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The Ladder

JUNE

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2nd National Convention

Hollywood, California

June 23 - 24, 1962

the Ladder

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING
THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY

Education of the public, with particular emphasis on the psychological, sociological and sociological aspects, to enable the so oppressed himself and make his behavior acceptable in all the social, civic and economic institutions. 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.

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.

Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

Amendments 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 the process of law to the state legislatures.

the Ladder

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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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PROGRAM DESIGN BY TRACY LAING

The Philosophy of DOB

THE EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

In approaching this subject it must be clearly understood at the outset that DOB is all things to all persons who come in contact with the organization. Just as in the case where a speaker, who having delivered a lecture on a given subject, finds that of the 25 people in his audience there are 25 different versions of what he said, so it is with DOB. To each member DOB is something different - it may be a social outlet, a means of meeting others who share the same problem; it may be an opportunity for self expression, a means of finding oneself in a seemingly hostile world; it may be a chance for public service, a means of bridging the gap of misunderstanding between the homosexual and the heterosexual. To the outsider DOB may pose a threat, either personally or to society in general; to the outsider, too, who has no direct contact with the organization and who reads about DOB in newspapers or in books there could be many misconceptions about the group and what it represents.

This article, then, is an attempt to clarify the philosophy of DOB as a member of the San Francisco Chapter might view it. Because this chapter was the first it has necessarily witnessed more clearly "the evolution of an idea". The original idea came into being in the fall of 1955 when eight women got together to organize a social club which was to provide a means for Lesbians to meet one another without resorting to the gay bar. It was conceived as a self-help organization providing the members with the security of a group where they could discuss their problems freely and openly. From these discussions grew the need for more knowledge, for more understanding of self and society; and out of this need a library of books both non-fiction and fiction, was established. Out of the need for contact outside the immediate group the public discussion meetings came into being. Out of the need for further communication with those beyond the local area came publication of THE LADDER and the formation of other chapters.

Thus DOB has become an ever changing process of growth for the individual and for the group. It is not a crusade necessarily, for the emphasis to date has not been placed upon society per se, but rather on the Lesbian herself - to help the individual in making her adjustment to self and society, first through the acceptance and the security of the group, then to gain knowledge of herself and her relationship to society, and finally to move on into the world at large as a more, secure, self-assured and productive citizen.

While others go on beating their heads against the wall trying to convince a hostile public, while others continue to wrestle with the problems of cause and cure, DOB quietly deals with that which is. Homosexuality is, and neither law nor threat nor name calling nor scorn has been able to alter that fact. Society is gradually becoming aware of this fact, but has been slow in coming to terms - in the areas of human rights and dignity, of personal security and employment, and of research and knowledge. Consequently the initiative, the catalytic agent to get society to recognize and deal with the problem, must come from such organizations as DOB.

To bring understanding between society and the homosexual is a two-fold problem. On the one hand, the homosexual must recognize himself as a human being, as an individual with many attributes to be fostered and cherished and contributed to the welfare of all humanity. For the homosexual to foster the hurts, to meet prejudice with whining, to openly antagonize the public or to cower in the fear and guilt of misconception is to commit homo-cide.

On the other hand, unjust discrimination against any large group of citizens not only stifles the potential of these individuals but also denies society the benefit of that group's creative productivity. Society must come to realize that the stereotyped image of the homosexual is but a half-truth and that condemnation and imprisonment for simply being is not about to solve anything. Ignorance and misconception can best be tackled through research; yet researchers are also stymied in their search for truth by the stigma attached to the mere subject of homosexuality. For society to ignore the problem by continuance of the out-moded methods of closing the "gay" bars, thus

atridging the constitutional rights of the homosexual by denying him the right to congregate in a public place; of denying employment to the homosexual when his inclinations are discovered; of casting aspersions upon anyone who would help or do research on the homosexual is also to commit socio-crime.

If homosexuality is a disease, as some claim, certainly it is not contagious; nor need it be crippling. While it is true that if there were less public pressure there would be less crippling effects, it is also true that the homosexual's "affliction" stems more from Self - self-pity, self-consciousness, self-abasement. If this Self were redirected toward another Self - self-awareness, self-knowledge, self-observation - then the homosexual would find that much of the rejection he feels is self-imposed.

Granted THE LADDER has placed emphasis on the Lesbian as a Lesbian. But is this the whole truth about the Lesbian? Is she a Lesbian first, last and always? Or is she a woman of many roles, of many personalities and identities? For those of us who have worked for many years in the homophile movement there has evolved the concept of the homosexual as a human being with both male and female attributes with all the props of understanding for acting out the many roles of human life. But all too often the homosexual role (which is only part of the whole being) bogs down in the limitations of the "gay" world. This is the world where the Lesbian in her first awareness of her self as different tends to accentuate her masculine qualities, while denying all that is feminine (or heterosexual). This is the stage of discovery of new vistas and denial or rebellion against the old patterns. This is the world of non-conformity and creativity - BUT this is also the world of conflict which leads to fear, guilt, hostility and misery because we are all products of our previous conditioning and habit patterns.

To identify wholly with the sexuality of one's being, which is what the homosexual so often does, is to close off and limit one's perception of himself and the world he lives in. There is a difference between the concept of non-conformity and immersion in being "different".

The homosexual who cries, "I am different - you don't understand me, you ridicule and despise me because I'm different" is setting into motion an act and re-act pattern of self-pity, doubt, guilt and fear - a mode of behavior which will continue in his life until he realizes, "Yes, I'm different. So what? I wouldn't be an individual if I were not".

How often have we heard the homosexual decry the dual role which society has foisted upon him? But how often has the homosexual considered the many roles the heterosexual is also forced to play? How often can the heterosexual speak out his true thoughts and emotions? Is not the heterosexual also beleaguered by family, teacher, boss - yes, even the police? Society demands from heterosexual and homosexual alike - consideration for others and decorum in public.

