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Fifth Freedom, 1974-09-22

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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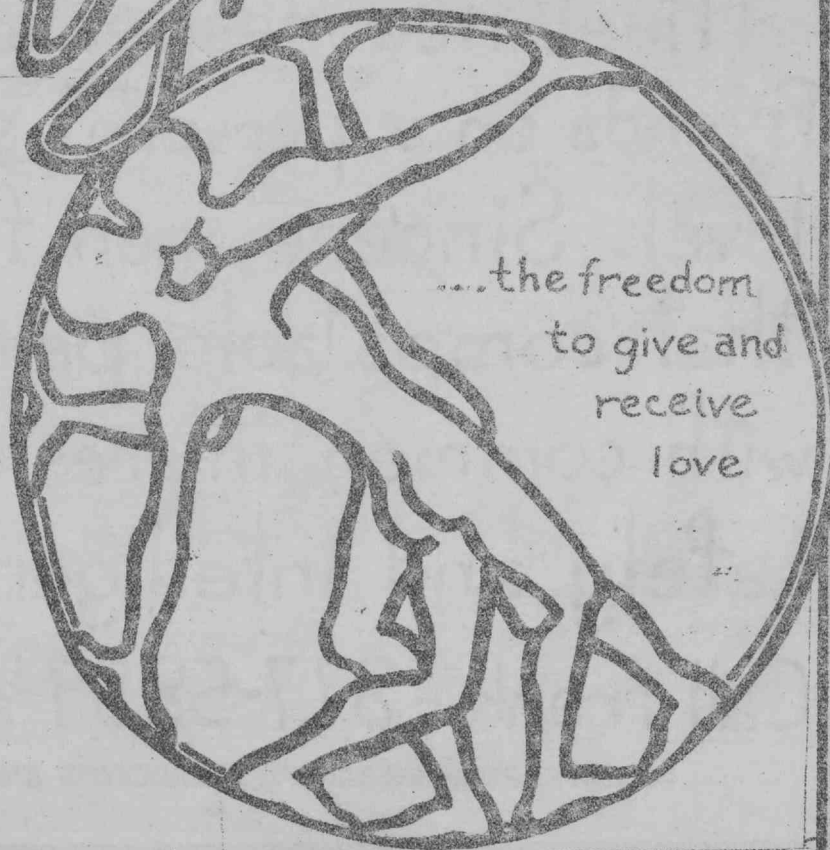
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CORRECTED PHONE NUMBER - FIFTH FREEDOM'S ERROR

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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Wayne Winters, Greg Bodekor,
Clyde & Dan

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OOOPS!

We wish to call to your attention that the phone number listed with the "Man-to-Man" ad in our last issue was incorrect. This issue's ad has the correct phone number (see opposite page)

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FROM ACCROSS THE MILES

To the people of Mattachine and all friends in Buffalo:

Since finding many of you at the Allen St. Center one confused night back in early April, and being among you all a couple of months this spring, I have now moved out west to Denver. I arrived after having seen a psychiatrist for several weeks and was at a point in life of despair, as many of us have been.

I am happy to say that although on that night I was lost and troubled, there has not been a day I have really felt as unhappy since. The Mattachine people in Buffalo, especially with your new Center, are truly an oasis in life where we can all pause a while and arrange our thoughts without the burden of outside social pressures.

During my Buffalo visit and Mattachine membership I came across the following passage originally printed by the Gay Activists Alliance in N.Y.C. It says a lot for all of us.

"From what I have seen the harm to the homosexual man or woman done by the persons' trying to convert (their sexual orientation) is multifold. Homosexuals should be warned. The venture is almost certain to fail, and you will lose time and money. But this is the least of it. In trying to convert, you will deepen your belief you are one of nature's misfortunes. You will intensify your clinging to conventionality, enlarge your fear, regret, and guilt. You will be voting in your own mind for the premise that people should all act and feel the same ways... Your attempt to convert is an assault on your right to do what you want so long as it harms no one, your right to give and receive love, or sensual pleasure without love, in the manner you wish."

It is in this frame of mind that my life now evolves, and any tensions disappear when I consciously think of this passage. With a gentle reminder of the moral strength the words give, my main purpose in writing you is made. Across the miles with it come my love and understanding appreciation for all of your help, for each of us, and leastly to me.

