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Fifth Freedom

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6-6-1973

### Fifth Freedom, 1973-06-10

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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# FIFTH FREEDOM

NEWSLETTER of the NIAGARA  
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 9

FRONTIER GAY COMMUNITY  
JUNE 10, 73 BUFFALO



THE FIFTH FREEDOM IS PUBLISHED EVERY 2 WEEKS

BY

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.  
P.O. BOX 975, ELLICOTT STATION  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14205

ANSWERING SERVICE: (716) 684-5315

WE WELCOME RESPONSE: if you have comments or contributions, send them to the above address, attn: Fifth Freedom

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$3.50 per year, to cover mailing expense. Send a check or money order to the above address, attn: Fifth Freedom. Be sure to include your mailing address. \*

ADVERTISING RATES: 1/3 column - \$2.50; 1/3 page - \$5.00; 1/2 page - \$7.50; full page - \$15.00. To place an ad, submit copy and specify size of ad desired. Mail to above address or leave message with MSNF answering service for more information. \*

\*Please make all checks/m.o.'s payable to Mattachine Society

EDITOR: Don Michaels

ART CONTRIBUTOR: Greg Bodekor

POLITICAL NOTES

...by Jim Zais

A Rockefeller triumph, they're calling it. Nearly everything he wanted, he got. As for what he wanted but didn't get, they will be called back in the summer to give it to him.

That's a reasonably accurate description of the New York State legislative session that just came to a close. Rockefeller was so much in control that he could and did get major pieces of legislation passed within a few hours before adjournment. He extended his "message of necessity" power to consolidate power in the governor's office in a way that must have made Dick Nixon envious.

The sad news for gays out of all of this was that Rocky did not call for the passage of gay rights legislation. And if Rocky doesn't call for it, it's unlikely to be picked up by a scared Republican majority. At least that's the tentative conclusion I've reached after a third season of my own involvement.

We will await a more comprehensive report from the State Coalition's lobbyist, John Howard, who despite our defeats, managed to keep the lid on a number of anti-gay bills during his stay in Albany.

The once-surprising fact now seems like a commonplace observation--that New York State and

California are going to be tough States as far as gay legal reform goes. Their political makeup is complex, and despite the greater organization and visibility of gays in those states, legal reform is just going to take that much more effort.

Are we starting over from zero, come January of next year? Definitely not. Except for a few possible vacancies, we'll be talking to the same body of legislators next year. (And the year after that, we'll be talking to about 80% of the same people, if historical patterns remain unchanged.)

What this means is that our lobbying efforts do not begin anew each year. We build upon the years before.

I'm not calling for infinite patience from gay people in New York State. Nor am I discouraging the development of new and different strategies to win our legal rights.

I'm only observing that there is a built-in conservatism about the American legislative process. The only factor that we are sure contributes to legislative success is longevity--success comes to those who come back year after year. And we're going to make it yet, because we're going to come back.

The following is an open letter submitted to the Fifth Freedom by Dr. Arthur C. Warner, co-Chairman of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties - 18 Ober Road - Princeton, N.J. 08540. Publishing of the letter at this time is felt to be pertinent to some of the workshops scheduled for Buffalo's Gay Pride Week. (See particularly, "Gays in High School" and "The Gay Movement: Past, Present and Future" listed on the schedule on pp. 8-9)

To the Editor:

This Committee does not ordinarily concern itself with membership requirements of homophile groups. It has far too many transcendent matters to concern itself with. But since the question at issue involves the law, I have taken the liberty of trespassing on your pages.

On page 12 of your issue number 5, volume 3 of the 4th inst., you give an account of the debate over removing the age limit for membership in the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier. As has been the case in many other homophile groups where this issue has been discussed, those who proposed the elimination of an age bar proposed the right thing for entirely the wrong reason. In so doing, they reflected the muddled thinking which, regrettably, is all too present in much of the homophile movement.

There is no connection whatsoever between age of sexual consent laws and minimum age requirements for membership in homophile groups. The former has to do with sexual acts, the latter involves the right freely to gather for purposes of

public discussion. A sane society must legally set an age limit below which sexual conduct is prohibited, particularly where the disparity in ages between the participants is more than a few years. This is necessary whether or not the parties involved have "consented", since it is a truism to point out that consent on the part of persons below certain ages is no meaningful consent at all. The law quite properly holds that consent on the part of persons below those ages constitutes no valid consent at all. To do otherwise would allow indiscriminate sex between forty-year olds and four-year olds on the specious ground that the four-year old had "consented."

