



pointblank times

a lesbian/feminist publication houston, texas
vol. III no. 4 august 1977

50¢

ONCE THE JEWS

THEN THE BLACKS



UPI Telephoto

NOW THE GAYS

GET OFF OUR BACKS!

Come Out of Your Closet For One Evening

(you may never go back)

The Human Rights Rally of June 16th here in Houston succeeded beyond most of our hopes. The final tally of participants reached 10,000, according to rally organizer, Gary Van Ooteghem. Among these were far more lesbians and gays than Houston had ever seen in one place, as well as Dominican clergy, handicapped people from the Coalition for Barrier Free Living, B'nai B'rith women, and supporters from the American Civil Liberties Union. Memorable was the apparent new level of cooperation between lesbians and gay men.

It seems crucial for us to realize that this experience at best serves to renew our determination to end discrimination based on sexual preference and to fight against the bigotry and social tyranny Anita Bryant symbolizes. The march in Houston, in addition to those marches across the country, is a watershed in the struggle for gay and women's rights which hopefully will be followed by increasing numbers of lesbians and gays standing up for our rights.

Photography by Glynda





GPC vs

The Old Plantation

In the never ending saga of discrimination at the Old Plantation, Houston's largest gay disco, the future may see some change. As we reported last issue, several instances of violence against women at the Old Plantation have been alleged. General hassling by the management, as well as one case of a rape and beating induced *Pointblank Times* to urge women to stay away from the bar for our own safety and as a protest against the Old Plantation's blatant disrespect for its female customers.

The mostly male Gay Political Caucus had responded to complaints it received with a rather callous disinterest, widening the already substantial gulf between gay men and women in Houston. Most of us were ready to chalk up another victory to male insensitivity, take the Old Plantation off our list of night spots, and carry on. But in the past month or so, the situation has changed considerably.

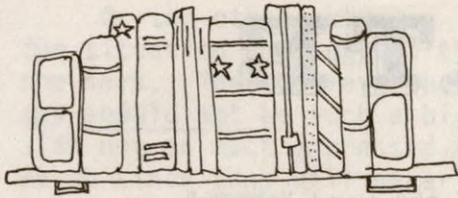
The Gay Political Caucus received an increased number of complaints of harassment at the Old Plantation--and not just from women. Chicanos and blacks also complained of discriminatory treatment. One Chicano has filed a sworn affidavit with the Gay Political Caucus accusing the Old Plantation management of taking him into their office and beating him while two uniformed policemen, hired as security guards, watched without concern.

As a consequence of the escalating accusations, the Old Plantation came under considerable fire at the July 6th Gay Political Caucus meeting. Several women attended the meeting specifically to call attention to the charges against the Old Plantation and to ask why the Gay Political Caucus had failed to respond to them meaningfully. Barbara Cigainero, a former *Pointblank Times* staffer, reminded the large crowd that the gay community had known for over a year that the Old Plantation discriminated against women and minorities and that it was time to take action. To her surprise, the largely male crowd expressed their agreement with loud applause. A resolution was proposed and passed which called for the Old Plantation to : make a public apology, change management, and eliminate discriminatory practices. The resolution allotted ten days for the Old Plantation to negotiate an agreement with Caucus representatives. If no agreement was reached, a committee was authorized to hold an open forum to document all charges against the Old Plantation and then to organize a boycott. In short, the Gay Political Caucus was prepared to put the same organizational strength into fighting the Old Plantation that it had used to bring off the successful June 16th Human Rights Rally.

The boycott threat was apparently an effective one as the Old Plantation, at this printing, has agreed to make a public apology, change its dress code (often the tool of discrimination), and allow Gay Political Caucus observers to oversee its change of attitude. The sincerity of these promises has yet to be tested and some of us will, no doubt, remain skeptical until the horror stories stop and some more positive ones are heard.

