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Fifth Freedom

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2-17-1974

### Fifth Freedom, 1974-02-17

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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VOL. 4, NO. 1

# Fifth Freedom

FEB. 17, 1974

MATTACHINE  
SOCIETY  
STINKS



TWENTIETH  
QUESTION



CRUISIN'  
ROCHESTER



POETRY





MUSIC AND DISC-JOCKEY NIGHTLY

# MAXL'S

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"come and see your friends and Denny at the bar"

Every Tues., all the draft beer you can drink-\$2.50, 8-12PM

# editorial

# staff

The FIFTH FREEDOM has finally reappeared after an absence of over a month. We apologize to the Buffalo Gay Community, our subscribers, friends and advertisers, and pledge to do our best to try to not let this happen again.

The delay was caused by the purchase and subsequent breakdown of some printing equipment which has caused an obvious improvement in the technical quality of the FIFTH FREEDOM. The new, improved paper is in line with Mattachine's renewed commitment to bring the Buffalo Gay Community the very best that our resources can afford us. In this particular instance, Mattachine has gone beyond its financial resources and has committed itself to a burdensome time payment plan in order to finance this improvement.

Along with the changes in the paper comes the need for more people to join in and help us use our equipment and resources to produce a better Gay Publication. We have the physical capacity to do this. What we need now are the talented writers, artists and staff workers. We can do so much. Please help us make Buffalo a better place for Gays.

The FIFTH FREEDOM is published by The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, P.O. Box 975 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205. Tel. (716)881-5335

STAFF: Dan Woepfel  
Pat Grosse

ARTISTS: Greg Bodekor  
Mason Arrigo

If you have any comments or contributions, send them to the above address, attn: FIFTH FREEDOM

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, please call or write the Gay Community Services Center at 45 Allen St., Buffalo, N.Y., 14202, (716)881-5335 and a salesperson will call and compose your ad with you. More information available at the above number. Please make all checks/m.o.'s payable to Mattachine Society.

NOTE: The appearance of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising in this publication is not an indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The FIFTH FREEDOM is published at 45 Allen Street, Buffalo, N.Y. It has a circulation of 1200 copies which are distributed at no charge.

# MATTACHINE SOCIETY STINKS?

or does it? whenever one mentions the mattachine society in a group of gay people, the reaction is rarely neutral. that is, the people present usually put it down or talk it up. these comments are primarily intended for those who put down the society.

what did the mattachine society ever do for me? maybe nothing. but probably a lot. what did you ever do for the society? lets try to understand one thing--criticism--honest well-intended criticism is something that not only should exist--but in fact must exist for any organization and its friends to exist. but there's a definite difference between friendly criticism and chronic bitching. most people aren't too bothered

by a little mutual dishing--getting a little tacky now and then--what the hell, it can be fun when it's done right--so it's honest criticism or a little tackiness that's objectionable. it's the "why are those frustrated fags and dykes trying to stir up a lot of unnecessary trouble" type of people that really piss me off, and they piss me off precisely because they're usually ignorant or uncaring or too lazy to inform themselves accurately about the society and it's center--how it works--what it does and doesn't do--what it can and cannot do.

the society is not what it was five years ago--six months ago--it shouldn't be--the society and its functions change, just as the in-

dividuals who are in and around the society change--and unless you keep up with the changes, you're apt to be talking about situations that no longer exist.

the bullshit that one hears about the society is amazing--amazing because the people who spread the bullshit don't know what they're talking about--the negative, the viscious, the destructive. it is a fact that in many cultures, God is thought of by most straights as a sort of big straight butch in the sky who beats up gays in some hell for being so presumptuous as to kiss and hold and make love to human beings of their choice. consider: the person returning from the hereafter to earth who is asked "what is God like?" the answer: "well, to begin with, she's lesbian." the point is, that to break away from the self-hate and self-destructiveness that many gays have been taught by their culture and its institutions (i.e. organized religions, the law, the straight media and those others who would dictate exactly how we should act --be straight, get married, have children, don't think too much, feel less, don't get high, kill or die in a war, or wither away in a "nursing" home) to break away from all of this we have to alter our individual consciousness, have a change of mind, see life a little differently by looking at ourselves as we are, not as some

others would have us be for their purposes--finally to feel good about ourselves, especially about our sexual and emotional feelings for our gay selves and friends.