None of this, however, is in any way relevant to the question of membership in homophile organizations or in any other groups, unless they be orgy clubs. What is involved is the right of people in a free society to assemble for the purpose of discussion -- in this case, discussion of homosexuality and of the rights of homosexuals. No free society has ever

(continued on page 12)

The following is the continuation of a series of questions and answers about homosexuality. This series is reprinted from a booklet distributed by GAA in New York,

"20 Questions About Homosexuality." MSNF now has reprints of the booklet available locally...the booklet will be available throughout Gay Pride Week.

QUESTION #10: IS HOMOSEXUALITY A MENTAL ILLNESS?

In his famous Letter to an American Mother, Freud stated categorically that homosexuality "cannot be categorized as an illness." Later, some of his followers challenged that view, and their works have become the most "popular" material on the subject. The trend is again reversing, and a great number of present-day psychiatrists side with Freud.

The illness theorists say that homosexuality is the symptom of a larger disease, and the essence of their assertion is that all of their homosexual patients are disturbed. No doubt this is true, say their opponents, but all of their heterosexual patients are disturbed as well. To assume that the "typical homosexual" is a psychiatric patient is to conclude that all women have tuberculosis from studies made in a sanatorium.

(continued on page 14)

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**BIG DADDY'S**  
THE TORONTO BAR WITH BUFFALO PEOPLE

MOTHER BRUCE  
SUGGESTS...  
761 MAIN ST. BUF, N.Y.  
OPEN EVERYDAY  
8:00PM-3:00AM

BIG DADDY'S  
IS THE BAR  
THAT PUT BUFFALO  
ON THE MAP AGAIN

MUSIC FROM TORONTO-SAN FRANCISCO-NYC  
DISC JOCKEY-DANCING  
DOWNTOWN LOCATION  
FRIENDLY

PICKUP A VICE COP...It's starting again. This time it's LaSalle Park. Plainclothes Vice Cops are reported to be lurking around, friendly and willing to talk. They are also very willing to make arrests for anything they can reasonably take as a solicitation for sexual activity. If you make any such suggestion or solicitation you can be arrested. Reports are that vice cops lurk around the park, attempting to lure pedestrians or car drivers who may be looking for action, but probably action of a different sort than the vice cop has in mind.

We've also heard that there's a definite plainclothes presence in some of the bars, and thus would be in a position to observe anything that goes on there. If any actual sexual activity ensues, an arrest may follow. Obviously, the use or possession, or dealing in narcotics is also rather vulnerable to arrest. A solicitation in a gay bar is technically in violation of law, but an arrest would probably be unconstitutional, so long as there is no obscene activity involved, nor any really obnoxious behavior.

There's a message. Be aware of how open you are leaving yourself if you engage in park or street cruising. A gay bar is safer. But even there, if you engage in overtly unlawful activity you can not only get yourself in trouble, but the bar owner as well. Keep the action part for later, when you are in the privacy of your own home.

Then the constitution can afford some clear protection.

If you get arrested for loitering (solicitation), it's a violation. A violation, if proven by the prosecution, can end up several ways. The court can impose either a conditional discharge for a period up to a year, or an unconditional discharge. In either case you don't go to jail nor pay a fine, but you do have a conviction. Such discharges are imposed when the court feels that neither the public interest nor the ends of justice will be served by imprisonment or fine. Or, alternatively, the court can fine you any amount up to \$250 or sentence you to up to 15 days in jail or both. With the stigma of the conviction what it is, the jail sentence is rarely if ever used, and the fines aren't usually that hefty unless the nature of the conduct or the past record of the individual call for it. In any event, don't go to court without an attorney. If you don't have a job, are not dependent on your parents, or otherwise don't have money, call Legal Aid 853-9555. If you have some money but don't know an attorney, call MSNF 684-5315 and ask for the legal chairperson. We have a number of very competent and reliable attorneys to whom we refer people.

