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Fifth Freedom, 1974-01-06

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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VOL. 3, NO. 16

Fifth Freedom

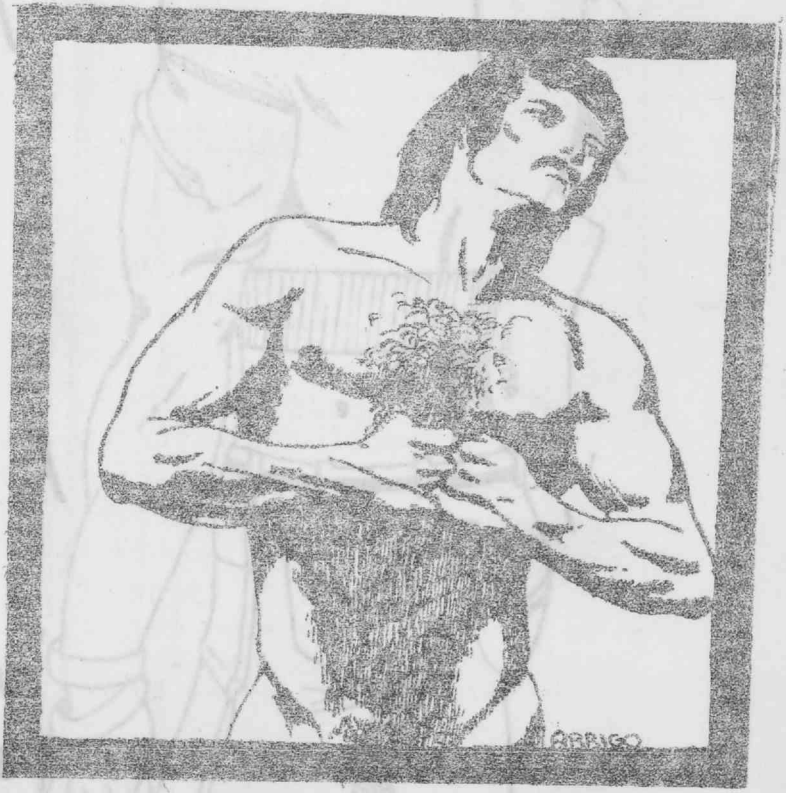
JAN. 6, 1974

Instant
cure!

1974 election:

Poetry:

Another
epidemic:

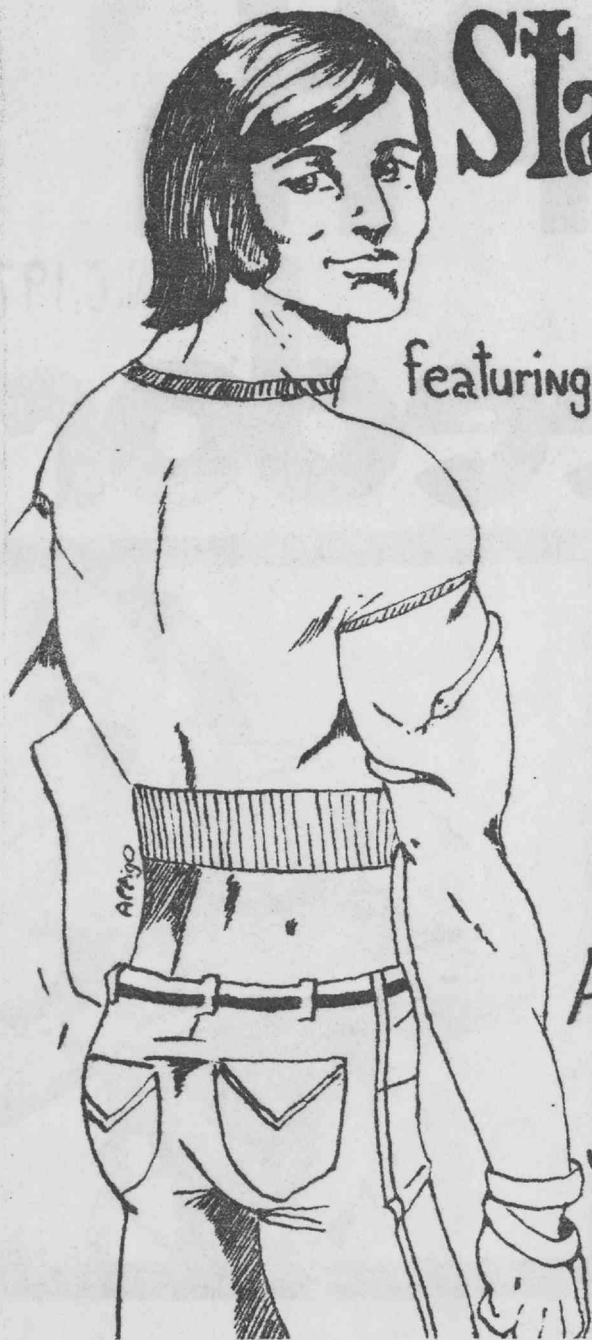


Stage Kigale

featuring:quadraphonic sound nightly

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AND MUSIC
FIT FOR
A KING AND QUEEN

