

# the LADDER



October 1963 .50



**purpose of the**

## *Daughters of* **BILITIS**

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

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

## VOLUNTEER FOR RESEARCH!

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS TO ENCOURAGE AND FURTHER RESEARCH ABOUT THE HOMOPHILE? ARE YOU ALSO WILLING TO ACT ON YOUR BELIEF?

THEN FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW (AND HAVE YOUR FRIENDS ADD THEIRS) AND MAIL THIS COUPON TO RESEARCH, DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, 1232 MARKET ST., SUITE 108, SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA.

THEY WILL SEND YOU A QUESTIONNAIRE BOOKLET, NOT CONTAINING YOUR NAME, WHICH YOU WILL SEND WHEN COMPLETE DIRECT TO DR. GUNDLACH IN THE ENVELOPE TO BE PROVIDED.

REQUEST A QUESTIONNAIRE ONLY IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FILL IT OUT!

(NOTE: THIS STUDY IS LIMITED TO WOMEN.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-----

# the Ladder

OCTOBER 1963  
VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

Published monthly by the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., a non-profit corporation, 1232 Market Street, Suite 108, San Francisco 2, California. Telephone: UNDERhill 3 - 8196.

## NATIONAL OFFICERS, DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC.

*President*—Jaye Bell  
*Vice President*—Marty Elliott  
*Recording Secretary*—Margaret Heinz  
*Corresponding Secretary*—Barbara Gittings  
*Public Relations Director*—Meredith Grey  
*Treasurer*—Ev Howe

## THE LADDER STAFF

*Editor*—Barbara Gittings  
*Fiction and Poetry Editor*—Agatha Mathys  
*Art Editor*—Kathy Rogers  
*Los Angeles Reporter*—Sten Russell  
*Chicago Reporter*—Jean Sand  
*Production*—Joan Oliver  
*Circulation Manager*—Cleo Glenn

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.

---

## contents

TOWARD A QUAKER VIEW OF SEX - REVIEW BY ANNA KITCHEN.....	4
TO BE A MAN - THE STORY OF "FRANKLIN THOMPSON" - BY LENNOX STRANG.....	7
A TOUCH OF FRIENDSHIP - A STORY BY LESLIE LONDON.....	10
CRYPTOGRAM.....	15
CROSS-CURRENTS.....	16
WE TWO WON'T LAST - BY ANN ALDRICH - REVIEW BY GENE DAMON....	18
SIGN UP FOR RESEARCH!.....	20
THE EIGHTH WOMAN - REVIEW OF "THE GROUP" BY MARY MCCARTHY....	22
READERS RESPOND.....	23

COVER BY JEN

COPYRIGHT 1963 BY DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC., SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

# TOWARDS A QUAKER VIEW OF SEX

AN ESSAY BY A GROUP OF FRIENDS. EDITED BY ALASTAIR HERON.

REVIEW BY ANNA KITCHEN

THIS ESSAY WAS THE OUTCOME OF A NEARLY SIX-YEAR STUDY IN GREAT BRITAIN BY A GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS). THE "CONCERN" OF THE MEMBERS WHO INITIATED THE STUDY SPANG FROM THE REQUESTS FROM QUAKER STUDENTS FOR GUIDANCE PERTAINING TO SEXUAL DIFFICULTIES. THIS CONCERN LED THE GROUP TO SEARCH THEIR OWN HEARTS AND MINDS AND THEIR OWN RELIGIOUS FAITH IN AN ATTEMPT TO SPEAK TO THE CONDITION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL AND OTHERS WITH SEXUAL PROBLEMS. THE GROUP INCLUDED PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING, PENOLOGY, MARRIAGE GUIDANCE, PSYCHIATRY, BIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND LAW. THEIR ESSAY DOES NOT REPRESENT AN OFFICIAL OPINION OF THE FRIENDS; HOWEVER, THE SOCIETY SPONSORED ITS PUBLICATION IN ORDER TO STIMULATE THOUGHT.

THE GROUP REALIZED FIRST OF ALL THAT SOCIETY'S HYPOCRITICAL SEXUAL MORAL CODE MIGHT BE THE CAUSE OF THE WIDESPREAD CONTEMPT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE RULES AND PROHIBITIONS PLACED ON THEM. THE GROUP FELT IT NECESSARY IN FACT TO QUESTION THE WHOLE BASIS OF JUDGEMENT OF WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG USED BY SOCIETY AND BY THE GREATER PART OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THEY HAVE REASON, THEY STATE, TO SAY THAT SEXUALITY IS NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL BUT A FACT OF NATURE. BUT AS CHRISTIANS THEY SAY THAT SEXUALITY IS A GLORIOUS GIFT OF GOD. THEY FEEL THAT A TRUE CHRISTIANITY MUST VALUE LOVING RELATIONSHIPS AND CANNOT LACK COMPASSION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL PERSON OR UNDERSTANDING OF INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS. IT MUST BE CONCERNED WITH WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT WORKS--"WORKS TOWARD COMPLETE HUMAN FULFILLMENT"--RATHER THAN BEING CONCERNED ONLY WITH APPROVED PATTERNS OF CONDUCT. THEY DISCUSS THE FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT, STATISTICS ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, AND INSIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY IN A WAY WHICH SHOWS THAT

THE PRESENT SOCIAL CODE AND THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN MORALITY ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT DAY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEX.

THE GROUP REACHED NO DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE RIGHTNESS OR WRONGNESS OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND ARE CAREFUL TO SAY THAT THEY DO NOT MEAN TO BE ENCOURAGING HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR. ALSO THEY SAY MUCH MORE RESEARCH IS NEEDED. BUT THEY DO CONCLUDE, FROM THEIR SINCERE SEARCHING OF THEIR OWN MINDS, HEARTS, AND THEIR FAITH, THAT A NEW MORALITY IS NEEDED. THEY SET FORTH THE VIEWPOINT THAT THE WAY TO A WORKABLE MORALITY IS NOT IN ACCEPTING TRADITIONAL SOCIAL OR CHRISTIAN CODES WHICH CLAIM TO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG. THEY FEEL THAT MORALITY SHOULD BE CREATIVE. FOR IT TO BE SO, IT MUST BE IN ACCORD WITH THE TRUTH, AND ONE MUST MAKE THAT TRUTH HIS OWN THROUGH DILIGENT SEARCH.

