

Property of the Center



SISTERS

gaertner '72.

JAN. 1973

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.

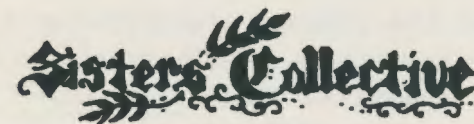
4. To investigate the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual and to promote changes, providing equitable handling of cases involving homosexuals, through due process of law, without prejudice.

TO SAY AND BELIEVE THAT GAY IS GOOD.



OFFICERS - SFDOB

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This issue of SISTERS is dedicated to
Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin for giving
us our first real Lesbian book--
"LESBIAN/WOMAN"

DOB LIVES

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WOMEN IN LAW

The law is an awesome, powerful creature, built by and for men, reflecting men's view of a male world. I am a woman and a law student. The more I learn about this "law of men", the more I believe that the law needs women's outlook. Here's just one striking example of male ego-tripping in the law.

California and other western states embrace the "no-retreat" rule. Generally, this means that when a person is unlawfully attacked, she (he) may stand her (his) ground and use force in reply. Even if the attacker uses deadly force, the one attacked may also employ deadly force in reply. Even if the attacked has a safe avenue of escape she (he) may kill rather than retreat. "Indeed, the tendency of the American mind seems to be very strongly against the enforcement of any rule which requires a person to flee when assailed ... even to save human life..." Runyan v. State, 57 Ind. 80, 84 (1887). "The law of course, should not denounce conduct as criminal when it accords with the behavior of reasonable men ... the manly thing is to hold one's ground, and hence society should not demand what smacks of cowardice." Model Penal Code 3.04, Comment 3, at p. 24 (Tent. Draft. No. 8, 1958). (Note: the Model Penal Code adopted the no-retreat rule only when non-deadly force is used.) The law of man condones the sacrificing of life rather than ego. The law of man, I think, has rather displaced values. What would the law of women say? Would we have the strength to risk being called a coward, the humanity to retreat and thereby spare the life of our aggressor? I think so,

since it is only the weak who need to "prove" their strength.

How much better to be humane than "manly." Yet the law stands and who will change it? Can we afford to rely on male judges to overturn a rule which "... accords with the conduct of reasonable men." ?

The law also enforces the so-called "double-standard" of sexual conduct. In People v. Beardsley 150 Mich. 206, 113 N. W. 1128 (1907) the defendant, Beardsley, was a married man who had a two day drinking bout and sexual affair with the deceased, Blanche Burns. Blanche became ill, Beardsley failed to call a doctor, and she died. The court, found the defendant not guilty of criminal negligence using reasoning based on the famous double-standard.

In a section of rather biased portrait painting, the judge described Blanche as "... a woman past 30 years of age. She had been twice married. She was accustomed to visiting saloons and to the use of intoxicants... Her entire conduct indicates that she had ample experience in such affairs." Beardsley is described "... a married man."

For the Court to find Beardsley guilty, it would have to find that, at least while having their affair, they stood in the relationship of husband and wife, and he therefore had a duty to care for her. "Such an inference would be very repugnant to our moral sense," the Court says, after making it rather clear that it is really Blanche who is morally repugnant. The "whore" is damned and the man is free; a too familiar tale.

These are only two examples of the mentality, the philosophy, behind the thinking of the courts of men. The legally sanctioned, blatant discrimi-

mination by men against women is too well known to need another recital. What I find most frightening is that white, male, heterosexual judges rule our lives, bodies and conduct on the basis of their own ingrained philosophies with hardly a word spoken in our defense.

The law and the courts need a breath of fresh air. The all-male, clubby atmosphere of the courtroom must be broken. The voice of women is necessary to humanize the male law.

I, for one, am not content to trust my fate to a few "liberated" or "liberal-radical" men. Women need women to handle their legal problems, to plead their causes and to enlighten others with their decisions from the bench as judges.


More and more law schools are actively searching out qualified women candidates for admittance. (Don't discount your abilities or potential.) If you have ever considered the law as a career and would like to know more about law school, the Bar, and women in law, please write to: Women's Association, Golden Gate University, School of Law, 536 Mission St., S.F. CA. 94105

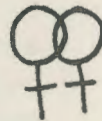
Join those of us now working and studying the law. Make "see you at the Bar" an invitation to the courtroom, not the backroom.

