



IS THE CANDIDATE "TRULY" MASCULINE?

WILLIAM PARKER

WE SEEM TODAY OBSESSIVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH SEX, especially with the private sex life of the individual. For some years now the United States has been ruthlessly pursuing a campaign to ferret out homosexuals employed by the federal government on the dubious theory that their removal automatically adds to the security of the country while at the same time (as in Britain also) relaxing the standard of conduct expected of heterosexuals and ignoring any threat to the nation's security which the latter may pose. This severity toward homosexuals arises not only from ignorance, prejudice, and a greater awareness of the nature and extent of deviate sexual behavior but also, very likely, from a largely unconscious desire to compensate for the toleration of sexual peccadilloes in one area by condemnation of them in another. This shallowness of understanding in sexual matters is further illustrated in the ingenuous equation of homosexuality with femininity.

The message that homosexuals are per se undesirable has recently been confirmed by the good men of the cloth who call themselves Christians and educators. A disturbing example of this notion is to be found in the following question now being asked about applicants for admission to some theological schools: "Is the candidate truly masculine?" How should such a question be answered? Indeed, who knows what "true" masculinity is and whether or not any specific young man is "truly" masculine?

Superficially, an answer can readily be given. It is quite obvious when a specific young man has the external physical apparatus and characteristics associated with the male sex. It is easy to determine if he ordinarily walks, talks, or acts in an "effeminate" manner. It is also not too difficult to discover whether or not the candidate seems robust, participates in athletics, or is seen in the company of women. But do these things in themselves make a candidate "truly" masculine? (Continued on page 4)



Editor HAROLD L. CALL

Associate Editor

Business Manager DONALD S. LUCAS

O. CONRAD BOWMAN, JR.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 IS THE CANDIDATE "TRULY" MASCU-LINE?, Guest Editorial by William Parker
- 5 TENTH LIFE FOR THE BLACK CAT?
- 8 HOMOSEXUALITY LAWS BLASTED
- 10 PROGRESS REPORT FROM HOLLAND
- 14 THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, Fiction by James Ramp
- 24 LITERARY SCENE
- 29 ARTICLES ON HOMOSEXUALITY LISTED IN INDEX TO LEGAL PERIODICALS, 1952-1963

Cover by CHUCK ARNET

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GUEST EDITORIAL (Continued from page 2)

In the popular mind, nasculinity often connotes a high degree of physical strength, a well-built body, a lack of concern over clothing and personal appearance, frequent and sustained sexual activity with females, participation in sports and other outdoor activities, an interest in mechanical and manual things, ruthlessness in competition, aggressiveness and inconsideration in dealing with others, indifference or dislike of things intellectual and artistic, and an occasional desire to go out with the boys.

Now, when we examine individual men, we find they rarely measure up to the stereotype. Instead, we discover that some men are not physically well endowed or strong and are not much interested in sports and the outdoor life; that many men are kind, gentle, and considerate in their dealings with other people; that some men pay great attention to clothing and personal appearance; that the greatest artists, musicians, scholars, designers, and cooks are men not women; and that some men are not only not overly active sexually with females but that some even prefer sexual activity with other men. What is more, we are now sufficiently sophisticated to understand that psychologically the man who comes closest to the stereotype of masculinity may in fact be covering up an inner feeling of femininity. Where, then, do we draw the line between masculine and feminine? How can we determine who is or is not "truly" masculine?

That such great emphasis should be put on "masculinity" by Christian leaders is surprising and indefensible as well as shockingly naive. The message of Christ (though not necessarily of all of his followers) was one of kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, and understanding—a rather "feminine" message. It was also one of encouraging each person to seek to penetrate the superficial facade in order to discover the heart and soul of every other human being. Moreover, Christ himself, by his own life and actions, as well as by his teachings, would seem unable to measure up to the common view of masculinity.

Though its record has in many ways been good and constructive, ne Christian Church, unfortunately, has another record too—one of unconcern or intolerance for the non-conformist, of unwillingness to acquire or use the knowledge and information available to it, and a reluctance to part with stereotyped and black-and-white thinking.

The pertinent question to ask our decision-naking ministers is this: Could Christ pass today's "truly" masculine test for admission to a Christian seminary?

10th Life for Black Cat?

"BITCHES CHRISTMAS" IS THE NAME some of the honest but irreverent homosexuals of San Francisco apply to Halloween. And, as in many large cities, it is the one night of the year when the all-out stops are pulled for drag costume.

The Halloween just past was as glittering as any the city had ever seen —but through all the mascara, silks and sequins there pervaded a sadly sobering note at the center of the festivities: The Black Cat Cafe had lost the final round of a 15-year battle against California liquor authorities to preserve its beverage license.

With child-like militancy, the Alcoholic Beverage Control announced a week in advance that they would march in and take Stoumen's license at midnight on Halloween. It's just as well they changed their plans because it would have been difficult for them to get through the 5000 people gathered outside to watch the "drag queens" enter, and it is doubtful that Jose, as "Baby Jane" would have extended them a fond welcome, or that Norman, as some sort of a "bunny," would have beat the crowd aside with his/her tamborine so that they might gain access to the premises. Instead, they pulled it the night before, and the 200 persons who packed inside the Cat had to be content with drinks of coffee, cider, soft drinks and, as owner Sol Stoumen put it jokingly, "fruit punch."

More than a hundred young men and women paraded into the Cat, elbowing through the crowd jamming the street outside and guarded by 12 police officers under a district captain. Inside they climbed up steps made of bottle cases, onto the line of tables pushed together for a stage. A honky-tonk piano beat out rhythms in the background, costumes were described, and applause rang. One woman—an attorney who is a grandmother, and who had in the past handled cases which might have involved some of the Black Cat's friends, paraded in wearing another of her countless fabulous hats, and when recognized she beamed brightly at the reception given to her. But not so easy to tell and recognize were many of the youths in fabulous gowns and dress.

