



mattachine REVIEW

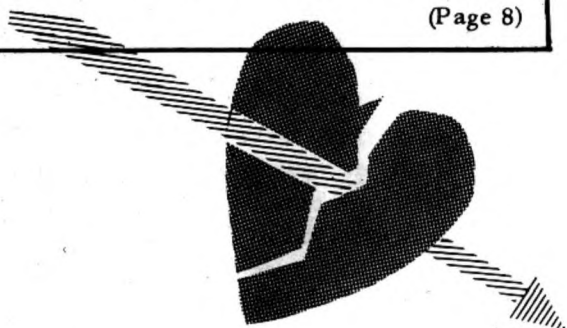
FEBRUARY 1958

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HELEN P. BRANSON TELLS REASONS

Why Homosexuals Don't Get Married

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"ONE" NOT OBSCENE

SAYS U. S. SUPREME COURT (Page 4)

BOOK REVIEWS

LETTERS

Casting a Spotlight on Human Sex Problems --- For THINKING ADULTS

OBSCENITY NEEDS TO BE DEFINED

The declaration by the U. S. Supreme Court that *ONE* magazine is not obscene (see page 4) is a victory for freedom of expression everywhere in the U. S., and not a gain for the 'homosexual press' alone.

Changing times, changing attitudes and the general progress of human civilization call for old standards to be examined critically from time to time. The vague old bogey of obscenity is one of these and within the past year or so sponsors of censorship on obscenity grounds have been called to task more than once, but the right of Federal and State governments to judge and ban obscene material has been upheld, as we believe it should be (see *MATTACHINE REVIEW*, July 1957).

We believe that *ONE* and *MATTACHINE* agree that freedom to publish educational information, in an interesting and readable form, on the subject of sex variation is a genuine service in the interest of truth, justice and human well-being. At the same time, respect for law must be maintained. This does not mean, however, that laws believed to be unjust cannot be criticized.

The Supreme Court has hit the nail on the head in our opinion when it called for a more precise definition of obscenity. What is obscene to one person may not be to another. The American Law Institute recognized this more than a year ago when it tried to arrive at a definition of the term, but ideas were so divergent that it virtually skipped the subject in its Model Penal Code. The need for the definition remains. It should be of uniform application to the entire nation—and not something that 48 state legislatures can butcher to suit varied ignorance, prejudice and political opportunism.

Neighboring Canada, perhaps, has the problem, too.

In a recent issue of the tabloid, *JUSTICE WEEKLY*, published in Toronto, a list of 152 publications—mostly magazines which appear on U. S. newsstands from coast to coast, were named as banned

(Continued on page 28)



mattachine **REVIEW**

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MATTACHINE REVIEW is published monthly by the Mattachine Society, Inc., 693 Mission Street, San Francisco, San Francisco 5, Calif., a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in the public interest for the purpose of providing true and accurate information toward the solution of problems of human sex behavior, particularly those of the homosexual adult. The **REVIEW** is available on many U.S. newsstands.

Victory for

BY JOHN LOGAN

**SUPREME COURT
LIFTS BAN IN
UNANIMOUS
DECISION**



In a unanimous decision the U. S. Supreme Court reversed a Post Office ban on the mailing of *One*, the homosexual magazine, on January 13, 1958, in Washington, D. C. Also lifted by the unanimous decision of the Court was a ban on two nudist magazines, *Sunshine & Health* and *Sun Magazine*.

The Court appears to have found that the magazines simply were not obscene, thus reversing lower Federal Court decisions resulting from charges made by postal officials. In the case of *One*, the ban specifically applied to the October 1954 issue only. Cited in the original charges by Los Angeles postoffice were an article, "Sappho Remembered," a poem, "Lord Samuel and Lord Montagu," and the general tone of the magazine, which carried a series of drawings under the heading, "Gay Menagerie," and an article on the law of mailable material headed, "You Can't Print That." The postoffice stand was that it couldn't be mailed.

One, Inc. fought the charges in both a Federal Court in Los Angeles and a Federal Court of Appeals at San Francisco, where it lost both counts. With shoestring financing but strong determina-

tion, One carried the battle to the nation's highest court about a year ago.

The Court cited the Roth case of June 1957 in arriving at its decision. In this case it had ruled that obscenity must be interpreted by stricter standards, and essentially called for a more rigorous and precise definition of "obscenity."

The various members of the Supreme Court may have joined in the unanimous action for different reasons, but it is clear, according to a news release from One, Inc., that *One* magazine did not appear obscene to the Court.

Eric Julber, Los Angeles attorney for One, Inc., filed the brief with the Court.

Also on the legal front in January 1958 came another important announcement:

**Government Decides Not to Contest Court Ruling to Admit
Pornographic Material for Use in Kinsey Research Work**

(From the Portland Oregonian)

NEW YORK — The federal government has accepted a new legal standard for obscenity and agreed to let the Kinsey institute import some concededly pornographic pictures, books and other objects.

The decision was hailed here Saturday by the law firm which represented the institute in a government law suit as "a victory for the mind of man."

The government's suit was directed against Indiana university's institute for Sex Research incorporated. The institute was founded by the late Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey.

The new standard held that the material is not legally obscene because it is unlikely to arouse the "prurient interest" of those who will see it.

The official position previously had been that a thing is obscene in itself, no matter who is going to see or read it.

The treasury department quickly followed up the de-

cision with a public statement that the new standard covers admission of materials "for genuine scientific use only."

The decision, the treasury said, "does not mean the bars are down" for pornographic imports intended for public distribution.

Customs Commissioner Ralph Kelly said:

"The ruling is of very limited application. Imports of pornographic and obscene materials intended for the general public continue to be illegal, and will be seized and destroyed by customs if attempted."

The material involved had been seized by the customs bureau over the last seven years on its way to the institute.

A government suit to have the material destroyed was rejected here last November 1 by Federal District Judge Edmund L. Palmieri. He ruled that an object is not legally ob-

scene if the person importing it has a genuine scientific purpose.

His decision that the institute was entitled to have the impounded material was stayed while the government pondered whether to appeal.

The final decision not to appeal was made by Solicitor General J. Lee Rankin after the criminal division of the justice department had indorsed a treasury recommendation against appeal.

