

THE LADDER

A LESBIAN
REVIEW



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for sale to adults only

May 1964



purpose of the

Daughters of **BILITIS**

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

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

the Ladder

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Editor—Barbara Gittings
Fiction and Poetry Editor—Agatha Mathys

Production—Joan Oliver, V. Pigrom
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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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TABOO TOPICS

NORMAN L. FARBEROW, EDITOR. NEW YORK, ATHERTON PRESS, 1963.

SELDOM DOES A COLLECTION OF STUDIES BY REPUTABLE SCIENTISTS HAVE A MORE EYE-CATCHING TITLE THAN TABOO TOPICS. A MORE TRADITIONAL TITLE MIGHT BE "ESSAYS ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF RESEARCH AND THE ROLE OF THE RESEARCHER IN INVESTIGATIONS OUTSIDE THE MAIN BODY OF 'RESPECTABLE' SCIENCE." THE INTRODUCTION GIVES THE PURPOSES OF THIS VOLUME: (1) TO DEMONSTRATE THE FEASIBILITY OF RESEARCH IN EMOTION-LADEN AREAS; (2) TO ILLUSTRATE METHODS AND PROCEDURES IN SUCH AREAS; (3) TO STIMULATE PROFESSIONAL INTEREST IN THESE AREAS; (4) TO HIGHLIGHT CHALLENGING AREAS OF MAN'S POTENTIAL.

FIVE OF THE ESSAYS WERE ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN A SYMPOSIUM OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. A SIXTH PAPER APPEARED IN THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST JOURNAL, AND THE REMAINING ESSAYS WERE PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR THIS BOOK.

THE READER WHO EXPECTS THE USUAL SCIENTIFIC STYLE MAY BE SURPRISED BY THE INFORMALITY OF THE FIRST PAPERS. THEY WERE ORIGINALLY PRESENTED AS SYMPOSIUM SPEECHES WHERE THE USE OF THE FIRST PERSON, ASIDES, AND UNDOCUMENTED REFERENCES TO OTHER RESEARCH ARE ACCEPTABLE. THE REMAINING PAPERS ARE MORE FORMAL AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE. STYLISTICALLY, THIS COLLECTION IS AN EXCITING POTPOURRI.

GORDON ALLPORT, HARVARD PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, SUGGESTS IN THE FOREWORD THAT THE STRENGTH OF SCIENTIFIC TABOOS AGAINST INVESTIGATING THE TOPICS IN THIS BOOK MIGHT BE RANKED, FROM MOST FORBIDDEN TO LEAST, IN THIS ORDER: PARAPSYCHOLOGY, GRAPHOLOGY, RELIGION, HYPNOSIS, AND POLITICS. THE OTHER TOPICS TREATED HERE - SEX, SUICIDE, AND DEATH - MEET WITH GREATER SOCIAL THAN SCIENTIFIC TABOOS.

SCHNEIDMAN'S PAPER ON SUICIDE IS THE ONLY ONE WHICH DEALS WITH THE PROBLEMS OF TABOOS IN GENERAL. RESEARCH IN ALL TABOO AREAS SHARES THREE FACTORS, HE CLAIMS: (1) THE TOPIC IS OF SOCIAL CONCERN AND HAS EMOTIONAL IMPACT; (2) THE INVESTIGATOR IS SUSPECT; AND (3) SPECIAL METHODOLOGY PROBLEMS ARE FACED IN OBTAINING RELIABLE DATA.

THE TABOO ON SUICIDE APPLIES TO THE THOUGHT AND THE ACTION, BUT NOT TO THE DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC. ONE BIBLIOGRAPHY ON SUICIDE LISTED 2,000 TITLES PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1857 AND 1957. (IN CONTRAST TO THIS FREE DISCUSSION OF SUICIDE, ONLY FIVE PSYCHOLOGISTS HAD PUBLISHED NOTEWORTHY DATA ON HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PRIOR TO 1940, ACCORDING TO WARDELL B. POMEROY.)

SCHNEIDMAN FINDS NO ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE RATE OF SUICIDE AMONG HOMOSEXUALS IS GREATER THAN AMONG HETEROSEXUALS; HE BELIEVES THE TABOOS AGAINST SUICIDE DO SERVE TO DECREASE ITS OCCURRENCE; HE FINDS THAT MOST SUICIDAL INDIVIDUALS ARE SUICIDAL ONLY BRIEFLY AND EVEN THEN ARE HIGHLY AMBIVALENT; HE SUGGESTS THAT IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES AND AGENCY SERVICES CAN PREVENT MANY SUICIDES. HIS OBJECTIVITY BREAKS DOWN ONLY ONCE: "WE ARE AGAINST SUICIDE." ONE WISHES IT HAD DONE SO MORE! THE QUESTION OF WHY SUICIDE IS DEVALUED IN THIS SOCIETY AND UPHELD IN OTHERS WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

FEIFEL'S PAPER CHRONICLES HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN TRYING TO INVESTIGATE THE ATTITUDES OF DYING HOSPITAL PATIENTS TOWARD DEATH. HE ILLUSTRATES THE ANTAGONISM HE MET AS THE MEDICAL HIERARCHY REFUSED HIM PERMISSION AT EVERY TURN AND HE ALSO PRESENTS THE PLIGHT OF THE RESEARCHER FACING HIS OWN EMOTIONS AS HE CONTEMPLATES THE "UNCONTEMPLATABLE" - DEATH. SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS HE DERIVED FROM HIS EFFORTS ARE: (1) DEATH IS IN THE UNITED STATES A TABOO SUBJECT, SURROUNDED BY DISAPPROVAL AND SHAME, AND ALMOST TOTALLY NEGLECTED BY SCIENTISTS (NOT ONE PSYCHOLOGY TEXTBOOK YET INCLUDES ANY DISCUSSION OF DEATH); (2) PHYSICIANS THINK LESS ABOUT DEATH BUT ARE MORE AFRAID OF IT THAN ARE NON-PHYSICIANS; (3) WHILE THE MAJORITY OF PHYSICIANS (69% - 90%) DO NOT TELL PATIENTS WHEN THEIR CONDITION IS TERMINAL, THE MAJORITY OF PATIENTS (77% - 89%) WANT TO BE TOLD AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DEATH FREELY.

IN DOUGLAS' PAPER ON RELIGION, THE PERIOD FROM 1900 TO 1924 IS CHARACTERIZED AS A PROMISING INFANCY IN WHICH WILLIAM JAMES AND OTHERS APPEARED TO BE LEADING THE WAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL ENTRY OF RELIGION INTO PSYCHOLOGY AND VICE VERSA. THE NEXT 25 YEARS WERE A PERIOD OF STAGNATION AND WITHDRAWAL, FOLLOWED AFTER WORLD WAR II BY RENEWED INTEREST. THE AUTHOR CONCLUDES THAT RELIGION REMAINS A TABOO TOPIC IN SOCIAL SCIENCE THOUGH THERE IS LITTLE REASON IT SHOULD. DOUGLAS, A PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION, MAY BE BIASED AGAINST CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY THAT FEW SCIENTISTS FIND RELIGION A CAPTIVATING TOPIC FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY!

