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The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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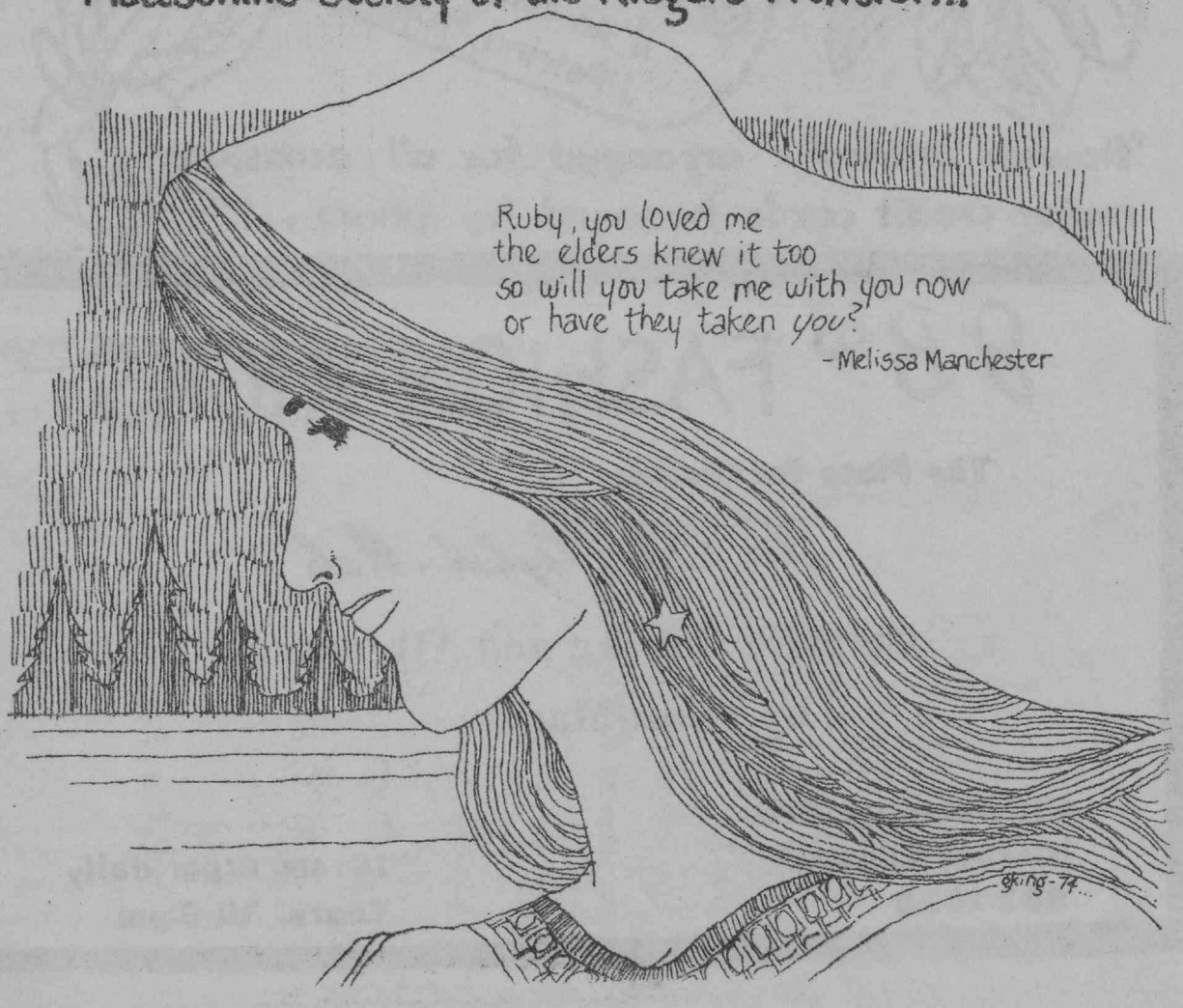
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AUG. 4, 1974

Vol. 4 No. 10

FIFTH FREEDOM

Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier...



