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9-1-1974

### Fifth Freedom, 1974-09-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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# Highway 101

And I still have  
a long, long  
way to go to  
understand  
all the  
things I  
should be  
angry at.



Vol. 4 No. 12 Sept. 1, 1974

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The FIFTH FREEDOM is published by the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, at 1350 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. Phone 881-5335

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STAFF: Don Michaels, John Yanson, and Dave, Clyde, Dan & John

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SIGN UP NOW FOR CLASSES/  
ACTIVITIES STARTING SEPT.  
9TH AT THE CENTER!

## TEACHERS UNION SPEAKS OUT

The National Education Association, at its recent session in Chicago, voted to include coverage of "sexual orientation" in the NEA Statement on "Non-Discriminatory Personnel Policies." The amendment specifically lists hiring, retaining, paying, promoting and dismissing of employees as areas to be protected against anti-gay discrimination. This affects NEA policy nationwide in its contract negotiations as a teachers union.

Source: Advocate, Issue 145, Aug. 28, '74

## CANDIDATES RESPOND

### SAMUELS PRO

Howard Samuels, party-endorsed primary candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, held a press conference in Buffalo on Friday, August 23rd - and we were there! Representatives from Mattachine were on hand at the Statler Hilton to question Mr. Samuels on his position toward gay rights. The following exchange took place:

MSNF: "Mr. Samuels, for the past several years, the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations has been pushing for legislative reform in Albany, for homosexuals, on two fronts. One is repeal of the consensual sodomy law and the other is amendment of the anti-discrimination statutes to include sexual orientation. As Governor, you would be in a position to influence the outcome of those bills, greatly. What is your position on these bills?"

SAMUELS: "Well, I supported Intro 2 in New York (City), to end discrimination in jobs and in housing. I think the present laws ought to be repealed, in so far as they affect consenting adults. We know that, and I'm willing to support that position."

Samuels was an upfront supporter of Intro 2 in New York City. It's particularly significant that he also supports repeal of the consensual sodomy law - as it affects adults. A supporter in the Albany Governor's Mansion would be a big plus for our side.

### ALEXANDER DODGES

Up the hall from the Samuels press conference, Syracuse Mayor, Lee Alexander was also meeting with the press. Mayor is the party-endorsed primary candidate for the U.S. Senate nomination. Alexander was asked by Mattachine spokespeople for his position on the bill filed recently in Congress by Bella Abzug that would add protection for gays to Federal Civil Rights legislation.

Alexander's reply was the typical politician's non-response - 'being unable to express a position until familiarized with the particular bill.' When pressed further for a commitment, Alexander tried to cop out by stating that gays were already protected by the law. When asked "what law," he informed us that the Constitution assured us all the protection we need. When reminded that Congress was obviously convinced that other deprived groups - black, women, etc. - needed specific civil rights legislation, he reverted back to his original argument that he couldn't state a position until he was familiar with the 'problem.' He did state, however, that he would be receptive to dis-

cussion on the matter, and upon our suggestion that he meet with the Syracuse Gay Freedom League, he agreed that he would be open to arranging such a meeting. We'll be passing this on to our friends at G.F.L. in Syracuse in hopes that they can bring Mayor Alexander's head around.

## CLARK REPORTS

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General and candidate for Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate (Mayor Alexander's opponent) was interviewed by an Empty Closet reporter at a press conference on August 12th, in Rochester:

EMPTY CLOSET: "Mr. Clark, recently introduced House Resolution 14752 adds to the 1964 Civil Rights act the words "sexual orientation, sex, or marital status" to the list of antidiscrimination conditions. One purpose of this act is to gain equal rights for homosexuals in housing, employment, and financial affairs. Under what conditions would you introduce or support such a bill in the U.S. Senate?"

MR. CLARK: "I would support that measure under all conditions providing only that it was full and adequate. I don't believe in compromises on these things, because I've seen too much injury from inadequacy in civil rights laws. It is essential to the elimination of an enormous amount of injustice in society, as I testified in the hearings on New York City's INTRO 2."



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## THINKING LIKE A WOMAN, MALE BACKLASH

(The following is a partial excerpt of an article by Ms. Fritz that originally appeared in "WIN" magazine, July 25, 1974.

"WIN" is published with the support of the War Resisters League, as a journal for peace and freedom through nonviolent action.)

Time and again I am called upon to prove that I am not one of those "man-hating feminists." Time and again I am made to feel the need to explain that, yes, I do trust and even love some men, but...What I am seldom allowed to finish with is, "but these men have proved their trustworthiness. I love individual men who show a sincere desire to empathize with women, who go out of their way to prove that they don't knowingly oppress us, and who are trying to eradicate such exploitation which occurs unconsciously.

