



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

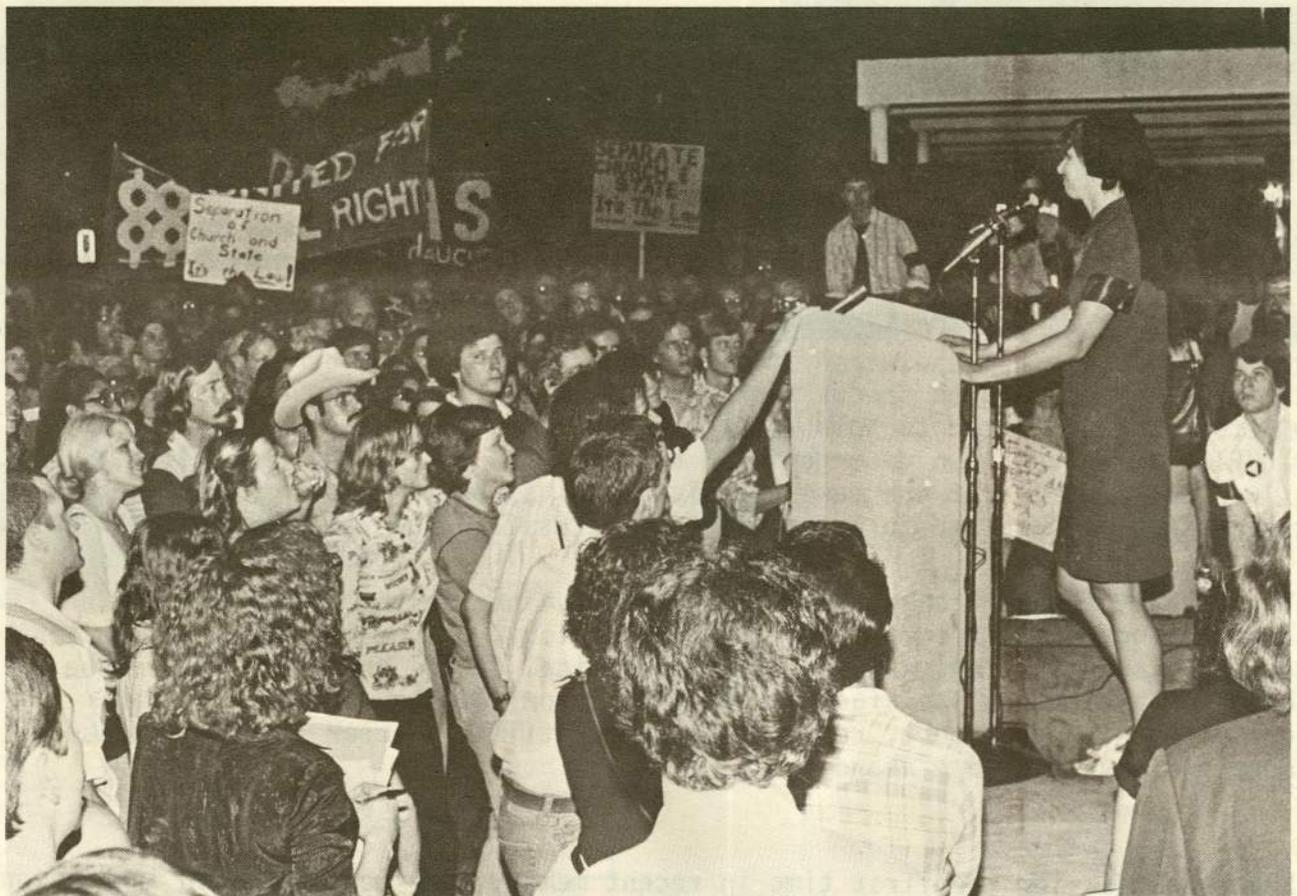