Sometime in the next few months I will be trucking through Buffalo and am looking forward to seeing you all again. With thoughts of the good fortune we hold, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John Riley

Friday night at the Roman Forum Lounge was known happily to the patrons as "The Sardine Scene". The bar in the front was five deep with the singles. They were wedged into the booths against the walls, crowded into the corners and archways. In the back the dance floor and tables were similarly full. The disc jockey was playing everybody's current favorite, "The Way It Was", and the dancers were close in each others arms, undulating with a lazy sensuousness to its slow easy rhythm. Among the couples who danced, with their eyes closed and their bodies pressed to each other like the leaves of a book, were Jacky Edwards and Bill Mason. For them "The Way It Was" had a particular special meaning. It was two years, twenty four fleeting months filled with sharing and caring. They had gone out to celebrate their anniversary, and the song evoked for them all the days of good times and laughter, all the nights of tenderness and passion. As they swayed languorously together they were not surprized that the languor turned to urgency and each felt the others erection grow and press into their thighs. It had always been that way, it always would be. They knew the love they felt was deeply rooted, the foundation for it sturdy and enduring. The hardness pulsing between them was more than their sex. It was a physical manifestation of all the strength they had given, still gave, always would give to each other.

The song ended and reluctantly they opened their eyes and started to walk back to their table to join the friends who had come to celebrate with them. As they walked, arms still about each others waist, Jacky looked up and glanced toward the crowded bar. Standing there, looking directly at him, were two of the salesmen from the office where he worked. When they were certain that Jacky had seen them they gave each other smirking looks, nodded, and quickly left the bar.

"Bill!" Jackie had cried as though he'd been struck physically. His body sagged limply against his lover. "Oh my God, Bill! Oh my God!"

"What is it Jacky? What's wrong?"

Jacky was barely able to walk he was shaking so badly as Bill helped him from the dance floor. He slumped into his chair and his head fell forward against fists clenched so tight the knuckles were white.

N.Y.S.C.G.O. TO MEET IN BUFFALO

The New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations will be holding its Fall Conference in Buffalo during the weekend of October 4, 5 & 6th. The Gay Community Services Center will be the hub of activity for representatives of gay groups from all parts of New York State.

Three years ago, N.Y.S.C.G.O. formed in response to the need for the many State groups to communicate and plan a unified approach to the statewide gay rights struggle. Among N.Y.S.C.G.O.'s many achievements has been the attainment of a strong, unified lobbying effort in Albany on behalf of all N.Y. State gay people.

One of the most important topics on this Fall Conference agenda will be N.Y.S.C.G.O.'s lobbying efforts for the coming '75 legislative session.

The Buffalo N.Y.S.C.G.O. weekend will get under way with a women's night on Friday, October 4th. Starting at 8:00 PM will be a "Women's Cabaret and Cultural Exchange" and a women's dance to follow at 10:00 PM.

N.Y.S.C.G.O. will have its opening session on Saturday, October 5th, starting at noon, with workshops to follow during the afternoon. Among the workshops planned are: Women's Caucus; Organizing Lesbian/Feminist Groups; Media Access Workshop; Organization Workshop; Community Center and Organizational Development; Non-Legislative Political Action Workshop; Counseling and Health Workshop; Legislative Action Workshop; Employment Discrimination Workshop; and Gay Youth Workshop. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the workshops.

On Saturday night, October 5th, N.Y.S.C.G.O. representatives from around the state will be attending the regular Gay Community Center Dance, from 9:00 PM - 3:00 AM. Be sure to put this Saturday's dance on your agenda and be there to welcome our friends from around the state.

The N.Y.S.C.G.O. General Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 6th starting at noon. Proposals from Saturdays workshops will be discussed and acted upon. The annual election of N.Y.S.C.G.O. spokespersons will be held, also.

EVERYONE IS URGED TO ATTEND THE VARIOUS WEEKEND EVENTS !

