

SPECIAL

IN THIS ISSUE:
I WAS A VESTIBULE
CLIMBING FOR THE GL

CURB
YOUR
THOUGHTS
SF & PD

COB SH-DE

IS NOTHING
SACRED?

SUCKERS

MAY 1972

FIFTY
50¢
US OF A
CENTS

FAR OUT!
WHAT'S YHR SIGN!
HARVEY KRISHNA!

KEEP ON
TRUCKIN'
SISTERS!

HUG!
HUG!

FEMINIST
DIALECTIC
EXISTENTIAL
FEMALE
IDENTIFIED
HOT-CHA
BOOGIE
WOOGIE

FONDLY
FOUNDED

GOOSE!
GOOSE!
LIVE!

BETH
ELLIOTT
SLEPT
HERE



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...

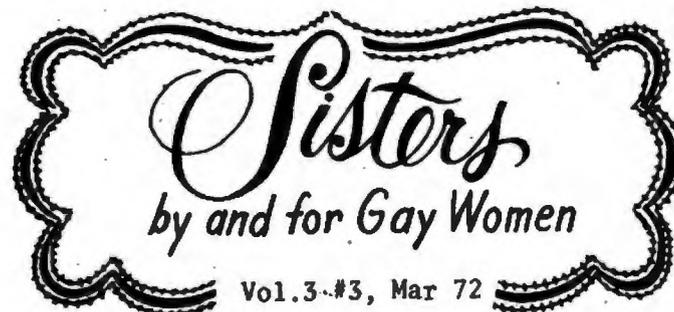
1. To encourage and support the Lesbian in her search for her social, economic, personal, interpersonal and vocational identity within society by maintaining and building a library on the themes of homosexuality and on women; by providing social functions where she can communicate with others and expand 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.



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OUT OF THE BARS AND ON YOUR OWN

When I learned that you had to be 21 to get into the bars in San Francisco, my stomach rather dropped as I realized the loss of possible entry into the city's gay community. I had been counting on bars and organizations for gay liberation to meet other lesbians here, and I then realized that if there were no organizations which I could honestly get into, I would be on my own here. I was depending on the bars and on the movement to let me into a world where I had to be. I had been totally separated from lesbians for about a week on the drive out here and I realized my need to return to a gay world, a world where I could more fully express myself.

Before I got to San Francisco (as well as now) I had mixed feelings about the bar trip. All the cruising, the games, the loneliness can be pretty depressing. Yet I knew that when you had people to go with, to be with, they could be good places to see friends, to socialize, to meet people. I dreaded sitting around by myself in a bar, watching the role-playing; at the same time, if it would provide me with a place where there would be any chance of meeting lesbians to whom I could relate, I would try it. That possibility was destroyed for me when I found out that I couldn't enter a bar even if I wanted to. I was underage, still am. I am twenty years old, will not be corrupted by exposure to liquor and felt that the age restriction was a pretty weak reason for what could possibly turn out to be a door closed to me, keeping me from others.

The second day I was in the city, I went to a GLF meeting at SF State. GLF obviously wasn't going to be the place for me. Neither were most of the gay organizations listed in the papers I had picked up. It was then that I was told about the requirement of 21 for the bars and was told about DOB. DOB at that point looked like the only real possible alternative for me. There was to be a meeting that night; deciding to go was no hassle, but waiting for the meeting time was a period of rapid changes for me. What if it wasn't what I was looking for? What if the people were into

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trips different from mine and wouldn't accept my interests or values? (I had had quite a few problems along that line in good old Columbus, Ohio.) What if...what if...; my head was spinning. On top of that, I was stoned and had images of forgetting everything that was said or happened. I also had strange fantasies about reactions the next time I walked in. In short, I looked forward to the meeting very anxiously.

I went to the rap and felt perfectly comfortable. People in DOB had varied ideas and everyone's ideas were accepted with a fairly open mind. People disagreed, but it seemed to me that everyone's views were respected. This seemed to be a very right place for me.

After the rap I felt left out. Friends grouped to talk to each other; some announced that they were going to Scott's Pit. I longed to go with them, but I was both a stranger and a minor. I felt very lonely.

Several times I tried to go to a bar with new friends, but couldn't get in. It hurt in a way. Here was a place where friends wanted to go, where I wanted to go with them, and couldn't. Yesterday I got into a place where I wasn't carded. For a long time I again felt lonely. I sat with people I met at DOB, but, unable to rap about things that they did a year ago or people they knew, I felt closed out. I sat and watched women in the bar. The role-playing that I saw and all that goes with it depressed me; the fun and warmth I saw in others made me wish that I could join in. I grew moody, moody in a way I hadn't been in a significant while.

After a while I started talking to people and feeling more at home. I think that the bar scene could now be something that I could use positively, but there is the possibility that being underage I will not have that opportunity. I will be disappointed if I am kept out in the future. Bars are not my ideal meeting place, but until there are community centers, I would like the privilege of using them.

by Sandy Katz

BY WOMEN



Karen Wells.

"Hi, Dad. What's happening?"
"Just thought I'd call, find out how you are..."
"Oh, I'm fine Dad. You?"
"Fine.....ah, the Smith's--you know them--they're living out there.....ah, they said you were on T.V. a while ago, 'expousing the gay cause' they said."
(pause)
"Yeh, hah, well, I happen to believe in it."
"Hah, hah, you were always a cause fighter:...."
(pause)
"Well, I guess it's a bit more than a 'cause', Dad..."
"Oh."
(long pause)
"Well, ah, well, whatever makes you happy, I guess."