Many leading newspapers commented editorially on the above action. Here is what appeared in the San Francisco *Chronicle*:

Customs' 7-Year Itch Is Finally Scratched

A SEVEN YEARS' ITCH of the U. S. Customs Bureau to destroy some books, photographs, paintings and statuettes collected by the late Dr. Alfred Kinsey, authority on sex, has been mercifully cured by a sensible judgment of a United States District Court. We congratulate the Court. It ordered the material released from customs to the University of Indiana's Institute for Sex Research, Inc., because in scholars' hands it would not be of "prurient interest" and so need not be confiscated as legally obscene.

As for the Customs men suffering all these years from their itch, that could have been avoided if Undersecretaries of the Treasury and Collectors of Customs and United States Attorneys had been less sanctimonious and bigotedly virtuous about a matter that had no bearing whatever on the public morals. Dr. Kinsey, back in 1950 and 1951, collected the materials in Europe and the Orient for study of

The imports in the Kinsey case include photographs, Chinese paintings, statuettes, books and what were identified as "lavatory wall inscriptions."

The government's decision to accept and apply generally the new obscenity standard does not bind the post office. However, it may influence the attitude of postal officials in deciding whether matter is "Obscene" and therefore non-mailable.

the various cultural expressions of human sexuality. When the objects began arriving in New York, Customs men seized them. No Government report is ever likely to reveal how many hours of "scientific study" have since been given this material by the Federal officialdom of New York. If it has not undergone frequent re-examination, then Customs men are different from ordinary cops. A cop who confiscates a particularly gamey burlesque-house film is flooded for weeks with demands for private bookings.

In taking the Kinsey materials out of the hands of the Customs Bureau, the District Court has not merely helped serious scholarship but it also has stepped on a particularly repugnant form of the Federal propensity to tell university scholars what they are entitled to read and study—and therefore think. The whole episode is especially sordid because it was so unnecessary.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF SEX

PURPOSE

The Society for the Scientific Study of Sex (SSSS) has been organized to foster interdisciplinary exchange in the field of sexual knowledge. The aim of the Society is to bring together scientists working in the biological, medical, anthropological, psychological, sociological, and allied fields who are conducting significant sexual research or whose profession confronts them with sexual problems.

ACTIVITIES

The SSSS will hold periodic scientific meetings for the presentation of research papers. It will organize symposia, seminars, workshops, conferences, etc. to consider theoretical and practical problems in the sexual area. It will also publish a scientific journal devoted to relevant original studies and reports.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirements for Fellow: A doctor's degree or its equivalent in one of the biological or social sciences plus outstanding contributions to sexual knowledge.

Minimum requirements for Member: A graduate degree or its equivalent in one of the biological or social sciences plus contributions to sexual science; or significant contributions to sexual science.

Further information concerning the Society and its activities may be obtained from:

Robert Veit Sherwin
1 East Forty-Second Street
New York 17, New York

"Homosexuals —as I see them"

Helen P. Branson's view of homosexuals comes, as she plainly tells, only from her observation of many of them as customers and friends of a bar which she operates. The story of her "Gay Bar" was told in a recent small book by her (reviewed elsewhere in this issue of Mattachine Review).

The following article might well be entitled "Reasons Why Homosexuals Don't Get Married," for that is what it is about. Readers of the article, as well as sociologists and psychologists, may disagree with Helen's views, but they can hardly deny that her points have been scored at one time or another by people they know. They may say she has dealt with surface symptoms and not touched all-important root causes—if there are such underlying factors to get at. At any rate Helen's viewpoints are food for thought. Read and see. Then don't be afraid to write if she's wrong.

Everyone has his special reason for making statements about any given subject. This is his point of view, and although he may not agree with others, he has his right to his opinion. I see homosexuality from one viewpoint that many others have not had the opportunity of utilizing.

I own and operate a homosexual bar, known as a 'gay' bar. I welcome male homosexuals only. I am in my sixth year of operation and feel that I am in a position to express convictions.

Homosexuality IS a problem. It is a deeper one than just unusual

HELEN P.
BRANSON



sex habits. It is a growing one as these ranks—or knowledge about them—increase. In my opinion, the generally accepted interpretation is a fallacy. By this, I mean the suspicion that homosexuals live for the pleasure of the seduction of teenage boys. This fear has been based on the occasional acts of this nature, but we cannot assume that all heterosexual men seduce young girls just because there is a crime of this nature committed now and then. Any group of people has its few who give the whole clan an unsavory reputation. Most of the homosexuals abhor the exception who is drawn to youths and feel that judges should 'throw the book' at anyone guilty of such practices.

The problem is that such an unbelievably high percentage of adult males are not married and don't intend to be married. This leaves an equally high percentage of females unloved and unmarried.

There are several reasons why the homosexual does not want to marry. The first reason I am giving seems trivial, but I am seeing one 'mixed' marriage break up because of this. It is simply that most women do not keep house well enough for the gay man. I consider myself a neat housekeeper but my house would not suit many of my customers. Their houses or apartments are often decorator's dreams. This mixed marriage that is on the rocks is being wrecked

by her slovenly ways in the house after he comes home from work. He has been drinking to forget it and she drinks to keep up with him.

Several years ago the fellow concerned talked to me and his big complaint was her untidiness. This seems exaggerated but nice surroundings are highly important to these boys.

The second of my reasons is that the homosexual does not want to extend himself emotionally for fear of being hurt. Idealism and sensitivity are two very pronounced characteristics of the invert. I see this extreme idealism in my boys all the time. I have in mind one who has gone off the deep end several times since I have been acquainted with him. He talks to me about the new friend who has the same tastes that he has. They both like opera and curry and bicycling and swimming at night. But after they have moved in together, everyday living with its small irritations is too much and there is another move.

There is a third reason in this list. It is the dislike of assuming responsibilities. Many of my boys have had too much responsibility too early and after being set free of this they refuse to accept another liability.

I'm thinking of Larry, whose father was so interested in ward politics that his wife and later Larry, at 15, worked to keep the household (including two other children) in food and clothing. At 16, Larry was earning more than his father. Later when Larry's mother passed on, he moved away and started acquiring some of the nice things he had longed for earlier. He is established now, but his extra time and money are going into a college education. He draws back from the emotional trap of marriage.

The fourth and most powerful reason for not marrying is the divorce laws. These fellows feel that the cards are stacked against them. Regardless of whether the girl knows beforehand or if she discovers the homosexual trait after marriage, the result is generally the same. She can use this as a lever when she demands alimony. He is in a cleft stick. Pay up or be exposed in court and lose his job. Even if he is in business for himself, he does not dare risk the publicity.

