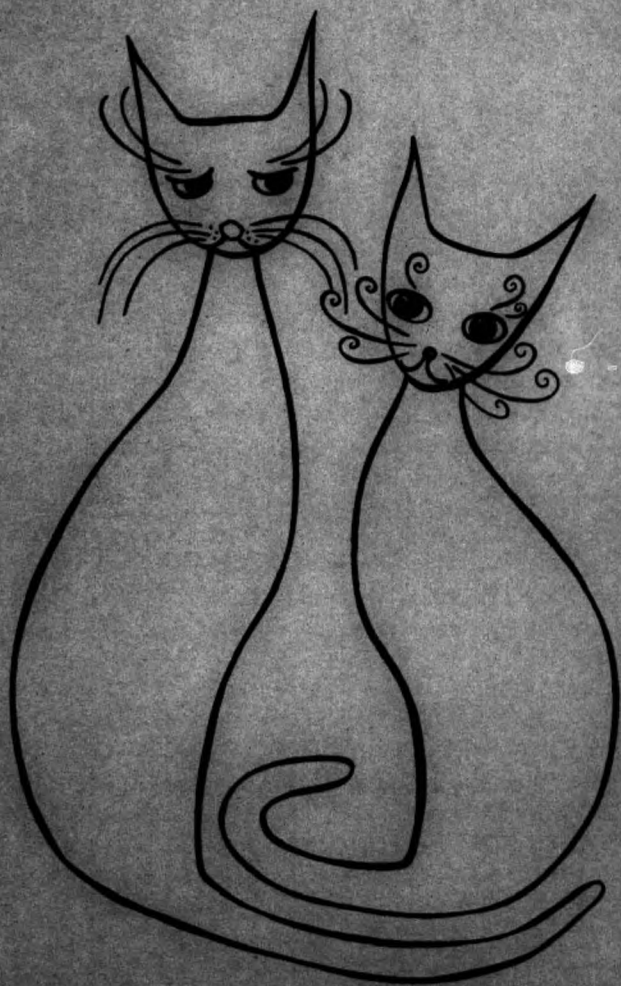


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# the Ladder

March 1963

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**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.

# the Ladder

MARCH 1963  
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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

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# Double Tribute

DEL MARTIN

BARBARA GITTINGS

"GOOD THOUGHTS ARE NO BETTER THAN GOOD  
DREAMS, UNLESS THEY BE EXECUTED!" - EMERSON

DEL MARTIN SPENT SEVEN YEARS WORKING TO PUT DREAMS OF THE HOMO-  
SEXUAL INTO ACTION - DREAMS OF A LIFE WITH RIGHTS TO LIVE IN  
HAPPINESS, WITHOUT FEAR FROM PREJUDICE AND IGNORANCE.

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF DOB, MANY TIMES PRESIDENT, AND FOR THE  
LAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS EDITOR OF THE LADDER, DEL SPENT  
COUNTLESS HOURS WORKING TO MAKE THIS DREAM A REALITY. TO SPEAK  
IN TOTAL OF HER WORK WOULD BE TO RECAPITULATE THE HISTORY OF DOB.

MUCH OF HER LABOR IS BEARING FRUIT MOST PEOPLE THOUGHT WOULD NOT  
MATURE IN OUR LIFETIME. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE WILL BE ASKING  
YOU TO CO-OPERATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT DEL HELPED TO INSTIGATE.  
WE FEEL THIS PROJECT WILL DO A GREAT DEAL TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE LESBIAN AS A REAL PERSON, IN CONTRAST TO THE  
FICTITIOUS CHARACTER SHE IS NOW PORTRAYED TO BE. FOR IT IS OUR  
PREMISE THAT WHEN SHE IS SEEN AS A REAL PERSON, INSTEAD OF A FIC-  
TITIOUS CHARACTER, SHE CAN AND WILL BECOME, TO THE WHOLE OF  
SOCIETY, A HUMAN BEING WORTHY OF RIGHTS.

BARBARA GITTINGS, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK  
CHAPTER OF DOB, MANY TIMES A CHAPTER OFFICER, AND NOW THE NATION-  
AL CORRESPONDING SECRETARY FOR THE ORGANIZATION, HAS VOLUNTEERED  
TO BE TEMPORARY EDITOR FOR THE MAGAZINE, SO ITS VOICE CAN CON-  
TINUE. THE FEBRUARY EDITION WAS BARBARA'S FIRST CONTRIBUTION.

TO DEL MARTIN AND BARBARA GITTINGS, WE ALL OWE A TRIBUTE. BUT  
LET US GIVE MORE THAN "GOOD DREAMS." THOSE WORKING IN THE ORGAN-  
IZATION ARE GIVING THEM THE TRIBUTE OF ACTION. THOSE OF YOU NOT  
DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE ORGANIZATION CAN ALSO GIVE A TRIBUTE  
TO THESE TWO AND TO ALL THOSE WORKING TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS A REAL-  
ITY. SUPPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION WITH CONTRIBUTIONS OF LETTERS,  
ARTICLES, STORIES, POEMS, NEWS - AND THE ALWAYS-NEEDED FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT. JOIN US IN A TRIBUTE OF ACTION!

JAYE BELL, NATIONAL PRESIDENT

## The Homosexual Minority in America

Why doesn't the homosexual minority act like other minor-  
ity groups? Donald Webster Cory, author of several books  
on homosexuality, tackled this question in a scholarly  
analysis of homophile progress in the past few decades.  
His lecture, sponsored by The Janus Society, drew an  
audience of over 100 persons (despite a local transit  
strike) to a downtown Philadelphia hotel on January 25th.

A minority group is not necessarily a numerical minority,  
explained Cory. For example, doctors are few in relation  
to the whole population but they are not treated as a  
minority group. Rather, a minority is a group of people  
who are considered, or who consider themselves, to have  
a trait in common. They are placed in a special type of  
inferior position, viz., the individual himself is blamed  
and punished for attributes that rightly or wrongly are  
placed on the entire group, and the group as a whole is  
blamed or punished for the transgressions of individuals.  
A minority group, according to this definition, is never  
praised or glorified, but given only attributes of a neg-  
ative nature.

Thus the homosexual, in his contacts with society, must  
not only take responsibility for his whole minority  
group, but must usually conceal his identity with it from  
society. The ease of concealment—a seeming protection—  
takes tremendous toll of the homosexual in other ways.  
For by this self-defeating mechanism the individual human  
is compelled to dissociate himself from others like him.  
There is also forced upon him society's ugly image of his  
group. Most homosexuals are relatively disinterested in  
the homophile movement; they are perhaps victims of the  
"cruelty of making them believe that their cause is an  
unworthy one." They don't believe in the propriety of  
their own struggle—thereby only confessing how poorly  
they think of themselves and their group. This reflects  
how society makes a minority group believe in its own  
inferior, unworthy self. Often, homosexuals are even  
apologists for the hostility of the society they are  
dealing with. So the homosexual situation is partly  
aggravated by the unwillingness of individuals involved



to plead a cause, to express the needs of a minority group. Cory noted that the most capable and intelligent homosexuals in American society do not wish to identify themselves with the group. This refusal of the elite to be spokesmen, he called unique in the history of the surge of minority groups. The same situation makes it even harder for the majority group to come forward, with no one exciting or leading them in this direction.