Nevertheless, for the first time in recent memory, gay men and women in Houston are talking about working together. First, the Human Rights Rally, and now, the





BOOK REVIEW

BURIED STONE

Buried Stone, poems by Linda J. Lovell, graphics by Kiki Neumann, 1977. \$3.00 Available in Houston at The Bookstore, 1728 Bissonnet, 77005.

What makes a collection of poetry impressive, strong, well-written and quite capable of standing on its own is also what makes a review notches below the poetry. The work is delightful for all the reasons those of us who read poetry love it. *Buried Stone* is nothing if not ambitious, and it's initially delightful to see ambition succeed. Lovell combines breadth of style as well as breadth of meaning in her selection, ranging from vituperitic daydreams against lazy tourists to sharply ironic denunciations of (heterosexual) rules.

Lovell does what some others who aspire to writing poetry despair of doing--she uses poetic structure and form to their full strength and advantage. Her language serves to pull lines and meanings together, and devices like couplets go

much further than cleverness. She shows a command of the ways women talk, in addition to a keen appreciation for the way poets talk. Her poetic voice speaks like women do within the structure of poetry, where every word is essential and weighted for meaning.

The striking achievement of Lovell's poetry is the wonderfully accessible clarity of it all. The reader is never dropped into a sludge of inarticulate, vague impressions. Instead, one is lead with sensitive coherency to develop the images, thoughts, and emotions that give the poetry texture and meaning. (And the nuances do not beat me over the head.) The poetry allows readers many levels of interpretation without abandoning the visual and mental images that discourage the mundane and boring.

If a poem is that art form combining language, image and meaning pared to an essence, Lovell brings it all together beautifully. One hopes this volume will mark the beginning for a very talented and promising writer. In short, one hopes for more.

- Liz Brimm

continued from page 4

threatened Old Plantation boycott have brought a modicum of trust to the previously adversary relationship of gay men and lesbians in Houston. Again, skepticism is high, but the next few months may see the political alliance of men and women working for gay rights--an alliance in which each side maintains its independence and integrity and at the same time, gains strength.

- Nancy

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CHARLES GILLIS, MGR.

SELF HATE

When I was eleven years old, I discovered the power of the word "queer". Every child knows the importance of verbal ammunition when dealing with such foes as brothers and sisters and other assorted villains found in the neighborhood or school. The scars from a scuffle can be forgotten the next day. But there are some words that leave a sting so painful as to stay for years. The easiest and cheapest shots were to call someone who was fat a "fatso" or someone who was several grades below beautiful, "ugly". You could beat on someone all day and never produce the tears that just the right word, the one that shook their tender self image, could bring streaming from their eyes. The sense of power in discovering the opponent's weakness can be exhilarating at such a young age.

At eleven, I was lacking in the necessary tools. My parents had forbidden me to use the word "nigger". We had a black woman who came in to do the ironing and they didn't trust my brother and I not to accidentally insult her. "Good help was hard to find" in those days. My religion had convinced me that certain four letter words would cause me to be stricken dead and sent to hell forthwith without my supper. I felt frustrated, restricted to the insults of a young child and powerless in such confrontations.

It was at this time that I heard the word "queer". A friend of mine confided to me that she could take being called anything except a "queer". She paid for this revelation about three months later when we argued. Flushed with anger and crying hard, she had been defeated.

For the next four years, "queer" and its various synonyms became sure fire retorts in any argument. It was always dependable, guaranteed to give the one who used it first the upper hand.

During these four years, I had absolutely no idea what the word meant. But because of the reaction from others, the word had power over me also. The connotation it took on was that of baseness, filth, trash, etc. I didn't need to know the meaning, the reaction it generated was enough to convince me that it was the worst thing I could be called. I grew up hating and fearing something I had no understanding of. I believe that this is an experience common to many people.

This background is necessary to understand how I feel about Anita Bryant's campaign. When she refers to me as "human garbage" I hear the taunting voice of an eleven year old girl. I hear myself. She is able to hurt me because I grew up in a society that raised me to hate myself and it is painful to admit that I have not completely dealt with this.

