

THE LADDER

November 1963 .50

(FOR SALE TO ADULTS ONLY)



in this issue :

Lesbian Lyrics



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

NOVEMBER 1963
VOLUME 8 NUMBER 2

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—
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

LIVING PROPAGANDA - BY MARILYN BARROW.....	4
NEWS ABOUT RESEARCH STUDY.....	7
LESBIANA - BY GENE DAMON.....	8
THE GAY COFFEE CLUB - BY JOJI HAZEL.....	11
ELLIS AND THE CHESTNUTS - BY J. SEELEY.....	13
LESBIAN LYRICS - BY BARBARA STEPHENS.....	16
CROSS-CURRENTS.....	18
LETTER TO A GIRL WHO SAID I LOVE YOU - BY JAN FRASER.....	19
DRAMATIC ARTS - BY ROBIN RICHARDS.....	22
READERS RESPOND.....	23

COVER BY CRICKET

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

Living Propaganda

by Marilyn Barrow

Every person has some prejudices directed against some other person or persons. Prejudices can be numerous in an individual or very few - but they exist in all of us. Some are against ethnic groups, economic classes, physical or mental defects, etc. Some have ludicrous causes, very unreasoning, i.e., "The first blue-spotted person I met offended me; therefore, I hate all blue-spotted people." Silly? Yes, but not very uncommon.

What do prejudices boil down to? Simply a dislike, mistrust or fear of anything alien to individual experience. We are conditioned into prejudice by our parents, or are affected by public opinion; and sometimes, with homosexuality in particular, the prejudice is a reflection of fear of personal involvement. When prejudice is toward a group, it is directed at the stereotype image of the group. Thus every male homosexual is a limp-wristed faggot and every female homosexual a stomping bull-dike.

The homosexual organizations are working to combat prejudice and concomitant legal injustices. Even allowing for a miraculous legal success in the next few decades, this would hardly lessen the individual prejudice. Indeed, it would undoubtedly increase it somewhat, just as the recent legal strides for Negroes have created much hostility.

If the first blue-spotted person I met hadn't been so unpleasant I doubt if I would dislike them so much, even though my mother warned me against blue-spotted people, and in school everyone made fun of blue-spotted people.

And so with every one of us, we are living propaganda. Everyone we meet who knows we are gay, and likes and respects us, is a potential weapon for our struggle.

The flamboyant Lesbian, free-wheeling exponent of the artificial gay life, is hardly a good public image. On

the other hand, living a lie does little good. There has to be some middle ground between these two extremes, especially for those of us who want to be respectable citizens in our communities. What does it benefit my people if I am moral and upright, if my appearance in this guise is assumed to be heterosexually oriented? This is living a lie.

In my city I know many homosexuals who are respectable members of the community. None of them, however, would allude to being homosexual except with other homosexuals. In that sense, they are respectable liars. I am not, of course, advocating a wholesale announcement - it does not have to be this way.

Everyone knows that Monty is a homosexual in the organization where he works. A new employee is told this within a month of arriving. However, instead of sneers or innuendo, the information is always told with additions. "Monty is a wonderful guy, he's worked here 27 years and everyone loves him." This is really true. He is feminine enough in appearance so that hiding his homosexuality would be difficult. By admitting it and taking some kidding and being a "good guy" and a "wonderful worker" he is unquestionably the most popular employee. He is living propaganda of a very constructive kind.

In the same organization there is Jack, a very masculine fellow, who is quite easily spotted as gay. He takes the opposite tack, is witty and knife-tongued - and loathed. Jack is brilliant, handsome, a good worker, but he is a damaging kind of living propaganda.

In my office there are fifteen women and three male supervisors. The work is a form of public relations, and the job requires initiative and literacy. Almost everyone in the office has had some college. An educated group of fairly young women are likely to be pre-disposed to liberal attitudes toward sexual variation. They are "sharp" and hard to fool.

I am the only Lesbian in the room, and there are apparently no others with tendencies in this direction. Everyone in the room (I am sure) knows that I am homosexual. Each reacts differently depending on his individual personality.

To some I am a joke, likeable perhaps, but a joke nevertheless. To most, I am the senior member of the group. Most of them come to me with questions about the work. Some of them fear me (I have a bad temper); most of them like me; and for all except one or two I am their first reasonably intimate contact with a homosexual.

There are humorous and even embarrassing moments. But I know that for the most part these people have a more liberal attitude because of this working situation. Since I live a reasonably acceptable life, ergo, perhaps others like me do also. The head of the office automatically invited my roommate to the Christmas party, just as the married women brought husbands and the unmarried their boyfriends. I have privately been asked many questions, ranging from the very serious to the very humorous. The office wag torments me continuously with innuendo, to get a laugh, in which I more than happily join, since she is my favorite in the office. Some months ago, when the movie "West Side Story" was showing here, I arrived at work one morning to have the wag pop her head into my cubicle and serenade me with this paraphrase: "I feel pretty, I feel pretty, I feel pretty and witty and gay. And I pity any girl who isn't queer today."

They know, most of them, that I am not ashamed; somehow they feel that therefore I have nothing to be ashamed of.

With personnel changes, possibly 25 people have been part of the group. And most of them have now had one fairly uneventful and reasonably pleasant work experience with that taboo creature, the Lesbian! I am sure some of them will never need this experience, but some of them will. I am also sure that this will have made them less quick to judge, more understanding in their attitude.

There is a healthy atmosphere when you can be part of the scene as you really are, not as some pretender. It's a good feeling to be honest, and you may help in the good fight. Try it, try living propaganda in your own life!

- - - -

The Editor invites readers to contribute for future publication written accounts of "living propaganda."

News About Research Study

AS OF THE TIME THE LADDER WENT TO PRESS, 180 PERSONS HAD RECEIVED QUESTIONNAIRES FROM DOB IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESEARCH STUDY BEING CONDUCTED BY DR. RALPH GUNDLACH AND THE POSTGRADUATE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH OF NEW YORK. OF THIS NUMBER, 83 HAD ALREADY RETURNED THEIR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES TO NEW YORK.

WE AS WELL AS DR. GUNDLACH ARE GRATIFIED AT THE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, AND WISH TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED SO FAR. MAY WE ASK THOSE WHO HAVEN'T YET RETURNED THEIR QUESTIONNAIRES TO PLEASE GET THEM IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! AND THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED, WE HOPE YOU WILL HELP RAISE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS THIS MONTH, BY SENDING IN ONE OF THE COUPONS YOU RECEIVED WITH THE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER LADDER. (IF YOU DON'T WISH TO HAVE YOUR NAME USED AT ALL, WHY NOT USE A PEN-NAME, ASKING US TO MAIL YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE IN CARE OF SOME FRIEND WHO SUBSCRIBES TO THE LADDER?) REMEMBER IN ANY CASE THAT NO NAME EVER GOES TO THE RESEARCH GROUP WHO SEES YOUR REPLIES.

