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MAGAZINE GOLDMINE:
"RUN AN ARTICLE ON QUEERS!"

JUNE 1953
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



Everyday come orders for those two historic issues, ONE's first and second, January and February 1953.



Everyday we regret we had only enough cash to print five hundred copies each.



Everyday we say, "The minute we get a little ahead, let's reprint those two." Then the printer, paper-supplier, binder and plate-maker all gleam with high-priced delight.



So it comes to this: ONE is reprinting the January and February 1953 issues at fifty cents a copy. The whole works will go to press as soon as we receive five hundred orders. We estimate a sixty-day wait after this announcement before receiving your copies. Ship your cash by freight in crates or bring it in person and we'll put you to work on the magazine. (Or mail it.)

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"... a mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one." Carlyle

Volume One

Number Six

June 1953

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MAGAZINE GOLDMINE: "RUN AN ARTICLE ON QUEERS!"

You and a little two-bit magazine have much in common. Far from being something you just pass the time with waiting for a haircut, the popular mags are potent opinion-formers from way back. None of them merely present news as news any more than the general press does. All of them have their special slant; they only vary in the subtlety with which they present it. For instance, *Life* is highly circumspect in its pro-Catholic attitude and leans over backward trying to appear unbiased on the subject. Actually no apology is necessary yet *Life*, as do most magazines, wishes to attain a reputation for objectivity and disclaims all religious and political bias. This is hardly possible and their editors are naive to either wish for it or hope to appear unbiased. Their contents strip them bare. *ONE*, on the other hand, is the first to concede its own bareness. It has plenty of bones to pick. Many of them concern other monthly magazines.

On the following pages are summaries of articles on deviation as printed in representative magazines. The selection is in cross-section ranging from the quality mag down to the filthy cheapy all of which wield great influence with their many readers. It is interesting to note that tables of contents are generally quite consistent; the magazine which expresses prejudice in one direction will be found to be prejudiced in others as well. In addition, levels of appeal are strictly adhered to: every article will be equally bright or misinformed within certain surprisingly confined limits. Seldom do you find a brilliant article in an issue containing foolishness elsewhere, nor outstanding stupidity amid wisdom. Where *ONE* fits into this analysis is up to its readers.

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Why

**THE CAUSE AND CURE OF
HOMOSEXUALITY**

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WHY is a bi-monthly with a surprisingly authoritative approach to most of the subjects it treats in its pages. Naturally it is always glad to sell a copy with things like "The Cause and Cure of Homosexuality" blazing on the cover (Issue No. 7) However, the author, Villiers Gerson, was in no mood to join the lynchers when he set about gathering data for the article. In fact, the author ended up uncertain as to the cause and unwilling to state a positive cure for the "condition." There is a section which refutes the concept that homosexuals always look and act like the opposite sex. There is another on the geniuses who have been great "because of or in spite of" their deviate inclinations. The latter part of the article falls into another attempt to explain "certain types" of homosexuals and we are told of fathers who "rejected" the child and mothers who coddled too much as if no heterosexual was ever rejected as a child or coddled — or any of the other things that are supposed to invariably make a deviate out of a "normal" person. However Gerson, in spite of his blanket statements on the causes, states that these guesses don't cover all cases and there is much research to be done. One statement (page 87) seems out of place in an otherwise conscientiously objective sketch: "Overt homosexuals also have psychological troubles." The statistics on this comment are not given. We are to assume it's true and to assume that if two men living together have no psychological troubles they're not homosexuals no matter what goes on after curfew. In dealing with the social and legal status of the homosexual, Gerson is again sane and revealing. He describes entrapment and brutality, the pressures of prejudiced society and the isolation stemming therefrom. This is no news to readers of ONE. The readers of WHY, on the other hand, must have finished the article with a distinct sense of having heard real news.

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Coronet



CORONET pointed out that its self-admittedly sensational article on homosexuality was the result of six months of intensive work by "qualified editors and researchers." The result of all this earnest labor was something called "New Menace to Our Youth" by the editors, and several other things by its homosexual readers. It is possible that CORONET lost more subscribers over this learned research than any other article in years. Among the cluster of plums were the original McCarthy statement about deviates being security risks, a statement by some sub-official in California that "these degenerates are ever seeking younger victims," that dope and deviation are inseparable, and the implication that crime and homosexuality are linked to such an extent that most parents should lock their young sons in the nearest closet and try to forget they happened. The FBI is slantingly accused of lumping all perverted sex acts together so that poor old CORONET will never know how many crimes per year are committed by homosexuals alone! Next we hear that "a dominant cause is the fast-paced, 20th Century economic struggle." CORONET didn't really stress sufficiently how powerful a cause that is, for this insidiously fast pace of the 20th Century has been potent enough to reach back many centuries and pervert Greeks, Romans, Druids and an appreciable following of the late Genghis Khan. Plato's complaints about inflation and reckless taxi-drivers have not come down to us so we will have to trust to CORONET'S authorities. The scientific little magazine concludes with a call-to-arms: parents must fight off the impending disaster of a pervert in every home! It demands that the public educate itself without specifying exactly how; earlier in the article it even admitted that the AMA Journal stated, "surprisingly little quantitative lab work has been reported on the subject of homosexuality." In the absence of such, CORONET has kindly dreamed up some of its own.



STRENGTH AND HEALTH

the self-improvement magazine

The following letter was written to the editors of **STRENGTH AND HEALTH**; the writer describes himself sufficiently to enable an understanding person to recognize the agony in which he has lived. But the heart-wrenching touch is not in what he writes but in the answer of the editors which is printed immediately after.

