

# the maiden voyage

a daughter of bilitis newsletter  
boston chapter  
p.o. box 221  
prudential center station  
boston, mass. 02199

march, 1970 vol. 1, no. 4

"What we have done will not  
be lost to all eternity,  
Everything ripens at it's time  
and becomes fruit at it's hour"  
-Diuyauadana-

"Equal protection of the law", we had always thought, was a facet of American life so secure it could almost be taken for granted. No matter who we are, or where we live, or how we look, according to the civics books we read in high school, we can expect the law will affirm our right to personal security, and assure us our day in court when we have a grievance.

Not so, we have been increasingly aware lately. Two incidents of police disinterest in the right of homosexuals to equal protection of the law have come to our attention within the past few weeks. In one, the less serious of the two, a young woman was grossly insulted by a police officer on duty in the vicinity of a gay bar. We say the incident was the less serious of the two not because we condone the right of police officers to make provocative and insulting remarks, but because we understand policemen are products of the society they live in and we realize they, like much of the rest of society, have yet to learn we are not legitimate targets for contempt. The young woman was personally hurt, but will recover. It is one of the costs of being homosexual.

In the second incident, another young woman was badly beaten. This incident took place IN a gay bar, and between homosexuals. Desiring to press charges for assault and battery, the victim of the unprovoked assault notified the police. She was told by them that if it happened in a gay bar, it would be best to drop the matter.

We were not aware that gay bars are regarded by police as free-fire zones where one enters at her own risk. We personally would like to feel as safe from assault inside a gay bar as we do outside when we are wearing our middle-class citizen's mask. The bartender is angry with the young woman who was assaulted and who complained to the police. "What are you trying to do," he asked, "get this place in trouble?" No, she is not, because if she does, she will have nowhere at all to go to meet her friends. She would just like to feel personally secure when she sits down for a drink in that bar herself.

We do not know whether these are isolated incidents, or whether equal protection of the law actually does stop short of areas of the city popular among homosexuals. If it does, we believe it is a serious wrong that ought to be remedied. The Mattachine Society in New York had considerable success promoting understanding between police and homosexuals. Boston DOB has people who can contact local police and begin a dialogue with them. If there is a problem here, rational talk with people in authority will do much to ameliorate it. But we need to KNOW the extent of the problem, if there is one.

If you know of other incidents of police disinterest in homosexual rights, please write to us about them, giving as much detail as possible, and omitting your name if you wish. We are not beginning a crusade to reform the world here, but if correspondence in answer to this editorial is heavy it will be evidence of a need for such a dialogue. Quiet talk with the proper people, we believe, can do much to ease the situation.

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ARTISTS: don't forget that we NEED a series of pen and ink sketches to use as fillers. We can use any size up to 2 inches by 3 inches. Your choice of subject.

WRITERS: we are always interested in receiving stories, features, opinions and poetry from our readers. If you write, and would like to contribute work to the Maiden Voyage, please do not hesitate.

PHOTOGRAPHERS:  
Maiden Voyage can use a limited number of photos in each issue. Photos must be black and white, no larger than 5 x 7. Any subject.

Submit copy to:  
Editor, The Maiden Voyage  
Box 221  
Prudential Center Station  
Boston, MA 02199

Deadline for the April issue: April 10 .

Editor's Notes:

The December, 1969 edition of Cosmopolitan magazine contained a "dreadful" article entitled: "Homosexual Men; How I kicked the Habit" which prompted Donna Ferguson to write a letter to the editor. Donna's letter has been published in the March issue. Her name was withheld, and her letter is somewhat out of context.

The March issue of Pagent magazine features an article entitled "The Heart of the Lesbian"

Look for the film version of Matt Crowley's New York stage hit "Boys in The Band" to begin an engagement at the Astor Theatre soon.

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ODDS AND ENDS

\$1.00 gets you a 30 word ad in the M.V. personals column. Contact lost friends..... Advertise your business, etc. Send your ad with payment to:

Box 221  
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LESBIANS ARE LOVABLE buttons are still available, do YOU have yours yet???



CENSORSHIP IN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES

In the late 1920's, a storm of controversy swept England and the United States following the publication of Radclyffe Hall's dignified and sympathetic novel on lesbianism, "The Well of Loneliness".

