

editorial: MOTIVE COMES OUT!

Women are moving. We are moving out of passivity, out of the closets; we are moving toward control of our own lives and the overthrow of male supremacy. The aim of this magazine is to express this motion and to move you by sharing the ideas, experiences and feelings of many lesbians. Today, lesbian/feminist politics are taking shape; our analysis is crystallizing and we are starting on the path to effective action. Some of the women contributing to this magazine were "happy" heterosexual housewives not long ago. Some were homosexuals in hiding, either from their "friends" or their own self-hate. Starting from these different places, we have all become lesbian-feminists. Lesbian feminism is the ideology that unites us. It is the way of thinking that enables us to understand our past and chart our future. Only if we understand how and why we have been oppressed can we successfully fight for our freedom.

You are part of that past and in the belief that you will want to shape that future, we have put together a magazine of lesbian-feminist writing, art, and poetry. Some of the work here is reprinted but most was created especially for this issue.

Motive, a monthly magazine published by the United Methodist Church for over twenty years, is no more. This is its final issue. Throughout *Motive's* history, radical dissension within limits was tolerated with a few slaps on the wrist, but the church fathers really squirmed when the special issue on women appeared in March-April, 1969. In the aftermath of the controversy over the women's issue, the church began to reduce its support of *Motive* and *Motive* decided it could no longer function under the church. *Motive* could not survive without church money so the staff and editorial board decided to close up shop--using the remaining resources of the magazine to put out one final *gay* issue. The Furies, a collective of twelve lesbians in Washington, D.C., which included a member of the old *Motive* editorial board, assumed editorial responsibility for the lesbian issue. Within the collective, four of us took major responsibility for this project but everyone has contributed to it.

We are not professional publishers or editors. We are political lesbians who wanted to create a magazine that would communicate our ideas to you. It was exciting to have the resources for our own magazine. We were determined that from start to finish lesbians would do it all. A publication produced with men could not proclaim the strength and promote the independence of women in the way we hoped to.

In the process of putting this issue together we built bonds with lesbians around the country who sent in articles, graphics, and poetry in response to our requests. In order for lesbians to complete the entire production we gained many new skills. Lesbians from several cities produced the design and layout. The Sojourner Truth Press in Atlanta printed the whole issue. Where things were needed, we did them ourselves. Lesbians who could never write articles before wrote. Lesbians who never typeset before learned composing. Women who never published a magazine before did it.

We are proud that this issue was put out by women. Gay men have also produced their issue of *Motive*. Although originally scheduled as one gay issue, we made a political decision to do separate women's and men's issues. At this time, we are separatists who do not work with men, straight or gay, because men are not working to end male supremacy. Sexism oppresses men, especially gay men, by suppressing the 'female' in them and amputating their self-development. But all men still receive concrete benefits, privileges, and power from that system. Male supremacy subordinates women in every way. Ending gay oppression will not automatically end woman oppression. Only a complete destruction of the whole male supremacist system can free women. When men renounce the power and privilege they gain through the domination and subordination of women and join the struggle to end all male supremacy, they will be allies of the strong and independent lesbian-feminist movement we are building. Those men, straight or gay, who cling to male power and privilege continue to oppress us and stand in the way of a women's revolution.

We hope you will read the magazine, pass it on, talk about it with women you know and women you are getting to know, keep in touch with us and join the struggle.

Joan E. Biren
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Charlotte Bunch
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