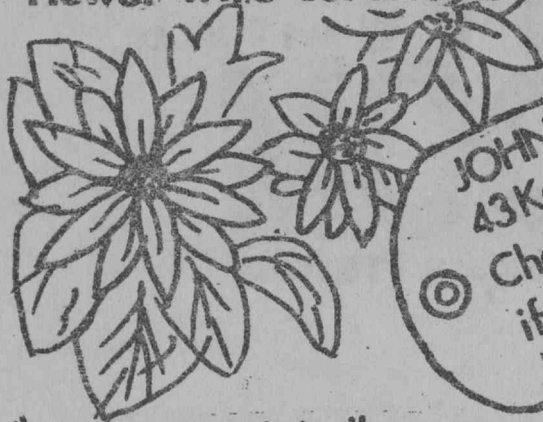
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or have they taken you?

-Melissa Manchester

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A new Rap Group, for gays with weight problems is meeting every Thursday night at 8:00pm at the Gay Community Services Center. They meet to discuss the particular problems of overweight Gays and give each other mutual support and encouragement. This may be an opportunity to bolster your confidence and lose some excess weight. G.C.S.C. 8:00 pm, Thursdays.

IN THIS ISSUE

We begin our series on Lesbian issues with an article from "SISTERS OF SAPPHO" the new Gay women's group currently meeting at the Gay Community Services Center. It is a statement of origin, purpose, and service, and only the first of many that we may expect from the youngest and one of the most promising organizations in the Buffalo area.

Gays and the Churches continues this week with "Justice to Homosexuals", a Living Church reader's reply to "Must Everybody Hire Homosexuals", reprinted in the last issue of FF.

Randy Vosburgh's series "Coming Out Of Darkness" is concluded with a brief description of the technical aspects of female transsexualism.

We are instituting, in this issue, an entertainment section including book reviews, dining, and places to go. This week it's "The Front Runner", and "The Persian Boy", Saint Geprge's Table, and Artpark.

COMING UP

"A Homophile Manifesto", another reprint from The Living Church describes a Christian's view of the rights of Gays and the obligations of the church. Being a long article this may be continued in two or more issues. It is an essay on understanding and a call to action from within the church.

Some time in the future we hope to present a history of Mattachine in Buffalo. Much has been accomplished and much has been endured in the past few years. We have a story to tell.

An examination of the comings and goings of the Gay bars in the Buffalo area. What has them springing up in the face of such opposition and what are they as a social experience.

If at any time there are recommendations from our readers on subjects which they would like to see examined in the Fifth Freedom suggestions may be made to us at our usual address.

Gays As a Revolutionary Force 5

As gays we are oppressed. We feel it both in our collective history as oppressed people and in our daily lives. We have been hated, beaten, raped, jailed, brutally experimented on and subjected to inhuman humiliations. Basically, the majority of us are forced as a group to take the lowest paying jobs, while living in fear of losing them. But the most insidious force used against gays is the denial of our sameness with other workers. We were made to believe that our straight sisters and brothers were the enemy, but not we've learned who the real enemy is, the ruling class. The handful of super-rich, who grow richer daily by keeping workers divided, fearful and suspicious of each other. While groups of workers are discriminated against and repressed and isolated, they form cheap labor and cheap labor makes for super profits. That's what capitalism is about, profit, for a few. And while they employ brutal racism and sexism daily and then entertain us with profit-making wars, Water-gate and token reform bills, they rob us through our labor and drive up prices.

As gays we are oppressed even more than average workers, but for many gays the oppression is tripled and quadrupled. Third world people and women suffer further degradation and repression, and all in the name of profit. As gays we understand oppression in many degrees and have begun to fight the root of the system we live under, and simultaneously this is happening internationally. In Portugal, gay brothers and sisters are also joining as a revolutionary force with other angry workers in order to demand the liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, while at the same time demanding free office space and equipment to reach other gay workers. In Sweden gays marched in huge May day demonstrations. In Chile, brave homosexual revolutionaries struggled against the fascist military that chants "Death to the Faggots" in the streets while they torture, castrate and kill our class brothers and sisters, throwing their corpses in the streets to rot. Here in the US the state attempted to "discredit" and undercut the SLA by exposing the fact that the ranks included gay women. When they refused to surrender, the state shamed themselves by having to admit that it took full state power to murder them. Everywhere we are rising up with angry men and women, (third world, white, black, chicano, straight and gay) to demand proper health care, housing, decent wages, food for our families, milk for the children. We demand a system that places people above profit. Fight back to smash oppression in all forms!

