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Fifth Freedom, 1977-01-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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ELEETION SYNOPSIS

What exactly can we as gays expect from our newly elected politicians? Well, don't expect any earth-shattering gay rights bills this next couple of years. Neither Carter nor Mondale have made any definite promises to gays before or after the presidential election. On the issue of gay people serving in the armed forces, Carter last stated that he had reservations concerning certain "sensitive positions". The President-elect also said he would sign a federal gay rights bill if it were passed, but as it now stands the chances are slim for any federal legislation passing any gay rights bill.

Portland, Oregon's Northwesterly neighbor, Lanny Swedroff, reported that Mr. Mondale's reply to the question of discrimination by the federal government is a difficult question. As a general proposition, I am against discrimination on an irrational basis. Then you are, after all, in positions of tight security and matters that involve some discrimination as to types of jobs, and it gets into the question of whether they are disclosed gays or nondisclosed gays." Mondale reportedly added that the Carter-Mondale administration would want to make changes, but he did not say what kind of changes were planned.

In the U.S. Senate races, several pro-gay senators won re-election, including Senators Muskie (MD), Kennedy (MA), and Humphrey (MN). There was good news for New York State, as Daniel Patrick Moynihan defeated Senator James L. Buckley. Only weeks before the election, Moynihan came out with a strong pro-gay position in a letter to the Syracuse Gays Respond.

Syracuse Gays Respond

A Thanksgiving Eve service that was celebrated in Syracuse was open to all churches, synagogues and religious groups in the area except the Gay Community Ministries of Syracuse. The G.C.M., therefore, retaliated by sending eighteen gay men, lesbians and friends to the glitzy service. They were lavender armbands and the pink triangle, symbols of the world's indifference to our suffering and extermination of gay people. Crowd reactions ranged from surprise to disgust, and to an occasional "right-on".

Our gay brothers and sisters recited a series of speeches that were so full of hypocrisy they were obscene; Bishop Cunningham said, "Who has freedom in your lives? what do you do with that freedom? Let our personal answer and our response be justice and peace for all," Another Rabbi Levy said, "But let us also pause to reflect that each celebration cannot be complete until the same freedoms are free politically, economically; free from secrecy and fear." Then the huge gathering recited, "We hereby respond and promise to participate in the struggle for total liberation by providing food and shelter for the poor, release the captives, sight release to the captives, sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed."

Syracuse gays took a large risk by entering the unprecedented crowd, but their strong sense of gay pride through gay visibility surmounted their fears. Will we respond the same when a similar situation presents itself in Buffalo?

BUREAU OF PRISONS BANS GAY PUBLICATIONS

The National Gay Task Force learned today of a decision by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons not to permit gay publications, including NGTF's prestigious publication, It's Time. Federal correctional facilities. NGTF learned of the decision through the office of Congressman Ed Koch (D-NY), who had appealed to the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Norman Carlson, to allow It's Time and other gay publications to be received by gay inmates. The appeal followed refusal by the Warden of the Federal facility at Leavenworth, Kansas, to permit receipt of gay publications there.

In a letter to Congressman Koch, dated December 28, Carlson said, "The reason for this decision focused exclusively on the fact that homosexuality is a problem in correctional institutions. As you will recall, the recent investigation into eight murders at Leavenworth revealed that five had homosexual overtones. Unfortunately, Lewisburg is not atypical of the situations in most institutions. We agree with the philosophy of limiting an offender's access to literature but believe that publications only in cases where there is a clearly overriding institutional interest. In this case we feel that granting publication will create a situation where publications will be used to support or encourage homosexuality exacerbate a major problem. Publications which call attention or identify inmates who accept homosexuality can, in our opinion, be detrimental to their safety as well as to the safety of others. For that reason we have concluded that such publications should be prohibited."

Responding to the decision, Ginny Vida, NGTF's media director and editor of It's Time, said, "We are shocked at this outrageous denial of the rights of gay prisoners. Carlson's explanation is just a ruse; they're trying to persuade us that they're protecting gays by depriving them of their constitutional rights."

