



pointblank times

a lesbian/feminist publication
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50¢



photography by sherry collier

editorial:

The successful passage of the Sexual Preference plank at the IWY Conference was due to the efforts of many people; not just lesbians, and not just delegates.

I have many mixed emotions and feelings about that weekend. As a Houstonian I saw my hospitality misused and my credibility questioned; as a non-delegate I was made to feel like a dutiful wife who must not question or interfere with "men's work"; and as a lesbian I had to come to terms with the alienation I felt from other lesbians.

On the other hand, I was proud to be from Houston as I stood in Sam Houston Coliseum armed with a WE ARE EVERYWHERE balloon in one hand and a Woman-Loving Woman poster in the other; I was proud to be among the large crowd of non-delegates showing not only our support but our strength from the gallery; and I was proud to be a lesbian as I embraced other women around me with a sense of satisfaction and victory after the vote.

As we started for the celebration, I realized the one word that was missing from my balloon. The one word that I have used countless times to impress upon homophobic people who have us neatly stacked into one stereotypical mold--WE ARE EVERYWHERE-DIFFERENTLY! As lesbians we do not all have the same needs, desires, or opinions. We do not always agree but we must maintain a continuous dialogue so that we can learn from each other and work together in spite of our differences.

-Claire

PBT wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the following persons who helped in the production of this issue: Judy A., Bert, and Marion.

We publish Pointblank Times as often as possible. Under optimum conditions that is six times a year. We exist as a communications vehicle for lesbians and feminists, especially in Houston and Texas.

Send us your stuff, including letters, features, reviews, poetry, graphics, photographs, and listings for the calendar. Please tell us how you want your name to appear, and whether you want your material returned to you.

Staff: Claire Noonan, Sherry
Collier, Melanie Eyre,
Tina, Bonnie Moore,
Carol Bradley, H.B.

Mailing Address:
Pointblank Times
P.O. Box 14643
Houston, Texas 77021

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editorial:

I am a lesbian/feminist. I have always denied the politics of separatism. I believed that we must look at all issues with a humanist approach; denying the input and/or existence of the male world is a non-productive method of refusing to deal with a part of society.

Time and again, I have stood up for my convictions. Through the horror and agony of my own sister's persecution. I have seen women beaten and raped by gay men to whom I have extended my trust. I have seen my close lesbian sisters talked down and sent away at a GPC meeting because the men had not wanted to listen. I have seen my gay "brothers" tell me how much they wanted to accept women and be my friend, then violently refuse my entrance into a bar because it was a "boy's bar".

In the past summer, I marched with thousands of sisters and brothers through the streets of Houston with a common cause, with a common pride. Women and men were working together, supporting each other. Without each other, the success of that evening would have been impossible. In my innocence, I thought that at last, the anger, the misunderstandings, the violence, was over. Monday night, January 9, 1978, I realized that I was wrong.

This rally, which was "not to protest the arrival of Anita Bryant", was proclaimed to be for all gay people. I foolishly considered the invitation to be extended to lesbians as well, and I donned my warmest clothes and appeared on the doorsteps of City Hall. The rally did not represent all gay people. It was a "boy's" rally. There was token representation of women in the speakers that addressed the predominately male crowd. There were no speakers that represented the gay men that I considered my allies, men whose attitudes and actions encompassed the feelings of the entire homosexual community. At first I was angry because I did not see more women there, but it did not take long for me to realize why these women had not come. It was not the freezing temperatures that kept them away, but their distrust of the self-proclaimed "leaders" of our gay community.

Ray Hill, who organized the rally, spent the entire evening as the MC, making foolish carnal remarks that set the gay movement back several steps with each utter. How is society going to understand or even listen to us if our "representatives" continue to add to their false belief that the only thing homosexuals think about is sex? Nor did he realize (he was so caught up in his role as "leader") that his sexism was showing. Like a slip under a well-tailored dress, it slid into view as he struggled to add humor or make a point. It seems to me that Ray Hill has decided that he is everyone's leader, and that we should look up to him with gratitude. Example: "I called this rally." "I met with the mayor." "If politicians want the black vote, they have to talk with several leaders of the black community.

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If they want the gay vote, they have only to come to one leader", his arms extended, palms upward. If Ray Hill thinks he is representing me as a lesbian woman, he is more naive than Jim McConn who thinks he is the Women's Advocate of Houston.

Yet Ray Hill cannot take all the credit for my fury. Surrounded by gay people of the male persuasion, I stood in awe at the remarks that were directed to the women speakers. I heard Gary Van Ootengham proclaim that the Gay Political Caucus meeting was a place where "everyone's views could be heard." I shuddered at this outright lie, knowing of numerous women who have tried patiently to let their views be known at several of the GPC's meetings. These attempts always ended in frustration as the women were silenced so they could hear a "more important" point being made by a man.

I saw women leaving. One couple handed me their candle and turned towards home, a look of contempt on their faces. I think that if lesbians are to gain respect from the community, we must carefully choose which gathering we are to offer our support. If there is no lesbian representation, no feminist attitude, no struggle for equality in its approach, then we need not waste our time or anger with our attendance. I think that the gay men with this attitude are going to destroy themselves with or without our influence.

-Sherry



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WILDE 'N' STEIN

a feminist bookstore

On the corner of Richmond and Roseland looms a two-story, wood frame house, whose tall white pillars reach out to the gay community. The name Wilde 'N' Stein displayed in proud letters across the face of the building salutes two well-loved authors and encourages us to come and browse in the bookstore on the first floor.

Owned and operated by Charles Gillis and Ken Cyr, Wilde 'N' Stein is the only bookstore in town whose purpose is to serve the lesbians and gay men of the community.

Charles told us, "When I was young, the only information I could find on being gay was in Crime magazines in the back of a drug-store." Since that time, Charles has dreamed of establishing a center where positive, relevant material could be available to everyone. Wilde 'N' Stein has become this center, emerging as a community resource with countless periodicals, records, and books.

The large room in the back of the bookstore serves not only as a readily available meeting place for groups and organizations, but also as a well-stocked library of gay books and publications from around the country.

Wilde 'N' Stein was a long time in developing. Charles and Ken met in Fort Worth and became politically active in the community. Because of that activism they became, as far as they know, the only two people ever to be excommunicated from the MCCR in Fort Worth. The situation became worse when Charles, after a productive nine years at his job with a local utility company, was released on the grounds that he was "not working out." At the encouragement of old friends and the promise of opportunity, they moved to Houston two years ago to make a fresh start.