6 A Letter From Home

I believe that this letter, submitted by one of our readers, speaks fairly well for itself of the enlightened attitude of some parents when greeted by the fact that their child is Gay. *Ed.*

"Well, honey, I think I will get this letter written and on its way to you so I can quit writing it mentally and concentrate on the things I have to do at the office. I do hope that you will read this all the way through before you jump to the wrong conclusions. OK?

"Somehow, I am rather surprised and dissappointed that you have so little faith in our love for you and understanding for you that you feel you must either avoid contact or resort to lies to cover up something which you feel we might not approve of. Why not give us a chance? You might find that we are far more understanding than you give us credit for.

"First of all, you are no longer a little boy. But you are still our son and brother that we love. You should be quite capable of making your own decisions as to job, friends, and way of life. Do you know we have accepted this fact? Well, we have. We realize that as an individual, such choices are up to you, with no censure from us. It is just as much your right to choose your friends and way of life as it is our right to choose ours. Whether we choose your way doesn't matter. Neither one of us has ever been in the habit of criticizing another person's choice in running his own life. That is not our way, even if that person happens to be our son.

"Perhaps some of the questions we have asked when you called have been misconstrued as prying or an attempt to run your life. Remember we will always stand behind you ready to help you if you need or want us. However, we have no desire whatsoever to try to run your life, or interfere or to give advice where it is not wanted.


"Somehow, the most important point I want to make seems to be the most difficult to put into words. Don't you know it would be far easier for your family which knows and loves you, to accept the fact that you are avoiding us because you think we might not approve of your way of life, than it is to feel that you avoid us because you simply don't care about us any more, and want us to leave you alone?

"Many things are far more openly accepted today than they were even 10 or 15 years ago. There is no longer the stigma attached to the 'gay life led by two consenting adults that there once was. We would in no way feel we have a right to criticize or condemn--that is YOUR own personal life, and such decisions are entirely up to you. I only hope YOU can realize and accept this attitude on our part.

"Well dear, I guess that is about all I have to say. I hope you will realize that we feel very strongly that your life is YOUR OWN to live as you see fit. We do not expect you to justify or explain your actions to us.

"Just remember that we love you very much and always will. If you do feel that you want our advice or help from someone older (and I hope wiser) then just ask.

As ever,
Mom and Dad"



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around the world
for the liberated male"

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JUSTICE To Homosexuals

REPRINTED FROM "THE LIVING CHURCH" JULY 14, 1974

Your editorial, "Must Everybody Hire Homosexuals?" (TLC, June 9), is a very nicely balanced and forthright statement about a current moral issue.

But may I point out that you made what I feel is a basic mistake in the premise which underlies the title question and your exposition that to hire by law homosexuals deprives others of the freedom of "discretion."

Your faulty premise is that once a "homosexual" gets on a job, he is bound to begin acting out his sexual desires on members of his (or her) own sex.

In other words, it is always implied in this kind of discussion that there is no such thing as a morally acting and behaving person who happens to, God only knows why, prefer to relate intimately with persons of his/her own sex; and further people like this are so hopelessly out of control of their own sexual desires that they are dangerous to all around them.

I have never heard of any secretary being asked in a job interview if she has any intentions of seducing her boss or the man in her office; nor have I heard of executives being questioned about their designs on the girls in the office. It is assumed they will behave with decorum, even though we know from tragic examples of broken marriages that assumption was unwarranted. Yet it is always assumed that homosexual persons will act in the most filthy, vulgar, and vile ways imaginable.

COMING OUT IS HARD

we need your help to make it easier

CONTRIBUTE to the GAY COMMUNITY

SERVICES CENTER

This is a pre-judgment of the worst sort, and it is found in a church whose stated ethos is "judge not" since we are all professed sinners. This sort of prejudice has laid a heavy burden on many fine Christian souls who are already carrying a cross in their lives in trying to relate meaningfully to another person in spite of the legal harrassments which the church, for the most part, has had written into the criminal code.

Isn't it time to discover and relieve the anguish of many souls, especially if we have added to their burden? I recommend the Diocese of Michigan's Commission Study on Homosexuality, available for (I believe 35¢ plus postage) 4800 Woodward A ve., Detroit, Mich. 48201, as a place to begin to get our heads together and develop a Christian attitude not only about homosexuality but human sexuality in general.