That conversation with my father was the second most important one in my life. The first was with Phyllis Lyon at CRH, though she didn't know that til later. I came out quickly, considering I was married to a man at the time, putting him through school, working, making a home--the whole wife syndrome. I talked to Phyllis, and to a gay friend Jim, and it was all over, or just begun. At least the guilt was gone now--no more games with my husband (oh, the truth hurt him), no more games with his family. (Mine? No, they'd never understand, not yet.) Pain was part of my rebirth, but what a happy agony.

I've been out about 3 years. I'm 26, no children, didn't want any. I have too many years of education in the ivory tower. My time for the last

four years has been spent trying to liberate myself through others, through battling the walls of prejudice--both inside myself and in others. I only wish that someone (such as I) had spoken to my high school health class. I might have spared a man five years of his life. I might have saved myself from 23 years of lies.

Which is why I speak to those "others"--straights and gays. Why I have been with DOB for nearly 2 years; why I agonize over SISTERS each month; why I don't have a "reg'lar" job and sit in the office to answer the phone; why I write letters; why I get interviewed and appear on T.V. and radio. At least I think that's why.....

I have gone through a terrible period of self-doubt lately. I have taken myself apart because I fear my own ego. What if all I do is just my own ego trip? Am I really helping others to crawl, leap to some light (the light I never had, when I needed it)? Why, who am I and why do I work so hard? (My horoscope says: "Capricorn rising, Leo moon", by one reading. There are others--even my horoscope is confused.) Is it Capricorn or my German father or....? I have spent hours tossing myself around.

I can't get over feeling that, no matter what else goes on within me, I care. I care that others don't go through 23 years of dark as I did. I care that SISTERS gets to you. (I would have given my soul for such a magazine back in St. Louis when I was trying to be.) I can't explain it. Maybe it's not necessary anyway. All I know is that I am afraid of darkness. Scorpio that I am, my own darkness scares me. Light and freedom, whatever those words mean, are my goals. Small though they may be, each step I take to reach others is a step I hope all my sisters may soon take. We are large. The world needs us to be unafraid. I am terrified, but I will fight til there isn't anything more to fight for. It's my own freedom I must have from my own fear, my own oppression. And at least I know that I am not alone.

W O M E N

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I am writing this sketch to SISTERS because I think others might be interested in the unusual situation that I and my lover find ourselves in. To begin with, I have been married to my husband for the past eight years, and I had thought about what it would be like to have a relationship with another woman but never had any opportunity until a year ago when this interesting couple moved in next door. I took one look at her and knew that there would be something more between us than just the usual housewife chit chat over coffee.

Since I had never been involved within a relationship of this nature, I really did not know how to get started with her. I thought about her day and night; I would watch her come and go. I was completely captivated with her. And for some unknown reason, just the way our eyes would meet and the way she would smile, I knew. So after a couple of weeks, I asked her to go for a hike in the woods, and in my way I questioned her on many subjects, especially sex. I learned so much from her in a round about way that I was ready to make my move. I must admit that I was a little frightened because all my dreams could blow up in my face; but I took the bull by the horns and one morning after she had taken her husband to work, I had her in for coffee. My stomach was jumping, my hands were wet--I had never done anything like this before. I asked her to sit down, and while she was sipping her coffee, I told her that I was interested in her in a way that I had never thought could be possible.

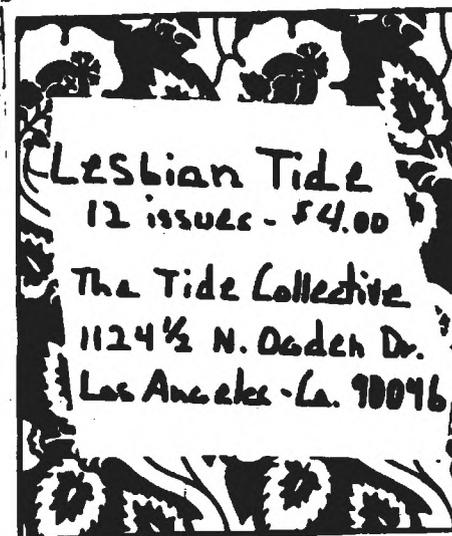
For twelve months now the clandestine affair has been going on completely unknown to our husbands. What is so remarkable about the whole affair is that as heterosexual couples we are the best of friends--alone we two are lovers. The heterosexual marriage is only a convenience and a cover-up. We have considered leaving our husbands and making a life of our own, but we seem trapped by the security our husbands represent, and unable to face the social and family pressures that would result from our divorces. So

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we have decided to remain friends and lovers and enjoy the situation as it stands now. Who knows what the future might hold!

We both enjoy reading SISTERS and we support DOB and the work they are accomplishing for the Lesbian and her role in life. We only wish we were closer so we could work with you.

O and S



Guest Editorial

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does not mean one jot to human life.

If we pursue the so-called societal definitions of male and female with any intelligence, we shall see that such words bear no relevance to humans either. "Feminine behavior" is that which is soft, warm, passive, etc. "Masculine behavior" is the opposite--strong, aggressive. Where fits the aggressive woman, the soft man? Each is supposed, I guess, to be a "feminine man" or a "masculine woman". Fine, but that completely contradicts the very definitions of each word! We are left with only negations, exceptions to the "rule"--which rather than proving the rule ought to toss the rule to the winds. (What incredible logic produced the saying that the exceptions prove the rule?)