--Linda Betzer

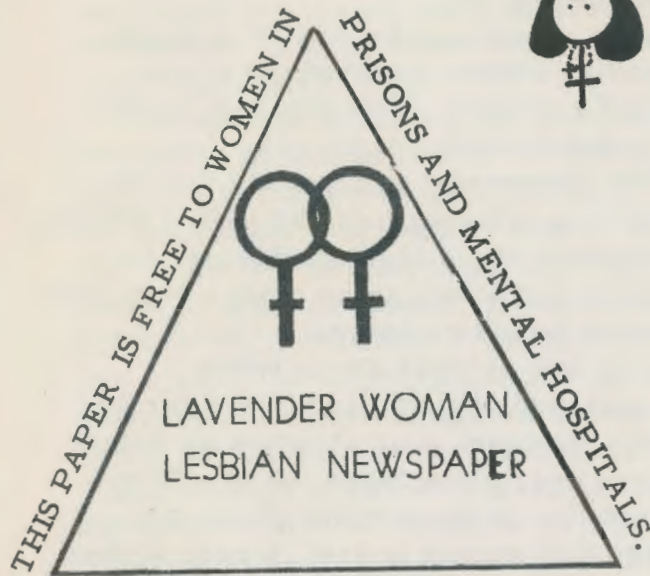
The word "family" comes from the Oscan 'famel', a servant, slave, or possession. The word "father" -- "pater" -- means owner, possessor, master. The Roman 'pater familias' was thus an "owner of slaves."

LESBIANIES

by  Marley



Ooo...
I wish we had
thought of that.



THE LESBIAN PAPER OF CHICAGO

\$3.00 FOR ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

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c/o Betty Peters

2916 N. Burling

Chicago, Ill. 60657

AMAZON QUARTERLY

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

Send manuscripts and graphics to:

554 Valle Vista

Oakland, Ca. 94610

1 yr. sub. \$4.

Bulk order rates

BOOK REVIEW

The Gay Crusaders, by Kay Tobin and Randy Wicker, Paperback Library, c. 1972, \$1.25.

From the scattered press coverage of the gay movement there has been a rather fractured view of gay leaders. Even gay media tend to assume that we all know who's who.

Now there's a new book out to help get a more in-depth picture. Kay Tobin's and Randy Wicker's The Gay Crusaders interviewed fifteen leaders regarding their personal lives, professional goals and political hopes.

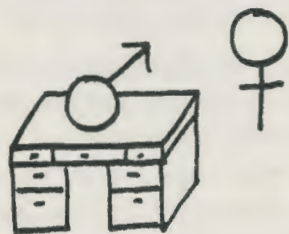
Reverend Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles describes his fantastic success, in building a congregation of gay people, and tells of his other hopes for the movement. Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, well-known founders of DOB, discuss past history and current projects. Barb Gittings, as a member of the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association, is liberating libraries by getting pro-homosexual material of quality into libraries. (Could be that's why this book was found in the library.) Frank Kameny fights for gay rights through constitutional and legal channels, and was the first publically acknowledged homosexual to run for Congress. Craig Rodwell tells of the great progress of his Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore in New York City. Jim Owles of the GAA/NY stresses political action to end discrimination, repeal laws against sodomy, end harassment of gay bars, etc. Dick Michaels of the Advocate feels the paper is so successful that he'll eventually be able to issue stock in it.

A symposium at the end of the book shows the contrast of opinions on such topics as displaying affection in public, what is looked for in a lover, aged gays, psychiatry and cures, and revolution vs. reform.

Positive view of gay leaders are presented here in fifteen portraits. It's refreshing to read some success stories for a change.

--Sue Timmerman

LESBIANIES
 by Marley presents
 the
EMPLOYER



We are a very liberal company, Ms. Blum, but your display of Lesbian sex techniques at the Christmas party was totally uncalled for.



DID YOU KNOW...

That according to Greek myth there once lived a nation of women warriors called Amazons? Ancient accounts differ as to where they lived but it was somewhere east of the Greek regions of Asia Minor.

The word "Amazon" means "breastless" since the women destroyed (by burning off) the right breast of their female children to prevent it from getting in the way of the bowstring. They either destroyed or sent away male children they had as a result of encounters with neighboring tribes. They had no dealings with men except for breeding and as opponents in war. Aeschylus calls them "the warring Amazons, men-haters."

The Amazons were the daughters of "that most peace-loving nymph, sweet Harmony." But their father was Ares, the terrible god of war, whose ways they followed and not their mothers'.

There were among the Greeks many legends of encounter with the Amazons. Most of the legends tell of the women warriors being finally conquered, seduced, enslaved, etc., by male heroes.