Perhaps some find comfort in the fact that self-hate is a recognized social phenomena among oppressed people. However, I am not attempting to deal with a group in a textbook, I am trying to salvage my own sanity and I feel completely frustrated in addressing the problem.

While it is obvious that the politically wise course to take would be to stand in unity with as many people as possible, I am overwhelmed by a sense of alienation. Some straight feminists seem bent on lecturing to gay women about how serious the Dade County vote really is. I bristle at their speeches while at the same time wanting and expecting their support. I believe I have a right to their support without having to be subjected to an analysis of an oppression that they will never feel as personally and with as much depth as myself.

On the other extreme, it has been enraging for me to hear blasé liberals discount the situation and suggest that no one will pay much attention to Anita Bryant or what she says. They believe that being gay is no big deal. The truth is, that being gay should not be such a big deal. The obvious conclusion of their attitude is that I am not so much oppressed as paranoid. It is a comfortable conclusion for them to reach since they will never experience being evicted, fired, or beaten for being gay.

However, the most painful element of my alienation is my sense of separateness from other gay people. If the reactions to the incidents at the Old Plantation are any indication, it would seem unreasonable for gay women to expect support from gay men unless the issue directly affected the men.

And so I find myself turning to other gay women in the community with almost a sense of desperation. As usual, there will be but a small percentage who will translate any feelings that they have into some form of political activity. Yet it has been disillusioning to find how difficult it is to get anyone to talk about feeling anything at all. The one feeling that seems to be the easiest to admit is that of anger. I can see and can imagine many constructive avenues through which to vent my anger. But what am I supposed to do with this enormous sense of hurt and pain, and yes, even fear.

I have received some feedback that I am not supposed to be feeling this pain, much less talking about it. Some see this as indicating weakness. It would have been much easier for me to try to express my anger. I feel that because of what I have chosen to write I am making myself vulnerable to being misunderstood by some and possible "losing face" among some of my friends. I believe myself to possess a very great inner strength. It has been difficult for me to admit to myself the pain I have been feeling. I am taking this risk because the anxiety of my alienation is leading me to bitterness and to remain quiet would make me an emotional coward.

It is my hope that other gay women will talk about those feelings they have that are not bronzed in Spartan courage and often uncomfortable to admit. If we can provide such support for each other it will do much to lessen the sense of shame and aloneness that comes from the frustration of being personally vulnerable to such an outrageous and inhumane attack on our human dignity and intrinsic worth.

- Barbara Cigainero

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Jubilee

Jubilee, an all-women band from Austin, is scheduled to play two concerts in Houston. The seven women who have been performing together for 8 months made their first public appearance on the picket line and at rallies in support of striking shuttlebus drivers and bookstore workers, and at a rally outside a Federal prison demanding release of political prisoners. Since then, they have played at clubs and women's bars in Austin, at benefits for women's projects, in classes, and at community events.

Their music has developed to include a wide variety of musical styles and content--besides playing original music, they play women's songs, Chicano and Puerto Rican music, prison songs and other topical/protest songs, bluegrass, reggae and boogie tunes. The members of the group are as skilled in combining various instruments as they are in combining vocals and harmonies.

Jubilee is dedicated to inspiring and creating a people's culture of music that is not sexist or racist, that reflects humor and truth, love for women, and support for all people's struggles for freedom.

Friday, July 29, at Liberty Hall, they will play a benefit for a National Lawyer's Guild/ACLU legal suit against the Texas Department of Corrections on behalf of women prisoners. On Saturday, July 30, at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, they will play for a women's dance/boogie sponsored by Gemini Productions. The dance will begin at 8:00 p.m. and a \$3.00 donation is asked to help cover the band's expenses.

- Claire Noonan



Lynn Keller, Linda Evans, Frances Barton, Alice Embree, Marce Laconture, Lisa Rogers, Cherry Wolfarth

PBT-Shirts

"These shirts will cause droughts." -Anita B.

