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Fifth Freedom, 1974-08-18

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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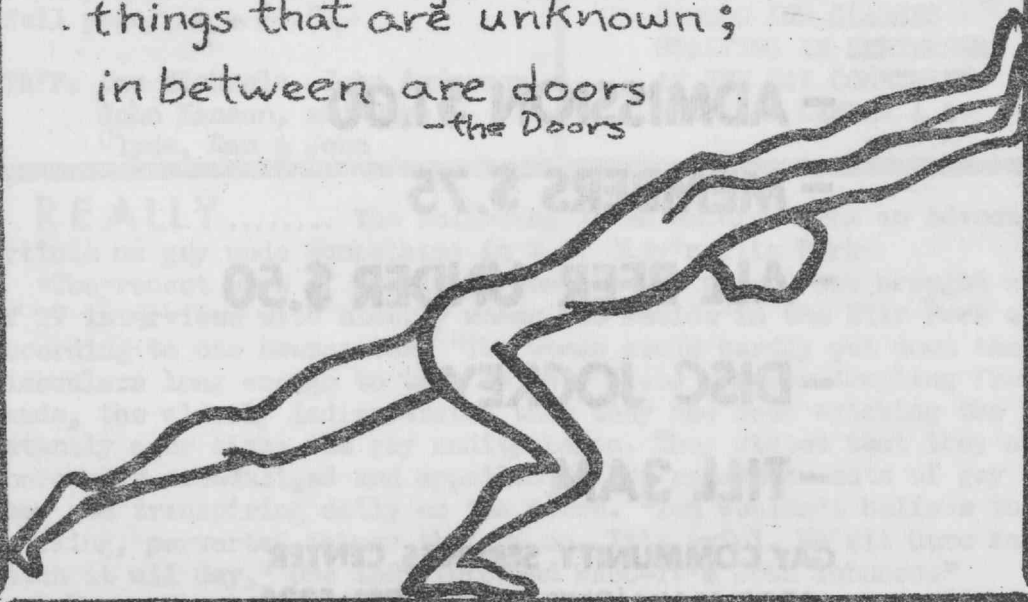
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Gift of the Gypsy Soul

Vol. 4 No. 11 Aug. 18, 1974

There are things that are known &
things that are unknown;
in between are doors
-the Doors



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**SIGN-UP NOW FOR RAP
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REALLY The following is an excerpt from an Advocate article on gay nude sunbathing in N.Y. City's Riis Park:

"The recent wave of publicity (on the gay nudes) has brought a rash of TV interviews with elderly women who reside in the Riis Park area. According to one newscaster, "The women could hardly put down their binoculars long enough to talk to us." Field glasses dangling from their hands, the elderly ladies stated that they had been watching the beach intently ever since the gay nudity began. They stated that they are thoroughly scandalized and appalled by the numerous acts of gay sex they see transpiring daily on the beach. "You wouldn't believe the shocking, perverted things that go on. It's awful. We sit here and watch it all day," one lady informed WABC-TV's John Johnson."

From: The Advocate, 8/14/74

WORCESTER CARRIES THE BATTLE TO SMALL CITIES

On July 23, the City Council of Worcester, Mass. defeated by seven to two an amendment to the city's human rights law to outlaw discrimination against gays in housing and employment. The debate on this proposal marked the first time such a piece of legislation had ever achieved the status of public debate in this small industrial city. If the amendment had passed, Worcester would have been the eleventh city in the nation and the first in New England to legislate civil rights for gays.

The usual myths were brought forth in the debate, fear of child molestation and fear that civil rights protection would attract gays from all over America. The legality of the city guaranteeing civil rights to those who were openly admitting to breaking a state law was also discussed.

The battle, which will continue, is being led by the Worcester Gay Union and has support from the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union, the state Socialist Workers Party, lawyers, members of the clergy, Worcester's Human Rights Commission, and two members of the City Council Human Resources Committee.

It would appear that the most significant element in this event is the extension of the struggle for law reform into a new level of society. The gay presence has appeared at a national presidential nominating convention, in a number of state legislatures seeking law reform and in a number of city councils in larger cities but the struggle is just now reaching the small cities. We see this as an important trend in the long, painful growth toward the equal protection of law which many non-gays enjoy without question.....Steven and David.