The Encyclopedia Britannica states: "The only plausible explanation of the story of the Amazons is that it is a variety of the familiar tale of a distant land where everything is done the wrong way about, thus the women fight, which is man's business." (!)

Could it be the Amazons really existed at one time and that they knew compromise with men would mean their slavery as women?

--Sharon Crase

Let's Play "Beat The Clock"

Here I am misplaced amongst aliens
in the gray world of
downtown.

A goat caught up in a herd of cows
going numbly and dumbly
to slaughter
by way of strangulation by
adding machine tapes.

And then I see a bit of color and breathing
space surrounding

you
in an aura of freedom

HI HI HI HI HI See Remember me,
a sister Lesbian
aren't these people weird
quick let's talk of things in a moment of
reprieve
before we are forced to remember
the clock

that punches us

--Sheri

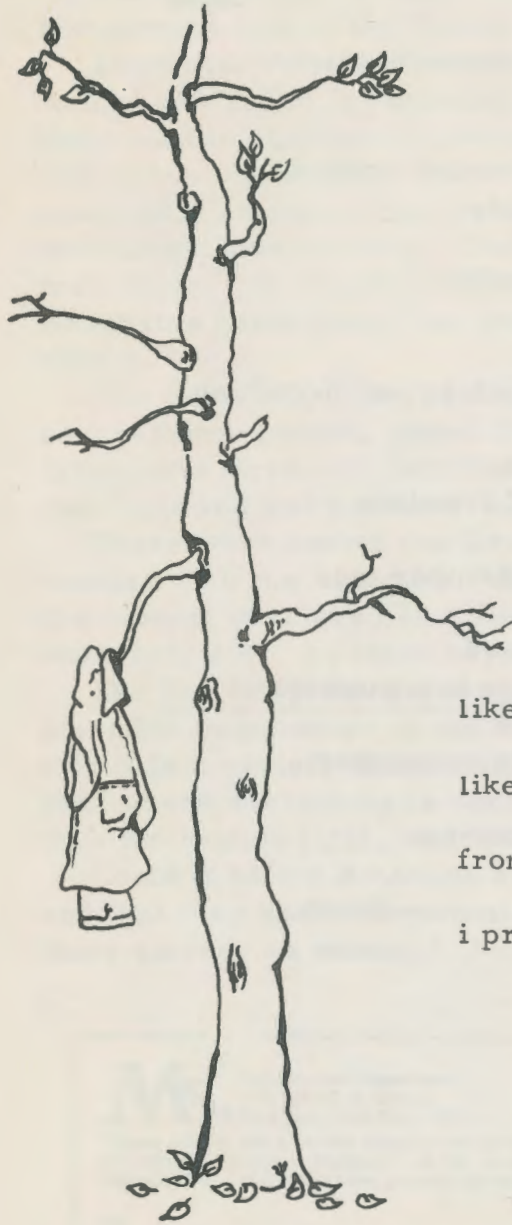
Ms. Subscription Department MS-P
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New York, New York 10017

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. _____

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like the tree
 i'm aging
like the coat
 i'm worn
from my nest my
 youth has flown
i pray for spring...

--D. Gaertner

are you afraid of me?
each transparent fear to send you hiding-
 my hand tracing the outline
 of your spine.
my mouth tasting the curves
 upon your neck.
my holding would not hurt you...
 are you frightened then
because our bodies are so alike?
 because I am a woman, too
and in so many ways
 you've been taught not to love women?
 you say you love me
yet, you're hardly ever with me
 you once called us lovers
but you will not touch me
it must be that you're frightened of me...
are you then, also frightened of yourself?

--Joss

mmmmm

rushing
running
slipping
drifting
drifting
falling
swirling
slipping
deep
cavernous
pit
so warm
so you

--Marley

JANUARY

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

10th - Starting 1973 DOB
off on the right foot.
Sharon

17th - Speak out. Get it
off your chest.
Marley

24th - Lesbian mother rap.
Jody

31st - Ex-WAVE discusses
women in armed forces
Paula

	1	2	3 Office Closed	4	5	6
7	8 Board Mtg. 7 p.m.	9	10 Rap 7 p.m.	11	12 Bus. Mtg. 8 p.m.	13
14	15	16 Small Group 7 p.m.	17 Rap 7 p.m.	18	19	SOL 20 coffee house
21	22 Orient- ation Night	23	24 Rap 7 p.m.	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Rap 7 p.m.			

