

THIRTEENTH & LAST AUSTINDYKE!

Volume II, Number 9

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AUSTINDYKE CEASES PUBLISHING

Publishing AUSTINDYKE these last thirteen months has had its rewards. Our thanks to all who subscribed, all who renewed their subscriptions when they expired or before, and especially to those wonderful women who not only subscribed but also sent donations, gave gift subscriptions, and wrote us notes, letters, and articles. We'd like to send each of you roses. We've also loved getting exchange subscriptions with other lesbian publications which have put us more in touch with our sisters around the country and shown us that there are still some pockets of lesbian community here and there. We'll buy subscriptions to as many of these as we can afford as soon as we can.

All the same, this is the last issue of AUSTINDYKE. We've decided there is simply no reason to go on trying to publish a community newsletter when there doesn't seem to be any community. It takes a lot of time, thought, skill, and work to publish the kind of articles we have given you, but most of the time it's been like dropping stones into a well, listening for the splash, and never hearing a thing. One can hold oneself in a listening attitude just so long before one realizes there's nothing to listen for. So if you're one of those who received thirteen issues of AUSTINDYKE at our expense and never gave a sign to us that we existed, or one of those who told us you intended to subscribe but never bothered to do it, or one who promised us an article or report and never sent it, you're not on the list for roses.

All our subscribers whose subscriptions have time left to run are getting a refund check enclosed with this issue. Please cash it promptly so we can keep our accounts in order. For those who are really interested in lesbian publications, we're following this article with a short list of some we like and to which you might want to subscribe, including a new national lesbian newspaper which has just published its first issue.

The Lesbian Insider/Insighter/Inciter. 2104 Stevens Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55404; 13 issues for \$9.00. The first issue of this new twenty-page lesbian newspaper contains articles on astrology, the issue of boy children in all-women places, transsexuals and the lesbian community, coming out as a blind lesbian, fat dykes and karate, interviews with Sally Gearheart and Karen Clark, and a big letters column, among other things.

Dinah (P.O. Box 1485, Cincinnati, OH 45201; \$5/yr.; bimonthly),
Atlanta (P.O. Box 5502, Atlanta, Georgia 30307; \$5/yr.; monthly),
Out & About (1007 W. 47th, Seattle, WA 98103; \$4/yr.; monthly),
and Lavendar Express (P.O. Box 218, Kearny, N.J. 07032; \$6/year;

monthly) are all very worthwhile local publications with many articles of more general interest. Articles on white-water rafting (Dinah), working in men's jobs (Atalanta), fat liberation (Out & About), and community friendliness and unfriendliness (Lavender Express) have brightened up our mailbox.

Religiously focused, Sisters United (118 W. Sparks St, Galena, KS 66739; \$5/year; bimonthly) offers a thought-provoking perspective which is not just the standard lesbian line. It also contains stories, poems, and reminiscences by the publishers of their lives as lesbians in a small Kansas town. We find it a real upper to read.

Focus (Boston Daughters of Bilitis; 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02138; \$8/year; bimonthly) has stories, poems, and occasional long articles. The last issue contained interesting information on Boston lesbian history and the origin of the term "Boston marriage."

The Circle of Lesbian Indexers lists 47 current lesbian publications; these are just some that we get and enjoy.

We know of no lesbian publication that regularly covers current news events of interest to lesbians. For this you might check out Gay Community News (22 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. 02108; weekly; \$5/12 issues, \$10/25, \$17.50/50), which contains much by and of interest to lesbians, although it also has a great deal of male material.

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR RELIEVED OF TEACHING DUTIES

Kathleen Kelleher, a graduate student and assistant instructor at the University of Texas, has been relieved of her teaching duties, apparently as a result of an incident last summer when she invited speakers from Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus and Austin Lambda to address her class on "The Politics of American Culture" (GOV 312L). Two students (of 200 in the class) walked out, one before class began, and subsequently protested to the department chairman. As well, the mother of one of the students complained to the dean of the college of liberal arts.

As a result, Kelleher has not been allowed to teach the two sections she was scheduled to teach this fall. Two other graduate students were offered the sections but refused to teach them; so they have been cancelled. Also, this fall all assistant instructors are being required to turn in their syllabuses in advance for approval.

Kelleher has requested a grievance hearing.

Letters of protest may be addressed to Charles Cnudde, Government Department Chairman; to Robert King, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts; and to Peter T. Flawn, President of the University; at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712.

