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### Fifth Freedom, 1973-07-15

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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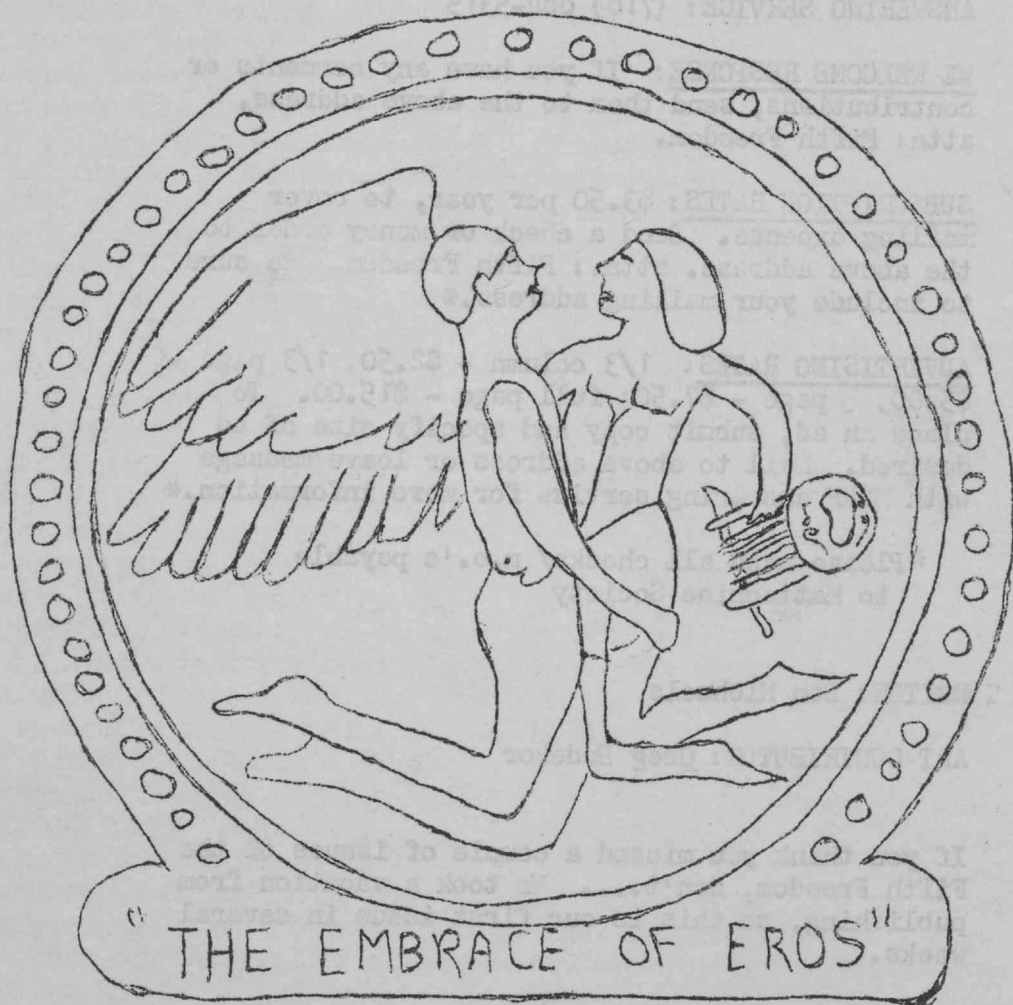
# FIFTH FREEDOM

NEWSLETTER of the NIAGARA

FRONTIER GAY COMMUNITY

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 10

JULY 15, 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 any 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; 2/3 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

If you think you missed a couple of issues of the Fifth Freedom, don't.... We took a vacation from publishing, so this is our first issue in several weeks.

## GAY PRIDE WEEK IN BUFFALO

A lot of hard work, time, and money went into Buffalo's second annual Gay Pride Week, June 10-17, and it was all worth the effort. This year's Gay Pride Week was highly successful and rewarding. We kicked the week off with our guest speaker, Arthur Bell, who regularly contributes to The Village Voice, and who has done numerous interviews with movie and theatre stars for the New York Times; he has also authored a book entitled, Dancing the Gay Lib Blues. Arthur's intensive knowledge and experience proved insightful and entertaining, during the discussion he led on "The Media and Our Changing Gay Lives." We found Arthur Bell to be warm, honest, and an engaging person, even if a bit smitten with New York City Chauvinism!

