The Boys from Boise: Furor, Vice and Folly in an American City

By John G. Gerassi


Written in 1965 about a same-sex sexual scandal that occurred in 1955 in Boise, Idaho, John Gerassi’s classic study depicts both middle America’s traditional response to homosexuality and an era in the country’s history before the modern gay rights movement really got underway. Because much of what Gerassi wrote about persists in today’s struggles over gay and lesbian issues, his book still has much to tell us about how contemporary society reacts to, and misunderstands, homosexuality. --Peter Boag

On the morning of November 2, 1955, the people of Boise, Idaho, were stunned by a screaming headline in the Idaho Daily Statesman, THREE BOISE MEN ADMIT SEX CHARGES. Time magazine picked up the story, reporting that a homosexual underworld had long operated in Idaho’s staid capital city. The Statesman led the hysteria that resulted in dozens of arrests—including some highly placed members of the community—and sentences ranging from probation to life imprisonment. Peter Boag’s Foreword places the book in historical perspective, summarizing the popular psychological theories and legal conceptions that helped to shape Gerassi’s research. He discusses advances in Idaho’s public approach to homosexuality and ways...

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The boy chose his cowboy picture, put it inside the box, and the parcel was sent to the Philippines. Tyrel had already forgotten about this situation, but in 2009 he received a friend request on Facebook from Joana Marchan. At the time Tyrel neither accepted nor rejected the request. All 8 family members used to sleep on the floor in a small lodge. The couple spent 10 days together and they didn’t know when they were going to see each other again. Tyrel promised Joana he would come back and he kept his promise. The Boys of Boise book. Read 6 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. In 1955, a manufactured scandal, pushed by the Idaho Daily Statesman... In 1955, a manufactured scandal, pushed by the Idaho Daily Statesman and conservative elites, rocked the city of Boise, Idaho with charges of a widespread “homosexual underworld” and a number of convictions of members of the Boise community to sentences ranging from probation to life imprisonment.
A little boy you would take a bullet for, a little boy in whom you search for glimpses of yourself, and hope every day that he will turn out just like you, only better. A little boy who would do anything to make you happy. Now imagine that little boy’s your little boy’s alone in his bed in the night, eyes wide with fear, afraid to move, a frightening and unfamiliar voice echoing in his head, afraid to call for you. “I think it happens in an indirect but nonetheless powerful way,” says Lisa Cosgrove, a clinical psychologist who is an associate professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and a fellow at the Center for Ethics at Harvard. In a study of the DSM-5, she found that 69 percent of the task force acknowledged ties to the pharmaceutical industry.
The Boise homosexuality scandal refers to a sweeping investigation of a supposed "homosexual underground" in Boise, Idaho that started in 1955. Beginning with the arrest of three men in October 1955, the investigation broadened to encompass allegations that over 100 young men and teenage boys had been involved in sexual acts with a ring of adult homosexual men. In his seminal book on the scandal, The Boys of Boise: Furor, Vice and Folly in an American City, journalist and academician John Gerassi suggests that the investigation began as a means for the wealthy elite of Boise to assert and maintain economic control of the city and the state. He asserts that a gay millionaire known as "The Queen" was the target of the probe, although he was never charged. Unlike the fictionalized version titled "Boise Boys," this non-fiction telling of the story is excellent. It's thoroughly researched, well-written, and fascinating. You get a full sense of mid-1950s Boise, as a small city, as a community, rocked by the sudden but long-lasting - to this day - scandal. The witch hunt atmosphere that crept in quickly; the innocent lives destroyed; the guilty lives destroyed; the reputation of an entire city compromised from then on. It's a sad read overall and a telling documentary of the times, the place. Read more. One person found this help The Boise homosexuality scandal refers to a sweeping investigation of a supposed "homosexual underground" in Boise, Idaho that started in 1955. Beginning with the arrest of three men in October 1955, the investigation broadened to encompass allegations that over 100 young men and teenage boys had been involved in sexual acts with a ring of adult homosexual men. In his book on the scandal, The Boys of Boise: Furor, Vice and Folly in an American City, journalist and academician John Gerassi suggests that the investigation began as a means for the wealthy elite of Boise to assert and maintain economic control of the city and the state. He asserts that a gay millionaire known as "The Queen" was the target of the probe, although he was never charged.