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THE INSIDER
Newsletter of The Mattachine Society of Washington
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IT'S WHAT'S UP FRONT THAT COUNTS
Upcoming Events in Mattachine

- MSW will have representatives at the Nov. 1 meeting of the Eastern Regional Homophile Conference in Philadelphia.
- Discussion group will tackle "Homosexuals and the Media" (postponed from Oct. 8) on Nov. 5. Please call Martha/Nancy at 931-1272 for directions. Bring your friends.

ON THE STREETS/INTO THE WORLD

On October 13th, ten persons met at the American Red Cross to donate blood in behalf of The Mattachine Society of Washington. Anyone, member or not, can give blood in the name of MSW and once a dozen persons donate in this fashion any member of MSW will be eligible to receive free blood. The next group donation is Monday, December 8th.

The Community Service Committee of MSW has made arrangements for placement of "The Gay Blade" at JoAnna's, Johnney's, The Golden Calf, the 1832, and the Georgetown Grill. Ask for "The Gay Blade" and buttons at your favorite haunt.

HOMOSEXUALS AND THE LAW

Note: Past issues of THE INSIDER have carried information about the criminal codes of the neighboring jurisdictions and how the homosexual often receives the blunt end of the "law and order" stick. Sometimes the reverse may be true. The following telephone conversation was a real event in the life of a Mattachine member.

Caller: I'm really scared. The police are after me and I don't know what I can do or should do. They called me on my job.

Member: Who called you and what did you supposedly do?

Caller: This morning I got a call at work from someone from the Morals Squad. This person said that I wasn't being charged with anything but they were calling me for my own good. And they would be over to talk to me either at my place or at my office. They hinted that I was seen driving around

DuPont Circle and that whatever boys do in private is bad enough but it ought to be kept off the streets.

Member: Did you volunteer to come down to the Morals Squad office with your lawyer so you could quickly get this whole thing straightened out?

Caller: Yes, I told him I preferred the police department but he was very insistent that I was not to come to police headquarters and where did I live so I wouldn't have to be embarrassed at my office.

Member: Did you really fall for this routine and tell him where you worked? Did you ever think that this was not really a policeman and that you were being set up for a blackmail routine?

Caller: Blackmail!!! No, I never thought of that possibility...but what if it is really the police....

Member: First of all, if it is a policeman, he is violating his own regulations and should be charged with that plus blackmail. If the person is not really a policeman he should be charged for impersonating a policeman. Either way the Morals Squad is the place to contact.

Caller: I don't know about contacting the police. What if they start to interrogate me about was I really riding around and what was I doing out on the streets?

Member: GOOD GRIEF! Can't you understand that whether you were sitting in the circle or driving around the circle or any other public place you were not breaking any law. According to the decision in the Ricks case the fact that you have decided to be there is reason enough for doing so. You are a private citizen who is morally and legally entitled to police protection and help when and if you need it.

Caller: OK, I'll call the police and I'll get right back to you.

This person did in fact call the police the very next morning. The police were very kind and assured him again that he had broken no law and they were merely interested in picking up the blackmailer, who hadn't even gotten a chance to make his proposition. The police gave all the necessary instructions for arranging a meeting with the blackmailer so the police would be right there in order to

arrest the blackmailer just as soon as he uttered the magic blackmail words.

This phone call was only one of many received by MSW or individual MSW members over the past few months. The pattern of conversation is similar in all the calls except now the caller (1) identifies himself as a member of the Morals Squad whereas before he would identify himself as a member of the Park Police, (2) does not want the callee to come to police headquarters, (3) prefers the callee's home or office, (4) insists that no charges are being made and that (5) a visit would be in the best interest of the callee.

If the person being called merely wants to rid himself of an annoyance he need only tell the caller that his lawyer handles all his business dealings and if the caller would be kind enough to leave his name and phone number, the lawyer would be in touch with him shortly. Obviously the callee does not want to talk with anyone else, especially a lawyer and so will tend to hang up without giving the requested information and with no inclination to call back.

However, if the person being called wants the caller taken off the streets so others will not have to suffer with the same type of phone call, he merely calls the Morals Squad, Inspector Bishop's office, and tells them of the blackmail attempt. Like the happy ending of the vignette, everything will end happily ever after.

A telephone call to MSW, 363-3881, will always bring advice, a liaison representative, and often a lawyer if one is needed. MSW's handout concerning "How Not to be Blackmailed" will be ready for distribution in 30-60 days.

HOW'S THE OLD ESTABLISHMENT DOING?

Madison, Wisc. The Rev. James E. Groppi was arrested for contempt of the Wisconsin State Assembly. The Assembly voted (71-24) to order him jailed without trial for six months or the remainder of the 1969 Assembly session, whichever is shorter. His attorneys contend the law is unconstitutional since it does not provide for a trial. Yet District Judge James Doyle denied a petition for release because the petition failed to indicate that the priest had exhausted remedies available in the state courts.