Many of the injustices suffered by the homosexual have been self-provoked because of his inability to see himself as a human being. This is the common denominator, and recognizing this, the homosexual need not feel apart from, but rather a part of - society. For it is not always society which isolates the homosexual; it can also be the homosexual's view of himself which may isolate him.

This then is part of the work of DOB - to help the individual homosexual to realize his worth as a human being, to turn the wasted energies of hostility toward more productive goals, to bring understanding to and about the homosexual.

Yes, this is part of the work, for the job cannot be completed until society also learns to separate the real fears, the real threats, from the self-imposed fears. Through the use of mass communications media, through the various organizations in the homophile movement, from professional spokesmen, the public is gradually coming to learn that the homosexual per se is not harmful to society. And it is on this basis that society must learn to view its outmoded sex laws. Sexual activity between consenting adults in private is not harmful to society, and for the first time in the U.S.A. the State of Illinois this year so stated

in its revised penal code. This is a beginning, a break through of the barrier.

DOB is a democratically run organization with an informed membership. Policy is determined by the membership at large. To date DOB has been more conservative than any of the other organizations, more introspective and less extroverted, because its members believe that the homosexual can be integrated into society through understanding - by understanding self, by understanding society, by offering and giving understanding. It is felt that much more can be accomplished for the common good of the homosexual and society in this manner than by the beating of the drums - and the gums. It is felt that discussion and the exchange of ideas will do more to change the lot of the homosexual than ranting and raving.

But this concept is sometimes misconstrued as fence straddling. Do not be misled. Where there is infringement of the homosexuals' civil rights, when freedom of the press is threatened, when a homosexual loses the opportunity to earn a livelihood, DOB will not only take a firm stand, but will act boldly and aggressively to alleviate or correct the situation. True, we will mediate, discuss and arbitrate wherever possible, but we will also stand our ground when we feel there is unjust discrimination.

DOB was founded in fear, but has traded that fear for knowledge and understanding. Our only demand is that we continue to learn, continue to grow - knowing that the constant, ever changing, ever developing absorption of the past experiences into present day philosophy may be good only for today and today's problems and that tomorrow holds perhaps a different aspect to be considered. Freedom is an activity, not a state - it consists in working for goals that are beyond ourselves.

BLANCHE M. BAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS C/O DOB, 1232 MARKET ST., S. F. 2, CALIF.

KTTV presents 'ARGUMENT' Society and the Homosexual

JAYE BELL AND HAROLD CALL, PRESIDENTS OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS AND THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY RESPECTIVELY, APPEARED ON BEN HUNTER'S TV SHOW "ARGUMENT" ON MAY 13 IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. RICHARD HAYDEN, A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY; AND PAUL K. ROWAN, A PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, APPEARED WITH THEM IN A PANEL DISCUSSION ON SOCIETY AND THE HOMOSEXUAL.

MR. HUNTER'S SHOW USUALLY FEATURES TWO PEOPLE OF DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AT HAND. FOR INSTANCE, MALCOLM X, A MUSLIM LEADER, WAS BILLED AGAINST JACKIE ROBINSON FOR THE NEXT SUNDAY MORNING!! "ARGUMENT" TRIED TO HAVE AN 'ARGUMENT' ON HOMOSEXUALITY ONCE BEFORE ... BETWEEN A NOTED JUDGE AND A NOTED ATTORNEY. THE JUDGE HAD A HEART ATTACK DURING THE ARGUMENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY DIED A WEEK OR SO LATER. SOME OF THE HOMOSEXUAL VIEWERS DEFINITELY FELT THAT HIS SEIZURE WAS RELATED TO HIS INTENSE ANGER AT SOME OF THE ATTORNEY'S REMARKS THAT HOMOSEXUALS WERE MORE OFTEN PREYED UPON BY TEEN-AGERS THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE REASON FOR HAVING A PANEL THIS TIME.

VIEWING THE SHOW IN THE STUDIO AT KTTV HAD DISTINCT DISADVANTAGES, NAMELY THAT FOR THE FIRST 15 OR 20 MINUTES UNTIL I GOT THE ATTENTION OF THE TELEPHONE MONITOR, WE COULD NOT HEAR MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. OF THOSE LUCKY PEOPLE WHO STAYED HOME AND WATCHED THE SHOW, ALL WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. THEY SAID THE DIALOGUE RAN VERY SMOOTHLY AND THAT MISS BELL WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE EVEN THOUGH SHE DIDN'T GET MANY CHANCES TO SPEAK. WHEN SHE DID, SHE SPOKE VERY WELL AND TO THE POINT. ONE WAS MOST IMPRESSED AT HER CONTROL IN NOT INTERRUPTING OPINIONS WHEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT TEMPTATION.

THE DIALOGUE WENT LIKE THIS: PROFESSOR ROWAN TOLD HOW THE SUBJECT OF HOMOSEXUALITY WAS RINGED ABOUT WITH TABOOS. MR. CALL SAID THAT SOCIETY CONSIDERS THE MALE HOMOSEXUAL TO BE A GREATER THREAT THAN THE FEMALE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT CERTAIN SEXUAL ACTS PRACTISED BY HOMOSEXUALS WERE JUST AS ILLEGAL WHEN PRACTISED BY HUSBANDS AND WIVES. HE MENTIONED ILLINOIS' NEW PENAL CODE WHICH CONSIDERS SUCH ACTS BETWEEN "CONSENTING ADULTS IN PRIVATE" TO BE BEYOND ITS JURISDICTION. REGARDING WHY LESBIANS FARE BETTER THAN