"where big things
are always happening"



editorial

staff

To the Editor:

"We will be open to any suggestions," read an article about the entertainment committee in the 30 November issue of FIFTH FREEDOM, "such as monthly drag shows." The Community Services Center would be doing itself and the gay community a disservice if it were to emphasize and perhaps institutionalize this form of role-playing behavior.

Obviously, there is a desire for drag shows in part of the Buffalo gay community. It is not quite so obvious, however, that the Center, which serves a broad spectrum of the gay community, should identify itself so closely with female impersonation. I would like to see the Center, as I have wanted to see Mattachine in the forefront of breaking away from a sexist, role-playing society and of developing new options which would allow people to be more truthful to their own desires and less willing to fall into pre-established, often inculcated modes of social behavior. Female impersonation (a la drag show) smacks of externally imposed behavior, of gay people following a role already developed for them by a sexist.

To D.13

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We Welcome: If you have any comments or contributions, send them to the above address.

Attn: FIFTH FREEDOM

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*Please make all checks/m.o.'s payable to Mattachine Society subscription form backpage

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Instant cure BY DON MICHAELS

And that's the truth! Because the American Psychiatric Association has so decreed. By a vote of 13 to 0 the trustees of the A.P.A. voted on December 15th to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. The vote climaxes a decade-long battle by gay lib groups and a number of thinking psychiatrists to remove the 'illness' stigma on homosexuality. Being classified as 'mentally ill' has been one of the biggest sources of oppression and discrimination against gays.

Just how significant is this action by the A.P.A.? It's of momentous importance. For far too long, bigots all across this country have used our 'mentally ill' status in the psychiatric profession as their claim to righteousness. They can no longer legitimize their bigotry 'scientifically'. In fact, there's every opportunity for anti-gay bigots to be undone by their own weapon of righteousness. Gay rights forces now have the opportunity to cite this new psychiatric overview in its favor. A profession that has been the source of some of the most blatant suppression of gays, can now be allied to the cause of overturning repressive

anti-gay laws, countering societal attitudes about 'sick' homosexuals, and making it more and more difficult to justify committing homosexuals to 'hospitals' and jails for 'treatment.'

Of course, the reality of the situation will certainly keep us from becoming sanguine about the struggle that lies ahead. There will still be large numbers of individual psychiatrists who cling to the illness syndrome in their own practice and will continue to do so until their numbers dwindle to a point where they can no longer be effective. There will still be the bigots who infest our legislatures and courts and who will continue to point to isolated cases (e.g. Houston) as a justification for retaining outmoded, repressive laws that are used discriminately against gays. And, of course, the change in attitude among doctors and hospitals that administer 'treatment' to homosexuals is going to lag far behind our change in status in the purview of the psychiatric profession.

Yet, given the realities of the situation, we must do more than just celebrate another milestone among the achieve-

Mattachine

Mattachine elections for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and member-at-large will be held Feb. 10th at the Gay Community Services Center at 45 Allen St. at 8PM. Nominations for these offices will be taken at the two previous Mattachine General Meetings on Jan. 13th and 27th. To place a name in nomination, the person must be a Mattachine member and consent to have his/her name in nomination. Those eligible to vote are those who are members in good standing, (i.e. their dues must be fully paid). The FIFTH FREEDOM urges all Mattachine members and others concerned with gay liberation to become active in Mattachine and to vote in the upcoming elections, if eligible. Mattachine through its Gay Community Services Center, publications, public relations staff and speakers' bureau has done and is doing much to make Buffalo a better place for gays to live. Remarkable changes in attitudes have occurred over the past four or five years - some due merely to the passage of time but some directly attributable to Mattachine and similar groups. We have a long way to go. Help yourself to freedom.



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19

If There Weren't Any Antihomosexual Laws, Would Homosexuals Be Encouraged to Proselytize? Would There Be More Homosexuals as a Result?

Most of us haven't the slightest desire to make converts, and chances are that if we tried we'd have very little success. It is curious that the same people who argue that homosexuality is "unnatural" and the result of deep-seated pathology also seem to think that heterosexuals will be easily won over unless protected by the law.

