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IDEALIZED PARTNER PREFERENCE
IN HOMOSEXUAL MALES

By
Tom Boyden

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of Loyola University of Chicago in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of
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VITA

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INTRODUCTION

Researchers studying homosexual attraction have focused on what attracts men to one another sexually. Two major factors have emerged, youthfulness and masculinity.

The purpose of this study is to focus on homosexual attraction as it is likely to occur within the context of an on-going relationship. Instead of the usual emphasis on sexual factors, the role of personality characteristics is considered in terms of the similarity versus complementarity paradigm.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Factors Influencing Homosexual Attraction

A common belief is that gay men are attracted to those who are young. Observers have commented that the gay world is largely youth-oriented (e.g., Hoffman, 1968, p. 52; Simon & Gagnon, 1967; Weinberg, 1970). Harry and DeVall (1978a) note that the gay subculture is made up mostly of single men, and as such reflects the emphasis on youthfulness and attractiveness that is found in singles groups.

However, the data that Harry and DeVall present suggest a modification of the idea that youthfulness is invariably a determinant of homosexual attraction. The largest proportion of their gay male subjects (44%) reported a preference for a sexual partner their own age, while roughly equal numbers preferred someone younger (26%), or older (23%). Further analysis showed that the youngest age group (18-24) most often wanted someone older, while the older groups (starting at age 35) were the most likely to prefer a younger partner.

A survey of a thousand gay men (Spada, 1979) produced a very similar finding in the area of age preference.

About 40% of the respondents preferred a partner their own age, 27% someone younger, and 28% someone older. Again, it was the youngest age group that indicated the greatest interest in older partners, and vice versa. Of course this does not imply that the extreme age groups are attracted to one another. Westwood (1960, p. 117) notes that sexual attraction did not seem to extend very far outside his respondents' own age group.

A second approach to the question of age preference has considered the subject's personality pattern, in terms of masculinity and femininity. Two studies (Freund, Langevin, Laws, & Serber, 1974; Freund & Langevin, 1976) have shown that males who are attracted to adult males score higher in feminine gender identity than those who are attracted to immature males. When age was considered in relative terms, Haist and Hewitt (1974) found that the more feminine gay men preferred partners older than themselves. They also report a corresponding but weaker tendency for their more masculine subjects to prefer partners younger than themselves.

Besides relative age, a second characteristic important in homosexual attraction is masculinity of the partner. Men with a high degree of masculinity are generally seen as desirable, and effeminate men are very undesirable to the majority of gay men. This effect has been

reported in the United States (Bell & Weinberg, 1978, p. 92; Harry & DeVall, 1978b, p. 3) and in Great Britain (Westwood, 1960, p. 119).

Masculinity also occupies a prominent place in a theory of homosexual attraction proposed by Tripp (1975). His theory of the establishment of either the heterosexual preference or the homosexual preference relies heavily on the notion of complementarity. A person is presumed to be attracted to one sex or the other because of a need for the qualities which that sex possesses. In Tripp's economically-oriented terms, a pre-homosexual boy feels a deficit of masculinity in his own personality, and seeks to "import" masculinity in closeness with other males (pp. 80-87). Such a person may turn out to be quite masculine himself, but in the process of acquiring a sexual preference, male qualities take on an erotic significance. (See Appendix A for a further discussion of the relationship between sexual orientation and gender identity.) The critical issue, then, is not the level of masculinity in one's personality, but the level of masculinity desired in one's personality.

Apart from Tripp's theory, the studies cited above have posed the question of attractiveness in sexual terms. The implication is that sex is the sole basis of homo-

sexual attraction, to the exclusion of other factors that go into building a relationship. As Simon and Gagnon (1967) suggest, researchers as well as the general public tend to think of gays as people whose motives are primarily sexual. In contrast, the present study investigates the factors that attract gay men to one another in the context of an on-going relationship.

Factors Influencing Interpersonal Attraction

The literature on interpersonal attraction suggests two opposing hypotheses: (1) That similarity leads to attraction; or (2) That opposites attract. Most often, similarity of values, needs, or personality characteristics is found to influence positive attraction. As examples, similarity has been found in same-sex friendships (Newcomb, 1956; Poe & Mills, 1972; Rosenfeld & Jackson, 1965); in opposite-sex friendships (Palmer & Bryne, 1970); in mixed combinations in friendship (Izard, 1960); in engaged couples (Banta & Hetherington, 1963); and in married couples (Cattell & Nesselrode, 1967).