The National Gay Task Force is exploring, with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the possibility of taking the case to court. The American Civil Liberties Union has already filed a class action suit on behalf of prisoners which includes this issue, but no action is expected until this spring.

Another possibility is that President-elect Carter will appoint someone to replace Carlson who will rescind the policy now established.

Benefits for New York Gays

New York, one of several states that has outlawed discrimination on the basis of marital status, now says that eligibility for "family memberships" and discounts must now be extended to unmarried households, including gay couples. Ms. Coons, according to interpretations by the state's Division of Human Rights.

The Metropolitan Museum, Associated Press reports, was the first membership organization in the state to adopt the new nondiscriminatory policy. Family membership is now open to any two people living at the same address. (Empty Closet)

In this issue

We introduce the premier issue of the new 5th Freedom with our feature, "Who are the Homosexuals?", by Lyle Glazer, on page 4. The first of a series of excerpts, entitled "All outcomes" appears on page 5. Our monthly features are:

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the new "Fifth Freedom!" new in format, new in price (free!), new in circulation size, and new in content for it to be accomplished by means of a tremendous amount of hard work and cooperation by all our staffers: writers, typists, artists, photographers, etc. The decision to revamp the "Fifth Freedom" was partly economical, partly philosophical.

Economically, our new look is much less expensive to print, enabling us to double our previous circulation of 1000, with a potential of losing it in the future. More important, we can now offer the paper free to the gay community, making it a much more accessible New York gay. In addition to feature stories, reviews, fiction, and poetry, the "Fifth Freedom" will have an increased emphasis on local news and activities of the Gay Community Services Center. Our intention is that the paper will become a more meaningful asset to gay Buffalo, providing information on the alternatives available to gay's facing the particular needs of gay people.

Beginning with this issue, "Fifth Freedom" will be published monthly, and, along with its increased circulation, will increase in size from its present eight pages to twelve and possibly more in issues to come. Especially gratifying here is the continuing advertising support of many Buffalo businesses throughout this transitional period. In addition to long-time advertisers, we are now becoming several new ones: for all of them, our increasing circulation will mean greater exposure to the gay community. And for gays, our list of advertisers will widen: his face in Buffalo businesses are supportive of gay interests.

"Fifth Freedom" is better than ever, and it can become even better. To accomplish that, we need you—you the writer, you the artist, you the typist, you the photographer, you the thinker—YOU! The input and participation of women is especially sought. Working on this paper offers you an opportunity to meet and relate to other gay people in a friendly, non-competitive atmosphere where a sense of gay community and gay identity can be built in Western New York. Working on "Fifth Freedom" is working on yourself.

FROM OUR MAILBAG

My compliments to Tim Deneshia for tracing the history of gay liberation in your July issue. However, there is another group working on the advancement of gay rights that deserves mention: Parents of Gays. This group of dedicated, thinking parents is still in its infancy but has started a little over three years ago by Jean Manford and her gay son, Marty; today, there are Parents of Gays groups in fifteen states.

It was Jean Manford who, in 1972, while watching a newscast at home with her husband, witnessed the beating of their gay son, who was leading a protest for gay rights. Shortly thereafter, the Manfords were marching in a gay parade, proudly carrying signs proclaiming, 'Parents of Gays United in Support of Our Children!' And there is the marvelous Sara Montgomery, now seventy-eight years young, who has been marching in gay parades as a proud parent since her son and his lover came out in California before the gay rights bill there was passed. She bears forever the tormenting memory of the economic prejudice against gays which destroyed the brilliant careers of her son and his lover, then in their late forties. Life crumpled ruthlessly about them. It was too late to rebuild, and they were too early for needed and deserved protection. And so together they shared one last moment of ecstasy not permitted by a world sick with homophobia, and with arms gently enfolding one another, drew shelter from darkness and oblivion down around their lives, adding their names to the long list of martyrs to "man's inhumanity to man."

