

# Mea culpa

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when money changes hands. Hustlers in Illinois will now have to be very careful. Should it be proved that they solicit or perform intercourse for money, they've had it, to the extent of a \$200 fine or a year in prison, or both; the one who patronizes a prostitute is subject to the same penalties. The new code, however, very coyly leaves a loophole; it is not intended, it says, to have this section apply to sexual acts of a purely private, *non-commercial* nature. Thus, a person who receives favors or presents of a *non-monetary* kind in return for occasional sexual acts will not be found guilty of prostitution. Johnny will hereafter have to take his pay in neckties, wallets, watches, trips to Acapulco, assorted yachts, and an occasional Mercedes-Benz; of course, if we know him, he'll sell them the next day to the highest bidder, or head for the pawn shop.

Perhaps the oddest thing about the entire situation is the fact that no one seems to be talking about the 'new freedom' at all. So far, there has been no hysterical hollerin' from the professional Puritan keepers of the public house; and—touching wood—even the church groups have been quiet about it all. No new Savonarola has arisen to thunder his curses in the market place, nor have there been predictions about a rain of fire and brimstone from heaven. For a new City of the Plains, Chicago seems quite decorous; there is no more than the usual daily quota of murders, rapes, and hi-jackings.

The best 'legal' opinion about the new law regarding homosexuals is that if it lasts six months without outcry for repeal, it will be permanent, because by that time a sufficiently large number of cases will have been thrown out of court, and enough prisoners released from jail for prior conviction under the old law to establish precedents. And once the law becomes re-inforced by enough precedents, it will remain in effect—curious point, that: a law has to *grow* by accretion of cases, which somehow establish its 'validity.'

Meanwhile, here in Chicago and Illinois most of us are treading very carefully, breathing gently and neither combing nor letting down our hair in public, doing without our favorite colognes, eschewing red and lavender neckties, and in general trying to remain mousey, nebbish, and unnoticed. It may be legal now, but no one can say how long it will last.

—Donald Bishop

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## MEA CULPA

«Homosexuals must work at least as hard as anyone else against selfishness in all its forms. With the best will in the world, society can scarcely be expected to put up with the vanity, hypersensitiveness, obstinacy, and inconsiderateness of others that I have sometimes encountered in my fellow homosexuals.»

Anonymous

(From: *The Mattachine Newsletter, New York*)