

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

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

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

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

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

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

TO SAY AND BELIEVE THAT GAY IS GOOD.

SISTERS



a magazine by and for gay women

vol. 3 no. 12

original art, poetry, news,
articles & photography

twelve issues - \$5.00

1005 market, suite 208, s.f. 94103

This issue is dedicated to the past staff members, especially The Editor, Karen Wells. We miss you.

Sisters Collective

The previous staff of SISTERS has resigned. This issue was hastily assembled by the Sisters Collective (a group of officers and interested members). Only one of the group has had previous experience in putting out a magazine, so we would appreciate some feedback. Please send us a short note expressing your views on the magazine. Tell us what you liked, what you did not like, what we should add, and so on. This is YOUR magazine, and we are here to see that you get what you want. Please let us know what that is...

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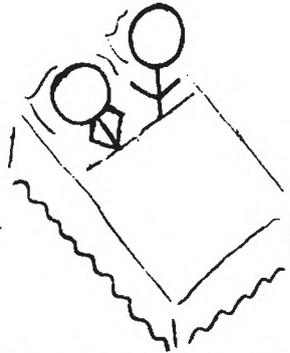
Sisters Collective

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LESBIANISM

by Marley



I told my mother we were married and she sent us twin-size bed sheets!

COUNCIL ON RELIGION & THE HOMOSEXUAL SEMINAR

For the past few years, C.R.H. has had "learning sessions" for interested people in those professions which directly or indirectly affect (or even inhibit) the Gay life-styles and the Gay community.

The purpose of this yearly seminar is to create more understanding of Gay people and to dismiss the myth of the "sick queer". It is also hoped that once we, as Gay people, are accepted as persons with varied ways of expressing ourselves, we can move more freely in directions we choose, without being inhibited by society's laws, attitudes, and expectations of us.

At this year's seminar, the professionals consisted of psychiatrists, social workers and clergymen. They came from all over the country and paid \$50. each for the four-day seminar.

In the first two days, we dealt with male homosexuals and the issues of immediate importance to them. In the last two days, we dealt with Lesbian women and our oppression, as well as our new life-styles and the many advantages we have discovered - independence, self-pride, honesty, lack of pre-constructed relationships. Skin flicks were shown for 45 minutes which, unfortunately, were mostly phallic-oriented. One exception was a well-praised film called HOLDING with a Lesbian couple in the woods, loving one another.

During the last two days, the Lesbian women mixed with the professionals. We broke into groups, each group having two Lesbian "enablers".

As an enabler, I was there to answer questions and to express my thoughts to the professionals. This was part of the re-education of the straights, and I hope that they learned how it really is for us as Lesbian women. I told them at one time I had to be a liar, a prostitute, selling out my values for money, playing somebody I was not.

Over all, most of the participants came to learn and accept us more as we are. A very few had a clinical approach. One of the clergymen in my group asked, "if circumstances were different, couldn't I still be straight?" I'd thought he was okay up to that point. He'd come on as really cool, liberal and accepting of me as a Lesbian person. I was disappointed when he made his statement because he had won my confidence and I had been open with him. Still, he had not given me credit as a thinking individual, capable of making a choice. He didn't accept me as a Lesbian woman, saying that I didn't look like one and didn't come on like a stomper, screaming and laying my values on him. I asked him if he thought he could handle it if his son were Gay. He didn't know. "So my friends, when the issue hits close to home, you'll find out how it really is - right??" I'm sure he is doing a lot of thinking about how "Liberated" he really is...

I feel good that I was part of the re-educational experience, because I touched a lot of minds and souls. I also realize again how Lesbians are under-represented at Gay teach-ins, etc. I found that when people speak of homosexuals they forget about Lesbians and flash first on males, yet Lesbians are different than male homosexuals.

There are minorities within the Lesbian community who weren't represented at the Seminar. Why?? Maybe they feel alone?? Other reasons?? No one knows who you are or where your head is at unless you tell them. No one knows the problems you have had laid on you unless you tell them.