In the past year I have been watching a most tragic story unfold. Dave is a quiet, lovable young man who went to high school and has kept in touch with part of his high school gang. He has brought in two or three of this group, none of whom were homosexual. They were aware of this side of his life but loved him for himself. A

girl from the former high school group set her cap for Dave. It was quite apparent to me. There was never any discussion about his homosexual side, but she was aware of it as shown by an occasional statement. They were married and Dave was honor bright in his attempt to make this marriage successful. He is very fond of children and they agreed that she would work until a possible pregnancy. They made no effort to prevent this happening and in a few weeks he informed me that he was to be a father and his face was aglow with unmistakable pride.

Dave and his wife had bought new furniture for an apartment, going in debt for it. Within three months, in fact as soon as she was positive that she was to have a child, she told him she didn't want to be married. She gave no reason. She had no complaints about his conduct. She just went into the bedroom after dinner, laid on the bed and read. Dave figured that it was a quirk of pregnancy. He was as kind and thoughtful as he could be.

She kept stating that she did not want to be married, that she wanted a divorce. Her parents argued with her, but she was adamant. She went to a lawyer and got a divorce in her fifth or sixth month of pregnancy. She never actually used the homosexual side of his life as a threat, but the thought hovered there. As she got nearer to her time, she quit work. There was a legal agreement about costs of confinement and the period after the baby's birth.

She is working now, her mother cares for the baby and Dave gets to see the little one once a week and take pictures of her, which he brings in for me to see.

When the rift first appeared, I was convinced that her actions could be caused by nutritional deficiencies, but as the case advanced it was obvious to me that hers was a deliberate program. Here was a way to have a legitimate child and be certain there would be no fight when she made the break. She moved 25 miles away, making his weekly visit a hardship of Sunday driving. This action of hers not only spoiled this marriage but it will successfully prevent many others from trying to establish a heterosexual home.

Homosexuality, from my viewpoint, is not primarily based on sex urges. There is a meeting of the minds and an attitude toward life that I do not see in heterosexual life. Possibly the homosexual's hesitance in assuming family life is the basis of the light, airy mannerisms that show so plainly. The quick wit, the saber thrusts at the weak points in another's armor, the spontaneous ingenuity in creating art and beauty are traits prevalent in this group. The

sexual aspect is only a minor thing. When the invert lives this life over a period of years and if he is disappointed in his ideals, the sex urge becomes more and more powerful. I know of many older couples who have spent years together. Their lives are united through companionship and love of home.

It is true that some of these men who have lost their companion are now out searching for transitory pleasures. I cannot see any difference in this than in the actions of a free heterosexual who is hunting brief delights from women.

I do not condone the actions of many young homosexuals who are experimenting in sex procedures but we are blinded by numbers here, not percentages.

Heterosexuals do not know and cannot believe that there is such a huge army of homosexuals. When they see the many obvious deviates, the limp-wristed, hip-swaying exhibitionists, they think they are able to identify members of this group. The truth is, that the vast majority of serious homosexuals are as intolerant of these show-offs as are the heterosexuals. Most homosexuals are undetectable to the average person.

They dress conservatively, they hold good jobs and date girls for shows and dancing. Possibly their neatness and good manners would be a clue to the knowing one, but that is all.

They are well-adjusted to their way of life. For an economic reason they conceal this side of living because of the prevalent intolerance, but they have no intention of changing. I hear an occasional "I may get married someday" but that day seldom comes. The small percentage who go to a psychiatrist for an attempted change have their counterpart in the heterosexual who goes for marital troubles or nerves.

I have suggested a psychiatrist occasionally but only because I hoped the boy would learn to live with himself peacefully. I am convinced it is a rare case that can make the change from homosexuality to heterosexuality. Let us accept these gentle, sensitive people as they are and enjoy their talents and their company. We all have habits that could offend someone. Let us look to our own weaknesses first. We might not then have time to censure the other fellow.

★ There is a time when silence
is not golden, just yellow.
The time has come when we

must speak out, without
fear, against those who im-
peril our liberties.

—Dr. Israel Chodos

This story from the New York Times, appearing in late December 1957, is an indication that the U. S. Army now considers its policy on discharges has been too harsh. It means the veteran with a less-than-honorable discharge now has a chance to get his particular discharge reviewed...

A REVIEW BY ARMY OF RISK DISCHARGES

Washington, Dec. 25.—The Army is completing an unpublicized program to reconsider the case of every soldier discharged between 1948 and 1955 as a security risk.

The program set out to review the security charges in each case and, where the earlier finding now appeared too harsh, to upgrade the nature of discharge or remove the security label. Changes have been made in almost half the cases reviewed so far.

Gains for Many.

Improvement in the type of discharge has brought substantial benefits to many of the men. For example, soldiers receiving undesirable discharges get no accumulated leave pay and are ineligible for many veterans' benefits under federal and state laws.

A change to honorable discharges in the review pro-

gram has given many men leave pay and other Army benefits from the past and made them eligible for veterans' rights.

The Army undertook the program voluntarily. Generally, the men affected know nothing about it. A man learns about it only if the Army, after reconsidering his case, decides to improve his type of discharge.

Good News in Letter.

In that event the former soldier receives a letter from the Army adjutant general enclosing the improved discharge and asking him to throw the old one away. The letter also announces that the Army finance center will send the back pay due him.

The cases are reconsidered in the light of less restrictive security standards laid down in two directives late in 1955.

The following article, reprinted from **SEXOLOGY** magazine with permission, originally appeared in that publication last October under the title, "NEW LIGHT ON HOMOSEXUALITY."

ENIGMA

under Scrutiny

BY THE RESEARCH STAFF OF **SEXOLOGY**

Because of the legal, emotional and ethical aspects involved in our attitudes toward homosexuality, few scientific studies of the subject have been made. A British survey of one hundred male homosexuals throws considerable new light on this highly controversial subject. If you share the popular notion that all homosexuals are "vicious," "depraved," "mentally ill" or "emotionally disturbed," this study will make you question your thinking.

IN the popular mind, the individual stamped with the label of homosexuality is considered mentally ill or emotionally disturbed. Male homosexuals are most often pictured as sissified, vicious or depraved.

Even among medical men and psychiatrists a great deal of debate has been generated over the question of whether homosexuality is an immature stage of development and a "disease," or rather a pattern of life that is a deviation from accepted social and sexual behavior.

The subject is difficult to study with any kind of scientific detachment because of the many legal, emotional and ethical aspects that are involved. It is especially welcome therefore to discover that an objective study of homosexual behavior has appeared recently in the authoritative *British Medical Journal*.

