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Fifth Freedom, 1974-05-05

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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Vol. 4 No. 4

Fifth Freedom

May 5, 1974

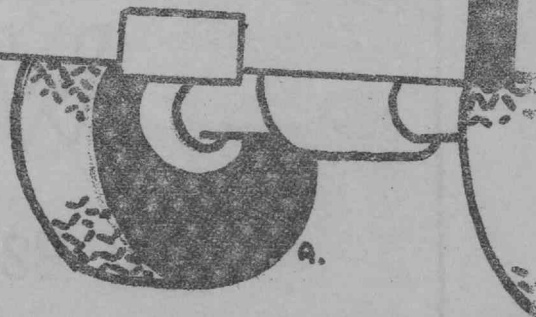
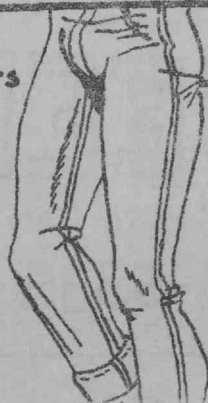
Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER
 IS MOVING
 to the corner of MAIN
 AND UTICA - JUNE 1st

Mattachine Polls Legislators

Gay Pride Week News

Cruisin Syracuse





"fashions from
around the world
for the liberated male"

10:30-6, Mon.-Sat., 886-0520

The
Town Square

43 Allen Street, Buffalo

coming June 16-23

Buffalo's 4th ANNUAL

GAY PRIDE

WEEK

call 881-5335 for info.

The FIFTH FREEDOM is published by
The Mattachine Society of the
Niagara Frontier, P.O. Box 975
Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y.
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STAFF: Dan Woepfel
ADVERTISING: Bruce Greenberg
ARTISTS: Greg Bodekor
Mason Arrigo

If you have any comments or con-
tributions, send them to the above
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ADVERTISING RATES: 1/3 column-
\$2.50; 1/3 page-\$5.00; 1/2 page-
\$7.50; full page-\$15.00. To
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the Gay Community Services Center
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14202, (716)881-5335 and a sales-
person 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.

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It has a circulation of 1200
copies which are distributed at
no charge.