GARDNER MURPHY WRITES COGENTLY - BUT TOO BRIEFLY - ABOUT PARAPSYCHOLOGY. HE SUGGESTS TO PARAPSYCHOLOGISTS INTERESTED IN BRINGING THIS FIELD MORE SOLIDLY INTO THE DOMAIN OF RESPECTABLE SCIENCE: PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION MUST BE EXPERIMENTAL; THE METHODOLOGY SHOULD BE LIKE THAT CURRENTLY USED BY OTHER PSYCHOLOGISTS, TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION; PARAMETERS SUCH AS MOTIVATION AND PERCEPTUAL THRESHOLD USED IN THE STUDY OF NORMAL BEHAVIOR MUST BE EMPHASIZED; COOPERATION IN RESEARCH EFFORTS WITH OTHER SCIENTISTS IS NECESSARY. THE DELIGHTFUL FLAVOR OF MURPHY'S WRITING IS SHOWN IN THIS QUOTE: "WHEREAS MY COLLEAGUES WHO WORK IN (SEX, SUICIDE, DEATH) ARE. . . CONCERNED WITH THINGS WITH WHICH DECENT PEOPLE DO NOT DEAL, I AM CONCERNED WITH THINGS THAT DO NOT EVEN EXIST."

ANTHONY CONTENDS THAT GRAPHOLOGY WILL ONE DAY BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF PSYCHODIAGNOSIS REGARDLESS OF OBSTACLES. HE SAYS THE UNITED STATES HAS A DEARTH OF PSYCHOLOGISTS WHO KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT GRAPHOLOGY TO INVESTIGATE IT. GRAPHOLOGY IS THEREFORE EXCLUDED FROM OUR UNIVERSITY CURRICULUMS. BESIDES A LACK OF TRAINED INVESTIGATORS, WE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF FRAUDULENT GRAPHOLOGICAL INFORMATION WHICH FLOURISHES IN THE HANDS OF CHARLATANS. ANTHONY ACCEPTS UNCRITICALLY THE GERMAN RESEARCH IN GRAPHOLOGY AND PLEADS THAT TRANSLATION OF MUCH OF THIS WORK WOULD FACILITATE THE ADVANCE OF HANDWRITING ANALYSIS INTO ACCEPTED METHODS OF BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT.

THE DEVOTEE OF PSYCHOANALYTIC ORIENTATION WILL FIND MUCH TO PRAISE IN WATKIN'S TREATMENT OF HYPNOSIS. THE NON-DEVOTEE MAY WONDER ABOUT THIS AUTHOR'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH HYPNOSIS AND WILL FIND LITTLE ELSE TO PONDER IN THIS PAPER.

OSGOOD PROVIDES AN INNER VIEW OF HOW HE, AN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGIST, BECAME AN AVID PEACENIK. HE ELABORATES HIS VIEW OF THE ROLE THE PSYCHOLOGIST OUGHT TO TAKE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE FACT THAT AN ESSAY ON PEACE OCCURS IN A VOLUME OF TABOO TOPICS MUST GIVE US ALL PAUSE.

WARDELL POMEROY, OF KINSEY STUDIES FAME, AND EVELYN HOOKER, OF UCLA, BOTH DEAL WITH SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE STUDY OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR. POMEROY POINTS TO THE SAMPLING DIFFICULTIES, PROBLEMS OF COMMUNICATION, INTERVIEW CONTROL FACTORS, LEGAL PROBLEMS, AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SUITABLE INTERVIEWERS. HE SCORNS "THE LUNATIC FRINGE OF PSEUDOSCIENTISTS" WHO THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE PH. D. AND M. D. DEGREES ALSO HAVE "CRACKPOT" IDEAS.

HOOKE'S ESSAY IS ONE OF THE MOST STIMULATING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS BOOK. SHE EXPLAINS THAT THE RESEARCHER IS OFTEN IN THE MIDDLE OF FACTIONS AND MUST RESIST PRESSURE FROM BOTH SIDES. THOSE INVESTIGATING HOMOSEXUALITY ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM HOMOSEXUALS TO "PLEAD THEIR CASE IN THE COMMUNITY, TO HELP CHANGE THE LAWS, TO HELP CHANGE SOCIAL ATTITUDES. . . ON THE OTHER HAND, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONSTANTLY SEEKING ADVICE ON HOW TO PREVENT AND CURE HOMOSEXUALITY." SHE GOES ON TO POINT OUT THAT THE "INVESTIGATOR'S PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND HIS PROFESSIONAL REWARDS AND SUPPORT COME FROM THE LARGER SOCIETY."

THROUGHOUT, HOOKER EMPHASIZES SIMILARITIES OF RESEARCH STRATEGY ACROSS TOPICS. SHE OBSERVES ALSO THAT MORE ADVANCED PROBINGS WILL HAVE IMPACT ON MANY FIELDS OF STUDY. "WITH INCREASING AMOUNTS OF DATA, IT BECOMES POSSIBLE TO FORMULATE THEORETICAL PROBLEMS OF CRITICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR ALL THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES." THE TERM "CRITICAL SIGNIFICANCE" SEEMS TO BE THE KEY TERM HERE. HOOKER ENDS BY EVALUATING THE ROLE OF THE SEX RESEARCHER AS ONE CONTRIBUTING TO THE POOL OF INFORMATION ON DEVIANT BEHAVIOR, ABOUT WHICH CRUCIAL PUBLIC OPINION IS BEING FORMED, CRUCIAL LEGAL DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE. "TO DEGRADE OR TO DIGNIFY; TO CREATE DESPAIR OR HOPE; TO TREAT OR TO PUNISH - THE ALTERNATIVES ARE TOO OFTEN SHARPLY DRAWN. THE RESEARCHER FINDS DEEP, ENDURING SATISFACTION IN A CONTRIBUTION TO SUCH A FATEFUL DISCUSSION."

THIS IS A PROVOCATIVE BOOK. EACH OF THE CONTRIBUTORS HAS TRIED TO THINK HIS WAY TO SCIENTIFICALLY ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION IN AN EMOTION-CHARGED AREA. THE READER IS CONSTANTLY CHALLENGED TO SET ASIDE HIS OWN EMOTIONAL BIAS, TO EXAMINE IN THE COLD STATEMENT OF PRINT WHAT MAY BE HIS OWN TABOO TOPIC.

- REVIEWED BY D. K.

* * * * *

RETRACTION

WE WISH TO APOLOGIZE, HUMBLY, TO OUR READERS FOR AN ERROR WHICH APPEARED IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE LADDER. AUTHORSHIP OF THE SECOND POEM ON PAGE 23 WAS ERRONEOUSLY STATED. CREDIT FOR THOSE LINES SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN DON BLANDING. WE HOPE MR. BLANDING'S FOLLOWERS, ESPECIALLY WILL BE TOLERANT OF OUR MISTAKE.

YOU Are Invited...

EXPECT EXCITING TALK at the Public Forum of the third biennial convention of the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., to be held in New York City at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel on June 20th, 1964. All men and women over 21 are invited!

