



Life Style

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AP Photos

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'The Sexual Image of Gays Has Been Talked About Far Too Much'

BY CONNIE LUNNEN
Chronicle Staff
(Last of Two)

There is no welcome mat, but a verse on the wall that reads: "I do my thing and you do your thing. I am not in this world to live up to your expectations . . ."

Four years ago, when Dennis Milam was 16, he told his mother he was a homosexual; he knew she wouldn't disown him.

"My mother was too liberal and progressive to throw me out. Besides she gets a lot of strength from her children. I knew she would hurt herself if she rejected me. We had a lot of trust in each other," says Dennis.



He is 20, a junior at the University of Texas. He wants to be a teacher or a counselor.

His apartment is small, like a trailer house. Everything has a place. The plant on the refrigerator. The purse on the kitchen table. The only trace of color is the patchwork quilt on the sofa.

He has finished the breakfast dishes, taken out the trash, let a restless cat outside.

Dennis sees his mother Mary, who lives in Houston, every few months. Sometimes she comes to Austin, going with him to gay bars or dances at night.

"I take her to gay bars just to let her see a whole variety of gay people, from wild, long-haired radicals to conservative businessmen. She can see drag queens and the most feminine looking women dancing together," he says.

Most gay men aren't "effeminate hairdressers who see analysts and cry all the time," Dennis says.

He feels he is not that way.

"I wish to emphasize those things about gay people that usually don't come up, the cultural, political and social things. The sexual image of gays has been talked about far too much. Sometimes we feel like some women must feel when they're defined simply as sex objects. It's an ugly feeling."

Tall and lean, he has a mustache and beard. Big round eyes are set in a wide face. He has curly hair. His mother thinks he dresses like a hippie these days. He wears jeans, a shirt and tennis shoes. Until he left for college, she bought his clothes.

Has he ever felt like a woman? "That's a ridiculous question. I am a man," he snaps. Between sociology classes, he attends a "men's awareness" class sponsored by the campus YMCA. He wants to see how much of a man he is.

"I have a feeling of myself as a man, with the word 'gay' in front of man. I want to know how much I am like other men. I've already discovered that most men in the group have the same worries and fears. Even though I am the only gay member, the same things make us lonely and happy."

Dennis says he is a "multiplicity" of qualities, like the patchwork quilt his sister made. Strong and independent, weak and emotional. "Some days I feel really together. Other days I need someone to comfort me." Roles don't restrict him; he doesn't believe in them.

"I would like to see women become more powerful and independent and men more sensitive," he says.

Dennis' older brother lives out of state. As children, they weren't close. Now Dennis sends him piles of information on gay liberation, hoping he'll understand.

(See DENNIS, Page 2)



Television

Marcus Welby gets some 'minor' welts

THE HOUSTON POST
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1974

By C.W. SKIPPER
Post Television Editor

There is a bit of a flap about, of all things, the Marcus Welby, M.D. episode being shown tonight (9 p.m., Channel 13).

A handful of ABC affiliates has canceled this Tuesday's Welby, mostly because of criticism by homosexual groups. The plotline concerns a 14-year-old who is sexually assaulted by his junior high school science teacher while on a field trip.

The homosexual groups, trying to bring pressure on the network (rejected) and the affiliate stations, say the show affronts them and their cause by stereotyping images of homosexuals on television.

Five affiliates have canceled the show. They are the ABC affiliates in Boston, Philadelphia, Springfield, Mass., Lafayette, La., and Corpus Christi.

KTRK-TV, Channel 13, the Houston affiliate, reported the station had received two letters of complaint. One was a stereotyped letter from a group called the National Gay Task Force. The other was from Houston, and purported to be from Integrity Houston. It was signed with a man's name, and gave three phone numbers.

Ken Johnson, KTRK-TV general manager, said the station had called the three numbers attempting to reach the man whose name was signed to the letter, but at one number the person answering had never heard of the name. Nobody answered at the other two numbers.

"Channel 13 definitely will carry the program," Johnson said. "In my judgment I felt it should be shown."

Officials of the National Association of Broadcasters' Code Authority office viewed the show and found it acceptable. ABC rejected the complaints and a spokesman said, "Our standards and practices department looked at the film and found it suitable. The National Association of Broadcasters' code also found it suitable for airing."

The show, titled "The Outrage," goes out of its way to state that homosexuality is not involved. A detective says, "There's nothing homosexual about this. It's a case of violent child molestation. A guy with severe mental and emotional problems. He's often married, middle-aged with a crummy marriage, a crummy sex life or both. We call him a pedophile, a child molester."

This episode is not quite the blockbuster ABC apparently had hoped it would be, and its 9 p.m. starting time is well past the bedtime for the smaller children.

The disturbing thing about the matter is that with all the restrictions and censorship facing networks and the TV stations, even one station found reason to cancel such a show, denying the majority an opportunity to see and judge while appeasing a minority.

'The Gun' report

Universal City Studios, Inc. is working on a television film to be titled—until it's changed—"The Gun." The original idea was to make a film about two police officers following a gun, a murder weapon, across the country. Then it was decided to drop the policemen and the murder, and concentrate on one particular .38 as it passes from hand to hand, touching people's lives in transit.

The studio says, "After writing the script we decided not to use any 'name' actors in the film . . . we also eliminated any kind of musical score, as well as makeup for the actors."

Universal points out that there are about 200

million guns in the U.S., nearly one a person. That 20,000 Americans are killed by guns each year, and that the .22-caliber pistol used to assassinate Robert Kennedy had passed through five hands. The studio says, perhaps nervously, "The subject of guns, of course, is an emotional one. Legitimate gun owners, hunters, and collectors resent what they feel are governmental encroachments on their personal liberties."

Undoubtedly, Universal has its sights on big returns with small overhead, but I think the reports will be bad.



Marla Adams plays the mother of a boy (Sean Kelly) who has been criminally molested on Marcus Welby, MD at 9 p.m. on Channel 13.

Memorial fund tops \$7200

As of noon, Aug. 9, the ADVOCATE had recorded \$7260.24 in the National New Orleans Memorial Fund, for which it is acting as custodian.

The contributions since noon, July 26, the day of the last previous report, are:

From individuals . . . \$582.71
From organizations, benefits, and companies . . . \$1687.17

The latter figure breaks down as follows:

Tantalus (Boston) . . . \$25.00
MCC/Detroit . . . \$156.20
Integrity (Houston) . . . \$25.00
MCC/Tampa, additional donation . . . \$50.00
(bringing their total to \$384)
United Metropolitan Community Church (Tulsa) . . . \$100.00
MCC/Los Angeles . . . \$443.58
MCC/Long Beach . . . \$146.00
MCC/San Fernando . . . \$28.00
Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim, MCT . . . \$52.28
MCC/Atlanta . . . \$372.00
Fund-raiser, B.J.'s bar, Los Angeles . . . \$71.00
Dignity . . . \$50.00
Gay People's Union (Milwaukee) . . . \$75.00
MCC/Baltimore . . . \$23.75
Boulder (Colo.) Gay Liberation . . . \$69.36

Disbursements of record to date have been \$200 to establish a petty cash fund in New Orleans for day-to-day expenses.