Sara was the first to join the Manfords in the development of Parents of Gays, and her dedication remains undaunted.

The courageous beginnings of these open parents who did not hesitate to

COMMENT

The Gay Community Services Center is at a crossroads. It can no longer continue functioning with its inadequate income and depleted treasury. The Center is seeking ideas from all quarters of the community to determine which options are available for the Center's future, and to discuss the merits of each option. Should the Center remain at its present location or relocate elsewhere? Should it return to using the facilities of the Unitarian Church? What alternative sources of income can be found to implement whichever option is decided upon.

This is a crucial time for Buffalo's gays. The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier is calling a special General Membership Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, January 9, at the Gay Community Services Center, 1350 Main Street, Buffalo, to discuss and decide upon these issues. Mattachine members and all other interested persons are urged to attend this vital meeting.

Correction: "The History of Gay Liberation" which was published in the July issue of "Fifth Freedom" incorrectly credits the first gay to appear as a gay on TV. Franklin E. Kameny of Washington, D.C. has informed us that two years previous to Wicker's appearance, he himself was interviewed for one and a half minutes on WTOP-TV, Channel 9 in Washington; he appeared October 10, 1961, using his own name and face as the first gay to appear as a gay on TV.
NOW IS A GOOD TIME

Recently elected Democratic Senator Daniel P. Moynihan has promised to co-sponsor the National Gay Rights Bill. Moynihan was quoted as saying, "Feeling as I do, I therefore endorse the aims of HR-5452 and will at the appropriate time co-sponsor a Senate equivalent which endorses legislation at the federal level which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation and all publically funded programs."

(GNTF)

GAY VISIBILITY

The first regularly scheduled, commercially sponsored television show in the United States, prepared by and for members of the gay community can be seen on WKID-TV channel 51 (UHF) in Miami. It's titled "BLUEBOY FORUM" and its host will be Don Embinder, publisher of the nationally distributed gay magazine BLUEBOY. The show informs members of the heterosexual community about gay concerns and lifestyles.

(GNTF)

POLITICAL ADVANTAGE

Nearly $5,000 has been raised by the newly formed Gay Rights National Lobby to finance its drive to end discrimination against gay people through government action. The lobby was formed earlier this year following a meeting in Chicago of almost 100 gay rights leaders across the country. The announcement was made that a full staff should be functioning by mid-January for the opening of the 95th Congress. You can join the lobby by sending $15 for a membership. Additional information on the Gay Rights National Lobby can be obtained by writing: Adam DeBaugh, Suite 210, 110 Maryland Ave,NE, Washington D.C. 20002.

(News Vest)

CAN'T HANDLE IT

In Des Moines Iowa three men were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace by winking at two men eating breakfast in a restaurant. Police alleged the two diners became nauseated after they were winked at by Richard Harper, 20, John Leheny, 19, and Frank Kalina, 18.

(GPU News)

TAking CARE OF BUSINESS

Realizing the benefits to be had from organizing gay business people, was all the incentive needed to create the first Gay Business Association in the country. Founded in Boston this past fall, the G.B.A. intends to support gay businesses by offering them a forum where they can share problems, resources, and skills. An information exchange is also planned so that gays may patronize other gays when a product or service is needed.

(Gay Community News)

PRISONER'S RIGHTS UPHELD

A Federal Court jury in Alexandria, Virginia, has awarded $50,000 in damages to a young inmate who testified that he was raped in the Fairfax County Jail. In his suit, the victim accused Sheriff James D. Sisson of violating his constitutional right of protection against cruel and unusual punishment. He asserted that "There is a continuing pattern of failure of sheriffs and deputies to adequately protect the physical safety of prisoners." The decision may result in national ramifications.

(High Gear)

THOUGHTS

When poet-singer-songwriter Rod McKuen was interviewed by the ADVOCATE his views on gays, bi's and straights went like this: "I don't believe that there are only three categories of need of any kind. I think you'll find as many different kinds of sexual needs as you will find intellectual needs." Rod McKuen also mentioned that he has had homosexual experiences.