the gay liberation movement exists. period. but what is it? for one thing it's not all picketing and politics, although it can be that too. let me offer my own comments about what the movement is for me--how it works, and what it hopes to accomplish, as i understand and perceive it. also, let me indicate how the Mattachine Society and its friends with the Gay Community Services Center enter into all of this. let me suggest how you as an interested and caring gay can help others and yourself, if you so choose.

roughly speaking i would like to break the movement down into two general areas. first, it is a struggle with those persons and institutions that would fire you from your job, call you a sinner, tell you where you cannot live, what bars you're "welcome" in, kick you out of the service, put you in jail for twenty years just for five minutes of innocent lovemaking with your companion. if none of these things have happened to you, they could--and you know it. and because they could happen to you, there's a threat involved. and threats produce fear, and fear destroys love and life. and if life isn't about loving and living freely and fearlessly, then what is it

(con. p. 14)



# Mattachine

MINI-MINUTES by P. Ames, Secy.

Executive Board Meeting held 1/22/74 with 10 persons attending

Hi-lites included through discussion of our professional and legal liability status for counseling certain specific youthful clients. Complete report given by Legal Chairperson Roeller on this issue.

Recent Playgirls Snowflake Follies produced income from ticket door admission sales for both the show troupe and Mattachine. Attendance good but not that expected, with show and buffet of high quality. A good time was enjoyed by all attending.

Previously announced Miss Empress contest is now replaced by approved motion offered at this meeting, for 2/16/74 Valentine's Dance at the Unitarian Hall where most of these functions are held.

Best news was the inspiring new memberships and current renewals that swelled our coffers by \$67. The current total of paid voting members is 36.

Best yet--watch for report on 1/27th General Meeting--those who don't attend miss a great deal.

## MATTACHINE 2-10-74 ELECTION RESULTS

### Newly Elected Officers

President: Donald Michaels      Secretary: Peggie Ames  
V. President: Claude Gary      Treasurer: Donald Licht

### Newly Appointed Committee Chairpeople

LEGAL COMMITTEE: Don Michaels      GROUNDS/PROPERTY: G. Bodekor  
PUBLICATIONS: Dan Woepfel      MEMBERSHIP: Don Fenton  
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Claude Gary      HEALTH: James Haynes, Ph D  
SOCIAL PLANNING: Conde Peoples      POLITICAL ACTION: D. Michaels  
FINANCIAL: Don Licht      AGIT/PROP: Steve Spielberg  
JOBS / HOUSING: Dick McGinnis      RELIGIOUS: vacant

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Bruce Greenberg      Bobby Bailey      Chuck Nevins      Bobbi Prebis

# 20

## Is It Better, In This Society, to Be Heterosexual?

Is it better to be white? Or gentile? Or descended from the settlers on the Mayflower? These are questions that should never be asked seriously by anyone who believes in our Constitutional principles. But they are asked by nonetheless, and members of our oppressed ethnic minorities once wondered whether it wouldn't be better to "pass" if possible, or at least try as hard as they could to fit into the prescribed patterns. Now these minorities have come to understand that the only answer is to be exactly what you are and proud of it--that avoidance of insanity does not consist in conformity but in protest against injustice.

Homosexuals too now realize that our first duty toward ourselves is to accept nothing less than the same rights and dignities accorded others. We are no longer willing to accept the tyranny of the majority, and we see the efforts to describe us as "criminal" or "immoral" or "sick" for what these efforts always have been, political maneuvers aimed at stripping us of our personal values, at constricting the human personality and at substituting conformity for social diversity. We are serving notice that we'll tolerate no more brainwashing or brutalization.

If, in the process of fighting for our rights, we receive even greater rebuffs or are subjected to even more savage persecution, it may not matter. For we are free of the fears and guilts which have allowed us to be deprived of our human rights. We are free!



