

THE LESBIAN TIDE



APRIL
'72

35¢

The Lesbian Tide

1124½ N. Ogden Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90046 • 656-1049

The LESBIAN TIDE is an independent, lesbian feminist magazine. It is financially supported by the community it serves and is maintained by the pride, time and efforts of a working collective of gay women--the Staff.

Published monthly in Los Angeles, California by Marcotte Printers.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS...to The Lesbian Tide are \$5.00 per year for 12 issues. Mailed in plain envelopes. Send to 1124½ N. Ogden Drive, Los Angeles California 90046. Make checks payable to THE TIDE COLLECTIVE.

DISTRIBUTION and BULK RATES:
Less than 25 copies; 25¢ per copy.
Over 25 copies; 20¢ per copy. Order through mailing address. Checks payable to: The Tide Collective.

Advertising

$\frac{1}{4}$ page . . . \$5.00
 $\frac{1}{2}$ page . . . \$7.00
Full Page .. \$10.00

Cover by Bee Ottinger

What's Going On Here??!!



When my parents found I had made love with my best friend, they took me to a psychiatrist. He said I'd probably grow out of it and to leave me alone. So they immediately took me to another psychiatrist. He said I probably wouldn't grow out of it, and to leave me alone. I think now they realize they can't do anything about it -- they don't ask much any more about who I'm going with.

I still find, in my third marriage, that there are buttons he pushes, and I respond.

When you think of a woman who has no sex, you picture a woman with closed lips and closed knees who looks under the bed every night -- hoping there will be a man there. Despite a very satisfying sex life with men, for right now I am having no sex -- voluntarily. And I'm not climbing the walls, I'm very content.

I've been living with a man for about fifteen months now. We're trying to make an egalitarian relationship, but it's really hard because there are no models. ...Someday we may try to raise a child in this type of non-sexist atmosphere.

I think there may be a handful of men -- somewhere out there -- with the gentleness and sensitivity I find essential for a meaningful relationship. It's possible that the only men who fit these qualifications are gay -- in which case I will be physically a lesbian and emotionally bisexual. You can see how ridiculous labels are ... all I'm interested in is good relationships.

continued...

These are a few of the opinions/experiences told at the second annual Gay - Straight Dialogue. And what is a Gay - Straight Dialogue? It's a gathering of women of varied sexual orientations, coming together to rap, to grow together, to dispel the myths that keep women enemies instead of allies. It's 80 women sitting on the porch and the lawn of Sisters Liberation House, eating brown-bag lunches and sharing quarts of beer while they soak up the sun. It's four women from Cal Arts performing a theater piece written for Womanhouse, a piece illustrating how we give birth to one another, nurturing and sharing and suffering together. It's a project initiated, two years in a row, by Los Angeles' Lesbian Feminists, to help the women's movement grow stronger. It's speeches by four women with distinctly different views about sexuality, each enthusiastically applauded. It's an introduction to Sisters Liberation House, the first home for wayward lesbians ever to exist in Los Angeles. It's a three-hour rap with eight other sisters about sexual experiences with women and men. It's exhausting, exhilarating, enlightening, exciting -- anyone ready for a forty-eight hour marathon?



WOMAN

Melting we together
the Connecting-Consciousness
of Woman loving Herkind

Germaine between spaces
void of communication ovum
evolving through measures of madness

Reality pushing above layers
of suffocating lies
and now awareness "It's Time, Our Time."
Unity intuitive link to Life

Decades man destroys
steadfast on ground absurdity

Woman loving Herkind
flows beyond the mutated "Y"

Couple "X" defiance of science
that failed to quiet Her
Psychic SCREAM

Primal evolutionary seeds
innate sounds heard through
darkness Universally our chant
"It's Time, Our Time."

Germaine

gay
awareness



open, informal rap groups
by gay women, for gay women,
every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Gay Community Services Center
1614 Wilshire Blvd. L.A.
for information call (213) 482-3062

ERA TOO LATE: McLean vs. GTEIS

"It would disturb the dynamics of the meeting to have a woman there". These words signified the final decision regarding Barbara McLean's proposed trip to Florida for her national sales meeting.

Barb was hired as Technical Analyst in charge of all marketing education for TEMPO, a division of General Telephone & Electronics Information Systems on Feb. 14, 1972. She was given the assignment of developing and implementing a program to upgrade and enhance the professionalism of TEMPO's field marketing force.



BARBARA MCLEAN

After consultation with her supervisor, it was decided to postpone her class until after the national conference of all the GTEIS companies on March 22-25 in Florida, so that "her class would provide all the information not provided by the sales meeting." She was advised to extend an invitation to representatives of all the sister companies at the Florida meeting. In addition, her responsibility was "to sell the sales force on TEMPO and GTEIS" and that "should the sales meeting flop in that area" she should be concerned with accomplishing a recovery.

On Wednesday, March 5th, Barb's boss advised her that he had received a call from "someone on the East coast GTEIS meeting committee" and had been told she "could not go. It would not be wise to have one woman attend a meeting with two hundred men."

Friday, March 17th, the decision was reversed. Monday, March 20th, airplane and hotel reservations were made for Barbara by the company. Then, on Tuesday, March 21, the president of GTEIS overruled the decision by TEMPO's president and the final fateful words had been uttered: "It would disturb the dynamics of the meeting to have a woman there."