After arriving in Houston they pooled their energies and opened Wilde 'N' Stein last year and will celebrate its one year anniversary during Gay Pride Week '78. Because the bookstore is not yet self-supporting, Ken & Charles both maintain full-time jobs and work the store at night and on weekends. At the beginning of the year, they enlisted the aid of Hank Bonney who manages the store during the day so it will be more accessible to the community. (The hours are from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m.).

Ken sums up his philosophy and that of the bookstore by saying, "We make the resource materials available so that people can make up their own minds. The only way to implement change is through education."

-Sherry and Claire

LETTERS

Dear Pointblank Times,

We are writing to thank the Houston Lesberadas for the extraordinary work they performed for the benefit of visitors to Houston during the National Women's Conference.

We were impressed from the start by the tired but friendly "welcoming committee" of drivers who met us at the airport when we landed at dawn; by the unusually well written and reassuring information packets we were given; and by the difficult but good-natured process we witnessed while they found housing for two or three times more visitors than had been expected on our flight. Our admiration and appreciation for their energy and support grew throughout the Conference.

If it hadn't been for the Lesberadas' housing committee, we would have been unable to be there. We are profoundly grateful to them all, and to those on the transportation committee as well.

Special thanks to Donna, Linda, Alice, Susan, Claire; and Laurie and Lou Ann (the two volunteers from the Grand Canyon).

Viva Lesberadas!

In sisterhood,
Virginia Crowder
Joan Gardner
San Francisco

Dear Virginia and Joan,

Lesberadas appreciates your thanks. As chair of the transportation committee, I'm very glad that we could be of service to all of the lesbians that came to Houston. I again want to thank all of the women who helped me coordinate the transportation. I couldn't have done it without them.

Claire

Dear Lesberadas,

We had to take time out to extend a special thanks to you for the housing that was provided us while in Houston. Everyone we had any dealings with from Lesberadas was congenial and so very hospitable and helpful. We are three Native American women who are not of the same sexual preference as yourselves, but are thankful to have had such a learning experience with you. May peace be upon you. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Diane, Karen and Kathy
California

Exclusive to Pointblank Times,

I was much impressed by the article, "Why I Won't Shut Up" by Linda Lovell in the November 1977 PBT issue. How true much of her article rings! And to me, the issue is far deeper than gay versus straight.

I have discovered that when we speak too frankly, or too publicly, from our hearts on such issues as androgyny or sexual feelings, we are suddenly invited to become invisible in our churches. I have recently experienced this phenomenon in my own church. Due to the publication of a novel of mine, YOU'VE GOT TO RIDE THE SUBWAY!, which includes--and somewhat revolves around--a lesbian experience, I've been directed to discontinue writing religious articles for my church. Of course, the reasons given these days, are seldom that one has dealt with gayness--but rather that one has been "emotional" or "sensuous" or something of that general nature. Perhaps the issue is nevertheless that one who is capable of feeling and talking about gay emotions is not supposed to also be "spiritually-minded."

There is much left to discover about womankind and mankind and the identity of all of us...and I hope that those who have been chastised and shamed as Linda Lovell has been, do indeed continue the courage of speaking from their hearts on this most complex issue of human identity.

-Madge R. Ritter

Dear Madge,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. We look forward to reading your book.

Dear Sisters of Pointblank Times,

I received the first issue of your publication today. My friends and I wish to extend our gratitude for such reading material reaching our eyes here in Germany. Some of us are Army; others are Air Force. We continually confront the issues in a manner none of us care for, but which is a necessity for our own (and innocent friends/supporters) protection.

However, we deeply appreciate your efforts and are looking forward to the next issue. Continue the good work!

In sisterhood,
Barb

Dear Barb,

One of the main objectives of PBT is to close the isolation gap for as many women as possible. We're glad to be able to share our thoughts with you and your friends.

-PBT staff

January/February 1978

AN ADDRESS: to the gay men of Houston

The issue is power. Ray Hill continues to have a lot of power in the gay community because the gay community allows and supports it. I have several unresolved issues of contention with Ray Hill about his use of that power, but the gay community itself is responsible for its leadership and representation. The problem is not Ray Hill; the issue is power.

Ray maintains that he is trying to get rid of his power by training others to take his place. This does not change the basic power relationships. While I remain skeptical about his ability and desire to transfer political power, such an overhaul (if, in fact, it does take place) would be a step in the right direction. What would not necessarily be changed by this is that thing inside people's heads that makes us think we require leaders and need to be spoken for. In this sense, Ray Hill is a perfectly reasonable expression of the system that has trained us all to accept authority and respond protectively towards the imagined necessity its roles impose.

Challenging the status quo in the gay male community has brought a storm of political and personal name-calling along with it that only emphasize how threatened the men are. The effect of one evening's dialog alone yielded the following labels (in reference to me): "commie", "man-hater", "slob", "ox", "socialist", and "outsider". Some claim I wear "men's clothes" because I want to be "like a man" and want furthermore to be a leader myself in the Houston gay community. The fact is that I'll be gone from Houston by the time this is published. The rest of the labels are erroneous, up-tight excuses to discredit me personally so as not to have to hear me politically.

Although some men have told me individually that they have grown from our political dialog, only a very few have expressed a determination to continue. Yet even among these few I have had to "promise" not to bring up the revered name of Ray Hill or to "push my commie politics". (By the way, I am not a communist or a socialist or a capitalist). Dialog has been painfully slow.

In my frustration I find myself remembering all the reasons why I chose long ago to direct my efforts for social awareness and political growth within women's communities. I don't "hate" men. My experience has been to find the gay men of Houston much more stubborn and hard headed and closed to personal growth and change than the women. The women have been more inclined to listen and dialog while the men have been more ready to argue and take sides. No political concept should be too sacred to be discussed.

I don't see where any social situation is too pure to be challenged, nor do I feel that any individual-particularly those we call "leaders"-

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is too perfect for constructive criticism. I don't feel that any of us is so whole that we need not challenge our own growth. And to challenge along with it our commitment to share constructive criticism in order to effect social change through political and personal awareness. Such challenges are not beyond our reach.