"But these individual men do not exonerate mankind. Just as individual whites who support the black movement do not exonerate the white race."

And so-yes-I do distrust men in general. I'd have to be nuts not to. I distrust and even hate most of their institutions. Men I trust also hate these institutions. Men I trust resign from organizations which exclude women, just as they would resign from organizations which exclude black people, and they let the organization know why. Men I trust have dropped pejorative words for women (even women they dislike) from their vocabularies and stand up for women in conversations with other men. Men I trust don't insist that female leaders, executives, etc. are more aggressive than males in the same positions - they understand that women must be many times more aggressive than men in order to achieve anything at all in a male-dominated world. They appreciate the superhuman effort it takes for women to overcome their non-competitive training and survive as people, not limp dolls. Men I trust do not complain of being "put upon" by women in marriage; they understand that they are "put upon" by a male-dominated society which enforces both male and female slavery in marriage, but which is harder on women even in that institution. Men I trust don't have to be asked to do their share of housekeeping and childcare and don't act as if doing it is some kind of a favor to women. Men I trust don't make stupid jokes about helping a woman on with her coat or lighting her cigarette or paying a check in a restaurant. They understand that feminism is a serious issue which doesn't concern itself with insipid

## SISTERS OF SAPPHO - WHY BOTHER?

--is the formation of another Lesbian organization really worth the effort?

It has been said that the male-dominated Gay movement has had much more of an impact in Buffalo than the Lesbian movement. Certainly that is true in the more public areas: gay/police relations, contact with the religious and psychiatric communities, publicity about events and projects. And, although these accomplishments are by no means small and should certainly be a source of pride for the participants, this often pre-supposes that Lesbian organizations have done little if anything of "real" value. (and Lesbians have expressed this feeling more than anyone else)

To someone in pain, relief is of real value. To someone who is lonely, companionship is of real value. To someone confused, empathy and guidance are of real value. To someone searching for friends, interests, laughter, caring or comfort, the support of others in the same situation is of ultimate value. These are the things that have been accomplished by all of the Gay organizations in the area, and they are the things that have probably left more of an impression on the lives of individual Gay people in this community than any other accomplishments.

A sense of community has been one of the major goals of Lesbian organizations in the past, and although they no longer exist as organized groups, Radicallesbians, Lesbians Uniting, Daughters of Bilitis and the numerous, nameless C.R. groups that have formed over the past few years have brought a great deal to the women whose lives they have touched. An awareness of who we are and what we can be has been denied most women. Our organizations help us to develop this awareness. The knowledge that we can work together to accomplish our own, women-oriented goals, whatever they might be, is found in organization. We can also learn that relationships among Lesbians are capable of existing beyond our individual entanglements and can rise to causes larger than our individual egos. That is why we are bothering to form still another Lesbian organization. Whether inner or outer-directed, project oriented, social, specifically political, or for consciousness raising, a Lesbian organization is valuable for whatever purposes and no matter what its longevity.

The test of value is not necessarily life-span or place in history. If it does something for your gut, it's got to be good.

- Sisters of Sappho meets every Tuesday at 8PM at the Gay Community Center - All women are welcome.



# Calendar

| SUN   | MON  | TUE  | WED  | THUR   | FRI   | SAT   |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 9/1<br>Center open<br>1 - 6PM<br>Play ping<br>pong or<br>shoot pool | 9/2<br>G.C.S.C.-<br>CLOSED<br>*HAPPY<br>LABOR DAY                                | 9/3<br>Mattachine<br>Bd. Mtg 8PM<br>Sisters of<br>Sappho Mtg.<br>8PM               | 9/4<br>Sign up<br>NOW for<br>classes &<br>activity<br>groups                 | 9/5<br>Counselor<br>training<br>sessions<br>start next<br>week | 9/6<br>ALL Women's<br>DANCE<br>9PM - 3AM                                | 9/7<br>CENTER DANCE<br>Disc Jockey<br>Light show<br>9PM - 3AM                   |
| 9/8<br>Counselors<br>mtg. 2PM<br>*<br>Mattachine<br>meeting 8PM     | 9/9<br>Fifth Frdm<br>staff mtg.<br>7PM<br>*<br>Figure Drwg<br>Class start<br>7PM | 9/10<br>Sisters of<br>Sappho Mtg.<br>8PM<br>*<br>Counselors<br>staff mtg<br>7:30PM | 9/11<br>Drama Class<br>starts 7PM<br>*<br>Political<br>Action Wkst<br>op 8PM | 9/12<br>Counselor<br>training<br>session<br>starts 7PM         | 9/13<br>Enjoy meetg<br>new people<br>at the<br>Center                   | 9/14<br>Gay Youth<br>Meeting 1 PM<br>*<br>DANCING to<br>D.J. music<br>9PM - 3AM |
| 9/15<br>Counselor<br>Training<br>Session<br>Starts 2PM              | 9/16<br>Figure Drwg<br>class 7PM<br>*<br>Fifth Frdm<br>Staff Mtg<br>7PM          | 9/17<br>Sisters of<br>Sappho Mtg<br>8PM<br>*<br>Mattachine<br>Bd. Mtg 8PM          | 9/18<br>Political<br>Action/Work<br>Shop 8PM<br>*<br>Drama Class<br>7PM      | 9/19<br>Counselor<br>training<br>session<br>7PM                | 9/20<br>Center open<br>til 10PM<br>*Lounge<br>*pool table<br>*ping pong | 9/21<br>Great fun<br>and good<br>DANCING<br>9PM - 3AM                           |