Examples where complementary characteristics have been found important include as subjects, female roommates (Berman & Miller, 1967); males in working situations (Rychlak, 1965; Wagner, 1975); and married couples (Toman,

1962, 1976; Winch, Ktsanes, & Ktsanes, 1954).

Hypotheses. The present study was designed to test the similarity vs. complementarity hypothesis with regard to stable relationships between gay men. The major variables are the level of masculinity and femininity in the personalities of the subjects and of their ideal partners. Measures were chosen that would provide separate scores on the dimensions of masculinity and femininity, as well as an overall androgyny score.

If similarity is important in this type of attraction, we would expect a high correlation between subject and partner masculinity scores, femininity scores, and androgyny scores.

Complementarity might be defined in two distinct ways. One would be a negative correlation between subject and partner scores on the same scale (e.g., low masculine subject with high masculine partner). The second would be a positive correlation across scales, such as, high masculine subject with high feminine partner. Either of these two findings will be considered evidence for complementarity.

A second important set of variables is the age of the subject and his ideal partner. The relative age dif-

ference will be correlated with the subject's masculinity, femininity, and androgyny scores. On the basis of the research cited above, it is predicted that subjects scoring high in femininity will prefer older partners, and subjects scoring high in masculinity will show a preference for partners younger than themselves. This prediction is not made in relation to either similarity or complementarity. Instead it is thought to reflect the tendency in our culture for those with a feminine gender identity to prefer relatively older partners, and those with a masculine gender identity to prefer younger partners.

METHOD

Subjects

One hundred and ten subjects were recruited from various gay organizations in Toronto and Chicago.¹ Table 1 gives the breakdown of subjects by source. Average subject age was 30.5.

The sample was very well-educated: 51% had completed college at the time that they completed the questionnaire, and an additional 34% reported some college. By occupation, 7% were unemployed, 19% were students, 16% listed themselves as blue collar workers, 37% as white collar workers, and 19% selected "other."

All those who completed the questionnaire were presumed to be predominantly homosexual. Since the subjects were self-selected, no degree of representativeness can be claimed for this sample. For most groups, questionnaires were left at a location for potential subjects to complete. Therefore a meaningful refusal rate could not be calculated. The questionnaires were returned to the researcher by a representative of the group. This method of distribution

¹One additional subject was eliminated because of a large number of incomplete items on the questionnaire.

Table 1
Recruitment of Subjects

	<u>N</u>	Mean Age
Canadian Groups		
Drop-in Center	30	31.6
Baseball League	25	28.8
University Group	14	24.7
Personal Contacts	5	28.8
	74	29.3
American Groups		
Drop-in Center	13	32.5
Card-playing Group	14	34.3
Personal Contacts	9	31.2
	36	32.9
Total	110	30.5

was chosen to insure a high degree of anonymity.

Materials

Subjects completed a questionnaire consisting of three sections. The first section obtained the demographic data summarized above, along with the subject's birth order. This was followed by sections describing the subject's own personality, and that of his ideal partner. In 52 of the questionnaires returned, the self-description appeared first, and in the remaining 58, the partner description appeared first.

The Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974) was used to assess the subject's personality. The BSRI has the advantage of providing a separate score for Masculinity and for Femininity. The approximate method was used to calculate the overall Androgyny score (as described by Bem, Femininity minus Masculinity score, times 2.322).

In describing their ideal male partner, subjects were told: "Imagine that this is someone you would be involved in a long-term relationship with. There may be no living person who has all the characteristics that you describe, but we are interested in the characteristics that are most important to you in a stable relationship."

The ideal partner section was derived largely from

items introduced in a study by Rosencrantz, Vogel, Bee, Broverman, and Broverman (1968). Twenty-three of their original 29 masculine-valued traits, and 10 of their 12 feminine-valued traits were selected. The items not included were considered redundant, or inappropriate for this study. The presence or absence of these 33 traits was indicated on a seven-point scale.