IT IS EACH INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO USE THE GIFT OF SEXUALITY PROPERLY--NOT BECAUSE THE MORAL CODE SAYS HE MUST, BUT BECAUSE THAT INDIVIDUAL'S OWN DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY TO ENJOY THE GIFT OF SEXUALITY ARE DEPENDENT ON IT. IF THE GIFT IS MISUSED IT RESULTS IN DEGRADATION, WHICH MEANS THAT THE PERSON IS DESTROYING HIS OWN CAPACITY FOR SHARING SINCERE LOVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS. THE FRIENDS GROUP ARE CONCERNED WITH THE MEANING OF "THOU SHALT LOVE..." RATHER THAN "THOU SHALT NOT..." AND TO THEM LOVE MEANS WARMTH, INTIMACY, GIVING, A DESIRE TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN AND A WILLINGNESS TO SUFFER THROUGH COMMITMENT TO THE OTHER PERSON. SOCIETY, THEY POINT OUT, NEEDS SUCH LOVING RELATIONSHIPS, AND HURTS ITSELF IN TRYING TO UPHOLD A MORAL CODE OF THOU-SHALT-NOT'S WHICH PREVENT RATHER THAN ENCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. THEY SAY THE NEW MORALITY MUST NOT ALLOW EXPLOITATION OF OTHERS, NOR MUST IT LEAD ANY INDIVIDUAL TO A RESTRICTED LIFE IN WHICH WARMTH AND JOY AND LOVE ARE DENIED.

THE GROUP ADMIT THAT THIS SEARCH FOR A NEW MORALITY WILL BE MUCH HARDER THAN MERELY FOLLOWING A TRADITIONAL MORAL CODE, AND THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY IT IMPLIES CANNOT BE ACCEPTED ALONE--"IT MUST BE RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN A GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS ARE EQUALLY COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR GOD'S WILL." IT WILL INVOLVE DISCIPLINE, FRUSTRATION, AND SUFFERING. IT WILL NOT ALLEVIATE SEXUAL PROBLEMS. BUT, "WHEREAS THE EMOTIONAL OR MORAL RESPONSE FOCUSES ATTENTION ON THE CONTROL OF THE SEXUAL URGE IN ISOLATION, THE WAY

OF LIFE WE HAVE DESCRIBED MAKES IT LIKELY THAT THE PARTICULAR SEXUAL PROBLEM WILL BE SEEN IN THE FULL CONTEXT OF ORDINARY DAILY LIVING, AND THUS BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE AS SOMETHING FOR WHICH GOD HAS NOT ONLY A SOLUTION BUT A POSITIVE PURPOSE."

AT THE OUTSET OF THEIR CHAPTER ON "HOMOSEXUALITY," THE GROUP ADMIT THAT "HOMOSEXUALITY CONJURES UP MORE PASSION AND PREJUDICE THAN POSSIBLY ANY OTHER SUBJECT THAN THAT OF COLOUR." THEY GO ON TO SAY THAT "ONE SHOULD NO MORE DEPLORE 'HOMOSEXUALITY' THAN LEFT-HANDEDNESS." FOR THOSE TO WHOM HOMOSEXUALITY IS NATURAL, "PERSECUTION WILL MAKE THEM INHIBITED, MAD, OR SUICIDAL, BUT IT WILL NOT MAKE HETEROSEXUALITY ANY MORE NATURAL FOR THEM, OR INCREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THOSE WHO TRY AND FORCE THEM INTO IT." THE ESSAY'S DISCUSSION OF THE LAWS RELATION TO HOMOSEXUALITY, INCLUDING A CAPSULE HISTORY OF THEIR EVOLUTION FROM BIBLICAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT, IS AN ESPECIALLY INFORMATIVE SECTION EVEN THOUGH IT REFERS CHIEFLY TO ENGLISH LAW.

WHEREAS THE GROUP DO NOT SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL MAN IS LACKING OR DENYING ANY INTRINSIC FULFILLMENT, THEY DO SUGGEST THAT THE FEMALE HOMOSEXUAL OFTEN UNCONSCIOUSLY MISSES MOTHERHOOD AND THE TRUE SATISFACTION OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH A MEN. IS THIS A VALID COMMENT ON WOMAN'S BIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS, OR RATHER A CULTURE-BOUND ASSUMPTION? THE GROUP APPARENTLY FEEL THAT FEMALE HOMOSEXUALS ARE MORE OFTEN UNHAPPY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT FULFILL THE TRADITIONAL WOMAN'S ROLE, WHILE THE MALE HOMOSEXUAL'S DIFFICULTIES USUALLY DERIVE FROM AN ACTIVE SOCIAL STIGMA.

THE GROUP CONCLUDE THAT "SURELY IT IS THE NATURE AND QUALITY OF A RELATIONSHIP THAT MATTER: ONE MUST NOT JUDGE IT BY ITS OUTWARD APPEARANCE BUT BY ITS INNER WORTH. HOMOSEXUAL AFFECTION CAN BE AS SELFLESS AS HETEROSEXUAL AFFECTION, AND THEREFORE WE CANNOT SEE THAT IT IS IN SOME WAY MORALLY WORSE."

WORTH NOTING IS THAT THE ESSAY HAS GIVEN EQUAL ATTENTION--SIXTEEN PAGES EACH--TO THE HOMOSEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL ORIENTATIONS. THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE DEALT WITH HOMOSEXUALITY AND SEXUALITY ITSELF IN A FACTUAL AND UNDERSTANDING MANNER; THEY WERE WELL INFORMED AND THEY HAVE SENSED SOME OF THE DEEPEST FEELINGS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL. THEY HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS CONCERN WITH THEIR WHOLE SELVES, SINCERELY, WITHOUT CRITICISM OR UNDUE SYMPATHY.

# To be a Man...

The Story of "Franklin Thompson"

by Lennox Strang

Many women, from the beginning of time, have wanted to be men. Only a few (comparatively) have tried, and even fewer have succeeded.

Sarah Emma Evelyn Edmonds (born Edmondson), later Seelye, is one of the few who have fulfilled all of the tomboy's wildest dreams and then some. Ranging from single sentences in many hundreds of history books to entire books, history affords many examples of women who masqueraded as men to either go to war for patriotism's sake, or to go to war after a beloved male. Most of these women are probably not of special interest to LADDER readers.

Most references to Sarah Edmonds cover only her role as a spy and nurse in the Civil War. As Franklin Thompson she had a most interesting and extremely patriotic history in the war. Among other things she was a general's aide, nurse (male nurse), spy and foot soldier.