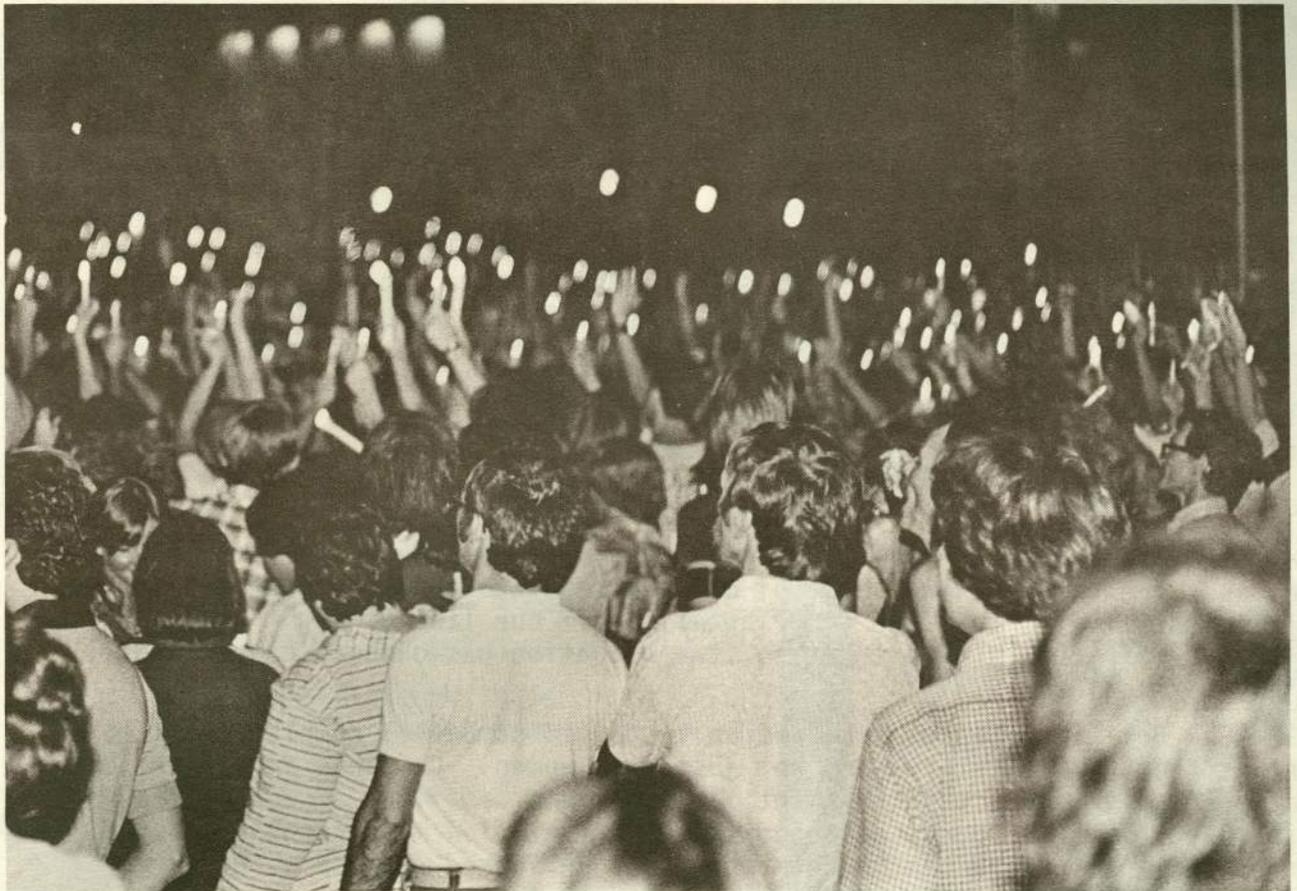
(you may never go back)

