Mar 23rd, 12:05 PM - 1:20 PM

DYKE, A Quarterly: Blogging an Online Annotated Archive

Liza Cowan
Independent Scholar

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DYKE, A QUARTERLY
A MAGAZINE OF LESBIAN CULTURE AND ANALYSIS 1975 - 1979, TOMATO PUBLICATIONS, NYC

from print to an online digital archive
DYKE, A Quarterly
Published in print from 1975-1979
Liza Cowan and Penny House publishers + editors
DYKE was for and about

Dykes, Lesbians, Amazons, Women, Womyn, Wimmen
DYKE, A Quarterly was educational, entertaining, community building, beautiful, interactive, provocative.

"DYKE is more personally honest in print than most people are in conversation. DYKE has wit and intellect and guts." Gaia's Guide, 1977
What is DYKE?

From No. 1, p.5, Introduction

We want to publish a magazine that fulfills our need for analysis, communication and news of Lesbian culture. We believe that "Lesbian culture" presumes a separatist analysis. If Lesbian culture is intermixed with straight culture, it is no longer Lesbian; it is heterosexual, or heterosocial because energy and time are going to men. Lesbian community--Lesbian culture--means Lesbian only. DYKE is a magazine for Dykes only! We will speak freely among ourselves. We are not interested in telling the straight world what we are doing. In fact, we hope they never even see the magazine. It is none of their business. If they chance to see it, we hope they will think it is mindless gobbledegook. We are already thinking in ways that are incomprehensible to them.

Excerpt from press release: DYKE folds

We are proud of our work. It was innovative, readable, provocative and beautiful. The essays were highly personal, based on the feminist technique of consciousness raising. We chose and wrote articles that would give the reader a frame of reference: who was the author, how did she come to her ideas, what was the relevance of the subject to her own life and to Lesbians in general.

We believe that any subject can be relevant and interesting to
Archived ephemera:

sketch for an idea

The punchy magazine for today's
DYKE

DYKES & DYKELETS:

be sure to get your copy
of DYKE right away!

DO YOU OFTEN ASK YOURSELF:

Why?
Archived ephemera:

promotional flier

DYKE

IS OUT!

ARE YOU?

our first flier
Archived ephemera:
contact sheet from photo shoot

©Tomato Publications
www.dykeaquaterly.com
Calling All Separatists...

We have decided to publish DYKE because there is no periodical that fulfills our need for news, communication, and analysis of our Lesbian culture. So much is happening in the Lesbian communities across the country, but the mainstream media is covering only a fraction of the news. Lesbian periodicals have decided to focus on their own cities (with the exception of The Lesbian Connection published by Ambitious Amazon). There is an information gap. No one is documenting our culture. So we intend to do it.

We believe that "Lesbian Culture" presumes a separatist analysis. If Lesbian culture is internalized with straight culture, it is no longer Lesbian. It is heterosexual, or heterosocietal, because energy and time is going to men. Lesbian Community and Lesbian Culture means Lesbian Only. DYKE is a magazine for Dykes only. We will speak freely among ourselves, we are not interested in telling the straight world what we're doing. In fact we hope that they never even see the magazine. It is not of their business. If they choose to see it, we hope it will be mindless gobbledygook to them. We are already thinking in ways that are incomprehensible to them. We are, and probably you, are living our lives as best we can, with and for Dykes. DYKE will be a reflection of our lives.

There will be correspondents from Lesbian communities and communities all over the country. If you would like to be one write us for details. They will be writing about what is happening in their communities, writing about trends, events, and anything they feel is important and interesting. We want to know about what Dykes are wearing, what books they are reading, what movies they are going to, how they are raising children, how they are celebrating holidays, what arts they are involved with, and all the varied things that happen in the everyday life of a Dyke community.

DYKE will carry feature articles on live events, home economics, Dyke history, language, fashion, media, theatre, music, and literature. There will be interviews, lots of graphics, and scores of other interesting articles.

DYKE is published and edited by two women, Lita and Penny. We have editorial control and all final decisions are made by us. (any changes in the articles will be made with the author's consent) Everybody who works for DYKE will be paid. Regular correspondants will receive free subscriptions as payment. We will carry ads from businesses owned and operated by and for women.

DYKE will be distributed at women's bookstores, coffeehouses, and centers and by subscription. It will not be sold at men's stores. Subscription from men (sounds silly, but it happens) will be returned.