(The Rev..) Daniel H. Goodrich
St. Edward The Confessor Church
Fraser, Mich.

Stone walls do not a prison make
Nor iron bars a cage;
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for an hermitage.
If I have freedom in my love
And in my soul am free,
Angels alone that soar above
Enjoy such liberty.

--Sir Richard Lovelace

FULL PAGE
COMPLIMENTS
OF YOUR
FAVORITE
NIGHT SPOT



CALENDAR

August 4-17

0

4	8:00- Mattachine meeting	5	7:00- Fifth Free- dom Staff meeting 8:00-G.L.F. U. B. Nor- ton Union Rm. 232 11:00-"Sis- ters" of Sappho 88.7	6	8:00- Sisters of Sappho meeting	7	9:30- "Stonewall Nation" WBFO FM 88.7	8		9	8:00- Coffee House	10	9:00-3 Dance (adm. \$1 •75 for members)
11		12	7:00- FF Staff meeting 8:00-GLF- UE Norton Union Rm. 232 11:00-"Sis- ters" BFO FM 88.7	13	8:00- Sisters of Sappho meeting 8:00- Board meeting	14	9:30- "Stonewall Nation" WBFO FM 88.7 8:00-Staff meeting	15	8:00 Counselors meeting	16	8:00- Coffee House	17	9-3:00 Dance

COUNSELING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH

THE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

Counselors are answering the phone during regular center hours.

Phone 881-5335 or 881-5336 (information on activities also available)

SISTERS OF SAPPHO by Eileen Katz

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SISTERS OF SAPPHO IS THE new lesbian/feminist group which has been meeting at the Gay Community Services Center every Tuesday night at 8:00 pm. The group grew out of a workahop on Lesbian/Feminism held at the Center as part of Gay Pride Week. Women at that workahop felt the need to form an ongoing lesbian/feminist group, since the special needs of gay women are not always met by the gay and/or women's movements.

At our meetings we have discussed the kinds of issues we would like to tackle. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, custody rights of gay mothers, employment discrimination, information referral (possible in the form of a lesbian switch board), consciousness raising and social activities. Our first social activity was an All Women's Dance held at the Center on Friday August 2nd. Future women's dances will be held on the first Friday of each month. We hope the dances will be attended by both gay and straight sisters. The charge of admission is \$1.00 and all of our beer is under 50¢. Why are we holding all women's dances? Although Saturday night Mattachine dances are a lot of fun they are usually attended by far more men than women. Some women have come to a Saturday night dance and left disappointed at finding few women. Women sometimes feel outnumbered or lost in the crowd. Now, at least at one dance a month, a woman can be completely surrounded by her sisters. This will benefit both gay women and the Gay Community Services Center by bringing more people into the Center, providing more energy and also more revenue. We will keep FF readers posted as Plans for lesbian services and activities are formulated.

Sisterhood is powerful!!

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GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER hours 2p.m.-10p.m. Mon.-Fri.
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(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)

Dear *λ*

Ask Lambda

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I am a married man in a responsible position with a company in the Buffalo area. Needless to say I am not in a position to publicly acknowledge the fact that I am Gay. I am frustrated by the fact that there is so little opportunity for me to involve myself in the work of the community, or to meet and enjoy the company of others in my position. Is there no place in the Buffalo area that caters to such as me.

Name Withheld

Dear NW,

There is very little that may be offered to you unless you are willing to take certain risks. Most anywhere that you go that caters to the Gay community you are not unlikely to run into someone sooner or later who knows you, and may be in like circumstances. If the freedom to pursue your interests, to acknowledge and develop yourself as you see fit, sufficiently outweigh the implied threat of possible discovery, then your field of activity will expand significantly.

The thing which seems most to concern you is the judgement of your peers. Unfortunately the generation currently of influence has been educated that homosexuality is a deplorable fault, although counter influences have been brought to bear (as re-education, social change, the reassessment of "knowledgeable opinion", and the positive steps taken by the Gay community through such organizations as the Mattachine Society across the nation in the political, legal, and social fields). Such judgemental attitudes are subject to change. I personally am convinced that a certain amount of risk taking is in order in furtherance of that change, although some reluctance is not to be condemned.