The study, an analysis of one hundred male cases of homosexuality which had initially been seen in private psychiatric practice, was reported by Desmond Curran, a

consultant psychiatrist, and Denis Parr, M.D., a research fellow in the Department of Psychiatry of St. George's Hospital, London.

The cases had been chosen for further study out of a series of 5000 psychiatric cases seen over a period of years by one of the authors involved.

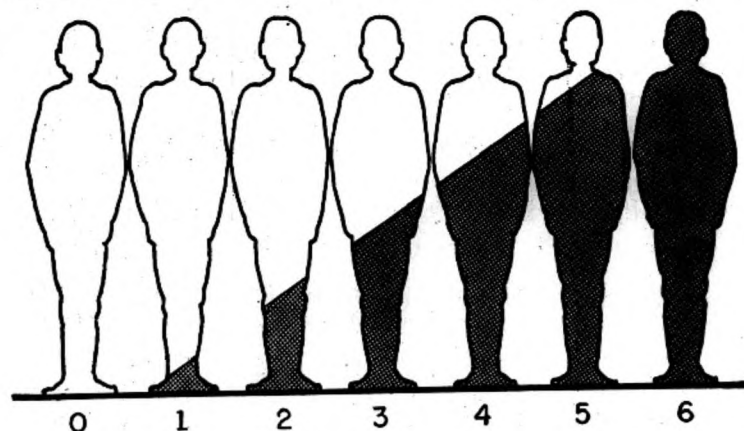
The report warns, it should be noted, that all the cases had been initially seen by a single psychiatrist and that his original judgment might have been wrong.

Nevertheless, the results of this analysis, while obviously not conclusive, throw considerable light on many controversial issues connected with homosexuality.

The one hundred cases chosen for study were all persons who were consciously aware of their homosexual tendencies or had engaged in homosexual acts with others.

Thirty of them had been referred for psychiatric treatment as a result of criminal charges that had been leveled against them for homosexual acts.

HETEROSEXUAL-HOMOSEXUAL RATING SCALE



The reader should be aware that in England any act between males, whether public or private, is a criminal offense if it involves contact with or exposure of the private parts for sexual reasons. Homosexual behavior with a partner under sixteen years of age, is legally classed as "indecent assault" even if it consists only of gentle fondling.

Twenty-five of the persons had undergone treatment as a result of worries over their homosexuality. The remainder had been under treatment because of various psychiatric problems, pressure from friends or relatives, marital problems and similar reasons.

All but eleven of the cases admitted that they had indulged in one or more homosexual acts with others since adolescence.

In evaluating the survey, it should be taken into account that the group was not the average

The chart above has been adapted from the seven-point scale developed by the late Dr. Kinsey and his associates as a method of rating the degree of heterosexuality and homosexuality found in individuals. As described in "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male," individuals rate as follows, based on both psychologic reactions and overt experience:

0. Exclusively heterosexual with no homosexual.
1. Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual.
2. Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual.
3. Equally heterosexual and homosexual.
4. Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual.
5. Predominantly homosexual, but incidentally heterosexual.
6. Exclusively homosexual.

group found in society—the educational and occupational level was high. Forty-one of the hundred had been to universities. Only two were semi-skilled or unskilled laborers; the rest were professional, intermediate, skilled, or students.

Another factor is the probability that in any group of individuals referred to a psychiatrist there

would naturally be a much higher than average proportion of emotional disturbances, or psychiatric abnormalities.

With all this in mind, let us turn to consideration of some of the pronouncements of these two British psychiatrists.

The major conclusion drawn by them is a significant one that warrants careful consideration:

"In our series, both practising and non-practising homosexuals were on the whole successful and valuable members of society, quite unlike the popular conception of such persons as vicious, criminal, effete or depraved. Only one-fifth were at all obviously 'pansy,' and we found no reason to regard most of the patients as physically, intellectually or emotionally immature (unless the basic criterion for 'immaturity' is that of being a homosexual—a circular argument)."

Despite the fact that these cases contained a high proportion of the criminally charged and were all referred for psychiatric care, the authors found the following:

"Only half the patients showed significant psychiatric abnormality other than their sexual deviation, and such associated abnormalities were often slight. Moreover, many of these abnormalities were explicable as a reaction to the difficulties of being homosexual.

"If homosexuality is a disease (as has often been suggested), it is in a vast number of cases monosymptomatic (having only a single symptom), non-progressive, and compatible with subjective well-being and objective efficiency."

It is interesting to note what the analysis revealed concerning the effect of psychiatric treatment on homosexual inclinations.

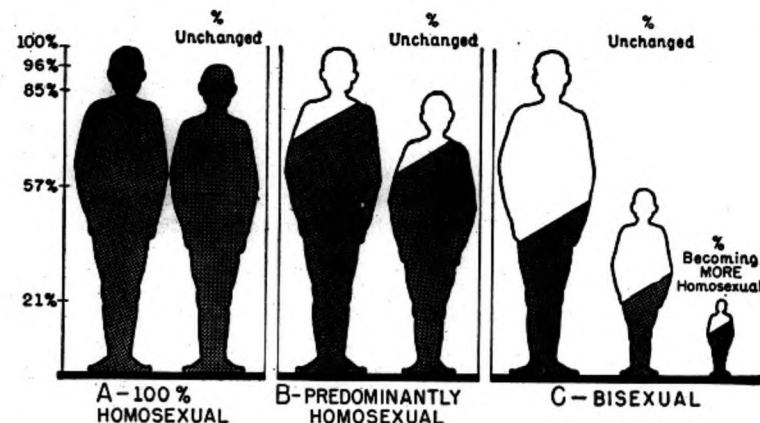
There were fifty-nine patients about whom enough follow-up information was available to evaluate the effect of treatment. Of these fifty-nine, there was no change at all in sexual orientation in forty cases. Nine cases reported "less intense homosexual feelings" or "increased capacity for heterosexual arousal," while three became more homosexual. Those who did change were almost exclusively those defined as "bisexuals."

The researchers also compared a group of twenty-five patients who had some kind of psychotherapy in a follow-up period of almost five years with a matched group of twenty-five who had no such treatment.

They found no significant difference between the two groups as regards "change in sexual orientation, discretion or control."

There was no evidence, they point out, that "psychotherapy had any obvious effect in any way, on points that could be tested." For this reason, they asserted, they believe that all claims for the "cure" of homosexuals should be treated with reserve unless the seven-point rating of homosexuality introduced by the late Dr. Kinsey is used before and after treatment and real evidence of change presented.

