



REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 1962

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The Existential Approach to Homosexuality



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THE EXISTENTIAL APPROACH TO THE CAUSATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MALE HOMOSEXUALITY-In Three Parts

Part One - INTRODUCTION and DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS LEADING UP TO HOMOSEXUALITY

DENNISON W. NICHOLS

A few months ago Bieber and his associates' study on homosexuality was published (Bieber & Associates, 1962). This study is obviously a result of much time and effort. Unlike many previous studies, there is an attempt to verify some of the psychoanalytical theories that exist in regard to the cause of homosexuality. Like many of the earlier volumes on this subject, however, there is lacking a description of the human being's need to be as he is in a manner that the reader is actually put in the described person's place. It is because of a differentness between homosexuals and heterosexuals that makes it so difficult for the one to see the other's point of view. Thus, the following comments by Cleckley, Balint, Allen and Fromm are typical of heterosexually oriented authorities:

Unaware in his direct experience of what men and women can be to each other as mates, he (the homosexual) has little means of contrasting his own sexual experiences and longings and concepts of love with heterosexual life. (Cleckley, 1957. p. 29.)

Homosexuals... have to assert that their way of life and sexual pleasure is more beautiful, more gratifying, more everything than that of normal people. The reason is near at hand. They have to use overemphasis in order to deny-what they all know-that, without normal intercourse, there is no real contentment. (Sandor, editor, 1956. p. 24.)

A woman is so desirable, so lovely, so fascinating in her ways and attractive in her body, that homosexuality is incomprehensible to the healthy normal man. No normal man is ever satiated with women and turns to men or boys because they are likely to give him more pleasure. (Allen & Berg, 1958. p. 37.)

Man-and woman-finds union within himself only in the union of his female and his male polarity. This polarity is the basis for all creativity.

The male-female polarity is also the basis for interpersonal creativity. This is obvious biologically in the fact that the union of sperm and ovum is the basis for the birth of a child. But in the purely psychic realm it is not different; in the love between man and woman, each of them is reborn. (The homosexual deviation is a failure to attain this polarized union, and thus the homosexual suffers from the pain of never-resolved separateness, a failure, however, which he shares with the average heterosexual who cannot love.) (Fromm, 1956. pp. 33-34.)

In contrast to the above, the editors of *One* proclaim their views of homosexuality when they say:

We feel generally agreed that homosexuality is a good thing, and that there is a place for it in a moral and well integrated society. (*One Confidential*, vol. 5, no. 1.)

It is apparent from the above that any existential psychology pertaining to homosexuality will unlikely ever be developed by a heterosexually oriented person. Such concepts would conflict with a heterosexual's sense of meaningful existence. The situation is interpreted differently by both peoples; it has a different meaning. What a heterosexual is talking about in regard to homosexuality is not what a homosexual is talking about; entirely different feelings are experienced by the two. As Benjamin says:

...nobody can understand the homophile as well as another homophile. (Benjamin, 1958. p. 15)

It is the purpose of this article to explain why homosexuality is important to the homosexual. Needless to say, an attempt to explain something "undesirable" by something undesirable that occurs in one's past has no place in this article. In this respect there is agreement with Beier, when he says:

While there is much confusion in theoretical formulation, as well as in research findings with regard to origin, it becomes clear that a scientific explanation must avoid past (sin) and present (maladjustment) moral cliches which are likely to cloud the issue. (Beier, 1960. pp. 4-5.)

Existential psychology has been in existence for many years. It is described by Buytendijk as follows:

Existential psychology is based on the primordial fact of human existence... (It) means first and foremost: analysis of the meaning

-structures of the personal world toward which all activity is directed. (David & von Bracken, editors, 1957. p. 197.)

Tillich clarifies this concept when he explains the difference between existential and existentialist:

"Existential" points to the universally human involvement in matters of genuine concern; "existentialist" points to a philosophical movement which fights the predominance of essentialism in modern thought, be it idealistic or naturalistic essentialism. (Tillich, 1960. p. 10)

One spokesman for the existential school, Eric Fromm, describes man's unique situation in the following words:

(The)...awareness of himself as a separate entity, the awareness of his own short life span, of the fact that without his will he is born and against his will he dies, that he will die before those whom he loves, or they before him, the awareness of his aloneness and separateness, of his helplessness before the forces of nature and of society, all this makes his separate existence (from nature) an unbearable prison. (Fromm, 1956. p. 8.)

Thus, Fromm may say that sexual intercourse lessens one's anxiety because of a reunion with nature. The present writer, however, suggests that sexual relations not only fulfill this purpose, but also lessen the individual's anxiety because they give him what he *thinks* he must have in order to be living a meaningful life. This concept is the foundation of the existential psychology as presented in this paper. This school of thought makes it possible to see homosexual behavior, particularly the maintenance of it, in a new way. What follows, of course, is only a general description of which there are many variations. It is hoped that much of this can later be verified.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS LEADING UP TO HOMOSEXUALITY

It is suggested that the cause of homosexuality is a separation of the child from the teachings of society. This separation may be due to a schizophrenic ailment or neuroses, or withdrawal from others because of timidity, fear or weakness (real or otherwise), or it may be because of some innate "differentness" from others. What the reason is is not so important; what the result can be is. It can give the individual a chance to form meaningful concepts and values based on a fantasy life which is not suggested to him by the society in which he lives, a fantasy life which, among other things, involves other males or the male body, perhaps because it is like one's own body.

In regard to the possibility of a basic inborn goal-directed behavior-pattern of the homosexual, Progoff presents some ideas which are worth considering, even though it is doubtful Progoff desires this theory to be used for this purpose. He believes that man has an "instinct" just like lower animals but that man, because of his highly developed consciousness, does not necessarily rely on it. He explains it this way:

The organic psyche is best understood as a continuous process. There is an ongoing flow of imagery taking place all the time, a very small part of which comes close enough to consciousness for us to become aware of it. This flow of protoplasmic imagery expresses and works toward the realization of a central image, an image that is for the human species what the image of nest-building and life-preservation is for the hummingbird. It is an image that expresses the seed of the species, the protoplasmic nature of the organism. It contains the essence in potentiality of what the human being can do, and what the human being can become. The fulfillment of this is wholeness. (Progoff, 1959. p. 183.)