Ah. You will say that OK, the definitions of what is male and female are wrong, that they don't really mean anything. BUT, you say, there IS man and woman, two distinct entities with different "essences". Not so fast. If a man has a penis and a woman doesn't, where does that leave the transexual person? Where do you place them, which box? How do you "define" the woman/man--the person with male sex organs and a female self-image? Or the man/woman who has no penis but is male-identified? Or that person who is both, or neither, who feels no identification with either gender? Just where are they in your mind?

Shall we try to box? Well, there is the female, and there is the female who has aggressive masculine traits, then there is the female who is a man, then there is the female who is neither/both, then there is the man who is neither/both, then the man who is a woman, and the feminine man, and then there is the man, and then...We could box ourselves into a corner. I suggest that such verbal harrassment stop. Who are we to say who anyone else is, what box of ours they should fit? I suggest that people be left as people, on the continuum of human experience/feeling. I suggest that attempting to define human essence is just one more example of prejudice, of fear, or, quite frankly, of genocide. People must be left

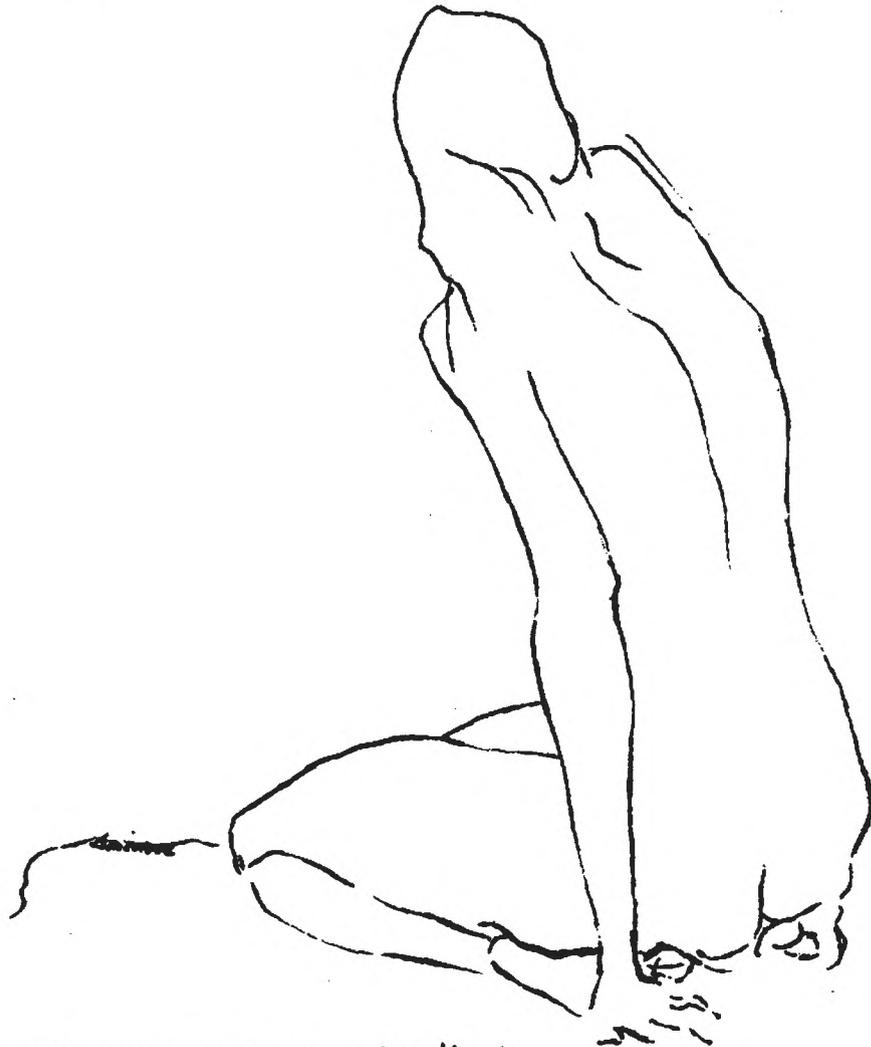
In this culture it is customary to define, delimit, designate all things as "right" or "wrong", moral or immoral, male or female, ad absurdum. The roots of our ever growing need to box comes, in part, from the incredible number of things, people, life styles, informations, electronic equipments invading our lives. Rather than try to accommodate all the changes, it is far easier to box up certain vagarities of our experience into boxes, verbal fences, attitudinal files. For example, each of the following words is a box: a manila envelope containing feelings: hippie, commie, queer (at worst) or Republican, university, welfare science and technology, god, U.S.A. (Amerika), Viet Nam.....Nearly every word we use has infinite connotations. And depending on our individual ability to assimilate, read, contemplate, meditate, think, each category of experience becomes (or does not become) learning, knowledge. I would like to toss out two words whose meanings have become to me virtually meaningless, because my meditations, thoughts, feelings about them have been colored and enriched to the point that they no longer fit the boxes I had for them in my mental file box. And, as a matter of fact, simply have defied definition completely.

I propose to do away utterly with the words "male" and "female", since such words do not describe any human being I know. The dictionary definition says that "male" designates the male of any species, that is, the bearer of sperm. The female, therefore, is the receiver of the sperm and thus the fertile soil into which life is implanted. It is impossible for me, as a Lesbian, to relate to that, since I perform no such fertilizing rites. Now where does that leave me? Amorphous jelly with no relation to human "femaleness"? And what of the gay man? He is in the same place as I, not performing his "maleness". So, obviously the strict biological definition, based upon certain acts or performances

alone, free of opinion, of judgment, free to be
male/female/both/neither/? all at once, if need be.
And only then will we open our souls to the winds of
the heavens flowing between us.

