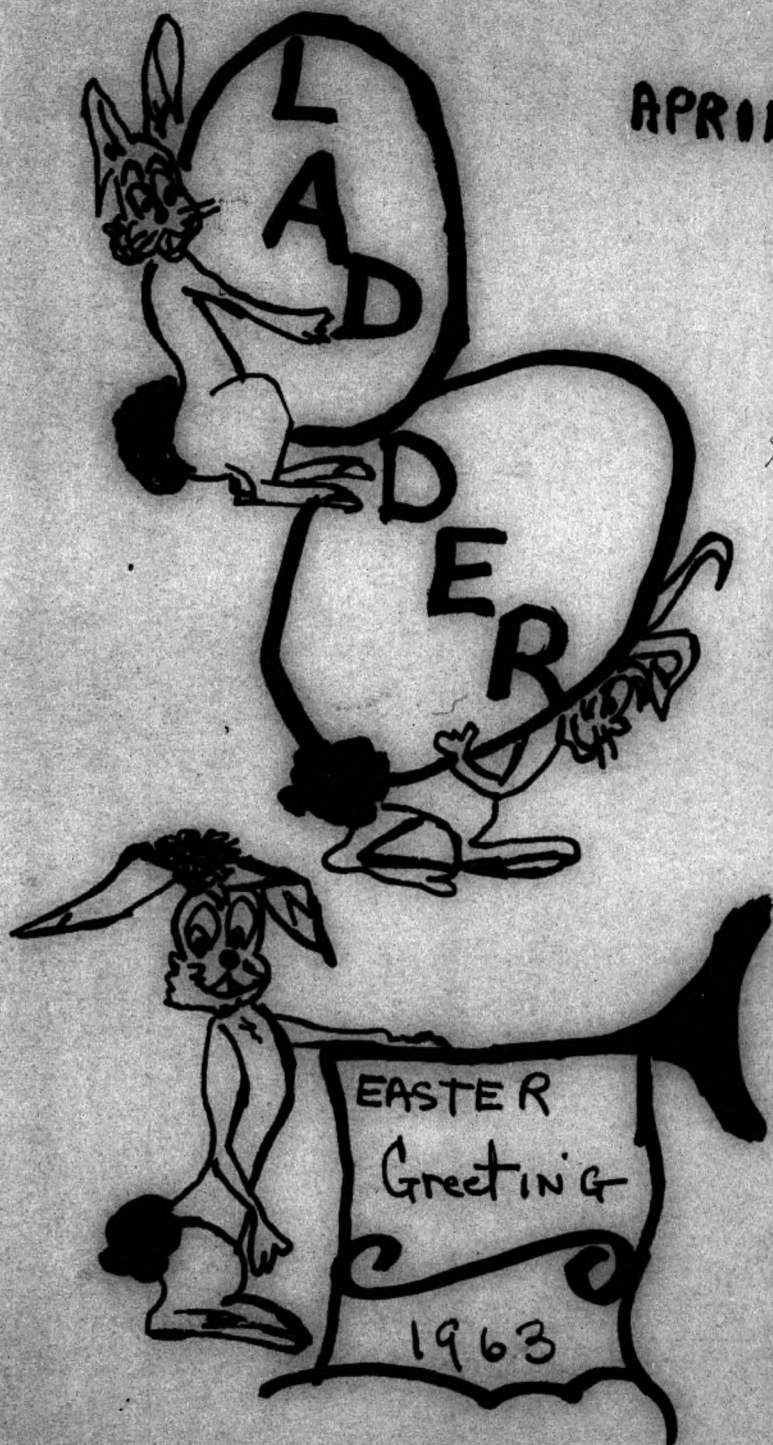


APRIL





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

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COVER BY CODY

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the Gay Bourgeoisie

A REVIEW OF WILLIAM J. HELMER'S ARTICLE "NEW YORK'S
'MIDDLE-CLASS' HOMOSEXUALS" IN HARPER'S, MARCH 1963

by G. Desmannes

An 8-page article in HARPER'S is something rather different from an 8-page article in most other publications. HARPER'S selected (and selective) readers are, with apologies to SATURDAY EVENING POST, properly "the influentials." Accordingly, to come upon a feature story with the above title, not only appearing in that distinguished magazine but announced in large print on the cover, signals a new receptivity among educated Americans toward public airing of the subject of homosexuality. Would it have been thinkable even a very few years ago? Would it have been thinkable last year?

William Helmer writes with the true objectivity and the capable but unobtrusive style of the good reporter. His reasoned and courteous language, his abjuring of "loaded" words, is a far cry from the tone of such journalists as the late Lee Mortimer and others, who can scarcely be absolved of the charge that they do not wish to understand but only to sneer. Mr. Helmer's frankness inspires confidence that he is a secure man:

My reaction to the unusual sight of men embracing each other on the dance floor was one more of curiosity than aversion, probably because the dancers appeared so casual and others in the room so indifferent.

If there were more heterosexuals so immune to "homosexual panic," the homosexual could expect earlier acceptance than society is likely to grant.

The quotation marks around "middle-class" in the title indicate that Mr. Helmer is writing of the homosexual's own middle class. Like the absence of quotation marks around the word gay throughout the article, this use is symbolic: dare we believe that society has grown

sufficiently familiar with the true nature of homosexuality to have begun freeing itself from the rigid simplifications of the past? So there are distinctions within the world of the homosexual, the author would seem to say - nay, there is even that last infirmity of a "mature" society, a stratified class structure! And the use of gay is no longer confined to homosexuals themselves plus a few of their sophisticated heterosexual friends. Gay needs no quotation marks because it needs no explanation. Unlike such words as "camp," "trade," and "straight," gay has now been graduated from the level of homosexual jargon. Perhaps this fact is evidence of some measure of progress toward "acceptance."