Yet a new liberalization is evident in American society's view of homosexuality. Typical is the reaction to a statement by Bishop Pike that there are probably homosexuals in the Episcopal ministry. This statement was not jumped on or attacked. The change is meaningful in the context of what is happening to minority groups in general. Some 50 years ago, a president of the U. S. came close to being impeached because he invited a Negro to a White House breakfast. Today, appointment of a Negro to the president's Cabinet met only a slight delaying action. "It is intellectually disrespectful not to champion the rights of minority groups." In fact it's considered right and proper to further minority causes. Behind this, Cory claimed, is the truth that in every confrontation between majority and minority, the minority "inherently and intrinsically is in the right."

Cory recognized a major cleavage separating the homosexual minority group from all others. It is impossible for members of the group to confront society "except by confronting an unjust mountain of hostility." What happens when the group comes forward and meets such prejudice? The very people who are champions of the underdog are so personally hostile. But at least the recognition that homosexuals constitute a minority is now almost universally accepted in American society. In discussing homosexuality, opprobrium is no longer necessary to avert suspicion. The hostile point of view becomes leaderless, soon intellectually disrespectful. How does this affect the man in the street? By the process of cultural lag—the gap between stages of development more and less advanced, between intellectuals and followers, between teachers and students. The very repeal of a law, for example, is "both a reflection of the change of scene and a reinforcement of the change of scene."

While the homosexual cause is gaining recognition in an atmosphere of society's readiness to listen, another change needed is for each homosexual person to see a fine image of himself, not a degraded one—an image of integrity, not of pretending to be. The therapist does not have the answer. Cory referred to Bieber and others who claim a large percentage of homosexual patients changing to heterosexual orientation; Cory emphasized that he is much more concerned about the remaining percentage "who after sacrifice and travail leave therapy feeling rejected and defeated." A statistic means a young man or woman with a problem, unable to work it out as others would like it worked out. A statistic is still a human life that must be made worth living. Cory's compassion is for the many homosexual individuals who are not going to be changed, and the millions more who are not even going to the therapist's office.

In conclusion, Cory expressed his belief that the social climate is fortunate both for the homophile movement and for society. The U. S. is being compelled to listen to and grant rights to all minority groups; it cannot by any definition exclude any group under any conditions. The homophile organizations, infinitely small though they be, "are conducting a movement which is healthy for this country." Cory contended it is harmful to democracy for all groups to melt into one unity of all-alikeness. Ideally, minorities can retain their individual identity without being discriminated against socially. Cory predicted that the homosexual minority will be caught up in the struggle to preserve variety of human expression and that it will be happy in the struggle.

- Barbara Gittings

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WEIGHTLESS

I was...  
As light as the smoke  
spreading its wan beauty  
on the city, pulsing with life...not caring...  
For Me.

- JC

### ONLY TO HER

Halo tips and tinselled snow  
and the earthy strength from which flowers grow,  
Pink balloons and orange ice  
and finger-waves to make the sea look nice.  
They're yours my love.

Sherry wine and pale white moons  
and a music box to play Christmas tunes,  
Chocolate robins and ice cream trees  
and chiffon tissues should you care to sneeze.  
All yours my love.

Perfumed Springs and fluffy kittens  
and new lambs wool for warm warm mittens,  
Chinese bells and Parisian skies  
and amethysts for your blue blue eyes.  
These too my love.

Just smile at me, hold tight my hand  
we'll roam together the happy land,  
All I have is all I'll give  
our lives long, ere long we live,  
My love.

- Alisan

### HARBINGERS OF PARRICIDE

Dark thoughts thundered with matricide,  
Trembling in the spastic embrace of guilt.  
My birth set the time clock of death,  
Yet for me there was no autonomy  
Till the final hour of dissolution  
Broke the seal of my shadowed life.

Though my heart knows and holds its terror,  
I try to avoid your eyes,  
Harbingers of parricide.

- J. Lorna Strayer

### book review:

## *The Feminine Mystique*

BY BETTY FRIEDAN. W. W. NORTON, FEBRUARY 1963

"THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE" IS A BOOK THAT WILL INTEREST EVERY THOUGHTFUL WOMAN - REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL PREDILECTIONS. IT MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE HOMOSEXUAL WOMAN WHO HAS CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES FEMININE IDENTITY.

MRS. FRIEDAN (A PSYCHOLOGIST, SUBURBAN HOUSEWIFE AND MOTHER) EXPLODES THE MYTH THAT MARRIAGE AND MOTHERHOOD IN THEMSELVES CONSTITUTE FULFILLMENT FOR WOMEN.

IN A WORK THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT TO SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR'S "THE SECOND SEX," MRS. FRIEDAN OFFERS IMPRESSIVE EVIDENCE OF HER CONTENTION THAT DESPAIR AND MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL BREAKDOWN ARE RAMPANT AMONG SUBURBAN HOUSEWIVES WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO CONFORM TO THE POPULAR IMAGE OF FEMININITY.

THE AUTHOR ACCUSES PSYCHIATRISTS, EDUCATORS AND THE MASS MAGAZINES OF CREATING THE MODERN WOMAN'S TRAP. IT IS THEY, SHE MAINTAINS, WHO FOSTERED THE IDEA THAT AMBITION AND MEANINGFUL WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME DEFEMINIZE A WOMAN. SHE ACCUSES THE MAGAZINES AND ADVERTISERS OF AN ACTUAL CONSPIRACY TO USE THE "FEMININE MYSTIQUE" TO KEEP THE WOMAN IN THE HOME TO BUY MORE PRODUCTS.

MRS. FRIEDAN BELIEVES THAT IT IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE BUT DESIRABLE FOR THE MARRIED, CHILD-BEARING WOMAN TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT GOAL OUTSIDE THE HOME. SHE SHOWS WHY HOBBIES AND CLUB WORK DO NOT AND CANNOT SUBSTITUTE FOR WORK VALUED BY SOCIETY. SHE POINTS OUT THAT THE FRUSTRATION OF THE ABLE, VIGOROUS WOMAN'S VOCATIONAL DRIVES HAS LED TO THE CREATION OF SEX-OBSSESSED WIVES WHOSE DEMANDS CANNOT BE FULFILLED BY THEIR HUSBANDS. SHE TRACES THE GROWTH OF SERIOUS CHILDHOOD NEUROSES TO MOTHERS WHO HAVE GIVEN UP "PERSONAL IDENTITY" TO LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH THEIR CHILDREN.