MALE HOMOSEXUALS, MISS BELL FELT THAT THE PUBLIC DOESN'T KNOW WE EXIST, OR SEEM TO BELIEVE IT IF IT DOES. JUDGE HAYDEN POINTED OUT THAT "BEING A HOMOSEXUAL" WAS NOT AGAINST THE LAW. MR. CALL COUNTERED THAT THIS MAY BE TRUE IN CIVIL COURTS BUT THAT THE "STATE OF BEING" A HOMOSEXUAL WAS ENOUGH TO GET ONE DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMED SERVICES IF FOUND OUT. MISS BELL MENTIONED THE FACT THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS WAS NO CONSOLATION TO PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN FEAR OF LOSING THEIR JOBS IF SUSPICIONED OR FOUND OUT. BEN HUNTER ASKED IF THERE WERE NOT SOME JUSTICE IN THE HOMOSEXUAL'S BEING JUDGED A "SECURITY RISK" FOR "SENSITIVE" GOVERNMENT JOBS. MISS BELL ALLOWED THERE MIGHT BE, BUT THAT PEOPLE FIRED FROM GOVERNMENT JOBS ON SUCH GROUNDS WEREN'T ALLOWED ON NON-SECURITY JOBS EITHER. MR. CALL FELT THAT THE NATION WAS INDULGING IN A WASTE OF MAN POWER WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD. HE TOLD OF HOW MEN HAD BEEN MADE INTO EUNUCHS IN ANCIENT TIMES TO INSURE THEIR LOYALTY, THEIR INVULNERABILITY TO SEXUAL ADVANCES OF EITHER SEX, ETC., AND THAT THEY HAD PROVED TO BE DISLOYAL ON OCCASION, ALSO. (INCIDENTALLY, MR. CALL IS A "VERY SMOOTH" SPEAKER FOR THE CAUSE AND MAKES A GOOD PRESENTATION ON RADIO, TV OR IN PERSON.)

PROFESSOR ROWAN WENT BACK TO WOMEN AND SAID THAT THEY WERE MUCH MORE INDEPENDENT IN OUR SOCIETY THAN HERE-TO-FORE; THAT ROLE PLAYING WILL BE RE-DEFINED AS THE SOCIETY CHANGES. GEORGE MILAN OF THE TV AUDIENCE CALLED IN FROM PASADENA TO ASK IF HOMOSEXUALITY WASN'T A MENTAL ILLNESS. PROFESSOR ROWAN ANSWERED THAT HE FELT THAT WAS ONE OF THE "MOST OVERWORKED CONCEPTS WE HAVE". "DON'T THINK OF IT AS A DISEASE AND YOU'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT IT", HE ADVISED. JUDGE HAYDEN FELT IT WAS A DISEASE AND THAT THIS CONCEPT WAS INFINITELY MORE HELPFUL THAN THE "SINFULNESS" CONCEPT, THAT IT GAVE ONE MUCH MORE TO WORK WITH. MR. CALL CITED THE CONCEPT OF SOME DOCTORS THAT IT IS A "PATHOLOGY", A PERSONALITY DISORDER SUBJECT TO CORRECTION. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS CONCEPT WHERE CONFIRMED HOMOSEXUALS WERE CONCERNED, OR THAT IT WAS NECESSARILY A PERSONALITY DISORDER IN ANY CASE. BEN HUNTER CITED A 1958 NEWSPAPER WHICH TOLD OF 133 HOMOSEXUALS BEING TREATED FOR THIS "DISORDER" AND FEW, IF ANY, CURES COMING OUT OF THE GROUP. THE NEWSPAPER SAID IT WAS NOT A "DISEASE" AS SUCH, BUT A SYMPTOM OF UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF A GRAVER NATURE. THE JUDGE AND THE PROFESSOR CITED RESEARCH DONE ON THE MATTER AND BEN HUNTER TOLD MR. MILAN FOR THE PANEL THAT THERE WAS NO KNOWN CURE WHETHER IT WAS A DISEASE OR NOT. THE JUDGE OR THE PROFESSOR, I COULDN'T TELL WHICH, EXPLODED "THERE SHOULD BE A CURE".

JUDGE HAYDEN SAID SELF-RECOGNIZED HOMOSEXUALS HAD A SIMPLE PROBLEM COMPARED TO THOSE WHO WERE IN CONFLICT ABOUT THEMSELVES. NO ONE COULD DENY THEIR PAINFUL SYMPTOMS, HE SAID. THE PROFESSOR WAS UNCONVINCED, "THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER THINGS WHICH CAUSE HAPPINESS OR UNHAPPINESS." THE ATTITUDE, "I'M WELL BECAUSE I'M HETEROSEXUAL AND YOU'RE SICK BECAUSE YOU'RE HOMOSEXUAL", MADE HIM SICK. THE JUDGE LIKENED HOMOSEXUALITY TO A CARDIAC CONDITION. THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH A HANDICAP LIKE THAT, AND CERTAIN THINGS YOU CANNOT. REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY, HE FELT "IF IT COULD BE MANIPULATED, THIS WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED." MISS BELL ASKED WHAT WAS MORAL OR IMMORAL REGARDING SOCIETY. IT SEEMED TO HER TO COVER A LARGE PIECE OF GROUND. PROFESSOR ROWAN REMARKED, "A CRUSHED MINORITY INTERNALIZES THE STANDARDS OF THE MAJORITY." HE CITED THE SOUTHERN NEGROES AS AN EXAMPLE.

AS TO SEDUCTION AND YOUTH VS. OLD AGE, MR. CALL FELT THAT YOUTH KNOWINGLY ENTICED OLDER PEOPLE INTO HOMOSEXUAL ACTS MORE OFTEN THAN THE REVERSE. JUDGE HAYDEN FELT ONE COULD NOT BE SEDUCED INTO HOMOSEXUALITY BY ONE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE ANY MORE THAN A HOMOSEXUAL COULD BE SEDUCED INTO HETEROSEXUALITY WITH ONE EXPERIENCE, UNLESS THERE WAS AN UNDERLYING PREDISPOSITION FOR THE OPPOSITE ESTATE.