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# ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

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## FIGURE-DRAWING CLASS

Figure drawing instructions with models. \$10.00 Fee for 8 week session to cover expense of models & basic supplies. Instructed by experienced N.Y.S. certified teacher. Every Monday evening 7PM - STARTING SEPT. 9th.

## LESBIAN/FEMINIST MEETINGS

Lesbian/Feminist women working together toward women-oriented goals, through organization. All women welcome. EVERY TUES. 8PM

## GAY YOUTH MEETINGS

Gay Youth meet to get it all together - every other Sat. afternoon at 1PM - next meeting is SATURDAY, SEPT. 14th, 1PM

## P L U S

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- \* ALL WOMEN'S DANCE - first Fri. of every month, 9PM-3AM, \$1 adm.
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## COUNSELOR TRAINING

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## POLITICAL ACTION WORKSHOP

Group activity leading to action for social, legal, political reform to achieve gay rights. Oriented toward working through the system. Meets each Wednesday evening 8PM STARTING SEPT. 11th.

## FIFTH FREEDOM SESSIONS

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# A HOMOPHILE'S MANIFESTO

## (part 2)

If one is to witness what is really happening today outside the established churches, he should certainly visit a "gay church." These churches are understandably continuing to grow in the States and abroad, thanks to the historic churches' ignoring the homosexual and his plight. They offer real love, acceptance and support, particularly during times of deep crisis. Little wonder, then, that more and more homosexuals are following the route of flight from the historic churches!

It is indeed a moving experience to behold lovers receiving their communions together unashamedly in quiet dignity with reverence and radiance. We will not see the cheap stuff of people "swishing" or "mincing" down the aisles or "camping" in church as most might suppose. Rather, we will see persons profoundly committed as gay Christians, fully and positively accepting both their Christianity and their "gaiety." Why should not the historic churches have a public service of holy union for homosexuals who are sincere in a long-term commitment one to the other?

However one may become homosexual, he does not deliberately choose to do so. Whether the origin is hereditary, environmental, or both, matters not. The gay person must be made to feel grateful, not guilty, about his own sexuality - he must accept it as a gift from God; no matter what its evolution may have been. The homosexual is already, by definition, deprived of the procreational aspects of sex. Should he, in addition, be deprived of the sacramental and wholesomely "recreational" aspects?

Some speak of the silly nonsense of God dispensing this condition to some of his children as a "cross to bear." How absurd! If this were so, what a cosmic sadist indeed would the Almighty be! Society has imposed these "crosses," not our loving Creator.

The church must forever divorce herself from the futility of believing that morality can be legislated. We simply cannot impose Christian standards on a pagan-society. If there are legal bars, some could still argue that drinking alcohol is immoral or sinful; but one does not have to drink. If prostitution were legalized, that would not make it moral; one does not have to frequent brothels. If pornographic movies and literature are declared legal, it can still be maintained that they are immoral; one does not have to purchase, view or read such materials.

But homosexuality is not analogous to the realitites just mentioned. Homosexuality in and of itself is neither sick nor sinful. Some homosexual acts may be sinful; for example, child molesting, be it homo or hetero, is sick (if not also sinful, depending upon the elements of culpability in a given situation).