Mr. Helmer, a former Texan, pictures the New York male homosexual bourgeoisie as "a gay community with a social structure specially adapted to homosexual needs." To be sure, this structure contains elements not found in the broader "middle class"; e.g., gay bars, a more permissive attitude toward promiscuity. But within this structure the middle-class homosexual, like any other bourgeois, tends to be narrow, conformist, materialist, and - despite loudly expressed opinion to the contrary - uncreative.

Some of Mr. Helmer's observations may assuredly be old hat to homosexuals themselves, particularly to those who have dutifully attend meetings of homophile organizations. Yet it is precisely such points, no doubt obvious to the reflective homosexual, that may be most profitably reiterated for the cultivated readers of a magazine like HARPER'S. If it is sometimes advisable to feed a best-foot-forward philosophy to the general public, let us not lose faith in the efficacy of the whole truth. And, in fact, much of Mr. Helmer's article presents a fairly favorable picture of the homosexual: the relative scarcity of orgies in homosexual social life; the distinction between true transvestism and the uproarious "dressing up" of the drag party; the fact that impersonator entertainment caters primarily to heterosexual tourists, that homosexual parties often are "sedate evenings of drinking, talking, and listening to music," and that there is "no inherent connection between homosexuality and pathology." The article cites Dr. Evelyn Hooker's renowned 1957 experiment ("The Adjustment of the Overt Male Homosexual") in which 30 well-adjusted homosexuals and 30 well-adjusted

heterosexuals emerged with no perceptible difference in "adjustment rating." The reader is reminded that psychiatrists and the police are likely to deal with none but disturbed homosexuals and hence draw their conclusions from these alone; that male prostitutes frequently are true homosexuals who refuse to face the fact, and reinforce their masculinity by robbing and beating their sexual partners; that "there is a fairly wide consensus that adjustment to homosexuality is sometimes preferable to attempts at cure; that Brooklyn Heights is, in the author's happy phrase, "a kind of homosexual suburbia popular with 'young marrieds.'" The "marrieds" are, presumably, gay couples.

Mr. Helmer quotes Freud's famous letter to a despairing mother ("Homosexuality is assuredly no advantage, but it is nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation, it cannot be classified as an illness"). He declares without condescension that "a few" homosexuals "seek to elevate their relationships to an idealized level - the ultimate spiritual union between two faithful lovers in what they conceive to be the classic Greek tradition." Most homosexuals, he tells us, disapprove strongly of child molesting, transvestism, fetishism, violent sex crimes of all types, and sado-masochists ("sadie-masies"). Such aberrations are characterized as "sick" behavior beside which "normal" homosexuality appears almost robust.

The temptation to quote abundantly from the article is well-nigh irresistible, especially when Mr. Helmer springs an uncomfortable truth. His observation of homosexual glitter inspires unhappily accurate paragraphs:

What I saw and heard of party life and bar life left me with the impression that the homosexuals, at least in those circles, are often quite lonely people who need to surround themselves with friends and stay continually amused.

A passage on hypocrisy is sure to produce a salutary squirm or two:

It should be kept in mind that homosexuals, like heterosexuals, do not always practice what they preach. Engaging a prostitute, extreme effeminism, associating with various "undesirables," accepting money, indiscreet "cruising" in public, and so on, are practices generally frowned upon in polite gay

society, although an individual may well indulge in them when his friends aren't looking.

Nor is the author taken in by the claim that homosexuals display unusual competence in their professions:

For the most part...the homosexuals of the gay community are not notably successful people by the standards of the outer world. If they are gifted professionals or artists, for example, they will usually find their way to more complex and interesting homosexual, and mixed, milieus, and their lives will seldom center in gay society.

Certain statements in the article surprised at least this reviewer. We are told (it could be true, of course,) that about twenty Manhattan bars cater exclusively to homosexuals and twice as many are "mixed"; that "hundreds of gay parties take place during a New York weekend and the homosexual can usually find one open to him"; that "blatant effeminism seems to be more prevalent among homosexuals of the lower socio-economic classes; if so, it may be that such men are more distressed by their loss of masculinity and less able to reach an intelligent understanding of it, and thus are more inclined to exhibit abnormal behavior." This last is a fascinating bit of sociology that deserves further exploration.

The treatment of female homosexuality is brief, as usual. The D.O.B. is mentioned respectfully, along with like-minded organizations interested in serious study of homosexuality ("the New Pressure Groups"). But all of the author's informants were apparently male. "Lesbians have their own bars," we read, "but they are fewer in number than those patronized by male homosexuals and somewhat more obvious because all the customers are female, and at least some of them are 'butch' lesbians, made conspicuous by their short hair, manly clothes, and generally tomboyish appearance." A fair statement?

The last sentence of this satisfying article reads: "Our society has been quick to adopt defensive and mocking attitudes toward homosexuals and painfully slow to acquire a humane and mature understanding of their condition." If the writing reveals the man, Mr. Helmer shows himself incontrovertible, both humane and mature.

Variant Poetry

by Terri Cook and Lennox Strang

Since the time of Sappho, a number of poets both male and female have written of Lesbian love. Some have been so specific physically that to render them into English verse would invite censorship. However, it has long been accepted that women for the most part do not have as intense a sex drive as men. This is a probable explanation for the prevalence of variant poetry which celebrates intense degrees of love between women without alluding to physical expression. Of the many women poets who have included beautiful and touching examples of inter-feminine love in their poetry, we have chosen nine poets of widely varying literary quality whose poetry is reasonably easy to obtain, either to purchase or read at your local library. These nine women do not cover by any means all of the available variant poetry; the list could have run to twenty or more.

Our first subject, Louise Labe, a lyric French poet of the 1600's, included unmistakable variant touches in her verse. She was undoubtedly bisexual in her later years but those lyrics which came from her late teens and early twenties often spoke lovingly of other women.

Our next poet, Emily Bronte, is considered an emotional enigma and perhaps she is, but to any student of variant literature, her poetry is interesting reading. Two of her poems, "I Knew Not 'Twas So Dire A Crime To Say The Word Adieu" and "Light Up Thy Halls--And Think Not Of Me," are clearly poems of passionate reproach to a faithless feminine lover. Others in this same sequence of poems tell a story of love awakening, burning and dying in all too short a time.