# eruisin rochester

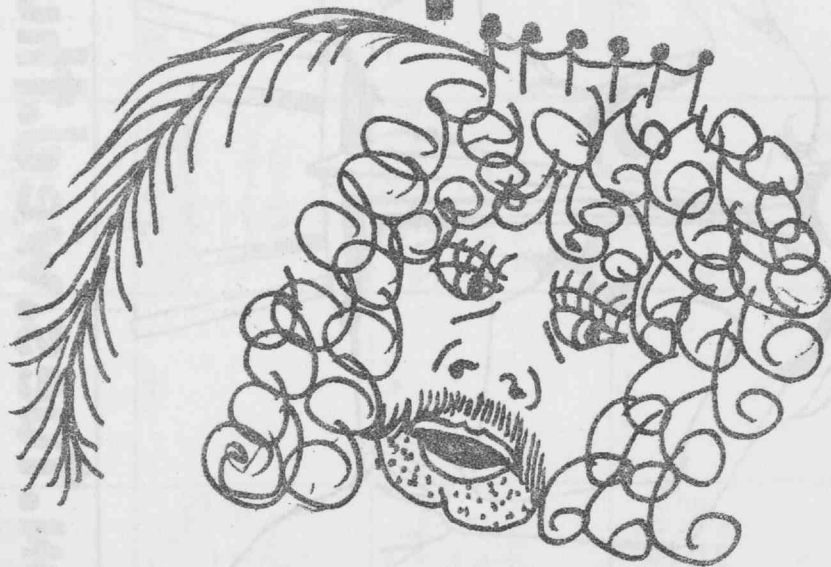
Your in for a surprise, if you think that the only thing that gets made in Rochester is a camera. An hour's drive on the Thruway will bring you to a nice variety of bars and baths. In fact you may want to bring a camera for a few shots to put on your wall. I'm sure you can get plenty of film there. The gang at JIM'S will be only too happy to show some tourists a swinging time. JIM'S is at 123 North Street. North Street? I guess Buffalo and Rochester have something in common. The crowd is both male and female but weighed heavily in favor of the young males. You better bring your silver dancing shoes because if you like to dance, you may never leave the floor. They open at five and just like all the bars in Rochester they close at 2AM. They charge 50¢ on weekends--Buffalo could learn a few things from Rochester, and if they're having one of their shows, they charge a dollar. If you get hungry they have sandwiches to sooth your oral needs.

If this is your kind of bar but you're also looking for some really fine entertainment at no extra charge, stop-in at the RED CARPET LOUNGE at 430 Main Street across from the Eastman Theatre. They feature "Patti and the Boyfriend" every Thursday through Sunday. Now that's something you can't find in a gay bar in Buffalo and believe me they're worth the trip. The RED CARPET LOUNGE is a good friend of the FIFTH FREEDOM because they advertise in our paper. So please stop-in, buy a drink and give the bartender a big kiss from our staff.

Well moving right along, if you're looking for some quieter places, there's DICK'S 44 on State Street. They have a very attractive decor which makes it a cozy place for talking. Their crowd is more mature and will be very interested in seeing you. There's no dancing but who needs dancing when you have a good drink and a hunky man sitting next to you. Believe it or not, you can actually hear what he's saying.

The BAZAAR on State Street is similiar to DICK'S but not quite so plush. But if you like beer, they have a beer blast every Monday and Thursday. It goes without saying that when