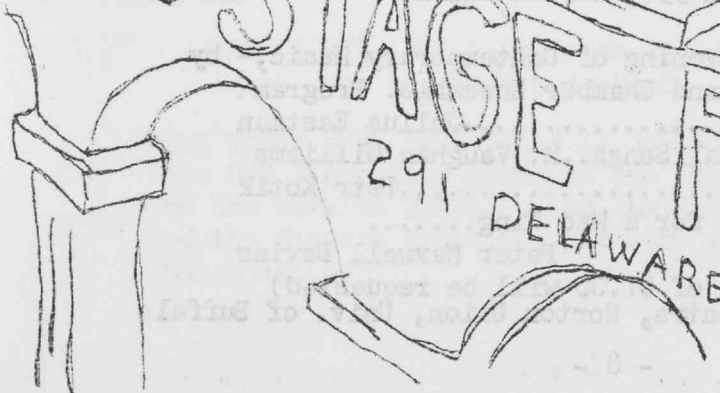
Bob Brosius

ATMOSPHERE - MUSIC - MERRIMENT  
FIT FOR A KING AND QUEEN  
DISC JOCKEY - DISCOTHEQUE  
FEATURING: QUADRAPHONIC SOUND-NIGHTLY 83

SPEND SUNDAY AFTERNOON 504  
WITH GARY - DELICIOUS BUFFET  
FOR UNLIMITED GOURMET FEASTING

THE STAGE - WHERE BIG  
THINGS ARE ALWAYS  
HAPPENING

THE STAGE  
291 DELAWARE  
PIGALLE





GAY PRIDE WEEK BUFFALO . . .

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

8:30PM - - SPEAKER: Arthur Bell, contributor to the Village Voice and the New York Times, author of Dancing the Gay Lib Blues; Topic - "The Media and Our Changing Gay Lives." Unitarian Church, Elmwood and West Ferry. No admission charge...refreshments served.

MONDAY, JUNE 11

8:00PM - - WORKSHOPS: Discussion groups on, "Drag in Gay Life", Room 330, Norton Union, Univ. of Buffalo Campus; and "Gays and Their Parents," Room 332, Norton Union.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

8:00PM - - 2 ORIGINAL GAY PLAYS: "Liberella: A Lesbian/Feminist Comedy," by Madeline Davis and "Agamemnon's Bath," by Bernhard Frank. Conference Theatre, Norton Union, University of Buffalo. A donation of .50 will be requested.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

2:00PM - - WORKSHOPS: Discussion groups on, "Gays in High School," Room 330, Norton Union, Univ. of Buffalo and "Gay Bars," Room 332, Norton Union.

8:00PM - - CONCERT: "An Evening of Contemporary Music," by Julius Eastman and Chamber Ensemble. Program:  
Stay On It.....Julius Eastman  
Five Mystical Songs..R. Vaughan Williams  
Aria.....Petr Kotik  
Eight Songs for a Mad King.....

Peter Maxwell Davies

(A donation of \$1.00 will be requested)  
Conference Theatre, Norton Union, Univ. of Buffalo

. . . SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

- 6:00PM - - 7:30PM, POT LUCK DINNER: Unitarian Church, Elmwood and West Ferry. (.50 donation requested)
- 8:00PM - - OPEN RAP TO FOLLOW DINNER: "The Gay Generation Gap: Growing Old Gaily."

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

- 2:00PM - - WORKSHOPS: Discussion groups on, "Role-Playing in Gay Life," Room 330, Norton Union, Univ. of Buffalo and "Gays in Literature," Room 332 Norton Union and "The Gay Movement: Past, Present and Future," Room 334, Norton Union
- 7:00PM - - FOLK CONCERT: Mary Bush, Madeline Davis, Mark and Andy. Allentown Community Center. Refreshments served. (.50 donation requested)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

- 8:30AM - - POLITICAL ACTION: (Call 881-2551 for details)
- 9:00PM - - GAY DANCE: Unitarian Church, Elmwood and West Ferry. Free Admission and refreshments.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

- 1:00PM - - GAY PICNIC: Ellicott Creek Park, Shelter #4. Bring your own food and drink.

\*\*Gay Pride Week in Buffalo is jointly sponsored by the Gay Liberation Front of the State University of New York at Buffalo, and the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier. For more information, call 684-5315.

And it came to pass...that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul...Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his apparel, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.  
Samuel I, 18

(King Saul suffered a monumental military defeat at the hands of the Philistines, and both he and his son, Jonathan, were slain in battle.)