UP FOR DISCUSSION: PASSING AS A MAN

Although our question was intended to focus on lifelong passing, most answerers instead talked about times they had been "mistaken" for men - called "Sir," etc. What we find interesting is that from

the answers, you might guess many of these women to be practically drag butches - in fact, none are.

I think that, although there are sometimes genuine mistakes, many "mistakes" are actually harassment, not genuine errors. I've been called "Sir" when my hair was down to my waist.

The other thing which surprised us was several women's saying they didn't see any advantages in passing. If having the world treat you the way it treats men wouldn't be advantageous, what are women complaining about?

-AP

AUSTINDYKE asked local lesbians: "Have you ever passed as a man?"
Would you if you could? Have you ever considered it?

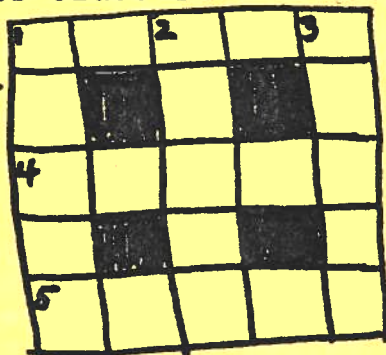
- I have never passed as a man but I've been mistaken for a man. I haven't set out to look like a man; but there are times when I appreciate not being taken for a woman like riding my bike late at night.
- I never have - I did shave my head at one point, but my object wasn't to look like a man. I think if it were an extreme situation, like out-and-out combat between men and women in the streets, it might be to a woman's advantage to pass as a man, but other than that I don't think I'd even consider it.
- No, I've never passed as a man. I wouldn't if I could. I don't see any reason to. I want whatever I accomplish to be recognized as being done by a woman.
- I have been mistaken for a man once or twice. In both cases, it was rather humorous, because I'm obviously a woman, but people just weren't looking. I haven't thought about whether I would or not, because I don't even have that option, and I can't think of many situations where passing would be advantageous.
- No, I've never passed as a man. I would if I could. I have been called "Sir" before. I've been given the men's restroom key before, and refused to take it, or directed to the men's dressing room. I've talked to people on the phone who thought I was a man.
- If I could, I think I'd pass as a man in public, for safety, to get a job, to avoid hassles. But with friends, and in my neighborhood, I want to be known as a dyke. I haven't considered trying to pass for years, though when I was a butch bar dyke years ago, I used to think about it. Ironically, I get "Sir'd" more now that I don't dress in drag than I ever was when I did.
- Yes, I think I would if I could, but I think I'd find it quite difficult to pass. I definitely would if I could somehow take my education with me - if I were a man, I wouldn't have to be stuck being a secretary. I used to day-dream about passing when I was younger. The worst part would

be having to associate with men, but I do anyway, and mostly they treat their comrades much more nicely than their slaves.

- Would I? Not likely, but for some subversive reason, yes, but only temporarily, I would hope, thinking of The Wander-ground. Have I? Undoubtedly, many times. In washrooms, I've shocked the hell out of women. Intentionally, a couple of times, in dangerous situations, like once when I was alone in a straight bar. It was pretty easy. But just temporary, like that. It makes me feel very creepy, though. I'd rather be seen as a strong woman.

A CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The crossword puzzle below is short but may be harder than you think, since the clues are British-style. British-style clues contain not only a definition of the word, but also additional hints through supplying the letters in the word (hidden, of course), a pun on the word, the word itself spelled backward or scrambled, or played with in some way. The trick is to divide each clue into two parts, the definition and the word-play hint. Examples: "The dam is partly a dandy keeper of water." (4 letters) The word is DYKE - "dam" is the definition; the word itself is "partly" the letters in "danDY KEeper." Or: "This segment is a trap! Go back!" (4 letters) The word is PART - "segment" is the definition and "trap," when it "goes back" (is spelled backward) gives the answer. You'll find these and other kinds of clues in this puzzle. Enjoy.



ACROSS:

1. Heavy role, but Christian plays it, in part.
2. Los Angeles goes back after three attempts.
3. Some of the sisters without ties are, have graceful curves.

DOWN:

1. Coming from bat, her team is washed up.
2. Stories more like animals' than women's.
3. Dormitories at a women's college are wells of loneliness.

(Answers and explanations are on page 5.)