Anonymous

SISTERS welcomes any and all expressions of opinion.
Please send your expressions to Guest Editorial,
SISTERS, 1005 Market #208, S.F., Ca. 94103., by the
15th of the month preceeding each issue.



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Lagniappe

MARCH
(a poem)

It is a frozen quiet, moonlit night
on this freshest snow, on this mountainside
where we come and go
with arms full of bundles, hearts of loving...
and there is no one else here but us.

I love you.

Somewhere across the miles (I close my eyes)
the ocean smiles in its soft shore caress.
The sheep move silently as they graze
the rolling hillsides by the old coast fence...
The days we spent there are very real just now.

I love you.

Still sweeping our minds back in time,
I hold your hand, watch that oldest river flow
past where we stand,
and know its movement gave me mine,
sent me off to Colorado to find your heart.

I love you.

You and me, California, Tennessee,
in our life-song, on this same mountainside
where only we belong
is everything I'll ever need, or want,
and there is no one else here but us.

I love you.

Stuber

NOTE--I have just finished reading LESBIANS
SPEAK OUT, the anthology done by Carol, Natalie,
Ellen and Pat of the Free Women's Press. To
them I say "thank you, it's fine". To
everyone else, "get your hands on it." And if
Judy Grahn's one entry is in any way indicative
of her poetry collection, (both of which are
available--ask DOB) then it should prove to be
just as well done.

Women Lawyers Speak on Discrimination

Does the law discriminate against gay women in child custody cases? No. Do the courts? Yes. So say Sarita Waite and Sue Bender, gay women lawyers from the East Bay who were guests at the Feb. 2 rap at DOB.

Just what are the rights of Lesbian mothers? According to Mss. Waite and Bender, there has already been a court decision stating that homosexuality is not grounds for declaring a woman an unfit mother. The problem is judicial prejudice, which can always manifest itself indirectly, tainting the entire court proceedings. Now that custody is determined by what would be in the best interests of the child (formerly it was given to the mother automatically unless she were proven "unfit"), it is easier for a judge to deny a Lesbian mother her children. Any woman who has not stayed "in her place", and this ranges from seeing a lawyer on her own initiative to loving another woman, will notice demeaning inflections in the judge's voice and other subtle demonstrations of contempt that will not show in a transcript of the proceedings.

More blatantly sexist are law schools. Until 1962 women applying to Boalt Hall were told, "We don't want you; if you insist on entering we'll just flunk you anyway." A typical male instructor's attitude was, "All women lawyers are either corrupt or unethical or inept." Until two years ago, Hastings College of Law had an annual "ladies day" on which female students were asked questions designed to make them look thoroughly stupid.

Today women comprise 25% of all law students, despite these harrassments and the difficulties of getting financial assistance. It is not uncommon for a married woman to have to work her way through school while her husband is awarded a scholarship.

When asked which sex comprised the majority of their clients, Sue and Sarita replied that although they were sought out more by men at first, now their clients are mostly women with the feeling that their male lawyers were not quite acting in their best

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SUE BENDER



LINDA WESLEY



SARITA WAITE.....

interests ("really f---ing them over"). In the courts, they went on, there has been an anti-female backlash for the past two years. As the law moves toward equality, the outcome of all cases will reflect more of society's attitudes toward women.

As far as intrasexual marriages are concerned, it is difficult to tell whether these can be established through test cases. Interpretations of a law take semantics into account: what the wording means in light of the customs and prejudices of the times. This matter, then, may remain unresolved for some time.

In closing, our lawyer sisters said that now they would encourage women to enter the legal field, mostly because it is an area where women can make important contributions to the struggle for women's rights.

by Beth Elliott

*a graphic notebook
on feminism
in negro*

Times Change Press
1023 Sixth Ave., New York N.Y. 10018

LESBIAN/FEMINIST NEWSPAPER

COMING OUT MONTHLY

\$5 a. year

the FURIES

219 11th St. S.E.

Wash. D.C. 20003



Pisces, the last sign of the Zodiac, is ruled by Neptune. Women born with their sun in Pisces display a water sign's emotional and intuitive qualities. Pisces and Neptune are associated with mysticism and many Pisceans have a well-developed sixth sense.

Piscean women are at home in many different kinds of surroundings. They absorb people and situations with their senses, mental faculties and emotions all at once. Their impressionable and sympathetic natures draw them to people who need help. These qualities can make trouble for Pisceans who are unable to say No to anyone who needs sustance (emotional or financial). Thus Neptune-ruled women may find their energies drained off and their talents spread too thin to help anyone.

As lovers, Pisceans prefer that others make the first move. They would rather persuade than push. If things don't work out well, Piscean women often go on a self-sacrifice binge rather than become involved in hysterical scenes. A unique kind of muddle-headed charm characterises some of these women--they don't appear to know quite what is going on around them, but they still manage to come out on top of things.

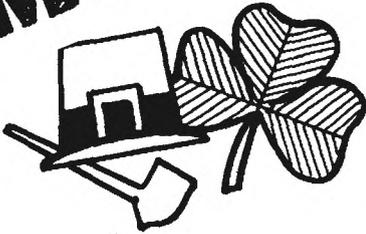
Following a routine is not generally a Piscean forte. These women need to find their own inner rhythm for functioning in day-to-day living. If they don't find this rhythm, they can become very restless and prone to every known form of over-indulgence and escapism. If they can discover this inner pattern, their gentleness and creativity will flourish.