SOME OF YOU WERE INTERESTED ENOUGH TO REQUEST A SUPPLY OF QUESTIONNAIRES, TO DISTRIBUTE TO FRIENDS, ACQUAINTANCES, OR OTHERS. BUT IF YOU DID NOT ALSO GIVE US THEIR NAMES (OR A PEN-NAME), THIS PRESENTED US WITH A LITTLE PROBLEM: A LARGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS CERTAINLY ONE GOAL SOUGHT BY DR. GUNDLACH AND DOB. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE OTHER GOALS, WHICH MAY IN PART CONFLICT WITH THE FIRST ONE, AS IS USUALLY THE CASE IN ANY AREA. FOR INSTANCE, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT IMPORTANT ISSUES NOT SETTLED BY THE QUESTIONNAIRES WILL REQUIRE A FOLLOW-UP, WHICH MUST BE PROPERLY FORWARDED. WHILE YOU MAY BE SURE YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THOSE EXTRA TWO OR THREE QUESTIONNAIRES WENT, SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT NOT HAVE SO GOOD A MEMORY - OR EVEN YOU MAY NOT BE SO SURE SIX MONTHS FROM NOW! DR. GUNDLACH AND DOB FEEL IT BEST TO ADHERE TO THE SAME RULE FOR EVERYBODY. THEN, TOO, IT SEEMED TO THOSE DOING THE PLANNING THAT QUESTIONNAIRES SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO PERSONS WHO ARE WILLING TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO COMPLETE THE JOB. SO, PLEASE SEND US A NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS FOR EACH QUESTIONNAIRE REQUESTED!

- DOB RESEARCH COMMITTEE

LESBIANA



LESBIANA IS A CONTINUING LIST OF FICTION AND NON-FICTION TITLES PERTAINING TO VARIANT WOMEN. AN ITEM IS INCLUDED EITHER BECAUSE THE LITERARY QUALITY WARRANTS IT, OR BECAUSE THE TREATMENT IS SYMPATHETIC, UNUSUAL, OR - SIMPLY - ENTERTAINING. EACH REVIEW ATTEMPTS TO INDICATE THE SPECIAL MERIT OF THE BOOK OR STORY.

234. STACY TOWER BY ROBERT H. K. WALTER. MACMILLAN, 1963.

OVERLY LONG NOVEL OF LIFE ON AN ENORMOUS MID-WESTERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. BOTH FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY PLOTS ARE INCLUDED. AMONG THE FACULTY IS TEACHING ASSISTANT MAGGIE WHO HAS HAD AN ABORTIVE LOVE AFFAIR WITH AN OLDER WOMAN. WE ARE TOLD ABOUT THE AFFAIR FROM THREE DIFFERENT STANDPOINTS. MAGGIE, WHO SUFFERS FROM AN EXAGGERATED SENSE OF REJECTION, COMMITS SUICIDE. THE VERY LONG CHAPTER LEADING TO THE SUICIDE IS THE BEST IN THE BOOK.

235. THE KEENER LOVE BY SALLY THOMPSON. MCDOWELL, BOLENSKY, 1960.

WHY HAS 30-YEAR-OLD SARA WILSON, WITH AN IDEAL YOUNG HUSBAND, COMMITTED SUICIDE? HER STEP-FATHER TRIES TO FIND THE ANSWER. HIS TRAIL LEADS HIM TO ELLEN JAMES, SARA'S LESBIAN LOVER, TO THE MANY MEN SARA HAS SLEPT WITH AND FINALLY TO THE DEATH BED OF SARA'S REAL FATHER, FRANK KEENER. WELL WRITTEN FIRST NOVEL, WITH DEPTH AND ADEPT CHARACTERIZATION.

236. THE CHOICE BY MARC BRANDEL. DIAL PRESS, 1950.

SUSPENSE NOVEL ABOUT A PARANOID WITH DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION AND THE 7 PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HE THREATENS. AMONG THESE ARE JILL HILLSIDE, A FRIGID BISEXUAL BITCH, HER LONG TIME LOVER ANN DAWSON, AND A CURRENT MALE SUITOR, NED MARLOWE. THE DRAMA OF THESE THREE LIVES TAKES UP 3/4 OF THE BOOK. THIS IS EXCELLENT FOR ITS GENRE, WILL ESPECIALLY INTEREST MYSTERY FANS AS WELL AS COLLECTORS OF LESBIANA.

237. MY LOVELY ADELE BY ADRIAN BENNETT. AVON, 1962.

A MUCH BETTER THAN AVERAGE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL. NORMA HOUSTON, PICTURED AS AN UGLY DUCKLING WITH HER OWN STICK-TO-IT METHOD OF MAKING AN ASSURED AND ATTRACTIVE WOMAN OF HERSELF, IS A MUCH MORE BELIEVABLE, INTERESTING HEROINE THAN ANY OUTSIDE OF BANNON OR TAYLOR OR CHRISTIAN. THERE IS A LOT LESS SEX AND MORE PLOT THAN USUAL, TOO. STORY LINE IS CARRIED BY A SYMPATHETIC MALE NARRATOR WHO IS IN LOVE WITH NORMA. FLASHBACK CHAPTERS GIVE THE DETAILS OF NORMA'S AFFAIR WITH "LOVELY ADELE" WHO IS MUCH LESS THAN LOVELY. IT IS SAD TO HAVE TO ADD THAT THE BOOK IS BASICALLY VERY TRAGIC AND THAT ONE OF THE VERY OLDEST CLICHE ENDINGS IS USED AS DEUS EX MACHINA. DESPITE THIS, THOUGH, IT IS A WORTHWHILE BOOK WELL HANDLED FOR THE MOST PART.

238. TENDER TORMENT BY RANDY SALEM. MIDWOOD TOWER (PBO) 1962.

AND THE TORMENT ISN'T ALWAYS SO TENDER. ALEX, THE HEROINE, IS A SORT OF MIDDLE CLASS BEEBO BRINKER, WITH A PRETTY SET OUTLOOK ON LIFE. HOWEVER, WHERE BEEBO IS WILDLY PROMISCUOUS, ALEX IS ANXIOUS TO BE A HAPPILY MARRIED "HUSBAND" AND THE SHREW SHE IS BUSY TAMING WOULD CURL ANYONE'S HAIR. TAKES A BIT OF HELL TO WORK IT ALL OUT BUT IT ENDS HAPPILY JUST AS THIS SORT OF STORY SHOULD END. GOOD OF KIND AND RANDY SALEM IS FAST RISING INTO THE TERRITORY INHABITED BY SUCH AUTHORS AS BANNON, CHRISTIAN, AND TAYLOR.

239. EDITH SIMCOX AND GEORGE ELIOT BY K. A. MCKENZIE. LONDON, CLARENDON PRESS, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1961.

EDITH SIMCOX, VICTORIAN SPINSTER, WRITER, SOCIAL WORKER, LEFT AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY RECOUNTING HER PASSIONATE, WHOLLY UNREQUITED LOVE FOR FAMOUS NOVELIST GEORGE ELIOT (MARIAN EVANS). THEIR RELATIONSHIP LASTED 8 YEARS FROM THEIR MEETING IN 1872 UNTIL ELIOT'S DEATH IN 1880. IT WAS A ONE-SIDED THING WITH ELIOT SIMPLY TOLERATING THE EXAGGERATED AFFECTION AND CARESSES SHOWERED UPON HER BY THE COMPLETELY INFATUATED MISS SIMCOX. PROFESSOR MCKENZIE ANALYZES QUITE THOROUGHLY THE NATURE OF THE AFFECTION BUT HE IS CERTAINLY NOT AT ALL UNSYMPATHETIC.

240. THE FIRST SIP OF WINE BY JANE GALE PATTISON. CROWELL, 1960.

CAREY COOKE, MOTHERLESS 16-YEAR-OLD, IS SENT TO A BOARDING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, WHOLLY AGAINST HER WISHES. SHE IS UNPOPULAR MORE OR LESS BY HER OWN CHOOSING AND FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER CHARMING OVERBLOWN FRENCH TEACHER, MADAME DE VALENTIN. HOWEVER, MADAME HAS A BOYFRIEND AND IS NOT AS INTERESTED IN CAREY AS CAREY IS IN HER, AND WHEN MADAME'S BOYFRIEND INVITES CAREY TO JOIN THEM ON A TRIP IN A MOTORBOAT, CAREY'S TERRIBLE JEALOUSY THROWS HER INTO A PRECARIOUS SITUATION. QUITE GOOD FOR A FIRST NOVEL.