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3

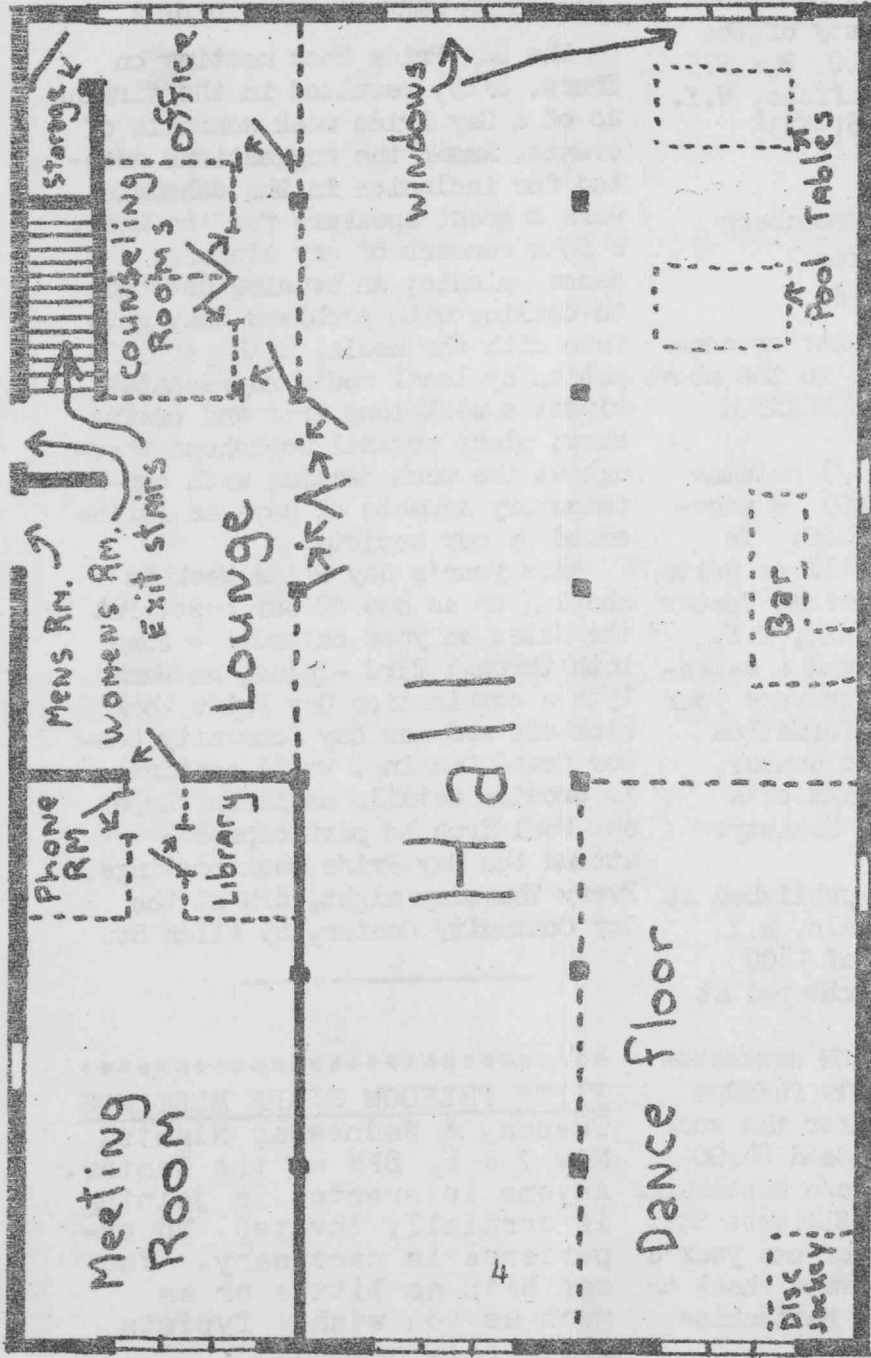
GAY PRIDE WEEK IS SHAPING UP !

The Gay Pride Week meeting on
Thurs. 4/25, resulted in the firming
up of a Gay Pride week schedule of
events. Among the suggestions adop-
ted for inclusion in the schedule
were 2 guest speakers for the week;
a folk concert of gay singers; a
dance; picnic; an evening devoted
to dealing with problems that gays
face with the media, with partici-
pation by local media representa-
tives; a week-long arts and crafts
show; plus, several workshops thro-
ughout the week dealing with con-
temporary aspects of gays as influ-
enced by our society.

This year's Gay Pride Week is
shaping up as one of our best. Put
the dates on your calendar - June
16th through 23rd - plus, on June
15th a combination Gay Pride Week
kick-off and new Gay Community Cen-
ter Grand Opening. We'll continue
to provide details as plans shape
up. Feel free to participate -
attend the Gay Pride Week meetings.
Every Thursday night, 8PM at the
Gay Community Center, 45 Allen St.

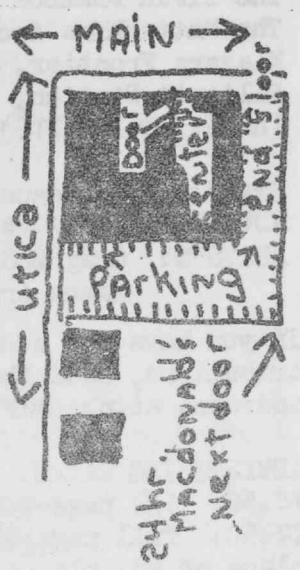
FIFTH FREEDOM STAFF MEETINGS

Tuesday & Wednesday Nights,
May 7 & 8, 8PM at the Center.
Anyone interested in joining
is cordially invited. No ex-
perience is necessary. You
can help as little or as
much as you wish. Typists
are sorely needed.



--- to be Added
 — exists

APPRX. 5,000 sq ft.
 50 ft. by 100 ft.



