

the Ladder

February 1962 50¢





purpose of the

Daughters of **BILITIS**

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING
THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

- ① Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications--this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.
- ② Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.
- ③ Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.
- ④ Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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COVER BY KATHY ROGERS

EDITORIAL

Love Is a Private Affair

IN AN APPEAL IN THE CASE OF A LOS ANGELES WOMAN JAILED UNDER THE CITY'S "RESORTING" LAW BECAUSE SHE HAD GONE FROM "HER LIVING ROOM TO BEDROOM WITH A MAN NOT HER HUSBAND", THE STATE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH HAS SET SANCTIONS AGAINST SUCH SEXUAL OFFENSES AS PROSTITUTION, DELIBERATELY AVOIDED SETTING PENALTIES FOR SIMPLE FORNICATION.

THE COURT SAID: "NEITHER SIMPLE FORNICATION NOR ADULTERY ALONE NOR LIVING IN A STATE OF COHABITATION HAS BEEN MADE A CRIME IN THIS STATE."

OF COURSE THE QUESTION IS FAR FROM CLOSED. THE LOS ANGELES LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE AGITATING FOR THE 1962 LEGISLATURE TO TIGHTEN THE SEX LAWS OF THE STATE AGAINST THESE "OUTRAGES UPON PUBLIC DECENCY AND MORALS."

IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT, RATHER THAN TIGHTEN THE SEX LAWS, THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS MIGHT BETTER SPEND THEIR TIME IN RE-EVALUATING THE SEX LAWS NOW ON THE BOOKS IN LIGHT OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES; SUCH AS THE KINSEY REPORTS, THE SEXUAL DEVIATION RESEARCH STUDIES CONDUCTED IN SAN FRANCISCO BY THE LANGLEY PORTER CLINIC UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. KARL BOWMAN, THE WOLFENDEN REPORT FROM ENGLAND, THE MODEL PENAL CODE AS DRAWN UP BY THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE - AND MORE RECENTLY THE COMPLETELY REVISED PENAL CODE WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT IN ILLINOIS THE FIRST OF THIS YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES OF DECEMBER 21, ILLINOIS IS THE FIRST STATE TO REVISE LAWS WHEREBY SEXUAL ACTS BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS IN PRIVATE ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED A CRIME. SEX OFFENSES WHICH DO APPEAR IN THE NEW CODE, HOWEVER, INCLUDE: ANY PERSON 17 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WHO SOLICITS A CHILD UNDER 13 TO PERFORM A SEXUALLY INDECENT ACT CAN BE ARRESTED AND RECEIVE A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$500 FINE OR 6 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT OR BOTH; AGGRAVATED BATTERY INCLUDING "PHYSICAL CONTACT OF AN INSULTING NATURE"; AND "RECKLESS CONDUCT" WHICH CAUSES BODILY HARM OR ENDANGERS THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.

IT IS TIME THAT THOSE CALIFORNIANS WHO ENACT THE LAWS AND THOSE WHO ENFORCE THEM LEARN THAT SEXUAL BEHAVIOR CANNOT BE REGULATED BY LAW, AND THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT IS DISAPPROVED AND WHAT SHOULD BE REGULATED BY LAW. THE FORMER SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF OR DEALT WITH THROUGH EDUCATION, FAMILY TRAINING AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES (INCLUDING RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE).

WE BELIEVE THAT PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS TO JUDGE SEX ACTIVITY ON THE GROUNDS OF WHETHER OR NOT SOCIETY IS HARMED. SEXUAL ACTIVITY BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS IN PRIVATE IS NOT HARMFUL TO SOCIETY. HOWEVER, AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE NEW ILLINOIS LAWS, THERE MUST NECESSARILY BE PROTECTION GIVEN THE PUBLIC AGAINST OFFENDERS WHERE ASSAULT, FORCE OR VIOLENCE IS INVOLVED; IN THE CASES WHERE CHILDREN ARE MOLESTED; AND AGAINST INDECENT PUBLIC BEHAVIOR.

BEYOND THESE BOUNDS, LOVE IS A PRIVATE AFFAIR. AND NO AMOUNT OF POLITICAL PRESSURE OR HOLY HYSTERIA WILL ALTER THE SEX HABITS OF THE AMERICAN POPULACE.

- DEL MARTIN

Thanks for Remembering ...

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS AND THE LADDER STAFF WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKS TO THOSE OF YOU WHO REMEMBERED US AT CHRISTMAS TIME.

WE ARE INDEED GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY CHRISTMAS CARDS, THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS AND LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. IT WAS A VERY HAPPY NOTE ON WHICH TO END THE OLD YEAR AND START THE NEW ONE.

IT'S SO NICE TO BE REMEMBERED. . . .

Dr. Vera H. Plunkett

Chiropractor

465 geary street

ORdway 3-3243

Lesbian Literature - 1981

If one hundred years from now someone attempts to write a history of the Lesbian in literature - she will have a monumental task.