Included on the partner scale were fifteen additional items, designed to measure a dimension ranging from boyish to manly (e.g., "Shorter-Taller" and "Slight-Muscular"). These items were constructed as a pilot measure, specifically for this study. In contrast to the masculine and feminine items, their content related mostly to physical characteristics. The boyish end of the scale was presumed to have some relationship to femininity desired in a partner, and the manly end to desired masculinity. This Boyish scale was considered a potentially important separate dimension, however, because a common form of institutionalized homosexuality in other cultures involves a relationship between a mature male and an adolescent (Money & Ehrhardt, 1972, ch. 7; Vanggaard, 1974).

The last question in the partner section asked for the age or age range of the ideal partner. As in the introduction, subjects were instructed to think in terms of

a long-term partner. Since the intent was to compare subject and ideal partner ages, the two end-points of an age range were averaged to produce a single number. If an indeterminate age range was given (e.g., over 40), the response was considered missing. The questionnaire in its entirety is given in Appendix B.

RESULTS

The subjects' average Masculinity and Femininity scores on the BSRI were virtually the same ($\underline{M} = 4.79$, in both cases). The average Androgyny score ($\underline{M} = -.01$) naturally indicated a very close balance of masculine and feminine personality traits. These BSRI scores are comparable to those reported in recent studies of gay men (Bernard & Epstein, 1978; Hooberman, 1979).

Factor Analysis of Ideal Partner Personality Items

The masculine and feminine items selected from Rosenkrantz et al. (1968) had been standardized on a sample of college students, presumed to be heterosexual. These 33 items plus the 15 items written for this study were factor analyzed using Varimax Rotation with iterations. Factor solutions ranging from 3 to 15 factors were examined, accounting for 28% to 69% of the total variance. The solution of seven factors was the most interpretable in terms of intuitively acceptable clusters of masculine, feminine, and boyish traits. These seven factors accounted for 47% of the total variance.

The items that make up each of the seven factors are given in Table 2, along with their factor loadings on

Table 2

Factor Loadings for 40 Items Selected from Partner Description

Factor	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
<u>I. MASC. MINDED</u>							
Logical	.66	.21	.11	-.02	.28	-.02	.04
Separates feelings and ideas	.61	.08	-.02	-.03	-.15	-.07	-.09
Not excitable	.56	.14	-.10	.01	-.20	.04	.12
Aware of others' feelings	.50	-.03	.27	.01	.00	-.22	.20
Direct	.48	-.10	.27	.04	.04	-.05	.03
Objective	.47	.30	-.11	.09	-.13	-.12	.16
Carefree (-) / (Responsible)	-.41	.01	.35	.07	-.29	.05	.07
Self-confident	.38	.16	-.02	-.36	-.10	-.07	-.11
<u>II. MASC. BEHAVIOR</u>							
Makes decisions	.15	.63	.00	-.29	-.16	.10	-.10
Knows ways of the world	.09	.60	-.09	-.15	-.14	-.09	.01
Active	.13	.58	.17	.11	.11	-.16	-.05
Acts as leader	.25	.53	.19	.02	-.16	.03	-.14
Shorter (-) / (Taller)	.03	-.41	.04	.06	.20	.21	-.08
Aggressive	.00	.40	-.01	.13	-.03	-.21	-.30
Needs to receive care (-) / (Give care)	.21	-.39	-.36	-.20	.02	.07	-.28
<u>III. FEM. EMOTIONAL</u>							
Hides emotions (-)	-.05	-.12	-.59	-.04	-.04	-.09	-.15
Adventurous	.16	.23	.58	-.09	-.12	.07	-.18
Not emotional (-)	.27	.01	-.58	.03	-.07	.04	.10
Doesn't cry (-)	.10	.31	-.50	.06	.04	-.09	.08
Shows tender feelings	.35	.14	.49	.03	.18	.09	.22
Warm	.29	.03	.44	.30	.06	-.29	-.09
Humorous / (Dignified)	.08	.02	.37	-.15	-.19	-.05	-.09
Skilled in business (-)	.32	.31	-.37	.30	.08	.00	-.04

Table 2.--(Continued)