HEAR -- Dr. Wardell B. Pomeroy, co-author of "Sexual Behavior in the Human Female," offer some speculations about DOB's new responsibilities as seen at THE THRESHOLD OF THE FUTURE - theme of this convention

- Dr. Ralph H. Gundlach preview tentative findings from his current research on female homosexuality
- Rev. Robert W. Wood, minister and author of "Christ and the Homosexual," deliver a luncheon address
- Donald Webster Cory offer a preview of his latest book, "The Lesbian in America"
- The Honorable Robert Veit Sherwin, authority on legislation in social problem areas, discuss new aspects of sexual freedom with reference to the recommendations of the Commission for the Study of the New York State Penal Code

AND LISTEN TO THE WOMEN! Mrs. Lee Steiner, psychologist, author, marriage counselor, and moderator of the radio program PSYCHOLOGICALLY SPEAKING; Florence DeSantis, Fashion Editor for Bell Syndicate; Adele Kenyon, author and authority on speedy ways to a trimmer figure, will discuss with writer Jess Stearn the provocative question:
FEMININITY - WHAT IS IT?

BUT THIS IS ONLY HALF THE CONVENTION STORY! The other half of the program will feature equally prominent guest speakers, including Dr. Ernest van den Haag, sociologist, Dr. Gerald Sabath, psychologist, Rev. C. Edward Egan, Jr., and others.

Convention business sessions (for members of DOB) will be held on Sunday June 21 and continued, as may be necessary, on Monday, in the New York Chapter's spacious new suite.

RESERVATIONS FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM INCLUDING
LUNCHEON, BANQUET, AND PUBLIC FORUM.....\$ 17.00

Send your check now to Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., Suite 108, 1232 Market Street, San Francisco 2, California.

Rebuttal to LIVING PROPAGANDA

In response to the "Each One Tell One" plea, here is the experience of someone who did.

This one, in fact, told many - and was naive enough to begin with her mother. She told not only because she had never kept any secrets from her mother before, but also because she was impelled by that generous impulse to share the joy common to lovers - and this was her first love. Six years later her mother attempted suicide. While it is generally agreed that suicide is a complex phenomenon not easily pinned down to a simple cause-effect equation - and there were, in fact, many other possible causal factors involved in this instance - nevertheless the nagging, gnawing question continues to plague this one: "Was my misguided revelation the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back?"

But wait, there's more - it didn't stop there. No, indeed, this one also told her sister with whom she had always been close. That sister later came to hate her and used the knowledge to taunt and insult her in front of other family members who had not been told. Again, other factors were involved, but - who knows?

Not satisfied with this laudable record (of course, the ultimate consequences had not yet manifested themselves and this one was still "green"), she told a couple of male co-workers, one of whom was attracted to her physically. The expectation here was that this knowledge would cool him off and enable them all to be buddies. It didn't. In fact, this seemed to add spice to the dish and the courtship was intensified, with all restraints of courtesy now considered unnecessary. Fortunately, all three were parted abruptly in a merciful general plant lay-off - or who can say what the outcome would have been?

One more word of wisdom before you try it on your own. This one also told a friend. That friend appeared to be a sophisticated liberal - one who had done just about everything. She later confessed to a mutual friend who passed it on to this one, "I was never so shocked and revolted in my life." This, despite the fact that this one had thought her identity as a practising homosexual so obvious that she needn't even have bothered to openly

acknowledge it. But she gave it a name - that is the difference. "Homosexual," "Lesbian" - dirty words, just like other labels or stereotypes, "Nigger," "Kike," "Wop," etc.

Here we have it. We've come full circle 'round. Granted, a most formidable barrier to the acceptance of the homosexual is the reluctance of the less obvious ones to wear the badge, to own the label. As long as we refuse, our breed will be identified by the objectionable characteristics of the dikes, the stomping butches, the queens, etc. And yet, despite the idealistic preachings of many who seek to lure the safe ones out of hiding, I say from experience, "Come out and be counted, if - and only if - you are willing to be a martyr."

Ten years of compulsive candor have taught me this lesson - and I, for one, no longer advertise. I live as I choose and find that an amazing latitude of bizarre behavior is tolerated by the community. Just don't give it a name.

In closing, I cite the reaction of my mother to my well-meaning revelations. As long as I only told her that I loved a woman, all was sweet and lovely. It was only when I called myself a lesbian that she was shocked and incredulous.

- The Turncoat

The Editor welcomes manuscripts describing personal "Living Propaganda" experiences - favorable or otherwise.

O pixie face
you carry fantasies to me

I walk with peacocks
wearing spangled trains

The wind sings
and the night speaks softly
to my heart

Desire is a golden chain
around my throat

I cup my hands
and a thousand blossoms
fall from the trees

O pixie face
you carry fantasies to me

- Joan James

Cross-currents

LIFE and LOOK magazines are hurrying to catch up with MACLEAN'S recent reportorial coverage of the homosexual in society - though it's hard to believe either can outdo the splendidly fair-minded Canadian write-up. Some DOB members have been interviewed by LIFE. Dates of publication in both American magazines are as yet unknown.

Meantime, LIFE (April 10, 1964) offers us selections from A MOVEABLE FEAST. It is the first posthumously published work of Ernest Hemingway and includes humorous anecdotes about Gertrude Stein and her friend Alice B. Toklas. (Is that Alice bringing in the feast in one photograph?)

Another homophile group has sprung to life, this one in Vancouver. The Association for Social Knowledge, or ASK!, is an organization of men and women devoted to educating the homosexual and the public. Those interested write to: ASK! 3813 West 15th, Vancouver, B. C. (c/o McKinnon).

Ted McIlvenna, sociologist and Methodist minister, is sponsoring a conference in the San Francisco Bay area from May 30 to June 2 between representatives of homophile and religious groups. DOB members will join in the retreat-like meeting which aims at establishing better understanding between homosexuals and organized religion.

The American Civil Liberties Union is supporting the appeal of Ralph Ginzburg, who was sentenced last fall to 5 years in prison and a \$28,000 fine on obscenity charges by a Federal District Court. ACLU states it is not passing judgement on or endorsing EROS magazine, LIAISON NEWSLETTER, or other Ginzburg publications. "We believe that under the First Amendment guarantee of free expression any kind of publication may be published regardless of its content. Publication can be halted only if it is shown that the material in question creates a clear and present danger of causing, in a normal adult, behavior which has validly been made criminal by statute. To our knowledge, no such evidence was presented in the Ginzburg case."

It's a boy - or is it a girl? Viewers at the Nina Ricci salon in Paris applauded on January 28 as a model stepped out wearing a tailored tweed jacket, white shirt, grey flannel skirt with trouser pleats and a cuff, and a tiny beret worn down to the level of one eyebrow. Next came masculine coats, suits, dinner suits, and at-home outfits. Fashion experts agree, a girl can hardly look too much like a boy these days.

REPORTS

San Francisco: Homophiles and Neatniks

Mr. Ted McIlvenna, a Methodist minister and Director of the Young Adult Project in San Francisco, gave voice to his views on "The Relationship of the Homophile to the Larger Community" on February 21 at a public discussion meeting sponsored by the San Francisco Chapter of DOB.

