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

a woman's organization for the purposes 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, inter­
personal and vocational identity within society
by maintaining a growing library on the themes of
homosexuality and of women in general; by pro­
viding 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 life-style; 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 limi­
tations upon her life-style by sponsoring public
discussions; by providing individuals as speakers
and participants in various forums designed to
educate the public; by dissemination of educa­tion­
al 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, pro­
viding equitable handling of cases involving
homosexuals, through due process of law, without
prejudice.

Cover by Alexis
Specific Problems of the Aging Lesbian
by Dr. Ruth McGuire

In the March and April issues of SISTERS, we have discussed some of the problems of aging women in general and of the homosexual woman in particular. The Lesbian has, certainly, all the problems other women have and, in addition, few, if any, of the compensations. The aging Lesbian may be without close familial ties, having not married or born children; she has often grown away from close supportive relationships with her own native family unit, and, so very often, she has not formed an on-going, continuing stable relationship with another woman, or group of women, who function for her as family surrogates.

Many aging women are not of course alone, but hundreds of thousands are and it is our educated guess that 25% to 50% of these are homosexual women. For these, the restrictions and constraints of aging present threats and dangers that must be dealt with as if at war with an Enemy— which aging most assuredly is—and the Lesbian in the menopause years and up would do herself and her sisters an enormous service if she could only recognize and accept this most disagreeable and painful fact.

Undoubtedly most human beings who reach adult life realize somewhere along the way that Time is an Enemy and many try to prepare to fight it one day. It has been my experience that homosexuals, and Lesbians in particular, do not recognize early enough that a long and heavy war lies ahead, and they seem to do little to prepare any kinds of defense or protection for their survival.

A frequent and overly-popularized defense currently used in our immediate cultural context is that the "condition" of homosexuality is a "gay" one. Far too many delude themselves that this is a truth, an incontrovertible fact, and they forthwith become blind and deaf to the realities in themselves and all around them. They "thrust their fists against the posts, and still insist they see no ghosts".

But when homosexual women reach the menopause and the years beyond, the ghosts—plenty appear and multiply and do not go away. These specters take the forms (and are the facts) of loneliness and increasing constrictions. These aging Lesbians are apt to be humans apart from the rest of humanity; their needs or opportunities for individual and group relationships are narrowed to perhaps a few friends like themselves or the nearest Lesbian bar.
Too often they have established a pattern of virtual isolation in their junior and intermediate years that makes any change later on awkward and discomforting. Many, in younger years, were introduced to women's groups and other organizations but, finding themselves with women who seemed to have little in common and, needing (in the old days) to hide their homosexuality, they conceded that battle summarily and tended to avoid exposure henceforth. So the skills and techniques of group interactions and relationships were not learned and adopted into the individual Lesbian's defense patterns.

It is almost unnecessary to point out the difference with the heterosexual woman who has been able to find in groups, large and small, a great community of interests—almost anything. Women from home and family, organized goals, community projects, etc. The straight woman is dealing with others exactly like herself, she speaks the same language about the same subjects and there is no need for her to isolate herself for any personal reason. The security and ego strength such group experiences give the straight woman is a comfortable weapon against aging. The Lesbian usually has not acquired this defense.

The older homosexual woman who works in the commercial or professional business world meets problems specifically different from her heterosexual sister. All working women have had a history of inequities, as we all know, and hopefully these will soon be rectified, in some major areas. But within the framework of the working woman, the aging Lesbian has specific problems her straight sister may not have.

The first difference may be in the individual reasons for going to work: the straight woman may elect to do so whereas the Lesbian may have to do so. When the vicissitudes of aging begin to be insurmountable, the straight woman may be able to stop working and be more comfortable at home, whereas her Lesbian counterpart may have no such compromise available to her.

Another more clearly defined difference between the aging women in the two categories is seen in their reactions to certain situations met only in the working world. This is in the area of various approaches made to women, especially aging women, that consistently occur because of the "working" framework. These include the "requests" or "demands" of other co-workers, often bosses or authority figures, and often they are other women as well as men. These requests may be for sexual or other "personal service" favors, or for more productivity (extra expenditure of time and energy) without corresponding remuneration, or, to meet some dependency needs of the importuner. The aging Lesbian is apt to be more vulnerable to such requests and her psychological insecurity may cause her to mis-handle the potentially exploitive situation to her detriment.