Compatible signs: Scorpio (sometimes), Cancer, Taurus. Leo, Aries, Gemini are not particularly good for a Pisces.

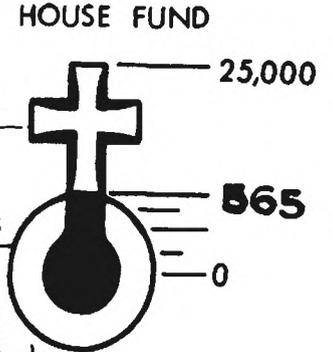
by Charleen Pyron

EVENTS

MARCH



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			Open Rap 1	2	3	4
Football 5	Office open 6	7	Rap 8	9	10	11
Rick Stokes 12	13	14	Rap 15	16	Bus.Mtg. 17	18
Football 19	20	21	Rap 22	23	Party 24	DANCE! 25
Bake Sale 26	27	28	Rap 29	30	31	



- Mar. 1 - Open rap for new DOBers and older, 7 PM, DOB office
- Mar. 5 & 19 - Football at Dolores Park, 1 PM
- Mar. 8 - Lois opens rap on the subject of "men:?", 7 PM, DOB office
- Mar. 12 - Rick Stokes, lawyer, and candidate for Community College Board, will speak on the issues of the school board. FREE (donations accepted). 150 Landers #4, 2 PM. (150 Landers is between Church & Dolores off 15th St.)
- Mar. 15 - Barbara F. takes rap off on "Free will", 7 PM, DOB office.
- Mar. 22 - Del Martin talks about the candidates for the Dem nomination, especially Chisholm. 7 PM, DOB office: try not to miss this one!
- Mar. 24 - Del and Phyl have a get together for "older women" at their home. See announcements this issue for particulars.
- Mar. 25 - ANOTHER DANCE FOR HOUSE FUND - this time at the Alternative Futures Commune, 2012 Pine, S.F. \$1.00, 50¢ beer. 9 PM. COME OUT AND SUPPORT BOTH THE COMMUNE AND DOB.
- Mar. 26 - Bake Sale at 330 Ellis St., the Glide Church. Come get goodies. Morning.
- Mar. 29 - open rap, DOB office, 7 PM.
- MAR. 17th is our business meeting night. All women are welcome. 8 PM, DOB office.

ArenaThree

ARENA THREE, BMC/SEAHORSE, LONDON, W.C.1.

ALICE B. BRUIN
S22:



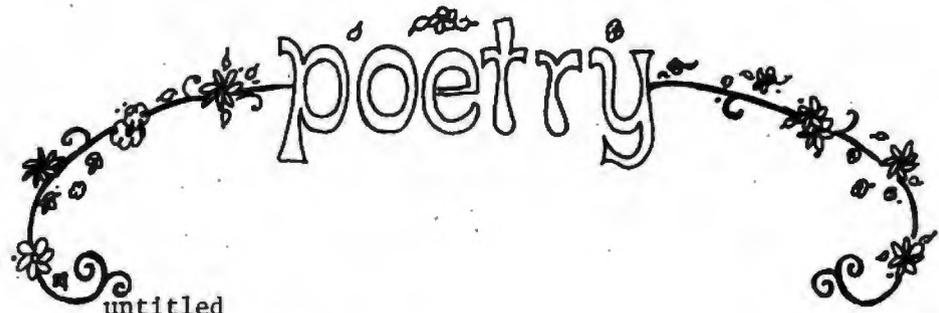
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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Order from DOB, 1005 Market #208, S.F., Ca. 94103
Mailed in a plain envelope.



untitled

What are you doing now

my pine tree daughter,
shouldering your plastic gun again
or fighting in the rocky water?

Come here a bit and talk with me

we're safe from your indians for the day
put your cap-gun and tomahawk away
and help me make our supper.

And what are you doing now

my oldest daughter
why do you ride round the country side
playing guitar and painting pictures?

It's time you started a family

but when I say so you laugh at me
and where is it you go night and day?

"I go to win a girl, mother."

--Marsha Hunt Wolfe

untitled

There is no part of me
that does not fit or complement
a part of you.

Is that love

chance

or

temporary perfection?

--Obllio

untitled

Fuck most of it--
 it makes me crazy
 watching the Jews walk to Saturday services
 and the old man across the street shoveling his walk
 (maybe he'll have a coronary)
 (is it possible to achieve a state of mental coronary?)
 almost--

second-degree demented.

--Obliv

At An Exhibition of Picasso Erotica

I wander naked in the crowd
 Thinking of you.
 Last night our lips flowered
 Our minds became meadows.

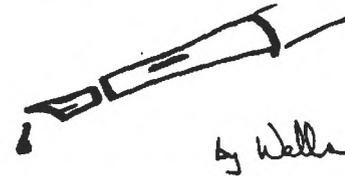
The figures: all are you.

The crowd rapes
 On line and curve
 What is mine in marble
 Mine in air.

I wash the ink from your eyes.
 I take you gently
 To a sloping meadow.

You are
 Too beautiful to share.