HOUSE FUND

--goal \$7500.00



--now \$1584.26

- Jan. 8 - Board meeting 7pm (Board members only)
- 12 - Business meeting 8pm (All women welcome)
1005 Market St. #208.
- 16 - Consciousness raising groups forming. All
interested women please come. 7pm 1005 Mkt.
- 20 - COFFEE HOUSE ENTERTAINMENT. Claudia
(best woman singer in SF) will sing. Espresso
coffee, Irish coffee, etc. will be served--at
Marley's 1743-8th Ave. SF 8pm \$1.50.

- Jan. 20 - SOL PARTY ("Slightly Older Lesbians" 35 plus)
in Merry Marin County - Terra Linda. Come &
enjoy goodies or bring your pleasure. Please
call 472-2321 or 931-5527 for info. RSVP 4pm
- 28 - Book Club Rap - Read "Martian Chronicles" by
Ray Bradbury. At Sharon's place 12 noon
47 West Portal Ave. #3.

it's been nearly three years now
you went off
and so did i
the airport strange--not the
warmest for
remembering
maybe twenty minutes maybe less
just time enough to stand
in front of a camera lens

click
how are you?
click
i mean for real?
click
i want to embrace you
click
it was always hard

--D. Gaertner

I see you
And sometimes
I don't like what I see
But I love you
Because you let me
see it

--Marley

HOUSE FUND

It's time to renew your pledges! Last year many women pledged to send from \$1.00 to \$25.00 a month to San Francisco's D.O.B. House Fund. Many of the pledges are still faithfully coming in, but many are not.

Either members have forgotten about their pledges or the importance of a home for Lesbians and other women, or else they are unaware of our goal.

S. F. D. O. B. is 17 years old and has never had anything more than a small space in a devoted member's home or a small rented office. Our only source of income is from SISTERS subscriptions and from occasional fund-raising functions. We NEED a HOME!!!!!! We need a building which will always be open to women; a place to hold women's activities, parties, raps, etc.; and a space to bed down visitors.

D.O.B. will be around as long as there is a need for such an organization. Therefore, even if you feel D.O.B. no longer has anything to offer you, can't you help your future sisters by pledging just a little every month?????

We now have \$1,584.26 in the House Fund. That is a long way from a reasonable down-payment on a HOME, but we are getting there. S.F.D.O.B. "THANKS" those women who have made the first step toward our goal possible.

Please continue to give, or if you haven't already pledged, please fill out the pledge form and mail it in NOW.

Believe me, you will feel as good as we in San Francisco do when the red line on the thermometer moves up and up and up and.....

--Sharon Crase

the
CREEP
ON
THE
STREET

LESBIAN
by ~~724~~ Marley
presents



IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU CAN PROMISE DOB AT LEAST ONE SMALL DOLLAR (OR MORE) A MONTH, PAYABLE BY THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH, THEN CLIP OUT THIS COUPON AND MAIL IT TODAY. IF YOU DON'T HELP, NO ONE WILL.....

I promise to send \$ _____ per month to "House Fund", DOB, 1005 Market, Rm. 208, San Francisco, Ca. 94103.

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All contributions are tax deductible.

WE ARE UNIQUE

How well are we oriented to self-preservation techniques? By now many of you have heard about the earthquake predictions for San Francisco. Dr. Reuben Greenspan has predicted that a severe quake will hit San Francisco on January 4, 1973 at 9 a.m.

Dr. Greenspan was only two minutes off in predicting the Alaskan quake of 1964. In a study of fifteen quakes that he predicted in 1935 (appeared in "New York Times") 58% (or nine quakes) occurred exactly as foretold, 34% (or five quakes) occurred but with variation, and 8% (or one quake) did not occur at all.

I'm not into scaring you with these facts. I just want you to consider the possibility of disaster and look over the following list of things to do or know about in order to help yourself or people around you.

Dorothy Gellert, a volunteer for the Red Cross, has given us the following information on first aid and earthquake safety:

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY TIPS

1. Keep calm (panic causes the most injuries.)
2. Have a flashlight, first aid kit and transistor radio available.
3. Doorways collapse, (contrary to what many of us have been told) so get under a heavy desk or piece of furniture. If you're in a building, get away from the windows.
4. Stay away from the downtown area and high buildings (bricks and glass will fall.)

