

[1968]

Phone: 861-8689

### JULY NEWSLETTER

This summer promises to be a busy one for the homophile community, not only internally, but in its dialogue with society at large. In a certain sense, the AMA Convention led off this summer's activity in the Bay Area by hearing a paper by Dr. Socarides on the need for 'cure' centers for homosexuals, all of whom suffer excruciatingly from this "mental disorder of epidemiological proportions." The Chronicle reported Dr. Socarides' talk in a front page story. This precipitated a press conference called by SIR (Society for Individual Rights), CRH (Council on Religion and the Homosexual), NLDF (National Legal Defense Fund), and DOB on June 20 which was reported in the Chronicle of June 21. DOB and SIR members distributed 3000 leaflets to the conventioning MD'S, calling for the AMA's cooperation in research to replace theories and opinions of homosexuality with facts. Channel 5 broadcast Jim Skagg's (President of SIR) reply to Dr. Socarides and on June 20th that station broadcast parts of the press conference.

At this time a letter dated June 19 and signed by Dr. Max Rafferty was received that reads, "I will oppose any change in the present laws against homosexuality except to make them more severe." Also in the news (Time, June 28 and the July Playboy) is an item about a man sentenced to 2 - 14 years in prison for consensual sodomy with his wife. Through the intervention of Playboy the man is now free, having served three years of his sentence. Is Rafferty also in favor of "more severe" laws against any but the 'approved' reproductive act between husband and wife? Here is an area where heterosexual concern for legal reform overlaps homosexual concern. Pierre Trudeau, Canada's new Prime Minister, is quoted by Time, July 5: "Are we going to put all sin in the criminal code? If so, it would be a pretty thick book. The state has no business in the nation's bedrooms." You will be hearing more of 'privacy in the bedroom.'

### REMINDER DAY

DOB and SIR demonstrated on the steps of the Federal Building on July 3 as part of "Reminder Day" which has been held for five years now by the eastern homophile organizations on July 4 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. We carried signs saying, "Take Sex Out of Government," "I'm Harmless," "Uncle Sam, Get Out of My Bedroom," etc. Shirley, members of SIR, and Rev. Cromey spoke of the "invisible minority" and the rights it asks of the Federal Government. Channel 5 broadcast us with our signs as well as some of Jim Skagg's talk. Though the attending crowd was small, we were well covered by the press. Both the Chronicle and the Sacramento Bee carried the story on July 4.

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Shirley appeared on Pat Michael's show July 10, an undertaking requiring great courage. Despite Mr. Michael's vicious statement that he would never put his wife or daughter in a hospital where Shirley was a nurse, she kept her calm and dignity. Her final words were applauded: "I think those whose lives I've helped to save would not share your opinion."

Gab n Javas About twenty of us attended each of the last two lively Gab n Javas. —At Nathalie's we examined our private and public self-images, what we thought about the matter of 'passing' or fooling the public, how much possible detection worried us, and what, if any, were the moral implications. Since hardly anyone agreed with anyone, the discussion was intensely interesting and each of could, if so inclined, enlarge her appreciation of people whose views one privately might consider stupid, asinine, uninformed, superficial, childish, and sick. At Priscilla's and Karen's we shifted the 'battleground' to our views on sexual behavior, from one night stands to fidelity to celibacy and what to do about the sex drive. Both evenings had to end long before we were talked out. So join us, voice your ideas, or come to listen.

Volunteers needed. The research program continues. Our Chapter is continuing to gather material for research concerning lesbian mothers. There are plans for having a graduate student from a Bay Area college do the work on this project. In the meantime,



we have received several letters from lesbian mothers and need many more. These letters will be kept on file until the project actually gets under way.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ??? SAN DIEGO CHAPTER ???

Are you interested in joining a San Diego Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis? There will be a meeting Saturday, July 27, 7 PM at:

Lot 51, 13445 Highway 8 Bus.  
El Cajon, Calif.

All women who are interested in forming a San Diego Chapter are invited. We will be happy to see you there!

