

least should arise, "What is the moral course of action? What would the man of integrity do under like circumstances?" I can categorically state that, during the entire time I have known Tom Coleman, I have never known him to act in an immoral manner. Or, to put it differently, I am hard put to think of anyone of higher integrity. But let me make myself quite clear, I am not talking about someone who ostentatiously wears the simulacra of integrity, nor of one who makes a caricature of the term by an exaggerated sense of rectitude. I am speaking of a man whose entire ethos, in terms of his relations with his fellow men, is suffused with a deep sense of what is morally right. For one to be honest in one's life requires integrity in a host of different aspects of human existence. But the cornerstone is honesty to oneself, or, as the great bard said, "To thine own self be true." We live in an age when few people manifest the moral fibre to face themselves forthrightly and critically. We live in times when, to admit one's errors, to apologize to someone we have hurt, or to confess our ignorance, is considered a relic of a by-gone age. To make such admissions is looked upon as a loss of face. Tom Coleman is a refreshing exception to this moral insensitivity. Because he is honest with himself he is honest in his dealings with others. [In short, Tom's life has been a^N object lesson for gay people, for he demonstrates the fact -- all too often ignored by homosexuals -- that, whilst the Puritan ethic must be rejected in its sexual dimensions, it reflects enduring verities with respect to work, responsibility, and integrity.]*

With honesty as a foundation, all things become possible. Tom's honesty is combined with a deep sense of compassion, which manifests itself on countless occasions. It is reflected in his work, legal and other. It is seen in the total absence of bigotry of any kind. Liberal and unprejudiced as most of us profess to be, we fail too frequently to realize that residues of our inherited culture remain with us. (For what is a culture if not, to some degree, a bundle of inherited prejudices?) Tom Coleman has managed to free himself from these impedimenta to an unusual extent.

I come now to perhaps the most important quality after integrity, and that is humility. Most people consider humility as nothing more than the obverse side of arrogance, but, in fact, it comes in many shapes and sizes, and Tom Coleman's character seems to be endowed with most of them. There is the humility which comes from recognizing one's intellectual betters. There is the humility which is reflected in the willingness to listen to and to accept honest criticism, and then to heed it. There is the humility that goes one step further and does not ~~which does not~~ wait for criticism, but which acknowledges mistakes and transgressions sua sponte. Finally, there is the humility that is demonstrated by the willingness to move as a peer with