5. If you're in a car, stop it in an open area.
6. Get to open areas, perhaps on top of a hill, away from cable wires or anything that can fall.
7. Find gas, water and electricity valves so you can turn them off if pipes break.
8. Don't light a match if gas leak is indicated.
9. If you need help, call the police or turn on the radio for information.
10. Only use the phone in case of emergency. Phone lines will be used mainly by firemen, hospitals, police, etc.
11. Don't use elevators. They are not safe during quakes.
12. Store some food and water in unbreakable safe spots.

FIRST AID

SHOCK SYMPTOMS:

Skin cold and clammy, pupils dilated, irregular breathing, nausea. Treat anyone who is injured for shock, to be safe.

1. Have patient lie down flat.
2. Cover with a blanket. Don't over-heat the patient, but try to keep temperature from lowering.
3. If there is no injury to the head or chest, elevate feet six inches.
4. Keep patient calm and comfortable. Do not give anything to drink.
5. Call the police or hospital.

BLEEDING:

1. Apply direct pressure over wound.
2. Two main pressure points are under the arm pits and the groin. Press these areas, or around the wound and watch to see what area slows

down the flow of blood.

3. Applying a tourniquet can cause more damage if done improperly. Only do it as a last resort, and don't tie it so tight that all circulation is cut off.

FAINTING:

1. Treat for shock (just in case).
2. Turn head to side in case ingestion occurs, so patient won't choke on it.
3. To prevent fainting: sit down and breathe deeply, then put head between knees so that the blood goes to the head.

BURNS:

1. Don't put on oil or ointment. A doctor will have to clean it off later when the wound is examined.
2. Apply cold water, or use ice packs.
3. Treat for shock.
4. Wrap clean cloth over burn and get a doctor.

GLASS IN EYES OR FLESH:

1. Eyes: don't blink. Keep face down so glass won't sink deeper into the socket. (Rest head on desk over arms.)
2. Bandage, after removing surrounding loose glass.
3. When a big piece of glass is lodged in the flesh it can act as a plug and keep the blood from flowing. So don't pull it out until you see a doctor.

The Red Cross has free classes in first aid, and some very complete books on the subject are available.

Remember, don't panic. Keep calm. Circulation has lasted this long, and we're unique; so we'll be around to share with one another and keep sisterhood alive and strong.

-- Kathi Hoffman

DEAR DAD

(The only necessary word of explanation is about the first paragraph. My father called me from home on a Friday afternoon. That morning I had mailed him a small card simply stating that I had discovered I am gay and telling him how joyous I was over the discovery. Two weeks later, having heard nothing from him, I mailed this letter.)

My dearest Dad:

November 1972

It is two o'clock in the morning and I can't sleep. I can't keep my mind off you. I haven't been able to keep my mind off you since that Friday afternoon we talked, knowing that that morning I had mailed the card to you. I surprised myself, for I was utterly delighted to hear your voice. I didn't want to express it over the phone, but for the first time in my life I felt your equal.

For years and years and years I've felt that you and Mom did not really see me, did not really know me; that there was some part of me buried deep inside that I couldn't get out to show you. And I resented that you (I'm speaking of you only from now on) didn't see me and I became more and more reluctant and afraid to show myself at all--all the while never realizing that I wasn't seeing myself and that the problem was there, with me, not with you.

Dad, Dad, I've spent my whole life, except for the past two months, being so divorced from the person I am and the female I am. I don't think I can adequately express all the pain I felt while growing up: all the awkwardness, the realization that somehow I wasn't like the other girls, the

horrible feeling that I just didn't fit anywhere. Each culture determines for itself what it will accept as masculine and feminine behavior and the respective cultures sometimes differ markedly from one another. How do you think I felt, knowing that I was a girl yet knowing that I fit none of the acceptable American stereotypes of what a girl is supposed to be? I hated dresses and purses and playing dolls. I couldn't carry myself gracefully and sitting with my knees together was physical and mental torture. I couldn't be what I was supposed to be and I didn't know what was wrong and I didn't know who I was and it's been that way ever since I can remember and it has been hell.

And who are the people, outside of family, that I have loved the most? With such ease and warmth their names flow from me: Christie, Sherry, Marcia, Maureen, Carol.

I have no idea what it's like to be heterosexual. No male has ever thrilled my heart as have these girls and women. When I was little I didn't have the slightest ounce of curiosity about boys' bodies. I will never forget being very aware of Christie's well-developed front at the age of eleven. Women's bodies have always seemed so lovely to me, so soft, so wonderfully shaped, so exquisite. There is nothing attractive or interesting or desirable about a man's body.