Nearly antiques! We still have available a few PBT-shirts, now at a bargain price. State your preference (shirt preference, not sexual preference) and send us or hand us a measly \$4 (postage included).



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- Medium (38-40) in Forest Green
- Ex. Large (46-48) in Sky Blue or Forest Green

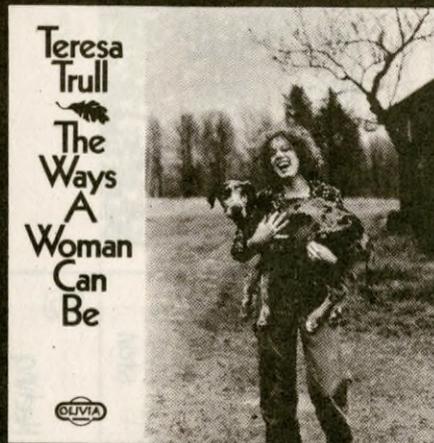
P.S. Even though they are brand new, these shirts are guaranteed to take on a bona fide faded look after a few washings.

HAFFCU BOARD OPENINGS

The Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union announces opportunities to serve on its Board of Directors are available. If you are interested in serving as a board member, please call the HAFFCU office at 527-9108, or B. L. Jamail at 465-4372 or 465-3928.

WOMEN WANTED!
at last! an outlet for your creative energies. new input is always welcome; for writing, layout, design, collating, and general publication procedures. if you are interested in joining the PBT staff, call Claire at 523-2521, or 524-0342.

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The Bookstore 1728 Bissonnet
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I'm 18 years old and I can't stand to see a woman walking with a woman or a man walking with a man. I don't like these people. I guess you could call them "people." I'm not really sure.

- Alternate Lifestyles Workshop
International Women's Year,
Texas Women's Meeting, 1977



OREGON WOMEN'S LAND

Oregon Women's Land is a non-profit corporation, founded to acquire land for women and preserve it in perpetuity. The group is currently beginning a major fundraising drive and has plans to start a speaker's bureau and a traveling multi-media caravan.

If you would like more information write: Oregon Women's Land, P.O. Box 1692, Roseburg, Oregon 97479.

MOTHERROOT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Motherroot Publications, Inc. is a new press dedicated to the publication of serious work by women reflecting a woman's culture and combining the art and politics inherent to the female experience.

For further information contact: Anne Pride, Editor/Publisher, c/o Motherroot Publications, 214 Dewey St., Pittsburgh, PA. 15218.

SIRENS

Sirens, a program for women by women is aired at 8:00-10:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Those wanting to get a program together to be aired can attend the Wednesday night meetings from 7:00-8:00p.m. at KPFT Radio 90.1 FM, 419 Lovett Blvd. For more information call 526-4000.

WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP

The National Women's Health Network (NWHN), a coalition of 500 key women's health groups, individual consumers and health providers, is mounting a national campaign to alert the Federal Government to the health concerns of women. These include: safer methods of childbirth, an end to sterilization abuses and unnecessary hysterectomies, less hazardous birth control methods, stronger requirements for informed consent, and stricter FDA surveillance over drugs and hormones prescribed for women.

If you would like more information on the future plans of the NWHN write: NWHN; 1302 18th Street, N.W., Suite 203; Washington, D.C. 20036.

WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 2nd annual Michigan Women's Music Festival, sponsored by We Want The Music Collective(WWTMC), will be held August 25-28 in the country near Whitecloud. For advanced tickets write: WWTMC - 1501 Lyons Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858 or call 517-772-0582. They are asking a donation of \$20.00 for the weekend or \$5.00 per day.

Any woman who would like to perform in the festival should send a tape of her music to the above address.