Shirley Willer, Pres.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now being accepted for the Blanche Baker scholarships. They are for \$150. Any woman over 21 is eligible. Contact the office for application blanks.

### Calendar of Events

- July 19: Gab n Java, 8 PM sharp. Gwen & Rita, 750 Presidio #307, SF. 50cents donation.
- July 20: California members' meeting, 1:00 PM at Glide Fellowship Hall, 330 Ellis St., SF. SHOULD WE REORGANIZE?
- July 26: Gab n Java, 8 PM sharp. Priscilla & Karen, 3350 Octavia, #4, SF. 50 cents donation.
- Aug. 2: Business meeting, 8 PM at the office.
- Aug. 9, 10, 11: THE NATIONAL CONVENTION in Denver.  
NOTE. Regular air fare round trip is \$130.20. A reduced fare of \$97.65 can be arranged by leaving SF Friday before noon and returning Monday afternoon or later. This is a saving of over \$30 which almost covers all expenses in Denver. Contact the office for further information.
- Aug. 16: Gab n Java, 8 PM and still sharp. Gwen & Rita, 750 Presidio, #307, SF. \$1 for nonmembers, free for members, by vote of the members at the July 12 business meeting.

### Other Events of Interest

- July 21: CRH picnic, 2 PM. Dr. Paul Gebhard of the Kinsey Institute will speak. There will be swimming, volleyball, hiking, beer, cocktails, and food. This picnic will be held at White Retreat Center in Mill Valley, the site of original confrontation between clergy and homosexuals. It is for members only, but you may join at the door, \$5. Call Phyllis Lyon, 771-6300 for further information and directions to the center.
- July 24: SIR Open Meeting, 83 6th St., SF. Dr. Earle Marsh will speak on sexuality.
- Aug. 13 - 19: The North American Homophile Conference in Chicago. This follows the DOB Convention in Denver. DOB will be represented by delegates and observers. If you are interested in attending, let us know.

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- ??? Like to go dancing? Several gay fellows are looking for gay girls who would like to try the dancing at the Avalon or Fillmore West (The Carousel). Dutch treat, of course. If you are interested call Steve at 775-2913.



From the President

A new slate of officers was elected at the last business meeting:

President	Rita Laporte
Vice-president	Adele Bennett
Secretary	Priscilla Cochran
Treasurer	Gwen McGregor
Chapter Rep	Karen Wilson

So here I am writing you, as Newsletter Editor, about me, as President. Those are both big, important jobs but, mercifully, I am unemployed in the usual sense of the word. I am very glad to be your president. I have been a member of DOB for about twelve years, one of those far-from-a-chapter members who silently thanked whoever was working to make the organization a going concern. I had a lifeline called The Ladder linking me to all the rest of you and giving me courage and strength. Now I'm at long last a San Franciscan. This is my great opportunity to do my bit (thing??) for DOB.

I have four able and dedicated officers to help me. With our diverse talents and experience we will make the old SF Chapter second to none. And if we develop blind spots now and then, I shall expect our members to point them out. DOB is unique, the first and only national organization for lesbians. We cannot model ourselves on other groups nor copy their ways. We must march with courage into the always uncertain future. Let us neither fear to make mistakes nor to admit them when they become apparent.

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Anent the frustrations our police have in enforcing all our vice laws, SF Police Chief Cahill says, "Why, with all the homosexuals, bisexuals, transvestites, and trans-sexuals it takes all your time figuring them out. It's shocking how little time we have left for major crime."

. He forgot the heterosexuals.

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS - SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER  
1005 Market St, Rm 208  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: 861-8689

### AUGUST NEWSLETTER

The overriding event this month was the meeting of the General Assembly in Denver. As there was no Convention in connection with this meeting (a break in tradition), the delegates spent all day Saturday and Sunday in business session. The new slate of Officers for the next two years is:

National President  
Vice-President (West)  
Vice-President (East)  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Rita Laporte (SF)  
Rinalda Reagan (SF)  
Joan Kent (NY)  
Lynd Janes (NY)  
Lois Williams

It is this editor's opinion that DOB has a first rate group of officers. All are dedicated to DOB, its aims and goals, and all are anxious to put their time and energy to the service of DOB.