Perhaps Mr. McIlvenna's feelings can best be expressed by his statement that the people who annoy him most are those who, when introduced, say "I am a homosexual" instead of "How do you do?" The responsibility of the homophile to the community at large is the same as that of any other member: to be the best possible person he can, to make the best identification he can as a human being.

Although man is not an economic unit, our society tends to make him think of himself in that light, according to Mr. McIlvenna. Security, material security, becomes the important goal in life for many. Into this category fall the "neatniks," Mr. McIlvenna's term for people whose lives are so well-organized they will not allow themselves to become involved with anything or anyone outside their own particular frame of reference. They are content with their "little boxes" and are not willing to pay the price necessary to show concern for the plight of other human beings.

Mr. McIlvenna went on to say that loneliness arises from our inability to relate to other human beings. A study in San Francisco indicated that 55% of the people there did not have a friend - someone who cared for them as individuals. He said mankind has four specific needs to satisfy:

- (1) the need for intimacy - closeness (including sexual intimacy) with another human being, the ability to give and take without mutual cannibalism
- (2) the need for identity - answers to the question "Who am I?"
- (3) the need for an ideology - a frame of belief in a changing world
- (4) the need for generativity - an understanding of the ongoing purpose of mankind.

The Young Adult Project is directed toward helping the young citizen realize that he is part of the human community. Mr. McIlvenna has found that homosexuals, especially male homosexuals, are ethnocentric. They are able to relate only to other homosexuals. In any community which

identifies itself as a sub-group or a minority, especially a militant minority, there is a tendency toward "party loyalty" first and other identifications later, if at all. Mr. McIlvenna added that this kind of attitude is not limited to homosexuals.

Mr. McIlvenna also decried the "maturity kick" which seems to be an obsession in our society. Everyone is supposed to be "mature, well-adjusted." He found fault not with maturity itself but with what seems to be society's current definition of maturity: conformity.

During the question and answer period, Mr. McIlvenna pointed out that the homosexual must not use society's unwillingness to identify with a sub-group as an excuse for his not trying to establish rapport with all people.

Appreciative laughter greeted Mr. McIlvenna's closing remark that his audience differed from most ladies' groups in only one respect - they looked more intelligent.

- Laurie Mansfield

Boston: Jess Stearn Makes CONTACT

Jess Stearn, author of THE GRAPEVINE, was a recent guest on Bob Kennedy's Contact, a 90-minute conversation program aired by radio station WBZ of Boston. Stearn offered his views on today's lesbian, her customs, and her psychology. Also heard were a Catholic priest-psychiatrist, a Methodist minister, a New York psychologist-psychoanalyst, and the president of the New York Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis. The guests other than Jess Stearn were interviewed by telephone. Listeners to the broadcast were invited to call in and air their own opinions.

Dr. Harold Greenwald, the psychologist-psychoanalyst, mentioned current psychiatric theories concerning the causes of homosexuality and ended by stating emphatically that it "can be cured." Father John McCall, the Catholic priest-psychiatrist, remarked on the homosexual's moral responsibilities. He said that homosexuality is a neurotic deviation, and that it is difficult for a homosexual to lead a moral life because of the temptation presented to him. He indicated not all homosexuals could be cured and that for the incurables, celibacy was perhaps the only moral answer. He admonished that Christians should be "kind and respectful" toward the homosexual. His advice was that the homosexual should "get help" in order to live "a full, normal family life." Reverend Edward Egan, a Methodist

minister from Long Island, stressed that to label a person a homosexual is to presuppose that that is all he is, when actually his homosexuality is but one facet of his being. Rev. Egan concluded by saying that there is in his church a place for persons, regardless of sex orientation.

The remaining guest interviewed by telephone was the president of the New York Chapter of DOB, identified only as Shirley. When asked by Kennedy why she was willing to participate in the program, Shirley replied she believes that the more people know about homosexuality, the less difficulty the homosexual will encounter. She was given too little time for an effective presentation and no opportunity to refute Stearn's assessment of DOB as "having little or no impact on the field."

Stearn seemed interested in drawing attention to his book. He reiterated some unsupported information given in his book - for example, he mentioned that the means of recognition used by lesbians include certain eyebrow signals and certain color dresses on specific days of the week. Stearn also quoted figures without crediting the source or questioning the reliability of the information - for example, he stated not once but several times that "nine out of ten homosexual women" show bisexual patterns.

Kennedy and Stearn repeatedly used such words and phrases as "blame," "problem," "critical effect on the family," "multiplying," and "ought to be doing something about it."

Finally one listener who called in said, "If two women are happy and are not disturbing anybody. . . I want to know why they aren't just left alone." Stearn replied that they are, but "if this goes ahead and keeps going, I don't know what's going to happen to the American family."

- P. G.

CITY'S NIGHT

Smoke encircles the moon,
Stars pepper the night,
Rivalling the City's lights
For lovers' glances.
Restless streets, warmed by Neon,
Nourished by people's laughter,
Beckon the late-sleepers
To rendezvous with Night.
And Night, dressed in shining spangles,
Pirouettes for all to see. . .
Spins, turns, prances, pauses. . .
Then lingers to wait for Day.

- Billie Tallmij

how we lost the 3rd dimension _____ by Blanche Small

The big old vaudeville backdrop looked faded; the canvas was cracked and curled at the edges. The remains of a bright, over-detailed street in exaggerated perspective could still be seen, and the sharply-receding store fronts still slanted suddenly away into the distance. Flat geraniums bloomed in the converging upper windows and, downstage, the painted-on lamppost reared its jaunty TIMES SQUARE sign.

Against the painted-on cellar door of Schultz' Ideal Delicatessen, two old paper dolls drooped beside the grey face of a painted-on trash can, picking over what was left of the world.

The one named Eugenia had a rumpled leg and the other was adorned with only half a hat. Both felt as flat and empty, as dry and dusty, as the scene behind them.

"Now in the beginning," intoned the flat, pretentious paper-doll voice, "the world was flat - in fact just as flat as it is now - just as flat as we are.

"But around the time of a man called Columbus, and for some time afterward, the world was round, really round - rosy and robust as an old-fashioned April bud or an ancient October apple.

"And the people on this wonderful round world - they, too, were fully formed, and they lived a warmly rounded life. You can still see some of the full-bodied roundness in the work they left behind them.

"These happy people brought their lovely round world to its peak. And for a perfect moment it stood thus." Miss Half-Hat wiggled a bit and slipped deeper into the dust, but Eugenia's insistent recital pursued her.

"It couldn't last," declared the story-teller, throwing all her paper-doll emotion into her story. "History had to attain its full circle - it always does!"

The paper doll with the half hat made a feeble attempt to straighten it. She almost sat up straight, and her blue blue eyes took on a look of almost human interest.

"And then what?" she inquired of her learned friend.

"Well, it all started with the advertising men. Fiercely
bristling with blue pencils, they came. Like devils!

