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PATTERNS IN MASCULINE GENDER ROLE IDENTIFICATION,  
BODY SATISFACTION AND SELF-IMAGE IN HOMOSEXUAL MALES

By

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## ABSTRACT

### PATTERNS IN MASCULINE GENDER ROLE IDENTIFICATION, BODY SATISFACTION AND SELF-IMAGE IN HOMOSEXUAL MALES

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It is argued in clinical psychoanalytic literature that homosexuality in males expresses the ego's need to secure masculine components of the ego-ideal. Aspects of this theory were evaluated for a sample of 24 gay men ranging in age from 19 to 45 years.

It was found that the stronger a subject's identification with his father, the closer his actual self-image approximated his ideal self. There was also a high positive correlation between masculine gender role identification and body satisfaction. Finally, the semantic differential concepts MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and THE PERFECT LOVER were nearly identical for almost every subject. All of these findings are consistent with psychoanalytic theories.

Contrary to psychoanalytic expectations, there seemed to be a positive correlation between emphasis on physical attractiveness of sexual object and body satisfaction. A subsequent investigation is proposed to test these hypotheses in relation to heterosexual men.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

There is probably more nonsense written about homosexuality, more unwarranted fear of it, and less understanding of it than any other area of human sexuality. (Pomeroy, 1969, p. 1)

There are at least two prominent factors which, in Pomeroy's view, account for the heap of nonsensical literature devoted to the subject of homosexuality. The first of these is the acceptance of the phenomenon as a single, unitary entity. He points out that whereas some homosexuals develop long-term emotional relationships with another person of the same sex and live "monogamously" for as much as the remainder of their lives, others devote themselves to pluralistic (i.e., nonmonogamous) styles of sexual expression. He also observes, in relation to male homosexuals, that some engage in homosexual encounters for money, others may begin homosexual activity when confined to an exclusively male environment. Pomeroy concludes that

...it is obvious that to lump all homosexuals together is as grossly misleading as to lump all heterosexuals together. Homosexuality is no respecter of age, religion, or social level. It occurs as frequently among physicians, psychiatrists, clergymen, judges and politicians as among truck drivers and ditch diggers. (p. 10)

The second factor is a persistent disinclination to approach homosexuality as a sexual variation independent of stereotypes. More specifically, regarding the controversy as to whether homosexuality should be considered a disorder, Pomeroy writes,

If my concept of homosexuality were developed from my practice, I would probably concur in thinking of it as an illness. I have seen no homosexual man or woman in that practice who was not troubled, emotionally upset, or neurotic. On the other hand, if my concept of marriage in the United States were based on my practice, I would have to conclude that marriages are all fraught with strife and conflict, and that heterosexuality is an illness. In my twenty years of research in the field of sex, I have seen many homosexuals who were happy, who were participating and conscientious members of their community, and who were stable, productive, warm, relaxed, and efficient. Except for the fact that they were homosexual, they would be considered normal by any definition. (p. 10)

In the Final Report and Background Papers of the NIMH Task Force on Homosexuality (Livingood, 1972), top priority is assigned to refinement of sampling methods to comprise the entire range of homosexual phenomena. It is urged, furthermore, that investigations be conducted in a way that includes homosexual individuals who "do not come into contact with medical, legal, or other social control or treatment resources and who therefore have been least studied" (p. 3).

In spite of a generally more liberal approach to the issue of homosexuality, however, strong emphasis is still placed by the Task Force on prevention and treatment. On the other hand, in the third and most recent edition of the

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III), no general classification exists for homosexuality, but rather for "ego dystonic homosexuality" (American Psychiatric Association, 1980, p. 281). This is a change from DSM-II which has stimulated much controversy (Bayer, 1981).

#### Historical Review of Psychodynamic Theories of Male Homosexuality

Among early theorists who devoted formal study to the subject of homosexuality, it was widely believed that the basis for such same-sex preferences was biological. Richard von Krafft-Ebing, for example, became distinguished for his work in the field of human sexuality in the late nineteenth century. Krafft-Ebing originally believed homosexuality, or "inversion," as he called it, to be a functional sign of neuropathic and psychopathic degeneration which in most cases was the result of unnamed hereditary factors. He ultimately took the position, however, that homosexuality represented not so much a state of degeneration, but was more likely a simple variation or anomaly. In commenting upon Krafft-Ebing's contribution to our understanding of homosexuality, another early student of human sexuality, Havelock Ellis, writes:

At the time of his death, Krafft-Ebing, who had begun by accepting the view, at that time prevalent among alienists, that homosexuality is a sign of degeneration, thus fully adopted and set the seal of his authority on the view, already expressed by some scientific investigators as well

as by inverts themselves, that sexual inversion is to be regarded simply as an anomaly, whatever difference of opinion there might be as to the value of the anomaly. The way was even opened for such a view as that of Freud and most of the psychoanalysts today who regard a strain of homosexuality as normal and almost constant, with a profound significance for the psychoneurotic life. (Ellis, 1942, pp. 70, 71)

Interestingly, although Freud saw homosexuality as an "arrest" of psychosexual development, he regarded it neither illness nor vice and suggested a rather dismal outlook for those who should undertake to "reverse" it. In 1935, Freud wrote a now well-known letter to an American woman whose son was homosexual:

Homosexuality is assuredly no advantage, but it is nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation, it cannot be classified as an illness; we consider it to be a variation of the sexual function produced by a certain arrest of sexual development. Many highly respectable individuals of ancient and modern times have been homosexuals, several of the greatest men among them (Plato, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, etc.). It is a great injustice to persecute homosexuality as a crime, and cruelty too...

By asking me if I can help, you mean, I suppose, if I can abolish homosexuality and make normal heterosexuality take its place. The answer is, in a general way, we cannot promise to achieve it. In a certain number of cases we succeed in developing the blighted germs of heterosexual tendencies which are present in every homosexual, in the majority of cases it is no more possible...

What analysis can do for your son runs in a different line. If he is unhappy, neurotic, torn by conflicts, inhibited in his social life, analysis may bring him harmony, peace of mind, full efficiency, whether he remains a homosexual or gets changed. (Freud, 1935/1963)



Basic to the psychoanalytic approach to the origins of homosexuality is what is known as the "biological bisexuality of man," a concept which holds the ability of everyone initially to develop sexual feelings without regard to the object's gender to be a phylogenetic given. Seeming to support this hypothesis is the apparently indiscriminant nature of infantile sexuality. Similarly, homosexual behavior has been described by Blos as "part and parcel" of teenage life (Blos, cited in Fraiberg, 1961, p. 78). In addition, observations of frequent homosexual experimentation in adolescence, at least among males, are well documented. Just as these phenomena may be considered behaviorally manifested vestiges of the original homosexual component of basically bisexual man or woman, what is often referred to as "situational homosexuality" is seen as a consequence of an innate flexibility of object choice. This type of homosexuality is the homosexual activity of men or women in situations where sexual partners of the other sex are unavailable, such as in prisons or at sea. At the heart of the psychoanalytic approach to homosexuality, then, is the question of what events take place in later development to cause an individual's sexual preference to be limited to objects of his or her own sex. According to Fenichel (1945), and true to the psychoanalytic tradition, a readiness to develop the homosexual orientation is in part determined by constitutional factors among which the hormonal components are crucial (p. 330). Under the pressure of certain conflicts, then,

which are discussed below, these constitutionally predisposing factors may facilitate the development of a homosexual orientation.

At this point, it is necessary to turn our attention primarily to male homosexuality given that the divergencies between females and males in development necessitate a separate discussion for each group, and that the focus of this investigation is homosexuality in males. What is not applicable to this group is not here considered.

The classical psychoanalytic position holds the rejection of the heterosexual object in male homosexuality to be distinctly genital. The homosexual man may engage in social relationships with women, come to admire them and develop secure platonic relationships, but is repulsed or frightened by the idea of genital contact with them due to the fact that the homosexual man is dominated by a strong castration complex. For such an individual, the idea of being without a penis is so terrifying that he would not consider engaging in sexual intercourse with a partner who did not have one.

According to this perspective, the sight of feminine genitals may arouse anxiety in the male child in two ways: first, once recognizing that there does exist a class of human beings who have no penis, the boy comes to fear that he might lose his as well. Secondly, certain oral fears may be aroused in which the female genitals are seen as a device for castration, viz., a "vagina dentata." The first sight of the female genitals and the sudden anxiety which it may

arouse in a boy is referred to as "castration shock," and may be found in the histories of both homosexual and heterosexual males. The decisive factor in terms of object choice is the type of reaction to the shock which an individual undergoes. Homosexual men are thought to have reacted by refusing heterosexual contact from that point onward (Freud 1909/1963; Fenichel, 1945).

According to Fenichel (1945), the homosexual man typically exhibits an oedipal attachment to his mother which Fenichel describes as an intense "mother fixation." Central to the phenomenon of homosexuality in males, from this perspective, is the fact that all object loss or disappointment entails a tendency to regress from the level of object love to the level of identification with the object. Taking the form of castration shock, this disappointment in the mother's genitals precipitates just such a regression. What decides whether the boy becomes homosexual is how and in what respect the regressive identification takes place. It takes place in the boy who later becomes homosexual when becoming the object which he cannot possess, like his mother, he loves men.

Psychodynamic theories advanced subsequent to classical psychoanalysis have characteristically de-emphasized the role of biology in personality development in favor of greater attention to the impact of social forces on the psychological histories and ongoing mental lives of individuals. Typically less complex than more orthodox psychoanalytic

formulations, the corresponding conceptualizations of homosexuality naturally have assumed the flavors of the theories which spawned them. In general, these later psychodynamic theories will not be elaborated here except as they have some bearing on the hypotheses examined in the present investigation. The theories of Sullivan (1953) and Kohut (1971) are among those which bear such a relevancy.

Sullivan (1953) places particular emphasis on the necessity for intense and intimate (not necessarily sexual) preadolescent relationships between boys as a prerequisite to heterosexual development. In this connection he describes a group of boys who had attended high school in a small Kansas town. As adults, the two men who had not participated in the group's homosexual experimentation were discovered by Sullivan to be overt homosexuals. He adds that "those who had participated in mutual sexuality were married, with children, divorces and what not, in the best tradition of American society" (p. 256). Although he does not say that preadolescent homosexual experimentation is necessary to later heterosexual development, he does insist that the need for intimacy manifested toward members of one's own sex normally predates the maturation of the "lust dynamism." This maturation, according to Sullivan, ideally accompanies a shift in the intimacy need to the other sex. According to this point of view, homosexual behavior, whether transient or enduring, is largely given rise to by "accidents" in which such a shift fails to occur at or near

the time of puberty. In other cases, according to Sullivan, the homosexual behavior of an individual may be motivated by a pathological need to separate interpersonal relations based on lust from those based on the need for intimacy. In cases in which this need to separate lust from intimacy leads to dissociation of lust, any of a variety of anomalies in personality may be engendered, depending upon the aspect of lust dissociated. Sullivan considers male homosexuality in these cases to develop in response to the "uncanny feeling" associated with the female genitals and anticipation of the "physical intergenital situation" (p. 275).

Kohut (1971) writes, in reference to homosexuality and the other psychoanalytically so-called "perversions," "It is ... my impression that specific circumscribed disturbances in the narcissistic realm [the narcissistic personality disorders] are usually the nucleus of these widespread disorders." According to Kohut's psychoanalysis, the basis of the narcissistic personality disorders is a disturbance in the "narcissistic configurations" which evolve in response to normal disruptions to the equilibrium of primary narcissism. This comfortable state of oneness with omnipotent objects is, of course, necessarily disturbed by the shortcomings of maternal caregiving. The child, then, "replaces the previous perfection by (a) establishing a grandiose and exhibitionistic image of the self: the grandiose self; and (b) by giving over the previous perfection to an admired,

omnipotent ... self-object: the idealized parent imago" (p. 25). The term self-object here refers to those object representations which are not experienced as separate and independent from the self. Normally, the grandiosity and exhibitionism of the former are gradually modified and along with the latter are integrated into the adult personality. These two major "configurations," then, are the precursors, respectively, to normal mature forms of (a) positive self-esteem and self-confidence and (b) the ability for enthusiasm and admiration for others. Moreover, the grandiose self, once integrated into the adult personality, provides the motive force for ego-syntonic goals and ambitions while the idealized internal representation of the parent (idealized parent imago) is introjected as the idealized superego.

An individual with a narcissistic personality disorder, however, has remained fixated on archaic grandiose self-configurations and/or archaic idealized "narcissistically cathected" objects (self-objects) and has not had the benefit of integration of these with the rest of his personality. Because they remain unaltered in their unintegrated form, they threaten the mature self with intrusion of archaic narcissistic aims; and the ego remains deprived of the corresponding narcissistic investments. Particularly in the realm of object relations, which concerns us in the present study, the regression from normalcy and the corresponding continuance of the narcissistic strivings in the narcissistic personality disorders involves a "compelling need for

merger with [the] powerful object" (p. 9).

Kohut contrasts the process obtaining under favorable circumstances with its failure as follows:

Under optimal circumstances the child experiences gradual disappointment in the idealized object--or, expressed differently: the child's evaluation of the idealized object becomes increasingly realistic--which leads to a withdrawal of the narcissistic cathexes from the imago of the idealized self object to their gradual ... internalization, i.e., to the acquisition of permanent psychological structures which continue, endopsychically, the functions which the idealized self-object had previously fulfilled. If the child suffers traumatic ... disappointment in it, then optimal internalization does not take place. The child does not acquire the needed internal structure, his psyche remains fixated on an archaic self-object in what seems to be an intense form of object hunger. (p. 45)

Since all bliss and power now reside in the idealized object, the child feels empty and powerless when he is separated from it and he attempts, therefore, to maintain continuous union with it. (p. 37)

In addition, these archaic, regressive psychic structures (e.g., grandiose self, idealized parent imago) may become sexualized in narcissistic personality disorders; one manifestation of which, in Kohut's opinion, may be homosexuality. To illustrate this principle, Kohut describes the case of a man, Mr. A., who although not overtly homosexual, reported homosexual attractions of such strength as to lead him to seek analysis. In Kohut's opinion this patient's homosexual preoccupations were subordinate to his overall personality configuration which originated largely from a

traumatic disappointment in the idealized father imago in early latency. Consequently, according to Kohut, he was able to obtain a sense of heightened self-esteem only by attaching himself to strong and admired male figures. This tendency was nonsexual in nature, however, insofar as the sexualization of the narcissistic configurations was only a part of the total narcissistic personality organization. In regard to more specifically sexual acts, Mr. A.

never engaged in homosexual activities and--apart from some sexually tinged, playful wrestling in adolescence and the buying of "physical culture" magazines which contained photographs of athletic men--his homosexual preoccupations were consummated only in fantasy, with or without masturbation. The objects of his homosexual fantasies were always men of great bodily strength and perfect physique.... Occasionally he achieved orgasm and a feeling of triumph at the thought of masturbating a strong and physically perfect man and draining him of his power. (pp. 69, 70)

Kohut regards this sexualization of the narcissistic configurations as having come about via failure in the ego's drive neutralizing capacity prior to the traumatic loss of the patient's idealized parent imago. Kohut considers his fantasies of pursuing physically powerful men and the orgasmic experience of draining power from "fantasied imagoes of external perfection" as a means to the vicarious acquisition of the strength and perfection which characterized them.