In 1954, Dr. Jeannette Howard Foster completed the manuscript of her book, Sex Variant Women in Literature, which subsequently was published by Vantage Press in late 1956. At that time (1954) Dr. Foster had amassed data on 300 works in the strictly fiction fields (novels, poetry, drama) and perhaps 200 supplementary items (biography, essay). Within two years after that book's appearance, Marion Zimmer Bradley and myself had located over 200 items which pre-dated Foster, and publishers were eagerly filling the newsstands and bookstores with current items. Each year subsequently has unearthed a few more older titles and each year has brought a new high in current titles. In round numbers today there exists in the English language fiction, poetry and drama approximately 800 titles on Lesbianism - with the addition of supplementary biographical works this figure becomes nearer 1200 titles, and when one adds the untranslated foreign titles nearly 1500 works concerning Lesbianism (at least in part) exist. All of this excludes the hundreds of technical works on the subject.

Certain largely defined trends are currently obvious - many novelists toss in a Lesbian character or two as spice in a mediocre novel - just as thirty years ago they added a prostitute to show how worldly they were. Certain serious novelists sincerely add as a propaganda motif a Lesbian under duress and use this as a symbol to point up injustice or unfair censorship. Still others manage to include intentionally and yet subtly a Lesbian relationship in a novel not directly dealing with Lesbianism - in a manner which clearly shows our "group" relationship to other people.

The year 1961 has added over 80 titles to the ever increasing total. As I predicted last year, this new year has brought an extremely high quantity of quality hard-

back fiction. Many of these are worthy of special attention. Susan Sherman's adolescent tale of the fascination of youth for a worldly older woman, Give Me Myself, ranks high among Lesbian first novels. The witty American, Peter DeVries, gave us Through the Fields of Clover and his superior British mentor, Noel Coward, included quite major Lesbianism in Pomp and Circumstance. Merle Miller's, A Gay and Melancholy Sound; Harold Robbin's, The Carpetbaggers; Edward Hyan's, Tillotson; Elizabeth Mavor's, The Temple of Flora; and Tereska Torres', The Only Reason, all deserve mention. But beyond all these there were two Lesbian novels that deserve a special accolade - the first, The Tree and the Vine by Dola De-Jong, an excellent wholly Lesbian novel and the second, and by far the best novel on Lesbianism to appear in over ten years, May Sarton's haunting, The Small Room. This last novel is all the more remarkable because it is in no sense a "problem novel".

The special book of the year for most LADDER readers is Lady Una Troubridge's, The Life and Death of Radclyffe Hall, London, Hammond, 1961.

The quality in paperbacks was poor - even worse than last year, although the quantity was overwhelming. Among the paperback originals such novels as Twilight Girl by Della Martin, Guerrilla Girls by Harry Whittington, The Unfortunate Flesh by Randy Salem, The Evil That Men Do by Ben Simcoe, The Savage Salome by Carter Brown, Bucks County Report by Stuart James, The Twisted Ones by Andrew Shaw, The Jealous and the Free by March Hastings, These Curious Pleasures by Sloane M. Britain, Gay Interlude by Carol Clanton, The Love Survey by Morton Cooper all provide interesting sympathetic studies. The two outstanding paperbacks of the year were from the same pen, Paula Christian's Another Kind of Love and Love Is Where You Find It.

As is true each year, the quality is varied - ranging from illiterate filth to lyric poetry. An unusual note is a number of novels with basically unsympathetic treatments so well done as to merit attention for their literary worth alone.

This points up an unwelcome (to some) fact that the

best literature is seldom written about the most mundane people. Nonentities, however happy they may be, are not as a general rule interesting as fiction.

The following is a list of 1961 titles, including 1960 titles released in 1961 or discovered too late for inclusion in last year's list.

* Indicates hardback title originally. 1961 copyright is understood unless otherwise indicated. This list was compiled in January, 1962 and may not include those titles which were copyrighted in 1961, but which were not published until 1962.

<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	
Artemis Smith	This Bed We Made	Monarch
Ann Bannon	The Marriage	Fawcett, 1960
Randy Salem	The Unfortunate Flesh	Midwood Tower '60
Don James	\$50 A Night	Monarch
Don Holliday	Sin School	Midwood Tower '59
Susan Sherman	Give Me Myself	*World
Isa Mari	Cage of Passion	Belmont, 1960
George P. Toward	Lesbos Hill	Newsstand, 1960
Manning Clay	Wild Body	Beacon
Peter DeVries	Through the Fields of Clover	*Little, Brown
James Harvey	Daughter of Joy	Newsstand, 1960
Andrew Shaw	Girls on the Prowl	Nightstand
Don Elliott	Party Girl	Nightstand, 1960
Jay Warren	The Path Between	Midwood Tower
Marlene Longman	Sin Girls	Nightstand, 1960
Marlene Longman	Lesbian Love	Nightstand, 1960
Kingsley Amis	Take A Girl Like You	*Harcourt, Brace
Jean Bassan	The Wrong Horse	*Dutton
Harry Whittington	Guerrilla Girls	Pyramid
Wenzell Brown	Bedeveled	Monarch
Noel Coward	Pomp & Circumstance	*Doubleday
Zdena Berges	Tell Me Another	
	Morning	*Harper
Della Martin	Twilight Girl	Beacon
Florence		
Stonebraker	Kept Sisters	Beacon
Glenn Canary	The Damned & The Innocent	Monarch

