

DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

There is still a minority group in American society which is branded as outcast -- granted neither first-class citizenship nor equality of opportunity; unfit for employment; unsuitable for government service, security clearances, or honorable military discharges? Differing from their fellow citizens in only one respect, the individuals of this minority are ostracized and punished as if dangerous regardless of their patriotism and usefulness as members of our society. Why? Because their sin of nonconformism is that of being homosexual.

But for the recent attention given to the plight and condition of the homosexual by the mass communications media, you may never seriously have considered this subject. Kinsey and others have amply documented the vast number and varied kinds of individuals who make up this segment of our communities. Do you realize that the vast majority of homosexuals are not recognized as such by their neighbors? Consequently many minimize the need for giving homosexuals a fair hearing.

Without your knowledge, your acquaintances, coworkers, friends, and even relatives include several homosexuals whom you like, admire, and trust. They deserve this approval. Why aren't you aware of their single distinguishing characteristic? Because they have been forced to assume a mask covering a portion of their life and have become adept at social dis-

guise. They do not enjoy this dual existence. They abhor it. However, their livelihood and acceptance are dependent upon the pretense of being in no way different. They possess an earnest desire to make an effective and appreciated contribution befitting their abilities and talents.

Many consider homosexuals, automatically, to be gross violators of cherished values and believe them to be weird creatures who do not belong in our wholesome culture. Some think that they deserve their present fate. Perhaps you feel that they are not merely nonconformist in the usual sense -- but are sick, immoral, or criminal.

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW? Are you sure? Have you rationally thought about this subject? Isn't a negative response to the request for a fair hearing an automatic one? Doesn't prejudice lie at the root of such judgments? Weren't most people taught to despise and fear homosexuals? Enlightened people feel the time is overdue for reevaluating the prevailing attitudes toward homosexuals and homosexuality. They question senseless injustices and increasingly acknowledge that variety of behavior is normal to mankind. Have you considered this viewpoint?

No one has proven crime to be more prevalent among homosexuals than heterosexuals. No one has proven homosexuality to be an "illness" in any sense. Even

the clergy have differing opinions regarding the "immorality" of homosexuality. You may be surprised to learn that most major denominations do not consider the condition of homosexuality as one of sin or culpability.

Have you talked with the physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, and social workers, and countless others who regard homosexuality as a normal and completely acceptable state of being? Or with the lawyers who daily witness injustices being heaped upon homosexual scapegoats, whose constitutional rights are waived because they are considered inferior and undeserving? Or with the clergymen who sympathize with the God-fearing individuals who also happen to be homosexual? And have you talked with homosexual people themselves -- typical homosexuals, representative of the unnoticed majority who are responsible, hardworking, self-respecting human beings?

You may wonder why our democratic American society is not a land of liberty for all -- but only for those who adhere to the "norm" or don't upset the status quo. The basic reason is: People do not know enough about other people. They tend to like and tolerate only what they know and understand. And they unfortunately, seldom have a chance to meet representative homosexual people.

Why should the homosexual have to hide the sexual aspect of his existence? Why should individuals pay an exorbitant price for asserting harmless inclinations? Why should anyone sacrifice his personality to a leveling conformity? Why must everyone be heterosexual and married? Is there no room for the others? Isn't there a place for them and shouldn't they be invited to contribute their full potential?

There is no logic behind laws, customs, attitudes, and beliefs which discriminate against individuals who are doing no harm and indeed are functioning to the advantage of society. If you care about individual worth and the human condition; if you care about fair play that grants at least a fair hearing to the victim of prejudice, now is the time to take opportunity to learn the true facts about homosexuals and homosexuality by contacting us, an organization dedicated to defending this misunderstood and much maligned minority group. We welcome your interest or inquiry. Detach and mail the coupon or write a request.

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Mattachine Society of Washington--
A civil liberties, social action group
devoted to improving the status of the
homosexual by all lawful means

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