It has been suggested by some writers in the field that homosexuals are often attracted to homosexual acts because the illegality of these acts heightened their appeal. Dr. Edmund Bergler, for example, believes that the strongest motivation of every homosexual is the



The effect of psychiatric treatment on the sexual orientation of a group of 59 homosexuals is depicted by this chart. In 40 cases, there was no change at all. 9 cases reported less intense homosexual feelings or stronger heterosexual arousal, while three became more homosexual. Note that those who did change were almost exclusively in Group C, defined as "bisexuals." In Group A, cases classed as "100% homosexual," only 1 individual out of 24 studied showed a slight change. In Group B, "predominantly homosexual," 2 out of 14 showed a slight change. Among 14 "bisexual" individuals, 6 became more heterosexual, while 3 became more homosexual. Ratings are based on the Kinsey Rating Scale.

unconscious desire for "defeat, humiliation, rejection." In the opinion of the British psychiatrists, some homosexuals gain added pleasure by eluding arrest. On the other hand, they said, they found no patient whose gratification had been enhanced by detection and punishment—"any more than thrill-seeking racing drivers enjoy a crash."

Marriage has sometimes been suggested to homosexuals as a method of treatment. Nineteen of the hundred patients studied in this research project were, or had been, married. In only eight cases, the report says, was marital adjustment apparently satisfactory. Ten of the nineteen, a much higher proportion than among the single men, were referred to psychiatric care as a result of a criminal charge. One individual had been

married for a period of twenty-five years, and had six children. But during all these years he had been able to achieve sexual climax only with the help of homosexual fantasies.

The importance of this study reported in the *British Medical Journal* can be gauged from the authors' assertion that a search of the scientific literature on the subject revealed no studies of a group of homosexuals comparable to the hundred cases analyzed.

Most surveys, they point out, have been concerned with special problems encountered in prison, mental hospitals, etc. The difficulty of any such survey is that the majority of practicing homosexuals never come in contact either with legal or medical authorities. Consequently, generalizations made about them may not be accurate.

Newsletters

Denver, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco offices of the Mattachine Society, Inc., publish monthly newsletters listing activities in these respective areas, local items of interest to members and friends, etc. Some of these areas charge \$1 per year for subscriptions from non-members. Please address inquiries about newsletters to the branch office concerned. Addresses are listed in the Mattachine Directory in this issue.

INTERIM

National news quarterly of the Mattachine Society, INTERIM, is circulated to active members, subscribing members, contributors, exchange publications and certain public agencies, institutions and professional persons concerned with human sex behavior problems. For information, please write to the Mattachine Society, Inc., 693 Mission St., San Francisco 5.

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

LE CERCLE

Published monthly since 1936, in French, German and English (no translation duplications), Rudolf, editor. Annual subscriptions \$11 first class sealed (Bank draft or cash to Postoffice Account Der Kreis, Konto VIII-25753, Zurich). Address, Postbox 547, Fraumunster, Zurich, Switzerland.

ICSE NEWSLETTER

Mimeographed English edition, published bi-monthly by International Committee for Sexual Equality, Jack Argo, editor. Annual subscriptions, \$5. Address Postbox 1564, Amsterdam, Holland. (Single copies 50 cents each --may be ordered from Mattachine Review.)

VRIENDSCHAP

Monthly magazine in Dutch with articles about male and female homophile problems, published by Cultuur en Ontspannings Centrum (C.O.C.), Bob Angelo, editor. Subscriptions \$4 per year. Address Postbox 542, Amsterdam, Holland.

ARCADIE

Monthly literary and scientific review in French, A. Baudry editor. Subscriptions \$9 per year. Address 162 Rue Jeanne d'Arc, Paris 13, France.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mattachine Society's yellow booklet of general information may be obtained from the national headquarters, 693 Mission Street, San Francisco 5, Calif., for 25 cents per copy. Included in its contents are: the Mattachine program, aims and principles and a brief history of the Society.

CODE OF EUSEBIUS

"May I be no man's enemy and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides . . . May I never devise evil against any man; if any devise evil against me, may I escape . . . without the need of hurting him. May I love, seek and attain only that which is good. May I wish for all men's happiness and envy none . . . When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait for the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself until I make amends . . . May I win no victory that harms either me or my opponent . . . May I reconcile friends who are wroth with one another. May I, to the extent of my power, give all needful help . . . to all who are in want. May I never fail a friend in danger . . . May I respect myself . . . May I always keep tame that which rages within me . . . May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow in their footsteps."

Words of Eusebius, a "pagan" who lived some 2000 years ago.

INFORMATION FOLDERS

Two folders, designed to be used as companion mailing pieces, are available from national headquarters of the Mattachine Society and its branch offices. They are "In Case You Didn't Know" and "What Has Mattachine Done?" The first outlines the homosexual problem in the U.S. and describes the purpose of the Society; the second tells how the Society is dealing with the problem and what the organization is doing. Prices are: 100 for \$1.50; 50 for \$1.00; smaller quantities, 3 cents each. Unless specified otherwise, orders will be filled with equal quantities of each folder.



BOOKS

"...Listen to
your mother..."

GAY BAR by Helen P. Branson. Pan-Graphic Press, San Francisco, 1957, \$3.00. Reviewed by Richard Mayer, New York.

When the late Dr. Kinsey was told about Helen Branson's bar in Los Angeles, he is said to have remarked: "Well, if that woman runs that bar the way she says she does... then it is the only bar in the United States that is run that way."

As if to return the compliment — and compliment it was — Mrs. Branson has now provided us with a miniature Kinsey Report on homosexuality, without, I hasten to add, the statistical tables. Her book covers an encyclopedic range in an anecdotal style. While certainly not "scientific" (thank goodness!), here is the stuff upon which future science can build.

At that, Mrs. Branson bases her book upon a great many more "case histories" than Dr. Bergler required to spin his grandiloquent theories (see *Homosexuality: Disease or Way of Life?* by Edmund Bergler, M. D., Hill & Wang, New York, 1956; also see *Mattachine Review* for May 1957). In startling contrast to Dr. Bergler's uncharitable characterization of the homosexual, Mrs. Branson's boys are idealistic, sensitive, imaginative, talented, original, thoughtful, persevering and polite. Quite obviously, Dr. Bergler and Mrs. Branson have not known the same homosexuals.