(ADVOCATE)

SAME OLD TUNE

The New York Archdiocese of the Catholic Church is continuing its opposition to a civil rights bill for gays. A front page article in a past issue of CATHOLIC NEWS repeated its position that, "Homosexuality is a damaging moral vice and sin, and all children must be protected from contact with gay people."

(Out Front)

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"WHO ARE THE HOMOSEXUALS?"

by LYLE GLAZIER

We are criminals. The pre- carious legal situation of homosexuals is dramatized by the 1976 Supreme Court upholding the right of the state of Virginia to arrest and con- vince homosexuals for the practice homosexuality in the privacy of their homes. With rare exceptions, in every country in the world there are laws against homosexuality in all its forms—ellatio, sodomy, and even mutual masturbation. Sexual indulgence in any form can entrap a homosex- ual couple. Under some juris- dictions, laws have been stretched to sanction homo- sexual relations in private among consenting adults. However, the Supreme Court has held that the revocability of license need not be spread over a state that has local laws against homosexuality. Fortunately, in the United States, in the most benevolent state, there has always been room to maneuver a queer into an acceptable social situation. If he will be lucky to escape with his freedom, his self- respect, his job, his money, or his family.

Why would anybody want to maneuver gays into inadmi- mizing situations? Putting a hom- sexual bias into a police report is a proof of manhood; lockeroom rumor is based on the defensive premise that the joker proves himself all male. Attacking gays can be a test of morality—God and the Pope condemn homosexuals; all the great religions—Mohammedan, Christian, Buddhist, Hebrew, Marxist—be skewed against queers. As Satan remarked in Twain’s The Witlessness of Sin, "In the name of God, how I wish I were a queer!"

Is doubtful if the True Church could long endure without S1P. Threatening a homos-exual can be a source of in- come; all over the world in public parks, boys of the street make a living preying on gays (themselves pre- eminent predators driven to seek companions they dare not be seen with in the light of day). Putting down a gay can be taken as proof of professional competence; defending a gay can incur risks; even a judge sitting on his high bench is not immune to social pressure. In the competi- tion for a job or promo- tion, gays are vulnerable. Someone who is not very bright, who is lazy, or whose general appearance sometimes solve his predic- ament by the providential discovery that his rival is gay. However, it is not necessary to downgrade com- petitors; in contests be- tween equals, unmasked gays are handicapped.

The prudent lawyers rec- ently complained that I was not fully leveling with her, not writing out of my "heart affair," not revealing to her what it means to be homoerotic. It seemed to come clear as I wrote that being a criminal is the great key to all the need to hide and skulk and tremble and run and trip the hammer of the shotgun rammed down your own throat.

As criminals, homosexuals are ready prey to black- mailers, to sadists, and to a large number of friends who need to confirm their dimin- ished faith in themselves by finding somebody to whom they can project their own. Life does violence to many peo- ple’s illusions. Against the cruelty of Fate, or Chance, or external antagonism, homosexuality becomes a constant potential. Recently the violent deaths of Sal Nino, a dancing Gay, and Pier Paulo Pasolini made flashy headlines. There were no headlines years ago when twenty young men left their front steps onto the porch and died, having strength only to gape that he had said and fall away home. He was a homo- sexual, someone, or probably a group, had evidently taken a fairy for a ride. As Christian Scientists, parents didn’t call a doctor, so the cause of his death was never explored. A friend of mine, now dead, confided to me in the 1940’s that he had witnessed the murder in a Boston turk- bench of an assistant school administrator who had recently been appointed presi- dent of Roughton College in Maine. By mistake, my friend opened the door of a cubicle where two sailors were choking the older man, Retuming quickly, my friend collected his clothes and fled. The murder was never solved. It would have meant loss of reputation and job to come forth as a witness.