Source: Gay Community News, Boston, July 27, 1974

AND THE PRICE OF DOING BATTLE ?

Nearby, in Alfred, N.Y., on May 6th, 1974, the Alfred Village Board passed a gay civil rights ordinance by a vote of 3-2. Alfred became the first municipality in New York state as well as the first 'small town' in the nation to take such a step. While an important and momentous undertaking by the Alfred University Gay Lib group, there are potential problems on the horizon.

The strategy of the Alfred group was to accomplish their task in a quiet, virtually unpublicized manner in order to avoid a groundswell of public opposition before the vote took place in the Board. The strategy was successful and the ordinance passed on a tie-breaking 'yes' vote by Alfred's mayor. However, at the present moment there is mounting opposition to the ordinance by the Alfred townspeople and an ever-

increasing danger that the ordinance could be repealed. If this ordinance is repealed, the issue of gay rights will suffer - not only for Alfred gays, but for all of us. The Alfred Village Board will be smarting from a 'lesson' it won't soon forget and anti-gay bigotry will have reared its ugly head and inflicted a blow to our movement which we can ill afford.

Behind-the-scenes maneuvering to achieve our objectives is subscribed to by many in our movement. However, many important objectives need to be accomplished, and paramount is that of increasing the public's awareness of our presence as well as the objectives of our movement. An upfront, well-publicized stance on achieving our goals has the distinct advantage of bringing our issues to the fore and creating a new public 'consciousness.' True, the price we have to pay is the slow, tedious route - lots of frustration, hardwork and seemingly endless battles.-- But, if we're persistent and consistent we can achieve permanent change that will be reinforced by a new social consciousness, rather than transitory changes subject to recall by the sheer force of anti-gay bigotry.....Don Michaels.

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THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

review by dan

In the annals of Hollywood history, and for that matter the film industries of the whole world, all the other studios combined have not produced movie musicals approaching the staggering opulence and splendor of the Metro Goldwyn Mayer behemoths. The currently playing pastiche of their achievement, "That's Entertainment" is the choicest scenes from the greatest spectacles of all time, nicely hung together by some of the studio's brightest luminaries from both past and present. doing a pleasant narrative on the studio, stars and pictures.

For those of us who remember the gravity defying dance routines of Fred Astaire, the aquatic fantasies of Esther Williams, the indescribable poignance and beauty of the young Judy Garland, the perky adorableness (yes, it was) of Debbie Reynolds, the electricity of Gene Kelly, the radiance of Eleanor Powell, the incandescence of Kathryn Grayson, etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. it is a sheer delight to make this nostalgic trip to the past of such lush beauty and incredible talent. For you who are too young to recall the films from which the clips were taken it is a revelation of a genre of entertainment that will boggle your mind and make you wish they'd re-release the movies in their entirety.

MGM, as it was, is ended. It's a hotel in Las Vegas now. The back lot, where Andy Hardy's house stood and half the city of Atlanta burned down, is no more. But thanks to "That's Entertainment" the legacy of MGM lives on for another generation. It captures totally the aura and spectrum of what the musical film was in its finest hour. Hopefully it may also be a harbinger for the future, a bright glittery forecast of a time in the future when people can once again go to see a movie because "that's entertainment".

If you haven't seen "That's Entertainment" four or five times already, for God's sake hurry up and get there. It's going to be around for a long time, but you'll be glad so you can keep on going back again. It's a feast for the eyes, a banquet for the ears, a smorgasbord for all the senses. You'll come out singing "Somewhere Over The Rainbow", tapping to "Tea For Two" and just possibly forgetting all about "The Exorcist" and "Deep Throat".

THE BOYS IN 4-A . . . DAN

Sam Davis looked up from his desk when the telephone rang. "Ivy Lea Apartments", he heard his secretary say. "Yes, Mr. Davis is here. May I ask who's calling?" He noticed that she frowned as she turned to him and said it was Mrs. Goodwin from Apartment 4B. Sam knew the reason for the frown. He remembered the previous calls from Mrs. Goodwin when she was drunk and quarrelled with neighbors from other apartments.

"Mrs. Goodwin, what can I do for you?" he asked halfheartedly.

"I wanna see ya," the woman said slurringly. "These new guys ya got up here aint nothin but dirty degenerates and I wanna see ya about it that's what."

