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**SISTERS** is a monthly magazine published by the San Francisco chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME. The Editor is in her office Monday through Friday mornings for your convenience.
Some Specific Problems of the Aging Lesbian
by Dr. Ruth McGuire

Many women find that the most distressing phase of the whole life cycle is the time of menopause, or climacteric. It is, indeed, "climactic" and problems that existed previously and seemed to be soluble can come to seem utterly insoluble. Strengths and convictions that gave support to a woman in her Junior and intermediate years become less well defined and too often the aging female, and especially the aging Lesbian is painfully aware that earlier held supports and reassurances are no longer there for her as they once were.

She must face the fact in the physical reality of her condition that there really are some irrevocable sorrows in life that evoke change. The menopause is called, with the best of reasons, the Change of Life.

The idea or concept of "change" is psychologically loaded for most human beings. To some the prospect of things becoming rearranged, altered, different is an exciting, welcome, longed-for thing. To others it is frightening, abhorrent, and is faced with dread. Often it isn't faced at all. The concept is so unacceptable it is dealt with by camouflage, masking, or outright denial. Many young Lesbian women are particularly "successful" with this technique. There is valid reason for this: too often the young homosexual woman lives in a kind of personal climate and social environment that is pain-producing. She must try to deal with "being different" and with being treated differently by her family and society. As the recipient of these abnormal attitudes from others she is bound to long for some change, some happier "vibes" as it were. And when there is some change, and she can feel accepted and more secure, she quite understandably wants no change and will adopt the conviction that things will always be as they are, better, there will be no retreat to the old misery and, therefore, one need never think of that problem again.

However, the young Lesbian will meet that problem again— and again and again. I doubt there was ever a more profoundly disturbing axiom than "...nothing in life is constant but change...". Our environment is always changing, our social and family life is always changing, our bodies and psyches are always changing. As human beings we seem to be able to accept, with liking or disliking, that our environments, social and family patterns change. But we find it much harder to accept that our bodies do change and will continue to do so in no uncertain fashion. The most difficult if not almost impossible fact to accept is that our psyches also change, right along with everything else. The very idea that our attitudes, values, thoughts and feelings will change is almost incomprehensible to most people and few indeed will do anything to prepare for this pattern of changes even though the more sophisticated will attempt to give lip-service to having assimilated the fact.

The first indication that the factor of "change" is part of living comes to the human animal in infancy. Within the first year of life the infant meets the "no" from his parents and family. If she is to survive the child accepts the "no" and "yes" and adapts to the demands of her environment. From childhood to puberty, the individual grows within the boundaries of familial permissiveness and restriction and she experiences change in many ways. But not until the years of early adolescence and the onset of secondary sex characteristics does the phenomenon of body change come into her awareness. The girl's psychological makeup also changes at this time but she may well be far less aware of this: the psychical chiaroscuros she endures are usually attributed to change in the attitudes and behavior of significant others. Once beloved parents become, shockingly "stupid" and downright "mean" where they had
been perceived as all-powerful, benign, indulging protectors. The behavior of siblings is unbearable and that of friends is puzzling and weird. Everything and everybody in the whole world seems to have changed. And it isn't for a long time, if ever, that the girl/woman realizes it is she herself who has changed at base. Her requirements and her satisfactions will have changed from adolescence on, and it is a fortunate woman indeed who realizes and accepts this and does not try to hang onto things that were but can never be again. Furthermore, she is doubly blessed if she can anticipate and accept that nothing but change can ever be her lot again.

In paragraph three, above, we indicated that young Lesbians have a more difficult time, perhaps, than their heterosexual sisters in "handling" the problems of puberty and adolescence. To a great many girls the appearance of secondary sex characteristics is a hated thing. The inconvenience of the monthly menstrual cycle and the burdgeoning of breasts can be very traumatic. Not only can she feel her physical freedom is impaired but her body and her person have become vulnerable to parental and social pressures to accept a man, marry, and bear children. Our "modern times" are not yet so enlightened that families and friends do not impose this kind of pressure on young women. Unwilling girls still marry and beget issue because it is simply "the thing to do".

Sadly enough, the young women themselves too often adopt this historical cliche and slouch to the alter to fulfill their Destiny. Many young Lesbians who follow the dictates of the "thing to do" remain in this traditional pattern and vegetate the rest of their lives away in much the manner of prisoners serving sentence. They feel they have "made their beds and must forthwith endure the consequences of conformity. Or, "this is how things are"

and they feel that "nothing will change".