The furor arose following an hysterical attack on the book by a writer in an English Sunday newspaper. The attack sparked authorities to take action against the publishers of the book to cease publication, and also sent prurient-minded readers racing to bookstores to buy the book before the ban went into effect.

Although critics praised the book, and the defense council Norman Birkett assembled a "distinguished" body of forty men and women who were ready to testify that the book was not obscene, court magistrate Sir Charles Biron judged the book an obscene libel, and ordered all copies of it to be destroyed.

In his final statement, Sir Biron said, "I agree that the book has some literary merits- It must appear to anyone of intelligence that the better an obscene book is written, the greater the public to whom it is likely to appeal."

The English publishers withdrew the book and made arrangements to have the original text republished in Paris expressly for the English market. This plan was carried out, but any copies discovered being imported into England were seized by customs officials.

An appeal against the magistrate's order was upheld, and the book was labeled as "most dangerous and corrupting." It took more than twenty years before the publishers felt it was safe to reprint in England.

Meanwhile, in this country, the Secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, John S. Sumner, instigated prosecution proceedings against a bookseller who had sold copies of the book in Macy's store. The ban on the book went into effect in this country, but the ruling was reversed when a court handed down a decision disagreeing with the English ruling that the theme of homosexuality is, per se, indiscussable and indecent. Publishers celebrated the new ruling by printing a victory edition of "The Well of Loneliness."

Miss Hall, who had been advised by friends not to publish the book in the first place, was pleased with her victory. However, she did not "press her advantage by writing more controversial thesis-novels."

Her other works include "The Forge", "The Unlit Lamp", and the prize winning "Adam's Breed."

Miss Hall died at the age of 57. An untitled novel she had been working on was destroyed at her request after her death.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor-

Shayna Reuben's request for a boycott of the Cafe Florian would be a good idea if DOB Boston were comprised of all blacks or some other suppressed group. For any such group, other than homosexuals, a boycott could be a useful weapon. But, we are not a black group and we are not a poverty program. We are a group of Lesbians, looking and working toward the day free from oppression. Boycotting the Florian means placing ourselves against the straights in open confrontation. I think we'd be laughed at and defeated in this particular situation.

First of all, let it be known that I, too, want to be free to love who I want to love. (A woman, forever.) But, I think holding hands with another girl in a public place is too much at this time. It's like hitting the straights right in the face with it, only to make them even more resistant to our cause. The straight world isn't ready for such bluntness. They need to be educated a lot more before we can be free in public.

Any straight parents who may have been in the Florian that night probably reacted with something like "is this the kind of filth my children must be exposed to?" Seems to me that we must not let them think that way. WE know it isn't filth, but they don't.

I say educate first, then demonstrate.

I'm sure I'll get jumped on if this is printed, but I'm always ready to listen to other opinions.

Yours for a free and new tomorrow.

The Saint....

To the Editor:

I have read the last two issues of Maiden Voyage and have especially enjoyed the poetry. Once again I myself have taken up the pen and would like to share my thoughts with other readers. Therefore, I have enclosed two poems you might be able to use.

Maiden Voyage has its own distinctive literary quality which I, for one, appreciate and admire. Congratulations to all writers and staff of Maiden Voyage! And thank you for all your efforts!

- Linda Susan -

(see poetry page for Linda's poems)

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DOB ARTS and CRAFTS SHOW

Members of Boston's Homophile community gathered on March 6 to exhibit paintings and other Art work at Boston's first Arts and Crafts Show.

Oil paintings, water colors, and acrylics dominated the show. The themes of the paintings included seascapes, harbor scenes, still life, people, and a large, very striking study of leaves.

Those present had a chance to test their artistic abilities with finger paints supplied for the evening.

Live entertainment, a sing-along and refreshments were also featured.

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WANTED: Couples interested in skiing, skating, and snowshoeing.  
Call Gail and Jo at 523-2177

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CHAPTER CHATTER

CLEVELAND CHAPTER has decided to give as much as possible to two families in the name of the club, for Easter. So far, they have provided two turkeys, canned goods, and clothes. They are also going to provide flowers and companionship to people in nursing homes. Great idea!