Perhaps the most clearly defined area of difference between the aging heterosexual and homosexual woman is in her identity concept. The self-image of the straight woman is quite different from that of the Lesbian. The former has usually had ample opportunity during her years of maturation to perceive and integrate her sense of self; she is usually not confused about who she is, where she came from, or the direction her life will take. She is apt to be quite clearly aware of what she wants to do and what she is able to do. The aging Lesbian often seems to virtually crash into the reality of self at the time of her climacteric and is overwhelmed with her lack of identity and any clear conceptions of where and what she is, or of the direction her life may be going.

The foundations for the aging Lesbian's crisis of self are, of course, laid down in infancy and early childhood, but they are also greatly contributed to in the post-pubertal years—the girl's late teens and early twenties. Much could be done at that time to correct and strengthen ego faults. We know now that corrective measures can be taken and proper defenses built so that the Lesbian in the years of aging, can be far better equipped to conquer or at least subdue the enemy Time and its depletions.

In the next issue, Dr. McGuire will discuss in detail the construct of the lack of sense-of-self, and suggest some measures that may be taken by the individual to correct this disability. Dr. McGuire has also asked us to invite readers to write in of their experiences in their social or working worlds where other differences and particular problems seem to beset aging Lesbians that are not especially confronting heterosexual women.

Dr. McGuire specializes in the older woman. Individual or group services are available. To make an appointment, call 626-2420 or 921-8131 between the hours of 10 AM and 5 PM.
SISTERS will be presenting "THUMBNAIL SKETCHES" by various members of DOB who wish to write a little about themselves. Here is the first. anyone else???

Don't bore you with the details and chit chat about "Family" life, cuz I know a lot of you aren't into that trip. However, I am raising mine, alone now. I have three. Had an old man once, but that's one habit (enforced, I thought), I kicked over two years ago. I come to some of the DOB meets and rap sessions and listen to plans about baseball games, biking, doing photography, etc. It's all very interesting, lots of the discussions turn me on. But I sort of have to take a back seat for most of it, because in addition to the duties I've self-imposed by being a mother, I'm blessed with several physical handicaps which quite literally stop me from participating in many of the things that I really love.

Anyone interested in swimming at the "Y"? W.O.A. that is. There is one sport I'm into. And even tho' it's partially a therapeutic must for me at present, I once did it for the pure enjoyment of it. And still do, for that matter, every Friday night.

Sure, I have some free time since I am lucky enough not to be stuck with lucrative employment. So I come down to DOB and offer my meager services, such as they are. Like addressing envelopes, stamping, etc., for SISTERS mailing. You know, the so-called sh..work? It doesn't get me much exhuse, or ch's and ch's; so what. It's all part of the effort to keep us a Going Group. And, as they say, "every little bit helps."

How about it then? We need YOU to put things "Together." YOUR contributions of poetry, notes of interest for and about women. Dope out an interesting experience you've had. A short personal history, maybe about your job, your problems, good times and bad. Everyone's interested in stuff like that. We need you! And everyone needs to be needed.

Speak for yourself--J.

Send your own thumbnail sketch in to us. We would like to know who and what our members and friends are. Maybe you will find out your literary genius! Ed.

---

You are torn by your need to express yourself as an individual and the need for security and protection which you find in conformity. Yet there is a unique individual in you which is afraid to come out for fear of losing this security. You are cautious about people and new ventures. I can't see you plunging into something without preparation and experimentation.

---

You are quiet and reserved but you need to be around people though you feel rather isolated from them. You have control over your emotions and are ruled by the head rather than the heart. You involve yourself mentally in all you do in your effort to get the best out of life. You have a healthy capacity for sex although you may be a bit reserved about it.

You have an organized mind capable of putting things in proper perspective and you conduct your day with an even tempo and built-in sense of order. However when faced with difficulties you tend to change direction rather than meet your problem head on.

To work at your best you need freedom from pressures of time or authority. You will show frustration if you are constricted or repressed while trying to reach an objective.
EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S SEX LIFE BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

One quick and fun way to find out about a person's sex life is to take a look at the way she makes her "g" loop. Compare with the examples but remember that this is not the total picture.