We confine our spirits so miserably. Many friendships are cemented by the unspoken knowledge that we share together the common experience of accepting far less out of life than we ever expected. It is good to feel connected to others in common oppression, but far better to turn ourselves from being passively oppressed into human beings actively resistant to the system that would foster our apathy. Unless we are open to growth, we cannot even begin to change.

We so often limit our own possibilities in life, and never more so, it seems, than when we deny our potential to effect social change. Every one of you men who grumbled, heads downcast, hands in pockets when the words "sexism" and "feminism" were mentioned, are limiting yourselves. Many more of you made side comments or walked off. Is this really all the better you men can do? On the other hand, if the few gay men who have continued to dialog decide to allow their growth to continue, this community will stand to learn and grow a great deal from their influence.

The best insight a leader can give you is the courage to think and to grow--to lead your own life responsibly and maturely and, in turn to lead others to do the same.

-Kathy Fire

READING RESOURCES

1.) Morning Due-a journal of gay men against sexism. Bi-monthly-\$1.25 (recommend Vol II, No.6). Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122.

2.) Open Road-quarterly anti-authoritarian newspaper (suggest 75¢ per issue). Box 6135-Station G, Vancouver BC CANADA V6R 465.

3.) Magnus- magazine for gay men (primarily). Socialist perspective. Box 40568, San Francisco, CA 94140.

4.) Unbecoming Men-a book to help raise gay male consciousness. \$2.00. Times Change Press, 62 W. 14th St.-N.Y., NY 10011.



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NATIONAL LESBIANS ORGANIZE

Los Angeles lesbians will host a founding convention of the National Lesbian Organization. This historic event is set for March 17-19, at the Ramada Inn near the Los Angeles Airport, with Del Martin as keynote speaker to open the convention.

Since the success of lesbian recognition at the IWY Conference in Houston in November, energy has been running high in lesbian communities across the country. Convention organizers feel "It is time to move and establish a structure to push forward with plans of action to achieve our goals." They stated, "It is our hope that a national organization will provide lesbians in this country with a visible profile and national political clout."

One hundred representatives selected according to geographic regions, will attend the convention. The convention is designed to be small enough to facilitate effective communication, and large enough to allow for a wide representative base, both politically and geographically.

Registration will be on a first come first served basis, subject to the following criteria: All delegates will be: A) Lesbian Feminists, B) Have been visibly active in the lesbian movement, C) Support the concept of some form of national lesbian organization and intend to work in or with such an organization, D) Represent organizational diversity, E) Send in their registration coupon and check (\$5.00) and receive an official confirmation letter, F) Additionally, to insure that this convention is truly a national one, representatives will be registered according to a regional quota system which is based on the relative amount of known lesbian political activity in that area.

Regional co-ordinators are being set up to ensure proper representation and to act as a communication source for delegates in that region.

The Southern regional coordinator for the convention is Linda Lovell. The region includes 14 states:

Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

The Southern region is allotted at least 14 representatives and may possibly have as many as 20. Provisions are also being worked on to provide space for a possible 50 non-voting observers to attend the convention (10 per region) and so a possible 30 women from the South could conceivably attend, and 20 of them could vote.

Linda says, "Since the 14 states in the Southern region cover such a large area and I do not, alas, know every lesbian in every state, I am in much need of your help and the help of women in your state. Please help to insure that the Southern region will be fairly represented by sending to me any feedback, whether positive or negative, suggestions or questions you may have."

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If you live in one of these 14 listed states and would like to be a representative to the founding convention, please let Linda know immediately. Housing for representatives will be provided.

Contact Linda Lovell at P.O. Box 14643, Houston, Texas 77021 or call (713) 524-0342 after 5pm.

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Madge Reinhardt (Ritter) has been a frequent writer in the Christian Science religious periodicals published in Boston, but her novel, YOU'VE GOT TO RIDE THE SUBWAY!, which deals with gay experience, has gotten a "hold" put on her religious writings. (By her church's governing board!) Well, we think SUBWAY is a spiritual statement! And a feeling story, too!

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WOMEN BOYCOTT 'CUDDLES'

On Friday, February 10th, twelve women from the Houston Lesberadas, Pointblank Times, and Gemini Productions organizations walked out of Cuddles bar at 4714 Main St. in protest of that bar's racist admittance policy.

Five Chicana women were denied admittance to Cuddles by a white male employee because each of them could not show two picture ID's. A black woman was denied entrance because her ID was "too torn up," even though the ID of the Anglo woman who she was with was even more "torn up" and that woman was allowed to enter the bar. Three Chicano men were denied entrance for lack of proper identification, and later one woman of Japanese ancestry was denied entrance because she could not show two ID's. This woman's Anglo friend was allowed to enter the bar even though she showed only one ID. Three hours earlier, several women, all Anglo, had walked into the bar without showing any ID at all.

When the twelve women discovered that at least nine persons of racial minorities had been excluded from the bar, four of them asked to speak with the manager. They were directed to Assistant Manager Donna Elliot. Elliot told the women that Cuddles wanted no trouble and that she had to uphold whatever policy the man at the door enforced, even though she, as Assistant Manager, was his "superior." When asked what the bar's policy was, Elliot stated that "we just want to have a good mix here. We don't want any minority taking over." The women pointed out that there were absolutely no members of racial minorities in Cuddles at that time. When they asked if Cuddles always kept racial minority members out, Elliot replied "We're not like the Old Plantation. You have to admit that we're much better than they are."