OF GREATEST INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS MRS. FRIEDAN'S DISCUSSION OF FREUD'S "PENIS ENVY" THEORY, POPULARIZED BY MARYNIA FARNHAM AND FERDINAND LUNDBERG IN "MODERN WOMAN: THE LOST SEX." THE STORY OF HOW A GENERATION OF WOMEN, STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF TOTAL EMANCIPATION, WAS BULLIED INTO A RETREAT BACK TO THE VICTORIAN IMAGE OF WOMAN AS MAN'S PASSIVE OBJECT, IS AS PAINFUL AS IT IS REVEALING.

THE QUESTION MRS. FRIEDAN DOES NOT RAISE, BUT WHICH WILL ARISE IN THE MINDS OF MANY LESBIANS, IS WHETHER OR NOT FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY MAY RISE FROM SOCIAL AS WELL AS PSYCHIC CAUSES. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOME WOMEN TURN TO HOMOSEXUALITY AS AN ESCAPE FROM BEING CAST INTO A SOCIAL STEREOTYPE WHICH DEGRADES THEIR INDIVIDUALITY AND LIMITS THEIR ACTIVITY AT THE POINT WHERE IT MAY BEGIN TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE HOME?

MRS. FRIEDAN SUPPORTS MME. DE BEAUVOIR'S CONTENTION THAT IT IS NOT MAN'S PENIS WOMEN ENVIES, BUT HIS POWER. SHE BELIEVES THAT A WOMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOVE A MAN, BEAR CHILDREN AND YET FULLY FUNCTION AS A SELF-MOTIVATED, SELF-REALIZED HUMAN BEING. YET, SHE SHOWS HOW UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, WITH ALL OF SOCIETY (EDUCATORS INCLUDED) COMMITTED TO A SPURIOUS IMAGE OF FEMININITY, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. ONLY THE MOST GIFTED WOMEN ARE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH THE "MYSTIQUE."

MOST WOMEN ARE CONFRONTED WITH AN UGLY CHOICE TODAY: ACCEPT THE TRAP OF THE FALSE IMAGE OF FEMININITY OR BATTLE FIERCELY AGAINST IT. THE BATTLE WASTES A WOMAN'S BEST YEARS AND MAY END IN OTHER TRAPS - REJECTION OF SEXUAL FULFILLMENT OR AN IRRESOLUTE AND THEREFORE UNSATISFACTORY LESBIANISM.

THE QUESTION FOR THE FUTURE IS WHETHER OR NOT WOMEN WILL BE ABLE TO THROW OFF THE NEW SHACKLES THEY HAVE ACCEPTED DURING THE PAST TWO OR THREE DECADES. IF THEY DO, WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAY MAKE TO SOCIETY AND TO THE LIVES OF SO MANY!

- REVIEWED BY NOLA

IN LOS ANGELES, THE LADDER IS ON SALE AT ONE, INC., 2256 VENICE BLVD., OR CALL 735-5252 FOR THE NEAREST NEWSSTAND SELLING IT.



SAY, JEAN, HERE'S ONE THAT LOOKS  
JUST LIKE DR. CARSON'S FACE WHEN  
WE TOLD HIM WE'RE BUYING A  
HOUSE TOGETHER!

# Male Impersonation on the Stage

## A Brief Survey of Its Past

by Robert Liechti

Conclusion - Part Two of two parts

A noted male impersonator, Charlotte Cushman, now almost forgotten, was one of the first great American actresses. She was a singer in her early days; when her voice failed in 1835, she turned to the drama and appeared with many of the noted Shakespearean actors of the time. While Miss Cushman would appear in the usual feminine parts, she would not hesitate to perform in male roles if the opportunity presented itself. Playing a variety of parts with Edwin Booth, Charles Kean, Macready and Forrest, Charlotte Cushman's male performances included those of Cardinal Wolsey in "Henry VIII", Romeo, Macbeth, Claude Melnotte in "The Lady of Lyons", Goneril in "King Lear", Oberon and a number of breeches parts in lesser plays, such as Henry in "Speed the Plough" and Falvoni in "Matteo Falcon". An extraordinary woman with a great love for her sister, Charlotte Cushman said she played male parts to enable her actress sister to star in the great roles. Her interpretation of Romeo was said by Stang to be so effective that many considered it the greatest Romeo they had ever seen. Charlotte Cushman's Cardinal Wolsey in New York in September 1857 was acclaimed as the only successful impersonation by a woman of the role. Of her contemporaries, such critics as William Winter and Henry Austin Clapp were her admirers. Lawrence Hutton praised both her Wolsey and the earnestness with which she played Claude Melnotte. A close resemblance was seen by Margaret Merington between Charlotte Cushman and Rosa Bonheur, the painter. Writing in a theater magazine, Merington found in both a definite masculinity tempered by endearing feminine qualities. Both England and America saw Charlotte Cushman on their stages. Her acting career lasted some forty years and in 1915 she was elected to the Hall of Fame, established by New York University to honor Americans for their achievements. A Charlotte Cushman Club exists in Philadelphia today to perpetuate her name and her profession.

As the interest in breeches parts waned and tastes of playwrights turned to more sober subjects, male impersonation languished, to be taken up by the music hall and vaudeville performers of England and America. In variety stage's long history there have been many male impersonators, but none greater than Vesta Tilley. A reigning star in both countries for forty years, she only left the stage at the insistence of her husband, Lord DeFrece. Miss Tilley was as much a perfectionist as Julian Eltinge was on the male side; she set fashions with her man-about-town clothes, and her characterizations of officers, sailors, and policemen varied not a bit from the originals. Her songs were written for her by her husband and other well-known English song writers; they were clever, satirical impressions of the people she impersonated. The dandy numbers were take-offs on the dudes who frequented Picadilly before World War I and who were also satirized by George Leybourne in his act of the Lions Comiques.