One morning paper called the transformed Black Cat a tamed place now, declaring it had resisted the Alcoholic Beverage Control Department but had to give up the ghost and die as a bar.

And die as a bar it did. October 31st, when the Black Cat's license was

taken (at 2 a.m.), the authorities who had for the moment at least won a 15-year battle to close the place also took some of the individual liberties of every Californian.

Through a court battle waged since 1948, battles were won, but the war, in a sense, was lost. In 1954 a State Supreme Court decision declared that homosexuals did have the right to congregate in a bar or cafe so long as they behaved themselves. In 1955 the old alcoholic beverage control law (then under the supervision of the state's Board of Equalization) was superceded by a new Alcoholic Beverage Control Department law, which at the same time set up a new and vast bureau to administer it. And the action against the Cat started all over again—with ABC agents and police planted on the premises for the purpose of enticing customers to make so-called "indecent" and therefore unlawful proposals to them. Enough such individual lewd conduct cases came out of the bar when agents used these tactics to get another proceedings under way to revoke the license in 1956.

ABC's hearing board, alleges Attorney Morris Lowenthal, is anything but a fair and impartial body sitting in judgment on a licensee hauled befor it. The hearing board officers, facts show, are actually on the payroll of the state ABC, and therefore held answerable to it. It was no surprise that the decision to revoke the license was a result. All in all, something like the chances an individual accused of a crime would have if the jurors were all deputies from the office of the District Attorney hearing a prosecution conducted by the D.A. himself.

Through seemingly interminable delays and petitions for hearing on the climb upward through the court system the case dragged. In June 1962 came the appeal to the District Court of Appeal, and in June 1963 came the closing brief in that appeal. Altogether a massive printed argument totaling some 676 pages was filed at this stage, but the lower judgments against the Cat were not reversed, and thus more of the Cat's lives were hacked away.

Through frantic preparation before he left on a European tour, the attorney wrote a petition to the State Supreme Court which comprised about 370 pages of legal argument. This was filed in September. A few days later came a postcard reply to Appellant Sol Stoumen with a rubber stamped message signed by a clerk: Petition denied. This was in October-time was indeed running out.

Next logical step was an appeal, aided by telegrams from interested citizens, to seek a review by the U.S. Supreme Court—the appeal was made directly to Justice Wm. O. Douglas. As October wore away, this also was denied.

Then in a final last-ditch appeal as a citizen and businessman who was unable to utilize the services of his attorney who was out of the country for a time, owner Stoumen sent copies of a personal short brief to each of the justices of the California Supreme Court, pointing out the extreme penalty to which he as a licensee was being subjected—citing some 38 thousand dollars spent for legal services and printing briefs in defending his premises against some six or less acts of customer misconduct, a penalty which to almost any fair minded person would add up to nothing less than "cruel and unusual." For a moment on October 30th, it appeared this last-gasp effort to save the Cat's life might succeed. But the license was taken and the decision stood.

ABC officials apparently knew that Halloween night itself—the evening October 31—would be an inappropriate time to take the license. To have waited until then would have exposed the officials to a segment of public support for the Black Cat which might have resulted in more than a routine demonstration. So they did the thing that was easier for them—they came in at 2 a.m. on the 31st (actually the end of the October 30 business day) and took the license 22 hours before they had announced they would.

Cider, coffee, soft drinks and fruit juice made up the beverage list for the Halloween celebration. But in spite of the gayety of the occasion, hundreds of people present, and thousands who read about it in the newspapers, realized the grim fact that here once again the inexorably mounting bureaucracy and authority of the state had triumphed over the businessman and citizen. At the hands of what many define as tyranny, another big bite had neen taken out of what is left of our diminishing individual liberties.

Most certainly it impressed the fans of "Bitches Christmas" that there is no Santa Claus, and one nationally famous Black Cat certainly had something less than nine lives.

For the non-homosexual person to comprehend fully the tactics employed by the California Alcoholic Beverage Control Department in this expensive and ridiculous vendetta against homosexuals in general, and against Stoumen in particular (who had on one occasion exposed one of their bribetaking agents, Cardellini, who was since convicted), let him imagine what would happen if this same department were to hire attractive young women, give them a special course in how to move and talk seductively, outfit them in Capri pants, and send them into all the bars—unaccompanied—but with a burly escort waiting just around the corner with instructions to haul somebody in out of that place for soliciting for "indecent acts."

However, so far as we know, the A.B.C. only employs male floozies.

Homosexuality Laws Blasted

THE LAWS RELATING TO HOMOSEXUALITY in the United States are both unenforceable and harmful to our society according to sociologist Edwin M. Schur who stated that an estimated six million homosexual acts take place each year for every conviction.

Speaking on legal aspects of both homosexuality and drug addiction on October 22 at the University of California Extension on the Berkeley campus, Schur, a research associate at the University's Center for the Study of Law and Society, said that the disparity between acts and convictions creates a situation that is "both difficult and deplorable" for police faced with law enforcement. "Torn between the supposed public demand for punitive action, and a realization of the futility of enforcement in this area, they fall back on a mixture of questionable vice squad techniques and looking the other way."

The harsh penalties imposed by most states for homosexual acts, combined with the enforcement problem makes it very easy for corrupt policemen to blackmail known homosexuals, he said.

In fact, Schur said, the vagueness of the laws—some of which are so poorly worded that they apply to heterosexual acts between married couples—has led some people into seducing others into homosexual acts for the purpose of blackmail. The result is the development of a set of delin-

quents "devoted to queer baiting and the rolling of queer adults."

In addition, he said the homosexual may have served as a particularly convenient scapegoat. "For this to be possible, though, it has been necessary to ignore, or to fail to comprehend the nature of their conditions."