Adah Isaacs Menken was a flamboyant actress, poet and dancer of the late 1800's. She lived so chaotic a life that no two biographies entirely agree on the facts. She left for us one volume of poetry entitled Infelicia and died at age 33. "A strikingly handsome woman who possessed a man's mind," says one of her biographers. Some of the poems addressed to women in Infelicia are variant and

they contrast sharply with her bitter poems denouncing men for harshness, etc.

Michael Field is the pseudonym of two Englishwomen who lived together all of their lives, and they were apparently far closer than their contemporaries realized. Most of their most recent biographies allude to the Lesbian passion between them. A large number of the poems in their many volumes bear this theory out completely.

Emily Dickinson, honored now as one of the best poets of all time, is a proud addition to the lists of variant poetry. Her emotional relationship with Kate Scott Anthon is carefully documented by Dr. Rebecca Patterson in The Riddle of Emily Dickinson, Houghton 1951. Many of Emily Dickinson's poems are clearly addressed to a woman and vary from deep desire to resigned loneliness.

Amy Lowell, vigorous cigar-smoking American poet, possessed a masculine mind trapped in an ungainly fat body. Her variant poems are impassioned and touched with hopelessness. She undoubtedly spent her life desiring what she could not obtain and consequently left ample written record of her futile passions - a tragedy for her but a rich reward for the reader.

Rose O'Neill was a pagan spirit in the variant world. She lived a wild undisciplined life and her fame rests on her "Kewpie Dolls," a silly fad of the early 1900's. A novelist as well as a poet, she has variant touches in some of her novels and specific Lesbian scenes in her novel The Goblin Woman. However, her inclusion here is due to her one volume of serious verse entitled The Master-Mistress, the title of which comes from the Shakespeare sonnet most often spoken of as dealing with male homosexuality. The Master-Mistress contains a number of variant poems and one overtly Lesbian poem entitled "A Dream Of Sappho."

This next poet, Edna St. Vincent Millay, is perhaps one of the best examples of the muted, wholly feminine emotion which grows between women only. A thorough reading of all the existing poetry of Miss Millay is one of the most exciting ways to run the gamut of possible emotions. She breathed the joy and sorrow of all life and love into

every line and she included many poems of love addressed to women. Apparently she had at least three intense attachments to other women during her life. None of these specifically alludes to physical passion expressed, but all of these inter-feminine poems have clearly variant touches. (Her poetic drama, The Lamp and The Bell, has as basic plot an intense friendship between two young women in a segregated college.) Regrettably, some of her later work has been withheld from publication by surviving relatives. One cannot help wondering why.

Some of the early poetry by contemporary imagist poet Hilda Doolittle (H. D.) is somewhat Lesbian in tone-- notably the poems in Red Roses For Bronze, London 1931.

The eight women poets listed above are all reasonably well-known and some are assured a place in the rolls of literary history. Too often the current poet is overlooked and ignored, and fame comes only late in life or after death. With this in mind the authors wish to list as the ninth poet a living creative artist who is virtually unknown although her work has beauty and economy and all of those nuances which separate the mediocre poet from the great poet.

Our final poet, Alicia Kay Smith, an American poet now residing on the West Coast, has contributed one of the most lyric volumes of variant verse to the world. Her slim volume entitled Only In Whispers clearly celebrates the love of woman for woman and within its covers economically and artistically gives the story of an emotional affair between two women. One of the poems from this chronological sequence seems a most fitting ending to this discussion of variant poetry:

IDENTITY

Read to me the poem I love:
The one we found that rainy night
When first I saw the firelight
Touch curls upon your brow;
Read of those who love,
But find their starlight
Deep in wells, as we do now.

1974 - AN ORWELLIAN FANTASY

by Barbara Stephens

Fog and neon lights danced a frantic jazz beneath the staring leer of Big Brother. Now grinning, now frowning, unseen wires jerked the puppet-people in response to his gleam. Though the mist wove in a softness, the Billboard saw all, knew all in the square.

Little Pip staggered up, struggling under the load of the evening daily. "Extra! Extra!" he yelled. "Read the latest Party Pad--all about the green-haired gals!"

The young couple stopped and gazed. "Hmmm, what's in the line--what's in the line?" Lee murmured. "Yep, I'll buy one, Pip."

Joan gazed nostalgically at the distance. "It makes me think back. Remember the old Manchester Guardian, the Observer? Now, only this."

"Yeah, the daily Party Pad, it's the most! Sick, sick, sick!"

Big Brother frowned, icicles darting cold blue fire at the couple.

"Yeah, the most," Lee smiled. "The greatest in stylectics...Paternalism is the way!" And Big Brother grinned back.

The shooting booths resounded on the far side of the square. The masses surged in waves, eager for their turn at the cardboard puppets. Now bounding, now falling: professor and politician, freak, clown, and gree-haired gal moved in mannikin rows across the sighting line.

Well, let's see what P.P. has to say about green-haired gals. They're still underground, I hear. Don't blame them. Oh, oh, let's move over, Joan. Those snoopophones are everywhere."

The far booth, away from the speaker, emptied for a moment; and the couple moved in. The cardboard figure-heads filed by: a dime a shot to mow them down, now that sniping was the opiate of the people.

"They're almost human," Lee said. "Of course, I wouldn't know. There aren't enough characters around for us to know them. Or could we know them from the stencils we see presented? Party Pad never lies, so what's in the line, Joan?"

"Well, P. P. says a den has been sighted over in Soho. Undercover men are searching for strands of green under the black dye they use. I wonder, do they really have green hair?"

"Of course they do! You can tell 'em by the way they walk, the way they look at you. And man, listen to how one talk! All this jazz on love, friendship, and beauty, and that jingo on the 'Lisbon way'".

"Uh huh, darling--and so many slip the border to the far shore that there's something sweet in the state of Lisbon!"