241. THE GARDEN BY KATHRIN PERUTZ. ATHENEUM, 1962.

WE'VE SEEN HERE BEFORE. FINE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL FULL OF WILD AND WOOLY GIRLS. VERY GAY IN SPOTS AND VERY HETERO IN OTHER SPOTS. LOTS OF FUN THOUGH AND DESPITE A SUICIDE AND NUMBERS OF MISCELLANEOUS COMPLICATIONS IT LACKS THAT SAD MALARKY TONE. HOMOSEXUAL ENOUGH TO BE INTERESTING AND LIGHT-WEIGHT ENOUGH TO BE FORGOTTEN. PRETTY GOOD WRITING FOR A 22-YEAR-OLD GIRL, EVEN A BARNARD GRADUATE.

242. ITS UGLY HEAD BY DEREK MONSEY. NEW YORK, SIMON AND SCHUSTER, 1960 (C. 1959).

VERY WELL WRITTEN, SERIO-COMIC NOVEL ABOUT A YOUNG ENGLISH JOURNALIST AND HIS WIFE AND HIS GIRLFRIEND. THE GIRLFRIEND GEORGINA IS INVOLVED WITH A BALLET DANCER IN A RATHER LESBIAN WAY. NOT VERY IMPORTANT IN THE BOOK BUT THE GIRLS END UP TOGETHER.

243. THE LOVE SURVEY BY MORTON COOPER. AVON, 1961.

EXCELLENT PAPERBACK ON THE RATHER EXPLOSIVE REACTIONS ENGENDERED WHEN A TEAM OF PSYCHOLOGISTS, INVESTIGATING CURRENT SEXUAL MORES, INVADERS A SMALL SUBURB OF NEW YORK. THERE IS AN EXCELLENT, WELL-DELINEATED (IF OVERLY CLINICAL) LESBIAN AFFAIR OCCUPYING OVER 1/3 OF THE NOVEL. THE ENDING IS MELODRAMATIC BUT NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED IN VIEW OF THE TENSIONS CREATED. THIS NOVEL IS CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN A GOOD MANY OTHERS TREATING THE SAME SUBJECT WHICH HAVE BEEN HONORED BY PAPERBACK PUBLICATION.

The Gay Coffee Club

Canadian homosexuals, in the Province of Ontario at least, are no longer forced to congregate in second-rate beverage rooms. An antidote looms on the horizon. Coffee Clubs, while comparatively new, are gaining in momentum and have already made strides in providing the homosexual with a gay evening on the town. The potentials are unlimited; with wise management these clubs can do more to further the cause and promote understanding of the homosexual than anything yet seen in this country.

Recently I had the good luck to visit such a club which for the purpose of this article I shall call "Koffee Korner." Factually, Koffee Korner is a few rooms over the main street shops of a large Ontario city. At the top of a narrow flight of stairs is the registration desk where one "signs in." (Members pay \$5.00 yearly plus a small fee each time they attend; their guests pay \$1.75 for the evening.) Here is what I observed in Koffee Korner.

Behind the desk stood a striking blonde woman. Her smile was warm, her manner friendly, and if at times her language became a little spartan, it too was part of her effervescent personality. She was one of the owners, and proud of her "clean operation."

The motif of the main room was soft and pleasing; generally, attractive shadings of blue were used, set off effectively by semi-silhouette murals. Bright red-and-white checkered tablecloths gave the room an air of intimacy.

Men greatly outnumbered women but all mixed freely and it was no deterrent to the dancing. Everyone was dressed neatly (and many very smartly) in casual clothing. A few elegantly effeminate men were present, and their conduct was charming and quite acceptable by any standards.

Dancing for the most part was of a rock-and-roll tempo, with twist variations most prominent. The Bossanova was skillfully executed, as were Latin American dances and some thrilling ballroom waltzing! At intervals, "theme" recordings were played, and the line dances accompanying them were truly something to see. Almost the entire crowd formed facing lines and joined in with great gusto. The intricate footwork and original stylings of these dances, which had been invented by the club's co-owner and developed by the crowd, were the highlight of the evening. The steps were a unique form of precision movements which were delightful to watch. With aplomb, an agile waiter darted and dodged between the long lines of swinging hips without spilling a drop of the coffee he carried!

Throughout the evening, which was pleasant and entertaining--indeed truly gay--two things struck me forcibly. The club was clean and attractively decorated; the crowd was exceptionally well-mannered and friendly, a credit to management and members alike. There were no incidents and to my knowledge not a harsh word was spoken. The crowd, in fact, was remarkably happy!

This type of Coffee Club is a step in the right direction. Perhaps eventually places such as this will become "clubs" in every sense of the word. Games like table tennis, darts, cribbage and charades can be fun; discussions and debates are enlightening as well as interesting; later when things are in full swing, more creative endeavours could also help cement the foundation which has been laid. In fact, the owners already plan another Koffee Korner where more serious activities can be enjoyed.

Presently, recreation is limited to dancing with the exception of weekly stage show or film. Dancing is something which all too often a homosexual must view from the sidelines (with considerable envy) at a heterosexual function, or perhaps join in half-heartedly. But boredom is inevitable when recreation is limited--even to dancing! Unless sufficient variety is offered, interest will lag in any club. Food is always an asset; yet not even peanuts were in evidence at Koffee Korner. A large spread is costly and unnecessary. Most people enjoy "making their own" and willingly do so for a fair price.

As the name implies, no alcoholic beverages are served in Coffee Clubs, and in my opinion, this is one more reason why they deserve to succeed. Here are guys and gals completely uninhibited--and without liquor to "relax" them! They have learned the rule of the three L's: they know how to Live, Laugh, and Love. Congratulations and good luck to them and to the management who provide the right surroundings to make it all possible. Long live all the Gay Coffee Clubs!

Ellis and the Chestnuts

BY J. SEELEY

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1963, DR. ALBERT ELLIS DELIVERED HIS SPEECH, "SEXUAL FREEDOM AND HOMOSEXUALITY: THE RIGHT TO BE WRONG," BEFORE THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF NEW YORK AND THE PUBLIC. DR. ELLIS, ALTHOUGH CONDEMNING HOMOSEXUALITY AS "INEFFICIENT AND SELF-DEFEATING," MAINTAINED THAT EVEN THOUGH HOMOSEXUALITY IS WRONG IN HIS ESTIMATION, THE HOMOSEXUAL HAS THE "RIGHT TO BE WRONG."

DR. ELLIS ADHERES TO WEBSTER'S DEFINITION OF WRONG: "NOT RIGHT OR PROPER ACCORDING TO A CODE, STANDARD OR CONVENTION." IT IS ON THIS BASIS THAT DR. ELLIS SAYS THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL IS "WRONG," YET AT THE SAME TIME DR. ELLIS IS IN FAVOR OF CHANGING THE PRESENT CODES AND STATUTES THAT MAKE HOMOSEXUALITY "WRONG." HE GOES ON TO QUALIFY HIS ADVOCATION OF CHANGES IN THE LAWS RE HOMOSEXUALITY BY SAYING THAT UNLESS HETEROSEXUALS CEASE THEIR PERSECUTION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL, THE HOMOSEXUAL WILL NEVER BE HELPED OR CHANGED! THIS IS THE PARADOX OF DR. ELLIS' THESIS: IF "WRONG" IS DEPENDENT ON A CODE AND THAT CODE IS CHANGED, THEN NO HOMOSEXUAL WILL NEED TO SEE THE HETEROSEXUAL LIGHT THAT DR. ELLIS HOLDS BEFORE US, BECAUSE NO ONE WILL BE WRONG.