Fairfax County, Va. A shoplifting conviction against a former deputy assistant Secretary of Defense was overturned in Fairfax Circuit Court on the grounds that the act was a product of mental pressures and medical problems. Physicians testified that George E. Fouch "had memory lapses, periods of confusion and unusual

patterns of thought." Fouch did not return immediately to his job as Director for Logistics Management Systems.

Chicago, Ill. The trial of the Conspiracy-8 is still in progress in Chicago. The indictment charges that the defendants, as part of their conspiracy, planned to do such things as encourage people to come to Chicago for the demonstrations; maintain an office to plan the demonstrations; arrange protest marches. The government contends "The overt acts in furtherance of a conspiracy...need not be criminal acts and, in fact, may be perfectly innocent acts...thus the fact that many of the defendants' activities were in and of themselves lawful exercises of their First Amendment rights is irrelevant." The case will also test the government's assertion--first of its kind--that it can carry out electronic surveillance without permission of a judge in order to protect the country against internal subversion.

Washington, D.C. The U. S. Court of Appeals concluded that preventive detention may be constitutional "in some circumstances." Chief Judge David L. Bazelon stated such detention "would have to be based on a record that clearly documented a high probability of serious harm (to others)." The subject of preventive detention was raised in an opinion dealing with the rights of persons committed to mental institutions for abnormal sexual behavior. Judge Bazelon added that preventive detention would have to be accompanied by assurance of "bona fide efforts at treatment suited to the particular individual detained."

Washington, D.C. The Justice Department's internal security chief told an anti-Communist group the government cannot prosecute leaders of New Left groups because they are protected by constitutional safeguards. Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley stated, "It seems clear enough that the framers of the Constitution wanted the American people to be able to speak freely on anything they wanted." Yeagley added, "The Constitution is on the books and we are obliged to follow the dictates of the Supreme Court."

OVERHEARD

Progress by dissent then is characteristic of human societies. It has been responsible for the growth and success of democracy in the last four hundred years, and the decline and failure of absolute forms of government. For the crucial feature of democracy is not simply that the majority rules, but that the minority is free to persuade people to come over to its side and make a new majority.

J. Bronowski
THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR
Autumn 1969

GAY POWER TO GAY PEOPLE

The Gay Liberation Front in New York City gives all appearances of getting itself together. There is talk of a gay-community newspaper, "Come Out", dances, and a Gay Power Coffee House.

The GLF has sponsored several successful dances which demonstrated that Gay People are more than happy to meet outside of Mafia-controlled bars.

Every Monday night at the Britt-Top Hippodrome, 165 on Avenue "A" (between 10th & 11th Streets) there will be a Gay Power Coffee House featuring dancing and lower prices. A percentage of the take will go to the GLF.

Contributions, questions, suggestions may be sent to "Come Out", P. O. Box 642, Old Chelsea Station, New York.

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"Gay" is no longer a four letter word, even at the Village Voice...The Gay Liberation Front, with the support of members of the homosexual community demonstrated the reality of gay power. After two weeks of repeated attempts at reason with Ed Fancher, publisher of the Voice, and his staff, the forces of gay liberation massed at the Voice offices to assert their demand that the Village Voice cease its arbitrary policy of exclusion of the words "gay" and "homosexual" from classified advertising. V.V. freaked out. Not only did the Voice concede on the classified policy, but Ed Fancher personally requested that articles be submitted by members of the community in response to general indignation expressed over recent slanderous articles published by the Voice.

MILITARY STATUS ONLY A CHOSEN LIVELIHOOD

The United States Court of Military Appeals, early in September decided in the case of The United States v. Borys (U.S.M.A. No. 21501) that a serviceman may not "be tried by court-martial for civil crimes committed in the United States against the civilian community when the local courts are open and functioning."

Borys had been charged with various sexual assaults and of heterosexual sodomy. The Court found that the accused's "horrible acts...did not flout military authority, breach military security, or affect military property."

The very great majority of homosexual acts by servicemen occur off base. Lawyers consulted agree that under the O'Callahan (395 U.S. 258) and Borys

rulings, such acts clearly seem "not service connected." Thus there seems not to be a danger of court-martial for such acts.

Administrative discharges (for homosexuality) would not be affected by these rulings; however, the use of the threat of court-martial with alleged possible dishonorable discharge should become minimized.

MARKET PLACE

Gay buying power can be a formidable force. These business and professional individuals invite the patronage of MSW members and others of the homophile community.

Goode's Esso Service Center
(specialist in all VW repairs)
Greenbelt Road
College Park, Maryland

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

The Club East
1105 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Joint Possession
Route 1
College Park, Maryland
(A groovy place to buy "Gay is Good" buttons and bumper stickers.)

