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Fifth Freedom, 1973-10-21

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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FIFTH FREEDOM

NEWSLETTER of the NIAGARA
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 13

FRONTIER GAY COMMUNITY
OCTOBER 21, 1973

GRAND OPENING!
CELEBRATION!

GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

AT 45 ALLEN ST. Phone: 881-5335

SUNDAY, OCT., 21ST

2 PM - 8 PM

This is YOUR OPEN INVITATION TO
JOIN US AT OUR GRAND OPENING!!

THE FIFTH FREEDOM IS PUBLISHED
BY

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

PHONES: (716) 881-5335 or 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; 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 phone above number for more information.*

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

Staff: Don Michaels - Dan Woepfel - Pat Grosse - Earl Jackson, Jr.
Contributors: Greg Kolovakos ----- Chuck Nevins
Greg Bodekor ----- Dave Wunz

Fifth Freedom can be found at the following points:

Big Daddy's Company Store	North Buffalo Food Co-op
Stage Pigalle	Everyman's Bookstore
Amherst Steam Club	Libby's Bookstore
Lexington Food Co-op	Book Art Store
Norton Union (U.B.)	Gay Community Services Center

Mishima: Death In A Closet

Before the Japanese author Yukio Mishima committed ritual suicide in 1970, he repudiated one of his novels, Confessions of a Mask. Obviously, for a man so obsessed with virility and toughness, the work seemed to reveal too many of his personal weaknesses. The novel remains, however, an important work by a man who never came to terms with his homosexuality. Unfortunately, Mishima also reinforced many of the negative stereotypes of the homosexual male, and for this reason the novel can be potentially damaging.

This is a painful novel tracing Mishima's growing awareness of his sexual attraction to men and his incapacity to respect himself or to reach the point of coming out. "What people regarded as my true self... was a masquerade," he admitted. His first erections pointed toward his passion for muscular men, pools of blood, and torturous death. As he grew older sexuality and brutality became united in his mind, and Mishima therefore concluded that "the inverted and the sadistic impulses are inextricably entangled with each other." What this false conclusion does to a straight reader's perception of the gay male, I hate to imagine.

Nevertheless, the strengths of the novel rest with Mishima's ability to recreate the painful years of adolescence and early manhood, his early unrequited love affair for a boy in school, his failed attempts at making himself love women, his feeling that he must lie to others about his sexuality. But what remains with the reader after completing the novel is the series of masturbatory visions of blood and death strung across the retina. His brutal visions of beautiful male bodies being tortured and destroyed become obsessive; masturbation becomes his little religion with the phallus as the sacred shrine. Unfortunately the author continues the myth of the over-sexed homosexual. Mishima flirted with suicide, hesitated, attempted to believe that he was no different from anyone else, rejected this idea, and finally hoped for a bloody death in the war.

The author's mind became increasingly confused between his real and assumed identities, and he found it easier to run away rather than to face his real self. Homosexuality was never more than a "demon" to

(continued on next page)

(cont. from pg. 3)

Mishima, and he continually rejected proofs that a gay person (who Mishima never was) is normal. He wrote that "I was made to distrust both my will and my character....," and the reason is clear: he continued to run away from himself and he never respected or loved himself as a human being. Thus, it was an ashamed homosexual who hated himself and who viewed himself as non-human who finally committed suicide.

Perhaps the straight reader may be most impressed with the primitive intensity of blood and sadism in the novel. True, there certainly is no gradual development or growth in the character of the author. But I would suggest that for the gay reader a more important theme becomes evident, that of a homosexual male who died as he lived, hating himself. The weaknesses and distortions of Mishima's self-perception and beliefs are only too evident to the gay reader who does respect himself/herself as a gay person.

But for Yukio Mishima that final ritual suicide must have been the most powerful orgasm in his life of self-hatred.

THANKSGIVING DINNER ! !

There will be a Thanksgiving dinner at the Gay Community Services Center. Everyone is invited to participate, especially those who don't have family or friends to celebrate with. The dinner will be on Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd, at 2:00PM - Join your fellow gay brothers and sisters to celebrate and eat Tom.. turkey, that is.

Please contact Chuck Nevins to let me know what you'll be bringing or for suggestions. call the Center - 881-5335

MSNF MEMBERS: elections for member-at-large will be held on Sunday, Nov. 4th at the Mattachine meeting, 8PM. Nominations end on Sunday, Oct. 21st, at the 8PM meeting. Do your part and make sure you vote. Are your membership dues paid ???