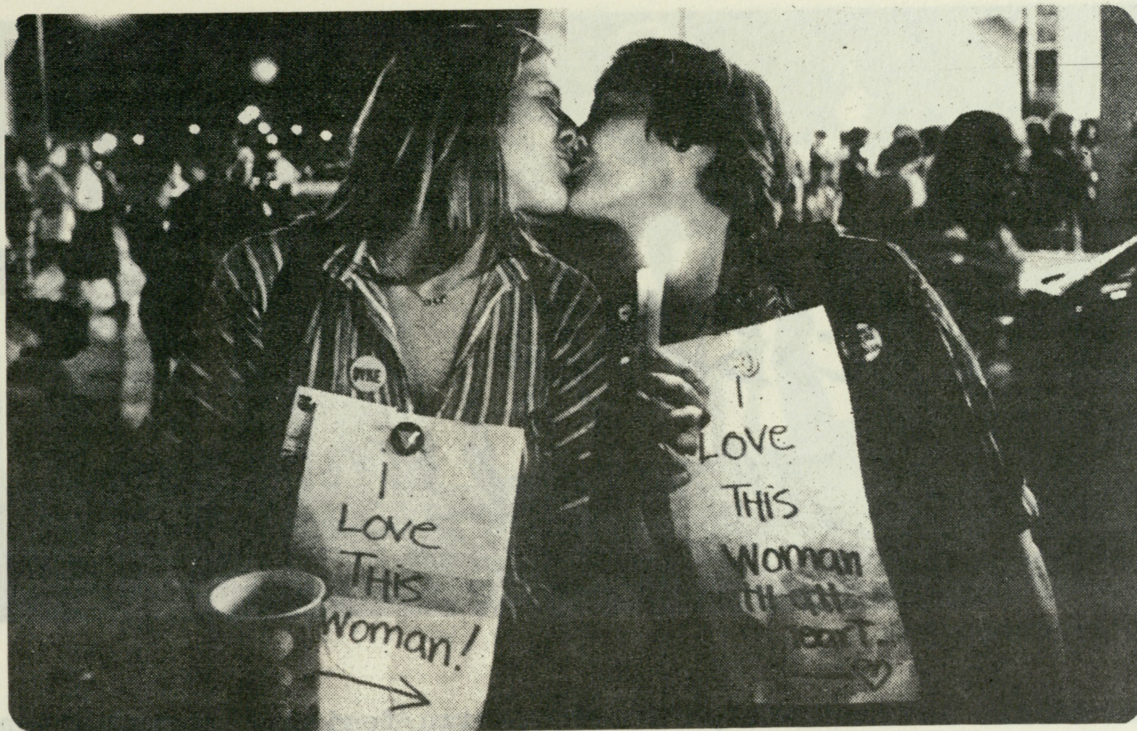
Racism is racism. For several years, local gay bars have used ID harassment and sexist dress codes to exclude blacks, Chicanos, and women. Houston lesbian feminists have protested these policies on several occasions, with no support and no results.

While some gays are willing to righteously proclaim that they boycott Coors beer, it would appear that they take political action only when they, as white gays, are effected. As long as the gay community's Anglo majority who go to bars support these racist policies, the policies will continue. In the early 70's, the Gay Liberation Front of Houston used a picket line successfully to break the racist policy of a local men's bar. But that was back in the good old days, when the community still showed some sort of a conscience.

The exclusion from a public place of any person on the basis of race is a direct violation of the public accommodations clause of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Anglo members of a gay community who demand their own civil rights but who wholeheartedly support, through their patronage, the bars which deny the civil rights of others, do not deserve any support whatsoever.

As lesbian feminists, the memberships of Lesberadas, Pointblank Times, Off the Wall Productions, and Gemini Productions are calling for an immediate boycott of Cuddles bar. They demand that the bar immediately open its doors to all gay men and lesbians, regardless of race, and that the owners eliminate any existing sex role oriented dress codes. They invite the newly formed Coordinating Council of Gay Organizations to join with them in speaking out for the civil rights of all gays. If the community is not for all gays, then there is no community, and the concept of a "Houston gay community" is nothing more than a hypocritical farce.

Linda J. Lovell



JOANNE MURRY, left, and KAY RORER at NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION.

Photography by Tom Colburn

Some people can look at this picture and feel nothing but disdain, while others can empathize with their situation. But no matter how one feels about lesbians, one must wonder why the National Women's Conference took on such a controversial proposal as lesbian rights.

The Pro-Family Coalition accused the conference of promoting homosexuals, but the truth is that the conference was working for equal rights for all women. They could have stuck with the more accepted problems such as battered wives, rape victims, abused children, disabled women and women unable to realize their full potentials because of sex discrimination.

But the Conference leaders said they must be willing to face the problems of all women or the conference would have been a mockery. Gloria Steinem said that the majority of Americans support civil rights for homosexuals because discrimination against them is so patently unjust.

But the Pro-Family Coalition ran an ad with a young girl asking her mother, "Mommy, when I grow up, can I be a lesbian?" The answer to that question is yes, because no one really knows why people are homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual. And to exclude one from their rights because of sexual preference is as illogical as excluding one because of skin color or nationality.

The fact that the women at the conference were able to overcome their biases and create a platform for all women is proof that the conference was worth the \$5 million in tax money. To exclude any group would have defeated the purpose of the conference from the start.

-The Daily Cougar (U of H) 12-7-77

LOCAL LESBIANS

after the rush!



Lesberadas is a recently formed lesbian/feminist organization. Our initial activities centered around the National Women's Conference, held in Houston, November 18-21. What follows are some of our thoughts about the conference and what took place.

The positive effect of the National Women's Conference in the City of Houston and within Houston women is inestimable. Lesbians from all across the nation joined together to be visible and to make our voices heard. Together we made herstory!

We guarantee that never before has a photograph of lesbians carrying a banner "LESBIAN RIGHTS" (and with so many balloons!) appeared on the front page of a Houston daily newspaper. On November 22nd, the day after the Conference, law and order, pro-family, anti-gay candidate Frank Briscoe was defeated in the mayor's race by a landslide 2-1 vote. Houston elected its first woman official, feminist Kathy Whitmire, to the office of City Controller (the most powerful position after mayor) by a vote of 60%-40%. We feel certain that the National Women's Conference played a part in bringing out feminist and liberal voters. Hurray!

We applaud and accept Betty Friedan's public admission on live television and before some 8,000 women, at least 500 of them out front lesbians, that "We've all made mistakes" and that she made a mistake in her past stance on the lesbian issue. She urged women to support lesbians in the struggle for our rights.

"Straight" Texas women have approached us to say that they were against lesbians in the past because they did not know any lesbians and were not educated on the issue of lesbianism. Now they say that they are willing to try! Some have apologized for past bigotry. It seems that many women have come out! Many lesbians who have never been activists are calling Lesberadas to find out how to become more involved in feminism and in the lesbian struggle.

There were some problems, though. Lesberadas feels a responsibility to let the national lesbian community know that a group of women--some straight--from a left-wing organization took advantage of



photography by sherry

our housing service and were ever-present in all lesbian caucuses, rallies, and other activities, sometimes acting, apparently, as agitators.

