

STREET SENSE

Men discover their sexuality sooner than women

Dear Barbara,
Why is it when I talk to gay men they say they have known that they were gay their whole life. But when I talk to gay women, they say they didn't figure out the problem until young adulthood. Are men more in touch with their sexuality?

George

Dear George,

Before answering your excellent question, we have to recognize that as of this date, we do not know the genetic contribution to homosexuality and lesbianism. The genetic factor might come out earlier in men and later in women.

It may turn out that the expression of the genetic code for men is at

an earlier age than it is for women. If you and I have this in the back of our mind, I can then respond psychologically.

Psychologically, the roles of men and women growing up are different. For both, the original bond is to the mother. A man has an easier job — for him the love object remains a woman.

For the woman, the task is more difficult. She must change her love object to a man and this happens at a later date. It might not happen until she gets married and then finds out she is not enjoying it.

Adolescent girls often have crushes on teachers or classmates who are women. When all goes ac-

cording to cultural expectations, they then outgrow these crushes and make the difficult change to the man as a love object.

Some cannot make this change and remain attracted to women. If she is a lesbian, then it is about this point that she will realize it. It will come into consciousness after trying to make the culturally acceptable switch and not being able to.

Why do men, who have the easier task, switch to another man as a love object rather than remaining bonded to women? (Of course, I still recognize the pressing contribution of genes in these choices.) In a psychological explanation, the baby boy felt panic in his relationship with his mother and so he pulled away.

He became frightened and felt weak and helpless in this relationship. When this happens, the mother as a love object has to be avoided. He then seeks strength from his father and later on from other men.

Developmentally, this switch was motivated to occur at a younger age than the girl's switch. Because the demands on men and women are different, he found out earlier that he was not going to comply with cultural expectations.

It is also possible that in our culture, women can hide their sexual preference even from themselves longer than men can. Sexually, the physical demands on men and women are different and so women might

be able to defend themselves against acknowledging the reality of their sexual preference for a longer time. A woman can be passive and still seem adequate. A man cannot hide the lack of an erection.

This is a complicated topic. I am sure that many readers have additional thoughts on this subject that I have left out. Any letters which contribute understanding to this problem will be welcomed.

Barbara



Barbara Schiff

If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

VIDEO VIEWING

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Violence galore, so all can comfortably displace their aggressions via Scagall's antics. Certainly, a \$13 million box office can't be wrong.

"Marked for Death" debuted on videocassette April 18 and on the same day, a different kind of violence, from another era, appeared on home video for the first time.

Peyton Place (1957, 157 minutes) and Return to Peyton Place (1961, 123 minutes) were pretty violent and shocking stories of life, love, sex and

passion behind closed doors in a small New England town.

THE FIRST starred Lana Turner and was nominated for nine Oscars while Carol Lynley was featured in the second. Both will seem tame by today's standards but lovers of soapy melodrama, as well as everyone tripping out on nostalgia, will enjoy this dual pack. Where else can you get almost five hours of other people's lives for just pennies a minute?

While we're on this love affair with old-time hate and passion, MGM/UA Home Video is releasing

10 detective stories Wednesday, each for under \$20, starting a host of famous Hollywood names — Tony Randall, Robert Morley, Anita Ekberg, Elliot Gould, James Garner, Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway, among others.

Four of these films feature Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple in the Agatha Christie series — Murder Ahoy (1964, 93 minutes), Murder at the Gallop (1963, 81 minutes), Murder Most Foul (1965, 90 minutes) and Murder, She Said (87 minutes). The last, in 1962, was Rutherford's first

appearance as Miss Marple. All are in black and white and unrated but suitable for family viewing.

The Alphabet Murders (1966, black and white, 90 minutes) has Rutherford in a guest appearance with Tony Randall starring as Hercule Poirot, another Agatha Christie favorite.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER makes an unbillied appearance in The Long Goodbye (1973, color, 112 minutes), Robert Altman's updated spoof of the old Raymond Chandler private-eye story.

ALTERNATIVE MOVIE

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"There's no place for it in the new China."

The story is true, according to the introduction, even the supernatural scene where she's saved from a firing squad by a blinding light, which some interpret as a lightning bolt from heaven.

Anger and outrage fuel "China Cry," which was written and directed

ed by James Collier, apparently on a mission from God. I can't remember a film in the past few decades that so openly wears its Christianity on its sleeve.

The occasional charm of "China Cry" comes from actress Julia Nickson-Soul, who, like the other actors, delivers her lines in English. The one-dimensional supporting characters, from her brooding husband to

the stone-faced Communists, drag the film down.

THE DIALOGUE is loaded with clichés, not just party slogans ("The era of pure Communism is the prize of the future"), but from Sung, who tells her husband, "They bend us like saplings in the wind."

While there are moments of suspense and power, this is not an especially hard-hitting drama.

There's no edge. Like a TV movie with a message, it can be digested and leaves you with the required amount of outrage.

Overall, "China Cry" should warrant high praise from the review staff at The Christian Science Monitor. After witnessing the anti-Communist, pro-Christian and American values espoused here, you may think the Monitor had a hand in producing it.

Band plays blues its way on 'Life'

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Despite not being enamored with the rock'n'roll lifestyle, McCarty wants to go on the road with the Detroit Blues Band and reach a wider audience. He's tasted success on several levels.

Though he played with Billy Lee

and the Riverias, who later became Mitch Ryder and The Detroit Wheels, some of McCarty's best rock'n'roll tracks were laid with The Rockets. Johnny "Doc" Budonjek formed the band in 1973, recording six LPs, including one on Capitol.

McCarty also contributed guitar pieces for Bob Seger's "Seger VII" album and Jimi Hendrix's "Nine to the Universe." But in those 20 years, McCarty also worked with The Siegel-Schwally Band and The Buddy Miles Express.

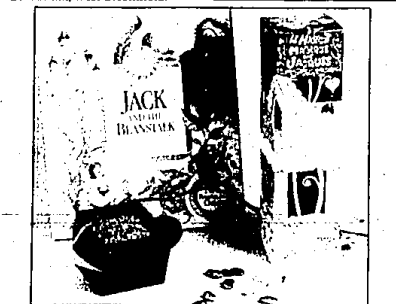
"I always appreciated the blues," said McCarty, whose influences include B.B. King, Albert King and Hendrix. "I spent 20 years trying to make it. It gets to the point to when you don't make it... and you do what you really want to do."

STREET SEEN
Denise Susan Lucas

Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 2131.

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Firehose rekindles its energy in 'Flyin'

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the hardcore group, The Minutemen, who lost frontman D. Boon in a van crash. As the story goes, one of The Minutemen's biggest fans in Ohio heard, quite mistakenly, that the band was auditioning new guitarists.

Ed Crawford promptly quit his job and headed to San Pedro, Calif., to try out. Upon hearing The Minute-

men were finished, Crawford remained undaunted. The young guitarist continually called Watt, who was still grieving the death of D. Boon.

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