

Maurice

For many years E. M. Forester has been known as a master craftsman and prime artist of the English language. In a span of five novels he created two highly proclaimed classics *Howard's End* and *A Passage India*. There were also rumors of a sixth novel, one written in the time between these two major works that could not be published because of its *disastrous* topic. The subject of this novel was of course left to the speculation of many, but to the followers of Forester who delighted in the imagery of the former novels, it was no surprise that the topic was homosexuality.

E.M. Forester, for all that he is noted, never wrote a novel with the public in mind. Instead he chose to serve an inner light, one of personal growth, and

present this development to his reading audience. This honesty to a growing inner view of life eventually led Forester to forsake art and pursue life directly. So then how are we to view *Maurice*. *Maurice* appeared at the height of Forester's creative powers and also it seems at the point when he was making another important facet of his life conscious. Today in an age of consciousness raising it is easy to understand this process, but it is also comforting to know that the human being is capable of working these things out for himself.

What was the life Forester would have to face as a homosexual? Edwardian England was a time of great repression. It was not a time for assertiveness as Oscar Wilde proved; and yet it was a time for close

introspection. Most ages to the homosexual can be viewed in feudal terms. Even in an age as liberated as ours one still must face the neo-Edwardian pose of Manhattan's Upper East Side and shudder for homosexual love. Forester was pushed as many of our liberated contemporaries into developing a character pose (luckily only in a novel) that was as completely unlike himself as possible. It is a wonder as I see the various sets of New York acting out their roles just whose novels they have adopted to their lives.

Nonetheless, E.M. Forester has presented the world with its first modern gay artifact. He has given the contemporary world a view into a thinking and acting which at times though negative is always searching and growing. Forester, in spite of all, must have been a very strong man. He was direct stressign the optimistic tone of love though he himself probably did not find a totally satisfying relationship. Here is the lesson of Maurice Hall -- one must dare to live his dreams. After all, Maurice Hall, the epitome of England's middle classes, knew best when it was time to forsake a life of posing for one of dream fulfillment. Perhaps also, Forester, though any thinking in this direction is contrary to straight oriented biographies.

J.S. Salatta



Review: *Unbecoming Men*, A men's Consciousness-Raising Group Writes on Oppression and Themselves

Perry Brass

"Being male has meant being devoured by other males, the way animals are thought to but really don't." One of the most moving Gay Liberation pamphlets I've read in a long time is called "Unbecoming Men". It is published by Times/Change Press who put out the *Come Out! Anthology*. It is a dollar twenty five a copy. It is written by four straight men. It is written by men who have oppressed us, speaking for Gay men, in school, in 1950's fraternity houses, at camp, in the Army. It is written by men who have early in life realized that they were, too, not meant to be the American Dream and who have been hurt and cut by the American Dream, just as all Gay men, but who have tried to hide their hurt, their pain and their failure, just as many of us have done. Just as I have done. *Unbecoming Men* is a series of stories or articles about what it is to be a straight man in American death/culture. What makes it all so close to home is that these are the men that I went to summer camp with, went to high school with and went to college with and meet when the so called Movement meets. And what they have to say is what I have felt for years and what you, my Gay brothers have felt for years. But what makes it all so strange is that the voices are not coming from that particular alienated point of view that Gay men have felt and known -- that point of view slightly outside of things because we have never been let in- but from the inside. Do you ever wonder what it's like to walk down the street and be straight? to feel that you are feeling what the rest of America is feeling? that you are now a legitimate part of the American machine? that when you fill out a job application that says married/or single and you write single, then you mean single not Gay? Well, the four men who wrote *Unbecoming Men* are those men who do

that. They walk down the street straight. They say single and mean "single". They are legitimate American men. They are, and they hate it. And they are hurt by it. And they talk about it. But mostly they talk about how crippled they are by American sex/stereotyping. How oppressed they are by their own role. How oppressive they know they've been. But not how alive they are going to become. How *open* they are going to become. How they are going to break out of 'death/culture shell. Because they're not going to become Gay. And they can't relate to each any further than just being four straight men -- four *separated men*, until they do.