--Claire Baker



A couple years ago, there were a number of women's liberation magazines, APHRA for example. These seemed to go by the wayside, filling a need but not really going onward. A recent women's magazine has come out, calling herself THE SECOND WAVE. Again a responsible, potent women's liberation magazine is being published, hopefully not to go the way of all others. The issue sent to me is the third and very good. Included in this issue is an article by Ellen Chambers on "Lesbianism: A Political, Cultural, Personal View" which says some very pertinent things about the relationship between the women's movement and the Lesbian movement. It is obvious to most of us that the struggle for women's rights is our struggle, too, because we are women. Ms. Chambers correctly observes: "We cannot afford to say 'I don't need abortions' or 'I don't need child care' and fail to get the laws changed." Our commitment to lesbianism is our commitment to women's freedoms. We may be the vanguard of women's liberation, being free from male-defined roles, but we cannot sit on those laurels. No one is free until all women are free. The article explores, among other things, the phenomenon of the "nouveau Lesbian", the woman who finds herself a woman-identified woman within the women's movement and chooses to become gay. Such a complex problem deserves much thought and this article is not long enough to treat it fully, but this is still the first (to my knowledge) serious attempt to define the situation compassionately and reasonably. Whoever Ms. Chambers is, she is an asset to women, as is this new magazine. (See below for address and sub rates.)

Also before me is the first issue of MATRIX, the small poetry/prose volume I mentioned last month. And this issue is as incredible as the second issue reviewed last month. To repeat, the address to write to is P.O. Box 46067, Los Angeles, Ca.

90046; \$2.00 mailed. I don't remember as complete a collection of celebrations of woman anywhere.

A small magazine to watch grow (which delights me) is LESBIAN TIDE, published from L.A. (Out of ten million people, some really interesting creations are given birth). Its focus is women in general--ideas, news, directions, activities. The Lesbian aspect of the magazine is not of most importance (which seems to be the consensus of several other formerly Lesbian publications such as MOTHER.) The feeling is that Lesbians are women and that woman things need to be more openly Lesbian things, too. The TIDE covers L.A. news well (remarkably so for its small size). The magazine is getting some good cover graphics and should take off very soon into a printed format (it is now mimeographed). A magazine to watch. See ad for details on subs.

Through our ad in GAY SUNSHINE, S.F.'s radical gay male newspaper, the Times Change Press found SISTERS. They sent along some review copies of their 1972 releases. And several of them are boldly right on. My special favorite (so far) is A Graphic Notebook on Feminism by Su Negrin, which is a collage of poetry, photos and graphics by and about women. For example, there is a photo of Isadora Duncan and a quote (always one of my personal favorites): "Any woman who reads the marriage certificate and then goes through with it deserves what she gets..." Having been married, I really identify with that. This little notebook won't appeal to your reason; it is not, for once, heavy rhetorical feminism--it is one woman's view in each photo/quote, of what being a thinking/feeling woman is all about, and it is right on. It is graphic, gross, funny--but then so are women; it is heroic, heavy, revolutionary--but then so are women. Its price: \$1.25. See below for ordering. Other titles are: Free Space: A Perspective on the Small Group in Women's Liberation; Come out: Selections from the Radical Gay Liberation Newspaper; and Hip Culture: 6 Essays on Revolutionary Potential. Altogether, the press offers a lot in the way of inexpensive material, well-bound, well-documented, and well done.



HOMOSEXUALITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING by Dr. Mark Freedman, Wadsworth Pub., 1971.

This book is a refreshing change from "arm chair theorizing" and the attitudes of psychologists who assume homosexuals are "sick" or at best perverse. Freedman presents a variety of opinions and studies ranging from Albert Ellis' view of exclusive homosexuals as being "borderline psychotics" to Evelyn Hooker's studies showing that homosexuals perform as well as heterosexuals in the normal range of personality tests.

Dr. Freedman surveys several theories of the causes of homosexuality. The ideas of Freud, Adler, Ellis, Cory and other behavioral psychologists are considered. Freedman examines these ideas and concludes that 1) no theory has ever managed to trace homosexuality to one cause and 2) that psychologists have not yet to prove psychological disturbances to be the cause or result of homosexuality.

One chapter of particular interest is a discussion of cultural descriptions of homosexuals as "sick." Dr. Freedman presents an example of gambling as having been called "sick" by society.

"Gambling is not literally a disease...there is no one...causal agent....The sequence of behavior is not the same for all gamblers, and there is no prognosis for this "sickness"....Whether we should try to "cure" gambling is a value judgment based on personal bias and individual background."

The parallel to society's judgment of homosexual behavior is obvious. Freedman continues: "The view of people who engage in homosexual behavior as "mentally ill" is manifestly inappropriate."

The book contains results from studies of the last twenty-five years. It is important to note that the majority of recent studies (homosexual groups tested on personality inventories along with heterosexual groups of similar backgrounds) resulted in no major differences between these groups.

The sheer number and diversity of opinions suggests that psychology has far to go in defining the behavioral patterns of homosexuals. Dr. Freedman states that we particularly need a workable definition of "normalcy." The criteria for this definition should be that "It must correspond fairly closely to the reality of living; second, it must guide us in decisions of what phenomena to accept as part of the diversity and richness of living."

If we include these criteria, Dr. Freedman believes we have a better opportunity for creating "a new climate of respect for diversity and acceptance of individual differences."

By Charleen Pyron

Reflections of My Mind by Jeannine L. Drolet

In this collection of essays and poems, Ms. Drolet illustrates the enigma of women in prison. Incarcerated within San Bruno county jail for eight months, she has had much time to wander through herself, remapping her psyche.

The poems are more or less prose in style and generally pause to show highlights in her personal analysis. Some are brilliantly reflective; some are slightly saccharin, attributable perhaps to her awareness of the cellblock of censorship and general sexism.