However, this is only a small part of her story.

She was born in Canada in December, 1841, daughter of Isaac Edmondson and Elizabeth Leeper Edmondson. She was the fifth child, the fourth female born into a family where the father hated women and his only son was an epileptic. As a farmer's child in an isolated area, she farmed, rode, hunted and fished. In an effort to win her father's approval she wore boy's clothes, did male chores, etc. Curiously, she hated her father and in her memoirs she speaks of loving her mother and pitying her, since the father was brutal to the mother.

Sarah was apparently a man-hater from an early age. Her first book, given to her by a peddler, was FANNY CAMPBELL, THE FEMALE PIRATE CAPTAIN.



When she was fifteen her father tried to force her to marry an elderly farmer. To escape this fate, she ran away in the company of an old friend of her mother's. For a while she lived with an aunt. Fearing that her father would find her and force her to come home, she ran away from the aunt as well and went alone to a nearby town.

There, she adopted masculine attire, cut her hair, and became Franklin Thompson. This was really a remarkable bit of daring for a 15-year-old girl. She also got a job as a Bible salesman. By the time she was 17 years old she was tall, large-featured, muscle-tough and rawboned enough to pass easily as a boy. According to her memoirs she had become successful enough to drive a rig with a silver harness and to "take my lady friends out riding occasionally". As a book salesman for Hurlbut & Co., she was sent to Nova Scotia where she "came near marrying a pretty little girl who was bound that I should not leave Nova Scotia without her".

She moved "west" to Flint, Michigan and became good friends with a young male store owner, Damon Stewart. They frequently double-dated since they were both single men.

When the Civil War came she had no intention of relinquishing her male attire. In May of 1861, when she was nearly 20 and had passed as a man for nearly five years, she joined the army as a male nurse, with the rank of private.

Her life as a male nurse was very exciting and often harrowing, mainly due to the primitive conditions in the camps in those days. The descriptions in various history books of the lack of sanitation are appalling.

In spite of many difficulties, she found time to carry on an active affair with the wife of a chaplain known only as Chaplain B. The wife is referred to as Kate B., and research has provided no proof of identity for these people.

She had sufficient adventures to fill several books. Many times she acted as a spy. This was a masquerade

within a masquerade. Humorously, she "posed" as a woman and made spying trips behind the lines but stopped this when her ability was so excellent that it caused talk among the officers.

Inevitably, her life was not so interesting after the War. She married late in life and had children. However, she was never wholly able to give up masculine attire and even when she wore dresses she wore men's boots.

Before her death the story of her impersonation was well known and she was something of a heroine. Sarah Emma Edmonds was undoubtedly one of the most unusual cases of a woman passing as a man. Over 200 biographical sources mention her. Some of these are only paragraphs, but there are several books devoted to her life. Interested readers may want to obtain *SHE RODE WITH THE GENERALS* by Sylvia G. L. Dannett (Nelson, 1960).

Today, of course, such a life would be impossible, but there is a timeless fascination in such an impersonation that changing circumstances cannot dim.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LOVE'S WARM AURA

The river is a frozen moat of things,  
Enseoned in mirrored tableau of the fray;  
The trap of stillness with its cast-off wings,  
Entombing forces harnessed and at bay.  
Where once was motion now is calm as death,  
No floating thing in any form is seen;  
No sun nor wind awakens life through breath,  
To barter arctic white for summer green.

So lives are caught and held within the freeze,  
Inert within a limbo of retreat;  
Until the call of ocean depths and seas,  
Usurps the mass on tiny, winged feet.

A wintered heart will also come to know,  
When love's warm aura crests to overflow.

- J. Lorna Strayer

# a touch of friendship

A story by Leslie London

Standing just inside the doorway of the empty apartment, her arms laden with a variety of cleaning implements, Jan surveyed her surroundings disdainfully. An open box of soap powder threatened to slip and she shifted it to a more secure position.

She thought of the task ahead, seemingly much more formidable now that the former tenant's furniture and rugs had been removed. How was it all to be accomplished? With her own furniture coming Saturday, there remained only two short evenings for preparation.

A low feminine chuckle startled her out of her thoughts. Turning to discover the identity of the intruder, the pail hanging from her arm caught on the doorknob, jolting her enough to dislocate her burdens. The box of soap powder skidded across the room, spilling its contents in a crooked path. Broom, mop, cleanser and a few small articles clattered moistly on the bare floor.

Disengaging the pail, she turned and glowered at the owner of the chuckle.

"I'm terribly sorry," the girl said apologetically. "I didn't mean to cause such a commotion, but seeing you standing there recalled to mind my own dilemma just a month ago."

Jan managed a weak smile, carefully keeping her eyes averted from the dismaying mess on the floor so that her expression would not betray her exasperation.

"You're new here, too?" she asked, trying to appear casual.

"Well, frankly, no. I took a bigger apartment and moved down a floor, but it was an ordeal all the same."

Jan nodded mutely for lack of something suitable to say.

The girl chuckled again. "I suppose the best thing for me to do is to go quietly away and hope we don't meet again, but—well—my name is Joan McGuire. I live right across the hall."

She extended her hand to Jan in a quick motion.

It really wasn't the girl's fault, just an unfortunate accident, Jan rationalized. Furthermore, there was no sense in being unneighborly. Her smile broadened as she took the outstretched hand.

"Jan Hannover."

They appraised each other silently. Finally Joan broke the handclasp and smiled engagingly.

"Since I'm in part responsible for the mishap, I'll offer my services. You have a job on your hands from the looks of things and two can get a lot more done."

"Oh, no! I couldn't allow you to do that," Jan protested.

"Why not? I have nothing better to do and, after all, we are going to be neighbors. It will be company for both of us. All I ask is that we leave your door open in case my phone rings."

"Of course, but----"

"Good!" Joan interrupted. "It's settled then. Give me a few minutes to change clothes and I'll be ready for duty." She gave a mock salute and was gone.

Jan stooped down and began to pick up the scattered articles. Better not to think about it, she mused. If she did, the incident would make less sense than it did now.

Two hours later, puffing from the pace Joan had set, Jan pleaded for mercy and suggested a breathing period. They sat cross-legged in the middle of the floor, smoking and inspecting their handiwork.

"If I didn't see it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it possible," Jan said in amazement. "We've accomplished more in a short time than I could have managed to do in an entire evening."