DYKE will be published quarterly starting in Autumn 1975. Charter subscription is $5.00 till November 30, 1975. Price thereafter, $8.00. We urge women to buy subscriptions to share. DYKE is published by Tomato Publications, 70 Barrow St. New York, NY 10014, room 18.
Archived ephemera:
layout sheets for No. 6

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DYKE No. 1
winter 1975

DYKE, A Quarterly: ISSUE No 1: Cover by Marlene Miller

DAQ: screen shot cover of No. 1
The women on the cover all worked at Broad and Roses, the women's restaurant in Cambridge MA. There is a lengthy interview with them inside the magazine.
We probably first saw Alice Austen’s photographs at an exhibition of her work at Richmond College in Staten Island, NY. Alice was a pioneer 19th Century photographer who was born and raised in Staten Island. By now everyone pretty much accepts that she was a Lesbian, or a woman who loved women. *DYKE A Quarterly* was the first periodical to write about her as such.
DAQ: screen shot
cover for No. 4
the poster issue
drawing by
Debbie Drechsler
DYKE No. 5
Fall 1977

DAQ: screen shot cover No. 5
DYKE No. 6
summer 1978

September 24, 2010

DYKE, A Quarterly, No. 6: Cover, The Animal Issue

DYKE No. 6, Cover. Illustration from early 20th Century Farm Encyclopedia.

You might also like:
Archived ephemera:
1979 DYKE ends print publication

press release/letter to subscribers

TOMATO PUBLICATIONS, LTD.

DYKE, A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

It is with a mixture of sadness, relief and anger that we announce the folding of DYKE, A Quarterly. When we conceived of DYKE four years ago we decided that we would give it a few years to become self-supporting. We have been publishing now for three years and the magazine still does not support itself. Clearly, we lack a large enough audience.

WHAT WAS DYKE, A QUARTERLY

Tomato Publications, Ltd. published six issues of DYKE, a magazine of essays, interviews, history, art and politics. Our first two issues featured among other articles, the highly controversial 4.1.7. statement, a major Lesbian separatist analysis. Issue 3 presented a portfolio of Alice Austin, a Lesbian photographer from the turn of the century. Issue 4 was a beautiful four-color poster by Debbie Bresher which came along with a small magazinelet. Issue 5 featured essays about ethnic Lesbians, also a history of Lesbian bobbies during the depression, and an analysis of transsexuals in the women's movement. Issue 6 featured articles about Lesbians and animals, and a symposium on Lesbian separatism.

WHY WE LOVE DYKE

We are proud of our work. It was innovative, readable, provocative and beautiful. The essays were highly personal, based on the feminist technique of consciousness raising. We chose and wrote articles that would give the reader a frame of reference: who was the author, how did she come to her ideas, what was the relevance of the subject to her own life and to Lesbians in general.

We believe that any subject can be relevant and interesting to

PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469

DYKE, the American radical lesbian

available in script form for $3.50 through the Nova Scotia Dramatist's Co-op, Box 3608, Halifax South Post Office, Halifax, NS, B3J 1K6.

The book 'om Catalyst, Scarborough, Ontario, contains an essay by Karla Jay and two articles by R. J. O. V. and T. Such, a musical life raid and of patons of x, is now

Taking a stand

notice in Canadian gay publication The Body Politic
Until 2010 DYKE was available only in private collections, small libraries and some Lesbian’s homes.
DYKE goes to the Library

DYKE A Quarterly issues
at Museum Of Modern Art Library

Issues + ephemera
Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America
ABOUT DYKE, A Quarterly

DYKE, A Quarterly was created by Liza Cowan and Penny House. We had been best friends since we were four years old and had both recently come out as Lesbians. In 1975 we were in our mid twenties. Liza had moved to a farm in upstate New York and Penny was living in New York City, where we had both grown up.

All over The United States Lesbians were getting together to make culture: music, literature, theater, art exhibits, film, poetry, and all kinds of media. We were right in the thick of it, enjoying every minute, and decided that making a magazine would be our contribution.
From paper to pixels
DYKE online archive is for

Dykes, Lesbians, Amazons, Women, Womyn, Wimmen

scholars, historians, researchers, students
Archiving with new technologies

from this
typesetting machine
dry transfer letters
printing press

to this
scanner
Digital archive as blog
Elements of the online archive

- enlargeable scans of original pages
- searchable text + hyperlinks
- ephemera
- annotation
- side trips
- reader comments
Access to tools: blogging and image production

- Blogging platform: Typepad
- Image design: Picmonkey
- Screen capture: Skitch/Evernote
- Design: Swift Publisher
Blogging DAQ at Typepad.com
DAQ stats are useful
Access to tools: Social Media
DAQ tweets
DAQ on Facebook
Transcribing:
there must be a better way