PROFESSOR ROWAN BRIDLED AT HOMOSEXUALS BEING A BIG PROBLEM TO SOCIETY, "HOMOSEXUALS ARE SOCIETY, TOO, YOU KNOW," WITH PATTERNED AND UNDERSTANDABLE MORES. WHAT WITH HETEROSEXUAL MARRIAGE A GOING INSTITUTION AND MORE BABIES THAN EVER, HE FAILED TO SEE SOCIETY'S "BIG PROBLEM".

QUESTIONED ABOUT "HARASSMENT BY THE LAW", JUDGE HAYDEN POINTED OUT THAT MANY HOMOSEXUALS INVITE THEIR OWN HARASSMENT. TOO MANY TIMES HE HAD TO JUDGE CASES AGAINST A HOMOSEXUAL WHO HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN THE SAME RESTROOM EACH TIME. HE COULD UNDERSTAND A FIRST TIME; HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HABITUAL OFFENDERS CAUGHT IN THE SAME ACT IN THE SAME PLACE. MR. CALL SUGGESTED THERE WAS A COMPULSION ON THE PART OF MANY HOMOSEXUALS TO SEEK TO BE CAUGHT, OR TO BE PUNISHED PERHAPS, TO ASSUAGE GUILT FEELINGS FOR BEING HOMOSEXUAL IN THE FIRST PLACE. THAT IS WHY HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS EMPHASIZED THAT HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD ACCEPT THEIR NATURE WITHOUT GUILT AND COME TO SEE THE SEXUAL AS ONLY ONE FACET OF LIFE, NECESSARY, BUT STILL ONLY PART OF THE WHOLE.

JUDGE HAYDEN, ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THE LAW CONCERNING HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD BE CHANGED, SAID YES FOR CONSENTING ADULTS IN PRIVATE. SINCE

HE BELIEVED HOMOSEXUALITY WAS A MENTAL ILLNESS, WHAT DID HE THINK SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT HOMOSEXUALS? HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY LAW FORCING HOMOSEXUALS INTO A MENTAL HOSPITAL WAS A GOOD IDEA. WHILE HE FELT IT WAS A MENTAL ILLNESS, HE SAW NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT COMPULSORY TREATMENT WOULD DO ANYTHING BUT WORSEN THE CONDITION. HOMOSEXUALITY AS PRACTISED BY CONSENTING ADULTS IN PRIVATE, WITHOUT BODILY HARM IS NOT A THREAT TO SOCIETY OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO REQUIRE INCARCERATION IN EITHER A JAIL OR A MENTAL INSTITUTION. ALTHOUGH, THE JUDGE SAID, SO LONG AS THE LAWS ARE WHAT THEY ARE, HE COULD DO NO OTHER THAN TO CAST HIS JUDGMENTS BASED ON THE LAW, NOT ON HIS PERSONAL OPINIONS.

BEN HUNTER BROUGHT UP THE "VIOLENCE OF HOMOSEXUAL DIVORCES", THAT IS, WEREN'T THE BREAK-UPS OF TWO HOMOSEXUALS MORE VIOLENT THAN A HUSBAND AND WIFE? MR. CALL FAILED TO SEE WHERE IT WAS. THERE ARE VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT PEOPLE FOUND IN ALL CLASSES, LEVELS AND GROUPS OF SOCIETY. HE SPOKE OF PURGES OF HOMOSEXUALS AND CITED A RECENT EXAMPLE IN FLORIDA WHERE 33 ALLEGED HOMOSEXUALS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS (ONE TEACHER AGED 71), WERE EXPELLED FROM THE FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE. PROFESSOR ROWAN SAID THERE WERE MANY SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE ACADEMIC WORLD AND THAT SUSPICION IN SOME CASES WAS TANTAMOUNT TO PROOF. HE WAS PARTICULARLY BITTER OVER THE CASE OF ONE YOUNG MAN IN HIS DEPARTMENT WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN A BRILLIANT SOCIOLOGIST. THE PROFESSOR DID NOT FEEL THE YOUNG MAN HAD COMMITTED ANY SERIOUS CRIME AGAINST SOCIETY THAT JUSTIFIED ROBBING THAT SAME SOCIETY OF A BRILLIANT SOCIOLOGIST. MR. HUNTER POINTED OUT THAT HOMOSEXUALS WERE HARDLY UNIQUE WHERE INJUSTICE WAS CONCERNED. MISS BELL AGREED, BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS THE ONLY MINORITY LEFT THAT HAD NO RECOURSE OPEN TO THEM IN THE CASE OF INJUSTICE, DUE TO THE STIGMA ATTACHED TO THEM IF THEY OPENLY FOUGHT THE CASE.

MISS BELL, ASKED ABOUT THE HOMOSEXUAL STEREOTYPES: THE EXTREMELY MASCULINE LESBIAN AND THE EXTREMELY FEMININE MALE HOMOSEXUAL, SAID SHE FELT THEY CAUSED MUCH OF THE HOSTILITY TOWARD HOMOSEXUALS. MR. CALL CONSIDERED THEM "A MINORITY WITHIN A MINORITY". MISS BELL SAID IN MANY CASES IT WAS A PHASE OF REBELLION AND AN OVER-EMPHASIS THAT WENT ALONG WITH THE HOMOSEXUAL'S FINDING HIMSELF. MANY OF THE WOMEN GO THROUGH THIS PHASE AND GROW OUT OF IT, SHE SAID.

MISS BELL WAS ABLE TO PUT IN A TWO-MINUTE PLUG FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS' SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION BEFORE THE SHOW ENDED.

