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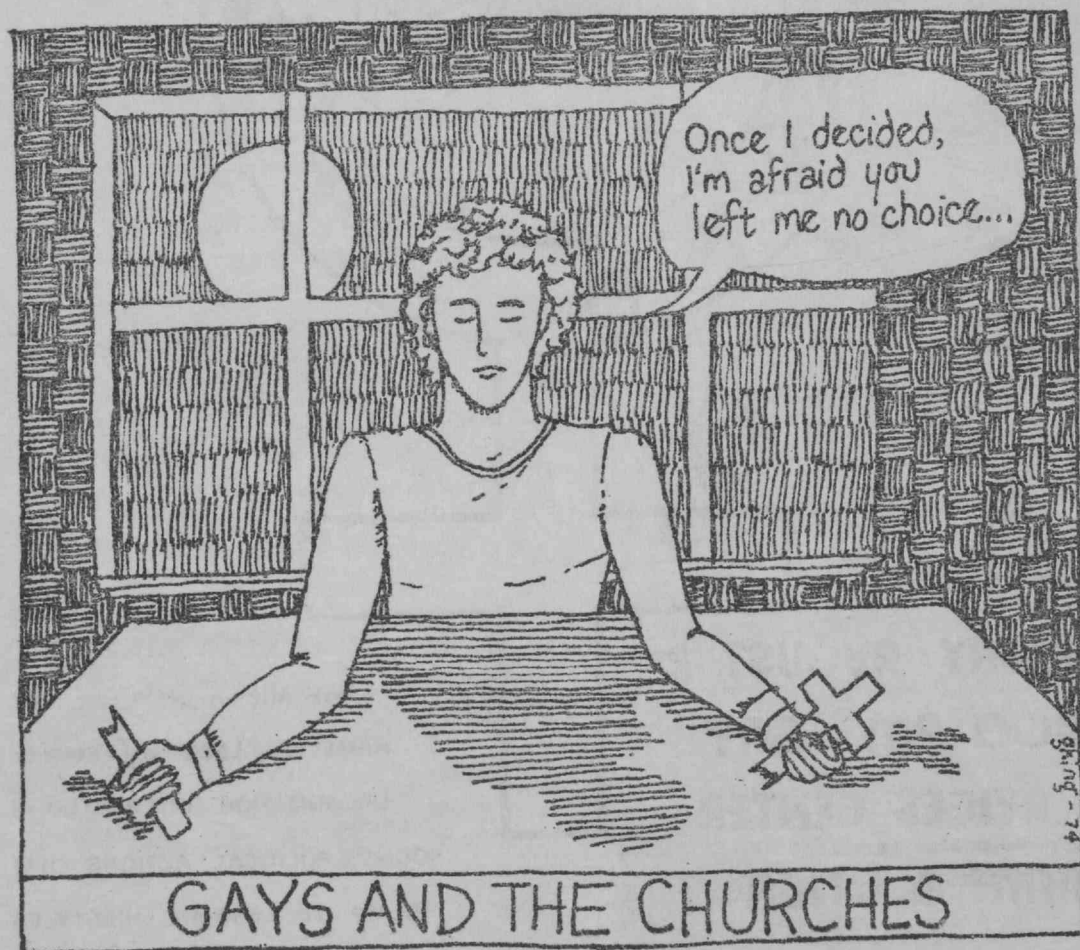
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July 23, '74

Vol. 4 No. 9

FIFTH FREEDOM

Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier...





\$1.00

FRIDAY AUGUST 2

8:00 PM GAY

SERVICES CENTER

1350 MAIN ST. 881-5335

MAIN & UTICA

WE ARE A NEW, AS YET
NAMELESS, LESBIAN / FEMINIST
ORGANIZATION INTERESTED IN
SOCIAL & POLITICAL ACTIONS THAT
RELATE TO LESBIAN LIFESTYLES

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The FIFTH FREEDOM is published by the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, P.O. Box #975, Ellicott q. Sta., Bflo., N. Y. 14205 Ph. #881-5335

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4 EDITORIAL

Needless to say we at the Gay Community Services Center have been trying to get as much participation as possible from the public in our programmes and special events. Unfortunately, and it comes as no surprise, Older Gays have been feeling uncomfortable at the Center. They don't feel at home. They can only with difficulty, and a liberal allotment of luck, hope to find company of their own age. There are no programmes currently in progress designed and run for their benefit, or organized and directed by personnel chosen specifically from their ranks. There is no time set aside for them to meet and get together. There are not, to the best of my knowledge, any plans to implement any of these courses of action. Is this an oversight on our part? Are we, by inattention or design, trying to limit our clientel to only the young?