Factor	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
<u>IV. CHILDLIKE</u>							
Smooth skin	.07	.02	.16	.66	.00	-.01	.14
No beard	-.02	.01	-.20	.62	.05	.08	-.07
No mustache	.09	-.11	-.23	.57	-.15	.25	.08
Dominant	.03	.34	.22	.39	-.08	-.33	-.06
Feelings not easily hurt (-)	.28	.15	-.31	-.37	-.17	.06	-.11
Neat	.32	.06	.10	.36	.15	-.03	.18
<u>V. DOMESTIC</u>							
Easily influenced	-.20	.01	-.05	-.09	.67	.19	-.06
Needs security	.10	-.14	.01	.13	.62	-.04	.04
Worldly (-) / (Home -oriented)	.08	.16	.10	-.08	-.49	.16	-.06
<u>VI. YOUTHFUL</u>							
Boyish / (Manly)	-.02	-.15	.07	.09	.02	.69	.07
Cute / (Handsome)	-.13	-.17	.05	.31	.19	.48	-.14
Younger / (Older)	-.04	-.36	.05	.14	-.20	.43	-.01
Slight / (Muscular)	-.13	-.08	-.12	.37	.18	.43	.04
<u>VII. FEM. BEHAVIOR</u>							
Gentle	.36	-.08	.13	.08	.04	.19	.52
Doesn't use harsh language	.06	.00	.00	.22	.06	.01	.51
Quiet	.05	.09	-.23	-.10	.19	-.10	.50
Competitive (-)	.01	.12	-.01	-.02	.06	.07	-.50

When an item is followed by (-), note that its highest factor loading is negative.

In general, items measured the presence or absence of a trait as opposite end-points of a 7 point scale. However, when a trait is followed by a second train in parenthesis, the two served as opposite end-points.

each factor. Every item with a loading greater than .35 (in absolute value) on the Rotated Factor Matrix was assigned to the factor on which it had the highest loading.

In order to test the similarity vs. complementarity hypothesis, the items on Factors I and II were combined to produce a Masculine scale; items on Factors III, V, and VII went into the Feminine scale; and items on Factors IV and VI made up the Boyish scale. Standard scores of the appropriate items were totaled to produce a separate score on each scale.

This selection procedure yielded a total of 15 masculine items, 15 feminine items, and 10 boyish items. The masculine, feminine, and boyish items accounted for 47%, 33%, and 20% of the common variance, respectively.

As expected, there was a significant negative correlation between the partner's Masculine and Boyish scores ($\underline{r} = -.17$, $\underline{p} < .05$). The positive correlation between the partner's Feminine and Boyish scores was very near the conventional level of significance ($\underline{r} = .15$, $\underline{p} = .06$).

In the manner of the BSRI, a partner Androgyny score was created by subtracting the Masculine from the Feminine score. A modified Androgyny score was also created by adding the average Boyish score to the partner

Androgyny score. The purpose here was to include the Boyish score as a feminine component in the Androgyny score.

Correlation of Subject and Ideal Partner Personality Scores

Table 3 gives the results of correlations between the subjects' BSRI scores and the various components of their ideal partners' personality scores. Correlations with each of the seven factors are listed, but it is their combination into Masculine, Feminine, and Boyish scales which allows a test of similarity vs. complementarity.

At the most general level, subjects wanted partners with levels of Androgyny similar to their own ($\underline{r} = .18$, $\underline{p} < .05$). This effect is related to the subjects wanting a partner with a level of femininity similar to their own. The partner's Feminine score correlates positively with the subject's Femininity score ($\underline{r} = .20$, $\underline{p} < .05$), and negatively with the subject's Masculinity score ($\underline{r} = -.19$, $\underline{p} < .05$). The balance of masculinity and femininity in the subject's Androgyny score also correlates highly with the desired partner's Feminine score ($\underline{r} = .28$, $\underline{p} < .01$).

Partner Feminine scores also correlated significantly with subject age ($\underline{r} = -.19$, $\underline{p} < .05$), and partner age ($\underline{r} = -.23$, $\underline{p} < .05$). The first correlation indicates

Table 3

Pearson Product-Moment Correlations Between Subject and
Ideal Partner Personality Scores
(N = 109 for all correlations)