The events that followed throughout the week were all so rewarding that it would be difficult to pick out a 'highlight' of the week. The original plays on Tuesday night by Bernhard Frank and Madeline Davis and their wonderful casts gave the entire audience a great deal of satisfaction and pride in their

talented brothers and sisters. Wednesday night's concert by Julius Eastman and Chamber Ensemble made us all realize why he is acclaimed as one of the best in his field. We all extend great appreciation to Julius for the wonderful performance which he undertook at his own expense and initiative as his contribution to Gay Pride in Buffalo. Thursday night's potluck dinner was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and the discussion on "Growing Old Gaily" that followed was exhilarating to say the least. The inevitable Folk Concert given Friday night by Madeline Davis, Mary Bush, et. al., left us all with a natural high by the time it ended, and agreeing that it had to be done again soon. The Gay Pride Dance on Saturday night was truly well attended and enjoyable, with the music made that much more danceable by a tape provided through the good auspices of Big Daddy's Country Store. And last, but certainly not least, a relaxing and warm-hearted picnic was held at Ellicott Creek Park on Sunday afternoon.

Anyone who participated in and who enjoyed Gay Pride Week must certainly have felt the exhilaration and self-esteem that accompanied being openly and proudly gay- and the satisfaction gained in sharing that beautiful feeling with one's gay brothers and sisters.

ATMOSPHERE - MUSIC - MERRIMENT

FIT FOR A KING AND QUEEN

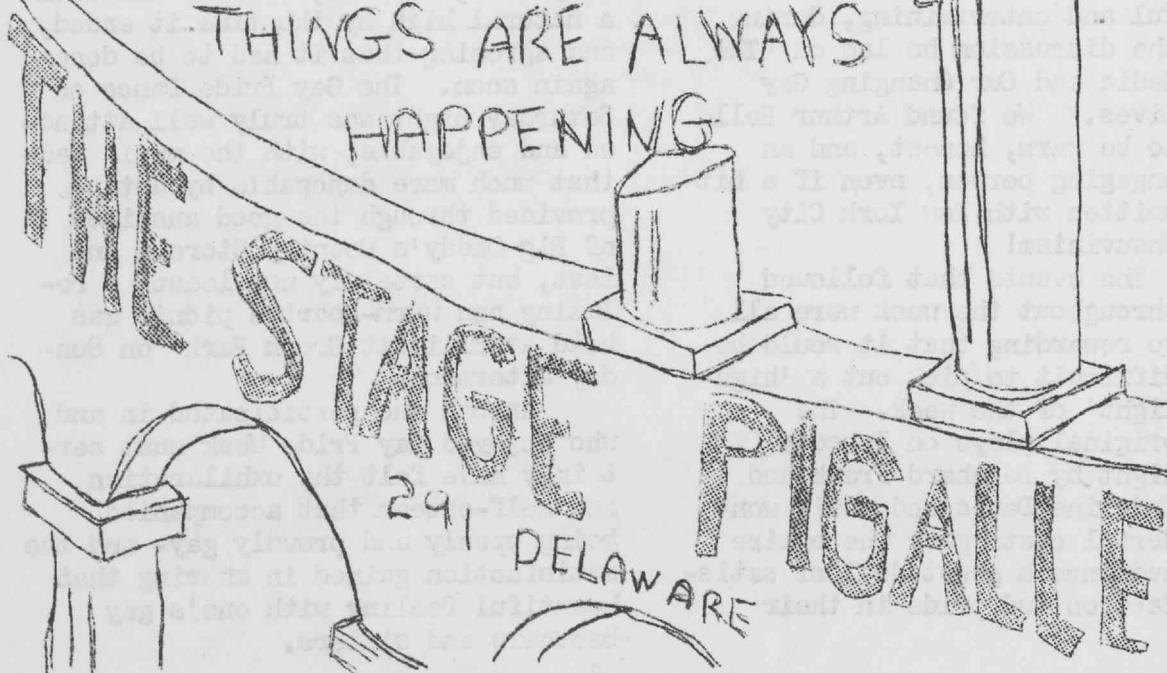
DISC JOCKEY - DISCOTHEQUE

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8PM - 3AM

SPEND SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
WITH GARY - DELICIOUS BUFFET  
COCKTAILS .75 FROM 2 - 8 PM

THE STAGE - WHERE BIG  
THINGS ARE ALWAYS  
HAPPENING

THE STAGE  
291 DELAWARE  
PIGALLE



RE/ MS. DAVIS'S ARTICLE ON "LESBIANISM AND BISEXUALITY":