Sam recalled the two young men who had just moved into 4A. Tom Bridges and Jeff Allen. Nice looking, clean cut boys; both twenty three years old. Bridges worked at a bank and his roommate was in college working toward a master's degree in engineering. They certainly didn't look degenerate. You never knew though. He'd have to check it out.

"What makes you say the men are degenerate Mrs. Goodwin?" The thought crossed his mind that the woman was so unkempt and unpleasant it was difficult to imagine any man bothering her, no matter how degenerate he was.

"Cuz I heard 'em, that's how come. I heard 'em sayin that they love each other, the dirty queer faggots. The big blond one was leavin this mornin with a buncha books an when he went I heard 'em sayin I love ya. It's disgustin. Pervert fairies right next door."

"Okay Mrs. Goodwin," Sam said. "I'll check out your complaint." He hung up the phone and rose from his desk headed for the door.

"I'm going up to 4A Sharon," he said to his secretary.

When he got off the elevator on the fourth floor he noticed that Mrs. Goodwin's door was partly open. He could see the table inside strewn with empty bottles and dirty dishes. No doubt she had left the door open to listen. He strode past it and knocked loudly on 4A.

"Hang on a second," he heard a voice holler. "I'm in the shower." When the door swung open he was confronted by Tom Bridges dripping wet with a towel wrapped around his waist.

"Oh, Mr. Davis, excuse me. I was expecting someone else. A friend. We're going to an art exhibit. He's a painter."

"Mr. Bridges, may I come in? I won't keep you long."

"Oh, yes, sure." Tom seemed flustered, perhaps nervous, but he

cont. pg 10

Calendar

SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT

8/18 MSNF Program Mtg GAY FILM FEST 8PM	8/19 Fifth Fdm. Staff Mtg 7PM	8/20 Sisters of Sappho Les- bian/Femist Mtg. 8PM	8/21 Play Ping Pong at G.C.S.C.	8/22 Sign Up for Drama Classes - Starting in Sept.	8/23 Pool Table at G.C.S.C. -free- games	8/24 Disc Jockey Dancing 9PM - 3AM
8/25 G.C.S.C facilities open 1PM - 6PM	8/26 Fifth Fdm. Staff Mtg. 7PM	8/27 Sisters of Sappho Les- bian/Femist Mtg. 8PM	8/28 Lounge Facilities Open 2PM- 10PM	8/29 Reference library facilities at G.C.S.C.	8/30 Rap with gay friends 'til 10PM	8/31 Dance 'til 3AM - latest in music
9/1 Spend an afternoon at the Center - open 1-6PM	9/2 G.C.S.C - CLOSED -Happy Labor Day-	9/3 Mattachine Bd. Mtg 8PM * * Sisters of Sappho Les- bian/Femist Mtg. 8PM	9/4 Sign Up for Rap Group Starting Soon	9/5 Counselor Training Sessions Start Next Week	9/6 Sisters of Sappho All- Women's Dance 9PM-3AM	9/7 DANCE tonight and every Sat. nite 9PM-3AM

NOTE: All Calendar events take place at the Gay Community Services Center unless otherwise noted. Address: 1350 Main St. - 2nd Floor Phone 881-5335 for additional info.

SISTERS OF SAPPHO

... will be participating in the Women's Day Festival to be held in Delaware Park (Calvin & Amherst area) on Sunday, August 25th, 11AM - 5PM. An information booth will be set up with women to answer questions and pass out literature on Lesbianism and the local Lesbian Community. Speakers will represent S.O.S. and there will be Lesbian entertainers on the program.

The second Lesbian dance will be held on Friday, September 6th at the Gay Community Services Center, from 9PM - 3AM. All women are welcome. Admission is \$1.00.

Criteria for membership in Sisters of Sappho was discussed at the August 13th meeting. It was decided that all women interested in working for the goals of Lesbian/Feminism are welcome to participate in the organization. Meetings continue to be held on Tuesday evenings at 8PM, at the Gay Community Services Center.

COMING EVENTS

... MOVIE - "LORD OF THE FLIES" by James Aubrey. FRIDAY, SEPT. 27th, 9PM. William Golding's grim and haunting social commentary of a group of young lads marooned on an island and forced into survival.

MONTE CARLO NIGHT - Friday, OCT. 18th - Monte Carlo casino from 7:30PM - 11PM, with ~~MUSIC~~ to follow 'til 3AM. FREE BEER 7:30-9:00PM !