Through its many diverse and concerted efforts, the Mattachine Society has helped make Buffalo a better place for gay people to be. To express your support, join our efforts by becoming a member. Dues are \$10 per year - stop by at the Community Center, 45 Allen St., or call 881-5335 for more information

ATMOSPHERE - MUSIC - MERRIMENT

FIT FOR A KING AND QUEEN

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THE STAGE - WHERE BIG
THINGS ARE ALWAYS
HAPPENING

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Costume
Competition
Judging 9 for:

High Drag,
Camp Drag and

Costumes

Unitarian Church at Elmwood and W. Ferry

Oct. 27th 1 AM

Beer +
Pop \$.20

Donation 9 PM
AT Door

\$1.00

HALLOWEEN GALA

9 PM

NOV. 10th 1 AM

Blind Unitarian Open
Bidding Church Bidding
Elmwood and W. Ferry
Beer + Pop
Donated Auction
Items
Welcome

Join Us At...

The GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

45 ALLEN ST., BUFFALO Phone: (716) 881-5335
OPEN: 1^{PM} - 10^{PM} Mon-Fri ; 1^{PM} - 6^{PM} Sat.

- VISIT AND SOCIALIZE • USE THE LIBRARY
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{ General Staff People Are Needed --
{ Donations Are Needed -- INQUIRE AT CENTER

• • • • •
GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
2 PM - 8 PM

- REFRESHMENTS SERVED -

THE LIT KIT #6: THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY

by Bernard

SONNET TO TOMMASO CAVALIERI
by Michelangelo

The seething passions which after Beauty hark
Need not of human folly be the mark;
Let them but ready heart's true molten state
For holy arrows to penetrate its gate.

On leaden lusts the wakening of Love
Sprouts wings, moults feathers; the Above
Lures to its maker that soul which finds
No great satiety in earthbound winds.

The Love I sing flies high. Not for woman--
Who, too unlike, incites men's lust.
As Love will draw us to the heavens,
The other casts us back into the dust;
One is the soul's, the other of the senses--
Its bowstring trained on rank offenses.

Much is made of this sonnet. Scholars who cannot conceive of their idol's homosexuality insist the poem speaks exclusively of platonic male love. Michelangelo, they maintain, is fighting his attraction to women because he sees it as sinful. Others uphold the poem as proof of Michelangelo's homosexuality.

The poem need not be read as a denigration of women, but of heterosexuality. Nor should it be read as gospel truth; surely Dante's love for Beatrice, whom he had seen but twice and who inspired his life's work, was more divine than some of Oscar Wilde's more sordid escapades with street-corner lads.

SUPPORT GAY BUSINESS

Many ideas are floating around the center about Gay people opening small businesses, and to serve the Gay community. It's not as impossible as one may think.

At present, my newly invested business adventure is making it. Why? A large part of why is my Gay clientel who know that I'm Gay. In return, my first choice is to support other Gay owned businesses. Call this an effort to help our brother and sister Gays, a return of support or the friendliness I know I'll get. Whatever you call it, call it good. Gay is good. Gay businesses are good.

Only a year ago I was unemployed. After being back to work for two months, I began my own

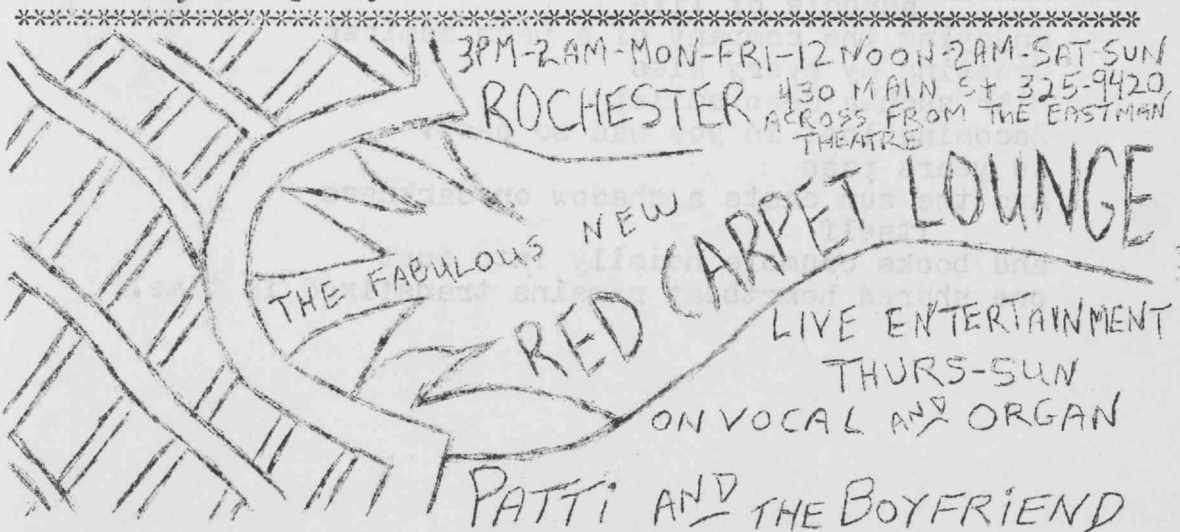
adventure, with a small loan, little capital, and a lot of willingness to try.