Harry Otis
March Hastings

Andrew Shaw
Andrew Shaw
Don Holliday
Don Elliott
Willi Heinrich
Dallas Mayo
Paul V. Russo
Art Serra
Sloane Britain
Stuart James
Don Holliday
Merle Miller

Dallas Mayo
Carol Clanton
Lew Simpson
(Norman Adams)
E. S. Seeley
Lissa Charell

Carter Brown
Carl D. Burton
Harold Robbins
Tereska Torres
Bruce Brooks

Jan Hudson
Dola De Jong

Edward Hyams
May Sarton
James Layne
March Hastings
Peter Sourian

Dallas Mayo
Elizabeth Mavor

Morton Cooper
Paul Daniels

Camel's Farewell
The Jealous and the
Free

The Twisted Ones
Tramp
Bachelor Apartment
Mild Divorcee
Rape of Honor
Silky
One Flesh
Lament for a Virgin
These Curious Pleasures
Bucks County Report
Sin Hotel
A Gay & Melancholy
Sound

Kitten
Gay Interlude

Twisted Lust
One Hell of a Dame
The Happy Medium

The Savage Salome
The Long Goodnight
The Carpetbaggers
The Only Reason
"Eye of Nature", short
story in Pilgrims in the
Zoo and Other Stories

Passion's Web
The Tree & The Vine

Tillotson
The Small Room
Lend Me Your Wife
The Third Theme
The Best and Worst of
Times

A Need for Love
The Temple of Flora

The Love Survey
Debbie

*Pan Graphic

Midwood Tower
Nightstand
Nightstand
Nightstand
Nightstand
*Dial

Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Nightstand '60

*Sloane
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower

Chariot
Chariot
*Coward, 1960;
Fawcett, 1961
Signet
*Morrow
*Simon & Schuster
*Simon & Schuster

*Boston Beacon
Press, 1960

Epic
*London, John
Calder

*Simon & Schuster
*Norton
Beacon
Newsstand

*Doubleday
Midwood Tower
*London, Hutch-
inson

Avon
Monarch

David Loovis	Last of the Southern Winds
R. V. Cassill	Nurse's Quarters
Andrew Shaw	Army Sin Girls
Paul V. Russo	This Yielding Flesh
Thomas Cox	Weekend
Carlson Wade	The Troubled Sex
Benjamin Morse	The Lesbian
Jim Ruse	Tina
Orrie Hitt	Twisted Lovers
Harlan Ellison	Gentleman Junkie
Ronn Marvin	Mr. Ballerina
Paula Christian	Another Kind of Love
Paula Christian	Love Is Where You Find It
Alfred Kern	L'Amour Profane
Walter C. Brown	The Single Girl
William A. Austin	Commit the Sins
John McCormick	Lust Club
Orrie Hitt	Four Women
John Conway	Love in Suburbia
Peggy Swenson	The Unloved
Don Holliday	The Girls Upstairs
Ann Vail	Carnal Orgy
Virginia McManus	Not for Love
Paul V. Russo	Corrupt Woman
Mike Avallone	Women in Prison
Jason Hytes	This Girl
Dean Hudson	Showcase for Sin
Wenzell Brown	Girls on the Rampage
Sloane M. Britain	That Other Hunger
Martha Marsden	Intimate
Joe Castro	The Lowest Sins
Tony Calvano	Too Many Beds
Alan Marshall	Call Me Sinner
Steve Bell	Venue of Lesbos
Dallas Mayo	House of Sin
Phillipe Sollers	A Strange Solitude
Tony Calvano	Sex Pawn
Harry Whittington	The Young Nurses
Kay Addams	The Strangest Sin
Edwin West	Strange Affair
Ben Simcoe	The Evil That Men Do
N. M. Newland	The Nylon Lovers

*Scribners
Fawcett
Nightstand
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Beacon
Monarch
Kozy
Kozy
Regency
Regency
Fawcett
Avon
*Pantheon
Monarch
Newsstand
Nightstand '59
Beacon
Monarch, 1960
Midwood Tower
Mightstand '60
Novel Books
*Putnam, 1960;
Dell, 1961
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Bedside Books
Fawcett
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Midwood Tower
Nightstand
Nightstand
Newsstand
Midwood Tower
Grove
Nightstand
Pyramid
Beacon
Monarch
Signet
Chariot

It must be stated at the conclusion of this list that the quantity of titles from certain publishers prove there are no doubt some omissions. This is difficult to correct, but every effort is made to keep listings as complete as possible.



Oh, I always wear skirts and blouses in public so people won't suspect that I'm gay...

domino

Here and There

The problem of homosexuality in women is increasing, Dr. Charles Socarides, a New York analyst, said at a meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

The New York Times reports that acknowledgement of the extent of the problem was indicated by the fact that the Association held its first symposium on overt female homosexuality before its annual session ended.

Part of the rise in female homosexuality may be accounted for, Dr. Socarides said, in the increase of the problem among men. Although figures are scanty in the field, he said that the fact that male homosexuality had risen some 600% in England since World War II indicated the possibility of some compensating drive in women. Also, he observed, such aberration is often a consequence of a disordered and confused society.

The problem of child-rearing plays a distinct role in female homosexuality, according to Dr. Judith S. Kestenberg of Sands Point, L.I. The homosexual woman "wastes nothing except, of course, her motherliness," she said. In the homosexual relationship, women "play out the mother-child relationship," she said.