By being observant and open-minded, Mrs. Branson has learned a great deal about homosexuality. She emphasizes, rightly I think, the role of the father rather than the mother in the development of a homosexual son. She suggests that restrictive, puritanical attitudes in some segments of heterosexual society may cause some to seek the freer sexual atmosphere of homosexuality. But she is aware that the attraction of homosexuality is not by any means

solely sexual; to certain personality types, gay life has many other appealing aspects. For example, she speculates that the high representation of homosexuals in the arts might have something to do with the fact that creative work requires a degree of concentration and solitude, of single-minded devotion, not easy to attain when family responsibilities exist.

But don't get the wrong idea about GAY BAR. All the information and the intriguing ideas are conveyed painlessly in one good story after another. Have you heard, for example, how Gordon lost his entire wardrobe? "It's that roommate of mine. He brought a sailor home and the next morning all my clothes were gone. He was nearer my size than Jerry's." Then, there's the way John explains to his parents why he spends so many evenings with Bob. Why, they're double-dating girls, of course.

Gordon, Jerry, John and Bob are among the "regulars" at Mrs. Branson's bar. She does not welcome strangers. "I hand pick my clients"—clients yet!—and she has a long list of "undesirables"—drunks, toughs, hustlers, tourists, girls, heterosexuals (they put a damper on conversation) and homosexuals who swish ("a menace to my business") or cruise or simply dress badly. How does she manage to get rid of all these undesirables without the aid of a bouncer? Easy! "I give them such dirty looks, they usually stay for only one drink and leave." She has other stratagems for insen-

gay bar

\$3.00



GAY BAR is one of those rare books one cannot put down. I love it! I must admit I felt quite dubious about this project when it was first announced, while reserving judgment until I had actually read the book. I'm happy to say that I think your estimate of the book was very sound. I want to order at least a half dozen copies to distribute among my friends. It is such a sane and wholesome book, good humored, yet not at all superficial. It is frank, yet it shows unerring good taste. I think it will appeal to all types of readers—high brow, low brow and middle brow. It deserves to be a best seller and I think it will be. — LUTHER ALLEN.

PAN-Graphic PRESS

693 Mission Street
San Francisco 5

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sitive types.

Mrs. Branson seems too conscious of caste, of social distinctions and other arbitrary lines. Nevertheless, in a city as rife with camouflaged vice squad men as Los Angeles, her selectivity undoubtedly serves a purpose. "Anyone who owns and operates a bar," she says, "has to have something to sell in addition to the alcoholic beverage... I try to sell safety. Comparative safety, that is."

Obviously, she offers much more. To her boys, she is a sympathetic mother, a stern father, a psychiatrist, employment bureau and matchmaker. She is undoubtedly a nice person to know—if she includes you in. What this country needs may very well be a chain of places like Helen's—with Helen behind the bar in every one.

Mrs. Branson writes modestly and simply, with an occasional evocative line ("lonesomeness is a phantom that hovers over every one") and even a dash of suspense (will our girl Helen succeed in getting the padlock off the bar door and escaping inside before the burglar catches up with her?)

Pan-Graphic Press deserves to be congratulated on this, its first book. GAY BAR is both entertaining and significant. The printing is excellent—I found only one error. The publisher has also provided a thoughtful and informative introduction by Dr. Blanche M. Baker which adds considerably to the value of the volume.

mattachine DIRECTORY

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Communications to branch offices above should be addressed in all cases in care of Mattachine Society, Inc.

Of 'Gothic' Tone

THE TRANSGRESSOR. By Julian Green. 222 pages. Pantheon. \$3.50.

LIKE so many of Julian Green's novels, this one has its setting in a small provincial French town. All of the principal characters live in an ancestral home distinguished by a coat of arms above the door: "The fact gave them a better opinion of themselves, and such was the virtue of the escutcheon that certain inhabitants of the old house felt themselves a trifle superior to the rest of the world."

As in two earlier Green novels, "Avarice House" and "The Closed Garden," the characters seem to be a part of the décor; they are set pieces in a skillfully arranged arabesque. Hedwige, the orphan, has an unrealistic attachment for a homosexual. Jean, the unwanted lodger—relative, contemplates a book on the artistic reproductions of St. Sebastian. Ulrique, the daughter, carries about a perpetual image of her own beauty reflected in the family mirror. Mme. Pauque, the aunt, plays the devil's advocate, finding the diabolical pleasing and even attractive. This gallery of portraits reinforces the unrealistic setting of the novel. The characters are never quite human; they are dilated into symbol and myth.

"Gothic" Tonality

The book has the barest element of plot. Hedwige's gradual emergence to maturity, her love of Gaston Dolange and her suicide give it its fictional basis. We are, however,

less concerned with this flimsy narrative than we are with Green's unmistakable tone or mood. Each of the characters is in an advanced stage of decadence. Two are inverters, one is a narcissist, one is a suicide. The novelist gives us a genuine sense of the various abnormalities by passing back and forth, almost at will, from reality to imagination. He captures the tonality of the "gothic."

Green is especially successful with his treatment of inversion. His delicate handling of the problem recalls the most revealing pages in Proust's "Cities of the Plain" and Gide's "Counterfeiters." The portrait of Jean as homosexual is particularly sympathetic and convincing.

Green's Conversion

Since the author's "going over to Rome" in the early years of the second World War, almost all his novels have been haunted by Catholic overtones. The journals Green kept in 1938-39 (recently translated into English as "Personal Record") explain the religious transformation. The novels of the '40's, through an indelicate handling of this conversion, do little for Green's stature as a novelist. "The Transgressor," fortunately, gives the problem a more artistic basis.

The novel is ably translated. Green's prose wears well in English. This is partly due to the fact that he is of American origin and was educated at the University of Virginia. His fluency in English probably explains certain peculiarities of his syntax.

MELVIN J. FRIEDMAN.

Book Review from Baltimore Sun.

Dr. Fisher Comments on New Report Concerning Prostitution, Homosexuality

By DEWI MORGAN, writing in the *Episcopalian Monthly*,
The Living Church

Probably the most discussed Report in Britain lately is that issued by the Committee headed by Sir John Wolfenden to examine and advise on the incidence of prostitution and homosexuality. The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken about it in the current issue of the *Canterbury Diocesan Notes* and in doing so has made some important comments on moral theology in general.