He goes on to explain how this organic psyche contributes to and influences man's behavior:

...First there is the protoplasmic imagery that comes forth automatically, non-consciously, and in nonrational forms, veiled and symbolic. Then there comes the conscious extrapolation of meaning from the image and their elaboration into ideas and concepts. From this comes man's philosophies of life and his science of life. They are derivatives of the primary imagery of the psyche.

The varieties of protoplasmic imagery are pregnant with meaning and with implications as to the nature of man, his existence, and the universe in which he grows. But the images themselves do not "know" these meanings; they only express them. They only reveal them, and it is left for the steadily emerging consciousness of man, the steadily sharpening intellect of the individual, to draw forth and delineate the intuitive knowledge revealed in the image. So, in comparable terms, the artist does not consciously know the fullness of what he is disclosing in the imagery of his art work. He simply places a form there; and the interpreter of art, the man of intellect and of a kind of intuition other than the artist's comes and finds material in the natural symbolism of the art work with which to construct his philosophies. (*ibid.*, pp. 190-191.)

It is what follows that is of special significance to one who is developing a construct as proposed in this paper. It can be interpreted possibly to mean that an individual is homosexually inclined because of an inborn nature. Progoff asks:

How does "mind" express itself at the high levels of human men-

tal growth? In man, the basic protoplasmic process of working toward goals that are built into the organism has become conscious of its own activity. Man is a self-conscious being. The individual works to achieve purpose that derives ultimately from the same instinctual levels as the bird building a nest; but he has conscious techniques at his disposal and he works with an awareness of the process as a whole. He is, to this degree, not spontaneously fulfilling the protoplasmic goals of life—goals that are real before thought is taken, but he is working toward goals that he “thinks” he wants. Consciously, he seeks goals that do not come out of his basic protoplasmic nature, but which are in the directive goals of his consciousness. It was in reference to this point in the development of man’s consciousness that both the depth psychologists, C. G. Jung and Otto Rank, issued their basic warnings to *modern man* that he beware of getting out of touch with his basic nature through the hyperdevelopment of self-consciousness. (*ibid.*, p.123.)

The assumption that can be made is that the homosexual has different protoplasmic goals than does the heterosexual, not that some individuals do not have some of both kinds of nature. If he seeks heterosexual relations, according to this hypothesis, it means that he has been convinced by our heterosexual society to think that he wants to be heterosexual, even though it is not what he is really made for. It would be easy for one to interpret Progoff’s statement to mean that it is the homosexual who is out of touch with his basic nature. The fact that some individuals actually feel that they are “born this way,” however, suggests that this writer’s interpretation is more likely to be correct.

Whatever the truth is, there is a general consensus that homosexuals are quite often interested in the arts, music and theater. Could such interest be related to a make-believe world they have grown accustomed to through their early partial psychological separation from societal teachings?

To further elaborate, most, if not all, children learn early in life to romanticize their fantasies in order to achieve an exciting sense of meaningfulness that does not exist in their not-so-interesting mundane lives (i.e., They see themselves as heroes). Because this brings satisfaction, they learn to rely on this method of escape from boredom, and learn to look forward to it. Naturally, because they are curious and preoccupied with their bodies and the pleasurable functions that accompany them, they incorporate such thoughts and emotional feelings into their fantasy life. Inasmuch as children are in the presence of people of two different sexes who interact, most of them “catch on” and visualize a time when they themselves will be doing the same thing. This heterosexuality

fits very well into their fantasies, the same fantasies they will pattern their concept of a meaningful life from later on. The reason they will pattern their life after these fantasies is because, if these fantasies can bring relief from a not-so-interesting life in childhood, they ought to be worth living up to in reality as adults.

Thus, as an adult, a heterosexual’s conception of life incorporates the concept of heterosexual relations (both social and sexual), without which, either through marriage or continual affirmation through dating, he feels that his life is not being fully lived. He feels that he must have this “heterosexuality” if he is to be completely living, because he has been taught this concept since early childhood.

The homosexual, however, because he has patterned his concept of existence after a different set of fantasies, is not likely to achieve meaningfulness in a heterosexual life. Thus, such an inclined youth, because his psychic orientation is fed by fantasies made up of different elements, does not feel that he is missing anything by not adhering to heterosexual goals. He may be confused and tormented, however, because of guilt or not wanting to admit the truth to himself because of fear of social disapproval. Furthermore, these problems are likely to consume much of his time and energy.

Societal teachings are frequently strong enough to prevent the individual from consciously realizing the true nature of his concept of meaningfulness for some time. This superficial acceptance of heterosexuality accounts for the latent homosexual. Such an individual has not gone through a “coming out” process in which he has conscious insight as to the type of life he must live in order to come closest to a meaningful existence based on his earlier fantasy life. He will be able to say to himself, “I am homosexual,” only when he no longer superficially accepts the societal heterosexual teachings he has come in contact with the last few years. Insight would be more apt to come to the individual if it were not for the fact that the earlier fantasies, from which he draws his concept of meaningfulness, are built not only of verbal ideas, but also of emotions, especially those connected with the individual’s bodily preoccupations and functions, which are more difficult to comprehend in terms of organized rationality.

It is interesting to note that children in some societies, apparently because they are allowed to participate in sexual intimacies with others of the opposite sex, do not have an opportunity to develop fantasies made up of different elements. Thus, there is often no adult homosexuality to be found.

Many children, who may be psychologically separated from heterosex-

ual teachings, nevertheless may continue to develop fantasies made up of heterosexual elements, perhaps because of a lack of an initial homosexual stimulus. Furthermore, there is the possibility of the individual who may develop fantasies containing both heterosexual and homosexual elements. If it is possible for a person to grow up and live off a fantasy made up of both elements, the so-called bisexual may be accounted for.