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER has printed a news item which appeared in the Chronicle concerning the firing of 5 stewardesses from Western Airlines. It went as follows:

"Notes of Newsnik: Five stewardesses on the S.F. - L.A. run, fired for alleged lesbianism, have retained Attorney Melvin Belli to fight their fickle fate...."

Their Action Core answered this by pointing out that there were only three girls involved, and that they were not stewardesses, but held high managerial positions. Only one of the girls had specific charges brought against her, - implied lesbian activity so absurd in nature that the charges were dropped and she has been rehired. One other girl had been dismissed, but no charges were made. She was replaced by a man who has been at Western only one year as opposed to her 18 years of service. She is fighting her dismissal on the grounds of female sexual discrimination, and is taking her case through EOC. Only one woman is being represented by the Belli office.

They pointed out that whether or not a woman was gay was beside the point, and if the Chronicle wanted to titillate the general public, they could tell them a person's sexuality was hardly a matter of public concern, and that a homosexual can function just as well in any job situation as anyone else.

CHICAGO CHAPTER is alive and well. They have started their library, and welcomed Rita for the radio and TV show.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER had Reverend Troy Perry speaking on March 13-15. His church, Community Church of L.A., welcomes all homosexuals.

Their recreation committee has set up bowling for one night, and a weekend at Stallion Oak Ranch swimming, hiking, and riding.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA CHAPTER has grown to fifteen present at their last meeting. They have social get-togethers, and charity work is planned for the future as well as trying to create a better image of themselves to the community. "Helen and Jean are Lovers" is the title of an article in the Nov. 22nd edition of English Women.

NEW YORK CHAPTER announces the resignation of Becky Irons as President. Ros, their Vice-president is taking over immediately.

On February 19th New York DOB enjoyed a pleasant evening with their guest speaker, Isabel Miller, author of "A Place For Us" (Bleeker St. Press, NYC).

They are busy making plans for the National Convention which takes place July 10 through 12, and which will include a panel discussion. Panel members will be: a psychologist, sociologist, representatives of the feminist movement, and Rita (we hope). There will be a dinner and dance at a well known restaurant in Greenwich Village, a business meeting and various workshops on Sunday. There will be several "fun-city" attractions including the theatre and gay bar tour with New York DOB

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(chapter chatter cont'd)

chapter members as guides for us out-of-towners. I don't know about YOU folks, but I wouldn't miss this meeting for anything!

.....Charlotte Boudier.....

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OPEN FORUM QUESTION #3

Q: What do you do if you are living at home, have a good reputation, good career, and your parents, friends, etc. find out you are "gay"?

A: Although I am personally trying to keep my Lesbianism a secret from my family and employer, I would never deny that I am gay if I were asked.

I accepted the fact that I was a Lesbian a long time ago, and recently I have begun to tell my friends. No one I have told thus far has suddenly started to ignore me, and I feel better for having been honest with them.

On the other hand, I do not want my parents to find out because I am afraid it would shock and hurt them, and I know their attitude toward me would change.

If the people you work with, and you parents, friends and even members of your community know what tolerance and understanding are, you should not have any terrible problems if you are "found out". If they are not understanding, that is their problem really and you will just have to take their reaction as it comes and perhaps practice a little tolerance towards them.

°.....Name withheld upon request.....°

OPEN FORUM QUESTION FOR APRIL ISSUE:

What should you do if you are living in a gay marriage, and are quite content with your partner, but find yourself strongly attracted to someone else?????



# Who will set the female homosexual free?

DEL MARTIN and PHYLLIS LYON  
(From Kaleidoscope)

The Lesbian minority in America, which may run as high as ten million women, is probably the least understood of all minorities and the most down-trodden. She has two strikes on her from the start: she is a woman, and she is a homosexual, a minority scorned by the vast majority of people in this country. If, in addition, she is a member of a racial minority, it is hard sometimes to understand how she survives.

A Lesbian is a woman who prefers another woman as a sexual partner; a woman who is drawn erotically to women rather than to men. This definition includes women who have never experienced overt sexual relations with a woman—the key word is “prefers.” There is really no other valid way to define the Lesbian, for outside of the sexual area she is as different in her actions, dress, status and behavior as anyone else. Just as there is no typical heterosexual woman, there is no typical Lesbian.

