

June, 1996

## TO THE COMMUNITY

We, the Dyke March Committee, are writing to express our continued outrage at Pride, Inc.'s politics and actions. There is a long history of mainstreaming, marginalization, and exclusion in Boston Pride Events. Has Pride, Inc. forgotten the roots of gay liberation -- Stonewall, protests, marches and grassroots organizing?

Yes, they have -- by agreeing to collude with police and city government to set standards for lesbian and gay Pride Day behavior. This, unfortunately, is nothing new. Pride, Inc. has continually marginalized lesbians, people of color, working class queers, and other politically active people. The dominant corporate culture of Pride, Inc. has rendered invisible the spectrum of diversity despite their claims to "Pride Without Borders."

In the spirit of visibility we applaud, as should everyone, people who have the courage to express their sexual liberation through creative street theatre (the bed) or in any other form they choose. The dominant heterosexual world represses our rights to sexual expression daily. When Pride, Inc. does the same, they betray our lives and our passion. Pride, Inc. is attempting to gain power through assimilation.

We are dykes, out and proud, feminist and progressive. We are women-loving-women who march in celebration of our sexuality and we will fight for the rights of others to do the same. We urge everyone to make connections with the many issues that affect our community -- homophobia, racism, sexism, welfare, poverty, classism, healthcare access, anti-Semitism, violence, immigration....

We stand proud and strong in solidarity with the Lesbian Avengers and all other targeted individuals in our community. WE CALL THE COMMUNITY TO ACTION.

- call Pride, Inc. to express your outrage (450-8679)
- write letter(s) to gay and/or straight press
- express outrage through the internet
- call Mayor Menino
- start a newspaper
- organize an alternative Pride March
- start a consciousness raising group
- form affinity groups
- call Jeff Epperly (editor of Bay Windows: 266-6670)
- Remember Stonewall
- Spread the word

-The Dyke March Committee

*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