I am a boy 16 years old and in the eleventh grade in high school. I like sports and am normal in every respect except that I have homosexual tendencies. Ever since I can remember I have been this way.

I have wanted to write to you for some time but I could never get up the courage to tell anyone, even my parents. I don't mean this letter to be a display of exhibitionism but I feel that I can't keep this to myself any longer; I just have to tell someone.

I have not the slightest interest in the opposite sex, but the attraction of other fellows is as strong as any normal boy could have toward a girl.

I have always kept my desires in check but sometimes it seems as if it will be almost impossible to control them. It's so hard especially in the gym classes at school when we take showers and other places where there is so much temptation.

I have hardly any feminine characteristics and I must have a normal attractiveness for the opposite sex for I never want opportunities for dates, but I have no interest in girls whatsoever.

While I admit I have a morbid interest in the pictures in Strength and Health I also have a definite desire to build my own body.

Of course I don't want you to publish this letter but if possible I would like the following question answered in the Ask the Doctor column.

What causes homosexuality and how can it be cured?

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ANS. THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE CONDITION AS HOMOSEXUALISM IS AN INBORN TRAIT BROUGHT ABOUT BY MALADJUSTMENT OF GLANDS. SOMETIMES AN ADJUSTMENT COMES ABOUT NATURALLY AND SOMETIMES AN OPERATION IS SUCCESSFULLY RESORTED TO HOWEVER, WE HAVE ON HAND REPORTS OF HEAVY PHYSICAL EXERCISE GIVING THE SUBJECT MORE MASCULINE TENDENCIES. IT WOULD BE WORTH YOUR WHILE TO EARNESTLY APPLY YOURSELF TO HEAVYWEIGHT TRAINING.

Considering the circulation of these muscle magazines and their evident influence on the youngsters (?) who avidly follow them, they cannot be casually dismissed. For instance, in the same issue, an inquiry deals with the use of potassium nitrate (saltpeter) to attain "temporary sexual impotence." The "Doctor" in his answer remarks that it is "often used to repress sexual excesses" but should be used in small quantities "in coffee or tea" (those two evil stimulants advocated in a health magazine?) or can be used on foods "just like ordinary table salt." There are three idiocies contained in the "Doctor's" answer: (1) the actual diagnosis of potassium nitrate which has highly controversial effects on the human metabolism, (2) the use of the terms "repress sexual excesses" in view of the extreme variation of frequency among individuals, is to promulgate a dangerous ignorance; the "Doctor" seems to leave it up to the confused and unhappy reader to determine whether his needs are in excess of an average "proper" sexual frequency. The acutely strange reasoning here seems to be that the proper young man prior to marriage has only a moderate nocturnal emission rate — if at all — and certainly does not practice "self-abuse," but AFTER marriage he is expected to suddenly undergo a tremendous glandular and ethical change in which the highest frequency of intercourse is most laudable because now he's got procreation firmly in mind when he retires each night. This sudden change and the strict social requirements for it present a dilemma to the individual which may very well have an intimate connection with homosexuality; and (3) the most telling facet of the "Doctor's" answer is his agreement that only marital and heterosexual intercourse are proper and anything before, after or different from should be tended to by means of a drug inducing "temporary sexual impotence." His belief that all males worthy of Heaven should be sterile and impotent prior to marriage is explicit in every word and an assumption on which he writes his brief, frightening reply: "yes, illegal erections are bad — use potassium nitrate like table salt." The advice is as brutally stupid as the answer to the boy who is homosexual: "Earnestly apply yourself to heavyweight training." Incredible! Is this the answer to give to thousands of young men and boys who ask help in a social situation perhaps as painful as any that the individual can experience!? Is this Science showing the way to strength and health? And what is the reaction of the tormented writer?

But the most amazing fact lies in statistics: in spite of the stupidity with which society answers the problem of the homosexual, this variant's criminal and neurotic number is lower than that of the "normal" heterosexual in ratio to his percentage of the population. Can it be that the homosexual is somehow more stable than the majority?! It seems a foolish question yet the data can be interpreted that way.

The muscle magazines each month pour out whole cornucopias of misinformation and carefully fraudulent claims. In the former category we have a superb example in the statement of Bob Hoffman in an article on Sex (his capital) that the testes "produce the essential male characteristics such as broad shoulders, deep chest, hair on face and body, deep voice, fight, courage, ambition and other desirable masculine qualities." Beside the fact that the seat of "all masculine" qualities is definitely not the testes, we find the inclusion above of "fight, courage and ambition" which naturally no woman ever possessed because, obviously, she is not in possession of testes. If she is so strange as to be a Curie, a Bethune, a Sanger or a Nightingale, she's not really a proper, natural woman. But being a mother, scientist, Negro social worker or nurse do not require fight, courage and ambition. Maybe a stiff upper lip but nothing more that males are supposed to have a monopoly on. In addition, it must have come as a terrible blow to Bob Hoffman to hear that "Christine" Jorgensen still shaves. This is too much! Hair is one of the ways you can TELL a man! On the chest, it's an affidavit; on the jowl, it's insurance. However, when it's too thick on the body, one involuntarily thinks of Darwin and tries earnestly to dismiss the whole subject.

There is another aspect of the muscle magazines which goes right alongside their profound ignorance of facts and offers a piquancy which delights the even semi-detached reader. These publications are devoted PASSIONATELY to the apotheosis of maleness. At every opportunity they take a crack at the "weak, the perverted, the cowardly pansies, the unmanly." Yet almost the whole of their circulation depends upon those who dote upon the undraped male figure without aspiring to become similar to those pictured. The rear of the magazine is rich with ads of photographers who have "exciting" new photos of "handsome young athletes," in single and dual poses, in shadow and sunlight, in all stages of undress and in every posture approved by the Federal government. The greatest requirement, short of outright pornography, is that no pubic hair show.

