

## Depth-psychological aspects of an upcoming new craze among adolescents known as 'graffiti'

Only recently I have been looking into the case of a young adolescent who had been referred to me by the Imperial Austrian Police Headquarters in Vienna. He had been caught in the act of smudging the wall of an official building with a drawing of some sort. This had been applied using a device he himself had assembled and named 'spraycan'.

The youngster had been planning the act for days in advance very aware of the risk of being caught. On the night of the felony he packed his spraying-device as well as several containers with liquids of various colors and took off to the afore mentioned wall in order to apply them. He did that with quite some craftsmanship by spraying the liquid from about 5 inches distance onto the wall.

This bespattering of the wall with the colorful liquid squirting out of the can provoked some thoughts and associations on my side of the analytical process: It was as if this young fellow was trying to apply a semen-substitute - namely his colorful liquid - to a white virginal surface subconsciously trying to impregnate it.

Looking at the complex circumstances an adolescent male has to face in his puberty my association made sense.

Consider this: adolescent females usually develop faster than their male contemporaries. Reaching the age of sexual maturity they look for older males as possible mating partners. This leaves males of the same age group without mating opportunities since younger females are not yet pubescent evoking a sub conscious feeling of castration in the young males due to their wish of copulation being denied by the superego. This in turn leads to frustration - a frustration that sends these males on a search for compensation which in this case led to besmirching walls.

The young male applied a semen-substitute to the virginal wall representing his virgin female contemporaries. He was expressing his repressed wish for sexual activity, impregnation and in other terms: creation. The resulting work of art is a manifestation of this wish just as a resulting child would be in an actual copulation.

I interpret this case as an example for my theory how human actions are always sexually motivated and subconsciously rooted. However further investigation remains to be undertaken.



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