There is no better description of these women, she said, than that of the poet Sappho, whom she quoted as saying "I shall remain eternally maiden." All homosexual women, Dr. Kestenberg said, "are young virginal girls at heart." They play, she said, with "life dolls."

She, too, commented on the role that society played in the kind of permissive attitude toward this form of sexual deviation. "We adults," she said, "look upon them with indulgence, pity and amused smilings."

* * * * *

Dorothy Kilgallen states in her column "The Voice of Broadway" that Those who've seen Rita

Gam as the nymphomaniac Estelle in the Argentine production of Sartre's "No Exit", testify that there hasn't been such a sizzling celluloid since the palmiest days of Rita Hayworth and Ava Gardner.

* * * * *

VARIETY reports that MGM has purchased the screen and video rights to novelist Claire Morgan's book The Price of Salt. The book has sold over 500,000 copies since it was published in 1952.

* * * * *

From the Dec. 9, 1961 issue of Justice Weekly, Canadian tabloid:

"The British film 'Victim', which deals candidly with the problem of homosexuality, has been refused the Production Code Administration's seal of approval for showing in American cinemas. It was found 'thematically objectionable'.

"Mr. Budd Rogers, head of the Pathe-American Distributing Company, said he would appeal against the decision and release the film in February regardless of the outcome. Many films have been shown successfully at American Cinemas without the seal, part of the industry's self-censoring machinery."

* * * * *

Three men of 38 arrested in a roundup of alleged homosexuals were convicted early in January in Tallahassee, Florida, according to Associated Press reports. Fourteen others pleaded guilty; several received mandatory jail sentences in addition to fines.

Three of the men were connected with Florida State University. Lucian C. Reed, social welfare instructor, was freed by a directed verdict of acquittal. John Jacob Heise, research assistant, pleaded no contest and was adjudged guilty. And 73-year-old Volney H. Wells,

(Continued on page 22)

13

To My Valentine

It was not easy to comprehend something I was not a part of. To think that a love other than that between a man and a woman could be beautiful, pure and right was at one time a disgusting thought for me. And now - as I reminisce and remember the great compassion and warmth which radiated between these two women - I, a normal person, admit that this type of Lesbian love can be, for those involved, an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience. This romance is so vivid and colorful that it appears to be from a storybook. Yet - it is true.

I had no idea that Robbie was gay. She was an individual apart from our regular crowd. She appeared to be a complete extrovert, and my fellow teen-agers called her an oddball or beatnik. She would do things impulsively and become entangled in unbelievable situations. She believed in the saying "Live and let live", was open, blunt - and accepted anyone who accepted her as she was. Yet, few could understand her - and no one could become close.

I tried for a year and a half to make friends with her, but she seemed to avoid female company. Both males and females were drawn in by a magnetizing fascination which surrounded her. She dated constantly...but rarely with the same boy. I admired what seemed to be her never-ending strength and determination. She was self-centered - and said so herself. But she also claimed everyone else was too and that she was just honest enough to say it. Her clothes consisted of well-fitted pants and button-down shirts which accentuated her feminine figure. After about a year and a half I penetrated her great barrier, which later I was to find out was mistrust of other people.

As I came to know the real Robbie, I was shocked by the seriousness of her nature, her well hidden introverted attitude, and her amazing awareness of what surrounded her. Approximately two years after I first met her (six months after we had become good friends) she sat down and calmly told me she was a Lesbian.

Nothing she said could have upset me, but I had slept with this girl (she hadn't made a pass - ever) and so I didn't believe her. She gave me a few books on the subject and told me to read them. From that day on, our relationship was much stronger than it had ever been. I accepted her totally and never questioned her about her activities. However, she told me everything - her dreams, her desires, and what she had been through because of her love for a straight girl who had known she was gay. I was close to her when she started to break into the gay life and away from normal people, when she slept with her first woman, when she decided she was definitely butch, when all the million and one things that happen to a young girl occurred in her life.

On the other hand, she took the greatest interest in my personal life - my boyfriends, my marriage and now my child. I will always appreciate her attitude and respect for the normal way of life. From her example, I do not think that most Lesbians are looking for new recruits, but will do everything possible to help people to live the life they are happiest in.

We graduated from high school together. I decided to go into newspaper work, and Robbie decided that she wanted to be a novelist. Fearful of being discovered and disgracing her parents because of a small town's attitude toward homosexuals, she left her luxurious home after high school. This is where the story of her love really begins.

The letters and poems that follow were from a side of Robbie I had never seen - an openly tender side, and yet a very cynical side. She said to me that "the difference between childhood and adulthood is the split second in which you realize you are in love."

Robbie left for a big city with \$300 in her pocket and a phone number. The phone number belonged to Sandy. Robbie met her on the first day she arrived. She fell in love when she opened the door and found a striking, well dressed woman, ten years her senior, who smiled and said, "Hello. I'm Sandy."

This handsome creature who stood before Robbie was wearing tailored slacks, a tailored shirt, and her black hair

was short. "She's butch," Robbie thought. "Butch."