We've got to stay together and encourage other Lesbian women to produce, create, and materialize their thoughts, dreams and plans into a reality so that we can share at the next seminar or any other opportunity we get. We are all valuable and should be proud of breaking out of our conditioning and developing our own beautiful life-styles!!!

--Kathi Hoffman

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GRAY HAIRS

At twenty-five I had four
or five gray hairs, all in the
front, which I prized as signs
of maturity and alienation from
my uneventful youth. I combed
my hair carefully to make them show,
and settled into a ditch of regularity.
And then I met a tall blond laughing
girl who ran with me on the sands of a
foam-flecked beach and listened
intently with her eyes as I stammered
out what I knew about myself.
Somehow the tree frogs were always
singing and the moon was wise in its'
silence as we watched the turtles plod
in from the sea. We walked past
surf-smooth driftwood and gently,
tenderly, felt our way around each
other's souls. We coaxed hermit crabs
out of their stolen homes and chased
the gulls smashing clams on the rocks.
And I went home and pulled out all my
proud, gray hairs.....

Virginia A. Mc Connell

FLO'S POEM

in the depth of us you try to find yourself
as if you could be one among us all
all hand waving, flag waving, waving good-bye,
falling down, going down, downing each other
drowning in brown earth skin
burning it, turning it down....

we are the firstborn, bearing nothing
baring our souls that are shrouds
our poems repose white sheeted words unspoken
love words, we suppose, loving,
being lovers in silence....
the loved never knowing they are loved.
the unloved love....

and fingers never touch..hands are raised
for questions
fists are clenched for fighting
shoving love away, like babies' food,
like dogs shivering....
too dumb or too afraid to take an offered bed....

but, we are human after all. our feet dancing
traversing wide, waltzing child-like loops
we still move, but the dance is tight circles
around ourselves....

in the nearing of the lonely years
you are trying not to disappear
within this glossy surface of our time,
raising a hand
you are a yellow flower in a field of
broken glass....

R. Anthony



...what can a pastor say to a homosexual who comes for help, advice, direction and spiritual comfort? First, know that God loves you and Christ had died for you. God created you in love, and Christ in love, for you, as you are, died for you. You are o.k.; do not feel guilty, do not be ashamed, be proud that God has created you.

...I hope what I have written will lead to further discussion and clarification of the role of sex now and in the future, in the redemption and fulfillment of man--so that 'there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.' (Gal. 3:29)
U. S. Catholic, Sept. 1972, Father Henry Fehren.

Recently I was contacted by Boyce Hinman who is on the Committee for Gays and Religion in the San Francisco area. The Committee "...would like to challenge the churches in our city and elsewhere to face up to their responsibility to Gay women and men." Boyce spoke to me about some of the committee's ideas and suggestions concerning the "Christian" attitude toward the Gay population. For many years, I too have been concerned about the shitty stands the Churches and the "straight" congregations have taken toward us. The main goal of the Committee on Gays and Religion is to change these biased attitudes toward us. One way for this to be accomplished is to provide the Churches and "straight" congregations with a healthy outlook toward the homophile life style. Several ways of doing this should be:

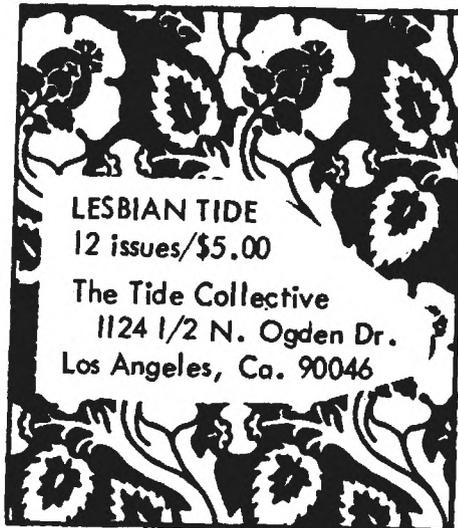
1) For the Churches and "straight" congregation to realize that there is no theological, moral, or psychological foundation for their prejudicial concepts,

2) With this enlightenment, some of the functions of the Churches should be modified or adapted to meet the needs of their homophile congregation,

3) In conjunction with modifying present functions, the Churches should formulate new services to meet the needs of the Gay populace.