This proposed theory is not necessarily designed to replace other theories, even though it does appear to this writer that it explains the phenomenon in a more realistic manner. The concept of a homosexual wanting a father substitute or fearing his mother, as a couple of examples, could be true; such preoccupations may be incorporated into the boy's fantasies. Thus, such elements could be detected in his adult value system from which he draws his concept of a mate-ideal. Furthermore, one's fantasy life may contain distorted beliefs (perhaps repressed) given to him by a close relative, and may also contain personality figures which, incidentally, are found in his fantasy life because he draws his fantasy figures in his younger years from those he is reminded of because he sees them the most. Likewise, the identification of the penis for the breast might (but not necessarily) be a building block of the original fantasies. This is not to say that these early elements have an active influence on the individual's contemporary behavior, however. One's later behavior is an expression of a current "right now" situation and is not a process of "acting out." Present needs (i.e., reaffirmation of one's existence), not past needs, are what count.

In Next Issue — MEANING IN A HOMOSEXUAL'S LIFE

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The two following reports are reprinted from THE MICHIGAN DAILY, edited and managed by students of the University of Michigan. They originally appeared consecutively, on the 28th and 29th of June of this year.

POLICE, 'U' CRACK DOWN ON HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITIES

'U' Administrators Discuss Legal, Moral Responsibility

(EDITOR'S NOTE — This is the first of a two-part series on homosexuality.)

By DENISE WACKER and PHILIP SUTIN

Two years ago the Ann Arbor police maintained a four-week surveillance of University facilities in an effort to curb reported homosexual activities.

Their work resulted in more than 30 arrests and convictions, of which slightly more than half were men connected with the University.

After the Angell Hall raid there was no continual surveillance in men's lavatories, although complaints of homosexual activities did not die down entirely.

Conduct 'Special Surveillance'

Last month it was learned that the police were again conducting a "special surveillance" of men's rooms in Angell and Mason Halls, the Michigan Union, Alumni Memorial Hall and other campus buildings in a new attempt to suppress homosexual acts said to have occurred in the Ann Arbor community.

This "special surveillance" netted more than 30 arrests on charges of "gross indecency" or "attempting to procure gross indecency."

The men were not arrested specifically for homosexuality, but for attempting to entice others into homosexual acts or else were arrested during the process of such acts, Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney William Ager said.

Off-Campus Areas

"While many arrests have occurred in University buildings, our men were also checking playground areas and public gathering spots where it was felt homosexuals might meet," Capt. Walter Krasny of the police department said. Krasny has charge of the surveillance which sent two officers through University and other facilities.

Krasny said he didn't consider the current "special surveillance" anything unusual. "This isn't a campaign. It's merely a normal routine of investigating complaints, a continuing investigation," he said.

Usually, alleged homosexuals are arrested after police witness an attempt to solicit a partner, or an actual homosexual act, he said.

However, he added, the officer need not necessarily witness such an incident, and, as in other felony cases, he may arrest an alleged violator on the basis of a complaint.

The law sets no particular criterion for a violation, he said. Once an alleged offender is arrested, it is up to the prosecutor's office to determine the extent of the violation and the criminal proceedings used in his case.

There are two general sets of charges that may be filed against a suspected homosexual. One is a felony—the "gross indecency" or "procuring" charges—levied against most offenders. There are also lesser misdemeanor charges of obscene conduct and accosting. These, Ager said, are less frequently made.

Insufficient Evidence

The misdemeanor charge is pressed when there isn't enough evidence to warrant the procuring charge, he explained.

A suspected offender is given a preliminary examination in which the court determines whether there is sufficient evidence to hold a trial. From that stage, the case is brought to circuit court for arraignment.

In the majority of Washtenaw County cases, the defendant pleads guilty and an investigation is held before a sentence is pronounced, Ager added.

Occasionally, the accused pleads innocent, and a jury trial is held.

Psychiatric Consultation

During the pre-sentence investigation, the court consults court psychiatrists who have dealt with the offender. Or, the court permits him to submit a report from a psychiatrist of his choosing.

The court may also contact the offender's employer. Often this notification may be the first knowledge the University has of the arrest of faculty or staff member or of a student.

Offenders are fined \$250 and court costs by Circuit Court Judge James Breakey, and placed on five-year's probation.

Repeaters quite often are sent to prison. A man arrested two years ago was apprehended in the May surveillance, while on probation, and found guilty again. Breakey sentenced him to two to five years in prison.

As in the case of any felony, the policy notify the dean of men's office when a student is arrested. The University then insures that the student has bail and defense counsel.

If he is convicted, the University suspends him until he presents Health Service a psychiatrist's letter saying that he is a good social risk. Such a letter may be sufficient for the University to allow a student to be readmitted, though at times other factors may be involved.

"The University has to take the position that homosexuality is a crime," Vice-President for Student Affairs James A. Lewis declared, summing up the University's attitude toward convicted homosexuals.

Stringent Faculty Enforcement

The University views the case of faculty and staff members convicted of homosexual crimes in a different light than students similarly convicted.

This is because the University realizes that a certain amount of sexual experimentation is frequent during adolescence, and homosexual practices among college students, while not common, lack the serious implications which homosexuality among responsible adults entails. Vice-President for Academic Affairs Roger W. Heyns explained.

"While the University is interested in the climate students create for each other, they are not

employed to make a wholesome intellectual atmosphere; faculty members are employed for that explicit reason, and it is up to the University to insure that they fulfill this image," Heyns said.

No Happy Home

"I don't want the University to become known as a happy home for these people," Executive Vice-President Marvin L. Niehuss said.

When the University hears of a faculty member's arrest on these charges, Niehuss said, the dean of his school or college talks to him, but no action is taken until the trial is completed and guilt has been established.

Resignation to the Situation

There have been no known cases of dismissals; usually the faculty member resigns, Niehuss said.

"Each case is handled individually. There is no hard and fast rule, but the University feels it must be rather careful."

Prior to the police investigation, the University had attempted to curb homosexual incidents in its buildings.