Ed. Note: This article was submitted to the Fifth Freedom in response to an article on bisexuality by Madeline Davis which appeared in the April 1 issue. We regret it could not be printed at an earlier date, but space limitations and other priorities prevented us from doing so. However, the thought-provoking nature of this article is certainly not diminished by the time that has elapsed - and it's unlikely that many of us have resolved the issue of bisexuality during this period of time.

Proving or disproving "the validity" of bisexuality is not an ultimate matter of concern to the homosexual (biologically male or female), and its influence upon our behavior exists as part of our conditioning in an empirically oriented scientific culture. Even our most "mystic" of artists cannot reject its sting in an audience's often closed-pore skin. The matter we need to entertain with caution, nevertheless, is whether or not each of us can reject or accept bisexuality as integral to our bloodstreams, if you will excuse the flowing intrusion of the metaphor here.

I know myself to be bisexual on all levels but a physically sexual one. The best general explanation I can give for this seemingly blatant contradiction is that social mores and legal sanctions in this country, one of the most oppressive societies in the world for a homosexually-oriented person to survive in, have straitjacketed me - like many others - into sexual roles and behavior which are just as dichotomous (divisive, schismatic) as the socio-cultural judeo-christian, patriarchal concepts which spurn such assiduously "one-track mind" characteristics, socio-culturally manifested as "husband" and "wife" and subculturally acted out/lived (sometimes even satirized) through a "butch" or "dyke," "queen" or "swish" masquerade. Although I "pass" in the mainstream I know I am probably arousing the understandable hostilities of the transvestite community (which I was introduced to at age 15), but I feel that such participation in "masculine"/"feminine" roles is self-oppressive on all levels except the satirical. "Comedy is essentially exaggeration," says Warren Enters, and I think his conception applies super-relevantly to this matter of sex roles as well.

Although I at this time in this place have a physical capacity to have "sexual intercourse" (whatever this initially and ultimately means) with only males, there is the desire within me to somehow share my "overall sexuality" with females. One must remember, if we are going to play the empirical data-statistics game, that Kinsey's studies have indicated

(to page 6)



(continued from page 5)

(despite the numerical manner of stating the "research" findings on percentage tables) that most homosexually-oriented persons, who being primarily just this, possess in some degree - albeit weak in most cases - a "heterosexual" undercurrent or "component." We need to pay careful attention to such realities, if any of us AS "HOMOSEXUALS" are going to constructively grow or keep growing as/into healthy persons achieving our goals. If we are to meet the challenges thrust upon us, we must learn to see that the entire culture bruises us because it is "masculine" in its global assertion over others, including ourselves.

Male-dominated and male-dominating, judeo-christian cultures (ours, especially) - Does Christ have a "peter," a "grotto" or is he simply, but in a complicated way, "hermaphroditic"? - can cause women, in certain ways, to be "male chauvinist" or prone to "male chauvinist" behavior just as much as men sometimes, either out of immediate necessity ("situation ethics") or through consciously, unconsciously or both playacting (as Shakespeare said - and why does he have the effeminate Jacques delivering the stages-of-man speech in As You Like It, a comedy among other things? Think about this.) self-oppression to the discordant tune of some short-sighted, "morally" enslaved "doctor" or other "expert."

I feel that a lesbian's oppression is psychologically more intense than most homosexually oriented males' slavery is (even if the legal imprisonment involves both sexes), and for this reason mainly, I am a feminist. While I have a liking for "muscle" on a male body (and I do not think that this necessarily has to be sexist in nature), it is the qualities which are socioculturally relegated to the realm of "feminine traits" such as gentleness and softness which, in a male, "turn me on" as the street jargon goes. And I defy anyone who tells me that my bisexual thought and sensibility is a "cop-out", an evasion of Gay Liberation.

