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TOP SECRET'S
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A HOMOSEXUAL PLEADS—

'WHY DON'T YOU

In this open letter to all Americans, he presents an unusual viewpoint. You may quarrel with him—but he'll set you thinking

Randolfe Wicker is the pseudonym of a young practicing homosexual who devotes much of his time and effort to crusading for the rights of what he believes to be an oppressed minority. He formed the Homosexual League of New York, which was recently absorbed by another non-profit organization, the Mattachine Society, which maintains headquarters at 1133 Broadway, New York.

Mattachine devotes itself to providing what it calls "un-biased, factual information about the true aspects of human sexual behavior" and to helping sexual variants achieve adjustment. It holds public forums, issues a monthly newsletter, handles psychiatric and legal referrals and sponsors discussion groups. About 93 per cent of its membership is homosexual, but it welcomes inquiries from any one over 21 years of age and sends out free information.

TOP SECRET does not necessarily agree with all that either Mr. Wicker or the Mattachine Society has to say, but we are glad to print his article in the interests of two old American traditions—those of fair play and free speech. And, whether you agree with him or not, we suspect that you will find that what he has to say makes provocative reading.

By Randolfe Wicker

DEAR FELLOW AMERICANS:

In 1948 *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, better known as *The Kinsey Report*, created an international sensation by revealing some startling statistics.

Some of these "startling" findings by Kinsey, Pomeroy and Martin concerned homosexual activity. The researchers found: "37 per cent of the total male population has at least some overt homosexual experience to the point of orgasm between adolescence and old age. This accounts for 2 males out of every 5 that one may meet.

"13 per cent of the males (approximately) react erotically to other males without having overt homosexual contacts after the onset of adolescence.

"8 per cent of the males are exclusively homosexual for

at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55.

"4 per cent of the white males are exclusively homosexual throughout their lives after the onset of adolescence."

Consider the families, friends, co-workers and neighbors peripherally involved with those fitting into any of these categories and the general public's interest in homosexuality is self explanatory. Generally speaking, homosexuality touches almost everyone's life in some manner at one time or another.

Since I am a homosexual, inversion has more than 'touched' my life and those of countless others. For us homosexuality has been a way of life—a way of life rampant with difficulties, a life lived in the "gay ghettos" of this country's major cities where the individual homosexual shapes for himself a more or less comfortable refuge from a heterosexual (and hostile) society.

Now let us make one thing clear right from the outset. This open letter is NOT arguing that sick people should be allowed to rape children, seduce teen-age boys or make nuisances of themselves in public toilets. These offenses, after all, have nothing to do with homosexuality in itself. Assault is assault, a minor whose morals are corrupted is a minor (no matter what the sex of either the corrupter or the minor) and a public nuisance is a public nuisance. There are laws to deal with these things, no matter whether the people involved are homosexual or not.

No, what I AM saying is that there are millions of people like myself, who are just as law-abiding as you are in every respect except one. And we think we are just as decent, just as moral, as you are in EVERY respect. We think that what we freely choose to do in the privacy of our homes is not your business, any more than it is our business what you choose to do.

We are not hurting you in any way. We are not hurting society. Yet the laws, society and public opinion do their best, in hundreds of ways, to hound us, to make our lives miserable. Why?

We don't ask any special favors of you.

All we ask is that you let us alone.

As a representative of both the Homosexual League of

LEAVE US ALONE!

New York and Mattachine Society of New York, I've had the opportunity of working on presentations concerning homosexuality with newspapers, magazines and broadcasters: *The New York Times*, *The New York Post*, and *The Village Voice*; *Life*, *Newsweek*, and *Harper's* magazines; the ABC, CBS and NBC television networks; Westinghouse and Pacifica radio networks.

This experience has shown that whenever homosexuality is discussed certain popular misconceptions inevitably arise. For instance, the following are five popular myths concerning homosexuality:

Fiction: Homosexuals are effeminate.

Fact: While a few homosexuals are flamboyantly effeminate, the overwhelming majority of homosexuals do not differ appreciably in appearance or manner from other men. Masculinity is considered attractive by most homosexuals and therefore something to be cultivated.

Fiction: Homosexuals molest little children.

Fact: Most sex attacks on minors are on female children. Child molestation results from a person's inability to relate sexually to other adults. It is a sexual problem completely distinct from either heterosexuality or homosexuality. (See *The Facts About The Child Molesters*, page 42.)

Fiction: Homosexuals are Communists.

Fact: In Russia homosexuality is punishable by death. In Cuba the suspected homosexual finds himself in the workhouse. A disproportionate number of refugees from Eastern Europe are homosexual—due in part, perhaps, to the fact that social attitudes toward homosexuals in the West are more lenient than those behind the Iron Curtain.

Fiction: Homosexuals are all easy prey to blackmail.
Fact: Several pairs of defectors have been homosexual. However, their main reasons for defection have been political and/or financial. Most spy-and-sex scandals have revolved about heterosexuals and heterosexuality (e.g. the Profumo Scandal, the Rosenbergs, etc.). In those cases (heterosexual or homosexual) where blackmail might play a role, an enlightened attitude by government officials (i.e. allowing blackmail attempts to be reported without retribution to those involved) would minimize the vulnerability of the victims.

Fiction: Homosexuals seduce others into their way of life.

Fact: Homosexuality is caused by a variety of factors, especially those going back to the home environment. Seduction does not turn a heterosexual into a homosexual. In prisons, military schools, etc., men isolated from women may resort to homosexual activity for ex-

tended periods of time. Yet when returned to a normal environment, these same men abandon homosexual activity and once again seek out female mates.