An investigation by the administration resulted in the closing, after 5 p.m., of several men's lavatories in Angell, Mason, and Haven Halls and in the restrooms of the Undergraduate Library.

The University is continuing to study the problem, Lewis said.

No solution has been found as of yet.

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

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COMMENT DIFFERS ON PROBLEMS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is the second of a two-part series on homosexuality and the University.)

By DENISE WACKER and PHILIP SUTIN

There is little indication that the police are planning to stop their biennial investigations of campus homosexual activity.

In 1958, 1960, and again this year, two or more officers were assigned to oversee activities in men's rooms throughout the central campus area.

Each time a crack-down has occurred, there has been a notable and understandable reaction on the part of University officials, students and private citizens interested not only in the medical problem of homosexuality, but in the legal and moral questions which are necessarily raised by mass arrests and convictions.

Varied Opinions

When homosexual behavior—a psychological problem rather than a willful or violent crime—is regarded as a felony punishable by a prison term, there inevitably will be strong and often contradictory opinions as to how convicted homosexuals should be treated.

For the police or others involved in law enforcement, there is little admitted conflict about how to handle homosexuals and homosexual activities.

"It's a sex crime spelled out precisely by the law. When we get repeated complaints of offenses being committed in men's rooms, we have no choice and must move in an attempt to curb violations," Police Capt. Walter Krasny, who headed the 1962 investigation, said.

His attitude appears to be typical of policemen dealing with the problem.

The Need for the Law

William Ager, Washtenaw County prosecuting attorney, explained the rationale of the statute making homosexuality a crime.

"It—and the investigations as well—are designed to protect both the public and the offenders. Especially in a university community where there are a lot of young men, most of whom are unmarried, the homosexuals have to be stopped.

"We hear of cases all the time where some boy was 'lured' into homosexuality by an older man. Sometimes, it's just an experiment at first, but it doesn't always end with experimentation," Ager explained.

Homosexuals Beaten

He added that sometimes four or five high school boys will attempt to "pick up" a homosexual. One of the boys enters a men's lavatory and, if approached, agrees to engage in homosexual activities.

However, before any such activity can take place the other three or four boys attack the procurer.

"There have been cases where a man's money and valuables, or where his car will be stolen, and in almost all cases he's too embarrassed to come in and report the crime. Often, too, the boys beat these people very badly and can still get away with it because no one wants to report it.

Prevent Initial Contacts

"And we really have to protect the homosexuals from these attacks. There seems to be no other way than by preventing them from contacting the youths in the first place," Ager said.

Both Ager and Krasny denied that in the arrests "entrapment" was used. Entrapment is an illegal means said to be used sometimes by police, in which the officer either attempts to procure a male partner or else responds if another man makes it clear that he wishes homosexual activity.

For University administrators, who have often met and dealt with accused or convicted homosexuals on an entirely different level than the police, the problem and the conflicts are not quite so readily resolved. It is difficult for them to sever personal relationships and feelings and view faculty and students merely as felons or social misfits.

Homosexuals Disqualified

"There is a fairly clear policy that the University has about these people: it's always been regarded as disqualification, although each case is handled individually," Executive Vice-President Marvin L. Niehuss said.

"Every arrest and conviction is a serious matter. And every felony is a very serious matter.

"Let's have no mistake that it's a sickness like appendicitis—no, it isn't like that. There aren't very many cured, and people have incipient tendencies.

"It just is not appropriate for the University to have on staff such encouragers," Niehuss admitted.

Handled by Deans

Niehuss added that the dean of the school or college where the convicted homosexual works, handles the case. The dean speaks to the man after his conviction and decides what he wants done.

In all cases to date, those convicted have resigned from the University. If they had not, and the dean wished action taken, then names would have been sent to the tenure committee of the University Senate, which would further investigate the situation.

"What the University is concerned with is the possibility that normal boys might be pulled into homosexual behavior. Niehuss concluded.

Vice-President for Academic Affairs Roger W. Heyns, however, stressed the concern for the individual convicted for "gross indecency."

"It's a real tragedy when this sort of thing occurs and there cannot be a standing rule about the treatment we give a convicted homosexual," Heyns said.

"Whether or not he's asked to leave depends upon the case and upon the circumstances. There is no automatic dismissal.

Like Any Felony

"Every felony, not just 'gross indecency' is handled this way. But some felonies are more serious than others and homosexuality is considered to be very serious indeed," he added.

Heyns also indicated that the nature of homosexuality, not the nature of the law making it a felony, is the reason for dismissal action. "Certainly these people need all the help they can get, but we have to think about protecting people with incipient tendencies as best we can, and often this entails dismissal.

"However, we don't just throw faculty members into the street; rather we seek to get them positions elsewhere," Heyns said. Most of these "positions" are outside education.

Less Severe Treatment

Generally students convicted of homosexuality are given much less severe treatment than faculty members. The students are suspended until such time as they present verification (a note from a psychiatrist) vouching that they are good social risks.

Administrators explained that this is because a certain amount of experimentation is quite normal, but that homosexuality in adults is more serious and more advanced and thus requires stronger controlling measures.

The opinions of individuals less involved with the University or who dealt with homosexuals are gen-

erally much more tolerant of them than those expressed by University administrators, or by the police.

Psychiatrist's Opinion

A psychiatrist, many of whose patients have been homosexuals, and who has worked with several of the men arrested and later found guilty of "gross indecency," views the problem in terms of long-range good and evil.

"The real focus of the question is whether or not this police maneuver will do any good for the community. And I rather tend to think not.

"Moreover, these arrests and the public trials have been absolutely devastating to some of these men. They've been ruined forever by the police work and publicity," he said.

Vague Question

He also cited the medical question of homosexuality, a rather vague question, he said, since the problem differs greatly from individual to individual.

"There are many kinds of people caught by the police. Some had never practiced it before, from what we can tell. Others, of course, have been active homosexuals for quite a while.

"In none of these cases will their activity be modified or curtailed by legal punishment."