DR. ELLIS ALSO MAINTAINS THAT ALL HOMOSEXUALS ARE "WEAK AND SELF-SABOTAGING" BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO LAZY TO MAKE AN EARNEST EFFORT TO RECONDITION THEMSELVES TO HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS--SEXUAL OF COURSE. NO MENTION IS MADE OF EMOTIONAL STATES. IT SEEMS THAT EVERYTHING HINGES ON THE PHYSICAL RATHER THAN THE PSYCHICAL, AND EVERYTHING IS EITHER UPSIDE DOWN OR INSIDE OUT. WHAT HE NEGLECTS TO BRING TO LIGHT IS THAT MANY HOMOSEXUALS GO THROUGH AN EXTREMELY PAINFUL ADJUSTMENT PERIOD, CONDITIONING THEMSELVES TO THE FACT THAT THEY ARE HOMOSEXUALLY ORIENTED, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED ALREADY TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS HETEROSEXUALS.

HOMOSEXUALITY IS "SELF-DEFEATING" BECAUSE HOMOSEXUALITY IS CONDEMNED IN OUR SOCIETY AND THEREFORE IS NOT "ADVANTAGEOUS" TO THE HOMOSEXUAL INDIVIDUAL. BY ADVANTAGEOUS, DR. ELLIS INDICATES THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL IS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FINANCIALLY, CAREER-WISE, ETC. HERE AGAIN WE ENCOUNTER DR. ELLIS' OWN PHYSICAL, MATERIALISTIC ORIENTATION. HIS ENTIRE ARGUMENT RESTS ON EXTERNAL APPEARANCES AND MATERIALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS.

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN DR. ELLIS STATES THAT ALL HOMOSEXUALS ARE UNABLE TO RELATE WELL TO SOCIETY, HE MAKES AN EXCEPTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY AND THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS. HOWEVER TRUE THIS MAY BE, IT SEEMS INCONGRUOUS THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WHOM DR. ELLIS MENTIONS AS WELL-INTEGRATED PERSONS, ARE THE VERY PEOPLE FIGHTING ACTIVELY FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL, AGAINST THE SOCIETY THAT THEY RELATE TO SO WELL.

DR. ELLIS IS GENEROUS ENOUGH TO ADMIT THAT THE PRESENT CODES OF SOCIETY ARE WRONG. YET, HE STILL SAYS THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL IS WRONG, ACCORDING TO THE "WRONG" CODES OF SOCIETY. IS NO ONE "RIGHT"?

HE SEEMS TO BE CONVINCED THAT IF HOMOSEXUALS WERE FORGIVEN THEIR "SINS" BY SOCIETY, HOMOSEXUALITY AS AN ACTUALITY WOULD BE THEREBY MINIMIZED. PERHAPS HE MEANS THAT SINCE ALL OR NEARLY ALL HOMOSEXUALS ARE PSYCHOTIC OR BORDERLINE PSYCHOTIC, THEN DISTURBED INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE DROPPED FROM THE RANKS OF HOMOSEXUALS, SINCE THERE WOULD NO LONGER BE ANY PERSECUTION OR INJUSTICE TO FEED THEIR PSYCHOSES, LEAVING ONLY THE WELL-INTEGRATED HOMOSEXUAL. THAT IS, IF WE ACCEPT HIS STATEMENT THAT ALL HOMOSEXUALS ARE PSYCHOTIC OR BORDERLINE PSYCHOTIC.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO RELATE TO THE AUDIENCE (AS HE SEES IT), DR. ELLIS STATED THAT HE HAS A FONDNESS FOR 17-YEAR-OLD GIRLS, BUT RESTRAINS HIMSELF BECAUSE COPULATION WITH A GIRL OF SEVENTEEN WOULD CAUSE SOCIETY TO PUNISH HIM. HOWEVER, MIGHT IT NOT BE TRUE ALSO, THAT DR. ELLIS' REAL REASON FOR NOT ATTEMPTING TO ENACT OVERTLY HIS SUPPRESSED DESIRES IS A DEEP-SEATED FEAR OF REJECTION BY THE GIRL THUS APPROACHED? ONLY IN THE EVENT OF SUCH REJECTION (OR CARELESSNESS) WOULD HIS PREDILECTION BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES. REJECTION BY A YOUNG GIRL IS THE IF ON WHICH THIS QUESTION RESTS. PERHAPS DR. ELLIS NEEDS HELP HIMSELF!

THROUGHOUT HIS INTERMINABLE SPEECH, DR. ELLIS ALWAYS REFERRED TO "SEX OBJECT", NEVER USING THE TERM "LOVE OBJECT". (NO EMOTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS?) IN FACT, HIS WHOLE SPEECH WAS RIDDLED WITH SEX, COPULATION, AND THE PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL UNION. HIS LANGUAGE WAS DEPLORABLE, AND HIS ENTIRE ATTITUDE WAS ONE OF CONDESCENSION AND FACETIOUSNESS. HE TALKED DOWN TO THE AUDIENCE AS THOUGH THEY WERE SEMI-LITERATE BARBARIANS. HIS TONE WAS "I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR."

A PROFESSOR FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, DR. ERNEST VAN DEN HAAG, WAS ASKED TO DISCUSS DR. ELLIS' SPEECH, AND THOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUS HE HAD HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE HIS STATEMENTS BEFOREHAND, IT WAS ALSO OBVIOUS THAT HAD HE BEEN PREPARED, HE WOULD HAVE MADE A MORE THAN ADEQUATE REFUTATION OF DR. ELLIS' STATEMENTS.

AFTER DR. VAN DEN HAAG HAD COMPLETED HIS REMARKS, DR. ELLIS AGAIN ROSE TO THE PODIUM, AND PROCEEDED TO BE MORE ODIOS AND LUDICROUS (WHERE POSSIBLE) THAN HE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY. HE REFERRED TO DR. VAN DEN HAAG'S REFUTATIONS AS "HOARY CHESTNUTS." HE NEVER DID CLAIM THAT THOSE "HOARY CHESTNUTS" WERE FALSE OR INVALID. THEY ARE NOT. THEY WERE SIMPLY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN THAT DR. ELLIS REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE. MOREOVER, THOSE "CHESTNUTS" THAT DR. VAN DEN HAAG PICKED, WERE HANGING IN THE COMPANY OF THE "CHESTNUTS" THAT DR. ELLIS CHOSE TO PICK AND EXPLOIT TO HIS OWN ENDS. DR. ELLIS CAN'T SEE THE FRUIT FOR THE CHESTNUTS.

HAD DR. ELLIS CHOSEN TO STAND AND SAY "THIS IS MY OPINION," I DOUBT THAT HE COULD BE QUESTIONED, BECAUSE HE IS ENTITLED TO HIS OPINION. BUT TO PROCLAIM THAT WHAT HE SAYS IS VALID, SCIENTIFIC FACT, IS AN INSULT TO THE AUDIENCE. IN CLOSING, LET ME BORROW FROM DR. VAN DEN HAAG AND SAY: "DR. ELLIS SURELY ABUSES HIS RIGHT TO BE WRONG, AND NEGLECTS HIS RIGHT TO BE RIGHT."