Schur argued for the legalization of private homosexual acts among consenting adults. While opinions about the causes of homosexuality vary widely, there is general agreement that homosexuality "is not a path chosen through a simple free-willed act. It is a condition that is not amenable to simple voluntary change."

Like the Negro, the homosexual is subject to economic exploitation and tolerated in certain jobs only. He further pointed out that homosexuals participate in a homosexual community or subculture—a specialized and partly defensive pattern of association and way of life—primarily a social and not necessarily a residential "segregation."

"Since society has cast them out, they come to think and behave as out-

Schur was erroneously reported as having stated that the self-hatred and guilt which the homosexual feels because of his minority status is the cause of many of the crimes uhich homosexuals commit; but in a letter to The Daily Californian, Schur corrected that misunderstanding: "Most of the homosexual's 'criminality' consists of the homosexual acts themselves; my point was merely under our laws self-hatred and guilt do develop-distorting the homosexual's general outlook, creating much misery, and contributing to exploitation (by blackmail and otherwise)."

If the recommendations of the Wolfenden Committee in Great Britain are adopted in this country, he said, no serious problems would result.

Concern over the "recruitment of minors" is probably exaggerated, he said, and arguments that homosexual practices are "unnatural" are refuted by the fact that many societies have permitted homosexuality to exist freely without apparent detriment.

Bible-based arguments that laws against homosexuality should be enforced because homosexuality is "immoral" miss the point, he said, pointing out that the concept of "inversion" was unrecognized in antiquity and that homosexual practices "were, and only could be, regarded as willful evil-doing," and that the "moralist had no alternative explanation of which to take account."

Even assuming that homosexuality is immoral, there is still nothing that the law can do about it. Vice squad techniques are completely ineffective, he added.

Across the Atlantic

PROGRESS REPORT FROM HOLLAND:

The "Cultuur en Ontspannings Centrum" Homophile Organization of Amsterdam

Reprinted from I.C.S.E. NEWSLETTER, published by the International
Committee for Sexual Equality

For the Dutch C.O.C. 1962 was an important year, which saw the foundations laid for a new phase of development.

Every movement knows its periods of childhood, of maturity and crystallization, and possibly too of fossilization. The C.O.C.'s childhood is over, and it is now entering upon its maturity. It must be hoped that the organization's social aims will have been achieved sufficiently fully to render it superfluous before the declining vigour of old age sets in.

The events of 1962 will be discussed nore fully in the next issue of the Newsletter. They are briefly summarized here, and follows a short historical survey of the C.O.C.'s first 17 years of existence.

NEW PRESIDENT

At the Annual Convention last April, it was decided by democratic decision that the movement's founder and president since its inception, Bob Angelo should relinquish the presidency and take up the new full-time post of director of information and public relations—an appointment symbolizing the importance which the C.C.C. attaches to presenting an adequate picture of itself to the outside world.

Mr. Angelo was succeeded as president by Fm. Benno Premsela, who is a well-known figure in the world of industrial design and who was for years the chairman of a small C.Q. national committee responsible for project-planning and innovations.

Because of Mr. Angelo's new appointment, a reorganization of the C.O.C. Central Office in Amsterdam has been undertaken, and an office director has been appointed to act as co-ordinator between the National Board, the secretariat and the public relations office. A full-time lady bookkeeper has been engaged to look after day-to-day financial administration.

A CLUB BUILDING

On 13th January, 1963, purchase was completed of the entire building which houses the C.O.C. Amsterdam club. This acquisition of premises will permit a consolidation of the C.O.C.'s activities, and besides the Club, it is eventually planned to have at this address the C.O.C. Central Office, a small restaurant, rooms for lectures, discussions and working parties, and editorial facilities.

This rehousing will make possible the closest bonds between the National Board, the Central Office and the editorial staff of *Vriendschap* under Bob Angelo. It is hoped to raise membership to 4000, and to create a number of working parties so as to encourage the personal participation of more members in C.O.C. activities and studies. A full-time manager has been appointed for the newly-acquired building, and the election of a young and progressive board for the Amsterdam chapter will result in a reorganization and expansion of elub activities.

Thus the foundations laid during 1962 should enable great progress to be made in 1963. One of the most significant pointers to the extent of social achievement so far is the fact that the new C.O.C. president, secretary-general and leading members of the Amsterdam Board dropped, or did not adopt pseudonyms.

THE BACKGROUND

How has this hopeful stage been reached? Certainly not without a great deal of effort and careful management on the part of Mr. Angelo and his National Board colleagues, but equally as a result of some lucky circumstances as well. No one could foresee, when Bob Angelo and two others founded the C.O.C. in 1946, which way the course of events for it would go. Social and official attitudes in the Netherlands are in principle no more favorable to homosexuality than they are elsewhere, and it was by no means

a foregone conclusion, even in the first days of national liberation, that a homophile movement would be permitted.

At the beginning there was a high proportion of elderly members, and very few women. Now, the average age of the membership is younger, and there are many more women members. In the early years, it was common for members to be lacking in self-confidence, and effeminate in mannerisms, compared with those of today. It was only gradually that the stabilizing effect of an uncensorious social atmosphere encouraged relaxation and self-acceptance, with a resulting normalization in the behavior of those who had formerly tended to take refuge from their insecurity in exhibitionism.

RELAXING ATMOSPHERE

The importance of a wholesome and friendly club atmosphere in enabling the homosexual to come to terms with himself and to accept his nature in such a way that he can integrate this aspect of his life with all the rest cannot be overstressed. Perhaps such an atmosphere is nowadays taken for granted in Amsterdam. But at first it was far from being so, and even today it is still a very significant stabilizing factor in the smaller provincial towns, such as Utrecht, Groningen, Eindhoven and Arnheim, where branches of the C.O.C. have been established in recent years following upon branches in Rotterdam and The Hague.