REVIEW

Mrs. Daffodil by Gladys Taber. Lippincott, 1957.

Mrs. Daffodil, the gregarious writer, and Kay, her less-sociable friend who lives with her, are very thinly disguised portrayals of Gladys Taber and her friend Jill, and many of the stories in the series that makes up this book have parts that are already familiar to readers of the non-fiction Stillmeadow books. Together they make up the most enjoyable and relaxing series of lesbian stories I've ever read. One can't help liking and respecting these women, so different in temperament, so devoted to each other, so filled with good will for their world and the people in it. Here is described no violence, no sex, no psychoanalysis, and when Mrs. Daffodil's first love (a man) makes a surprise appearance, there's no conflict, only caring. And she is not even remotely tempted to leap into a relationship with him again, either.

Mrs. Daffodil and Kay live the kind of busy, relaxed, full lives I think most lesbian couples wish they could, and the author gives us twenty-seven delightful stories about it in this book. Although Jill, the real-life Kay, died just about the time this book was published and Gladys Taber died last spring, it's hard to read Mrs. Daffodil and not think that they are both still there in Connecticut, going strong.

Mrs. Daffodil is available at the Austin Public Library.

- AA

MONEY NEEDED FOR JEANNETTE FOSTER'S CARE

Jeannette Foster, author of the classic and comprehensive Sex Variant Women in Literature, is no longer able to care for herself and lives in a nursing home. Nursing home costs have risen so drastically that she is no longer able to pay all the expenses herself. For this reason, donations are being sought for her upkeep. They may be sent to Hazel Toliver, Route 3, Box 221, Pocahontas, Arkansas 72455. Regular monthly donations are especially helpful. If you donate, please also send a note to Valerie Taylor, 3751 East Grant Road, Tucson, Arizona 85716.

FLIGHT OF OLDER LESBIANS

Apropos of the above, Valerie Taylor writes: "Jeannette's case is far from unique. . . . This country is full of old lesbians in substandard nursing homes and furnished rooms, trying to manage with too little money and failing strength. Sooner or later I think we are going to have to work out some way to build retirement homes for our older sisters. . . . We are doubly discriminated against in the job market, as women and as lesbians, and most of us have no families to look after us. I think that

Jeannette's mental fadeaway might have been postponed had she found a nursing home with congenial companions, even though her friends . . . have done all they could for her."

We agree with Valerie Taylor that this is a serious problem, but we see one big obstacle in the way of tackling it, and that is the lack of communication between older and younger lesbians. It is not unusual for lesbians in their twenties or thirties never to have met a lesbian over forty. This can make young lesbians feel as though the future is something of a void. And, in some respects, it may be, unless lesbians can find ways to take care of our own.

CIRCLE OF LESBIAN INDEXERS

The Circle of Lesbian Indexers is a group of three lesbians working to index lesbian periodicals, past and present. They have already compiled a list of current lesbian periodicals.

The Circle would like to hear from women who have back issues to sell or donate. They are particularly interested in obtaining back issues of Goodbye to All That.

If you would like more information, would like to be placed on their mailing list, or can donate money to help finance subscriptions to current periodicals or purchases of back issues, you can write: Clare Potter, 2260 Yale Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

We believe this ambitious project to be a most worthwhile one and wish the Circle best of luck.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR THREAD FROM TWISTING!

When you cut (not break!) your thread off the spool, immediately tie your knot in that end and thread the other end through your needle. My mother tells me the thread will not twist and kink this way.

--AA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claudia Maughn--I'd love to hear from you! Ann Holland Azolakov, c/o P.O. Box 3374, Austin, Texas 78764. (Or if anyone has heard from her in recent years, please drop me a line.)

Alix Dobkin, Star Route 212, Bearsville, New York 12409, needs to get in touch with Pearl Times-Child.

Thirteen issues of AUSTINDYKE have been published by Austin lesbians Anne Peticolas and Ann Azolakov. Our mailing address is: AUSTINDYKE, P.O. Box 3374, Austin, Texas 78764. Happy equinox! *Ann Azolakov*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1. BUNCH (but Christian) 4. TRIAL (L.A. backward after "tr" - three) 5. ASSES ("some of" the sisters minus the letters "tie" and "r" (are))
 DOWN: 1. BATH (bat, her) 2. TAILS (pun) 3. HALTS (Radcliffe - like Radcliffe College - Hall wrote The Well of Loneliness.)