

Editors
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IT'S WHAT'S UP FRONT THAT COUNTS

In the months ahead watch for the following programs, either as meeting programs or special programs with open meetings. Mattachine is on the move.

- John Karr, a lawyer from NCACLU, will talk on the interpretation and application of laws affecting homosexuals. This means the cop on the beat and the judge in the courtroom. Mr. Karr will illustrate how to handle both.
- Former members of the Executive Board of SIECUS (Sex Information and Education Counsel of the United States) will discuss the role of this unique organization in sex law reform and its relation to the homophile movement.
- A Washington lawyer will give you the goods on how to handle that personnel man who calls you in one day for friendly chat. This will probably be a special program and could bring the theater guerrilla back for a return engagement.
- Prominent area clergymen will tell you what the church can do to help society integrate with the homosexual. A new twist on a familiar, but vital dilemma.

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GUERRILLA CAME, SAW AND CONQUERED
THE FEBRUARY MEETING

A guerrilla invaded the February meeting in an attempt to blow some minds. So much enthusiasm was generated by the theater games that people stayed after the program to voice the ideas which were popping into their heads during the theater games the guerrilla had them all playing.

As an introduction to the living theater experiment, Frank Kameny gave a brief run-down on MSW and the growth of the homophile movement. He defined MSW as an organization protesting prejudice against homosexuals with its primary target being the heterosexual community. He emphasized that MSW's main area of reform is in civil liberties, but that information and education as well as social services are also within our boundaries. He noted that the homophile movement is moving in new directions of flooding the market with factual information followed by the necessary spirit to force the essential issue, as, for example, test cases, standing up to employers, and any others who discriminate against homosexuals.

Using this information as a background, the guerrilla in the guise of Eva Friend, passed out slips of paper at random. On each slip was a description of a real-life situation centering around a controversial issue between two people. Each description included the point of view of one of the parties in the situation. The guerrilla explained to each pair whose slips matched that they were to improvise the setting and adopt the assigned point of view as a character in the situation. Some of the situations which were acted out by the members included:

- How would you reply to someone who questioned the validity of Mattachine's goals and accused it of rocking the boat unnecessarily?
- How do you react when office chatter gets around to sexual morality and perversion?
- What do you do when a policeman attempts to run you off his beat because he doesn't like your looks?
- What do you say when a straight member of your family starts talking about homosexuality and you don't know if he knows?

As improvisations often show, one of the best points made by the ham actors was that it is relatively easy to reply with all the "correct" arguments if time permits preparation, but that all those "human" comments spill forth when one is taken by surprise, which is usually the case.

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BUTTON, BUTTON, WHO'S GOT THE BUTTON?
WE DO

The "Gay is Good" buttons and bumper stickers have arrived from California and will be distributed at the March meeting. According to reports, they are whimsical, and lavender, and fun. To get your button, make sure to attend the next meeting, and don't be surprised to see the bumper stickers in some unlikely likely places around town.

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THE STRAIGHTS ARE BEATING US AT OUR OWN
GAME... OR SO IT SEEMS

Early in January 1969 MSW was contacted by the president of Social, Educational Research and Development, Inc. of Silver Spring, Maryland. SERD is one of numerous social science consulting firms in the Washington metropolitan area.

Having been involved with programs dealing with prison populations, VISTA volunteers, adult education, teacher training and the like, SERD decided that the time is ripe to be among the first in line for anticipated government grants for programs dealing with homosexual populations.

Unfortunately, SERD did not do its homework, as evidenced by the title, "A Proposal for A Vocational Oriented Program of Rehabilitative Services To Homosexuals." This proposal was apparently formulated on the premise that "... homosexuals... have serious problems of relating to the broader society, job discrimination, career difficulties... emphasis will be on career and job services... guidance, counseling and therapy as these components aid in job and career assistance."

The proposal was basically naive in that it placed primary emphasis on treating and counseling the homosexual to hold a job rather than securing positions for the homosexual to fill. It assumed that the homosexual most in need, because of his homosexuality, had less than a high school education and was a member of a minority group. Efforts were to be directed toward reaching the unemployed belonging to this specific class of persons. No mention was made in the proposal of those homosexuals who are under-employed.

Additional weaknesses included the lack of specific plans for reaching the unreachable, how to deal with the credibility gap, and perhaps more important, the lack of criteria for evaluating at different stages the success or failure of the program.

