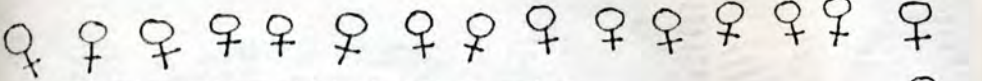


#1 Post Pride Issue

A JOURNAL OF DYKE DISSENT





"Why don't you crawl back under a rock."

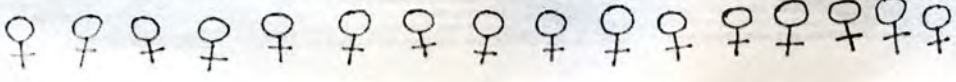
A more extreme version of the sentiments that I received upon posting the Dyke March's Letter to the Community to a local e-mail list. The letter addressed Pride Inc.'s response to BedGate and voiced its disgust at Pride's exclusionary and marginalizing tactics. As the letter pointed out, the problem with Pride is not simply its response to 'the bed' (alignment with those who found the bed offensive and disgusting), but that Pride has become a largely white, male, and corporate event. Given Pride Inc.'s alliances what other response to Fitzgerald's column and to the mayor could we expect?

But, as the opinion above illustrates, there are many others in the community that share these alliances. Assimilation has been seized by the mainstream gay and lesbian movement as the key to gaining all that straights have - marriage, serving in the military, etc. The cry "we're just like you!" echoes again and again in the vain hope that straight America will forget that we aren't.

And we're not. What the mainstream movement and those in the community that trashed the women who put together the bed need to realize is that there are those of us who would rather tear apart the right's 'family values' rhetoric than appropriate it, who would rather question the institution of marriage that lobby for it. There are those of us who believe strongly in radical politics in theory and in practice. That is where the inspiration for the Dyke March came from - a group of women who would rather spend several hard months pulling together a political march than spend a day on the sidelines applauding a white, male dominated, corporately sponsored march. We're not going away as much as those in power might like us to - especially all of those who accuse us of tearing the gay and lesbian movement apart. We refuse to be held accountable for what the straight world thinks of gays and lesbians or for damaging the gay and lesbian movement.

And that is where the inspiration for this zine came from. We are all members of the Dyke March (but not speaking for it) and came together to focus our energy after BedGate on a positive and radical venture. Dykatude is meant to be a forum for radical dialogue, a place for those of us on the margins of the mainstream to speak from our experiences and from our hearts and minds about issues that affect us daily. Read, enjoy, disagree, agree, ***think!***

Sarah Shreeves, Beth Hastie, Sara Heston, Beth Ochsner



*What's Left? The Fading Flag
or what happened to the rainbow?*

"Lewd behavior will not be tolerated, on this our day of Pride,"
said Sabrina Taylor, the gay press, and the Mayor beside
So off she went to make a public act of contrition
(Methinks Pride Inc. is worse than the Christian Coalition).

"Don't spoil our family day," whined the straight queers.
"You topless women on the bed made real our worst fears.
Next year we'll make sure none of you perverts are allowed
to join the nice gathering of our apolitical crowd.