While the politics of some Lesberadas may be in agreement with these women, we feel it necessary to let all lesbians know what we have learned. many members of non-lesbian groups may find it convenient to covertly enter the lesbian ranks at other conferences and may, for reasons of their own, attempt to influence lesbian groups to their own personal goals. Although we do not encourage paranoia, we do think it advisable to exercise caution in this regard.

Within Lesberadas, we are discussing many ideas which we received from women who came here from all over the country. The contributions of these beautiful dykes to our process, ideas, questions, and group identity will always be deeply appreciated by Lesberadas. Their presence here in Houston has strengthened our commitment to lesbian rights, to our own mental growth, and to the growth of a national lesbian community.

Lesberadas agrees that the National Women's Conference has shown us all that there is a great need for a national lesbian federation which is truly representative of a wide range of lesbians, and is truly accountable to the grassroots lesbians across the nation. We encourage a national dialogue through all lesbian publications on the possible creation of such a federation and we are ready to contribute to its creation in any way we can.

To all of you who participated in the Conference activities, we give a fond thanks. Presently, Lesberadas is involved in the process of defining itself, establishing goals, and creating its organizational structure. We welcome your participation. Meetings are generally held on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church (subject to occassional changes in plans). In the works: a women's radio show, support groups, camping trips, political action...etc. For more up to the minute information, call Nancy at 524-3642.

IWY CONFERENCE

a woman's reaction

There is a story that right before Gertrude Stein died, she looked around and said, "Well, what is the answer?" When no one answered, she said, "Well then, what is the question?"

I don't know exactly how to describe my politics. The closest I can come is to call myself a commie-jew-dyke-anarchist-witch and hope that builds bridges between me and other folks. For me and those women with whom I felt the closest political affinity at IWY, Houston was a confusing political phenomenon. At one point, even before the actual conference plenaries had started, it got so confusing that I broke down and cried and lapsed into temporary catatonia. I wanted to UNDERSTAND and dammit, there was just too much going on to be able to do that in one dose.

I see our lesbian victory at Houston as very significant. For the first time, a diverse coalition of women, not all of whom define themselves as women's liberationists, resoundingly affirmed the rights of lesbians and recognized it as a feminist issue. Take several giant steps out of the closet; roll back the sheets of invisibility that have covered us in society and the women's movement.

But I keep seeing this victory against the backdrop of the conference. The rigid format of parliamentary procedure to ape two-party politics. There we were, all these women, going to pass resolutions with no enforcement power. Then to Jimmy Carter, then to the boys in Congress. Our very real raw power as women committed to change diluted as the IWY process wended its way to Washington.

A clear attempt to co-opt and control the power of an independent mass women's movement. All the talk about it being the first national women's conference. It may have been the first federally funded one, but women and women's organizations have put together many conferences in the last decade. With so many speakers being First Ladies and elected officials, there was a heavy emphasis on electoral politics and the legislative process as the road to social change. Time magazine laid it out: You don't have to be radical to be a feminist -- in fact, it's better if you're not! I heard a delegate say on tv, "Once you've learned the rules, you want to play them." I would have said, "Once you've learned the rules, you realize they're no good and you want to change them and the name of the game."

Lesbian/feminist politics and left politics are not the same. I identify with both and would like to be able to draw them together, but that cohesion exists only in bits and pieces. So I move back and forth and in between them as I talk and write and try to understand.

How do you relate to a conference where many issues are "our" issues and where at some points it seems like radical feminism is running rampant, but where in your gut you know it's not your scene?

continued on page 17

continued from page 16

Not a significant left feminist presence was at IWY. Some radical women were delegates, some of us were there as observers, and there was a rally and a number of caucuses. Some women from Boston called themselves the Lucy Parsons Collective and handed out a newspaper that had a socialist-feminist critique of IWY. But that did not amount to a unified presence.

We discussed the problem in a workshop on anarchism at the lesbian gathering before the plenaries started. Our strength has been in the small groups -- consciousness-raising, project-oriented, community based -- that have been at the heart of the lesbian/feminist and radical feminist movement; yet many of us agreed that an organized national presence is essential. How do we pull that off without destroying the very heart and soul of our power?

The work of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) provided us with a piece of the answer. This feels like the first time that we as lesbians have made our mark in such a political gathering, and the first time that we have played with power (although we must not fool ourselves about the depth of that power). Yet there were problems with this. The NGTF's total emphasis on getting the sexual preference resolution passed left gaps for a lot of us. Many of us had come not because we were committed to the IWY process per se, but we understood that Houston was an important moment in the herstory of our movement, and we wanted to learn from it and bring our own perspective to it.

A political conflict exists between a willingness to jump into establishment defined national arenas of struggle (NGTF) and a desire to remain more outside the bounds of a system considered illegal at its core. As the Lesberadas (Houston lesbian collective) described themselves: "A desperado is an outlaw. An outlaw is one who is put outside the law, exiled, and who is deprived of the law's benefits and protection, a fugitive. A Lesberada is a lesbian outlaw. All lesbians are outlaws." NGTF talks more in terms of "lesbian rights" and equality, as though they can be won within this system.

I came away appreciating both groups, but feeling much more a part of the Lesberada scene. Yet the NGTF obviously coordinated a very important victory for us all and I am grateful.

I don't believe there is one Best Way to Move. There are many levels to the struggle. I do hold as unnegotiable that real liberation cannot be had within this system, and that when we talk about social change, we are talking about a fundamental re-structuring. Doing away with the patriarchy and not trying to maneuver inside of it. (I admit that how that comes down in practice is often not clear but it is crucial to keep that vision always in front of us.)

The fact that the government sponsored a women's conference (not a women's liberation conference) is recognition of the impact we have made on society. But the power there was our power. We built the movement and we have sustained it and that is how it will continue to be.

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I return to Gertrude Stein. What are the questions? How do we build an independent mass women's movement for liberation? What is the difference between liberation and equality? How do we include legislative reform work in a strategy for liberation? How can we dialogue through our differences in a respectful way so that we can have the shared power of a continuum of tactics? How do we build on the energy and successes of IWY while maintaining a critical stance? Can we build a strong movement for social change in which lesbian feminism is understood as a core issue for all people, or must we continue some form of separatism? Or do we have to do them both together?

-Vicki Gabriner



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Pointblank Times is proud
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Included are the many publications that PBT has acquired through our exchange program.