Lesbian Lyrics

"You are come; 'tis well; I longed for you;
And you have brought to flame anew
The fire of love in my heart;" -- Sappho

How many of us remember, some time long ago, the first lyrics that seemed to strike sympathetic strings of fire in our souls? Some time, in a deep wood, or on a rainy evening in the attic, we may have read these lines from Sara Teasdale:

"Girls shall come in whom love has made aware
Of all their swaying beauty - they shall sing,
But never Sappho's voice, like golden fire
Shall seek for heaven through your echoing rafters"

Or the haunting cadences of Edna St. Vincent Millay:

"Twice having seen your shingled heads adorable
Side by side, the onyx and the gold
I know that I have had what I could not hold."

Perhaps then we didn't understand as we do now, but only felt vague longings. Or perhaps then, through these lines, our first feelings were made articulate, that we could realize what we wanted to know. For there has been a wealth of Lesbian poetry, long before any novels on the scene created any sensation. In the nineteenth century, there appeared Coleridge's "Christabel," and also Christina Rossetti's "Echo":

"Come to me in the silence of the night;
Come in the speaking silence of a dream;
Come with soft rounded cheeks and eye as bright
As sunlight on a stream;
Speak low, lean low,
As long ago, my love, how long ago!"

And there is an undercurrent of Lesbian feeling among the moderns. From The Collected Poems of Sara Teasdale, we find "Sappho," "The unchanging," "Grey Eyes," "The Storm," "Understanding," and "The Mystery." Equally enchanting are the Collected Lyrics of Edna St. Vincent Millay, including "Evening on Lesbos," "When the Year Grows Old," and "Memorial to D. C." Can we forget her "Witch-Wife"?

"She loves me all that she can,
And her ways to my ways resign;
But she was not made for any man,
And she never will be all mine."

It must not be overlooked that men poets have been able to delineate our feelings with profound understanding. Charles Baudelaire writes of:

"Lesbos, whereof the kisses are whirlpools and cascades
Journeying carelessly into a dark abyss:
So wild the sobbing and laughter among the columnades,
So secret, so profound, so stormy, every kiss!"

The Songs of Bilitis are known to us all, while This Is My Beloved by Walter Benton voices universal sentiment:

"I need love more than ever now... I need your love...
Because love has your face and body... And your
hands are tender and your mouth is sweet -
And God has made no other eyes like yours."

Time will pass and generations will find anew the lyrical feelings we discovered long ago. For as long as there are beauty and beings with sentiment, there will be love. And we have not changed so much in the ages; since Sappho, our view has remained the same. Miss Teasdale writes for us:

"Sunswept beaches with a light wind blowing
From the immense blue circle of the sea,
And the soft thunder where the long waves whiten -
These were the same for Sappho as for me.

"Two thousand years - much has gone forever,
Change takes the gods and ships and speech of men -
But here on the beaches that time passes over
The heart aches now as then."

Cross-Currents

DR. NORMAN JANZER, THE PSYCHIATRIST WHO EXAMINED CONVICTED CHILD-SLAYER JEANNACE FREEMAN (AUGUST 1963 LADDER) WHEN SHE WAS 15, SAID IN A SPEECH RECENTLY, "COULD OREGON STUDY THE FAILURE OF JEANNACE FREEMAN AND PROFIT FROM THIS MISTAKE?" HE INVITED POLITICAL LEADERS TO SANCTION A STUDY WHICH COULD "TRANSFORM WHAT IS PRESENTLY A COMPLETE DISASTER INTO A PARTIAL GAIN."

* * * * *

IN THE ART MUSEUM OF A MAJOR CITY, SUBTLE HOMOSEXUAL DISCRIMINATION IS BEING PRACTICED, ACCORDING TO A MAGAZINE FOR EXECUTIVES IN THAT AREA. WITH PERMISSION WE QUOTE: "IN ADDITION TO THE OVERT INFLUENCE AND CONFLICTS POSED BY THE EXISTENCE OF A SOCIETY IN-GROUP, MUSEUM PROFESSIONALISM PROBABLY ALSO SUFFERS FROM THE COVERT INFLUENCE OF HOMOSEXUAL IN-GROUPS WHICH WORK IN A FEW OF THE MUSEUM DEPARTMENTS. HERE THE PROBLEM IS NOT BUNGLING AMATEURISM, FOR MOST OF THE PEOPLE ARE WELL-TRAINED AND EXTREMELY COMPETENT, AS A NUMBER OF FORMER MUSEUM PEOPLE CONCEDE, BUT THERE IS SAID TO BE A TENDENCY TO WEED OUT COLLEAGUES WHO 'DON'T FIT.'" IF YOU'RE NOT GAY, YOU CAN'T STAY!

* * * * *

BANNED! BUT NOT IN BOSTON. THIS TIME PHILADELPHIA, CRADLE OF LIBERTY, IS HAVING A FLING AT BOOK-BURNING. IN A CEREMONY ON CHURCH STEPS, PHILADELPHIA'S SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AS WELL AS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF INSPECTOR SMUGLY OFFICIATED AS AN ALTAR BOY LIT A TAPER, THE CHOIR SANG HYMNS - AND "COCKTAIL" MAGAZINE WAS SOLEMNLY ROASTED OVER A PORTABLE BARBECUE PIT. TWO DAYS LATER, NO LESS THAN 70 POLICE AND PLAINCLOTHESMEN WERE DEPLOYED TO ARREST 22 NEWSSTAND DEALERS AND CONFISCATE 5000 MAGAZINES OF THE SUNSHINE-AND-HEALTH NUDIST VARIETY. CAN THE HUMAN BODY IN ITSELF BE JUDGED OBSCENE? BUT THE INTIMIDATION WAS LAUNCHED. MOVIE-HOUSE RAIDS CAME NEXT. BLEATED ONE PUBLIC OFFICIAL, "OUR CHILDREN MUST BE PROTECTED." PITY THAT DISAPPOINTED ALTAR BOY.

letter to a girl who said i love you

by Jan Fraser

Do you remember the night we met? It was strange. I had stopped at a sidewalk hot-dog stand, and just as I turned away you dashed up. Breathlessly you asked the counter man, "How do I get to the Palm Club?" Without thinking I said, "I'm going there. You can come with me." I'd never done anything like that before, picking up a girl on the street. But there was something about you - a sort of fresh, eager look, so unlike the blase looks on the faces I'd known.

On the way to the Palm we talked. You were almost twenty-one, a senior in college. You told me your parents were sending you to Europe for a month. You'd never been to New York before, but a friend mentioned the Palm Club.

We had a wonderful time. I'd never met anyone like you. At the ancient age of twenty-six I was pretty jaded. I'd seen it all: the gay bars, the tough butches, the sophisticated up-towners, the transvestites you had to look at twice to know they were women. They were all part of my world. You were young, not so much in years as in attitude. To you life was still good and you were eager to live it. Coming from a small midwestern college you had no idea of what gay life could be - the disillusionment, the searching and never finding, the loneliness.

That night you said you loved me, and the next morning you left for Europe. I got your first letter a week later. In it you made plans for our life together. You talked of leaving college, getting a job, living here with me.

Me - I was scared. I didn't want to love you. To be truthful, I was afraid to. I'd been around too much. I'd seen people get hurt loving. I even got hurt once or

twice myself. Now I was smarter. Love was for those who didn't know better. I didn't believe in it.