He also said it was likely that many of the adolescents arrested last May are not confirmed homosexuals — that they probably wouldn't become confirmed homosexuals, and that, in all likelihood, they were engaging in "experimentation" quite normal at some stages of adolescence, and it was only through freak chance that they were caught.

No Medical Basis

"The law says that homosexuals at large can convert others—there is no psychological background for this; there is only legal background. Granted that some men are sucked in as a result of these activities, it's not just from one

experience in a Union 'John'; rather, it's from their childhood experiences."

He also said that everyone has engaged in some sort of homosexual activities, and that, to some extent, homosexual relationships are necessary to insure that normal heterosexual relationships be successful.

"Boys and girls in sorority and fraternity houses discuss their sexual experiences and excite each other—there's nothing abnormal about this. It is a part of the educational process."

Arrest Least Guilty

He asserted that the police often arrest those who deserve it least, since long-time practicing homosexuals are rarely apprehended.

"However, I think that most homosexuals could spot a police officer—unless the officer acted as a homosexual would. With this in mind, I feel that entrapment was very definitely used," he said.

He also felt that the residence hall system may quite definitely promote homosexual activity.

"In any culture which bars normal heterosexual relationships, except through marriage, as ours does, there's bound to be homosexuality. It's almost a physiological necessity. And where contacts are restricted, the incidence of homosexuality quite definitely goes up."

Women Uninvestigated

Although the police have never held surveillance on women's lavatories, because, Krasny said, of a lack of complaints, the psychiatrist asserted that it's likely that there is more homosexuality among women than men.

"The whole problem is that most people are so afraid of homosexuality, without knowing just what it is, that they'd rather have punitive measures than anything else," he said.

Another man deeply concerned about the homosexual problem, John W. Conlin, Jr., a defense attorney for some of the alleged homosexual offenders, also said that entrapment which occurs when a police officer attempts to initiate criminal action may occur.

Perhaps No Crime

"If entrapment exists, no crime was committed," he said.

Defending arrested homosexuals two years ago, Conlin and other members of his firm charged that police had used entrapment. However, Judge James Breakey threw that charge, as well as charges that the offenders made no overt attempt and that the statute was unconstitutional, out of court.

The trials for all of the 30 arrested last May have not yet been concluded. Over half the accused have already appeared in court—almost all pleaded guilty. In all probability they will be given a two to five year probationary term as well as charged court expenses and a fine in excess of \$250.

Everyone spoken to for this article agreed that it was a pity that so many lives had to be ruined to protect society as a whole. And everyone felt that a better way to handle the situation can be found. But there were no confident solutions offered and it will likely be only a matter of time before the next thirty men are arrested and charged with "gross indecency."

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The Necktie

JOHN E. O'CONNOR

For her trip down to the railroad station Mrs. Hartley had put on her lightest summer dress, a white skimmer silhouette with open collar and brass buttons. She had better dresses, but none more cool. Though on a day like this, Mrs. Hartley decided, coolness was simply impossible. Nothing less than air conditioning could have saved her from the murderous Tidewater heat, and by the time the taxi had reached the station she was perspiring freely. It wasn't much better inside the station house, despite the noisy working of a fan perched upon the cigarette machine. The clerk on duty informed her that the train from New York would be fifteen minutes late, so Mrs. Hartley went outside to the station platform, and there she waited.

There was a meager breeze on the platform, and the air was heavy with the smell of salt and loud with the shouting of three negro children playing tag on the vacant lots between the railroad and the warehouse district. With a handkerchief Mrs. Hartley patted away the little slivers of perspiration from her upper lip. She didn't mind her discomfort. What worried her was the possibility of her looking a fright by the time the train



arrived, bringing home her son Glenn, whom she hadn't seen for years. Mrs. Hartley wanted to look good for Glenn. She had the sort of open, large-featured face that never loses its beauty, and a figure that was extraordinary for a woman of fifty years. Mrs. Hartley felt a sudden surge of pleasure, brought on by the familiarity of the station house and the vacant lots and the warehouses. They took her back to the early years of her marriage, when she and Mr. Hartley and Glenn had lived in a duplex just four blocks from the station and right across the street from the Leveridges. The Leveridges were good neighbors who soon became their best friends. They had two children: a daughter, Louise, whom Mrs. Hartley did not see much of, since she played with the girls from a different block; and a son, Rick, whom Mrs. Hartley saw almost as frequently as Glenn, for the two boys were constant companions. Mrs. Hartley and her husband had always approved of Rick as a playmate for Glenn: they seemed pretty evenly matched in strength, in intelligence, and in disposition, without either tending to overwhelm the other. After school and during their vacations, the boys would go off together, usually to the lots by the railroad, which had been unofficially designated as the neighbor-

hood playground. They were inseparable. Even after the Hartleys had moved from Newport News out to Warwick, the boys would commute by bus or bicycle to each other's home, and that soon became unnecessary when the Leveridges themselves moved out to Warwick. The boys attended grade school and high school together, took the same courses, double-dated with the same girls, and chose to attend the same college. They had chosen Dartmouth.

Each week Mr. and Mrs. Hartley would receive one of Glenn's good long newsy letters, which always contained much mention of Rick: how he and Rick enjoyed their double in Richardson Hall; how Rick had received a bid from Zeta Psi and Glenn had not, while Glenn had received a bid from SAE and Rick had not, and so they'd decided not to join any fraternity (that decision had bothered Mr. Hartley, a good SAE man), and how they were both developing ambitions for the legal life. The ambitions held, and after graduation from Dartmouth, the boys entered the Columbia school of Law where they studied for three years. It was after those three years that the boys started going in different directions, although they did remain in New York and share the same apartment on the East Side. Glenn became a junior partner for a new vigorous legal firm, while Rick became a salaried consultant for an insurance company. Mrs. Hartley had always wanted to go to New York to see them, but she had been tied down by one thing or another in Newport News: her husband's death, the time-consuming task of managing his estate, her presidency of the Women's League, and other matters. During those years Mrs. Hartley had seen Glenn only once—ages ago it seemed, and that was during the frantic ordeal of Mr. Hartley's funeral. Only recently had she found herself, for the first time in her adult life, without anything important to do. She had finally resolved to visit Glenn at the end of summer when, yesterday morning, she had received a long-distance phone call from her son. What he said had given her a great shock. He was coming home. He had given up his practice and was leaving New York for good. Why? He wouldn't say over the phone. "But what about Rick?" Mrs. Hartley had asked. It seemed that Rick was staying behind. Glenn's voice had had an unusual matter-of-factness about it, and Mrs. Hartley had listened for some clue, some indication...