Sweet, sweet, piercing sweet, Lee thought, like silver music on a cold night's air. And the wind breathes a dark secret hope, old as the strange unbridled will that upsurges against bolts and bars, new as the perennial look to the future.

"Now, darling, your shot now. Big Brother's watching us. Ready, aim--"

"But why? I seem to see all the past before me--ghosts now, puppets I once knew as human beings..."

"Shhh, honey. That talk! Masses and proles, you know, not humans. Remember. There was a time when Lisbon was the growing trend of the day--and the fires of zeal waxed sweet in the dark lofts of the way. Yet now comes the time when deviationists are the bane of the earth, and each sees the other for the mote in his eye. For everyone may be strange but me and thee, and at times I think thee strange, too, my love."

"Oh yes, as long as--- Well, we've shot our quota now--the hate-drill's over. I think Big Brother's happy, so we can go now."

"Let's!" And off they went into the night, the cool chill air, and the fog that restores identity to the mass splintered being.

They moved from the throng into the open. Dark alleys yawned beneath the squalid houses. The wind moaned, weaving a fantastic minuet of papers up the black cobbled ways. And the bleak billboard was swallowed in the distance, an unhappy creature, far away.

"Yes, we can go now, for a quiet evening with the paper. A fireside night away from the farce, the mockery of the world. And yet I wonder, I wonder... Have they ever found the green-haired gals?"

"No. I don't think they ever will."

"Well, never as long as they view the masses in grey-tinted lenses." And they dreamed in the strange old ways, past harbor, docks and ghostly warehouses. For the waves flow deep in the wells of compassion, and the sea goes on in the dark surge of the future. And together, companions, lovers:

"Honey, I like the color of your hair!"

"And yours too, mmmm so---"

"Green, so delightfully green!"

AWAKENING

She awakes alone to a sterile dawn...
Her wretched being must rise to greet
A twisted, loathesome, desert world,
Wherein lovers...may not meet.

-JC

Cross - Currents

"SEX IS NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL - IT IS A FACT OF NATURE." THIS STATEMENT APPEARS IN A STUDY CALLED "TOWARDS A QUAKER VIEW OF SEX." THE STUDY - CONDUCTED BY CHURCH ELDERS, PSYCHIATRISTS, TEACHERS, AN ATTORNEY, AND A HOUSEWIFE - IS INTENDED TO STIMULATE THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION ON THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES' ATTITUDES TOWARD SEX. WHILE IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL QUAKER DOCUMENT, THE SOCIETY HELPED FINANCE THE PUBLICATION IN ENGLAND IN THE BELIEF THAT THE RESULTING CONTROVERSY WOULD BE A HEALTHY THING. THE REPORT REJECTS THE TRADITIONAL CHURCH VIEW "WITH ITS SUPPOSITION THAT IT KNOWS PRECISELY WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG THAT THIS DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE IN TERMS OF AN EXTERNAL PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR AND THAT THE GREATEST GOOD WILL COME ONLY THROUGH UNIVERSAL ADHERENCE..." THE STUDY PROPOUNDS THAT A MORALITY WHICH CONDEMNS HOMOSEXUALS IS NOT CHRISTIAN BECAUSE IT LACKS COMPASSION. "ONE SHOULD NO MORE DEPLORE HOMOSEXUALITY THAN LEFT-HANDEDNESS."

* * * * *

"THE PRICE OF SALT," A LESBIAN NOVEL WHICH HAS PASSED THE MILLION MARK IN SALES, IS IN THE PLANNING STAGE AS A MOTION PICTURE. IT IS HOPED THAT LANA TURNER WILL STAR.

* * * * *

ATTENTION NEW YORKERS! THE NEW YORK POST IS PUBLISHING A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON "SEX AND THE LAW." TWO OF THE ARTICLES WILL BE CONCERNED WITH HOMOSEXUALITY, AND ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE WILL COME OUT "STRONGLY FOR LEGAL REFORM".

* * * * *

"WATCH FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE (ON THE STANDS IN JUNE!) OF ESCAPE-MAGAZINE. IT WILL CONTAIN AN INTERVIEW WITH EIGHT LESBIANS, BASED ON A TAPE RECORDING DONE FOR A NEW YORK RADIO STATION.

* * * * *

THE PHILADELPHIA F. B. I. OFFICE RECENTLY HELD A SERIES OF THREE LECTURES ON PROBLEMS ARISING FROM HOMOSEXUALITY AND CHILD MOLESTATION. THE LECTURES ARE FOR PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICERS..

* * * * *

MRS. LEE R. STEINER, PSYCHOLOGIST AND MARRIAGE COUNSELOR, WOULD LIKE TO HEAR COMMENTS FROM LADDER READERS ON HER COLUMN IN THE APRIL 1963 ISSUE OF TRUE LOVE MAGAZINE. THE CASE DESCRIBED CONCERNS A LESBIAN DEPRIVED OF HER CHILD.

* * * * *

NUGGET MAGAZINE CURRENTLY FEATURES AN ARTICLE BY DAN WAKEFIELD (AUTHOR OF "ISLAND IN THE CITY") BASED ON A TOUR OF NEW YORK GAY BARS.

* * * * *

HOMOPHILE GROUPS ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD ARE WORKING ON A FALL 1963 CONFERENCE OF EAST COAST HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FOCUSING PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE MONTHLY PLANNING MEETINGS ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC., THE JANUS SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA, AND MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D. C. THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN PHILADELPHIA OVER THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND, IN CLOSE CONCERT WITH THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION WHICH IS ALSO CONVENING AT THAT TIME IN PHILADELPHIA.