GAY BOOK AWARD

Winner of the Gay Book Award for 1977 is *Familiar Faces, Hidden Lives: The Story of Homosexual Men in America Today*, by the late Howard Brown, M.D., former health services commissioner of New York City. The book was published in 1976 and will be out in paperback in October, 1977. The award was given by the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association on June 20, 1977 during the ALA annual conference in Detroit.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) is currently holding various building fund activities. Due to the constant growth in membership, the building located at Joe Annie, has become too small to handle the increased attendance. Services are held Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30p.m. and also on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

WILDE 'N' STEIN

Following Sirens is a very entertaining show geared to the gay community. WILDE 'N' STEIN is aired from 10:00 p.m. to midnight every Wednesday night. The format is based on topical discussions with listener question and answer encouraged. It can also be heard on KPFT FM, 90.1.

GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS

The Gay Political Caucus (GPC) is now forming a feminist committee to encourage more women to become active in the Caucus. If you are interested, contact the GPC office at 1310 McDuffie Suite 28A, Houston 77019 or call 526-2668. GPC meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The August 3rd meeting will be held at the Depository on Bagby and McGowen.

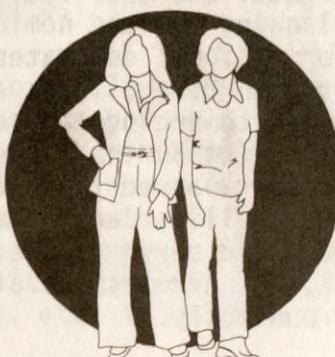
IRIS FILMS

Iris Films/Iris Feminist Collective, Inc. has just released their new film, "In the Best Interests of the Children", an hour long color documentary about Lesbian Mothers and child custody. For information on rental or sale of the film write: Iris Films/Iris Feminist Collective, Inc., 2130½ Elsinore Street, Los Angeles, California 90026 or call 213-483-5793.

WAGES DUE LESBIANS

Wages Due Lesbians is about to publish the first pamphlet on lesbian mothers and child custody available in North America. It can be ordered from WDL--Box 38, Station E, Toronto, Ontario. The pamphlet entitled Motherhood, Lesbianism, and Child Custody was written by Francie Wyland. Any woman interested in sharing her experiences or discussing the activities of WDL should call 416-921-9091 or 416-465-6822.

August 1977



BURIED STONE

Poems by Linda J. Lovell
Graphics by Kiki Neumann

Available at:
The Bookstore

Mail order: 901 W. Alabama
Houston 77006
(Send \$3.00 + .40 postage)

IWY revisited

Lesbian Rights ARE a Women's Issue !

"The militant libbers and lesbians were in control [at the Texas IWY Conference], not the grassroots Texas woman as it was billed. There was no shred of morality from the platform,"

according to Paulette Standefer, a "spokesman" for a coalition of anti-ERA Texas women. Unfortunately, she was wrong. The women in control of Texas' International Women's Year Conference were white, middle-class, married, and not terribly feminist--certainly not overwhelmingly pro-lesbian.

The history of IWY both at the national and state levels has been an exercise in extreme moderation. In Texas the moderate women stayed in control throughout the near-secret conference planning and the nominations procedures for national delegates. As *PBT* reported in March, Texas and National managed to exclude any open lesbian from serving on the Texas committee, as they passed the buck back and forth, even telling Janna Zumbrun of Austin she could serve if she would make no mention of her lesbian affiliations in IWY publicity.

Partially in response to IWY attempts to exclude lesbians, over 100 lesbians attended the Texas IWY meeting in Austin in June, including many *PBT* readers and Austin Lesbian Feminist Organization members. The Lesbian Caucus formed a strong coalition with the Chicana Caucus to pass each others' resolutions and elect each others' delegate choices. As part of a large pro-ERA coalition, we managed to capture 52 pro-ERA seats in the 58-member Texas delegation. Of these, 23 delegates had the endorsement of the Lesbian Caucus, including 3 open

lesbians: Janna Zumbrun of Austin, and Jo Stewart and Pokey Anderson of Houston.

The anti-ERA forces, who numbered a vocal 35% of those in attendance, managed to win only 10% of the delegate seats, or 6 delegates.