Vesta Tilley never came out to offend. Her sketches were warm, kindly, and nostalgic. They were close to the character and they were close to the audience. If she jibed at the sham swells of Leicester Square, there was a bit of tenderness in it too. She sang of "The Seaside Sulton, He's the Monarch of the Pier, On the Beach he is the Shah, On the Promenade the Czar, All the Ladies in his Company will lurk, It's an Awful Blow, When he has to go—Back to Work". There were songs about "Picadilly Johnny with the little glass eye" and a soldier in hospital blue who cried, "I'm treated like a long-lost son, When they bathe my brow with sponges, And feed me on Blank Monges, Then I'm glad I've got this bit of a Blighty One!" Or of the Midnight Son: "You needn't go trotting to Norway, You'll find him in every doorway, You'll see him in his glory, if you'll only take a run, Down the Strand, that's the land of the Midnight Son." There was a Burlington Bertie before Ella Shields' famous one, and a Bold Militiaman, and a soldier in the trenches who sighed, "I'd like to tickle a saucy lamb, But all I tickle is Tickler's jam, Oh, London, where are your girls tonight!" Vesta Tilley—who topped the bills wherever she played, who could come out in a pearl grey frock coat suit, cane, and silk hat, or imitate the martial strut of the soldier or the roll



of the sailor in other numbers—set the pattern for the male impersonator, for none who imitated her quite had her skill, her vitality, her charm. From 1878 to 1920 her career ran and it never really ended for it lived on in the hearts of those who saw and loved her.

And there were Ella Shields with her Burlington Bertie from Bow, Bessie Bonehill, and Bessie Bellwood—all contemporaries of "our Vesta" as she was known, and all music hall male impersonators. There were also Millie Hylton who sang "The Rowdy-Dowdy Boys" and Hetty King who cried "I'm Afraid to go Home in the Dark" and Jenny Hill, billed as "The Vital Spark", singing Harry and being Harry on stage. It was her hit number. Over here in the United States, we had Kathleen Clifford, revue and vaudeville star, singing "Put on Lots of Style"; Venita Gould with her impressions of the stars both male and female of the day; Kitty Doner, of Ted and Kitty Doner, one of the top acts in vaudeville, dancing and singing in top hat and tails; and Cissie Loftus, who wound up her career as a competent actress on the legitimate stage after years of trouping the two-a-day as an impressionist. And names like Ella Wesner, Kitty Bingham, Truly, and Della Fox stand out in a long list of American and English male impersonators of variety entertainment. They were all good male mimics in their own individual ways, some in top hats and canes, others in character studies and costumes, and a few who changed their voices for brief but telling caricatures.

With the end of vaudeville in America and the gradual decline of the music hall in England, the male impersonator, like the female impersonator, had no place to practice her art but in the night clubs, one-man shows, television performances and the occasional revue. The older performers retired, and except for the rare appearances of Ella Shields and Florrie La Vere in the night clubs of this country until their passing, the art of male impersonation as it was in its heyday had disappeared. What remains today of a continuing nature are the annual pantomime shows given at Christmastime in England, the chief roles of which are traditionally taken by women, appearing as men. The part of the Principal Boy is played by a well-known actress, and the female role of the Dame by a male actor, in a generally

rowdy comic style. These elaborate shows, for years the great delight of the young and the young at heart, a combination of fairy tale and revue, remain the last stronghold of male and female impersonation in the theater. With fewer such shows planned, men playing Principal Boy roles, and many revues taking to the ice, one wonders how long before its end. Surely it will take another Bernhardt, another Garden, or a new Vesta Tilley to revive the art of male impersonation to its former glories. May that day come soon, to delight the public as it once did in such a full and flowing measure of joy in the realm of man's entertainments.

## CROSS CURRENTS

WOMAN, THE EVER-ELUSIVE, WAS AMBITIOUSLY EXPLORED IN A 3-DAY SYMPOSIUM IN LATE JANUARY AT THE UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA'S MEDICAL CENTER IN SAN FRANCISCO. ENTITLED "MAN AND CIVILIZATION: THE POTENTIAL OF WOMAN," THE SYMPOSIUM DREW LEADERS IN THE ARTS, FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS EXPERTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY AND THE MEDICAL SCIENCES. ONE CENTRAL IDEA EMERGED FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS: THAT WOMEN'S POTENTIAL AS HUMAN BEINGS IS DEWEANED AND LIMITED BY ARBITRARY ASSIGNMENT OF SOCIAL ROLES. SPACE PERMITS ONLY A FEW BRIEF QUOTES HERE:

...DR. ETHEL M. ALBERT, ANTHROPOLOGIST, DESCRIBED OTHER CULTURES' DIFFERING CONCEPTS OF MASCULINE AGGRESSIVENESS. "NOW I DO NOT KNOW WHICH VERSION IS 'BIOLOGICALLY' TRUE. PERHAPS SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS WORK ON NATURE'S ENDOWMENT, WHICH IS PROBABLY VARIABLE TO BEGIN WITH, SO THAT SOME GROW UP HOT, SOME GROW UP COLD, AND THOSE FARE BEST WHOSE BIOLOGY IS IN HARMONY WITH THE PREVAILING SOCIO-CULTURAL NOTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS NATURAL."

...MARYA MANNES, AUTHOR AND CRITIC: "THAT THE WORD 'SINGLE WOMAN' OR 'SPINSTER' SHOULD IMPLY INFERIOR WORTH OR USEFULNESS IS ONLY ONE OF THE DAMAGING BY-PRODUCTS OF OUR PRESENT CONSUMER-BASED, SECURITY-MAD DOMESTIC PATTERN."

...DR. EDMUND OVERSTREET, GYNECOLOGIST, COMMENTING ON THE DIFFICULTY OF DISTINGUISHING "INHERENT BIOLOGICAL MAKE-UP" FROM "IMPOSED SOCIAL CUSTOM": "FROM THE TIME OF THE FIRST HAIRCUT, OUR CULTURE PRODUCES AN APPARENT STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCE THE BETTER TO IDENTIFY THE POTENTIAL WOMAN AND THE POTENTIAL MAN."



...DR. ELEANOR MACOBY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, AFTER CITING STUDIES WHICH TEND TO SHOW THAT THE SO-CALLED MASCULINE QUALITY OF ANALYTIC ABILITY MAY BE RELATED LESS TO SEX THAN OVER-PROTECTION OF GIRLS IN CHILDHOOD: "COULD WE NOT ACCEPT AND ENCOURAGE THE ACTIVE, DOMINANT, INDEPENDENT QUALITIES OF THE INTELLECTUAL GIRL WITHOUT LABELING HER AS MASCULINE?"

...AND AGAIN AUTHOR MARYA MANNES: "IT TAKES COURAGE TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE--AND TO BE WHAT YOU ARE."

\* \* \* \*

AN ANTI-HOMOSEXUAL CAMPAIGN IS ON IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, SPURRED BY THE FATAL KNIFING EARLY IN JANUARY OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE J. SHELDON NULTY. THIS MURDER, SURROUNDED WITH HOMOSEXUAL OVERTONES, IS A BONE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S THROAT. THOUGH NULTY WAS PRESUMABLY AN ADULT, GOV. RALPH PAIEWONSKY'S OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SAID "THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRED THAT OUR CHILDREN BE PROTECTED FROM THE SPREAD OF HOMOSEXUAL PRACTICES." THE ADMINISTRATION CLAIMS THE ENTIRE HOMOSEXUAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN CAUSED BY NEWCOMERS, YET AMONG THE SUSPECTS BEING HARRASSED UNDER THE NEW POLICY ARE MANY LONG-TERM RESIDENTS OF THE ISLANDS.

