

Education Now

We have three children attending a high school that has on its staff two self-professed "gays." What assurance do I have that their "gay way" attitudes toward life will not be reflected in their classroom teaching?

[Name withheld by request.]

OVER the years schools have employed racists, sexists, religious fundamentalists, atheists, Communists, Birchers, vegetarians, smokers, alcoholics, and thousands of others professing something or belonging to some category to which segments of the community have objected. Some preach in the classroom that which they practice outside, and some practice it in the classroom; most do neither. As each of these instances arises, those who object most vehemently manage to define their favorite vices in such ways as to make each one distinct from all other categories of belief, preference, or idiosyncrasy and to render them exceptions to those things they would generally protect under "civil liberties."

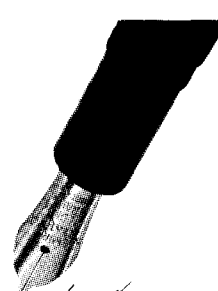
Questions like this always conceal others: Will my child be molested physically, emotionally, or intellectually? What subtle powers do certain (or all) teachers possess to influence or corrupt my child's attitudes, morals, and behavior? What subjects, ideas, and questions are proper matters for discussion among children and adolescents? Unfortunately, as posed, they never provide the one piece of information necessary for a conclusive answer: Are the people in question—in this case the two "self-professed" homosexuals—capable and sensitive teachers? If the information were provided, the question would answer itself. If the same question were asked about the illiterates, sadists, deadbeats, charlatans, and bigots who now teach in our schools and who are being hired every day, the surge would last for a generation.

To return to the question. There is no evidence—none—that homosexuals molest children any more than heterosexuals do; if anything, the research on sexual behavior and child molesters—most of it poor because the definitions are uncertain—suggests the reverse. Young girls run

at least as much risk of being molested by heterosexual males as boys do from gay males. (It should be pointed out, incidentally, that females, gay or straight, rarely molest anyone; in this society at least, pedophilia seems to be an almost exclusively male pastime.) In a book called *Sex Offenders* (Harper & Row, 1965), for example, Paul H. Gebhard, John H. Gagnon, and their colleagues point out that males convicted of homosexual acts with boys "also show a relative predisposition toward heterosexual offenses with girls under sixteen. In brief, most of them are interested sexually in young people." The research also indicates that while the average age of boys seduced or molested by homosexuals is around fifteen—an age when the "victim" is often thought to be more a collaborator than merely an innocent victim of perverted affection—the girls who are molested in heterosexual acts are usually pre-adolescents, many of them no more than six or seven years old and therefore genuine victims of the straight people who prey on them. If one were to count the thousands of unreported cases of incest—those in which fathers, stepfathers, uncles, and brothers molest their daughters, nieces, and sisters—the disproportion would be staggering.

None of this may reassure Name Withheld, who seems to be more concerned with "attitudes" than with outright physical tampering. Yet here again, the mere "profession" of homosexuality is a label that doesn't tell anything. If the concern is with mannerisms or modes of dress or personal habits, then another purge will be necessary to rid the schools of the nose pickers, lapel grabbers, leg and bust fetishists, and fanny patters—not to mention the physical and psychological sadists—who inhabit the classroom. If the concern is with the unlikely possibility that the teachers in question will verbally promote their sexual preferences, the chances are at least even that they will do for homosexuality what many teachers of English have done for *Mill on the Floss*, *Julius Caesar*, and the poetry of Longfellow. In any case, there appears to be evidence that an indi-

Readers wishing to participate in SR's Education forum should address questions to Education Now, Saturday Review, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019.



*Osmiroid...
anything less
wouldn't
be you.*

So, don't settle for less.

Ask for Osmiroid*. By far the best known, best selling pen for lettering/calligraphy.

Made in England. Made in left-handed models. And available with a free instruction book in any good art, stationery or college bookstore.

Osmiroid. The pen with the golden nib... for the person with the golden touch. You.

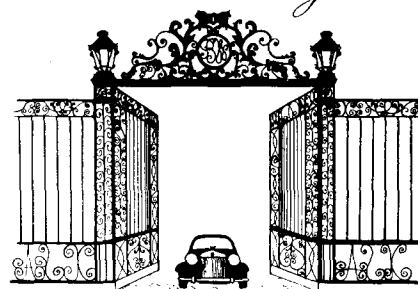
* Reg. TM E.S. Perry Ltd.