Such establishment was by no means easy; local police attitudes have not always been so permissive as those of Amsterdam, and in the Catholic south it is only very recently that the Church has begun to take a serious and sympathetic interest in the problems of sexual deviation. But as the result of a favorable report on the movement written by Amsterdam's Chief of Police and circulated throughout the country, official acceptance of the C.O.C. as a socially useful body whose aim is the readjustment and constructive education of its members has slowly begun to permeate throughout the country.

OFFICIAL INTEREST

From 1954 onwards, a series of private and public discussions has been held with probation officers, psychiatrists, social workers and other influential folk in various towns concerned with case-work problems involving homosexuality. A progressive lady lawyer, a leading probation official and a famous criminologist (Prof. Dr. G. Kempe) showed great interest from the time that these discussions first began. And so, gradually, the C.O.C. has developed contacts and cooperation in the official world with a growing number of people who now seek advice and help in the course of

their work among delinquents. Nowadays, C.O.C. advisers are sometimes invited to assist the probation service in dealing with difficult cases involving homosexual behavior with minors aged under 21.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Recent activities of the C.O.C. have included weekend seminars, held three or four times a year at a country conference center; scientific lectures and meetings; and the establishment of sociological, psychological and administrative working groups. A more or less independent women's group functions, and this now comprises about 13 per cent of the total membership.

Today, fewer homosexuals than in the past adopt pseudonyms for their club activities, and it is not so generally felt necessary to wear a 'mask' in the family circle or working environment. Self-acceptance is often followed by the discovery that others in the outside world also know and accept more about him than the homosexual person aould have believed possible.

STABILIZING EFFECT

Undoubtedly, the movement has had a stabilizing effect upon many homosexuals who, without its influence, would never have dared to live permanently with a friend but who now feel able to do so. It has contributed to public mental health by preventing tragedies, frustrated lives, loneliness and ignorance not amongst the members themselves but also their families. And in the outside world, a body of enlightened opinion has been created—homosexuality is no longer a taboo subject in the press or public discussion in the way that it used to be.

Cases of blackmail, suicide and personal tragedy do of course still happen. Family life is the cornerstone of Dutch society, and the problem of the married homosexual whose spouse is ignorant of the true situation remains a difficult and delicate one. But through the existence of the C.O.C., more people are learning the basic facts about homosexuality throughout society at large, yet the problem of individuals cannot be happily solved.

It is not the aim of the C.O.C. to be a fortress—an 'Israel for the Jews'; on the contrary, it stands for the eradication of the 'homosexual problem' through a proper understanding both by homosexuals of themselves and by society of them, which will lead to their complete integration and assimilation with the world around them.

14

The

of the Beholder

JAMES RAMP

SOMEONE SAID: "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." There is an old saw: "Beauty is only skin deep." A poet wrote: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty." Christ said: "As a man thinketh, so is he."

To most people beauty is a matter of comparison. A woman is beautiful because she outshines other women less fortunate in face and figure. A landscape, a tree, a rose, a symphony, a sunset, a man dying for a causethese and a thousand other things are beautiful when compared to the commonplace. There is one sure test of beauty: it must touch the heart. And to my mind the greatest beauty is the integrity of the human spirit. You'll have to forgive me if I seem to ramble. It is a weakness common to most men in their seventies.

I am a GP in a small southern town, and not a highly educated man. I hung up my shingle years ago, and haven't had time to read or study much since-except medical journals. I have saved my share of lives, and sometimes, it seems, brought more than my share into the world, since I am the only doctor in town-or in this part of the county.

As a pill roller I have treated most of the ills man is heir to. I have performed minor surgery. In my doctor-patient relationships I have shared the aches and ecstasies of mankind. This has been a privilege as well as a source of grief to me when the greed, stupidity and intolerance of men have brought suffering to others. I am not a crusader-only a tired old man with pain in his heart for the cussedness of some people and the victims thereof. My wife tells me I shouldn't get so involved or I am apt to have a stroke. She knows I get so damned mad sometimes I could blow a gasket-especially if a child is being needlessly crucified. We have no children of our own. and I suppose my concern is compensation for the fatherhood denied me.

Lonnie Hollister is a prime example of such cruelty-the victim of the savage intolerance of his father, who was a member of a small (God be thanked!) narrow minded sect which insisted no one should appear naked before another, and no woman should ever expose her body even to her husband. It was also a part of their creed that any deformity of a child at birth was a sign of God's wrath and must not be corrected.

A septic midwife delivered Lola, Lonnie's sister, and by some miracle both mother and child lived, though gossips said the mother was 'puny' afterward. When Lonnie was born his mother died of puerperal fever, infected no doubt by the dirty claws of the midwife. Do not misunderstand me. Most folks of my age in this part of the country were delivered by midwives, and none the worse for it, but the old crone who delivered the Hollister babies was noted for her dirty habits. However, she was a member of the sect. Little was known of Lonnie Hollister for some years-except that he survived. He was kept strictly at home, and if there were visitors he ran and hid, so no one was prepared for his first day in school. Even now it makes my blood boil to think what that child endured. I did not see him the first day, but one of the town's quarter wits went around sniggering that his face would stop a clock. Furthermore, he declared that his Sister Lola was getting prettier every day and "would be a nice piece uh goods in a few years." At the end of that first day Lonnie's teacher came to my office. Maggie Tate was a kind-and for her day-a very capable, intelligent teacher, and Maggie was so riled up and hurt she was almost speechless. She cried in fury and pity as she told me of the Hollister children.