No! There is no such policy in effect through either active or tacit understanding. All of our programmes are open to those who choose to take part. Membership is open to anyone over 16 and there are many positions within the organization which are much in need of capable personell who are willing to contribute time in their specialties.

Most of our activities (couseller training; board, staff, and general meetings; committee meetings; etc.) are scheduled in the evenings when they do not conflict with peoples work schedules, and where this is not the case most of the work is sufficiently flexible in its hours that one need not be deterred. Many of our committee chairs and board and staff posts are filled by older Gays whose experienced counsell and assistance are an asset to the organization. Perhaps one's time can be more proffitably spent elsewhere. It is a valuable item generally used according to priorities and not to be wasted. We have been asked, however, to provide an alternative to the Bar scene, and have succeeded to a large extent with the personell available to us, in providing a certain potential for activity and the exchange and dissemination of ideas.

Finally the closet does not seem to me to be the necessary refuge that it was a few years ago, and our work involves us, not in its destruction but in the creation of an image within society which may utterly remove its necessity entirely leaving us free to live as we choose, without censure. Join us and share in our activities. Your help is needed and will be appreciated.

Mark C. Goodwin

Please address all correspondence to F. F. #1, c/o MSNF, P.O. Box 975, Ellicott Square Station, Buffalo, N. Y. 14205.

WE BEGIN a series examining the position of the Church with regard to the Gay community and the Gay community with regard to the Church. This weeks article and some upcoming have beentaken from THE LIVING CHURCH, a publication of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Our cover for this issue, by Grant King, Expresses in itself the the feelings of a not inconsiderable part of the Gay cojmunity, accepting fate and resigned to the blind rejection of God and Church, which has often cultivated that same rejection from our fellow man.

Commung out of Darkness is the kind of article which we hope to be able to find from time to time. It is to be hoped that it and those like it will be able to afford us a degree of mutual understanding from knowing one another's particular problems.

Commung up in the Fifth Freedom

A series of articles, continuing into the indefinite future created by members of the new women's group currently meeting at the Gay community Services Center, and dealing not only with their particular problems but also with difficulties which we all have in common. This group (as yet un-named) Is rapidly expanding its field of activity and membership and is going to be holding regular monthly dances, usually on the first Friday of each month, beginning on Friday the 2nd of August to which any and all women are invited. These dances will be held in the main hall of the Gay Community Services Center. Meetings are of course held each Tuesday night at 8:00 in the Center.

Articles from any source, on any subject, will be considered for publication. Submit manuscripts to FF#4 c/o MSNF Box 975, Ellicott Sq. Sta. Buffalo, N. Y. 14205.

MUST EVERYBODY HIRE HOMOSEXUALS?

Christian citizens should indeed be concerned for the rights of homosexuals or of any other minorities whose rights are violated or denied by society as a whole. But we challenge the right of civil government to deal with such a problem in a way that jeopardizes the rights of other people, and we challenge the propriety of church bodies giving their support to such repressive measures.

We have specifically in mind the recent proposal in New York that would outlaw discrimination based on "sexual orientation" in employment or housing. The Episcopal Bishop of New York and other church leaders have voiced strong approval of such a law.

The Wall Street Journal (May 20) rightly notes that the law "would say to the headmaster of a private school, 'you may not exercise your own discretion about whether or not to hire homosexuals... Under penalty of Law, you are not allowed to follow your own instincts'".


