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, in-
terpersonal and vocational identity within soci-
ety 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 communicate with 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 under-
stand 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 de-
signed to educate the public; by dissemination
of educational and rational literature on the
Lesbian.

3. To encourage, 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.

TO SAY AND BELIEVE THAT GAY IS GOOD.

Officers

President-----------------Sharon Crase
Vice President-------------Beth Elliott
Secretary-------------------Charleen Pyron
Treasurer------------------Diane

Staff

Editor---------------------Karen R. Wells
Assistant Editor------------Linda M. Wesley
Poetry Editor---------------Beth Elliott
Art Editors----------------M. K. Farmer
JUDI

CONTENTS

Dr. Ruth Mcguire
Guest Editorial
Lagniappe
Letters
Reviews
Calendar
News
Poetry
Editorial
Football
Horoscope

P. 1
P. 5
P. 7
P. 9
P. 12
P. 15
P. 17
P. 19
P. 22
P. 25
P. 29
A Brief Statement of a Proposed Psycho-social Study of American Women

AN INQUIRY INTO ATTITUDES AND VALUE SYSTEMS OF A MINORITY GROUP

This will be a study of attitudes and value systems of adult American Women, including women in racially and sexually declared minority groups, toward themselves and other women, and toward some basic institutions in our society.

- by -

Ruth M. McGuire, Ph. D.
Marie Angell, M.S.W.
Marijean Suelzle, M.A.
Sandra Jones, B.A.

GENERAL STATEMENTS

The purpose of this study is to scientifically collect and evaluate data about the character and functioning of women in our society today. A useful body of factual knowledge about the psycho-social self identity of women, their attitudes and value systems toward themselves, other women and some basic institutions in our society, is virtually non-existent. Some historians have recorded the activities of certain individual women and of small groups of women who organized briefly for a cause. Artists have used women prodigiously as subjects for their creative efforts. However, any large-scale scientifically valid assessment of the character and psycho-social attributes of women has not, to our knowledge, even been attempted in our modern society. Therefore, the need for this study is paramount if we are to correctly assess the struggle to attain human rights in an atmosphere of knowledge and truth and not in a morass of myth and archaic ignorance of what women are.

It is patently obvious that many things are changing rapidly in our culture today. Attitudes and values long held toward some of our basic institutions have apparently vanished or are so modified that they are no longer recognizable. Three institutions most notably recipient of these changes are institutionalized religion, the authority of government, and the family.

Our communications media endlessly informs us of countless instances of flaunting disrespect and disobedience toward these once revered and hallowed institutions. In an unprecedentedly short period of time -- less than a decade perhaps -- the entire mores and folkways of a gargantuan society appear to be changing markedly. Therefore it is urgent that this study be initiated immediately in order to establish a point of departure and a frame of reference to assess the scope and character of change, and to measure and make predictions concerning future change.

The attitudes, values and behavior of the majority members of this new society may dictate the new patterns to be formed. Women are a statistical majority in American society as they are in the entire world population. However, women are a majority in statistical concept only, for they believe themselves to be the minority. They have been treated by the real minority (men), by their own members (other women), as well as by themselves, as a minority group.

Historically, women have been designated as lesser than men in many important respects. Women are labelled as physically weaker, intellectually inferior, and socially less desirable (valuable) than men. Women have been recipients of precisely the same kinds of inexorable, institutionalized, demeaning and denigrating attitudes as have other despised racial, national, religious, and sexually variant minority groups. This systematic discrimination continues.

With few exceptions women appear to have accepted this inferior and devalued role with little or no protest. It is a known psychological truth
that individuals will see themselves as others see them, regardless of factual evidence to the contrary. And, it is understandable that women have remained uninformed of the truth about themselves because no one really knows the potential of women to be forceful and effective designers of our culture. If women had been able to do otherwise they might not have continued to accept minority status, nor perpetuated the self-defeating concepts of themselves as weak, helpless and existing only through the largesse of men. 

Science and technology have brought human beings to one world, all of it civilized. Highly sophisticated techniques of communication distribute vital information to all living societies and cultures. With the dissolution of archaic fallacious beliefs concerning women, basic institutions, and certain racial and sexual minorities, women are in a position to assume their rightful role in sharing equally the responsibility of redesigning the structure of our culture. 

The primary requisite for understanding and evaluating the changing role of women is scientific knowledge about the character and behavioral patterns and potential of modern women. The only valid source to supply this information is women themselves. The logical group of women and men who should and must address themselves to this immediately urgent task is the National Organization for Women.

II. SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTER: AREAS AND TOPICS TO BE INVESTIGATED

This will be a study of attitudes and value systems of adult American women, including women in racial and sexually declared minority groups, toward themselves and other women in society. The background information will include data about age, race, education, occupation, income, self-rated social class, and marital status, number and ages of siblings, re-

Please note: This information do not exist. Data on social classes and marital status, number and ages of siblings, and background information are not accessible.
Guest Editorial

On A Lesbian Community?

community raps -
they can sound so naive
so elitist
idealists ignoring politics
and all its schisms
you've got to be practical

but what if we tried to express ourselves
on a level of understanding
of love
seeing the different sides and views
and attitudes
without taking sides all the time?

I got sick of organizations a few years back
a lot of people on ego trips
talking beautiful words
but always lacking the basic commitment
so necessary
unwilling to do the shit work
but loving being "radicals"
"revolutionaries"
who could talk about blowing minds and systems
occasionally do oh-so-shocking
(please, Mama, let's hear that again)
guerilla theatre
but not living that alternate life style
which they think they're representing
in their own lives and beings.

a few months back I decided to give
organizations another chance
a group of Radicalessbians in Ohio
god the Midwest
where everyone tries so desperately to keep
up with the more advanced
(oh, Mama, again)
civilizations and times
and feel insecure about their politics

Well, babe, that's why
can't they see
that their actions don't inspire confidence
and the schisms
and the hatreds
grow -
'Cuz they've got to see that in order to achieve
(and honey that don't mean no competition all the time)
they've got to work first on themselves
and not try first to grasp the workings
of all the mammoth systems
they've got to look to individual levels
and fears and desires
and not to politics
and its rhetoric
and its nauseating somersaults.

They (including you & me, Babe - it's a
big confusing world)
have got to unite
we gotta look each other in the eyes
and start
to see
each other.

--Sandy Katz

**

We are quite sure that our readers get tired of
hearing only from our editor all the time, so we
have opened a new section of SISTERS: Guest
Editorial. We receive many letters which would
more suitably be editorials if the writer thought
that her ideas would be so published. So if you
have something to say, then say it and you may
be absolutely sure it will be printed, uncensored...
Please send your ideas to SISTERS Guest Editorial,
1005 Market St., Room 208, San Francisco, California
94103.

**
I've picked up on a paperback book published by Dell, first printing in 1962, called Man Alone—Alienation in Modern Society, and would like to share one part of it with you. That is an article by one Donald Cory entitled "From Handicap to Strength."

Mr. Cory discusses the contention that "homosexuals can do the individual and society no good as a potent, imperious, driving and ever-present force." He denies this supposition. Let's follow his points briefly.

First Cory discussed the PROPAGANDA aspect. You are not as good, you are only half a man (or woman), etc. Sometimes this is something that others tell us; sometimes we tell ourselves if we feel guilt, if we feel we are doing something that is wrong. This defeat/self-defeat propaganda produces a need for self-acceptance, a striving to do well, to be above the average, the "norm" that damns us. Here, then, is a beneficial consequence even though it may (or may not) arise from an unfortunate source.

Secondly, the homosexual is acutely aware of his own lack of acceptance by society, and of the difficulties that arise from that. This provokes an understanding of other groups of individuals who may be in analogous positions in society. As for tolerance (which I, incidentally, would be happy to see as a step in the right direction), Cory calls it a "miserable compromise." If a man is no good he shouldn't be tolerated. If he is he should be accepted. Tolerance, then, to Mr. Cory, is only slightly more humane than intolerance.

Lastly, Cory finds good even in the homosexual's restlessness, his sometimes short-lived interests. This produces a versatility and provides several directions in which his talents may develop.

The conclusion? Not all of these things apply to every homosexual, and not only to homosexuals as an exclusive group. However, they certainly may be cited as a guide and for encouragement. The irony? The homosexual will achieve precisely because he is repressed. If this repression ceases due to his achievements, then what will drive him to make them?

Love from Denver,

Mary Stuber
Editor:

Congratulations on your January issue. It's by far the best one you've had both in terms of content and graphics.

Now there is no longer a reason to hear any "put down" comments from the community on how lesbians should be able to produce something better.

I sincerely hope that the community will support SISTERS in the way it deserves in 1972.