Her polite inferences to the political structure that placed her in prison can be seen in "Stumblin' thoughts, left unspoken
Grasping a head full of uncertainties
asking no favors for my mistakes
as I stand before the trial of my soul
with time for Jury awaiting to prosecute."

Jeannine writes much about time, for, in prison, time in the only commodity of which there is too much.

by Linda Wesley



Editor:

Thank you for your time, concern, and SISTERS. Lynn and I were so damned excited to receive your letter and the mag that we didn't stop reading until we were finished with the whole thing. We don't have very many gay friends so it's nice to know our sisters aren't very far away. I think what you're doing is beautiful. I can't wait until the next issue. We both send our love. Keep on truckin'.

gld wbo

Dolores and Lynn

Editor:

Thanks for your acknowledgement and help. It's good to have your warm letters. Appreciate your help for our community and sisters in this area (Dallas, Tex.)

Keep writing when you can--it's an encouragement to hear from sisters of intelligent purpose and dedication--besides, at 41, I've finally discovered I'm a lesbian as well as a homosexual!

Rob
Dallas

Editor:

Boy, the last two issues of SISTERS were really great. Pictures are important. You know what? We all aren't as ugly as we're made to believe. I like to see the people who are conveying ideas to me.

Pen pals are a great idea--I could use some.

I enjoyed Terry's football story. I can't play. I'm 4' 10" tall and they'd kill me. I'm too little.

Good luck and lots of love from cold Indiana.

Betty Terry

Editor:

I know it's not much--but at the present, it's all I can do towards the building fund. I do still hope to help contribute to the wonderful magazine you good gals put out each month, and hopefully, we can help in other ways.

Bless you all in the work you do for others--such as we!

Love and God Bless,
Kathie

Editor:

What a beautifully proud way to start the new year! The front cover on the January issue says more than words ever could--it is almost an emotion in itself. Please convey my appreciation to Ms. Farmer for such a beautiful work of art. Would there be any chance of getting a pen and ink drawing of that cover for my wall? Congratulations on the progress of SISTERS. It is getting better by the issue!
God Bless.

Shalom,
Vivian Nelson

Editor:

Yes, SISTERS is improving and in just over a year's time, it has come a long way--but even though the articles, format, and quality of paper have improved, there is still a long way to go:

- #1. Typographical errors!
- #2. Wasted space!
- #3. Lousy stapling!
- #4. Some covers really bad--meaning--of no value to the lesbian community; though some have improved.

High hopes and good luck,
B.J.L.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

35 or older?

Want some parties with music that doesn't blast your eardrums--that you can dance to? Want to find a congenial group of your peers whom you can rap with in a relaxed atmosphere? There's no need to feel lonely or isolated or "left out." A reunion of "old times" of DOB et al will be held at Del and Phyl's, 651 Duncan St., San Francisco (phone 824-2790) 8 P.M., Friday, March 24th. Come and help get it together for the "life begins" group of gay women.

DOB on the air

Lawrence Lee, Program Director for KPFA (FM 94) in Berkeley, has requested DOB participation in a series of gay community commentaries which will begin in March on KPFA. DOB will program one half-hour per month, which will be heard in rotation with speakers from SIR, GAA, and, most likely, the Gay Sunshine collective. The shows will be heard at 6 P.M. Sunday, immediately preceding the KPFA news, and will be done live, in order to permit telephone questions from the audience.

Remember MOTHER?

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Last month, MOTHER went underground to contemplate changes to the publication, and to evaluate its presentation and content. MOTHER has recently emerged from this re-evaluation as PROUD WOMAN, a 12-page tabloid with more than double the in-depth interviews, features, and interviews it had previously. It will be published bi-monthly, and will feature art work, graphics, and poetry, in addition to the normal news and features. Renewal rates for present subscribers will remain the same; however, new subscription rates have increased, due to the new format.

Lesbian Press (Mother Publications News Release)

The lesbian press in the United States has a circulation of 14,000 according to a study under way by PROUD WOMAN, a women's newspaper published by Mother Publications. However, the same study also shows that of the major male homosexual publications, at least three of them were able to pay staff salaries, while none of the lesbian publications did.

The study also found that there are more than sixty women's movement publications, and only five of these devoted editorial space to lesbian issues and activities.

The complete study, entitled "The women's and lesbian press," will be available from PROUD WOMAN later this year for 50¢ at P.O. Box 8507, Stanford, Calif. 94305.

NEWS --- VIEWS

The Great Courtship Begins:

Democrats Seek Our Favors.....

No less than three presidential candidates will have openly gay potential delegates on their slates for the California primary this year. Topping the list is Shirley Chisholm, with five delegates and one alternate, including Beth Elliott and Del Martin. Says Beth, "a vote for Shirley is a vote for a typical Beth Elliott mind-blower in Miami."

Jim Foster of SIR was chosen as a McGovern Delegate, receiving at the 5th District caucus a vote total second only to that of Assemblyman Willie Brown. At the McGovern Southern California Steering Committee meeting, where final choice of delegates was made, 18 attempts to disqualify Foster were made, mostly by blacks, on the grounds that he is a white male over 30 -- or so they said.

Vance Hartke's slate also contains a gay delegate.

Major presidential hopefuls for the Democratic party have a wide range of commitment (or non-commitment) to women's rights. Here are some views from each on the subject. (Watch future issues of SISTERS for more in-depth examination of each.)