During the months that followed Robbie and Sandy became good friends - more so than lovers. Sandy was living with another woman, and so Robbie took an apartment by herself and got a job in the commercial writing field. They made a beautiful couple - Robbie, for the first time in her life, playing the feminine counterpart. Slowly but surely, Sandy began to mold this strong child's inquisitive mind into that of an adult. Although she encouraged Robbie to think and make decisions for herself, Sandy's influence was nevertheless great. In one letter Robbie said, "I am like clay in her hands, and who can but help to fall in love with one's sculptor."

Sandy was clever, quick thinking, aggressive, and the only person Robbie had ever met who was stronger than she was. Her pride of being a butch was being manifested into the pride of being a woman.

I saw Robbie when she returned home to visit her parents. What a change. Was the young sophisticated, well dressed young lady who stood before me in a sheath and heels the same strong-willed, stubborn young girl who had left home in a shirt and pants? Her eyes were glowing, and I could see Sandy's reflection in them.

And yet, Robbie admitted, that while she had an uncontrollable love for this girl, she also had an uncontrollable hate for her. She was torn between trying to break the rock who had guided her, or basking in the sun of its comfort. She wanted to obsess Sandy - to possess Sandy, and yet she could not.

We all have a Sandy - your Sandy, my Sandy, Robbie's Sandy. Sandy - who belongs to no one but Sandy. These poems are the result of a strong love. Two women can love, I believe. I, a straight person, can honestly accept - and what's more - admire it.

- Sharon Styler

I love her, Sharon. I truly love her. Nothing I can say will adequately express my feelings at the moment. I want to share them with you, Sharon - as you have shared the happiness of your marriage and the birth of your daughter with me. These poems are the only way I know how. They were written during the past six months. I'm happy - for the first time in my life, I can honestly say - I am happy. Yet, I'm frightened of the future.

Love,

Robbie

ELGGURTS

Death is the only certain thing in life
We spend most of our lives
Asking to be sent to heaven
Then, when we finally get our big chance
We struggle for survival.
Struggle -- s t r u g g l e
An eight-letter word which when spelled backwards becomes
Elggurts
Elggurts backwards is
Struggle.
We spend most of our lives
"Making progress backwards."
We are born smart
Instinctively
We do not hate
We are not prejudiced
We love those who love us.
But then we mature
And grow dumber and dumber
Until we become so dumb
That we pass away....
And we wash our hands clean
In ashes of dust.
Death is the only certain thing in life
It's good to feel secure.

VERSATILITY

The music of my thoughts
Echoes through the castle of my dreams
And I hum to the tune of intangibles.
I run through crystal-clear waterfalls of expectancy
And bathe in streams of contentment
For you have sparked the fuel within my body
And set ablaze the roaring fire
Born
By rubbing two sticks of wood together.

What does it matter if I light your cigarette
Or if you open a door for me
Or if we both wear dresses which accentuate our figures?
The definite pattern of roles
And who's who in the family zoo
Is created by normal people
Who do not see past their mirror of ego
But merely stand gazing at their own reflection--
They pass judgment
And their distorted figures cast a shadow on the truth.

The truth--
A simple deduction
One stick alone will not arouse heat
Nor the other - alone.
Only when they come together
When each feels the splinter of her partner's form
Does a glowing warmth radiate
Between the two....
And love - is complete.

PAST PRETENSE

How painful are the thoughts
Of love I never really had
How doubtful are the memories
Of brief embraces magnified tenfold
How compelling are the desires

To complete the artifice of it
How mystic are sharp shadows
Which tripped us on our paths
How senile appears the thunder
Echoing the brief flash of recognition
How distant seems the end
Concluding a non-existent beginning
How aware I have become
Of what is yet to be.

LOST TREASURE

...And I think you knew
When I lifted the lid.

I glanced into the depths of your eyes
And those deep pools cast a reflection
Of a love I was no longer able to drown
In my murky waters of camouflage
...And I think you knew.

I searched within the depths of your being
And there I became entangled
Within my self-spun web of love for you
And thus the spider and the fly became one
...And I think you knew.

I marvelled at the depths of your body
Until it came to be that one stroke of your hand
Painted a picture as fine as the brush of two bodies
Creating a dual form of ecstasy
...And I think you knew.

Then - I dug into the depths of your soul
And in it discovered your love for another
And so, with one last glance of this priceless treasure
I closed the treasure box.

And I think you knew....
I would never pry it open again.

SAPPHO'S SHORES

My darling, let my pen flow free
Let the grip of love possess my fingers
So that every tear stained moment
Every flowing dream
Every drop of complete ecstasy
Drains from my being and drips down
Upon a white sheet which comes to life
When I share our precious secrets
With this bit of bark off a tree.

Bathed in the streams of love
Cleansed in the ripples of truth
Cleaned by the waves of understanding
That only we two women could know
I beg forgiveness for ever having believed
That there was mud in the sea of Lesbos
For its true waters contain only purified sand
Of which we two are merely grains
Crushed together in the tides of fate.

The perfect ending to the story of Sandy and me would be
if we walked into the sunset - as twilight approached,
holding hands - together. Unfortunately, life isn't so
simple.

Right from the beginning complications have prevented us
from living together. I doubt if we ever will. I re-
alize that Sandy did shed a light on the blind path of
misery I had been stumbling over. I'll always be grate-
ful to - and have a deep love and respect for - this girl.