Best of luck to you all,
peace and love in the struggle,

Sasha Gregory
MOTHER Publications

Editor:

I read with great interest your letter which appeared in a recent copy of ARENA THREE. I think it would be great to be able to read a regular column in A3 about what is happening in America. It is so important that we stick together in matters of concern to lesbians in both our continents.

If it would be at all possible, I would very much like to see a copy of your publication, SISTERS, and would most willingly send a money order by return of post for the cost of this together with the postage.

Hoping to hear from you very soon and wishing you all a very good New Year.

Yours ever,

Barbara Basham
England

Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter by Mary H.B. in January's issue of SISTERS. I agree with her that a pen-pal page might be helpful in creating a place where sisters could write one another (especially us isolated sisters) in order to make contact with others like ourselves. Like Mary, my contacts with the gay world are limited. If she would care to write me my address is below. I am including a donation for your House Fund with this letter. One thing I would really enjoy seeing more of in your magazine is photographs.

Sincerely,
Valerie Manning
707 Lake Ave.
Williamson, N.Y. 14589

Editor:

The last issue of Motive Magazine is going to be two gay issues—one by lesbians, one by gay men. We can't afford buying ads in all the publications we'd like to; however, we are exchanging ads in hopes of increasing distribution as much as possible—the lesbian issue having been written, illustrated, and printed entirely by lesbians.

Thank you,

Marcelina
Motive
Washington, D.C.
So many new women's publications appear upon my desk that I feel the need to inform you (and keep myself well-read) of just what and how women are into.

A majority of new and not-so-new women's publications seem to favor the newspaper format. MOTHER, with which most of us are familiar, continues to come out monthly as a newspaper for women. EVERYWOMAN grows and improves with each issue embracing nearly all kinds of women's things, gay and straight alike. This newspaper lives up to its name admirably.

The newest newspaper is The FURIES, a lesbian/feminist monthly from D.C. If the first issue is any indication, this will be indeed an interesting one to follow. Avoiding the rhetoric usually associated with liberation publications, FURIES introduces itself as "angry . . . and oppressed by male supremacy." "We are a collective of twelve lesbians living and working in Washington, D.C." The introductory article concludes "for every woman who has ever been raped, physically, economically, psychologically, we take the name of the FURIES, Goddesses of Vengeance and protectors of women." Unlike most other such newspapers, FURIES avoids too much self-consciousness and meaningless rhetoric. The tone of the article is educated, literate, personal without being whiney. I recommend a subscription, if only to see where the goddesses direct their vengeance. It looks promising. (For address, see this issue.)

A wonderful magazine appeared on my desk today—Matrix. Its second issue. I had heard that there was such a magazine, published from L.A., but I had no idea of its nature. Superb, indeed. Poetry, prose, exquisite graphics, by and about women. It is difficult to describe it with justice, but it is must reading for all women. Each issue is $2.00 mailed. Order from: Box 46067, Los Angeles, Ca. 90046. I can't at the moment think of $2.00 better spent.

If any reader should happen across books or articles or magazines that you feel should be reviewed, let us know. Or better yet, review it yourself and send it to S.E., SISTER, 1005 Market St., #208, San Francisco, Calif. 94109.

LESBIAN/FEMINIST NEWSPAPER
COMING OUT MONTHLY
$5 a year

THE FURIES
219 11TH ST. S.E.
WASH. D.C. 20002

THE LADDER
A MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY LESBIANS FOR ALL WOMEN CONCERNED WITH L.G.B.T. RIGHTS

COME OUT TO OUR WED. NITE RAPS - 7 PM - DOB OFFICE.
**February**

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**EVENTS**

Feb 2 - Gay women lawyers discuss child custody at the DOB office. $1.50 donation. 7 PM.

Feb 6 & 20 - Football again, Dolores Park, 1:00 PM.

Feb 9 - Linda Wesley leads rap, 7 PM, DOB office.

Feb 11 - Valentine's Day Dance, S.I.M. Center, 636 6th St., $1.50 admission, 40¢ beer. Women only. 9 PM.

Feb 14 - Crafts night at DOB office: bring pipe cleaners, soap, construction paper, boards, magazines, knives for cutting, glue, scissors, beads, paints, etc. 7 PM.

Feb 16 - Ollie leads rap on "Feminist Consciousness Raising," 7 PM, DOB office.

Feb 18 - Business meeting, 6 PM DOB office. Open to all women, members and non-members.

Feb 19 - Flea Market time. Bring your contributions to DOB office before this date.

Feb 23 - Barbara Robinowitz: "Psychotherapy and the Gay Individual," 7 PM.