"The only reasonable choice I have is lesbianism," reflects Ms. Davis, and I find her ultimate rationale (this, but led by her heart) to be one of the best as far as self-justifications can enhance and extend one's self-definition for purposes of "sanity" and personal "happiness." As a counterpart (being male, except in some of my farthest-reaching "fantasies") to Ms. Davis's defense, my self-justification contains many similar realizations and yearnings (even if this also seems contradictory). A discussion of the similarities and differences, however, does not fit the limited scope of my article this afternoon.

(con't. p. 7)

Summarily and succinctly, I must tell you that I NEVER try to tell my juices (elan vital) what to do. William Goldman, the novelist, may be accurate in his assumption that "When the cock gets hard the brain gets soft," because it is, as far as I'm concerned, the only time that most males can/do "act out" their gentleness - if not concentrating on "technique," an obsession of the recent and fraudulent "sexual revolution" which Ms. Davis so insightfully suggests in an oblique way. Humans are not centrally apes, despite Desmond Morris' zoological empirical studies philosophized about in his The Naked Ape.

One thing which I am suspicious of in Ms. Davis's article is her emphasis on the "mind over crotch" attitude. I fully agree with her sensibility as she states the case, but I wonder whether or not she sustains within herself a balanced perspective on this urgent matter. But then any woman will tell me that it is because I am a male IN THIS CULTURE which accounts for my suspicion. Perhaps this is painfully true, but I disagree in my own case. After all, without a brain (and "mind" which we know little about, and maybe because we call it "mind" instead of something closer to its reality - a something which we have not yet discovered - and never will if we continue to idolize empiricism), one has nothing but a "dysfunctional" crotch, if we can bring sociology and physical-cultural anthropology to the bedroom for a moment.

While "mind" and "body" (whatever they initially and ultimately are) are best led by the heart's circular, as opposed to linear, pumping (the "circulatory system", you know), the "mind" submits.

(con't. on p. 9)



3PM-2AM-MON-FRI-12NOON-2AM-SAT-SUN  
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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.

### QUESTION #11: ARE HOMOSEXUALS ALL NEUROTIC?

All researchers who interview homosexuals away from the psychiatrist's couch agree that a high percentage of us are entirely free of neurotic symptoms. There is a proportionately high number of homosexual neurotics, nonetheless, and the explanation for this is simple: we're made neurotic by a hostile society. Homosexual neurotics, Dr. Hooker points out, most often display such symptoms as self-hatred, dependence and protective clowning - "traits of victimization found regularly among other rejected minority groups."

Unlike most other minorities, most of us can "hide in a closet," but the need to play a false role is itself a cause of neurosis. Abstinence is no solution either, since repression of sexual thoughts and impulses is at the root of many people's troubles. All non-patient studies show that those of us who feel the least "guilt" and most completely accept our own homosexuality are the least likely to be neurotic.

There is no need to search beyond the social pressures for the roots of neurosis among homosexuals. Rather, it is suggested that three other questions are in need of an answer: 1) Why don't all of us crack up under such extreme pressure? 2) How can we arrive at the causes and cure of "homophobia," that obsessive and irrational fear of homosexuality which Dr. George Weinberg identifies as the real psychiatric problem? and 3) To what extent is this homophobia implicated in the neuroses of those heterosexuals who for one reason or another fail to live up to the stereotypes of the "he-man" or "the ideal woman"?

### QUESTION #12: ARE HOMOSEXUALS MORE "PROMISCUOUS" THAN HETEROSEXUALS?

The Kinsey Institute surveys, again the principal studies available, state that of those individuals categorized as being predominately homosexual, 71% of the females, and 51% of the males had limited their sexual experience to no more than one or two partners - figures which correspond almost exactly to those for (con't. on p. 14)

## TRAGEDY IN NEW ORLEANS

While many of the nation's gays were celebrating Gay Pride Weeks in their respective cities, a tragic fire in New Orleans took the lives of 30 gay persons and seriously injured 14 others. On Sunday, June 24 an evening of festivity in a New Orleans gay bar - the Up Stairs Lounge - was quickly turned into a scene of horror as flames spread up the entrance stairs to the 2nd floor lounge, blocking the only visible means of escape. Although authorities have made no official determination of the cause of the fire, reports speculate that arson was involved, possibly in the form of a fire bomb.