In general the Executive Board felt the proposal was alright because it could'n't hurt anyone and it might even help someone.

At a special Board meeting which included the president of SERD, these points and others were brought out and discussed. Present SERD plans call for the revision of the proposal and subsequent submission to NIMH, HEW, and possibly the Department of Labor.

Knowing the rapidity with which the wheels of government turn, it will probably be several months — if not longer, before this project will get off the ground.

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MAKE A RHYME FOR MATTACHINE

During the free-for-all discussion after the guerrilla workshop an idea dropped right into the middle of the circle --- if we want everybody in town to know the name Mattachine, then what better way but to put it on the bathroom walls. Graffiti is now an art and a culture in this country. Through graffiti MSW can become part of social and professional journals in addition to doctoral dissertations. . . graffiti is the in thing this year. . . almost as in as being a homosexual.

Bring your graffiti suggestions to the meetings, they'll be mentioned in the INSIDER—with your name if you want.

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IN THE MOVEMENT

As a result of a raid on a gay bar last winter, the Homophile Action League sent a letter to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, requesting answers to specific questions on Board policies regarding homosexuals. The response came from Assistant Attorney General Thomas F. Shannon, "The Liquor Control does not consider homosexuals as a class to be undesirable persons within the meaning of the Liquor Code/ There are no Liquor Control Board regulations which apply to homosexuals as a class/ The Board does not classify licensed establishments as "homosexual bars" or "heterosexual bars." It is the Board's policy to apply the same standards to all licensed establishments and their patrons. The mere fact that patrons in a licensed establishment may be "hand-holding," regardless of sex, would not be considered grounds for Board action. . ."

In New York City, HYMN and Gregg Rodwell are already planning for the July 4th demonstration for 1969. This demonstration was approved by the Eastern Regional Homophile at its Fall 1968 meeting.

Speaking of ERCHO, the next regional meeting is scheduled for April 11-12, either in New York or Philadelphia. A whisper of militancy was overheard at the last regional meeting, maybe it will get louder at this one.

Houston, Texas, not too far from Johnson City, Texas and LBJ, will be the host city for the North American Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations this coming August. The dates have not yet been set. Nor has MSW selected its representatives.

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WHO'S GOT THE ACTION?

"New Action In the Homophile Movement" is not the name of a new movie or a dirty pulp novel.

"Washington Mattachine Today/New Action in the Homophile Movement" is the latest general information brochure to be approved by the Executive Board for publication and distribution to the homosexual community.

This brochure is a public relations thing. It was designed to be easily readable and easily understood by someone who does not have 3 - 4 college degrees. It is not supposed to replace our standard MSW information brochure.

It is supposed to be passed out on the streets, in the bars, private parties, the office, etc. It can be passed out by you because you don't have to explain what it means because it explains itself.

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KNOW YOUR (MSW) CONSTITUTION

Art. 4, Sec. 3 (d) The president or his designee shall represent the organization wherever or whenever a single representative is needed or is appropriate, subject to such instruction as the Executive Board may deem necessary or desirable.

This means that---

... the President can appoint himself (at all times) to represent the society

... the Executive Board may have no say in who will represent the society

... the Executive Board may find out "after the fact" that the President has represented the Society and so may not be able to give any instructions

... the President may decide whether or not a single representative is appropriate.

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"BUT HE NEVER PUTS THE CAP BACK ON THE TOOTHPASTE"

This may be a trivial complaint about one's mate, but it could illustrate that most problems occurring between two people who live together have little to do with sexual orientation and much more to do with human orientation. This, at least, is the premise on which an in process project is based. Sue Clarke plans to contact the public family counseling services in the local area to find out if any are willing to counsel homosexual couples. MSW would then, in turn, recommend such services to homosexuals who contacted us for such help.

The most predictable obstacle is that counselors willing to see homosexuals may consider that their best advice would be for such individuals to become heterosexual. This, of course, is not the approach that MSW is looking for. Possibly couples may contact agreeable services to test their sincerity and ability to counsel homosexuals as homosexuals. In the past, services have claimed, and undoubtedly rightly so, that they are completely unequipped to handle problems between homosexuals. This is probably due to standard textbook attitudes toward homosexuality that neatly push it under the rug of pathology or sin or criminality.