Here is one of the profound contradictions of our time. These pictures are not made for enjoyment per se; they are for medical students, artists desiring expert models, and collectors of pictures who apparently care more for quantity than emulsion pattern. No one, for an instant, admits that these

pictures of young men locked in naked struggle so closely approximating Siamese twins, are the source of sensual stimulation or satisfaction. NO! It's for study, reference and mere admiration at the most. Like hell.

These publishers know precisely who buys both magazines and pictures, yet they continue their pretense of anti-fairyism so that they can continue to sell to just those customers. In a way, we have the odd situation of massive ideals of manhood with everything a male should possess being the hired boobies, jesters and playthings of those very persons for whom they profess the most contempt. Without them, they'd go promptly bankrupt. Of course, these comments are not intended in any way to curtail the pleasant art and publication of representations of the male form so long as it remains "proper," whatever that may be or become. It does intend, however, to call the proper persons puppets and perverts and hopes that one day the publishers of such magazines will publicly express gratitude to those who have given them the best of bread and the butter without a trace of oleo.

PHYSICAL CULTURE is doing a mental strip tease in a current series of articles against homosexuality. Written by a man formerly hired by the government to ferret out "perverts" in public office, the titles sound highly scientific: "Homosexuality: Stalin's Atom Bomb!" and "Homosexuals Ruin Normals." One is almost tempted to read them.

American

MERCURY

THE AMERICAN MERCURY thought it really had something when it announced a series of articles by Alfred Towne which would deal with various aspects of homosexuality. Apparently its mind got changed: after the first two (three?) articles the whole affair was dropped without explanation. Mr. Towne's ideas didn't prove overly popular. For instance, in his "The New Taste In Humor" which hit "fairy-fun" among the comics of our day, he named several names such as Bob Hope, Danny Kaye, Cary Grant, Martin and Lewis, Jack Carson, William Powell, Lou Costello and "even" old Jack Benny who have leaned on pansy humor for laughs. He lists all the acts in which men frolic in women's clothes and notes that this is a sign of social decadence. We must run for cover (no, not that kind of cover). There is no hope for us when things like "Charlie's Aunt" are successful; his list of modern plays includes not only parts for men in "drag" but women singing in tuxedos — a horror that seems peculiarly irritating to him. No one else has complained of Diet-

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rich's costumes — at least not this hysterically. Nor have we heard that "As You Like It" and several other vulgar blackout skits by that certain Elizabethan, offended with their characters exchanging clothes and genders. He also claims that Ann Baxter in "All About Eve" was portraying a "thinly veiled lesbian character" because she first appeared in a male trench coat and pork pie hat. What there is of Mr. Towne's mind is alarmingly lascivious. It must be fun for him though; think of all the filthy thoughts the rest of us miss by not looking askance at such seemingly harmless things as trench-coats and pork-pie hats. Sex, sex, everywhere! Even Milton Berle is among the depraved as well as Eddie Cantor, Ed Wynn, and Danny Thomas. Having included all the most beloved comedians of our day, he concludes this back-handed tribute to deviates with a tear for the good old days of Mark Twain, Will Rogers and Ring Lardner. Apparently he hasn't heard what I heard just the other day about that Tom Sawyer. It seems

People Today

PEOPLE TODAY, a bi-weekly vest-pocket size, devoted six whole pages of its March 26, 1952 issue to give "Inside Report on Homosexuality in America." The report was tempted to explain causes of deviation by quoting the woes of patients who had enlisted psychiatric aid. This common error can be easily seen when like methods are used to discover why a patient, unhappy in the same way, is attracted to the OPPOSITE sex. When two persons with similar backgrounds and almost identical parent problems, become inexplicably homosexual in one instance and firmly heterosexual in the other, the researcher concludes that environment is not the whole answer. The psychologist from whom PEOPLE TODAY got much of its material, himself agrees that assigning deviation to one cause is probably erroneous. The little magazine adds to this many meaty data such as the curtain of silence lowered on Cory's "Homosexual in America" (Greenberg, New York City) by many papers which refused to review it or accept ads, the fact that homosexuals are accepted in the armed services but denied benefits if discovered, the usual Kinsey statistics, the unspecified California State study which describes deviates as "no social menace" and that groups are forming which demand rights for this "persecuted minority." While this report was extremely brief, it did contain facts usually suppressed or perverted in the average mag. Its attitude seemed sincere, however there is a difference between a desire to launch a crusade and a desire to sell a single issue with a flashy title. This writer has seen no other article in PEOPLE TODAY on further news on the subject since March of last year. However we must not be ungrateful — although it is a question why anyone should be grateful for having the truth spoken of them.

Confidential

UNCENSORED AND OFF THE RECORD

Phraseology is all. Use the right words and you can simultaneously say anything you wish and avoid law suits. There's nothing to it. The April issue of CONFIDENTIAL asks "Is It True What They Say About Johnnie Ray?" The article which "answers" the question actually says nothing directly in affirmation of whether Johnnie is or isn't. However, upon finishing it, the reader finds himself in possession of a host of strange rumors, suggestions, hints and quotations of "certain well-known" people all of which sum up to one answer. The writer tries to excuse his exhaustive treatment of a subject that could be termed nobody's business but Johnnie's, by concluding the vicious muckracking with, "Put in Broadway's terms, Johnnie's just like a lot of us — only more so. Dry those tears and you've wiped away a million-dollar showman." This came at the end of several hundreds of words which suggested that the million-dollar showman himself be wiped away. On another page of this same issue, a past-master of spite describes the "nance" who runs a male brothel in New York. The writer gives names, addresses and phone numbers. He also has a hard time trying to seem more indignant than intrigued.