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

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).



Small (34-36) in Forest Green
 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

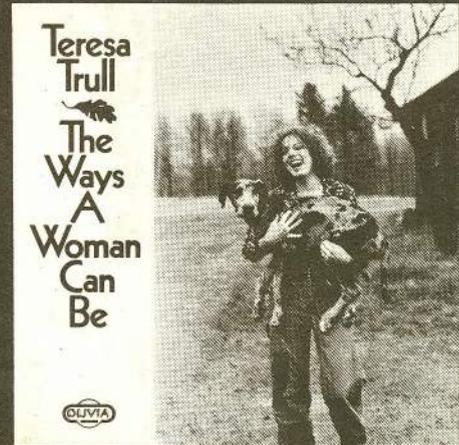
The Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union announces opportunities to serve on its Board of Directors are available. If you are interested in serving as a board member, please call the HAFFCU office at 527-9108, or B. L. Jamail at 465-4372 or 465-3928.

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.

August 1977

**Olivia Records presents
 another in the
 growing series of albums
 made by women
 for women
 with power and
 with love.**



Olivia Records is a national women's recording company.
 For information, catalog, or to order records, write:
 Olivia Records, PO Box 70237, Los Angeles, CA 90070.
 Albums are \$5.50 plus .55 mailing per record.
 (California residents add 6% sales tax.)

available in Houston at:

The Bookstore 1728 Bissonnet
 Wilde 'N' Stein 819 Richmond
 Cactus Records 2930 S. Shepherd

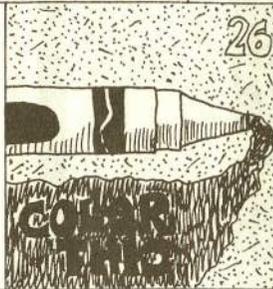
I'm 18 years old and I can't stand to see
 a woman walking with a woman
 or a man walking with a man.
 I don't like these people.
 I guess you could call them "people."
 I'm not really sure.

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

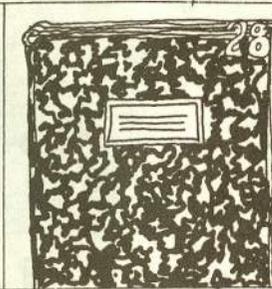
☆ sunday ☆ monday ☆ tuesday ☆ wednesday ☆ thursday ☆ friday ☆ saturday ☆

this is july..... 24
 Every Sunday
 M.C.R. services
 11:00 and 7:30
 USA Women's Volleyball
 Team vs. Brazil 7:30
 Alvin Jr. College

25
 USA Women's Volleyball



27
 Every Wednesday :
 KPFT 8-10pm Siren's
 10-12pm Wilde n' stein



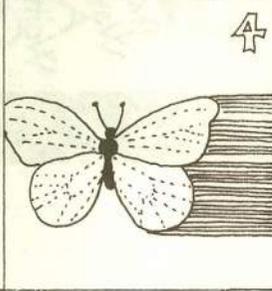
29
 jubilee
 in concert at
 liberty hall
 On Friday's: Nikki's
 Radio Show

30
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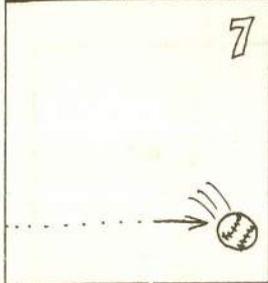
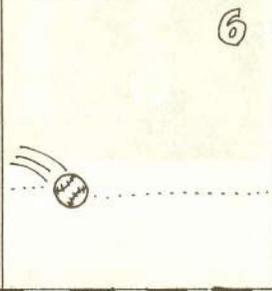


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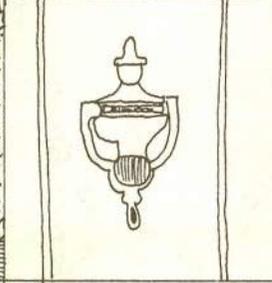
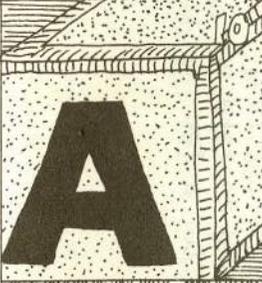
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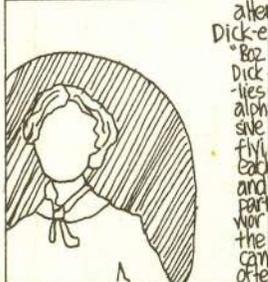
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 Family
 Connection
 Sottball Tournament
 in Galveston
 August 5-7



