Read: Temperamental Film Star Mourns Loss of Her Pet Pussy

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BREVITIES

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FAG BALLS EXPOSED

6,000 Crowd Huge Hall as Queer Men and Women Dance at 64th Annual Masquerade

HOTCHACHA
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Merrymakers from 25 States Watched at Wild Orgy by Hundreds of Morbid Folks

"WHEN THE MOON COMES OVER THE MOUNTAIN"



By BUDDY BROWNING

The third sex is flooding America. It is no longer confined to side streets and obscure corners. Queer people, both men and women, who do not love or feel like ordinary men and women, are increasing. They have their own restaurants. Some bath houses cater to them. An intricate social system built up outside society is dominated by them.

Dances are their big social events. These affairs are held in every large city of the country. Some towns confine the celebrations to private houses. Other cities have cheap halls where the queer people assemble furtively for their revels.

But it is in New York and Chicago that the most gaudy balls are held. It is in these cities that peculiar folks openly bag for normal people who may be corrupted. Crowds of spectators gather to witness the horrible orgies of the perverted. Gaudy gowns and the severe black and white of a man's formal costume are mingled on the floors of large halls. Stern men and simpering women who show the marks of passion in their faces make up the crowd. Appearances are deceiving. Most of the "women" in attendance at the orgies are men in disguise. A majority of the people wearing tuxedos are female.

Brazen Display

Years ago travelers told weird tales of the masked balls of Europe. They swore that men passed themselves off as women and women aped the manners of men so well that they even made love to other females. Americans heard these tales and laughed. They did not believe them. They were sure that nothing existed in their country which was at all comparable.

Only last week, however, New Yorkers saw a display of brazen sexual oddity that cannot be equalled anywhere in the country. It is doubtful if it can be surpassed in Europe. The affair was the 64th Masquerade and Civic Ball, held at Rockland Palace, 155th Street and Eighth Avenue. It is notorious all over the country and sponsors of the affair say that people from over 25 states were in attendance.

A mob of over 6,000 men, women and oddities

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Thousands Shocked by Fairy Ball

(Continued from page 1)

that are neither man or woman crowded the large floor far beyond capacity. A hot band of 20 pieces blared sensuous music over the sweating throng. Dark waiters pressed their way through the hall bearing trays of soft drinks and bowls of ice. Liquor flowed more freely than water. The bar did a rushing business in ginger ale. Shrill laughter and tense gaiety reigned within, while outside the police kept the crowd moving so that the men masquerading as women would not be jeered as they left their taxis.

Gorgeous Gowns

Evening gowns of every color and every cut were in evidence. Only a careful study of both the face and figure revealed whether their wearers were men or women. Many times even such a survey left the observer with the wrong impression. Colors of the gowns were put to shame by the riot of colors of skin on display. Part of the dancers and spectators were Negro. Other thousands were white. Complexions varied from the chalky white of a Caucasian drug-taker to the pure deep blackness of a native African. Browns, taupes, yellows and reds were to be seen.

Love flared hot and quick at this orgy. Many of the people who attended it in sweeping robes had slaved for months to purchase the costumes which they wore. Others had stolen to procure theirs. Many had traveled for hundreds of miles for the single night of indecent celebration. Jewels gleamed from male ears as lover bent low over lover while up in the boxes the bored watchers, both white and colored, drank and chatted about the spectacle below them.

Broken-Hearted Youth

A frail boy, his body more like a girl's than a man's, burst into tears. His friend was talking with another man. His big event was ruined. The society of the abnormal, like that which is recognized everywhere, has its big events. This weeping lad stated that the ball was his debut. It was the event at which he was formally introduced to the creatures of the half world among whom he will spend his life.

Fights broke out in corners of the huge auditorium. Bouncers quickly suppressed them. The night of lust and perversion could not be marred with the crudities of physical combat. Then the music slackened for a moment. An announcement was bellowed from the platform. The grand parade began.

Round the hall marched the contestants. Their gorgeous and daring gowns shimmered beneath the glaring lights. A runway had been erected in the center of the hall and the marchers strutted across it to continue their parade. On the side stood the sober judges who were promoting this foul display for gain. They were uninterested in the creatures exposing their shame before them on the platform. They were careless of the shouts from the balcony. They were unmindful of the eager whispers of the members of the crowd who swarmed around them on the floor to urge the selection of this or that person for a prize.