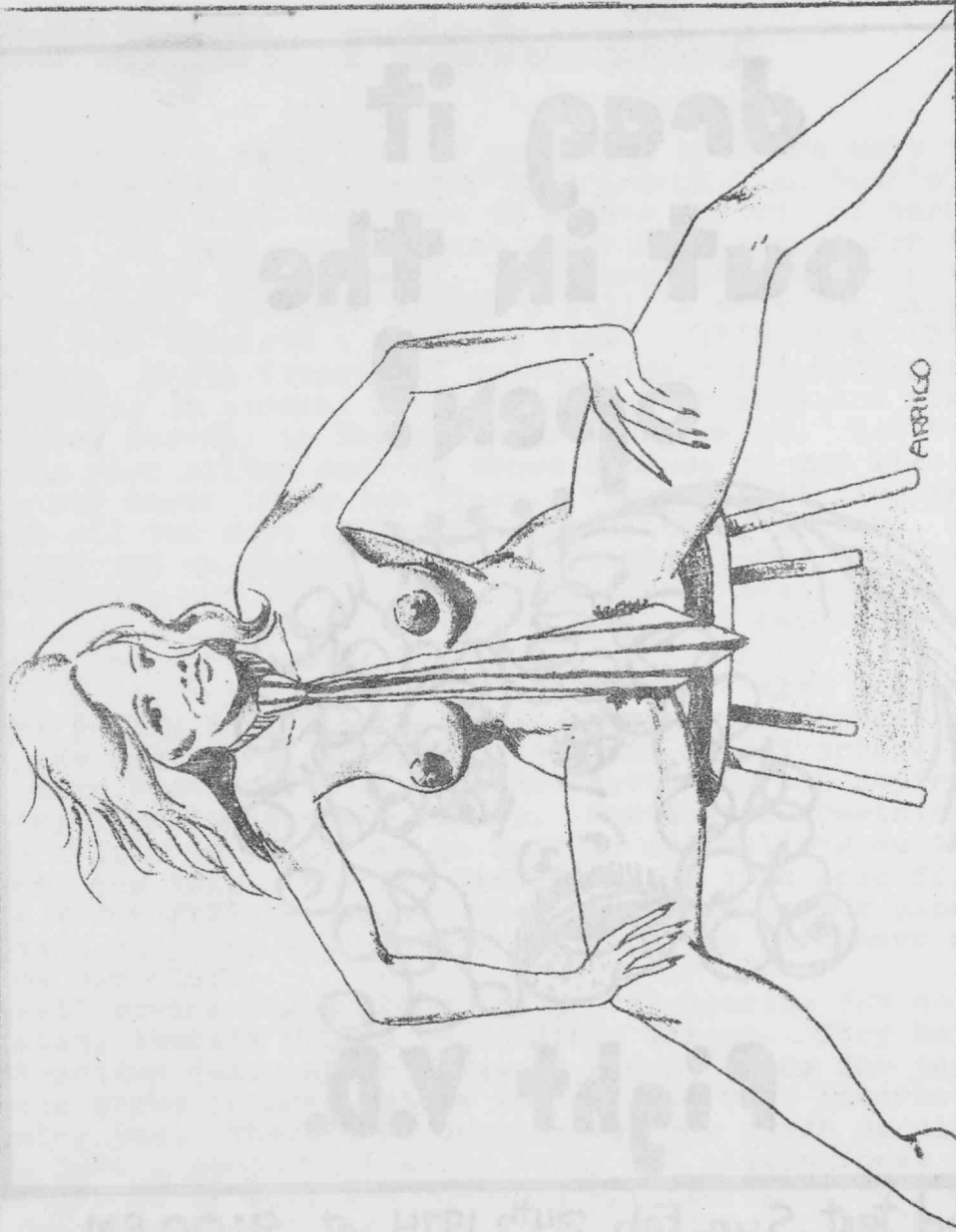
**drag it  
out in the  
open!**



**Fight V.D.**

free blood test, Sun. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 1974 at 8:00 P.M.

Gay Community Services Center, 45 Allen at Franklin



**SUN. MON. TUES. WED. THUR. FRI. SAT.**

FEB. 3	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-	-9-
GLF meeting 8PM Norton union SISTERS OF Sappho 11PM WBFO-FM 88.7	GLF meeting 8PM Norton union SISTERS OF Sappho 11PM WBFO-FM 88.7	gay awareness 8-9 Stonewall nation WBFO-FM 88.7 9:30 PM	gay awareness 8-9 Stonewall nation WBFO-FM 88.7 9:30 PM	coffee house at center 7-7 FREE	coffee house at center 7-7 FREE	dance unitarian Hall see ad 9-12am.
mattechine meeting at center 8 PM all welcome	GLF Meeting Sisters of Sappho	-12-	-13- gay awareness Stonewall nation	-14-	-15- coffee house	-16- dance unitarian Hall see ad 9-12am.
-17-	-18-	-18-	-20-	-21-	-22-	-23-

-17-	-18-	-19-	-20-	-21-	-22-	-23-
GLF meeting Sisters of Sappho	GLF meeting Sisters of Sappho	GLF meeting Sisters of Sappho	gay awareness stonewall nation	gay awareness stonewall nation	coffee house	coffee house
-24-	-25-	-26-	-27-	-28-	MAN.1	-2-
matchine meeting AND VD TEST	GLF meeting Sisters of Sappho		gay awareness stonewall nation		coffee house	
-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	coffee house	-9-
	GLF meeting Sisters of Sappho		gay awareness stonewall nation			
-10-	-11-	-12-	-13-	-14-	coffee house	-16-
matchine meeting	GLF meeting Sisters of Sappho		gay awareness stonewall nation			

# short shots

\*According to the medical writer of the Miami Herald, half of the audience walked out of a recent meeting of the Dade County Medical Association when the gay minister of the Miami Metropolitan Community Church was introduced as a speaker. One of the doctors who remained for the minister's talk refused to shake his hand because he said that he believed that homosexuality was contagious. (Homosexual Counseling Journal, January 1974)

