

Lieutenant Commander Wm. Atkinson, MBE, CD, RN, RCN,
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(Retd)

15th April, 1983

499-1042

DUP
COPY

Mr. Ed Jackson,
The Body Politic,
[REDACTED]

Toronto.

Dear Ed,

The following somewhat long-winded account requires some explanation. It was written in 1959/1960 at a time when, to the best of my knowledge there was no visible support, tolerance or understanding of the trials and tribulations endured by members of the gay community. Incidentally, before the events described, the malevolence of one security officer - who was unaware of my own homosexuality - can be best stated in his own words; he declared that any and every underhand trick would be employed to trap and "crucify queers". I might add I had serious mental reservations concerning his own sexual proclivities..

Apart from the humiliation and feelings of degradation I suffered, I felt compelled to set down the whole episode in writing. How naive can one get? It seemed to me that the basic unfairness of the situation, once published, might be remedied. To that end, I submitted the ms. to The Readers' Digest. The reply....

"We have read your personal story with sympathetic interest and we appreciate your views. But, unfortunately, your piece must be returned. We feel that a single 'case' such as you present would be far less educational than a forthright objective discussion of cases, social obligations etc.

Our gratitude, just the same....."

A psychiatrist;

"....I'm not surprised the article was refused by publishers... its too descriptive. There is not enough uplift for the general public."

Nevertheless, turgid though the article ^{is} may be, it represents my inmost thoughts at that time and, strangely, seemed to be of some therapeutic value.

Like so many of us, I have maintained a facade for most of my life - for viewing by non-gay society. The article removes that curtain and I hesitate to expose my unhappiness for general inspection. Time is a great healer, as I know, but I feel the RCMP et al is/are more than sufficient individuals/departments to have pierced my defenses. After all these years, if I remember, I still hurt.

For the above reasons, with the exception of my name or photograph, you are at liberty to do with the article what you will.

Yours sincerely,