In order to reach this goal we need the help and support of all Gay Sisters and Brothers. If you too are concerned about this issue, please contact Paula McCorkel c/o DOB or Boyce Hinnax c/o SIR. Together in Christ we will conquer the "straight souls."

--Paula McCorkel



SHORTCHANGED...

The Council on Economic Priorities recently published a study on Minorities and Women in Banking. Published as the Sept./Oct. 1972 supplement, "Supplement, Shortchanged--Minorities and Women in Banking" catalogues the statistical breakdown of population, employment and executive ratios of seven major banks in six East Coast cities.

CEP's report also goes into detail regarding bank loan policies to minorities and women.

One example of bank discrimination is the First National Bank of Washington. The total female labor force of Washington, D. C. is 47%, while the percentage of female bank employees is 57%. Yet, the number of women in executive positions is about 9%. Another example is the First Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The city-wide labor pool is 41% female, and the bank employee ratio is a high of 60%. Women in executive positions, however, number a mere 7%.

An interesting graph shows the percentage of "First Time Promotions to Officer, 1970." The National Bank of Washington promotes:

Males		Females	
White	Minority	White	Minority
83.3	4.2	12.5	0

With data like this it's obvious there is some blatant ignoring of Title VII. However, we all remember that not long ago, at all, there was a thing called slavery.

--Linda Wesley

DECEMBER

Wednesday Night Raps:
(.50 Members
\$1.00 Non-members)

6th - "Earthquake Facts"

Noreen

13th - "Coming Out"

Chris

20th - "Giving - From
the head or the
heart"

Diane

27th - "If the world were
gay - would you
be?"

Marley

						1	2
3	4 Board Mtg. 7 p.m.	5	6 RAP 7 p.m.	7	8 Business Mtg. 8 p.m.	9	
10	11 Rita Mae Brown	12 First Aid Quake	13 RAP 7 p.m.	14	15	16 Auto Opening/ S.O.L.	
17 Motor- cycle Ride	18 Orient- ation Nite	19	20 RAP 7 p.m.	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27 RAP 7 p.m.	28	29	30 Book Club	
31 New Year Party	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	

sunday

House Fund

- goal \$7500⁰⁰



- now \$1514.46

- Dec. 16th- S.O.L Party (over 35), 8 p.m. at 651 Duncan St., S.F., Phil & Del's, don't call, just come.
- Dec. 17th- Motorcycle ride to Nut Tree - contact Debbie at 527-3653.
- Dec. 18th- Orientation nite for women just coming out - meet with "oldies" & rap.
- Dec. 30th- Book Club Rap - 2101 California #14, S.F. Future Shock by Alvin Toffler.
- Dec. 31st- New Year's Eve/"Good-Bye Bay Area" Party, 1199 Santa Fe Ave., Albany, Ca., (861-8689 for directions) \$1.00 plus .50 for breakfast if spending nite, B.Y.O.B-sleeping bag.

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

- Dec. 4th - Board Meeting 7p.m. (Board members only) 1005 Mkt.
- Dec. 8th - Business Meeting 8p.m. (D.O.B. members only) 1005 Mkt.
- Dec. 11th- Rita Mae Brown reads poetry & raps at Glide Church (330 Ellis, S.F.) 7-10 p.m., \$1.00 donation, help Rita get to L.A., Sisters.
- Dec. 12th- Guest Speaker from Red Cross to discuss emergency disaster aid (earthquake, etc.) 7-9 p.m., 1005 Mkt.
- Dec. 16th- Women's Auto Works Grand Opening, Dec. 16th & 17th Tune-ups (\$8.00 plus parts). Other work can be done, time permitted, coffee & donuts, rap & inspect, 1998 Evans (near Army), 826-9940, Karen & Susan.