Joan gestured in an offhand manner. "All it takes is leadership and organization," she chided good-naturedly.

"And the stamina of an Amazon," Jan added, wiping her brow in pretended exhaustion.

Throwing back her head, Joan laughed heartily while Jan regarded her intently, wondering how it was possible to feel so close to a person and yet not know her at all.

"Hello there! We thought we heard your voice in here, Joan."

Glancing over her shoulder to the door, Jan's eyes widened in surprise. There was no mistaking the marked distinction in dress of the tallest of the two girls who had entered the room. Both of them regarded her quizzically. She felt herself flush and dropped her eyes.

Joan jumped up at once, greeted them warmly and made introductions. She did it with such ease and grace that Jan's tension abated before it became evident.

"You two came just in time again," Joan said, laughing. "Roll up your sleeves and give us a helping hand."

To Jan, she added, "Trudy and Ann came to my assistance under a similar set of circumstances."

The tall girl, whom Joan had introduced as Trudy, made a wry face and turned to her companion. "Considering the type of people with whom you force me to associate, Ann, I imagine I am destined to have dishpan hands and housemaid's knee."

"Well, really! It was your idea to come, unexpected, in the first place," Ann exclaimed indignantly.

But help they did and with such tenacious determination that, by midnight, the entire apartment was spotless.

They stood looking at one another with tired but satisfied smiles.

Jan shook her head in wonderment. Gazing at each of the three girls in turn, even now comparative strangers to her, her eyes filled with emotion and gratitude.

"I-I just don't know how to thank you--" she stammered, groping for adequate words to express her feelings.

Sudden realization hit her. In a different situation she might have had misgivings about meeting Trudy and Ann or acknowledging that she knew them. On the other hand, they had befriended her, accepted her, giving no thought to how she might feel towards them. Joan as well, for that matter, else she would not be so comfortable in her company. She fought the urge to cry out that she was one of them, that she belonged with them. Inwardly, she groaned. What price safety!

Trudy smiled. "The expression you're wearing right now is thanks enough. However, if you should care to do more, you can invite us for coffee some evening." There was a questioning note in her voice.

"Rest assured you three will be my first guests," Jan averred.

The following evening, in a short period of time, Jan had the curtains hung. Nothing further remained to be done before the furnishings arrived. Half expecting Joan to put in an appearance, she delayed her departure but the anticipated knock at the door was not forthcoming. Finally, she gathered up her things and locked the apartment.

Without quite knowing why, she crossed the hall and rapped lightly. She thought that she detected mild surprise in Joan's eyes when the girl opened the door and saw her standing there. But if she had, it disappeared almost at once.

"You're just in time for coffee," Joan said, eyeing Jan curiously. "How is the apartment coming?"



"Finished, thanks to three wonderful people," Jan remarked softly.

They sat in the kitchen, sipping their coffee and chatting easily. All at once, Joan gave her a searching look, cocked her head to one side and smiled very slowly. Jan felt a warm sensation creep through her.

"What do you think of my two friends?" Joan questioned, her eyebrows arching slightly.

Not prepared for so direct a question, Jan replied, "They're so different-----"

"Obviously!" Joan interrupted, and laughed but there was no amusement in her laughter.

A flash of anger swept through Jan. "That was not intended the way you evidently took it," she snapped. Instantly, she was sorry for her surly tone of voice.

But Joan merely smiled indulgently and asked, "How was it intended then?"

"I was referring to their generosity--and yours, too, since you ask. For three people to do all that work for a complete stranger, why-why it's fantastic."

Joan watched her with a steady gaze. "As I mentioned before, I met them in much the same way as you met me. But thinking about them in another vein, don't you have any questions to ask?"

Jan frowned and looked down at her coffee. "It didn't occur to me that I was expected to ask anything special."

Joan's eyes probed deep. "Do you honestly mean that, Jan? Taking into account the way a particular person may live or what he or she may be searching for, no questions come to mind?"

"All of us are searching for something. The beauty is in the ultimate attainment regardless of what it may be."

"What about people who are apparently different!?"

Jan shrugged. "We are all different in one way or another."

"consider Trudy, for instance. Do you condone the way she lives?" Joan asked, offering Jan a cigarette.

Taking one, Jan smiled her thanks and accepted a light. "I don't condemn it," she answered, sparring in defense against Joan's candid inquisition.

"Then for sake of argument, would you accept my friendship if you discovered that Trudy and I were searching for the same thing?"

Jan inhaled deeply, thinking over the question before she answered. Then she replied in a firm voice, "Basically, we all search for the same things--love, happiness, peace of mind. Whether you find it one way and I find it another is not important. It's what we do with it once we have it in our grasp that matters."

"Are you that sympathetic a person?"

Jan felt herself slipping. "Not so much sympathetic as realistic."

Joan laughed. "But you will have to admit that you are evasive."

Jan relinquished her restraint. "Isn't that, in a way a practical precaution?" Not awaiting for an answer, she continued, "I live slowly and cautiously, yet I know in which direction I'm going. And Joan, don't be too surprised if we meet on the way."

Joan's eyes suddenly sparkled. "Perhaps now I won't be surprised. And Jan, when we do meet on the way, be prepared for us to walk along together," she replied softly.

Cryptogram!

Spryt mpty oploytr blbpetr roy xpel, ear Xpro pr.  
- Xpetrae Foomfopdd

# Cross-Currents

CHRISTIAN CENTURY, A MAJOR RELIGIOUS MAGAZINE, IN ITS SEPTEMBER 11, 1963 ISSUE FEATURES AN ARTICLE "HOMOSEXUALITY: SIN OR DISEASE?" BY WINFRED OVERHOLSER, M.D., PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY, EMERITUS, AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. READERS MAY BE DISAPPOINTED TO FIND THAT DR. OVERHOLSER HAS GROSSLY OVERSIMPLIFIED HIS TOPIC. THOUGH HE DISCOUNTS HOMOSEXUALITY AS SIN, HE GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT HOMOSEXUALITY NOT ONLY CALLS FOR TREATMENT BUT THAT THE POSSIBILITY FOR CHANGE IS HIGH. HE ALSO DOES NOT CREDIT HOMOSEXUALS WITH ANY LASTING OR PROFOUND RELATIONSHIPS. THE CLERGY READERSHIP OF THIS RESPECTED PUBLICATION DESERVE A FAR MORE COMPREHENSIVE HANDLING OF THE SUBJECT, SUCH AS THAT FOUND IN "TOWARDS A QUAKER VIEW OF SEX". (SEE PAGE 4.)

