

Sisters and Brothers, Ladies and Gentlemen --

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Being Lesbianism has always represented for me one of the possibilities of- for self-expression open to women. It is one of many possible life- and love-styles, ~~and is just as desirable as~~ ~~no better but also no worse than~~ ^{and is just as desirable as} ~~certainly~~ any other. Like the other alternatives, lesbianism is a positive good in itself, rather than a second-best choice or a refuge to ~~nurse-hurts-sustained~~ escape hurt inflicted by the opposite sex. Like male homosexuality, lesbianism is a positive attraction for the same sex ~~or~~ a psychological, ^{and} emotional, ^{as well as a} and physical involvement-inclination. ~~Lesbianism makes lesbians happy.~~

Some of you have seen the David Susskind Show on lesbianism shown in Washington two weeks ago. At one point, a man from the audience asked ^{the} us 7 ~~panelists~~ ^{lesbian} panelists if there weren't some advantages to being a gay woman ~~or~~ advantages that straight people didn't have. He asked this question in order to change our posture from a defensive one -- ^{& having to enumerate all the things he was not} warding off David Susskind's attacks ~~in which we were~~ ^{in which we were} ~~a-positive-approach-of-saying-what-homosexuality-was.~~ instead of being explaining the positive essence of able to concentrate on/what-lesbianism-actually-was This man was Dr.

George Weinberg, a N.Y. psychologist whose book Society and the Healthy Homosexual will be published in early spring. ^{Although not gay himself} /He ~~knows~~ ^{positive aspects} knows the ~~advantages~~ ^{positive} of gay life, and he wanted us to emphasize the ~~good of lesbian relationships.~~ ^{positive} ~~But,~~ ^{For} alas, most of us were so used to the praises of lesbian love. ~~pretesting-that-we-were-not-this-or-that-stereotype-or-~~ exploding

myths ~~about~~ on the subject that we've never gotten around to defining the actual advantages. Personally I have always felt that homosexuals ~~have-~~ had a great deal to teach straight society, but I never dared say so in public. To do so, seemed to me, to add fuel to the fire of prejudice and evoke a caustic "So you think you're better than we are, eh?", ^{and} simultaneously ~~slamming~~ ^{slamming} shut ~~any~~ the door that might have ~~per-~~ ^{about homosexuality} mitted some enlightenment understanding/to penetrate. Many years ago a low profile was absolutely essential when homosexuals pleaded with

heterosexuals for an end to injustice. We even permitted ourselves to be pitied in order not to threaten the security of the heterosexual. But that was many many years ago. And this is a different age. It is time to let it be known that lesbians and homosexuals have a good life, that we are happy human beings, and that through our struggles to define ourselves we have learned things about being alive and enjoying life that are of use to everybody.

Things have taken an unexpected turn for the better for us and recognize the advantages of our life style lesbians. For who should come to our aid/-- but the women's movement! After gaining insight into the inequality & oppression of too many heterosexual The women in women's liberation were suddenly made aware of the beautiful-relationships-lesbianism-could-offer-to-women---Two-les-bians-are-two-equals lesbianism as a viable alternative for those women who can love other women. Two lesbians are equals -- there is not a greater or a lesser, or at least not a priori/ There is no role-playing pattern imposed on the two lovers. They are able to explore their own individualities and to create a love relationships unlike any other. Since there is no blueprint imposed on homosexual by the church or state relationships/governing & regulating conduct, the two can create their own world just-as in accordance with the requirements of their ~~two~~ unique personalities. In the personal sphere they have true freedom.

~~A-word-might-be-said-here-about/role-playing--Dividing-a-les-bian-couple-up-into-butch-(the-more-aggressive)-and-fem-(the-more-passive)-and-wearing-clothes~~

Since there is no marriage contract, the individuals are not bound legally to live together whether their love is ~~still~~ alive or not. One cannot legislate love. Love can only grow in freedom, and its purpose is to make people happy. If it dies, ~~ex-livers-~~ the two individuals should be able to part ^{hot} and ^{suffer} be forced to ~~live-a-sterile-~~ under a sterile or painful union.

What about children, you will ask. Children make life a bit