The July issue of CONFIDENTIAL is particularly meaty with filth and character assassination. On page 12 is the Duke of Windsor in "drag" with happy notation that attempts to suppress these pictures was unsuccessful. Shortly after is "The Lavender Skeletons in TV's Closet!" or "Video Pioneer Blames Incompetents and Queers for Poor Plays on TV." The article is vindictive, short and supplies very few facts to substantiate its charges. It merely repeats several times that fairies and bad TV are synonymous, as well as fairies and crime, and fairy-hating and stupidity. The writer concludes on a hopeful note: "A program is now in operation which the hairy-chested males of TV earnestly hope will drive the 'cup-cakes' from their industry. A private detective agency has been assigned to investigate and get the goods on the more obvious deviates. When the evidence piles high enough, the fairy is presented with his own unlovely picture and reminded that homosexuality is a crime in New York. He's asked to go quietly or risk having the information passed on to citizens who'll get him pinched. So far, the system has pushed three once powerful directors out of the business." Please note the tone of pride in this account of OVERT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. This is the same

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blackmail being used in our national security program. Let it also be noted that nowhere is the victim given a trial of any kind whatever in TV or government. This issue ends with a rehash of Bill Tilden's private life.

SIR!

**A MAGAZINE
FOR MALES**

SIR! in its May issue takes the traditional whack at the Jorgensen case with a jolly mass of misinformation and misplaced sympathy. It is another staggering situation in which one's allies do more harm than good. But this issue is most notable for "The Effeminate Killers" or "Are Bullfighters Homosexuals? The Truth Will Shock You!" Again we see facts treated in such a way as to make the ordinary into something incredible. The writer can't get over the fact that a man can be strong, courageous and talented as well as homosexual. He repeatedly implies that cowardice is feminine as he gulps hard trying to swallow the "contradiction" in homosexual bravery. He ends up sounding, as most of these writers do, smutty and naive. The same issue reprints pages from the encyclopedia on eunuchism and heads the article with "The world's most hideous crime is still being perpetrated in parts of the world today" having apparently forgotten its highly favorable treatment of the Danish surgery a few pages before. The article, though filled with horror similar to that quoted above, states that many famous warriors, statesmen and scholars were eunuchs. It fails to point out that all male characteristics do not derive of the testes nor does it remind its readers that the actual amount of castrates in society is unknown and possibly much higher than we guess.

Bare

BARE, a monthly which offers its readers "The Naked Truth," should be required by law to admit that its contents are of, by and for subnormals. The May issue brimmed with exciting articles: Quickie Motels (Some Tourist Cabins Are Nothing Better Than Dens of Iniquity), Lowdown on Hollywood Sin, Reports of Sex Crimes, Pitfalls of a Model, Christine — Mr. and Miss? and

"She" He's and "He" She's Organize. That last item is more simply stated inside on page 40 as "Homosexuals in Politics." With uncertain alarm, it gives a hasty sketch of the Mattachine Foundation which "may control vote in elections. Fantastic? No, absolutely true!" The article reprints much of the Foundation literature and concludes with a resumé headed "Bare Facts" which hauls out the familiar accusation of subversion and suggestion that the Un-American Activities Committee will give the Foundation attention "one of these fine spring days." However, the treatment given the Mattachine was much kinder than it accorded others in the same issue. "Queer" movie stars are everywhere, it seems, and the writer adds with a hint of annoyance, "They can fool you, too." One star in particular "has a beautiful physique and looks every inch a man," BUT — —. It's a confusing life to these reformers who "protect the innocent by revealing the guilty." (Photos posed by professional models.) The use of the word reformer is all part of the act; for instance, in an article headed "SEX CRIME — Father, Brother, Three Sisters All Involved in Perverted Sex Acts!" we have classic indignation as the writer uses these words: "Here is Satan's Scroll of Sex Sinners sentenced in this case, etc." The cheapies are all quite righteous. They have a Mission: sin must be vividly pictured in order to be eradicated. The reader wonders, however, if these publishers aren't sometimes a little frightened at the thought of being successful.

The comment that only the prejudiced read these trash-collections is not valid. Confirmation of a prejudice is as important as the prejudice itself. In fact, it is the quoting of such potent ideas as "Eenie-Meenie-Miney-Mo, etc." which teaches both young and old that they are right in their assumption that Negroes are innately inferior. Then such magazines as these serve a very real purpose in harping on the old themes of hate and ignorance, and keeping alive and white-hot the prejudices of those who read them. The size of a magazine is not always in proportion to its effectiveness. The fact that many hundreds of thousands of people have never heard of ONE does not mean that it can't eventually effect their lives.



one

Der Weg zu freundschaft und Toleranz

The editors of ONE have turned over to me three recent issues of the West German monthly magazine, *The Way to Friendship and Tolerance*, with the request that I use my knowledge of German to give ONE's readers some idea of homosexual publications in Europe. *The Way* is a new name for what was formerly called *The Island of Friendship and Tolerance*, an article from which appeared in the January edition of ONE.

The Way is the official organ of the Federation for the Rights of Man, affiliate of the International Order of Friendship. The change of name would suggest differences in policy, but unfortunately the content is as unaltered as the format. *The Way* is very hard to describe: simultaneously pedantic and frivolous, militant and degenerate, its overall impression is a kind of elegant lecherousness. In short, it's in poor taste and hardly the sort of magazine anyone would care to be caught with, in America at any rate. There is no intent of superciliousness in that remark or what follows. Indeed it is too bad that we cannot say the flattering things we wish we could about our brother publication, but unfortunate though it may be, we are reporting the truth as it appears to us.

