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PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AND UNCONSCIOUS
HOMOSEXUAL DESIRES: AN HYPOTHESIS

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The possibility that heterosexual behavior may serve to gratify unconscious homosexual desires has been noted. Blanchard (1959), for example, discussed group rape and noted that the sharing of a female for sexual purposes in one another's presence might well gratify unconscious homosexual desires of the males committing the sexual assault. Men who have certain heterosexual preferences (such as anal intercourse or female partners who have masculine characteristics) may also be gratifying unconscious homosexual desires. The purpose of this paper is to suggest that a similar inference could be made about males who habitually attend heterosexual pornographic films.

In a typical cinema in which pornographic films are shown, the audience is usually completely male, although no studies of the composition of audiences have been published. Most likely, a man watches these films in the presence of other men. If there is a period of live entertainment (dancing or sexual intercourse), the men typically move closer to the front for this, thereby sitting in close proximity.

The content of pornographic films emphasizes close up views of penises. Fellatio is prominent. All ejaculations are shown and the semen visible. There are also close up views of the genital areas during intercourse. Aside from a few views of the female face and breast, the content is very similar to that of homosexual films, in which views of fellatio and intercourse also comprise most of the film.

Heterosexual films also contain episodes in which one female services several males at one time, with a combination of fellatio, vaginal intercourse, and anal intercourse. In these scenes, several men are sharing the same female, much as occurs in group rape, but of course without the use of force on an unwilling female. The audience, though not active participants, may be seen as passive participants.

The theme of heterosexual pornographic films is that the males get pleasure. The females, though supposed to be enjoying the sexual activity, are used for male gratification. The films may be conceptualized as glorifying the male penis and the male orgasm.

If it is correct to suspect that heterosexual pornographic films do gratify unconscious homosexual desires, then it might be hypothesized that males who habitually watch such films would give evidence of unconscious concerns as manifest, for example, in sexual impotency or on objective tests of homosexual desires that have been devised (Lester, 1974). Such studies have not yet been conducted.

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