This person enjoys sex and gets as much as she needs which is pretty average based on the fact that she completes her loop at the base line.

This person wants it but just ain't getting it.

Beware this person for she may be rather tricky at going about getting it.

This person doesn't need very much.

Can't say the same for this one. (She may bluff a bit about how much she's getting, too.)

This person is just plain perverted!

For your personal analysis to appear in this column, please send me at least 10 lines of writing, state age, sex and whether right or left-handed. Also include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and $.10 to cover costs to Daughters of Bilitis, 1005 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

(Not every sample can appear but you can be sure that you will at least get an analysis in the mail. I'm a bit swamped so have patience. Thanks.)

---

Two by Deborah

#1
cinnamon girl
you walk like the red deer
lithe
through a wood of fading people
and proud
and free

#2
It is the sort of evening
for feeling the small regrets
of all the years
since we first began
to love
it is clear
and cool
with spring
breathing softly
into the air
mud and grass
and mad birdsong
but it's not the sort of evening
to let them bother you
After all
it's all right now
we're still in love
a bit more
perhaps
than when we began
a little bit more
every moment...
**EVENTS - JUNE 1971**

**THE DOB OFFICE IS OPEN NOW FROM 9 to 11 AM EVERY DAY AND FROM 7 to 9 PM WEDNESDAY. COME OUT! (On Tues., call first to be sure it's open.)**

June 6 - Hike at Point Reyes. YOU MUST CALL TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION. Leaving at 8 AM from 909 Franklin, 21st. Bring food and water. It's a 4 mile hike down to the ocean. 861-8689.

June 12 - Someone should have a party. We tried - no place!

June 13 - Baseball game, Rolph Field, Army & Potrero, 2 PM. Bring equipment.

June 19 - Board Meeting, 7 PM. Business Meeting, 8 PM, DOB office.

June 25 to June 27 - CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST in L.A. If you would like to go to this annual gay celebration, YOU MUST REGISTER NOW, $2.00 fee. Six of us will be going.

June 20 - DR. RUTH MCGUIRE WILL SPEAK AGAIN. 940 Baker St., S.F. Bring food if you wish. $1.50 for non-members, $1.75 members. (This is the same place we heard Dr. McGuire last time.) DON'T MISS HER.
HOROSCOPE FOR GEMINI

May 22 - June 21

Gemini is the sign of the twins and there are two distinct sides to their personalities. They have a natural duality which allows them to do two or more things at once with less effort than it takes most of us to do one. Gemini is impatient with conservative, stick-in-the-mud, or with people who can't make up their minds. Any kind of routine can make a typical Gemini feel like a droopy bird in a cage with his wings clipped. These people resent drudgery and monotony almost fiercely. Their moods can change at the drop of a hat. They may be charming, witty, and happy one moment; and then insult and criticize you with such sharp asperities you may need iodine for your wounds, the next. The only predictable thing about people of this sign is that they are almost always late—not because they forget the time, but because something catches their eye on the way and sidetracks them.

If you are going with a Gemini or have a Gemini mate, you may find your life a great deal like a ride on a Merry-go-Round. Loving a Gemini is easy and fun, if you don't try to get too close. Don't rebel against her changeability—change with her. She seeks a mental communion above all else. Geminis are not jealous or possessive usually, and they don't expect you to be either. Keep things cool and light and don't be overly dramatic or passionate. Show them unswerving faith and trust and your Gemini love will never waver. Be an alert and interested in life as she is and your Gemini romance can be very special.

JULIUS PLANET: MERCURY
ELEMENT: AIR
FAVORITE COLORS: YELLOW, ORANGE, AND ALL SHADES OF GREEN

THE POLITICS OF MENTAL ILLNESS

By Carol

With the new militance of the homosexual community and its ever-growing demand for "Gay Liberation," the 70s will see new programs designed to safeguard the "mental health" of homosexuals. The concept of mental illness, based on theory, conjecture and rationalizations of pseudo-scientists and moralists bent on preserving the status quo, are being seriously challenged—not only by homosexuals themselves, but also by many in the "helping" professions.