And now, for the first time, I feel I am ready to live -
and perhaps, someday, to even love again. Yes, Sharon,
"How aware I have become of what is yet to be."

As Always,

Robbie

Sequel

Two Women Married

THE NEW YORK GERMAN NEWSPAPER, AUFBAU, CARRIED IN ITS OCTOBER 13,
1961 EDITION THIS FOLLOW-UP TO A STORY WHICH ORIGINALLY WAS TRANS-
LATED FOR THE SEPTEMBER, 1961 ISSUE OF THE LADDER.

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PARIS, OCTOBER 1961

AS RECENTLY REPORTED IN THE AUFBAU, A COURT OF JUSTICE IN
VERSAILLES SENTENCED GINETTE FERRONI AND BERNADETTE INVOIS TO ONE
YEAR IN PRISON TERMS EACH. THE GIRLS HAD MARRIED EACH OTHER IN
CHURCH AS WELL AS IN CITY HALL, EQUIPPED WITH ALL THE NECESSARY
DOCUMENTS. THERE IS NO LAW PROHIBITING TWO WOMEN MARRYING - THE
LEGISLATORS CAN HARDLY THINK OF EVERYTHING - BUT IN ORDER TO OB-
TAIN ALL THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, THE TWO GIRLS HAD COMMITTED AL-
TOGETHER ELEVEN OFFENSES. IN PARTICULAR, THEY HAD EMBEZZLED THE
BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF A CERTAIN PHILIPPE MARKERT, WHICH ENABLED
GINETTE TO POSE AS A MALE. FURTHERMORE, GINETTE-PHILIPPE HAD ALSO
PRODUCED A MARITAL CAPABILITY CERTIFICATE WITHOUT EVER HAVING
VISITED A PHYSICIAN. NEITHER WOMAN HAD DAMAGED ANYONE, BUT BE-
CAUSE OF FORGERY THEY WERE SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS. THEY DID
NOT SERVE THE PENALTY IN THE SAME PRISON CELL - BUT FOR GOOD
BEHAVIOR THEY WERE BOTH RELEASED AFTER A FEW MONTHS.

THIS IS THE PRELUDE WHICH CAUSED QUITE A SENSATION AT THAT TIME,
BECAUSE NOBODY HAD EVER HEARD OF - AN EVEN ULTRA-MASCULINE GIRL -
MARRYING ANOTHER GIRL LEGALLY AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PARENTS.
NATURALLY THIS MARRIAGE WAS NOT VALID. BUT WHAT HAPPENED WHEN
GINETTE (EX-PHILIPPE) AND BERNADETTE WERE DISCHARGED FROM PRISON?

GINETTE WENT TO A SURGEON WHO - SUCH THINGS ARE SAID TO BE RATHER
EASY IF CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE - TRANSFORMED HER INTO A MAN.
SHE, RESPECTIVELY HE, IS CALLED GEORGE NOW. BUT IF ANYONE THINKS
LOVE IS ETERNAL THEY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. BECAUSE GEORGE, FOR-
MERLY GINETTE, DID NOT GO BACK TO BERNADETTE. EVEN BEFORE HER
TRANSFORMATION, SHE/HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND. YES, GEORGE, 42,

WANTS TO MARRY, BUT NOT BERNADETTE. THE NEW LUCKY GIRL HAS ALSO BEEN AN INMATE IN THE WOMEN'S PRISON OF VERSAILLES; THAT'S WHERE THE TWO MET.

"DO NOT LEAVE ME" WROTE BERNADETTE MANY TIMES TO GINETTE-GEORGE. IT WAS IN VAIN. THAT WHICH SEEMED RIGHT TO GINETTE NO LONGER APPEARS DESIRABLE TO GEORGE. HE WILL MARRY THE OTHER ONE.

"ALAS, MEN ARE FICKLE; FOR EXAMPLE, MY FRANK IS NOW CALLED JIM" WAS A VICTORIAN KITCHEN JOKE OF OUR GRANDFATHERS. IN OUR TIMES, IN WHICH ONE CAN EVEN CHANGE ONE'S SEX, IT IS FAR WORSE. GINETTE, ONCE PHILIPPE, IS CALLED GEORGE NOW, BUT THIS DOES NOT HELP BERNADETTE ANY MORE.

VERY COMPLICATED, AS ALREADY STATED ABOVE. A PIECE OF CORRECTED NATURE, COMPLETE WITH TEMPERAMENT; WE COULD ADD THAT YEARS AGO, LONG BEFORE HER MARRIAGE TO BERNADETTE, GINETTE-GEORGE HAD ALREADY BEEN MARRIED TO A MAN, BUT THEN NOBODY WILL UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ANY MORE.

HERE AND THERE

(Continued from page 13)

professor, failed to appear. Judge John Rudd said that if the university didn't fire him he would be called up for sentencing.

United Press reports that "French movie director Roger Vadim, who flew to New York last week to battle with movie censors, won the victory of the cutting room.

"He got to show his movie 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' in New York City without cutting a single scene. Vadim had threatened to pack up and return to France if authorities did bar any scenes."