# CANADA DEPORTS GAY BROTHER!

For all you people who are under the impression that our neighbors to the North are totally free of oppression toward gays, here's a rude awakening:

On Monday, August 26th, John Kyper, a gay brother from Dorchester, Mass. was refused admittance to Canada because of being gay. John attempted to cross the border at the Whirlpool Bridge and was subjected to the usual search process. When the Canadian immigration people came across several copies of "Gay Community News" - a Boston gay newspaper - John was asked if he was a homosexual. Upon answering in the affirmative, he was subjected to over 2 hours of questions and processing for "deportation." John described the behavior of the Canadian authorities as "polite" and very "correct," but not harrassing.

Canada has long had an immigration law against admittance of "homosexuals" and "prostitutes," but in recent history it's not often been enforced. John's deportation order gives the following reason for refusal: "You are a member of the prohibited class of persons described in paragraph 5(e) of the immigration act in that you admit that you are a homosexual and your admission to Canada has not been authorized by the Governor-in-Council."

The Canadian immigration people informed John that he is now permanently barred from Canada, unless he appeals. However, he was also informed that his only course of appeal was to the Canada Supreme Court.

John's unfortunate incident makes it only too evident that our gay friends in Canada also have a lot of progress to make in getting laws and attitudes changed.

THIS PAGE  
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habitual acts of "chivalry." They understand that when a man earns more money than a woman, it is simply decent to assume the greater expense. Men I trust don't ask me for compassion until they have shown me some. Men I trust applaud when I get angry and stand up for myself. Men I trust make allowances for my shortcomings, are amazed at my patience, reinforce my perceptions of the world, encourage my attempts to break out of stereotyped roles, and appreciate my effort to work out new answers to old problems - answers not to be found in men's books. Men I trust help me to learn to defend myself, both physically and mentally. They approve of the conferences I go to with other women and take on such chores as are necessary to give me free time. Heterosexual men I trust are tender and considerate lovers to women; homosexual men I trust do not treat other men as objects, nor do they indulge themselves in fantasies of ancient Greece.

The list of attributes which make men trustworthy to women could go on for many more pages. I have hardly scratched the surface - and obviously this list assumes that I am speaking to "civilized" men who do not beat or abuse women in any physical way.

The point I am making, - which must by now be screamingly clear - is that I will no longer be browbeaten by men into apologizing for any anger at the sex as a whole. My anger is justified and it is useful - to me, to other women; ultimately, perhaps, to the human race as a whole. I will no longer apologize for a general preference for the insights of conscious women, or women becoming conscious, over the "knowledge" of men. And I will no longer apologize for supporting women in arguments with men, even if men judge me to be prejudiced. I do not now apologize for saying that, in general I don't give a shit what men have to say about anything relating to the beknighted half of the human race to which I belong, and I frankly apply many grains of salt to their pronouncements on the other half. I think men in general are monsters, and I'm not afraid to say so. I think they're often monsters even when they're trying not to be. They have a long, long way to go.

And I still have a long, long way to go to understand all the things I should be angry at. So do most women. Men we trust will betray their sex to let us know.

As a famous American male-chauvinist revolutionary once remarked, "If this be treason, make the most of it."



Many competent psychiatrists and psychologists are beginning to realize that homosexuality as such is not a sickness and that for most persons so involved the condition is irreversible. However, the non-acceptance by society, state and church, can and does create various degrees of illness in many homosexuals.

The homosexual must be permitted to express his own nature freely as long as there is no harm to anyone, including himself, and as long as there is no coercion of any sort. Naturally, extremes of sadism, masochism, exhibitionism and voyeurism, for example, would be manifestations of sickness whether practiced by hetero, homo or bi.

The churches have, in fact, ordained many homosexuals throughout the centuries. And why not? We would all agree that homosexuals as well as heterosexuals, lay and clerical alike, should be circumspect and discreet in their social demeanor and should not flaunt themselves in the public eye.

May the churches wake up! May the "straights" help the "gays" to realize their own humanity! May the "gays" try to understand the "straights" "hang-ups" about gay sexuality, trying all the while to avoid anger and bitterness as much as they possibly can.

May bishops and priests come out of their "closets" and offices and into the streets so that "gays" may know that they are welcome without distinction in the catholic church! We say we are an episcopal church -- may the bishops take the lead to the pathway of Christian humanity here. Shall we continue to make a mockery and travesty of justice and mercy?

"A Homophile's Manifesto" originally appeared in  
"The Living Church," June 23, 1974; a publication of  
the church and the views of Episcopalians. The authors's  
name was withheld by request... Part I appeared in  
the last issue of the Fifth Freedom.

THIS PAGE COMPLIMENTS OF

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