(Continued on page 19)

"A work of genius"

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Lola had been kept from school until she was ten, so that she might look after six-year-old Lonnie. When they entered the school room Lola was preening her picture-book prettiness and tossing her golden curls. Her clothes were new, and she wore a big bow of yellow satin ribbon in her hair. Lonnie was a bombshell and the children tittered and guffawed in derision. His eyes were crossed, his teeth crooked, his left arm jerked and he limped on the left leg. His clothes, though clean, were patched and ill fitting. (Lola took pains to explain after class that Lonnie's clothes had been her play clothes when she was younger.) Lonnie was barefoot. Only Negroes went to school barefooted in our town. Lola also explained that Lonnie's ugliness was God's will. Lonnie was being punished for his sins—although she didn't know what Lonnie's sins were except that he had killed his mother by being born.

When Maggie ran down at last and was mopping her tears, I said: "Well, Maggie, why are you telling me all this? Haven't you heard of Hollister's religious beliefs? He would never consent to an examination of the boy, and most certainly not to the correction of his "curse." This is God's Will, you know!"

"God's Will, my foot!" snapped Maggie. "This is 1920. We're not living in the dark ages. Surely there are laws..."

"Fraid not, Maggie. Lonnie cannot be examined or treated without his father's consent."

"Couldn't Lonnie be made a ward of the Court' Surely Judge Botts..."

"Nope. There would have to be complaining witnesses that the child is abused, starved or violated."

"Well, I certainly am a complaining witness that Lonnie is abused! Those fantastic clothed and bare feet."

"You can't prove he is abused. No one goes to the Hollister home except his "brethren" and "sistern" in the Faith. Certainly, from what you tell me, I ola is the queen bee. I doubt if Lonnie could be persuaded to

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

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Arcadie

Monthly literary and scientific review in French. A. Baudry, editor. Subscriptions \$9 per year. Address 74 Blvd. de Reuilly, Paris XII, France. confess that he is unhappy."

"Doctor, I can't stand it! One child caught in such a devilish situation is enough, but two is more than I can take!"

"Two?"

"Yes. Toby Brown enrolled today."

Toby Brown! That name really upset me. I hadn't known about Lonnie Hollister's disfigurement before, but Toby Brown!

"I delivered that boy and he was a healthy baby, except that he had a hare lip, a cleft palate, and was tongue-tied. Brown wouldn't let anyone touch him. 'I don't want no pretty boys in my family,' he snarled. 'Operations cost money and I ain't got none. All I want is a plow hand when he grows big enough to reach the handles. If he's ugly, so much the better. He won't run away and git married and leave his pore old daddy without help on the farm.'

"Maggie, I could have killed that sot! So I got mad and instead of buttering him up I told him that the money he spent on moonshine in a year would pay for his son's operation. 'Pay fer butcherin' him, you mean. No, Doc, NO! And jest fer stickin' yer nose in where is don't belong, I hain't goin' to pay you fer birthin' him. Git outs my house!'

"Toby's mother died soon after that, and I made out the death certificate. If I had put down my honest opinion as to the cause of death, it would have been malnutrition, contusions from severe beatings, and a broken heart, compounded by pneumonia. As in the case of Lonnie, there were no complaining witnesses except an emaciated, bruised corpse which had neither the energy nor the will to live. So I put down 'pneumonia' and got out of there to keep from taking an axe to that dirty bum, Brown. Tell me, how does Toby seem to have weathered his father's loving kindness?"

"He is thin, of course, and ragged but clean. He has the nicest eyes of any youngster I have ever seen. He seems very intelligect but hard to understand as he expresses hims elf in hisses, clicks and grunts. We had a talk after class when I suggested that something could be done to correct his speech and he was terrified. His father has convinced him that an operation would kill him. He is eight years old and wouldn't be in school if the truant officer hadn't forced Brown to send him. God knows what price he will pay at home since he is now big enough to reach the plow handles. Perhaps we are still in the dark ages after all. Well, one thing I know! I am going to persuade the other teachers to give Lonnie and Toby all the attention they can."

"Maggie, is that wise?"

"Wise? Perhaps not, but those children have never known kindness. They are already drawn together by their misfortunes. After the first class Lon-

nie came to me and asked if they could share a desk."

"Tell you what, Maggie. As a member of the school board I will drop in tomorrow to see how things are going. I'll take a look at Lonnie and get an idea of what could be done for him if a miracle should come to pass."

I dropped in the next day. Maggie introduced me to the class and gave me a chair at the front of the room. I was shocked by Lonnie's grotesque appearance but he looked at me with a kind of grotesque dignity and defiance that wrung my heart. Toby, even with his disfigured lip, was a nice looking lad. After class, I spent a few moments with Maggie and told her it would be a simple matter to correct Lonnie's eyes, put braces on his teeth, and therapy should cure his spasticity. Nor was it too late to operate on Toby's hare lip. Maggie sniffed angrily. "Perhaps we could kidnap them and send them to the children's hospital!"

Late that afternoon Maggie came to my office bristling with frustration. I grinned at her. "Tut! Tut! Don't bust an intestine! Cool down."

"If you ask me, Dear little Lola is Lonnie's chief curse. An incubus, if I ever saw one! She is positively gorged with glee that she is so pretty and Lonnie so ugly. I heard her calling Toby a toad, and that you had come there to see if there was anything that could be done for Lonnie because you were a doctor, but her daddy would never allow it because Lonnie had a curse on him. Can't we do anything for the child?"

"I don't know yet. I haven't seen Hollister."

"Well, if I know Lola, Hollister will be in to see you tomorrow, stomping and frothing at the mouth."

He came bursting into my office the following morning bellowing like a Bull of Bashan, threatening me with everything from Hell to breakfast. I expected he would threaten to remove Lonnie from school. He didn't, and at last, when he had had his windy say, I looked him over for a moment.

"I have no intention of interfering in your family affairs, though God knows someone should. Nor in your pleasure in your afflicted child's condition. His sister is boasting about God's curse on him. She is an ugly, spoiled child!"

"Lola?"