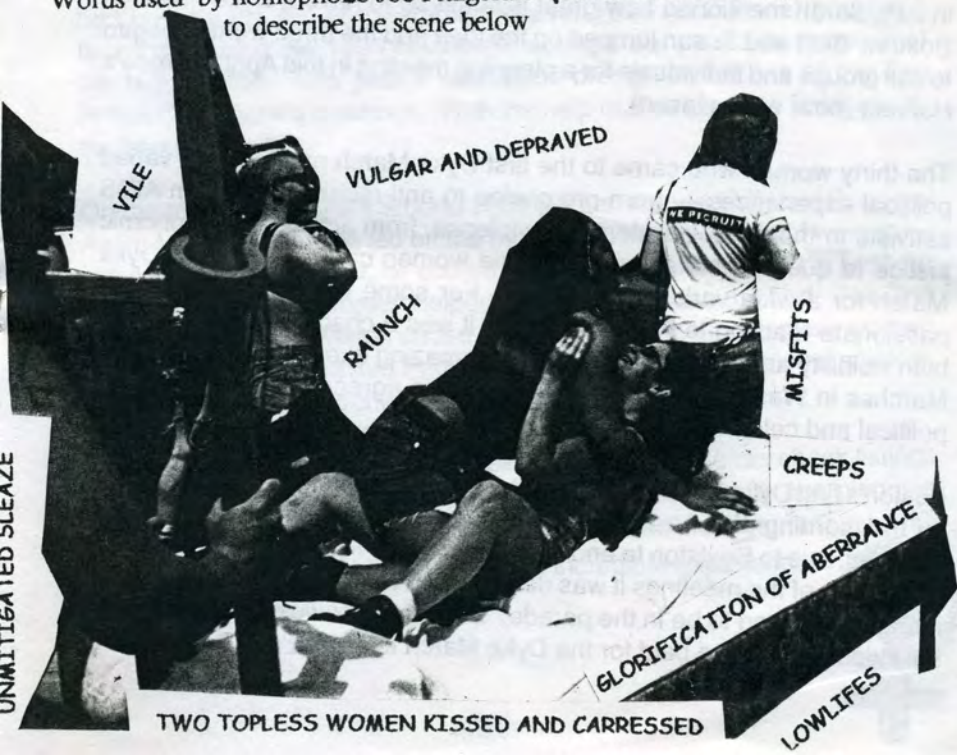
No loud dykes, no leatherwomen, no non-monogamous men.
No poor women more concerned with keeping clinics open.
No left-handed transsexuals, F to M or M to F.
No feminists or radicals. Let's see... is anyone left?

Open sexual expression has no place in Pride Day.
We are family oriented and just happen to be gay.
So, next year when our parade is planned
Remember, progressive queers are banned."

-B. Hastie



Words used by homophobic Joe Fitzgerald (Boston Herald 6/11)
to describe the scene below



TWO TOPLESS WOMEN KISSED AND CARRESSED

History of Boston's Dyke March

Inspiration:

In April 1993 the New York Lesbian Avengers organized a huge Dyke March during the March on Washington weekend. It was a huge success — just imagine thousands of dykes marching past the White House. The NY Avengers went on to have a Dyke March during New York Pride each June. Many women from all over the country went to the Dyke March during the Stonewall festivities in June 1994. The thrill of marching with thousands of dykes of all colors, ages, and backgrounds in these marches was the inspiration for the organizers of the Boston Dyke March.

Dyke March 1995

After the clinic shootings in Brookline in Dec 1994, a coalition of women from the Lesbian Avengers, WAC, R2N2, as well as those unaffiliated with any group came together to protest Weld's hypocritical politics in claiming to be pro-women while at the same time favoring punitive welfare reform and working with Cardinal Law to find 'common ground'. After an action at the state house, three women from WAC, R2N2, and the Lesbian Avengers — Beth Hastie, Susan Trotz, and Sarah Shreeves — got together to plan events for radical political women to meet each other, have fun, and build coalitions. This short-lived group called GAB held the Girls' Action Brunch, G.A. BBQ, and the G.A. Beach Day.

At one of these planning sessions in March 1995 over pizza at Bella Luna in J.P., Sarah mentioned how great it would be to have a Dyke March in Boston. Beth and Susan jumped on the idea and the three women began to call groups and individuals for a planning meeting in mid April at Crone's Harvest (now, alas, closed).

The thirty women who came to the first Dyke March meeting had varied political experiences — from pro choice to anti-racism work, from AIDS activists to those fighting domestic violence, from activists for economic justice to queer rights activists. These women came to plan the Dyke March for a wide variety of reasons. For some it was a positive and passionate reaction to Pride, for others it was a chance to focus on lesbian visibility and relive the intense and amazing experience of the Dyke Marches in Washington and NYC. Everyone agreed that it should be a political and celebratory march.

Boston's first Dyke March was pulled together in six weeks. It was planned for the morning of June 10 and started at Ruggles T and wound its way up Mass. Ave to Boylston to end at the start of the Pride Parade. Through the course of the meetings it was decided that we did not believe in registering and paying to be in the parade. In the end, however, a member of the Pride Committee paid for the Dyke March to enter Pride.

On the morning of June 10th about 750 dykes showed up for Boston's first Dyke March. It was a fabulous march from start to finish — hundreds of women marching, chanting, singing, flirting, scoping, waving to the confused tourists on the trolleys. Moving Violations led off the March and many groups of women — from Girlfriends to the Lesbian Avengers — were there in force. A large number of the women continued through the Pride Parade and ended at the Esplanade. There members of the Dyke March Committee participated in the protest at the prolife booth. It was an amazing and historic day.