However, there is a popular misconception, or stereotype, of the Lesbian. She is believed to embody all the worst masculine attributes of toughness, ag-

gressiveness, lack of emotion or of sentiment, overemphasis on sex, lack of stability—the need and desire to dress as a man or, at least, as much like a man as possible.

At some time in her life the Lesbian may fit this stereotype—usually when she is very young and just finding out about herself. After all, the Lesbian is a product of her heterosexual environment and all she has to go on, at her first awareness of Lesbian feelings in herself, is society's image. Part of the reason for her over-masculinization is the sexual identity of being attracted to women. At this point the Lesbian feels that in order to be attractive to another woman she must appear masculine. Another reason is for identification purposes. How will she meet other Lesbians? How will they know her to be one of them unless she indicates herself in her outward appearance? A third reason is one of releasing her hostility against society, of defying the mores which she finds stifling to what she considers her very being. A fourth reason is comfort. Any woman who says that girdles and high heels are comfortable is simply lying.

While it is true that occasionally a Lesbian gets trapped in this way of life (emulation of the male) and never finds her way to being a person rather than a symbol, the vast majority pass through this phase and learn to accept their femininity. As a Lesbian she comes to realize she is a human being first, a woman second, and a Lesbian only third.

Unfortunately, however, society places the emphasis on the third—sexual identification—and does not acknowledge the Lesbian as a woman or a person.

But the average Lesbian (if there can be anything approaching “average” in our very complex world) is indistinguishable from other women in dress, in manner, in goals and desires, in actions and in interests. The difference lies only in that she looks to women for her emotional and sexual fulfillment. She is a member of the family—a distant cousin, or perhaps, a maiden aunt. But more than likely she's closer to home—maybe a daughter, a wife and mother, a grandmother or a sister. She may work in an office, in a factory production line, in the public school system, at the corner grocery. She is not bound by lines of class distinction or educational level, race or religion.

Why then, if the Lesbian is by and large indistinguishable from other women and if her sexuality is not abnormal, does she face such genuine problems in her search for self-fulfillment? For struggle she does against myriad obstacles presented to her by a hostile society. Through our work with the Daughters of Billitis, Inc., a Lesbian organization started in San Francisco in 1955, we have talked to literally thousands of Lesbians (and almost as many male homosexuals). And, although each case is different, each person individual, through all is a searching for self-identity and self-fulfillment to the utmost of the person's ability.

Consider the stereotyped “box” most women in this country are placed in from birth; that of becoming wife and mother, nothing else. Consider then, the girl brought up in this box who finds her sexual identification to be Lesbian. How then express the “wife - and - mother” role? This conflict often starts the process of self-searching which goes on for years and which, for some, is never resolved.

“Toward a Quaker View of Sex,” which came out of England and is more enlightened than most religious treatises on male homosexuality, fails utterly in its chapter on the female homosexual. The only statement with which we can agree is the first sentence: “Homosexuality is probably as common in women as it is in men.” The Quaker view of the Lesbian is apparently that of the wishy-washy, namby-pamby old maid who holds hands with another old maid (or preferably an adoring younger girl, if available) because she never was able to catch a man and fulfill her deep yearning for the rewards of the pangs of childbirth. At least the American stereotype of the predatory, aggressive, masculine woman has a little more color!

The art of motherhood in the human species is not instinctual. It is learned. We have courses in the care of the baby, and there are countless books on the market to help the young mother with the problems she may encounter during the course of her child's growth and development. In some cultures, babies are taken from the mothers and raised by the community without any apparent psychically traumatic results for the biological mothers or their offspring. In other cultures it is the male who tends the young.

It simply does not follow, then, that every Lesbian is suffering untold qualms because she is frustrating her “natural” birthright for giving birth. There are many other ways for women to contribute creatively to society, and at this particular point in the history of the population of our globe, they may also be highly desirable. The Lesbian who does feel frustrated because she doesn't have any children of her own may work in the teaching profession, she may be a playground director or a social worker who comes in contact with families and children. But the majority of Lesbians we have known have not expressed in any way the “void” they feel because they have no children. To the contrary, the expression, “I would prefer to lead a heterosexual life if I could,” is much more apt to come from the male homosexual than from the female.

