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Fifth Freedom, 1974-05-19

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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VOL. 4 NO. 5

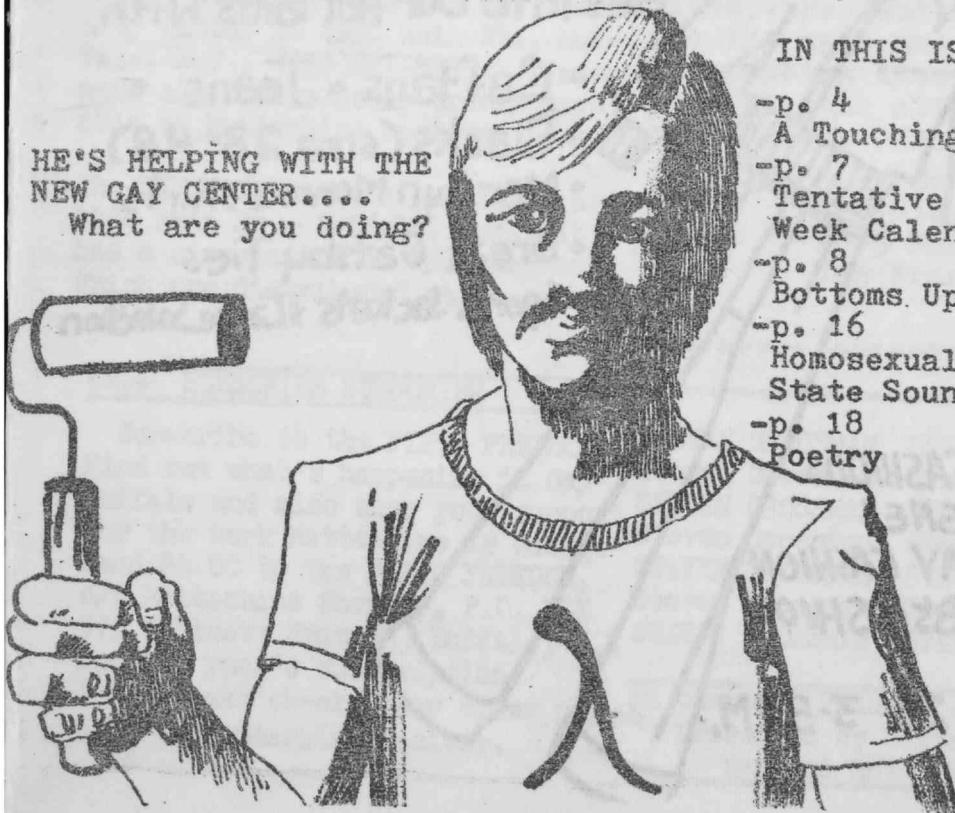
Afth Freedom

May 19, 1974

Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

HE'S HELPING WITH THE
NEW GAY CENTER....

What are you doing?



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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

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Dan Woepel

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The FIFTH FREEDOM is published at 1350 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. It has a circulation of 1500 copies which are distributed at no charge.

RESEARCHING LESBIAN LAW

There's an interesting, informative article in the April issue of "Sisters" magazine on researching lesbian law. In the article, the author, R.A. Basile, clearly states that "doing research on lesbian cases is difficult, and terribly slow." To gain insight into why this is so, we suggest you read the article in the April '74 "Sisters" magazine. "Sisters" is available in the G.C.S.C. library. The author requests that if anyone knows of any lesbian legal cases, they write to her, giving the name and address of the lesbian involved and if possible the attorney's name and address. Write to:

R.A. Basile
c/o Sisters
1005 Market St., #402
San Francisco, Calif.
94103

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Subscribe to the FIFTH FREEDOM - Find out what's happening in Gay Buffalo and also show your support for the work Mattachine is doing. Send \$4.00 to the FIFTH FREEDOM, c/o Mattachine Society, P.O. BOX 975 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. for one year's subscription.

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In concert, Friday, June 21.....
presented by Mattachine as a
part of GAY PRIDE WEEK

A TOUCHING EXPERIENCE

On April 6 some members of the counseling staff along with other Mattachine members had a memorable "touching" experience with the members of the staff of West Side Counseling Service.