- STEN RUSSELL

DAUGHTERS



POTENTIALS

The Lesbian in Society

PROGRAM

FRIDAY

8:00 p.m. Reception for out-of-town guests to be held at 527 Hazel St., Glendale, California. This will be convention headquarters for the evening. Telephone: 242-1023, area code 213.

SATURDAY

Saturday sessions are open to the public.

8:30 a.m. Registration at the Orient Room, Hollywood Inn.

9:30 Address of Welcome - Jean Nathan, president, Los Angeles Chapter, Daughters of Bilitis.

"About DOB" - Jaye Bell, national president, Daughters of Bilitis.

10:00 "A Study in Minority Action" - a research paper presented by Mrs. Susanne Prosin, San Fernando State College.

10:45 PANEL DISCUSSION on "The Place of the Lesbian in Organized Religion and the Effects on Mental Health" with Dr. Evelyn Hooker, sociologist and

researcher, University of California at Los Angeles, acting as moderator. Panelists are:

Rev. Rollo M. Boas, rector of the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, Los Angeles.

Dr. John D. Brown, minister, First Baptist Church of Beverly Hills, California.

Dr. Zoltan Gross, psychologist, Los Angeles.

Rev. Brooks Walker, minister of the Unitarian Church of Canoga Park, California.

12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON in the Orient Room.

Leon Mayer, attorney from Los Angeles, will give an address on "The Model Penal Code."

2:30 "A Sociologist Views Some Aspects of the Homophile Movement" - Dr. Paul K. Rowan, professor of sociology.

3:30 PANEL DISCUSSION on the topic, "Is the Lesbian Being Portrayed Realistically by the Mass Media?" Ron McCoy, of Radio Station KFI, will act as moderator. Panelists are:

D. K. Miller, motion picture and television producer.

Jess Stearn, author of "The Sixth Man" and staff writer for "Newsweek" magazine.

5:00 Cocktails on the Patio.

7:00 BANQUET in the Orient Room.

Main speaker will be Thane Walker, mentor-analyst and dean of The Prosperos Academy, Honolulu, Hawaii. "The Golden Mean of Sex."

Toastmistress for the evening will be Phyllis Lyon, president, San Francisco Chapter, Daughters of Bilitis.

NO DARK DISGUISE

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. DOB business meeting - members only. Orient Room, Hollywood Inn.

6:00 p.m. "Dutch treat" dinner for members and guests (women only). 527 Hazel St., Glendale.

MONDAY

10:00 a.m. Special meeting to discuss chapter business, achievements, goals and ideas. Members only. 527 Hazel St., Glendale, California

Full Program Saturday	\$12.50
Morning Session	2.00
Luncheon	5.00
Afternoon Session	2.00
Banquet	6.00

DOB wishes to take this opportunity to extend its heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us with putting on this convention program.

A Story by D. Mildred Brandt

PART II

The story thus far:

Derry Crammer, Kay and Sam share an apartment together. Derry, rather cold and calculating, toys with men, which irritates Kay and Sam, especially Sam who, in turn, is caustic and insulting to Derry. In spite of Sam's attitude Derry finds her very disturbing and really tries to please. The story opens with Kay and Derry leaving on dates. Sam is being very nasty to Derry. Kay tries mediation without much success. Derry leaves; Kay and Sam fall into conversation. Kay is shocked to find Sam is really very much in love with Derry. When Derry returns that evening someone in the darkened living room kisses her briefly, murmurs, "good night", and is gone. The story continues:

Once more in the living room she stopped and looked around. There was something about the room, but she couldn't quite place it. She frowned and went thoughtfully to her room. When she was almost asleep she thought of what it was. Only Sam's perfume.

She was still thoughtful the next morning when she got up. She dressed slowly and carefully but was not really aware of what she put on. The memory of the night before was still very close; she trembled. Then without reason she laughed.

Kay and Sam, drinking coffee in the kitchen heard the laughter. Sam cocked her head to listen. "She certainly sounds happy," she remarked dryly.

But she smiled amiably when Derry came into the kitchen. "Morning, lover. Have a good night?" She handed her a cup.

"Yes," Derry smiled, a private, amused smile. "A very good night," and poured her coffee. She nodded cheerfully at Kay and sat down, sipping her coffee leisurely, lost in

her own thought. "Who was here last night?" she suddenly asked.

"We were all gone. Sam told you we would be," Kay answered in surprise.

Sam smiled, but was silent.

Derry saw the smile and knew that for some reason Sam was laughing at her once more. "I came home early. Someone was here. I want to know who it was," she said sharply, beginning to lose her temper.

Kay shrugged, "I didn't get in until one-thirty. Sam?"

Sam looked up inquiringly, but turned to the stove without answering. She poured some more coffee into her cup, walked over to the sink, and leaned against it. "The meeting was called off at the last minute. Dickie, the photographer, had to go to the hospital. His wife forgot to tell him the baby was due." She smiled faintly, "Anyway, I came home early. I brought a friend with me. We played Scrabble."

"Scrabble?" Derry asked doubtfully.

"Don't turn up your nose. The Scrabble board was between us all evening," Sam countered without anger.

"Well, I guess I should be off," Kay said regretfully. She worked farther downtown than either Sam or Derry and had to leave before they did. As she picked up her gloves and purse, she looked at her roommates hopefully. "Try to remember you're civilized human beings this morning, will you?"

Sam looked hurt. "Why, angel, you know I never act any other way."

Kay laughed skeptically but left without replying.

"I want to know who kissed me last night," Derry exclaimed impatiently as soon as Kay was gone.

Sam dropped her gaze quickly, chuckling softly. "Lover, if you don't know, how do you expect me to?"

Derry glared at her, but did not know how to answer. She began drinking her coffee for lack of anything else to do.