No, homosexuals don't proselytize. But we do tell those young people who are beginning to discover themselves as homosexuals that they're neither criminals nor freaks. We do let them know just how many mature, responsible, happy gay people there actually are in our society. And we do fight the repressive forces that prevent people from knowing and expressing their real sexual feelings.

If one accepts homosexuality as within the usual range of human experience, it hardly matters whether such open advocacy increases the number of homosexuals. It is nonetheless unlikely to do so. There is no more homosexuality today than there was when the subject could never be discussed openly. There is no higher incidence in countries which have never had repressive laws, and no more homosexuals in Illinois than there were before the state repealed its sodomy law in 1961. Rather, it is likely that there will be fewer exclusive homosexuals and a smaller number of us who conform to society's stereotypes or restrict our social lives to the underground gay world. It is certain that there will be fewer "Disturbed" homosexuals and, for that matter, fewer of those "homophobic" heterosexuals who are afraid of discovering homosexual impulses in themselves that they withdraw from any loving relationships with members of their own sex, including their children, or frustrate and destroy their individual personalities in a distorted notion of what it means to be a man or a woman.

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| All welcome | Sisters of Sappho 11am WFTO-FM 88.7 | Stonewall Nation WFTO-FM 88.7 9:30 PM | Coffee | see ad 9-1 am. |
| -20- | Games Sisters of Sappho GLF meeting | Gay awareness Stonewall Nation | -25- Coffee house | -26- |
| -27- | Games Sisters of Sappho GLF meeting | Gay awareness Stonewall Nation | -21- February 1. Coffee house | -2- |
| -3- | Games Sisters of Sappho GLF meeting | Gay awareness Stonewall Nation | -8- Coffee house | -9- |
| -10- | Games Sisters of Sappho GLF meeting | Gay awareness Stonewall Nation | -15- Coffee house | -16- Dance Miss Empress Contest 9-1 am church hall. |
| -17- | Games Sisters of Sappho GLF meeting | Gay awareness Stonewall Nation | -21- Coffee house | -23- |



SUN. MON. TUE. WED. THUR. FRI. SAT.

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Jan. 13 Machinery meeting at Center 8 PM All welcome | Games 7-9 PM at center | Gay dancers 7-9 PM at center Stonewall National | Coffee house at center 7-9 PM | Dance uniform hrs see ad |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|

short shots

GAY AWARENESSNESS: The Gay Community Services Center will host a "Gay Consciousness Night" Wednesday evenings. The sessions will consist of small discussion groups, with a coordinator to aid each group in its discussion. The sessions are informal with no set topics and regular attendance is not required. They are designed to help you get your head together about what is gay and what it means to be gay. These discussions are open to all.

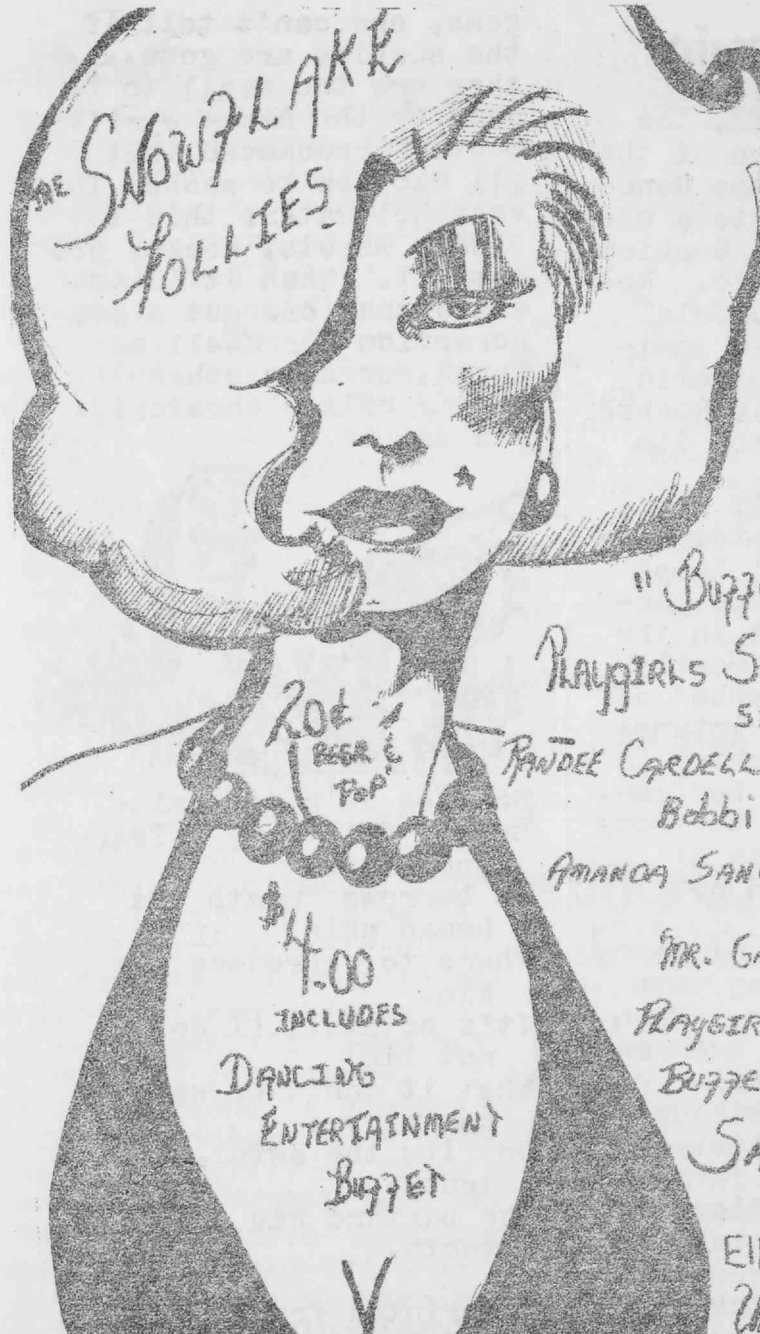
GAY AND JEWISH: In the December '73 issue of ARI - the publication of the Jewish students at U.B., several Mattachine members were among those who were interviewed for the feature article - "Gay and Jewish." The article discusses the problems confronting gay people who are also Jewish. Copies are available at the Gay Center, 45 Allen St.