Feb 26 - Linda & Charleen do a party, PMCF. 3425 26th St., top floor, right hand door. $1.00. Bring records.
NEWS

Linda Jenness, 23, and Marita P. Li of Berkeley, Jenness speaks at all-women's meeting co-sponsored by female action and other women's groups.

Fri., 2-8 P.M., 1972-1973, Berkeley, U.C., Berkeley: Jenness speaks at women's meeting co-sponsored by female action and other women's groups.

Reg., 10-8 P.M., Leland School, 262 Sanchez Street, between 3rd and 3rd Market Street, between 10th and 17th Market, San Francisco, Women's禁令 for all High School students;

Also, Jenness will speak at San Francisco State, San Francisco City, Golden Gate College, Mills, U.C., Davis, Stanford, the S.I.R. meeting on Feb. 16th and others. For more information or to work on the campaign write or call radical letters campaign 194 Market Street, San Francisco 94104. (415) 621-9655

***

San Francisco is now announcing "Homosexuality is a social issue," and a social science course offered for credit. The seminar will meet Tuesdays from 7 to 9 P.M. Women are encouraged to attend.

NO!

The Council of Women and the Board of Education have agreed to a "final appeal" in reference to a "proposed blanket solicitation in support of the Black Student Union for a curricular requirement," the appeal reads. Details of the "due process" relating to suspending the decision are to be explained in a future issue of "NO." However, based on nature of the school's additional task and resources, the "nature of the group's additional burden and resources to be deployed by the group in obtaining specific witnesses to testify to the truth," resources are needed now. Contributions sent to: "NO," Religion and the Unions, 911 11th St., San Francisco, Cal. 94103. (415) 461-2483.
untitled

Otavia bathes in gentle river pools
That creep through
The royal gardens.
Milk and honey wet her lips at noon.
The sun takes pride in browning
The body of Otavia.
The earth purrs with the caress
Of her footsteps.

--Debbie

untitled

Small words trailing like raindrops
thru space
Echoes of refrigerator motor
Soft whine of the clock droning
this moment to yesterday
Does it denounce me to was?
Infinitesimal aura of goldfish bubbling
My eyes are shadowed shadows
Slow motion of your fingers - extensions
of mind, hair rollers controlled
It ends and takes too many tomorrows
to recur
It never really does, though
I touch it with my tear

--Ophelia

Bonanzaland

Mr. Mock-Rocker makes moons to sell
of a pleasant shape and colour;
His twilight stars are boxed in plastic;
His packaged wind
catalogued with care
with bows upon it.
His seas purr like cats;
with or without canoes
they lift scented waves
to genuine heavens
of a proper blue.
Life comes sweet here,
in forty-two flavours too.
The customers are pleased;
Sweet moderation smiles like a toothy child;
Expedience too, while
Passion benighted
stands cap in hand
at a distant gate.

--B.J.L.

Tantrum

screams
regurgitate
my skin
shock shrunk
god-
this thing
chokes
and walks
inside
Emancipate
the will
I can't
condone
this
self stink

--Anonymous
untitled

Sat back and smoked some hash as I contemplated my new painting on the floor in front of me, was of a little girl on a yellow rocking chair painted on a piece of plywood, just waiting for the finishing touches. Feeling all content about it and getting high

Let my eyes close for a well earned snooze and as I drifted off up comes a vision of my Deceased mother

In shrouds but with her blue slippers on.

She opens her mouth, like it had never stopped, and with one foot planted smack upon my painting

"Where are my grandchildren? My son-in-law? Why haven't you chosen a decent career yet? Go back to school and become Something! And if you must insist on just doing this (stamps down with foot) at least learn to Do It Right."

So I passed on out as it was all too unbearable. But lo and behold when I awoke there was this slipper smear on my picture

God it looked like the pope's head on a duck. I framed it in effigy and would you believe sold it for a vast sum

Which I gave away to a home for wayward cats cause she hated them.

--Sheri Lin

EDITORIAL

Karen Wells

It seems that I can hardly stop writing "editorials." I am one of those people who can't keep her mouth shut for very long about anything. And this time it's the House Fund.

This past Wednesday night, our ten by twelve office was crammed. Women on the floor, in the library, everywhere. I and a few others who are in this office often enough to get phone calls have referred many women to M.C.C. for emergency housing. We never seem to find a place to have a dance. We cannot raise money for a new home without the space to hold fundraisers. We are caught in a vicious circle.