What happens now? Barbara's position as instructor for the upcoming class has obviously been undermined. She has lost her opportunity for contacts, information and inspiration; yet she has no alternative, aside from resigning, than to continue with the class as planned.

Fortunately, another decision was made by the U.S. Senate on Thursday, March 23. "Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The following is a portion of the letter written to Ms. Georgia Franklin, attorney for N.O.W. Barb has already received a positive response from the Los Angeles N.O.W. Employment Task Force.

"I have been denied an opportunity to gain information, education, exposure and contacts which would have undeniably benefited me in the performance of my duties. Further, I have been placed in a position which prohibits me from performing specific assignments which were given to me by my management. There is no way now that I may regain what I have lost but perhaps there is some action which may be brought against my employer that would contribute toward prohibiting the recurrence of this discriminatory behavior. I am eager to pursue this end even at the risk of losing my job." RIGHT ON, BARB!!

THE FAIRY GODMOTHERS' CLUBHOUSE

By Lee Hansen Sisson

The Board of Directors of the Gay Community Services Center has agreed to underwrite the rent of the rear apartment at Sisters for a three month period. It is being utilized as a meeting place for lesbian activists. D.O.B. moved their stored furniture into the apartment on Sunday, March 19, and will be meeting there on alternate Friday evenings.

The Lesbian Coalition will hold its monthly meetings there. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 9th, at 6 p.m. A potluck will be held jointly with the women from Sisters and the business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Perhaps most important of all, the apartment will serve as a headquarters for "The Friends of the House".

"The Fairy Godmother's Clubhouse" (as it is informally called) will serve as a place for activists to meet together to exchange ideas on research, writing, or whatever. One activity planned is a course on the current status of research of lesbians to be offered by Anne Hensley for the speakers involved in the Task Force on Education.

Other current projects include collection of canned goods, yard tools, bedding and towels, and fund raising for "rent scholarships" for Sisters Liberation House.

It is hoped that by utilizing the building in this manner the friends and sisters can provide joint opportunities for each other's growth. The friends can become more in touch with the needs of the house, both material and emotional; the sisters can become more involved in some of the many educational and social service activities of current gay women activists.

For further information about the use of the "Fairy Godmother's Clubhouse", call Barbara or Caren (934-6593) or June (628-8837) Yolanda (386-0886) Anne (828-6395), Jeanne (656-1049) or Lee (790-6353). (or for that matter, anyone wearing a brightly colored plastic women's symbol around her neck--there really isn't any structure yet but we'd very much like to have YOU involved!)

TRY IT-YOU'LL LIKE IT!

Pat Harrison and Robin Tyler are two women who met about five years ago and decided to change the course of their lives by forming a comedy team. Pat was a hi-fashion model in New York who quit her career while she was at the top of her profession because she was tired of being an "object".

Canadian-born Robin was a singer and writer of considerable talent. Together they write their own comedy material and deliver with a timing that is almost uncanny. They have appeared in top nightclubs all over the world; from Europe to the Orient; from Canada to Curacao; from Burbank to Baltimore. If you were lucky, you heard them recently over KGBS from 6:40 to 10:00 a.m. when they were chosen to replace the vacationing resident male comics. Stay up late; they'll be on the Merv Griffin Show soon. Harrison and Tyler have just cut an album, "Try It-You'll Like It", out next week, that will delight the hearts and souls of Liberated Women and Other People. Staunch supporters of Women's Liberation, they have created women prototypes who tell with devastating humor what Women's Liberation is all about.

Consider: "Madge and Marge", two disenchanted housewives describing a first visit to a Sexual Freedom League party. This track is sure to set swinging back 50 years. Then there're the liberated stewardesses on "Trans-Woman Liberation Airlines" who show the passengers where the coffee pot is and who remark that some of them won't be flying as high as they thought they would since the fuzz searched their luggage. And what about "The Sensuous Geriatric" who's so attached to her vibrator she sent it a Valentine card?

You hip to rip-off fat farms? Hear "Slender in the Grass" and laugh your pounds away. Meet "Rhonda Radical", super-woman. And more, more, including the good news that in spite of a great deal of Californication, VD could be controlled if Reagan would stop screwing the public. Which leads into an enlightening explanation of the origin of For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge, an ole English phrase meaning everybody was doing it but no one wanted to talk about it.

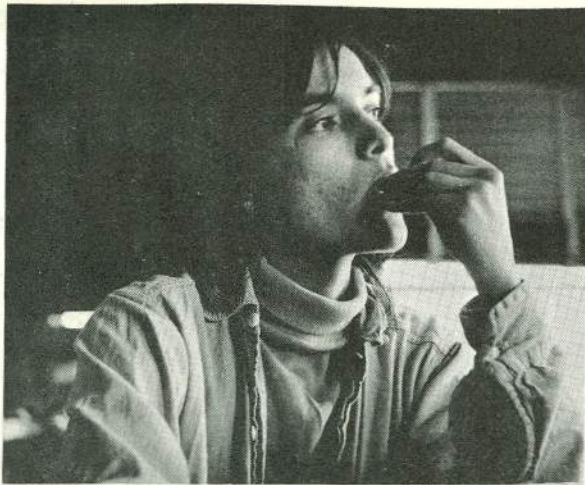
Not only are Robin and Pat committed to Women's Liberation in their comedy; they have also found the time to get involved actively. In February, 1970, they took the first and only anti-war show ever to Vietnam and while there, talked to over 30,000 horny G.I.'s about, you ready, FEMINISM. Then in August, they invaded a Rams-Raiders football game attended by 65,000 people at the Coliseum. Running onto the field and freaking everybody out, Pat and Robin sat on the 40 yard line and insisted on playing ball. They emphasized to anyone who would listen the need for more sports' scholarships for college women and demanded an end to the preferential treatment given men over women in school athletics. Their performance beat the hell out of the half-time activities.