In January of this year two homosexuals, Sally Gearhart and Rick Stich, were seated on the Board of Directors of San Francisco's Family Service Agency. When an anti-homosexual committee of homosexuals challenged this United Bay Area Crusade agency, the board and its staff came to realize the unique problems of homosexuals in family counseling. They recognized, too, that the homosexual community itself was a valuable resource for helping them to design and implement a realistic counseling program for teenaged homosexuals, for lesbian mothers and for parents who have just learned that their daughter or son is a homosexual.

The San Francisco Mental Health Association was also challenged by the Homosexual Action Front to put "mental health" back into the lives of homosexuals instead of safeguarding gaseous concepts of mental illness. In February the Association appointed a Task Force on Homosexuality, comprised of members of the homosexual community and professional persons from various disciplines, to develop a position statement and public education program. While lay members of the Association readily agreed that laws making homosexuals criminals should be repealed and that discrimination and social ostracism directed against homosexuals is inimical to the mental health not only of the affected minority but of the community as a whole, they nonetheless talked at making any statement to refute the concept of mental illness. On this they deferred to the psychiatric profession, the nation's standard guardians of mental illness. On this they deferred to the psychiatric profession, the nation's standard guardians of mental illness. However, the Association's Professional Advisory Committee, which includes some psychiatrists along with other "mental health" professionals, had no difficulty in saying, "Homosexuality can no longer be equated with sickness, but may properly be considered as a preference, orientation or propensity for a certain life style."

The National Association for Mental Health had adopted a statement, "Homosexuality and Mental Illness," at its meeting last November, declaring that homosexuality "does not constitute a specific mental or emotional illness" and urging the elimination of criminal penalties for homosexual acts committed in private. The statement traced briefly various theories about the etiology of homosexuality, ending with a summation that whatever its cause, homosexuality "appears to be as deeply motivated as normal heterosexual behavior...." Further, it pointed out,
"There is no evidence either in empirical research or in the experience of other countries that homosexual behavior in itself endangers the health of the individual or of society."

When the adoption of the NAMH statement was reported in Psychiatric News of February 3, 1971, there was apparently some shock from a number of psychiatrists. By what right had this untrained, non-professional organization made such a statement? Only the holier-than-thou American Psychiatric Association had the right to determine what constitutes mental illness.

The APA has long ignored challenges made from within its ranks by Dr. Thomas S. Szasz, author of such books as The Myth of Mental Illness and The Manufacture of Madness. For years Szasz has turned his attention to the vague and capricious concepts and classifications of mental illness. He refers to psychiatry as a theoretical science based on the study of personal conduct, and he contends that as long as social scientists concern themselves with how men ought to live, their stance of being engaged in empirical science cannot be justified. He claims rightly that ethical problems cannot be solved by medical methods. Szasz also questions the reclassification of behavior, like homosexuality, as mental illness--the new criteria being personality and suffering or "malfunctioning" based on no matter what norm. Thus homosexuality is arbitrarily regarded as illness only because it is considered as an acceptable norm. The gay community is not to be put off any longer by the American Psychiatric Association, however. In May 1970 during their convention in San Francisco members of Gay Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation disrupted proceedings during the presentation of a paper on conversion therapy. The brainwashing technique most Americans believed that it was applied to our war prisoners during the Korean War. Most of the 600 psychiatrists present lost their cool and indignantly stormed out of the meeting which was hastily adjourned. But a few, who were shocked into seeing the fact, there might be some justification to the grievances of homosexuals, remained and entered into dialogue with the angry intruders.

As a result a panel was arranged for this year's convention in Washington, D.C. on "Life Styles of Morosexual Homosexuals," which should have been called "Liberated homosexuals." But this was only a sop, of course. The panel was scheduled for the last evening of week-long meetings, after many registrants had left; it was one of 22 panels going on simultaneously; it also had to compete with James Reston, the featured speaker at the main session of the evening; and attendance was more like 60 than 600. Furthermore, earlier in the week at more heavily attended sessions business went on as usual. Dr. Irving Bieber delivered a paper on "Homosexual Psychology in Psychiatric Crisis." Films were shown to demonstrate Behavior Therapy, which, in the case of the homosexual, was euphemistically called "covert desensitization" and consisted really of "scare tactics" in order to get him to change; and there was an exhibit by the Farrall Instrument Company which sells "conditioning" equipment for "scientific research, education or treatment of patients."