GAY CENTER MAKES ITS MOVE

The Mattachine Society has recently announced to the Niagara Frontier its plans to move its Gay Community Services Center to a new location at the corner of Main and W. Utica. As Director of the Center I am making a plea to the people of the area on behalf of the organization and myself to help us personally with your time and with your donations. We have set a goal of \$1,000.00 for donations by June 1st and the dates of May 4, 5, 11, 12 for a work party, with free beer and pop at our new location from 10AM to 5PM.

All of this is no small endeavor, but to us an endeavor we must undertake. We have, through the six year history of the organization and the year and a half history of the Center tried to deal with the lack of people, space and money to function fully. The organization has come to a time when the people, space and money can stretch no further. We can no longer deal properly with the awesomely expanding demands put upon us from the police department, hospitals, counseling centers, churches, schools, legislators, and the public at large for us to educate them about gays; the professional demands of people and space, for client referral by public and private counseling services; the demands of our ever growing publications; the influx of gays who come to us in need of counseling; legal aid, medical help, and information of all nature; the obvious demands by you for more social events that you can share with other gays; the demands put upon us for being one of the oldest and most active organizations in the nation; the increasing demand for locating jobs and housing free of prejudices; the requests of the media for news for the public; the demands for positive legislation on the local, state and federal levels; and an increasing amount of other demands too numerous to mention.

For these reasons, it is necessary to move to the space we have found at long last. This new Center will be that in every sense of the word. It will be 5,000 sq. ft. in which we will have a hall for weekly dances that is larger than any gay bar Buffalo has ever seen and with a dance floor to match. We will have in addition, two counseling rooms, a large lounge, library, private phone counseling room, an office and a very sizeable meeting room. In this space there will be events of every description - from our beer blast

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- FRI., 5/3, 10AM:** All day conference on the "Legal Status of the Homosexual," SUNYAB Law School, Amherst Campus.
7PM: Coffee House, G.C.S.C., *Everyone Welcome.
- SAT., 5/4, 10AM-5PM:** Clean-up Fix-up, Paint-up Party at soon-to-open new Gay Community Center on the corner of Main & W.Utica (entrance next to Motor Tire)
8PM: Counselor Staff Mtg. 106 Normal, Upper.
- SUN., 5/5, 8PM:** Mattachine General Meeting, G.C.S.C.* Hear plans for new Center, Plus results of the N.Y.S. C.G.O. Conference.
- MON., 5/6, 8PM:** Gay Liberation Front Meeting, Norton Union U.B., Rm 234
11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- WED., 5/8, 9:30PM:** "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- THURS., 5/9, 8PM:** Gay Pride Week Planning Session, G.C.S.C. Please Help!
- FRI., 5/10, 7PM-?:** Coffee House, G.C.S.C.
- SAT., 5/11, 10AM-5PM:** Clean-up Fix-up, Paint-up Party at soon-to-open new Gay Community Center on the corner of Main & W.Utica.
- 9PM-1AM:** Mattachine Society Dance with Show by "Claudette and Lillian" Showtime 9:30 PM. Admission \$2.00. Beer and pop available.
- SUN., 5/12:** Program on Homosexuality with Mattachine representatives to be aired on WGRQ FM 97 at either 7:30AM, 9AM or 9:30AM Program is prerecorded and lasts 45minutes.
- MON., 5/13, 11PM:** "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program WBFO FM 88.7
- TUES., 5/14, 8PM:** Board Mtg., G.C.S.C.
- WED., 5/15, 8PM:** "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program.
- THURS., 5/16, 8PM:** Gay Pride Week Planning Session.*
- FRI., 5/17, 7PM-?:** Coffee House G.C.S.C. Everyone Welcome.
- SUN., 5/19, 8PM:** Mattachine Program Meeting, G.C.S.C.*
- MON., 5/20, 11PM:** "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- WED., 5/22, 9:30PM:** "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program.
- THURS., 5/23, 8PM:** Gay Pride Week Planning Session.*
- FRI., 5/24, 7PM-?:** Coffee House. G.C.S.C.
- SAT., 5/25, 9PM-1AM:** AUCTION, Unitarian Hall, Elmwood at W.Ferry, Free Beer, Now Gathering things, For Pick-Ups, Call G.C.S.C.*
- *G.C.S.C. - Gay Community Services Center, 45 Allen Street, Buffalo, New York, 14202, Tel. # (716) 881-5335, 881-5336

Matachine *
Society *
presents

Claudette *
and *
Lillian *



"Together
again

for the very
first time!