As Pat Harrison and Robin Tyler put it, they are doing their bit to bridge the gap between Women's Liberation and the hesitant public and they are doing it with laughter, the Razor Sharp Edge of the Truth. After all, as they say in their album, "If God had wanted woman to be a sex symbol, she (sic) wouldn't have made Mary a virgin." L.H.

HARRISON & TYLER



TRY IT-YOU'LL TAKE IT



Joint statement: It is particularly bad-mouthing within the movement. integration. Come together.

her YOLANDA

My lover was born in Connecticut, lived in Central America for seven years, returned to Connecticut, studied in Los Angeles and, most recently, came to me. She came from back East in 1966, but did not "come out" until 1969 (it was a very good year!). Before then, she went through head changes about being "sick" or "queer". In 1970, she joined the Lesbian Feminists and that raised her consciousness and morale as a feminist lesbian. Last summer, she worked at C.I.W. (a women's prison) for three months but lost her job for over-identifying with the women and under-identifying with the system.

Last December, Yolanda became the manager of Sisters Liberation House. She says, "It's a challenge trying to balance business and relating to people." I met her at Sisters and as I was allowed the honor of becoming acquainted with her, she struck me as being the coldest, most sarcastic vindictive bitch I'd ever met but I've found that she has much warmth and perception about her (although you really have to be patient to find it). Shortly after, another trauma occurred. We struck up a monogamous relationship.

"Runt" (that's what I call her) has a very positive attitude toward the house and the movement. She's involved with the Gay Community Services Center on the prison committee and the Board of Directors, as well as the Women's Center Prison Committee and the Lesbian Feminists. She works for the liberation of gay women in particular, women in general, and everyone eventually.

She spends her time (when she's not with me) relating to books, the movement, parapsychology, natural medicine (and other natural things), the House, and frowning.

DEENI

Each month HERSTORY profiles a gay woman who has contributed her time, talents and efforts to the gay women's community. If you have any suggestions for this column, please write to the Lesbian Tide, c/o Editor, 1124 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Ogden Drive, Los Angeles, Calif. 90046

distressing that there is so much
We'd like to work together for

stories

DEENI



Straight Deeni fled from Miami (Arizona) in the symbolic year of 1969 and hitchhiked to L.A. in search of fame, fortune and fun. Gayness was for her, as for many others, the feeling of being sick, perverted, and the only one like 'that'. Well, just like that, her first lover appeared in the form of a bisexual fucked-up swinger singer. For one and a half years, Deeni whiled away her time performing as a drummer in straight bars. Nineteen seventy-one brought the beginning of her gay liberation. In April of that year, stumbling into a liquor store, she ran into a woman who introduced her to other gay women active in the movement. Through them she became involved with Daughters of Bilitis. That experience gave her a sense of confidence about being gay, proud and out front. She is now D.O.B.'s secretary.

Out of the closet and into the bars went Deeni, oblivious of the fact that there are more dimensions to gay life and love than affairs, role playing and two-night stands. August, 1971, saw her lending her multiple talents to the newly established LESBIAN TIDE. Early in 1972 she began hanging around Sisters Liberation House, ostensibly taking sisters for rides (to work)--- coincidentally, she also started relating to me, amidst sarcasms, witticisms and put-downs. We both live at the house now and, for better and worse, are very much a part of it.

Deeni feels a strong committment to the movement and is concerned about the games that go on within it. "How can you liberate others without being liberated yourself?" Deeni's liberation has been a full time project, what with being hassled about her pharmacological involvements, her satanic beliefs, and the suspicion that she was a latent bisexual. In spite of it all, her personality manages to reflect a sunshiny altruism which often smooths out the wrinkles I create. Deeni's other interests are motorcycles, driving, painting, playing drums, making love, taking chances and fighting with me.

YOELANDA

MARCH
against
the **WAR**

APRIL 22

LOS ANGELES
Saturday



JOIN THE LESBIAN CONTINGENT



JOIN THE LESBIAN CONTINGENT

Sat. 10:00 a.m. Assemble at Bronson &
Wilshire, look for lesbian contingent banners

11:00 a.m. March begins

1:00 p.m. Rally at McArthur Park

8:00 p.m. Dancing, etc. at 745 Oxford.

Sunday, all day - lesbian contingent
workshops at the Women's Center.

For more information contact: April 22 West
111 N. Vermont
L.A. 90004

Phone: 487-3535

LESBIAN CONFERENCE FOLLOWS.....

Many Los Angeles lesbians see April 23rd as an opportunity to organize the lesbian community. Lesbian groups from all over the West Coast are being invited to stay over to attend a lesbian conference Sunday. This is a chance for lesbians from all over the West Coast to get together with our sisters to find out what's happening in other groups and cities.

... by Natalie Harary

"She kept no secret back, But never spoke a name."