If you have a business, let Gay people know you do. If you are thinking of opening one, there are many of us who might be able to assist with some ideas or in some other ways. If you're not interested in business at all, support the ones owned by Gays. Gay businesses should be listed at the Gay Community Services Center or in the Fifth Freedom. Do your part and advertise.

If you have any information or would like any, call 881-5335

Y O R K HAIR FASHIONS/ all phases
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BY APPT. - 881-6809



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THEATRE

THE FABULOUS NEW
RED CARPET LOUNGE

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
THURS-SUN
ON VOCAL AND ORGAN

PATTI AND THE BOYFRIEND

POET'S
CORNER

POEMS BY DENNIS A. DONNELLAN

IN LOVE

It is a demure wind indeed
that flows a reminder across
my face
that has guided countless
vessles
to their now peaceful
destinations,
So this bit of nature's
fineness
echos love as I awake
amid the stars and clouds
I walk.

UNTITLED

Sometimes through all the
commotion
We just can't see where we're
going
And our goal of love
Becomes obscured and then,
ignored.
If this be the case
And I journey so blindly past
your heart
Forgive my misplaced emotion,
For you are whom I seek.

TO MICHAEL C.

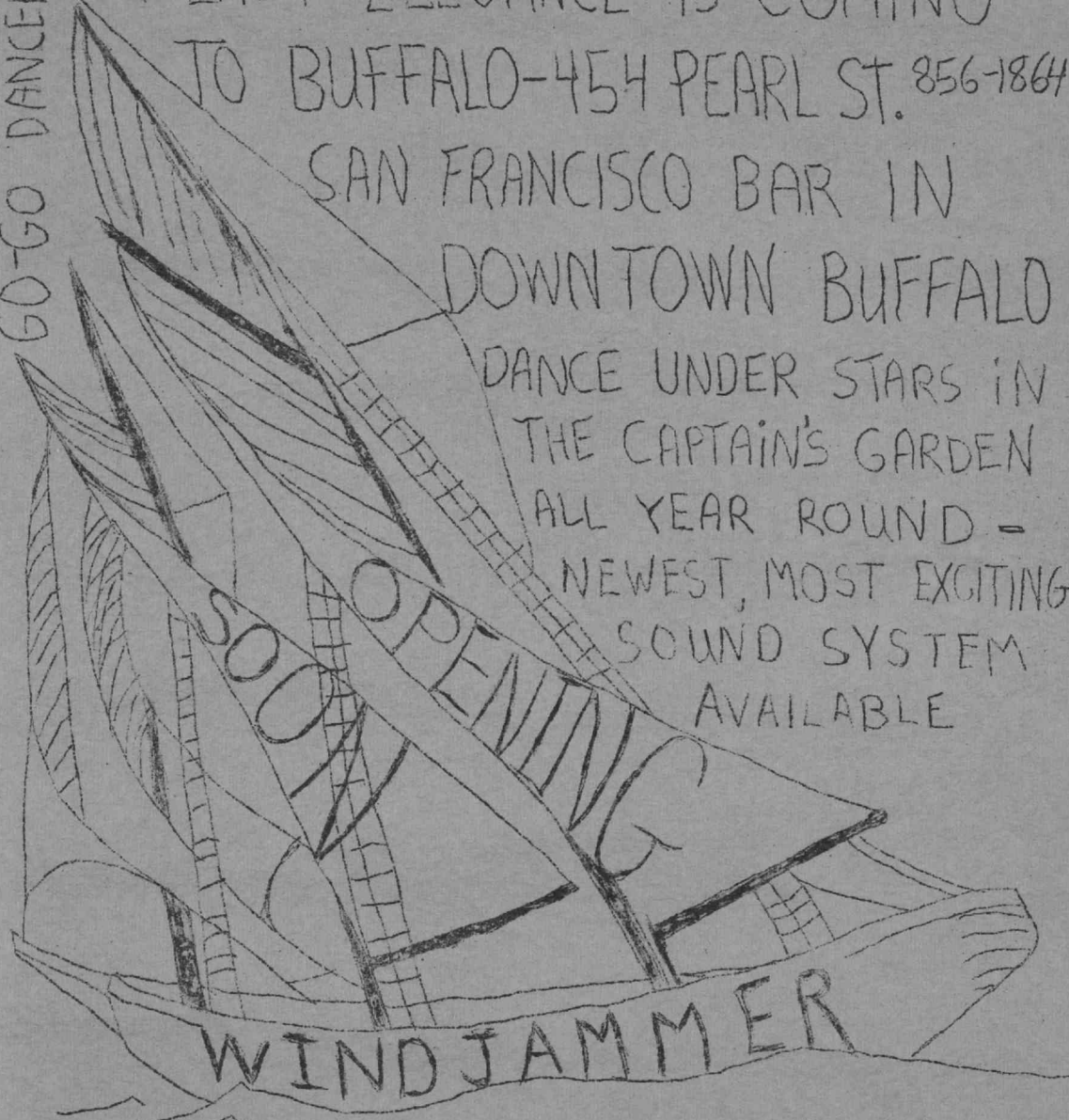
You seemed so free to encounter the lighter
aspects of life
Enjoying the company of a warm admirer
Greeting my every kiss
With such a deep smile;
Becoming lost in you was so easy.
As years pass
And the sun casts a shadow on darkness
itself
and books crumble noisily into dust
one shared heartbeat remains transfixed in time.