Sat. May 11th

9:30 P.M.

Unitarian Church Hall

Elmwood / Ferry # 2.00

"the show everyone's
been waiting for..."

Dancing 9 PM

* Beer + Pop available ^{Wills}

MATTACHINE POLLS LEGISLATORS

In Conjunction with the state-wide petition drive and lobbying activities, members of M.S.N.F. recently communicated with the legislators representing this area. In addition to inviting them to the April 21 meeting, the purpose of contacting these lawmakers was to express support of present legislation affecting the gay community and to poll them on the consensual sodomy and anti-discrimination bills.

Duties in Albany prevented the legislators from attending the meeting or, with one exception, granting interviews at this time, but all agreed to outline their views if questionnaires were sent to them. The general conclusion drawn from these conversations was that the representatives are unfamiliar with the specific legislation and are open to considering the views of their gay constituents. Most requested that MSNF send them information regarding the bills. One exception of unequivocal opposition was Senator James D. Griffin (D-C) of the 56th district, who, while unfamiliar with either bill, stated "I'm against sodomy. How's that?"

The one legislator who agreed to an immediate interview was Assemblyman Dale M. Volker (R) of the 148th district. Two members of the Mattachine Society spoke with Mr. Volker in his Lancaster law office for an hour on April 20. Mr. Volker disagreed with the argument that the government should not legislate private morality, stating that all legislation involves such questions. He referred to abortion and murder as examples.

Mr. Volker stated that he was opposed to passage of the consensual sodomy bill because it would obligate the courts to determine the presence of consent in each case and would open the door to a similar problem in the prosecution of rape cases.

The assemblyman related that while he did not approve of discrimination against anyone, he was opposed to "broad, blanket laws" which enabled persons to bring forth charges of discrimination even when it was not actually the issue.

Mr. Volker concluded that while his background as a police officer had given him a more open-minded attitude toward homosexuals, he did not believe that his constituency shared this opinion and therefore he could not support either of the bills at this time. He expressed serious doubt about the possibility of such legislation passing in the near future because the majority of the electorate is now reacting to the trend toward a more permissive society. Due to the repeal of capital punishment and abortion laws, they regard the state legislature as an "appendage" to this permissive society. Therefore the legislators wish to stay clear of such controversial issues, particularly in (continued on page 14)



TONY and BILLY
now
Bartending
at
The Shadows

Sun, Tues, Wed. Diane Bartends
Tues. nite is chicken wing nite
every SUNDAY: COCKTAIL HOUR
5-7 DRINKS 75¢ CALL DRINKS -
25¢ ex. Beer 50¢ Canadian 10¢ ex.
BUFFET FOLLOWS FROM 7 to 9

Plenty of room for parking

SOUND SYSTEM
10 to 3
NIGHTLY

Don't forget our first annual
SPRING PICNIC - May 26 - 12 to 8 P.M.
\$5.00 DONATION. INCLUDES ALL YOU
CAN EAT AND DRINK DONATIONS
MUST BE IN BY MAY 19.

