

# tangents

news & views

## **HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE NEWS**

The San Francisco NEWS CALL BULLETIN recently carried an article discussing the idea of curing sexual deviates by shock treatment. In the article Dr. Karl Bowman referred to the failure of orthodox psychotherapy to cure sexual psychopaths and mentioned the experiments with Pavlovian aversion treatments. Although the example given was homosexual, Dr. Bowman pointed out clearly that he had no reference to homosexuals, since homosexuals are not classified as sexual psychopaths by California district attorneys and judges. He gave a listing of so-called sexual psychopaths for the state of California, which has the best and largest treatment program in the world. Out of 400 men so classified, 4 or 5 were child molesters. They molested girls by a ratio of 2.5 to every boy. Girl molesters were found "most likely to be cured" probably by graduating to older females. Other types were peeping toms, exhibitionists, transvestites, etc. Very few "graduate" from minor to major sex offenses. There seems to be a need for a comment pointing out the moral problem involved in using aversion treatment to change a person, since it could also be used to change a heterosexual into a homosexual.

The WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS reports that the Mattachine Society of Washington surrendered a charitable solicitation permit that the district proposed to revoke. The LOS ANGELES TIMES reported about the same time that a city ordinance prohibiting male and female impersonation in public was invalidated by the 2nd District Court of Appeal on the grounds that the ordinance has been pre-empted by state legislation. The case was *People vs. Martin, Uben & Magdalen*. In comments the court said that for "a male, all of whose visible clothing was male attire, to wear his hair long in a feminine manner neither constituted a disguise nor an outrage of public decency." What the paper didn't report was that the police were more outraged at the court's decision and their own ignorance than at the 3 young men. By forcing the issue they had lost not only the case, but the ordinance. You can hardly blame the police for the outrage committed in Melmerby, England, where a bachelor is being forced to marry or lose his home. Wonder what would be said if he "married" a man?

The L.A. Times, in its Calender section publicized a town meeting held in a Unitarian Church in the Southern California area at which the Chairman of the Board of ONE,

Incorporated was a panel member. The meeting was recorded for re-broadcast by KPFK. Date may be found by writing KPFK, Los Angeles 38. The program may be broadcast on other stations if enough requests are forthcoming (KPFA, 2207 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, California, and WBAI, 30 East 39th St., New York 16, N. Y.). At about the same time the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles featured a sermon concerning the recent report on sex by the Quakers.

The PITTSBURGH PRESS probably got letters about its typographical error which, in referring to Robert Wagner & Mrs. Marion Donen's marriage, reported that Wagner was divorced last year from Natalie Wood, and "**Mr. Donen's**" two previous marriages ended in divorce. Robert Sylvester in the DETROIT FREE PRESS quotes the American Psychiatric Association of St. Louis as saying, "Normal men tend to marry 'normal' women. Nearly all normal men and their wives lead narrow, confined lives. Their lack of outside interests and sparse sense of imagination places limits on their capacity for emotional experience." Comment: "So let's be gay!" The NEW YORK TIMES has an article by Henry Popkin from Opole, Poland concerning the Laboratory Theater, where founding director Jerzy Grotowsky has given an interesting treatment to Wyspianski's "Akropolis", a dramatic fantasy set in the old Polish Akropolis in Cracow, presenting symbolic figures out of the past and concluding with the resurrection of Christ. Each of the play's classic gestures was reversed; Paris and Helen become a pair of homosexual lovers among the prisoners.

The BROOKLYN HEIGHTS PRESS printed reports of morals arrests

in a bar, and then letters to the editor about homosexuality containing some of the following comments: ". . . one might expect to find the police better employed than sitting in bars (presumably drinking at the taxpayers' expense) waiting for homosexual advances—and like as not encouraging them." "If I have a girl, I think she would be happiest fulfilling a woman's role. She can only learn that role in relation to the men she comes in contact with. If every day on the way to the store she must pass whole armies of men who despise little girls, she may learn to despise herself." The writer of the last letter needs an education concerning cause and effect. But then we have heard of homosexuals who despised themselves because they thought society didn't like them. Other letters discussed the problem of enforcing morals and the old idea that it was the "outside queens" who were coming in that were causing the trouble. One wearies of hearing the hypocritical homosexual, who is "passing", hiding and living a lie, complain about the honest, open homosexuals. We might question taste, but taste is not as eternal a problem as self denial. Rather, the hypocritical homosexuals should concern themselves with changing a society that can actually accept such situations as described in the next paragraph.

The American Civil Liberties Union, as well as other individuals and organizations concerned with maintaining the basic freedoms given us by our forefathers in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, has entered a case in which an individual has been convicted for what he wrote in a personal letter. One judge, in a dissenting opinion, concluded with these words: "If

revelations of homosexual practices set forth in sealed letters are to be brought within the purview of the statute, then let it be publicly known that only that should be written which will pass the ultimate censorship of judges & juries. (Case is that of John Darnell III, convicted in federal court in New Haven, Connecticut.)