Clearly, then, existing psychodynamic formulations generally regard homosexuality, at least in males, as



largely a function of developmental arrest or regression and/or avoidance of heterosexuality. These factors are often posited as interactive with unspecified constitutional predisposers. In particular, psychodynamic theories of male homosexuality, the theories of Sullivan and Kohut among them, often suggest that male homosexuality represents an unconscious striving to complete an identification with a male which normally is accomplished during childhood. Such strivings, then, which in childhood are pregenital for heterosexual males, in homosexual males continue post-pubertally and are attached to adult masculine objects; consequently assuming a manifestly adult sexual character.

The mechanisms by which these strivings are satisfied are often referred to in terms of incorporation or introjection of qualities of masculinity which have become highly admired, or which consist in a highly admired object--usually the father. Although Sullivan's emphasis is upon interpersonal processes rather than libidinal strivings mediated by the processes of incorporation and identification, he suggests that the absence of preadolescent homosexual exploration and intimacy in males is conducive to adult homosexuality. At this point, we turn to a brief survey of some major empirical findings in connection with the psychodynamics of sexual object choice.

### Overview of Major Research on Developmental Origins of Homosexuality

In 1952 Bieber and his collaborators (Bieber, et al., 1962) undertook an intensive study of male homosexuality employing 106 male homosexual and 100 male heterosexual subjects as controls, all of whom were involved in psychoanalytic treatment with members of the Society of Medical Psychoanalysts. This investigation is of importance since it represents the first successful attempt at (a) compiling such detailed data from individual psychoanalyses for such a large sample of homosexual men, and (b) subjecting such data to statistical and clinical analysis.

In general, Bieber is critical of Freud's emphasis on biological determinants in the etiology of male homosexuality, and considers the emphasis to be more suitably placed on family dynamic patterns. What Bieber refers to as the "classical" situation is one in which the mother is close-binding and intimate, dominant, and takes a deprecatory attitude toward her husband. The father is described as detached and often hostile toward the son in question. Bieber and his collaborators conclude that from their statistical analysis, the chances seem high that any son exposed to such a parental combination will either become homosexual or develop homosexual conflicts.

With regard to what constitutes a close-binding mother, the Bieber group observed that such mothers were sexually overstimulating toward their sons by means of excessive intimacy or outright seductiveness. Secondly, such mothers

sexually inhibited their sons. Although they were sexually overstimulating, they nevertheless suppressed overt manifestations of heterosexual responsiveness on the part of the child. Bieber also observes that such suppression seems to have served as a defensive means of concealing from themselves as well as from others their own sexual feelings toward their sons. Most such mothers also held antisexual attitudes which were reflected in a tendency to portray sexuality as unacceptably distasteful and brutish.

Close-binding mothers also had the general tendency to discourage masculine attitudes and behavior patterns on their sons' part and interfered with their peer group participation, minimizing opportunities for masculine identification with other boys.

These mothers also typically interfered with the father-son relationship in a number of ways. First, they encouraged the child's wish for exclusive maternal possession by openly expressing a preference for the son over the father. Similarly, they fostered father-son competitiveness by finding ways to pit each against the other for maternal favor. The mothers behaved romantically toward the sons in ways that seemed to compensate for deficiencies in the marital relationship, and permitted or encouraged the sons' participation in situations in which their involvement was not appropriate. Such sons, for example, were sometimes involved in parents' arguments or were allowed to sleep with their parents in the same bed.

By selecting a particular child for preferential treatment, usually the son who later became homosexual, they fostered competitive sibling relationships. In addition, they interfered with the development of independence by preempting the decision-making process for the child and "taking over." They discouraged self-assertiveness and typically infantilized their sons by the oversolicitous treatment.

According to Bieber, the most striking aspect of the father-son relationships in both homosexual and heterosexual groups was the consistency with which psychopathological phenomena tended to appear. He adds that "profound interpersonal disturbance is unremitting in the father-son relationships [of the homosexual subjects]" (p. 114). The fathers of controls, in addition, presented a far more wholesome picture than fathers of the homosexual subjects. The vast majority of fathers of homosexual men were classified as "detached," of which most were distant and indifferent, hostile, or dominating-exploitative.

Bieber indicates that homosexual development in the sons of such fathers can be largely traced to the fact that paternal detachment, as a traumatic circumstance, is compensated for by reparative relationships with other males. The seeking of need fulfillment from other men, according to Bieber, has a clear point of origin in fathers who were detached. The Bieber study suggests that sons of such fathers sought in homosexual partners the qualities which were absent in their own fathers such as warmth, friendliness,

closeness and the reassurance of physical presence. Bieber suggests that because the detached fathers spent little time with their sons they contributed to the development of homosexuality in that they failed to provide the sons with adequate male models for identification.

Although subsequent investigations indicate that this family constellation occurs with marked frequency in the histories of homosexual men (White and Watt, 1973), this is by no means always the case. There has been ample criticism of Bieber's position that homosexuality per se is a pathological entity even among those who do not dispute his findings. Before turning to a discussion of these issues, it might be noted that these findings seem to bear some consistency with the psychodynamic hypotheses previously described which suggest that motivations underlying homosexuality in males consist, at least in part, of adult sexual versions of what occurs in all males sooner or later--strivings toward appropriation of idealized masculine qualities via physical and/or emotional closeness. Bieber's statement that sons of the detached fathers sought in their homosexual partners qualities which were absent in their own fathers is not at all divergent from Kohut's position. This point is made much more strikingly, however, in later treatises by Kaplan (1963) and Tripp (1975), discussed below.

Finally, in this connection it is apparent that Bieber's findings regarding inhibited peer-group participation among homosexual males as children are in harmony with

Sullivan's observations. It might be noted, however, that rather than engendering homosexuality, disruptions to such peer-group experiences might as well have been brought about by variables sometimes associated with homosexual development such as variant gender-role preferences and lack of traditionally "masculine" interests, or merely the sense of being different (Bieber, et al., 1962; Saghir & Robins, 1973). Precursors to homosexuality, then, would have existed prior to the observed among-peer interactions and could not be said to have arisen from them. Whether the characteristic nature of the peer-group interaction bolsters constitutionally determined homosexual proclivities is subject to question.

Gonsiorek (1982a) observes that Bieber's study is fraught with sampling problems characteristic of those studies involving patients in treatment for psychological problems. Aside from this issue, which is discussed at length below, Gonsiorek describes the Bieber study as noteworthy in regard to researcher bias. He observes that the same psychoanalysts with whom the subjects were in treatment were those who developed the theory of homosexuality propounded by Bieber et al. These investigators, he notes, additionally developed the questionnaire used to test their theory, served as raters in the study, and interpreted the results concluding that their theory had been verified. These facts make it unclear, according to Gonsiorek, as to whether the findings were a function of built-in researcher biases,

adding that "it would be difficult to imagine how to build more potential for research bias into experimental procedures than the Bieber group did" (p. 69).

Hooker (1972), in reference to various studies apparently supporting familial pathology theories of homosexuality remarks:

The evidence from these and many similar studies does not support the assumption that pathological parent-child relations are either necessary or sufficient antecedents or determinants of adult homosexuality. The evidence does indicate, however, that some forms of familial pathology appear to be associated with increased vulnerability of some individuals to homosexual development, and it suggests that psychopathology is more frequently associated with homosexuality in these individuals. (p. 13)

Hooker has been a leading figure in pointing out the unfavorable tendency of researchers to treat homosexuality as a unitary and clinical entity. According to her, the lines of investigation pursued by researchers are largely directed by the prevailing climate of professional opinion. Research on the development of homosexuality, therefore, has generally been conducted with its focus on clinical rather than social and cultural phenomena. Furthermore, Hooker points out that phenomena judged as psychopathological which appear especially characteristic of homosexual groups are often attributed to the variable "homosexuality." Instead, these may typically represent "ego-defenses" against victimization, which are characteristic not only of homosexuals, but

of other oppressed minority groups as well (Hooker, 1965).

In this connection, however, Schur (1972) has commented:

Notwithstanding evidence from the Hooker studies indicating that there may be--even under present circumstances in the United States--some confirmed homosexuals who appear reasonably "well adjusted" psychologically, it is hard to see how any homosexual in our society can completely avoid feeling the psychological impact of strong social disapproval and legal condemnation and proscription. (p. 37)

A further consequence of concealment is the frequent need to maintain silence in the face of expressions of contempt for homosexuals. In all this, the homosexual cannot remain unaffected by the pressures....(p. 37)

Hooker is particularly critical of conclusions drawn by Bieber that homosexuality is a specific form of psychosexual disorder. She argues that none of the evidence used to support such an assumption was specific to his homosexual group. Furthermore, she observes that in a number of studies conducted outside of treatment or correctional settings, "results obtained by the use of the MMPI, TAT, Rorschach, and other psychological measures did not justify the conclusion that homosexuality is necessarily and invariably a concomitant or symptom of psychopathology. In many individuals no evidence of psychopathology was found" (1972, p. 15). Hooker writes:

It comes as no surprise that some homosexuals are



severely disturbed ... but what is difficult to accept (for most clinicians) is that some homosexuals may be very ordinary individuals, indistinguishable, except in sexual pattern from individuals who are heterosexual. (1963, p. 159)

Gonsiorek (1977, 1982b) has reviewed the literature on homosexuality and psychological adjustment, and emphasizes that a consistent and clear pattern emerging from studies on homosexuality and psychological testing is that homosexuality in and of itself is unrelated to psychological disturbance. He points out that differences which are obtained between homosexual and heterosexual groups often lie within normal ranges and that attempts to differentiate homosexuals from heterosexuals on the basis of psychological testing have been generally unsuccessful. Gonsiorek, then, cautions that although significant differences between groups may be of theoretical interest, these are not indicative of greater disturbance of one group over another unless the former has scores falling in a range which has been validated as psychopathological. Secondly, he advises that findings of difference between groups in regard to family constellation are not valid as a basis for inference about difference in psychological adjustment of individuals from such families.

Hooker tentatively concludes that homosexuality does not exist as a clinical entity, its forms being as varied as are those of heterosexuality; and that homosexuality may be a deviation in sexual pattern which psychologically lies within the normal range.

Saghir and Robins (1971), in a much cited study, undertook a detailed investigation of groups of 89 male homosexuals, 57 lesbians, and corresponding groups of heterosexual controls from a developmental point of view. Their procedure involved semistructured interviews which yielded the following findings:

Homosexual males and females for the most part show during childhood preferences in terms of roles and identifications which are most typical of the opposite sex. Their findings indicated that the childhood and adolescence of most homosexual men are characterized by a lack of contact with male companions and by a preference for female playmates as opposed to what was found to be typical for male heterosexuals. In addition, the homosexual males, as boys, generally did not participate in team sports and rough play. The majority of the lesbians reported being tomboys during childhood. They typically had boys as playmates and enjoyed sports rather than dolls and domestic activity.

In a recent effort to explore the origins of homosexuality, Bell, Weinberg and Hammersmith (1981) compiled interview data for 979 homosexual and 477 heterosexual men and women. The homosexual men were found generally to have been less stereotypically masculine as boys than their heterosexual counterparts. More homosexual than heterosexual men recalled some dislike for typical boys' activities and enjoyment of those which they considered to be for girls.

On the basis of their path analysis, the researchers

conclude that such gender nonconformity is directly related to adult homosexual preference. They also report that the homosexual men identified less with their fathers than did heterosexual men, and less with their fathers than with their mothers. Nevertheless, they add that "our causal analysis convinces us that the tendency for homosexual males to perceive their fathers in a relatively negative fashion has little eventual influence on their sexual orientation" (pp. 61, 62). They point out that influences are not necessarily unidirectional from father to son, but reciprocal in which "the prehomosexual boy may simply be reciprocating his father's disinclination to identify with him" (p. 60). It was also found that as children the homosexual men did not differ significantly from heterosexual men in the degree to which they felt similar to and wanted to be like their mothers.

The authors conclude that as children, identification with the opposite-sex parent appears to have had no significant impact on whether male as well as female respondents became homosexual or heterosexual. Similarly, they argue that identification with same-sex parents seems to have exerted no decisive influence on the development of adult sexual orientation. Nevertheless, they report that there is a powerful link between gender nonconformity and the development of homosexuality and that "the homosexual men's generally negative relationships with their fathers ... displayed a very modest but direct connection to their gender

nonconformity ..." (p. 190). The authors conclude that on the basis of their overall findings, no single phenomenon of family relationships can be singled out as especially consequential in the development of adult sexual preference. The ways in which much of this earlier literature may be brought specifically to bear on the present investigation is the issue to which we now turn.

### The Completion Hypothesis

According to Tripp (1975), "Homosexuality in all its variations always means that same-sex attributes have become eroticized, that is, have taken on erotic significance. No matter how or when this takes place, each individual perceives a disparity between his own qualities as they presently are, and as they might be with certain additions--thus his struggle to bridge the gap. In all their essentials, the sought-after rewards of homosexual and heterosexual complementations are identical: the symbolic possession of those attributes which, when added to one's own, fill out the illusion of completeness" (p. 93). This idea, previously described by Freud (1922), Reik (1944, 1957) and others, has been called the "completion hypothesis" (Centers, 1971). Implications of this hypothesis on the study of sexual motivations for homosexual males is the subject of this investigation. In this connection, Tripp (1975) has developed a thorough formulation of the hypothesis specifically in reference to homosexual men.

Although he describes several possible theoretical pathways which may eventuate in the development of homosexual proclivities in males, he notes that in every case some aspects of maleness have been invested with erotic significance to the extent that sexual arousal is evoked by act or fantasy in which the stimulus is masculine. He argues that this erotization, by its very nature, appreciates its target. By such a raising of its target's value, the erotization of male attributes "alerts a boy to a hierarchy of male qualities and invites him to make comparisons in which his own assets may seem outpaced and outdistanced by those of a particularly admired partner" (p. 78).

Erotization always tends to raise the value of the items it touches, not only by exalting them, but by keeping a person's aspiration level soaring ahead of his own attainments. Often the result is to make a person feel a sharp disparity between what he has and what he would like to have. Even the ... utterly secure male who has eroticized male attributes is ready to improve what he has by sexually importing refinements and additions from an admired partner. Thus, in a sense, it hardly matters what a person thinks of himself; an exalted ideal is never fully satisfied... (p. 78)

What Tripp seems to imply here is that strong urges toward fulfilling an elusive masculine ideal at some level in many cases is an ineluctable component of the homosexual orientation. Tripp takes a critical view, however, of the simplistic assumption that homosexual inclinations are given rise to by feelings of inferiority. He concedes that a

correct theory of male homosexuality may legitimately imply inferiority feelings at some level, but only as they arise as a result of eroticizing masculine attributes, not as if the inferiority feelings themselves were responsible for the homosexuality.