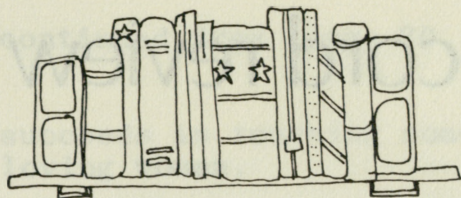
Next issue, look for a current list of periodicals and books.

The library is located in Wilde N Stein bookstore, 819 Richmond and is available for your use Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 9pm.

hous'ov. kol'man

n. 1. A woman-owned business specializing in quality graphics and printing. 2. A large red brick house in the heart of Montrose. - *adj.* Having many and varied features. - *v.* Producing design, illustration, camera work, printing and bindery. - *adv.* 1. To increase the client's business manifold. 2. To satisfy the client.

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BOOK REVIEW

LOVE IMAGE by Valerie Taylor

Love Image, by Valerie Taylor, is a story I loved to read although I couldn't figure out why. There are more than enough worn-out, tired old cliché's in this tale of a beautiful young movie star who discovers: a.) her lesbianism; b.) her true love; and c.) their escape route to happiness-ever-after on a farm in Kansas, all by age seventeen. I'm not saying that realism is a necessity, or that these situations never occur, but all that romantical fantasy-fulfillment did catch me a bit off guard. Maybe that's why it was so nice to read. For once, we had a "happy ending" with a minimum of suffering and it was, truth to tell, refreshing.

Unfortunately, the author couldn't avoid including some very depressing stereotypical situations. For instance, Anne (the girl) discovers her lesbianism after a traumatic rape by her lecherous old (male) director. That made me very sad, because I wished she could have confirmed her natural preference for women on a positive note. However, the men in the book (except for the gay ones) are exemplified by this drooling, lascivious debaucher of young girls who would probably make Marabel Morgan reconsider. This approach based something very positive (her lesbianism) on something very negative (her rape).

Then Anne stereotypically proceeds to be brought out by a cynically knowledgeable older woman-of-the-world, thence heading for the bars to be instantly picked up by Gene, the first woman to buy her a coke. These two experiences are enough to convince her she's ready to settle down, so naturally, Beth is there, and Kansas is only a step away.

Now, after all of this negative feedback, I must say that the book was great. It was like the progress of a really fine daydream. Considering that enough people are documenting how depressing it is to be a lesbian these days, it feels fine when a happy fantasy like this one comes along. So what if it hasn't happened to you. There's nothing wrong with dreaming.

-Melanie

Love Image, Valerie Taylor. The Naiad Press, Inc. 1977. 180 pp. \$4.50.

January/February 1978

WOMANSOUND • a record review

MARGIE ADAM. SONGWRITER.

In her first album, we are introduced to Margie as a light-spirited, easy, strong sister-sensual, bright, talented, honest, whole and able to achieve intimacy in an instant with our identity as women loving women.

Listening to Margie is good for women just getting into feminism and woman-loving. I find she is especially soothing to an old grouch like me, a little worn out from full time political activity, and in need of a little music to soothe the mind.

The album opens with "Best Friend" (The Unicorn Song) which weaves with childlike simplicity a story of self-reliance and inner strength. The anarchist in me encourages, "You tell 'em, Margie!".

We're introduced to the just-right bass of Diane Lindsay and another soothing friend, Kay Gardner (flute). For percussion, we have Linda Tillery who is consistently better than just "good", and some more familiar sounds from Meg Christian and Cris Williamson who contribute their voices and guitar accompaniment on several of the cuts.

E. Marcy Dicterow, Woody Simmons, Harriet McCollum, Vicki Randle and Barbara Price (violin, timpani, organ, voice, finger cymbals) fill out the very fine musical cast for this ten song collection.

It took the skills and caring of another dozen women to pull together the technical, album design, inside photos, production, engineering, and overall hard labor needed to make this album a reality.

I couldn't help but worry a little during "Lost In Inner Space" that listeners might interpret Margie's message as an encouragement to live inside their heads-you know, personal solutions and all that sort of thing. But Margie brings it all home again on the second side with "I've Got a Fury", definitely my favorite cut on the album.

Margie shares her excellent piano work in two solo works- "Rag Bag" and "After the Drought". I felt the second said more about the emotional side of Margie than the first, but you should hear them for yourself.

I have yet to hear two people interpret "Beautiful Soul" (Lovable Lady) the same way. It gives me a sense of compassion, caring-reaching out to heal the pain of isolation. I feel Margie succeeds in touching something deep in our experience as woman loving women.

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succeeds in touching something deep in our experience as woman loving women.

Now "Sleazy" is another matter entirely. To me, it seemed to be an observation on flirting, a little commentary on the games we play inside our heads and with our sisters around sexual desire and attraction.

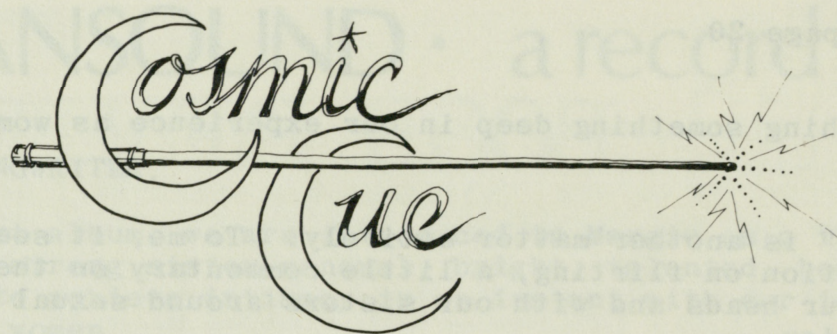
"Tapdance on the Moon" closes out the album in her contagious, upbeat, goodtime love fashion. I found myself fantasizing about living with her collectively-can she really be that happy? Oh, goddess! It might be catching!

After a year on the road, Margie has taken off to write more songs. Many of her listeners are anxious to hear the ways in which she has grown. Margie Adam. Songwriter.-real listening pleasure for everyone.

-Kathy Fire

Photography by Sherry (live at IWY)





ARIES

March 21-April 1: Thursday, March 9th is a lovely time for you. You're irresistible.

April 1-April 10: The gulf between your views and society's may be problematic. Don't let it make you paranoid. March 20-March 25 are favorable for romance.

April 10-April 20: The very end of March is your time to shine. Use your practical urges and avoid your extravagant urges.