Profits for Charity

The judges were only interested in picking the most gorgeous costume on display. The $200 in prizes which they distributed was fairly won. It always is. And the huge profits, from the exhibition of the half world that borders on manhood and womanhood and preys on both, went to support charitable work just as it always does.

Opposition to this annual unleashing of hidden and despised things had been unable to stop it. Once a minister invaded the ball. He was only laughed off the floor. Another time a minister devoted his entire sermon to a criticism of the affair. His church was crowded and the following year the tickets for the fairy ball sold even more rapidly than before.

Various civic leaders and public officials have made statements from time to time about the regulation of the queer characters that frequent such dances. Arrests of men and women in masquerade costumes belonging to the opposite sex have come frequently. Still the peculiar dances go on and still the crowds of sleek, well-groomed people come to stare at the antics of those who sport on the floor.

New Level of Audacity

Gaining new boldness with each passing year the celebrations of the odd folk have reached a new level of audacity. The days when the city of New Orleans witnessed those brilliant dances at which the ladies of color were beaued by the slim and dashing French have been eclipsed. Parties and dances on the North and South sides of Chicago fail to compare with the evil show presented last week.

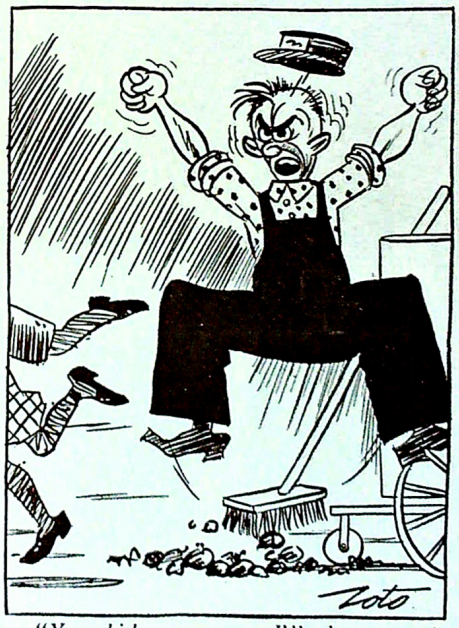
"Gloria Swanson," as he is known among the inverts of Chicago, the huge black Negro prominent at many Windy City third sex celebrations, was outdone by many a dancer of many a color. The lad who has won so many prizes by stealing gowns in the inland city was outdressed by men and women of many colors. Perhaps the masculine-appearing woman from Chicago who was hailed by a man as another male did not attend the affair last week. Others, girls who came because of morbid curiousity, were certainly insulted as she was. And all the while the sleek spectators drank and talked and gazed from the balcony.

The huge profits of the affair are going to charity. Since 1928 the same orchestra has furnished the music. For 64 years the ball has been held. Since 1923 the same people have been guiding its destiny.

Normal People Slip

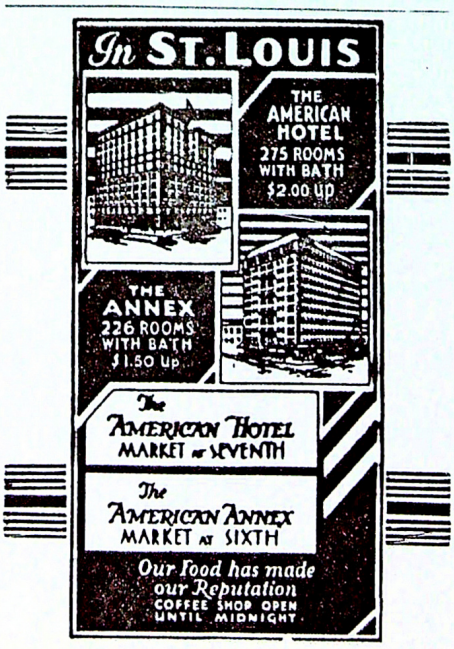
And each year other thousands of the curious come to look on. How many of them are sucked down into the whirlpool of perversion from which there is no escape? How many come as spectators and remain as members of that vast group which is neither male nor female as other people are male or female.

Indianapolis with its private parties—St. Louis, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit—and other major cities all have their haunts of the queer. All have their fairy dances and the little circles of society built up by those who are beyond the pale of normal society. The time must never come when a callous and cynical America will laugh at the horrid antics of these people and at events like the 64th Masquerade and Civic Ball. These dances must be stopped before they become the usual thing and our youth is infected with the virus of the perverted.



"You kids scram or I'll clean up the neighborhood."

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