Reaction from gay communities around the country was one of shock and dismay. Several prominent gay leaders from around the country were on the scene within hours to offer their help in the aftermath of the tragedy. Appeals were made to gays around the country for funds and blood donations. Morris Kight, president of Los Angeles'

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(continued from pg. 7)

Pulse is quicker and steadier than that infamous character, the throb (that "little devil"), while heart is speedier and more noble; hence, ennobling, than any future or conception of one. Thank you kindly and heartfully for listening.

Love and liberation,  
Joe N. Caruana

Gay Community Services Center, issued an appeal for blood donors. "Many are so seriously burned... their bodies are leaking blood as quickly as it's put in, so the need will be considerable." Donors nationwide can attend their nearest American Red Cross blood bank, and ask that their blood be credited to the account of, "Holocaust Victims, Up Stairs Lounge, Charity Hospital, New Orleans."

Rev. Troy Perry, Head of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, announced the creation of a national memorial fund to meet financial needs of the fire victims. Additional funds raised from the appeal will go toward building a new MCC Church in New Orleans which will serve as a memorial to those who died. The Advocate newspaper has agreed to act as custodian of the fund. Checks -payable to "National New Orleans Memorial"- should be mailed to the Advocate, Box 74695, Los Angeles, 90004. (Source: Advocate, Jul 1<sup>st</sup>, '73)

## OF INTEREST...

DIGNITY: is an organization started within the Catholic Church to influence the teachings and structure of the Catholic Church in order to make it relevant and responsive to the needs of Catholic Gays. Dignity is holding its first national convention in Los Angeles during Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2, 3. Special guest will be Fr. Patrick Nidorf, O.S.A. - "The dynamic priest moved by the Holy Spirit to start Dignity in 1969." Keynote Speaker will be Fr. John J. McNeill, S.J., Professor at Woodstock Seminary in New York City, noted author, lecturer, and authority on the church and the Gay. For more information on Dignity, its monthly newsletter, and its first national convention, write to: Dignity, P.O. Box 6161, Los Angeles, California, 90055.

OBITUARY: Another gay magazine bites the dust. This time it is The Furies, a lesbian paper headquartered in Washington, D.C. We've always enjoyed Furies and felt that it contained some of the best radical perspectives on lesbian/feminist issues available. The Furies staff explained their demise in the final issue: "The present Furies staff has consisted of five people for seven months now. Since the last issue, one person from the staff has quit and two of us are moving to another city. These changes have occurred mainly because of changing priorities. The paper cannot continue with only two members, therefore we have decided to make this the last issue." We're sorry to see Furies go and wish to extend our appreciation for the fine job they've done. Collections of articles from previous Furies are available in pamphlet form: 1) Women Remembered: Collection of Short Biographies of Women (7 articles); 2) Class and Feminism: Collection of Articles on Class From in the Women's Movement (7 articles); 3) Both collections are available for \$1.25 each, from Diana Press, 12 W. 25th St., Baltimore, Maryland. 21218.

UNITARIANS APROVE OFFICE OF GAY AFFAIRS: On June 2, delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Toronto, voted by approximately 3 to 2 in favor of a resolution for establishing an "Office on Gay Affairs" at denominational headquarters in Boston. Included in the final text of the resolution was that it be "resolved: that this office be a resource to the denomination at all levels in all matters pertaining to Gay people and the Gay community. The Office shall initially make a 30-day study of the immediate needs of the Gay Unitarian Universalists and ways of developing an outreach into the Gay community. Results of the study shall be distributed to all churches, fellowships and denominationally related bodies with recommendations for implementation."

Although funding from the denominational budget (con't. next page)

was denied the O.G.A., forcing it to seek outside sources, the resolution was generally accepted as a tremendous positive step, representing the "culmination of two years of work and effort within the denomination since the U.U. Gay Caucus was founded at the UUA General Assembly in Washington in June, 1971."

(source: U.U. Gay Caucus Newsletter, June, '73)

New York Times, Tues. 7/10/73: The New York State Court of Appeals has just overruled the State Supreme Court by determining that a homosexual lawyer cannot be denied admission to the NY State Bar solely on the grounds of his homosexuality. In February, 1972, the State Bar Committee on Character and Fitness had found Harris L. Kimball to be of good character and qualified. The Court of Appeals referred to this judgment when rendering its opinion. The opinion stated that while Mr. Kimball's "status and past conduct may be now and has been in the past violative of accepted norms, they are not controlling, albeit relevant, in assessing character bearing on the right to practice law in this state." The Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court on Jan. 8, had denied Mr. Kimball admission to the bar on the grounds that a 1955 arrest on a sodomy charge in Florida and his admitted homosexuality made him unfit to practice law here.