The two counseling services have long enjoyed mutual trust, aid and exchange of ideas, but John Mercurio, the head of their staff, approached me with the idea of an all day marathon session with them after hearing the discussion concerning the session we had previously done with the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service. An emotional rather than an intellectual confrontation was desired.

A planning session with the Counseling Staff produced many ideas, but the most difficult one to accept was the idea that there should be an actual confrontation by touching between the "straights" and the "gays." Finally an exercise was devised whereby the experience could be realized, and the Saturday session was finally at hand.

The morning part of the marathon was spent in dividing the group into two subgroups, each of which had about an equal number of Mattachine and West Side members and then in exercises that would help us break down barriers and get to know each other.

Finally after lunch, we were ready to touch. My own strong reservations made me hesitate to participate, but participate I did! The leader of my group was a Mattachine man who explained that he would start by turning to the person on his right (a woman from West Side) and begin to touch and stroke her on the arms and face. He would continue this for 2-3 minutes and then move on to the next person in line (a man from West Side). As soon as he completed the touching and stroking with him, he would move on down the line. The West Side woman would then turn to the West Side man and imitate the touching and stroking with him. This activity would continue until each person in the room had been stroked by every other person in the room. This would, of course, at times place Mattachine and West Side women together and also men together.

I think all of us were a bit nervous at the start, but after a very few seconds after the leader of our group turned to the woman from West Side and started the touching, she said, "I feel that I should be doing something." She therefore proceeded to return the touching. A minute or two after that they were embracing in what appeared to be a warm and tender bond of mutual respect, understanding and perhaps even human love. The man next moved on to the West Side man. Once again the same thing happened. I had placed myself at the end of the line (partially from fear, I suppose) and was thus able to see what was going on all along the



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SUN., 5/19, 7AM: Program on Homosexuality with Mattachine representatives to be aired on WGRQ FM 97. Program is prerecorded and lasts 45 minutes.
- 8PM: Mattachine Program Meeting, G.C.S.C. featuring an audio-visual presentation on gay themes in art.
- MON., 5/20, 11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program, WFEO FM 88.7
- WED., 5/22, 9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program, WFEO FM 88.7
- 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-up of items you would like to donate call 881-5335.
- SUN., 5/26, 2PM: Counselor Staff Meeting at P. Ames residence, Clarence Center, N.Y.
- MON., 5/27, 11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program, WFEO FM 88.7
- TUES., 5/28, 8PM: MCAF Board Meeting at the NEW CENTER²
- WED., 5/29, 9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program, WFEO FM 88.7
- SAT., 6/1, 1PM-6PM: GRAND OPENING of The NEW GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES¹
- ¹ Old G.C.S.C.- Gay Community Services Center, 14202, Tels# (716)881-5335, 881-5336.
- ² New G.C.S.C. (after May 31st)- Gay Community Services Center, 1350 Main St. (over Motor Tire Co.), Buffalo, New York, Tel# (716)881-5335, 881-5336.
- CENTER at 1350 Main St., (over Motor Tire Co.). Please join in the festivities.
- SUN., 6/2, 8PM: Mattachine General Meeting at the New Center²
- MON., 6/3, 11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program.
- WED., 6/5, 9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program.
- FRI., 6/7, 7PM-?: Coffee House, New G.C.S.C.²
- MON., 6/10, 11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program.
- WED., 6/12, 9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program.
- FRI., 6/14, 7PM-?: Coffee House, New G.C.S.C.²
- SUN., 6/16, 8PM: Mattachine Program Meeting to launch GAY PRIDE WEEK '74. Guest speaker will be Bert Hansen. For all the presently planned events of Gay Pride Week, see the calendar on the opposite page.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT

June 15-22, 3:00 to 10:00PM
New Gay Community Services Center, 1350 Main Street

Anyone wishing to submit work, please bring examples, photos, slides, renderings, models, etc to the Old Center, 45 Allen St. May 25th, 1-6PM for registration.

¹ Old G.C.S.C.- Gay Community Services Center, 14202, Tels# (716)881-5335, 881-5336.

² New G.C.S.C. (after May 31st)- Gay Community Services Center, 1350 Main St. (over Motor Tire Co.), Buffalo, New York, Tel# (716)881-5335, 881-5336.