"In a civilized society all crimes are likely to be sins also, but most sins are not and ought not to be treated as crimes. Sin is an offence against God. Its measurements do not vary from age to age, as man's laws do. Whatever, from time to time, the criminal law may say, homosexual offences are sins; the life of a prostitute is a life of sin; the men (many of them regarded by themselves and others as reasonably respectable citizens and certainly not criminals) who add their own sin to the sin of the prostitute are sinners.

"I wish that some who are at present speaking very severely (though not more severely than they deserve) of homosexual offenders would be equally severe toward the men who create prostitutes for their own use.

"A crime is a different matter, a sin against society and social order of such a kind that the law has to take note of it." The government committee suggested that higher fines and even jail sentences be used to rid the streets of the country's large cities of prostitutes. But it said homosexual behavior between consenting persons over 21 should no longer be regarded as a crime. It urged that "consensual acts done in private by adult males" should not be punishable by law.

The Archbishop goes on to ask why there is a realm which is "not the law's business" and says: "Man's ultimate responsibility is to God alone. . . . There is a sacred realm of privacy for every man and woman where he makes his choices and decisions, a realm of his own essential rights and liberties. . . . into which the law, generally speaking, must not intrude. This is a principle of the utmost impor-

tance for the preservation of human freedom, self-respect, and responsibility. It is a bulwark against the mischiefs created by unwise, tyrannical, or ungodly makers of law and crime.

"But even the wise and well-intentioned makers of law must shrink from invading with the weapons of criminal law this region of private rights and wrongs, moralities and immoralities, since it is so easy to interfere unwisely and to rob men of their proper freedoms and burdens of conscience and choice."

"The Report says wisely that, in the matters under discussion, the criminal law must confine itself to preserving public order and decency, to protecting the citizen from what is offensive or injurious and to provide safeguards against the exploitation and corruption of others. In accordance with that principle the Report recommends ways by which public order may be protected.

"But while this general principle is certainly right, its practical application cannot be easy. If the law can do anything without undue interference to strengthen the moral stamina of the people, it ought to do it. If there are enough weak, misguided or evil-minded citizens to form, by their mere existence in the life of a nation, a center of active poison of a serious kind, then the law could rightly invade their private lives to restrain them. It is not easy to say whether the community as a whole does need protection from the private immoralities, whether of homosexuals or heterosexuals.

"If there were some clear way by which, without fatal damage to the general principle of the Report, adultery, fornication, and homosexual offences could be effectively restrained by legal penalties, it might well be right to take it. If there be no such clear way (and it is indeed difficult to see one) then the principle must be upheld. For it protects the true dignities and responsibilities of men — and if it leaves moral dangers still to be overcome, it is the part of good men to overcome them by the Spirit of God."

READERS *write*

REVIEW EDITOR: Regretfully I must discontinue the magazine. I assure you that I feel that I am giving up a very dear and essential friend and companion. To all of you, congratulations and best wishes for continued success and an ever-increasing enrollment. You have a loyal admirer.—Mr. E. C., Mass.

REVIEW EDITOR: I am enclosing an announcement on the establishment of the newly-organized SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF SEX, to which you may wish to refer in one of the issues of the *MATTACHINE REVIEW*.—Albert Ellis, PH.D., New York.

Thanks for the notice, Dr. Ellis. It appears on page 7. Our organization, particularly our New York chapters, will be pleased to be informed of this new organization's progress, and to cooperate with it in any way we can.—Ed.

REVIEW EDITOR: Concerning the magazine and related work of the Society, the job you all are doing is excellent, done with intelligence, dignity and true vision—and of this latter quality too few are enough fortunate to possess it. I want to send in a list of prospective subscribers soon and will come in and pay my membership.—P. D., California

REVIEW EDITOR: In the January issue, on page 13, Diana M. Chapman writes in a letter to the *NEW STATESMAN* (London), in her second paragraph: "In 1938 the Archbishop of Canterbury forced a king off his throne in the name of sexual morality, but said not a word against

the Nazi regime," etc. I realize this is not a statement by editors of *MATTACHINE REVIEW*, but the article printed reflects against the Archbishop and the Church of England. I am a Lutheran, but the report submitted by the Moral Welfare Council and the following information, if true, do not justify publishing any article against the Church of England or the former Archbishop. I have a photostat of the *CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE*, December 5, 1957: "Says Homosexuality Not a Crime. London—(Reuters)—The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, spoke in the house of lords in support of a change in British law to make homosexual acts between consenting adults in private no longer a criminal offense. The Archbishop said the right to decide one's own moral code and obey it, even to a man's own hurt, was a 'fundamental right of man given to him by God and to be strictly respected by society and by the criminal code.'" (Thus) you will agree that the letter quoted in our magazine is definitely out of place there. Certainly if the present Archbishop has had the courage to make the above statement to Parliament, we should not bring any disrespect to him by reference to a man formerly occupying his office.—R. G. H., Pennsylvania

No disrespect was intended. For a religious writer's comment on Dr. Fisher's statements and his stand on the Wolfenden Report, see page 24 of this issue.—Ed.

REVIEW EDITOR: I am enclosing a \$6 gift. It is NOT to be applied to subscribing membership. Such membership

DER NEUE RING (The New Ring)—Monthly review in German with supplement, *APHRODITE*, for women. Contents include literary and scientific articles, photos. Subscription rate, 12 months, DM29.60 (\$7.00) sealed. For sample copy send 7 International Reply Coupons. Advance subscriptions through International Money Order to "Verlag Gerhard Prescha," Alsterchaussee 3, Hamburg 13, Germany.

would have to be listed in security clearances which could be detrimental, unfortunately. I am certain many have the same feeling. I would welcome an additional subscription fee of the above amount that would entitle me to your news letters and at the same time help with your expenses. I believe others would like the same privilege without the membership obligation.—V. D., California

We understand your concern, although we believe the fear expressed is needless. However, your wishes are respected. And if you will specify it, we shall request area newsletters to be mailed to you. —Ed.

REVIEW EDITOR: You continue to put out excellent issues. I make it a practice to read them and then give them to someone else, buying the bound volume at the end of the year.—F. K., Puerto Rico

See below.—Ed.