And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, and said...:

Thy beauty, O Israel is slain  
upon thy high places!  
How are the mighty fallen!  
Tell it not in Gath,  
Publish it not in the streets  
of Ashkelon;  
Lest the daughters of the  
Philistines rejoice,  
Lest the daughters of the  
uncircumcised triumph.  
Ye mountains of Gilboa,  
Let there be no dew nor rain  
upon you,  
Nor fields of choice fruits;

For there the shield of the  
mighty was vilely cast  
away,  
The shield of Saul, not  
anointed with oil.  
From the blood of the slain,  
from the fat of the mighty,  
The bow of Jonathan turned not  
back,  
And the sword of Saul returned  
not empty,  
Saul and Jonathan, the lovely  
and the pleasant  
In their lives, in their death  
they were not divided;  
They were swifter than eagles,  
They were stronger than lions.  
Ye daughters of Israel, weep  
over Saul,  
Who clothed you in scarlet,  
with other delights,  
Who put ornaments of gold upon  
your apparel.  
How are the might fallen in  
the midst of the battle!  
Jonathan slain, upon thy high  
places!  
I am distressed for thee, my  
brother Jonathan;  
Very pleasant hast thou been  
to me,  
Passing the love of women.  
How are the mighty fallen,  
And the weapons of war  
perished!  
Samuel II, 1

...Bernard

OF INTEREST...

GAYS & PLAYBOY MAGAZINE: In the sept. issue of Playboy Magazine (which will appear on newsstands in mid-August) there will be a panel discussion on "Emerging Sexual Lifestyles." Gays will be represented on the panel by two very able spokespeople - Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the M.C.C. Church and Buffalo's own Madeline Davis. In a Fifth Freedom interview with Ms. Davis, she admitted to a torturous process in arriving at the decision to be on the panel. It was very difficult for her to decide whether to join in the panel discussion at all, because of the rampant sexism incorporated within the entire Playboy mythology. However, her final decision was to do the panel interview, for as she put it, "I think it's important to speak publicly no matter what the vehicle of communication is. Close to four million women read Playboy every month. Even if there were one-millionth of that number, it would be important to talk to those women. If even one woman is able to look at herself and her relations with other women more clearly, then I feel the interview is justified."

GAYS AND WATERGATE: Item: ex-presidential counsel, John Dean, wants immunity from prosecution...he's afraid he'd be raped by homosexuals if sent to prison. Item: Nixon campaign officials reportedly recruited young men to pose as gay liberationists at McGovern rallies...to embarrass McGovern, of course. Item: Nixon people passed out letters with Sen. Muskie's name on them, charging that Sen. Jackson has been arrested in 1955 & 1957 on homosexual charges. There were no such arrests, but the letters were an attempt to "demean" Sen. Jackson...This just points out that we still live in a vast, antagonistic, hetero-dominated society that feels the worst thing they can be labeled is "queer"...who says we don't need Gay Pride Week?

\*\*\*\*\*

3PM-2AM-MON-FRI; 12NOON-2AM-SAT-SUN  
ROCHESTER 430 MAIN ST 325-9420  
ACROSS FROM THE EASTMAN  
THEATRE

THE FABULOUS NEW

RED CARPET LOUNGE

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
THURS-SUN

FEATURING: JERRY SCOTT

EXCITING PIANO AND VOCAL STYLIST

(continued from page 4)  
suggested that the right to engage in such discussion should be barred by virtue of age. Conceded that the Mattachine Society, like other private groups, has the right to bar as members whomever it wishes, the fact remains that, when it does limit its membership to those above a certain age it is unwittingly helping to perpetuate two of the myths about gay people which it should be the duty of all gay groups to help destroy. These are (1) the notion that homosexuals seduce the young and (2) the idea that whenever homosexuals gather together, it is only for the purpose of sex.

This is not to suggest that meetings of homophile groups, like Mattachine, are likely to be of much interest to persons below your present minimum age of 17. That is not the point. Whether or not there are a few precocious fifteen or sixteen-year olds who would find your sessions of value and are presently being deprived of the benefit of attendance is not the issue. What is at stake is a recognition that, so long as you remain a discussion and action group, membership in your society should be open to all who wish to attend and become members, regardless of age. This in no way is intended to limit the Society's right to limit membership for other valid reasons, or to expel members for cause.