Despite the fact that the APA meetings were heavily guarded and no one was permitted at any of the sessions or exhibits without an official badge because of the "gay zap" the previous year, the Gay Liberation Front stormed through the doors (which had been left unlocked) shouting "Gay is Good" and "Gay is Proud" during the formal convocation held the first evening. The GLP spokesman was wrestled off the platform and pushed to the floor, a drop of about four feet, amid angry epithets from staid and respectable psychiatrists in the audience. Frank Kameny, founder of Washington Mattachine and recent candidate for Congress in the District of Columbia's first election this year, rushed forward, picked up the prepared statement, grabbed the microphone and read the "demands" of the gay community. The intruders then filed out peacefully.

Ramsey Clark, former United States attorney general, then gave his keynote address. He urged the psychiatrists to become "involved" with what is happening in the world today, to recognize and to do something about the "overcriminalization" of many of our citizens who are poor, who are addicted to alcohol or drugs, who care to speak out against injustice, who have a different life style or sexual preference. He was given a standing ovation by the audience, very few of whom would have been able to see the correlation between Clark's speech and the incident that preceded it.

Dr. Bleber, in the meantime, was panic-stricken and sought protection from convention managers lest there be some sort of outbreak from the homosexual community during his presentation the next morning. Dr. Kent Robinson, Baltimore psychiatrist who had coordinated our panel, was asked to co-chair the session. Robinson said he would, but only with our approval. We assured him that no demonstration was planned, that the "zap" of the previous evening was timed so as to confront a maximum number of psychiatrists at what was presumed to be the best attended function of the week's program. We merely asked for assurance that we would have an opportunity to respond to Bieber's paper during the discussion period.

Bieber, we found, has changed his tune somewhat: male homosexuality is no longer due to the fear of women; but to the fear of men; there is a "latent heterosexual" component in all homosexuals, but the converse is not true--"latent homosexuality" is called pseudohomosexual crisis; he does not advocate changing all homosexuals, only those who seek it. When Kameny questioned Bieber as an "authority" on homosexuality, Bieber refused to enter into any dialogue, saying questions or comments should be limited to the content of his
paper. When I visited his student he admitted that homosexual behavior was more prevalent among some ethnic groups than among others. He also noted that such behavior was more likely to be reported by members of the minority groups.

During the discussion one psychiatrist noted, "It is the function of society to define disease and social problems. We can only deal with those who call themselves sick." A nurse attending the convention considered himself a part of society and did not consider himself sick.

Larry Littlejohn, past president of the Society for Individual Rights, with the help of Dr. Robinson, made an appointment for us to speak with a member of the "normal" committee, which will review the classifications in the APA's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. This booklet contains various mental illnesses under the headings of Personality, Neuroses, and Character Disorders. In the last revision of the manual, homosexuality was transferred from the list of character disorders to a separate category called Sexual Perfections, whereas most listings also entail lengthy diagnostic descriptions. In the case of homosexuality there is only the single word: "without explanation."

It was our contention that this word should be removed entirely from the next edition which is scheduled for '74. The number we spoke with agreed to present our case to the full five-member "normal" committee at its next meeting. In the meantime, it would be helpful to get psychiatrists who are members of the APA to write letters of approval of our mission.

The next target was the Parrella Instrument Company's exhibit of stimuli for use with "sexual shockers, sexual shockers, and sexual perfections," which includes "lesbians, homosexuals, transvestites, gynalysts, pedophiles and alcoholics." By this time Barbara Gittings and George Balcy, of Philadelphia's Homophile Action League, had joined us. As a body we voiced our objections to Mr. Parrella on the use of such barbarous tortures on our homosexual sisters and brothers. He merely laughed at us--until we told him that unless he removed the exhibit from the floor voluntarily that night we would have it forcibly removed the next day. We then requested a meeting with the exhibit committee and a member of our complaint. Parrella's was a commercial exhibit for which he had paid a fee, and we asked that he be caught in the middle, but a compromise was reached: the words "lesbian," "homosexual," and "sexual" were taped over and slides of same were removed for the duration of the exhibit. The next day Parrella was more than willing to "discuss" with us our objections.