Dyke March 1996

The planning for the second Dyke March began in March 1996. About thirty women — many of those who had participated in the planning of last year's as well as new comers — came together at the JP Community Center to begin making plans for the second March. The politics of the March remained the same, and the group wrote a mission statement. The event was again planned for the morning before the Pride Parade and again stepped off at Ruggles T — though it had a slightly different route. The group had a difficult time deciding what to do about entering Pride, especially considering the change in the make up of the Pride Committee. In the end we decided to not enter Pride at all — to stop at Copley Square.

The idea for the now infamous bed (whose inspiration had come from the bed built by the NY Lesbian Avengers for 1994 NYC Pride) had been broached during the 1995 planning meetings, but put aside because of the lack of time. This year it was again brought up at one of the Zap Action Committee's meetings. With the help of Kiss Me Now Productions the bed was built.

On the morning of June 8 around 1000 women stepped off from Ruggles. Again Moving Violations led off the march and the hundreds of women — individuals, groups, and, of course, the bed — followed. The Lesbian Avengers and other women helped 'woman' and push the bed. The 2nd annual Boston Dyke March ended at Copley Square, though many women and the bed continued into Pride. It was once again a fabulous, political, marvelous, radical experience for everyone involved.

If you are interested in planning next year's march please check listings in community papers in Feb and March for the dates for the planning meetings. Or drop us a line here at **Dyke'tude** and we'll get in touch with you about how you can be a part of this incredible experience!



Have fun finding
the following words in our

Dykatude word search

feminist
coalition
dykemarch
liberty
the bed
butch
unapologetic
femme
bay crap
welfare
racism
public
stilts
tits
power
topless

sexact
community
loud
marriage
assimilation
queer
pesky avengers
motorcycle
lewd
radical
poverty
women
activist
misogynist
perverted
political



a c t i v i s t p a r c y a b r
s v c f e m i n i s t t v b r a
s p o l i t i c a l i r e u q d
i e m i r h s t c s t l i t s i
m r m b t e o m l s s m o c r c
i v u e q b r b i y e a n h e a
l e n r m e b n l t x r m p g l
a r i t o d y k e m a r c h n w
t t t y t g s p w v c i r m e e
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c v y u c a o c x d m o v r s a
t c o a l i t i o n e t o g e r
m r g f e m m e o l n ! p p p e
e k y d c i t e g o l o p a n u

JEFF EPPERLY AND JOE FITZPATRICK TAKING A ROMANTIC STROLL...



**Disagree? Agree? Wanna submit something?
Anything? Write us at...**

Dyka'tude
228 Chestnut Avenue
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Dyka'tude is...

Sara Hairston is a painter, dyke cartoonist, student, and activist. She is a native Bostonian, a new member of the Lesbian Avengers, and helped organize the 1996 Boston Dyke March.

Beth Hastie grew up in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. She is an exhibitionist and a radical feminist dyke, HIV/AIDS and labor activist. She has been a member of WAC for 3 years. She had a fabulous time working with other dykes on the Boston Dyke Marches, which she video-documented with the help of her mother.

Beth Ochsner recently moved to Boston from lovely San Francisco. She loves to dance and despite her recent arrival has scores of friends already wherever she goes. She helped organize the 1996 Boston Dyke March.

Sarah Shreeves is a radical queer who loves children's literature and wants to be a librarian. She was heavily involved with the Lesbian Avengers from October 1993 through the summer of 1995. She was an organizer of the 1995 and 1996 Boston Dyke March and looks forward to next year.

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IN BROOMCLOSET
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Radical Dyke

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QUEER CRONE

ASIAN DYKE
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Queers Unite
Fight the
Blight

Latinas Lesbianas

SINGLE
DYKE

FATTER
than Barbie
BUTCHER
than Ken

I Was a
Teenage Lesbian

MARRIAGE ≠ LEGITIMACY

Radical Dyke

Fight the
Blight

RADICAL
WOMAN
OF COLOR



dyke march boston 1996

POWER FEMME

Queer mom

SINGLE
DYKE

MARRIAGE ≠ LEGITIMACY

NOT THE CHURCH,
NOT THE STATE,
MARRIAGE WON'T LEGITIMATE

CELEBRATE!
DEMONSTRATE!

BLACK DYKE

PRIDE
IS
POLITICAL

Queers Unite