The Alternative Lifestyles workshop was a heated battleground. The Lesbian Caucus targeted the morning session, and packed the audience of over 100. The anti's were there too, with their rabbit eyes and immobile mouths and rigid wrinkles--surely women who never move while being fucked. They waved their phallic tape recorder microphones and whined about their rights to raise their children in a vacuum, never mind the rights of lesbians to darken the face of the earth somewhere besides in a closet.

We got our resolutions passed there, and in the workshop on Sexism, Racism and Classism, where we worked with our Chicana friends. In the afternoon session of the Lifestyles workshop, the anti's had the majority and passed a resolution urging that "alternative lifestyles not be taught in public schools at elementary or secondary levels of education." Maneuvering by a handful of lesbians in attendance at that workshop prevented their passing more resolutions.

At the plenary session, though, the anti's were outvoted handily. The only resolution they even passed had been amended crucially, from "Be it resolved that motherhood be considered as a primary role for women," to "Be it resolved that parenthood be considered as a primary role for mothers and fathers."

The pro-ERA coalition passed two blocks of resolutions supporting ERA, minority women, lesbians, and women's rights in credit, health, insurance, etc. The lesbian resolution was included in a block of resolutions that passed 740 to 620.

Clearly though, in the final analysis, the middle-of-the road planning ladies who suggested that appropriate attire for the conference would be "sundresses" retained most of their power. They conceded as little as possible to either the pink lady fringe or the lavender menace fringe.

TEXAS IWY LESBIAN RESOLUTION

Whereas a significant percentage of women (20 percent according to Kinsey Institute studies) have had overt Lesbian experience; and whereas 100 percent of women are vulnerable to anti-Lesbian discrimination; whereas Lesbians are discriminated against in employment, housing, health care, credit and education both in the ways applying to all women, and more so because Lesbians support women in a male-dominated society, and because of prejudice stemming from homophobic ideas about sexuality and lifestyle, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that Lesbian civil rights are a women's issue and that the civil rights of Lesbians be defended by law and all related powers.

--passed in Austin, Texas, June 26, 1977

• Looking Ahead to the National Conference •

Jean O'Leary, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force and the only open lesbian who is a National IWY Commissioner, is coordinating a national effort for lesbian visibility and strength at the national IWY conference to be held here in Houston November 18-20. She and the Women's Caucus of NGTF will be working closely with lesbians here in Texas to insure that lesbians (1) show up in large numbers, (2) lobby delegates effectively, (3) strengthen our national identity, and (4) have a good time. (As one strategist remarked, "Some of our most important work will be done in the hotels.")

One of the national projects in progress is to ascertain which of the 1500 delegates will support lesbian rights, and which are open lesbians. If you think someone in your state could help identify delegates' leanings, give O'Leary or Cheryl Adams a call at NGTF: (212) 741-1010.

August 1977

The results of the IWY state meetings so far are mixed. California lesbians are still flying high--they gathered a contingent of 2,000 lesbians and stole the show there. But in Utah well over 10,000 anti-ERA Mormon types showed up. Other states ranged in between. O'Leary was pleased with the lesbian showing here in Texas, since we are the host for the national convention.

Depending on conference site (Albert Thomas? Coliseum?) and publicity, 20,000 people may show up as delegates and observers in November. That could mean 1,000 to 2,000 lesbians converging on downtown Houston.

Already a group in California is working to bring a charter plane of 500 lesbians, pro-gay feminists, and gay men to support the lesbian presence here. We Texas lesbians need to be thinking about ways we can facilitate their visit--housing, transportation, communication, information, entertainment, etc. Jean O'Leary says the sky is the limit on inviting name personalities. If we want Rita Mae Brown, Lili Tomlin, whoever, we could probably get them to come. So start fantasizing.

Also, while you're thinking, muse on how we can get more lesbians in Texas involved in this, women who haven't gotten involved before. And, if you really get your brain hot, meditate on possible sources for the several thousand dollars it will cost us in air fares, printing, etc. to do this thing right.