"He' come de train," the negro girl announced. Mrs. Hartley looked down the tracks. Sure enough, the train was coming. A small crowd had gathered on the platform, and now they moved out from beneath its shade over to the place where the passengers would alight. Mrs. Hartley could feel her excitement mounting as she accompanied them.

As the train ground and clattered to a stop, Mrs. Hartley scanned the

windows for Glenn's face, but it was not to be found. Anxiously, she watched the passengers as they filed out, and was beginning to think that Glenn must have been delayed when she felt someone squeezing her arm. She turned around. It was Glenn.

"See how sneaky I've gotten?" he said, grinning.

"Why Glenn! You should be spanked, surprising me like that."

He dropped his suitcase and they embraced. When he picked up his suitcase again, she had her first good look at him in over two years. He was different—much more so than she had expected. His hair was thinner, he was wearing glasses, and the skin on his angular face had become dry and slack, as though he had just recovered from a serious illness.

"Your old room is all fixed up," Mrs. Hartley said, as they slowly made their way towards the station house. "Yesterday was Mildred's day off. I had to beg and bribe her to come over and help me get ready."

"Good old Mildred. I'll make it a point to be extra nice to her for the first few days."

"She'll be glad to see you," Mrs. Hartley said. She nodded at someone she knew, then continued, "Do you want to check at the baggage room to see if your trunk has arrived? I'm sure it hasn't, not if you sent it yesterday. You'd better be prepared to rough it for the rest of the week."

"I think I will check," Glenn said. He did, and Mrs. Hartley's prediction proved correct. "That just goes to show—Mon knows," he said. They went outside, climbed into a cab and gave the driver their address on James River Drive.

"Gosh sakes, what heat!" Glenn said. "I'm glad you had the common sense not to drive down yourself."

"I guess you New Yorkers are getting a fair share, too," said Mrs. Hartley.

"Yes. Yes indeed."

"Oh, by the way, did you know that Mahlon Phelps has become engaged to a girl from Petersburg? I mentioned it in my last letter, which I sent two days ago. It probably missed you."

"It did. So old Mahlon has finally taken the fatal step, huh? What date have they set for the marriage?"

"Sometime in October, and what a blessing. A wedding where everybody won't be boiled to death after the first ten minutes."

"Yes. Lord, I'd forgotten how grueling those summer weddings could be."

"And haven't there been a lot of them this summer!" said Mrs. Hartley, getting onto her favorite topic. "Bob Lambert and Beverly Ann Osbourne, Troy Gardner and Winnie Dirksen. The Gardners were so unhappy that

you couldn't show up and usher at that wedding. And then there was Herb Baird and Ellen Singleton, when the temperature rose to one hundred and how I survived I'll never know. And then Leona Price and her beau from Richmond, and George Minor and that girl he courted at Mary Washington. Oh, we've been keeping our preachers busy this summer." She hesitated.

"What are you thinking about?"

"Oh, just about Mahlon Phelps and Bob Lambert."

Mrs. Hartley nodded knowingly. "Yes, they've all gotten married, or soon will be. Your old gang."

"It makes me feel very... out of it."

"Speaking of your old friends, I saw Joe and Tessie Mallory the other day with their little boy, Frankie?"

"Freddie."

"Yes, Freddie. He's such a darling thing, and so bright. Tessie's expecting another in a few months, and they're both happier than a pair of clams. But here, I've been doing all the talking. You tell me some things. How is Rick? Is he staying in the old apartment, now that you've left, or what?"

"Rick is fine, said Glenn, looking out the window. "Apparently his new apartment has worked out very satisfactorily."

"Oh, he's moved already?" Mrs. Hartley asked, and when Glenn nodded, she continued: "I see. I had gotten the impression that you boys had left simultaneously."

"No. He left before I did. Several weeks ago."

"Well, I certainly hope he didn't just leave you in the lurch, without paying his share of the rent."

"Now, mother, you know Rick better than that. Would he pull such a..."

"No, no, Of course not. Where is he staying now?"

"He's got a nice four-roomer over on the East Side. Nicer than the one we had, although ours was a five-roomer."

"A four-roomer?" Her eyes narrowed. "Has he got another roommate?"

"What?" he said, turning away from the window and facing her. "I'm sorry. I was looking at the new Sears building."

They struggled to hold their balance while the cab swerved around the corner and onto Huntington Avenue. Then Mrs. Hartley repeated her question:

"Has Rick got another roommate?"

"Oh yes, he's got another roommate."

"I hope there hasn't been any trouble. You did part good friends, didn't you?"

"Yes, mother, yes. Rick and I are still... on the best of terms. Yes.

The best of terms."

With a shock, Mrs. Hartley noticed that her son was fighting back tears. Quickly, she changed the subject and told him about the new downtown Sears store, which they had just passed, and the new Hiddenwood shopping center, which was still under construction. She carried the bulk of the conversation until the cab brought them to their destination.

Glenn parked his suitcase next to the stairwell and walked side by side with her into the living room. Mrs. Hartley tried to visualize in what ways the room had changed since he had last seen it. The main difference, she decided, was in the greater number of framed photographs. Her favorite was hung on the wall over the sideboard—a color print of Glenn and Rick at age nineteen, standing before snow-covered Vermont hills, their arms on each other's shoulder, wearing knitted caps and blue ski-jackets with the round scarlet medallions earned at a recent ski-meet. Two smiling pictures of youthful health and foolishness.