The young Lesbian who escapes custom's pressures to marry and conceive may, in her adolescent turmoil form other patterns of defense which are even more destructive and self-defeating. In her search for identity, a workable concept of self, and some feeling of security, however fragile, she may act out her longings in abuse or misuse of drugs and inter-human relationships.

Perhaps the majority of young Lesbians find sufficiently good or workable patterns of defense to continue their positive, fulfilling growth. In their Junior and Intermediate years they will be able to build healthy egos; they will achieve rational concepts of self and will have their super-egos in tractable working order. But, sadly, many thousands of pre-Juniors are unable to cope with the problems of living in their early adolescent years: they just do not have useful patterns of defense or sufficient support to create them. They survive, miserably and minimally, until the menopause. Then, the Change of Life can be perceived as the end of Life. Which need not be.

Dr. McGuire specializes in the older woman. Individual or group services are available. To make an appointment, call 626-2420 or 921-6131 between the hours of 10 AM and 5 PM.
RESPONSE TO DR. MCGUIRE

As out-of-town members, may we put in our two-cents' worth, and as "aging" Lesbians, may we comment specifically on Dr. McGuire's recent articles?

We live in a state that has long been a haven for both male and female homosexuals because it supports artists, writers, and -ologists of all types. Probably the most noticeable thing about this state's homosexuals is that they are older--holdovers from a more romantic era, one could say. We have artist colonies populated mostly by homosexuals in almost every town, and we have gay couples living on farms and ranches throughout the state. There are very few gay bars and a minimum of mixing anywhere here, but there are invariably old and established circles of friendship among couples in all areas. Early in life, we were taught the gift of friendship, and we have valued it even more through the years. As children, we also learned and retained an appreciation and a respect for our elders, and this has always affected our thoughts and our actions. Such is our environment and maybe we are too used to it because it's difficult for us to accept Dr. McGuire's observations as applying to us. Perhaps we and our friends are exceptions to the rule, or perhaps Dr. McGuire's patients are the exceptions. We are proud to be women, proud to be Lesbians, and proud to have survived in this screwed-up world long enough to grow old.

By this time, we have learned the hard way that the only successful and meaningful way of life is through human relations. First and foremost, we and our friends try to be human beings, we try to meet all people on that level, and we try not to get hung-up on our gayness. Next, as women, we admit we are discriminated against, mainly in earning a living, and this is a constant battle. In this respect we differ from many but not all of our heterosexual sisters. Dr. McGuire states that heterosexual women have compensations Lesbians do not have. This might be true in some cases, but we have found it exactly the opposite with us, and many of us speak from experience after having been disastrously married to a man. We and our friends have finally arrived at that point in life where each of us is capable of finding and sustaining a lasting relationship with another woman. We estimate that 9 out of 10 older Lesbian couples we know have good and permanent marriages, and these are certainly better odds than our straight sisters have. Apparently we are the silent majority as well as always being unrepresented in studies and surveys. Our good fortune might arise from the fact that we older Lesbian couples are now free of what heterosexuals are never free--fear of loss of physical attractiveness. Our marriages were not based to any degree on physical aspects, and it certainly does not matter now. Dr. McGuire seems to place too much emphasis on sex per se, but after a certain age, sex is not the prime consideration in a Lesbian marriage nor should it be at any time.

We also feel that Dr. McGuire is not entirely accurate in her analysis of the importance of a family to an older Lesbian. The need for a family is a fallacy to which all women have been programmed by our society, and Lesbians do have the intellect to understand this. Most Lesbians make a choice not to remain with family and not to have a family of their own; they automatically adjust to this and are never bothered by it. Some women choose Lesbianism in order to avoid a family. Yet there are many older Lesbians who have remained within their families, especially if they have children, or time often brings a reconciliation of Lesbians and their families. Being a Lesbian doesn't necessarily mean denying love and time to relatives, but neither does it mean we cannot live without them. Lesbians have much more to offer the world than families, and this is no doubt what sets us apart from our straight sisters and also fascinates men so much. Whether we adjust, sublimate, or
plainly don't give a damn, most of us do pay our own way and contribute our share to society and bear our responsibilities as well as anyone.

It sounds like Dr. McGuire is of the school which would write all Lesbians off as a total loss, and we protest. The saddest thing is that a few Lesbians must be as maladjusted and malfunctioning as heterosexuals are. We can only hope they will find what we have found in our later years.