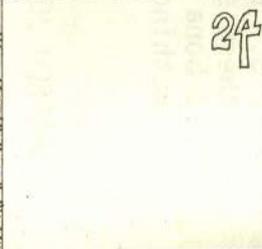
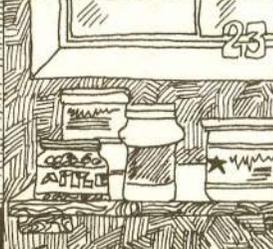
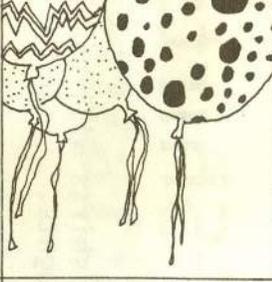
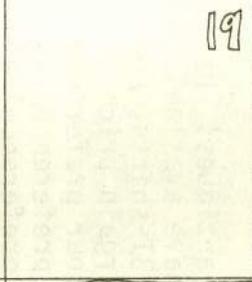
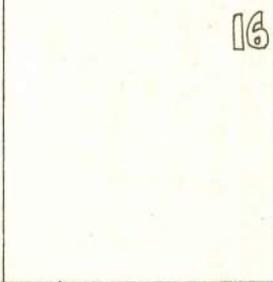
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12
 Wish you
 were here,
 [Signature]



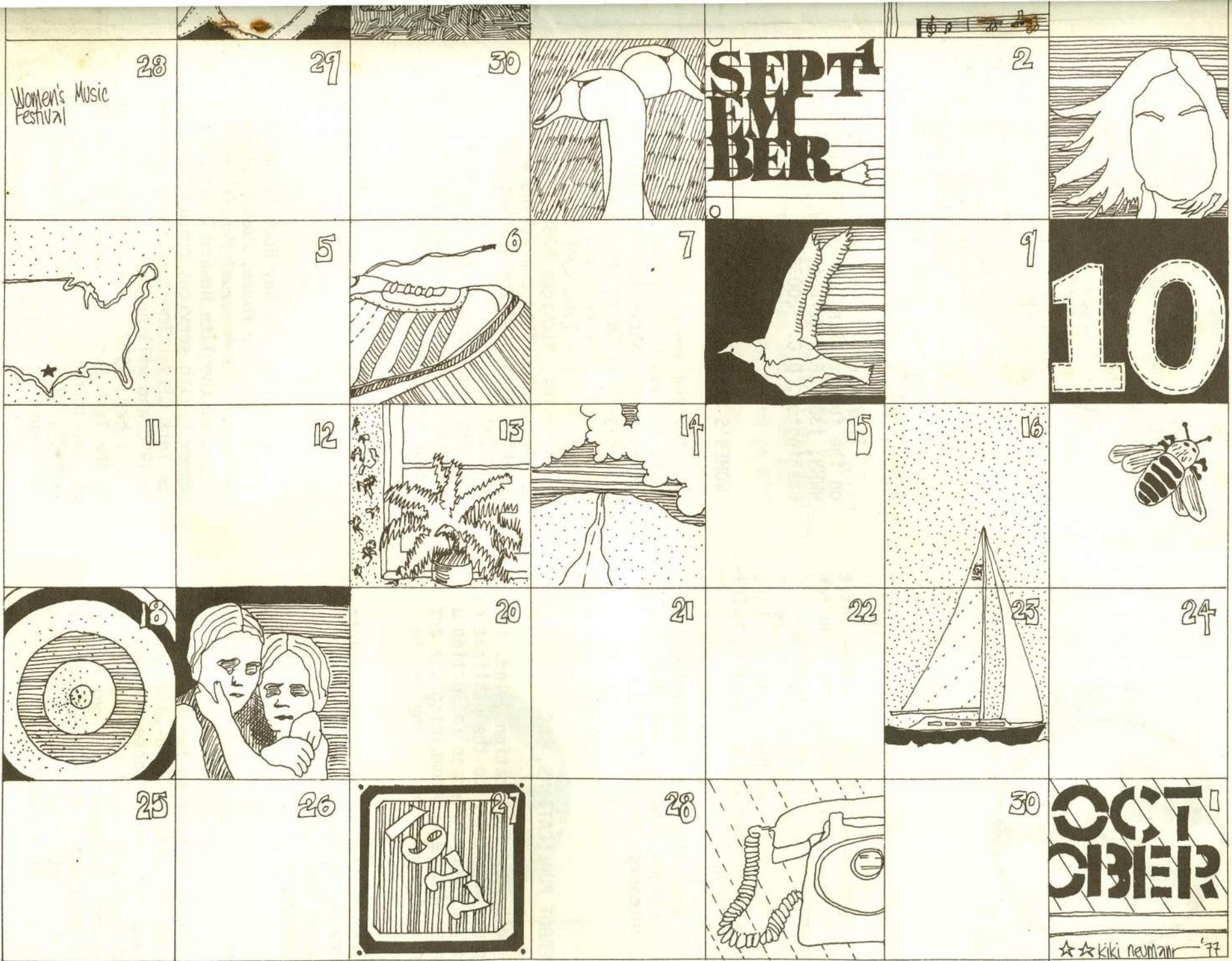
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25
 Women's Music
 Festival - August
 25-28



