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The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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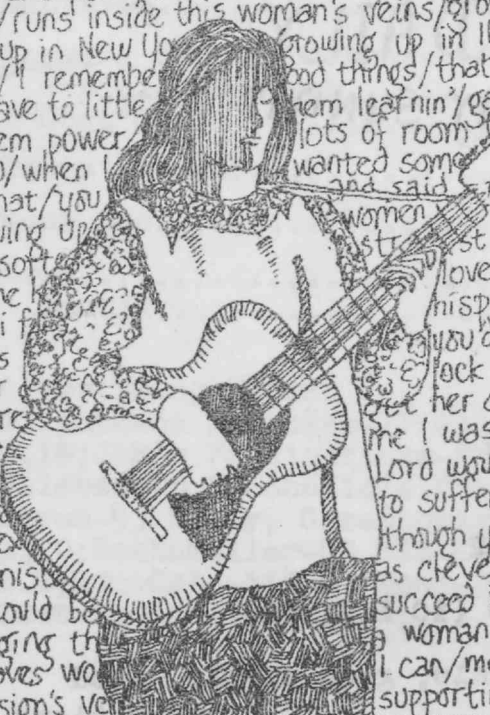
July 7, 1974

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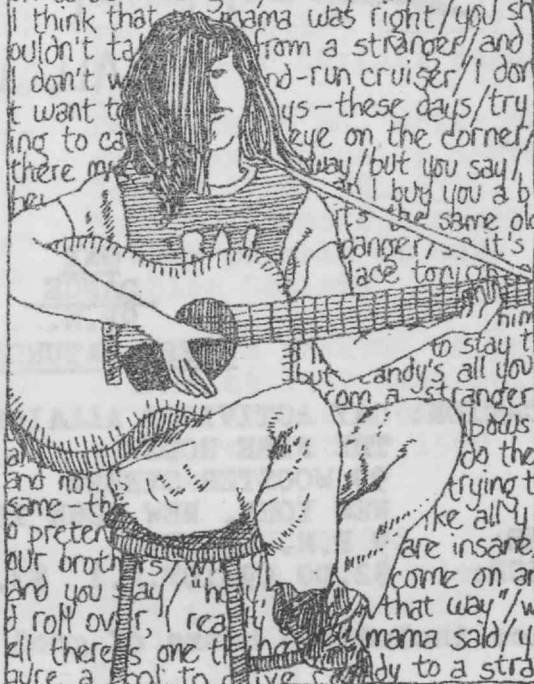
FIFTH FREEDOM

Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier...

oh my mother was a lady/my mother was
 as a whore/my mother was a scullery maid/
 who swept a kitchen floor/I'm the
 daughter of all women/and I've borne all
 woman's pains/and the blood of every wo-
 man/runs inside this woman's veins/grow-
 ing up in New York/growing up in Illi-
 nois/I remember bad things/that you
 you gave to little them learnin'/gave
 them power/lots of room
 grow/when I wanted some
 of that/you and said
 growing up women
 the softest
 and the best
 that I find
 she's
 better
 children
 of her
 some
 not
 you ex-
 minis-
 as could be
 changing the
 no loves wo-
 decision's ver-



well I don't want no sugar damn daddy/
 I don't want to waste my life - this li-
 fe/lying on the racks with your thous-
 and other lovers/or pretending to be yo-
 ur wife/well mama said/don't go out in
 the streets at night/I don't want my s-
 on to be in danger/well you know that
 I think that mama was right/you sh-
 ouldn't talk from a stranger/and
 I don't want to ride on a cruiser/I don't
 want to ride on these days/try
 ing to call my eye on the corner/
 there my way/but you say/
 I buy you a b-
 it's the same old
 danger/it's
 face tonight
 him
 to stay t-
 but candy's all you
 from a stranger
 bows
 do the
 trying t-
 like all y-
 are insane
 come on an
 that way/w-
 mama said/y-
 all there's one thing
 pure a hole to give ready to a stra-



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Ellicott Sq. Sta. Bflo.
N. Y. 14205

What's my name? Faggot, queer, homo, (often in combination with damn), fairy (with laughter and often some mime), homosexual (med), homophile (literary), and Gay (by popular appeal) We have gone to a lot of trouble to find a name for ourselves It's been worse than naming a baby. At least in that case there are only two people to please. Unfortunately we have, in the Gay community, many people to please, and all of them are not quite satisfied.

When we speak of mankind we speak of Man, in general, and man and woman, in particular. When we speak of Gays we speak of Gay, in general, and Gay and Lesbian in particular. There is little to distinguish between these two attitudes.

