

# San Francisco MATTACHINE NEWSLETTER

EIGHTEENTH ISSUE San Francisco November 15, 1954 Published by Beta Chapter

## DINNER MEETING PLANNED FOR MONTHLY BUSINESS SESSION

San Francisco chapters of the Society have announced that they plan to hold a monthly dinner meeting after the first of the year, as a combined social and business event. It will be sponsored by the San Francisco Area Council.

This meeting will be held in one of the city's many restaurants.

Appropriate notices will be sent in advance to all members, just as soon as the area council makes arrangements for necessary dining facilities.

It is expected that the "tab" for these dinners will be approximately \$2 per person.

This meeting will take the place of the regular meeting which has been held on the third Thursday of each month in the past at the center of the American Friends Service Committee. The policy for public discussion groups to meet on their first Thursday dates will remain unchanged, however. It was also pointed out by the area council chairman that the dinner meetings are not intended to replace chapter meetings which the members may wish to hold on other dates they may select.

Planning session for the 1955 business meeting programs will be held at a dinner meeting on December 16, to which the area council has invited members of all Bay Area chapters to attend. Further announcement of this event will be made early in December.

## TRANSEXUAL TOPIC SLATED FOR DECEMBER

The December 2 discussion group topic at San Francisco will be on aspects and developments in the field of transsexualism. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. in the center of the American Friends Service Committee, 1830 Sutter St.

The speaker is a person with first hand knowledge of the subject of somato-psychic sexual variation.

## SOCIETY'S NEW MAGAZINE IS COMING... MATTACHINE REVIEW WILL APPEAR IN JANUARY FIRST EDITION

Plans are now complete for launching the first issue of "Mattachine Review" in January. The magazine will be printed by lithographic process (not mimeographed).

Material for the first issue is now at the printer's, reports the Society's publications director. An interesting and informative series of articles and features will appear in the issue, written by experts at writing and in the professions.

Much of the content of the first issue has not appeared in print before. Among the articles will be the following:

1. A criticism of the California "Vag-Lewd" statute, by a prominent attorney;
2. A discussion of research findings by Dr. Evelyn Hooker, on the subject of personality types among sex variants;
3. An "open letter" to a U. S. Senator who criticized inverts in a campaign talk recently;
4. A special article by James Barr, author of "Quatrefoil" and "Derricks," written especially for this issue of the magazine, and
5. A series of interesting departments which will include letters, book reviews, critiques of current magazine articles, news notes of the Mattachine Society area activities, quotes from persons in public life, and a directory of publications, organizations, etc., in the U. S. and abroad.

The chairman of the Board of Directors, Los Angeles, has written an introduction for the magazine. There will be articles explaining the Mattachine program.

Material for the second issue, to appear in March 1955, is also in preparation. This issue will feature an analysis of the "crime against nature" as defined by statute in North Carolina, and present a recommendation for a new sex code in that state, which might well be considered as a model for all states. It

FOR THE CHAPTER LIBRARY.....

Avery, Curtis E.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE SEX DEVIATE. Portland, Oregon Coordinating Council on Social Hygiene & Family Life, 1953. 14 p., incl. bibliography.

Presents in understandable terms basic information about the sex variant, and reflects the point of view held by most scientists who have studied the sex deviate and the problem he can create in society.

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Kirkendall, Lester A., & Thomas Poffenberger.

PARENTS, CHILDREN AND THE SEX MOLESTER. Portland, OCCSHFL, 1953. 8 p. illustrated

Answers these questions: Why are we so upset about it? Just what is "sexual molestation"? How serious is the danger? What can we do to protect our own children? What can we as citizens do to protect all children?

SOCIETY'S NEW MAGAZINE

(Continued from first page)

will be presented as a review written by an attorney in Washington, D. C. Articles in the second issue will touch fields of religion, science and medicine, also.