For the present, Janna Zumbrun, Jo Stewart and I will act as contact people to get things rolling in Texas. (You can write Janna c/o *Good-Bye To All That*, P. O. Box 3301, Austin, TX. 78764, and you can write Jo or me c/o *PBT*.)

By the way, my California source says "We are bringing the cream of our crop to Houston." So be thinking about how many you'd like to house. Already eager Houston women are asking for 25 or 50 California lesbians for their very own, for a weekend.

- Pokey Anderson

we will remember in November!

It is fairly rare that we in Houston have a chance to vote for a political candidate who is (a) a woman, (b) a feminist, (c) a supporter of gay rights, and (d) has a reasonable chance to win. As the races for November shape up I'd like to personally recommend two candidates who meet all these criteria. And either could use your talents during their campaigns, your appearances at their fund-raising events, and your vote on election day.

Kathy Whitmire, a Certified Public Accountant, is running for the office of City Controller, vacated by Leonel Castillo. Kathy has been a mover in the Harris County Women's Political Caucus and in the Houston Feminist Federal Credit Union. She is quiet, conscientious, and has excellent accounting qualifications. And, she has supported women and gays as long as I have known her.

Kathy's office is at 2405 San Jacinto, phone is 654-7147. To volunteer call 528-3919.

Merylyn Whited, who holds a master's degree in community organization, was Leonel Castillo's Administrative Assistant until recently. She is running for City Council position C, currently occupied by Louis Macey. (If you're new to Houston, Macey was one of the most obnoxious of Nikki Van Hightower's antagonists in the great Women's Advocate Furor.) Merylyn was one of the outspoken many who took up Nikki's cause, and joined in the chant "We'll remember in November." She is a competent go-getter with a lot of political savvy. (She'd stick out like a sore thumb on our City Council.)

Merylyn's office is at 2007 Westheimer, phone is 521-9065.

- Pokey Anderson



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LONE STAR LESBIANS

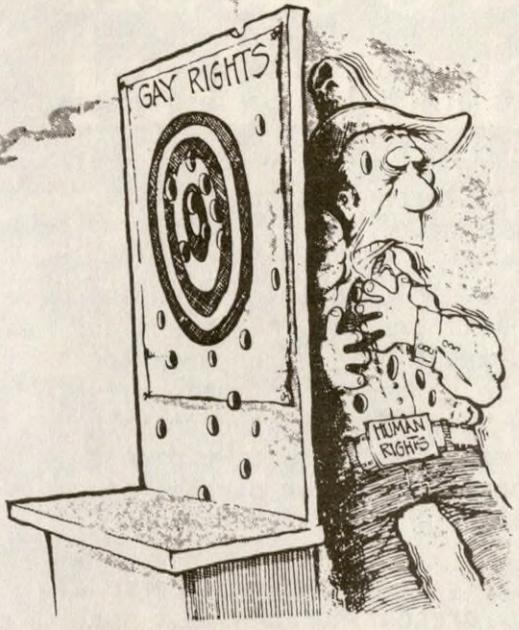
Pointblank Times will be a participating group in a new effort to compile a comprehensive mailing list of lesbians in Texas. During a workshop at Texas Gay Conference IV in June, members of *PBT*, Austin Lesbian Feminist Organization, *Good-Bye to All That*, Common Woman Bookstore, and Texas Gay Task Force agreed to create a super mailing list by combining all our mailing lists. We hope the new super list, dubbed Lone Star Lesbians, will enable us to quickly inform several thousand lesbians around Texas of events such as women's concerts, state conferences and camp-outs, and other major cultural and political happenings.

We assume if you are on *PBT's* mailing list you will want to be on Lone Star Lesbians' mailing list. If for some reason you don't want to be, please let us know before August 20th.

If you have friends who would like to get on the list, have them write: Lone Star Lesbians, P. O. Box 3301, Austin, Texas 78764. It's free, but donations for postage and such will be gratefully received. LSL mailings will naturally be discreet.