The act of sexual importation to which Tripp refers is quite thoroughly elucidated elsewhere in the same work. The import-export model of complementation is offered by Tripp as a description of the process underlying both homosexual and heterosexual motivations. Whereas a person of either orientation may "import" qualities admired in a sexual partner and lacking in himself, in the homosexual case it would seem that the advantages of complementarity are seriously threatened by direct comparability. Especially on the anatomical level it is the case that men are more alike than they are different. If Tripp's assumptions are correct, the question then arises as to what extent it is possible for a male to consider other men so attractive as to become sexually aroused by them without also being beset by feelings of self-dissatisfaction, and/or persistent strivings toward self-improvement in the area of perceived masculinity.

Coming to conclusions similar to those of Tripp, but by a different route, Kaplan (1967) examined same-sex attractions with the psychoanalytic concept of the ego-ideal as a point of departure. He is careful at the outset, however, to point out that homosexual behavior, for both female and male individuals, may be seen as the culmination of a series

of experiences and relationships unique to each individual for whom it is chosen as a mode of sexual expression. Thus, with no single, unitary causality implied, the search for the ego-ideal is considered by Kaplan to be a possible factor which plays a part in the development of a homosexual orientation in individuals whose self-images are "devalued or impaired." Freud considered the neurotic to be "impoverished in his ego and incapable of fulfilling his ego-ideal" (Freud, cited in Kaplan, 1967). In the narcissistic quest for something to replenish these failing resources, a sexual ideal may be chosen "which possesses excellencies to which he cannot attain" (Kaplan, 1967). Kaplan fails to explain his introduction of Freud's observations concerning neurotics to support a theory of homosexuality, but it is clear that a mechanism Freud considered to underlie neurosis, Kaplan proposes as a motivational force for homosexual behavior.

Kaplan states that individuals whose sexual orientation is primarily or exclusively homosexual typically place major emphasis on the personal or physical attractiveness of the sexual object chosen; and to an extent considerably greater than do heterosexuals they choose as sexual partners or fantasied sexual objects persons who possess characteristics in which they themselves feel deficient.

Thus, dissatisfaction with the self, with the way one is, measured against internalized standards about how one would like to be, may be one of

the major roots of some homosexual feeling and behavior. (p. 356)

Kaplan's emphasis here, like Tripp's, is that of the perceived disparity between what one is and introjections of what one would like to be; i.e., between the self-image and ego-ideal. For both male homosexuals and lesbians, then, these feelings may take the form of how one would like to be as a man, and how one would like to be as a woman; respectively. In this way, Kaplan suggests that the homosexual object choice may be directed more toward the acquisition of an idealized object with whom to identify or introject than toward sexual gratification per se. As possible support for this argument, he offers Bieber's (1962) study of male homosexuals in which the investigators found that almost half of their subjects saw themselves as physically frail, inadequate or effeminate. He further speculates that under conditions where a suitably appealing model for masculine identification is lacking, the need for such identification combined with a sense of personal inadequacy and a potent although undifferentiated sexual drive may eventuate in a homosexual adaptation. In a partial response to why the mode of obtaining the desired identification must be sexual, Kaplan makes the observation that the sexual experience may stimulate identification fantasies, thus providing partial motivation for relationships with other men. Orgasm is likened, by Kaplan, to drug-induced euphoria in which the



wish to be like one's partner may be intensified and transformed into a sensation of such union with the partner that one actually feels he is the partner.

At this point, it is useful to return to Kohut's remarks concerning the psychic fixation on archaic self-objects that appears to manifest itself in what he refers to as an "intense form of object hunger" and "the compelling need for merger with the powerful object" (see page 9). The similarity of Kaplan's observations to Kohut's later remarks in connection with children are striking:

Since all bliss and power now reside in the idealized object, the child feels empty and powerless when he is separated from it and he attempts, therefore, to maintain continuous union with it. (Kohut, 1971, p. 37)

Recall as well his comments about the patient, Mr. A., the objects of whose homosexual fantasies

were always men of great bodily strength and perfect physique.... Occasionally he achieved orgasm and a feeling of triumph at the thought of masturbating a strong and physically perfect man and draining him of his power. (pp. 69, 70)

The theme of power as a component of masculinity and its fantasied acquisition via the sexual experience appears with such frequency in this literature that it is made a point of emphasis in the present study; a point which will be remarked upon further.

Kaplan reports the case of a 21 year old homosexual man who described considerable feelings of physical inadequacy who had often daydreamed of being tall, husky and virile like his father, brothers or some of his classmates. These daydreams, according to Kaplan, became transformed into homosexual fantasies about sex with muscular and extremely powerful and virile men. Furthermore, the patient reported a wish to have his body be more like those of his partners and that sexual relationships became a means by which he was able at least temporarily to approach this goal, even if only in fantasy and feeling.

Kaplan argues that the discrepancy between self-image and ego ideal need not center around physical or anatomical details but may involve deficiencies in intellectual endowments, socioeconomic status, and interpersonal adroitness as well. In summary, Kaplan concludes that because of such considerable self-dissatisfaction the homosexual man cannot love himself as he is, so he loves his ego-ideal in the person of his homosexual partner. From this perspective, homosexual behavior is a narcissistic form of gratification. The dynamics implied here furnish a ground upon which the theories set forth by Kaplan, Tripp, and Kohut are aligned. Kaplan, for example, asserts that "Covert admiration for the individual who possesses these highly valued characteristics may become sexualized, and 'instant identification' may be achieved ... in the homosexual relationship" (p. 358). It will be recalled that Tripp goes even beyond this by

declaring that once these highly prized attributes are eroticized, they are raised in value all the more. This produces a self-perpetuating cycle in which it would seem that one's personal and sexual goals never find their realization.

It may be argued that if a person feels especially lacking in certain qualities, then this dissatisfaction itself requires a prior attribution of a high degree of importance to them. These features, then, will be greatly admired when they exist in others, owing to the considerable importance placed on them. Such a "high-intensity admiration," according to both Tripp and Kaplan, may lead to the erotization of certain features by homosexual persons in connection with men. These same-sex features, then, represent for homosexuals characteristics which, if appropriated, would make them more like the persons they wish to be. Note that although Tripp argues that the goal of both heterosexual and homosexual attachments is symbolically to "fill out the illusion of completeness," for homosexuals actual possession of specifically same-sex attributes desired in lovers is an aspiration. For homosexual persons, then, the objects of erotization are at once stimuli for specifically and identifiably sexual arousal and a part of the conscious ideal self. There is probably no definitive way to ascertain whether homosexual behavior is motivated by a narcissistic search for the ego-ideal, although the argument may

be rendered more plausible if the discrepancy between self-image and ego-ideal is found to be significantly greater for homosexuals than for heterosexuals.

Centers (1971) undertook to test such a hypothesis for heterosexual attachments, and obtained findings which failed to support the principle that heterosexual attachments are based upon a motivation to "complete" the ego-ideal. Nevertheless, if Kaplan's hypotheses are taken seriously, one would expect self-image--ego-ideal discrepancies not necessarily existing for heterosexuals, in homosexual persons. Furthermore, one would expect to find compensatory strivings for objects of love or sex who possess the highly desired qualities. For homosexuals, the qualities sought in a prospective lover are also those toward which aspirations are directed, including those qualities which are anatomical and otherwise isosexual in nature.

Although Kaplan states that the envy and idolization of qualities in other men may center around any set of qualities and not only physical characteristics, it would seem that this latter aspect of his theory would be the one most likely to prove at least to some extent valid since in this are men most clearly distinguished from women. It is not likely a narcissistic quest for the vicarious acquisition of social facility or status that makes a man homosexual since these qualities may be easily "imported" for women. Therefore, the body image of subjects is a major emphasis of the present investigation. In particular, as noted above, this

alleged assignment of such considerable importance to the variable power, especially on the anatomical level, by homosexual men is of such salience in the clinical literature that the role which strivings toward its acquisition play in sexual motivations of homosexual men is a central feature of the present investigation.

#### Empirical Literature on Self-Concept and Sexual Preference

Chang and Block (1960) attempted to test the hypothesis that homosexual males are more strongly identified with their mothers and less identified with their fathers than are nonhomosexual males. The investigators heuristically measured strength of identification in terms of the degree of correspondence between a subject's description of the parent under consideration and that of his ideal self. This measure was obtained through the use of a list of 79 adjectives to which the subject was to respond as either characteristic or uncharacteristic of the given parent and of his ideal self. The hypotheses that homosexual men show a significantly greater degree of identification with their mothers and a significantly lesser degree with their fathers were both supported. An interesting finding, however, was that the homosexual and control groups did not differ significantly in their degree of self-acceptance as measured by the degree of correspondence between the perceived self and ideal self of subjects. In addition, it was found that the two groups did not differ significantly in regard to the

kind of ego ideal to which they aspired.

Similarly, Greenberg (1973) found that although male homosexual subjects tended to evince greater feelings of alienation from society, they exhibited self-esteem scores comparable to those of heterosexuals on the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965). These findings may be questioned to some extent, however, on the basis that data for his "control group" were derived from other studies conducted by other researchers as far back as 1955.

Sallee (1976) attempted to assess self-concept of male homosexuals as classified according to the variable of sex-role identification. This approach was based upon the suggestion that male homosexuals are as variable in their sex-role identification as heterosexuals. Subjects were classified as masculine, feminine, androgynous and undifferentiated according to the Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI) (Bem, 1974) and were then administered the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale (TSCS) (Fitts, 1965). Sallee found that no significant differences obtained in overall self-concept or frequency of sex-role identification classification between homosexual and heterosexual groups, nor did self-concept vary significantly according to sex-role identification for either group. Sallee notes that significant trends were more likely to be obtained in analyses of individual TSCS scales. Interestingly, within the male homosexual group, subjects identified as androgynous and feminine scored higher than masculine and undifferentiated subjects on several TSCS subscales.

Using the TSCS as a measure of psychological adjustment, Hart (1978) undertook a similar investigation. Gender characteristics were assessed by multiple methods including the BSRI as well as a questionnaire developed by the investigator. In direct contrast to Sallee's findings, Hart reports that homosexual men with "norm-violating" gender characteristics obtain lower self-concept scores than homosexual men with more typical gender characteristics. She observes that the homosexual subjects who displayed few masculine-typed attributes and many gender traits typically associated with femininity tended to come from disturbed families and suffered from symptoms associated with neurosis, personality disorders, and hypochondriasis as adults.

Hart speculates that men with a fragile sense of their own masculinity do not benefit from the feminine typed attributes in their personalities because they experience them as threats to their masculine gender identities. Rather than enhancing adjustment, Hart says, for a man who is less sure of his masculinity these feminine components diminish self-esteem.

Somewhat along these lines, Peretti, Bell and Jordan (1976) define a typology of homosexual men on the basis of the nature and outcome of the childhood Oedipal situation. The so-called Oedipal male homosexual is described by these authors as maintaining a great attachment to his mother which

should have been resolved roughly between the ages of three and four. The child who does not resolve the Oedipal crisis so successfully, then, goes on to internalize feminine characteristics as a dominant part of himself, according to Peretti, et al.

These authors maintain that the Oedipal male homosexual is often harassed by feelings of guilt and shame, appears more withdrawn and lonely, and is intent upon concealment of his homosexuality. They add that he does not like what he is and attempts to change himself with or without resorting to professional counseling. Finally, they suggest that the Oedipal homosexual man tended to be overprotected by his mother as a child, more dependent upon her, and openly preferred by her to his father. They add that these boys were also more "likely to establish a coalition with mothers against fathers than non-Oedipal male homosexuals."

Although the specific criteria used for classifying their subjects are not reported by the authors, their results indicate several tendencies in Oedipal subjects which are associated with a negative self-image. Oedipal male homosexuals were found to have less self-worth, self-confidence and self-acceptance than non-Oedipal subjects. Self-concepts, self-attitudes and self-motivation were additional variables which, consistent with the hypotheses outlined above, were consistently less favorable for the Oedipal group. In spite of the investigators' failure to specify the bases for classification of subjects, this investigation



raises questions concerning the universal applicability of Bieber's findings in regard to homosexuality and suggests a need to reconsider the tendency to approach research as if homosexuality were a developmental and phenomenological unity.

Dickey (1961) examined feelings of adequacy in homosexual males as defined by two measures: (a) a measure of self-image--ideal-self discrepancy by which traits were rated on a seven-point scale and (b) a direct measure consisting of statements pertaining to adequacy and self-concept to which subjects either agreed or disagreed. Consistent with the findings of Hart, previously cited, Dickey reports that (a) homosexual males who perceive more desirable characteristics in the role of the typical heterosexual male tend to feel more adequate and (b) feelings of adequacy are probably greatest in homosexual males who see themselves as more like the typical heterosexual male than like the typical homosexual male as the subjects themselves defined them. It seems, then, on this basis, that a likely candidate among sources of low self-esteem and feelings of inadequacy among homosexual men who experience them is a large self-ideal perceptual discrepancy in connection with masculinity. Although it has been suggested that such a discrepancy is typically given rise to by insalubrious family dynamics or cross-sex identification patterns, recent research argues that systematic distortions in perceptions of the ideal man and what constitutes the ideal male role account for such discrepancies

rather than the actual quantity or salience of feminine attributes (See Skrapek and MacKenzie, 1981, below).

In an effort to assay the components of low self-esteem among homosexual men based on research done by Rosenberg (1965), Sobel (1976) remarks that homosexual men tend to have both low body satisfaction as well as poorly modeled sex typed behavior. In a study designed to assess such body self-image characteristics of homosexual men, Prytula, Wellford and DeMonbreun (1979) sought to determine whether and to what extent differences existed between heterosexual and homosexual men during adolescence relative to actual body characteristics. They also studied how subjects' body characteristics were perceived by their peers and families, and examined their perception of how others perceived the subjects' body characteristics. The study investigates the interaction of the homosexual man's recalled body image and his overall self-concept including interpersonal and familial factors which related to his self-image during adolescence.

On the basis of prior research, Prytula, et al. point out that many male homosexuals report low self-esteem and typically have stronger feelings of physical and social inadequacy than heterosexuals. On the basis of findings reported by Saghir and Robins (1973), these investigators posit that repeated negative feedback prompted by effeminacy in childhood has contributed to the development of a negative body image and overall self-concept during adolescence:

Saghir and Robins (1973) suggest that the difference between the childhoods of most male homosexuals and heterosexuals was not only in the particular behavior patterns of the homosexuals during childhood, but also in their physical appearance, the perception of their physical appearance by others, and their perception of how their physical appearance was perceived by others. (p. 567)

Using their retrospective self-report inventory with scales developed to assess six areas of general adjustment during adolescence, the researchers report that over all scales homosexual males scored significantly lower (indicating poorer adjustment) than heterosexual males. They account for this difference as being a result of greater recalled dissatisfaction with general physical characteristics and body image as compared to heterosexuals. Furthermore, the homosexuals characterized themselves as having significantly different body characteristics, receiving negative feedback because of their body characteristics from peers and/or family, and as having generally less positive body self-images and overall self-concepts during adolescence than did heterosexuals.