In the mean time, circulation activity is going ahead at a fast pace. Invitation to subscribe (see back page of this issue for details and rates) is being made to prospective subscribers, including a host of persons in the medical, theological, legal and other professions.

Advance subscriptions are coming along but slowly. A goal within the Society is to obtain a \$10 subscription for 4 years from each member.

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SPECIAL REPORT:

ORGANIZATIONS--IF PROGRESSIVE--CAN DO MUCH TO CHANGE ATTITUDE OF PUBLIC

"Organizations of persons interested in the problem of homosexuality, if progressive, will do much to change the attitude of the public," said Dr. Robert Lindner, chief psychiatric advisor to the State Board of Corrections, Baltimore, Maryland, when he addressed some 300 persons in Beverly Hills, Calif., November 5.

Dr. Lindner's lecture was entitled "Changing Attitudes Toward Homosexuality." It was sponsored by the Hacker Foundation and Correctional Service Associates, two Los Angeles organizations doing work in the fields of criminology, psychiatry and sociology. Sidney Wachs, deputy probation officer for Los Angeles, introduced the speaker.

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The speaker defined homosexuality as he introduced the subject. "There are three definitions," he said. First is the popular definition, founded on fiction. Based on overt behavior, it regards a homosexual as a person who publicly acts and privately behaves like a person of the opposite sex--in the case of men, it represents the extremely effeminate person. This group represents only a small percentage of homosexuals, said Dr. Lindner.

The second definition is the pseudo-scientific, he said. Based upon statistics, this definition calls homosexuals those persons who have experienced sexual contacts which led to orgasm with members of their own sex. The fallacy of such a definition, even when applied to persons who practice such contacts predominantly, is the fact that outlet and inclination are confused.

The third definition, according to Dr. Lindner, is most nearly accurate. "Homosexuals are individuals who feel a sexual response with members of their own sex, and who seek such fulfillment as gratification," he said. This definition excludes the bi-sexual, but accounts for it.

Another group of inverts was labeled by Dr. Lindner as "homograts." They are persons who proselytize and prostitute their own sex publicly; it is these persons (male) who make the life of the homosexual easier, because they are so obvious that

they are the "homosexual" in the eyes of the public, and thus detract attention from homosexuals who live the 'double standard' of life. Dr. Lindner said that the homo-erotics included the effeminate swishes, the transvestites, and the muscle-builders.

One of the characteristics of present-day homosexuals is a mode of life with two distinct facets. One side of life is applicable to the homosexual society in which he lives only; the other is seen in general society, when homosexuals act like anyone else and make no attempt to challenge society, or evoke homosexuality on the public. This is the "out of sight, out of mind" principle.

Dr. Lindner also discussed the public's regard of homosexuals as victims of "sexlessness." Inverts assume a role of asexuality in their everyday contacts, so as not to draw attention to themselves as being non-heterosexual. "We live in a culture which is not heterosexual," said Dr. Lindner. Oddly enough, inverts have learned in advance of the average person that our society is actually anti-sexual."

Estimates of the homosexual population vary greatly, Dr. Lindner said. The general lay public grossly underestimates the extent of inversion because it is of no concern unless it is discovered in the immediate family. On the other hand, members of the homosexual group tend to over-estimate the number of homosexuals. Somewhere in between, probably very near the estimate stated by Dr. Alfred Kinsey in his book, is the true estimate--between 4% and 6% of the male population over 16 years of age--some 3 million males, Dr. Lindner stated.

"By the very size of the homosexual minority, you would think that it would command attention from the whole of society. But it does not comprise a well-defined minority, and it is no respecter of social and economic levels. It cuts across the entire social strata."

However, the homosexual, in many ways unknown to society in general, is a pace-setter. He has had undeniable influence in establishing new fashions in dress, tastes in decorating homes, and new trends in the arts of our culture.

Without tracing the history and religious influence, Dr. Lindner told how society has always been uncompromisingly hostile toward the homosexual, but that today the attitudes of the world were changing.