"Why THREE dimensions?' they asked each other. 'Long is
okay. Nothing wrong with wide. But who needs DEEP?'

"So they cogitated - shrewdly - and finally came out with
'The thicker the bowl the fewer the soup - ha ha. As long
as the package will stand up on a windless day, why waste
cubic inches from front to back? More profit in spreading
two ways from the middle. Ha ha! Make the customer think
the package holds twice as much.'

"And then, great talk about something called 'optical
illusion.'

"But, if the package won't stand up...' questioned the
one timid soul among them. . .

"Then we'll prop it up,' came the answer. 'And Friend
Housewife can do the same.'

Half-Hat murmured "Mmmm" and giggled a bit.

"See what was happening?" continued Eugenia.

"Friend Housewife found that she had to hang the box of
soap chips around her neck on a ribbon, lest it fall right
over and spill. Folks found that they had to stick the
can of polishing wax to the table with a wad of chewing
gum - you know, that stuff that's stuck all over this
floor - or else it would not stand alone.

"And the cornflakes - they had to be suspended from the
ceiling and discharge their contents practically by osmo-
sis, or whatever you call it, in order to keep the floor
clean.

"Soon people, too, began to lose their depth. It started
with our grandpas. The third dimension - I mean DEPTH, my
dear - fell into obsolescence just as completely as any
pre-historic animal ever did.

"Street scenes became flatter and flatter until they were
nothing more than stage drops, just like the one we're
leaning against.

"The advertising men were in their glory. Not only pack-
ages but the whole world and everything in it just flat-
tened out completely. And ambition, interest, ingenuity,
originality - all went when depth went. So did feeling.
And love. On the flat flat world there was no need for
any of these things.

"For the world was back at the point it had started from.
And that, my half-hatted dear, is where we came in."

Lesbiana by Gene Damon

268. ME - AND THE SWANS BY NAOMI JACOB. LONDON, WILLIAM
KIMBER, 1963.

CONSIDERING THE IMPACT RADCLYFFE HALL HAD ON THE WORLD, IT
IS SAD THAT SO LITTLE HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT HER. THE RE-
CENT BREAKING OF THE ICE BY UNA TROUBRIDGE WILL PROBABLY
LEAD TO A SPATE OF ARTICLES AND MEMOIRS BY THOSE WHO KNEW
"JOHN" HALL.

NAOMI JACOB - ENGLISH AUTHOR WELL-KNOWN FOR HER SERIES OF
BOOKS CONSISTING OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, MEMOIRS, AND ES-
SAYS, ALL BEARING THE WORD ME IN THE TITLE - HAS WRITTEN OF
HER FRIENDSHIP WITH JOHN AND UNA IN HER LATEST BOOK, ME -
AND THE SWANS. SHE KNEW THEM BOTH WELL, BUT HER FEELING FOR
JOHN CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS LOVE. THERE ARE OTHER INTER-
ESTING PERSONALITIES DISCUSSED IN THIS COLLECTION WHOLLY
DEVOTED TO THE FEMALE FRIENDS OF THE AUTHOR, NAOMI JACOB,
WHO IS KNOWN AS "MICKIE" OR "MIKE" TO HER FRIENDS.

269. THE BALCONY BY JOAN VATSEK. S. S. IN "A BUTCHER'S DOZEN OF
WICKED WOMEN" EDITED BY LEE WRIGHT. POCKET BOOKS, 1960.

THIS LONG STORY FIRST APPEARED IN 1943 IN STORY MAGAZINE.
(FANS OF HOMOSEXUAL LITERATURE OWE WHIT AND HALLIE BURNETT A
DEBT FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PUBLICATION OF MANY GOOD HOMOSEXUAL
STORIES.) AS THE ANTHOLOGY TITLE IMPLIES, THIS IS NOT A
VERY NICE LESBIAN FEATURED IN THIS STORY. HOWEVER IT IS EX-
CELLENT WRITING AND A MAJOR MUST ITEM FOR COLLECTORS.

270. THE FINISHING TOUCH BY BRIGID BROPHY. LONDON, SECKER AND
WARBURG, 1963.

THE FINISHING SCHOOL WHICH SUPPLIES THE TITLE IS RUN BY TWO
HILARIOUS LESBIAN CARICATURES, AND THE ADVENTURES THEY HAVE
HANDLING THEIR STUDENTS FROM WEALTHY AND WILD FAMILIES ARE
TRULY DELIGHTFUL. SINCE IT IS BITING SATIRE, IT WILL NOT
AMUSE EVERYONE. BUT FOR THE FEW, IT IS BLACK CAVIAR.

271. THE LITTLE GIRLS BY ELIZABETH BOWEN. KNOPF, 1963, 1964.

THREE WOMEN WHO HAVE NOT SEEN ONE ANOTHER SINCE CHILDHOOD ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER ON THE WHIM OF ONE OF THEM - WHEN THEY ARE IN THEIR LATE 50'S. AMONG THE REVELATIONS IS A STRONG HOMOSEXUAL ATTRACTION BETWEEN TWO OF THE THREE. RECOMMENDED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE QUALITY OF MISS BOWEN'S WRITING.

272. LIKE A RIVER OF LIONS BY TANA DE GAMEZ. NEW YORK, GRAPHIC SOCIETY, 1962; PAPERBACK LIBRARY, 1963.

THIS BOOK KICKED UP A CENSORSHIP FUSS WHEN THE N. Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY REFUSED TO PURCHASE ON GROUNDS IT WAS SENSATIONAL. ACTUALLY, THE BOOK IS HARDLY SENSATIONAL BY CURRENT STANDARDS. IT IS A PANORAMIC NOVEL, SIMILAR TO THE BRIFFAULT WORKS EUROPA AND EUROPA IN LIMBO. LIKE THOSE NOVELS, THIS BOOK CONTAINS DOZENS OF VARIANT PORTRAITS. IT IS MALE IN EMPHASIS, BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL FEMALE PORTRAYALS. ONE TOUCHING EPISODE INVOLVES THE HEROINE AND A SCHOOL FRIEND WHO IS A LESBIAN. WHEN THE FRIEND IS FORCED BY HER MOSLEM FATHER TO MARRY A MUCH OLDER MAN, SHE COMMITS SUICIDE.

273. THE SEVEN SISTERS BY FREDERIC PROKOSCH. FARRAR, 1962.

ODD, ESOTERIC NOVEL. MR. PROKOSCH IS A REMARKABLE AUTHOR, ALMOST ALWAYS INCLUDING HOMOSEXUALITY IN HIS NOVELS. THIS ONE IS NEARLY POETRY AND CAN BE READ AND RE-READ FOR MORE THAN ONE LEVEL OF MEANING. DAPHNE, ONE OF THE SEVEN SISTERS, IS A LESBIAN. AFTER RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME AND ATTEMPTING TO POSE AS A BOY, SHE MEETS MONA - WHO PURSUES HER UNTIL DAPHNE COMES TO HER SENSES. A COMPLEX AND WORTHWHILE NOVEL. A MUST FOR COLLECTORS.