The magazine is a nice size (about six by eight) and is printed on good quality paper (by European standards) with cover and all photographs on slick but thin stock. I have the January, March and April editions of this year, and the cover of each bears a photograph of a very young, very German-looking boy. January's selection is wearing a sweater, cap and pipe; March's sports a fuzzy turtle neck minus cap and pipe, while April's offering (it being spring and all) is revealed from the waist up and wears nothing at all.

The photographs inside (there are always four or five, depending on how many advertisers use the slick pages) are frankly sexy, lugubriously soulful or both. They are nicely done and usually more interesting than the cover.

Each edition contains a rather superficial but somewhat informative article on the situation among homosexuals in other countries. The three magazines I have deal with the situations in Great Britain, Austria and the U. S. Army. The last registers Continental disapprobation with the contradictions between the known prevalence of homosexuality in America (as revealed in the Kinsey report) and the pig-headed puritanical conceits of military authorities on the subject.

There are quotations from the *Manual of Military Neuropsychiatry* published in Philadelphia and W. C. Menninger's *Psychiatry in a Troubled World*. The author is quoted as justly appalled with the Georgia laws against homosexuality (maximum sentence: life imprisonment) and ends with the comment that it has taken a long time even for psychiatrists to advance to a humanitarian attitude toward the homosexual. He adds ironically "For we live, indeed, in the age of humanitarianism!"

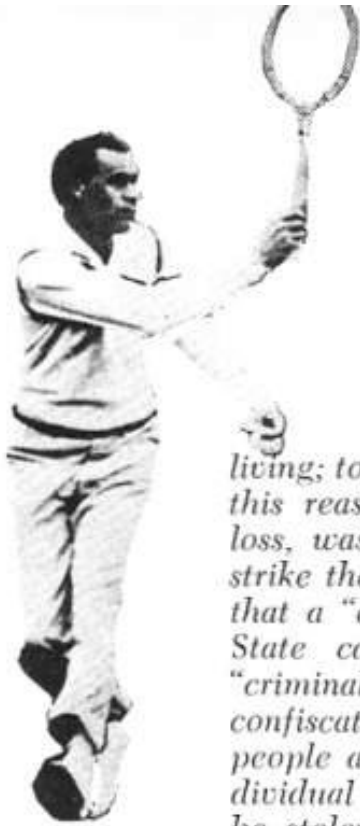
Nearly every edition of *The Way* has a good-sized article devoted to a famous person who is supposed to have been homosexual: Frederick the Great, Michaelangelo, etc. There are usually a couple of poems, nearly always sentimental, occasionally a call to arms (Heine's "Warnung" in the March issue). Sometimes you find a rather scholarly essay such as that in the April edition, "Gustav Aschenbach, Attempt at a Meaning," dealing with Thomas Mann's leading character in the short story, *Death in Venice*. There is always a good-sized "personals" column in which men of thirty to seventy advertise for "young, blond, good-looking" youths to accompany them on a trip into southern France. The advertiser usually insists upon a picture before the arrangements can be consummated but insures the "utmost secrecy" in handling any information entrusted to him.

A main objection to the magazine is that while it places really embarrassing emphasis on the rather naive notion that homosexuals are more artistic, more sensitive—in short, of finer clay—than the rest of mankind, the literary efforts of this elect as revealed in *The Way* hardly support the theory. It is surprising and a little touching that our minority in Europe, so much more advanced in many ways than we, should harp on this idea which *may* be true but certainly has no basis in scientific evidence and seems to me to be very poor propaganda.

It seems to be a magazine for male deviates only; can it be that the German lesbian's place is also in the home? Moreover *De Weg* really has no policy or, more accurately, no *theory* upon which to base its efforts. The result is that it has, in final analysis, nothing to offer our people as a socially conscious and responsible force in society. It says merely, "We are gay. Quite so; we like boys, and besides we are really superior."

David L. Freeman





The longest life is little better than a sample of living; to each of us the days of our years are precious things. For this reason we are especially vulnerable concerning time, its loss, waste, theft—and it is precisely here that we, as Society, strike the individual when he has violated our laws. We decide that a “crime” has been committed and that the only way the State can again function smoothly is by taking from this “criminal” a certain number of his days. Time is nothing to be confiscated for the good of the commonweal, divided among the people and enjoyed. It is a possession of value only to the individual and not to be traded, loaned or retrieved. But it can be stolen and even when the theft is regretted by the State, no restitution can be made. A life shortened and death brought nearer are immutable facts, crimes never to be mitigated and, by those with a belief in the dignity of man, never to be forgiven. It is shocking and incredible that a whole Society could make a mistake. That it should pluck from its finest citizens, one accomplished and admired, and fling him vengefully low, is frightening and profoundly angering. Then to stand about his little mound of earth with long faces and shake sad heads over his “tragedy”, moan in post-mortem over his “blight”, regret for him his willful sins, in spritely melancholy recall the front-page gossip and say too-bad-how-unfortunate-a-shame:and otherwise so fine a man! At times like these, we listen tensely to the little mound for surely this is so bitter a scene that the dead must cry out in anger or anathema. There is silence, and only then do we fully know the heinous theft for what it was. To take a man’s days from him on barbaric pretext and take from him the towers he has built, is to hold a mirror to the collective face and see on it historic humiliation that will stare back at us down through all the days of our own years. And we know with sinking heart that the vindictive are not strong.

Saul K.