E. GIDLOW

(The first in a series of reviews
of responsible research on lesbians
by G. Anne Hensley.)

Simon, William & John Gagnon, "The lesbians: A preliminary overview,"
in Gagnon & Simon, Eds. Sexual Deviance. New York: Harper & Row, 1967.

This article is indeed an excellent overview of lesbians. After a brief discussion of conventional sex roles, society's distorted image of male and female homosexuals, the authors state two potential correctives to such distortions. First is to refuse "to make judgments about the meaning of specific sexual activities in isolation from the context of the social life of a deviant actor." The second corrective is to avoid generalizations, "to treat with suspicion all presentations that offer to provide us with a description and/or analysis of the homosexual or the lesbian."

Both correctives were obviously followed in the presentation of the data, which was obtained from unstructured and lengthy interviews with a small number of lesbians.

In discussing the mode of entry or of discovery of homosexuality by lesbians, the authors make a generalization that seems entirely valid to me. This is the total femininity of lesbians as they first confront and deal with homosexuality: feminine in that most often the organizing event is romantic and emotional attraction as it is for heterosexual women, rather than actual genital sexual behavior, as it is for men.

Causal explanations for homosexuality have been important for their guilt- and anxiety-reducing functions. The authors discuss five common explanations of lesbianism: inadequate home life in childhood, biological faults, the women are unattractive rejects from heterosexual society, or inept at socializing and hence needful of more support, or they are corrupted by reading accounts of deviant behavior. They state clearly that understanding the sources of homosexual behavior is possible and very important. They stress that these sources will probably be a complex process of great variation in the combination of attributes that produce similar outcomes.

I would agree that it is possible and important to know the causes of homosexuality and that they are probably many, varied, and complex. But I doubt that much useful or productive information of causal factors in homosexuality will come about without parallel study of heterosexuality. Other areas that are invaluable parallel areas to study are sexuality in children, learning of attitudes, behaviors, roles connected with sex in self, in peers, in adults, both within conventional socialization channels and outside them.

However, the emphasis of the article is on overall description of the daily life of lesbians and the diversity of lives rather than on causal factors. They discuss two of the aspects of homosexual life that distinguish it from heterosexual life and finally the universal problems that all people have.



Two distinguishing features of homosexual life are being in the Gay Community and being associated with one sex only and primarily, for lesbians, being women without men.

For those women who do overcome the many societal and self-imposed barriers between themselves and the Gay Community, it has many purposes. Simon & Gagnon stress its functions as a meeting place to find mates, a source of support in a social role, and as a source of ideology for self image strengthening in order to resist societal stereotypes of sick, shameful lesbians. A more recent function not mentioned in the article is the channel Gay Liberation provides for the anger and frustration and helplessness felt by many homosexuals at being unjustly condemned and labeled by society.

Women without men, especially young women without men, young lesbians, are often very little different from heterosexual women of the same background. And, in fact, a phenomenon not mentioned by the authors is the increasing tendency for women as they give up strict roles to also want to love physically the women they already love emotionally.

But as the authors point out, the most common image of the lesbian is as a pseudo male, a caricature male. Although very few lesbians adopt male dress to the extreme of being transvestites, there are many who adopt the butch role and are somewhat male identified. This is particularly true, as the authors contend, in the first entrance to the Gay Community. There are also women who, as children, felt more boy than girl and were more comfortable in boy activities. Considering that the male role is perceived as more highly valued and powerful, even by children, this is not surprising.

continued...

I am particularly impressed with Simon and Gagnon's statement that almost all the women interviewed were "women who wanted to become emotionally and sexually attached to another woman who would, in turn, respond to them as a woman." Some women do take the role of aggressor and others a more passive role in love making, but for many, either role is comfortable. Daily life roles are complicated by the absence of men so that women are forced into activities and attitudes that women ordinarily leave to men.

Role playing is puzzling, as the authors point out, in connection with the extreme masculine role playing of some lesbians. Why is it necessary for some, not necessary for others? What are its origins, its relationship to childhood socialization processes? Is it deeply embedded in personality, and invulnerable? It is changeable, as feminist lesbians contend, as women learn the dehumanizing effect of roles? What influences it and how? Role playing in human society is possibly as complex as the nature/nuture question. Studying it seems to me to be important in understanding what a human being is as well as what a lesbian is.

The remainder of the article is an overview of the problems in daily life for lesbians that are also problems for all people. They discuss family relationships, earning a living, friends both homo- and heterosexual, finding love relationships and self-acceptance.



This excellent article does move substantially toward understanding the lesbian as a total human being. But much more information is needed about the lives of lesbians in order to create a picture of accuracy, depth and breadth. This is especially necessary if one wishes to talk about the origins of lesbianism. We can't very well talk about why there are lesbians until we know who lesbians are.

G. Anne Hensley



JOB! JOB!

The Tide needs a drop out! bright, creative, able to get along well with sisters and the rest of the world--you need a dependable car, bike, go-cart (RTD not acceptable), you need to be able to type, not fast, but accurately, not structured but DEPENDABLE--interested in helping the community via the Tide. COMMITMENT!

Your job: establish and expand new distribution points (gay centers, bookstores), advertising, correspondence. Part time. Open salary. Call Lynne--295-5044 (early eves.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SISTERS HOUSE ?