GAY COURSES: Two gay courses are being offered this semester at U.B. through the Tolstoy College;

- 1) Coping With Straight Society: Suggested for gay men who consider themselves out. Classes will discuss problems of being gay and out in an often hostile straight society. Times will be arranged. Non-students are welcomed.
- 2) Homophobia: Open to men and woman. Straight and gay seminar discussion group on dealing and overcoming fear of homosexuals. Meets Tues. and Thurs., 7-10PM.

For more information on these and other Tolstoy College courses call 831-5386 or contact Donn Holley at 833-5513.

NIXON NOT PERFECTLY CLEAR ON GAY RIGHTS: The latest issue of the ADVOCATE gives Nixon's official statement on the subject of gay rights, gay lib and the new D.C. Human Rights Law that gives broad rights to homosexuals. The statement: "The President supports the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees equal rights under the law...We feel it is up to the states and localities to legislate in this area and for the courts to uphold or strike down and interpret the laws. This is an everchanging and expanding area of the law. We are sure there are groups in society who feel their rights have not been fully recognized. They should work through their state and local legislative bodies and through the courts to bring...equal protection under the law for themselves." You figure it out!!!!!!



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PLAYGIRLS SHOWBIAL REVUE"
STARRING

RANDEE CARDELL - TRACY DU RAYE
BOBBI LANDON

AMANDA SANCHEZ - CLAUDETTE
AND

MR. GARY DEE

PLAYGIRLS SHOWTIME - 9:45 P.M.

BUFFET - 11:00 P.M.

SAT. JAN. 19, 1974
9:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.
EIMWOOD AT W. Ferry
UNITARIAN Hall

Another epidemic

The EMPTY CLOSET, the monthly newsletter of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, reports a new scourge in town. Scabies is the new epidemic. Reports from the Buffalo gay community have indicated that the epidemic is not isolated in Rochester, but has bitten its way into Buffalo.

The EMPTY CLOSET reports: "The symptoms are a rash with small lumps or lines, the lumps particularly evident in the groin, the lines mostly visible in the 'webs' of the fingers, and intense itching. The itching is usually worst at bedtime, possibly because the body temperature lowers at that time, and in hot showers.

The 'heartbreak of psoriasis' has nothing on a scabies infection. When one is infected, even an immediate application of the usual louse-killers does not give relief. If the infection is far enough along to notice, it is too late: it takes about two weeks even to get rid of the itching, and until the itching is

gone, one can't tell if the scabies are gone.... they are too small to be seen by the naked eye!!! Doctors recommend that all clothes be washed in very hot water; this includes sheets, socks, you name it. Then it is advised that one get a prescription for Kwell or Eurax, or some other strong killer chemical, and use it."