274. ALL THE GODS AND GODDESSES BY KAY MARTIN. PUTNAM, 1963.

THIS IS KAY MARTIN'S FIRST HARDBACK BOOK. THERE ARE THREE LESBIAN NURSES, ONE OF WHOM IS BUCKING HER LESBIANISM AND NEARLY WRECKS HER LIFE. THE AUTHOR'S TENDENCY TO PUT AT LEAST ONE ATTRACTIVE AND STRONG LESBIAN INTO EACH BOOK HOLDS TRUE; NURSE PEG SHANKS ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE THE WEAKER GIRL. MRS. MARTIN IS NOT PRO-LESBIAN, BUT SHE KNOWS HOW TO DRAW BELIEVABLE AND INTERESTING WOMEN.

MALIGN CRUSADER

Review of THE VELVET UNDERGROUND

by Michael Leigh. Introduction by Louis Berg, M. D.
(Macfadden Books, 1963)

This innocent-appearing paperback, purporting to be a documentary of the sexual corruption of our times, is in fact an unsubtle melange of truth and fiction. It is a titillating account of every sexually eccentric act the author could unearth and is aimed at the bus-and-subway reader who vicariously seeks to add thrills to an otherwise dull life. Half truth, sly innuendo, irresponsible smear, and a disregard for the basic laws of the land, are some of the characteristics of this book.

Dr. Berg - neurologist, psychiatrist, marriage counselor, and lecturer on psycho-sexual relations - has little love for the homosexual and quickly shows it in referring to homosexuals as "never content to remain prisoners of their own abnormality." Speaking of a Berlin club which he visited years ago, Dr. Berg says it was "where Lesbians flaunted their warped love."

Author Michael Leigh brings unique qualifications to his role of investigator of the sexual habits of Americans. He has been beauty contest editor in Florida; former chief editorial writer, book editor and geopolitical columnist for the Pensacola (Florida) NEWS-JOURNAL; a teacher at Tulane-Pensacola University and a junior college. He speaks with humility in telling us that by accident he casually and sadly found himself in an "alien world," an "unquiet underground," and thus became a reporter of what occurs therein - or should we say, thereunder.

However, Mr. Leigh did much more than wander through this ugly, nasty world of sex perversion. He contacted the "national grapevine" and visited with people so inclined. He inserted ads pretending interest and encouraging responses. He uncovered (!) a ring of nudist sexual perverts who used the sun-bathing camps to make contacts for winter indoor activities. He joined a sex club. Is this the poor man's Kinsey way of investigating?

Cases of husband-wife swapping, bestiality, flagellation, and various forms of sex bondage and sado-masochistic torture - all are told and re-told in the book's slim 192 pages. The author mentions "vast Lesbian orgies" in Italy in the early 1950's, but he gives no supporting details, nor does he give evidence later in talking of "Lesbian

orgies indulged in at vacation resorts by female students from southern California universities and colleges."

Wedge in among all the sorry tales of sexual aberration are two chapters, one dealing with THE LADDER and Daughters of Bilitis and entitled "Women Who Want Other Women" and the other dealing with ONE Incorporated and its magazine and called "Men Who Want Other Men." Curiously, while this paperback is an original and was published only a few months ago, the data on THE LADDER and DOB is from 1960. The author contends that homosexual magazines and gatherings such as conventions should be banned through strict law enforcement. He believes that action should have been taken against not only the DOB officers but even the speakers at the 1960 convention of DOB.

Michael Leigh states flatly that homosexuality is illegal - the condition as well as the act. You lie, Mr. Leigh! Homosexual acts are still against the law in all but one of the fifty states. But it is not illegal to be a homosexual. And it is not illegal to publish magazines dealing with homosexuality. Both the Daughters of Bilitis and ONE are legally chartered non-profit corporations. They exist within the framework of the law and do not aim to circumvent it. But they can and do endeavor to bring about changes in the law by legal means. Such efforts by others helped effect the legalizing of sexual acts between consenting adults in Illinois. Homosexuals' rights to assemble for discussions, lectures, and conventions are established in the basic liberties of all Americans. Both Mr. Leigh and Dr. Berg seem ready to overlook two of our constitutional rights: freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. The U. S. Supreme Court in 1957 clearly upheld ONE Magazine's right to continue publication.

The book states that homosexuals are a source of venereal disease, yet no effort is made to determine what the homophile organizations are doing about the situation - e. g., the Mattachine Society of New York was recently commended by the city's Health Department for its cooperation in helping to produce a brochure on venereal disease.

Guilt by association was the brush that smeared the innocent in McCarthy's era; one deplores its emergence again in this sphere. The chapters dealing with DOB and ONE Inc. have no connection with the sexual putrefaction throughout the rest of the book! Inclusion of material on responsible homophile groups - juxtaposed as it is with the solely salacious - cannot be too strongly condemned.

There was published in New York some years ago a tabloid paper called THE EVENING GRAPHIC. It was a low-water mark for sensational journalism and its shocking-pink, scandal-soaked pages swirled through the streets of the city for a brief time and then were gone. THE VELVET UNDERGROUND will have the same kind of life and death in its career to

garner a fast buck from the thrill-seeking reader. Before it fades from the scene, let us set the record straight as to what part we play in this malign melange of sexual oddity in which our names have been bandied about.

We say with the popular ditty, "come look us over, lend us an ear." The homophile organizations maintain offices and hold serious discussions and meetings in major cities. We deal openly with the public and the professional world. Our legally-sanctioned publications are on the newsstands. We need make no frantic efforts to dissociate ourselves from the sex rings depicted by Leigh. We do not resemble, we have no alliance with, a vulgar velvet underground.

- Sidney Ravenswood

BLOSSOM

A delicate blossom
 (belying the strength
 in its roots)
Is the product of devotion.
Petal-perfect,
Dew-fresh,
It pleases the planter
And gladdens the passerby.

So with your love—
Blooming on my heartsill.

- Elizabeth Tudor

LITTLE REQUIEM

Things of an hour
We had together:
The spring's first flower,
The blue dove's feather,
The rising flame
And your voice
Breathing my name.

And shall I grieve,
Since all things pass,
For the dandelion
In last year's grass,
The flame, the dove,
And you
And love?

- Valerie Taylor

READERS RESPOND

"THE LADDER LOOKS BETTER. I LIKE 'CROSS-CURRENTS' AND THE FACT THAT SO FAR IT HAS NOT DUPLICATED ITEMS IN ONE MAGAZINE OR MATTA-CHINE REVIEW. GENE DAMON'S 11-YEAR INTEREST IN HOMOSEXUAL LITERATURE SEEMS A LABOR OF LOVE AND ONE HAS TO TAKE ONE'S HAT OFF TO HER FOR THE THOROUGH COVERAGE OF ALL THE FICTION PUBLISHED. I LIKED THE NEW PICTURE COVER - AND THE SUB-TITLE 'A LESBIAN REVIEW' IS A FORTHRIGHT ADDITION. MY ONE CRITICISM: IF ONLY THE LADDER HAD THE PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT OF UNIFORM TYPE, EVEN ENDINGS."