Did You Know...

that the first Pope John VIII was a woman? In researching the subject, Elizabeth Gould Davis writes, "It seems that Joan, a handsome young English girl, made her way to Athens disguised as a monk." "In Athens," says the Catholic Encyclopedia, "she excelled so in learning that no man was her equal." Armed with a degree in philosophy, she came to Rome, where Pope Leo VI made her a Cardinal. Upon Leo's death in the year 853, Joan was elected Pope by her fellow Cardinals. The Catholic Encyclopedia goes on to say, "She served as Pope two years, four months, and eight days when she was discovered to be a woman and was stoned to death."¹

From 855 to 1601 the name of "John VIII, a Woman from England," was on the papal list. In 1601, Pope Clement VIII officially declared Joan mythical, ordered all effigies, busts, statues, shrines and records of her utterly demolished and her name erased from the papal rolls.

Why did Pope Clement VIII deny Joan's existence? Why is it that from the time of Pope Joan, and not before, all candidates for the papacy had to undergo a physical examination to prove their sex?

Fortunately, Pope Leo VIII, in the seventeenth century, was not able to destroy all references to Joan. Writers of the four centuries following Joan's death all include her in their papal histories as a genuine Pope. Hopefully, someday written proof of her existence will be unearthed.

Once again it seems an attempt has been made to erase an important woman from history. Why?

--Sharon Crase

1. Davis, Elizabeth Gould, The First Sex, New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1971, pp. 267-270.

(For further reading: Pope Joan, by Lawrence Durrell, Overlook Press, New York, 1960, \$6.50 in hardback.)

BOOK REVIEW

LIVING ON THE EARTH, by Alicia Bay Laurel
A Vintage Book published by Random House, \$3.95
in paperback.

"Hello sun! You came up! We knew you would! You always do! Hooray for you!" begins your journey into the enchantingly informative guide to living inexpensively in the country (or city). Alicia's book is entirely handwritten with cheerful illustrations on every page which makes reading it a personal experience. "...if you have a feeling for the flow of things, you will discover a path: from traveling the wilds to the first fence, simple housing, furnishing houses, crafts, agriculture, food preparations, medicine...When we depend less on industrially produced consumer goods, we can live in quiet places. Our bodies become vigorous; we discover the serenity of living with the rhythms of the earth. We cease oppressing one another."

From backpacking to building your house, relaxation is important, so pull out your blanket, rope, find some flat stones, two sticks and two trees--voila! a hammock.

"A touch of fantasy--when you build your own nest, it reflects you." Suggestion: beaded curtains using string, flour-water paste, newspaper strips which are dipped in the paste, then wound around the string. You've got beads. And when they dry, paint them to suit your fancy. More fun and cheaper than those you buy in a store.

Make your own clothes from the cloth you weave on your homemade loom, then dye them in "hues of the forest" with "bark, leaves, twigs, berries, tea leaves, coffee grounds."

You'll have lots of free time in the country to make candles, beads, baskets, or to write with

your quill pen, or paint with your paint brushes, or polish your shoes, or play your musical instruments. And Alicia provides instructions for making all these things. Honest!

When you get hungry, pages and pages on gardening, canning, livestock, recipes (even for cheese and doughnuts) tell you how to stay healthy and happy. Cook on your garbage can stove and bake in your metal bread-box oven.

Don't forget to brush your teeth--with your alfalfa root toothbrush and eggplant tooth powder. Eggplant will soothe your toothache, too.

Do you have freeloaders (i.e. rats, cockroaches, flies, fleas, mosquitoes, moths, bees, ticks, ants, spiders)? Alicia tells you how to serve eviction notice on these varmints.

And if you need a little help in slowing down: "Find a little bit of land somewhere and plant a carrot seed. Now sit down and watch it grow. When it is fully grown pull it up and eat it." --Stephen Gaskin."

Alicia has woven all the information in this book with a great big dose of tender loving care and if you get it, you'll be delightfully surprised.