CRUSIN SYRACUSE

The "Hill," a term used to describe Syracuse University, was the site of the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations. As I was one of Buffalo's delegates to the meeting, I took the opportunity to sample some of Syracuse's gay night life. I might add however, that the afternoon weather was very hot and sunny so the campus fraternity boys, who were in the building across the street, took the opportunity to exhibit themselves in the raw as they sunbathed on their roof. The coalition meeting took a fifteen minute break to watch from our windows. Well, anyway after the eventful day we took in the bar scene of Syracuse. The most popular bar, Tee Jays, has a crowded mob of straight women and young gay men. Tee Jays itself however was a disappointment. It is a small bar that is one rectangular room with a square bar directly in the center of it. If your into sitting at the bar this arrangement gives you plenty of stools and a good view of the room. The bar however left little comfortable space around it. There was a constant whirl of people shifting from one direction to another - drinks spilled, feet stepped on, clothes dowsed with liquids. It is most uncomfortable to have no safe standing space, as one would find in gay bars in Buffalo. The music was not very recent and much of it was unsuited to dancing. And I might add that the dance floor was carpeted - so it was undanceable. There's no overcharging and the drinks are reasonable and in my book the greatest plus is in the fact that it is gay owned. The rest of the bars in Syracuse were almost empty and would best fit into "Boys in the Band" in atmosphere. Syracuse's only other popular place is its only bath on the same street a few blocks down. I found it even more of a disappointment. I must confess however that I had never been to a bath, and made the mistake of expecting the experience I had been told of Toronto or New York City baths. I met only one person I found attractive and after that the only interesting event was a five foot, six inch, 250lb. crew cut bath owner ripping my towel off me to get a good look. Well that sent me back to where I was staying with a mob of Rochester delegates, one of the delegates who shared my sleeping bag and our host, a student from New Zealand. All of whom were delightful new friends who I hope had as much fun with me

CLOTHES
WITH
RAZZLE

CROSSROADS
565
DELAWARE
885-8315

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: 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 of Mattachine's efforts, join those efforts by becoming a member. Dues are \$10 per year - a small pledge for the rewards of helping to make our community a better place for gays. Stop by at the G.C.S.C., or call 881-5335 to join. Thank You.

FULL PAGE
COMPLIMENTS
OF YOUR
FAVORITE
NIGHT SPOT

COALITION HIRES FULL-TIME LOBBYIST!!!

This past week-end (Apr. 27 & 28) the N.Y. State Coalition of Gay Organization had its Spring conference in Syracuse to map out continuing efforts for strengthening the statewide struggle for gay rights.

Buffalo was well represented by Mattachine, Buffalo Gay Activists, Gay Liberation Front-U.B., and the Purple Rage Collective - all member organizations in NYSCGO. The conference was hosted by the Gay Freedom League at Syracuse University, who provided NYSCGO delegates with good lodging, a good spaghetti dinner Saturday night and a well-organized conference week-end. The only drawback of the whole week-end was the all too-perfect weather - adding a touch of Spring Fever that at times threatened to impede political progress!

But, in spite of the weather it was a highly productive conference. Workshops on Saturday covered the topics of gay parents and child custody; gay professionals; political action tactics on the local levels; and N.Y. State legislative tactics. In addition there were men's, women's, and gay youth caucuses.

On Sunday, the general session convened to discuss adoption of various workshop resolutions as NYSCGO policy. A motion passed that NYSCGO endorse the efforts of gay youth groups seeking to abolish the secrecy of school records. It was pointed out by participants in the gay youth caucus that often the most absurd character assessments by teachers find their way on to school records from Kindergarten on and that these records can lead to damaging results at later times in life.

The Gay Community Services workshop was the source for 2 motions that were adopted regarding child custody. One was that NYSCGO undertake an informational and attitudinal survey of gay parents involved in child custody. The other was that NYSCGO publish official N.Y. State guidelines on adoption and distribute them to interested gay couples.

This general session also adopted - unanimously - a motion that commits NYSCGO to its strongest and potentially most productive action in its 2½ year history! Beginning May 1st, NYSCGO will have a paid, full time lobbyist who will co-ordinate a year-long effort to get the '75 N.Y. State Legislature to pass our gay rights bills. It was generally agreed that several things were lacking in our legislative efforts of past years: 1) that we have had no co-ordinated statewide effort to campaign for support of these bills among legislators before the legislative session convened; 2) that our lobbyists in the past - who were hired for just the duration of the legislative session (Jan.-May) - were at a disadvantage in not knowing in advance the positions of various legislators regarding our bills; and 3) local groups (cont. on page 14)

AUCTION

MAY 25 - 9-1AM - UNITARIAN HALL
ELMWOOD AND W.FERRY - FREE BEER

NOW GATHERING THINGS:

FOR PICK-UPS

CALL THE CENTER 881-5335

Gay Center Makes Its Move

(from p.5)

with a disc jockey every Sat. to therapy groups. This new Center will be able to meet our space problems, and with your help, meet our need for money AND people.