"Why don't you fix us some drinks?" Mrs. Hartley said. "Gin and tonic for me. There's some bourbon too, if you'd prefer that."

"Gin's the thing for a day like this," Glenn said. They went out to the kitchen, and Mrs. Hartley watched him prepare the drinks. He brought the drinks over to the formica-topped kitchen table and sat down across from her.

"Well," said Mrs. Hartley, "this is just like old times, isn't it?" "I don't mean our sitting and drinking, but just... well, just you and me, sitting and talking over the same old table. I eat all my meals in here now. Only when I have guests do I eat in the diningroom, which isn't often."

"It's time to change that," Glenn said. "We'll have some meals out in the diningroom, and we'll have some people over for dinner, too. You shouldn't be alone so much, mother."

"Oh, it isn't so bad. There's Mildred, and there's Mrs. Mackey. She's pretty much alone too, she and her husband, ever since Anna Louise got married."

"Anna Louise is married? Oh yes, I'd forgotten."

Mrs. Hartley took several refreshing swallows from the metal cup, studying her son all the while.

"Glenn, now that you've left New York, what are your plans, or haven't you decided? Do you wish to remain in Newport News?"

He nodded. "Yes, mother. I'm through with all those... carpetbaggers." He uttered a little laugh. "I'm home to stay."

"Well then you might as well stay here. You'll have all the room in the world, it's economical, and it's a nice neighborhood. Unless, of course,

you'd *rather* live in an apartment?"

"I'd rather stay here, if you can stand having me around."

Mrs. Hartley smiled. Now that the most important thing had been settled, she went on to the next most important thing. "Have you thought yet about where you'd like to work? I hear that Mr. Hastings in the shipyard's legal office is retiring, so perhaps there'll be some room there."

"Perhaps. But I still don't want to work for a corporation. Have you seen Herb Hoyle lately?"

"As a matter of fact, I was just talking to him last night. I ran into him over at the Mackeys. Naturally, I told him you were coming back to town. And he was very enthusiastic. He said that if you were going to stay, he'd be more than happy to take you on as a junior partner, provided you could pass your Virginia bars. It sounds like a wonderful opportunity."

"It is a wonderful opportunity, Mother. Good old Herb. That's one firm I'd be proud to join anyway."

"Well, you just hop right over there, and you talk with him. Incidentally, Herb Junior has just graduated from U.Va., and he's going pretty steadily with Bitsy Sullivan. You remember Bitsy, don't you? No, I guess not, since her family's only been here less than two years. Anyway, she's a darling girl and just perfect for Herb Junior. And wait a minute. I'll bet the Hoyles invite you over for dinner. Oh, I hope they do, because then you can meet their youngest niece Beth, who's staying with them for the summer. I'll bet you'd like her. She's not very pretty, and she wears glasses, but she's very vivacious and lots of fun to talk to and... why, I'll bet you'd really have a good time with her. And then there's another girl I'd like you to meet—Linda Gresham. A friend of Daisey San-samino's. She's a widow and probably a few years older than you, but she's so sweet and a real beauty, and just dying to be taken places."

Mrs. Hartley was about to describe another eligible girl, when for the first time she noticed the necktie her son was wearing. She had been nagged by its familiarity, and now she remembered it. It was the striped red and black tie that Rick Leveridge had given to Glenn for Christmas—oh, nearly five years ago, yet it seemed almost brand-new. Mrs. Hartley gazed at it in silence.

Glenn wrinkled his brow, his bewilderment obvious. He started to say something, but then the bewilderment vanished and gave way to realization. He gave her a sheepish, painful smile.

"Yap, yap, yap," said Mrs. Hartley. "How I do babble on!" Slowly, almost hesitantly, she finished her drink, and then she smiled back at him, but said nothing.

BOOKS

OUR BISEXUAL HERO

ALWAYS LOVE A STRANGER, by Roger Davis. New York: Hillman Books (paperback original), 1961. 160 pp., 35¢. Reviewed by Noel I. Garde.

This is really another of those run-of-the-mill, undistinguished but quite readable and enjoyable homosexual novels appearing as paperback originals. The proper market for the book has been greatly jeopardized by the incredibly inept and supremely idiotic cover which shows a venomous girl alongside the caption, "An affair with a stranger is always dangerous—but hers was a passion that knew no fear." With equal ineptness, the inside blurb refers to the hero as "Johnny" instead of "Mark."

Actually, this is another one of those stories about the bisexual hero on the fence, most similar perhaps to Dean Douglas' *Man Divided* (Fawcett Gold Medal, 1954). Will his heterosexual success with the heroine suffice for a permanent break with his homosexual past and its continuing lures? The heroine, in no way resembling the female on the cover, is a very "nice" young married woman driven almost to a nervous breakdown by her unsatisfying sex life—put quite bluntly by the author, "her husband's premature ejaculations before she's come." As a result, she is led to do what she'd never have thought herself capable—i.e., meet an attractive young man in a bar and end up in bed with him.

The attractive young man being our bisexual hero, his problems, of course, turn out much greater than hers. He's had a passionate affair with a fellow-serviceman, and more recently has enjoyed a status as kept trade for a rich bitch of a queen. He'd be giving up nothing sexually, but—oh, that easy life! Well, the complications of the plot involve Janet's attempt to deceive her husband and persuade Mark to break with Paul, only after which will she get a divorce.

The unusual and imaginative twist in this book is an outgrowth of the odd love-hate relationship between Mark and his rich bitch lover, Paul. When Mark threatens a break, Paul first attempts to blackmail Mark by a threat to tell his parents their son's a kept homosexual. Then he offers a deal: If Paul will be permitted for once to be the one who does the breaking, and Mark will only wait a few months, then Paul will make a "generous settlement" when he finally throws Mark out. Mark can't re-

sist this temptation, and during the months and months of stalling off Janet about fulfilling his pledge to break and go to work, his relations with her get touchier. Finally, she accidentally learns the true story from an amiable ex-lover of Mark named Hal Gibbons and confronts Mark with the need for a fatal decision.

