Gay Sunshine, no. 6 (March 1971), 14-17.
Autobiographical recollections from the Second City's ghetto.

Fiction and nonfiction, including some general works on racism and race relations.

Evaluates questionnaire results from Los Angeles and San Francisco concerning family roles and conflicting demands of gay "master identity."

V. ROLE

The sociological term "role" has been defined as "the expected behavior associated with a social position."
Although the concept is protean and sometimes confusing, it does not seem possible to dispense with it. Derived terms are "role model" (reflecting the notion that young people tend to imitate admired persons) and "role playing," which is sometimes used to criticize ostensibly stereotyped behavior, especially of the kind entailed by traditional male/female oppositions.

Studied 36 male homosexuals living in New York City, concluding that (1) sexual partners are seldom considered part of the close circle of friends; (2) close friends do not have sexual contacts with each other; and (3) a means of making status distinctions is absent.

A field study of New York City lesbians discloses major differences between them and male homosexuals. The women tend to be coupled with partners of the same socioeconomic status, and couples are integrated into each partner's friendship network.

Disagrees with critics of the concept of the homosexual role who assert that it has no validity, arguing that
their views reflect an "essentialistic" misunderstanding both of the nature of homosexuality and of the sociological concept of role. See also F. L. Whitam, below.

Analysis of data from 243 gay men did not validate the popular stereotype of a dichotomy between inserter and insertee. The most popular set of sexual preferences was for all roles combined, both active and passive, anal and oral.

Argues that homosexuality should not be conceptualized as a condition but rather as a social role; however, not all those engaging in same-sex relations are playing the role. Often cited as an illuminating breakthrough, this article now seems truistic. Another pioneering article was Albert J. Reiss, "The Social Integration of Queers and Peers," Social Problems, 9 (1961), 102-20.

A review of the literature on role modeling leads to the conclusions that children internalize particular traits from a variety of models and that gays are more likely to serve as nontraditional sex-role models than as determiners of same-sex sexual preference.

3296. SCHAFFER, SIEGRID. "Sociosexual Behavior in Male and Female Homosexuals: A Study in Sex Differences," Archives of Sexual Behavior, 6 (1977), 355-64.
Comparison of two West German studies on male and female homosexuals respectively reveals major differences in coming out, heterosexual experience, and sexual behavior. The author suggests that gay men adhere to societal prescriptions for the male gender role, and lesbians to those for the female gender role.

Contends that to treat homosexuality as a social role violates the definition of a role. Roles require anticipatory socialization and structural prescriptions, and homosexuality, lacking both, should be classified as a sexual orientation. This paper occasioned a considerable controversy: Richard C. Omark, "A Comment on the Homosexual Role," ibid., 14 (1978), 273-74; Frederick L. Whitam, "Rejoinder to Omark's Comment on the Homosexual Role," ibid., 14 (1978), 274-75; Frederick L. Whitam, "A Reply to Coode on 'The Homosexual Role,'" ibid., 17 (1981), 66-72; and Richard C. Omark, "Further Comment on the
W. SUBSTANCE ABUSE: ALCOHOL

The problem of alcoholism has been widely recognized in Western society since the 18th century, when the availability of cheap distilled spirits made it possible for the large number of the poor and other disadvantaged persons to "drown their sorrows" in liquor. The role that alcohol may play in the relaxation of sexual inhibitions has been known for an even longer period. It remains curious that in the early decades of the century, when psychiatrists and others were inclined to charge homosexuals with every kind of deficiency, the problem of alcoholism was little recognized. That it has now been singled out is largely the work of concerned homosexuals and lesbians themselves.

Describes treatment of gay men and lesbians in a group with straight therapists.

Practical information from a social-work perspective.

Alcohol intoxication as a facilitator of homosexual behavior: three cases.

Interviews with ten lesbian alcoholics indicate that lesbians with this problem need therapists who will accept their sexual orientation and treatment that will help them increase their sense of power and self-esteem without alcohol. See also James L. Hawkins, "Lesbians and Alcoholism," in M. A. Greenblatt and M. A. Schlacht (eds.), Alcohol Problems in Women and Children (New York: 1976), 137-53; and Brenda Weathers, "Alcoholism and the Lesbian

Counselors who treat gay alcoholics should examine their own attitudes, become acquainted with healthy gay men and lesbians to dispel stereotypes, learn to tolerate clients' defensive reactions, and be willing to discuss sober sex and the question of gay bars.

Judgmental therapeutic approach strongly influenced by psychoanalysis. Chapter 5, "Alcoholism and Homosexuality" (pp.181-215), is followed by discussions of child molestation, incest, rape, etc. Holds that clinicians should treat alcoholism first, then homosexuality: "The total person must recover."

Personal accounts of ten persons who have recovered from alcoholism with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The affect of alcohol on sex life. Lecture given by the noted sexologist--himself a teetotaller--before a workers' temperance group.

Critical examination of the psychoanalytic theory that linked alcoholism causally with homosexuality. The development of the humanistic model in the 1960s and 70s, the emergence of labeling theory, and the work of better-informed social scientists and clinicians laid much of the old theory to rest by the 1970s.

Heavy drinking was more common in a sample of 57 lesbians as compared to a control group of 43 heterosexual women.