But I feel that *Unbecoming Men* is a good Gay Liberation pamphlet because it does go somewhere in breaking down the gulf that stands at this time between Gay and straight men. Because I have been so unable to relate to straight men for such a long time now (possible seven years), I have felt even more alienated and straight men have become to me like a great blank wall. Most of them are. Straight men are of a different class than Gay men. It is a class of silence and fear. "Just because I don't show my feelings doesn't mean that I don't have them", one of my friends in college used to say to me. But how long could I wait to be assured that they were there somewhere? I used to feel that I was the only person in the world who didn't fit into the world of Savannah, Georgia who felt the he couldn't possible fit into the world down there. I used to feel that I was the only person in the world who was Gay. I used to feel that I was the only person in the world who didn't hate himself for being Gay. Now I've found that I'm not the only Gay person in the world, nor the only one who doesn't hate himself, but I still wonder about the people I grew up with and I've found them

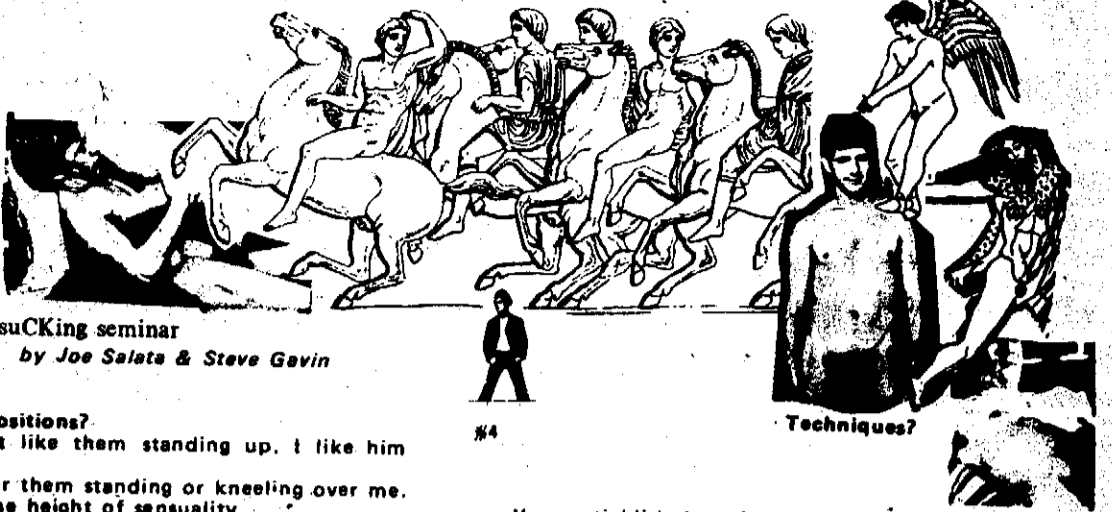
again in *Unbecoming Men*. It's really incredible to realize that a few people were with me all along, but they just couldn't let it out. And for a great deal of the time, neither could I. As Pogo said, "we have met the enemy and he is....us."

Lately I've begun to realize how uptight I am around straight men. Some of this uptightness is warranted. Straight men treat each other like objects of competition and fear like an alien creatures stuck in their own bodies. They often make me feel that they hate themselves. That they despise their own bodies. But to a certain degree my uptightness comes from the fact that I don't know how to react with them. I can't be real with them the way I can be with many Gay men and with many women. I can't reach out for them physically or to them emotionally. And I have begun to realize that when I don't know how to deal with my feelings towards people in a direct way, when I have to become afraid of my own feelings, I become uptight and competitive: fearful. I sometimes want straight men to accept me as a person (that means "straight") and yet I can't accept myself that way. Therefore conflict and anxiety/competition and fear. *Unbecoming Men* has enabled me to see straight men as more real people, not just figures of repression. But it has also made me aware of how far they have to go before I can relate to them on the levels of trust and care that I relate to my Gay brothers.

Unbecoming Men is available through Times/change Press; Port Murray, New Jersey 07865. Price \$1.25. sixty-two pages with many black and white photos and drawings and heavy enamel paper cover.



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A coCKsuCKing seminar
by Joe Salata & Steve Gavin

On November 24, 1971 a men's cocksucking seminar was held in an apartment on Manhattan's upper west side. Seven subjects made up the representative sample. Their ages and experiences varied to a great degree.