\* \* \* \* \*

"'LULU' IS PRETTY STRONG STUFF," SAYS A REVIEWER IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. WHY? IT SEEMS THIS 12-TONE OPERA ("GRIPPING AND OVERWHELMING") CONTAINS A LESBIAN CHARACTER!

\* \* \* \* \*

DIONYSUS, A TWO-YEAR-OLD HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATION IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA, AIMS: TO INTEGRATE THE HOMOPHILE INTO SOCIETY ...TO EDUCATE THE HOMOPHILE...TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE HOMOPHILE...TO SPONSOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION GROUPS AND LECTURES ...TO WORK WITH PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE ON RESEARCH MATTERS...TO KEEP A WELL-ROUNDED LIBRARY...TO ADVOCATE CHANGES IN THE CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE...TO AID THE HOMOPHILE...TO AID IN CHARITABLE CAUSES. DIONYSUS' MAILING ADDRESS IS P. O. BOX 382, FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA.

\* \* \* \* \*

A NEWER GROUP IN THE L. A. AREA IS CALLED FOCUS AND IT STATES: "FOCUS IS A DISCUSSION GROUP DEDICATED TO SELF KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL GROWTH. WE INTEND TO PROVIDE A WORKSHOP IN WHICH TO DISCOVER OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER, AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND DEPTH OF OUR INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. WE HOPE TO ACCUMULATE

DATA FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL THROW GREATER LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT OF SEXUALITY IN GENERAL AND HOMOSEXUALITY IN PARTICULAR."

\* \* \* \* \*

HERB CAEN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, COMMENTING ON HALLOWEEN IN HIS TOWN ONE YEAR: "ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A FAIRLY SAFE AND SANE HALLOWEEN. THE COPS, WHO DOUBLED UP FOR THE OCCASION, FOUND AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF THE BOYS IN LADIES' CLOTHING, BUT THAT'S GETTING TO BE PAR FOR THE COURSE. ('I'D LOVE TO BE A FULL-TIME TRANSVESTITE,' ONE SAID, 'BUT I CAN'T AFFORD THE EXTRA CLOTHES.')"

\* \* \* \* \*

THE OBSERVER, A HIGHLY REGARDED ENGLISH NEWSPAPER, FEATURED AN ARTICLE CALLED "A CLUB FOR HOMOSEXUALS." IT DESCRIBES THE C. O. C. IN HOLLAND, A CLUB WITH OVER 4000 MEMBERS (MALE AND FEMALE) WHICH ENJOYS THE COOPERATION AND PROTECTION OF THE POLICE. C.O.C.'S AIM IS "THE PROMOTION OF HUMANE JUDGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF HOMOSEXUALITY; THE GIVING OF PSYCHOLOGICAL, MORAL AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGAINST PREJUDICE AND HARMFUL LEGAL CODES; AND THE DISCOURAGEMENT OF HOMOSEXUAL PROSTITUTION." IT HAS AN ACTIVE SCHEDULE OF SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS. SAYS BOB ANGELO, CHIEF OFFICER OF THE CLUB SINCE 1948: "I WANT MY FRIENDS TO LOSE THEIR CYNICISM." AMEN.

\* \* \* \* \*

WHEN TESTIFYING BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, JOHN F. REILLY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, WAS ASKED HOW HE ACCOUNTED FOR SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF SEX DEVIATES APPLYING FOR OVERSEAS JOBS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. SAID REILLY, "FOR SOME REASON, SIR, THEY SEEM TO BE DRAWN TO THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF OVERSEAS LIFE. I DON'T THINK IT IS JUST THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I THINK THIS IS TRUE OF ALL AGENCIES HAVING OVERSEAS WORK. PERHAPS THEY FEEL LIFE IS A LITTLE FREER THERE, SIR." HOLLAND, ANYONE?

\* \* \* \* \*

WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR MAGAZINE? THEN CLIP AND SEND IN TO THE LADDER ANY NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ITEMS—SERIOUS OR HUMOROUS—WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOUR FELLOW READERS. BE SURE TO INCLUDE DATE AND NAME OF THE PUBLICATION. MAKE IT A POINT TO SHARE!

# We Two Won't Last

by Ann Aldrich (Fawcett Gold Medal, 1963)

Reviewed by Gene Damon

Years pass and Ann Aldrich grows wiser as she grows older.

She still hates THE LADDER as much as ever and feels no group identity or loyalty to her people, but she tempers some of her vilification in this book with well-thought-out chapters.

In discussing her book I will try not to accord her the unscientific "random sampling" treatment she gave THE LADDER. It is enough to say that some of her chapters are excellent and worthwhile, others poor and worthless.

In the chapter "The Young Lesbian", she points out the need for a home life, a marriage, a romance with concrete form, the lack of public seduction, etc.

Then, in an apparent effort to discredit her own writing, the next chapter, "Homes Unsexual", deals with the rather elementary fact that after several years of marriage sexual congress becomes less important, often ceasing altogether. (This is, after all, true of heterosexual marriage as well.) She cites this as a major cause of gay divorce: one of the partners finds a new girl. All of this is also true and not very new.

But then! As a cure-all she offers, advocates, that Lesbians who marry should have a "gentlewoman's agreement": they should agree to have side affairs in an effort to hold their home together.

This simply does not hold water as an argument. As she points out herself, women must have all the emotional accoutrements to an affair. Almost in the same breath

she says that Lesbians won't form such amoral alliances since they are too emotional and jealous.

The tone of personal self-hatred is probably the most serious fault in this and all of her books. It is apparent to the Lesbian reader that Miss Aldrich is simply not very happy and for a moment one is tempted to feel pity. There are few things worse to have to live with than self-hatred and Ann Aldrich is steeped in it. Unfortunately for the rest of us, she is highly intelligent and articulate and thus able to disseminate much misleading data which is damaging to all homosexual women.

She does feel that it is good that women have an organization such as DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, but other than this one positive statement, she says several unusually unpleasant things about the group and the magazine, THE LADDER. For some unaccountable reason, and after what must have been a most cursory examination of a few issues of THE LADDER, Miss Aldrich insinuates in three places in her book that members of the group are of the type commonly called "Dykes" who practice the "Butch-Femme" dichotomy. This is so very far from the truth that it casts doubt on Miss Aldrich's ability as a reporter.