But slowly things changed. Can a person fall in love through letters? Doesn't sound possible, but I did. I fought it every inch. I didn't want to give in. I tried to tell myself I was flattered by your attention, that what I felt was just passion, a passing fancy. It didn't work. I was in love. Me, the gal with the "one night stand" rep. It showed too. I wore a beatific smile; I dragged your name into conversations; my purse bulged with your letters. Everyone kidded me. "You'll never be true. Two weeks after she gets back you'll be bored. We know you." I couldn't blame them. Maybe there was something wrong with me. Let someone really fall for me and I wasn't interested. I never wanted anyone to love me. Till you, that is.

The day you came home I was at the airport waiting. We went to the Palm Club that night. My friends were eager to see the girl I'd flipped for. They weren't disappointed. Someone said, "Boy, you've got it. Give her a year and a haircut, and she'll be the cutest butch in town." Pat, a girl I'd gone with off and on, told me, "She's green now, but you can fix that. She has possibilities."

When we got home you were full of ideas and love and enthusiasm that swept me along too. I'd been cautious about expressing my feelings in my letters and for some reason saving it for a big dramatic declaration of love. I never did get to make it. You were planning to stay a week before going back to college, but when you called home and discovered your mother was ill you left the next day.

"I know you understand," you said. "I'll be back for Christmas." (you had abandoned your plan to give up college and decided instead to come East for good in June so we could be together.)

I saw you off on the plane and though you didn't ask it I promised to be faithful till you came back. "You don't have to promise anything; I trust you." You smiled. I pushed the nagging doubts to the back of my mind and remembered that smile.

That night I went down to the Palm, had one drink and went home. I became the bar's worst customer. Every night, one drink and home. I was proud of myself. I boasted to my unbelieving companions. One night on the way out I overheard, "She'll never make it. Christmas is three months away."

For a while everything was fine. I basked in the sun of my new, unaccustomed virtue. I was home by 10:30 every night. I began to look with disdain at my promiscuous friends. And wonder of wonders, I began staying away from the bars. But soon I got bored watching television and reading. One night I got dressed and went to the Palm Club. My friends greeted me with jubilant cries. "Look who's here! Welcome back."

Before I knew it I was drunk. I awoke next morning in Pat's apartment. She looked embarrassed when she told me, "You wanted to come back here. You said you weren't going to stay cooped up for anyone. Hell, honey, I like you. What was I supposed to do?"

"You could have told me to go home," I muttered.

"Baby, if it wasn't me it would have been someone else. You weren't about to go home."

I spent the next week staying contritely at my apartment until I couldn't stand the sight of the place. I even called some straight friends and went to a movie with them. Finally I couldn't take it any more. I gave in. The old cycle began again. Bars and girls. Different bars and different girls every week.

That's why when your next letter comes I won't answer it. That's why you won't be hearing from me again. My life isn't for you. After a while you'd hate it, and me too. I've been like this too long. I can't change. I guess I don't want to.

Be good.

Laurie

Dramatic Arts

BY ROBIN RICHARDS

SHIRLEY JACKSON'S EXCELLENT NOVEL THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE HAS BEEN MADE INTO A MOVIE STARRING CLAIRE BLOOM AND JULIE HARRIS. THIS IS NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS AND LADDER READERS WILL WANT TO SEE IT. REVIEWS FROM THE NEW YORK AREA INDICATE THAT IT IS A FIRST-RATE MOVIE AND THAT THE STRONG LESBIAN THEME HAS BEEN RETAINED IN THE FILM VERSION. ON TOP OF THIS, THE STORY IS A SPINE CHILLER WHICH SUSPENSE MOVIE FANS WILL ENJOY.

BASED ON THE STORY OF THE SAME NAME BY HONORE DE BALZAC, THE GIRL WITH THE GOLDEN EYES IS CURRENTLY SHOWING IN THE U.S. THE ENGLISH SUBTITLES KEEP ONE Apace WITH THE UPDATED PLOT. VIEWERS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH EARLY HOMOPHILE LITERATURE WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY RECOGNIZING THIS THEME: OLDER LESBIAN HOLDS BEAUTIFUL AND INNOCENT YOUNG GIRL UNDER HER INFLUENCE; GIRL MEETS MAN SHE CAN LOVE; MAN RECIPROCATES. SOMETHING HAS TO HAPPEN, AS WE ALL KNOW ONLY TOO WELL. YOU WILL ENJOY SEEING THIS SUPERIOR MOVIE TO THE BITTER END ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THE CHARACTERS ARE SO WELL DRAWN. THE MAN IS SATIATED WITH WOMEN UNTIL HE MEETS THE MYSTERIOUSLY DIFFERENT GIRL. THE GIRL IS TORMENTED BY HER DESIRE FOR HER FIRST MALE LOVER. THEN THE CHARACTER AND FEELING OF THE OLDER LESBIAN SWIFTLY ASSERT THEMSELVES. THOUGH THE FILM IS ADMIRABLE, SUCH STORIES HAVE NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED TO THE STEREOTYPE OF THE CONFIRMED LESBIAN AS A WOMAN WHO PREYS UPON INNOCENT YOUNG GIRLS. PERHAPS MORE ENLIGHTENING TO THE PUBLIC WOULD BE A SYMPATHETIC PORTRAYAL OF THE OLDER LESBIAN ABANDONED BY THE NOT-SO-INNOCENT YOUNG THING.

AN ARGENTINE-PRODUCED MOVIE VERSION, IN ENGLISH, OF JEAN-PAUL SARTRE'S NO EXIT PROVES THAT AN EXCELLENT MOTION PICTURE CAN BE MADE WITHOUT LAVISH SETTINGS. THE ACTION TAKES PLACE PRIMARILY IN ONE ROOM (AN AFTER-DEATH LOCATION) AND IS CARRIED PRIMARILY BY THREE CHARACTERS, ONE OF WHOM IS A LESBIAN (PLAYED DYNAMICALLY BY VIVECA LINCFORS). THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT WAS ALTERED ONLY SLIGHTLY, ONE DIVERGENCE HAVING TO DO WITH THE EARTHLY MISDEEDS OF INEZ, THE LESBIAN. PARENTHETICALLY ONE WONDERS WHY SARTRE, A HOMOSEXUAL, ALWAYS MAKES HIS HOMOSEXUAL CHARACTERS SUCH DOGS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS PHILOSOPHICAL POINT EMERGES: "HELL IS -- OTHER PEOPLE!"

READERS RESPOND

"I AM GLAD THAT DR. GUNDLACH IS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF LESBIANISM; AND SINCE HE WANTS HETEROSEXUALS IN THE CONTROL GROUP FOR HIS RESEARCH PROJECT, I SHALL BE GLAD TO OFFER MY COOPERATION.

"HOWEVER, I FEEL THE VALUE OF THE GUNDLACH RESEARCH PROJECT IS LIMITED, AND THE FEELING BEHIND IT MAY EVEN BE HARMFUL. IT MAY ASSUAGE THE ANXIETY FELT BY LESBIANS WHO ACCEPT THE LABELS OF 'ABNORMAL' OR 'DEVIATE.' BUT THE VERY NATURE OF THE STUDY INDICATES BIAS IN FAVOR OF ENVIRONMENT'S BEING THE GENERALLY PREDISPOSING FACTOR TOWARD HOMOSEXUALITY, AND A FEELING THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS UNDERSIRABLE AND IF WE CAN FIND OUT ENOUGH ABOUT ITS CAUSES WE CAN CUT BACK ON IT OR CURE IT.