After another encounter with the panelists following the aversion therapy film showing alluded to earlier, our panel seemed rather anti-climactic. Jack Baker, newly elected president of the University of Minnesota student body, and Lilli Vincenz, who has been active in various gay women's groups in the East, appeared along with Kameny, Littlejohn and myself. The subject, "Life Styles," often gave way to tirades about self-styled psychiatric authorities on homosexuality, like Bleber and Dr. Charles Socarides. But at least we provoked some psychiatrists into declaring angrily they were tired of being harangued about a few men, who were not necessarily representative and who did not speak for them. To which Kameny retorted, "Then why aren't you presenting the papers, writing the books, and appearing on television? If there is differing opinion, the public should know. That's what we are talking about!"

What effect we had on the psychiatrists we had a chance to rap with or on those who were afooted by demonstrations remains to be seen. But we do know this: the liberal element of APA had 46% of the vote in the business meeting this year, and there is a strong and growing "radical caucus" among the membership of this conservative institution. There is some talk of a return engagement at the Dallas meetings next year. In any event, APA has not heard the last of "Gay Liberation."

HAPPY THOUGHTS FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Wow. Oh, my. Wow. Unreal. I can't think of what to say in thanks to everyone. I now have a co-editor, ROBIN, who, bless her, volunteered to take much of the typing and editing off my hands. Wow. And Jenny and Diane and Marcy have been just blowing my mind with their energy. Especially Marcy. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU. And Marley and Carol and Terry and Gail and Wow.... Our speaker's bureau has tripled in size: Irene, Sue and Norwich, Terry, Diane, Jenny, Gail, Beverley.... THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE AIR NOW, and, believe me, it's fantastic. Jackie, our V.P. and Jackie L., our addresser for SISTERS, have been working working working. YOU GUYS ARE BEAUTIFUL. Really. I can't thank you all enough.

NEVER SAY DIE, though. We've got so much to do now that the air is alive with energy. Strike while the iron is HOT. Get things together. My thanks, too, to Kelly's, Maud's, Leonard's, Scott's Pit for selling SISTERS. Thanks to GRAMMA BOOKS of Berkeley for ordering bulk SISTERS and other literature. Thanks to the women all over who have been buying and distributing SISTERS. Thank you to all of you who have been sending us your artistic and literary efforts, WE NEED YOU, YES INDEED. Keep them coming in and, by jove, we will TAKE THE WORLD. Thank you.

Karen
Some Observations Upon Co-Operating With Men

This Saturday, a whole group of DOBers went to the Mental Health Ass. Fair. Far out. We had our own panel discussion, well-attended by lesbians and others, including several loud-mouthed men. It seems that the straight man only seems to want to know what we do--gasp--in bed, something to do with how come we take the women away from them, I think. And how to make a woman a good bed partner. Wow. As if all we do is.... At any rate, since there were about ten lesbians to three men, we were able to shut them up. It's amazing how three men can dominate everything, if they have a mind to.

At the conclusion of the discussion, which centered in most part around the kinds of things we did to "cover up" our sexual orientation, several of us went down to the S.F. State extension center to speak on a panel on "The Liberation Movement." There were four men on this panel, three women: Karen Wells, Phyllis Lyon, Sally Gearhart. We women did our best, but the men again insisted upon sexual philosophy and amateur psychoanalysis of everyone's suppressed homosexuality in the audience. The audience began to get uptight and so did we three women. Finally, the whole thing blew up--the men had so alienated the audience (primarily women), that many of our straight brothers and sisters walked out of the discussion. Somehow, the gay men on the panel had laid a heavy sex trip on everyone. And had seen fit to blast out at the audience all their pent-up hostility against "white, straight society." Now, it seems to me that the anger we all feel towards those who oppress us is indeed real, but there are times when this anger should be checked, especially when we women on the panel were NOT BEING ANGRY. We were trying to communicate with our sisters. The men blew it all. And in order to reach our sisters, we had to call a women's group caucus after the shouting had died down. There we really got it together with several of our straight sisters. Women really can DO this, even though we have NEVER been allowed to speak with one another much and have let our men think for us.