We would like to hear other comments on the articles.

You are a loner. You work best alone with freedom from authority and you prefer to be off by yourself. But you are aggressive in the world feeling that you must bulldoze through life with little concern for others.

You are able to carry out your activities through your own willpower or purpose but you are impatient to see the job done and will abandon something if it will take too long to complete. You have a fairly good sense of organization and your mind works well with concepts. You have an instinct for relatedness of ideas. You are highly imaginative, in fact are prone to a great deal of fantasy and it is sometimes difficult to relate them to your everyday world, but you may give vent to these fantasies through your creativity. You are stubborn and hostile and prone to bursts of temper, being easily irritated. You can be sarcastic. In a difficult situation you may be evasive or deceitful. This all may stem from the fact that you don't hold a very high opinion of yourself.

You are nervous and tense. You have many inhibitions and repressions especially concerning your materialistic drives which are very strong and hard for you to control. You are self-centered. If you have a problem you dwell on it. You are extremely sensitive and moody. Their seems to be no balance, no harmony in your life. You act impetuously yet you hate to make decisions. They confuse you. Underneath this shell of bitterness lies someone who is warm and kind when you are not afraid, when you do not feel that you must protect yourself.

Get the kinks out! Come join the softball team...

by Marley

\[ \text{Love,} \\
\text{Marley} \]
Tiptoe down the hall listening to the floorboards bitch at being aroused -- damn
I steal one of your cigarettes and gaze at the curve of your cheek as the sulphur flames fitfully.
You stretch, stirred by the yawning kitten in your hair, he is snoring laboriously -- damn
My palms sweat. My aorta demands more blood.
My lips ache to touch your eyelids.
I turn back to my cold wrinkled bed, you will crawl in in the greyness of 2 more hours and cuddle to my warmth and I will silently cradle you -- damn
You have had your man, snoring, yet I am warm. Damn
How long?
3 more years, I guess. Damn.

—Ophelia Knockwurst

GOOD FRIENDS

We have good times together
the four of us.
Then you go home with Mary,
And I darken rooms with Janie.

I wonder....
How long it will be before
Mary leaves you for Janie
And Janie leaves me for you?

—Jani

HOROSCOPE FOR CANCER

June 22 - July 23

Cancer people are, by nature, cheerful. However, the heavy influence to their sign by the moon makes them extremely moody. Through all these fluctuating highs and lows the Cancerian, unlike many other signs remains the same person. They normally have a quiet, gentle personality, but may surprise you at social gatherings as their marvelous sense of humor usually makes them the life of the party.

People of this sign have fragile and vulnerable hearts. Cruelty or coldness can bring about a crying jag that can last for days, or a complete withdrawal. Although they would never let you know it, they adore affection, and no matter how much you show them, they can still take more. A lover of security and the home, Cancerians are probably the most thrifty and practical people among all the signs. No matter how much money they save it still won't be enough. Strangely enough however, they will buy loved ones expensive gifts. This is not done as an ego builder but because they would rather pay more and get the best quality than to buy something cheap and have to replace it in a short time. They love their homes with a respect bordering on reverence.

For one who is interested in a Cancer person as a future mate, it is imperative you remember that they need much affection, and must be petted and babyed once in awhile. They generally prefer the homemaker type. They are old fashioned in many ways, so if they really love you, unfaithfulness is a problem you'll never worry about. It will take a lot of time and patience to really get to know your Cancer love. They are moody and emotional, but don't give up too easily. Though they are not impulsive and will not usually rush into a relationship, when they do it may well be worth all the time and effort you have invested.

RULING PLANET: MOON
ELEMENT: WATER
FAVORED COLORS: GREEN AND GRAY

By Carol
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<td>Gay Woman's Dance - 8-12 PM, Sir - 83 6th St. Sappho Will Play</td>
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- **July 4 and 18** - Softball practice - 2 PM at Julius Kahn Park, one block north of Jackson near Spruce, in the Presidio.

- **July 10** - All day picnic at Russian River. Meet at 9 AM at 909 Franklin S.F. Call 861-8689 for transportation.

- **July 11** - 4 PM - 79 Bradford - Bernal Hts. - 648-5052 - 9:00
  
  S.F. State talk with gay women on tape: controversial rap by 3 gay women to state students. Come hear and rap AND
  
  The film you all have heard about - "HOLDING" - will be shown. Film made by a woman about two Sisters in love - the only honest + loving film description of a lesbian relationship yet made. Don't miss it.