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Calendar

SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT

9/22 Modern Dance Class 4PM; ATTICA Film 8PM; Counselor Training 2PM	9/23 Counselor Training 7PM; Fifth Frdm Meeting 7PM	9/24 Sisters of Sappho 8PM; G.C.S.C Staff Mtg 8PM	9/25 Drama Class 7PM; Political Action Work shop 8PM	9/26 Figure Drawing Class 7PM	9/27 FILM: "Lord of the Flies" 9PM Adm: \$1	9/28 FILM: "Lord of the Flies" 3PM Adm \$1 DANCE 9PM - 3AM
9/29 Counselor Training 2PM; FILM: "Lord of the Flies" 3PM Adm: \$1 Modern Dec 4PM	9/30 Counselor Training 7PM; Fifth Frdm Meetg 7PM	10/1 Sisters of Sappho 8PM; Mattachine Board Mtg 8PM	10/2 Drama Class 7PM; Political Action Work shop 8PM	10/3 Figure Drawing Class 7PM	10/4 Women's Cabaret & Dance 8PM; NYSCGO Week end Starts (see pg 6)	10/5 NYSCGO Opens Session 12N; Workshops Start 1PM; DANCE 9PM - 3AM
10/6 NYSCGO Genl Session 12 Noon; Mattachine Meeting 8PM; Modern Dance Class 4PM	10/7 Counselor Training 7PM; Fifth Frdm Meeting 7PM	10/8 Counseling Staff Meetg 7:30PM; Sisters of Sappho 8PM	10/9 Drama Class 7PM; Political Action Work shop 8PM	10/10 Figure Drawing Class 7PM	10/11 Play ping- pong or pool - - relax at the Center	10/12 DANCE 9PM - 3AM

ABOVE EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE GAY COMMUNITY CENTER - 1350 MAIN ST., 2ND FLOOR
 HOURS: MON.-FRI. 2PM-10PM; SAT & SUN 1PM-6PM, unless otherwise posted (ABOVE MOTOR TIRE)

PHONE: 881-5335

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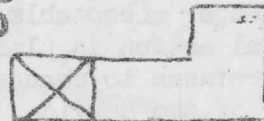
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PROTEST AGAINST DEPORTING GAYS

August 1974 marks the beginning of a co-ordinated effort to end discrimination against gay alien visitors or residents in the United States. Up to this time, the United States, unlike most other Western democracies, has systematically excluded anyone who will admit to being gay or who is a known gay. Many aliens have been deported and many applications for citizenship denied on these grounds. These discriminatory policies are not based on the anti-homosexual "sodomy laws" yet remaining in 42 states since these statutes also define some private heterosexual acts between consenting adults as criminal and since in no state is it a crime to be gay. (You can only be charged for gay behavior.)

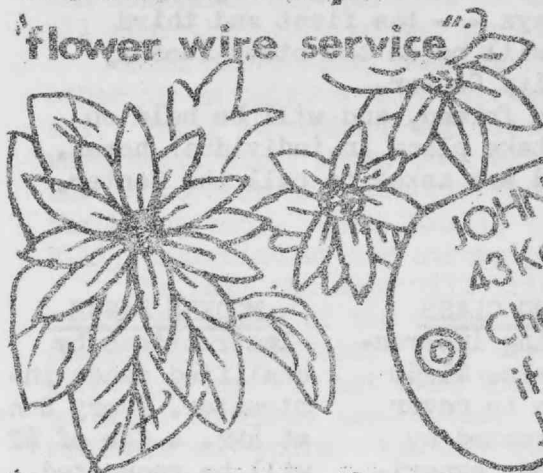
Rather, these policies of exclusion are built on the power of immigration authorities to exclude those "afflicted with a psychopathic personality or sexual deviation or a mental defect." As of December, 1973, none of these categories can be applied to all gay people as a group. At that time the American Psychiatric Association removed the condition of being gay from among the list of these or any other mental illnesses. The current protest against immigration policies is making clear that there is no medical basis for the exclusion of gay aliens.

The legal reasoning for the policy of exclusion now in effect by the Immigration and Naturalization Service is a 1967 Supreme Court ruling that Congress intended to prevent gay people from entering the country or becoming citizens and that Congress may define mental illness any way it chooses for purposes of clarifying the law. Leaders of this protest see a close parallel to the fate of the old legal doctrine of "separate but equal." This doctrine was reversed by the Supreme Court on the grounds that a powerful body of scientific evidence had accumulated which showed that the premises of Congress were incorrect, therefore, the intent of laws built on these discredited assumptions was no longer acceptable.

Legal action is planned if the Immigration and Naturalization Service refuses to change its policy. However, separate letters to the Director of the Service, Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., have been sent by both legal and medical leaders, requesting dropping the exclusion policy simply by administrative order. The Service has already made individual exceptions for famous gay aliens such as the late Noel Coward and W.H. Auden. Signers of these letters include: (1) Aryeh Neier, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union; (2) E. Carrington Boggan (signing as an individual), Chairman, Committee on Equal Protection of

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SISTERS OF SAPPHO

At the last meeting of the Sisters of Sappho, on September 3rd, there was a vote to have two business meetings a month instead of the usual four. It was decided that at this point, two meetings would be sufficient for discussing or taking care of any business involving the group. The meetings will be held on alternate Tuesdays - - the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Social meetings will be on the other Tuesday nights - - all at 8PM, at the Gay Community Center.