## Magazine Review: THE FURTIVE FRATERNITY

Greater Philadelphia, "The Magazine for Executives," published in its December issue as a lead article, "The Furtive Fraternity"...an expose of the Philadelphia homosexual situation, dubbing it "a strange twilight life."

We use the word "expose" deliberately. Because even though Greater Philadelphia's publisher D. Herbert Lipson has written that such an article would necessarily have to be handled "with sensitivity and insight, devoid of sensationalism," the article does not wholly comply.

We do not complain of lack of sympathy. The piece is surely more sympathetic than we might have expected. It

is honest and courageous. As an expose it is fair and just in that it deals not only with the homosexual element in Philadelphia, but also with the attacking forces.

We accuse the article of sensationalism because of its blatant and unnecessary (we feel) publication of the names and addresses of gay bars and other gathering places in Philadelphia. The furor accompanying the appearance of this article is proof enough. The few newsdealers who handle this magazine (and it is primarily a subscription publication) sold out on the day of issue. One newsdealer told this reporter that he had had nearly one hundred requests in one day for this copy. Now we hear rumors of lawsuits pending against the magazine by some of the bars mentioned in the article. Lastly, we report that one of the young women interviewed by Mr. Fonzi for his article was subsequently rewarded with a punch in the nose by an employee of one of these bars. Thus the sensationalism cannot be denied.

Nevertheless, "Furtive Fraternity" gives an accurate picture of the more obvious aspects of Philadelphia's gay community. It endeavors to look at the facts from many angles. If it emphasizes the more overt element, this is only because this element is readily available for study. Mr. Fonzi grants that a large percentage of homosexuals live quiet and normal lives apart from public gathering places. We cannot criticize him for not looking further into this aspect, for even a homosexual's home is his castle. Now to the most positive aspect.

We commend the article for its courage in exposing the shocking police methods too often used against homosexuals. Mr. Fonzi describes in detail a clear case of entrapment by the police. Edwin (a pseudonym) is enticed by a plain-clothesman in a movie house. When he finally responds, he is placed under arrest. Thereafter, he is further victimized by the bondsman and lawyer who offer their "services" to him. We gratefully report the outcome of this actual case, as it has evolved since the appearance of the article. With the help of a member of The Janus Society of Philadelphia, a group dedicated to helping the homophile, Edwin was able to engage a second lawyer. He has subsequently been acquitted of the charge of soliciting.

By implication (but by implication only, alas) this case reminds the reader that sex is a private affair; it reminds the homosexual that he cannot be accused of immoral behavior if he refrains from sexual activity in public places; and it reminds the law-enforcement officer that any citizen has the right to be in any public place regardless of his sexual orientation.

But considering the extremely long length of the article, we cannot avoid the feeling that Mr. Fonzi has spun out this piece to the point of weariness. His account of an interview with members of 'The Janus Society' is unnecessarily detailed. Somewhat superfluous too were the conversations with the bar habitues for the sake of color and authenticity.

"Homosexuals are sick," Mr. Fonzi concludes, deftly and all-too-tritely replacing the sin concept with the sick concept. "Very few of them deny it," he goes on. Since no figures are available on the percentage of homosexuals who consider themselves sick, we feel this is a completely debatable statement. The paragraphs that follow this judgement do little to clarify it. They contain details on group therapy sessions designed for sex criminals. The precise effect, or the hoped-for effect, of this group therapy on its homosexual participants is not made clear. But more important, we are left wondering exactly what forms of behavior by a homosexual will result in his being placed in group therapy for sex criminals. Where is the line drawn? This question goes unanswered.

Certainly many homosexuals are emotionally ill. But so are many heterosexuals. What Mr. Fonzi seems to have missed altogether is the idea that "sickness" does not have so much to do with the sexual orientation as it does with the failure to adjust to it.

As a report on homosexuality in Philadelphia, we would classify "The Furtive Fraternity" much in the same category with "The Sixth Man" by Jess Stearn. We are left with the feeling that both writers are interested and sympathetic, but far too unlearned and new to the complex subject on which they have chosen to write.

- Jody Shotwell

# Take A Good Look

a story by NOLA

"Look in the mirror and see the baby!"

Yes, look at Baby Stevie...see those wondering black eyes and plump cheeks. Whose pale lips softly brush that pretty pink cheek?

Why it's Carol! Your Aunt Carol, whom you've never seen before and may never see again. See her large, strong hands hold you...oh, it's her nose you're after!

Yes, Baby, let's lose ourselves in this ugly gilt-framed mirror above the fake fireplace and shut out the awful cries and sobs we hear in this house. No tears for us! You only cry when you are uncomfortable - and Carol, Auntie Carol, has no tears left. She shed her last ones in this room six years ago.

Only death could have brought your Aunt Carol back to this room. Your Grandma is gone, Funny Face, and that's why I'm holding you. Oh, don't look too deeply into the mirror. Images from the past could be frozen in there.

Images from the past...do they stay locked inside there? Or do they simply fade from the silvered surface as though they had never been?

No - it's there. I can see it! Don't look, Stevie, it's too frightening! But it fascinates you, doesn't it? Yes, it's a man in a rage, shaking with fury. You don't recognize your Grandpa, do you my darling? How could you? Has he ever stood above you with both arms raised, fists clenched, face twisted with loathing?

And who is the tall, dark girl who stands before him trembling, her own fists clenched at her sides? Why it's your Aunt Carol. You can tell by her large hands...too strong for a woman's, too soft for a man's....

Hands...you must be careful about hands, Baby...now you can reach for what you want, but later...be careful. Mine reached for a woman, in love. And that was very bad.

That is why your Grandpa stands above your Aunt Carol, shaking his fists, and your Grandma is crying and trying vainly to grab one of his arms. Grandma is angry at Carol too, but she doesn't want her to be hurt.

And look, Baby - look just past the hideous flowered wallpaper to where the bedroom door is open just a bit. See the girl peering out with wide, frightened eyes as black as yours. Why it's Jenny, your own Mommy, darling...sweet and pretty even with her hair in pin curls. But how frightened she is! She is only 14 and she doesn't understand.

Oh, how her mouth widens in horror and how she flings open the door and rushes into the room and throws herself against Grandpa, desperately trying to grab his other hand.

But the blow falls. Carol seems paralyzed. Perhaps she wants to die. She instinctively recoils a second before the blow gets her at the top of the head. She sways a moment...will she fall? Jenny rushes to her and grabs her and falls sobbing against her shoulder. It is Grandpa who collapses. He drops into his chair and covers his face and his shoulders heave.