In an effort to examine this I re-read the issues she cites, and then all of the issues during a three-year period. She very carefully picked her examples. This is clearly a case of "figures don't lie, but liars do figure"!

As an example of the strongly anti-Lesbian shading in the book, she chooses a newspaper article (from the New York Times) in which a woman doctor makes a particularly unscientific and nasty remark about Lesbians. This isn't even the part of the article which illustrates Miss Aldrich's point. She uses this article to bring out another item (whether Lesbianism is on the increase, or whether there is just more being written on the subject) rather than any one of a dozen sympathetic articles that have appeared in the last five years which speculate on the same idea. It is possible that this was the only article she was familiar with, but this is highly unlikely in view of her study of the subject.

On the plus side, there is an excellent chapter entitled "18 Differences", which discusses the basic differences between male homosexuals and female homosexuals. Handled like this, the extremely divergent patterns are sharply defined. It is very like discussing two entirely different phenomena. This chapter makes quite clear the reasons for society's pressures against male homosexuals. It is a more believable premise than the religious grounds generally used to explain the different treatment of male and female homosexuals.

The chapter on transvestism is also very good. It clears up the old and foolish proper-clothing arguments.

Taken as entertainment the book is readable and recommended. It is good to see some abatement of Ann Aldrich's hostility. If she lives long enough she may write a good book on Lesbianism someday.

## SIGN UP FOR RESEARCH!

IF YOU DIDN'T SEND IN THE COUPON ON THE BACK COVER OF THE SEPTEMBER LADDER, WON'T YOU TAKE A MINUTE RIGHT NOW AND USE THIS MONTH'S COUPON? (FOR DETAILS OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY, SEE ARTICLES IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER ISSUES.) OR JUST WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON A PIECE OF PAPER, SAYING THAT YOU WILL COMPLETE A QUESTIONNAIRE WHEN YOU RECEIVE IT, AND SEND IT TO RESEARCH, D. O. B., SUITE 108, 1232 MARKET ST., SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIF.

REMEMBER, YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE, NOR IS IT SEEN OR KNOWN BY THE PSYCHOLOGISTS CARRYING OUT THE STUDY. AND YOUR REPLIES WILL BE SEEN ONLY BY THEM - AND NOT BY ANYONE CONNECTED WITH DOB.

IF YOU CAN USE MORE THAN ONE QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE INCLUDE A NAME AND PLEDGE FOR EACH QUESTIONNAIRE DESIRED! THIS IS SO THAT THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE CAN MAINTAIN A RECORD OF PARTICIPANTS, FOR ANY NEEDED FOLLOW-UP PURPOSES.

CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH ON LESBIANS! SIGN UP NOW, AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO PARTICIPATE TOO!

## TRANSFUSION

As the eye from the idol was torn,  
blood streaming red ruby,  
blood red with ruby glow;  
That which was given me was removed.

That which was removed was given me,  
streaming ruby red blood,  
as the idol was torn from its pedestal—  
Leaving only the eye.

- terry

## REQUIESCAT IN PACE

In the graveyard where my love lies buried,  
I stand and see with eyes not yet unwet,  
The stranger come to bury her new dead.  
Can I console, who am not quite consoled?  
One day, perhaps, when spears of grass  
Pierce the reluctant earth above the graves  
Of both her buried love and mine,  
We may, together, arm in arm depart,  
And not return—

- Jody Shotwell

Hands are made of time; not flesh.

They are composed  
of memory and hours;  
recalling touch,  
and vibrancy;  
repeated flowers.

Hands are a sinuous memory;  
a latent stir  
of dim desire.

Hands are a once-remembered  
fire.

-Jay Wallace



# the eighth woman

## THE EIGHTH WOMAN

A review of "The Group" by Mary McCarthy  
(Harcourt, Brace & World, 1963)

From the beginning of the story, at the wedding of one of the members of the group, Elinor Eastlake has the situation well in hand. Shocked and embarrassed for the poor wedded ones (it is a very improper wedding), it is still she who slips away to buy rice to throw at the girl whom she has apparently loved.

Elinor is said to collect people and her people are said to "talk of her, as toys discussing their owners". She is the proud and untouchable, undisputed leader of the group, the eighth woman.

The group is made up of eight Vassar graduates of the year 1933. The basic plot is how they lived until 1941; it emphasizes how they mismanaged their lives rather than how they handled their lives. The book, which ends as falsely as it begins, with a sad but silly funeral, is a triumph for author Mary McCarthy.

Out of the eight women, two manage happy marriages. It is nice to be able to say that one of the happy marriages is between Elinor Eastlake and another woman. In all, we are told very little of Elinor's (Lakey's) life until the very end of the book. It is interesting, though, that Miss McCarthy focuses attention on Lakey in her important opening and closing chapters. It is also notable that the wedding at the beginning and the funeral at the end have the same girl for "starring" role; and this girl is apparently an old love of Lakey's, although we are never told how serious or important this was to either of them.

It is impossible to decide how deliberate is the author's championing of the Lesbian relationship; but in any case, this book belongs on every Lesbiana collector's shelf.

- Reviewed by Gene Damon

# READERS RESPOND

## AN OPEN LETTER TO LADDER READERS:

IN THE LADDER'S REVIEW OF DAN WAKEFIELD'S "GAY CRUSADER" ARTICLE (IN NUGGET MAGAZINE), REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO ME REQUIRE EXPLANATION. LADDER READERS COULD EASILY MISUNDERSTAND MY COMMENTS REGARDING WOMEN THAT HAVE CONSTANTLY CREEPT INTO PRINT:

- "IF WOMEN WOULD CARRY THEIR WEIGHT IN SOCIETY...THERE'D BE A HECK OF A LOT FEWER HOMOSEXUALS...THE FEMALE IN THIS SOCIETY HAS CAUSED MORE MISERY TO THE HETEROSEXUAL MALE...THAN ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE." (NEWSWEEK - JULY 1962)
- "WICKER SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE REASON NEARLY ALL THESE MANLY SPECIMENS HAD TURNED OUT HOMOSEXUAL WAS THE FAULT OF OUR SOCIETY AND ITS INADEQUATE FEMALES. 'YOU CAN'T REALLY TALK TO GIRLS, THEY'RE NOT AS INTERESTING. MEN PREFER TO TALK TO OTHER INTERESTING MEN. IF THE AMERICAN FEMALE EVER LEARNS TO COMPETE WITH THE MALE, AND IF WE EVER HAVE A SANE SEX CODE FOR EVERYONE—THAT IS A NON-RESTRICTIVE ONE—THE HOMOSEXUAL WOULD CEASE TO EXIST. THE HOMOSEXUAL IS THE PRODUCT OF THIS KIND OF RESTRICTIVE SOCIETY THAT REJECTS HIM.'" (NUGGET - JUNE 1963)
- "THE OTHER BOY IS 'FEMME' ...LOTS OF 'FEMMES' ARE SILLY AND LIGHT-HEADED JUST LIKE WOMEN." (NEW YORK POST - JUNE 1963)