The amount of influence that could be brought into play if those, particularly in positions of power and/or conventional respectability, would acknowledge themselves, would undoubtedly be phenomenal. Our legal and political committee, health and counselling committee, publication committee, and others are always grateful for qualified and experienced help in their various activities.

To some extent the identities of those who offer us their services can be protected through such devices as pseudonyms, closed files, and the assignment of those few jobs which need not be done at our facilities to those who prefer to work in the privacy of their own homes. Any other information on the Gay places and activities in the Buffalo area can be obtained from the Gay Community Services Centre. Call us or drop in. We offer, of course, many activities through our own facilities.

COMING OUT OF DARKNESS

by Randall Vosburgh

Pt.3

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The Technical Aspects of Female Transsexualism--

PRE-SURGERY

A transsexual's first obstacle is finding a physician who is willing to administer hormonal treatment for six months to four years. It is advisable, and most doctors will require, in depth psychological evaluations during this period. For the FTS (female transsexual) the first step is the suppression of the menstrual cycle (for emotional stability). This is done with the smallest possible dosage of hormones (injections of androgen and usually 1 cc of delta testryl which contains 200 mg. of testosterone) which are given weekly or bi-weekly. The menstrual cycle stops anywhere after the first injection to three or four months later, depending on the menstrual history of the individual. Gradual hair growth on the body and face will begin very slowly, the voice will deepen slightly becoming husky, physical strength will develop and weight gains may result from water retention. In some cases facial acne will develop. Libido is usually increased and there is a distinct increase in the size and sensitivity of the clitoris, in some cases enlarging to serve as a small penis. If for any reason the injections are stopped the menstrual cycle will begin again. Oral androgen preparations are generally avoided for use for any length of time as they contain methyl testosterone which may be dangerous to the liver with prolonged use.

SURGERY

A mastectomy, the reduction of the breasts so that they resemble the male form, is usually wanted as badly as hormones by most FTS's especially if the breasts are large. Before surgery it is necessary to bind the breasts, which is constricting and painful if they are large. Hormonal injections result in but little shrinkage of the breasts.

A total hysterectomy is usually done as the third stage. This relieves the emotional pressure of a menstrual break through. In some cases, though not all, the vagina is closed, which insures the inability to function sexually as a female and later on would/could justify the legal change of sex status.

For many FTS's this is the final major stage, but it is advisable for further masculinization post-operatively, for emotional stability and

prevents symptoms of artificial menopause. There are those who go on for penial construction, but to date these are extremely expensive and require long hospital confinement for a series of skin grafts and surgical constructions. At best when they are successful it serves only as an elimination device.

It is well to note that the operations, when successful, do not change a person's inborn (genetic) sex. It will remain the same, but from a glandular point of view transsexuals are neither male nor female; they are neuter. This has no practical meaning to transsexual in later life as their chosen gender. The psychological sex is male or female, and this is enough to escape their earlier imprisonment.

from The Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam

AH LOVE, could thou and I with Fate conspire
To grasp this sorry scheme of things entire,
Would we not shatter it to bits and then
Reshape it nearer to the hearts desire.

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BOOKS

THE FRONT RUNNER, by Patricia Neil Warren, 1974, published by William Morrow and Company Inc.

THE PERSIAN BOY, By Mary Renault, 1972, published by Pantheon Books.

Both the Warren and Renault books rank as milestones in the history of gay novel literature.

While authors such as Shelly, Byron, Keats, Woolf and Joyce relate to homosexuality in their works, Warren and Renault--Renault perhaps more knowledgeably--succeed in changing the image of the gay-faggot into the gay-person, without hatred, malice or evidence of discrimination. And such, in gay literature, is as it should be.

The gay porno books filling the racks in sweaty shops, talking of hot rocks and meat for sale, fail to show what THE FRONT RUNNER and THE PERSIAN BOY portray--warm, moving stories of male love, male involvement and the gay life.

Character development in both novels is excellent. The story lines are clear enough--though the Greek-Persian names in Renault's book will have you flipping back and forth to see who's who and though the Warren book is a bit sophomoric in parts, trite in others ("The rumor mill says you're a queer," said McGill").