With the acceptance of a name, whether it is chosen or bestowed there is a certain feeling of identity. It may be that the chosen name has the greater import in this respect. Be that as it may, the identity represented by "Gay" as opposed to homosexual is the subject of some conflict between the Gay male and lesbian elements of the community. The Gay males seem to wish to claim it as theirs, associating gay issues with Gay male issues exclusively. Somehow one gets the impression that when we say Gay we have included the whole community, and yet left out the women entirely.

I cannot conceive of how we are to gain the participation and active support of the lesbian community under these circumstances. Perhaps we ought to follow the good example of the American Psychiatric Association and hold a nomenclature convention. Perhaps we ought to content ourselves with being referred to en masse as homosexuals, and in particular as Gay and Lesbian. Perhaps we ought to try to overcome our hostilities and realize just what it is that we are trying to defend and why. Perhaps we should make peace and get to work.

Mark L. Goodwin

Space for responsible reply will be provided. Please address all correspondence to F.F.#1, c/o M.S.N.F., P.O. Box 975, Ellicott Square Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205.

The rolling nature of Steven's music leaves one occasionally merely entertained, and even when the music itself would seem to say that there is some substance behind it his English is so difficult to understand that any message becomes difficult to thresh out.

Mr. Grossman's music has a certain sameness about it which would make a long program difficult to endure. His program with us was not worse for the fact that he had to leave.

When Steven talks about the negative aspects of gay male life his observation is direct, personal, shared by much of the community. "Don't give candy to a stranger" is a real example of this type.

Rarely in the field of contemporary music is an effort made to wed words and music to express a continuous feeling, to give the intent and the intensity the same thrust and direction. Steve accomplishes this rather difficult feat with the same kind of comfortable approach that characterizes good blues or folk music.

We know of our own feelings but we rarely examine them. Now, from within, Steve has chosen to act as the mirror of our desire, our hopes, our search for acceptance from those we love, our love for those we choose. The vignettes from his life and encounters which introduce his songs do well at showing us that his material is all his own and yet is common to all of us.

I can only recommend his music to our interest but I am compelled to recommend it highly on the type of shared experience which will give us a basis for communication, the type of common emotional experience which we may acknowledge mutually to have had.

MADELINE DAVIS-----

O MY LOVE there is nothing in this world we are not strong enough to do.

One tends to feel at times that Madeline's is a message of despair and hopelessness, almost a prayer for peace and seeking for solace. But then there is the contrast of her high spirited songs like "Perfection Man"

and "When I was a Child". But even between the types that these represent there is a difference; on the one hand the mocking hopeful, and scornfully derisive caricature of the man woman relationship, and on the other an idyllic flight of fancy, charming in its simplicity and provoking in its depth of aspiration. There is too the song of strength and power, spiritual strength and power (O My Love...), wherewith she tells us all where our resources really lie. Sunshine Lady is the type of open love song that typifies love as the conqueror of all sadness and the worthiness of life.

Nadoline's raps between numbers was not the least part of the evening and gave us much insight into what she has to say.

She has a lot to say and I'm sure we all look forward to her... to her help in the future.

COMING UP IN THE FIFTH FREEDOM:

Part II of Randy Vosburgs "Coming out of Darkness
A Series on Lesbian Issues



"Fashions from
around the world
for the liberated male"

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

The
Town Square
43 Allen Street, Buffalo

SOME OF our communities more talented art sts came to the Gay Community Services Center last Saturday to share with us their creations in poetry and song. Public participation was barely in evidence but once we got off the ground we discovered that the small group has its advantages. It was an encouraging as a pilot programme for the planned Coffee House nights scheduled to begin on Friday the 12th of July, at 8:00, and run as a regular Friday night programme. We came out feeling that we have something of real value to offer to the community.

Coffee will be served to refresh the company. The programme will feature local talent exclusively. Admission is free.

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GAY PRIDE WEEK PICNIC-1974

Buffalo's Mattachine Society held a picnic at Ellicott Creek Park, Sunday, June 23rd, as part of this year's Gay Pride Week observance. The picnic had been scheduled from 12 noon to dark. This reporter arrived around mid-afternoon, and found a small but friendly group of men and women clustered about shelter #4. A large hand-painted cardboard sign, posted conspicuously by curbside, advertised the event.

Beside the usual hot-dog-hamburger roast and frisbie toss, I found smaller groups of people, sitting on blankets, or grass, singing and rapping informally enjoying one another. The weather was somewhat brisk. Laughing children, barking dogs and folk guitars were everywhere.