Prytula et al. suggest further research via longitudinal studies to identify the nature and extent of body image variables as contributors to homosexual preference. Furthermore, they point out the necessity for taking such variables into account in connection with therapeutic and prophylactic intervention where indicated. In spite of the fact that the

authors do not specify the indications for such intervention, it might be added that where such body image concerns are in evidence, both therapeutic and preventive intervention might be more appropriately directed toward negative self-concept than toward sexual orientation. These authors do recognize that inferior self-concept may in fact be a variable frequently associated with homosexuality in males though not a causal factor underlying it.

Alpert (1978) used a semantic differential rating scale to assess the degree to which homosexual men have internalized popular negative attitudes regarding homosexuality. It was hypothesized by Alpert that there is essentially no difference between the way homosexuals and heterosexuals characterize the ideal man, but that homosexual men rate themselves significantly further from their characterizations of this ideal. Alpert found that homosexual and heterosexual men rated the ideal man in essentially the same way. The remaining hypothesis was not confirmed, however, since on several adjective pairs the homosexual subjects rated themselves as significantly closer to the ideal man than did heterosexuals. Based on these data, Alpert concludes that internalized stigma appears largely confined to feelings of being less adequate than heterosexual men in terms of attributes associated with the stereotype of masculinity.

In their examination of gender related components to self-perception, Skrapek and MacKenzie (1981) compiled test data for three matched groups of eight homosexual, eight

heterosexual and eight preoperative transsexual anatomical males. Self-concept is regarded by these investigators as a composite of interacting subsystems including core self-esteem, core gender identity, etc. They assume that a clear gender identification is the outcome of a developmental process which involves drawing referents "from an organized system of beliefs as to the psychosexual meaning of being a male or female" (p. 358). In other words, being a male or a female involves having a set of beliefs about physical appearance, gender roles, sexual preference and psychological makeup. As a process of development, then, individuals incorporate the resultant composite into their sense of self; which makes it inevitable that the individual will assess the degree of congruence between his or her gender identity and anatomical sexual identification.

Based on results from the Repertory Grid Technique, a procedure derived from Kelly's (1955) theory of personal constructs, the researchers found that transsexual subjects described themselves as more like females. Homosexual subjects described themselves as more like males, and the heterosexuals described themselves as equally similar to males and females. These results were based upon each subject's own descriptions of males and females.

Additionally, Skrapek and MacKenzie found that scores on the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965) indicated that transsexuals had the most negative global self-esteem and homosexuals the most positive, with heterosexuals

scoring in the middle. All comparisons were statistically significant. One heterosexual subject scored at almost maximum self-dissatisfaction, however, and the authors observe that when this score is removed the heterosexual and homosexual groups are not significantly different from each other.

Regarding gender identification, the Derogatis Sexual Functioning Inventory (Derogatis, 1976) revealed that homosexual men more strongly endorsed masculine traits for themselves in contrast to transsexuals who revealed the most femininity with respect to gender role definition. Interestingly, on eight of the ten subscales homosexual subjects scored higher than either group. The only subscale in which the homosexual subjects scored lower than heterosexuals were Affect Balance and Body Image. The latter category had a mean standard score lower than that of any other group on any measure except two (i.e., transsexuals had lower scores on Body image and Gender role definition). Body image was also lowest among mean standard scores for the ten subscales in the homosexual group.

Results on the BSRI were equivocal when a comparison was made between t-ratio and median-split procedures for analyzing the data, although according to both methods the homosexual group was found generally to describe themselves in masculine terms. Scores for heterosexual subjects largely suggested masculine or undifferentiated gender identities while transsexuals appeared either feminine or androgynous.

Since over all measures used to assess gender identity homosexuals generally described themselves in a more rigidly stereotypic fashion with reference to masculinity, the authors suggest that

One might suspect that the gender identification component of self-concept was most fragile in this group of individuals. The data suggests that they introduced a systematic distortion into their perceptions of maleness and male roles. One possible explanation could be the systematic use of denial and reaction formation. The results could be explained by using the idea of compensatory masculine responding, where masculinity is defensively exaggerated in the face of gender role "threat"... Such a response would be understandable in situations where the homosexual's wish for enduring interpersonal relationships is met by a reality of brief, more superficial encounters. In a sense then, his global self-evaluation is "over-determined," with some kind of compensation operating at a cognitive level. (p. 368)

Finally, it might be noted that homosexual subjects reported a higher global self-regard than self-ratings on the Repertory Grid would suggest. While the correlation between scores on the Rosenberg Scale and the Repertory Grid was significant for the heterosexual subjects ( $r=0.88$ ,  $p<.01$ ), no such relationship was found for homosexual ( $r=0.06$ ) or transsexual ( $r=0.10$ ) groups. These discrepancies suggest that homosexual subjects, who reported highest global self-esteem, used different referents in describing themselves on the Repertory Grid. This information, along with their atypical scores on the Body Image subscale of the Derogatis

Sexual Functioning Inventory further suggests that continued exploration of body self-perceptions among homosexual men is an area of potentially revealing investigation.

### Summary

Investigations to date which address self-esteem in global terms generally indicate that no significant differences exist between homosexual and heterosexual men on this dimension. Data on sex role identification are equivocal, with a significant proportion of findings indicating that there are no differences in overall frequency of cross-sex gender identity between groups and that in some cases homosexual men describe themselves in more masculine terms than heterosexual men. When subjects are further classified according to gender role identification there is considerable agreement that male homosexual subjects who see themselves in more feminine terms, as well as those who as children have identified with or developed atypically intense attachments to their mothers, are more likely to have more negative self-concepts. Comparable data for heterosexuals are less available and indicate a need for further research. The data support that homosexual men in general, while exhibiting more negative self-concepts in some circumscribed areas, have more positive self-perceptions in others. On the basis of a number of investigations it appears that less positive self-concepts of the homosexual men for whom this is a problem are characteristically in the area of perceived



masculinity, often in connection with body image in particular. To determine to what extent this is indeed the case and the particular aspects of the masculine self-concept which are most problematic is one aim of this study.

A final consideration in this connection is whether discrepancies in self-concept between homosexual and heterosexual groups of men result from systematic distortions in concepts of what is appropriately and desirably masculine. In regard to the important implications of this research to psychotherapy, Hart (1978), for example, urges closer attention on the part of the therapist to gender characteristics of clients and to helping them become more secure in their sense of their own masculinity. Kaplan suggests that treatment of homosexual men, such as he describes in his aforementioned case studies, consist of exploring the origins of the negative self-image which may be found in family dynamics, peer attitudes, etc. (Kaplan, 1967). Of perhaps equal importance, however, are the origins of the "ego-ideal" which is itself a "composite of early identifications, introjections and wishes" (p. 356). He concludes that "the self-image, the ego-ideal, or both, may be unrealistic constructs in the patient's mind, he may devalue himself out of proportion to his real life situation" (p. 358).

Before turning to a statement of the hypotheses with which this study is concerned, a word about sampling considerations is in order. Gonsiorek (1982a) describes the problem of defining and obtaining a suitable sample as the

largest single methodological problem in the scientific study of homosexuality. The most frequently used sources of subjects for such research have consisted of psychiatric and legally involved populations, patrons of gay or lesbian bars, and individuals obtained through lesbian and gay organizations. He calls attention to the fact that the phenomenon of homosexuality traverses the entire range of social class, age, ethnicity, etc. As a research entity, therefore, it is among those most consistently uncorrelated with demographic groupings typically considered of importance to social scientists.

Even research which draws homosexual and heterosexual subjects from apparently comparable groups may fail to detect subtle interactions between sexuality and other factors such as psychiatric diagnosis. For example, Gonsiorek observes that for reasons less than straightforward, it might be more difficult to be homosexual and schizophrenic than heterosexual and schizophrenic. For these reasons, then, disparities between homosexual and heterosexual patients or legally involved groups may be considerably exaggerated from those which may exist for groups not characterized by such specific problems.

The foregoing is not to suggest that sound research on human sexual orientation can be accomplished only with the representative sample, this being a hypothetical construct the approximation of which is our goal. It is less useful to make the degree of this approximation a criterion for

"goodness" of our sample than it is to precisely specify limitations on the generalizability of findings. Research using legally or psychiatrically involved samples, then, is useful if the questions asked by the investigator have specifically to do with these populations. Investigators who pose questions about the population at large, however, will find such samples highly limited in their ability to provide reliable or correct answers. These considerations apply equally to samples drawn from gay organizations, which involve subjects likely to be more open about their sexuality and probably more politically conscious; as well as to samples recruited via friendship networks, since they tend to be demographically homogeneous.

As Gonsiorek advises, even though it is impossible to obtain a completely representative sample, any sample of homosexual subjects should attempt to mimic the major demographic characteristics of the locality from which the sample is derived and should be as diverse as possible. In cases in which skewness of sample is apparent--a detailed description of sampling procedure will make limitations on generalizability clear.

### Statement of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1 For homosexual males there is a positive correlation between degree of body dissatisfaction and the relative degree of importance placed on the physical attractiveness of the sexual object.

Kaplan (1967) states that:

People whose sexual orientation is predominantly or exclusively homosexual usually place major emphasis on the attractiveness of the homosexual object-choice. At times the personal or physical characteristics of the potential homosexual partner seem to be of considerably greater importance to the active homosexual ... than to the person seeking heterosexual intercourse. (pp. 355, 356)

On the basis of this position of Kaplan's as well as Tripp's (1975) observations, cited previously, it would be expected that for homosexual males there would be a significant positive correlation between degree of body dissatisfaction and the degree to which physical attractiveness in the sexual object is emphasized. Such a correlation, on this basis, would not necessarily be expected to hold for heterosexual males. The purpose of this hypothesis, then, is to assess whether a "search for the ego-ideal" in Kaplan's (1967) terms seems generally to hold for homosexual men with regard to the physical dimension. The extent to which this hypothesis holds for heterosexual males is the focus of a subsequent investigation.

Hypothesis 2 There is a negative correlation between the degree of present identification with the primary male caregiver in childhood and the degree of discrepancy between self-image and ideal self for male homosexuals.

According to Kaplan (1967), "One might speculate that the search for an ego-ideal via homosexual relationships is often a substitute for the more usual ascription of this role to the father" (p. 356). This predicts a negative correlation between the degree of childhood identification with a masculine object and the degree of discrepancy between self-image and ideal self for homosexual subjects. The implications of Kaplan's observations for the analogous hypothesis as applied to heterosexual subjects is not specified although it suggests that homosexual men will show both a higher self-image--ego-ideal discrepancy and a lower degree of masculine identification. To what extent these covariations are present in heterosexual males is the subject of a subsequent investigation currently under way.

Hypothesis 3 There is a positive correlation between masculine self-perception/masculine gender role identification and overall body satisfaction for homosexual males.

If data support this hypothesis, then plausibility is enhanced for the position that body dissatisfaction in homosexual men for whom it is salient involves deficiency in masculine self-concept and is engendered by weak masculine gender role identification (Bieber, 1962; Hart, 1978; and Skrapec & MacKenzie, 1981). Again, a subsequent

investigation will test the validity of this hypothesis as applied to heterosexual men.

## CHAPTER 2

### METHOD

#### Subjects

Subjects were 24 male homosexual persons ranging in age from 19 to 45 years, with a mean age of 28. One subject was legally heterosexually married at the time of his participation in the study, but along with the other 23 unmarried subjects affirmed that he had had sex only with men for a period of at least one year. Average highest level of education completed for subjects in this study was 2½ years of college, all subjects having completed at least the equivalent of high school. Occupations represented in the sample varied widely, including blue and white collar workers as well as full-time college students. Major demographic features of the sample are summarized in Table 1.

One variable, Self-Disclosure Regarding Sexual Orientation, could not be classified objectively. The values listed under this variable in Table 1 are intended as a roughly descriptive categorization. Subjects were assigned to one of these categories by the examiner as follows:

Subjects described as "not out at all" were two subjects who said, without elaboration, that none of their family, friends, or acquaintances know they are gay; and one who said he presumes others know but that he never discusses the issue with anyone.

Subjects described as "entirely out" were the five

subjects who said that they were completely open about their sexuality, all of their family and friends knowing they are gay. If they were employed, they also added that they are known as gay by their co-workers.

Subjects in the remaining category were described as "partially out." Clearly, there was room for considerable variability in this category. In general, these subjects specified that only some family members and some close friends know that they are gay or that they have not been open about their sexuality with their family and/or their co-workers, but are known by their friends as gay.

The subjects were recruited by the investigator and a psychology student at Michigan State University. Sources through which subjects were obtained were various, including gay organizations and friendship networks. All subjects stated that they had never been hospitalized for a mental or emotional disorder, have not had psychological counseling, psychotherapy or psychotropic medication for at least six months.

As suggested above, for the purpose of subject selection, the term "homosexual" is here defined as a man who describes himself as "gay" and as having had exclusively same-sex sexual/romantic involvements for a period of at least one year. Upon completing the questionnaire, subjects were paid \$5.00 for their participation in the study as agreed upon prior to their participation.



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Insert Table 1 about here

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### Procedure

Measures were administered by this investigator at the Michigan State University Psychological Clinic. The same instructions for the completion of the measures were given in writing to all subjects (see Appendix), so that they were able to complete the questionnaire/test packet on their own during one two-hour session. Subjects identified themselves on measures only by means of a numerical code, were assured that all materials would be kept confidential, and were told that in no case would names be attached to any test protocol or questionnaire.

### Instruments

The following is a complete list of instruments used in this investigation appearing in the order in which they were administered. A more thorough description of these measures is provided in the subsequent section, "Assessment of Variables."

Semantic Differential Technique (Osgood, Suci, and Tannenbaum, 1957)

Tennessee Self-Concept Scale, Physical Self Subscale (Fitts, 1965)

Personal Attributes Questionnaire (Spence and

Table 1.

## Frequency Counts for Major Demographic Variables in Sample

Variable	Classification						
	Range (in years)						
Age	<u>19-21</u>	<u>22-25</u>	<u>26-29</u>	<u>30-33</u>	<u>34-37</u>	<u>38-41</u>	<u>42-45</u>
	5	6	4	2	3	3	1
	Years High School and Above						
Education	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
	4	4	4	1	7	2	2
Legal Marital Status	<u>Never Married</u>		<u>Divorced</u>		<u>Married</u>		
	20		3		1		
Occupation	<u>Laborer/Hourly Worker</u>	<u>Manager/Clerk</u>	<u>College/Graduate Std.</u>		<u>Other</u>		
	[4] Factory Worker (2) Bricklayer Waiter	[6] Computer Systems Mgr. Banker Real Est. Agent Clerk Accountant (2)	[9]		[5] Hairdresser Physical Therapist Store-keeper Librarian [No data]		

Table 1 (cont'd.).

	Describes Self as "Out"		
	<u>Entirely</u>	<u>Partially</u>	<u>Not at All</u>
Self-Disclosure Regarding Sexual Orientation	5	16	3
Degree of Activity in Gay Organizations (10-point Likert Scale Ratings)	(1-3) No Activity <hr/> 11	(4-7) Medium Activity <hr/> 5	(8-10) High Activity <hr/> 8
<hr/> Binary Classification <hr/>			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
Relationship Status (Has a lover/romantic involvement)	15	9	
Church Membership (Is a member of an organized religion)	10	14	
Belief in God (Believes in a single, personal God)	13	8	
	(Missing values--3)		

Helmreich, 1978)

Body Cathexis Scale (Secord and Jourard, 1953)

Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965)

A questionnaire on personal background and current functioning composed of miscellaneous items, constructed specifically for this investigation

The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale is not used in the present study, but was included in the packet for use in a subsequent investigation, currently in progress.