A consciousness-raising group is being formed, and will be held on Thursdays at 8PM, and the meetings will take place in individual homes. Any women interested in becoming involved are asked to call the Center, at 881-5335.

ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

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Drama instructions culminating in group performance. Instructed by experienced, certified N.Y.S Teacher. Every Wed. 7PM

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Figure drawing instructions with models. \$1.50 fee per session to cover expenses. Instructed by N.Y.S. certified, experienced teacher. Every Thurs. evening at 7PM

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Instructions by qualified dance instructor. Every Sun. at 4PM. A fee of \$2 will be requested. Starts, Sun. 9/22

POLITICAL ACTION WORKSHOP

Group activity leading to action for social, legal, political reform to achieve gay rights. Oriented toward working through the System. Every Wed. 8PM

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(con't from pg.5)

When he was able to talk he told Bill what had happened. "Those two are trouble makers Bill. They're always telling faggot jokes and mimicking gay gestures at the office. They'll have this spread all over the place by the time Monday is over. They'll crucify me."

Bill drove Jacky home in silence. That night they held each other in an embrace that expressed more than any words they could say. Their lovemaking was tender, soothing. Bill's carresses were soft, slow; Jacky took Bill anxiously, almost hungrily, as though to draw the strength and courage he needed from his lover's throbbing body. When finally they slept Jacky lay close against Bill, encircled by his strong protecting arms.

The next two days Bill tried as hard as he could to spare Jacky the agony of the desperateness and fear they both knew were completely justified. They were acutely aware of the terrible fate other gay men had met when their sexual preferences had become known to their business associates. Invariably it meant exposure to ridicule and scorn. Usually it was the basis for being dismissed, even though other reasons might be given.

They had been invited to a party Saturday night. It was to celebrate their anniversary, and a friend's birthday. Without discussing it they knew they wouldn't go. They went to a quiet restaurant for dinner instead. Sunday they took a ride along the river and went to see a movie. Mostly what they wanted was their physical closeness, to draw upon their love. They twined their legs together under the table in the restaurant, they held hands between their seats at the movie.

In bed Sunday night, after sex, they talked about it.

"Do you think you can go through with it tomorrow?" Bill asked. "You could call in sick. Or even quit. It's not the only job in this city. You could start over somewhere else."

"I've got to go tomorrow Bill. I've got to face it, no matter how bad it is. I won't give those bastards the satisfaction of not showing up."

"That's my baby," Bill said, kissing him. "That's the spunky little guy I fell in love with and will always love."

Again Jacky slept in the circle of Bill's arms.

(Continued in next issue.)

cont. from p. 10

the Law, Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, American Bar Association; (3) Dr. Bruce Voeller, Executive Director, National Gay Task Force; (4) William J. Thom, President, Louis Legal Defense and Education Fund; (5) Karen De Crow, President, National Organization for Women and (6) John P. Spiegel, President, American Psychiatric Assn.

SOURCE: Gay Community News, Boston, Mass., August 3, 1974

NEWSBRIEFS

FEDERAL BILL GAINS NEW SUPPORTER: Democrat Donald M. Fraser, Congressman from Minneapolis has joined the gay civil rights move in Congress. In promising to submit a bill to Congress that would prevent discrimination on the basis of "affectional or sexual discrimination," Fraser hailed the step as "a significant step to grant basic human rights to a minority group in our population and to mitigate an historic social stigma."

Fraser's voice is added to those of Reps. Ed Koch and Bella Abzug (N.Y.) who introduced legislation in May that would amend the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include "sexual orientation."

SOURCE: The Advocate, issue 145, Aug. 28, 1974

MA BELL DOES AN ABOUT FACE: The American Telephone & Telegraph Co., which in the past has openly advocated discrimination against gays in its hiring policies, has done an about face and come out with a strong statement of support. In a recent issue of the "A.T. & T. News," (a publication for employees) Ma Bell strongly stated that from now on it will not tolerate any discrimination against gays in any of its subsidiary companies. The policy statement included the following: "An individual's sexual preference isn't a criterion either for becoming an employee or remaining an employee of the Bell System.. An individual's sexual tendencies or preferences are strictly personal and information about these matters shouldn't be sought out by company personnel." In addition, when questioned about the statement, an A.T. & T. spokesman further added that an employee's active involvement in a gay rights organization would be "perfectly okay."

SOURCE: The Advocate, issue 145, Aug. 28, 1974

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