- R. L., NEW YORK

* * * * *

"HAVE DOB MEMBERS GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY? I CHOSE A MEMBERSHIP THAT COSTS \$25 A YEAR, THOUGH ONE CAN JOIN FOR MUCH LESS. I ALSO JOINED A GROUP CALLED THE MARGARET BRENT FELLOWSHIP, ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE GIVING CREDIT TO WOMEN FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, IN HISTORY BOOKS AND WRITTEN DOCUMENTS GENERALLY. DUES ARE ONLY \$2 ANNUALLY, THOUGH I INTEND MAKING LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS. ALSO I'M DOING WHAT I CAN TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR MARGARET CHASE SMITH. WHILE I KNOW MY OWN EFFORTS ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL ON THE NATIONAL SCENE, I FEEL THAT TOO MANY WOMEN SIMPLY SHRUG THEIR SHOULDERS AND ABDICATE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO THEIR OWN SEX."

- A SUBSCRIBER, NEW YORK

* * * * *

"I ADORE 'GIRL IN A RAINCOAT' ! YOU DEVILS - HOW DID YOU DO IT?"

- B. G., MISSOURI

* * * * *

"THE APRIL COVER IS THE HEIGHT OF TASTE - SUPERB, ELITE, REFINED. IT GIVES THE MAGAZINE THE POLISH IT NEEDS. YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUR SCORE AND TEN EXCLAMATORY LETTERS ON THIS PROFESSIONAL COVER!"

"SOME READERS STILL PROFESS THAT THE SHORT STORIES AND POETRY ARE IMMATURE - BUT I LIKE THEM. I FIND THE POETRY EXCEPTIONAL AND THE SHORT STORIES ENTERTAINING. BOTH SMACK OF PROFESSIONALISM. LESBIANA IS TOPS AND SO ARE THE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. MLE. ESME'S ARTICLE ('THE HOT ROD LINE') WAS HIGHLY AMUSING. SHE GAVE ME QUITE A CHUCKLE - REALLY, I LAUGHED OUT LOUD.

"THE LETTER FROM S. M. OF CALIFORNIA (APRIL) WRITES FALSEHOODS - BUT GOOD FOR YOU FOR PUBLISHING IT. 'WHAT YOUR LITERARY STAFF CONSIDERS IN SELECTION ESCAPES THIS WRITER - BUT IT'S PRETTY BAD.' TSK TSK. SHE THINKS THE LADDER'S STAFF HAS A REPERTOIRE OF MATERIAL LIKE A TOPNOTCH PUBLISHER WITH HIS DESK STACKED FIVE FEET HIGH WITH MANUSCRIPTS? 'FOR MYSELF AND SEVERAL OTHER VIEWS...' HOW TYPICAL OF THESE LONE CRABS WHO MUST REINFORCE THEIR POINT OF VIEW BY DRAGGING IN NON-EXISTENT COLLABORATORS. S. M. CONTINUES '10 GOOD POEMS AND POSSIBLY 3 OR 4 SHORT STORIES OF MERIT THIS PAST YEAR.' WHAT AN EXCEPTIONAL RECORD, REALLY, FOR SUCH A SMALL AND UNKNOWN PERIODICAL! SHE GOES ON TO SAY 'THE MAGAZINE BRINGS HOPE AND JOY TO THE YOUNG-UNS IN FAR AWAY PLACES...' 40-YEAR-OLDS LIKE ME ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF COSMOPOLITAN SAN FRANCISCO!

"I GREATLY ENJOYED M. BARROW'S ARTICLE IN APRIL ON THE CELIBATES, PASSERS, AND NUNS. THIS TYPE OF DIAGNOSIS OF THE LATENT AND ILL-EDUCATED LESBIAN IS INVALUABLE TO THE LADDER'S AMERICAN READING PUBLIC. IF AMERICAN LESBIANS COULD ONLY SPEND A GOOD YEAR ABROAD, THEY'D DISCOVER THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN INTEGRATION AND ACCEPTANCE. IT'S LIKELY THEY'D WANT TO REMAIN AWAY AS EXPATRIATES. TO THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SOUL-SEARCHING, SELF-IDENTIFICATION, SELF-SATISFACTION AND AN OVERALL STATE OF HAPPINESS: FLEE AMERICAN SHORES AND HEAD FOR BROADER EDUCATIONAL PASTURES IN MORE ADVANCED, CIVILIZED, SOPHISTICATED LANDS - EUROPE, THE NEAR EAST, NORTHERN AFRICA, SCANDINAVIA! INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL IS JUST SO MUCH TALK. I KNOW MANY HOMOSEXUALS IN EUROPE WHO ARE THOROUGHLY INTEGRATED, AND WHY? BECAUSE THEY DO NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT. THEY DO NOT PUBLICIZE; THEY DO NOT MAKE SURVEYS; THEY DO NOT GATHER STATISTICS. THEY DO NOT PROCLAIM THEIR MINORITY AND CRY OUT FOR RECOGNITION AND UNDERSTANDING. IF I HAD THE FUNDS, I'D SET UP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DROVES OF AMERICAN LESBIANS TO VISIT ABROAD!"

- M. G., CALIFORNIA

"DID THE EDITORS REALIZE THAT TWO OF THE SHORT STORIES ('IN THE DARK' AND 'ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE') THAT WERE PUBLISHED IN CONSECUTIVE MONTHS (MARCH AND APRIL) WERE QUITE COMPLEMENTARY? EACH EXPLORED THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF A HETEROSEXUAL MARRIAGE IN WHICH A LESBIAN WAS INVOLVED.

"'IN THE DARK' PRESENTED FAIRLY THE PLIGHT OF THE HUSBAND REJECTED BY A LESBIAN WIFE. PERHAPS HE WAS SUBCONSCIOUSLY DRAWN TO THIS TYPE OF WOMAN AND FOREDOOMED TO DISAPPOINTMENT. 'ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE' PRESENTED WITH EQUAL FORCE THE PLIGHT OF A WIFE WHO FINDS - OR SUSPECTS - THAT SHE IS A LESBIAN. WE ARE SHOWN HER OWN CRUEL FATE - AND THAT OF HER CHILDREN - IN A NON-COMPREHENDING HETEROSEXUAL WORLD.

"AS MARILYN BARROW POINTED OUT IN HER INCISIVE ANALYSIS (APRIL) OF 'THE CELIBATE, THE PASSER, AND THE NUN,' THE PASSER WHO IS OR HAS BEEN MARRIED MAY BE DEEPLY UNHAPPY AND MAY WREAK HER UNHAPPINESS ON HUSBAND AND CHILDREN. I HOPE THE LADDER WILL PUBLISH MORE ON THE MARRIED LESBIAN AND HOW SHE MIGHT RESOLVE HER DILEMMA."

- M. K. R., NEW JERSEY

* * * * *

"HAVE YOU SEEN OUR COMPETITION? THE NEW LESBIAN MAGAZINE FROM ENGLAND, ARENA THREE, IS ALREADY FIRST-RATE IN CONTENT DESPITE ITS CURRENT MIMEOGRAPHED FORM. ITS SOPHISTICATED IMPUDENCE IS LIKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AFTER THE DEAD-EARNEST TONE AND LOGGY PROSE OF THE AMERICAN HOMOPHILE MAGAZINES. THE LADDER IS IMPROVING - AND JUST IN TIME! - BUT STILL COULD TAKE LESSONS FROM THE GAY AND WIN-SOME ENGLISH UPSTART."