No doubt some of the supporters of an age limit cited so-called "legal" reasons in justification. This always amuses me, as a lawyer, since there is not a shred of legal warrant for such a limit. Neither law nor public policy requires imposing a minimum age limit. Invariably it is the amateur "curb-stone" lawyers, never the genuine ones, who raise these imaginary legal problems. I hope your regrettable decision to retain a minimum age limit will be reconsidered, and I especially hope that those who make this move will be better informed regarding the principles involved. Assuming your report of the proceedings in Fifth Freedom to have been accurate, the proposition deserved better than the ill-informed arguments adduced in its favour. Small wonder it was defeated!

Very truly yours,

Arthur C. Warner

\*\*\*\*\*  
Madeline Davis' recording of "Stonewall Nation" is available at the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop in New York City at 291 Mercer St.  
- or -  
by sending \$1.25 for mail order, to: MSNF - P.O.Box 975, Ellicott Station - Buffalo, N.Y. 14205  
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POET'S  
CORNER

NO WORDS

All of us need a place to  
stay...

...A home...

To spend our days while our  
hair turns to gray.

I don't care where I grow  
old...

For the lonely, never have  
a home,  
I am told.

Cheryl

If a man does not keep pace with  
his companions, perhaps it is  
because he hears a different  
drummer.

Let him step to the music he  
hears, however measured or  
far away.

...Henry David Thoreau

Sometimes I think of that time we  
had shared together, do you  
remember?

We looked into each others eyes,  
yours so warm, no words were  
spoken.

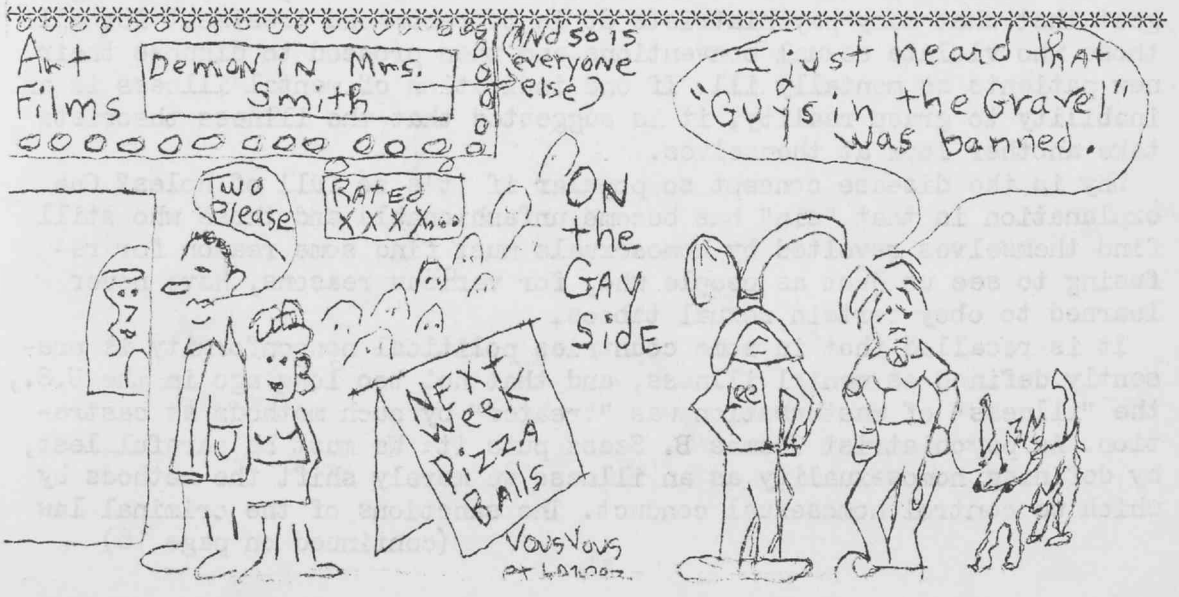
My hand was on your small round  
breast, and your graceful hand  
was on mine, no words were spoken.

From the silent stillness of the  
night, we would hear soft sounds  
of music,

Listen!...no words were spoken.

That night never ended, it was  
eternity to me, so far, so  
distant, so beautiful. I was  
once again with my lover, and  
No words were spoken.