--Marley Sooklaris

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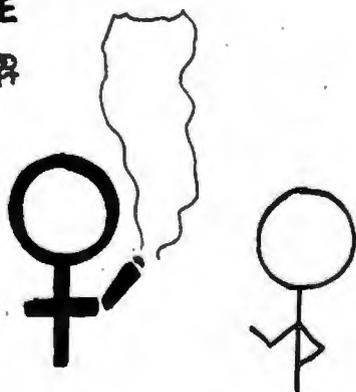
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GERTRUDE! How many
times have I told you not to
Smoke those damned cigars
in this house!

Marley



PARTY

by Marley

I. Contact

I'm in a room. About twenty people are in this room with me. Many mouths are moving and vocal chords are strumming. Buzzing. I hear buzzing. What am I doing here? I'm at a party. I'm supposed to be involved in some sort of conversation. I think the name of the game is pastime. Oh, here I am.

Camus always said...existential...and yet how often...in his writings, he never...don't you agree?

What? Oh. I'm sorry. I don't think I was listening.

I said Camus presented...yet indirectly he implies...basic contradictions...it seems to...

Excuse me. I'm going out to the balcony.

Ahhh. The moon is full tonight. What's it in? Oh yes. Scorpio. Full moon in Scorpio. Heavy night. The sky is really clear. Lots of stars. Have to learn more about stars and constellations...

Breathing is sure a lot easier out here. The air is brisk and clean. Inhale. Exhale. Ahhh. Nice.

Seems like a calm night for a full moon. Everything is low key. Mellow. Wonder how the party is doing. Yeah. Everyone looks kind of involved but it's mellow. Really mellow.

Oh, I see you. Our eyes. I've never seen you before but I feel I know you. Who are you? Our

mouths are not moving yet we communicate. Is this really happening? Electric currents seem to flow through our centers. Not electric, but... Who are you? I've never seen you before.

Oh, I know you.

II. Cycle

We were lovers. Yes. On Lesbos. Your name... Sophia...wisdom. I was, I am Chrysanthe. We were...friends, lovers...something.

I remember. I had climbed up to the mountain to be alone. To meditate. I was, I had been there several hours--alone. I was sitting by the brook under the pines in the shade. It was warm. I remember...the gnats were very busy then buzzing around my head. I was carving a flute from a piece of wood. I remember now. I had bent down to let the water run through the flute, to clean it. When I looked up you were there on the other side of the river, the cool, clean river, looking at me, looking through me.

How long have you been here? I ask. Hello, you say. You cross the brook. You're barefoot. You walk to me. You sift your fingers through my hair, my long golden-brown hair.

You are beautiful, you say. Your voice is whispery, husky. Your hair is...very long, black, full, wavy. It cloaks your...body. It keeps you, it looks like it keeps you very warm. Your teeth are, I remember your teeth are white, pearly white. You are beautiful too, I say.

We were lovers. Goddess Athena! I remember we were lovers and we had been together a few short moons when, yes, I remember that night. It was bizarre. How did it happen? I don't remember. I don't want to remember...but I found you, your body, it was badly bruised, cold, stiff.

Oh Athena! How could this happen? I cried, I sobbed into your hair. I cried. I remember.

I, we, our sisters, we carried you back to the village.

The cremation. Yes, I remember. Your soul ascended into the heavens. Your ashes the four winds carried away...

Have we found each other again?

I love you, you know.

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EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMAZON QUARTERLY

A new lesbian-feminist arts journal coming out this Fall with stories, plays, essays, reviews, poetry, black-and-white drawings and prints.

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SPEAKERS for high schools, colleges, church groups, etc. Call Marley at 861-8689 or 566-3531. Leave message.

Reminders

WEDNESDAY NIGHT RAPS 7-9 pm, \$1.00 non-members, 50¢ members. Coffee, tea and cookies provided.

SISTERS is your magazine. Express yourself with articles, news, poetry, graphics and covers.

RITA MAE BROWN at Glide on Dec. 11 (see calendar).

NEW YEAR'S EVE Party at Barbara & Sue's (calendar).

PEN FRIENDS. For those who want to write other gay women--send name, address including ZIP to Ms. Paula McCorkel, 1005 Market St. #208, San Francisco, CA 94103. Please send \$1.00 to help pay for postage.

Lesbiloonies
by Marley ♀



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