**Our Own Gay Women's Band**

- **July 25 - 8PM-12midnite**
  
  SIR Center - 83 6th St.
  
  FREE BEER - DANCING
ATTENTION SISTERS IN THE PITTSBURGH, PA. AREA:

My girlfriend and I have just moved out here from San Francisco, California. We hope to have our own place around the first or middle part of August. Once we are settled we hope to get a gay rap group going. Our objective is to eventually organize a new chapter of DOB. We can't do it without your help!!! At present we are staying with relatives and I am not at liberty to give the address or phone number, but keep your eyes open for notices in the bars and future issues of SISTERS after the first of August. I've been told there once was a Pittsburgh DOB. If this is true, where are all the organizers, leaders, and members? Please come out and let's talk. We don't know the atmosphere out here very well and could use some guidance. We both have a lot of enthusiasm and ideas, but not much practical experience at getting things like this together. So please, please, please, get your heads together and when the time comes stand up and be counted. Let's help each other shake the guilt, shame, and intimidation of the past. Let's make a place for ourselves outside of the gay bars. The longer we continue to hide the easier it will be for society to keep us in our closets where they want us. Homosexuals have come a long way in the past few years but we have much further to go before we rid ourselves of prejudice and discrimination because of the way we chose to live.

If any of you in the Pittsburgh area have any views or information you wish to relay to us, send them to SISTERS magazine before July 15th and I will read them in the August issue. We need help to get this off the ground.

Carol & Lee

Remarks by Del Martin, L.L.B. (Bachelor of Lesbian Lifestyles and Doctor of Practicing Homosexuality)

Before I arrived here for APA meetings I was convinced that in this Twentieth Century the psychiatric profession has replaced the Church and the Law as the most destructive force in the life of the homosexual. My experience here this week has reinforced that opinion and has radicalized me, as a Lesbian, even more than before.

In the guise of "helping," and particularly in the guise of "Science" (which is accepted in today's American society as the Ultimate or God) you have perpetrated a gigantic hoax. You stand behind the cloak of academia and "detached objectivity" as providing the only valid data on homosexuality, and until tonight have ignored the experience of the Lesbian or the male homosexual as subjective and therefore invalid. You have formulated your theories, your conjectures and rationalizations on the basis of the value judgment that heterosexuality, because it is procreative, is the only acceptable form of sexual behavior or life style. But worst of all, you have misled the public into believing that your theories constitute fact--scientific fact.

Throughout this week in various sessions I have heard you allude to such lofty ideals as "improving the quality of life," of offering individuals "choice and helping them to attain selfhood." And I have heard such terms as "social justice," "mental health" and "humanitarian concern." But nowhere did I hear these ideals or terms applied to homosexual men and women—only to heterosexuals. Somehow we must convey to you how your subjective value judgments deny homosexuals a part in the good life and how, to the contrary, you have become the guardians of mental illness rather than promoting the mental health of homosexuals as a class of people in our society.
I would like to tell you about Jean in Wichita, Kansas. She made the mistake of revealing herself as a Lesbian in this small uptight American community that had bought lock, stock, and barrel the "sin-crime-sickness" syndrome. Jean's family disowned her. Her girlfriend left her, and the homophile community likewise deserted her. Neither she nor they could afford to associate with a "known" Lesbian. Jean couldn't find employment, needless to say. She had no one to turn to for support, economically or emotionally. Somehow two sympathetic reporters learned of her plight. One wrote up her story in the newspaper hoping that some compassionate employer would at least come forward and offer her a job. The other gave her 90 minutes on a local television show. But there was no response from the "good" people of Wichita. Rev. Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church happened to be traveling in the area. He heard about Jean and made a special trip to Wichita to see if he couldn't help. But the day before Troy arrived, Jean committed suicide.

You should know, too, of the many heterosexually married women who call the Daughters of Bilitis whenever we receive any notice in the media—the women who, though they had followed the doctor's orders and had married and had children, still somehow felt "unfulfilled." And of Alice in particular who telephoned from 3000 miles away to break an 18-year silence. You need to know, too, of the many other women who have been muzzled by the myth of motherhood, the myth that says to a woman, "You have no value as a person unless you are an adjunct to a man, unless you accept your secondary and inferior status as a wife, unless you suppress your own desires and dreams and devote yourself solely to the needs of your husband and children, unless you immerse yourself in dishes and diapers."