Sisters Liberation House has currently stabilized at about 20 women, with vacancies occurring as women move out of town or into other situations. Yolanda is still house manager but duties such as rent collection and monitoring of household jobs have been taken over by other women in the house in order to achieve a more feminist structure.

Dinner is now being planned on a more or less regular basis, although meal time still does not signify an ingathering of all the women in the house. A consciousness raising group has been started on Sunday mornings from 10-12 in an effort to ease communication barriers between gay and feminist consciousness (hopefully they can be one and the same!).

Crashers are being accepted on an individual basis but the women in the house feel that they need to be more together with each other before introducing a large number of temporary guests into the house. However, a list of referrals for other sources such as the Gay Womens Service Center and the Gay Community Services Center crash pad is available and no one is being turned away without providing other resources.

Sisters Liberation House is paying its own way; they've made the rent for three months now. Gay Community Services Center has been providing funds for food and sundries, plus a back-up financial source if all the rent shouldn't be there on the 15th of each month.

astrology



ARIES

If you were born between March 21st and April 20th, your sun is in ARIES.

Aries, with your fiery strength, you are independent and aggressive --sometimes obnoxiously so, unfortunately. You give the impression of being totally confident (little do they know!) and usually get more credit for your actions than you merit. You seem oblivious to your rashness and don't look before you leap. You like to begin things but not stick around to finish them.

You are often intolerant and impatient with those who are slower or weaker than you. Although you come off as though you don't give a damn about what others may think of you or the way you live your life, you usually do care a great deal. You seem to like gossip, and although it's harmless petty bullshit, it sometimes puts your friends on the defensive.

Aries, you are gay because you can't stand the thought of being under anyone--though this does not apply to bedtime activities! You are the leader (though sometimes a bad one) and your contemporaries spend most of their time following your lead. Sexually, you have natural, healthy animal appetites. Full of force, power, intensity, strength and aggression--your lover had better buy seat belts!

Deeni

LETTERS ^{to} the EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Thanks for sending me a copy of the March issue of The Lesbian Tide. It is a good magazine and I really loved the cover illustration. This is the sort of artwork I would like to use in the Violet Press poetry (and other writing) anthology. Could you tell me who did the cover and if she has other artwork I could see?

Fran Winant
Violet Press

(Editor's Note: March cover was drawn by Stephanie Smith. For posters, write to Stephanie at: The Women's Center, 1027 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.)



...US...

Dear Editor:

I've read a couple of issues of The Lesbian Tide--but I can't really say I know where you're coming from. You don't come through as radically feminist, but at the same time you aren't sexist either. Are you hedging?

Joan Trinetto
Oklahoma City

Dear Joan:

No, it's not a question of hedging. The Lesbian Tide is primarily a news, rather than a feminist consciousness-raising, publication. Unlike Spectre, Notes from the Third Year, and to some extent Everywoman, whose primary focus is CR and politicizing, the Tide's staff-defined purpose is to print the news (in a more traditional sense) of the women's and gay women's movements.

We believe there is a need for our type of publication. The Tide is unique in the U.S. as the only GAY WOMEN'S news magazine. Our policy is explicitly non-sexist in that we have not and will never print news, poetry, short stories--anything--that in any way fails to affirm the dignity and value of women.

The Tide Collective

Dawn of new ERA

Sweeping aside all proposed changes by overwhelming margins, the Senate Wednesday sent the women's equal rights constitutional amendment to the states by a vote of 84 to 8.

The historic vote ended a 49-year struggle by both men's and women's organizations to win congressional approval for a constitutional amendment spelling out that women are to receive absolute equality with men before the law.

The House approved the measure last Oct. 12 by a 354-23 vote. A two-thirds vote was required in both chambers.

If ratified within seven years by three-fourths of the state legislatures (38 states), the proposal will become the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It would go into effect two years after ratification.

Less than two hours after the Senate action, Hawaii became the first state to ratify the amendment.

The key paragraph of the amendment reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."
(reprinted from L. A. Times)

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Inside information from our sisters employed by Pacific Telephone gives us the word. Orders have come down to "pull all listings using the words 'gay' or 'homosexual'." They're at it again. Don't let them get away with it! Write: Public Utilities Commission (see back of your telephone bill for address).



TIDE POOLS

GAY DIRECTORY (Los Angeles)

The Lavender Gallery (a gay pride enterprise) has recently published the first edition of "a complete Social Service Guide to Gay Organizations in the greater Los Angeles area".

For "legal help, spiritual assistance, housing, employment... a place to donate your time and services" write for the HOF GUIDE, c/o Tide Collective, 1124 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Ogden, Los Angeles, Calif.

M.C.C. ON THE AIR.....

For the past two months, a group has been meeting to formulate plans for radio and T.V. broadcasts to further the work of MCC.

As a result, our first broadcast was heard at 11:00 AM on Sunday, March 5th, and will be heard every Sunday thereafter. The principal people involved are:
Producer- Bob Campbell
Writer & Announcer-Mal Ritter
Secretary- Joanne Kettle
Technical Staff headed by- Willie Smith.

Gil Boyd- MCC

LOOSE ENDS



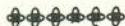
I picked up my pen to start and my mind went dry but, daunted, I go on. The plan here is simply to write from time to time about bits and pieces of this and that.