Meanwhile, Paul has reneged on his offer and instead made a new diabolic offer: \$5000 if just once instead of Mark playing trade, vice-versa. Mark's indignant exit from the house occurs just before his confrontation by Janet. Faced with her lack of sympathy for what seemed easy terms from Paul—terms now no longer available although Paul has attributed the \$5000 offer to those terms—and her unwillingness to wait patiently and meanwhile go on with furtive sex with Mark while waiting, Mark provides the novel with a surprise ending—quite the opposite from the usual routine in such a case. It's goodbye to the girl and further thoughts that \$5000 is "after all, a lot of money," and. . . .

READERS *write*

Letters from readers are solicited for publication in this regular monthly department. They should be short and all must be signed by the writer. Only initials of the writer and the state or country of residence will be published. Opinion expressed in published letters need not necessarily reflect that of the REVIEW or the Mattachine Society. No names of individuals will be exchanged for correspondence purposes.

REVIEW EDITOR: Tell Mr. W. M., (Aug. 1962 issue) for \$5.00 per year he is reading the best treatment available for psychiatric help. I hire only homosexuals in my business.—F.E.H., Michigan.

REVIEW EDITOR: I hope you will answer. I will be very glad if you will. I've been living for many years in U.S.A., but now I'm back here in Sweden, very homesick for U.S.A. Could you find one or two pen-friends for me in U.S.A.? Do you know any American living in Europe, any in military service who for example could be interested in visiting Sweden, or write to me, or I could visit? I made a trip in 1960 to the Soviet Union to see how "we" are there. Well I made some contacts in Leningrad and Moscow. They seemed to be "quite nice." One does not talk about it, but it is there.—N.S., Sweden.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We constantly receive such letters asking for pen-pals, etc. and constantly we must inform these persons that we cannot exchange names

and addresses with anyone for any purpose whatsoever.

REVIEW EDITOR: Inasmuch as this office has, for years, represented defendants arrested in this city and accused of various and sundry violations of the "disorderly conduct" statutes, we were interested in receiving a press clipping concerning the decision of the California in the *Bielicki* case. I am given to understand that the Court's opinion is printed *in toto* in your REVIEW of June 1962. I would appreciate being advised how I might obtain a copy of this opinion or of your REVIEW containing same.—Atty. A. J. G., New York

REVIEW EDITOR: Please send us your free publications catalog. We are few and far between up here in the barren wasteland of South Dakota and we want to keep in close contact with our brothers and sisters. We are quite positive that there are more members of the tribe around but they all want the game and not the name.—D. H. & J. A., So. Dakota

REVIEW EDITOR: I have come to understand that your group is concerned with the problems of a minority group of people in the United States. I am a high school student who, fortunately or unfortunately, has found himself among this vast group of people. Not only do I feel a concern for the other young people who are faced with this problem, but I would like to find out more about the studies of others in order to help myself as well as friends. As a student, I have consumed many books on the subject including psychological studies in book form. Furthermore, my ambitions are to become a psychologist in order that I may help those who have the same problem as mine.—S., California

REVIEW EDITOR: I recently read of the Mattachine Society in Stern's book, *The Sixth Man*, and thought it foolish because unnecessary; I am now prepared to make reappraisal and perhaps to join the organization. Yesterday I experienced to some degree the injustice a homosexual may meet in a court of law. My case was an assault and battery charge which was summarily dismissed when the defendant hinted I might be gay; while the court loss itself is unimportant, the manner in which the case was tried seems despicable. Last night, in impotent rage and despair, I contacted a friend I knew to be a member of Mattachine. He suggested that I consider a similar membership and its advantages. This last I am prepared to do. Please mail material which will explain the organization, its affiliations, and a member's obligations.—W. C., New Mexico.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter so aptly illustrates the typical feeling of thousands of persons about the need of an organization such as Mattachine. There is no concern about supporting the organization until the need is brought home by just such an incident as occurred here. If these same individuals would all come to the realization that their Supporting Membership dollars would hasten the day when such incidents cannot occur, we are sure they would lend their support.

REVIEW EDITOR: A friend has just loaned me his copy of the June 1962 issue containing the news of your present financial plight. I am very sorry you find yourselves in this condition. As an unemployed editor and writer, I know the terrible costs of publishing these days and wish to add my small

contribution to your good causes. I have wanted to subscribe for years but with the addition of the excellent fiction that I also found in your June issue, I will not now put it off any longer. So, out of my meager unemployment insurance enclosed is \$15.00 for 1 year's subscription and \$10.00 toward alleviating your financial distress. As soon as I can find employment again, I shall be glad to pledge a monthly amount.—R.P., California.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We wish to thank the few who did respond to our appeal in the June issue. However to date this appeal has brought in only \$197.53. A far cry from the \$7000.00 which is so badly needed. If it were not for the fact that we received an annual trust fund check for \$3000.00 you would not be reading this issue of the REVIEW now. We are still in very desperate need of the balance of about \$3500.00 if we are going to be able to continue. We know many have had good intentions about sending in a contribution but have put it off. May we urge all who read this to send in an amount that will help to offset this deficit, no amount is too great or too small.

REVIEW EDITOR: My subscription to the REVIEW has expired. Please drop my name. I am sorry. I have enjoyed your magazine but the time has come when I must drop many things. I am eighty years old and I know it.—J. M., New Mexico.

REVIEW EDITOR: I write to request information about your organization—its publications and services.

Twenty-seven years old and a high school teacher in an isolated city in central Canada, I have never met another homosexual in my life, and it was only two or three months ago when I first became aware that organizations such as Mattachine and One existed. At that time I was able to find the address of One in a Los Angeles telephone directory, and I've since begun a subscription. In its pages I've frequently come across the name of Mattachine, and I'm wondering how the two organizations differ in philosophy, if at all... I would like very much to meet fellows—and even women—who share my problem, but I don't know how to go about doing it discreetly. Being a teacher and finding my work my only satisfaction in life, I have to be careful.—Mr. N. M., Ont.

An important announcement



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