READERS RESPOND

"THE CONTENTS OF YOUR MAG, THE LADDER, CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS 'IT DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING'. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR TYPE. WHENEVER YOU FEEL THAT A CHANGE HAS COME ABOUT IN YOUR MAG, SO THAT

-IT SAYS SOMETHING AND

-HAS MADE ANY OTHER CHANGES WHICH MIGHT STIMULATE MY INTEREST, SEND ME A COPY. IF I AGREE, I WILL RENEW MY SUBSCRIPTION."

D. G., MASSACHUSETTS

"THE THREE SAMPLE COPIES WHICH YOU SENT (OCT.-DEC.) WERE ENJOYED BY THE WHOLE GANG. THEY'VE BEEN CIRCULATING AROUND SINCE I GOT THEM. THE DECEMBER ISSUE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING. PERSONALLY, I THOUGHT THE ARTICLE ON 'HAIR PSYCHOLOGY' WAS REALLY GOOD BECAUSE IT REMINDED ME (AND MANY OTHERS AMONG US) OF MY OWN SHORT HAIR WHICH MY MOST HONORABLE PARENTAL PROTECTORS OBJECT TO. ALSO, THE 'DEAR SANTA' POEM APPEALED TO MANY OF US.

"MOST OF ALL, HOWEVER, I FIND MYSELF INTERESTED IN THE LETTER FROM B.G. OF MISSOURI ON THE PROBLEM OF 'MUSICAL BEDS'. I CANNOT AGREE WITH ANYTHING MORE FULLY THAN WHAT WAS SAID IN THAT LETTER. UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE ELSE IN OUR GROUP SEEMS TO AGREE WITH ME - OR AT LEAST WON'T ADMIT IT. MOST OF THEM SAY THAT IT'S THE EARLY EXPERIENCE OF THE YOUNG HOMOPHILE WHICH CAUSES THIS QUICK BACK AND FORTH MIGRATION FROM ONE GIRL TO THE NEXT. WELL, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT ALL LIES IN THE FACT THAT MOST HOMOSEXUALS ARE BASICALLY RASH AND IMMATURE IN JUDGMENT, IN WHICH CASE THEY MOST GENERALLY PICK UP THE PERSON WHO MOST APPEALS TO THEM AT THE MOMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, TO SOME OF US, THIS LIFE IS JUST ONE EXCITEMENT AFTER ANOTHER. AS FAR AS I KNOW FROM OUR BUNCH OF 'KIDS', MOST DON'T EXPECT AN AFFAIR TO LAST LONGER THAN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AT BEST. BEING UNDER THIS LINE OF THOUGHT, ONE, THE OTHER, OR BOTH DON'T MAKE REALLY HONEST ATTEMPTS AT BEING THE BEST MATE POSSIBLE.

"AFTER THE EXCITEMENT IS ALL OVER, IT ENDS UP WITH ONE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OTHER AND THE EVENTUAL BREAK-UP OF ANOTHER 'LASTING' COUPLE. PERHAPS I'VE A LOT TO LEARN AND HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY WHAT I HAVE, BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME IN THE FIVE YEARS I'VE BEEN GAY HAS CONVINCED ME THE ABOVE IS TRUE. SOME OF IT I FIND TO BE RATHER SAD. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I STILL KNOW THAT I DO NOT HAVE TO FOLLOW THIS PATTERN MYSELF."

D. H., MINNESOTA

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"I HAVE BOTH A COMMENT AND A QUESTION:

"WHEN A HETEROSEXUAL, PARTICULARLY A MARRIED WOMAN, DISCOVERS THAT SHE IS BASICALLY HOMOSEXUAL AND ADMITS IT, YOUR BOOK REVIEWERS (AND SOME OTHERS) SHOUT WITH GLEE. SHE HAS DISCOVERED HER TRUE NATURE! OH, HOW GRAND!

"BUT WHEN A HOMOSEXUAL, AFTER LENGTHY INTROSPECTION AND SELF-DISCOVERY, PSYCHIATRIC HELP OR WHAT HAVE YOU, DISCOVERS THAT SHE IS NOT ACTUALLY HOMOSEXUAL - THAT HER LESBIANISM WAS A PASSING PHASE, OR THE MANIFESTATION OF A GENERAL EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE (AND THAT DOES HAPPEN SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW) - AND WHEN THIS PSEUDO-HOMOSEXUAL DECIDES SHE WOULD BE HAPPIER IN THE HETEROSEXUAL WORLD, AND MARRIES, DO YOU SHOUT WITH GLEE BECAUSE SHE HAS DISCOVERED HER TRUE NATURE?

"LIKE FUN YOU DO! INSTEAD, THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF LAMENTATIONS ABOUT HOW THE POOR, POOR GIRL HAS BEEN BRAINWASHED INTO STULTIFYING CONFORMITY.

"I AM GOING TO JUMP IN WITH BOTH FEET AND STATE FLATLY: THERE ARE AS MANY REPRESSED HETEROSEXUALS LIVING AS LESBIANS AS THERE ARE REPRESSED LESBIANS LIVING STRAIGHT. WHY? SOME, BECAUSE THEY HAPPEN TO LOVE THEIR CURRENT PARTNER SINCERELY AND WARMLY, AND DON'T WISH TO HURT HER. SOME, BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID TO CONFESS THAT THEY MADE A MISTAKE. SOME, BECAUSE - FOR THEM - HOMOSEXUALITY WAS A TEMPORARY SYMPTOM, BUT THEY FEEL THAT ONCE HAVING ENTERED THE 'GAY WORLD' THERE IS NO ROAD BACK.