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# Study shows Lesbians are doubly oppressed

The teenage Lesbian has a particular problem which has not been met. Homophile organizations, like the Daughters of Bilitis, have had to refuse membership to those under 21 for fear that they will be charged with "contributing to the delinquency of a minor." The teenager has no one to turn to. Society thinks only in terms of counseling of the variety that would tend toward reestablishing the sexual identity in heterosexual vein, and the teenage Lesbian is whisked off to the family doctor or clergyman to put a stop to this nonsense. However, in the cases that have come to our attention, the teenager has no doubt about her sexual orientation. What she wants to know is what to do about it. She wants to meet others like herself; she wants to socialize and to discuss the problems she faces. She is looking for Lesbian models, those who have worked out their problems and have established long-term relationships.

When she is denied this social outlet, she very often winds up in unsavory areas of a city like the Tenderloin in San Francisco. There she may find other youth, but she also finds herself in the company of prostitutes, pimps, drug addicts and dope peddlers. There have been several attempts in various cities to set up coffee houses where there is dancing for the teenage homosexual. But they have lacked the influential backing of say, the church, to provide protection against police harassment while creating a wholesome social fabric for the teenage homosexual.

Because of the absence of role models in working out her way of life, and because the only marriage she has known is that of Mom and Dad, the young Lesbian usually gets hung up in the "butch-femme" syndrome in her early relationships. It is only with painful experience that she learns the Lesbian is attracted to a woman—not a cheap imitation of a man. The lasting Lesbian liaison (and there are many) is one based on mutuality of concern, love, companionship, responsibility, household chores, outside interests and sex.

The successful Lesbian relationship cannot be based on society's exaggerated male-female, dominant-passive roles, as depicted in the flood of Lesbian novels on the newsstands which are, for the most part, written by men for heterosexual male consumption. It is the realization that, contrary to cultural myths, all human beings have both feminine and masculine traits and that a person has to find her own identity as a woman and as a partner in this love relationship that makes for success. The fact that Lesbian relationships are generally long-lasting without benefit of religious ceremony or legal sanction is indicative of a strong bond of love and respect which sees the couple through all the obstacles society places in their way.

Fortunately for all women, there is a growing awareness in this country that woman needs and is more openly demanding an identity for herself as a human being, an identity over and beyond the societal role of housewife and mother. This awareness, coupled with more openness about sexuality and homosexuality, is making it easier now for the young girl, newly aware of her Lesbianism, to cope with the negative sanctions of society. But it is still true that in most areas of our country she has no place to turn for counsel, no one with whom she can talk about her feelings without running the very real risk that the counselor will turn away from her with horror and revulsion.

The Quakers state: "Female homosexuality is free from the legal and, to a large extent, the social sanctions which are so important in the problems of male homosexuals." This is a myth that even the male homosexual has come to believe. It is true that in England there were never any laws pertaining to female homosexuality. But this is not true in the U.S.A. The Lesbian is just as subject to arrest when she sets foot in a "gay bar;" she is just as subject to blackmail and police harassment. The stigma attached to homosexuality has just as much

effect on the Lesbian as she tries to deal with fear and society-imposed guilt in the problem areas of employment, family relationships and religion. Just because the record of arrests is so much smaller is no indication that the Lesbian is relatively free from legal or social sanction. It only means that she is less obvious and less promiscuous. She has done a better job of covering up.

The most serious problem a Lesbian faces in life is that of self-acceptance. Like everyone else, she has been taught the cultural folklore that a Lesbian is something less than human—a sick, perverted, illegal, immoral animal to be shunned and despised. Needless to say, with the first glimmering of self-knowledge, of tendencies, she becomes bogged down in doubt, fear, guilt, and hostility.

Some Lesbians claim they have been aware of their Lesbianism since early childhood. Others first become aware during adolescence. Yet there are some women who make this discovery about themselves much later in life—after they have been married and have had children. Still others, either by choice or lack of opportunity, never admit or act out their Lesbianism.