You see, he is sorry. He isn't a bad man, Stevie. He is a good man trying to do what is right. He knows right and wrong. A woman's hand mustn't touch another woman in love. But if they do? Life is strange, you see....

And now you know a lot...look deeper into the mirror...look close, right into the black pupils of my eyes until you see another mirror in another room.

Does this room look poor and bare to you, Sweetheart? That's just because you are used to flowered wallpaper and knick-knacks all around the room. Here the pure white wall is broken only by the brown carving you see hanging to the left of the bed. It is a Spanish wood carving of St. Theresa of Avila. That, and the little

blue bowl filled with golden jonquils on the table near the bed, are the only decorations you can see.

Who is that, who suddenly appears in this mirror? Not Carol...no, it's Marian. There she is, Stevie, your only chance to meet her - evil incarnate in a white tennis dress, swinging a tennis racket.

My how evil flourishes! See the sunshine glittering out of her hair as she runs the comb through it. How her strong, white teeth flash in the tanned face as she chatters and laughs!

And here comes Carol - all dressed for tennis too. She grabs Marian's face between her hands and brings her own close to it....

Oh, my sweet little nephew, I wouldn't kid you. This may be our last meeting. Only the truth will do. It isn't all kisses and flowers and sunshine and tennis. What life can be that way? Only I wanted you to visit us and see us at our best, so that if you notice a funny look on their faces sometimes when they mention Aunt Carol you won't think of something black and ugly and frightening.

Enough of mirror-gazing! Here comes your Mommy to take care of you. Notice how she won't look straight into my eyes, unless it is with accusation. She thinks I am to blame for your Grandma's going away so soon. She is no longer 14, and now she too knows what is right and wrong. She thinks I am heartless because I have no more tears.

Good-bye Stevie! I won't be seeing you at Christmas, but sometimes I may send you a present. Don't tell Mommy what we saw in the mirror - but remember it.

"Take him Jenny. My arms are tired."

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## The Heterosexual Component in the Homosexual

DR. HAROLD GREENWALD, ADDRESSING THE NEW YORK MATTACHINE SOCIETY ON JANUARY 9, 1963, LECTURED ON "THE HETEROSEXUAL COMPONENT IN THE HOMOSEXUAL."

DR. GREENWALD CENTERED HIS LECTURE AROUND HIS THEORY THAT SOME HOMOSEXUAL MEN ARE ACTUALLY STRONGLY ATTRACTED TO WOMEN. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SEXUAL IMPULSE MAY HAVE BEEN SO STRONG AT AN EARLY AGE IN THESE MEN THAT THEY BECAME FEARFUL OF THEIR OWN SEX NEEDS. THUS A FEAR OF WOMEN COULD BE ESTABLISHED, LEADING A BOY AT AN EARLY AGE ON HIS JOURNEY TOWARD HOMOSEXUALITY.

DR. GREENWALD POINTED OUT THAT ONE REASON WHY MANY WOMEN ARE ATTRACTED TO HOMOSEXUAL MEN IS THAT THESE MEN WANT TO BE ATTRACTIVE TO WOMEN. THEY HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME AND EFFORT LEARNING HOW TO BE GENTLE AND CONSIDERATE WITH WOMEN, AND ALSO HAVE LEARNED TO SHARE SIMILAR INTERESTS. HE SUGGESTED, TOO, THAT SOME EFFEMINATE MEN, AS A RESULT OF AN EARLY NEED TO BE CLOSER TO WOMEN, TRY TO BECOME "ONE OF THE GIRLS" IN ORDER TO INSURE A CLOSENESS. HE DECLARED THAT IF THERE IS ANY BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOMOSEXUALS AND HETEROSEXUALS, IT IS PROBABLY THAT HOMOSEXUALS ARE MORE SEXUAL.

THE LECTURER IMPRESSED UPON HIS AUDIENCE THE FACT THAT HE HAS NEITHER MET NOR TREATED ALL THE HOMOSEXUALS THAT EXIST; THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL IS UNIQUE; AND THAT PERHAPS THERE ARE AS MANY "CAUSES" OF HOMOSEXUALITY AS THERE ARE HOMOSEXUALS. HE EXPRESSED HIS AMAZEMENT AT THE STRENGTH OF THE SEXUAL IMPULSE AND ITS ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE TO SO MANY DIFFERENT SITUATIONS.

- VERONICA CAS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE REPORTER'S LETTER UNDER "READERS RESPOND.")

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## BLANCHE M. BAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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## PREVIEW OF AN INSIGHT INTO HOMOSEXUALITY-----

IF I WERE ASKED WHAT IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE, DISCERNING, AND IN MY ESTIMATION ACCURATE INSIGHT INTO MALE HOMOSEXUALITY FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF A LAYMAN THAT I HAVE READ TO DATE, I WOULD HIGHLY COMMEND THE ARTICLE BY WILLIAM J. HELMER, "NEW YORK'S 'MIDDLE-CLASS' HOMOSEXUALS" AS APPEARS IN THE MARCH, 1963, ISSUE OF HARPER'S.

AT THIS TIME WE HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORM A PERSONAL CRITICISM OF THIS ARTICLE, AND THEREFORE WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER OUR READERS PORTIONS OF A CRITIQUE OFFERED BY STUART HARRIS, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR OF HARPER'S, SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE AN INKING OF THE CONTENTS THEREIN.

"BECAUSE THEY ARE MUCH CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN POSITION IN THE COMMUNITY, THEY DRAW DISTINCTIONS AMONG THEMSELVES WHICH ARE TOO SUBTLE TO BE REFLECTED IN POLICE RECORDS OR PSYCHIATRIC STUDIES OF THE ISOLATED INDIVIDUAL."

"WHAT I SAW AND HEARD OF PARTY LIFE AND BAR LIFE LEFT WITH ME THE IMPRESSION HOMOSEXUALS, AT LEAST IN THOSE CIRCLES, ARE OFTEN QUITE LONELY PEOPLE WHO SURROUND THEMSELVES WITH FRIENDS AND STAY CONTINUALLY AMUSED. SOME HAVE VIRTUALLY NO HETEROSEXUAL FRIENDS, SERIOUS INTERESTS OR EVEN OUTSIDE DIVERSIONS, OR LONG-RANGE GOALS. THEY ARE CONTENT TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES THROUGH LOW-PAYING WHITE-COLLAR JOBS, AND OTHERWISE ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE INTRICACIES OF CLIQUISH, COMPETITIVE GAY SOCIETY."

"A COLORFUL - BUT NOT NECESSARILY SEXUAL - EVENT IN THE GAY WORLD IS THE 'DRAG PARTY' TO WHICH GUESTS MAY COME DRESSED AS WOMEN. UNLIKE GENUINE TRANSVESTITISM, HOWEVER, SUCH MASQUERADING IS OFTEN DONE AS A TITILLATING JOKE, THE IDEA BEING TO DRESS LIKE A RIDICULOUS PARODY OF THE FEMALE IN ORDER TO HUMOROUSLY EXAGGERATE ONE'S PERVERSION."