You should know, too, of the many teenagers whose identity crisis is not whether or not they are Lesbians—they know that—but rather what to do about it, how to meet others like themselves, where to find someone understanding to talk to. They can't tell their parents. If they do, their friendships and activities will be curtailed and they will be shipped off to some therapist to be "helped"—where they will be forced to learn the game of self-saving conformity, or at least go through the motions of the game, in order to get out of the clutches of unheeding, calloused adults.

You need to be aware of the many young women who are victims of Nazi-like "purges" in the women's branch of the armed forces—how so-called "confessions" are wrung from frightened youngsters who don't know the meaning of the word, homosexual. And of Maggie, a psychiatric social worker in a Veterans Hospital who was called to the office one day to find a tape recorder going and a Federal investigator behind the desk. He warned her that anything she said might be held against her. It seemed someone had written to a Congressman saying she was a Lesbian, and her interrogator had been flown across the country (at taxpayer's expense) to determine if the charge was true. "Your six-year work record is exemplary. The only possible grounds there could be for your dismissal is if we can prove that you are a Lesbian," she was told.

You should also be aware of the custody case in Sacramento, California, where Ms. N was declared an unfit mother just because she was an admitted Lesbian. She had been examined by a psychiatrist who had to say in all honesty that Ms. N possessed all the attributes of a good mother. But also in all honesty, he had to add that "all things being equal, the heterosexual adjustment would be more ideal." Whether or not she possessed the attributes of an "ideal father" was never questioned. Further, Ms. N though allowed visitation rights, was never allowed to see her daughter alone. "Here must always be no question of a "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexually adjusted" adult—be an "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexual father"—be an "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexual father"—be an "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexual father"—be an "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexual father"—be an "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexual father"—be an "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexual father"—be an "therapeutic" father—be an "ideally heterosexual father"—be an "therapeutic" father.
I know of many more women and many, many more episodes which show how the Lesbian's life is made miserable because we are forced to live by heterosexual standards, heterosexual value judgments, which deny us the opportunity to redeem ourselves as persons or as contributing members of society. The label, "Lesbian," in and of itself can separate us from our families, from our religion, from our jobs, from our country, but worst of all, from ourselves.

Except for our choice of love, life and/or sex partner (I refuse to use the term "sex object"), we are really just like any other people in society. We get up in the morning and go to work or school, we watch the boob tube or go to movies, we go on picnics and we hike, we have hobbies or go in for sports, we shop at the supermarket and do our housework and all the other humdrum things that make up American life today. And sometimes we make love. We don't spend all our time in bed any more than other people do, however.

Unfortunately most of you, and certainly the public, think of us only in terms of our sexuality--what is commonly called "compulsive, repetitive sexual behavior." But despite society's pressures and prescriptions, many Lesbians do establish loving and lasting relationships which are to them personally rewarding and fulfilling both sexually and emotionally.

Position Statement on Homosexuality Adopted by the Mental Health Assn. Board June 3, 1971

The SF Association for Mental Health realizes that homosexuality has existed under varying circumstance throughout recorded history and probably in all cultures. A substantial minority in our American society today are identified with a homosexual lifestyle. Homosexuality can no longer be equated only with sickness, but may properly be considered as a preference, orientation or propensity for certain kinds of lifestyles.

The Assn. views social intolerance, discrimination and ostracism directed against any minority as injurious to the mental health not only of the affected minority but of the community as a whole. In this context, the Assn. deplores the archaic laws, discriminatory employment practices, and other forms of oppression and repression which serve to impose upon the homosexual members of the human family--both men and women--something less than equal status.

We affirm our intent to:

1. Publicize the above position statement.
2. Urge mental health professionals and organizations to support the above policy statement.
3. Oppose those societal and mental health positions that oppress persons solely because of the type of sexual relationships they favor or that oppress persons because they lead a lifestyle different from the societally prescribed lifestyle.
4. Urge repeal of criminal laws that prescribe adult consensual sexual relationships.
5. Seek equal status in society for persons regardless of their sexual orientation or behavior. This would include equal employment opportunity regardless of sexual orientation.
6. Support honest and unfettered research both private and government-financed into the nature of human sexual behavior.
7. Sponsor educational programs which will foster further understanding of both professionals and the general public on these issues.