Last month in my local paper, there was the account of the death of a Bennington man who was murdered after leaving a bar in Williams- town, twenty miles south. He had been a local electric com- rade in the bar, and the man who killed him had let it be known that he was ready to rape him, so the man could lure him outside. Some of the details of vio- lence, as told in the news- paper, are tantalizingly am- biguous. The murderer, A., a sturdy, muscular young man, if the accompanying photo- graph can be trusted, found the police how the deceased, R., had driven him to a park "where he got A. in a head- ing, masturbated, and then calculated on the car seat near the youth’s head before A. pulled out a hunting knife he carried and stabbed R.

Since both the doctor and the Williams town policeman testified that, when they ex- amined him, the dead man’s "trouser area appeared to be fully buttoned, zipped, and otherwise intact," the report raises a doubt about who actually lurked on the car seat. It would have taken great strength to have held the young man in the photograph in a hammerlock with one hand pressing his head down, while using the free hand to masturbate. This sadist probably and queer used to be able to count on distinct advantages. If the queer was not a weak- ling, then he was victimized by social stress to feel ashamed of his desires; in the presence of militant strik- er, he was shot at will and just himself be punished. It is only lately, particu- larly since the Stonewall Bar confrontations, that homosexuals have been called by social stress to feel ashamed of his desires; in the presence of militant strik- er, he was shot at will and just himself be punished. It is only lately, particu- larly since the Stonewall Bar confrontations, that homosexuals have been called by social stress to feel ashamed of his desires; in the presence of militant strik- er, he was shot at will and just himself be punished. It is only lately, particu- larly since the Stonewall Bar confrontations, that homosexuals have been called by social stress to feel ashamed of his desires; in the presence of militant strik- er, he was shot at will and just himself be punished. It is only lately, particu- larly since the Stonewall Bar confrontations, that homosexuals have been called by social stress to feel ashamed of his desires; in the presence of militant strik- er, he was shot at will and just himself be punished. It is only lately, particu- larly since the Stonewall Bar confrontations, that homosexuals have been called by social stress to feel ashamed of his desires; in the presence of militant strik- er, he was shot at will and just himself be punished.
An element in the gay lib struggle and meta-physics that I don't think has yet been taken up is that of disillusionment with the body. I'm not trying to be provocative in that: just the age-old realization of over-40, over-50, and over-60, and over-70, and over-80, finally, the age-old grinning skeleton, with the spiritual lession behind it, of detachment from neurotic desire. I think there's a genuine gnick between men that isn't dependent on neurotic attachment and obsession, that's free and light and holy and lambent—which is more or less what we all get during our first fantasies, loves, and devo-tions. Some of us are lucky enough to act out and receive back and forth, but it can only come in like the tide when you're free to float in it. If there's too much of a neu-rotic grasping to gaiety, to gayness, even to gay lib, then it makes every-thing too tense, and the lightness of the love is lost. So the gay lib move-
Mailbag cont.

come out for their gay children is the first page in a new chapter of the history of gay liberation, and it will continue to grow. What Parents of Gays has accomplished in the first three years of its existence is commendable, but my distress is overwhelming when I ask myself, "If there are approximately 100,000 gays in the city of New York, where are the 200,000 parents of these gay people?" Our task is laid out for us, dear gay friends.

Our Purpose? The maintenance of love, understanding and meaningful family relationships between parents and their gay children.

Our Goal? To leave a significant legacy of support to our children for their right to be their own persons, their right to individuality, their right to their own sexual preference.

One day, parents and their gay children will march hand in hand out of dark closets of secret shame and guilt into the light of truth and honesty. That will make history, my dear friends. That will be the day of liberation from oppression. I intend to be there! Parents of Gays intends to be there!

The proud mother of a gay son, Ruth Larrie Abram Flushing, New York

Who are... cont.

fear suddenly visible in their father's eyes. Your colleague can feel pushed into a nearly untenable corner. How can he remain a loyal friend and at the same time know that he is performing his duty to his department and to the university? Can this self-betraying colleague (if he has this problem) be trusted with the moral leadership of the young? Can he be trusted to superintend the strenuous disciplining of graduate students? It's not

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