"HOMOSEXUALITY IS A NORMAL MANIFESTATION OF HUMAN NATURE, NOT SOMETHING TO BE CURED LIKE A DISEASE. IT IS ONE OF THE NATURAL PRODUCTS OF THE COMPLEX INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE UNIQUE HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED. WHAT IS WRONG WITH HOMOSEXUALITY, WHAT PUSHES THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO UNHEALTHY BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDE PATTERNS, IS NOT HOMOSEXUALITY ITSELF, BUT THE WAY SOCIETY FEELS ABOUT IT AND REACTS TO IT. THIS IS WHAT TURNS THE HOMOSEXUAL AGAINST HIMSELF; THIS IS WHAT PERSUADES HIM TO ACCEPT DENIGRATING APPROACHES TOWARD STUDIES OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

"MOST PEOPLE WHO DISAPPROVE OF THEMSELVES FEEL THEY MUST CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. WHEN THIS CAN BE DONE, FINE. WHEN IT CANNOT, IT IS PAINFUL AND WASTEFUL TO TRY FOR CHANGE. THE EFFORT MUST BE IN THE DIRECTION OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE BY WAY OF UPWARD RE-EVALUATION.

"LESBIANS ARE OFTEN MADE TO FEEL THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH BEING WHAT THEY ARE, AND THAT IF THEY WORK AT IT THEY CAN CHANGE AND BECOME NORMAL. (THIS IS THE VIEW HELD BY MANY PSYCHOTHERAPISTS. I FIND IT DEPLORABLE.) THUS, MINORITIES TEND TO REFLECT THE PREJUDICES THEY FIND IN THEIR SOCIETY.

"THE TWO-VALUED ORIENTATION IS INAPPLICABLE TO SEX. SOCIETY ACTS OUT OF IGNORANCE AND/OR CRUELTY WHEN IT ATTEMPTS TO FORCE PEOPLE

INTO ONE OF TWO ACCEPTABLE SEX CLASSIFICATIONS (MALE, FEMALE) AND PROVIDES A THIRD 'WASTEBASKET' CATEGORY (HOMOSEXUAL) FOR THE MANY HUMAN BEINGS WHO CANNOT BE FORCED INTO THE FIRST TWO. HOMOSEXUALS ARE NOT DEVIATES; THEIR GREATEST SIN IS NON-CONFORMITY IN A CONFORMIST SOCIETY. THERE ARE MANY SEXES. I CAN THINK OF AT LEAST EIGHT MAJOR GROUP-HEADINGS, NONE OF WHICH IS NECESSARILY SUPERIOR TO, OR MORALLY BETTER THAN, ANY OF THE OTHERS.

"ALL OF US MUST LEARN TO LIKE AND ACCEPT OURSELVES. THE HOMOSEXUAL HAS THE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH ACCRUE TO ANY DISCRIMINATED-AGAINST MINORITY. HE MUST ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE HIS PREJUDICES AGAINST HIMSELF, AND HE MUST WORK TO ENLIGHTEN THE PUBLIC. FOR OPTIMUM RESULTS, BOTH EFFORTS MUST ADVANCE HAND IN HAND."

- F. I. B., CALIFORNIA

* * * *

(NOTE: THE FOLLOWING LETTER IS IN REPLY TO THE ONE ABOVE.)

"I AGREE THOROUGHLY THAT SELF-ACCEPTANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT. WHETHER HOMOSEXUALS ARE DEVIATES OR NOT DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE WORD IS USED IN THE PURELY STATISTICAL SENSE, OR IN SOME 'NORMATIVE' OR VALUE-ORIENTED SENSE. IF IN THE STATISTICAL SENSE, HOMOSEXUALS ARE DEVIATES, ARE ABNORMAL. IF THE WORD IS USED IN THE SENSE OF 'SOMETHING WRONG, BAD, UNDESIRABLE' - THAT IS DIFFERENT. I'M NOT PREPARED TO ARGUE THIS QUESTION RIGHT NOW, BUT I DON'T LIKE THE USE OF THE WORD 'DEVIATE' IN THIS SENSE WITHOUT MUCH BETTER JUSTIFICATION THAN MOST I'VE HEARD. HOMOSEXUALS CAN ACCEPT THEMSELVES EVEN IF THEY ARE (STATISTICAL) DEVIATES.

"NOW ABOUT THE STUDY. I THINK DR. GUNDLACH WOULD PROBABLY BE THE FIRST TO AGREE THAT ANY HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS THE PRODUCT OF A COMPLEX INTERACTION BETWEEN THE UNIQUE HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED. I DO NOT THINK THE STUDY ASSUMES ANYTHING ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OR UNDESIRABILITY OF THE HOMOSEXUAL CONDITION; BUT IT DOES CERTAINLY CONCENTRATE ON ENVIRONMENT, SINCE THIS IS MORE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO STUDY BY MAIL QUESTIONNAIRE. I DO THINK THAT THE STUDY OF CAUSATION DOES PERHAPS IMPLY AN INTEREST IN UNDERSTANDING THE 'WHY' IN ORDER TO CONTROL OR CHANGE - THOUGH THIS MAY NOT AT ALL BE THE EXPLICIT REASON FOR THE STUDY. AND YET I FAVOR THE STUDY, BECAUSE I THINK THAT IN COMING TO UNDERSTAND

MORE ABOUT THE 'WHY' OF HOMOSEXUALITY, SCIENTISTS WHO ARE NOT STEEPED IN PRE-CONCEIVED NOTIONS WILL ALSO COME TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE 'WHAT,' AND THUS MAY HAVE A MUCH BETTER BASIS FOR CONCLUDING WHETHER OR NOT CHANGE OR PREVENTION IS REALLY DESIRABLE!

"DOB HAS STRONGLY FAVORED STUDY OF THE 'WHAT' QUESTION, BUT SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO INTEREST QUALIFIED PERSONS IN MAKING THIS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THEIR STUDY. SO WE ARE COOPERATING IN A STUDY OF 'WHY' AS BEING USEFUL IN ITSELF, CERTAINLY AS BEING BETTER THAN NO STUDY AT ALL, AND AS PROBABLY THROWING SOME INCIDENTAL LIGHT ON THE 'WHAT' QUESTION TOO."

- FLORENCE CONRAD, CHAIRMAN, DOB RESEARCH COMMITTEE

* * * *

"REVEREND WOOD'S ARTICLE IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS AS INSENSITIVE AS IT IS INSENSIBLE. THAT HOMOSEXUALITY CAN BE AN AGENT OF POPULATION CONTROL IS UNDENIABLE. BUT HOW EFFECTIVE AN AGENT? HE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MANY HOMOSEXUALS WHO DO HAVE CHILDREN, AND THOSE WHO ENTER INTO SHORT-TERM CONVENTIONAL HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS SIMPLY IN ORDER TO HAVE A CHILD. IN SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO LESSEN POPULATION GROWTH, REV. WOOD IS TOO READY TO SKIM OVER SOLUTIONS MORE DIFFICULT TO EFFECT, AND TO PRESENT HOMOSEXUALITY AS A PACKAGED SUBSTITUTE ANSWER. PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARD INSTIGATING WORLD-WIDE BIRTH CONTROL, A SOLUTION CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT IN ITS SOCIAL AND MORAL ASPECTS, BUT CERTAINLY MORE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE POPULATION PROBLEM AND CAPABLE OF MORE FAR-REACHING EFFECT.