In Southeast Asia, an organization was founded in the mid-1930s as an experiment and given up at the beginning of World War II. It has since been revived and, as the Homosexual World Organization (HWO), it is now one of the organizations making up the International Congress for Sexual Equality (ICSE), Amsterdam, Holland. Dr. Lindner told how leaders and other interested professional people in Southeast Asia were concerned as the HWO came into being as an attempt to establish a "colony" of male homosexuals, free from persecution and discrimination by others. But the purely colonial aspect failed, and a responsible organization grew out of it when it was revived in the past decade. The organization numbers some 70,000 members, Dr. Lindner said.

A question was asked of the speaker at the end of his lecture relating to the influence of women (and the mother) upon males today. Dr. Lindner stated that he thought the matriarchial society that exists today was indeed a factor in failure of boys to identify with a strong father-figure, and thus the situation was undoubtedly a cause in the high incidence of inversion.

"Society has developed an attitude toward homosexuals which no longer considers them as immoral as it once did," he said. Instead, inverts today are now being considered as victims of a mental illness (seen in the expression, "One would have to be nuts to do that"). This attitude has worked to the advantage of and has spared the homosexual in this way, according to the speaker: It has been responsible for the creation of mental health facilities for dealing with the problem which never existed before, and it offers an easy confirmation of the correctness of the heterosexual's own pattern of behavior. Present-day psychiatry does not confirm society's view of homosexuality as a mental disease, Dr. Lindner added. The speaker is an expert in study of the homosexual. He has written some 90 articles and essays on the subject. He is a practicing psychiatrist in Baltimore and on the faculty of the University of Maryland. He has written several books, including "Rebel Without Cause," now being made into a film at Warner Brothers studio.

# JANUARY, 1955

IS TARGET DATE FOR THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE

NEW MAGAZINE OF THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

**DON'T MISS THE FIRST ISSUE** nor any of the following five issues planned for 1955....  
**Send us your CHARTER SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!**

Yes, that's right. Soon after the first of the year, the first issue of MATTACHINE REVIEW will roll off the press to tell the story of the Mattachine Society, its aims and principles, and its program for aiding the solution of problems surrounding human sexuality in America today. It will be YOUR magazine. Every issue will be filled with original writing, critical opinion, reviews of books, magazines and newspapers, letters and news developments in the social, legal, religious, political, educational and scientific fields related to this subject here and abroad.

While major attention will be given to the problem of the homosexual, the magazine will NOT be gay, fictional, nor will it contain "food for the neurosis" of many individuals so inclined.

The Mattachine Review will attempt to capture the interest and supply information for those seriously interested in improving human social relationships--with a view to education and integration, erasure of bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and ignorance.

Parents, doctors, educators, ministers, judges and law enforcement officials WILL find the magazine of assistance in their work. The first issue will contain articles on the constitutional status of the Vag-Lewd statute; news about research in the field of sexual inversion; an article by James Barr, plus letters, reviews, notes and many other features.

**THIS IS A CALL FOR EVERY MEMBER AND FRIEND OF THE SOCIETY TO BECOME A CHARTER SUBSCRIBER NOW...DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THIS IMPORTANT NEW MAGAZINE!**

**ADDRESS ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF POSSIBLE ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION TO:**  
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**NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBSCRIBED, WHY NOT HAND THIS INFORMATION LEAFLET TO A FRIEND?**

## RATES

YEAR---\$2.50

2 YEARS---\$5.00

4 YEARS---\$10.

**STARTING 1955, THE MAGAZINE WILL BE ISSUED BI-MONTHLY; IT IS PLANNED TO INCREASE FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION TO MONTHLY THE YEAR FOLLOWING.**

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** All subscription orders must be signed. They must also include the statement, "I am over 21 years of age." Subscriptions that are not signed and which do not contain the statement above cannot be accepted.