* * * * *

THE NEW TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES, MRS. KATHRYN GRANAHAN, IS CONTINUING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY FOR WHICH SHE BECAME NOTED AS A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS. WHEN SHE TOLD GOVERNOR HUGHES OF NEW JERSEY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THERE IS A COMMUNIST PLOT IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SMUTTY MATERIAL IN THE U. S., THE GOVERNOR COMMENTED: "I'VE ALWAYS ASSUMED MONEY IS THE DRIVING FORCE /IN SMUT PEDDLING/." . . . MRS. GRANAHAN KNOWS HER OWN MIND: "IT'S VERY STRANGE TO ME THAT THESE MEN ON THE SUPREME COURT FIND A DEFINITION OF OBSCENITY SO DIFFICULT. TO ME IT'S A VERY SIMPLE THING."

S.D. SAVAGE DIATRIBE ON SEX DEVIATES

by Sidney R venswood

A series of articles and columns attacking the sexual deviate has been appearing in the Los Angeles newspaper CITIZEN-NEWS, metropolitan edition, during the months of January and February 1963.

The two people heading the campaign are editor-publisher David B. Heyler, in his front-page column "From the Desk of Dave Heyler," and a reporter, Carol Collins, who uses large screaming headlines such as: NEED SD LAWS, SD'S CODDLED, and REDS USE SD'S. While it is obvious both writers aim to be sensational, to draw attention to their weak little paper and to capitalize on the daring subject which they are both handling in the guise of enraged civic virtue, the over-all attack is deliberately vicious when it attempts to arouse the public to change existing legislation and to deprive the sexual deviate of freedom of assembly and freedom to conduct a business.

In a four-point program in the issue of February 8, Dave Heyler suggests in his column among other things: 1. (b) the legislature must strengthen the abatement and liquor laws to permit and invite the closing of places obviously catering to this trade. (c) the Legislature must return to local police entities authority pre-empted by the State in these cases. 2. Co-operation of the local Health Boards and Building and Safety Departments in rigid enforcement of ordinances in all such places of assembly... 4. A formula of treatment by the enforcement and judicial branches should be laid down so that regardless of the court, equal justice for equal violation would occur. First offense if not aggravated or not involving juveniles, suitable fine and/or short jail term, and no registration. Second offense, minimum jail term of 30 days, registration as an SD, three-year parole requiring SD to stay out of obvious SD hangouts and away from known SDs... his work limited to non-Juvenile activities and he agrees

to psychiatric help during parole period. Third offense, commitment to psychiatric hospital for the mentally ill until it is determined he can live safely within society."

While Mr. Heyler and Carol Collins have enlisted the interest and in some cases the support of public officials in their drive against "SD", it is fairly evident that few are committed to the ways or the program of the CITIZEN-NEWS. The statements of the mayor, the district attorney, and several judges quoted in the paper, are the kind of remarks one would expect from any official on a pressing subject: "It needs action, but we don't know what." However, Mr. Heyler has stirred up a Republican Assemblyman from Sherman Oaks district, Charles J. Conrad, to introduce a bill, after reading reports of increased homosexual activity in Hollywood, to amend the prostitution laws to extend coverage to males as well as females. On the surface such a change might be legitimate. What does arouse me is that the publisher, because of his friendships and influence in the community and apparently in politics, has spurred the county law enforcement officers to seek a "sweeping review of all laws for the control of the sex deviates." This seems to me to be the hasty expression of authority of the worst sort, resulting often in the passage of unfair and punitive laws.

Also evident in the writings of Dave Heyler during this campaign is a basic viciousness well illustrated by the following from the CITIZEN-NEWS issue of February 7: "We are after the so-called 'legitimate' bars and businesses who knowingly cater to this ilk for their own personal profit, and at the expense of the good businessman and the community...if we printed the filth and degradation of the tapes we and the police department have made...if we reprinted articles and advertising carried in the several newspapers and magazines printed solely for the SD... our kids and young men are subject to taint and worse in practically every community in Southern California and positively in every recreational park...when the largest concentration of male prostitutes in Southern California has been within one block of the Hollywood YMCA and almost adjacent to Hollywood High School..." This blanket indictment of the innocent and the guilty, this attack on the right to maintain a business and to meet and assemble peacefully, this assault on the L.C.E. NEWS, on ONE

Magazine and the MATTACHINE REVIEW, is the worst kind of McCarthyism which paints all alike with the same brush-- plus the evident use of the letters "S" and "D" to make them sound as dangerous and alarming as those of "V" and "D" representing venereal disease.

In the issue of February 8 we read: "The public assembly of large groups of SDs in public places, the use of public restrooms, parks, and streets and the operation of businesses, peculiarly designed to invite and pander to the SD...all these must be stopped. The total lack of control of teachers or others dealing with minors, or even any information center covering such, serving in private schools or youth groups, must be corrected."

No self-respecting lawyer, judge, or legislator would further such suggestions nor spearhead such an attack. Mr. Heyler in another issue has had printed a list of movie houses, bars, public rest rooms, parks, and even street corners, where he and his reporters have found sexual deviates congregating. And what is the conclusion of the CITIZEN-NEWS? Mr. Heyler says, "That's where they are, Mr. Typical Resident. Avoid them by all means." Avoid rest rooms when one has a need of them, avoid parks, theaters, all places that are meant to be used for the comfort and enjoyment of all? Is that a solution? What disturbs me more is this blanket indictment, this vision of a child despoiler in every homosexual, in the mind of this unenlightened member of the fourth estate. A street corner, Selma Avenue and Cassil, is mentioned as an "infamous intersection" and the reporters of the paper have witnessed men in conversation standing here or cars with men driving slowly by during the course of an evening. This alone is the evidence of corruption.

With the slackening of reader interest and the end of the SD series in the CITIZEN-NEWS, one last flaming blast appeared across the front of the paper on February 13: BLACKMAIL PHOTOS FORCE TREASON, REDS USE SD'S. Communism enters the picture and the paper looked for sexual deviate news as far as England and the Burgess and McLean cases and the more recent Vassill treason case.