OPENING  
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BUFFALO

FREE PARKING  
FOR 750 CARS

NEWEST, MOST EXCITING  
SOUND SYSTEM AVAILABLE!

THE LIT KIT # 3

For man there can be no reality, only point of view. The bible's point of view of the love of David and Jonathan (Lit Kit #2) is romantic. Below, is a cynic's point of view of the same events:

the Ballad of David

King Saul the Mad, in purple  
clad,  
pierced, livid as a flame,  
the silence of the courtiers that  
hung round him dark and tame.

--Fetch me a youth to cheer my  
days,  
and spark my bed at night!  
--My King, in Bethlehem there  
stays  
one ruddy lad who might!

So David came from Bethlehem  
to earn his ample wages;  
for Saul he played and laid, by  
him  
he sat among the sages.

Soon gold and red could David  
don;  
Saul came to love him dearly;  
But O, his son, named Jonathan,  
was then a score years merely.

David touched this virgin  
petal,  
the bird bared from its nest;  
and soon he wore another medal

on his gilded breast.

There raged a battle in the  
land;  
--The Philistines defy us!  
cried Saul and headed the command;  
Young David slew Goliath.

The hero home, soon shed his  
sling  
and took Michal to wife;  
she was the daughter of the King  
who loved her with his life.

Now, now, would Saul fair David  
slay  
upon his daughter's bed;  
she gave her father's word away,  
and David up and fled.

The King was slain in battle  
fierce,  
in battle slain his son;  
King David shedding courtly tears,  
mourned Saul and Jonathan.

POET'S  
CORNER

TO MICHAEL C.

One may feel secure in the denial  
of a destiny  
Regusing to forgo the future  
pains of reality  
Socceding then, instead, to  
revelations of the heart  
So we'll ride upon the winds  
Until we drift apart.

Dennis A. Donnellan

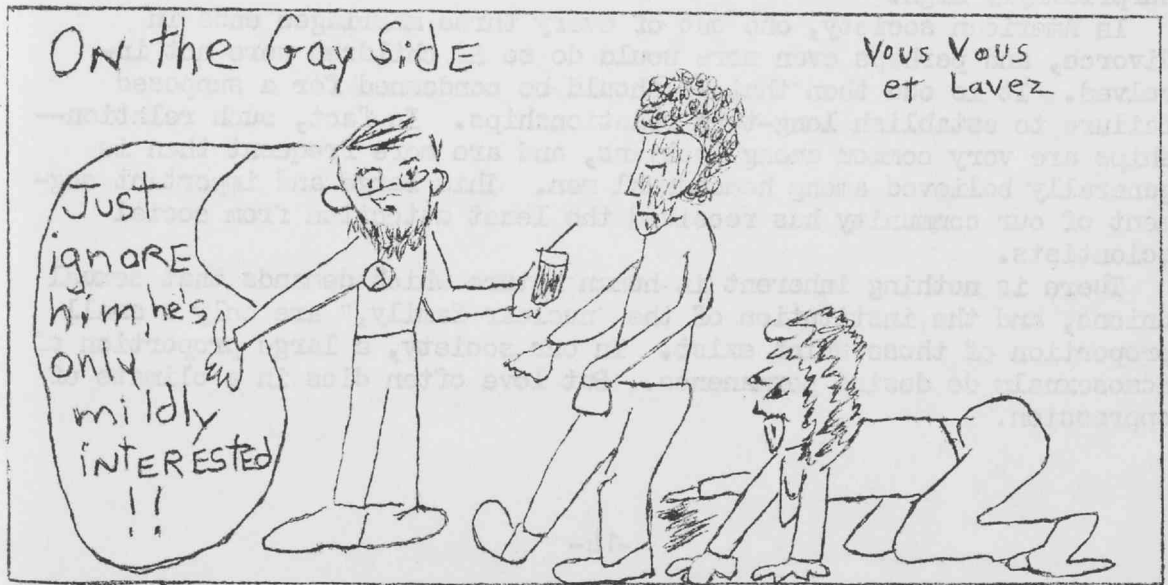
Gentle you are when there is  
struggle, hate, peace,  
love. How I

Admire you so, how I love you so,  
your beauty enchants the  
moon's luster and the sun's  
resplendent horizon.