Our attempts will be to find services that need little convincing that problems between humans are human problems; although it should not be overlooked that an understanding of the delmmas homosexuals face as victims of prejudice would certainly add to any counselor's effectiveness.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer	General Fund	Office Fund	Incorp. Fund	Total Funds
6/30/68 Balance	87.18	-0-	100.00	187.18
Receipts 6/30 to 12/31	297.23	297.00	-0-	594.23
Disbursements 6/30 to 12/31	143.50	481.43	-0-	624.93
Balance 12/31/68	240.91	-184.43	100.00	156.48

Treasurer: Bills MSW MUST PAY

C and P Telephone Co. for Dec. and Jan.	54.12
C and P Telephone Co. for Feb.	26.56
Int'l. Office Bldg. for Feb.	70.00
	<u>150.78</u>
D. C. Property Tax	10.36
	<u>161.14</u>

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IT'S TIME TO SPEAK OUT

One of MSW's stated purposes is to inform and educate the homosexual and heterosexual community about homosexuality. Until now, most speaking chores have been handled by Frank Kameny or John Marshall, but new

spokesmen for the homophile movement may soon emerge through an out-reach project that Dick Schaefer is developing.

He plans to set up a Speakers Bureau composed of Mattachine members who are both willing and able to go out to the community and speak in behalf of the homosexual's cause. An initial training program will be set up to cover the general areas (that) most talks cover, e. g., causes of homosexuality, the homosexual way of life, homosexuals and their relation to law, religion, employment, draft, etc. The purpose of such sessions will not be making walking encyclopedias of every speaker, but further to provide specific information on which persuasive arguments can be made. Information will be presented at each training session for discussion and handling sample questions. After the training sessions, interested groups in the community will be encouraged to invite a panel of speakers to come from MSW either to give talks or to stimulate discussion in their own groups about homosexuality. The program is designed for small panel discussions rather than major addresses so that the panel members can back each other up on areas more familiar to one than to another.

The project is going to require a great deal of effort on the part of MSW members since becoming a spokesman is different from talking among ourselves. But through the training workshop, any individual can become sufficiently acquainted with factual information on homosexuality so that nothing can throw him.

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GOVERNMENTAL CONCERNS

A representative from the Harvard Law Review was in Washington recently conducting a preliminary survey of cases involving government employment of homosexuals and related cases involving security clearances for homosexuals. He searched through some of Mattachine's files and visited the Civil Service Commission and the Pentagon. If the Harvard Law Review undertakes to do an article on these cases, it would mean that some of the best law researchers in the country would be working on it. Regardless of its slant, such a well-researched study along could be of immense value to the movement.

No further governmental concerns information was received by the editors in time for publication.

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FEBRUARY MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were not received in time for publication.

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BOARD ACTIONS

- 1/27/69 - Interviewee/letters to National Capital Area Civil Liberties Union and to SIECUS requesting speakers/discussion of new security case in Philadelphia/voted to undertake as an MSW project a pamphlet, "How to Handle A Blackmail Threat,"/discussion of having open meetings when an outside speaker will be present.
- 2/11/69 - Interviewee who requested that MSW be available for consultation for a community program in Virginia/responses received from NACLU and SIECUS representatives/Discussion of moving ACLU speaker to a non-meeting night so the program can be made open for the community to attend/John Marshall named co-ordinator of office moving/discussion of need of 200 to pay back debts in order to close the office/notification that all old magazines in office will be thrown out on moving day--anyone is free to scrounge/approved NEW pamphlet for handout to the homosexual community.

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ON TARGET

A round-up of pertinent happenings in the bullpitt of homophile reform.

The Fortune Society Newsletter, January, 1969 reports the following from Philadelphia. "Sexual assaults are epidemic in the Philadelphia Prison System. Virtually every slightly built young man committed by the courts is sexually approached with a day or two after his admission to prison. Many of these young men are overwhelmed and repeatedly "raped" by gangs of inmate aggressors. Others are compelled by the terrible threat of gang rape to seek protection by entering into a "housekeeping" relationship with an individual tormentor. Only the toughest and more hardened young men — and those few so obviously frail that they are immediately locked up for their own protection — escape penetration of their bodies.

After a young man's body has been defiled, his manhood degraded, and his will broken, he is marked as a sexual victim for the duration of his confinement. This mark follows him from institution to institution. He eventually returns to the community ashamed, confused, and filled with hatred.