The NY Times reports that Cornel Wilde has plans for making a motion picture of Nicholas Monsarrat's book SMITH AND JONES. The MIAMI HERALD, in a column by Juanita Greene, and the NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM, in a column by Jack Dempsey, have let themselves be used by the propagandists of their respective police departments to spread lies about the sex offender and homosexuality. How can these people talk about managing of news when they encourage it by reporting what they are told without checking facts.

## THE MILITARY

A "friend" reports having information about the marine who killed a homosexual civilian. The marine has been rewarded by being transferred to the Military Police and is being used in L.A. and Hollywood to finger homosexuals for the vice squad. Such a report is no shock to us, for the vice squads often use homosexuals who hide their own "guilt" and acts by turning in friends or serving as decoys.

The Navy appears to have used highly irregular tactics in its campaign to prove it is anti-homosexual. The U.S.S. Bennington actually spent half of a page of the Plan of the Day giving sailors hell-fire and damnation in the good old protestant tradition warning about homosexuality. It seems that an undesirable discharge for reason

of unfitness was given a sailor arrested by the Long Beach police while a civilian was committing a homosexual act. This sailor was persuaded to participate in the act with a promise of \$20.00. The Plan of the Day goes into all the horrible things people will think about the sailor, and urges all sailors to watch out since this "year's customers are next year's competition." The admonition continues that sailors must not accept rides from people who promise girls and drinks since this a homosexual ruse, and the police have the names of the homosexuals in the area and if a sailor is merely seen near one he will become suspect.

The facts about this particular case, which is cited as cause for warning, are as follows. The sailor was not caught in any act, he foolishly opened the door of a private home while naked and let the police in. This would not be evidence however to get a conviction unless the men admitted the act.

Most attorneys recommend that persons who have been arrested refrain from making any statements and wait and let an attorney handle all questions. The Bennington has shown a warning film to the ship's company which is a homosexual sex orgy taken with hidden cameras. It is strange that homosexuals will continue to go to these orgies where they will have their names taken by the police and will be filmed, yet they will not attend meetings where the problems of being homosexual are discussed intelligently, and no films are made and no names are taken.

Here is a problem homosexuals don't even know about: insurance companies are beginning to ask questions from medical doctors and

maybe psychiatrists about the applicants for insurance. This is of course a violation of the patient-doctor relationship, but even worse the insurance companies are obviously discriminating against certain men and women because of their private sex life. If one man, who happens to be homosexual is a bad risk, this is no more reason for branding all homosexuals bad risks than it would be if the same man were heterosexual. One New York company in this respect is the worst offender. Along the same line, Negroes have either had to fight for honest rates, or form their own insurance companies.

Too many homosexuals are too eagerly conforming. They wouldn't think of going to Lesbos for a look at the island where the poet Sappho was supposed to have thrown herself into the sea. They would be afraid that people might think them queer for being interested. But of course Jackie Kennedy is only normal, so didn't think twice about satisfying her normal curiosity. Too many lesbians run away from the honest curiosity and the search and hide in pseudo-religious groups.

Paul Coates, in an article in the LA Times discussed a problem which affects the homosexual minority as it has all others, and in the same paper Dear Abby had a most interesting letter and answer. Coates was writing about the attempt of minorities to boycott any individual or organization which tended to give the minority a "bad press." The motion picture industry got so afraid of portraying Negroes as servants till the warmth and humor of Louise Beavers was denied the world. All Negroes are not Ralph Bunches. There are dirty Negroes and clean ones, etc. No minority is any better or worse than

the rest of the population. So for the homosexual to feel that he is hurt by the portrayal of a swish, is nothing more than self-rejection and a desire to hide one side of his nature which he may feel is that of the swish. A homosexual who is not swish and who does not fear his own nature does not feel endangered by the swish, nor does he feel that he must compensate to prove that he isn't. And, in Dear Abby we have a clue to why the homosexuals get bad press. Just Wondering writes: "Our family is small, and we have many single friends (bachelors, divorcees and widows) whom we frequently invite to share a meal or an outing. Our children have often asked why the single men and women we invite so often never invite us for anything. At first we told them it was neither necessary nor expected. But the more we thought about it, the more we began to wonder—why don't they? They wouldn't have to include the children. I wonder why 'singles' think nothing of repeatedly accepting invitations from their married friends, but rarely reciprocate." Abby answers: "Many do. Only those 'singles' who feel they have been invited out of charity do not consider themselves obligated and therefore make no effort to reciprocate."

This is a good answer, and most homosexuals are very good about repaying kindnesses. But there is the minority in our minority that thinks nothing of accepting things without a thanks. In our own case. ONE has often had calls from non-member homosexuals who are in jail and have no one to aid them. We have given them attorneys and bail bond, and then most have run away without making good their word.

Did everyone see the cartoon on page 233 of the October PLAY-BOY? And how about the BREAKING POINT SHOW on ABC. And the snappy quote from our Quarterly in the October SEXOLOGY.