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opened the door further and stood aside. "Is there anything wrong?" he asked as the door swung shut behind them.

Sam hesitated a minute, looking around the room at the Scandinavian furniture and primitive art. "Nice things you have here," he said.

"Thanks," Tom answered.

"Mr. Bridges, I've had a complaint about you," Sam spoke very abruptly. "One of the neighbors says you and Mr. Allen are homosexuals."

The young man stiffened perceptibly and seemed to pale in spite of his deep bronze tan. "Oh?" he questioned in response.

"So are you?" Sam asked.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Davis, but I don't think that's anyone's business except Jeff's and mine," Tom answered evenly. "We're quiet, we're clean, and we haven't disturbed anybody here."

"I see," Sam countered just as evenly. "Well, I'll speak with the other tenants on the floor. Thanks for your time. I'm sorry I held you up."

"That's quite all right," Tom said as he calmly opened the door. "I'm not rushed."

As the door closed behind him Sam walked back to the elevator. He rode it down thinking how unpleasant his job could sometimes be. When he entered his office he said to his secretary, "Give me an eviction notice will you Kathy?" She could tell by the sound of his voice that he didn't want to discuss it, so she merely handed him the form and returned to her work.

Sam sat down at his desk and began to write. When he got to the line that said REASON he wrote only one word: undesirable. He could spell it out later if it was necessary. Then he signed his name and stood up.

"I'm going to lunch now Kathy," he said. "Would you put this with the rest of your mail to go?"

His secretary took the notice from his hand and watched him as he walked briskly out of the office. When the door closed she glanced down at the name he had written on the form. Mrs. Ella Goodwin. It's about time, she thought.

THIS PAGE
COMPLIMENTS OF
YOUR FAVORITE NIGHT SPOT!

A HOMOPHILE'S MANIFESTO

(part 1)

For the most part the churches have taken an active role in endeavoring to eradicate, or at least minimize, the sins and the agonies of racism. But, admittedly, the church waited for the state to get the ball of integration rolling and then said, in effect, "me too."

It is to be earnestly hoped that the churches will take a forthright lead in curtailing the sins and tragedies of sexism in our midst. In particular, reference is here made to homosexuality and bisexuality...

Hetero, homo and bi are all equally "very members incorporate in the mystical body" if we really believe what we proclaim about baptism and the nature of the church. Let us, then, become what we are called to be a "holy fellowship" with a loving, healing relationship.

The church continues to mirror or reflect the state and the culture, in that she has done virtually nothing to make all persons - of whatever sexual orientation - equally welcome at her alter, services and meetings. By her "do nothing" policy she has tacitly endorsed the archaic, brutal, criminal treatment by the state of homosexuals and bisexuals.

What have the American churches really done to support an adult mutual consent law in all the states, thus guarding and respecting the right of individual privacy in sexual matters for those who are, say, 18 and older? What have they done to put an effective quietus to those most damnable practices of police embarrassment, harassment, enticement, inducement and entrapment?

To many it appears that these policemen themselves have real identity problems. They are generally youthful and seductively attractive males in both appearance and attire. Are they possibly exhibitionists? What about the superiors who condone the tactics of these decoys? Surely the taxpayers' money should be invested more wisely and more fruitfully! Incidentally, genital, manual, oral and anal varieties of sexuality are increasingly practiced by hetero, homo and bi. Should not all laws against the last two sexual variations be struck from the books? The human body is not evil or sinful - to maintain such is Manichean heresy.

What are the churches doing to make homosexuals feel warmly welcome in their meeting places? True, there are a number of "gay churches" (especially the Metropolitan Community Church located in a number of cities) which do minister to all people, but they are unfortunately separated from the mainstream of historic Christendom. If PECUSA is catholic, as she indeed professes to be, why does she not take a progressive and an aggressive stance in endeavoring to bring about more realism, understanding and compassion in the area of homoeroticism?

There are altogether too many legends in circulation regarding homo-

LEO THE LION

JULY 21 - AUGUST 21

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LEO

Often Leos make good leaders. They seem to be good organizers and administrators. Usually they are quite popular with others. Whatever group it is that he belongs to, the Leo man is almost sure to be or become the leader.