ALL OF THESE HAVE TO SOME DEGREE BEEN LIFTED OUT OF THEIR CONVERSATIONAL CONTEXT BY THE JOURNALISTS INVOLVED. I AM NO "WOMAN HATER" AS MANY HAVE ASSUMED; I AM NOT ATTACKING THE FEMALE AS AN INDIVIDUAL BUT INSTEAD AM CRITICIZING CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY WHICH PLACES THE FEMALE UNDER TERRIFIC SOCIAL DISADVANTAGES.

SOCIETY ATTEMPTS TO MOLD THE FEMALE INTO BEING NON-INTELLECTUAL, SEXUALLY INHIBITED, ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT, PSYCHOLOGICALLY PASSIVE, AND TO A DEGREE VAIN AND EGOCENTRIC. THOSE WOMEN WHO ESCAPE THESE LIMITATIONS ARE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL.

THE "FEMALE ROLE", NOT THE FEMALE HERSELF, DESERVES CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM. THE "FEMALE ROLE" IS MANY TIMES AS GREAT AN OBSTACLE IN THE MALE HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP AS IT IS IN HETEROSEXUAL

MARRIAGE. THE "FEMME" MALE ADOPTS MANY OF THE FOREMENTIONED "FEMALE" SOCIAL TRAITS.

THE LESBIAN OFTEN ESCAPES THIS "FEMALE SOCIOLOGY". SHE ENTERS THE WORLD OF BUSINESS, INTELLECTUALLY IS CHALLENGED TO UNDERSTAND HER POSITION IN SOCIETY, CARRIES HER "WEIGHT" ECONOMICALLY AND SEXUALLY IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, AND GENERALLY LIVES A LIFE OUTSIDE STEREOTYPED MALE AND FEMALE ROLES.

MARGARET MEAD IN SEX AND TEMPERAMENT EXAMINES MALE AND FEMALE SOCIO-SEXUAL ROLES IN VARIOUS SOCIETIES. SHE ALSO ARGUES THAT THE TWO SEX ROLES IN MODERN SOCIETY SHOULD BECOME MORE SIMILAR AND MORE COMPATIBLE. SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO DRIFT TOWARD THIS TYPE OF SOCIETY, MANY BARRIERS TO HEALTHY HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS WOULD DISAPPEAR. EXCLUSIVE HOMOSEXUALITY WOULD BECOME A RARITY WHILE THOSE CAPABLE OF ENJOYING PRODUCTIVE HOMOSEXUAL LIAISONS WOULD INCREASE.

MY FORTHCOMING BOOK, LIVE AND LET LIVE (AVAILABLE EARLY 1964), WILL TOUCH FURTHER ON THE INADEQUACIES OF THE MALE AND FEMALE ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY.

- RANDOLFE WICKER, PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR,  
HOMOSEXUAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE PAMPHLET ENTITLED 'TOWARDS A QUAKER VIEW OF SEX' APPEARS TO BE THE RESULT OF MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING; THIS IN ITSELF IS GRATIFYING, FOR SO OFTEN THE SO-CALLED SERIOUS STUDENTS OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR APPEAR TO MAKE THEIR CONCLUSIONS ON A SUBJECTIVE BASIS. AS THESE FRIENDS SAY, 'IDEALISM CAN BE ACCOMPANIED BY A STARTLING INSENSITIVENESS TO IMMEDIATE HUMAN NEED.' THE GROUP, UNFORTUNATELY, WORKED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HOMOSEXUALS ARE WILLING TO BASE THEIR LIVES ON A CHRISTIAN SYSTEM OF ETHICS. I SERIOUSLY QUESTION THIS ASSUMPTION. PRESENT-DAY HOMOSEXUALS CAN NOT—OR WILL NOT—LEARN A NEW ETHICAL SYSTEM BASED ON A CHRISTIAN CODE; FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY DO SO—IF SUCH WORKS AS THIS ESSAY ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE HETEROSEXUAL WORLD NOW.

"THIS GROUP GIVES HOMOSEXUALS MORE CREDIT FOR DEEP AND DEVOUT RELATIONSHIPS THAN HOMOSEXUALS OFTEN GIVE THEMSELVES. THIS MAY

MEAN THAT HOMOSEXUALS NEED TO DO MORE OF THE SAME KIND OF SOUL-SEARCHING ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS: ARE WE PREPARED TO LIVE UP TO THEIR GENEROSITY? AT LEAST ONE ELEMENT OF SOCIETY IS ON RECORD NOW AS BEING WILLING TO OFFER US A PLACE IN SOCIETY. NOW HOW SHALL WE REACT?

"HOW MANY HOMOSEXUALS CONSIDER SEXUALITY 'A GIFT OF GOD'? THESE FRIENDS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IS A FUNDAMENTAL FACT OF NATURE, AS DO ALL HOMOSEXUALS; YET THEY HAVE GONE ONE STEP BEYOND, TO THE SOURCE OF SEXUALITY. HOMOSEXUALS EVERYWHERE WOULD MORE OFTEN GO TO THE GRAVE INSISTING THAT SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IS AS MUCH A PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL AS HIS FINGERNAILS, BUT WHAT THEY MEAN IS SEXUAL BEHAVIOR ON A PHYSICAL LEVEL. IS THERE A DEFINITE PLACE IN MOST HOMOSEXUAL LIVES FOR THE SACRAMENTAL MANIFESTATION OF EMOTION?

"JUDGMENTAL MORES CAN CERTAINLY STAND A THOROUGH HOUSE-CLEANING; IN DOING SO, IT NEED NOT HAPPEN THAT THE TRUE FOUNDATION OF ETHICS FALLS APART. HOMOSEXUALITY IN ITSELF CAN NOT EVEN BEGIN TO CRACK THAT FOUNDATION; IT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO REFUTE THAT CHARGE. SOME WILL SAY, 'WHAT ARE WE COMING TO, ANYWAY—ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY?' TO THESE, A GROUP OF QUAKERS HAS ANSWERED, 'JUDGMENT OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY OBVIOUSLY NEEDS TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE; IT MIGHT TRY GOING TO THE REAL BASIS OF HUMANITY.'"