It isn't easy for a woman to say to herself, let alone anyone else, "I am a Lesbian." But once the words are said, has she really changed? Isn't she still the same person she was—the dear friend, the competent employee, the loving sister? And yet the words become a barrier in her personal and working relationships. To protect her family and her job, she is forced to live a lie, to take on a dual life. No wonder many Lesbians seek out some type of psychiatric or therapeutic help. The miracle is that so many are able to function so well and to contribute so much to society.

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(study)

The Lesbian is thus a secretive, chameleon creature. She is not easily recognized. The old adage, "It takes one to know one," is not true. Not being distinguishable from other women, she has difficulty meeting others like herself. The "gay bar" is still a meeting place, but there are few such bars which cater to women exclusively because they do not constitute a steady clientele. Besides, a Lesbian, as a woman, has no doubt heard many times the old saying "nice girls don't go into bars," or "no lady would ever go into a bar alone." The Lesbian goes out on the town only occasionally, and is more apt to settle down with a partner, to build a home and a lasting relationship, and to develop a small circle of friends—usually both homosexual and heterosexual. Another social outlet for the Lesbian can be homophile organizations throughout the country (if she knows about them), such as Daughters of Bilitis, which has chapters in New York and San Francisco.

If she divulges her identity, she automatically becomes vulnerable. She faces loss of job, family and friends. Yet, until she opens herself to such possibilities, no one will have the opportunity to come to know and to understand her as the whole person she is.

(Editor's note)

DEL MARTIN and  
PHYLLIS LYON  
are two of  
the founders  
of D.O.B.

## Swing Into Spring at a Boston D.O.B. Party

12 Carver Street  
Upstairs

Tickets at the door  
\$2.50

**DANCING  
and  
BUFFET**

BRING YOUR  
OWN  
BOTTLE

Under 21?  
- come but  
please  
do not drink!

8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

**Women Only!!!**

**APRIL 25**

## MAIDEN VOYAGE

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### STEVE FREDERICKS SHOW DISCUSSES BILLS TO REPEAL LAWS ON PRIVATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR.....

The Steve Fredericks radio talk show on WMEX, Boston, devoted an hour Friday night, Feb. 20, to a discussion of 3 bills which would repeal some of the Massachusetts laws concerning private, sexual behavior between consenting adults. This was in anticipation of the public hearings on the bills before a committee of the State Legislature the following Monday.

Panelists on the program were: Alan Cook and Peter Connolly, Boston lawyers; Frank Morgan, president of the Homophile Union of Boston, and Laura Robin, a member of Boston Daughters of Bilitis (DOB). The program informed the public of the existence and content of the bills, of their upcoming hearing, and told where letters of support (or opposition!) should be sent.

Some of the panelists' arguments in favor of the bills were; that private, consensual, sexual behavior did not harm other members of society, and so, should not be regulated by the state; that even though the laws in question were not often enforced, they COULD be, capriciously, against anyone, (homosexual or heterosexual) at any time, and that the existence of such laws was conducive to blackmail. The potential for a lively debate did not materialize because none of the persons who phoned in presented any argument against the repeal.

### HOMOSEXUALS TESTIFY AT PUBLIC HEARING

A few members of the Boston homosexual community surfaced Monday, Feb. 23, to testify before the Joint Judiciary Committee of the Mass. Legislature. Representatives from the Homophile Union of Boston, the Boston Student Homophile League, the Harvard Graduate Student Homophile Ass'n, and the Boston University Homophile Club, spoke in favor of three bills which would repeal certain state laws that regulate private sexual behavior of consenting adults. Together these 3 bills (H. 3482, H. 3472, H. 3484) would abolish the laws against fornication, unnatural and lascivious acts and the crime against nature (repeal of Chapter 272, Sections 18, 35, and 34 respectively). No one from DOB was bold enough to read our testimony, so we submitted it as a letter. (Donna Ferguson has a copy.)

Most arguments boiled down to saying the state had no right to regulate the private behavior of consenting adults, since such behavior did not harm other people.

William Baird, originator of the bills, wrote a letter which was read by one of his supporters, (Mr. Baird's having a "previous commitment" in the Charles St. jail for handing out contraceptive foam.)