Finally on February 18 with no more screaming heads on SD, Mr. Heyler and Carol Collins have left it up to the

public to continue the attack. All that appears in this issue to remind us of all the sound and fury which may well signify nothing, but may cause much injustice, is a news item, "Quakers Talk Sex" from London and the opening sentence reads: "A group of Quakers said today that sex, viewed dispassionately, 'is neither good nor evil--it is a fact of nature.'" The article goes on to say: "The report said a morality which condemns homosexuality is not Christian because it lacks compassion. It called for a reform of laws dealing with homosexuals in conformance with the Wolfenden Report. The Wolfenden Report, prepared for Parliament in 1957, recommended that acts between consenting adults in private should not be considered a criminal offense."

Remember when you were small and you had a friend who quarrelled with you and the friend said all kinds of things about you, good and bad, true and false, and then one day he came around again and he looked at you and he said, "Make up?" and you because you were you and you never forgot things when you were hurt, said no, and so you lost someone you could be with and you felt lonely?

Somehow, the sudden turn in the cold, vicious, and unjust attack by the CITIZEN-NEWS on the sexual deviate without a decent word in the entire series, this sudden turn to a recognition of the existence of such a worthy document as the English Wolfenden Report, makes one leery of accepting the hand held out offered in a gesture of peace, as if to say, well, we've kicked you around for a while, come on, let's forget the whole thing now.

The mere fact that recently GREATER PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE had the courage to publish a study of homosexual life in Philadelphia which, though faulty in spots, was a thoroughly workmanlike job, not unsympathetic and not intolerant, makes one feel like relegating this more recent smear campaign to the ash-heap where it so rightly belongs. We need be wary, however, for the appearance of any punitive laws resulting from the influencing of weak and unenlightened legislators in California by the CITIZEN-NEWS. We trust our forces in ONE inc. and the League for Civil Education will be on the alert during the coming months.

SYMPHONY

Under the sable forest of your lust
Pounded a clumsy-footed troll,
Snarling, ripping flesh in youthful sweat,
Screeching like red-haired banshees.
Tears and knifing prayers mangled,
Smashed him up the hematic cliffs;

Left him ravaged, manacled with the gasping ascent.

Your serpent tongue quickly
leapt aloft,

Changed the melodies of brass
To strings and singing leaves
Where the test was a dream
Cooed about by the dove.

Quietly withered,
The troll died, slain by a two-edged smile.

-Lee Holland

TROPHIES

Look--on the wall
For all to see,
My Self-respect and Dignity--
And there between,
Serene and cold,
My Pride, intact, you will behold.

My trophies, these,
Most dearly kept,
To compensate the tears I've wept--
But stored within
A place apart,
I hide the pieces of my heart.

-Jody Shotwell

ATTORNEY STRESSES NOTHING TO FEAR IN JOINING DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

"A person is as secure in the Daughters of Bilitis, or the Mattachine Society, as he would be in any other fraternal or social organization which makes certain demands of its members and requires that they accept certain beliefs in order to become members."

Thus stated Kenneth C. Zwerin, San Francisco attorney.

Commenting on the fact that the Daughters is a legally chartered non-profit corporation in the State of California, Mr. Zwerin told the group to "forget about the mailing lists or membership lists being turned over to the police or postal authorities - it won't happen." In fact, the attorney pointed out, if you mind your own business and use "good manners" you will not get into any trouble at all.

"Any minority is in danger of having things said about it, but they aren't worth worrying about," he declared. "As far as the security of your job is concerned any employer can fire without reason. If you do your job well you have little to fear - but if you're worried about your private life all the time you probably won't do good work and will get fired."

The female deviate is much more secure than the male for three basic reasons, Mr. Zwerin said. These are: 1) by her very biological nature she is not promiscuous; 2) she prefers a quiet domestic type of life, and 3) she does not solicit in public places.

The law prohibiting oral-genital contact has never been applied to two women in the State of California, he said, only to two men. There have been no cases reported in California involving homosexual charges against two consenting adult women.

In many cases of arrests, Mr. Zwerin said, the person arrested, whether guilty or not, feels guilty because he or she knows they are homosexual. Therefore they tend to plead guilty and fail to obtain their legal rights.

In discussing a person's legal rights in case of arrest, Mr. Zwerin emphasized that you should never plead guilty. If

you don't have an attorney ask for a continuance in order to get one. The judge must give you a continuance.

Normally bail on misdemeanor charges fits a predetermined pattern set up by the judges. Bail for a felony must be set personally by a judge.

Checks are not acceptable for bail. A bondsman or lawyer may be called, or a friend may bring cash - or you might have that much with you.

"Organizations such as the Daughters of Bilitis and the Mattachine Society must work within the framework of the law. They cannot circumvent the law but can work to bring about changes by legal means," the attorney pointed out.

In conclusion Mr. Zwerin declared "you are only as secure in your contacts with the public as you are within your own person. If you are well-adjusted mentally, are at peace with, and like, yourself, then there is little chance you will encounter any difficulty due to sexual deviation."

The forgoing article is a reprint from the Ladder of April 1957. We have included it in answer to the many questions that have been received on this subject. We hope it will help you in answering any questions that potential members might have.

"He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself."

-Thomas Paine

Help Wanted !

Artists _

READERS RESPOND

"RECENTLY I TOLD MY PHYSICIAN I AM A HOMOSEXUAL. THOUGH MY VISIT CONCERNED A MINOR PHYSICAL PROBLEM, AND THOUGH IT WAS MY FIRST VISIT TO HER, THE SUBJECT CAME UP VERY NATURALLY. SHE HAD A BOOK ON HOMOSEXUALITY IN HER BOOKCASE, AND I FELT IMPELLED TO COMMENT ON IT. THEN, AFTER THE IMPERSONAL REMARK ON THE BOOK, I JUST DECIDED TO DECLARE MYSELF. AS IF SHE HAD HAD A BOOK ON FRANCE AND I HAD SAID, 'I'M FRENCH.' WELL...ALMOST LIKE THAT, BUT ADMITTEDLY WITH POUNDING HEART.