- E. K., CALIFORNIA

\* \* \* \* \*

"TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN DOB'S SUCCESS AND FUTURE OPERATIONS, MAY I OFFER A SIMPLE PLAN? WE ARE ALL UNHAPPY THAT THE DOB ARE EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND I PROPOSE THAT IF EVERY SUBSCRIBER—THIS MEANS YOU—WOULD FORWARD A COPY OF THE LADDER (ISSUES THAT YOU ARE FINISHED WITH) TO SOMEONE YOU FEEL IS 'SIMILARLY INCLINED' AND MIGHT BE A PROSPECTIVE SUBSCRIBER, THEN YOUR ACTION WOULD BE SERVING TWO WORTHWHILE PURPOSES.

"IT CAN BRING HOPE TO A VERY DEPRESSED GIRL, SHOWING HER THAT HER FUTURE IS NOT SO BLACK AFTER ALL. IT CAN BRING THE LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE MOMENT OF TRUTH TO ANOTHER TRYING DESPERATELY TO UNDERSTAND BUT LACKING PROPER INFORMATION.

"WRAPPING UP A COPY WITH A SHEET OF PAPER AND ENCLOSING IT INSIDE A PLAIN WHITE ENVELOPE TAKES ONLY A MINUTE! NO NOTE IS NECESSARY. IF YOU ARE MISTAKEN IN YOUR BELIEF, THE MAGAZINE WILL BE IGNORED.

"BUT, IF YOU ARE CORRECT—THINK OF THE GREAT KINDNESS YOU HAVE DONE THIS PERSON BY GIVING HER THIS INSIGHT INTO OUR ORGANIZATION (WHICH SHE PROBABLY WASN'T EVEN AWARE EXISTED) AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A MEMBER AND A SUBSCRIBER.

"YOU HAVE ALSO BENEFITTED DOB BY GAINING FOR THEM EITHER OR BOTH OF THE ABOVE—ALL FOR THE PRICE OF A POSTAGE STAMP!

"SO PLEASE, WON'T YOU HELP IN THIS SMALL WAY, TODAY? FORWARD YOUR BACK COPIES OF THE LADDER TO THOSE YOU BELIEVE WILL BE INTERESTED AND UNDERSTANDING. THANKS!"

- A PRACTICING-WHAT-I-PREACH READER, ONTARIO, CAN.

\* \* \* \* \*

"AS AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, I AM PUZZLED BY THE SEVERITY OF THE CRITICISM THROWN AT THE HETEROSEXUALLY-MARRIED LESBIAN. THE DEMAND THAT THE BI-SEXUAL WOMAN 'MAKE HER CHOICE' SEEMS TO COME USUALLY FROM GIRLS WHO HAVE NEVER THEMSELVES TAKEN A LEGAL MARRIAGE VOW AND WHO SMUGLY ASSUME IT CONFERS SOME MAGIC ABILITY TO REMAIN FOREVER LOYAL TO THE OFFICIAL MATE. THESE CRITICS, IF PRESSED TO BE CONSISTENT, MAY EQUALLY PASS JUDGEMENT ON THE HETEROSEXUAL ADULTERER OR THE UNMARRIED LESBIAN WHO CHEATS ON HER GIRL FRIEND—BUT THEY PUT FAR MORE EMOTIONAL ENERGY INTO CONDEMNATION OF THE LESBIAN WITH A HUSBAND.

"CAN LOVE BE EXCLUSIVE? ARE THERE NOT AS MANY FORMS OF LOVE POSSIBLE TO ONE PERSON AS THERE ARE KINDS OF FRIENDSHIP? PERHAPS THE FINGER-POINTING LESBIANS ARE ENVOUS THAT OTHERS ARE CAPABLE OF MORE VARIED FULFILLMENT. ALSO, A MISTAKE IN MARRIAGE MAY NOT BE APPARENT TILL AFTER CHILDREN ARE IN THE FAMILY. THE LESBIAN WHO CAN CHANGE MATES WITH ONLY SOME FURNITURE TO DISPOSE OF, IS REALLY THE ONE WHO CAN HAVE HER CAKE AND EAT IT TOO. WILL SHE WRITE AND TELL THE LADDER WHY SHE FEELS SO ANGRY AT THE MARRIED LESBIAN?"

- M. K. R., NEW JERSEY



## 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 Chapter: 527 Hazel Street, Glendale, California.  
Chicago Chapter: 5065 North Damen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

**MEMBERSHIP** in the Daughters of Bilitis is limited to women 21 years of age or older. If in San Francisco, New York or Los Angeles area, direct inquiry to chapter concerned; otherwise write to National Office in San Francisco.

**THE LADDER:** a monthly publication by the DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC., mailed first class in a plain sealed envelope for \$4.00 per year.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** are gratefully accepted from anyone who wishes to assist us in our work. We are a non-profit corporation working entirely on donated labor. Our fees are not of such amounts as to allow for much expansion of the publication. While men may not become members of the DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC., many have expressed interest in our efforts and our publication and have made contributions to further our work. Of course, anyone over 21 years of age may subscribe to THE LADDER.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC.**

1232 Market Street, Suite 108,  
San Francisco 2, California.

Please send THE LADDER for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) by first class mail sealed to the address below. I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ at the rate of \$4.00 for each year ordered.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

I am over 21 years of age (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

# VOLUNTEER FOR RESEARCH !

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS TO ENCOURAGE AND FURTHER RESEARCH ABOUT THE HOMOPHILE? ARE YOU ALSO WILLING TO ACT ON YOUR BELIEF?

THEN FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW (AND HAVE YOUR FRIENDS ADD THEIRS) AND MAIL THIS COUPON TO RESEARCH, DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, 1232 MARKET ST., SUITE 108, SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA.

THEY WILL SEND YOU A QUESTIONNAIRE BOOKLET, NOT CONTAINING YOUR NAME, WHICH YOU WILL SEND WHEN COMPLETE DIRECT TO DR. GUNDLACH IN THE ENVELOPE TO BE PROVIDED.

REQUEST A QUESTIONNAIRE ONLY IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FILL IT OUT!

(NOTE: THIS STUDY IS LIMITED TO WOMEN.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

-----