27
 Women's Music
 Festival





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 multimedia 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.



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.

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

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.

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.



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)

I W Y 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



Massage

To explore the
spaciousness within.
To balance energy

For appointment call:
Beth Kendrick
529-5308

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



SCRAPED
10/12/01



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

photography

CREATIVE AND TRADITIONAL

528 - 7653

UNNATURALLY

fine people
read Pointblank Times
Your ad could be reaching them
This size (1/8 page) = \$10
1/4 page = \$20
1/2 page = \$40

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.

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

Staff: Claire Noonan, Liz Brimm,
Phyllis Yarnold, Kiki,
Pokey Anderson, Sherry
Collier
. and you.

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

Subscriptions: \$5 per year

This publication is on file with the International Women's History Archive, Special Collections Library, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. 60201.

unclassifieds

FOR LESBIANWIMMEN: GAIA'S GUIDE 1977-- Thoroughly detailed discreet pocket size international bar/club guide and complete directory. This fourth edition: all U.S.A. plus 40 other countries. 3,000 listings: centers, switchboards, publications, organizations, bookstores, services, resources and retreats, plus much, much more. \$5.00 only from: GAIA'S GUIDE, 115 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105 (discreet mail order only--two weeks delivery on all orders). Also on sale in Houston at: THE BOOKSTORE, 1728 Bissonet.

LESBIAN CONTACTS--Discreet, nationwide introductions between sisters. The League, Box 2143F, Darien, Connecticut 06820.

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.

House of Coleman • 901 West Alabama •
Houston 77006 • (713) 523-2521

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.

GOOD VIBRATIONS--EVE'S GARDEN is a sexual boutique created by women for women to have access to products and information to enhance sexual awareness/pleasure. If you would like to share in our good vibrations, please send 25¢ for our catalogue to: Eve's Garden, P.O. Box 4028, Austin, Texas 78765. Phone 512-459-7879.

Woman in New York City seeks fine Texas-bred companion, artist, friend to share similar interests in varied extra-curricular activities-----must have a shag, glasses, and the initials of KN. Call J- 212-691-9247.

We've had it with Anita's brand.
Now from
Olivia Records



LESBIAN CONCENTRATE

A Lesbiananthology of songs and poems
featuring

Gwen Avery - BeBe K'Roche
Berkeley Women's Music Collective - Meg Christian
Sue Fink - Judy Grahn - Pat Parker - Linda (Tui) Tillery
Teresa Trull - Mary Watkins - Cris Williamson

Part of the proceeds from this album will go to
Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund.

Olivia Records is a national women's recording company.
Mail order price \$6.60 (includes mailing costs).
Olivia Records - PO Box 70237, Los Angeles, CA 90070.

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