But Sam was not giving up so easily. "You must be slipping, lover, if you can't keep track of your men any better than that."

"Oh, will you shut up," Derry sat her cup down so hard she spilled some of the coffee. "It happened here at the apartment after I came home. Whoever was here with you kissed me."

Sam shook her head reproachfully. "You should be careful what you say. You don't know what damage you might do a girl's reputation."

"What do you mean?" Derry asked suspiciously.

Sam offered her a piece of toast, but she shook her head. Sam shrugged and took the toast herself. "Helen came home with me last night. That's why I played Scrabble. Besides, she left before you came home," she said as she buttered the toast and sat down again.

Derry stared at her in confusion. "But---" suddenly her face went white. With sickening clarity she knew what had bothered her the night before. It hadn't been Sam's perfume; it had been her voice. She struggled to keep her control. She mustn't give Sam that satisfaction. She had to have time to think. Every instinct screamed for her to run, to hide, to do anything but sit there across from Sam as though nothing had happened. She only smiled disarmingly. "It's silly to quarrel like this all the time. Let's shake hands and make up."

Startled by Derry's unexpected docility, Sam was speechless, but only for a moment. Her eyes lit up gleefully. "Did you say make up, or" she smirked, "make out?"

A muscle at the corner of Derry's mouth twitched, but otherwise her face was immobile. She gazed at Sam steadily. "Damn you, Sam! Someday, someone is going to kill you."

Her voice was pleasant. She might have been thanking Sam for a cup of coffee. Only her eyes betrayed her hatred.

Sam smiled encouragingly. "Someone like you?" she suggested. Without waiting for an answer she went on softly. "May I suggest that you use a nice, slow poison? It's neat, but it's painful."

Uttering a choked cry, Derry ran out of the room. Strangling tears of fear and anger and pain, she leaned against the wall.

And the cool surface against her cheek soothed her. At last, she straightened. She drew a ragged, painful breath, but she was calmer.

Sam heard the apartment door open and close quietly and stiffened, "Derry," she whispered brokenly. Then she did something she had not allowed herself to do since she was a child. Slumping over the table, she began to cry softly.

Sam went straight to her room when she came in that night. She switched the bedlight on and sat down on the bed with a tired sigh. Kicking her shoes off, she stretched luxuriously and leaned back across the bed. As she stared at the ceiling, she thought of Derry. Suddenly, she rolled over and stared at herself in the mirror. "You're a fool, Samantha Martin," she said to her reflection softly, and it smiled back at her sadly.

With a sigh, she got up. Walking over to the mirror, she undressed automatically and stared at herself critically. "You're wasting all that lovely white flesh, Samantha my girl," she sighed.

"I don't think so!"

The soft familiar voice broke over Sam with the effect of an electric shock followed by a wave of cold water. She wanted to fling herself into Derry's arms, but she couldn't. She had been locked within herself so long she was so afraid of being hurt again that she could no longer give herself freely. She now used mockery as a protective mask as effectively as it had once been used against her, and when she faced Derry, that mask was in place. "Well," she drawled, "hello. Won't you come into my boudoir?"

"Said the spider to the fly?" Derry asked with a slight smile as she crossed over to the bed.

Sam shrugged, watching her in puzzlement. "To what do I owe the honor of this visit?" is, I believe, the appropriate phrase."

Derry gazed at her admiringly. "You are beautiful, Sam." She gave a little nervous laugh. "Of course, you know that! But standing there you look very distant and very aloof, as though

nothing so common as desire could ever touch you. But you aren't untouchable, are you, Sam?" she asked softly.

Puzzled and wary, Sam walked over to the bed, keeping it between Derry and herself. "I'm very tired, Derry. Do you mind leaving so that I can go to bed?"

"Oh, I don't mind if you go to bed. That's really where you belong, you know," Derry continued softly. She turned as if to go, but went only as far as the foot of the bed. "Sam," she asked, as though it were an after thought, "Did you enjoy kissing me last night?"

Sam's eyes widened and grew dark. She moistened her lips.

"I hope you did," Derry went on, "because it would be a shame if you didn't." She walked around the bed until she was close enough to feel Sam's soft, rapid breath on her cheek. "You don't look nearly so aloof now, Sam." She pressed down on the light switch.

She heard Sam's sharp intake of breath and smiled. If Sam had any weakness, this was it. She would make her sorry that she had ever looked at her, let alone kissed her. And it would be so easy to beat her at her own game - just make her beg and then laugh at her. Her lips brushed Sam's teasingly. Sam shivered. Derry laughed softly. "Don't be eager, lover. It's not lady-like."

Sam sank into the bed, pulling Derry after her. "Who wants to be a lady?" she whispered huskily, her hands moving to the ribbons of Derry's negligee.

Derry lay back on the bed and let Sam undress her, enjoying the trembling, impatient hands. She smiled confidently in the darkness. "Sam?"

Sam became still. "Yes?"

"Say please."

Sam moved away and turned the light on. She gazed at Derry searchingly for a moment. She closed her eyes and with a little shudder whispered, "All right," her voice soft and vulnerable. "I'll say anything you like. I'll say please,

I'll say I'm sorry. But please, Derry, please don't hurt me. I love you, you know. I have for a long time."

Derry stared at her astonished, her heart suddenly, unexpectedly pounding. Her lips parted, but no sound came out. She continued to gaze at Sam, waiting, almost dizzy with the spinning of her senses.

Sam's eyes burned into Derry's strangely, and feeling a response to that fierce, frightening desire, Derry began struggling. She fought with the desperation of an animal at bay, but Sam held her firmly, whispering, pleading.

Derry heard her soft, impassioned whisper, and twisted from side to side helplessly trying to block out the undermining murmur. At last, she gave a strangled little cry and turned trembling, yielding to meet Sam's kiss.