Modern Literature:

THE FLIP-A-COIN SCHOOL

Many years ago, when I was a child, I passed exciting evenings listening to a story entitled, "The Lady or the Tiger." What hours of anguish I spent, but delightful anguish indeed, resolving in my mind the question left unanswered by the author. Little mindful that the key to this story's popularity was to be found in its trick ending, I vowed that I would not have left my readers in doubt had I written this piece of fiction. Surely, as author, as creator of the characters, I would know full well what the human beings whom I had brought to life would do under the circumstances to which I had led them. In this particular case, had I been their creator of the characters, I would know full well what the human beings whom I had brought to life would do under the circumstances to which I had led them. In this particular case, had I been their creator, there could have been only one solution—but to disclose my answer to the eternal riddle is far from the purpose of this piece.

In later years, I learned that Hollywood had a scientific answer for the questions raised when the fate of a protagonist was in doubt. For Hollywood simply prepares two endings for the same cinema, perhaps releases them in different cities and to different test audiences, and decides from the reactions of the spectators whether the happy or the tragic fate is more acceptable. For the sophisticated inhabitants of big cities, the central character may die, while box office results in a small town may be more gratifying if the character fades out as he kisses his beloved, and the implied message is clear that they will live happily ever after.

Somewhat to my dismay, I have recently discovered that some authors of serious novels (and particularly, authors who write on homosexuality in fiction) have prepared their books with two entirely different endings, selling one version to the American readers, another to the English. Those who take the trouble to read Gore Vidal's "The City and the Pillar" in the British edition will find the finale considerably modified, with far less melodrama, less tragedy. And precisely the opposite is the case with one of the more recent novels on homosexuality, Walter Baxter's "Look Down in Mercy," for here the extreme tragedy of the British edition (with its usual demise characteristic of novels of this theme, namely violence and eventually suicide) is radically changed in the American version. As printed and published in London, the protagonist conveniently re-

moves himself from the picture by touching the woodwork behind him with the tips of his slippery fingers.

and then he knew that he would fall. As his body began to plunge towards the drive he held his arms in a grotesque attitude as though to break his fall and he cried out; but not for mercy.

The end. But no, not quite the end for Tony Kent, for before a year had passed, he was reincarnated in an American jacket, and this time, as he stood at the same window, ready to jump or fall, he becomes ill: "pushed violently with his arms and toppled backward, striking his head on the stone floor." Does he get up and again make the attempt to plunge forward toward his doom? Not at all. In fact, he knew

that he had solved nothing and he persuaded himself that there was nothing to solve, all he had to do now was to go on living and be with Anson. He resolved firmly to try and be brave and to try and be good; to do more than that, he told himself, was not in his power.

It is precisely because the theme of homosexuality in fiction is so little understood by our writers that they themselves do not know how their own characters would behave under given circumstances. One cannot imagine two endings so diametrically opposed as illustrated by the above quotations. For the Queen's subjects, Tony Kent was not only torn away from the youth of whom he was so fond, but as a direct result of his attraction for this soldier, he brings about his own destruction. But, on this side of the Atlantic, he not only resists the self-annihilation, but actually returns to Anson.

The double ending is a phenomenon worth investigating. Is it characteristic only of novels on homosexuality, and if so, is this due to the authors' ambivalent attitude? That is to say, do these authors wish to demonstrate sympathy for their characters, on the one hand, and yet do they wish to accept the moral judgments of a hostile society, on the other? Do they want to see their protagonists live and adjust to a marginal life, as do most homosexuals, and at the same time do they fear that the public is unready to accept such a story, but will insist that those who have stayed to the cities of the plain must pay for their sin with disgrace and ultimately death?

For the serious man of letters, the double ending for different audiences raises questions as to the integrity of an author in his relationship with his own characters. How can the reader be expected to believe in Tony Kent, to understand him, to have him emerge as a real and rational total human being, whose decisions at important moments of his life are the logical end-results of his mind and personality, if Walter Baxter himself is not sufficiently familiar with Kent to know how he would behave at such moments? If Kent has any existence out-

side the mind and imagination of Baxter, then he could not act in two separate and mutually exclusive manners. He could not both jump from the window and return to Anson. He must make a choice, and Baxter himself must believe in this choice, if he expects his readers to do so. It is elementary to reiterate that every action taken by fictional personality must be in character, and that two mutually antagonistic actions could not be effected by one person in one set of circumstances.

Upon discovery of the two versions of the Baxter novel, I immediately felt that Tony Kent was destroyed as a convincing portrait for me (despite some very important qualities of the novel) and I cannot see how he can be more than an unreal fictional two-dimensional being for Baxter himself, if he is so completely Baxter's puppet.

There is an ironical note, however, in a review which this book received in *Time*, and which was quoted by the publisher's in their advertising.

Whether very much can be salvaged from the wreck of Captain Anthony Kent is problematical, but Author Baxter lets him live for a try. It is nearly the only mercy in Author Baxter's book.

London papers, please do not copy.

Donald Webster Cory

Editorial Note: On the other hand, there are always the gods disguised as publishers who have a bit to say about "justice", "legality" and "taste" in the manuscripts they purchase. Writers are invited to refute Mr. Cory.



*As from a mental bestiary
I recall these presences:
the timid rattlesnake that slid away,
the lizard captured with a noose of grass,
the white herons in the woods in Oregon,
then summon up the tactile sense of rocks,
collected agates, minerals and lavas,
or colored bottle fragments from a beach;
just so I think of rare and curious lovers:
the tugboat captain in the old hotel,
the sailors interchanged beneath the pier,
the man who had on women's underwear.*

R. S.

one

BOOKS

21 Variations on a Theme by Donald Webster Cory, Greenberg, \$3.75.

The obvious limitation of any short story collection is that every reader cannot be expected to agree with the choice of selection. But Donald Webster Cory in his latest book *21 Variations on a Theme* has chosen with particular care in order to have as wide an appeal as possible. In the collection, 21 authors ranging from De Maupassant to Isherwood examine, from their various attitudes, the subject of homosexuality.