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM is a woman and in her own words has "suffered more discrimination as a woman than as a black." She has a good record on child care programs, abortion, and gay rights. Probably our best candidate.

HUBERT HUMPHREY's record on many things is conservative, including his attitude about women. This man would not budge too much under women's lobby pressure. Many think he could beat Nixon, but what's the point--he's just as bad.

EDWARD KENNEDY gives lip service to women's rights but his record is terrible. He doesn't take women very seriously.

PETE McCLOSKEY is shakey at best on women's issues.

It remains to be seen if he can accept the flack apparently being flung at him by his wife, etc., on the subject.

GEORGE McGOVERN is at war now with McCarthy on who can say the most liberal things about gays and women. Besides McCarthy and Chisholm, he is probably the most concerned over women's issues, having a woman on his staff working full-time on the problem. Again, one should watch and wait to see what he says in confrontations. He has made some good policy statements on equal rights for gay people.

EDMUND MUSKIE is vague on the subject, to say the least. He is not going to rectify our wrongs, being pretty much a party man with a good chance of the nomination. He won't rock any boats.

EUGENE McCARTHY is probably the only man who practices what he preaches about women. Women hold significant jobs in his campaign and get good salaries. He is opposed to tokenism and would like to see some shake-ups within government to allow more mobility for women to take over major positions. He is strong on gay rights-- he suggested that he would close FBI files completely thereby securing security clearances for gays in political office. Aside from Chisholm, our best hope.

(Many observations upon candidates courtesy of MS. Magazine, Spring Preview Issue.)

Ms. Subscription Department
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017 MS-P

Please put my name on the subscription list for Ms. Magazine. I understand I will receive Volume 1, Number 1 of Ms. when publication begins in the late Spring of 1972 and at that time, you will bill me just \$9.00 for the first 12 issues.

Ms. _____
Mr. _____

Address _____

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Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club

In the interests of pulling more political weight for the gay community, a new Democratic Club has been founded in The City with the name The Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club. Affiliated with the California Council of Democratic Clubs, which has already made recommendations that a gay civil rights plank be included in the 1972 Democratic platform, the ABTMDC will attempt to raise consciousness and set off a chain reaction of concern for gay rights.

The club presently has two representatives in the County Council of Democratic Clubs: Beth Elliott and Rick Stokes. Stokes shares a law practice with his lover, David Clayton, and is running for the SF Community College Board.

Club dues are \$2.00 per year (CDC minimum), and a number of social events are planned to raise money and interact with other Democratic Clubs. For more information- contact Beth through DOB.

MAGAZINE REVIEWS:

Stepping out with Ms. Steinem and Ms. Harold into a WOMAN'S WORLD.....

NEW WOMAN

You can buy this magazine, like so many other "women's magazines", in your local drugstore. Flip through the latest issue and you will find features such as a fashion layout of a woman and her two children, an article on a young couple at home with photos of meal preparation, and a column entitled "Divorce Dilema" which tells of a woman whose extramarital affair has taken much pressure off her marriage. Now look again--the woman in the fashion photos is a divorcee who willingly gave up custody of her children; it is the husband who is doing the cooking; the extramarital affair is with another woman.

New Woman is, strange as it may seem, feminism pushed by traditional "feminine wiles." The editorial stance is the familiar "of course we agree with the ideas but not those weird tactics" not as a cop-out but as a taking off point for definite positive action. The magazine will undoubtedly draw criticism for a "bourgeois" orientation, but

it is this very format that will enable it to reach those oppressed women whose only other contact with feminism would be through the distortions of the media. As Gloria Steinem said recently, it is these women we need to reach and we must speak to them in terms they can relate to.

But what really separates New Woman from the traditional women's magazine is its responsiveness to the Lesbian community. The matter-of-fact inclusion of relevant material is beautifully subversive. This, in the context of the magazine's format, will do much to free straight women from the distorted images and subsequent fears exploited by anti-feminist dyke-baiters. In doing so, it will bring all women closer together.

MS.

Someone has finally combined the high intellectual calibre of the better of the local feminist newspapers with the slick form and mass production of the leading nationwide magazines, and a right on! is in order. Editor Gloria Steinem's intent is to pursue the policy of soliciting original articles as well as reprinting the best of smaller publications. The result, already evident, should be a more effective articulation and dissemination of current feminist thinking.

The articles are, for the most part, excellent. We regret, however, the preview edition's inadequate coverage of Lesbian issues. There was but one article of any relevance, "Can Women Love Other Women", and it was (deservedly) tucked away in the back pages. Surely we could have had something better than a pictureless interview with an anonymous woman who had recently entered her first Lesbian relationship. We could have also done without her inane and uncalled-for chiding of women whose discovery of their homosexual orientation was not the direct result of involvement in the women's movement. We hope such sloppy journalism will be absent from future issues.

Otherwise, MS. shows great promise. Of high quality in appearance and content, it should become a formidable mouthpiece for the women's movement.

NOTE: Isabel Miller's novel A Place For Us, reviewed in November SISTERS, is now available in a hardbound edition from McGraw-Hill called Patience and Sarah. It can be obtained from Tro-Harper here in S.F. also.

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

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San Francisco, Ca. 94103
(415) 861-8689

DOB Los Angeles: 1910 S. Vermont Ave.
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DOB Detroit: Box 244 Greenfield Station,
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DOB Atlanta: 1620 Hollywood Rd., N.W.
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COVER: Beth Elliott

This issue is dedicated with love to JUDI, SISTERS' staff graphic artist whose column headings and designs have graced SISTERS for many months.

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