This then is the sexual system today in the Philadelphia Prisons. It is a system which imposed a cruel, gruesome punishment which is not, and could not be included in the sentence of the court. Indeed, it is a system under which the least hardened criminals and many later found innocent suffer the most. Since it is a system which exists under the aegis of the court and the community, it is the duty of the court and the community to destroy it." Report on Sexual Assaults in the Philadelphia Prison System, by Alan J. Davis, Chief Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia.

In New York City a non-commercial radio station will soon begin operating exclusively aimed at the gay community. Three hours of programming per day will include panel discussions, reviews of the arts, gay humor, and the like. It will be situated in the Village and have a transmitting power over most of that area. The call letters are to be either WGAY or WFAG.

A recent news report in the January 14, 1969 issue of the Philadelphia Inquirer stated that two Philadelphians had been indicated for their part in a nationwide ring of bailbondsmen who moonlight by blackmailing wealthy homosexuals.

As part of the National Capital Area's effort to protect the rights of homosexuals, its Subcommittee on Discrimination is working to encourage publicity in government cases involving homosexuality.

The media are being invited to security hearings (with the permission of the employee involved) when no classified information is being discussed. Press conferences, held in government hallways when the agency refuses requests for a room, cover all aspects of the cases. Relevant excerpts from agency decisions and determinations with critiques are being published as news releases.

Cases against discriminatory government policies are being supported also by NACLU. One has gone twice to the U. S. Court of Appeals. Both decisions directed the U. S. Civil Service Commission to demonstrate specific criteria when bringing charges against an alleged homosexual. The second defined specificity as telling the accused person exactly what "crime" has been committed.

The ACLU has filed suite in Federal District Court on behalf of eight members of the Women's Army Corps at Fort McClellan, Ala. The WACs have been threatened with dishonorable discharge because of alleged homosexuality.

Medical and psychiatric reports state that the women should be retained, indicating that they are not homosexuals. The ACLU contends that since a dishonorable discharge is punitive in nature, the WACs should have a full hearing. It charges that they were not advised in writing of the specific

allegations on which the proposed discharge is based and that the charge of "homosexual acts" is so vague that the women cannot determine what alleged acts they must controvert.

The Supreme Court refused last month to consider the case of a Post Office employee who was discharged because of confessed homosexual acts with consenting adults in non-work hours. The ACLU petition contended that an employee should not be dismissed for private conduct which in no way relates to his competence on the job.

New York CLU is challenging in federal court the right of New York City to refuse jobs as welfare caseworkers to persons alleged to be homosexual. The suite was filed on behalf of two men who were turned down by the city Civil Service Commission for caseworkers' positions. The plaintiffs deny they are homosexuals but contend that the state would have no right to disqualify them if they were, without satisfying a heavy burden of proof that their sex conduct is relevant to the job.

The case of a Boeing employee who was denied security clearance because of alleged homosexuality has been appealed by the Washington CLU, and a hearing has been held before a Defense Department examiner. Although the employee was not dismissed, he has been denied promotion because of the question of government security.

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CHECKLIST

A selective memo on relevant reading - including a few titles from places not on the homophile beaten path.

"Netherlands: A Gay Place," Newsweek, December 23, 1968. Newsweek once again admirably separates "fact from opinion" in an interesting article about "deviates."

"Richard Burton: 'Well, Don't Look So Surprised,'" Sunday New York Times, January 26, 1969, Drama Section.

Times interviewer starts with preconceived attitude that 'Gay is Bad' but Burton comes off the better talking about his role in the new film, "Staircase."

"Meet the Women of the Revolution, 1969." New York Times Sunday Magazine, February 9, 1969. Good coverage of those involved in women's civil rights.

"An Emergency Letter to my Brothers and Sisters in the Movement," The New York Review of Books, February 13, 1969. Jerry Rubin voices the lament and cynicism which he claims now characterize the protest movements.

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MARKET PLACE

Gay "buying" power can be a formidable force. These businesses and professional individuals would appreciate the patronage of MSW members and others in the homophile community.

Howard L. Beatty and Associates
Public Accountants
3720 Macomb Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

International Valet
3420 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Goode's Esso Service Center
Greenbelt Road
College Park, Maryland

Cinema VII, Film Club
2307 Broadway (83rd Street)
New York, New York
"Shows films exclusively homosexual in subject and aesthetics." Membership card at one dollar is required in advance.

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See YOU on March 6th
8 p. m. - St. Marks