Thanks to all of you who have written, especially those who tell us that we dispel some of the feelings of isolation that come with remoteness and difference. Kansas, Puerto Rico, Idaho, Mississippi, everywhere. To you, sister, in D.C., who apologized for the shakiness of your handwriting which you said came from nervousness at even sending for the magazine and who "cringe every time I hear the word 'lesbian'", read "Prison Walls of Words" again, last issue.



The author of the above article visited us here from Arkansas last week for a few days. Hi, Diane. Hope you made it back safely; it was a pleasure to meet you.



Switzerland may be beautiful in many, many ways, but its women are voting this year in national general elections for the first time in herstory. You've come a long way, Shirley.



Don't Ms. registering to vote. Write to us. We love to hear.
L.H.

GAYS IN THE MEDIA

By Lee Hansen Sisson

Watch the newstands for the May issue of the new slick feminist magazine, New Woman. Karen Wells, editor of Sisters (S.F.- D.O.B.) has been working with them and the May issue will feature a series of articles on the life styles of several lesbians. Almost all such articles in the women's press cop-out by emphasizing roles and the bar scene. It will be interesting to see if New Woman really is "new".

* * *

Other articles to watch for are a story on Sisters' Liberation House scheduled for Proud Woman (formerly Mother) and an interview with activists from the Gay Community Services Center to be published in Gay Sunshine.

* * *

Two shows to tune-in on KPFK (90.1 FM): Beginning on April 7, every Friday, from 7:15 to 7:30, the station will feature 15 minutes of news from the gay community. Richard Golach from the Gay Community Services Center is coordinating the show. He will utilize musical and dramatic talent in addition to news and promises to feature women and men equally. If any individuals or groups are interested in producing one or more shows...and/or if you have current news for upcoming shows, leave a message for Richard at the GCSC, 482-3062.

continued....

MEDIA...

Also on KPFK (90.7 FM...remember) for one night only will be a panel discussion entitled "The Sex-th Sense: A Frank Discussion of Bisexuality" (or some such title...don't have my Folio yet), moderated by Lee Hansen Sisson. This will also take place on Friday, April 7th, from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Phone lines will be open to the radio audience, so write down your questions and call during the show. (877-2711; ple-eze--nothing's worse than seeing none of those buttons light up!)

* * *

Thoroughly enjoyed Robin and Patty's two week disc jockey stint on KGBS (1020 AM). What a lovely way to wake up in the morning! If you enjoyed them as much, you might consider writing a very "cool" letter to the station manager (338 S. Western, L.A.) telling him how much you appreciated his choice of talent. And have you picked up on "Try It--You'll Like It", Harrison and Tyler's new record? (See this issue of the Lesbian Tide for review.) It has already received considerable air time and copies should be available in your local record emporium around April 1st.

The Women's Theater and Media Center of L.A., a collective, is currently revitalized and working together on several radio and multi-media shows. (They are the ones responsible for the Women and Rock Music and Women and Myths series aired on KPFK.)

Upcoming shows include The Aging Woman, Women as Consumers, and a multi-media summer project on Sisters Liberation House. Copies of their October show, The Contemporary Lesbian: Beyond Stereotypes, (produced by Sisson and S. Tyler), are wending their way as far east as Arkansas. Diane Trzcinski was most enthusiastic about its impact on the Arkansas campus.

The 90 minute show explodes four myths: All lesbians are sick...featuring a dramatization of "Edward the Dyke;" lesbians are unfit mothers...political statements and some of the court rulings; all lesbians want to be men...poetry and good rapping by the Lesbian Feminists; and all any lesbian needs is a good...., featuring a dramatized pickup of two women by a couple of male chauvinists. Original music is by Sister Rosie and Linn Patrick. Beth Elliott (S.F. D.O.B. president) wrote the poem cycle which is used as the vehicle to tie the show together.

Arrangements are being made to have copies available for women's groups. Cost of the 90 minute show should be around \$8-10 to cover cost of tape and mailing. For further information write S. Tyler, c/o The Women's Theater and Media Center of L.A., Women's Center, 1027 S. Crenshaw, Los Angeles, Ca. For information on meetings of the collective, call Judy Parker (939-6971) or Deanna Kuhns (934-9785)

Psychotherapy: Is It For You?

By Bernice Augenbraun, M.A.

Psychotherapy: When is a Problem A Real Problem?

The first time we run into a problem with an employer, we blame the boss. By the third or fourth time we have that same problem with a different employer, it is time to question whether the problem isn't within us: a resentment of people in authority which spills out in our behavior regardless of whether the boss is strict or permissive, warm or cold, rigid or loose, concerned or indifferent.

The first time we experience a problem in a love relationship, perhaps it really is that the lover isn't caring enough or is too possessive or is selfish. The third or fourth time we make the same old complaints about a different love partner, it is time to wonder whether the problem isn't inside us: a fear of being vulnerable, for instance, that makes us provoke conflict to escape from a close relationship.

Whenever we find ourselves repeating old feelings, getting into the same old troubles regardless of how often we change the cast of characters we are involved with, we ought to take a sharp look at our own responsibility for the problem.

Once we spot a pattern, a repetitive theme, that is a pure indication that we are operating according to feelings about people within ourselves that dictate our behavior regardless of the reality of the people we are involved with. These feelings are usually based on a view of life and people that we learned from the important figures in our childhoods. They become so much a part of us that we don't even realize their significance until we become aware of how much they affect our relationships in the present.

Therapy can help us to see the patterns, understand the feelings that come from the past so that we can confront them and keep them from distorting the present.