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE RELEASE AS OFFERED US BY MR. STUART HARRIS ON FEB. 28, AND SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE READERS OF THIS COLUMN WILL AVAIL THEMSELVES AS A RESULT OF THIS PREVIEW TO BUY THE MARCH ISSUE OF HARPER'S. IN OUR NEXT ISSUE WE WILL REVIEW FROM OUR VIEWPOINT IN HOPES THAT IT WILL MEET THE EYE OF ALL, REPEAT, ALL, OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

- JAYE BELL, NATIONAL PRESIDENT



# READERS RESPOND

"I WISH TO CHALLENGE DR. GREENWALD'S IDEA (EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE REPORT ON PAGE 22) THAT THE SEX IMPULSE IS VERY STRONG AND CAN ACCOMMODATE ITSELF TO MANY SITUATIONS. I CAN BELIEVE IN HIS POINT OF VIEW, BUT I CAN ALSO BELIEVE IN ITS APPARENT OPPOSITE. I SUGGEST THAT THE SEXUAL IMPULSE IS WEAK AND STRUCTURELESS; THAT IT IS ONLY ONE OF MANY MECHANISMS RESORTED TO, DIRECTED BY, EVEN ALLOWED OR DISALLOWED BY MUCH STRONGER, MORE BASIC, MORE ESSENTIAL EMOTIONAL NEEDS AND DESIRES.

"CONTINUING IN AWARENESS OF WHAT DR. GREENWALD HAS SAID, A QUESTION COMES TO MIND. IF IT IS SO THAT IN SOME MEN FEMININITY IS INDICATIVE OF AN EARLY AND STRONG HETEROSEXUAL NEED TO BE CLOSE TO WOMEN, THEN IS IT NOT ALSO TRUE THAT IN SOME MEN A GREAT AMOUNT OF MASCULINITY IS INDICATIVE OF AN EARLY AND STRONG HOMOSEXUAL NEED TO BE CLOSE TO MEN? HAVE SOME VERY MASCULINE MEN CHOSEN AND PRACTICED TO BE "ONE OF THE BOYS," BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT MANLY AT ALL?

"IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT DR. GREENWALD DID NOT SPEAK OF LESBIANS. HOWEVER, DURING HIS LECTURE I COULD NOT HELP RECALLING HOW OFTEN I'VE HEARD THE MORE MASCULINE LESBIANS SAY, "WHEN I WAS YOUNG I WAS ONE OF THE BOYS. EVEN NOW I GET ALONG BETTER WITH MEN. MEN AND I SEEM TO HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON."

- VERONICA CAS

\* \* \* \* \*

"HOW ABOUT SOME GAY-ETY IN THE LADDER? MOODS OF TRAGEDY, TENSE REFLECTION, OR ANGER IMBUE SO MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN THE MAGAZINE. PROBABLY THE LITTLE HUMOR THE EDITOR RECEIVES IS WEAK OR BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF GOOD TASTE. A GOOD-NATURED LAUGH AT OURSELVES - OR EVEN A LIGHT TOUCH TO A SERIOUS SUBJECT - WOULD BE JOYOUSLY WELCOMED HERE AND NO DOUBT BY OTHER READERS. WE HOPE TO WORK SOMETIME ON A FLUFF-AND-NONSENSE SHORT STORY FOR YOU!"

- B. AND K., PENNSYLVANIA

WHO IS FOOLING WHOM? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE PAPER-BACK PUBLISHERS? ARE THEY PUTTING OUT SO-CALLED NOVELS THESE DAYS THAT ARE COMPLETE FICTION, OR DO THEY REALLY BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE PORTRAYING THE "OTHER" SEX HONESTLY WHEN THEY PUBLISH BOOKS OF SUPPOSED LESBIANA?

THE FIRST BOOKS I EVER READ WITH LESBIAN THEMES - LONG BEFORE I KNEW ANY LESBIANS MYSELF - WERE "THE PRICE OF SALT" AND "WELL OF LONELINESS." THEY, FROM MY LATER KNOWLEDGE, PROVED HONEST. BUT APART FROM THE SERIES OF PAPERBACKS BY ANN BANNON, ABOUT BEEBO BRINKER AND HER CROWD, HAVE ANY LESBIAN BOOKS REALLY PORTRAYED THE CROSS-SECTION OF AVERAGE LIVES SO MANY LESBIANS LEAD?

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF AURA ABOUT THE MERE IMPLICATION THAT A BOOK HAS A LESBIAN THEME OR CHARACTER WHICH - TO SOME PUBLISHERS - GUARANTEES ITS ACCEPTANCE AND SALE. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS TRUE. THE CURIOSITY OF THE LOWEST TYPE OF PORNOGRAPHIC MIND, AS WELL AS THE MOST IGNORANT, PLAYS RIGHT INTO THESE SALES ANGLES AND BRINGS OUT NOT ONLY A CONSTANT FLOW OF SO-CALLED LESBIANA, BUT ALSO A FLOW OF BOOKS IMPLYING LESBIANIC CONTENT ON THE COVER BLURB, BUT WITHOUT A TRACE OF IT IN THE BOOK ITSELF.

PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES AUTHORS OF LESBIANA, WHO ACCEPT EXISTENCE IN THE LESBIAN WORLD ONLY TO DECRY IT AND POUR OUT THEIR PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENTS IN SO-CALLED LITERATURE. THESE AUTHORS ARE THE TRAITORS TO THEIR OWN TWISTED LIVES, WHO MAKE OF LESBIAN EXISTENCE THE TORMENT THAT OTHER WRITERS BELIEVE IS THE COMMON OCCURRENCE.

I READ THE LADDER ALL THE TIME, AND I KNOW THE MOANINGS OF DISAPPOINTMENT OR FRUSTRATION NOT ONLY FROM ITS READERS AND MY FRIENDS, BUT FROM MY OWN PAST LIFE. BUT RATHER THAN DECRY LESBIANISM, I ADMIT THAT IT IS LIKE ANYTHING ELSE THAT COMES INTO YOUR LIFE - EITHER FOR YOU, OR NOT FOR YOU. BECAUSE YOU DO NOT LIKE OLIVES, DOES THAT MEAN THAT OTHERS CANNOT ENJOY THEM? AND BECAUSE YOU, AS A LESBIAN, MIGHT BE EMBITTERED, DOES THAT MEAN OTHER LESBIANS CANNOT BE HAPPY AND FULFILLED?