I joined some friends and walked over to the creek regretfully. The water was murky, still, and smelled like sewer gas. We didn't linger, but returned to the area around the shelter to eat and talk.

Aside from one or two harassment incidents involving young studs in roving cars, the picnic ended on the placid note with which it had begun.....Bruce Greenburg

PICNIC--GAY PRIDE--'74

ok-

so we advertised with a sign
holding each other, kissing each other,
we waited
in their park, on their grass, by their trees
we waited
with our sunlight

all

it said

was:

"GAY PICNIC"

and they came to gawk.

f-a-g-g-e-t-s! f-a-g-g-o-t-s!

limp-wristed gestures from passing cars...

they shouted:
where are the boys? where are the boys?
where are they?
where are those boys?!
(as if they couldn't see)

f-a-g-g-o-t-s! f-a-g-g-o-t-s!
sing-song like.

how much for a blow-job?
whatever it is, you can't afford it!

f-a-g-g-o-t-s! f-a-g-g-o-t-s!
and i'm scared.

the dodge pulled over--
i knew trouble on lifters...
he got out, a swaggering sal mineo charicture
engine idled
gonna show your girl, and yourself?

he threw a rock
it fell short--luckily
but i was really scared now!

just think:
if we all get up together, how frightened he'd
be
but we didn't

get the fuck out!
get out of this park, fags!
you
make
me
sick!

michael lobbed one over
it hit the car and thudded, a metallic sound;
sal jumped inside and the dodge took off
leaving us with our sunlight,
by the curbside,
together.

bruce greenberg

CALENDAR

- Sun. 7/7 8:00 p.m. General Meeting
- Mon. 7/8 8:00 p.m. Gay Liberation Front Meeting, U.B.
Norton Union, Room 232.
11:00 p.m. "Sisters of Sapho" Lesbian Radio
Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- Tues. 7/9 8:00 p.m. Lesbian Feminist Meeting G.C.S.C.
6-8:30 p.m. Self Defense Class for women
Buffalo Women's Center 564 Franklin
- Wed. 7/10 9:30 p.m. "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program
WBFO FM 88.7
- Fri. 7/12 8:00 p.m. Coffee House, Live folk artists
Free Admission/ G.C.S.C.
- Sat. 7/13 9:00 p.m. Dance G.C.S.C. Admission \$1.00 \$.75
for members
- Mon. 7/15 7:00 p.m. Fifth Freedom Staff Meeting
11:00 p.m. "Sister of Sapho" Lesbian Radio Program
WBFO FM 88.7
- Tues. 7/16 8:00 p.m. Board Meeting G.C.S.C.
8:00 p.m. Lesbian Feminist Workshop G.C.S.C.
- Wed. 7/17 8:00 p.m. Staff Meeting G.C.S.C.
9:30 p.m. "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program
WBFO FM 88.7
- Thurs. 7/18 7:30 p.m. Counselling Staff Meeting G.C.S.C.
- Fri. 7/19 8:00 p.m. Coffee House G.C.S.C.
- Sat. 7/20 9:00 p.m. Dance G.C.S.C. Admission \$1.00, \$.75
for members
- Sun. 7/21 8:00 p.m. Program Meeting, Movie, "A Position of
Faith" Rap on religion

Dear ,

My lover and myself would like to know the correct procedure for practicing sodomy, and whether vaseline or KY is safer to use.

J.F.

Dear J.F.

Considering the numerous variations of the theme there is no right way to perform sodomy, there are, however a few things which might well be kept in mind. Never enter the rectum violently, there is the possibility of doing some real damage. Be kind and gentle, use a lubricant (KY is best) and give the sphincter plenty of time to relax. One of the problems that we have in common with the straights is VD. It pays to use a little bit of vigilance and caution. Cleanliness is both healthy and aesthetic. If you should ever need their services the ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VD CLINIC is free and is located in room 262 of the Bath Building at 95 Franklin Street (phone 846-7687). If you can find a copy of FF vol. 4#5 features an article called BOTTOMS UP- an in depth look at VD and your ass hole.

For reprints of Bottoms Up send a stamped self addressed envelope to FF#2, c/o MSNF, Box 975, Ellicott Sq. Sta., Bflo., N. Y., 14205. Any questions for Lambda may be sent to the same address.