Pointblank Times

SCRAPES
MAY BE A BIT HOT



Inquisition.

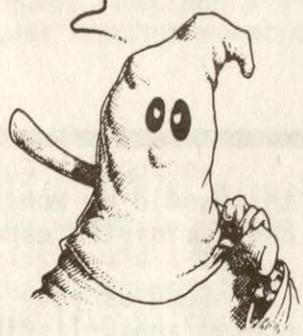
THE NORMAL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.



THE NORMAL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.



THE NORMAL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.



THE NORMAL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.



BEN SARGENT
©1977 The Austin American Statesman

sexuality survey

Karla Jay and Allen Young, who have previously collaborated on several anthologies of writings by lesbians and gay men, have prepared a sexuality questionnaire and are currently distributing it throughout the United States and Canada.

In an age of "sexual awareness" and "sexual liberation," lesbians and male homosexuals have often been conveniently forgotten or intentionally left out. Many of us wanted to talk about our experiences, but we didn't have the opportunity, or circumstances kept us silent.

The study will involve a personal approach by presenting an honest portrait of the feelings and practices of thousands of lesbians and gay men who answer the questionnaire.

If you would like a copy or can help distribute this questionnaire, write to: SURVEY, Box 98, Orange, Mass. 01364. Be sure to indicate how many copies and specify male or female questionnaire.

GLYNDA

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We publish *Pointblank Times* as often as possible. Under optimum conditions that would be monthly. We exist to be a communications vehicle for lesbians and feminists, especially in Houston and in Texas.

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DOWNTOWN AND FRUSTRATED?--There's hope! Those of us who inhabit downtown Houston weekdays 8-5 are getting together for lunch on Thursdays at the Reflection Pool. For more information on the Downtown Lesbian Lunch Bunch (DLLB) call Nancy at 524-3642. We're *not* just another women's luncheon club.

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WIRES: The Woman Connection

At a May WIRES (Women's Information, Referral and Exchange Service) steering committee meeting, a decision was made not to give out the names of women's bars. Dr. Nikki Van Hightower and Beth Kendrick were the only two voicing opposition to this decision.

It seems that some members of Women In Action/WIRES were surprised at the number of calls asking for the location of women's bars. This surprise grew into an even bigger one: Is providing Lesbian services a part of women's issues? (Sound familiar?) And thus, the decision was made to provide other services including counselors, churches, newspapers, but not bars or roommates.

I was surprised that They were surprised that Lesbians were a part of the Women's Movement. I was also surprised that the main connotation of the word Lesbian was sexual. (As if we had nothing else to do?) I was pleased, however, that the entire steering committee was interested in having a consciousness-raising workshop on Lesbian issues and lifestyle.

I quote from a letter I wrote regarding this decision to the Women In Action Board of Directors:

"The first and foremost concern of the group (I spoke with) was for the safety of women. It seems there has been an increase in harrassment of women in male homosexual bars with two women being raped and beaten. The women felt it imperative that women be able to find the location of women's bars where they can meet in safety. It was felt that women visiting from out of town would be especially vulnerable without this information.

It is a fact that people in this society congregate in bars to socialize, exchange ideas, information, etc. It is also a fact that women are oppressed and discriminated against in society generally. If this were not true, there would be no need for bars/businesses which cater specifically to women's needs. Unfortunately, such is not the case. Women cannot relate freely in society in general, or bars in particular, without the very real danger of violence or harrassment.

One of the goals of a Women's Movement is to provide non-sexist alternatives where women can have the space to grow while at the same time struggling to change our patriarchal institutions. Until other, perhaps more positive, institutions exist the two women's bars in this community serve a vital need in providing a meeting place for women. I urge Women In Action/WIRES to include this information in your files."

In addition, petitions with 51 signatures have been sent to Tommie Anderson, President of Women In Action. If you would like to call and voice your support, the phone number is 527-0718.

-Beth Kendrick