"I MUST VEHEMENTLY PROTEST THE STATEMENT THAT GOD PERMITS THE CREATION OF HOMOSEXUALS WITH ONE OF HIS PURPOSES BEING A 'BUILT-IN DETERRENT TO THE DANGERS OF OVER-POPULATION.' PSYCHOLOGICAL EVIDENCES POINT ONLY TO A BUILT-IN SEXUALITY THAT IS, IN THE HUMAN INFANT, NEITHER 'HETERO' NOR 'HOMO' BUT 'AUTO' - I.E., 'SELF' - DIRECTED. THE EMERGENT HETERO OR HOMO PERSONALITY IS CULTURALLY PRODUCED, NOT GOD-CREATED.

"TO THE PROPOSED SOLUTION THAT WE FIND ANOTHER PLANET, REV. WOOD SAYS, 'SHEER IMPERIALISM!' HOWEVER, NO COMMENT IS FORTHCOMING FROM HIM CONCERNING THE VISION OF 'THE TIME WHEN HOMOSEXUALITY MIGHT BECOME COMPULSORY AS A MEANS OF SURVIVAL.' PERHAPS THE

PARADOX OF THE STATEMENT ESCAPED HIM! DR. HOCKER'S REMARK THAT 'INCIDENCE (OF HOMOSEXUALITY) DOES NOT APPEAR TO INCREASE WHEN PUNITIVE LAWS AGAINST IT ARE ABOLISHED,' CERTAINLY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT MORE PEOPLE WILL BECOME HOMOSEXUAL TO DISPEL THE POPULATION PROBLEM."

- M. L., RHODE ISLAND

* * * *

"IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY MOST BIOGRAPHERS OF QUEEN CHRISTINA OF SWEDEN THAT SHE ENGAGED IN A DOZEN OR MORE AFFAIRS WITH OTHER WOMEN DURING HER LIFETIME. APPARENTLY NO INDIVIDUAL EVER REPLACED EBBA SPARRE IN HER AFFECTIONS, DESPITE THESE AFFAIRS. (EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE 'THE TRAGEDY OF QUEEN CHRISTINA' IN JUNE LADDER.)

"WHEN CHRISTINA WAS 60, SHE ADOPTED AS PROTEGE THE YOUNG ROMAN SINGER ANGELICA GEORGINI, SPENDING MONEY ON HER THAT SHE COULD ILL AFFORD, FOR HER OPERATIC TRAINING. AT THIS TIME WOMEN WERE FIRST BEING PROMOTED AS OPERA SINGERS TO REPLACE THE 'CASTRATI' WHICH SANG THE HIGHER VOICE RANGE ROLES. LA SIGNORINA ANGELICA WAS CHRISTINA'S CONSTANT COMPANION THROUGHOUT THE LAST YEARS OF HER LIFE. ANGELICA HAD BEEN THE GIRL FRIEND OF AN ABBE AND OF THE FRENCH SCULPTOR THEODON. CHRISTINA CHASED BOTH THESE MEN OFF THE SCENE, NO MEAN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR A 60-YEAR-OLD WOMAN. IN 1689 CHRISTINA TOOK HER LAST TRIP AWAY FROM ROME AND THE VERY YOUNG ANGELICA ACCOMPANIED HER. (THIS CAUSED TALK IN ROME, THOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY, IN VIEW OF CHRISTINA'S MANY ADVENTURES.) THIS TRIP WAS ONE OF THE LAST BRIGHT MOMENTS IN FLAMBOYANT CHRISTINA'S LIFE.

"WITHIN A FEW YEARS AFTER THIS TIME WOMEN WERE BEING GENERALLY USED AS OPERA SINGERS AND CHRISTINA CAN BE PARTIALLY CREDITED WITH INSTIGATING THIS CHANGE IN CUSTOM."

- GENE DAMON AND LEE STUART

* * * *

"I WISH THE HOMOSEXUAL REVOLUTION WOULD HURRY UP! IT IS SO DESOLATE, THIS HIDING IN THE CATACOMBS."

- J. M., FLORIDA



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:

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) _____

D O B Book Service

1232 Market St., Suite 108
San Francisco 2, Calif.



NOW AVAILABLE

Ann Bannon

JOURNEY TO A WOMAN.....35 & .10*

I AM A WOMAN.....50 & .10*

Paula Christian

EDGE OF TWILIGHT.....35 & .10*

* Handling Charges

THE **Gayest**

FEATURING

Lisa Ben

SONGS ON WAX

45 RPM EACH 1.98

.15 Handling for
each record

AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH
THE D.O.B. BOOK SERVICE

SELECTIONS OFFERED BY THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS BOOK SERVICE

<u>TITLE</u> (paperback unless indicated)	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>HANDLING</u>	<u>CALIF TAX</u> **
THE STRANGE WOMEN	Miriam Gardner	\$.35	\$.12	\$.02
EDGE OF TWILIGHT	Paula Christian	.35	.12	.02
THIS SIDE OF LOVE (63' RELEASE)	" "	.50	.12	.02
JOURNEY TO A WOMEN	Ann Bannon	.50	.12	.02
I AM A WOMAN	" "	.50	.12	.02
BEEBO BRINKER	" "	.50	.12	.02
* WE TWO WON'T LAST (63' RELEASE)	Ann Aldrich	.40	.12	.02
THE DARK SIDE OF VENUS	Shirley Virel	.50	.12 ₁	.02
LESBIAN LOVE IN LITERATURE	Stella Fox	.50	.12	.02
THE MIDDLE MIST	Mary Renault	.60	.12	.03
* THE SIXTH MAN	Jess Stern	.60	.12	.03
COMPLETE CUMULATIVE CHECKLIST OF LESBIAN LITERATURE #	Marian Z. Bradley	3.00	.30	.12
CAMEL'S FAREWELL (HARDBACK)	Harry Otis	2.95	.20	.12
DUKE LAW SYMPOSIUM - LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS	Duke University	2.50	.20	.10
* SEX VARIANT WOMEN (HARDBACK)	Dr. Jeanette Foster	5.00	.25	.20
* HOMOSEXUAL REVOLUTION (HARDBACK)	R.E.L. Masters	5.95	.25	.24
HOMOSEXUAL IN AMERICA	Donald Webster Cory	.75	.12	.03

* LIMITED SUPPLY - INDICATED 2nd CHOICE

45 RPM RECORD

Side 1; Cruising Down The Blvd.	By Lisa Ben	1.98	.15	.08
Side 2: Frankie And Johnnie				

** PAY CALIF. TAX ONLY IF YOU LIVE IN CALIFORNIA

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS OUT TO DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC.

THREE BOOKS: 1960 EDITION (\$1.50) PLUS TWO SUPPLEMENTS 1961 & 1962 (\$1.00 EACH)

QUIZ

- | | YES | NO |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Do you have friends? | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Do your friends have birthdays? | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Do you follow the Judeo-Christian custom of giving gifts in the latter part of December? | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Do you sometimes try to think of a gift that has the flavor of originality about it and is still practical? | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Would you think some of your friends would appreciate receiving a gift subscription to THE LADDER from you for a birthday or Christmas? | _____ | _____ |

If you are still with us, fill in the gift subscription blank below and mail it with your remittance to;

Circulation Manager
Daughters of Bilitis
1232 Market Street - Suite 108
San Francisco 2, California

=====

Please send THE LADDER for _____ year(s) in a plain sealed envelope to the address below. I enclose \$_____ at the rate of \$4.00 for each year.

I wish to remain anonymous _____. Please indicate that this subscription is from us _____.

The recipient is over 21 years of age.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

YOUR SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____