The purposes of the seminar was to help combat our puritanism which lingers in the gay liberation movement. Owing to a low consciousness men identify with their straight counterparts and delegate sex to a tertiary function in their lives. One thing characteristic of gay men before the movement was that they were promiscuous. This designation was given them by straights who compensate for the sexlessness of their lives by degrading those who have attained a freer life style.

Another purpose for the seminar comes from our experience in coming out. Certain fears are common to our learning sexual expression. We are constantly told that having sex is something you just do, that everyone can just do with no thought to technique. Feelings of inadequacy arise when we cannot face awkwardness in our early experiences. We were surprised to see how awkward we still are, even after the many sexual experiences we have had. We discovered one basic fact from our seminar: from each experience we gained a new freedom of sexual expression making us more capable of getting closer to our partners. We achieve an expertise defined only by our own self-fulfillment (not by a performance standard).

To those of you who are "shocked" at what we enjoy doing in bed we can only recommend that you hold a seminar of your own. Perhaps you may learn things about yourselves as we have learned about ourselves. Our sexuality is an ever-changing process; past and present experiences combine together to release us from our present hangups. But first, we must realize what our hangups are and how others have overcome theirs. This can be another benefit of such a seminar.

Question: Positions?

Joe: I don't like them standing up. I like him lying on a bed.

Eric: I prefer them standing or kneeling over me. To me that's the height of sensuality.

David: The way I really enjoy it is if he is standing and he's got his clothes on and I'm massaging his body and into his groin; then he may be sitting on my lap and I'm still massaging his thighs. Then unzipping his pants and sucking him. When he has an erection we'll gradually proceed to undress each other. Then to work into my favorite position, 69, when I really start sucking. I prefer him standing or sitting on my lap.

Burt: First with their clothes on, I rub them, feel their penis and kiss them on the breast...take off their shirt and kiss them...continually kiss them...work on the nipples and the solar plexus area...I like it too with their clothes on especially dungarees...I agree with David very much...I stimulate them by generally doing to them what I like done to myself...the cock area under the head in the back (frenum) I think is the most sensitive...I'll lick it, rub it, and massage it with my lips, and I tickle the end of it with my tongue...AND I'LL GO TO IT!

Chris: The slow, gradual build-up has all been described, the hard work of massaging and kissing takes a great deal. As for position I like him standing over me. The arousal just happens. The person stands or else I just hunch over him as he is lying. I also like to kneel before the person who's standing.

Question: What do you do now that the sucking has started? What techniques do you use with your tongue? In what sequence? How do you get feedback from your partner? What are some individual differences you have found?

Jim: I would judge the person's reactions. I would try to do what would turn him on...if he reacted to some stimulus favorably, I would probably keep it up. People don't all react to the same thing. Some like it sucked deeper and some like it just licked. But it always depends on what the person likes...from a sort of feedback...if they strain against you, it means go deeper; if they would lie passive and still keep a very hard erection, I would assume it was satisfactory... some you do little and they come...

Eric: I think it's a good idea to ask them what they like done to them. Some people get their satisfaction from your telling them how good it feels.

Jim: Treat the person like he's important; some way impress on him that he's a special person; and that way you'll get a better response.

Eric: I like to rub their thighs and belly while I'm sucking, hold them tight, lick them first and all around, usually before I suck them but many times in between. Sometimes sucking hard like a milking machine can be immensely gratifying. Showing strength often communicates to your partner that you really like what he is.

Question: What of a teasing technique?

Joe: I slept with someone who tried that, and he was unhappy that evening. I was bored and just quit.

Eric: That would be my reaction too.

Joe: It could work, but I wouldn't just blunder into it. I wouldn't go out and do it tomorrow night.

Steve: You mean you thought he was cutting you off?

Joe: no, he explained it to me, but I was just bored playing around. I can only take so much, and I worked that day. I just had to give up after two hours.

Eric: It may work for those who are afraid because they could draw off and not take too much at one time.

Questioner: So, you're saying you continue with the same thing until the person comes?

Eric: Yes.