GAY PRIDE WEEK EVENTS JUNE 16-23

Sunday, June 16, 8PM, GUEST SPEAKER: Bert Hansen, co-founder of the Gay Academic Union, on Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force Prof.- History of Science, Fordham University.

TOPIC: Gay Male Chauvinism, with workshop to follow - audience participation.

Monday, June 17, 8PM, Transsexualism/Transvestism: workshop on TV's, TV's, drags, female impersonators.

Tuesday, June 18, 8PM, Gays As A Revolutionary Force: workshop on the gay movement as potential for societal change.

Wednesday, June 19, 8PM, Gays And The Media: symposium on the problems of gays' access to media. Participation by representatives from major local media.

Thursday, June 20, 8PM, Lesbian/Feminist Workshop.

Friday, June 21, Folk Concert: Gay Folk Singing Stars-

Madeline Davis and Steve Grossman. Steven's new album CARAVAN TO-NIGHT was just released by Mercury Records.

Saturday, June 22, 1PM, Gay Sex Workshop: open discussion on gay sex variations and hygiene/health problems.

3PM, Improvisation By Gay Poets & Singers: workshop on gay poetry/gay singers & Songwriters, participation by local talent.

8PM, Original Gay Play: "Vaseline Alley," by Dennis Donnellan.

9PM, Gay Pride Week Dance.

Sunday, June 23, 12Noon, Picnic At Ellicott Creek Park, Shelter #4
To last all day.

*****PLUS*****
....Week-Long Arts & Crafts Show

....Gay Pride Buttons Promotion

....Balloon Frenzy

....T-Shirt Silk-Screening

More detailed info coming soon. If you want to participate, call the G.C.S.C. at 881-5335....We're appealing to all artists and crafts-makers to exhibit their works during Gay Pride Week at the New Center- contact Greg Bodekor at the Center....We're looking for people to try out for parts in the play, "VASELINE ALLEY" - contact Dennis Donnellan at the Center....

*ALL EVENTS (Except the picnic) WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 1350 MAIN ST., OPENING JUNE 1st. SEE YOU THERE.

BOTTOMS UP

—an in depth look at vd and your asshole—
(condensed from an article of the same name from the Spring '74, no. 21
issue of GAY SUNSHINE)

The joy and beauty of anal sex should not be mired by the possible hazards involved. Getting into all forms of love-making, fucking and rimming (oral-anal) included, would not be a hazard if we had more information on anal venereal disease. But med cine has largely shied away from it (and most other gay health needs) even more so than with "straight" or genital vd. If a doctor neglects to take an anal culture during a vd exam, the patient will usually have no way of knowing he's infected, because there are rarely any symptoms. He's then more likely to reach a serious or even fatal, advanced condition. What's more, the rectum seems to retain viruses and bacteria much more than the genitals, because they thrive in warm moist regions and also because it's so much harder to clean your asshole really thoroughly than all the other parts of the body. Reading this article needn't make anyone panic, or cease their preferred sexual activity, but rather be aware of the possible risks, and to avoid them with the right precautions. The following is a short survey of anal problems...

ANAL WARTS: Usually you'll see small tumors just outside the rim of the anus when you get warts. Unlike hand warts, they're pink or red, soft and moist with an indented cauliflower-like appearance. They can sometimes form a large tissue mass. Some clear up quickly, others take years despite treatments. Sometimes there will be itching or bleeding but most often you won't feel anything. Anal warts are contagious and often spread up the rectal canal. When you spot warts or suspect them, go immediately to a doctor, or better yet a proctologist. Most vd clinics can only diagnose them but the Erie County VD Clinic will refer you to a doctor for treatment. Doctors should always take a gonorrhea culture and blood test for syphilis when treating warts. The rash which comes as a secondary symptom of syphilis looks just like warts. If the doctor mistakes them for hemorrhoids, which are inflamed blood vessels appearing as tabs of skin, you probably need a new doctor. Penile warts are much less of a problem. Treatment is the same, but easier as access is direct.