"Yes, Lola! Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Lonnie has more beauty than Lola will ever have, even if he is being tortured by your fanaticism." He peered at me suspiciously, and I continued while he was off-balance. "You are known in this town as a well-to-do farmer. Surely it is not necessary to send Lonnie to school barefooted and dressed in fantastic rags! It will damage your standing in the community."

I had touched his pride. He blinked and swallowed some of his spleen.

"I didn't know," he admitted at last. "I go to the fields early in the morning, so I left everything to Lola. I bought good school clothes and shoes for both of them."

"Well you'd better look into the matter. Surely it isn't part of God's curse that Lonnie look like a ragamuffin." He scowled at me, swung around and left the office.

Maggie came in the following evening, beaming. "Doctor, what did you do? Was Hollister in to see you?"

"He was, indeed! And I put a bug in his ear. How did you know?"

"Lonnie wore a new outfit to school today, and he was so pleased and proud. At recess he and Toby remained in their seat and Lonnie was chattering away a mile a minute!"

"And our dear little Lola?"

"Why that dear little beauty was mighty subdued. I think someone smacked her. She sat down very gingerly. If looks could kill I would be a dead school-marm."

After being a doctor for over forty years I have come to believe in miracles. I could not practice otherwise. I guess the Lord has forgiven me most of my irreverence—and Maggie kept nagging Him about Lonnie. It took several years, but she never wavered. She had to clear away the underbrush of my doubts so that I could see the trees of faith.

Time rocked along. Toby and Lonnie were graduated from grade school and entered high school together. They were inseparable, and Maggie—who was then the high school principal—told me that they loved each other like brothers. At every opportunity Toby worked in the gym and swimming pool with Lonnie whose spasticity was almost gone. Toby confided that he had promised his father he would take courses in agriculture and increase the products of the farm. He worked like a Trojan running the farm and keeping at the head of his class in school. Lonnie was also an A student.

Lola Hollister at seventeen was a full blown woman—a teaser, to put it mildly. Her face was vapid but pretty—and her figure...! Most male eyes followed her down the street, and some comments were salty—to say the least. Although she pretended disdain, her swinging hips and bouncing breasts gave lie to the pretense. Then she ran away with a traveling salesman. Where and how she met him no one knew—nor where they went. Polly Scrimshaw, the post-mistress, said she never wrote to the family, and she never returned. Her father was always a choleric man, and when Lola flaunted his religious training he had a stroke. I had a hard time pulling him

through and whenhe heard that Lonnie had called me to treat him he glared at me speechlessly. Although he was confined to a wheel chair he had enough gumption to hire a man and wife to take care of him and the crops.

Taking advantage of the situation Maggie brought Lonnie to me, saying that she had persuaded him to have his teeth and eyes straightened. A fine orthodontist fixed his teeth and an ophthalmologist at Children's flospital straightened his eyes. It was so happy when he tried to thank me he cried. "I only wish you would do something for Toby! I love him so much!"

Well, the Good Lord took care of that in short order. Brown died soon afterward with cirrhosis of the liver. Under Toby's management the farm was prosperous and clear. As soon as his father was under ground Toby came to see me. "Lonnie wants me to have this fixed." He touched his hare lip. "Can it be done without... without...?"

"Without endangering your life?"

He nodded. "I couldn't bear to be parted from Lonnie," he said frankly. his eyes shone with such loving tendemess that I felt ashamed of the thought that almost entered my mind. I arranged for the surgery to be performed during Christmas vacation so that Lonnie could do Toby's chores on the farm. When Toby came back from the city hospital Maggie and Lonnie met him at the depot. Maggie told me about it afterward. "They had eyes only for each other, and rushed into each others arms before God and all the loafers, kissing with such passion I had to cry. It was so beautiful!"

"Maggie, don't you think this is... well, a little unhealthy?"

"Queer, you mean? Don't be mealy mouthed! Doctor, their love is one of the healthiest, manliest things I have ever seen! After all, I mothered those two angels for years, you dirty minded old coot!"

"Maggie, please don't hit me! After all, I'm only saying what the most of the town will think."

"If they do I'll spit in their eyes!"

Maggie didn't have to spit. The townfolk had watched the agonized growing of the boys and their pity turned to warmth and respect. Lonnie and Toby went through the war together. Lonnie's father died and he rented the farm to the couple his father had employed, and went to live with Toby. Now when they come to town together, handsome, bronzed young farmers, there are no raised eyebrows, no snide remarks. They always call on Maggie and me, and when I see them touching hands, looking at each other with such unashaned love, I, a tired old doctor, wish I might have known such a love.

LITERARY scene

An informal column of reviews of fiction and non-fiction books on themes of sex variation

GENE DAMON

AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF WASTED LABOR went into Paul Mandel's Mainside (Random, 1962, Avon, 1963). This lengthy novel is based on an untenable principle: at all costs a man's reputation and his family's must be made to suffer on the grounds that the man was a homosexual and that this justifies the suffering caused.

Navy Lieutenant Fletcher (Fish) Howland commits suicide and Lieutenant Sam Marks is the investigating officer for the Navy. Three fourths of the book is taken up with a kind of daily detail, boring and quite pointless. Unlike many or very nearly most military novels, this one lacks any sense of excitement. The only interesting section of the book is the last fourth which takes up a detailed history of the sad life of "Fish" Howland. After the details are learned, the board of inquiry decides simply to designate it as a "suicide-cause unknown." "Pure" Sam decides that it is his DUTY to destroy the dead man's reputation and the novel ends as he sets out to do just that.

To further confuse and obscure the basic issue-which is unreasonable hatred on the part of Sam Marks-the author introduces an older Negro enlisted man who has "been sadly mistreated" by Fish. Actually Fish has befriended him (not seduced him) and the colored man has repaid this friendship by blackmailing Fish. (Admittedly he later is paying back this amount in tiny increments from his pay.) Some of the men involved in the investigation do threaten the Negro to keep quiet about his knowledge of Fish's homosexuality. The author uses this threat attempt as "reverse English" on his ball of a plot to win reader sympathy to the prig, Lieutenant Sam Marks. This is Mandel's first novel and this reviewer fervently hopes it is his last. Similar in slanting to the infamous Bart Spicer novel, Act of Anger.