Subject Score (BSRI)	Masculinity (1)	Femininity (2)	Androgyny (2-1) x 2.322
Partner Score			
1. Masculine	$\underline{r} = .00$	$\underline{r} = .01$	$\underline{r} = .00$
I) M. Minded	$\underline{r} = .06$	$\underline{r} = -.06$	$\underline{r} = -.09$
II) M. Behavior	$\underline{r} = -.06$	$\underline{r} = .07$	$\underline{r} = .10$
2. Feminine	$\underline{r} = -.19^*$	$\underline{r} = .20^*$	$\underline{r} = .28^{**}$
III) F. Emotional	$\underline{r} = -.02$	$\underline{r} = .24^{**}$	$\underline{r} = .17^*$
V) Domestic	$\underline{r} = -.12$	$\underline{r} = .05$	$\underline{r} = .14$
VII) F. Behavior	$\underline{r} = -.26^{**}$	$\underline{r} = -.04$	$\underline{r} = .19^*$
3. Boyish	$\underline{r} = -.03$	$\underline{r} = -.14$	$\underline{r} = -.06$
IV) Childlike	$\underline{r} = -.12$	$\underline{r} = -.05$	$\underline{r} = .07$
VI) Youthful	$\underline{r} = .10$	$\underline{r} = -.19^*$	$\underline{r} = -.20^*$
4. Androgyny (2 - 1)	$\underline{r} = -.13$	$\underline{r} = .12$	$\underline{r} = .18^*$
5. Modified Androgyny (2 + 3 - 1)	$\underline{r} = -.10$	$\underline{r} = .00$	$\underline{r} = .09$

* $\underline{p} < .05$

** $\underline{p} < .01$

that the younger subjects wanted more feminine partners; the second indicates that a preference for a young partner went with a preference for a feminine partner. Since so many variables correlated with partner Feminine score, a multiple regression was performed to determine the effect of subject Masculinity, subject Femininity, the interaction of Masculinity and Femininity (defined as the product of their z scores), subject age, and partner age in predicting partner Feminine score. Preferred partner age proved to be the best predictor ($F(1, 93) = 6.41, p < .05$). After partner age, only the independent effect of subject Masculinity was significant in predicting partner Feminine score ($F(1, 93) = 4.74, p < .05$).

The Masculine score for the ideal partner shows no correlation with any of the components of the subject's BSRI score. The same is true for the partner's Boyish score.

Although the Boyish score correlated with the partner Feminine score, Table 3 suggests that these two scales are measuring something different. When the Boyish score is added as a feminine component to the partner Androgyny score, this modified Androgyny score no longer correlates significantly with subject's Androgyny score.

Age Preference

The average age of the ideal partner was 31.2, slightly higher than the average subject age of 30.5. An extremely high correlation was found between the two ages ($r = .77$, $N = 97$, $p < .001$). A correlated t test indicated that the ages were not significantly different ($t(96) = -1.60$, ns).

Relative age of the partner showed the predicted relationship to the BSRI scores. With age difference defined as subject age minus partner age, the correlation between age difference and subject Androgyny was significant ($r = -.25$, $p < .01$). That is, subjects with a greater balance of femininity wanted an older partner (a negative age difference), and the more masculine sex-typed subjects preferred a younger partner. On the separate scales, it was subject Femininity that correlated with this age difference ($r = -.30$, $p < .01$). The Masculinity scale by itself did not correlate with age difference.

This effect was cross-validated on a single item from the Boyish scale, in which the end-points were "Older" and "Younger." When the relative age of the partner was made salient, all three components of the BSRI correlated significantly. A high Masculine score was associated with a preference for a younger partner ($r = .25$, $p < .01$);

a high Feminine score with an older partner ($\underline{r} = -.28$, $\underline{p} < .01$); and a high balance of femininity in the Androgyny score with an older partner ($\underline{r} = -.38$, $\underline{p} < .001$).

Birth Order as a Variable Influencing Personality

Although it did not relate to hypotheses under consideration, information was gathered about the subject's family constellation. The purpose was to determine if there was any relationship between birth order and BSRI scores. A $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$ analysis was performed, where the independent variables were the presence or absence of an older brother, older sister, younger brother, and younger sister. As a main effect, the presence of an older sister was associated with a higher score on BSRI Femininity ($\underline{F} (1, 93) = 7.06$, $\underline{p} < .01$). There was also a significant interaction effect, depending on the configuration of brothers. Subjects with both older and younger brothers had the highest score on BSRI Femininity ($\underline{F} (1, 93) = 4.11$, $\underline{p} < .05$).

The same analysis showed no significant effect on the subject's Masculinity or Androgyny scores. Likewise, there was no relationship between brother/sister configuration and any of the ideal partner personality scores.