\*Those of you who have read the recent issue of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTISTRY might have noticed that there were five missing pages. The missing article contains the report on tooth decay by Dr. Derbert Fieser of Greenwich Village, New York City. He had divided his non-gay patients into two groups. A control group had their teeth brushed with a regular commercial brand of tooth paste and a test group had their teeth brushed with semen samples. After five months Dr. Fieser examined both groups. Those to whom he had applied the semen had 50% fewer cavities. The doctor tested his homosexual patients and discovered that the enamel on their teeth was actually harder than normal. (Gay International News from Morning Glory, October, 1973)

\*CBS made a positive statement concerning Gay rights in an editorial by George Frazier on the Dec. 14 Morning Newscast. Frazier declared that the editorial media has been derelict in treating the problems of responsible homosexuals and declared that it was time the press supported the genuine concern of homosexuals and concluded by saying that the genuine perverts are off-duty cops who harass and beat homosexuals. (Empty Closet, January, 1974)

\*Dr. Joyce Brothers has joined Abigail Van Buren (Dear Abby) and Walter C. Alvarez among nationally syndicated columnists in enlightened support of homosexual men and women. Ann Landers continues to take an essentially negative view of homosexuality. (Homosexual Counseling Journal, Jan. 1974)



"fashions from  
around the world  
for the liberated male"

The  
Town Square  
43 Allen Street, Buffalo

The Fabulous New

# RED CARPET LOUNGE

430 Main St., Rochester, across from Eastman Theatre

Live Entertainment, Thurs.-Sun.

Featuring: Patti and The  
Boyfriend, Vocal and Organ



all about? when threats and fear have been removed from our society then a part of gay liberation will have realized its goal.

second, the movement can be understood as an inner-directed activity. that is, directed at gays themselves, rather than at those straight institutions which oppress us. this second activity has as its goal the turning of our own heads, changing of certain opinions and beliefs, the opening of our minds to new perceptions--to use the jargon, "consciousness-raising." why should this be done? how is this done? it should be done for at least two reasons that come immediately to mind.

one, because many of us have been rejected--rejected by certain religions, rejected by former straight friends, rejected by our families, rejected by our employers, rejected by our government, rejected. period. when one is rejected it can really hurt. and hurt can leave scars even after the pain is gone. talking about our lives can heal those scars. by sharing our experiences with others we help each other. and God knows, helping others is always Good.

two, we should also change our heads because others are always in the coming out process. and nothing is probably more important for the person coming out than to meet another person who is out and

unafraid. by being "out" i mean someone who has examined what it means for oneself to be gay and is proud and happy to love in our way. how do we change our minds and get in touch with real feelings? one way is by talking. by talking in special ways. organized rap sessions with specified topics and group leaders. concentric circle exercises. role-playing techniques. learning to listen carefully. watching the language of the body. learning to communicate honestly.

the Mattachine Society is a carefully organized group of individuals who use their talents to accomplish both aims of the movement: (1) the elimination of oppression in the institutions of our society, and (2) the changing of our own feelings about ourselves. the Mattachine Society and its friends are trying to eliminate institutionalized oppression of homosexual love in various ways: political activities, public relations work, researching legal and religious matters, continuing information exchanges between other organized gay groups in the movement, and in many, many other ways.

the Society, with its Services Center, is helping us to better know ourselves and others by providing a meeting place, other than the bars, where gays can meet to talk--to open ourselves to each other. specific activities take place at the center to help with this communication process. hap-

pening are ten-week sessions of communication training, wednesday nite discussion groups of topics interesting to gays, the friday nite coffee sessions of informal conversation, camping or whatever. all activities are open to those who choose to come and get into it and maybe get it on. dances and other special programs are held on a regular basis at the Unitarian hall pen to all for high and relaxing gay times. if you think that all of this happens without the effort and work of very concerned people, you'd better clean up your rap. because obviously, if people weren't working so damn hard none of this would be happening.

Jim DeVinney



### MEASURE UP or SHUT UP

A 17-year-old Pacifica, Calif., female high school student was suspended for 5 days for suggesting to the mayor that he prove his worth by revealing the length of his penis.

Zoe Joyner says the suggestion was part of her protest against beauty pageants. The mayor, Miss Pacifica and Miss California had come to the school to extoll the virtues of such pageants to the coeds who were urged to participate.