Headmasters, and other prospective employers, usually have more than just their own instincts to guide them. Their experience in the past, their knowledge of their particular enterprise and its needs, may be such as to convince them that it would be disastrous to employ homosexuals for the work they have to offer. And who will presume to say in rebuttal that people who "reason" thus don't know what they are talking about, or are just being intolerant and bigoted? In 1969 the National Institute of Mental Health issued a special report on homosexuality, the work of a task force of experts. One of them said in commenting on the report: "In both the written papers and in the oral discussion of the task force there is an overpowering emphasis on our ignorance about the phenomenon of homosexuality."

Only the ignorant know all about homosexuality. The thoroughly informed are quick to confess their present incomprehension of this baffling and tragic phenomenon. Such ignorance is strange basis for boldly prescriptive legislation, and it ill becomes church leaders to be pressing for it. Indeed, if schools and businesses are to be put under the gun of such a law, how can the churches themselves be exempt? What of the right and obligation of a parish vestry, or a diocesan bishop, or a rector seeking an assistant, to choose the man with regard to the needs of the position: will somebody tell us that such a man's sexual orientation has nothing to do with the case? Do

some church leaders want the state to dictate the church's practice of employment and clergy placement? If so, we should welcome as expression of their view, however much we might deplore the view itself.

There is no livit to the work that the church has to do to educate its members and the community at large to an enlightened and humane acceptance of other people regardless of their sexual orientation. Such education in compassion and brotherhood is the work of the church. Trying to pressure legislatures into outlawing sin is not. And it is a sadly fomiliar fact that wherever the church concentrates on the latter, its wrong job, it grievously neglects the former, its right one.

taken from: THE LIVING CHURCH, June 9, 1974



**"fashions from
around the world
for the liberated male"**
10:30-6, Mon.-Sat., 886-0520

**The
Town Squire**
43 Allen Street, Buffalo

This past weekend in New York, the 5th anniversary of Gay Liberation was celebrated. The Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade is held to commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion. This rebellion was in response to a police raid on popular gay bar and resulted in many limp wrists becoming strong fists. During the 3 days in June 1968, the Gay Community of New York got it together and came from the bars and bedrooms into the streets to assert their right to freedom and dignity.

This year saw the largest crowd ever to march in this parade. Forty-thousand people gathered at Sheridan Sq. and Christopher St. to march the two miles to Central Park where a rally was held. Lesbian women led the parade this year and sure did look fine in their Dyke T-shirts, very strong and together in sister love. The men were well represented as usual and seemed to have come from all over the country. There also was a group of people calling for Bi-sexual liberation and a very noisy contingent of Drag Queens decked out in their best. A welcome political tone was added to the parade as the Gay Caucus of Y. A. W. F. with help from other parade participants raised chants calling for an end to police brutality and harassment of Gay Prisoners.

Other events were the Giant G. A. A. dance held Saturday night at the firehouse which was full to capacity, and a week devoted to demonstrations, exhibits and various programs. Happily, this year there didn't seem to be quite as much antagonism between the Gay men and the Lesbians. It was in all a fine weekend and good experience, and soon maybe Gays all over the place will be in the streets to end oppression.

FULL PAGE
COMPLIMENTS
OF YOUR
FAVORITE
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HOURS 11-6

CALENDAR

- Sun. 7/21 8:00p.m. Program Meeting, Movie, "A Position of Faith" Rap on Religion.
- Mon. 7/22 7:00p.m. Fifth Freedom Staff Meeting
 8:00p.m. G.L.F. Meeting, U.B. Norton Union Rm.232
 11:00p.m. "Sisters of Sapho" Lesbian Radio Program
 WBFO FM 88.7
- Tues. 7/23 6-8:30p.m. Self Defense Class for Women Buff. Women's
 Center 564 Franklin
 8:00p.m. Lesbian Feminist Meeting G.C.S.C.
- Wed. 7/24 9:30p.m. "Stonewall Nation" WBFO FM 88.7
- Fri. 7/26 8:00p.m. Live Folk Artists; COFFEE HOUSE---coffee and soda
 pop---G.C.S.C.
- Sat. 7/27 9:00p.m. Dance G.C.S.C. Admission \$1.00---members 75¢
- Mon. 7/29 7:00p.m. Fifth Freedom Staff meeting G.C.S.C.
- Tues. 7/30 8:00 pm Board Meeting G.C.S.C.
- Wed. 7/31 8:00 pm General Staff Meeting G.C.S.C.
- Fri. 8/2 8:00 pm FIRST MONTHLY WOMEN'S DANCE G.C.S.C.
 \$1.00 adm.
- Sat. 8/3 9:00 pm Dance G.C.S.C. Admission 1.00---members 75¢
- Sun. 8/4 8:00 pm General Meeting G.C.S.C.