Making love with a man has always been mental and sometimes even physical torture. Making love with a woman became the completion I had unknowingly been waiting for all these miserable years. As I told my friend Sandy: "Now life makes sense to me! Now I feel whole!"

Now I am whole.

Changes are happening already. I am less physically tense than I have ever been; my movements are slower and more graceful. My self-confidence

and self-respect are growing. I am beginning to form deep friendships again. And the most wonderful boost to my ego has been the realization that deep down I do believe I'm OK; because that's the only way I could have so happily embraced my homosexuality in this very hostile society.

Dad, you must realize that, happy as I am about this, it was a shock for me too. I too had to make the discovery that the realities of Lesbianism are far different from the stereotypes of it. I had to make the awesome decision as to who to tell and who not to tell; I decided to tell everybody.

For the first time in twenty-four years I am one with myself and I accept that oneness and I know what I want from life. As a young male homosexual put it: "When you keep one part of yourself secret, that becomes the most important part of you." I don't want that to happen to me.

Dad, I finally make sense to myself and am coming to like myself. Will you take your stereotype of a Lesbian and impose it on me or will you take what you know of me and erase your stereotype of Lesbian?

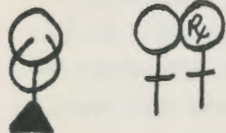
Do you love me?

With tears and love
KATHY

LESBIANIES

by Marleef presents

the MOTHER-IN-LAW



Yes, it's true I wanted
you to marry a doctor
but I didn't mean...

The
Furies

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IT'S BEEN SAID BEFORE...

Remember the history books that depicted Suffragettes as tight-lipped old maids who marched around carrying Temperance signs? Well, history is being re-written and HERstory is emerging now. The quotes below are from a new book titled "Voices From Women's Liberation" (compiled and edited by Leslie B. Tanner). These quotes are only samplings from a sizable body of women's writings well worth examining.

"I shall venture the assertion that until women assume the place in society which good sense and feeling alike assign to them, human improvement must advance but feebly. It is in vain that we would circumscribe the power of one half our race, and that half by far the most important and influential." --Frances Wright (1830)

"I ask no favors for my sex...All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet from off our necks." --Sarah Moore Grimke (1838)

"Man has exercised the most unlimited and brutal power over woman, in the peculiar character of husband--a word in most countries synonymous with tyrant..." --Sarah Moore Grimke (1837)

"The government of this country, in common with all others, has never recognized or attempted to protect women as persons possessing the rights of humanity." --Jane Elizabeth Jones (1850)

"The wrongs of woman have too long slumbered. They now begin to cry for redress. Let them, then, not ask as favor, but demand as right, that every civil obstacle be moved out of the way."
-- Lucretia Mott (1850)

"We mean treason; we mean secession, and on a thousand times grander scale than was that of the South. We are plotting revolution; we will overthrow this bogus Republic and plant a government of righteousness..." --Victoria Woodhull (1871)

OUT NOW -- Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin's new book

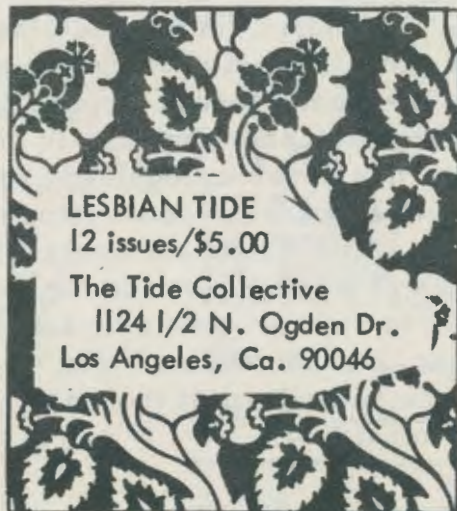
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Women's Liberation Is More Than Bralessness



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Wanted

YOUR ARTICLES, news, poetry, graphics, covers, etc.

SPEAKERS BUREAU wants speakers for high schools, colleges, church groups, etc. Call 861-8689 or 566-3531. Leave message. (No pay but lots of ego strokes!) --Marley

WEDNESDAY NIGHT rap leaders and rap topics.

FEEDBACK about your magazine.

Reminders

EARTHQUAKE! Reuben Greenspan has predicted one for the Bay Area to register 7.4 on the Richter scale on Thurs., Jan. 4, 1973. Won't hurt to leave town for a day or two.

COFFEEHOUSE ENTERTAINMENT at Marley's (providing her house is still standing!) on Jan. 20. See calendar.

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

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

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