Good comic novels dealing with homosexuality are very rare. Compton Mackenzie and Ronald Firbank are the most well-known writers who have written comical treatments of the subject. Wyndham Lewis' Apes of God is so vicious it lacks humor and this is usually true in the so-called funny homosexual books.

24

It is delightful, therefore, to be able to urge you all to buy quickly The No-Road by Jessamy Morrison (London, W. H. Allen, 1963). Ignore the jacket and blurb altogether since it compares the book (inevitable sort of thing) to The Well of Loneliness and nothing could be further from the truth. It is the hilarious tale of a cuckolded male. Gerald's wife is seduced, under his uncomprehending nose, on a holiday in Majorca by Diana (a "Female Rake"). Gerald musters nerve and in a scene out of the Keystone Cops era he breaks up this flourishing romance. Clarissa (the wife) decides to go to work to alleviate boredom caused by all this sudden extra time (no romance). Gerald thwarts this heroically by removing their housekeeper from the scene at the last moment. Later he weakens and introduces a replacement for the housekeeper named Jill. You guessed it! It is a fatal error, for Jill seduces Clarissa and they run away together. Adding insult to injury (traditional, of course), Miss Morrison has poor Gerald end up on the skids, out of a job and quite seedy. He clings to his lofty sentiments about "those perverts." Wonderful fun.

Perversion sells books! I can see the headlines now. A recent Midwood Tower paperback, Lesbianism Around the World, by R. Leighton Hasselrodt (1963) is the nearest yet to pure pornography disguised as serious scientific study that I have seen. Mentioned only as a "do not buy"; in fact, don't even look at it; hate to encourage more of the same.

Robert Gover's delightful novel, One Hundred Dollar Misunderstanding (Grove Press, 1961, 1962) is a good example of the comic possibilities of comparison between the "Babbit" world and the world of the Negro prostitute. The boy is a terrible stuffed shirt, but the girl, Kitten, is a refreshing character in many ways. Incidental to the main theme is the story of Francine, Kitten's co-worker, who has a white girlfriend and also harbors a yen for Kitten. There is one scene where Francine tries to put this yen into action, told by both the boy and by Kitten.

On the much more serious side, there is a new biography of Genet, called Saint Genet, by Jean Paul Sartre (Braziller, 1963). This covers Genet's personal and literary life in great detail and analyzes both of these areas completely. (Book appeared in France at least ten years ago.) Your local library should get this one.

There is also a new biography of Andre Gide, entitled simply Gide, by Germaine Bree (Rutgers University Press, 1963). This is well done, but seems pretty tame after the study of Genet. (Also likely to be in your library.)

An important title, wholly overlooked by reviewers of homosexual titles. is The Killing Frost, by Max Catto (London, Heinemann, 1950, also as Trapeze, London, Four Square Books, 1959, paperback). This was made into the movie, Trapeze, and concerns an explosive two-male, one-girl trio. Catto pulls no punches here; the girl is clearly the destructive influence, interfering in and destroying a nearly perfect masculine liaison, The movie, surprisingly, managed to convey all this without insult to the original novel and yet subtly enough to pass censure.

"How to Succeed as a Gay Male," or, "My Glorious Past as Told to My Mirror," could easily be the subtitles of the light self-satiric, but very lovely novel, Latitudes of Love, by Thomas Doremus (London, Andre Deutsch, 1961; and New York, Clarkson Potter, 1961). The narrator, Hector, is a beautiful boy, or rather was, for he is now a man, talking of the boys gone by. There was Pappas, a workmen, very soft rough trade; and a criminal who falls in love with Hector at sight; and a ship's steward, etc. Hector is adopted (due to family tragedy) by a wealthy couple and he teases the man of the house into becoming his lover. His game backfires when he (Hector) falls in love with Bill and suddenly has to "face up" to life. Another of the few "not to be missed" books.

Edmund Schiddelis an author to watch. His novels show a decided, though underplayed preoccupation with homosexuality. In an earlier column I discussed his novel, Scandal's Child (Simon and Schuster, 1962, 1963) which dealt with homosexual delinquents. Previous to that book he wrote the well known novel, The Devil in Rucks County (Simon and Schuster, 1959; Pocket Books, 1960), which is only very incidentally homosexual. However, two of his earlier books, both paperback originals, deserve the collector's item status of titles like Mel Heimer's Girl in Murder Flot and other rare paperbacks.

The very early novel, The Other Side of the Night (Avon, 1954; Berkley, 1959) is far better written than many hardbacks of today. It is simply a series of inter-related sketches of the odd balls of good old New York. Uptown, downtown and Gay Street (literally) where one Adrian Murray lives. Adrian's adventures with the hapless Baron Hansi d'Alpenbourg are truly hilarious. These two and the other dramatis personae end up at a wild New Year's Eve party. All of the chapters between Adrian and the Baron feature Adrian talking in "camp" asides which the Baron completely misunderstands. The poor impoverished fellow revolts finally at his role of dressing as a baby and being wheeled to the party in a baby carriage. He slips away into the night after robbing some of the guests. Despite his cynicism, Schiddel adds compassion to his portraits and his novels are better for this touch of humanity.

His most interesting homosexual novel, however, is The Cirl With the

Golden YC-YO (Berkley, 1955; Hillman Books, 1961). It contains (well within the framework of the plot) a detailed history of the semi-pornographic and very homosexually oriented music of Berlin after the first World War. This includes references to the famous (now priceless) Margo Lion-Marlene Dietrich records of outright Lesbain songs and also refers to many other, less well-known singers who recorded either "daring" heterosexual or homosexual songs along with the then popular perversions of American jazz. He mentions the "husky, transvestic moans of the diseuses of the period."