"THE CHALLENGE: TO SHOW THAT IT ISN'T A ONE-WAY STREET. IF A WOMAN IS A LESBIAN LIVING AS A HETEROSEXUAL, I THINK SHE SHOULD

HAVE THE COURAGE OF HER CONVICTIONS AND ACCEPT HER LESBIANISM.

"CONVERSELY, IF AN ESSENTIALLY HETEROSEXUAL WOMAN IS DRIFTING ALONG IN LESBIAN PATTERNS OF EXISTENCE BECAUSE SHE CAN'T BREAK AWAY, OR BECAUSE SHE IS AFRAID OF CONFORMITY - I THINK SHE SHOULD HAVE THE COURAGE OF THOSE CONVICTIONS. AND I THINK THE HOMOSEXUALS WHO HAVE FOUGHT THEIR OWN BATTLE SHOULD HELP HER FIGHT HERS ON HER TERMS - BY LETTING HER BE WHAT SHE IS, WHETHER HOMOSEXUAL OR HETEROSEXUAL. NOT BY FIGHTING HER EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, SAYING SADLY 'POOR GIRL, SHE'S BEEN BRAINWASHED, SHE'S GOT RELIGION, SHE'S KIDDING HERSELF.'"

B. L., TEXAS

P.S. MY COPIES OF THE LADDER HAVE BEEN ARRIVING HAVING BEEN TAMPERED WITH AND OPENED IN TRANSIT. NOW WHAT DO I DO?

EDITOR'S NOTE: WE DOUBT IF YOUR MAIL HAS ACTUALLY BEEN OPENED. WE ARE NOW USING SELF-SEALING ENVELOPES (WHICH HAVE ELIMINATED THE FLAP-LICKING AT THE LADDER WORK PARTIES), AND IN SEALING A LARGE NUMBER OF ENVELOPES AT A TIME, WE MAY NOT ALWAYS GET THE TWO GUMMED PORTIONS EVEN - WHICH DOES MAKE THE ENVELOPE LOOK AS IF IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESEALED.

Help Wanted! Artists —

WE NEED LADDER COVERS! DRAWINGS SHOULD BE NO LARGER THAN 5"x7½". LETTERING IS NOT NECESSARY; WE CAN SUPPLY THE TITLE AND DATES. DUE TO OUR METHOD OF REPRODUCTION, ALL WORK MUST BE DONE IN BLACK AND WHITE - NO SHADING. ALSO, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT SMALL ILLUSTRATIONS AND CARTOONS.

SEND MATERIAL OR QUERIES TO OUR NEW ART EDITOR, KATHY ROGERS, c/o THE LADDER, 1232 MARKET ST., SUITE 108, SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIF.

DOB CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESERVATIONS ARE ALREADY COMING IN FOR THE SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS TO BE HELD IN HOLLYWOOD ON THE WEEK END OF JUNE 23-24, 1962.

ONE GIRL INFORMS US THAT SHE HAS ALREADY MADE HER FLIGHT RESERVATIONS FROM CANADA. OTHERS ARE EXPECTED FROM CHICAGO, NEW YORK, ARIZONA, WASHINGTON AND MISSOURI.

JESS STEARNS, AUTHOR OF THE SIXTH MAN, WILL PARTICIPATE ON A PANEL FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY. IN VIEW OF THE RECENT ACQUISITION OF GAY NOVELS (SUCH AS THE PRICE OF SALT) TO BE MADE INTO MOVIES, IT IS HOPED THAT A HOLLYWOOD PRODUCER AND SOMEONE IN TV PROGRAMMING WILL DISCUSS WITH MR. STEARNS THE HOMOSEXUAL THEME IN THE ENTERTAINMENT FIELD.

DR. THANE WALKER, PSYCHOANALYST AND DEAN OF THE PROSPEROS ACADEMY IN HONOLULU, WILL BE THE FEATURED BANQUET SPEAKER. SUE PROSIN WILL PRESENT A PAPER ON SOCIOLOGICAL PAIRINGS, A STUDY OF 30 LESBIAN COUPLES WHO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER MORE THAN A YEAR.

OTHER TENTATIVE PLANS INCLUDE A RELIGIOUS PANEL AND A DISCUSSION OF THE MODEL PENAL CODE WHICH HAS BEEN DRAWN UP BY THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE.

SO - MAKE IT A DATE! REGISTRATION FOR THE FULL PROGRAM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 23, INCLUDING LUNCHEON AND THE BANQUET WILL BE \$12.50. SEND THE FULL AMOUNT OR USE OUR EASY-PAY PLAN (\$5.00 NOW AND THE BALANCE BEFORE CONVENTION TIME) TO DOB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 1232 MARKET ST., SUITE 108, SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA.

THE CONVENTION WILL BE HELD AT THE HOLLYWOOD INN, 6724 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. THERE IS A SWIMMING POOL AND FREE PARKING FOR GUESTS, AND RATES ARE REASONABLE.

Make Your Reservations Now



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