*Osmiroid
Italic Pen*

Hunt Manufacturing Co., Dept. PP
1405 Locust St., Phila., PA 19102

*The Center of
Elegance and
Fashion
in Los Angeles*



Lorenzo Courtwright
**Beverly
Wilshire
HOTEL**

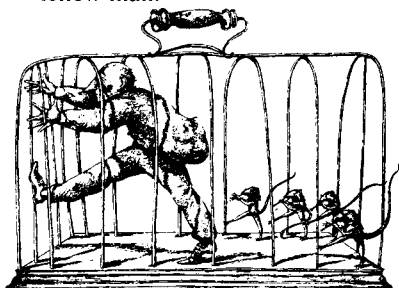
9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(213) 275-4282

For Immediate Reservations Call:
800-323-7500 or 800-223-6800

Represented by **HL** Grand Luxe Hotels
Member of the Preferred Hotels Association

A dispatch from Hell

The Tallest Liar evokes the spirit of Swift and Rabelais. And, as in their works, at the center of C. L. Sulzberger's vision is a man bereft—with no expectation of solace or compassion from his fellow-man.

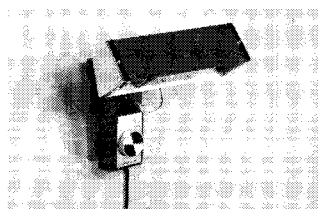


THE TALLEST LIAR

by C. L. SULZBERGER

\$8.95, now
at your bookstore
CROWN

FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO READ!



TWIN-LIGHT HIGH INTENSITY BED LAMP WITH DIMMER

You can move it up and down . . . rotate it a full 360° from side to side . . . to direct the light exactly where you want it. Has two horizontally-mounted high intensity light bulbs. Easily clamps on to any headboard. Adjustable dimmer switch lets you set brightness. Handsome black/brass finish with 8-foot cord. Only \$28.50 ppd. Save Money: 2 lamps for \$55.00. (N.J. residents add sales tax).

CHERRY LANE SALES
45 PARTRIDGE HILL
UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NJ 07458

Money Back Guarantee

vidual's sexual identity is fairly well formed by the time he or she is five or six years old, and no evidence that children or adolescents have been converted by their homosexual teachers. (There is, of course, always the possibility that anything treated with so much hysteria by the official community will, for that reason alone, become a subject of fascination or experimentation for a rebellious adolescent.)

The issue, as always, is not what the teacher is or what he does in his private life but what he does on the job. The National Education Association (NEA), the country's largest organization of teachers and a group that has never been accused of political or social radicalism, takes the position that homosexuals should be allowed to teach. "We're not in favor of child-molesting," an NEA official told a reporter recently, "but assuming one's sex life is one's own private business, we consider that refusing to employ homosexuals simply on that basis is an act of discrimination." In the last few years a number of cities and the federal civil service have prohibited employment discrimination against homosexuals. As more communities discover that gay teachers are no more prone to abuse their students than straight teachers, and that when they do, the abuse is much more likely to be rooted in hostility or stupidity than in homosexuality, the question of gays in the classroom may look as quaint as the prohibitions of the Twenties against women teachers who smoked or kept late hours. The question then was not homo or hetero, but whether the person who entered the classroom could have any sexual feelings at all. —PETER SCHRAG

Peter Schrag, former associate education editor at SR, is coauthor of The Myth of the Hyperactive Child and author of Mind Control, to be published next March.

Answer to Middleton Double-Croctic No. 134

Leopold Trepper:
The Great Game

Intelligence agents have their weaknesses . . . Drinking, except when on "special duty," was prohibited. So was gambling . . . But the most delicate question was the matter of women . . . How can we be sure we won't talk in our sleep in our native language?

Catherine Cookson gives us one of her pluckiest heroines in one of her most dramatic novels.



The Girl
Catherine Cookson
author of
The Tide of Life
and
The Gambling Man
Main selection
of the
Doubleday
Book Club
\$8.95

WILLIAM MORROW

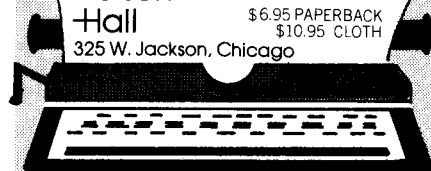
THE TYPEWRITER GUERRILLAS

CLOSEUPS OF 20 TOP
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS

By JOHN C. BEHRENS

"...tells more about the craft of investigative reporting than a stack of similar books." —*Publishers Weekly*

Nelson
Hall
\$6.95 PAPERBACK
\$10.95 CLOTH
325 W. Jackson, Chicago



New! by the author of
award-winning *Sounder*
William H. Armstrong

JOANNA'S MIRACLE

Joanna's
Miracle
William H. Armstrong
A story of courage, faith,
and the healing power
of soundness



The heart-touching
story of a
crippled girl
in 1st century
Palestine and her search to find the
man she believes can heal her.

\$5.95

Biblically-based fiction of
the highest quality.