During the presentation, Joyner stood up and said to the mayor: "Since the important thing about a woman is her measurements, how about telling us the measurement of your penis so we'll know if you're worth listening to." She then handed Mayor Aubrey Lumley a tape measure, but he proceeded with his talk sleepishly.

After the principal had suspended her for unbecoming conduct, Joyner said she was proud of her stand: "I think it's a debasing thing for a woman to display herself and the measurements of her breasts to get some trophies in order to sell products." (Courtesy BUFFALO NEW TIMES)

DIAMOND JIM  
BY ARTHUR AXLEROD

Light from the west,  
sunset/ and you cannot return.  
But he does,  
to the darkness of riding boots,  
one  
fallen over on its side.  
Damp, on the basement clothes-line,  
shirts, limp and bright,  
stare back  
like the spirits of lost children.  
"You're still young." He is/ gay  
and lives alone,  
with another. There is no solace,  
no innocence apart from dust,  
faceted in the language of bone  
or the rough gold of another's skin  
or the smell of sweat.  
Cigar smoke, shaving lotion will not/  
cover it. An encasement of thin film  
hides the light of blue eyes.  
He aches.  
And says, "Sometimes when I'm angry  
at my lover, I try to hurt him  
or cheat on him."  
On the wall, a young girl's sketch, "A time of silver pears;"  
he has returned from the times of infidelity,  
through a field fragile with rotted fruit.  
He has  
a placard from the Coffeehouse del Fuego,  
a blue-lit cafe,  
figures turning in printed blue and red.  
But the shadows on posters do nothing.  
And you can return. He can,  
with a strong torso, arms siney-ous,  
and a still-from-oil/ tan.  
This tells you nothing

(con. p. 18)



# The Shadows

how we've changed!



AND WE'RE HERE AT  
VIRGINIA AND DELAWARE  
Tues. 9-11 chicken wings  
Sunday 5-9 buffet

the beer flows some interesting things develop. Stop-in.

If you want dinner before you start, the BACHELOR'S FORUM at 1063 E. Main Street, is a great place. They serve a mouth-watering dinner Thurs. through Sat. starting at 6PM til 10PM. But you don't have to stop in first for dinner, they have great drinks and sandwiches all the time.

Sadly as in most cities there is only one bar for women. But don't let that stop you from stopping in at the RIVERVIEW on S. Avenue. It's the only one so it's jammed with together women of every description.

After the bars close or as soon as you get off the Thru-way, head for the baths. They have two that will make your eyes pop out (did I say eyes!)

The AM-PM CLUB, 92 North St. has facilities for exercise, sauna, lounging and for people to make it a 24 hour paradise.

At 109 North St. is the ROMAN FORUM. They have sauna heat and a cogential crowd that will make heat without sauna.

I'd suggest that you start in the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Center at 813 Brown St. at W. Main. They can supply the information and directions to everything. Their number is 436-7670 and have hours 7-10PM Mon-Friday.

## DIAMOND JIM

of blue jeans and quiet,  
of lamplight, still flecked with shadow,  
returning to his sad, sinew-ous hands.

"So much lost."

His passion seeks the region where the hawk soars  
in gray and meshing air.  
He seeks to break the rock,  
the hard rock broken only by still-harder bud.

Stone? And firelight,  
the fire, lighted in the grate,  
and the unpolished marble, bare and black,  
on which firelight reflects.

Gone? His love is lost  
like light on a stream westering  
to a region, a wilderness  
where there are no men.





# subscription form

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## A T T E N T I O N

The Gay Liberation Front of Buffalo in conjunction with the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations is sponsoring a state-wide petition-political action campaign to repeal the Sodomy Law (#130.38) in this years State-Assembly-Senate session. Although this law is seldom enforced it is the major blockade to obtaining housing, job security and other gay civil rights legislation. We are going to need people to give their time and energies to mobilize a large scale door-to-door canvassing campaign in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Hamburg and other small communities on the Niagara Frontier. We will also need people to speak to community organizations and groups, visit local legislators and city officials. Please sign your name to the petition either at the Gay Community Services Center, 45 Allen or at GLF offices at Norton Union, University of Buffalo. A workshop on signiture gathering for the petition and other political actions will be held on Feb. 28 at 8PM in room 330, Norton Union, U.B.



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