And not all of them are favorable in their view as is shown in Stanley Kauffman's *Fulvous Yellow*. Guy De Maupassant is represented by *Paul's Mistress* in a new translation by Mr. Cory which is heavy and awkward although it may be an improvement over the earlier. Paul Verlaine is represented by a delightful short short hitherto unpublished in English and likewise translated by Mr. Cory.

Some others included in the contents

are such notables as Henry James, Isabel Bolton, Stephen Spender, D. H. Lawrence, James T. Farrell, and Wm. Carlos Williams. Mr. Williams is responsible for so many wonderful things, it must have been especially hard to make a selection in his case.

The last story in the collection is *The Priest and the Acolyte* by Oscar Wilde. This famous story is followed by testimony from the trial of Wilde on "The Priest and The Acolyte." This is presented, it is claimed, to prove "incontrovertibly" that the story was actually not written by Oscar Wilde. Of course it doesn't settle the matter so completely as that. Contrary to Wilde's testimony we think the story is beautiful no matter who wrote it.

The reader may not like all the selections; but it does give him a chance, within the covers of one book, to see how writers of various merit and outlook have handled this controversial subject.

D. S.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS,
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1953

Springfield, Ill., April 21 (CTPS).—More people would be in jail than out, if all sex laws were effectively enforced, according to a report filed today by the legislative commission on sex offenders.

Ten legislators compiled the report with the aid of 150 volunteers from the fields of law, medicine, social work, psychology, education, anthropology, and law enforcement.

Few Are Dangerous

"A substantial body of scientific data exists which dictates that sexual conduct of the socially distasteful kind characterizes such a large portion of the population that if the laws were enforced effectively there likely would be more people in jail than out," the report said.



The commission found no "warrant for hysteria," regarding the sex problem. Relatively few sex offenders are dangerous, and the minor offenders do not as a rule graduate into dangerous offenders, it said.

Homosexual acts in public places without force should be classed as misdemeanors. As to acts committed in private, the commission made no recommendation. However, it observed there is no penalty for such private acts in France and Italy.

The commission recommended mandatory examination by a proposed state diagnostic service of those involved in cases of forcible rape, aggressive homosexuality or the sexual molestation of children.

JUNE 1953
page 19

Letter from you

Dear Sirs:

My subscription to ONE has just become effective, and I have read Volume One, Number Four with interest and with admiration. Prompted by an earnest desire to see you succeed, I offer the following suggestions and comment:

- (1) Editorially, the book reflects an assumption on the part of the editors which is not true: i.e., that all readers live in California, and that they are possessed of a great many background facts. In the current issue, for example, repeated reference is made to the Mattachine Foundation, yet nowhere in the copy can I find what the Foundation is, how it operates, and where I can write for further information about it. Similarly, the bulk of the text is confined to legal matters in the state of California, which while it may have some wider application in theory, mitigates against wide reader interest.
- (2) While I believe in the dignity of your undertaking, I also believe that an almost uniform note of dire solemnity toward the problem will prove defeating. Here and there, in your pages, I see a need for a lighter note. Don't you agree that those individuals who have made the most commendable adjustment to the problem are those who have a sense of humor about it?

Like any new publication in the throes of birth pains, I suspect ONE's big headache currently is cost and personnel. But even if your plans are only dreams at this juncture, I think you ought to let the reader in on them.

Would you be interested in short fiction, for example? (I'm a writer in another medium, but I'll take a crack at it, and for free, too!)

What about a brief review of current books on the subject? (And would you agree to condemning much of the crop as the tripe it is?)

What about material only vaguely related to the subject? I'm serious, and hope you are too, about an occasional piece on travel, the theatre, TV — "lighter" things. Let's face it, fellows: life is tough, but not THAT tough. At least, not all the time.

Incidentally, I enclose \$1.15. For this, I'd be grateful if you'll send me the back issues, and apply the remaining 40c to sending me future issues by first class mail. It takes a long time to cross the country, and I don't like waiting for something good.

S. J. R.

The Editors think you're so right: send it!

one

Dear Sirs:

I sent the following note to the editor of the Los Angeles "Times":

"In the lengthy, laudatory account of Bill Tilden's life and passing which appeared in the "Times," there was not a single word that pertained to the late gentleman's misfortunes and mistakes.

"What in the world is Modern Journalism coming to?

"With rapt appreciation of the human decency thusly expressed, I thank you."

A friend of Tilden's and the "Times."

H. P.



Gentlemen:

I have received my first copy of ONE today and naturally enjoyed the feeling that here was a real attempt in America to follow the European road to greater understanding and an eventual National Representative Congress.

I am a bit at a loss to know what the references to the Mattachine Foundation mean since I have not read previous issues of ONE. Is there literature put out by them that I might see? I could even help as a volunteer "Anonymous" worker perhaps in New York. I only hope it can help ONE financially get started.

A suggestion re your cover. Since you are mailing ONE in such a flimsy wrapper, out of which it is very easy to slide the magazine and hence see the cover, would it not be wiser to leave the word "homosexual" off the cover. It strikes terror into the hearts of so many homosexuals who would like to subscribe to the magazine but could not run the risk of having it around. You know — mothers, unsuspecting friends, girl-friends (sic) and even employers. As a matter of fact, it will probably lead me to send you my 40c next month, if the next cover is similar to April's. If you are not going to have newsstand sales do you need any editorial or content matter on the cover? Would not the very good looking abstract pattern alone be sufficient — and keep it on every issue so it will become a familiar "friend" to look for in the mail.