M. L.



(continued from page 5)

No real cross-section of the homosexual population has ever been studied, but all of the existing research done out of clinical settings indicates that the majority of homosexuals are psychiatrically distinguishable from heterosexuals in only one way, our choice of sexual partners. Kinsey reported that of those in his sample with homosexual experience, "few could be described as pathologic." Dr. Evelyn Hooker, head of the National Institute of Mental Health Task Force on Homosexuality, showed psychiatric tests of homosexuals to a panel of clinicians who could not distinguish them from those of heterosexuals and found no greater incidence of mental illness. A British team headed by Michael Schofield gave a battery of tests to groups of homosexual and heterosexual prisoners, psychiatric patients and "others," discovering that "the difference between the pairs of matched groups (prisoners, etc.) were surprisingly small and the differences between the (three) homosexual groups were surprisingly large."

Even supposing that all these researchers chose poor statistical samples, or conducted faulty tests, it is pointed out that the existence of even one healthy individual rebuts the contention that homosexuality is the symptom of an illness.

But the disease theorists have another string to their bow. They say that homosexuality is in itself an illness. Their opponents reply that this is simply a matter of definition, based on the reported unhappiness of some of their patients or on a culturally determined consensus of their colleagues. Were all the Greeks mentally ill? they ask, or all the members of the Siwan tribe? Their answer is no, and they suggest that what many psychiatrists do is to recommend treatment for all those who violate sexual conventions and then proceed to dignose their new patients as mentally ill. If one indication of mental illness is an inability to grasp reality, it is suggested that the illness theorists take another look at themselves.

Why is the disease concept so popular if it's so full of holes? One explanation is that "sin" has become unfashionable and those who still find themselves revolted by homosexuals must find some reason for refusing to see us just as people who, for various reasons, have never learned to obey certain sexual taboos.

It is recalled that in some countries political nonconformity is presently defined as mental illness, and that not too long ago in the U.S., the "illness" of masturbation was "treated" by such methods as castration. As psychiatrist Thomas B. Szasz puts it: We must be careful lest, by defining homosexuality as an illness we merely shift the methods by which we control homosexual conduct. The sanctions of the criminal law

(continued on page 16)