ASK LAMBDA

11

Dear ,

My lover just left me and I don't know what to do. I try to tell him that I want him back and that he's welcome home any time but he won't talk to me. Even in public he barely says hello. I at least want to be friends.

J. L.

Dear J. L.,

It might be easy to tell you to give up and accept defeat philosophically but you're not likely to find that sufficient. There are a few things to keep in mind. If he left because he didn't want to stay, and if he seems to be getting along pretty well and happily now then it could well be that he doesn't want to come back, doesn't want to be tempted to come back, and doesn't want to be bothered about coming back. If on the other hand he left because he wanted to go then it might be just as well to let him think, and pursue his interests. In either case pestering him is not going to make you grow any closer. You may expect him to make some overtures himself at some time in the future. If he comes to you when he's got his head together, all well and good, but it might be just as well to prepare yourself to wait until hell freezes over. This should not be as bad as it sounds. For one thing once you have resigned yourself and more or less accepted whatever has happened you may free yourself to enjoy some peace and accept the company of others with whom you might enjoy yourself. But if you must strive to hold your lover, then by all means try. Such battles can only be won or lost.

COMING OUT IS HARD

we need your help to make it easier

CONTRIBUTE to the GAY COMMUNITY

SERVICES CENTER

TRANSEXUALISM

Part 2;

Randall M. Vosburgh

I left you off with my realization that I was a Transsexual. A Biological female with the psyche of a male. I cannot stress enough the difference there is between transsexualism and lesbianism. I am not a lesbian, and that comes from the voice of experience. I am a man totally in my mind. The problem now for me is to correct my body to facilitate my mind's expression.

For the past two years I have considered myself a married man, but due to the narrow mindedness and inability of so many people in our society to accept their own identities I have few of what I consider the rights and privileges of a heterosexual marriage. It is awkward to show affection to my wife in public; I have to contend with bearing my wife referred to by her maiden name, or as my roommate; making sure my shirt is buttoned; hiding my shaving things or my pipe when the landlord or a neighbor comes over to the house. In other words there is no place, including my own home, where I can really be myself. Our private lives are just that a big dark secret to the outside world. We always have to be on guard not to let something slip. As a result we don't get to enjoy our neighbours for the people they are nor do they really get to know us. These are just a few of the things I and my wife have to contend with. I could go on at much greater length, but I believe you get the picture.

I live each day as fully as I can in my chosen gender identity and am looking forward to the day when I can be my total true self no matter where I am or who I am with. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Gay brothers and sisters for accepting my wife and myself into your community as openly and warmly as you all have.

COUNSELING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH

THE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

Counselors are answering the phone during regular center hours.

Phone 881-5335 or 881-5336 (information on activities also available)

GAY MARRIAGE: To Have; To Hold; Etc...Etc...Etc....

By D. O. Benedict

With all the talk today about Gay Liberation, Equal Rights for Homosexuals and all, I believe some thought should be given to that final summit for many gays...Marrying and settling down.

What makes a marriage? Does the exchanging of vows and a ceremony constitute a marriage?

A union, love of two people is a start.

Everyone has friends that you like to associate with; but a marriage is with someone whom you like to be with 24 hours a day, one with whom you share a mutual admiration.

What would be the foundation upon which to create a marriage?

A) Get to know each other before you take the step; spend time with each other.

B) Be open with each other, relying on each other to the fullest.

Marriage is formed when two people get to know each other. Could marriage be a one-sided affair? NO! Because it wouldn't last. Love has to be given on both sides, even at times when you don't feel like it.