DISCUSSION

In overall personality configuration, similarity is apparently more important than complementarity for gay men. This is true whether we define masculinity and femininity as complementary, or high and low masculinity as complementary. Subject and ideal partner Androgyny scores were significantly correlated. Underlying this was a high degree of similarity between the partner's Feminine score and all three components of the subject's BSRI score.

On the other hand, Tripp's (1975) argument for the importance of masculinity as a complementary characteristic is not necessarily weakened. Partner Masculine scores did not show any consistent relationship to the BSRI scores. It may be that most of the subjects were looking for the same high degree of masculinity in a partner. Alternatively, Tripp's theory of complementation may apply more to the acquisition of a sexual preference in childhood, than to the stable pattern it assumes in adulthood.

A preference for boyish vs. manly traits in a partner did not relate to any of the subject's BSRI scores. We might have expected a correspondence between the Boyish score and the subject's Femininity score, because the partner Feminine score correlated with both of them. But

the responses on the Boyish scale more often fell toward the manly end of the scale, and this end correlated with the partner Masculine score; the partner Masculine score, in turn, did not correlate with the BSRI scores. The conclusion is that this group of gay men views boyishness as something separate from femininity, and do not find boyishness particularly attractive.

The findings of this study with regard to age show overwhelming support for similarity. Relative age discrepancies were related to subject's masculinity/femininity as previously reported in the literature (Freund et al., 1974; Freund & Langevin, 1976; Haist & Hewitt, 1974). A greater degree of femininity was clearly associated with a preference for an older partner; to some extent the more masculine subjects wanted partners younger than themselves.

The studies by Freund and associates included groups of subjects who were attracted to children. They found that those with a preference for adult males scored higher in feminine gender identity than the pedophiles. The result that they report across two sexual preferences has been found in this study within the preference for mature partners.

In light of this finding with regard to age discrepancy, it is possible to reinterpret the younger man's

occasional preference for an older man (Harry & DeVall, 1978a; Spada, 1979). It may be that the younger age group has a higher degree of femininity in their personalities. Simon and Gagnon (1967) have observed that feminine behavior is characteristic of younger gays at the time that they "come out." Farrell and Morrione (1974) similarly report that young gays are more likely to act out in a manner that fits the effeminate stereotype. Our results show a similar trend for subject age to correlate negatively with BSRI Femininity score ($\underline{r} = -.15$, $\underline{p} < .10$).

In an effort to determine the relative importance of age and femininity in predicting preferred partner age, a multiple regression analysis was performed. Subject age proved to be the better predictor ($\underline{F} (1, 93) = 145.45$, $\underline{p} < .001$). The independent effect of subject Femininity score was also significant in predicting partner age ($\underline{F} (1, 93) = 5.61$, $\underline{p} < .05$).

Although the older age groups have shown the greatest tendency to prefer younger partners, it has not been established that the former are more masculine. In any case, there is no support for the notion that an older, more masculine man is attracted to a younger, more feminine man. Similarity with regard to age and androgyny is a much more likely prediction.

Interestingly, the findings of this study in regard to age preference parallel other studies, in which the question of attractiveness was posed in sexual terms. This suggests that sexual attraction and other forms of positive attraction are operating in conjunction with one another.

SUMMARY

One hundred and ten gay men volunteered to fill out a questionnaire describing the personality characteristics of their ideal male partner. Subjects also rated the masculine and feminine dimensions of their own personalities on the Bem Sex Role Inventory. Similarity, rather than complementarity, influenced this type of interpersonal attraction. Subject and partner Androgyny scores were significantly correlated. The partner's Feminine score correlated negatively with the subject's Masculinity score, and correlated positively with the subject's Femininity and Androgyny scores. The ages of subjects and their ideal partners were highly correlated. Those who wanted partners older than themselves showed a tendency to score higher in Femininity.

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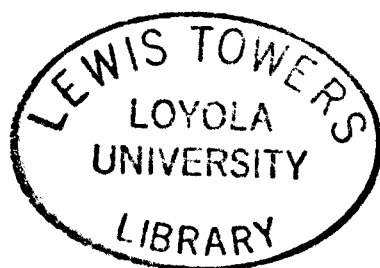
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APPENDIX A



APPENDIX A

A distinction needs to be drawn between a person's sexual orientation, and his or her gender identity. In the present study, the sexual orientation of the subjects is presumed to be homosexual, but their gender identity may range from very masculine to very feminine.