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ADOPTION, an old problem

Now that marriage is becoming a gay term there is a renewed thrust to make adoption possible for us too. The declining intensity of the social censure to which we have been subject and the increasing awareness of enlightened members of the social service agencies, which administer adoption and foster parent services has been making adoption a possibility and foster parent placements an accomplished fact.

The major bars to adoption remaining are those which affect the populous as a whole. There has been a declining number of children being presented for adoption in recent years likely due to the fact that birth control has become more effective, unwed mothers are not so frowned upon, and children are being brought from other countries in lesser numbers.

Nonetheless applications from Gays are being accepted and considered. Their potential as parents is being examined on much the same criteria as that of straight couples in some cases, and their chances of success rated as about equal. The last effort of the administrative foot draggers has been resting in the argument that a child needs a father and a mother, but as the experiment is tried in the guises of allowing custody to remain with Lesbian mothers, and permitting the placement of foster children in Gay homes, perhaps this argument will lose its last vestige of credibility..

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER sponsors

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER hours 2p.m.-10p.m. Mon.-Fri.
1350 Main Street 2nd Floor 1p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday
(over Motor Tire Co.) 1p.m.-6p.m. Sunday
(G.C.S.C. Sponsors Regular dances every Sat. 9-3
Admission \$1.00 beer served)

An Introduction to the world of a Transsexual Part I

By

Randall (Randy) Vesburgh

Growing up for me was not something I think I would want to go through a second time. It was a highly painful experience that seemed to last forever and I often wondered if I would endure.

My earliest recollections that something was not quite right for me was probably at the age of four or more certainly during the first year of school. As a child I was unable to say what I felt, but looking back on it now I always felt rather like an actor. I was never being my real self, but a mask. I appeared in a manner society felt was fitting for me. I was a prisoner within myself. I seemed eternally unhappy, between what people expected from me and what I wanted. I remember hating getting ready for school or church. Having to wear those horrible dresses and having someone sticking and pulling at me to put curlers in my hair the night before. It seemed that Saturdays were the only days of peace I was allowed, and occasionally these were stolen from me.

Pre puberty my anguish was due primarily to the way I felt about clothes and the responses I invoked for my behavior. Once I was into me teens the pain that was already deep became almost unbearable. Not only did I feel uncomfortable in my attire, I was now at the mercy of my peers who could be most cruel. They were quicker than I to see that something was wrong. I was a leener partly of my own choice; I was uncomfortable, partly because I was accepted by only a few individuals.

I found it extremely difficult to relate to boys in the way that was expected of me. I did have one or two relationships but found them extremely unfulfilling. The elder I got the more difficult it became to relate to males on any terms past friendship.

At this stage I found myself wondering if maybe I were a lesbian, because I seemed to relate very well with girls, and over the years had often fantasied about various girls I had known. I embarked on deeper relationships with girls. This was somewhat more satisfying to me but I still found myself quite uncomfortable. In this too I found myself role playing. I wasn't being myself.

After this I went through a period of what you could call neuter identity. I went along in a solitary life, living alone for a while of living with friends but avoiding getting into any kind of deep relationships. I took about two years of this and couldn't back it any more. So I reached a point in my life where I thought the best course of action was to compromise. Of all the avenues I had ventured down I was happiest in what I thought was a lesbian relationship.

As I said earlier this was not a totally blissful existence rather a way to get by. My partner was a very understanding person. We struggled with my identity for well over a year. Each of us doing what was natural. For her this was no problem because she was all woman and proud of it. For me this was the first time in my life that I felt I was myself. I was myself! I was later to find out that my partner, now wife, had always related to me as a male. And thanks to the help of some very wonderful people I was now able to accept myself for what I really was. For the first time in my life I had found some real happiness in the realization that underneath this biological body of a woman was a man screaming to get out. Needless to say, with this came an understanding of a lot of things that had confused and tormented me for so many years. My life had a chance at some happiness.

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HOURS 11-6



Swampchild: An Idle Curiosity

The pale dead moon did bathe the
Hush filled streets of the city;
Only the occasional sigh of the wind
Did disturb the silent harmony of the
Rain-drenched streets. The evening had fallen,
Hiding yhe morbid statues of antiquity. In the
Rains of all dead souls, there stood a figure
Finding sanctuary in the corners of
Hidden shadows and cold buildings. And in the
Ruins there wandered this Swampchild; searching
the streets for Alladin's Lamp
So that his hunger will find rest. A pity poor
Swampchild; you with your childlike visions sleeping.
You, whose prayers find no voice in the still
Of the Earth's dead remains. The Earth is no longer
A blessing to you. All of her empires
Have fallen in the wake of your dreams.
The night watches you as you gather the fallen
Pennies among the broken bottles and tattered rags.
The night tells you of a child who talks lament;
The words never being heard-only to die as the
Fallin rain. Yet through the rain, the Swampchild
Sees beyond the rain-drenched streets to a land
That is not bound by the promises of man.