A major character in the novel is Dr. J. N. L. Bates, an associate professor of English at a small college. "Norrie" Bates visits New York to keep a half promised date with a dancer, Mikhail Taracz, who has danced the role of Tybalt in a college production of the ballet "Romeo and Juliet." At best, or perhaps at worst, Norrie is a disillusioned man—tired and quiet—a little self-defeated. His saddening adventures over a long weekend with Mikhail are among the most moving examples of the major homosexual dilemma: the man who sincerely yearns for love—for a "Corydon, high spirited, gentle, romantically rustic, whose presense would supply him with an expression of those contradictory roles of father, mother, brother, son and heaven knew what others."

In actual phrase, Schiddel makes no overt pleas for this man, Norrie Bates, but it is all there and beautifully done. A remarkable paperback; one that can be read and enjoyed many times.

In 1960, a collection of short stories and novelettes by Edward Loomis entitled *Heroic Love* (Knopf, 1960) appeared. While this is *not* a homosexual collection, it does contain several examples of very strong emotional reactions between men. One story in particular, "Friendship," is so borderline that its inclusion in a bibliography of homosexual literature would be a matter of personal interpretation.

Now Mr. Loomis has written a quite important contribution to homosexual literature, men of trinciple (Viking, 1963). Two brothers, Sam and George Jackson, are the heroes and presumably the "men of principle"—but in what way they are heroic is never revealed. They are, however, most interesting as protagonists; George, particularly so. He deserts the army as a pacifist, or rather as a gesture of pacifism, although he actually likes the army. While hiding from the authorities, his best friend, Bud Ekins, reveals his homosexuality to him. George resists Bud's pass, but remains friendly with him. Later George discovers Ekins in an unusually well-described passage with a young boy. It is a more subdued form of prose than Rechy's for instance but much more explicit in spots. Ekins and George

team up as criminal partners and on their first attempt Ekin draws the law away from George in a self-sacrificial gesture because he loves him.

When George is finally, inevitably, caught—Ekins does turn on him (however, he has had more than ample provocation). In prison they resume a very wary comradeship and George misses Bud when he is moved away. Also in prison a tough con type (the knife-wielding variety) writes sophomoric mash notes to George calling him "sweetheart," etc. The violent ending of this little seduction is sad.

Throughout the novel, George acts "straight" but men seem to flock to him. It is an unusual study. The older brother, Sam Jackson, is apparently heterosexual but he is blindly intoxicated with speeding on a motorcycle and all that goes with it. Under pressure his only escape is the motorcycle and the speed it offers. The symbols in the novel keep appearing—all looking like the windows in a slot machine.

Now that her companion and admitted lover of many years, Lady Una Troubridge, has broken the ice, there will be numerous memoirs and sketches of the life of Radclyffe Hall. The apparent first of these is Naomi Jacob's chapter on "John" in Me_and the Swans (London, William Kimber, 1963). This book is the latest in a long series of "Me" books by the prolific, light, but fairly talented and sensitive author, Naomi Jacob (known alternatively as "Mickie" and "Mike" by her friends). She is an elderly spinster with a rather fabulous past life as writer, vaudevillian, and friend of the great and near-great in many fields, particularly literature and the stage. She was an intimate friend of John and Una from 1927 or so until the death of John. (She still corresponds with Una and sees her occasionally.) Her chapter on John is charming and adds to one's enjoyment of the Troubridge biography. All loyal members of the clan will want this book, not just for the portrait of Radclyffe Hall, but for other interesting chapters in this book wholly about the female friends of Miss Jacob.

OTHER U.S. ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF SEXUAL VARIANCE

Los Angeles Mattachine Society, Inc., 806 South Robertson, Los Angeles 35, Califomia, OL2-2282

Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., 1232 Market Street, San Francisco 2, Califomia. UN3-8196

One, Inc., 2256 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles 6, California. RE5-5252.

Mattachine Society of New York, 1133 Broadway, N.Y. 10, N.Y. WA4-7743. Mattachine Society of Washington, P.O. Box 1032, Washington 1, D.C. Janus Society, 34 South 17th. Street, Room 229, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania. DA4-2095.

Demophil Center, 15 Lindall Place, Boston 14, Massachusetts.

Dionysus, P.O. Box 804, Huntington Beach, California.

League for Civil Education, Inc., 226 Embarcadero, San Francisco, Calif. SU1-8361.

Society for Sexual Equality, 959 West Cuylet Avenue, Chicago 13, Illinois. 472-0576

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When Donald Webster Cory published the first widely circulated book in this country on homosexuality, THE HOMOSEXUAL IN AMERICA, almost fifteen years ago, some critics expressed a unique indignation that anyone, especially a homosexual, should dare to suggest that homosexuals might be human beings. One review suggested that they were something "crawling out of the woodwork."

Since that time the scene has changed and Cory is 15 years older, and now, with the collaboration of John P. Leroy, who has been active in Mattachine circles for many years, he brings us up to date with:



the homosexual and his society

by
DONALD WEBSTER CORY
and
JOHN P. LEROY

\$5.95

a significant, informative and highly entertaining book on the social aspect of the male homosexual's world, together with the pressures in society which work to keep it "in check." Covered with unusual perceptiveness are such topics as the hustler, the emerging gay bar scene; the homophile movement, its publications and its effect as spokesmen for the ever more clearly defined homosexual minority.

Far from being an apology for what some dark-ages minds still regard as an evil or, at best, an error on nature's part, this book suggests that the homosexual may be far ahead of society in recognizing his rightful place, and now with less fear and trepidation he is forming active groups to demonstrate and demand his recognition as an equal human being together with the full citizenship that goes with such recognition.

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