ANAL SIFF: Anal syphilis too, rarely infects the body with any signs. Syphilis is called "the great imitator" because it "mimics" other infections. A blood test or darkfield exam of serum from the sore (or chancre which may appear at the rectal opening or inside the rectum where they

8 (cont. p.14)

AUCTION

MAY 25 - 9-1AM - UNITARIAN HALL
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COMMUNITY CE

The Gay Community Services Center needs more room to expand! Our present location has grown too small, consequently we are moving to a new site. We plan to increase services and programs for the gay community. Projected plans include separate facilities for publishing, counseling, meetings, a lounge, library, and a hall for a variety of social events.

The Center has grown to become the focal point of activity in our area, providing many services: legal, social, health, counseling, housing and job referrals, publications, public speakers, library and reference resources - and most important, a positive and healthy alternative for social interaction. In addition, we have established a potent force for gay rights on broader levels. The Buffalo-area gay community is now being sought out to lend its credibility to efforts for legislative and legal reform in the state and national arenas. Our voice is being added to the call for positive changes based on the recent American Psychiatric

...TO SERVE YOU

CENTER EXPANDS

Association's decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

ON JUNE 1ST, WE WILL BE RELOCATING--TO A 5,000 SQ. FT. SITE AT 1350 MAIN ST., 2ND FLOOR!!

We will need YOUR help! Our new undertaking will require a sizable financial and physical effort to remodel, furnish and equip the new Center. OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$1,000 TO MEET OUR FINANCIAL NEEDS. We sincerely ask that you join us in this vital effort and give as generously as you possibly can.

We hope that you will encourage us by using the postage-paid envelope in this issue to forward your financial help as soon as possible. If you are sending a check or money order, please make payable to Mattachine.

HELP NOW! IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO INVEST IN
THE BUFFALO GAY COMMUNITY'S FUTURE ! !

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SUMMER HOURS

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10 a.m. to 4 a.m. Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon.

(from p. 4)

line before me. When the man from Mattachine reached me, I had no trouble embracing him. Next came the woman from West Side. She is a warm, friendly person, and when we embraced the feeling was a good one. It has been many years since I have held and been held by a woman in that way. Next came the embrace between a gay man and a straight man under these particular confrontation conditions. However, the embrace was warm, friendly, trusting and loving. This seemed to confirm my earlier observation between the first couple. After that, my defenses completely fell as the other people came along.

No one, of course, can ever tell what someone else got from an experience such as this, but each of us in that room felt a little closer to each other. Some of the comments afterwards ranged from that of one of the West Side men "I never knew a man's body felt like that; they certainly are different from a woman's body!" to that of a Mattachine man who said "I never held a woman before!" All of us agreed that the holding, touching, and stroking had been a very worthwhile experience, and the straight people among us found that it was not difficult to touch and hold a gay person—and you know what?—the gay people found that touching and holding straight people was also not difficult. A few people, maybe for just a short time, had managed to break

down some of the isolating ideas that keep people apart. If the feelings last, and all of us wanted to keep them alive then another blow for freedom to be one's self has been struck. Hopefully, this will be the case.

Jim Haynes

FIFTH FREEDOM STAFF MEETINGS...

Every Wednesday night at the G.C.S.C. at 8PM. Anyone interested in joining is cordially invited. No experience is necessary. You can help as little or as much as you wish. Typists are sorely needed.

F U L L P A G E
C O M P L I M E N T S
O F Y O U R
F A V O R I T E
N I G H T S P O T

BOTTOMS UP

(cont. from p. 8)

won't be visible) - are sometimes the only way to identify it. Remember, in 75% of the cases, anal syphilis is symptomless and it will remain in your body until cured.

FISSURES, ABSCESSSES & FISTULAS: The rectum is really vulnerable to a world of infections. Aside from the nature of the mucous membranes lining, further disease can flourish in what are called anal crypts. These are pockets leading to anal glands. When these become infected you'll get problems with fissures, abscesses and fistulas. These are very often caused by diarrhea or other bowel problems. These shouldn't be considered a major risk in anal intercourse.

HEPATITIS: When two men are rimming and the tongue and lips enter the partner's asshole, there's a definite possibility of hepatitis infection caused by the bacteria in the human feces. Rimming can also cause oral syphilis and gonorrhea, pinworm, typhoid and salmonellosis, though none are as frequent as hepatitis. Again the rectum is very difficult to clean thoroughly, so you might say the cleaner the man the less chance of disease for the man who rims or fucks him.