TAURUS

April 21-May 1: The tension of early February should disappear making way for a fine birthday.

May 1-May 10: You're willful and temperamental lately. The energy involved is one of growth and change but needs careful attention to be applied constructively.

May 10-May 21: You may be rethinking your new start. Plans made with an eye to long-term goals work out best.

GEMINI

May 22-June 1: An influence favoring new starts is forming for you. Consider your long range goals.

June 1-June 10: Life's a bit confusing but not all dull. You need lots of humility and effort spent facing unpleasant facts about yourself. Your self-image is all out of proportion. Give a good bit more than you receive and things will look up.

June 10-June 21: You've been really lucky lately. Let's hope that you haven't also been so extravagant as to have no net gain from this period.

CANCER

June 22-July 2: Prepare yourself for opportunity. If you don't ignore your chances because you're having too much fun, or waste your increased funds, you should emerge from the next six months in much better condition.

July 1-July 11: You have a great potential for spiritual growth in this period. Don't let yourself be fearful, but use your understanding to move in harmony with those around you.

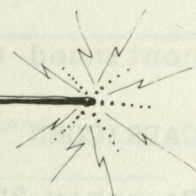
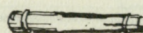
July 11-July 23: You're energetic and a bit temperamental. Use your energy for projects instead of tantrums.

LEO

July 24-August 3: Your energy is abundant. Don't be impatient. Those projects begun in December will get finished yet.

August 3-August 13: Some basic changes in your domestic situation, especially for those of you born around the 9th, are in the offing.

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Make sure these changes suit your long-range plans. This can be a series of changes that set you free in some important way if you work carefully.

August 13-August 23: Things have come to a head in your life and now you must change directions taking with you the lessons of the past, but no tired old emotional baggage, into your new endeavors.

VIRGO

August 24-September 3: This is a time of fulfillment. Both success and failure must have been used as lessons, because this time brings you what you have earned.

September 3-September 12: Remind yourself 6 times a day, "I am in control of my life", and when you're convinced, direct your life more positively.

September 12-September 23: You're probably overdoing it. Conserve a bit and be grateful for the kindnesses you receive.

LIBRA

September 24-October 3: Plan a budget and a diet as temptation is knocking on the door.

October 3-October 13: A lot of you are probably feeling pretty lonely right now. You've got deep changes going on as you try to understand yourself and the world more fully. This period is often difficult, but it is a once in a lifetime chance for growth.

October 13-October 23: Crabby, crabby, but energetic on the job. Advancement in your career is likely if you apply your energy there.

SCORPIO

October 24-November 3: Now that your life has completely changed direction, which it did in the last year or so, you find yourself happier in some ways, but frustrated and temperamental in others. Direct your energy into career matters as your luck is good there.

November 3-November 13: Big changes are beginning to happen in your life. Your creativity is high and the power of your thoughts uncanny. Be sure to be positive.

November 13-November 22: In your career you are getting the rewards and troubles you've earned over the past few years. Stick it out and be patient.

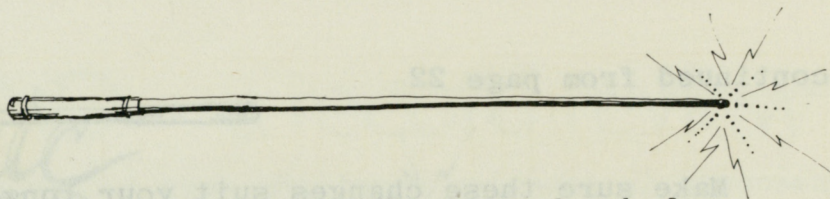
SAGITTARIUS

November 23-December 3: The end of February may be a little tense, but from March 9th on, things should look up.

December 3-December 13: This isn't the time to tell yourself "that's just the way I am!" Master yourself and project your most radiant self.

December 13-December 21: You're both lucky and extravagant. You have the strength of purpose to control yourself, so do.

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CAPRICORN

December 22-January 1: Now's the time to put in the groundwork for a lucky period this summer. Both your career and your love life could be on the upswing if you prepare yourself.

January 1-January 10: No one could say your life has been dull or shallow lately. Make the most of the sometimes explosive events which lead you to deeper understanding of your responsibility in the world.

January 10-January 19: Quarrelsomeness can get you into trouble. Cultivate tranquility.

AQUARIUS

January 20-February 1: Some irritating pressures in your work life, and perhaps beginning to develop in relationships, will be followed by a really good period, so dig in and keep cool.

February 1-February 10: You have wonderful opportunities in your career. Your understanding is high, but you can be cranky and want change for its own sake, or individuality at any cost.

February 10-February 20: If the world of personal relations seems harsh now, assess your own shortcomings. You could learn much from each difficulty that's stinging your genuinely sensitive self.

PISCES

February 21-March 1: You may be beginning to feel stress in your personal relationships. Look within to find causes, and ways to improve. The weekend of February 17th is a good one for social activity.

March 1-March 10: Don't be fatalistic about career matters. Control your destiny and seek opportunity. Drifting is tempting, but is not beneficial.

March 10-March 20: Things are coasting pretty smoothly right now. You look great on your birthday. Have a party.

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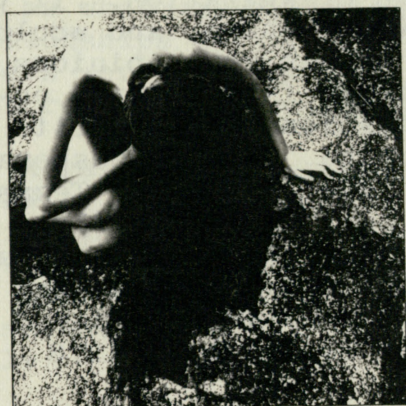
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CEZANNE'S LATE WORK

The Cezanne show currently on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, (through March 19th) is a unique cultural and educational experience.

It will probably never be shown together again. Many of the paintings were borrowed from private or state collections (one came from Leningrad) as well as a number of different museums.

The pictures are accompanied by two slide shows on the man and his work as well as a series of prints with remarks.

The paintings are displayed to take advantage of comparisons such as the same subject in different periods or poses, or watercolors of a subject later repeated in oil.

This show will only be seen in two U.S. cities, New York and Houston.

A large collection of any artist's work has a power missing from single works. This show is magnificent. It's free. Don't miss it.

-KAM

GET WELL SOON, Bobbie!-
The staff of PBT.