- AMERICAN READER

* * * * *

"I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE LADDER, WHICH I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING SINCE DECEMBER. SINCE I AM A PROFESSIONAL FREE-LANCE WRITER AND NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST, I CAN UNDERSTAND THE WORK AND DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN PUBLICATION AND EDITING - AND I THINK THAT EVERYONE CAN BE VERY PROUD. I AM PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE BALANCE IN YOUR SELECTION OF MATERIAL. AND OF COURSE BY ITS

MESSAGE. BEHIND YOUR LITTLE MAGAZINE, I SEE A LOT OF COMMON SENSE AND COURAGE, A PRACTICAL IDEALISM WHICH WE VERY MUCH NEED.

"ANOTHER THANK-YOU IS DUE DOB FOR THE BOOK SERVICE. I STRUGGLED ALONG WITHOUT IT UNTIL DECEMBER, BUYING THE BOOKS I NEEDED AS ANONYMOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, ON DISTANT NEWSSTANDS, IN ORDER NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED LOCALLY. I DON'T KNOW THEM PERSONALLY - BUT A CLAP ON THE BACK AND A BEER ON ME TO YOUR BOOK SERVICE PERSONNEL.

"I AM IMPRESSED BY THE SANITY AND SENTIMENT OF BOTH THE LADDER AND YOUR ORGANIZATION."

- E. N., OHIO

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EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING LETTER, SENT TO THE NEW YORK TIMES BUT NEVER PUBLISHED, IS PRINTED HERE WITH THE WRITER'S PERMISSION.

"TO THE EDITOR, THE NEW YORK TIMES:

"YOUR ARTICLE ON 'GROWTH OF OVERT HOMOSEXUALITY IN CITY PROVOKES WIDE CONCERN' (DECEMBER 17, 1963) HAS CAUSED ME GRAVE CONCERN. AS A PSYCHOLOGIST, I BELIEVE THAT MY PROFESSION WOULD WANT TO GO ON RECORD AS OPPOSED TO THIS TYPE OF PERSECUTION OF ONE KIND OF HUMAN BEING. MIGHT I ADD THAT AS NEWSPAPERS ARE CONSTITUTED, THE NEW YORK TIMES IS THE MOST ACCURATE AND THE LEAST HYSTERICAL OF ANY I HAVE READ. BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO POINT OUT SOME VERY SERIOUS ERRORS IN YOUR ARTICLE.

"'THE PRESENCE OF THE GREATEST HOMOSEXUAL POPULATION IN THE WORLD' IS A STATEMENT THAT COULD CAUSE HYSTERIA IN THE GENERAL POPULACE. HOW DO WE KNOW THIS? HOW DO WE KNOW WHO IS OR IS NOT A HOMOSEXUAL? THE VAST MAJORITY OF HOMOSEXUALS GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS JUST AS ANYONE ELSE DOES. THEY WORK IN YOUR OFFICE, ATTEND YOUR SICK, REPAIR YOUR TEETH, TRY YOUR LAW SUITS, TEACH YOUR CHILDREN, AND ADMINISTER YOUR GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS. TO COMPARE THESE SOBER CITIZENS TO THE PSYCHOPATHS WHO CRUISE TIMES SQUARE IS TO COMPARE ALL WOMEN TO THE PROSTITUTES WHO ARE LIKewise SO ENGAGED. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO THE HOMOSEXUALS ARE BECAUSE THE GENERAL POPULACE DOES NOT DECLARE ITSELF IN RELATION TO SEX PARTNERS. WE DO NOT USUALLY INQUIRE INTO PEOPLE'S BED-MATES.

"A STATEMENT SUCH AS THIS CAN ONLY BE HARMFUL. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY HOMOSEXUALS THERE ARE IN THE WORLD NOR WHERE THEY CONGREGATE MOST THICKLY. THE FALSE USE OF STATISTICS CAN ONLY LEAD TO PERSECUTION OF THE QUIET, LAW-ABIDING, DISCRIMINATING HOMOSEXUALS.

"YOU INFER THAT THE MAFIA IS GAINING CONTROL OF THE GAY BARS. IF SO, THIS IS NOT THE FAULT OF THE HOMOSEXUALS. IF YOU READ RAYMOND MARTIN'S FINE BOOK 'REVOLT IN THE MAFIA' YOU WILL FIND THAT THESE HOODLUMS ALSO CONTROL SOME VERY LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES AND EVEN SOME LEGISLATORS. TO LINK THE MAFIA WITH HOMOSEXUALITY IS WITCH HUNTING.

"YOU WRITE ABOUT 'HOMOSEXUALS AND DEGENERATES' AS THOUGH THEY WERE SYNONYMOUS. MORE FACTUAL IT IS TO SAY, THERE ARE HOMOSEXUALS WHO ARE DEGENERATES AND THERE ARE HETEROSEXUALS WHO ARE DEGENERATES.

"YOUR SOURCE OF VALIDATION ABOUT 'CURE' IS FREUDIAN ANALYSIS: THAT THIS IS A DISEASE THAT CAN BE CURED ON THE PROPER COUCH. BUT YOU DO NOT QUOTE THE EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS EITHER A DISEASE OR NEEDS CURE. YOU GIVE NO RESOURCE MATERIAL OR VALIDATED DATA AS TO WHERE YOU OBTAINED THE NOTION THAT PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY HAS DE-CIPHERED THE MEANING OF HOMOSEXUALITY OR THAT WE HAVE THE SLIGHTEST NOTION THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER 'CURE.' HAD THE FREUDIANS FOUND THE ANSWER, WE MIGHT ALL BE INDULGING IN THAT APPROACH. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN NO CLINICAL DEMONSTRATION OF THIS ALLEGED WONDER - 'CURE.' THE BOASTINGS COME FROM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

"NO SOBER PSYCHOLOGIST WOULD ASK THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL BE RELIEVED OF MEETING HIS LEGAL OBLIGATIONS. BUT WHY CANNOT HE BE PERMITTED TO MEET THESE OBLIGATIONS AS DOES ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING? IF HE VIOLATES THE LAW, HE SHOULD BE PUNISHED. IF HE SEDUCES CHILDREN, HE SHOULD LIKEWISE BE PUNISHED - JUST AS A HETEROSEXUAL SHOULD BE.

"MY PLEA AS A SOCIAL SCIENTIST, IS THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL HAS THE RIGHT TO BE ACCEPTED AS A PERSON OF DIGNITY AS LONG AS HE CONDUCTS HIMSELF SO. THIS SHOULD PERTAIN TO THE HOMOSEXUAL AS WELL AS TO THE HETEROSEXUAL."

- MRS. LEE R. STEINER, PRESIDENT
ACADEMY OF PSYCHOLOGISTS IN MARITAL COUNSELING

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