Ed. Note: We all would like to thank Del Martin for her continuing fight with the "establishment" in our behalf. If all of us were half as outspoken as she has been over the years, we all of us would be sitting in the sun today instead of hiding behind the tree trunks....
Hope some of you gals caught the article in the June issue of *Cosmopolitan*, "Introducing!: The Lesbian Experience." Can't give you the author's name or the name of the lesbian answering the questions for him, or her, as they didn't print that information. Too bad. I would have sent them a letter of thanks personally, as it is I settled for a letter of congratulations to the editor and staff who decided to print the article. It is, in my opinion, one of the best I've read in a long time. Certainly more honest and to the point than a recent article in *Sexual Behavior*.

"Introducing!: The Lesbian Experience" answers twelve questions from a lesbian's viewpoint. Don't know if she really is a lesbian or not, but it makes no difference. Whoever answered those questions certainly has a much better and truer view of what being a homosexual woman is all about than most of the authors of past articles seem to have had. At least THIS one brought us up-to-date a little in regard to our butch/femme, stereotyped image.

There were, of course, some statements that I, personally, found a little disagreeable in regard to my own life; but there are some of us that these statements would apply to. I'm sure each person will find their own pros and cons in regard to the article. The main point I wish to bring up is that it is refreshing to see an article like this in what is, more or less, a "straight" magazine. Although there have been some really super articles in many of our gay papers and magazines, let's face it, most of these never reach the average, straight, American housewife or husband. I think that this article alone will do a lot to help us, "educate the public to understand and accept the Lesbian as an individual...." Make no mistake, we still have far to go, but at least it's nice to know we are making some progress.

Carol
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Letters
Dear SPDOB,
It's time we "sisters" rallied together and spoke out about the so-called cure for the homosexual. Most of society still maintains that the homosexual or gay personality is sick. It's time that it was made clear that the homosexual thinks he is as good as, and in most cases, better than the so-called average person. Indeed, we of the homosexual community are found in all learned circles—doctors, lawyers, clergymen, secretaries, etc. Love for a woman is just as natural as sleeping and eating. It has existed since the beginning of time and will continue to go on. We as "sisters" have a place in society as complete and accepted individuals, just as well as everyone else.
If my so-called straight sisters and brothers can be allowed to live their own lives, why can't we of the "gay" community be afforded the same privilege? There is nothing sick about someone whose life-style and choice of associates differs from my own choices. When society realizes through the aid of gay organizations, Brown's bill and the new media, that all we want is freedom to live and be as everyone else, then the world will indeed be better. If Mary Stuber and I can speak out to the South for us, then so can our other sisters. Only in this way can we totally stand as real Sisters.
Onward, Ann Ashby, Atlanta DOB President

Dear Karen, et al.,
Hey, what happened in San Francisco recently? The new SISTERS is great! It was good before, but, wow, what an improvement in June. Can we expect things to get even better? It was a pleasant surprise to see a photo, but how come only one?
As a Women's libber, I was especially gratified to read of Karen's split with the male element. I hope it doesn't take much more time for our other sisters to realize what some of us learned long ago...men and women are incompatible. Del Martin is a particular favorite of mine, wherever she appears, and in addition to her current article, I can heartily recommend "If That's All There Is" in the Dec/Jan 70/71 issue of the LADDER. If you haven't read it, do and join the ranks.
And keep up the good work.
A. J. Leeson

[Ed. Note] There was only one photo in June because of photo screening expense. Watch for much more. Thanks for the compliments.

Dear Ed,
I must take time to congratulate you on the growth of SISTERS. The June issue with Ruth and Dell's commentaries was excellent. The cover was most attractive, the poetry beautiful. I wish you the greatest success. You and your partner were great on KRON-TV. A real contribution!
George Mendenhall, Editor VECTOR

[Ed. Note] George speaks about the program on Myra Scott Presents that was aired last month on Channel Four. The program will be repeated soon, so watch your TV's. Thanks again, George. Vector has changed a bit, too.

Dear Ed,
Really enjoyed your interview with Myra Scott, and think it will lead to a greater understanding between "gays" and "straights." Think you got several good points across, such as how little value "roles" can be, and that many "gays" are quite prominent in civic affairs (no pun intended). We have been active for years, it's just that they don't have any knowledge of our "sexual preferences." They are a great believer in the so-called "stereotypes."
I think a lot of the social disgust with homosexuality, is not really disgust, but lack of understanding. People are famous for fearing things they don't understand. I think we are all guilty of that from time to time, on both sides.

Do hope more interviews and discussions will be done, as it is a service to both communities. We also need to have a little understanding where heterosexuals are concerned.

Thank you again for the open interview. We all loved it!

K

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