#### Assessment of Variables

Variables and concepts referred to in the preceding statement of hypotheses are listed below in connection with the instruments used to measure them and the hypotheses to which they pertain (hypothesis numbers in parentheses):

Relative degree of emphasis on physical attractiveness of sexual object (1). The method by which this construct was measured comprises a section of the questionnaire on background and current functioning previously described. In this instance, subjects were presented with a series of blank lines on a page on which they were instructed to fill in the characteristics or attributes most desired in a lover or romantic partner. It was further specified that these might include any details of personality, social, economic, physical or anatomical characteristics, as specifically stated as possible. Subjects were asked to try to list the

characteristics as they occurred to them, as honestly as possible, keeping in mind that confidentiality was guaranteed. For each subject, the number of physical/anatomical characteristics (i.e., those specifically referring to physical appearance) was compared to the number of those referring to general characteristics as a simple arithmetic ratio score.

The following additional measures were employed to test Hypothesis 1: subjects were asked to rate the features just listed on a set of 10-point Likert scales ranging from "Least Important" to "Most Important" in a lover or romantic partner. The relative degree of emphasis which a subject places on physical attractiveness of the lover or romantic partner was in this case defined as the difference between the mean rankings of physical and of general (nonphysical) personal characteristics. In addition, for each subject, a composite measure of this variable was derived as the product of the above two values, the ratio and the difference score.

Correlations between the degree of body dissatisfaction and the degree of importance placed on physical attractiveness of the sexual object were obtained as follows: Product-moment correlations were obtained between scores on the Body Cathexis Scale and each of the three previously defined measures of emphasis on physical aspects of the sexual object. Hypothesis 1 will be retained in the event that a significant positive correlation is found for one of these

procedures.

Self-image--ideal self discrepancy (2). The semantic differential technique (Osgood, Suci, and Tannenbaum, 1957) has been chosen to assess this variable. This is a straightforward device which has a considerable range of applicability and which is less vulnerable than most standard scales to the influence of social desirability factors. The technique is a means by which the connotative or affective meaning of a concept for a particular individual may be measured. The technique offers a way of appraising the dissimilarities in meaning among concepts as they exist according to the individual's personal semantic organization as well. In this case, the semantic differential not only will provide qualitative descriptions of the concepts MYSELF AS I AM and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE; but permits quantification of the semantic "distance" between them.

For this technique, the investigator chooses the concepts to be measured, each of which is presented on a separate page. Each concept is rated on a series of 7-point bipolar scales with an adjective at one end and its opposite at the other. Subjects are instructed to evaluate each of the scales in connection with the concept under consideration and to put a check mark along the continuum at a point most descriptive of the relative applicability of the two adjectives. The number of scales used is determined by the investigator as is the particular set of descriptors used for each. Osgood recommends that the investigator

intuitively choose scales based on their relevancy to the concept as well as their semantic stability across a set of concepts.

Factor analysis of Osgood's original set of 50 scales yielded the three principal orthogonal factors: Evaluative, Potency, and Activity, with the first of these accounting for by far the largest percentage of total variance.. Scales comprising the Evaluative factor are those typically associated with "good" and "bad," such as clean-dirty, beautiful-ugly, valuable-worthless, etc. The Potency dimension includes such scales as strong-weak, hard-soft, rugged-delicate. The third principal factor, Activity, has those scales which correlate highly with active-passive. Activity frequently includes, quick-slow, tense-relaxed, and excitable-calm.

Osgood advises that the first criterion in selecting scales be their factorial composition. It is further recommended that deciding upon a certain number of scales maximally loaded on each factor and minimally on the remaining two provides subjects with a "balanced semantic space which he may actually use as he sees fit..." (Osgood, et al., 1957, p. 78). Selection of individual scales to represent each of the three factors were selected for this study on the basis of prior investigations reported by Snider and Osgood (1969). Among earlier applications of the semantic differential technique to certain attitudes about sexual orientation, is Kendrick and Clarke (1967) to which the interested reader is

referred.

Overall body satisfaction (1,3). The measurement of this construct in connection with Hypothesis 1 has already been briefly discussed. The evaluation of Hypothesis 3 will similarly depend upon correlations obtained in connection with the Body Cathexis Scale (Secord and Jourard, 1953). Body Cathexis is defined by the authors as the degree to which an individual is satisfied or dissatisfied with various parts or processes of the body. The original test consists of a 46-item list of body parts and functions, although some studies have employed a 40-item modification (Jourard and Secord, 1954). These listed functions and parts are rated by subjects on five-point scales ranging from (1) Have strong feelings and wish change could be made somehow (strong negative) to (5) Consider myself fortunate (strong positive). Eleven of the items most negatively cathected by a standardization group define the "body anxiety" subscales, one for male and one for female subjects.

The authors report split-half reliability coefficients for the 46-item scale respectively as .83 and .78 for 45 female and 45 male subjects. For the 40-item version Weinberg (1960) reports coefficients of .75 for females and .84 for males.

There have been various approaches to the determination of the Body Cathexis Scale's construct validity as a measure of an individual's overall attitude toward body parts and functions. Secord and Jourard (1953) report a correlation



of .58 for women and .66 for men between body cathexis and a global self-concept measure based on an extensive list of characteristics rated against the same rating scale as used for the Body Cathexis Scale. This suggests a degree of construct validity for the test in that the way persons feel about their bodies is not unlike their self-referent feelings in many other areas.

Similarly, a number of hypothesis tests have used theory-based expected correlations between the Body Cathexis Scale and variables as wide ranging as nudist group affiliation (Sugarman and Roosa, 1968), mental illness (Cardone and Olson, 1969), security-insecurity (Weinberg, 1960) and size of body parts (Jourard and Secord, 1954). For a brief overview of these studies, the reader is referred to Wylie (1974). It may be mentioned here, however, that predicted correlations between the Body Cathexis Scale and various of these variables have been obtained to an extent consistent with expectations for construct validity.

Because of the general lack of measuring devices which purport to assess the same self-referent domain as the Body Cathexis Scale, convergent validity has not adequately been determined. What information is available on its discriminant validity is considerably less persuasive than studies based on assumed validity, although considerably more work along these lines is needed (Wylie, 1974).

It might also be added that the authors of the Body Cathexis Scale deliberately omitted bodily parts and

functions explicitly referring to sexual and excretory functions "because it was feared that their presence in the scale might give rise to an evasive attitude which would transfer to other items..." (Secord and Jourard, 1953, p. 344). Three decades later such an attitude seems considerably less likely, so the form of the Body Cathexis Scale used in the present study includes the additional items "penis" and "buttocks" added at the end of the form. Finally, although it will not affect actual evaluation of the hypotheses here listed, these results will be compared with those found on the Physical Self subscale of the Tennessee Self Concept Scale (Fitts, 1965).

Identification with the primary male caregiver in childhood (2). This and related variables have been previously evaluated by a variety of methods. As described above, Chang and Block (1960) used a list of adjectives to 60 of which a subject was to respond as either particularly characteristic or particularly uncharacteristic first of ideal self, then of father, mother, and actual self. For each of these, subjects were allowed to choose the 60 adjectives about which they felt strongly enough to respond, but were required to respond with only and exactly 30 "X's" (particularly characteristic) and 30 "O's" (particularly uncharacteristic). For each subject, a mother identification score and a father identification score was obtained as follows: a score of "1" was assigned each adjective in which the rating given by the subject ("X", "O", or unmarked)

was the same for both ideal self and the parent under consideration, and the total of these scores taken as the "identification score."

Skrapec and MacKenzie (1981), it will be recalled, used the Role Construct Repertory Test (Repertory Grid Technique, Kelly, 1955) as a measure of gender identification. This procedure permits the subject to devise a set of descriptors according to his or her own system of "personal constructs" rather than respond to a set of predetermined attributes. Skrapec and MacKenzie assessed gender identification in terms of "grid distances" (i.e., degree of similarity or dissimilarity) between a subject's description of himself and his descriptions of both males and females.

Identification is here conceptualized in terms more broad than would be described by any given model and it is understood to comprise elements of imitation, affiliation, admiration, idealization, etc. Because identification in this study has as its emphasis outcome rather than process, it will be assessed as perceived similarity between self and parent under consideration much in the way as discussed in connection with the Chang and Block study described above. Whereas in that investigation identification was determined as the degree of correspondence between descriptions of ideal self and parent, such a correspondence between perceived actual self and a given parent is considered a more accurate index of this variable as defined in this study.

The semantic differential technique will be used to

assess these correspondences since, as has been pointed out, it lends itself as a suitable device to evaluate a number of the hypotheses considered here. The method by which identification will be assessed is identical to that described by Endler (1961), involving use of Osgood's D index to measure semantic "distance" between concepts (Osgood et al., 1957).

In addition, instructions for completion of the semantic differential will provide that the concepts FATHER and MOTHER may be replaced by the role name of the primary male and female caregivers in childhood, respectively. Such substitutions will be permitted only if (a) the biological parent was absent, and (b) the parental substitute considered functioned in the role typically assumed by the parent. Instances of these substitutions, if any, will be noted. Finally, although Hypothesis 2 refers specifically to the primary male caregiver, subjects' perceptions of qualities pertaining to the primary female parenting individual will be examined in relation to self-perceptions as well, and any findings of relevance and interest will be discussed.

Masculine self-perception/masculine gender role identification (3). These two general concepts are listed as a single variable since they are difficult to separate both in terms of theoretical definition and in terms of operationalization. Masculine self-image (in the nonphenomenal sense) is yet another variable the assessment of which will involve the semantic differential technique, with correspondences between the concepts MYSELF AS I AM and MAN determining its

evaluation. In addition, ratings of MYSELF AS I AM vs. WOMAN will be examined for the two groups and any observations of interest will be noted.

Masculine gender role identification will be determined by the Personal Attributes Questionnaire (PAQ) (Spence and Helmreich, 1978). This is a self-report inventory which consists of 24 trait descriptions each applied in the form of a bipolar scale. These are distributed among three general scales labeled Masculinity (M), Femininity (F), and Masculinity-Femininity (M-F). The first two of these consist of items for which the investigators found indications that they are socially desirable for both sexes, but that the sex to which each pertains is believed to possess the respective qualities to a greater extent. On the other hand, Masculinity-Femininity consists of items the social desirability of which is gender-specific. The scale itself is bipolar, scored in a masculine direction.

The investigators found significant differences between means for the two sexes on each item in two independent samples of college students. For each of the three scales, differences were found in the expected directions (Spence, Helmreich, and Stapp, 1975). In terms of intercorrelations among scales, contrary to conceptualizations which demand a single bipolar masculine-feminine dimension, they found that correlations between M and F were low positive in both sexes. The authors consider this finding supportive of a bi-dimensional conceptualization of gender identity. Correlations

between the M-F scale and M scale were moderately high positive whereas the correlations between the M-F and F scale for the two sexes ranged from no correlation to low negative. The view of the authors, based on subsequent analyses as well, is that the data support a simultaneously bi-dimensional and bipolar model of masculinity and femininity and that the M-F scale has the potential of yielding information not available from the M and F scales alone.

Correlations reported between the PAQ and the BSRI on comparable scales, for males and females have ranged from .57 to .75 (Stapp and Kanner, cited in Spence and Helmreich, 1978). Spence and Helmreich speculate that the differences between the two instruments are accounted for by factors such as differing methods by which subjects are required to rate trait descriptions (unipolar vs. bipolar rating scales) as well as methods of M and F scale construction for the two instruments. They point out in addition that a number of the trait descriptions pertaining to the M-F scale of the PAQ were found on both the M and F scales of the BSRI.

For Hypothesis 3, appropriate product-moment correlations will be computed between scores on the Body Cathexis Scale and each of the two PAQ subscales M and M-F. Similar correlations will be computed between scores on the Body Cathexis Scale and the discrepancy scores (Osgood's D) between the concepts MYSELF AS I AM and MAN. Hypothesis 3 will be retained in the event that any one of these correlations is significant in the expected direction, although the possible

meanings of any apparent inconsistencies among the correlations will be addressed. Since Osgood's  $\underline{D}$  is used in this study to calculate all "distances" between semantic differential concepts, frequent references are made to distances between concepts as follows:  $\underline{D}$  (concept, concept). For example,  $\underline{D}$  (MYSELF AS I AM, MAN) is the actual geometric distance between the concepts MYSELF AS I AM and MAN when these concepts are located in three-dimensional "semantic space."

## CHAPTER 3

### RESULTS

#### Hypothesis 1

Product-moment correlations were computed among scores on measures representing the dimensions Body Satisfaction and Physical Emphasis (emphasis on physical attractiveness of sexual object). Measures pertaining to the former dimension were the Body Cathexis Scale (BC) and the Physical Self subscale of the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale (TSCS-PS). It will be recalled that to evaluate the latter dimension the following measures were constructed:

Physical-General Frequency Ratio (PGFRQRT0). Subjects were asked to list the characteristics or attributes they most look for in a lover or romantic partner. The number of features listed which pertained to physical characteristics was compared to the number of general (nonphysical) features as an arithmetic ratio.

Physical-General Difference in Rank (PGDIFRNK). Subjects were instructed to rank the characteristics listed (as described above) on ten-point Likert scales. This variable was computed for each subject by subtracting the mean ranking of general characteristics from the mean ranking of physical characteristics.

Frequency-Rank Product (FRQXRNK). This variable is defined as the product of the values for the preceding variables. To the extent that both PGDIFRNK and PGFRQRT0 are valid measures of the Physical Emphasis dimension,



correlation coefficients involving the composite variable are even more sensitive to variations in Physical Emphasis. Distinguishing between physical/anatomical and general attributes was found to be straightforward. Because the questionnaire so strongly emphasized that subjects be specific in their responses, the traits listed were in every case unambiguous. Descriptive statistics for questionnaire items assessing physical emphasis are listed in Table 2.

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Insert Table 2 about here

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Results of two-tailed tests of significance revealed no significant correlations among Body Satisfaction and Physical Emphasis variables. The only correlation approaching significance was between FRQXRNK and Body Cathexis ( $\underline{r}=.37$ ,  $\underline{p}<.10$ ), in direct opposition to Hypothesis 1. The other correlations were consistently positive, ranging from .12 to .29. These results are summarized in Table 3.

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Insert Table 3 about here

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## Hypothesis 2

For each subject, Osgood's  $\underline{D}$  index was calculated, representing the "distance" between MYSELF AS I AM and each of the two concepts MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and

Table 2.