Riff Rafferty  
Editor

Gab n Javas The only 'trouble' with our Gab n Javas lately is overcrowding, a very welcome trouble indeed. May it continue to plague us! On July 19 we discussed possible chapter activities. These were: bicycle tours, dinner-theatre parties, horseback riding, dances, gourmet cooking classes, group therapy (also known as T-groups or sensitivity groups), arts and crafts, literature and movie discussion groups, tennis, and hiking. Half a dozen members expressed a desire to help organize one or another of these activities. But as yet nothing has been "firmed up." Most of your Chapter Officers went to Denver which, of necessity, has prevented them from attending fully to Chapter business this month. But don't despair. Things will pick up after Labor Day.

R. R.

CRH Picnic About a hundred of us attended this picnic in a most beautiful retreat way off in the woods of Marin County. I shall report some of the interchange between us and Dr. Gebhard, Director of the Kinsey Institute.

In answer to the question, "Why must society call us sick?" Dr. Gebhard said he considered this an improvement over being called criminal. He gave an example of the public's confused reasoning. A woman spoke to him of "these terrible homosexuals who rape women." It turned out that she had never reasoned through how male homosexuals who, she knew, liked only males, could possibly be interested in raping women. "I never thought of that," she said. Her vague, unconscious reasoning goes: homosexual equals pervert equals rapist. This demonstrates a kind of confusion in the public mind with respect to the male homosexual.

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#### To Non-Members Only:

If you would like to continue receiving the Newsletter, please fill in below and mail to: DOB, 1005 Market St, Rm 208, San Francisco, CA 94103.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(A donation of \$1.00 to cover costs of printing and mailing would be most appreciated)



Dr. Gebhard spoke of the past timidity of the National Institute for Mental Health (part of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare) in making grants specifically to investigate matters pertaining to homosexuality. But the NIMH is gradually facing up to this social "problem." What is needed first is to know just what the public's attitudes really are. This precedes any course of action aimed at educating the public. There is now being set up a task force to research society's attitudes and investigate ways of changing them. Funds are being made available for this national attitude study and for a study of the Bay Area homophile community. We should be hearing more about this within the next year.

We few women among the males spoke out against our being swallowed up in the term homosexual. We pointed out that the Kinsey Institute staff is all male, that we are tired of answering questionnaires drawn up by males, and our being interviewed exclusively by males. Dr. Gebhard said he was aware of this problem, that qualified women interviewers cannot be found (may I register doubt here - ed.) and that perhaps women, lesbian and straight, should be consulted in the drawing up of questionnaires.

#### Calendar of Events

Aug 23: Gab n Java, 8 PM at Ruth's, 2560 Robinson St, Apt 3, Santa Clara. \$1 for nonmembers.

Sep 6: Business meeting, 8 PM at 1005 Market St.

Sep 13: Gab n Java, 8 PM at Gloria's, 10 Mulberry Court, Apt 16, Belmont. \$1 for nonmembers.

(Those of you who can supply transportation from SF to Santa Clara and/or Belmont, and those who need transportation, contact Rita or Gwen, 931-1876, and they will coordinate drivers and passengers.)

Sep 18: Candidates' Night at SIR, 83 6th St, 8 PM. This is important! What do these candidates think of Rafferty?

#### News Item

Time, Aug 16. In defending a draft-evasion case in New York City, Attorney Stephen Fine argued that the draft law is illegal because it makes "an invidious discrimination based upon sex." Margaret Mead says that the draft "sets girls and young women apart as if they did not exist." The 1964 Civil Rights Act forbids discrimination based on sex.

I'm all for Attorney Fine and for drafting women. Are you?

R. R.

**ISSUE [S] MISSING  
NOT AVAILABLE**

**September 1968-  
October 1969**