The stereotype of the effeminate homosexual is so pervasive that people often attribute homosexuality to an inappropriate gender identity (cf. Storms, 1978). Freud himself did so (in Brill, 1938, p. 554); and Money and Ehrhardt (1972, ch. 8) continue to confound the two constructs by referring to a homosexual gender identity.

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (1973), a cross-sex gender identity is the distinguishing feature of transsexualism. The manual further states that some transsexuals may have a heterosexual history. This should alert us to the fact that gender identity and sexual orientation can be independent.

On the other hand, there may be cases where gender identity influences sexual orientation, or vice versa. Whitman (1977) has shown that an inappropriate gender identity is more common in the childhood histories of gay men than of straight men. Furthermore, when these two groups are compared as adults on traditional measures of femininity, gay men often score higher (e.g., Chang & Block, 1960; Evans, 1971; Manosevitz, 1970; Siegelman, 1972). Still other investigators have failed to find this difference (e.g., Hooker, 1965; Storms, 1980).

Traditional measures of masculinity/femininity have recently come under criticism for treating the two concepts as opposite ends on a single continuum. An improvement in measurement is put forward by Bem (1974). She depicts masculinity and femininity as independent dimensions. When gay men are tested on the Bem Sex Role Inventory, they continue to score higher on the Femininity scale than heterosexual controls (Bernard & Epstein, 1978; Hooberman, 1979). As a result, gays cluster toward the midpoint of androgyny, rather than at the end-points of masculine or feminine sex-typing.

Whether these measures are truly tapping feminine gender identity is another matter of contention. On a

measure of feminine gender identity based largely on childhood indicators, Freund, Nagler, Langevin, Zajac, and Steiner (1974) found that the average scores for gay men fell between the extremes of straight men and male-to-female transsexuals. Nevertheless, about one-third of the gay men scored within the "normal" range of the heterosexual controls. Freund elsewhere (1974, p. 69) concludes: "Feminine gender identity appears therefore not to be a necessary condition of male homosexuality, and vice versa."

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

IDEALIZED PARTNER PREFERENCE FOR MALES

This questionnaire is part of a research study to determine what goes into making up successful relationships between gay men. There is one set of questions that a person answers to describe himself, and another set that he answers to describe his ideal partner.

The information in this questionnaire is completely confidential. You are asked not to sign your name, or provide any information that would allow you to be identified. However, as part of the data analysis, we would like the following background information:

1. Your Current Occupational Status

- A. Unemployed
- B. Student
- C. Blue-Collar Worker
- D. White-Collar Worker
- E. Other

2. Your Current Level of Education

- A. Grammar School
- B. Some High School
- C. Completed High School
- D. Technical School
- E. Some College
- F. Completed College
- G. Beyond College

3. Father's Final Level of Formal Education

- A. Grammar School
- B. Some High School
- C. Completed High School
- D. Technical School
- E. Some College
- F. Completed College
- G. Beyond College
- H. Don't Know

4. Mother's Final Level of Formal Education

- A. Grammar School
- B. Some High School
- C. Completed High School
- D. Technical School
- E. Some College
- F. Completed College
- G. Beyond College
- H. Don't Know

5. Month and Year of Your Birth _____

6. In the family you grew up in,

How many older brothers did you have? _____

How many older sisters? _____

How many younger brothers? _____

How many younger sisters? _____

(Enter zero where appropriate)

In this part of the questionnaire, you are to describe yourself on 60 personality traits. Please answer all the questions and try to be as objective and honest as you can. After each trait you should enter a number from 1 to 7, according to the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NEVER OR ALMOST NEVER TRUE	USUALLY NOT TRUE	SOMETIMES BUT INFREQUENTLY TRUE	OCCASIONALLY TRUE	OFTEN TRUE	USUALLY TRUE	ALWAYS OR ALMOST ALWAYS TRUE

Self reliant	
Yielding	
Helpful	
Defends own beliefs	
Cheerful	
Moody	
Independent	
Shy	
Conscientious	
Athletic	
Affectionate	
Theatrical	
Assertive	
Flatterable	
Happy	
Strong personality	
Loyal	
Unpredictable	
Forceful	
Feminine	