Burt: I like that technique [the teasing technique]. I find it very stimulating. I don't carry it out for two hours, but it stimulates me also. To start I like to finger the rectum for added stimulus...it depends...personally, for my own satisfaction, I like to feel stuffed...that's how I gratify myself...I'll enjoy the teasing and the stimulating...I go under the testicles and then they tell you what they like...they say "suck my balls" or "kiss my thighs"...I can stop...I can kiss the belly button or the belly...or the nipples...it really depends on the guys...some you can use a direct approach...if it's someone I really enjoy I'll really build up...I've only come a few times in my life from being sucked...personally I like to just suck.

David: If I'm sucking, I like the whole penis. I like an awful lot of saliva and take it in and out. While I'm sucking, I like to find his testicles and them behind his scrotum and finger fuck him. Hopefully I'll be doing sixty-nine and my head will be right in between his legs. If I'm being sucked, I like the doer to take the whole thing too. Just licking my penis - the end of it - drives me crazy;

I'm so ticklish I can't stand it. I let the other guy know he's doing this by drawing back. I usually ask him to take the whole thing.

Chris: Similar process. Usually it's individualistic, and I get no feedback whatsoever; so I usually do it in one continuous process. But, you know, when a person expresses a preference, I'll be right there to fulfill his desires.

Question: I'm sucking someone: What do I perceive of my environment? what do I think about? what do I focus on?

Joe: I think too much...that's maybe why I don't like cock sucking. I think about books I've read or people or poems I've written. When I'm being sucked, I can go right out of the world with the person. We're one in a big way.

Questioner: Do you keep your eyes open?

Jim: No!

Dave: Oh! I always do!

Jim: I don't hear anything; I just think of what I'm doing.

Eric: If the phone rang, I'd stop and answer...I like light...I like to see the person's body. That's half the pleasure.

Burt: I like to look at his face.

Jim: I'd rather explore the person's body with my fingers.

Burt: I like to look at the person, his face. I like play. I like him to push my face in, and I look up at him.

David: I like to look at the person. But, I have my fantasy too. If the person I'm sucking doesn't live up to my expectations, I daydream of sucking someone else or a composite.

Chris: Usually I just keep that one aim in mind - to please. What can I do to further the pleasure is my goal. Feedback is a big thing with me. I become totally aware of the feedback and try to improve. To a high point I just concentrate on pleasing him.

Steve: I learned to enjoy doing it myself. There is just as much enjoyment in it for me as for him. After all the mouth is one of the erogenous regions and the cock is a wonderful instrument. I really enjoy it. Sometimes 69 can be distracting. There is too much going on. I like to do someone keeping my eyes open and sensitive to all sensations around me.

Question: What do I like my partner to do? How do I feel if he doesn't come? How do I feel if my partner does other things while I'm sucking him - lighting a cigarette, for instance?

Jim: If they do something else, I stop.

Steve: Sometimes even coughing has a negative effect.

Questioner: Do you like someone to move?

Jim: I don't like extremely large cocks. If my partner doesn't come, I ask him what and if the answer is satisfactory, then it doesn't bother me.

Eric: I like my partner to writhe a little to show that he's enjoying it. I don't like my partner to choke me or be violent so I can't enjoy it. If he doesn't come, I can't like it. Someone sucking me doesn't make me come unless he's very good at it. I find it hard to have an orgasm unless I'm masturbating. Even while fucking I can't have one. I guess I need more friction.

David: The cocks per se I'll take them as they come [laughter]. You can't be that specific. Because people's anatomy being what it is it's hard to demand. I enjoy taking the whole cock, or as much as I can at my own rate. I like him to move around to some degree. As far as his thinking of something else I think it's worse when they talk to you about Charles Ives. [laughter] This happened to me when I was living in New Haven. This trick of mine was doing his dissertation on Charles Ives, and while I'm sucking him off he's giving me a thirty credit hour lecture. [more laughter]

Burt: I do like them to give me a lot of movement. I like when they wrap their legs around me and push with their body. If he did something else I might find it sexy. I like a nice sized head, but with fellatio I like them average sized. This is much better because the muscles in your mouth get very tired, and some guys don't come right away. If I were enjoying it, and I really liked the fellow, I'd really feel bad if he didn't come. If we were both having a rough time, I would accept it.

Chris: The same attitude prevails with me. I would feel the biological function isn't completed. As far as size it can't be too big...it would turn me off completely. I like motion; it adds to my enjoyment. As far as lighting a cigarette, maybe

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