My observations about this whole kind of presentation, with men and women together trying to communicate with those who don't understand and are trying, center around this simple fact: women CANNOT be heard with their brothers shouting around and at them. I WILL NOT DO ANOTHER PANEL WITH MEN. And I doubt if a few women who is willing and has been willing to speak with men on common grounds of our gayness. I find that, in spite of all the verbage thrown back and forth among the gay community spokesmen and women about how we MUST get together, WE WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT and must be allowed our differences. Men's conversations and discussions inevitably revolve around sex. Women's seem to revolve around RELATIONSHIPS and emotional "getting it on." THE TWO DO NOT MIX WELL AT ALL. And I refuse to lower myself to the level at which these men seem to operate any more. Cocks are fine, but only for other cocks. Peace, brothers. Karen

With Sparkle on my Hands

What beautiful images
They see in my eyes
From my journey with you,
How my glance portrays
Our land of rainbow cathedrals
At night the glow of our moon, desire.

They marvel at the sparkle on my hands
From your touch.

They see me dancing
As I walk through our Garden,
Singing as I speak your name.

Let It Be

Let us be as flocks of birds
In the changing skies of circumstance
Guiding each other
By touching wings as we pass.

--Claire Baker

Ed. Note: The quality of poetry being received at the DOB office, like the two by Claire, is improving with every issue. What we need now is quantity. Send in your poems, short stories, and grocery lists if they're well written, and help us keep our standards high.
ADS, ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FOR RENT:

LIVE AMONG THE UNDERSTANDING. BARGAIN APARTMENT IN DOWNTOWN S.P. in the heart of the Tenderloin (Eddy and Jones area). Large living room, studio bedroom, 2 closets, large bath (combination tub and shower). Kitchen and dining area. Furnished. Same price for one or two persons. Call manager anytime: 775-4806. $110.00.

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380 Jones St. S.F. 94102.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Women are only three per cent of all lawyers in this country! For further information on law and women contact Boalt Hall Women's Assn., c/o Anne Trehillcock, at 841-9022 in Berkeley.

Available from the Women's History Library, 2325 Oak St., Berkeley, Calif. 94708 are the following:

1) "Male Supremacy," paper, by Lynn O'Connor, .25
2) "Up from Radicialism: A Feminist Journal," article by Ellen Willis, .25
3) "A Woman's Songbook: is out, 23 songs, drawings, chord chart. Order from Judy Busch, Oral Herstory Library, $1.00.

REMEDY: Karen Wells offers apologies to Tracy for including in Aprilolist her nomination for SFDOB President. Tracy was not present at her nomination and declined without giving reason. Karen Wells assumed responsibility for her reasons. This was not properly and full apologies are offered.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

DOB requests that all books borrowed or taken from the library MUST be returned to the office NOW for inventory. No books may be checked out until all are returned. Many books have been stolen. Please return these. No retribution. We need our books. We welcome and need all book donations to replace stolen ones. Any notices for book replacements will be appreciated. Thank you. Karen + Marcy

$25 for Eds., for members

DOB SP WAS A NEW PRESIDENT -- Beverley says, "As the new president of SFDOB I aim to continue helping in the Movement towards, first of all, freeing lesbians, and then progressing to free all people. My hope is that we can ALL work together towards this goal. Our congratulations to her and now LET'S GET THINGS GOING! GAY WOMEN UNITE!"

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

DOB San Francisco: 1005 Market, Suite 208, San Francisco, Ca. 94103

DOB Los Angeles: 1910 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90007

DOB New York: 141 Prince St., N.Y., N.Y. 10012

DOB Boston: Box 221, Prudential Center Sta., Boston, Mass. 02199

DOB New England: P.O. Box 243 Mattapan Sta., Mattapan, Mass. 02126


DOB Atlanta: 1620 Hollywood Rd., N.W., #3A, Atlanta, Ga. 30318

DOB Denver: 2239 King #A, Denver, Colo. 80211

MEMBERSHIPS in SFDOB will be limited to those 21 years or older:

An ASSOCIATE membership will cost $4.00 per year and will include: library privileges, price to social functions, an events sheet.

An ACTIVE membership for single individuals will cost $7.00 per year and will include: library privileges, price to social functions, SISTERS for one year.

An ACTIVE membership for couples will cost $10.00 per year and will include: library privileges, price to social functions for both, SISTERS (one subscription) for both, for one year.

SISTERS is a monthly publication by the San Francisco chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis and will cost to non-members $5.00 per year. All contributions of money to SISTERS or to the Daughters of Bilitis are tax-deductible. Please make all checks payable to the Daughters of Bilitis.