I AM TIRED OF READING BOOKS OF TRAGEDY ABOUT LESBIANISM. I AM TIRED OF PUBLISHERS WHO BELIEVE THEY CAN PUT OUT A BOOK FILLED WITH THE MOST PORNOGRAPHIC INTERLUDES BETWEEN TWO WOMEN, IF AT THE END OF THE BOOK THEY PROVE THAT THIS BROUGHT THEM BOTH INTO

HELL AND DAMNATION. AND MOST OF ALL, I AM TIRED OF LESBIAN THEMES - REAL OR IMPLIED - IN BOOKS. I AM NOT TIRED OF THEM IN REAL LIFE - IF THE PERSONS MAKING THEM REAL BELIEVE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OF LIFE FOR THEM.

THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER AUTHOR BESIDES ANN BANNON WHO HONESTLY PORTRAYS THE LESBIAN LIFE - WHEN SHE IS PERMITTED TO. THAT IS PAULA CHRISTIAN. BUT EVEN SHE HAS ERRED ON OCCASION BECAUSE OF AN EDITOR'S NEED FOR A FAST POT-BOILER TO PORTRAY THE LESBIAN VERSION OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT. THEN A HARD-COVER WRITER LIKE HAN SUYIN COMMITS THE (TO ME) UNPARDONABLE SIN OF PORTRAYING A LESBIAN RELATIONSHIP OF MISERY AND RECRIMINATION IN "TWO LOVES."

DON'T THE PEOPLE WHO READ ABOUT LESBIANS KNOW THAT EMOTIONS ARE THE SAME, THE STORIES THE SAME, WITH JUST THE CHARACTERS DIFFERENT? "AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY" BY DREISER COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN ABOUT TWO WOMEN, INSTEAD OF A MAN AND A WOMAN, AND THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED PORNOGRAPHY, THE STORY OF A DEGENERATE, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WHO IS FOOLING WHOM BY PRETENDING THAT THE PUBLIC IS SO BROAD-MINDED THESE DAYS THAT IT WANTS AND ACCEPTS STORIES OF LESBIAN OR ANY OTHER FORM OF OFF-BEAT LOVE? THE PUBLIC IS NO MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN, BUT IT IS BECOMING BETTER INFORMED. I HAVE NEVER BEEN AS HUMILIATED IN MY LIFE AS WHEN A PUBLISHER CALLED ME FOR A REVIEW OF A LESBIAN BOOK (WHICH I REFUSED) AND ASKED ME TO TELL HIM "JUST BETWEEN US, OF COURSE" HOW A LESBIAN MAKES LOVE. I DON'T THINK HE LIKED MY ANSWER. "A LESBIAN MAKES LOVE WITH HER HEART!" - WHICH IS THE ONLY WAY ANYONE CAN MAKE LOVE. OF COURSE, IF HE MEANT - HOW DO LESBIANS GO TO BED WITH EACH OTHER, I COULD HAVE GIVEN HIM A DIFFERENT ANSWER - "CENSORED!" - AND THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN CORRECT, TOO.

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THERE WILL BE NO BARRIERS TO ANSWERS. AND YET, NO ANSWER CAN SATISFY THE PORNOGRAPHER, OR THE SEX-HUNGRY. THEY ARE THE ONES FOR WHOM MOST LESBIAN BOOKS ARE WRITTEN. AND FOR THAT REASON, THESE BOOKS SHOULD BE STOPPED BEFORE ALL THE FREUDIAN ILLS ARE BLAMED - NOT ON COMIC BOOKS - BUT ON LESBIAN LITERATURE.

- NEVA MOORE



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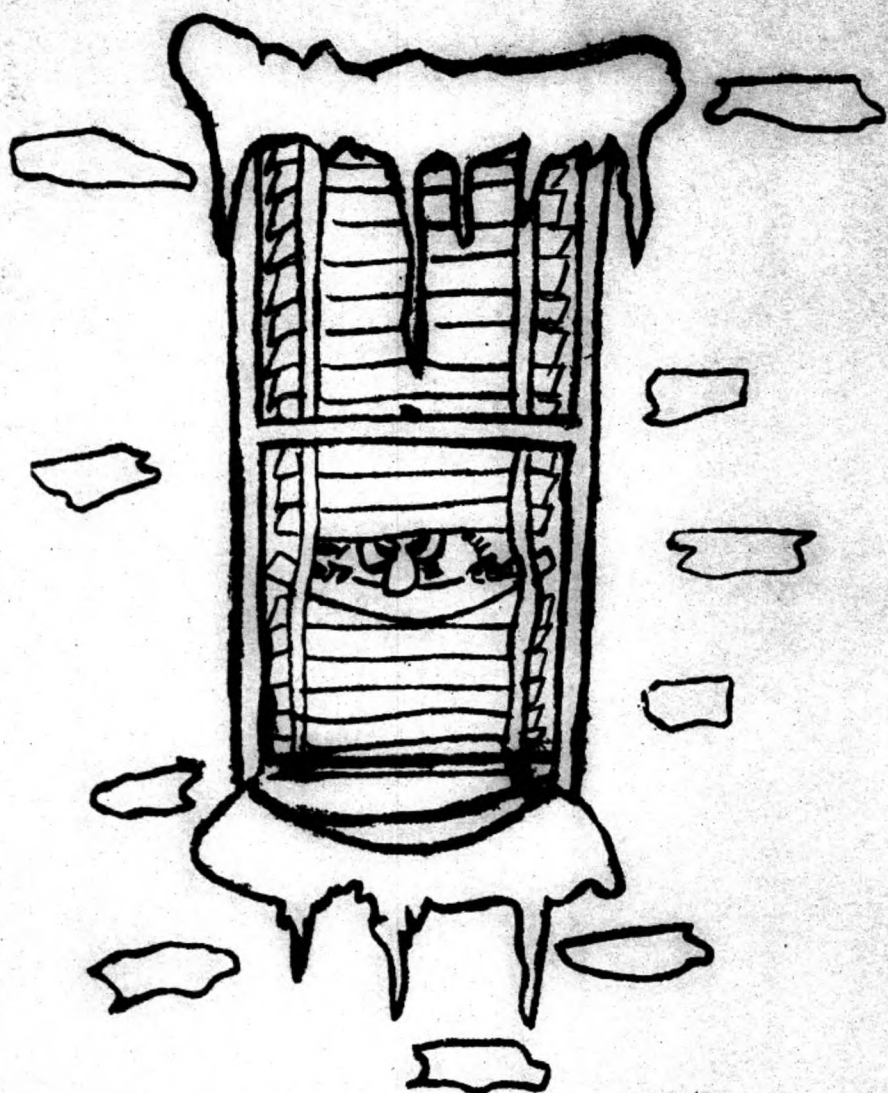
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Out the window I AM PEEKING -  
It's the MAILMAN I AM SEEKING;  
And each minute I GET Madder,  
For today should come THE LADDER!