Billy Sive is the Young energetic track star who, along with two other gay runners, are thrown out of the University of Oregon by a super-straight Swede coach ("Enemies uff sport, dot is vot you are... Avay wid you, to de fire. Der vill be no Sodom und Gomorrah on my Skvad") and end up at Prescott College, whose track coach just happens to be a gay who was fired from Villanova because a spiteful gay who wanted to sleep with him got no where and spread the word that the coach, Harlan Brown, was gay.

Warren deals well enough with the ensuing love affair between Billy and Harlan, though some of the love descriptions lack luster.

Importantly the book leads to the question of the legality of gay love, the right to gay love and the freedom of the gay life. In THE FRONT RUNNER, as Warren portrays gay life in 1976, the Supreme Court

has thrown out the sodomy laws and everything, so it would seem, means good tidings ahead for persecuted gays. But, as in all love stories, the bad mixes with the good.

Billy and Brown marry; Billy trains for the Olympics, gets there, and the book reaches a rather sad end. It's not Fitzgerald, but Warren's book is worth reading--well worth it-- if you have a few hours. Her track commentary is excellent.

Renault's book deals with the later part of the life of Alexander the Great and his love of and for and with Bagoas, a gelded Persian Boy whose father was a warrior and lord for Darius, ruler of Persia, who is defeated by Alexander. Bagoas is an eunuch, poor boy, but he manages well to satisfy and be satisfied.

THE PERSIAN BOY is a follow to FIRE FROM HEAVEN, which gives the story of Alexander's early life, his assumption to the throne and his love for Hephaestion, one of his generals. I am sorry now that I did not read FIRE FROM HEAVEN first.

Renault's book, too, has a sad ending with the death of Alexander. It's historical importance is well inspired and the Renault easy-reading style (save for the names) helps to destroy the myth that gay love is wrong love. Renault gives a good blend of history and fiction (Warren's book is pure fiction, though a bit foreboding) and a good insight into Alexander, one of the most misunderstood Gay leaders of all time. Her physical descriptions far exceed Warren's, but then Renault has been in the writing business quite a long while.

Both books will make great presents for your straight friends.

DINING - with John

SAINT GEORGE'S TABLE, located at North Street and Delaware Avenue (under the Westbrook Hotel) is possibly one of the finer restaurants in the Buffalo area. The tastefully modern-mediterranean decor and soothing recorded music combine to create a comfortable dining atmosphere.

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The service, though good, is not quite as quick or efficient as when St. Georges was known as David's Table. The menu has remained basically unchanged, the choice limited, but the food well prepared. Well recommended from the menu are the crepes and escargot, as appetizers, and the Beef à la Stroganoff. A more than adequate wine list is available.

One should also try the bar for excellent mixed drinks and cocktails at moderate prices.

Rating--* *

"AARDVARK"

by

John & Jay

A new happening in Western New York, "ARTPARK", is a valuable experience in sight and sound. Artpark, is located in Lewiston, overlooking the mighty Niagara Gorge.

The theatre which is located within the complex, seats 2400 inside, with an outdoor seating area that increases total capacity to 4000. The seven million dollar theater was designed with no architectural obstructions. The stage is the size of the Metropolitan Opera House and fitted with the most sophisticated sound-lighting equipment now existing.

Proposed features now under construction are such things as the Amphitheatre and artist promenade. The concept of Artpark is to enable artists the freedom to create. An unplanned feature of Artpark is the intrinsically beautiful path, along the gorge, which follows the route of the Tramway(now out of existence for many years).

The path is secluded to one side by the escarpment rising to about 100 feet. To the other side is a view of the river about 100 feet below.

Featured at the Artpark Theatre, July 28, was an Anthology of dance, drama, film and music. The general mood of the presentation was one of deference to young and old. The contemporary films were not the quality of the old flicks. Drama included improvisation and well rehearsed comedy. Music ranged from classical chamber to blues. Unfortunately, scheduling made it difficult to see the entire 24 hour Anthology.

William Shakespeare's, "As You Like It", scheduled to begin August 11, and continuing through August 18, is to be performed in the Elizabethan tradition of an all male cast by the National Theatre of Great Britain. London rehearsals were personally overseen by Sir Laurence Olivier and will be directed by Clifford Williams in its first east coast appearance.

Artpark is just starting out, but if all aspects develop as planned it will be a haven for art in all media.

subscription form

Mail To: The FIFTH FREEDOM
P.O. Box 975 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205

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