HERPES: Herpes genitalis is still one more disease that anal sex can lead to. It's more common in women but infects men with the same few blisters, pinkish with a red border. Herpes are exquisitely painful if located on the skin outside the anus (or on the genitals) but usually not felt at all inside the rectum. The blisters fester and merge together as they grow so that you can't sit down, let alone have sex, without agonizing pain. After 4 or 5 days they start to heal, and then another 10 days pass before they disappear without scarring. The sores won't be communicable unless they're open. Herpes cure is a matter of simply alleviating the symptoms until the virus leaves the body and the disease cures itself. To stop their spreading it's good to rub Sulfa cream on the sores; Vaseline on the skin near the sores.

PROSTATE & SPHINCTER: What can be said here simply is be kind and gentle when penetrating the rectum. Use a lubricant (KY is best) and give the sphincter plenty of time to relax and expand slowly. Shy away from fist-fucking and dildos as forceful objects such as these can easily do damage and cause infection.

PREVENTION

*BE CLEAN: Wash well before and after sex. This will kill many germs and enhance the natural body scents and make the skin smooth and soft.

*DON'T have sex with infected persons and don't give what you have to others.

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**HOMOSEXUALS' MENTAL STATE SOUND,
3-Nation Study Says....**

(reprinted from Sun., May 19, Bflo.
Courier Express)

A new study of homosexual men in the United States, the Netherlands and Denmark has found their "psychological well being" as good as other men's and urges that homosexuals "end their tradition of silence" to fight discrimination.

The latest report in investigations by the Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University pioneered by the late Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey recommended ending laws and harassment directed against "adult consenting homosexuals."

The two sociologist-authors contend that fears of possible negative consequences in eliminating such laws and harassment "are not supported by logic or data," and they maintain that proponents of antihomosexual laws should have to assume the burden of any proof.

PUBLISHING DATE

The study by Dr. Martin S. Weinberg, professor of sociology at Indiana University at Bloomington, and Dr. Colin J. Williams, associate professor at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, is being published May 30 as a 316-page book, "Male Homosexuals: Their Problems and Adaptations," by the Oxford University Press.

Their investigations are being presented as "the first extensive field study of a large group of

homosexuals who were not psychiatric patients." Altogether, 2,437 men - 1,057 in the U.S., 1077 in the Netherlands and 303 in Denmark responded to 145-item questionnaires in 1967 in the U.S. and 1968 in Europe.

The new report is part of a major study by the institute. The late Dr. Kinsey had estimated that "up to 50% of the male population" had homosexual experience and proposed that "psychiatrists and clinicians, in general, might very well reexamine their justification for demanding that all persons conform to particular patterns of behavior."

The new study reported that most of its respondents - 67.8% in the U.S. - still attempted to conceal their homosexuality from heterosexuals. Only 1/5 were described as "overt" homosexuals.

Nevertheless, 45% said they "would not want to give up" homosexuality even if they could, as against 26% who would wish to do so and 27% who were not sure. More than half - 54.3% - disagreed with a statement, "I wish I were not a homosexual."

The Gay Community Services Center and the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier wish to thank all those who have given their personal and financial assistance to our move to our new quarters.

BOTTOMS UP

(cont. from p. 14)

*Get regular check-ups. They are the only way to stop vd. Remember unchecked vd can fuck up your body and even kill you.

*If you get vd,etc., notify the people you've had sex with. If you don't then make it a point to give their names to your doctor or clinic worker. It will be keep confidential. (Especially if done through the Erie County vd clinic)

*DON'T try to cure yourself--you can't.

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Wednesdays 3pm-6pm

Tel # 846-7687

...and one more thing. The people at the health dept. have assured Mattachine that gays are and will continue to be treated with the same amount of respect as straights. If by chance your not, get the name of the moron or morons in question and notify us. We'll inturn get back to the health dept. (as they have requested us to do) and the problem will be solved.

IMPORTANT MEETING:

Employment/Housing Questionnaire Com.
Wed., May 29th, 8PM
G.C.S.C., 1350 Main St.