What is love? Love is other than what you do in bed. It is a constant longing for a person, caring for someone, more than you care for yourself, and of course love is making that person happy. Love is understanding.

Does a Gay marriage necessarily have to be monogamous? This depends on the frames of mind of the two people and their faith in each other. Could sex in the Bath House be a love relationship? Yes, to the extent that you have empathy for that person within that amount of time which you spend with him, that you somewhat care for him, and that you want to make him happy.

In a gay marriage should one or the other change to please his partner? As long as there is an agreement in a certain situation that forming a relationship is possible, then we should accept each other for what we are, as God has accepted us for what we are.

In conclusion, marriage is a relationship of two people existing together in an atmosphere where both personalities work towards one goal, striving through each other's thoughts, moods, likes and dislikes, and sharing the same with each other.

It is trying to establish an in-between medium, where both people can exist, yet still have the communication each to know that the other is satisfied.

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POETS

15

CORNER

Little gurgling sounds of a backyard stream
Washes away old memories and allows me to dream
Of new people to meet and new places to see
Yet upon this green lawn I lay very meek.

I see visions of glory and visions of horror
Yet I yearn for those days most of all filled with love
You see I've tasted loves sweet nectar
On a bed made of clouds and dared to dance free
under the jewels of the sky as my only audience,
With my love who as of now must remain dim to the world's scornful eyes
But who glows in my heart with the strength of the noonday sun.

Now that is past.... and I can only dream,
As time passes to the sound of that little gurgling backyard stream...

by Cheryl

16 NEWS

E. J. MEYER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL and the Gay Community Services Center recently established a policy of cooperation between their counseling departments. The Emergency Drug Center at Mayer may be helping us with our Counselor Training Programme, scheduled to begin meeting again this September. A reasonable donation is likely to be requested for this sitting. Anyone interested in our programme is encouraged to contact the Gay Community Services Center for information and sign-up.

The SHADOWS APPLIES for public assistance, the most meaningful kind of public assistance at that. All who wish to help with the rebuilding are asked to come to their old location between 9:00 and 5:00 willing to work. All of the temporary delays have been overcome and work is now in progress. The projected reopening has been postponed until sometime in September but the delays have not affected the optimism of the management.

The WOMEN'S GROUP which has been meeting every Tuesday night at the Center has been enjoying justified popular response. They are extending their community service to include monthly Friday night dances at the Center. Meetings are held at 8 o'clock Tuesdays and all women are invited to attend.

WANT ADS

Used G. E. 220 v. Dryer
Very good condition, with
new pigtail.

\$45.00

Call 741-2008

News Director for Fifth Freedom
Duties include: Collection for
publication in the Fifth Freedom
of news of potential interest to
the Gay community. Writing
ability req.

Circulation Director for
Fifth Freedom. Duties include
arranging for and coordinating
distribution of F. F.
own transportation req.

NEEDED: Ride to Florida in
July or August. I'll share gas
& expenses. Contact Don Fenton
at the Center or leave a message.

Want Ads are accepted PRE PAID. Send your copy to F.F.#3 c/o
MSMF including address or phone #---members free---

Coffee House: First Course 17

On Friday night, July 12, at 8:00 pm GCSC presented its first regular Friday night Coffee House. Incredibly successful in spirit, the evening featured coffee, tea soda, candlelight, and two talented gay folksingers, Madeline Davis and Grant King.

Madeline, with her twelve string, and Grant, with his six, each performed three sets of songs, their material ranging from original compositions to Joni Mitchell and Dory Previn. A relaxed, friendly rapport existed between audience and performers, and the mood swung from melancholy to wistful to jubilant. A high unifying moment was Grant's version of "Carry It On", immediately followed by Madeline's moving "Stonewall Nation".

If you wish to entertain in any way or simply want more information on the Coffee Houses, call Greg Bodekor or Grant King at the Center (881-5335). Donations are requested during the performances. Folk-singing and poetry-reading are just two facets of entertainment; there are so many more. Let us know your ideas.

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GAY

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