## Descriptive Statistics for Questionnaire Items Assessing Physical Emphasis

Questionnaire Section	Response Classification	<u>Sample Frequency</u>				
Part 3-A	0=No physical characteristics listed	6				
	1=General as well as physical characteristics listed	18				
	2=No nonphysical characteristics listed	0				
		Total		24		
Part 4-A	Frequency of Physical Characteristics	$\bar{X}$	$s^2$	$s$	$\min$	$\max$
		2.88	4.90	2.21	0	9
Part 4-A	Frequency of General Characteristics	7.25	3.85	1.96	4	12
Part 4-B	Ranking of Physical Characteristics	6.13	6.55	2.56	0	9
Part 4-B	Ranking of General Characteristics	7.83	3.54	1.88	2	10

Table 3.

Correlation Coefficients Among Body Satisfaction and  
Physical Emphasis Variables for Sample of Gay Males

Body Satisfaction Variable	Physical Emphasis Variable		
	<u>PGFRQRTQ</u>	<u>PGDIFRNK</u>	<u>FRQXRNK</u>
Body Cathexis Scale	.29	.15	.37*
Tennessee Self-Concept Scale (Physical Self)	.23	.12	.24

\*  $p < .10$

MY FATHER.<sup>1</sup> A moderately high positive correlation was found between the two D measures ( $r=.51$ ,  $p<.01$ ), confirming Hypothesis 2. When MY MOTHER was used to replace the concept MY FATHER in the calculations, the corresponding correlation coefficient was a very low negative one ( $r=-.10$ , NS). Thus, a greater degree of identification with the father is associated with a low discrepancy between actual self and ideal self as subjects perceive them. No similar relationship holds in regard to the mother.

### Hypothesis 3

Correlations among measures representing Body Satisfaction and Masculine Self-Perception/Masculine Gender-Role Identification were computed. Measures pertaining to the latter dimension were the Personal Attributes Scale, M and MF scales (PAQ-M, PAQ-MF); and Osgood's D measure for the concepts MYSELF AS I AM and MAN. No significant correlation was found between the D measure and either Body Satisfaction variable. Significant high positive correlations were found, however, between the PAQ-M and each of the two Body Satisfaction measures ( $r=.80$ ,  $p<.001$  for BC and  $r=.62$ ,  $p<.005$

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<sup>1</sup>The index here referred to as D is actually a modified version of Osgood's measure. To avoid cumbersome manipulation of extremely small decimal values, raw (rather than averaged) semantic differential factor scores were used. The relationships among factor scores for the concepts, and hence among the D, remain unchanged (see Osgood et al., 1957).

for TSCS-PS). The PAQ-MF correlated positively with Body Satisfaction as well, although the relationships were considerably weaker. Neither of the correlations between Body Satisfaction and the PAQ-F were significant (see Table 4).

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Insert Table 4 about here

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### Additional Findings

In addition to the results of the preceding hypothesis tests, there were other findings of interest to this investigation in connection with Evaluation and Potency, the two primary dimensions of the semantic differential. The findings reported here are considered worthy of attention because of the almost invariant patterns in the data which they define. Mean values for concepts discussed below refer to averaged raw values for the concepts on the semantic differential. Therefore, the higher the mean value, the more the concept approximates the maximum on the dimension. For example, a higher mean value on Potency for one concept than for another means that the concept has a subjective meaning for subjects closer to the idea "strong," "potent," etc. Data are reported below with two-tailed probabilities.

Evaluative dimension: (A) The concept MY FATHER ( $\bar{X}$ =9.48) was in virtually every case (22 out of 23 cases) less than MYSELF AS I AM ( $\bar{X}$ =17.67) on this dimension, and usually substantially so,  $t(22)=6.31$ ,  $p<.001$ . (B) The concept MY

Table 4.

Correlation Coefficients Among Body Satisfaction and Gender  
Self-Perception/Role Identification Variables

Body Satisfaction Variable	Gender Self-Perception/ Role Identification Variable			
	<u>D</u> <sup>a</sup>	PAQ-M	PAQ-MF	PAQ-F
Body Cathexis Scale	-.07	.80 <sup>***</sup>	.34 <sup>*</sup>	.36
Tennessee Self-Concept Scale (Physical Self)	-.11	.62 <sup>**</sup>	.42 <sup>*</sup>	.18

<sup>a</sup> D refers to D (MYSELF AS I AM, MAN) .

<sup>\*</sup>  $p < .05$ .

<sup>\*\*</sup>  $p < .005$ .

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>  $p < .001$ .

FATHER ( $\bar{X}=9.48$ ) was also usually less than MY MOTHER ( $\bar{X}=16.58$ ),  $t(22)=3.21$ ,  $p<.005$ . (C) There was a much closer correspondence between MYSELF AS I AM ( $\bar{X}=17.67$ ) and MY MOTHER ( $\bar{X}=16.58$ ),  $t(23)=.57$ , NS, than between MYSELF AS I AM and MY FATHER ( $\bar{X}=9.48$ ),  $t(22)=6.31$ ,  $p<.001$ . (D) In 19 out of 23 cases, MY FATHER ( $\bar{X}=9.48$ ) was less than A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE ( $\bar{X}=14.29$ ),  $t(22)=2.54$ ,  $p<.05$ . (E) MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE ( $\bar{X}=21.46$ ) was usually almost identical to THE PERFECT LOVER ( $\bar{X}=20.54$ ). In 20 out of 24 cases there was not more than a four-point discrepancy between the two values. In slightly more than half of the cases (13 out of 24) the discrepancy was one of two points or less.

Potency dimension: (A) For the majority of subjects (16 out of 24) every concept had a lower value associated with it than that associated with A POWERFUL MAN on the Potency dimension (see Table 5). Where there were exceptions, they most often involved only one concept.

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Insert Table 5 about here

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Differences among mean values for MYSELF AS I AM, THE PERFECT LOVER, and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE, which appear in consistent relationship to one another across the two primary factors, were tested statistically. Associated two-tailed significance levels are also listed in Table 5.

Table 5.

## Relationships Among Concepts for the Semantic Differential by Dimension

		Ordinal Rank of Concept Based on Mean Value								
Dimension		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Evaluative	MAN (8.09)	MY FA- THER (9.48)	A POWER- FUL MAN (13.21)	A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE... BEEN... CLOSE (14.29)	MY MO- THER (16.58)	WOMAN (16.96)	MYSELF AS I AM (17.67)	THE PER- FECT LOVER (20.54)	MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE (21.46)	
								$\longleftrightarrow$ $p < .01$	$\longleftrightarrow$ (NS)	
									$\longleftrightarrow$ $p < .001$	
Potency	WOMAN (-5.87)	MY MO- THER (-1.25)	A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE... BEEN... CLOSE (6.17)	MYSELF AS I AM (8.25)	MY FA- THER (8.61)	MAN (10.61)	THE PER- FECT LOVER (10.71)	MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE (12.25)	A POWER- FUL MAN (17.91)	
								$\longleftrightarrow$ (NS)	$\longleftrightarrow$ $p < .005$	
									$\longleftrightarrow$ $p < .001$	



Table 5 (cont'd.).

Activity	MY FA- THER (.30)	MY MO- THER (3.92)	MAN (4.35)	WOMAN (4.39)	A POWER- FUL MAN (4.54)	A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE... BEEN... CLOSE (5.88)	MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE (8.92)	MYSELF AS I AM (8.92)	THE PER- FECT LOVER (8.92)
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$\longleftrightarrow$   
 $\underline{p} < .05$

Note. Numbers in parentheses represent mean values for the associated concepts.

Figure 1 shows the spatial relationships among the nine concepts for the two primary dimensions, Evaluation and Potency. The variability among means on the Activity dimension was comparatively small, so three-dimensional relationships can readily be estimated from Figure 1, with the following exceptions:

(A) The mean distance ( $\bar{D}$ ) between MYSELF AS I AM and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE ( $\bar{D}=8.71$ ) was less than  $\bar{D}$  between MYSELF AS I AM and A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE ( $\bar{D}=13.63$ ),  $z=3.0$ ,  $p<.005$ .<sup>1</sup>

(B)  $\bar{D}$  (MYSELF AS I AM, MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE) (8.71) <  $\bar{D}$  (MYSELF AS I AM, MY FATHER) (17.66),  $z=-3.86$ ,  $p<.001$ .

(C)  $\bar{D}$  (MYSELF AS I AM, MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE) (8.71) <  $\bar{D}$  (MYSELF AS I AM, MAN) (16.00),  $z=-3.13$ ,  $p<.005$ .

(D)  $\bar{D}$  (MYSELF AS I AM, THE PERFECT LOVER) (8.89) <  $\bar{D}$  (MYSELF AS I AM, A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE) (13.63),  $z=-2.54$ ,  $p<.01$ .

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Insert Figure 1 about here

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Finally, for the three-dimensional semantic space, MYSELF AS I AM and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE were

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<sup>1</sup>Numbers in parentheses are  $\bar{D}$  of the concept pairs preceding them. Probabilities are two-tailed based on Wilcoxon's matched-pairs signed-ranks test (see Osgood et al., 1957).

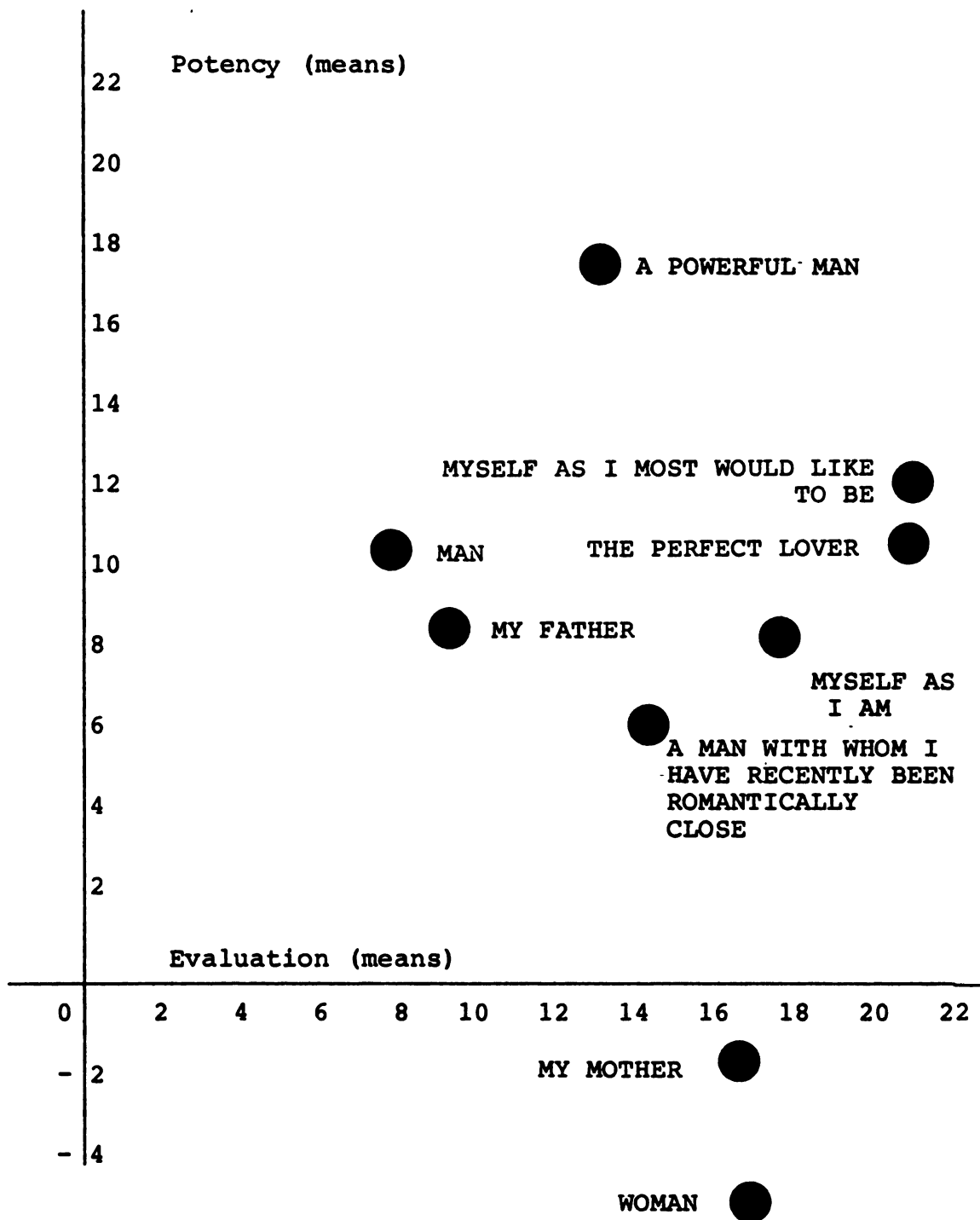


Figure 1.

Relationships Among Semantic Differential Concepts  
in Two Dimensions (Evaluation and Potency)

examined in relation to four classes of concepts:

- (a) Lovers--A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE and THE PERFECT LOVER;
- (b) Males--MAN, MY FATHER, THE PERFECT LOVER, A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE;
- (c) Mothers and Fathers--MY MOTHER and MY FATHER; and
- (d) Men and Women--MAN and WOMAN

There were three findings of interest to this study in connection with the first of these, Lovers:

(1) On all factors, Evaluative, Activity, and Potency, MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and THE PERFECT LOVER were almost identical in their associated mean values.

(2) The concepts THE PERFECT LOVER and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE were significantly closer to each other in the three-dimensional semantic space ( $\bar{D}=5.92$ ) than either alone was to any other concept ( $\mu_{\bar{D}}=15.77$ ;  $p<.001$  in 12 cases,  $p<.05$  in two cases).

(3) MYSELF AS I AM was significantly different (lower) in its associated mean value than THE PERFECT LOVER only on the Evaluative dimension, but was significantly lower than MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE on both Evaluative and Potency dimensions (see Table 5).

Two findings in connection with the second category, Males, are the following:

(1) MYSELF AS I AM, A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE, THE PERFECT LOVER, and MYSELF AS I

MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE each had significantly higher values on the Evaluative dimension than MAN and MY FATHER ( $p < .05$  for the comparisons involving A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE, otherwise,  $p < .001$ ).

(2) On the Potency dimension, however, the following ordering of variables appeared: A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE < MYSELF AS I AM < MY FATHER < MAN < THE PERFECT LOVER < MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE (no two adjacent variables were significantly different from each other).

For MYSELF AS I AM in relation to Mothers and Fathers, the following was found:

(1) The semantic distance between MYSELF AS I AM and MY MOTHER was not significantly different from that between MYSELF AS I AM and MY FATHER ( $\bar{D}=15.49, 17.66$ ; respectively),  $Z=-.852$ , NS.

Finally, for Men and Women:

(1) The distance between MYSELF AS I AM and WOMAN ( $\bar{D}=18.15$ ) was not significantly different from MYSELF AS I AM and either MAN ( $\bar{D}=16.00$ ) or A POWERFUL MAN ( $\bar{D}=17.01$ ),  $Z=-9.12$ ,  $Z=-2.74$ , respectively (NS).