Very soon now we will begin the process of visiting and discussing equal opportunity rights with local employers and renters who did not respond to our questionnaire campaign. In order to do this effectively, we need people who are willing to spare some time to gather information ("ammunition") and make actual visitations. We need YOU! Please help us in this effort to secure your right to live and work where you, as a free and equal individual, choose.

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.

poetry poetry poetry poetry poetry poetry poetry

THE CLOSET DOOR

The closet door is broken down
It's walls consumed in flame...
OF THE NEW HOMOSEXUAL SHALL I SING!

No longer does he cower under darkness,
While those who would destroy his soul claim victory
No longer will he hide his burning indignation
Against the "faggot jokes," while others would laugh
seeking his approval.

The closet door is broken down
It's walls consumed in flame...
OF THE NEW HOMOSEXUAL SHALL I SING!

No longer will his head be lowered
By the cries of "faggot, hey faggot"
But he will stand proudly, and with
a voice as great as the sea
Cry out "yes I am he whom you label as faggot"
A creature to be pittied and spat upon
As Christ was likewise shunned and spat upon
by the people of his day

But now...My closet door is broken down
It's walls consumed in flame
For I am THE NEW HOMOSEXUAL
A free man and unashamed

Conde Peoples

poetry poetry poetry poetry poetry poetry poetry

THE BADGE

...a short story by Otis Metis

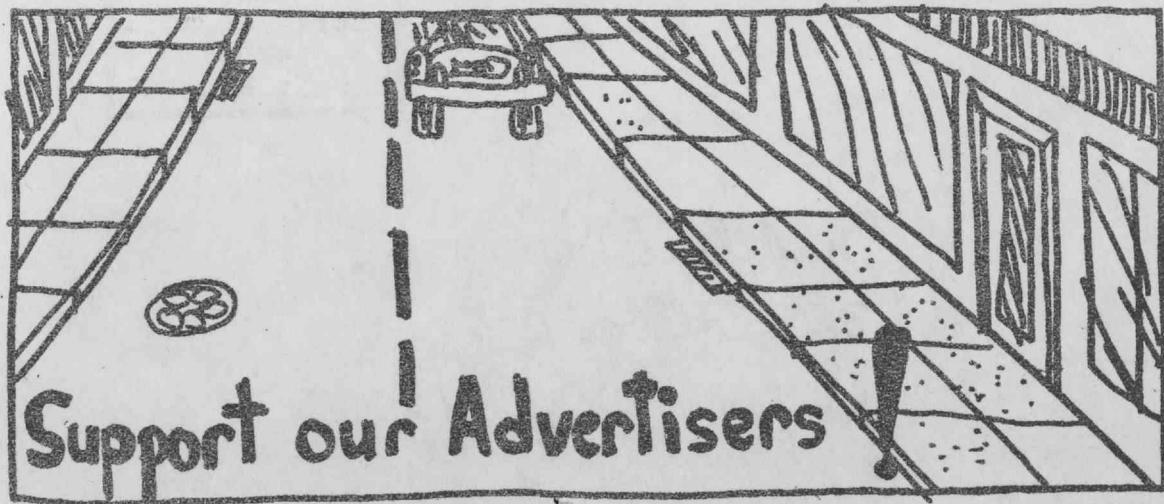
The park down by the lake was a notorious place of assignation. In the summer the traffic buzzed incessantly round and round the egg-shaped football field, the drivers' eyes swiveling in all directions. That Monday too, when Gary rode his fire-engine-red bike around the narrow road, was no exception. The businessmen were sitting in parked cars, watching the rear mirror, waiting for someone to approach them. At night they would return to their wives but now they were waiting for a boy, a quick encounter that had no strings attached.

A familiar figure was sunning itself on the embankment, stripped to the waist despite the coolness of the day, crotch pointed to the road. That tired old bird, Gary thought; what a bore. Further on sat a slim, attractive man in his late twenties, fully dressed, but eyes roaming never-the-less. As Gary rode past he sent a smile and a lingering glance in that direction. The other smiled back.

Gary almost swerved into a car coming the opposite way.
"Look where yer goin' buddy!"

He would have liked to give the driver the finger but he didn't want to alienate the man on the embankment. He turned his bike around and rode over. "Hi!" he smiled with great assurance though he was quaking inside; he could not bear...

(find out why - NEXT ISSUE)



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