MATTACHINE NEWSLETTER...................................39th ISSUE

Published by Newsletter Committee of San Francisco Area Council, Mattachine Society, Inc.
Committee: Mel Betti, Jack Parrish, Jim Beck

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AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug. 2 - PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING
Friend's Center, 1830 Sutter St. 8pm
Subject: The Need for a Permanent Relationship

Aug. 12 - MATTACHINE BRUNCH—1560 A Haight St.
11 until 2

Aug. 20 - FELLOWSHIP DINNER—1560A Haight St.
8 p.m.

Aug. 30 - MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING - Mattachine Members

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 6 - PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING
Friend's Center, 1830 Sutter St. 8 p.m.
Speaker: Alfred Auerback, M.D.
Subject: A Psychiatrist Looks at Sex Deviations

Sept. 9 - MATTACHINE BRUNCH—1560A Haight St.
11 until 2

Sept. 17 - FELLOWSHIP DINNER—1560A Haight St.
8 p.m.

Sept. 27 - MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING - Mattachine Members

CHANGE IN BRUNCH TIME

Brunch time has been moved up to 11 o'clock. Social Chairman believes this will be more convenient for all those planning to attend.
Civil Rights Discussed at July Public Meeting

July discussion at Friend's Center was headed by Ernest Beig, the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern Calif. Mr. Beig opened his talk by a description of the various types of cases that come to the American Civil Liberties Union asking for legal guidance and assistance.

Many of these are members of minority groups. Some of the groups are minority by virtue of their religious beliefs. Jehovah's Witnesses and Father Divine's followers were cited as examples. As specimens of how such groups find themselves in conflict with law-enforcement agencies, he described how the Civil Liberties Union had defended the Witnesses when they protested against their children being compelled to salute the American flag, since it was against their religious beliefs. At present, the Union is assisting two of Father Divine's followers who are having difficulties with a Bay area judge over their proper names. They refused to be known by any other name except their new assumed name in the religious organization.

Others are minorities because of their race. He told of how there had been a police raid in the Negro section of North Richmond, California, a few years ago. Some seventy-seven persons were jailed as part of the clean-up. The Union drew attention to the legal aspects of the matter and as a result, there has been no reoccurrence of the incident.

This, he felt, was more or less identical with the homophilic situation. Homophiles exist as a minority and they are, like all other American citizens, guaranteed certain privileges by the Bill of Rights. The essential function of the Bill is to protect from undue infringement by lawless agents of the law—in other words a check and balance system between the government and the individual.

According to the speaker, the recent Sharp's Park occurrence was an equivalent parallel to the infringements already described. The court, in this case, after the Union had protested the charges, had reduced bail from fifty to ten dollars. It also attempted to persuade the persons involved to forfeit their bail, and had amended the charge of lewd and lascivious conduct to disturbance of the peace.

During the question period, the speaker advised that a person of liberal tendencies would find it difficult being employed by the government. While it is not a wholly unadvisable means of employment it is essentially a calculated risk, since if not ejected as a security risk, termination may be on grounds of suitability. The shade between the two is fine, since security risks are judged on an assumption of guilt, and with unsuitable persons it is up to the government to furnish proof of its charges. In either event, one is likely to end up with a blot on one's escutcheon that greatly hinders chances of find future employment.

In reply to another question, he stated that a great many laws on the books against various things are no longer enforced because the cultural attitudes that originally led to their being passed no longer exist.

At the close of the evening, a few words were said by the National Chairman of the Mattachine Society, who was paying a visit from Los Angeles. He praised the work of the Union and urged Mattachine members to give it their financial support, mentioniong that the Mattachine Society is a member.
NEED FOR A PERMANENT BRUNCH AND DINNER LOCATION

At the last business meeting, July 26, the Social Chairman indicated that there is still a pressing need for a permanent location where we can hold our monthly brunches and dinners. There has been some confusion and difficulties encountered in the past few weeks with this problem. If any of the members or friends of Mattachine would be willing to hold these activities at their home, or know of a suitable location, would you please contact the Social Chairman whose telephone number is either EX 7-0773 or MA 1-5600.

Also, the current brunch time has been rescheduled at an earlier hour. It now begins at 11 o'clock.

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR
IN NEW YORK

H. Call, Publications Director of Mattachine Society is currently visiting the Mattachine offices in New York, Washington, Chicago. He will be speaking at the various locations to local members and interested peoples. Plans are also being worked on for a closer form of contact with the widespread branches of the organization. This need has been felt for a considerable length of time, and one of the recent measures to help overcome this difficulty, was the establishment of a national newsletter for all chapters of the organization. This newsletter is called "Interim" and made its initial bow last month. It contains information of such character that will be of interest to all members and chapters.