BROADMAN
Nashville, Tennessee 37234

SR 11 12 77

leadership and guidance. He has long been seriously overweight—which reflects his partiality for food, drink, and fun—and he was rarely without one of the huge cigars made for him by Cuban exiles residing in Nicaragua. But now he has had his warning heart attack (his brother, Luis, died from a second heart attack, having ignored the first warning), and the question is: Will he take it easy?

There are two possible Somoza substitutes on tap in the wings: the president's twenty-five-year-old son, Major Anastasio Somoza, and the president's half brother, General José Somoza, who is inspector general of the National Guard. The president favors advancing his son—young Anastasio acted as the link between the hospital bed in Miami and the government at home—but older National Guard officers resist the idea. General José, the illegitimate son of the first General Anastasio Somoza, is considered an adequate soldier, but he would not be capable of running the family's affairs. Without the president around, in fact, the cohesion of the oligarchy might well be threatened. This, at least, is what the Sandinist guerrillas believe: that infighting within the oligarchy will be the first step toward the return of democracy.

The position of the United States in the coming months will be crucial. Nonviolent opponents of the Somozas have always argued that rather than holding back communism, Washington is encouraging domestic radicalism by identifying itself so closely with the regime. This is evidenced by the widespread popular (and even middle-class) sympathy enjoyed by the guerrillas. If the illness or death of Somoza leads to a weakening of the government, the United States may face the not unfamiliar dilemma of propping up a collapsing regime or of resigning itself to a violent and chaotic process of rapid political change. Some Americans still argue that the alternative to Somoza is an unattractive, untalented, disorganized, and divided bunch, and the advocates invariably add the punch line: "Somoza would win even if the elections were clean." Yet now, more than ever, it is in the interest of the United States to force Somoza at least to allow opposition groups to organize themselves and thereby create true alternatives. Surely, with the recent memories of Indochina, Portugal, Angola, and Ethiopia still so fresh, Washington must realize that under right-wing dictatorships, the only group that never fails to prepare itself underground is the Communist party. ☉

Ilaniding is a free-lance writer living in Mexico City.

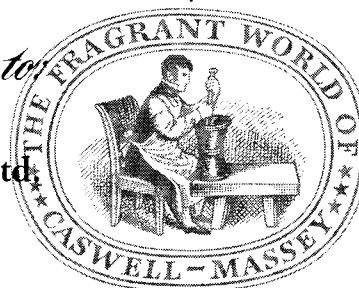
Our First Formal Announcement Regarding CASWELL-MASSEY LICENSEES

FOR 1978, Caswell-Massey Co. Ltd., Oldest Chemists and Perfumers in America, will license a limited number of additional Caswell-Massey Apothecary Shops (a number of these are already flourishing in various parts of the country).

WE are interested in talking with qualified persons, capable of owning and managing their own shops, featuring, exclusively, the unique toiletries, soaps, cosmetics, accessories and gift items that make up "The Fragrant World of Caswell-Massey."

Please address inquiries to:

Ralph Taylor
Caswell-Massey Co. Ltd.
518 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017
212-755-2254



THE SMITHSONIAN COLLECTION CELEBRATES THE AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATER!

The beginning of a unique new series. We've reconstructed original cast albums of some of America's finest shows, using archival material recorded by the casts and composers.

- Ethel Merman
- Cole Porter
- Bert Williams
- The Astaires
- George Gershwin
- Eddie Cantor.



Anything Goes.
With Ethel Merman and Cole Porter.
Lady, Be Good!
With the Astaires and George Gershwin.
Ziegfeld Follies of 1919. With Bert Williams, Eddie Cantor and music by Irving Berlin.
The set of three, \$18.99
Each album, \$6.99

THE
SMITHSONIAN
COLLECTION



Title	Quantity	Amount	Stock Number
The Set of 3 Show Albums.	_____	_____	R007, R008, R009
Lady, Be Good!	_____	_____	R008
Ziegfeld Follies of 1919.	_____	_____	R009
Anything Goes.	_____	_____	R007
			Postage and Handling .90
			TOTAL _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

☐ Bill Me. ☐ Check enclosed (Payable to "Smithsonian Institution"). ☐ Please send me The Smithsonian Collection catalogue.
Mail to: Smithsonian Customer Service,
P.O. Box 10230, Des Moines, Iowa 50336.
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

J20

BRING AN AUTHENTIC
TOUCH of FRANCE
INTO YOUR HOME

Exclusive and exquisite French
imports that reflect the exceptional
taste and quality only offered
by French artisans.