D. H.

Good luck —

We are on the stands and if nothing but our name appeared on the cover, your potentially offended snoopers would be sure to open and, God forbid, read it!

Gentlemen,

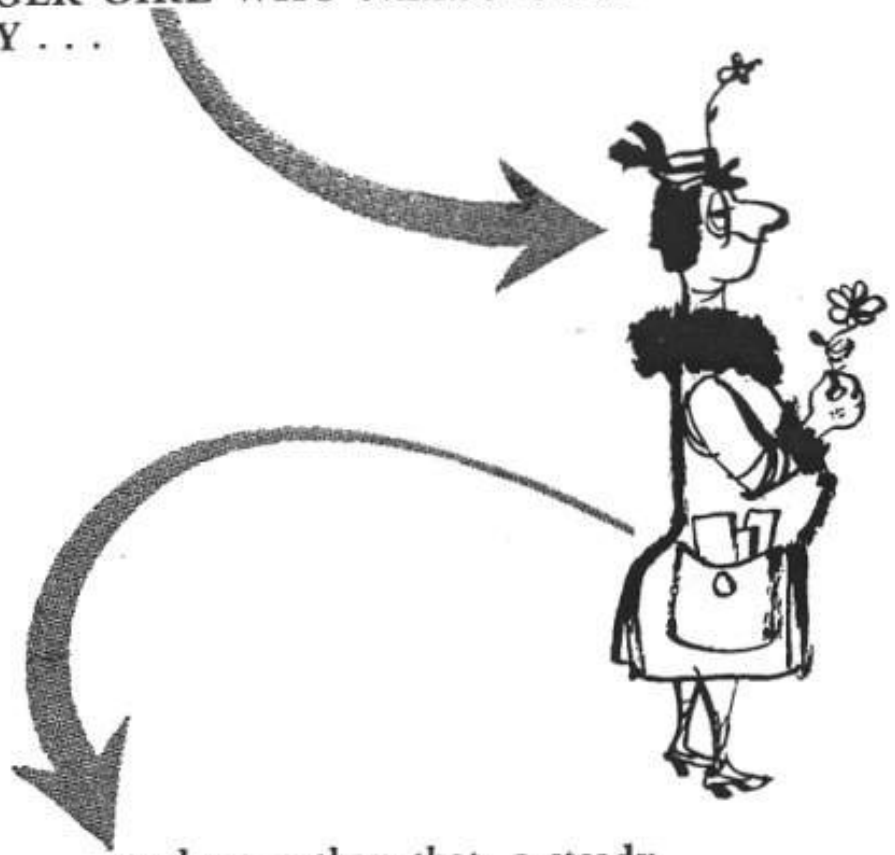
I am now a subscriber to your magazine which I am very pleased with. It is small but I hope it grows bigger and bigger and better. I hope the Editors keep a close eye on the items inserted, for if we want to advance into our present society we don't want people to read our magazine and think it's vulgar, let's keep it so we wouldn't be ashamed if our mothers picked it up.

I am all for this magazine and for the Mattachine Foundation, for something must be done. The Vice Squad is terrible in Los Angeles, I am from New York City and can't seem to see the difference between the Gestapo of Germany and the Vice Squad of Los Angeles. No one is safe or has any rights, according to them both. Enclosed find an item dramatizing what I mean. I notice that "Florabel Muir" seems to be against this type of handling by the Vice. A few of her articles in the Mirror spoke out against them. I think she should be commended by ONE and the "Mattachine Foundation." We should get behind any and everybody who speaks out or fights for civil rights. And by the same token speak out against people like Edith Gwynn of the Mirror who has a slant toward any and all vulgarity and respect toward none.

K. L.

June 1953
page 21

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NICE THINGS. THEY ASSURE YOU A COPY OF THE WORLD'S MOST UNIQUE MAGAZINE EACH MONTH . . . THEY BRING TO THAT FRIEND OF YOURS AN AWARENESS OF THE WORLD FOR HIS LONELINESS . . . THEY GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH THAT EAGER GIRL WHO NEEDS GUIDANCE URGENTLY . . .



and more than that; a steady flow of subs will allow us a better magazine, paid bills, more expensive contents and fewer ulcers. ONE didn't just happen and each issue doesn't fly in with a stork. Takes work, takes plain and fancy fretting, takes dough, **TAKES YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST.**

one

paintings & murals
in black light...



by
Don Hill

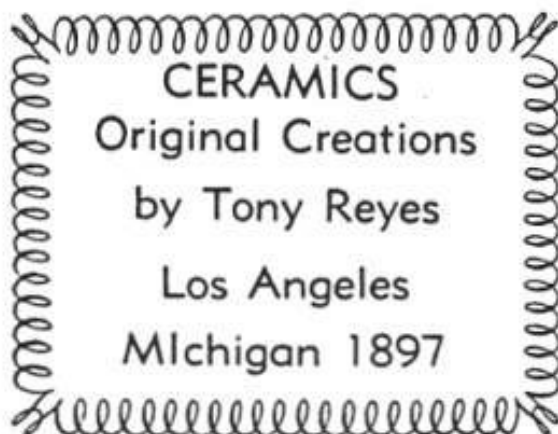
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ONE is a non-profit California corporation formed, "to publish and disseminate a magazine dealing primarily with homosexuality from the scientific, historical and critical point of view, and to aid in the social integration and rehabilitation of the sexual variant." It is also "concerned with medical social, pathological, psychological and therapeutic research of every kind and description pertaining to socio-sexual behavior," and aims "to promote among the general public an interest, knowledge and understanding of the problems of such persons."

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