GO-GO DANCERS

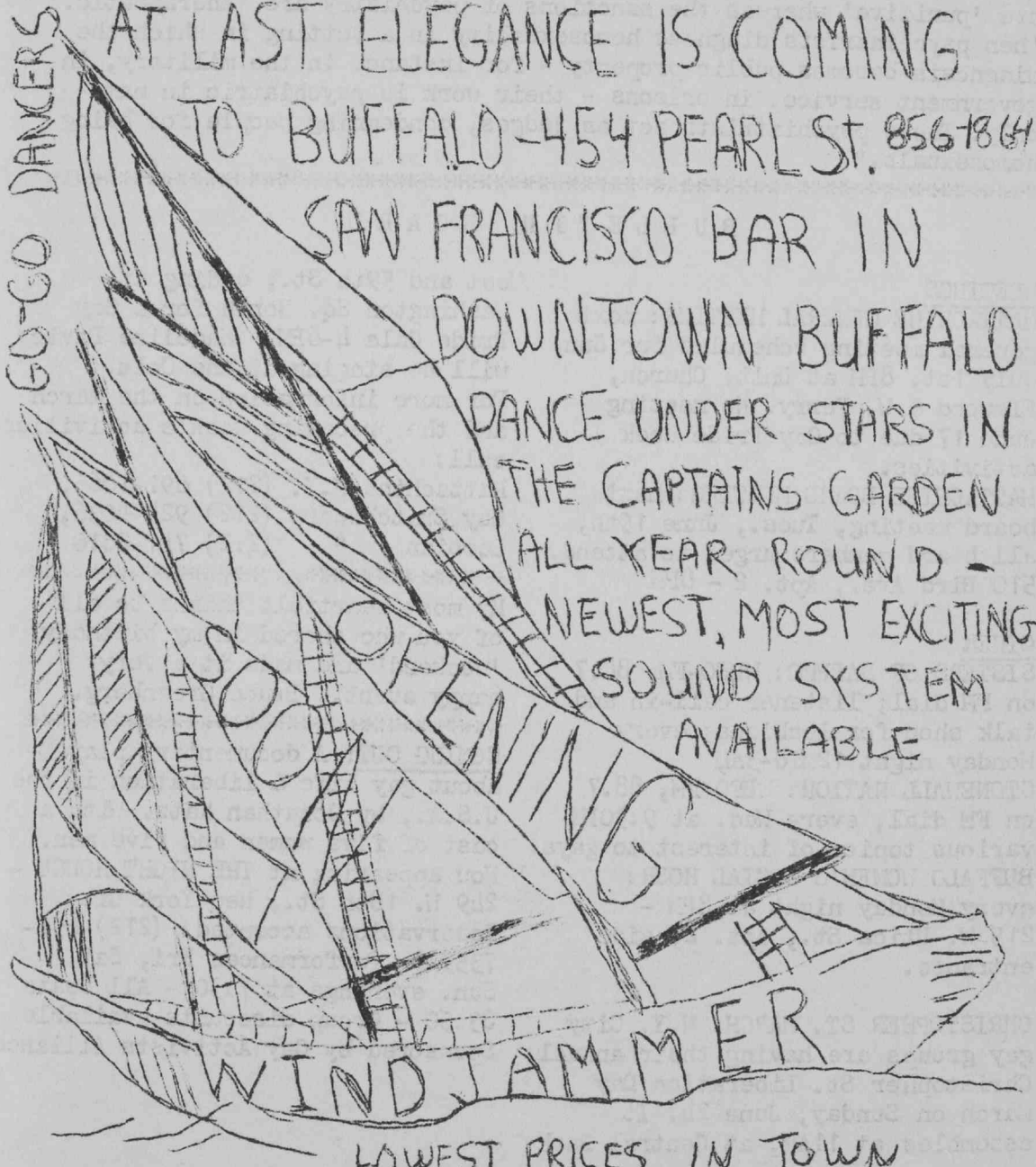
AT LAST ELEGANCE IS COMING  
TO BUFFALO - 454 PEARL ST. 856-1864

SAN FRANCISCO BAR IN  
DOWNTOWN BUFFALO  
DANCE UNDER STARS IN  
THE CAPTAINS GARDEN  
ALL YEAR ROUND -  
NEWEST, MOST EXCITING  
SOUND SYSTEM  
AVAILABLE

SO OPENING

WIND JAMMER

LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN





(continued from page 14)

are 'punitive' whereas the sanctions of psychiatry are 'therapeutic.' When psychiatrists diagnose homosexuality in a setting in which the diagnosis becomes public property - for instance in the military, in government service, in prisons - their work is psychiatric in name only. These psychiatrists act as judges, condemning people for being homosexuals."

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### MEETINGS

MATTACHINE GENERAL MEETING: next general meeting scheduled for Sun, July 1st, 8PM at Unit. Church, Elmwood & W. Ferry. No meeting June 17 due to Gay Pride Week activities.

MATTACHINE BOARD MEETING: next board meeting, Tues., June 19th, all board members urged to attend. 510 Bird Ave., Apt. 2 - 8PM

### OTHER

SISTERS OF SAPPHO: WBFO-FM, 88.7 on FM dial; listener call-in and talk show for lesbians; every Monday night 12mid-3AM

STONEWALL NATION: WBFO-FM, 88.7 on FM dial; every Wed. at 9:30PM various topics of interest to gays.

BUFFALO WOMEN'S SOCIAL HOUR: every Monday night at 8PM - 215 W. Utica St., Apt. 2, side entrance.

CHRISTOPHER ST. MARCH: N.Y. City gay groups are having their annual Christopher St. Liberation Day March on Sunday, June 24. It assembles at 11AM, at Central Park

West and 59th St., ending at Washington Sq. North for a Gay Pride Gala 4-6PM - Madeline Davis will be singing at the Gala. For more information on the march and the preceding week's activities call:

Mattachine N.Y. (212) 691-1066,  
Gay Switchboard (212) 924-4036,  
Lesbian " (212) 741-2610

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My most heartfelt thanks to all of you who shared in my birthday 'weekend' and made it a very happy event...Bruce Greenberg.

\*\*\*\*\*

COMING OUT! A documentary play about gay life & liberation in the U.S.A., by Jonathan Katz. With a cast of five women and five men. Now appearing at THE NIGHT HOUSE - 249 W. 18th St., New York City. Reservations accepted: (212) 691-7359 Performances Fri, Sat, Sun. evenings at 7:30 - All Seats \$3.50 - Group discounts available Sponsored by Gay Activists Alliance