With the realization of the new Center by June 1st, we all be proud to know that we will have the second largest center in New York State, second only to the "Firehouse" in New York, and the possibilities of accomodating countless events and gay people. We are only limited by your involvement with donations and

time to turn this huge, empty pool hall into the focal point of activities for gays in the area.

Again I make this plea to you to come and help us clean, paint and build May 4,5,11,12 from 10AM to 5PM and send, deliver or call us to pick up a donation of money or even furniture so that we can get our \$1,000.00 to get the Center open to meet all the demands the Niagara Frontier has put on us.

13

Sincerely,
Greg Bodekor

MATTACHINE POLLS (cont.)

this election year. Mr. Volker believes that gay liberation groups can best achieve their ends by changing public attitudes through educational activities.

COALITION HIRES (cont.)

canvassing their area legislators were at a disadvantage by not having access to a co-ordinated, state wide effort.

Selected for the full-time lobbyist position was Patty Evans, co-founder of the Rochester Gay Task Force and activist in the Gay Revolution of Women, in Rochester. Patty is articulate and politically experienced and is an excellent choice to spearhead NYSOG's legislative efforts.

Assisting Patty in her statewide efforts will be 5 volunteer regional co-ordinators. Picked to co-ordinate the Western N.Y. legislative efforts was Don Michaels, Mattachine of Buffalo. The regional co-ordinators will work closely with Patty and maintain liaison with one another.

Planned is an intensified effort to bring the issue of gay rights before all the candidates - beginning with the September Primary candidates, continuing through the November election nominees, and following through with a legislators' "educational" campaign right into the opening legislative session in January '75.

Optimism and enthusiasm for this effort was readily apparent at the NYSOG conference. Raising the funds to support a full-time lobbyist was the inevitable "topic of the day." It was felt that through the combination of annual group assessments, individual pledges and local fund-raising efforts by NYSOG member groups, the funds can be raised for this undertaking.

We invite the active participation of as many of you as possible. Your financial and physical support of this NYSOG legislative effort is essential for us to gain the rights to which we're entitled! Please contact Don Michaels - SOON- at the Gay Community Center.
-HELP MAKE THIS OUR YEAR!

SPEAKERS BUREAU BUSY AGAIN

Ms Peggie Ames, one of the many who fill our variety of speaking dates, will appear before Bernard Frank's literature class May 7th. She will present autobiographical gay and transsexual material in the presentation.

Crusin...

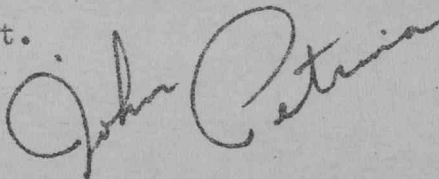
(from page 10)

as I had with them. So I might end by saying that the bar scene need not keep you out of Syracuse because the people seemed to me to be warm and friendly and well worth the weekend trip.

OPEN LETTER OF APOLOGY TO THE GAY COMMUNITY

Please let me apologize for the awful mix-up that occurred at The Shadows Restaurant, Wednesday night, May 1, 1974. Let me explain what happened. On Sunday, April 28, 1974, I met with Sam Spano at his home and gave him a check for \$2300.00 for 50% of The Shadows business, I was to run the business and the employees, and he was to run the books, however, by May 1, 1974, I was to give him the balance of \$7700.00 and I was to have my grand opening that night. At approximately, 4PM, Mr. Spano informed me that he would not accept the balance of the downpayment, nor would he return the original monies I had given to him, because, he stated, the evening of April 30, 1974, he went to the Hibachi Room, which he says was so packed with the kids, they were standing on the sidewalk to get in. He claims that the kids he talked to told him that if I took over his bar, what few kids he had as customers now, would leave and he would lose his shirt, however, by the turnout Wed. Nite, he was proven wrong. Again, please accept my apologies, and thanks for your turnout.

NOTE: This space was paid for by John Petrina and in no way reflects any position whatsoever of MSNF, Inc.



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