**CAFÉ
POSTER
MUGS:**

Colorful turn-of-the-century graphics
brighten up these fine French porcelain
9 oz. mugs. Beautifully detailed and
colored reproductions of famous French
and English Poster art.
Set of six. \$27.00. #1766S

A TRAY, A PRINT, 16th CENTURY PARIS!
Practical, but oh so French! An authen-
tic old print you might see on a chateau
wall or a Left Bank bookstore. Tray of hot
pressed polyester. Stain and alcohol
proof. 14 1/4" x 18 3/4". \$16.00. #1393S

Check or money order. Add local
tax where applicable and \$1.50
for postage and handling.

A Touch of France

663 Fifth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Our current catalog is available on request.



PROTECT

Your Priceless Records

Fire strikes a home every minute. Are your
irreplaceable valuables safe? Sentry In-
sulated Safe, fire-tested up to 1700 ° F for
one hour by Underwriters' Laboratories
pays for itself in protection and peace of
mind. Keeps records handy, right in your
home. Prices from \$49.95 freight prepaid.
Money-back guarantee.

Send for FREE Catalog Today



120 Sentry Bldg., Rochester, NY 14625

☐ Rush FREE Catalog with complete information
and prices on Sentry safes.

Name

P.O. Box or
Address

ZIP

Light Refractions

The Chinese-Welsh Connection

by Thomas H. Middleton

ONCE when I was nine or ten years old, our school class had a substitute teacher. In those days, and probably in these days also, substitute teachers were not really familiar with the work the class had been doing and were therefore not able to maintain any sort of continuity in our education. The function of a substitute teacher was principally to see that we stayed in school without disrupting other classes, destroying our schoolroom, or inflicting irreparable damage on one another.

One of the things this particular substitute did to keep us docile was to tell us a story about a little Chinese boy with the outrageously unlikely name Tikitikitimburisorumba - arabarabushkin - clangfirepilgreengilgogurkindrolwelansiliogogogo. It was a stupid story whose moral was something about how you shouldn't be too proud of the length of your name.

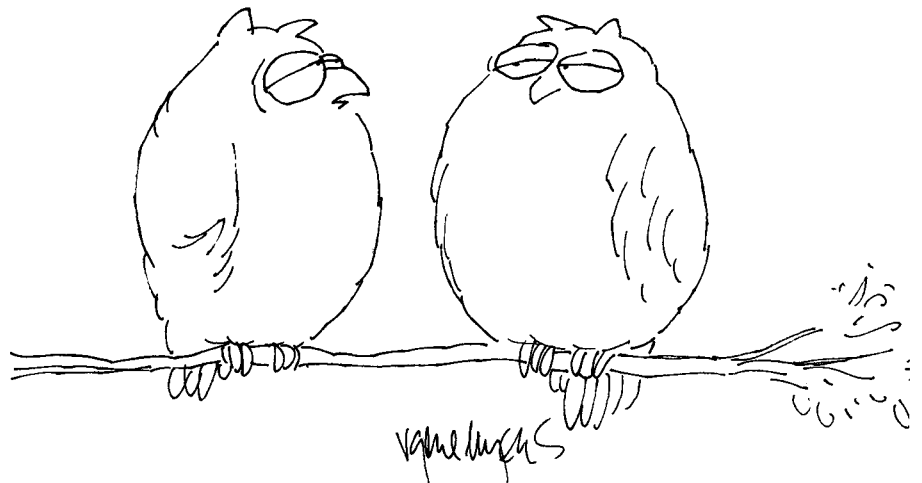
I believe the little boy wouldn't respond to "Tiki" or even "Sonny," but insisted that he be called by his full name. On one fateful occasion, by the time his mother had called out "Tikitikitimburisorumba-

arabarabushkin-clangfirepilgreengilgogurkindrolwelansiliogogogo, look out for the wolf!" it was too late. As I said, a stupid story.

I don't recall thinking at the time that the name didn't sound Chinese. In fact, I probably thought it sounded quite right for a Chinese boy. I think that even the teacher thought it sounded Chinese. Why else would she have made it a Chinese boy, and not a Ruritanian? In those days, scant attention seems to have been paid to accuracy in our naming of Orientals. Some of you Tin Pan Alley fans might remember Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby's song, "So Long, Oolong, How Long You Gonna Be Gone?" which begins, "Ming Toy loved a boy, happy little Japanee. Oolong was his name, set her heart aflame." Ming Toy and Oolong bear no resemblance to Japanese names, but no one cared back then. The East was mysterious.

Back to Tikitikitimbu, etc. We all have brain cells whose function seems to be to store inconsequential nonsense like that absurd name, keeping it dormant but not forgotten. I'm pretty sure I've resurrected that bit of lunacy after all these years without missing a syllable.

What brought this yard and a half o



"You know what I hate? Picking up those little mice with my feet."