



EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE
See Byzantine Empire.

ECONOMICS

Economics is the systematic study of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The term may also refer to the activity itself, apart from the study of it. Non-procreative sexual behavior has generally been assigned to the sphere of leisure activity—and therefore excluded from economics proper. But there are economic aspects of homosexuality, both as overt sexual activity and as a mode of sociosexual expression.

Assets and Liabilities of Homosexuality with Respect to the Employee. Although it is usually thought of as a disadvantage, there are professions in which homosexuality can be an asset. It is an asset when it responds to a covert norm (as in interior decorating, dance, etc.), or provides a password to the fraternity. In the past there were professions in which celibacy was the rule, so that they offered the homosexual an escape from the heterosexual marriage into which he would otherwise have been forced by family pressures and social convention. In other situations it is a liability that must be hidden throughout life, as disclosure would result in dismissal or disqualification, or else block promotion beyond the entry level. Of course such dangers may be exaggerated by misperception, and many who have "come out" on the job have experienced no repercussions. Nonetheless, there are professions in which an upwardly mobile individual is virtually obliged to be married, and the spouse has a prescribed set of auxiliary functions that cannot eas-

ily be performed by an associate of the same sex, even if the two are living in a quasi-marital relationship. In these settings the homosexual is pressured to find an accommodation, contracting a marriage of convenience, sometimes even a "front" marriage with a lesbian.

In some jobs, discreet homosexuality can be helpful by fostering an inclination to travel unfettered by familial bonds. The absence of a wife and children (whose place of residence and schooling must be arranged while the husband serves a tour of duty abroad or in a hardship post) favors a flexibility that the heterosexual may not be able to match.

The mentor-protégé relationship can be the locus of a homosexual liaison which is all the more advantageous for the younger party, who instead of "marrying the boss's daughter" takes on the boss himself as lover and protector. In this way working-class youths may achieve upward mobility by learning not only the elements of a business that might otherwise be closed to them, but also middle-class etiquette and speech patterns.

Homosexuality can be an obstacle to advance in bureaucracies such as the government or the corporate hierarchy where the lifestyle of the lower ranks is carefully scrutinized and even subjected to secret surveillance. This situation places the homosexual at a disadvantage in state socialist regimes that allow little or no opportunity for private enterprise. In capitalist countries the freedom always exists to create one's own firm where no obligation to conceal one's sexual proclivities from one's superiors can arise. This capacity explains the profusion of small businesses with homosexual proprietors—

antique dealers, florist shops, men's clothing boutiques, restaurants, bookstores—where the owner can be free to express his sexual orientation without fear of retaliation. Also, in such small firms a protégé-lover can benefit from a mentor relationship in which he learns the tricks of the trade and the other skills required for branching out on his own. In small businesses where profit margins are low, the monetary advantage to the owner of not having a spouse and children who represent a fixed and even mounting responsibility as the years pass is likewise considerable.

In recent decades, with the relaxation of gender role stereotypes in fields traditionally reserved to men, lesbians have been able to move ahead in such fields as business and law where a certain aggressiveness can be enhanced by freedom from the demands of a husband or the duties associated with child-rearing. On the other hand, the absence of a wife as auxiliary may impose a handicap on the woman who undertakes a career in a profession where such a "support system" has both social and psychological value.

Hustling. Male prostitution is an economic activity in and of itself, though mainly limited to those between the ages of 15 and 30. It can be practiced as a supplement to modeling or acting, or can be a way of earning money while in college or graduate school, when other opportunities of making a living would require too much time and be less remunerative as well. Finally, it can be a way of making contact with men in the upper echelons of the business and professional world and moving into a mentor-protégé relationship that will serve as a springboard for a later career. Unlike the female prostitute, the hustler is not automatically disqualified from a long-term relationship.

Economic Theory. In the field of economics as a social science, it is noteworthy that both Adam Smith and John Maynard Keynes were childless. It may be that their separation from the world of

procreation and inheritance gave them the detachment they required to view the economic process dispassionately and analytically, as someone enmeshed in the human reproductive cycle could not have done. Keynes himself was a member of the Bloomsbury circle in which overt homosexuality was accepted along with other unconventional tastes and lifestyles.