You and me, me and you, how  
fortunate I am, how happy  
I am, that I have you.

Marilyn

\*The Fifth Freedom Poet's Corner is intended  
for publishing original poetry by gays in  
our community. If you have poetry you'd  
like published, please submit to the Fifth  
Freedom, c/o MSNF - address on inside cover.





(continued from page 8)

heterosexuals.

Also, the idea that we will have sexual relationships with absolutely any member of our own sex is simply untrue. Exactly as with heterosexuals, we choose our partners for a variety of physical and personal characteristics, not the least of which is a willingness to participate.

It is probably true, however, that a greater proportion of gay people, especially men, tend to view "promiscuity" in a not unfavorable light (to judge by the boasting of heterosexual men heard on any commuter train, even straight society frowns on promiscuity only officially). There is no rational reason to deny the validity of having more than one sexual partner for those- homosexual or heterosexual - who desire it. And there is no justification for the state to be concerned with the private sexual relations of any consenting individual.

QUESTION # 13: ARE HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS  
AS STABLE AS HETEROSEXUAL ONES?

Homosexual couples are barred from showing affection in public. We are usually unable to join our partners at work-connected social functions. We frequently find it difficult to find living space. We're often prevented from going together to family affairs. Under the circumstances, the number of long-lasting homosexual relationships is surprisingly high.

In American society, one out of every three marriages ends in divorce, and perhaps even more would do so if children were not involved. It is odd then that we should be condemned for a supposed failure to establish long-term relationships. In fact, such relationships are very common among lesbians, and are more frequent than is generally believed among homosexual men. This large and important segment of our community has received the least attention from social scientists.

There is nothing inherent in human nature which demands that sexual unions, and the institution of the "nuclear family," are only a small proportion of those which exist. In our society, a large proportion of homosexuals do desire permanence. But love often dies in a climate of oppression.

# BIG DADDY'S

THE TORONTO BAR WITH BUFFALO PEOPLE

761 MAIN ST., BUFFALO, N.Y.  
OPEN EVERY DAY  
8:00PM - 3:00AM

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FOLLIES

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FAMOUS

- CLAUDETTE
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- TRACY DURAYE
- LISA ST. JOHN
- STEPHANIE STEVENS
- AMANDA SANCHEZ

SUNDAY  
JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>

PRICE INCLUDES DANCING  
AND REFRESHMENT

\$3.00 - TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DOOR - \$3.00

PLAYGIRLS SHOWTIME

10:30 PM

PLAYGIRLS PRESENT (2<sup>ND</sup> SHOW)

1:00 AM

MUSIC FROM TORONTO • SAN FRANCISCO • NYC

DISC JOCKEY DANCING  
DOWNTOWN LOCATION  
FRIENDLY  
ATMOSPHERE

BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

MATTACHINE GENERAL MEETING: next general meeting scheduled for Sun, July 29th, 8PM at Unitarian Church corner of Elmwood & W. Ferry.

MATTACHINE BOARD MEETING: next board meeting, Tues., July 24th, 8PM, 510 Bird Ave., Apt. 2 - all board members urged to attend - meeting open to all.

GLF U.B.: every Wed., 8PM at Norton Union. Inquire at information desk for room number. Open invitation to all to attend and participate.

OTHER

SISTERS OF SAPPHO: WBFO-FM, 88.7 on FM dial; listener call-in and talk show for lesbians; every Mon. 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 Mon. night at 8PM - 215 W. Utica St., Apt. 2, side entrance.

GAY PRIDE WEEK TORONTO: the Community Homophile Assoc. of Toronto (CHAT) is celebrating their Gay Pride Week this year from Aug. 17-26. The following events are planned so far: Gay Photography contest ..Gay Picnic..Dances..Crafts Fair ..Gay Movies..Gay Greeting Card Contest. For further information write CHAT, 406 Jarvis St., Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2G6 or call (416) 964-0653

\*\*\*\*\*  
WANTED: Person to reupholster furniture, in home; for details call 884-8198.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 of N.Y.