Some comment must be made on a recent Mary Haworth column concerning a mother's letter asking how to inform a bachelor friend that she won't let her son go with him on a weekend camping trip—no joke intended. It seems that she has learned that the guy is homosexual because of information given her by a security officer in a government department. The children just adore the man. Mary Haworth said in reply to just tell the bachelor that the trip is off and if he is a sex deviate that he would understand. Miss Haworth, even in her usual lack of insight on such matters, did spot certain flaws in the letter. She noted that most children do not "just adore" mixed up people, but why does Miss Haworth think homosexuals are mixed-up? She also noted that some people ask such questions out of a morbid desire to talk about sex. What Miss Haworth should have worried about is how information which is supposed to be secret, and which was given by men and women in strict confidence in the assurance that it would be shown to no one, was given to some housewife just because she wanted to know something about the individual because she knew him. This question may come up a lot in the future, since Senator Dodd has questioned the right of the government to fire a man just because he gave out secret information. Some people insist that all information is public, even VD records. A final note to the mother and Miss Haworth is that they both may be

underestimating the knowledge of the boy. He may be interested in the man as a friend and knows how to refuse to have any sexual acts, or he may be gay himself and this man is a confidant who helps the boy maintain mental health in a hostile society. Read again the case history in the November issue. Judges have found that more often than not it is the young person who seduces the older person, whether the act is heterosexual or homosexual.

## NEWS FROM ENGLAND

The NEWS OF THE WORLD REPORTER writes about his own special fairy land. He finds it in Wimbledon Common, and he reports (it's easier reporting than stories worthwhile) that at night, in the bushes, it is the "secret" meeting place "of the misguided collection of misfits known as The Queers." The maneuvers that the queers go through or at least the reporter thinks they go through sound like what most of us "played" as children, what with secret codes, signals, spies, etc.

According to Angus Macpherson in the DAILY MAIL, only married men are now to be used as Service attaches in "certain foreign capitals." It seems that despite Profumo, and statistics which prove unquestionably that heterosexuals are more often convicted of treason and other blackmail offenses than are homosexuals, homosexuals are still scapegoats for the ills of society. As Peter Black reports in the same paper, "If anyone wished to devise a school for secret agents, the way Britain treats homosexuals could hardly be improved upon . . . The point is that though homosexuals are no more inclined to treachery than you are, the law as it stands gives

the Communists a lever against them which they have over nobody else. If Vassall had not been a homosexual, and subject to this law, the Russians might have got him anyway. I think he had a predisposition to treachery. But they could not have blackmailed him into it.

"The possibility of wrong arrest is more than enough to freeze on your lips any smile of welcome you might otherwise give an acquaintance . . . There was the case of the unfortunate Chinese gentleman who for smiling at a man and asking the way to Earls Court was promptly arrested, charged and convicted of indecent behaviour. On appeal the conviction was quashed and two policemen jailed for perjury; examples of the keenness which this law can rouse in some of its defenders."

The DAILY MIRROR discloses a vicious attack by the Greek paper ETHNIKOS KIRYX using scare headlines and old news of Vassall to try to prevent the King and Queen from going to England (they did go and got booed). The same paper reports that Mortimer Bennitt, civil servant, won an appeal against a conviction for importuning. He was convicted by police testimony that he followed several men into a toilet and nodded at them. The Chairman, Mr. Edward Clarke, Q.C. said the case had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt, which is an understatement, since the vice policemen, typically, did not hear or see any violation of law but imagined it in their evil minds. In a lighter vein the paper reports the marriage of April Ashley, the fashion model who was once a man, to Arthur Corbett in Gibraltar. And the 400 boys, at a Royal Ordinance Corps "Junior Leaders" battalion, were told:

DON'T dye your hair. It seems that the craze had swept the camp at Blackdown, near Aldershot, after two 17-year-old corporals who play in a dance band gave their hair a color-rinse-Pink Champagne. Reason given for the order was the trouble that would be caused by change—such as new ID's etc.

The EVENING STANDARD reports that in his book IN SEARCH OF MERMAIDS, Dr. Colin Bertram tells about the *Crepidula fornicata*. It is a mollusc which regularly changes sex. It lives in stacks of alternating males and females and every now and then every mollusc in the stack changes sex simultaneously. Hm.m.m. Another book of interest is THE FINISHING TOUCH, by Brigid Brophy, about the wicked goings-on at Miss Antonia's academy for young girls. On the theater side there is "Norman" which is about a young farmer who has written a play and comes to stay in a house while the play is waiting to be done. The house contains a daughter having a miscarriage and a Guardsman son who is up on an importuning charge. David Andrew's study of the tongue-tied Guardsman is reported to be good by Felix Barker. And then there are the men getting steamed up in the Turkish Baths in Ironmonger Row, Finsbury over notices which prevent them from playing cards and consuming food not purchased at the bath. Oscar Wilde is in cross-word puzzles in England.

Malcolm Muggeridge in November ESQUIRE writes for Americans an article on the English scandals. He isn't very bright though, for he feels that the way to stop homosexuality in England is merely to close down the private boarding schools for boys. If he thinks that "high-spirited, good-looking boys"

have sodomy only because there is an absence of girls, he has a lot to learn or is hiding a lot he has learned.

FROM EUROPE we have the Newsletter of I.C.E.E. (Quarterly) which has not been printed regularly. It is welcomed and our best wishes go to its staff on the occasion of its resumption of publication.

w.e.g.m.