ARE YOU GAY, MOTHER?

There are others like you. If you are interested in meeting to discuss and help resolve mutual problems (court hassles, self-identity, baby-sitting, any of the many practical everyday problems gay mothers have), call June Herrle at the Gay Community Services Center, 482-3062. If June is not in, leave a message for her. She will return your call.



THE NOW OF THE FUTURE

Could anything be duller than hearings on the Constitution and By-Laws of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Organization of Women? The answer to that, believe it or not, is an emphatic yes! The C and B Committee has turned NOW upside down. Until now, the structure has been the typical elected hierarchy of President, three Vice Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, with Committee and Task Force heads appointed by the President. As a result, all the real business of the Chapter is transacted at Board meetings, and the average member feel left out and unnecessary.

Two of seven meetings have been held. At the first meeting, we philosophized awhile and agreed that we're all fed up with this stifling structure. We want to open things up and let all our members participate in decision-making. So we'll begin by using job descriptions rather than titles.. in other words, the President will become Chapter Coordinator, the Vice Presidents, Coordinators

in their respective areas; the Board of Directors will become the Coordinating Council; the four Coordinators will rotate at Council meetings (under existing structure, the President chairs all Board and Chapter meetings). These changes are not mere word-juggling. The consensus of the committee is that ultimate authority rests in the membership, not in the elected officers. Although such a democratic, collective-authority approach is typical of many parts of the women's movement, it represents something quite innovative for NOW, whose members tend to have a much more conservative approach in their attempts to change society.

The Los Angeles Chapter is the first in the nation to make such changes, reflecting head changes at the National Board level... NOW is taking an entirely new direction.

Note: The Committee agreed, with loud enthusiasm, to add to the statement of purpose the provision that sexuality, like race, creed, etc., may not be used against anyone. It may be slow, but we're movin'.

This publication is on file at the International Women's History Archive, 2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, Calif. 94708, and is available on microfilm through Bell and Howell, Drawer "E", Wooster, Ohio 44691.

ON SECOND THOUGHT:

some words for WLit 1113

On second thought, do not write
that down.
In fact, do not even hold it in
your eyes.
For I am not to be trusted: I
have been known to lie.
For example, I am perfectly
capable (without a doubt)
Of explaining that Antigone was
manly in her courage.
And I have mentioned that Lawrence
mysteriously married
His only lesbian to an industrialist:
the point being,
No doubt, mechanical sex.

(Forget, if you will, in passing,
The Bell Jar.)
Recall meeting eight. Recall
that I
In tutorial tones read "Elegy
For Jane."
No emotion, my voice (remember),
it did not move.


The indirection of my words?
Intentional, my friends.
There are truths too awful to tell.
(And besides: the truth most
emphatically will not set you
free.)

For Thursday, then, Saint Joan.

D. Trzcinski

Lonely?

Are you and with the multitudes
will you join me for a cup of tea
and maybe some love?



God, I will give you love
From the sad-eyed tan dog
To the young-eyed sad woman.
Maybe I will divide myself
Like the fish of Christ
And you may have my womb
And you my heart
But who shall have my soul?
I will give you my day
Or you my week
But where will the year go?
Lonely?

Would you prefer coffee?

salt lake

The poem that follows is about "Tap", a highly sensitive, courageous, intelligent woman, now 31 years old, who from the age of 8 to 21 was housed in increasingly severe correctional institutions.

No one had ever listened to "Tap" before.....

I sixteen institutionalized
ripe with a misunderstood ripeness
my head so full of questions
that there was no room for me
nuns damning epithet at every show
of independence: You'll die in prison!
such fear! such loneliness! such
bitterness!
hope so important my only respite
so needfully so unskillfully
so graspingly
two young girls in the dark bathroom
clutching for something warm, some-
thing tender
soft desperate closeness to stave
off the coldness
of stone and hostile stare and
utter lovelessness.

so little giving so much taking
so much fear
and after the stolen moment the
damning label
lesbianism! then what's the difference
I'll die in prison anyway seeking
what
tenderness? where is my humanity
(or anyone else's)

Janie small still bird on the edge
of our building crying tear-stained
sobbing
rejected by her lover forlorn
bird ready for flight
nuns pleading come down girl (for
our reputation)
come down girl (for the good of the
institution)

I plead God let her go she's so lonely
lonely, God, so lonely, let her go
let her.....

oh GOD! J-A-N-I-E! No! No!
O-o-oooooooooh.....
dark red in the courtyard eerie
black silence
death in the morning death
in me
o God, how I hate these devilish,
cleverly-good jailers
who create such opaque reckless
sickness in us
that we live wretchedly in the midst
of our own dying.