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 CAPTAIN'S GARDEN
ALL YEAR ROUND -
NEWEST, MOST EXCITING
SOUND SYSTEM
AVAILABLE



SOO OPENING

WINDJAMMER

LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN

BULLETIN BOARD

CALENDAR

- SUN., 10/21-2PM-8PM: Grand Opening at Gay Community Services Ctr. 45 Allen St., Mattachine General Meeting to follow, nominations will be taken for Member-At-Large.
- Mon., 10/22-12MID-3AM: "Sisters of Sappho"-lesbian radio show, WBFC-FM (88.7)
- WED., 10/24-7PM-10PM: Coffee-rap open house at Gay Community Ctr. 8PM: GLF meeting at Norton Union U.B.
9:30PM: Stonewall Nation radio program on WBFC-FM (88.7)-"Gay Activism in the Academy."
- SAT., 10/27-9PM-1AM: "Halloween Gala" at Unitarian Church, cor. of Elmwood & W. Ferry. Costume competition, dancing, beer & pop served. Donation \$1.00.
- MON., 10/29-12MID-3AM: "Sisters of Sappho"-lesbian radio show, WBFC-FM (88.7).
- Tues., 10/30-8PM: Mattachine Board meeting at Gay Community Ctr.
- WED., 10/31-7PM-10PM: Coffee-rap open house at Gay Community Services Ctr., 45 Allen St. 8PM: GLF meeting at Norton Union, U.B.
9:30PM: Stonewall Nation Radio Program on WBFC-FM (88.7)
"The Masque Fall"
- SUN., 11/4; 8PM: Mattachine General Meeting. Program: "Marathon Crash"
- MON., 11/5: 7:30PM: Gay Community Services Center general staff meeting, at the Center
12MID-3AM: "Sisters of Sappho"-lesbian radio show, WBFC-FM (88.7)
- WED., 11/7: 7PM-10PM: coffee-rap open house at Gay Community Services Center, 45 Allen St. 8PM: GLF meeting at Norton Union U.B.
9:30PM: Stonewall Nation Radio program on WBFC-FM (88.7)
- SAT., 11/10: 9PM-1AM: "Gaye Olde Tyme Auction" - Unitarian Church cor., Elmwood & W. Ferry - open & blind bidding; beer & pop served; donation of auction items will be greatly appreciated - call Gay Community Service Ctr. for pick-up 881-5335
- THURS., 11/22: 2PM : Thanksgiving dinner at Gay Community Svcs. Ctr.
- GAYELLOW PAGES: a complete listing of gay bars, accomodations, groups, etc. throughout the United States- Now on hand for reference at the library room of the Community Ctr. 45 Allen St. - 881-5335
ROCHESTER GAY CENTER OPEN - at 812 Brown St., rear, in the Bulls-head section of Rochester - for more information call 436-7670 in Rochester.