Reliable	
Analytical	
Sympathetic	
Jealous	
Has leadership abilities	
Sensitive to the needs of others	
Truthful	
Willing to take risks	
Understanding	
Secretive	
Makes decisions easily	
Compassionate	
Sincere	
Self-sufficient	
Eager to soothe hurt feelings	
Conceited	
Dominant	
Soft-spoken	
Likable	
Masculine	

Warm	
Solemn	
Willing to take a stand	
Tender	
Friendly	
Aggressive	
Gullible	
Inefficient	
Acts as a leader	
Childlike	
Adaptable	
Individualistic	
Does not use harsh language	
Unsystematic	
Competitive	
Loves children	
Tactful	
Ambitious	
Gentle	
Conventional	

In this part of the questionnaire, you are asked to describe your ideal male partner. Imagine that this is someone you would be involved in a long-term relationship with. There may be no living person who has all the characteristics that you describe, but we are interested in the characteristics that are most important to you in a stable relationship.

Each trait is rated on a seven-point scale, with values 1 and 7 at the extreme end-points of the scale. Circle the number that corresponds to the degree that you would like your partner to possess each trait.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| 1) Not at all aggressive | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very aggressive |
| 2) Very talkative | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Not at all talkative |
| 3) Very boyish | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very manly |
| 4) Very blunt | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very tactful |
| 5) Not at all emotional | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very emotional |
| 6) Very gentle | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very rough |
| 7) Very aware of feelings of others | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Not at all aware of feelings of others |
| 8) Taller than I am | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Shorter than I am |
| 9) Very objective | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very subjective |
| 10) Not at all influenced | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very easily influenced |
| 11) Very cold | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very warm |
| 12) Very submissive | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very dominant |
| 13) Rough skin | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Smooth skin |
| 14) Almost always hides emotions | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Does not hide emotions |
| 15) Very sloppy in habits | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very neat in habits |
| 16) Very cute | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very handsome |
| 17) Not at all excitable in a minor crisis | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very excitable in a minor crisis |
| 18) Very active | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very passive |
| 19) With mustache | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Without mustache |
| 20) Very loud | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very quiet |

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| 21) Not at all competitive | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very competitive |
| 22) Similar interests and activities to mine | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Dissimilar interests and activities to mine |
| 23) Very logical | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very illogical |
| 24) Very home-oriented | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very worldly |
| 25) Slight | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Muscular |
| 26) Strong need for security | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Little need for security |
| 27) Very skilled in business | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Not at all skilled in business |
| 28) Older than I am | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Younger than I am |
| 29) Very direct | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very sneaky |
| 30) Does not know the ways of the world | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Knows the ways of the world |
| 31) No heterosexual experience | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Much heterosexual experience |
| 32) Feelings not easily hurt | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Feelings easily hurt |
| 33) Enjoys art and literature very much | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Does not enjoy art and literature at all |
| 34) Very carefree | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very responsible |
| 35) Has difficulty making decisions | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Can make decisions easily |
| 36) Does not use harsh language | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Uses harsh language |
| 37) Wants to be taken care of | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Wants to take care of someone |
| 38) Never cries | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Cries very easily |
| 39) Almost always acts as a leader | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Almost never acts as a leader |
| 40) Very dignified | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very humorous |
| 41) Not at all self-confident | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Very self-confident |
| 42) Easily expresses tender feelings | 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 | Does not express tender feelings at all |

- 43) With beard 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 Without beard
- 44) Very ambitious 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 Not at all ambitious
- 45) Not at all dependent 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 Very dependent
- 46) Easily able to separate
feelings from ideas 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 Unable to separate feelings
from ideas
- 47) Few feminine
characteristics 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 Many feminine
characteristics
- 48) Very adventurous 1--2--3--4--5--6--7 Not at all adventurous

Lastly, what age level would you prefer in a long-term partner? (You may indicate a single number as the approximate age or a range of numbers.)

APPROVAL SHEET

The thesis submitted by Tom Boyden has been read and approved by the following committee:

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The final copies have been examined by the director of the thesis and the signature which appears below verifies the fact that any necessary changes have been incorporated and that the thesis is now given final approval by the Committee with reference to content and form.

The thesis is therefore accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

12-8-80
Date

Richard Maier
Director's Signature