## CHAPTER 4

### DISCUSSION

Hypothesis 1 was not supported by our findings. Correlations among Physical Emphasis variables and measures of Body Satisfaction were without exception positive, contrary to Hypothesis 1. That emphasis on physical features of the sexual object is positively correlated with body satisfaction is not predicted by the Completion Hypothesis. The data, nevertheless, suggest this as a more likely conclusion whatever the inadequacies of our measures of Physical Emphasis. The expectation that the Physical Emphasis variable FRQXRTO would be most sensitive to variations in emphasis on physical features of sexual object is supported by our findings. This variable yielded the largest correlation coefficients for each Body Satisfaction variable, followed by PGFRQRTQ and PGDIFRKN.

It might also be noted that correlations for Body Cathexis with Physical Emphasis variables were uniformly higher than those for the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale. The Physical Self subscale of the TSCS appears to be a general measure of overall sense of physical well-being whereas the Body Cathexis Scale is more specifically a measure of satisfaction with body parts. The product-moment correlation between the two measures in the present investigation was .70 ( $p < .001$ ).

In any case, given the present findings, it is likely

that the more an individual gay male felt satisfied with his own body, the more emphasis he was likely to place on physical features in a romantic partner or lover. It must be emphasized, however, that support for the hypothesis that Body Satisfaction and Physical Emphasis are positively correlated for gay men is equivocal.

Hypothesis 2 was clearly supported by the data in this study. It was found, in general, that the stronger the identification with the primary male caregiver in childhood, the smaller the discrepancy between self-image and ideal self. This would be a corollary of the Completion Hypothesis as it has been outlined here. It is not suggested, however, that this finding would be unlikely for heterosexual subjects, since aspects of the Completion Hypothesis may well characterize both groups. What remains to be seen is whether heterosexual males identify more or less with the primary male childhood caregiver and whether they have a larger or smaller discrepancy between self-image and ideal self. As it has been noted, this is one hypothesis examined in a study now in progress.

Hypothesis 3 was also strongly confirmed by data in this study. Correlations among Body Satisfaction and Masculine Self-Perception/Gender Role Identification variables were uniformly positive. Correlations between the PAQ Masculinity subscale and each of the two Body Satisfaction variables, however, were very much higher than corresponding correlations for the PAQ-MF subscale.

One finding pertaining to this hypothesis has yet to be explained. That is, it is not clear why the correlations between D (MYSELF AS I AM, MAN) and the two Body Satisfaction variables were negligible if Masculine Self-Perception and Body Satisfaction are positively correlated (Hypothesis 3). Given the relationship of MAN to the other male concepts, A POWERFUL MAN in particular, it is suggested that this concept was translated by subjects as "the average man" rather than as "the most masculine man." The concept MAN, therefore, would not serve as an accurate index of masculinity. The pattern of results shown in Table 4 is highly consistent with Hypothesis 3. It is not clear why the correlations between the Body Satisfaction variables and the M-F scale were so much lower than the corresponding correlations for the M scale. Nevertheless, the correlations involving M and M-F were all significant, whereas the corresponding correlations involving F were not.

The data offer unequivocal support, then, for the hypothesis that there is a positive correlation between masculine self-perception/masculine gender role identification and overall body satisfaction for homosexual males. Whether there is a significant difference between homosexual and heterosexual groups regarding any of these variables is yet to be determined.

The implications of such a finding for psychotherapy have been discussed by Hart (1978). As has been noted in a preceding section, any discrepancy which might be found in



self-concept between homosexual and heterosexual groups might result from distortions in personal construct systems defining what is appropriately or desirably masculine. Traditional stereotypic assumptions which associate effeminacy and homosexuality are likely one source of such distortions. It will be recalled that Skrapek and MacKenzie (1981) found in their study that homosexual men described themselves in the most rigidly stereotypic fashion with reference to masculinity. They attempted to explain their findings as a manifestation of "compensatory masculine responding, where masculinity is defensively exaggerated in the face of gender role 'threat'..." (p. 368). As described above, Hart's suggestion is that in treating a gay male who has a negative self-concept, the therapist be sensitive to such implicit distortions.

It must be strongly emphasized, however, that our findings only support the conclusion that for homosexual men body satisfaction and masculine self-perception/masculine gender-role identification are positively correlated. We have no data as yet from our own investigations to suggest that there are significant differences between the two groups under consideration in magnitude or direction of this correlation, or in either of the correlated variables. Moreover, it is only on the basis of previous investigations, such as those discussed above, that we may consider body self-perception to be one likely locus for self-esteem deficits in gay men who

suffer from negative self-concepts. Remarks concerning treatment of gay males in therapy, then, must be taken to apply to those gay men, whatever their proportion to the general gay population, who suffer deficits in body self-perception or global self-esteem.

On the semantic differential Evaluative scale, it was found that the concept MYSELF AS I AM was significantly greater than MY FATHER and not significantly different from MY MOTHER. The scales which contributed to this factor were loyal-disloyal, good-bad, generous-stingy, beautiful-ugly, compassionate-heard-hearted, nurturing-depriving, dirty-clean, natural-pretentious, and harsh-gentle.

It might also be noted that on this dimension, MAN ( $\bar{X}$  = 8.09) was significantly less than WOMAN ( $\bar{X}$  16.96),  $p < .005$ , so the dimension was composed of scales also largely associated with masculinity and femininity. That the dimension is defined by traits that gay men find desirable in themselves is demonstrated by the fact that the concept with the highest value associated with it was MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE. Interestingly, THE PERFECT LOVER was ranked next lowest, followed by MYSELF AS I AM, WOMAN, and MY MOTHER. The four remaining male concepts were listed lowest on Evaluation (Table 5).

That the Potency dimension was a true measure of powerfulness is substantiated by the fact that A POWERFUL MAN has the highest value associated with it on the dimension. It was followed by MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and THE

PERFECT LOVER. MYSELF AS I AM was significantly lower than A POWERFUL MAN ( $p < .001$ ) as well. It was also significantly lower than MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE ( $p < .005$ ), as it was on Evaluation ( $p < .001$ ), which is exactly what would be expected in this case on construct valid measures of EVALUATION and POTENCY. The absolute difference appears small, and its clinical significance is unknown. What is interesting are the relationships among MYSELF AS I AM, THE PERFECT LOVER, and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE. On both dimensions, THE PERFECT LOVER lies somewhere between MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and MYSELF AS I AM, with the first two of these almost identical in value. The difference between MYSELF AS I AM and THE PERFECT LOVER is significant at the .01 level on EVALUATION, but nonsignificant on POTENCY. This latter finding seems not to support the Completion Hypothesis. It might be noted here that several of the subjects, in describing the ideal lover or romantic partner, wrote that they did not want a lover much stronger, taller, or better looking than they. It might be considered, however, that the ideal lover of erotic fantasies may be different from the ideal lover hoped for in real life. The latter, according to the hypothesis, might not be expected to be someone whose obvious superiority on any dimension would pose a threat to an individual's own positive self-evaluation. The concept THE PERFECT LOVER might, in fact, be a combination of the two, emerging higher in Potency than MYSELF AS I AM, but not significantly so. If

this is the case, that the difference would be found on Potency, but not the Evaluative dimension, is consistent with findings previously cited of Hart (1978) and Skrapek and MacKenzie (1981). In other words, traits in others typically more associated with femininity and considered desirable for everyone are less threatening to one's masculine self-concept than those associated with stereotypic masculinity.

Perhaps it is in this context that we can also understand our findings in connection with Hypothesis 1. If the critical threat to self-image lies in the realm of masculine self-perception, then gay men who see themselves as more masculine and are more comfortable with their bodies are also more comfortable in expressing an emphatic sexual interest and enjoyment in connection with physically attractive male others.

It was also found that for all of the semantic differential dimensions combined in to a three-dimensional semantic space, MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and THE PERFECT LOVER were significantly closer spatially to each other than either was to any other concept. The application of this finding to the preceding theoretical discussions is straightforward. What appears to be the case is that the hypothetical ideal lover is very close to the ideal self. What these men desired in partners was not a set of traits highly disparate from what they would value in themselves. On the other hand, it has already been mentioned that on Evaluative

and Potency dimensions, MYSELF AS I AM was significantly lower than MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE. It would be highly surprising were this not the case for any group--therefore clinical significance cannot be determined in the absence of group norms. What has been shown, however, is that the ideal lover possesses features not experienced as part of the actual self, but which are valued and considered constituents of the ideal self.

The orderings of the masculine semantic differential concepts on the Evaluative and Potency dimensions (Table 5) take place in regard to two defining construct classes: (a) actual-ideal constructs and (b) gay constructs vs. those with sexual orientation not specified. On the Evaluative dimension, MYSELF AS I AM, A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE, THE PERFECT LOVER and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE were all rated significantly higher than MAN and MY FATHER. The former set of concepts, all of which are "gay" by implication are characterized more by those adjectives associated with "goodness" than are the other two male concepts. On the Potency dimension, however, the "gay-actual" concepts MYSELF AS I AM and A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE were less or somewhat less than MY FATHER and MAN, which in turn were less than the "gay-ideal" constructs MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and THE PERFECT LOVER. Potency, therefore, whatever its subjective meaning to our raters, is not intrinsically correlated either positively or negatively with Evaluation

even though it is highly desired. The "gay-ideal" concepts were high in both Evaluation and Potency, whereas the "gay-actual" concepts were high in Evaluation and relatively low in Potency. The concepts MAN and MY FATHER were relatively low in Evaluation and moderate in Potency. The concept A POWERFUL MAN was significantly higher than any concept on Potency, but near the mean of scores on Evaluation.

Subjects also saw themselves as no more different from one parent than from the other. The actual three-dimensional relationships may be inferred readily from Figure 1 where MYSELF AS I AM lies roughly equidistant from MY MOTHER and MY FATHER. They were more like MY MOTHER on the Evaluative dimension, however, and more like MY FATHER on the Potency dimension. What is indicated, then, is not that subjects saw themselves as representing an "average" of features defining male and female parents, but that they saw themselves as having the most desired features of each parent.

Finally, these findings are precisely analogous to those in connection with MAN and WOMAN. MYSELF AS I AM was not significantly more or less distant conceptually from MAN than from WOMAN, but was significantly closer to both WOMAN and MAN than was MAN to WOMAN. Similarly, MYSELF AS I AM more closely approximated WOMAN on Evaluation, but was more similar to the concept MAN on Potency. Subjects in this sample, then, did not just conceptually locate themselves between the average man and woman, but saw themselves as possessing the most desired features typical of each.

The ordering of male concepts on the Activity dimension is less readily interpretable. There is only one significant difference between adjacent concepts on this dimension, between A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE and MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE. There is no immediately apparent way to interpret the clusterings listed in the bottom panel of Table 5. The most obvious clustering is that consisting of MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE, MYSELF AS I AM, and THE PERFECT LOVER, which are almost identical in their values. This dimension does not straightforwardly translate "active-passive," but also seems to incorporate a heavy component of "emotionality." Because there are so many ways to be active or passive, emotional or unemotional, there are no clear groupings by sex or sexual orientation for the concepts. The similarity between MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and THE PERFECT LOVER, however, is further emphasized by superimposing the Activity dimension on Figure 1. Across dimensions, these two concepts form the most consistent pairing.

### Summary

In summary, three hypotheses were proposed to examine relationships among the following five variables for gay men: body satisfaction, emphasis on physical attractiveness of the sexual object, identification with the childhood male caregiver, self-image--ego-ideal discrepancy, and gender role identification. In treating the subject of male

homosexuality, the clinical literature has emphasized the sense of self-dissatisfaction, especially in connection with perceived masculinity and body image, which is characteristic of many homosexual men in psychotherapy or psychoanalysis. Such case descriptions have constituted the basis for much psychodynamic theorizing about male homosexuality without much empirical support based on nonclinical samples.

In the present study it was found that for gay men, the stronger the identification with the primary male caregiver in childhood, the more an individual's actual self-image approximated his ideal self. Secondly, we found that there is a strong positive correlation between masculine self-perception/masculine gender-role identification and body satisfaction. Body satisfaction also appeared somewhat positively correlated with emphasis placed on the physical attractiveness of the sexual object. Finally, when semantic differential concepts were conceptualized in a three-dimensional space, the most outstanding finding was that MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE and THE PERFECT LOVER were nearly identical and more like each other than any other pair of concepts.

It must be emphasized that what we have found to be the case for gay men may well be true for heterosexual men as well. Where differences exist between groups, it is incumbent upon us to recognize that these may be either causes or effects in the development of a given sexual orientation.



The purpose of the present investigation was to test certain assumptions upon which psychodynamic theories of homosexuality have been based, not to prove or disprove the theories themselves. The clinical utility of this approach has been discussed. Whatever the prevalence in the general gay population of the clinical phenomena reported in the literature, identification of the correlates of maladaptive styles of self-evaluation is an important step toward devising an improved approach to treatment.

As it has been mentioned, tests of the preceding hypotheses using a comparable sample of heterosexual subjects will be performed in a forthcoming study. It is expected that investigations involving nonclinical populations will contribute to our theoretical understanding not just of male homosexuality, but of human sexuality; and the similarities and differences in the development of all of its variations.

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## **APPENDIX**



## **APPENDIX**

### **INSTRUMENTS**

1. Semantic differential
2. Tennessee Self-Concept Scale Physical Self Subscale
3. Personal Attributes Questionnaire
4. Body Cathexis Scale
5. Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale
6. Background questionnaire

TO THE SUBJECT: In order to participate in this investigation, it is necessary that your response be "yes" to all of the following:

- A. I describe myself as "gay" and have had exclusively same-sex sexual and/or romantic involvement(s) for a period of at least one year.
- B. I am not currently receiving psychological counseling, psychotherapy or medication for a mental or emotional or nervous disorder and have not received such for a period of at least six months.
- C. I have never been hospitalized for a mental or emotional disorder.
- D. I have consented freely to participate in this investigation, understand that all materials are to be kept confidential, and that I may discontinue my participation at any time without recrimination. I am also aware that results of the investigation will be provided to me upon request.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH YOUR NAME OR OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO THIS SHEET. YOUR ANSWERS ARE TO BE SPOKEN, NOT WRITTEN.

Instructions: The purpose of this part of this study is to measure the meanings of certain things to various people. On each of the pages immediately following, you will find a word or phrase in capital letters. Beneath the word or phrase there will be a set of scales each of which has a descriptive word at one end and its opposite at the other. For example:

## POLITICIANS

fair \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ unfair  
 honest \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ dishonest  
 generous \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ stingy

For each page of this test, think carefully about the word at the top of the page and what the word (or concept) means to you. Next, look at the first scale beneath the word or concept. If you feel that the word or concept at the top of the page is very closely related to one end of the scale, you should place a check mark as follows:

fair   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ unfair

or

fair \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   unfair

If you feel that the word at the top of the page is quite closely related to one or the other end of the scale (but not extremely), you should place your check mark as follows:

honest \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ dishonest

or

honest \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ dishonest

If the concept seems only slightly related to one side as opposed to the other side (but is not really neutral), then you should check as follows:

generous \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ stingy

or

generous \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ stingy

If you consider the concept to be neutral on the scale or if the scale is completely irrelevant to the concept, then you should place your check mark in the middle space:

generous \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ stingy

**IMPORTANT:**

- (1) Place check marks in the middle of spaces, not on the borders:

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ (Like this)

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :   X   : \_\_\_\_\_ (Not like this)

- (2) Be sure you check every scale for every concept--  
do not omit any.