The Leo person is generous most of the time. It is his best characteristic. He or she likes to give gifts and presents. In making others happy, the Leo person becomes happy himself. He likes to splurge when spending money on others. In some instances it may seem that the Leo's generosity knows no boundaries. A hospitable person, the Leo man or woman is very fond of welcoming people to his house and entertaining them. He is never short of company.

The Leo person has plenty of energy and drive. He enjoys working towards some specific goal. When he applies himself correctly, he generally gets what he wants. The Leo person is almost never unsure of himself. He has plenty of confidence and aplomb. He is a person who is direct in almost everything he does. He has a quick mind and can make a decision in a very short time.

He usually sets a good example for others because of his ambitious manner and positive ways. He knows how to stick to something once he's started it. Although the Leo person may be good at making a joke, he is not superficial or glib. He is a loving person, kind and thoughtful.

There is generally nothing small or petty about the Leo man or woman. He does what he can for those who are deserving. He is a person others can rely upon at all times. He means what he says. An honest person, generally speaking, he is a friend that others value.

THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF LEO

Leo, however, does have his faults. At times, he can be just a bit too arrogant. He thinks that no one deserves a leadership position except him. Only he is capable of doing things well. His opinion of himself is often much too high. Because of his conceit, he is sometimes rather unpopular with a good many people. Some Leos are too materialistic; they can only think in terms of money and profit.

Some Leos enjoy lording it over others - at home or at their place of business. What is more: they feel they have the right to. Egocentric to an impossible degree, this sort of Leo cares little about how others think or feel. He can be rude and cutting.

MOON IN LEO

New horizons of exciting and rather extravagant activity open up. This is the time for exhilarating entertainment, glamorous and lavish parties, and expensive shopping sprees. Any merrymaking that relies upon your generosity as a host has every chance of being a spectacular success. You should find yourself right in the center of the fun, either as the life of the party or simply as a person whom happy people like to be with. Romance thrives in the heady atmosphere and friendship are likely to explode unexpectedly into serious attachments. Children and younger people should be attracted to you and you may find yourself organizing a picnic or a visit to a funfair, the cinema or the seaside. The sunny company and vitality of youthful companions should help you to find an opening for promotion or advancement. This should be the time to make a direct approach. The period favors those engaged in original research. CAUTION: Bask in popularity but not flattery.

BOBBY

sexuals, and especially is this the case among right-thinking and untransformed homophobes. Homoerotics are often pictured as captives and seducers of children. Statistics show, on the other hand, that these two categories are almost exclusively peopled by the so-called "straight" world. Homosexual rape and child molestation are rare phenomena indeed, committed by sick persons who obviously need therapy, not brutality and ridicule.

Must PECUSA be bound to a type of ecclesiastical fundamentalism? Must she thus reject a probably substantial number of her membership? She has overcome the decadence and unrealism of biblical fundamentalism successfully, but she is all too slow to abandon the rigidity, harshness and inhumanity of an equally judgmental ecclesiastical fundamentalism, a hangover from the worst elements of primitive pharisaism, medievalism, and puritanism.

If we follow the fundamentalist line, according to Leviticus 18:22,29 we must condemn the homosexual to social and psychological, if not individual and physical, death. And if we agree with Paul, we must condemn these brothers and sisters to eternal damnation (Romans 1:26-32, I Corinthians 6:9,10). Of course, sadistic "Christians" would readily agree with the Pauline dicta.

Interestingly, there is no record in the four Gospels that our Lord ever condemned homosexuals or homosexuality. And we cannot naively and gratuitously assume that there were no homosexuals in the days of his flesh. We must measure our own attitudes and behaviors by his standards of love and compassion. Would he support the business of stigmatizing, traumatizing and ostracizing the homoerotic?

It will not do to argue that our Lord came to fulfill, not to destroy, the law and so consequently supported the Levitical taboo. If we argue in this manner, we could easily be strangled by the entire Levitical law, including the dietary minutiae. He himself summarized the law as one of love to God, neighbor and self. The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. Sexuality is for man, not man for sexuality.

"A Homophile's Manifesto" originally appeared in "The Living Church", June 23, 1974; a publication of the Church and the views of Episcopalians. The author's name was withheld by request.

Part 2 of "A Homophile's Manifesto" will appear in the next issue of the Fifth Freedom.

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