imitate the male. Then, we realize the sterility inherent in merely competing and succeeding in the chaotic and violent arena his dominance has allowed, like a malignancy, to invade every aspect of existence. For models, guides, to what to dream and work towards, we may turn to this book with its thrillingly, beautifully written retrieval of what women once were, trying not to feel too much anger over the cruel record of the subsequent centuries of enslavement; and vow to work towards a renaissance, not for woman alone, but for humankind.

To merely turn things around and become the bosses in this sick and sorry "man's world" surely would be no triumph. Deep down, every woman who is awake or awakening knows there must be this renaissance, not a "revolution"; and that women must guide it, restore the balance so that the female principle once more prevails in nature and in human society.

Sisters, do not be discouraged by the price of this book. Buy it if it means going without. Every woman capable of reading and absorbing what Ms. Davis has to impart cannot but feel new joy in her heart, and be reborn in dignity and pride.

--Elsa Gidlow

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PEACE

REMEMBER THAT "INCREDIBLE" DIME LESBIAN  
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