Plus One
529 Eighth Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C.

Club Mitchell (formerly Snuggs)
Pratt & Exeter Streets
Baltimore, Maryland
("Gay is Good" buttons and bumper stickers available here.)

CHECKMATE
3025 Naylor Road, S.E.
Washington, D.C.
(free, off-street parking)

JoAnna's
400 block of 8th Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C.
("Gay is Good" buttons available)

Club 46
Marcus Hook, Pa.
("Gay is Good" buttons and bumper stickers available here.)

Of the eight thousand respondents to the PSYCHOLOGY TODAY questionnaire entitled "You and the Law", only 4% believe that a homosexual should be treated as a criminal, and two out of three say that homosexual behavior should be of no concern to the law. --- PSYCHOLOGY TODAY
November, 1969

CHANGING ATTITUDES

"Final Report of the Task Force on Homosexuality," October 10, 1969, NIMH

Since September 1967, the NIMH Task Force on Homosexuality has been operating under a mandate to review the "current state of knowledge regarding homosexuality in its mental health aspects and to make recommendations for Institute programming." Thus, the final report of the Task Force recommends the establishment of a Center for the Study of Sexual Behavior. The activities of the proposed center would include the traditional scope of research, training and education, prevention and treatment, in addition to concerns about questions of social policy with respect to sexual behavior.

The Introduction sets the tone by stating that "homosexuality presents a major problem for our society largely because of the amount of injustice and suffering entailed in it not only for the homosexual but also for those concerned about him. The three or four million adults who are predominantly homosexual suffer from being placed in isolation from much of society which considers their homosexuality "maladaptive and opprobrious." However, society suffers in a number of ways including loss of manpower, economic costs, and human costs.

Believing that research provides the basis for developing knowledge, generating information, mollifying taboos and myths, and data for policymakers, the Task Force recommends that "basic and applied research activities in the area of homosexuality be given high priority." Such research would include not only the who-with-and-how-old-were-you-did-your-mother-beat-you studies but also reviews of procedures employed by control agencies (police, courts and probation officers) in dealing with homosexuals. It would also include studies on job history and occupational performance of non-patient homosexual populations.

Although prevention of "the development of a homosexual orientation in an individual child or adolescent is seen as one of the most important goals" for most workers in the field of mental health, the Task Force, interestingly enough, devotes only one paragraph to this.

The Center would be concerned about the dissemination of information relating to the treatment process. The goal of treatment for homosexual patients, as for others, would be to decrease discomfort and to increase productive functioning. This would include efforts toward developing new therapies and improving the efficiency of prevailing therapeutic procedures. Such therapy would be related directly to a change in the sexual orientation and to adaptation in general.

While the Task Force recommends support of treatment centers (community mental health

centers and student health centers), it does not assume that large numbers of homosexuals will desire to undertake treatment. Rather it "endorses efforts directed toward the treatment for some individuals, especially adolescents and bisexuals. . . it is important to counteract the sense of hopelessness and inevitability prevalent among many homosexuals."

The final section dealing with social policy discusses continuing a critical re-evaluation of policy, and changes in social policy. First discussed are legal changes since the "existence of legal penalties relating to homosexual acts means that the mental health problem of homosexuals are exacerbated by the need for concealment and the emotional stresses arising from this need and from the opprobrium of being in violation of the law."

A majority of the Task Force recommends that "statutes covering sexual acts be recast in such a way as to remove legal penalties against acts in private among consenting adults." It is believed that "such a change would reduce the emotional stresses upon the parties involved and thereby contribute to an improvement in their mental health."

The report concludes by encouraging changes in government regulations which make homosexuality a bar to employment or even a cause for dismissal. Such a change would (1) remove a source of anxiety over being discovered, (2) reduce the potential of blackmail, and (3) minimize economic disenfranchisement. The Task Force recognizes that "some homosexuals, like some heterosexuals, may be unsuitable employees in some situations because they do not exercise reasonable control over their sexual tendencies or activities."

In conclusion, the mental health implications related to sexual behavior are enormous and therefore the study of homosexuality, considered aberrant by some, can realistically be set in the framework of a study of all sexual behavior. A majority of the Task Force seems to feel that before any programs or suggestions can be implemented, a great deal of research is necessary. It is to accomplish this end that the Center is proposed.

(Homosexual) integration and militant behavior is alright on someone else's block or in some other town. A newspaper in New York is "by and for the gay community" while a similiar newspaper in D.C. is "nascent." A street demonstration which included flying bricks is viewed as a sign of new openness while a 1965 picket line in front of the White House receives almost apologetic mention.

Read it for yourself in THE WASHINGTON POST, October 25, 1969, p.C1.