Who is this Swampchild whose death
Is not in the quiet of cemeteries?

Benji

WANT ADS

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 Duties: Assessment of possible market of FIFTH FREEDOM; arranging and coordinating distribution. Requirements; own transportation, reliability.

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Gas Stove-\$60, Space Heater(40,000 btu)-\$70

All positions with the F.F. are strictly volunteer. Wants ads in the F.F. are free to members, 1¢/letter for non-members.

News Director. Duties:
 Collection for publication in FIFTH FREEDOM of news of potential interest to the gay community. Requirements; writing ability, observation, interest, and reliability.

NEEDED: Ride to Florida:
 in July or August. I'll share gas expenses. Contact Don Fenton at the Center or leave message.

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 Send your copy to F.F.#3,
 c/o of M.S.N.F. Include address or phone#

coming out is hard

we need your financial support to make it easier



send a donation to the Gay Community Center

NEWS

17

THE SHADOWS will reopen. One more Gay bar has NOT gone. One of the most popular bars in the area, appealing most recently to the Lesbian community, The Shadows has been receiving much community support and encouragement as a result of its recent fire. Many of the patrons have been assisting in the massive rebuilding campaign involved in getting it back on its feet. The projected reopening is sometime in early August.

The David Suskind Show recently aired a segment featuring three trans-sexuals, and their interpretations of various stars of the stage and screen, Bette Davis, Mae West, Barbara Striesand, Marlene Dietrich (who granted her express permission and appeared on stage with her impersonator). Of the five, two said they were gay, the other three are not. This is but one example of the relaxation of the media on the subjects of Gay and Trans-sexual issues and activities.

OLIVIA RECORDS, a new national women's recording company, has just released their first record. MEG CHRISTIAN sings "Lady", CHRI WILLIAMSON'S "If it weren't for the Music" Available at OL. RECORDS: BOX 1784, MAIN CITY STATION, Washington DC 20013 for 1.50 plus 30¢USA50¢CND.

"Toward Community" will be the theme and title of the GAY ACADEMIC UNION'S Second National Conference, Thanksgiving weekend in New York City (November 20&30, 1974).

This year's conference, according to the GAU, is being planned partly in response to the growing number of gay studies courses in colleges and the Union hopes to stimulate the development of such programs by ending "the traditional isolation that separates gay academics from each other."

Gay Alternatives Pittsburgh (GAP) plans to appeal to Pittsburgh City Council to take the steps necessary to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In a policy statement, GAP identifies sexual behavior as "a bas-

is human right" and urges public officials "to repeal all laws regulating sexual behavior based upon age, gender or marital status and replace them with a single code prescribing only sexual acts involving misrepresentation, coercion or violence."GAP'S request to the City Council has been timed to coincide the start of the second local Gay Pride Week.

THE LIVING CHURCH features the homosexual issue. In two consecutive issues, this Episcopalian magazine has discussed the various aspects, pro (a Homophile's Manifesto) and con (The Other Side of the Coin).

CHURCH LEADERS, among them the Episcopal Bishop in New York, have voiced strong approval of the recently defeated orientation law in New York City.

GAY PRIDE WEEK picnic disturbed by hecklers. After brief difficulties settling into their reserved shelter, for which it was necessary to call a park Guard, those who attended this years picnic had to contend with a young man who came to laugh at them and hurl obscenities. The incident was fortunately over with after a single exchange of stones. The heckler got back into his car and drove off.

A BREAK WITH TRADITION for the Buffalo Evening News. The Buffalo Evening News covered the Steven Grossman, Madeline Davis concert in their June 21st edition. they named the Center, giving our address and describing the programme.

SAPPHO

2500 years ago the poet Sappho lived with a colony of women on the Isle of Lesbos. Fr gments of her work still live...and women still love and live together. A small group of Lesbians, the Sisters of Sappho Collective, produce a show using her name to gather poetry, music, fiction, reviews and Lesbian experiences into a weekly collage for Lesbians, other women and anyone else. Occasionally you may find yourself on "The Ledge of Night", a continuing Lesbian soap opera drama. Sisters of Sappho is aired at 11 O'clock Monday Night on WBFO FM 88.7

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