REVIEW EDITOR: I want to thank you for your work in helping the homosexual. I would like to make a sizeable contribution in money, but you see I was in trouble with the law myself and it has cost me about \$3,000 to free myself. I owe a

lawyer \$900 plus interest at present. Enclosed are the names of some friends who know of my plight, and who may subscribe to your magazine.—F. E. H., Michigan

I mean this most sincerely. What can you do to help fellows like us? We are human beings just like everyone else, and just because something goofed on us is no sign we should be classed as "undesirable."—T. H. N., Missouri

REVIEW EDITOR: I am sending a clipping about the army and security risk discharges. What do you think of it? It seems to me that our government is bending over backwards to help some individuals, but forgetting others. Please, please, can't you help some of us? I was given an undesirable discharge from the United States Air Force (reason: Homosexual). I served over eight years with the USAF (six of it overseas), and was always proud of it and my country! If they would still let me, I would be only too happy and proud to serve again, and

Efforts are under way in Congress to let veterans holding undesirable discharges obtain a review of the discharge (see the June 1957 issue of MATTACHINE REVIEW). Of special importance is a letter to Representatives and Senators in your state. The climate surrounding this problem seems to be getting more favorable, but there is still a long way to go before the situation is clear for an easy review of undesirable discharges from the U. S. armed forces based on homosexual tendencies discovered in the veteran concerned.—Ed

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mattachine salutes

"DON'T MAKE HOMOSEXUALITY A CRIME!"

ACTUAL MEDICAL CASES, published in New York and edited by Lloyd Gaylord, may have the appearance of a pulp-type "self-service to popular medicine," but there's an article in the February 1958 issue which REVIEW readers will applaud. It's called "Don't Make Homosexuality a Crime," and it echoes the program of the Mattachine Society, One, Inc., and Daughters of Bilitis to a considerable extent. Author Harry Dodge calls our barbarian attitude toward sex behavior, especially that of the homosexual, the "last of our snakepits."

"The time has come to take a bold and forthright step forward. Recognize that we must offer scientific aid rather than the policeman's nightstick to these people," the article concludes.

"We do not believe that the homosexual should be revered as he was in certain ancient cultures. But on the other hand we do not feel that he should be victimized by unpopular and unwieldy laws which do not correct his malady or protect society from his excesses."

The article is recommended reading.

OBSCEINITY NEEDS TO BE DEFINED

(Continued from page 2)

in the adjoining Province of Quebec. Included were most of the "men's group" of magazines, girlie photo books, practically all of the "scandal" group, some detective magazines and others.

This list named six magazines which had been restored to circulation. Included was *PAGEANT* which had been banned!

JUSTICE WEEKLY also commented on the Supreme Court clearance gained by *ONE*. It said, in part:

It comes as no surprise to "Justice Weekly" that in a unanimous decision the Supreme Court of the United States has reversed a Post Office ban — across the line — on the mailing of "One", the Homosexual Magazine.

"One" has been in existence for six years and has been "clipped freely" of interesting articles, stories, etc., appearing from time to time in "Justice Weekly", with due recognition being given, of course. "One Incorporated" is a non-profit organization formed to publish a magazine dealing primarily with homosexuality from the scientific, historic and critical point of view. It is an interesting publication, well written, well edited and well-presented. While "Justice Weekly" does not agree with all its articles, nevertheless many of these have helped to foster a more tolerant feeling toward homosexuality and homosexuals. From time to time "One" has clipped articles from "Justice Weekly" and has included the source. Both publications, it is felt, have helped each other and it is anticipated that this will continue. The same applies to "The Mattachine Review".

LOOKING AHEAD

MATTACHINE REVIEW for March (it will appear on newsstands about February 28th) will carry these three headline features:

TOWARD SEXUAL HONESTY, TOLERANCE AND HUMAN COMPASSION by Manfred Wise, in which the sex-equals-love equation is discussed; MUST THE INDIVIDUAL HOMOSEXUAL BE REJECTED IN OUR TIME, third paper in the series from the 4th annual convention symposium of the Mattachine Society, presented by Leo J. Zeff, therapist, and THE COLLECTED WORKS OF JEAN GENET, a review translated from *DER KREIS*, and which appeared with a subhead in quotes & Italics, "For Very Perverted People."

BLACKMAIL LAW IS ENFORCED

GERMAN POLICE SHIELD VICTIM OF EXTORTION

—a factual case Report

(Translated by Fred Scherz from "DER WEG," German homophile magazine published in Hamburg 36, Germany, by R. Putziger, Colonnaden 5.)

It was an utterly subdued and dejected person that faced the State Court at Hamburg on August 30, 1957. His name was August Wilhelm Peters. He had just been sentenced to two years at hard labor, proven guilty as charged to the double crime of robbery and felonious blackmail.

In the case in question the defendant has had a long-time record of conflicts with the law, landing him eleven times behind bars on various charges. This time he ran afoul by stealing a wallet from a homosexual in Hamburg, containing a small amount of money and identification cards, etc. This enabled Peters to initiate a blackmail procedure against the homosexual he had robbed. However, for once, to use the American vernacular, "he got the wrong guy."

Our friend (the victim) was not the type of person to be easily intimidated. He courageously took the matter to Police Headquarters, where the immediate arrest of Peters was ordered.

The resulting trial brought the man a severe sentence. But the significant fact, it seems, was the fact that there have been no embarrassing moments for our friend, the victim. This is proof that bodies of law enforcement officials in Germany are adopting an objective approach when faced with a clear-cut attempt at blackmail. This is a marked change from attitudes in the past. Paragraph 154 of the German Penal Code guarantees protection to victims of an actual or attempted blackmail. This is the basis for the police attitude shown above.

And this is as it should be if we are ever to arrive at an ethical justice, in the furtherance of which our movement has always been and will continue to be unceasingly active.

mattachine REVIEW

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ONE MAGAZINE—deals primarily with homosexuality from the scientific, historical and critical point of view. It contains articles, short stories, poetry, news items, book reviews and letters from readers. A popular magazine has called it 'The Voice of U. S. homosexuals.' Subscriptions \$5 per year in U. S., Canada and Mexico, \$6 elsewhere; all copies mailed first class sealed. Single issues 50 cents each, postpaid.

ONE INSTITUTE—planned adult education facility, offering college level courses in socio-sexual studies. Write for information.

ONE BOOK SERVICE—handles distribution of all books published by One, Inc., as well as other current and recent titles on homosexual and related themes. Write for latest listings.



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SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP (Non-Voting) was created at the recent 4th Annual Convention of the Mattachine Society in response to many requests from persons living at a distance from established chapters, and from persons living near established chapters who prefer not to participate actively. Principal purpose of Subscribing Membership is to permit a greater number of persons over the nation to support Mattachine projects with annual donations of funds which are sorely needed to continue the work of the organization. At the same time this status provides evidence of this vital support.

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