

# Cross currents

While hanging around the Boston Public Library's (BPL) bathroom (we won't discuss what I was doing there), I walked into the first stall on the left — the one with the stubborn door that doesn't like to close. While in this cozy space, I occupied myself by reading the graffiti scrawled across the stall's wall. As a connoisseur of fine graffiti I consider BPL bathroom graffiti amongst the *crème de la crème* of Boston. If you want a week-by-week update on girl-on-girl graffiti war, (after all it's in the "ladies room"), just pop your head into a BPL bathroom stall.

by Wickie Stamps

This particular graffiti skirmish started with someone drawing a lesbian symbol, then writing the words "We are everywhere!" beside it. Underneath the dyke symbols were another set of lesbian

symbols, but someone had doctored the dykes, turning them into the symbol signifying gay men. Below this gay boy image were the sweet words announcing "We are everywhere too!"

"So is murder and crime but is that good?" some bastard scratched into the beige paint, with an arrow shooting directly towards the dyke and faggot symbols.

Another scribe with rather muddled politics and no arrow designating his target jumped in: "If you were satisfied with your own life you wouldn't feel compelled to stick your nose into other people's bedrooms. And if gays were "satisfied" they wouldn't be "compelled" to write or announce their preference. Why write it on a bathroom wall?"

Above this, a fifth personality, obviously lesbian (unless drag queens are slipping into the girls' room) piped up denouncing her opponents: "If you people didn't feel compelled to hate, discriminate against and attack us for no reason other than the gender of the people we choose to sleep with, then we wouldn't be compelled to write on bathroom walls!"

Next, in very large letters a motherly graffiti artist chastised the lot: "Why don't you all chill the fuck out, and love who you are going to love."

Next to this, some defiant girl zeroing in on big mama: "Because what if we were all invisible?"

Off to the right, sans arrows was a solitary shout from some charming gay basher, declaring "GAYS SUCK!"

Below this was the final shot "Thank you, Georgia O'Keefe." I did not know if this last piece was in response to anything or merely an exclamation of gratitude for the artist.

Girl graffiti wars. What would you have added to this banter?