HARDING RETURNS TO DENVER

Carl B. Harding, an East Bay member of the Mattachine, has returned to live in his home town, Denver, Colorado. Mr. Harding was active in many fields of the organizations work in this area. He was a contributor of articles to the Mattachine Review, worked on program scheduling and chaired programs given at the Friend's Center on Sutter Street, San Francisco, was active in the production of the Review and in contacting speakers and publishers. Though he will be severely missed, he plans to continue his fine work by correspondence. All our best wishes go with him.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

September 6, the Monthly Discussion speaker will be Dr. Alfred Auerback. Dr. Auerback is Chairman of the Committee on Mental Health of California Medical Association and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California. He is also past President of the Northern California Psychiatric Society.

In October, the speaker will be Ken Zorin, local attorney. He will speak on the general field of conditions in Europe. He will have just returned from a summer-long vacation in various European countries, including Russia where tourist travel is now open. His talk will center largely on impressions gained from his trip.
NEWS AND ITEMS...

A Freudian slip... The London Observer recently stated that Doctor Gilbert Murray, O.M., would celebrate his birthday quietly at his home near Oxford, with his wife to whom he has been married sixty-six years. It was also announced that that evening he would broadcast over the radio a talk entitled, "An Unfinished Battle."...

The new revue, New Faces of 1956, has been catalogued as fairly acceptable by most of the New York critics. Concerning one of the most highly praised performers, T.C. Jones, Variety asks, "How long since a revue has been built around a female impersonator? Mr. Julian Eltinge, Yarl Norman and Francis Renault must be smiling up there."

We do too... The Package Machinery Company of East Longview, Mass., recently stated in a report: "Bundling. Revolutionary techniques in bundling have now been completed and we look forward to receiving our share in this expanding market."

And they say the American family is a decaying institution!... Recently a Hollywood husband who had a ten inch knife removed from his stomach after his wife had put it there, refused to sign a complaint. Said he, "She did it in a fit of wifely affection."

Library News

Local members and a non-member from Texas have responded generously to our recent pleas for library donations. Among books received was Kinsey's on the human female. Also given was The Troubled Midnight by Rodney Garland. The book confirms the adage that nothing is harder to repeat than success. Though it was based on the Burgess-McClean case it is singularly devoid of any dramatic interest and gives a general effect of colourlessness. However it is worthy of attention and a welcome addition to our shelves.

As a side-line, it might be of interest to know that The Heart in Exile is now on the stands as a paperback. Its publisher is Lion Library, and it sells for thirty-five cents. As a story, there is little of the especially unique about it, though it is written with a fair degree of competence. It does contain a number of remarkable and illuminating insights made by the writer on the basis of his experience as a psychiatrist.

Stranger in the Land is a first novel by hard Thomas, and seems a pity he hasn't published anything since. As with most first novels there are derivative traces of his literary idols, and he has not yet learned to write wholly in his own individual style, but the plot is a firmly un-deviating one, with some thing of the starkly inexorable line of a Greek tragedy. There is a good sense of atmosphere, and the various characters are adequately outlined.

As usual, there is a violent ending, which makes me wish that someone would write a homophile novel that would be neither "sensitive" nor vague nor inclined to make one run, not walk
to the nearest carving knife, and gently draw the same across one's throat.

Admittedly, there is a lot of tragedy in the lives of all too many homophiles, but quite a lot have a keen sense of humor, and many live to a reasonably ripe old age. Personally, it would be a distinct pleasure to encounter a novel about a homophilic central character who cheerfully and insouciantly emerges on top of life, instead of being crushed by it. Somehow, we have liked the spirit of that French translator of the New Testament who stated in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the debonair for theirs in the kingdom of heaven."

Three French works were also contributed, which brings to mind that there is a considerable amount of Continental fiction as well as non-fiction in this field that would be worthy of translation into English. For example, there exists a novel by Thomas Mann's son, Der Wendepunkt - The Turning Point - that deserves attention, if only as the work of the son of a great literary figure. Likewise, there are three hitherto untranslated novels in French by Marguerite Yourcenar, author of Hadrian's Memoirs, which was a bestseller last year. Miss Yourcenar's story was especially noteworthy for the factual, objective way in which it depicted the homophilic side of Hadrian's character, as well as being a finely written story.

The other contributions made were too numerous to do justice in the brief space of this issue. To each and everyone of you, we give our deepest thanks. You've been more than generous, and we appreciate it. To those who honestly mean to make donations, why not do it NOW?

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