LAS VEGAS NIGHT

The Family Connection Women's Fast Pitch Softball Team and Pointblank Times are co-sponsoring a Las Vegas Night.

It will be held April 15th at All Saints Church, 201 E 10th, from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

Please come and support our fund-raising efforts.

SOFTBALL

Women who want to play with, coach, or manage a slowpitch softball team please call Linda at 524-0342 after 5 pm.

WE WANT YOUR OPINION

Houston Lesberadas is sponsoring a general questionnaire on a national lesbian organization. Many lesbian women have expressed interest in a national organization, and the results of this questionnaire will be compiled and presented to lesbian groups who meet to discuss the formation of such an organization. If you are a Texas lesbian, and would like to express your opinions and ideas, please fill out the enclosed questionnaire or write to: Questionnaire, Houston Lesberadas, P.O. Box 14643, Houston, Texas 77021 or call Linda at (713) 524-0342 after 5 pm. Please enclose a S.A.S.E. if possible. Deadline for return of questionnaires is March 5, 1978.

LITERARY GROUP

The Sunday Afternoon Literary Group will be meeting every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at Wilde 'N' Stein bookstore, 819 Richmond.

For more information call 529-7014.

WOMEN & POWER: NEW DEFINITIONS

A workshop on new definitions of power will benefit the New Houston Area Women's Center.

The workshop, sponsored by the Women's Group of the First Unitarian Church, will be held Saturday, March 4th from 8:30-5:30 at the church, 5210 Fannin.

The fee is \$10.00 per person; \$2.00 child care. For more information contact Charley Kubricht at 524-8898 or Lena Shipman at 525-7243.

etc.

LESBIAN LOVE LETTERS

Two women from New York are compiling a book of Lesbian Love letters. They want to include letters that reflect the nature and quality of all facets of relationships--the beginning, the middle, the end, the struggles and changes, the new beginning, and continuing friendships. Some brief autobiographical note as well as what was happening in the relationships at the time the letters were written will help the women reading it to better identify.

A release is needed from the WRITER of the letter, who will be tactfully contacted. Please send photocopied letters by March 1st to: LLL, P.O. Box 621, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10011.

MICHIGAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Plans are currently underway for this year's Music Festival in Michigan. Any women interested in performing should send tapes of their music by March 18th to: WWTMC, 1501 Lyons St., Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858. Include 4-6 songs.

LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES

The LHA is both a library and a "family album". It is an attempt to preserve our living experiences as lesbians beyond our generation and reconnect with our family of the past.

The Archives are available to the community to share. If you are planning to visit New York, write: LHA, P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10001, or call 212/TR3-9443 or 874-7232.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

The third annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men will be held March 31-April 2 in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information write: Southeastern Conference, P.O. Box, 5319, Atlanta, GA 30307.

BRITISH UNION BOYCOTTS TOWN

The National Association of Local Government Officers, Britain's fourth-largest union, is planning to take its 1981 conference away from Scarborough because of the town's alleged bias against homosexuals.

The 700,000-member union decided to look elsewhere after the town refused civic hospitality to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

The Liberal Party boycotted Scarborough in 1976 for the same reason, and various other groups may be considering the same.

-Houston Post

unclassifieds

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'76 TOYOTA--Like new, 28,000 miles, AM-FM radio, Craig 8 Track. \$2,900. Call Ginger at 487-5464.

NEED--One bedroom apartment, would consider sharing larger. 3 1/2 lb. Pomeranian. Call 526-8108 or 528-5517.

YOUNG WOMAN--With leukemia seeks contact with other lesbians. Call Marcy at 453-4430 or write P.O. Box 289, Galena Park, TX 77547.

What's Going on in America?

Two hundred years ago Thomas Jefferson formulated the Declaration of Independence, which forcefully expresses the principle of inalienable human rights. Americans can be justifiably proud of both their philosophy and actions in encouraging democracy around the world.

We were therefore puzzled when we read the news that in certain states fundamental human rights were being withheld or revoked.

Such a development seems to us to be contrary to the philosophy of the Founding Fathers and contrary to Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to fundamental rights and liberties with no distinctions between groups or classes of people.

But apparently, even in a modern

democracy like the United States, universal rights do not seem to include homosexuals.

In spite of the Declaration of Helsinki, in defense of which President Carter has declared himself so strongly abroad, in certain states homosexuals are excluded from government jobs. Many homosexuals have been denied housing, employment and access to public accommodations.

Max van der Stoel, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, justifiably stated that human rights are uprooted if they are not acknowledged without distinctions.

We are alarmed by the campaign of Anita Bryant, who preaches discrimination in the name of God.

We are also alarmed by the fact that many politicians in America, who do not personally believe in dis-

crimination against homosexuals, lack the courage to stand up to this bigotry. Some politicians have even jumped on the Bryant bandwagon of prejudice and injustice simply to further their own ambitions.

President Carter's human rights policy can gain credibility only if the rights of homosexuals in the United States of America are bound inseparably to human rights for all people. How can one advocate human rights to one's neighbor if one's own backyard is not in order?

To us, it appears that either Jefferson's idea of humanity and human dignity is upheld by the good people of the United States, or it is trampled on by the zealots.

We ask our traditional friends and allies in America to fight this injustice. You have done it before; you can do it again.

Simone de Beauvoir,
Author, France.

Jan Emiel Daele,
Secretary, Flemish Centre of P.E.N. (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) International, Belgium.

Adele Faccio,
Member of Parliament, Italy.

Ludwig Fellermaier,
Chairman, Socialist Group of the European Parliament.

W.J. Geertsema,
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Felipe Gonzalez,
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Günter Grass,
Author, Germany.

Bernard Haitink,
Conductor, Concertgebouw Orchestra, The Netherlands, and London Philharmonic Orchestra, England.

Mrs. Ien van den Heuvel,
Chairman of the Labor Party, The Netherlands.

F. Korthals Altes,
Chairman of the Peoples' Party for Freedom and Democracy, The Netherlands.

David L. Lilienthal,
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A. Soetendorp,
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Dorothee Sölle,
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Secretary General, Federation of the Liberal and Democratic Parties of the European Community.

The initiative for this advertisement was taken by **Stichting Vrije Relatierechten (Foundation for Free Human Partnership), Amstel 220, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.**

**-Taken from Time
January 9, 1978**