"Tap"

SPECTRE OF LIFE

"Spectre", fiery publication of a collective of "white revolutionary lesbians" of Ann Arbor, is no more. With Spectre-6, the sisters got up and walked away from their typewriters, explaining, "We can't read anymore..except skill manuals..we can't write--not even Spectre anymore..and we think it's a good sign. We're gonna keep fightin, but in a more real way." All power to you, sisters. We'll miss you and Spectre alot.
L.H.

the furies

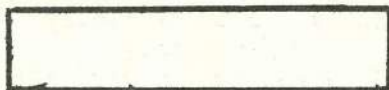
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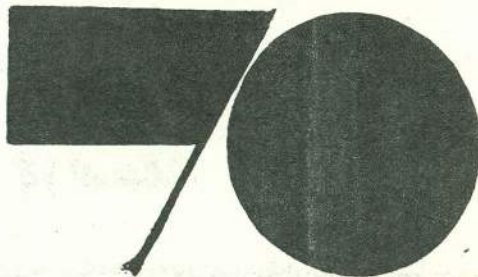
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CALENDAR (see Where It's At" for addresses and phones)

April

- 1 (Sat) : Costume party. Sisters Coffeehouse. 1027 S. Crenshaw Blvd. (just south of Olympic). 8:00 p.m.
: National Organization of Women, 5th Anniversary Program. NOW Center, 8864 W. Pico Blvd. 1:00 p.m.
: Gala and informative. Don't miss it!
- 9 (Sun) : Lesbian Coalition meeting. "Fairy Godmothers Clubhouse", 745 S. Oxford (1 block east of Western). 1:00 p.m.
- 14 (Fri) : Daughters of Bilitis meeting. Lesbian Activists Center, 745 S. Oxford (rear apartment). 7:30 p.m.
: Dance and Dinner. Gay Womens Service Center. Spaghetti, etc. \$1.00. Dinner: 7:30 p.m. Dance: 8:30 p.m. 1542 Glendale Blvd.
- 28 (Fri) : Daughters of Bilitis meeting. Lesbian Activists Center, 745 S. Oxford (rear apartment). 7:30 p.m.

Plus!!! RAP SESSIONS AT Gay Womens Service Center, 1542 Glendale, 4:00 p.m.

April still:

- 2 (Sun) : Topic: "Sex: What do two women do in bed?"
9 (Sun) : "Bisexuality"
16 (Sun) : "Gay Liberation"

BACK UP!! We typed out of order. Here comes more for April...

April

- 22 (Sat) : Anti-War March. See pages 11 and 12 for details.
21 (Fri) : NOW Center. Rap on Kate Millett's Sexual Politics. Call NOW Center, 278-0680 or 278-0286 for time.
23 (Sun) : Lesbian Conference! See page 11 for details.
26 (Wed) : NOW Action Against AT&T. Call NOW Center for details.
29 (Sat) : Shirley Chisholm Benefit. Featuring Diahann Carroll! Call NOW Center for more information.

CONTINUING EVENTS

- Sundays: Metropolitan Community Church. Services, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.
: Rap Sessions at Gay Womens Service Center
: KFAC Radio. 1330 AM. MCC On The Air. Listen! 11:00 a.m.

continued...

CONTINUING EVENTS continued...

- Mondays: Orange County Gay Womens Coalition meetings. 1:00 p.m.
Call Tess (714) 776-7106 for location.
- Tuesdays: National Organization of Women (NOW) meetings and programs. 7:30 p.m. Call NOW Center for further info.
: Lesbian Feminists meetings. 8:00 p.m. 1027 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
- Wed's : Gay Women's Service Center. Community dinner. 7:30 p.m.
- Thur's : Gay Community Services Center. Gay Awareness Raps. 7:30 p.m.
: Gay Womens Service Center. Encounter groups. 8:00 p.m.
- Fri's : Gay Funky Dances. 1625 N. La Brea. 8:30-1:00 p.m.
: Orange County Womens Coffeehouse. 108 Russell St. (Main and McFadden), Santa Ana. 8:00-12:00 p.m.
- Sat's : Sisters Coffeehouse. 1027 S. Crenshaw. Dancing!! 8:00 p.m.

PLUS!! : Beulahland Coffeehouse. 1353 N. Ivar. "A Christian Outreach to the gay community." Open every evening. Sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church.

...WHERE IT'S AT...

- DAUGHTERS of BILITIS: 737-2722. 745 South Oxford (Rear), L.A.
- GAY WOMEN'S SERVICE CENTER: 386-9915, 1542 Glendale Blvd. L.A.
- LESBIAN FEMINISTS: (Women's Center) 937-3964, 1027 S. Crenshaw
- SISTERS LIBERATION HOUSE: 482-3062
- GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER: 482-3062, 1614 Wilshire Blvd. L.A.
90017
- NATIONAL ORGANIZATION for WOMEN (N.O.W.) 278-0680, 278-0286
- ORANGE COUNTY GAY WOMEN: (714)776-7106 (Tess) P.O. Box 5285
Santa Ana 92709
- COUNSELING: Ms. Bernice Augenbraun 479-6349
- GAY MOTHERS: (court trouble with children?) (415)824-2790
- SAN DIEGO GAY WOMEN: call Metropolitan Community Church in S.D.
- EVERYWOMAN BOOKSTORE: 474-1278 2083 Westwood Blvd.
- CRISIS LINE: 748-1904 Personal Services (jobs, etc.) 748-0123
- GAY HOTLINE: (24hrs.) 482-3062
- HELP, Inc.: (Legal Aid) 463-3146 P.O. Box 3007 Holly Sta. 90028
- EMERGENCY (problems of immediate concern, counseling, information services): Jeanne 656-1049 Barbara 934-6593
- METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH: 748-0123
- LESBIAN TIDE: Jeanne 656-1049
- THE LAVENDER PEOPLE, Box 994, Venice, Calif. 90291 823-2235 or 390-2385 30

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publication, written by and for the
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speak of their numbers, their lives,
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