Sam was asleep. Derry could hear her deep even breathing, but she couldn't see her. She didn't dare open her eyes yet. She didn't want to see Sam or herself. Even the bed beneath her was painful. She remembered with humiliating clarity everything that had happened. And she felt a deep, burning shame and horror that was almost a physical illness.

She didn't know how long she lay there with the waves of shame and horror washing over her. After a while it became unbearable to lie still and she slid out of bed without waking Sam.

Catching a glimpse of herself in the mirror, she stopped and looked close. She looked no different than she had before she came to Sam's room. But she saw the traces of spent passion in her face and felt them in her body, and she realized with a shock that there was nothing about her that said that she had just left the arms of a woman. It could have been anyone. Anyone. Man or woman. If you closed your eyes, you could almost believe that it had been a man, she thought. And she frowned, finding the thought repulsive. She had never met a man who could make her forget to shudder when he touched her, but until now she had believed that she someday would meet a man who would make her feel love and passion in the place of contempt and revulsion. And she had found everything she dreamed about. She had found that she was capable of a passion that was stronger than her disgust. But she had found it in the arms of a woman. Suddenly, she felt more lonely than she ever had in her life.

She turned and looked down at Sam. Her mouth twisted in a slight smile. Sam looked almost angelic except for her tousled hair and her almost wanton smile of contentment. No, Derry thought, not an angel, a cat. A beautiful sleeping cat that had its claws sheathed. A cat that you could play with and pet, but a cat that would turn on the one nearest it without provocation.

As she stared down at her, Derry felt her pulses quicken. Even asleep Sam was desirable. And as the desire returned, the shame and horror melted away, leaving in their place a tiny sadness. It would be exciting, she thought. Yes, it would be exciting, but what else?

Sam whimpered in her sleep and reached out beside her where Derry had been. Touching the pillow, she clutched at it. Then she relaxed, her face still troubled, as if by a bad dream.

Surprised, Derry sat on the edge of the bed. Sam, the proud, mocking Sam she knew lonely? Two hours before she wouldn't have believed it. Two hours before she wouldn't have believed Sam capable of human needs. "She looks so helpless," she thought, "and even kittens use their claws in self defense. You can't hate her for knowing what you were afraid to admit to yourself, for loving you." Derry shook herself, but the tenderness did not go away. She called gently to Sam.

Sam stirred and opened her eyes, only half awakened. She smiled and laid her hand against Derry's cheek caressingly. "Good morning, darling," Derry laughed tenderly and kissed her. Sam responded sleepily.

Derry turned the light out and slid back into bed. Sam cuddled against her, sighing as a sleeping child will sigh when he has reached out and found his teddy bear, or as a person having a bad dream will sigh when he reaches out and finds that he is not alone. "Don't go away. I couldn't stand it if you went away, too," she murmured drowsily and sank back into sleep.

Derry stroked her hair contentedly. "Go away?" she thought, warm and secure beside Sam. A faint warning that the world might not permit her to do as she liked sounded in the back of her mind, but she didn't hear it. "Leave Sam now, after she had just found this heavenly warmth, this haven?" She smiled with amusement and snuggled closer to her. It was too ridiculous to even think about.

Court Rules for Restroom Privacy

THE CALIFORNIA STATE SUPREME COURT RULED EARLY LAST MONTH ON THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY IN A RESTROOM.

THE COURT ISSUED WRITS PROHIBITING THE LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURTS FROM TRYING THREE MEN CHARGED WITH "INFAMOUS CRIMES AGAINST NATURE" BECAUSE POLICE OBTAINED EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM BY WATCHING THROUGH A "SPY-PIPE" WHILE THEY WERE IN A PUBLIC RESTROOM AT A LONG BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK.

THE "SPY-PIPE" OPERATION CONSTITUTED ILLEGAL SEARCH IN VIOLATION OF THE MEN'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, THE COURT HELD UNANIMOUSLY.

AN OPINION WRITTEN BY JUSTICE B. REY SCHAUER SAID: "AUTHORITY OF POLICE OFFICERS TO SPY ON OCCUPANTS OF TOILET BOOTHS - WHETHER IN AN AMUSEMENT PARK OR A PRIVATE HOME - WILL NOT BE SUSTAINED ON THE THEORY THAT IF THEY WATCH ENOUGH PEOPLE LONG ENOUGH SOME (ILLEGAL) ACTS WILL EVENTUALLY BE DISCOVERED."

POLICE SAID THEY KEPT THE RESTROOM UNDER SURVEILLANCE AT THE REQUEST OF THE AMUSEMENT PARK PROPRIETOR "TO DO SOMETHING IN REGARD TO THE HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY GOING ON INSIDE."

THE HOMOSEXUAL REVOLUTION

BY R. E. L. MASTERS

REVIEWED BY GENE DAMON

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO OBJECTIVELY ANALYZE THE THREE PRIMARY HOMOSEXUAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U. S. THEIR AIMS, GOALS, PAST SUCCESSES AND FAILURES ARE DISCUSSED AND A BRIEF, POSSIBLE PROJECTION OF THEIR FUTURE.

THERE ARE FOURTEEN CHAPTERS BEGINNING WITH "HOW MANY HOMOSEXUALS" AND COVERING NUMEROUS AREAS FROM EUROPEAN HOMOSEXUAL MAGAZINES AND

ORGANIZATIONS AND THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, ONE, INC., DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS TO, "WHAT DO HOMOSEXUALS WANT", POLITICS, THE POLICE, ETC., AND ENDING WITH "THE HOMOSEXUAL AND THE FUTURE."