A full list of the popular misconceptions concerning homosexuality would be nearly endless. Yet public opinion and official policies based on these erroneous concepts present very real problems for the homosexual individual.

For instance, all homosexuals—regardless of job suitability—are banned from state and federal civil service positions. The unfortunate employee coming to any civil service commission's attention as being homosexual is promptly dismissed. Personal integrity, decades of faithful service, reliability and competence are disregarded. The employee's homosexuality alone causes his dismissal.

Currently the American Civil Liberties Union, in cooperation with the Washington Mattachine Society, is appealing a series of such dismissals. The ACLU argues that the Federal Civil Service Commission's employment policies regarding homosexuals are blatantly discriminatory and therefore unconstitutional. Concurrently, a homosexual finds only slightly more employment security in the private sector of the economy.

Employment discrimination against homosexuals as practiced by the U.S. Government is both thorough and far reaching. A homosexual working in a defense-related industry—regardless of his military record, loyalty, etc.—(if known) will automatically be denied a security clearance.

In the military, the homosexual who chooses to declare himself at induction (and thereby go on official records) receives a 4-F deferment. However, the man who, because of a sense of duty, obligation or patriotism, does not declare himself and goes into service is liable to be dishonorably discharged if he is inadvertently discovered.

Not only does the homosexual face universal employment barriers, but he is frequently denied access to public educational opportunities as well. Fortunately, most homosexuals escape such mistreatment through living conservatively and avoiding exposure. Still, even the adjusted and successful invert becomes anxious if his private life appears to be becoming known.

Occasionally homosexual witch hunts are spawned by extremist right-wing "hate" groups. In Florida, a legislative investigating committee called the Johns Committee annually attempts to ferret out homosexual students and professors at the state universities.

Using McCarthyite tactics, Johns Committee traps one homosexual, then pressures him into naming all the other "perverts" he knows in both faculty and student body. The Committee then sees that those named are written up in the

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dise; and the practice of certain photographers (not the kind mentioned before, who come up to you on the street) who, despite the efforts of the hotels, frequently make contact with hotel visitors and lure them into buying expensive photographs on the phony sales pitch that they represent a "news service" and that photos are desired for press and publicity purposes.

According to Jackson, "the varieties of the confidence game are innumerable. Some nimblewitted fellow is always coming up with an old gimmick dusted off and tried again." And there is always someone to fall for the con man's pitch.

Visitors will be lured into contributing to non-existent charities; they will pay cash for merchandise bought from concessionaires, which includes many varieties of souvenirs, color slides, even sweaters, jewelry, perfume. The salesman will say he'll mail it. But it will never arrive.

Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz said that his office would continue to scrutinize the practices of World's Fair concessionaires to make sure Fair visitors get what they pay for.

Also, Queens Supreme Court Justice J. Irwin Shapiro impaneled a special World's Fair Grand Jury to sit for the next two years.

The job of the 17 men and four women as Justice Shapiro sees it, will be to hear, and either indict or dismiss with dispatch complaints of offenses at the Fair.

A police official said that plainclothes squads throughout the city have been increased. The vice squads have been strengthened. The pickpocket squads have been beefed up because "lawbreak-

ers from all over the world are coming to New York for what they think is a Mecca."

One of the greatest hazards for visitors to the Fair are the pickpockets. One of the most colorful and forward of these gentry is the Spitter. He spits on his victim's pocket. This distracts the victim, and while he stares in disgust, the pickpocket apologizes noisily, produces a large handkerchief and cleans the pocket up—as well as out, removing the wallet with the handkerchief.

According to Lieutenant Neil J. Behan, head of New York's Pickpocket Squad, most pickpockets are what the police call "moll-buzzers," pickpockets who steal exclusively from women.

Some "buzzers" concentrate on women's coat pockets, others on their purses, and still others only on purses that have been left sitting beside their owners.

Still another threat to the Fair visitors is the "jostler," who "bumps" into his victims. While the victim is distracted by the jolt, a second member of the pocket-picking team grabs his wallet, then tosses it to a third who escapes into the crowd.

The first day of the Fair saw three men accused, convicted and sentenced for trying to lift visitors' wallets.

Viewing the entire picture, BBB President Jackson said, "The city has been waiting for them—for the jostlers and con men, the pickpockets and crooks—to seize the scoundrels by the scuff of the neck. We drew up war plans. They'll find us ready for them."

"So far as we know," Jackson added, "nobody yet has bought the Brooklyn Bridge, but we expect to have some fellow ready to sell it if a buyer turns up."

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local papers, blacklisted, dismissed from employment and expelled from the university.

While the Johns Committee and other groups have evoked intense local controversies, it has been proposals to legalize certain homosexual acts which have triggered the broadest public debates. In Britain, the *Wolfenden Report* embodied a proposal to Parliament that consenting homosexual acts done in private by adults should be legalized.

The ensuing publicity gave many people the impression that homosexuality has been legalized in England. This is not so. While educated public opinion supported the *Wolfenden* recommendations, Parliament rejected them by a vote of 212 to 98.

Especially interesting was the position of the Church of England. The Church supported the *Wolfenden Report's* proposals on the ground that homosexual acts, sinful though they may be, should be the concern of personal morality, and not of the law.

In the United States the American Law Institute's *Model Penal Code* incorporates identical recommendations. So far only Illinois has adopted these suggested revised statutes. In the District of Columbia the same proposition came into law via court decision and interpretation. Yet while consenting homosexual acts are legal in Illinois and in the District of Columbia, in England and in 49 of the 50 states statutes punishing homosexual behavior are still on the books.

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