- (3) Never put more than one check mark on a single scale.

Finally, you sometimes may feel as though you've had the same item before on the test. This will not be the case, so do not look back and forth through the items. Do not try to remember how you checked similar items earlier in the test. Work at a fairly high speed through this test. Do not worry or puzzle over individual items. It is your first impressions, the immediate "feelings" about the items and what they mean to you that we want. On the other hand, please do not be careless, because we want your true impressions. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE INSTRUCTIONS, PLEASE ASK THE EXAMINER.

fast	:	:	:	:	:	:	slow
brave	:	:	:	:	:	:	cowardly
emotional	:	:	:	:	:	:	unemotional
possessive	:	:	:	:	:	:	nonpossessive
accessible	:	:	:	:	:	:	aloof
weak	:	:	:	:	:	:	strong
impetuous	:	:	:	:	:	:	controlled
individualistic	:	:	:	:	:	:	conforming
needy	:	:	:	:	:	:	providing
compassionate	:	:	:	:	:	:	heard-hearted
bold	:	:	:	:	:	:	meek
playful	:	:	:	:	:	:	serious
hard	:	:	:	:	:	:	soft
beautiful	:	:	:	:	:	:	ugly
large	:	:	:	:	:	:	small
nurturing	:	:	:	:	:	:	depriving
compliant	:	:	:	:	:	:	stubborn
warm	:	:	:	:	:	:	cold
rational	:	:	:	:	:	:	intuitive
accepting	:	:	:	:	:	:	rejecting
restrained	:	:	:	:	:	:	expressive
independent	:	:	:	:	:	:	dependent
dirty	:	:	:	:	:	:	clean
competitive	:	:	:	:	:	:	cooperative
calm	:	:	:	:	:	:	agitated
harsh	:	:	:	:	:	:	gentle
generous	:	:	:	:	:	:	stingy
rugged	:	:	:	:	:	:	delicate
good	:	:	:	:	:	:	bad
peaceable	:	:	:	:	:	:	hostile
distant	:	:	:	:	:	:	close
passive	:	:	:	:	:	:	active
dominant	:	:	:	:	:	:	submissive
feminine	:	:	:	:	:	:	masculine
natural	:	:	:	:	:	:	pretentious
loyal	:	:	:	:	:	:	disloyal
rigid	:	:	:	:	:	:	flexible

[Note--Nine copies of the above set of scales were administered to subjects with a different concept heading each page. The concepts used in the present study were the following: MYSELF AS I NOW AM, MY MOTHER, MAN, THE PERFECT LOVER, WOMAN, MYSELF AS I MOST WOULD LIKE TO BE, MY FATHER, A MAN WITH WHOM I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ROMANTICALLY CLOSE, and A POWERFUL MAN.]

Instructions: Please respond to these items as if you were describing yourself to yourself. Read each item carefully, then select one of the five alternative responses. Do not omit any item. Place a check mark in the appropriate box to the right of each item to indicate whether you think the statement as applied to you is (1) Completely false, (2) Mostly false, (3) Partly false and partly true, (4) Mostly true, or (5) Completely true.

	Entirely False	Mostly False	Part False and Part True	Mostly True	Entirely True
1. I have a healthy body.					
2. I am an attractive person.					
3. I consider myself a sloppy person.					
4. I like to look nice and neat all the time.					
5. I am full of aches and pains.					
6. I am a sick person.					
7. I am neither too fat nor too thin.					
8. I like my looks just the way they are.					
9. I would like to change some parts of my body.					
10. I am neither too tall nor too short.					
11. I don't feel as well as I should.					

	Entirely False	Mostly False	Part False and Part True	Mostly True	Entirely True
12. I should have more sex appeal.					
13. I take good care of myself physically.					
14. I try to be careful about my appearance.					
15. I often act like I am "all thumbs."					
16. I feel good most of the time.					
17. I do poorly in sports and games.					
18. I am a poor sleeper.					

The items below inquire about what kind of a person you think you are. Each item consists of a pair of characteristics, with the letters A-E in between. For example:

Not at all Artistic    A....B....C....D....E    Very Artistic

Each pair describes contradictory characteristics--that is, you cannot be both at the same time, such as very artistic and not at all artistic.

The letters form a scale between the two extremes. You are to choose a letter which describes where you fall on the scale. For example, if you think you have no artistic ability, you would choose A. If you think you are pretty good, you might choose D. If you are only medium, you might choose C, and so forth. Circle the letter that you choose.

- |  |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Not at all aggressive                               | A....B....C....D....E | Very aggressive                          |
| 2. Not at all independent                              | A....B....C....D....E | Very independent                         |
| 3. Not at all emotional                                | A....B....C....D....E | Very emotional                           |
| 4. Very submissive                                     | A....B....C....D....E | Very dominant                            |
| 5. Not at all excitable in a <u>major</u> crisis       | A....B....C....D....E | Very excitable in a <u>major</u> crisis  |
| 6. Very passive  | A....B....C....D....E | Very active                              |
| 7. Not at all able to devote self completely to others | A....B....C....D....E | Able to devote self completely to others |
| 8. Very rough  | A....B....C....D....E | Very gentle                              |
| 9. Not at all helpful to others                        | A....B....C....D....E | Very helpful to others                   |
| 10. Not at all competitive                             | A....B....C....D....E | Very competitive                         |



11.	Very home oriented	A....B....C....D....E	Very worldly
12.	Not at all kind	A....B....C....D....E	Very kind
13.	Indifferent to others' approval	A....B....C....D....E	Highly needful of others' approval
14.	Feelings not easily hurt	A....B....C....D....E	Feelings easily hurt
15.	Not at all aware of feelings of others	A....B....C....D....E	Very aware of feelings of others
16.	Can make decisions easily	A....B....C....D....E	Has difficulty making decisions
17.	Gives up very easily	A....B....C....D....E	Never gives up easily
18.	Never cries	A....B....C....D....E	Cries very easily
19.	Not at all self-confident	A....B....C....D....E	Very self-confident
20.	Feels very inferior	A....B....C....D....E	Feels very superior
21.	Not at all understanding of others	A....B....C....D....E	Very understanding of others
22.	Very cold in relations with others	A....B....C....D....E	Very warm in relations with others
23.	Very little need for security	A....B....C....D....E	Very strong need for security
24.	Goes to pieces under pressure	A....B....C....D....E	Stands up will under pressure

Instructions: On the following pages are listed a number of things characteristic of yourself or related to you. You are asked to indicate which things you are satisfied with exactly as they are, which things you worry about and would like to change if it were possible, and which things you have no feelings about one way or the other.

Consider each item listed below and encircle the number which best represents your feelings according to the following scale:

1. Have strong feelings and wish change could somehow be made.
2. Don't like, but can put up with.
3. Have no particular feelings one way or the other.
4. Am satisfied.
5. Consider myself fortunate.

\* \* \* \* \*

1. hair . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
2. facial complexion. .	.1	2	3	4	5
3. appetite. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
4. hands. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
5. distribution of hair over body. . .	.1	2	3	4	5
6. nose . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
7. fingers . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
8. elimination. . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
9. wrists . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
10. breathing . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
11. waist. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
12. energy level . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
13. back . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5

14.	ears . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
15.	chin . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
16.	exercise. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
17.	ankles . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
18.	neck . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
19.	shape of head . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
20.	body build . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
21.	profile . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
22.	height . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
23.	age . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
24.	width of shoulders	.1	2	3	4	5
25.	arms . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
26.	chest. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
27.	eyes . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
28.	digestion . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
29.	hips . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
30.	skin texture . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
31.	lips . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
32.	legs . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
33.	teeth. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
34.	forehead. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
35.	feet . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
36.	sleep. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
37.	voice. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
38.	health . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
39.	sex activities. . .	.1	2	3	4	5
40.	knees. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5

41.	posture . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
42.	face . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
43.	weight . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
44.	sex (male or female).	.1	2	3	4	5
45.	back view of head.	.1	2	3	4	5
46.	trunk . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
47.	penis . . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5
48.	buttocks. . . . .	.1	2	3	4	5

Instructions:

Place a check mark in the appropriate box to show how you feel about yourself.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
1. I feel that I am a person of worth, at least on an equal plane with others.				
2. All in all, I am inclined to feel that I am a failure.				
3. I feel that I have a number of good qualities.				
4. I am able to do things as well as most other people.				
5. I feel I do not have much to be proud of.				
6. I take a positive attitude toward myself.				
7. On the whole I am satisfied with myself.				
8. I wish I could have more respect for myself.				
9. I certainly feel useless at times.				
10. At times I think I am no good at all.				

QUESTIONNAIREPART I

- A. About you: Use the space below to describe yourself in as much detail as you think will give a fairly complete picture. Please do not use your name. As usual, confidentiality is promised. This sheet will be kept in a place different from where the other test materials are stored so that there will be nothing to identify you on the other tests and questionnaires.

PART II

## SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Instructions: Your answers to the questions below will provide information essential to this study. Please complete all items. As usual, confidentiality is promised. Responses will be kept separate from other test materials and under no circumstances will your name be attached.

A. Your birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

B. Racial identification:      Black (non-Hispanic)  
                                      (circle one)      White (non-Hispanic)  
    Hispanic  
    Native American  
    Asian American  
    Other \_\_\_\_\_

C. Highest education level  
     Specify number of years elementary school, high school, college, etc.:  
     \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees you hold:	Degree	Major
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

D. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

E. Marital Status (circle one)      1. legally divorced  
    2. never legally married  
    3. separated  
    4. other \_\_\_\_\_

If you were ever legally married, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

How long were you married each time? (In years and months.  
 Continue on reverse side if necessary.)

\_\_\_\_\_

PART II

F. Marital history of parents: Please describe in the space below the marital history of your parents (natural as well as adoptive). Include all information you have about divorces, remarriages, etc. In addition, you should provide to the best of your knowledge information about all of the people you have lived with until the age of 21 (whether parents, stepparents, spouses, lovers, etc.). Try to be specific; for example, if you were adopted or if your parents divorced and remarried, tell what age you were when each such event occurred.

G. Current living situation:

Are you living with anyone now? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, with whom are you living? \_\_\_\_\_with parents  
 \_\_\_\_\_with relative(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_other than parent  
 \_\_\_\_\_with friend(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_(not a lover)  
 \_\_\_\_\_with lover  
 \_\_\_\_\_alone  
 \_\_\_\_\_other (please  
 specify)

H. Relationships: Do you have a current lover or romantic involvement?\_\_\_\_\_ (yes or no)

If yes, how long have you been involved in this way?

---

If you have a lover or romantic involvement, rate on the following scale how satisfied overall you have been with the relationship during the past six months (circle one number on the scale even if you have been involved for less than six months):



Very  
dissatisfied

Very  
satisfied

/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /

- I. If you are not currently in a relationship such as described on the preceding page, rate on the following scale how much you would like to have such an involvement:

/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /

Would not like to  
have such a rela-  
tionship--am satis-  
fied as I am.

Would like very much  
to have such a rela-  
tionship.

Look at the five sentences below:

1. My lover and I are sexually and romantically involved only with each other and do not have sexual and romantic involvements with others.
2. My lover and I are sexually and romantically involved with each other, but sometimes have sexual and romantic involvements with others.
3. I am not currently involved with any one person, but have relatively brief sexual and romantic involvements from time to time.
4. I am not currently involved with any one person, but tend to have relatively long-term sexual and romantic involvements.
5. I am not currently involved with any one person, but tend to have few or no sexual involvements of any kind.

Which of the sentences above best describes your life now?  
(Circle one of the following numbers):

1 2 3 4 5

Which of the sentences above best describes your life as you most would like it to be?

1 2 3 4 5

If you have anything to add to the above two questions, please do so in the space below, continuing on the other side if necessary:

PART II

J. How long have you considered yourself gay? \_\_\_\_\_  
 years/months  
 (Explain below if necessary)

Who are the persons to whom you are known as gay--that is, to what individuals have you come out and to what persons are you to any extent open about being gay?

About how many of your friends/acquaintances at your place of work know that you are gay? Is this most of the people you work with or only a small part?  
 (Explain in a sentence or two)

OR IF YOU ARE A STUDENT:

About how many of your friends/acquaintances at the school you attend know that you are gay? Is this most of your friends/acquaintances or only a small part?  
 (Explain in a sentence or two)

PART III

- A. In the space below, describe an imaginary person that is your idea of the perfect lover, companion or romantic partner. Use as much space as you think it will take to give a fairly complete picture. Your identity is not relevant to this study, so keep in mind that no information other than the code number listed above will be used to identify you.

**PART IV**

- A. Instructions: List on the lines below the characteristics or attributes that you most look for or would like to have in a lover or romantic partner. These may include any details of personality, social, economic, physical or anatomical characteristics; but please be specific. The characteristics that you list do not have to be written in order of importance, but try to list them as you think of them, being as honest as possible. You should list only as many characteristics as are of interest or importance to you. If you need more space, please write additional characteristics below the lines provided. Regardless of the number of characteristics that you list, however, it is important that you be specific. Remember, confidentiality is guaranteed and under no circumstances will your name be attached to this sheet.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**PART IV**

- B. Now look at the characteristics that you just listed on the preceding page. Each of the characteristics you listed there corresponds to the scale of the same number below. You are now asked to rate these characteristics on the corresponding 10-point scale below by placing an "X" in the space above the number on the scale which best illustrates how much interest you have in having that characteristic in a lover or sexual partner--that is, how important that characteristic in a lover is to you. If you listed more than 10 characteristics on the preceding page, please rate the remaining characteristics in the same fashion by adding enough scales to correspond to the additional characteristics listed.

	Least Important	Most Important
1.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
2.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
3.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
4.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
5.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
6.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
7.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
8.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
9.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	
10.	/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /	

PART IV

- C. Now go back two pages to your list of characteristics in Section A and place a check mark next to the three characteristics you listed on that page that you think you tend to emphasize most or that most interests you in connection with a lover, sexual or romantic partner.
- D. Look at each of the three items you just selected, and of these, place a "1" next to the most important, a "2" next to the second most important, and a "3" next to the least important of the three in terms of how much interest you have in finding a lover, sexual or romantic partner with these characteristics.

PART V

- A. Are you a member of an organized religion?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

- B. In the space below, please describe briefly your religious orientation. If you believe in God or a specific religion, you should describe your beliefs. Also, note whether you feel some conflict between your religious values and beliefs and your sexuality, and briefly describe the nature of any such conflict that may exist. Continue on the reverse side if necessary.

PART VI

- A. Please describe below what involvement you have in gay organizations, if any, and rate the extent of your involvement on the ten-point scale below:

(Circle one number)

/ 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 /

Not involved  
at all

Very  
involved

Describe type of involvement and type of organization(s):

- B. About how often do you visit gay bars? (Specify, for example, daily, once per week, three times per week, once per month, etc.)

- C. About how often do you visit straight bars? (Specify, for example, daily, once per week, three times per week, once per month, etc.)