I received a letter from a member in San Jose who asked: "I can't understand how you're hurting for money, especially in San Francisco. The town is full of the rich--models, actresses, business women. Can't you get your P.R. staff to circulate--find these women? It will take a little cash to set it up, but in the end, maybe you can outdo New York and L.A. Who knows?" Later, she said, "with a House Fund of only $12.00 it sounds like you are working with a bunch of people who are only paving 'tokenism', who are using your place to meet or pick up women...Am I wrong?"

I hope she is wrong. The question of those women who come to DOB for one or two times to meet women is a moot one—that is indeed one of the functions of this organization, and more power to it. What I hope is not true is the tokenism. One cannot morally pay "token" support to that which is the very fiber of our struggle--our one hope--that DOB can and should meet all women's needs, at least as far as housing, space, support, and a library are concerned.

Think: DOB is nation-wide. Her reputation is well known. Women know about her. Many many women read
SISTERS, L.A.'s Lesbian Tide, Boston's Focus. DOB is 16 years old and alive. But not well. We are failing to grow and change. Think about that for awhile and then write San Francisco DOB a check.

Think: The women who support the House Fund with their dollars are, for the most part, younger---20 to 35. These women cannot really afford to put as much into their organization, besides energy, as their more established sisters. However, these women DO give a dollar a month to the fund. They are committed to building new directions and a place to channel their energy. Where are those women who DO have the money? Must we always struggle when that isn't so necessary? Must women always be turned off to DOB because we haven't the courage to give of ourselves enough to move out of the Tenderloin/wino district and get some room to grow? They say goldfish will grow to two feet in length if given enough room in their tanks. What do you suppose would happen if women were given more space? Come to a Wednesday night rap and try to take a deep breath. Then sit down and write DOB's House Fund a check.

Think: The following letter was sent in August 1971, along with a check for $200.00 and a pledge to send $100.00 a month to DOB. Read it again and THINK.

Dear Karen:

After reading the extra sheet sent out with the August SISTERS, I mentioned DOB's and SISTERS' financial plights to a friend of mine who no longer belongs to DOB and does not subscribe to the magazine. Her reply (and, I fear, that of many) was, "So what else is new?" Thinking that over and reading both your August editorial in SISTERS and your comments in the column, "Guest Speaker," in MOTHER this month made me wonder why we are such poor supporters of our organizations and their magazines—why indeed, does DOB and the LADDER and, now, SISTERS have to beg and plead for financial support and for

the other kinds of support all of us can give of time and effort?

So what else is new? We were all new to the homosexual scene or to the San Francisco scene at one time and, chances are, many of us were helped to find friends, acceptance, understanding—and a host of other discoveries by DOB and, later, by SISTERS. We may not be new to these things now but generations of others are following who will be.

What can be new? Regular, monthly support financially! Regular, daily/weekly/monthly support in other ways! The key word is regular; if you're like me, it's too easy to do something once and then settle back into apathy! What's new for me? I will send a check monthly—and will get myself into the office regularly to help out in any way I can. And one other thing, Karen: I think it's high time that all of us thanked you and your staff for all of your devotion and love in getting our magazine out to us. And to you and the other DOB regulars for keeping things going. If it hasn't been said before, it should be! We love you!

Ruth

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FOOTBALL AT DOLORES PARK

or

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, ATtilA THE HUN

Being basically naive, I ventured from my warm apartment last Sunday to take part in what the SISTERS calendar so lightly termed "football at Dolores Park."

My mood on that soft sunny day was one of frivolity: dashing onto field, a rose in hair, teeth glistening in the 2 o'clock shadow of the rolling hills of Dolores. As I look back on those first few fleeting moments of health and jubilance, I don't picture myself as naive anymore. Stupid maybe, but not naive.

My first hint of the battle to come should have occurred to me when I viewed the opposing team in a good light. By the time I discovered they weren't the offensive line of the Green Bay Packers, I had been tackled twice, suffering contusions of the personality and abrasions to my good nature. Then the game started. . .

I will spare you the emotional and physical consequences and a play-by-play description of the mayhem that ensued. I will say only that by half-time, I had maneuvered myself to the position of left end, thereby spending most of my time in the vestibule of Mission Dolores, reading a copy of the Blue Cross Plan.

I am determined, however, to make a mark on women's football in the Bay Area. My first step is to open an insurance office in Boise, Idaho. My second step is to take up tennis.

--Terry Ryan
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