Scabies is a tiny mite,
But it doth have a fearsome bite;
It burrows 'neath the human skin,
'Here to reproduce its kin.
It's so small (I do not lie)
That it can't be seen by human eye;
But its the awful, honest truth;
The bastard has a 10" tooth.

(reprinted from the EMPTY CLOSET Rochester)

Instant

ments of the gay rights struggle. As individuals, each and every one of us should take it upon ourselves to contemplate just what it means to no longer be considered 'sick' by one of the major sanctifiers of our society. (The 'American Way-of-Life' seems always to demand that something be 'legitimized' by one of the major sanctifiers of our society - psychiatry, the law, the church, ad nauseum - before it can be readily accepted. And now the American Psychiatric Association has 'legitimized' us.) A burden has been lifted from our shoulders. That yoke of oppression that has for so long kept homosexuals at bay - by forcing us to lead a double life of sexual secretness while hiding our true identities behind a cloak of 'normalcy' as laid upon us by an uptight, heterosexually-dominated society. That yoke has been loosened and it's up to us as individuals to slip out from under it completely. There are legions of homosexuals in our society that have shunned the reality of their oppression; who still lend the lie to the 'sickness' syndrome by choosing to lead the double life; and who, by keeping their true and genuine identities secret to the rest of the

world, keep an untapped potential from themselves.

At the moment, the A.F.A. action is a symbolic event. For the immediate future it can be transformed into a new reality. Now must be the 'coming out' time for those who remain under the yoke of oppression - even for all that may mean to the individual in terms of short-term woes, real or imagined. If done now, en masse, we can give substance to this symbolic event and establish a new reality based on what we've always known to be the Truth - we're not 'sick' anymore.

editorial

heterosexual society. While I can never criticize female impersonation, per se, I believe it is first necessary to question and understand the goals of such groups as Mattachine and the Services Center, before we allow the Center to become little more than a weak reflection in the eyes of both gays and straights, of the sexist, role-playing society around us.

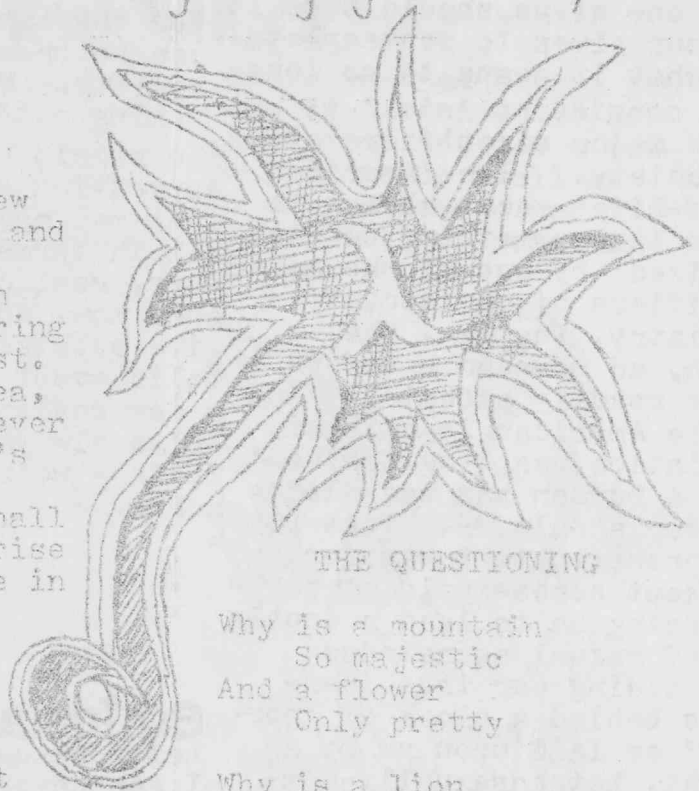
Greg Kolovakos

THE SUNRISE

The Sunrise
With each one comes new
ideas, new thoughts and
new victories.
But still the same sun
Still and forever carrying
the light of the past.
Each thought, each idea,
each victory is forever
recorded in the sun's
ever-shining light.
Every man and woman shall
have his or her sunrise
And shall forever live in
light.

BELIEVE

If your lover has left
Believe
If your thoughts are all
blurred
Believe
If you have lost your way
Believe
If you are in constant sorrow
Believe
Believe in yourself
Believe
Believe that behind the
clouds, somewhere, there
is a sun
Believe



THE QUESTIONING

Why is a mountain
So majestic
And a flower
Only pretty
Why is a lion
So fierce
And an elephant
Only big
How can a blind man
See perfectly
When a sighted man
Is blind
Why is the sun
So high
And the clouds
Only there

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