AT FIRST GLANCE, THAT IS AN IMPOSING UNDERTAKING FOR ONE HETEROSEXUAL MALE TO ATTEMPT. IN ALL FAIRNESS, MR. MASTERS REALLY HAS TRIED. HE IS MUCH LESS UNSYMPATHETIC THAN ALMOST ANY PREVIOUS "TECHNICAL" WRITER.

HIS PERSONAL DISTASTE IS FAIRLY WELL DISGUISED, EXCEPT IN A FEW PLACES SUCH AS WHERE HE FINDS THE IDEA OF A MOVIE WITH ONE MAN KISSING ANOTHER UNTHINKABLE. BUT THERE ARE FEW OF THESE LAPSES INTO THE OLD HETEROSEXUAL FEARS ON HIS PART.

HE USES THREE SEPARATE SEMI-FICTIONAL PERSONAGES TO PURVEY THE HOMOSEXUAL POINT OF VIEW - THEY ARE REASONABLY WELL CHOSEN, AND THE CHAPTERS ON "RONNIE" AND "TATA" ARE QUITE GOOD.

MR. MASTERS HAS BLASTED ONE INC., ON VERY NEARLY THE SAME ITEMS THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS HAVE BLASTED THEM. HE EXPRESSES DISAPPROVAL OF THEIR ARTICLES - ESPECIALLY THE VERY "FAR OUT" ONES.

IT MUST BE SAID THAT MR. MASTERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE UNJUST PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS ENDED, AND ALL THE LARGE EVILS SUCH AS ENTRAPMENT. BUT WHEN HE HANDLES THE INFRINGEMENT OF RIGHTS HE FALLS INTO THE OLD EASY POSITION OF "SOCIETY WON'T TOLERATE", THEREFORE, IN EFFECT, HE ADMONISHES US TO SET OUR SIGHTS VERY LOW. HE SPECIFICALLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE US GET LEGAL RIGHTS TO GO TO BED PRIVATELY AND LEGALLY, BUT NOTHING ELSE.

IN CHAPTER 10, "WHAT DO HOMOSEXUALS WANT", HE LISTS THE NINE POINTS MOST RECURRING IN THE HOMOSEXUAL PRESS - BRIEFLY REPEATED HERE:

1. RIGHT TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES.
2. RIGHT TO SERVE IN THE GOVERNMENT.
3. MARRIAGE.
4. ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.
5. ARTISTIC PRESENTATION - MOVIES, DRAMA, ETC.
6. RECOGNITION BY THE CHURCHES.
7. RIGHT TO DRESS AS WE PLEASE.
8. FREE PRESS.
9. NO RESTRICTION ON SOCIAL INVITATION (WHETHER MORAL OR NOT).

HE THEN SPENDS MANY PAGES SAYING IN EFFECT THAT NO HOMOSEXUAL SHOULD DARE TO WANT THESE THINGS AND HIS MAIN REASON SEEMS TO BE "SOCIETY WON'T ALLOW IT." WELL, IN THIS HE MISSES THE WHOLE POINT. SOCIETY WON'T ALLOW IT - NONSENSE - SOCIETY WON'T ALLOW IT TODAY, BUT THERE IS TOMORROW, AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE WORKING TOWARD. A FEW VERY, VERY UNWISE ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN BOOK. HE PRAISES ANN ALDRICH - AND ALBEIT SHE IS BRIGHT AND WITTY, BUT SHE ISN'T THE AUTHOR OF "THE BEST POPULAR WORKS WRITTEN ABOUT LESBIANS IN THE U. S." THAT IS A RIDICULOUS, EVEN LUDICROUS, STATEMENT. MISS ALDRICH'S WRITING PORTRAYS SELF-DENYING, SELF-HATING, VERY SICK LESBIANS. THE MAJORITY OF HER WRITING HAS PORTRAYED ONLY A MINISCULE OF THE LESBIAN POPULATION.

MR. MASTERS - UNFORTUNATELY - FEELS COMPELLED TO PATRONIZE THE ATTEMPTS OF THESE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO BETTER THE LOT OF THEIR PEOPLE. IT IS RATHER HARD TO READ OBJECTIVELY LINES SUCH AS, "THE LADDER'S SINCERE, DILIGENT, BUT MEDIOCRE STAFF." WHEN YOU ARE GIVING YOUR LIFE TO SOMETHING AND HAVE PINNED THE FUTURE OF PERHAPS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO THESE HOPES, IT IS A LITTLE DEVASTATING TO BE LABELED, "MEDIOCRE."

BUT VERY JOYFULLY, ONE CAN FORGIVE MR. MASTERS ANY FAILING, ANY SHORTCOMING IN HIS BOOK. FOR MOST ASSUREDLY, THIS BOOK IN ITSELF IS THE JUSTIFICATION FOR ALL THE YEARS THAT HAVE GONE INTO ONE, INC., THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, AND THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS. MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT NEVER HAVE HEARD OF THE GROUPS WILL NOW HEAR, AND AMONG THEM THERE WILL BE A FEW HUNDRED TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE EVER-GROWING "HOMOSEXUAL REVOLUTION".*

*ALREADY RESULTS CAN BE SEEN - KIRKUS REVIEW SERVICE PURCHASED BY EVERY MAJOR LIBRARY AND BOOK STORE IN THE U. S. GAVE IT A VERY GOOD REVIEW. THIS ALL HELPS BRING US TO THE PUBLIC EYE.

THE ABOVE IS A REVIEW OF THE BOOK, THE HOMOSEXUAL REVOLUTION, WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DOB BOOK SERVICE, 1232 MARKET ST., SUITE 108, SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA, FOR THE SUM OF \$5.95 PLUS 20¢ HANDLING CHARGE (INCLUDE 4% SALES TAX IN CALIFORNIA).

IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF THE LADDER THERE WILL BE FURTHER COMMENT AND ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK WHERE THE AUTHOR TOUCHES UPON THE IDEOLOGY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS.



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