The Americans for Democratic Action, together with the Mass. Civil Liberties Union, turned in a 3-page argument. These latter two groups had originated another bill, H. 1949, which has disappeared in the legislative by-ways, (see Herald Traveler, Feb. 22, Sec. 5, pg. 13) and which would have repealed the same three sections. The newly formed local Council on Religion and the Homosexual was also represented.

The committee paid an average amount of attention, but asked no questions. There were several proponents of the bills speaking as individuals. There was no testimony in opposition to the bills. The committee's report to the Legislature on their bills has not been made.

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COMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all Boston DOB events are open to women only, and are held at: Clarke Room, Arlington St. Church, 355 Arlington St.

- Friday, March 20 - OPEN DISCUSSION - "Do employers discriminate against Homosexuals and women?" How likely are you to be fired if your boss finds out? What kinds of jobs can you hold without the mask????  
9:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 27 - GUEST SPEAKER \* Phoebe Wray, New York, Hollywood, and Boston actress and director now teaching at Boston Conservatory, will speak on "Homosexuality and the Arts."  
9:00 p.m.
- (IMPORTANT NOTE: all those who wish to go bowling on Friday the 27th should meet at 7:00 p.m., at the Turnpike Bowladrome, 195 Concord Tpk. (Rt. 2), Cambridge.)
- Friday, April 3 - SYMPOSIUM ON HOMOSEXUALITY FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY LEADERS-  
8:30 p.m. Six members of DOB will appear on a panel and answer questions from clergy, guidance counselors, and members of civic groups who have been invited to attend by the Public Education Committee. Other members and friends of DOB are urged to attend and give their support!
- Friday, April 10 - BUSINESS MEETING for BOSTON DOB MEMBERS ONLY.  
9:15 p.m.
- Friday, April 17 - OPEN DISCUSSION \* "Can a Gay Marriage Last?" Come and share your opinions and experiences with others.  
9:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 24 - GUEST SPEAKER \* Reverend William Alberts, Old West Methodist Church, Boston, will speak and lead a discussion on, "What can the Church do for homosexuals?"  
9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 25-Spring Party at 12 Carver St. Buffet, dancing, etc. See party ad elsewhere (pg.9) this issue.
- Friday, May 1 - - SLIDE SHOW \* Pam, Jo, and Betty will share their slides on many subjects. Refreshments as usual.







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THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

The legal problems homosexuals might encounter in dealing with child custody, joint ownership, sexual behavior and the police were discussed by attorney Michael Buckman at the Feb. 27 meeting of Boston DOB.

Mr. Buckman cited the vague statutes that make things so difficult for lawyers to say what is a violation and what isn't. "Each state has added to and deleted from the laws and most states don't make it clear if these acts (crime of sodomy, unnatural acts of copulation with an animal, etc.) apply to women as well as men."

It is up to the individual judge to decide what is lascivious behavior. "Few judges will actually convict on sodomy," he added

Some countries - Denmark, France, Switzerland, Italy, and others, and the state of Illinois have begun to delete these statutes.

There is currently a series of bills before the Mass. legislature designed to repeal "in all or in part," these laws on sodomy. "Mr. Buckman said he doesn't see any success in Massachusetts"- this year, anyway.

"The authorities are politely ignoring the statutes as long as the acts are carried out in private." But he wonders whether this might change.

A felony allows a policeman to arrest a person if he has probable cause, but it is almost impossible to get probable cause unless a party volunteers information about what is going on, said Mr. Buckman.

With the increased publicity Boston DOB is putting forth, it IS possible the police might come in, but he doesn't think we would really be bothered. An officer might come in and just sit down to listen to the proceedings. He would not be in a position to demand identification. However, he would be perfectly within his rights to demand identification in a car or in a bar.

On the subject of child custody, Mr. Buckman said that the courts are only interested in the welfare of the child. There is no requirement legally, that partners be married to adopt children, but it is extremely difficult or "almost impossible" to follow through on an adoption otherwise.

In discussing police harassment, Mr. Buckman said the real problem is trying to prove a case and get an injunction against the police. A person has "really got to be ready to stand up and be well armed with information to build a case to present before a judge! But, until you have public opinion on YOUR side, you are going to have harassment," he concluded.

Mr. Buckman also discussed joint ownership, trust, and answered questions from the audience.

MAIDEN VOYAGE

(15)

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