"I AM ALL FOR TELLING THE RIGHT PERSON AT THE RIGHT TIME. FOR EVERY SUCH DECLARATION HELPS MAKE OUR LOT MORE ACCEPTABLE. TRUE, IT MAY TAX ONE EMOTIONALLY TO TELL. BUT IT'S WORTH THE GAFF! NOW WHEN I SAY THE RIGHT PEOPLE, I HAVE IN MIND THAT VAST COLLECTION OF LIBERAL-MINDED, WELL-INFORMED PEOPLE WHO - TO OUR ASTONISHMENT - JUST HAVEN'T THOUGHT EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE PHENOMENON OF HOMOSEXUALITY. THEY ARE LEGION! AND THEY ARE OUR POTENTIAL ALLIES! BUT PERHAPS ONLY BY TELLING THEM ABOUT OURSELVES CAN WE PROMPT A CRYSTALLIZATION OF THEIR ATTITUDES.

"IF WE ARE POISED, HONEST, AND INFORMATIVE ENOUGH, THE RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE WORTH THE MOMENTARY RUCKUS OF APPREHENSION WE FEEL. BE OBJECTIVE! ONE REJECTION, IF IT COMES, WON'T HURT THAT MUCH IN THE LONG RUN. BUT HONEST WORDS MAY WIN THE DAY!

"THE RESULTS OF MY TAKING THE STEP WITH MY DOCTOR? WE HAVE HAD MANY DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF HOMOSEXUALITY. SHE HAS ACCEPTED AND READ MY LITERATURE FROM FOUR HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS, AND HAS SHOWED THE MATERIAL TO TWO PSYCHIATRISTS. BEST OF ALL, SHE HAS TOLD THREE WOMEN PATIENTS ABOUT DOB, AND ONE OF THEM HAS ALREADY CONTACTED THE NEW YORK CHAPTER. 'A NUMBER OF MY PATIENTS ARE HOMOSEXUALS,' THE DOCTOR HAD NONCHALANTLY REPLIED WHEN I FIRST DECLARED MYSELF. AND SHE MEANT IT!

"NOW OF COURSE I PUT FORWARD MY BEST TESTIMONIAL. I WANT TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT I'VE TOLD SEVERAL OTHER STRAIGHT FRIENDS WITH

THOROUGHLY GOOD RESULTS. AMONG THEM WERE TWO HIGH SCHOOL COUN-
ELORS. PICK CAREFULLY, PICK THOSE PREDISPOSED TO BE SYMPATHETIC,
PICK THE LIBERALS WHO NEED TO WAKE UP TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE
HOMOSEXUAL MINORITY. THEN SQUARE AWAY WITH THEM. EVERY ALLY
GAINED IS WORTH THE EFFORT. IN ADDITION, HONEST FRIENDSHIP WILL
BECOME POSSIBLE, EVEN PROBABLE.

"I SUGGEST AN EACH ONE TELL ONE CAMPAIGN. TELL A DOCTOR, A
NURSE, A LAWYER, A MINISTER, A STRAIGHT FRIEND - ABOUT YOUR ORIEN-
TATION. AND ABOUT DOB. TAKE ALONG SOME LITERATURE AS CONCRETE
EVIDENCE THAT ORGANIZATIONS EXIST WHICH ARE DEVOTED TO HELPING
THE HOMOSEXUAL MINORITY. WHAT BETTER WAY FOR US TO MODIFY PUBLIC
OPINION THAN FOR EACH OF US TO TAKE THE CALCULATED RISK OF TEL-
LING THE TRUTH?"

- K. L., PENNSYLVANIA

* * * * *

"I WANT TO COMPLIMENT YOU FOR THE NAME THE LADDER. IT HAS MANY
GOOD SYMBOLISMS - ONE OF THEM BEING THE CHAIN OF OVA WITHIN THE
UTERUS, WHICH MUCH RESEMBLES A LADDER. IN THE SOUTH, WHEN A
WOMAN HAS HAD HER LAST CHILD, OR GOTTEN DONE WITH SEX LIFE, THEY
OFTEN SAY "SHE'S RUN HER LADDER OUT."

- B. S., NEW YORK

* * * * *

"I ENJOY YOUR MAGAZINE AND WHILE APPRECIATING THAT IT REQUIRES
MUCH EFFORT TO PUBLISH EVERY MONTH, AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
FUTURE WHEN IT WILL BECOME A FULL-SCALE MODEL COMPLETE WITH COLOR
PICTURES, HUMOUR, ADS. AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS. I KNOW THIS WILL
ALL BE ACHIEVED SOMEDAY IF THAT IS YOUR GOAL. AM ALSO INTERESTED
IN THE WORK YOU ARE DOING AND FEEL THAT IT IS DEFINITELY MAKING
A CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY. IN THIS MODERN AGE WE NEED MORE THAN
EVER BEFORE TO FACE REALITY, SHAKE THE COBRERBS FROM OUR MINDS AND
REPLANT WITH FRESH NEW IDEAS, AND IT BEHOOVES EVERY ONE OF US TO
LEARN ALL WE CAN ABOUT LIFE AND LOVE.

"I FEEL THAT THERE IS FAR TOO MUCH EMPHASIS PLACED ON SEX. NOT
THAT IT ISN'T A POWERFUL FORCE, BUT IT IS PHYSICAL AND THEREFORE

A MEANS TO AN END MORE OR LESS, LIKE HUNGER AND THIRST, ALTHOUGH
NOT NECESSARY TO SATISFY FOR HEALTH--THE ENERGY FROM THE DRIVE
CAN BE RE-CHANNELLED FOR CREATIVE PURPOSES.

"THE IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS LOVE. IN CHOOSING A WOMAN AS
LOVE-OBJECT, ONE IS ONLY DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY. AFTER ALL,
WASN'T MAMA OUR FIRST LOVE?