The problem of the reproduction of human capital—from the genetic, not the educational standpoint—has been neglected by investigators preoccupied with the issues of capital formation at the macro- and micro-economic levels. The model of ancient Greek society suggests that while heterosexual relationships produce the raw human capital in the form of new age-cohorts, homosexual liaisons may assume the function of refining that human capital by providing the educational and initiatory experience which readies it for adult life.

Businesses Directed to the Gay Community. The advent of the gay liberation movement fostered the emergence of a whole range of enterprises catering primarily or exclusively to the homosexual or lesbian client. These take the form of bars, restaurants, bookshops, and bathhouses that served as social gathering places and areas of recreation. In addition, travel agencies and guest houses have taken advantage of the greater discretionary income of the childless adult and also of the wanderlust that leads many homosexuals to distant places and exotic lands in search of new partners. There are also services that provide escorts or computer dating in a manner that parallels similar enterprises with a heterosexual clientele. A press aimed at the homosexual or lesbian reader has taken root, with news features and personal columns oriented specifically to the needs and interests of a readership that could find nothing comparable in the establishment media. Through their advertising—without which they could not survive—these newspapers have established a symbiotic relationship with

gay businesses, in whose premises the papers are often distributed free. Clinics and counseling services have sprung up that address themselves specifically to the needs of gay and lesbian clients.

While gay radicals decry many of these commercial activities as mere mimicry of the capitalist norms of the larger society, the strength of the gay community may well lie more in the economic activities that it is able to support than in the political power which it is largely unable to wield because its members are so thinly dispersed over the territory of most self-governing political units. The *Gayyellow Pages* for the USA and Canada and the *Spartacus Guide* now published in West Berlin furnish a fairly reliable annual index to this growing network of enterprises and services in many countries. Organizations of gay businessmen have been formed in a number of cities as well.

This web of commercial activity also explains the failure of a gay movement to arise in countries where state socialism precludes the creation of an economic power base, and where in turn there are no independent media in which group identity and solidarity could be cultivated. In the past enterprises catering to a gay clientele often fell under the control of the underworld because respectable businessmen wanted nothing to do with them and because of the need for protection from police harassment. With the lessening of the stigma, the economic development of the gay community is only a matter of time and of the prosperity of the nation in whose midst it resides. Moreover, the ability to convert economic power into political power may well be the key to the ultimate success of the movement for homosexual emancipation.

Warren Johansson

EDUCATION

Recent perspectives have focused on the place in our educational system of students and teachers who happen to be homosexual. Responding to the emergence

of a broad-based gay and lesbian movement, some of these individuals have joined organizations for mutual support and defense against discrimination. There is, however, an older tradition that holds that homoerotic attraction itself has a significant place in the educational experience: the pedagogic eros.

Rationale. To understand the continuing role of same-sex patterns in education, it is useful to suspend, at least for the sake of argument, initial objections. In this light the rationale for a homoerotic component in education may be set forth in the following terms. The adolescent often has a homosexual phase of development that precedes the heterosexual one—a kind of "dry run" for the sexuality of adulthood that permits him or her to experience erotic stimulation and pleasure without incurring the danger of pregnancy. This homosexual phase may have as its object an adult who is not just the lover of the adolescent, but also a role model—appropriately of the same sex. A heterosexual liaison, apart from the unwanted reproductive aspect, would be discordant because the male youth can only mature into an adult man, the female into an adult woman.

If this reasoning is valid, the homosexual character of the initiatory process thus flows from biological and social constraints quite as logically as does the heterosexual character of the reproductive process. Every society has an objective need for the biological reproduction of its members—its demographic base—that far transcends the ephemeral attraction of a man and a woman for one another. In the same way it has an objective need for the reproduction of its traditions and values—its cultural base—that far transcends the ephemeral attraction of an adult and an adolescent of the same sex for each other. The shorter time-span of the pederastic attachment—conditioned as it is by biological stimuli—as compared with the heterosexual one is justified by its role in the service of the *eros paida-*