WHAT DOES THE MERE MALE KNOW OF LOVE? HE KNOWS ABOUT SEX, IT IS
TRUE, BUT SHE MUST TEACH HIM LOVE IF THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS TO
HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE. WOMEN HAVING AN ABUNDANCE OF LOVE CAN
GIVE FREELY TO ONE ANOTHER AND HELP THEMSELVES TO FIND A GREATER
UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE AROUND THEM AND OF THEMSELVES.

"IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE BIOLOGICALLY CREATED FOR MAR-
RIAGE AND CHILDREN, THIS CAREER IS NOT OPEN TO ALL; LOVE KNOWS
NO BOUNDS AND THEREFORE IT IS OPEN TO ALL TO BE SHARED--FREELY
GIVEN AND FREELY TAKEN.

"WE NEED MORE LOVE IN OUR WORLD. AND WE NEED MORE PEOPLE WORKING
FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS BESIDES FOR THEMSELVES. EVEN IF WE CAN
GIVE LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING TO ONLY ONE PERSON, THINK OF THE JOY
IN THAT; AND IF WE PROGRESS TO THE STAGE OF BEING ABLE TO GIVE
LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING TO MANY PEOPLE, THINK OF OUR GREATER JOY.
WE CAN ALMOST VISUALIZE THIS PROCESS GOING ON FOREVER UNTIL WE
HAVE FINALLY PERFECTED OURSELVES.

"BECAUSE WE MUST FACE LIFE BY OURSELVES, WE CANNOT CRY OVER THE
LOST PAST, THE WASTED PRESENT, NOR THE FEARFUL FUTURE. WE CAN
ONLY STRIVE TO ATTAIN THAT WHICH WE TRULY WANT AND THEREBY EARN
OUR MEASURE OF HAPPINESS."

- T. M., ONTARIO, CANADA

* * * * *

"THE OTHER DAY I TOLD A PSYCHOLOGIST FRIEND OF MINE THAT I AM A
LESBIAN. SHE WAS SHOCKED NOT BY MY CONFESSION BUT BECAUSE I
ADDED THAT I AM QUITE HAPPY AND SATISFIED WITH LIFE IN GENERAL.
IN HER WORK SHE SEES HOMOSEXUALS EVERY DAY, AND THEY ARE, IN HER
WORDS, USUALLY 'ABJECTLY MISERABLE PEOPLE READY TO JUMP FROM THE
BRIDGE.'

"WHY IS THIS SO? IS IT THE SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION, FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, EMOTIONAL UPSETS? WE CERTAINLY HAVE THESE IN ABUNDANCE AND WHY NOT, SINCE WE CREATE MOST OF THEM OURSELVES AND EVERYONE KNOWS HOW 'CREATIVE' WE ARE. 'NORMAL' PEOPLE HAVE THESE PROBLEMS TOO, EXCEPT POSSIBLY SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION; HOWEVER, THEY SUBSTITUTE RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, AND STILL BY AND LARGE ARE NOT 'ABJECTLY MISERABLE.' AS FOR US, WE DON'T EVEN NEED TO HAVE SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION. IF A GAY PERSON IS RECOGNIZED AS SUCH, HE IS ADVERTISING. IN DRESS AND MANNERISM, THE BUTCH IN DRAG AND THE GAY BOY IN TIGHT PANTS WANT TO BE KNOWN. THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES TO 'LET THE PINS DROP' WITHOUT PARADING DOWN MAIN STREET ON SUNDAY MORNING. SO IF YOU WANT THAT KIND OF RECOGNITION, HAVE THE GUTS TO ACCEPT IT WHEN YOU GET IT.

"I FOR ONE AM SICK OF BEING IDENTIFIED WITH THE POOR MISERABLE DIKE WHO CAN'T HOLD A JOB OR A GIRL. IF SHE'D GET OFF HER BIG FAT PILLOW OF SELF-PITY, WASH HER LAZY SELF, DRESS DECENTLY, AND STAY SOBER DURING THE WEEK, IF SHE WOULD STOP OFFENDING THE EYES, EARS, AND NOSE OF SOCIETY, SHE'D SOON KEEP A JOB AND A GIRL AND LEARN TO ENJOY LIFE. BUT THIS OF COURSE TAKES WORK AND DAMN FEW HOMOS WILL WORK AT IT. THEY MUCH PREFER RUNNING FROM PSYCHIATRIST TO PSYCHIATRIST, ON SOMEONE ELSE'S MONEY, TO SING THEIR SAD SONG, HAVE A GOOD CRY, AND BE BABIED FOR AN HOUR A WEEK. SYMPATHY ISN'T LOVE BUT IT'S EASIER TO GET AND LESS DEMANDING. THIS TYPE SHOULD BE ESCORTED TO THE BRIDGE. THEY ARE NO GOOD TO ANYONE AND DO IMMEASURABLE HARM TO THE DECENT, HARD-WORKING HOMOSEXUAL.

"ALL THIS BOILS DOWN TO THE REALIZATION THAT I'VE READ YOUR WOE-FILLED LETTERS AND HEARD YOUR SOB STORIES FROM COAST TO COAST FOR YEARS AND I'M NOT IMPRESSED. YOU BEG FOR HELP BUT WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO EARN IT? WHEN YOU ARE READY TO GET OFF YOUR KNEES AND FIGHT NOT FOR YOURSELVES BUT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME - WHEN YOU START BENEFITTING SOCIETY INSTEAD OF DRAGGING IT DOWN - WHEN YOU JOIN THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT INSTEAD OF CREATING OBSTACLES FOR IT - THEN WILL THE HOMOSEXUAL STOP BEING AN 'ABJECTLY MISERABLE OUTCAST' AND BECOME A USEFUL BEING WORTHY OF HELP AND BE ACCEPTED AS A WELCOME PART OF SOCIETY."

- WEST COAST MEMBER



Daughters of BILITIS

INCORPORATED

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS and San Francisco Chapter: 1232 Market St., Suite 108, San Francisco 2, California

New York Chapter: P.O. Box 3629, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N.Y.
Los Angeles
Chicago Chapter: 5065 North Damen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

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